



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Winter Newsletter 2020

A letter from the



Welcome to our Winter 2020 Newsletter! It's been a busy, but productive start to the 2019-20 academic year. We recently welcomed our new Senior Administrative Assistant, Nicole Hack, who returns to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences from the College of Science and Health, where she previously worked for Chemistry. We're delighted to have Nicole join us in Philosophy, where she is now enjoying the challenges of working in a department with a large graduate program and busy agenda. Toward the end of last Spring we also welcomed our new student worker, Sahara Bratland.

On the academic side, our graduate students hosted their annual conference, this year on the theme of "Necropolitics and Violence," and featuring keynote speaker Axelle Karera from Wesleyan University. In October the Midwestern Study Group of the North American Kant Society convened for another conference at DePaul, with our former colleague Angelica Nuzzo (now at Brooklyn College, CUNY) giving the keynote address. In November, our first visiting speaker of the year, Ellen Cox from Transylvania University (PhD DePaul 2002) gave a memorable talk on feminism and neoliberalism as our Pleshette DeArmitt Memorial Alumni Lecture. The Humanities Center provided a rich program of events, including marking the 50th anniversaries of Woodstock and Apollo 11. Last but not least, two of our graduate students successfully defended their PhD dissertations. Congratulations to Khafiz Kerimov ("Prudence and Providence in Kant") and Daniel Pepe ("The Fate of Universal History: On the Task of Philosophy of History between Kant and Benjamin"), who celebrate this important milestone! Our faculty and students continue to pursue impressive research agendas resulting in many publications, conference appearances, and other accomplishments. See inside for details.

It's been a busy December too, with a tenure-track search underway, in addition to planning for a major conference (the Ancient Philosophy Society, coming in early April), two more workshops, and other visiting speakers and events during winter and spring quarters. This month we also say goodbye to our front desk assistant Katie Esslinger, who is graduating and moving to Mexico. We wish Katie all the best and thank her for her service to our department—not least as designer of our Newsletter over the past couple of years! I hope everyone enjoyed a refreshing and revitalizing winter break in preparation for the new year that lies ahead. Happy New Year to all!



Nietzsche's death mask, from a special exhibition of artworks and materials from the Nietzsche archives in Weimar showing at the National Gallery in Canada, courtesy of a visit by Jen Gammie.

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Events & Conferences

COLLEGIUM PHAENOMENOLOGICUM



The Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Italy had many participants from DePaul this past summer.

Pictured left: Eric Aldieri, Cynthia Ramos, Brooklyn Leonhart, Paula Landerreche. Cindy and Brooklyn are DePaul undergraduate alumni and are doing their PhDs at Penn State.

KICKING OFF THE YEAR



A convocation lunch in the Lincoln Park Student Center kicked off the academic year for faculty.



Graduate students and faculty celebrated the start of the school year together at *Las Fuentes*.

Events & Conferences

MIDWESTERN STUDY GROUP OF THE NORTH AMERICAN KANT SOCIETY CONFERENCE



The philosophy department hosted the Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society in October. Pictured: Avery Goldman and conference keynote speaker Angelica Nuzzo, from Brooklyn College, CUNY.

SOCIETY FOR PHENOMENOLOGY AND EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY



At the 58th SPEP, we had a panel on the work of Adriana Cavarero that came out of Prof. Fanny Söderbäck's course from the Fall of 2018 on Adriana Cavarero's Philosophy of Singularity. Paula Landerreche, Julian Ríos, Eric Aldieri and Fred Evans are pictured.

NECROPOLITICS AND VIOLENCE
PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

1:00PM *Dead Time: Necrotemporality and the Suspension of Duration*, Leah Kaplan
Black Death and White Civil Society: Foucault, Wilderson, and the Necessity of Necropolitics, Peter Heft
Graduate Student Respondent: Eric Aldieri
2:30PM *Racial Affects and Bodily Harm in Ralph Ellison's 'An Extravagance of Laughter'*, Sarah Lee
Love in and as War, Alisha Sharma
Graduate Student Respondent: Jessica Avery
4:00PM *Neo-Reactionary and White Supremacist Readings of Gilles Deleuze*, Sparkles Stanford
Predator/Drone: Tolls of Surveillance Capitalism, Anna Mirzayan
Working and Playing Ourselves to Death: Byung-Chul Han's Topology of Violence and the Culture of Overism, Jared Price
Graduate Student Respondent: Julian Ríos

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

10:15AM *Settler Violence and Whiteness as Territory*, Jokic Dallas
Gender Trouble at the Hague: Shifting Language Norms to Elevate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Crimes, Jessica Zaccagnino
The Extraterrestrial Logics of Negation and Refusal, Daniel Westbrook
Graduate Student Respondent: Aurora Laybourn-Candlish
NOON LUNCH BREAK
2:00PM *Adam Smith's Bare Life*, Walter Barta
Violence and Foucault: Addressing Justice Through Relationality, James Butler
Politics of Death: Mbembe & Foucault, Kasey Hettig-Rolfe
Graduate Student Respondent: Ashley Fleszman
4:00PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *A Violence Without Victim; A Violence Without Author*, Axelle Karera (Wesleyan University)

SEPTEMBER 27TH-28TH, 2019
RICHARDSON LIBRARY ROOM 300
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE: NECROPOLITICS AND VIOLENCE

The annual Graduate Student Conference took place at the end of September. The theme this year was "Necropolitics and Violence," featuring keynote speaker Axelle Karera from Wesleyan University.

Events & Conferences

PLESHETTE DEARMITT MEMORIAL ALUMNI LECTURE: *Ellen Cox, Transylvania University*



Ellen Cox (PhD 2002) gave a presentation on "Feminism and Neo-liberalism: What's left of the future?"

DINNER FOLLOWING ELLEN COX'S LECTURE



Attendees of the lecture enjoyed dinner together at *Simply It* restaurant afterward.

DUOS (Doctoral & Undergraduate Opportunities for Scholarship)

DUOS LUNCHEON

Nine pairs of undergraduate and graduate students received DUOS awards this year and introduced their projects at the annual DUOS luncheon in November!



Inquiries into the History and Philosophy of the Concept of Time

*Undergraduate Student: Danielle Leppert-Simenauer
Graduate Student: Zhen Liang*



Pathos as the Source of Action (The Phenomenology of Life and the Phenomenology of Action)

*Undergraduate Student: Sarah Ferrara
Graduate Student: Hector Ramos*



Transcendental Subjectivity in Naturalized Phenomenology

*Undergraduate Student: Kyle Benjamin
Graduate Student: Daniel Perlman*



Ontology and Alterity: Understanding Levinas's and Irigaray's Conflicting Approaches to Ethics

Undergraduate Student: Kay Herron

Graduate Student: Sarah Simms



Blood & Bile Must Boil: Soul and Life in Platonic Thought & Radical Phenomenology

Undergraduate Student: Ian Chong

Graduate Student: Ellery Beard



Freedom and Necessity in Hegel

Undergraduate Student: Christopher Modlin

Graduate Student: Ryan Froese



The Time of Becoming: On the Relation between Temporality and Ethics in Deleuze and the Stoics

Undergraduate Student: Riley O'Brien

Graduate Student: Eric Aldieri



Foucault's Theory of Biopolitics

Undergraduate Student: Danielle Ortiz

Graduate Student: Vilde Lid Aavitsland



Gender Trouble and Cultural Attitudes

Undergraduate Student: Elizabeth Baughman

Graduate Student: Bradley Ramos

Philosophy Circle

SEPTEMBER 25

ORIENTATION EVENT FOR PHILOSOPHY MAJORS AND MINORS

The first Philosophy Circle event kicked off the year with pizza and snacks and provided some helpful information for philosophy majors and minors.

OCTOBER 16TH

INFORMATION SESSION ON APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL AND LAW SCHOOL

The second Philosophy Circle event was a conversation with Peg Birmingham and Paula Landerreche about how to apply to graduate programs and law school.

OCTOBER 23RD

PONTYPOOL: A PHILOSOPHER'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

Peter Steeves presented an investigation of the history of the philosophy of language, analyzing how the movie *Pontypool* could be read as dealing with the existential crisis we face at the end of modernity when we realize that the Enlightenment project perhaps lied to us: words do not denote and truth is not to be found in a correspondence theory. The conversation also discussed the import of zombies and how those who are dead are still present--but presently absent--for the living. A frightening, and frighteningly-philosophical, night for the nearly thirty attendees!

NOVEMBER 6TH

THE BIG LEBOWSKI

Rick Lee discussed the role of comedy in philosophy and the question of authenticity as it is raised by *The Big Lebowski*. Attendees watched clips from the movie and enjoyed pizza during the discussion.

Humanities Center Events

"Atomic Waste(s)" on September 16th was an investigation of the ethical, political, and literal filth of living in the atomic age, and examined the legacy of the bomb and the atomic age. Dancer and choreographer Oguri pictured.



"Woodstock at 50: An Aquarian Exposition — Two Hours of Peace and Music... and the Arts & Humanities" on October 7th celebrated the golden anniversary of the Woodstock music festival.

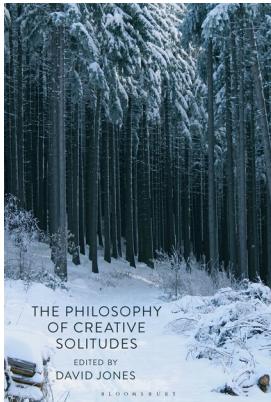


"The 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11" on October 14th showed how it not only took science to make the 1969 moon-landing possible, but it also took the arts and humanities to shape a dream of that scale



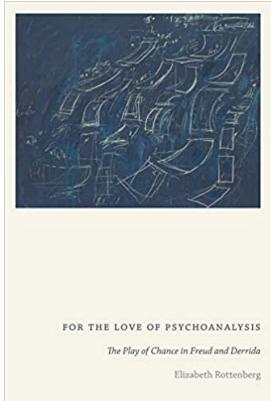
"The Horror of the Humanities VII: 'Hereditary'" on October 28th was the DHC's seventh annual Halloween event and featured a screening and celebration of Ari Aster's contemporary masterpiece, Hereditary. The event was a scare as 700 people were in attendance! Ari Aster and Peter Steeves pictured.

Faculty Publications



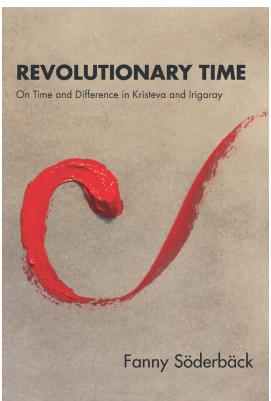
THE PHILOSOPHY OF CREATIVE SOLITUDES

Peg Birmingham, Will McNeill, Michael Naas, and Peter Steeves all contributed essays to *The Philosophy of Creative Solitudes*, a volume in honor of David Farrell Krell, who was Chair of the Philosophy Department at DePaul University from 1989-1992, and who shaped the current department centered around its doctoral program. David himself also contributed an essay that inspired the volume, on "Creative Solitudes."



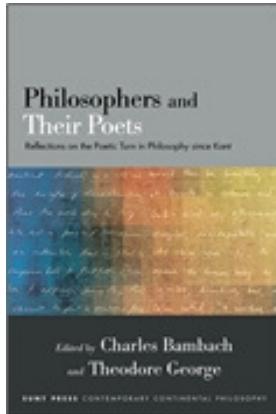
FOR THE LOVE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS: THE PLAY OF CHANCE IN FREUD AND DERRIDA

This book by Elizabeth Rottenberg is about what exceeds or resists calculation—in life and in death. Its two parts and nine chapters highlight, in their coupling of Freud and Derrida ("Freuderrida"), the accidents both in and of psychoanalytic writing, and the philosophical question of what limits the openness of our horizon.



REVOLUTIONARY TIME: ON TIME AND DIFFERENCE IN KRISTEVA AND IRIGARAY

Fanny Söderbäck's first monograph, published by SUNY Press, examines the relationship between time and sexual difference in the work of Julia Kristeva and Luce Irigaray, engaging thinkers including Simone de Beauvoir, Jacques Derrida, Sigmund Freud, Judith Butler, Hannah Arendt, and Plato along the way.



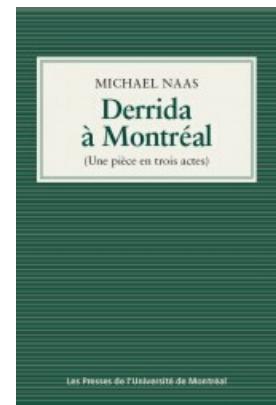
"REMAINS: HEIDEGGER AND HÖLDERLIN AMID THE RUINS OF TIME"

Will McNeill's essay was published in the edited collection *Philosophers and Their Poets*, which also includes an essay by our former DePaul colleague Maria Acosta.



"I AM TRYING HARD TO FOLLOW THE SOUND: MEDITATIONS ON ACCEPTING TYPHOON'S OFFERINGS"

Peter Steeves published this essay in *Popular Culture Review*, v. 30, n. 2 (Summer 2019): 237-256.



DERRIDA À MONTRÉAL

This title by Michael Naas is a mock play in three acts that attempts to follow Derrida's critique and development of John L. Austin's speech act theory. It focuses on three public lectures given by Derrida in Montreal, the first in 1971 and the last in 1997, all three of them, as chance would have it, on questions of language, speech act theory, and the event.

Faculty News



MARY JEANNE LARRABEE presented the paper "Critical Phenomenology and the Reflective Strategies of Edmund Husserl: Comparison of an Example from Buddhist Scholarship" at the meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Human Sciences, held at Duquesne University on October 31 to November 2, 2019. She also attended the American Academy of Religions in San Diego as a support for her ongoing research on the phenomenology of religious/spiritual experience. She was able to attend meetings of the Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy and the Society for Buddhist and Christian Studies, as well as a meeting of several research units of the AAR in November.



RICK LEE was awarded Outstanding Chicago Quarter Faculty Member by the First Year Program!



DARYL KOEHN gave the Verizon keynote lecture on business ethics at Bentley College on November 19, 2019 (Pictured right). She also gave a keynote address on the history of corporations and social responsibility at the International Vincentian Business Ethics conference held at Dublin City University on October 22, 2019.



PETER STEEVES did three presentations in Chicago, including "How We Got Here; How We Get Out," at Extinction Rebellion in June; "The Way Out: Sustainability, the Enlightenment, and the Dark Mountain" at Summer Institute on Sustainability and Energy in July; and "Philosophy: Practicing for Death," at a conference on "The New Age of Dying and Death," in September. He was also invited to The Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition in Seattle and presented "The Drowned Man" for the keynote address.

Faculty News



MICHAEL NAAS's work was recognized in a Scholar's Session at this year's annual meeting of SPEP (The Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy), held in Pittsburgh this past November.

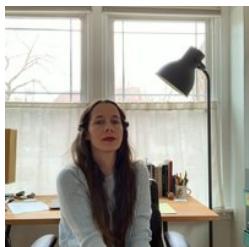
FANNY SÖDERBÄCK and JAMES WALKER welcomed their daughter Amina Stella into the world on August 9. She was a whopping 10.3 lbs and 21 inches - a big healthy Leo lady with lots of personality!



LAS SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

A record five faculty in the Philosophy Department received LAS Summer Research Grants for 2020. Peg Birmingham received a grant for her project "Democracy and Populism: Universality, Globalization, and the Question of the People." Elizabeth Millán received an award for research on "Schopenhauer's Reception in Latin America." Michael Naas received a grant for "Cosmoi: Plato and the Question of Order." Fanny Söderbäck won support for her project "Fantastic Antigones: Queer and Decolonial Imaginaries." And Peter Steeves received a grant for "Samuel Beckett and a Theory of (Remembered) Nature." Congratulations to all!

Graduate Student News



JEN GAMMAGE presented a talk at SPEP on "Not-Being-at-Ease in the Work of Gloria Anzaldúa and Martin Heidegger" as part of a book panel on Mariana Ortega's *In-Between: Latina Feminist Phenomenology, Multiplicity, and the Self* along with Jessica Elkayam, DePaul alumna, and Mariana Ortega. The panel will be published in *Philosophy Today* in fall 2020.



RACHEL SILVERBLOOM published her essay, "The Critical Power of Ugliness," with Cambridge Scholars in an anthology called *On the Ugly: Aesthetic Exchanges*. Her essay was originally presented at the Wassard Elea conference in Ascea, Italy, and then selected for publication in that anthology by the conference organizers and book editors, Jane Forsey and Lars Aagaard-Mogensen. Rachel also presented a paper at SPEP, called "Cavarero and Revolutionary Time: Resistance Through Repetition," which engages the work of our own Fanny Söderbäck and that of Italian philosopher, Adriana Cavarero.



VILDE LID AAVISTSLAND published the article, "The Failure of Judgment: Disgust in Hannah Arendt's Theory of Political Judgment" in the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 33(3) (2019): 537-550.



GÜÇSAL PUSAR presented a paper titled "Kant and the Varieties of Indifferentism" at the 13th International Kant Congress in Oslo, Norway in August and also presented his paper, "Was Kant Fair to Reid? On the Double Movement of Kantian Critique," at the North American Kant Society Midwest Study Group meeting this October.

JULIAN RIOS ACUÑA presented at SPEP in Pittsburgh on October 31st, and at the I Congreso de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe: Pensamiento Crítico y Decolonialidad (I Conference on Latin American and Caribbean Studies: Critical Thought and Decoloniality) in Barranquilla, Colombia on November 16th.

Sucessfully Defended Dissertations



KHAFIZ KERIMOV

successfully defended his dissertation, "Prudence and Providence in Kant" on October 4th.



DANIEL PEPE

had a successful defense on October 11th with his dissertation entitled, "The Fate of Universal History: On the Task of Philosophy of History Between Kant and Benjamin."

Department Staff News



NICOLE HACK joined the Philosophy Department as Senior Administrative Assistant in September 2019. She has extensive experience at DePaul spanning nearly 15 years, spending time with the Department of Chemistry, Department of History of Art & Architecture, and the Office of Human Resources. In addition to Nicole's employment history with DePaul, she is also finishing her graduate program in New Media Studies (WRD). Outside of the university, another major interest of Nicole's is her work with Chicago's soccer community. She has been absolutely incredible stepping into this role in the midst of busy autumn. We are so glad to have had her join the department!

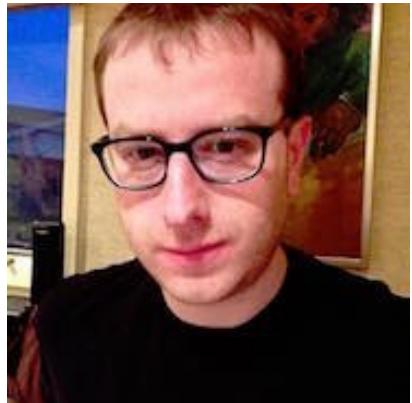


KATIE ESSLINGER worked as a student worker for the philosophy department for over 3 years. She graduates in December and is leaving us... for Mexico! Thanks, Katie, for all your help, and good luck with your future endeavors!



SAHARA BRATLAND joined the department as a student worker this past spring and worked all summer to help "spring clean" the department. She did a great job to help smooth the transition from Mary to Nicole.

Alumni News



JOSH SHEPPERD (2001) is an Assistant Professor of Media at Catholic University in Washington DC and concurrently a Humanities and Information Fellow at Pennsylvania State University, and the Library of Congress Sound Fellow. This fall he gave a Franke Lecture at Yale University that focused on media history, his specialty. His media history work continues to be informed by his training at DePaul and thinking about "media" through the lens of continental philosophy has helped him to develop and maintain a unique voice in his sub discipline.



IAN MOORE (PhD 2016) published the book *Eckhart and Heidegger: The Imperative of Releasement* with State University of New York Press as a development of his PhD dissertation. Ian currently teaches at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Undergraduate Courses 2019-2020

Autumn	Winter	Spring
HISTORY SEQUENCE		
PHL 293 – Ancient Philosophy TTH 11:20-12:50 Sean D. Kirkland		PHL 293 – Ancient Philosophy MW 9:40-11:10 David White
PHL 295 – Early Modern Philosophy TTH 2:40-4:10 Avery Goldman	PHL 294 – Medieval Philosophy MW 11:20-12:50 Richard Lee	PHL 296 – Kant and the 19 th Century TTH 11:20-12:50 Avery Goldman
	PHL 297 – 20 th Century Philosophy MW 9:40-11:10 Frédéric Seyler	
COGNITIVE SKILLS		
PHL 280 – Critical Thinking MW 1:00-2:30 Ryan Froese	PHL 282 – Symbolic Logic I TTH 11:10-12:50 Zhen Liang	PHL 281 – Basic Logic Online Mary Jeanne Larrabee
300-LEVEL MAJOR FIELD ELECTIVES		
PHL 315 – Survey of Political Philosophy MW 1:00-2:30 Jason Hill	PHL 341 – Aesthetics TTH 11:20-12:50 Jennifer Gammage	PHL 314 – Survey of Ethics MW 11:20-12:50 Daryl Koehn
PHL 320 – Metaphysics TTH 9:40-11:10 David White	PHL 342 – Philosophy of Law TTH 1:00-2:30 Peg Birmingham	PHL 373 – Nietzsche TTH 11:20-12:50 Sean D. Kirkland
PHL 361 – Plato MW 11:20-12:50 Michael Naas	PHL 389 – Latin American Philosophy MW 11:20-12:50 Elizabeth Millán Brusslan	PHL 381 – Dramatic Theory: Tragedy MW 11:20-12:50 David White
SENIOR CAPSTONE		
		PHL 391 – Capstone TTH 4:20-5:50 Richard Lee

Graduate Courses 2019-2020

	Fall	Winter	Spring
“WORLD” PHILOSOPHY	PHL 411 – Plato Plato’s Cosmos (<i>Gorgias, The Laws</i>) Michael Naas M 3:00-6:15 [H-I]	PHL 500 – Special Topics in the History of Philosophy Latin American Philosophy Elizabeth Millán Brusslan W 3:00-6:15 [H-II]	PHL 629 – Seminar on Contemporary Problems Latin American Philosophy Elizabeth Millán Brusslan W 3:00-6:15 [NP]
HUMOR, COMEDY, AESTHETICS	PH 557 – Topics in Continental Philosophy Joking Around, Seriously (Baudelaire, Bergson, Freud, Kofman) Elizabeth Rottenberg T 3:00-6:15 [CE]	PHL 400 – Special Topics in Traditional Philosophers Aristotle and Hegel on Comedy Richard Lee M 3:00-6:15 [H-I or H-II]	PHL 511 – Kant II <i>Critique of the Power of Judgement</i> Avery Goldman T 3:00-6:15 [H-II]
20 TH CENTURY FRENCH PHILOSOPHY	PHL 570 – Sartre I <i>The Transcendence of the Ego and Being and Nothingness</i> Frédéric Seyler W 6:00-9:15 [CE]	PHL 590 – Trends in Continental French Philosophy <i>Deleuze’s Difference and Repetition</i> Kevin Thompson T 3:00-6:15 [CE]	PHL 522 – Social and Political Philosophy <i>Deleuze and Guattari, A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia</i> Peg Birmingham TH 3:00-6:15 [NP]
HEIDEGGER	PHL 550 – Heidegger I <i>Being and Time</i> Will McNeill TH 3:00-6:15 [CE]	PHL 551 – Heidegger II <i>Being and Time</i> Will McNeill TH 3:00-6:15 [CE]	PHL 697 – Teaching Practicum 2 nd Year Student Enrollment Requirement Sean D. Kirkland TBA

Distribution Requirement Key:

H-I = History of Western PHL (Ancient or Medieval)
H-II = History of Western PHL (Modern or 19th Century)

NP = Normative Philosophy
CE = Contemporary European Philosophy

Revised 9/02/19