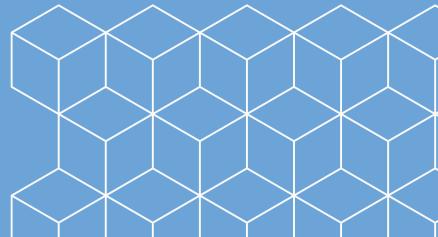


# Department of Philosophy

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2026 WINTER NEWSLETTER



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# DEPAUL PHILOSOPHY

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# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As we come to the end of 2025 I want to thank everyone for all of the beautiful contributions to our community. Thank you, Peg Birmingham, for taking on the position of Acting Chair during the 2024-25 academic year. I appreciated the time off from chairing, and I have begun my new 3-year term with more energy. Thank you all for putting your faith in me for another term. I will need the energy I stored during my leave to navigate waters that do not hold the promise of being calm. As we know, there will be challenges during this period of re-organization and fiscal austerity. With our strong, supportive community we will find creative ways to adapt to this new reality. We certainly do not suffer from intellectual austerity as evidenced by the many talks, books, and articles that have been given and written by our faculty and students.

As one cost-cutting measure, most of our speakers will be on Zoom for the remainder of the year, and I hope that we will all make an effort to be present for those talks and to participate fully with cameras on so our speakers are not staring into a dark void.

On a brighter note, Smaranda Aldea took over as Director of Undergraduate Studies, a position that Avery Goldman held for many years. Thank you, Avery, for your excellent service, and thank you, Smaranda, for taking on this new role with the conscientiousness you bring to all you do.

We said goodbye to David White, who has retired. David served as a model teacher for our students and generous interlocuter to many of us over the decades. We wish you well, David, and thank you for sharing your brilliant pedagogical skills with our students over the years. We will miss you!

We can look forward to a great event celebrating the work of our students on May 22, 2026, when our 8 pairs of doctoral and undergraduate students present their fascinating work. In AQ, we selected our DUOS pairs, who will be working on subjects ranging from empiricism, epistemology, beauty, freedom, world history, capitalism, the self, language, and translation across a range of figures including Kant, Schiller, Hegel, Adorno, Foucault, and Deleuze. Congratulations to all of the DUOS recipients – we wish you great success with your important research projects.

During AQ, three doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations. Congratulations to Dr. William Cox, Dr. Mary LeBlanc, and Dr. Ludovico Zizzo!

More good news: Evan O'Donnell was awarded the 2025 Michael Mezey Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations Evan!

In the following pages you will also read about the exciting work our faculty members and students are doing.

Regina Robinson has made our department a much more organized and welcoming place. Our student workers, Levi Bjork and Keera Stelmak, contribute to the department's smooth functioning – what a great team! And what a difference for me as chair to have your assistance – thank you! I no longer feel trapped in a Beckett play (though I still enjoy reading them).

Wishing everyone joy, peace, and health in 2026!

*Elizabeth Millán Brusslan  
Professor and Chair, Philosophy*

# Visiting Scholars

**(Political) Philosophy and its history:  
New challenges in the historical  
approach to philosophy**

Monday, October 27, 2025  
10:00AM-4:30PM

Clifton Hall (2352 N. Clifton Ave.)  
Philosophy Conference Room 150.33

Massimiliano Tomba (UC Santa Cruz)  
*The Canon as Battlefield. Histories Without Teleology*

Silvestre Gristina  
(University of Padua/UC Santa Cruz)  
*Politicizing the History of Philosophy: First Notes on the  
Problem of Polemical Historiographies*

Andreea Smaranda Aldea (DePaul)  
*Phenomenology and the Historicity of Philosophical  
Reflection*

Dilip Gaonkar (Northwestern University)  
*Egalitarian Origins and Authoritarian Temptations in  
Premodern Democracies*

Co-funded by the European Union

Organized by Giulia Valpione (DePaul, Chicago/ENS, Paris) and Elizabeth Millán-Brusslan (DePaul, Chicago)

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES Department of Philosophy

INFO: GIULIA.VALPIONE@ENS-PSL.EU  
HOPE-GERMAN ROMANTICISM: A HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECOLOGY, PI: GIULIA VALPIONE  
&  
THIME - TEMPORALITIES, HISTORIES AND METHODS OF PHILOSOPHY. RE-THINKING THE CANON OF HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT, PI: SILVESTRE GRISTINA

**Giulia Valpione, our Marie Curie Fellow, presented the workshop, “(Political) Philosophy and its history: New challenges in the historical approach to philosophy,” along with Department Chair Elizabeth Millán Brusslan.**

**Natasha Hay** was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) postdoctoral fellowship for her project, “The Epistemology and Ethics of Saidiya Hartman’s Critical Fabulation.”

Natasha has published articles on Walter Benjamin, philosophy of education, and aesthetics.

She will be with us from September 2025, through August 2027, and is very happy to be joining our community!

DEPAUL PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE PRESENTS

**Marie Curie Visiting  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Giulia Valpione**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025  
6:00PM - 7:30 PM  
2352 N. CLIFTON, ROOM 150.33



Come join us for readings and discussion with the Philosophy Department Marie Curie Fellow Giulia Valpione. Pizza will be served!

QUESTIONS? PROFESSOR ANDREEA SMARANDA ALDEA, AALDEA@DEPAUL.EDU

Co-funded by the European Union

INFO: GIULIA.VALPIONE@ENS-PSL.EU  
HOPE-GERMAN ROMANTICISM: A HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECOLOGY, PI: GIULIA VALPIONE

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES Department of Philosophy

**Giulia was the guest speaker for the Philosophy Circle event, “Ecology and Politics: A Philosophical Challenge?”**

# Visiting Speakers



Emanuela Bianchi of NYU, led off the Visiting Speaker Series with the discussion, “Truth, Logos, Gender, and Genealogy in Ancient Greece.”



**DR. EMANUELA BIANCHI**

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, NYU

“Truth, Logos, Gender, and Genealogy in Ancient Greece”

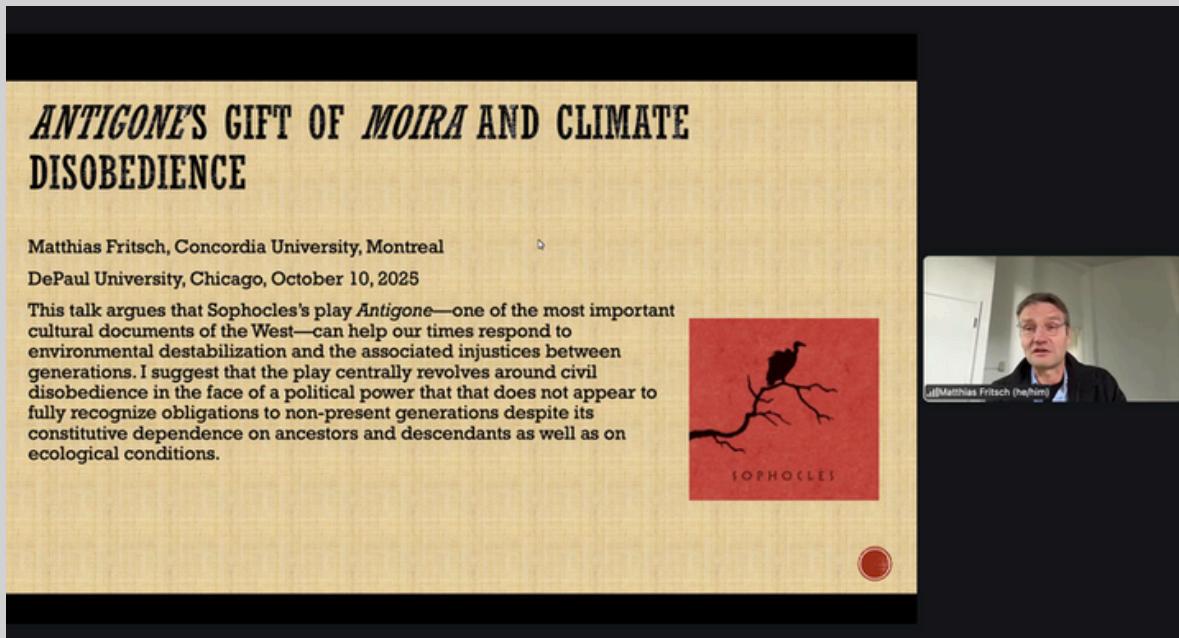


**Friday, September 12, 2025**  
**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**Richardson 103**

For more information:  
Professor Tuhin Bhattacharjee  
[tbhattacharjee@depaul.edu](mailto:tbhattacharjee@depaul.edu)

# Visiting Speakers

Matthias Fritsch (Concordia University Montreal) presented the virtual talk, “*Antigone’s gift of moira and climate disobedience.*”



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY VISITING  
SPEAKER SERIES

## Matthias Fritsch

Concordia University Montreal



“*Antigone’s gift of  
moira and climate  
disobedience.*”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10  
4:00-6:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM

ZOOM LINK:



For more information:  
[philosophy@depaul.edu](mailto:philosophy@depaul.edu)

DePaul University  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Department of Philosophy

# Visiting Speakers



Colin Koopman, previously scheduled for last year, joined us for a reception with graduate students followed by his presentation, “Data Equals: Democratic Equality and Technological Hierarchy.”

**“Data Equals: Democratic Equality and Technological Hierarchy”**

**Colin Koopman**  
University of Oregon



Friday, November 14, 2025  
4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Richardson Library, Room 300

 DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Department of Philosophy

# DUOS

(Doctoral & Undergraduate Opportunities for Scholarship)



We held our annual event to welcome the 2025-26 DUOS awardees on November 7, 2025.

DUOS (Doctoral and Undergraduate Opportunities for Scholarship) is a competitive initiative that pairs graduate students with undergraduate students who work jointly on research projects under the guidance of faculty advisors. Both students receive stipends.

We were happy to have in attendance both the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, and Department of Philosophy Chair, Elizabeth Millán Brusslan. Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Director Andreea Smaranda Aldea was the host.

The Department of Philosophy would like to thank both the College of LAS and an anonymous donation that created “The Maimonides Endowment in Philosophy” for the generous support of the DUOS program.

*Congratulations to all of the awardees and we look forward to hearing about your research at the end of year event on Friday, May 22!*

# 2025-2026 DUOS Awardees



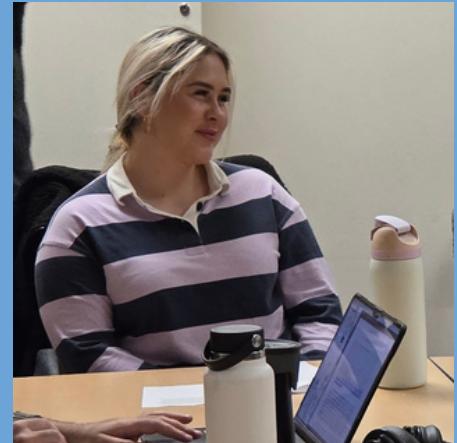
## Empiricism and Epistemology

*Graduate Student:* **Jack Marchesi**  
*Undergraduate Student:* **Frederick Peters**  
*Faculty advisor:* **Professor Peg Birmingham**



## Beauty and Freedom in Kant and Schiller (Maimonides)

*Graduate Student:* **Caroline Loftus**  
*Undergraduate Student:* **Katarina Malinovic**  
*Faculty advisor:* **Professor Elizabeth Millán Brusslan**



## Adorno and Historical Regression: Meaning and Articulation (MAP)

*Graduate Student:* **Rosa Martins**  
*Undergraduate Student:* **Sruthi (Rue) Karthic**  
*Faculty advisor:* **Professor Smaranda Aldea**



# 2025-2026 DUOS Awardees



**The Open Limits of Necessity:  
System and the Historical A  
Priori in Foucault's  
Archaeology (Maimonides)**

*Graduate Student: Almira Mert  
Undergraduate Student:  
Kennedy Farley  
Faculty advisor:  
Professor Kevin Thompson*

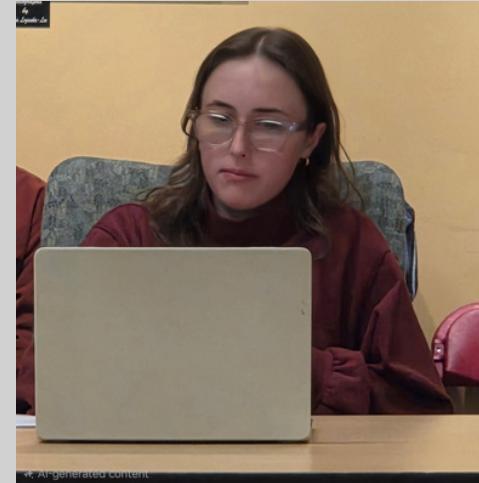
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**Is philosophy a language? An  
investigation of the language  
of philosophy through  
translation**

*Graduate Student: Çiçek Yavuz  
Undergraduate Student:  
Isabella Rossomanno  
Faculty advisor:  
Professor Kevin Thompson*

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**Immanence in Hegel's Philosophy of World-History**

*Graduate Student: Mohab Younis  
Undergraduate Student: Hannah Cho  
Faculty advisor: Professor Kevin Thompson*

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# 2025-2026 DUOS Awardees

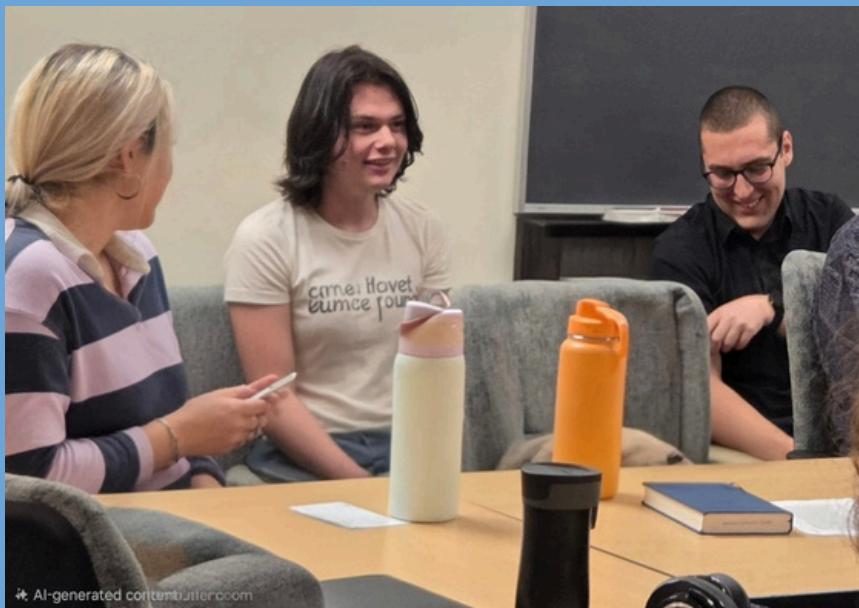


## The Algorithmic Axiomatic: Deleuze, Capitalism, and Artificial Intelligence Research Goals

*Graduate Student: Harrison Brennan*

*Undergraduate Student: Luca Brien*

*Faculty advisor: Professor Kevin Thompson*



## The Apocalypse of the Self

*Graduate Student: John Gould*

*Undergraduate Student: Henry Rowe*

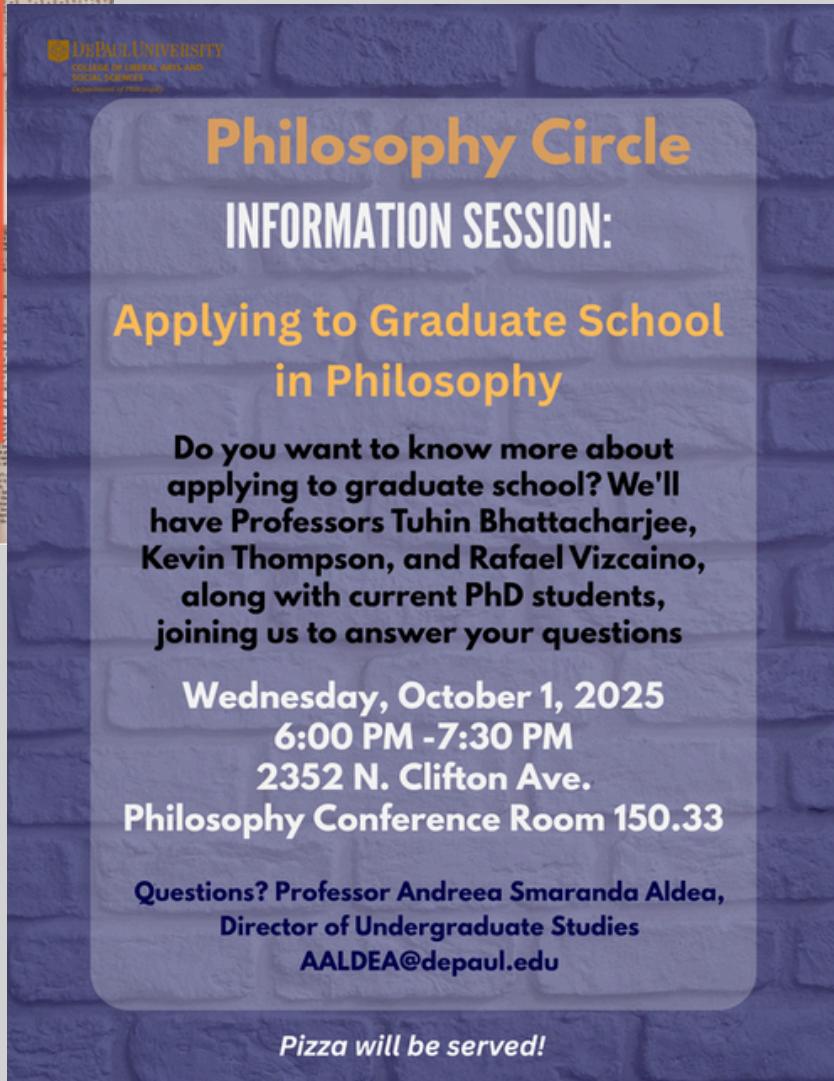
*Faculty advisor:*

*Professor Richard Lee*

## 2025-26 Department of Philosophy DUOS Faculty Committee:

Smaranda Aldea, Committee Chair  
Elizabeth Millán Brusslan  
Kevin Thompson  
Frédéric Seyler

# Philosophy Circle



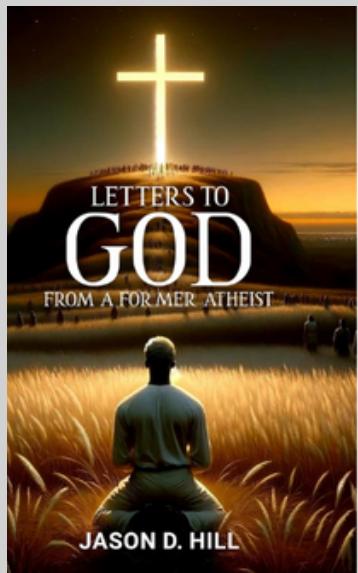


# Faculty Publications



*Psychanalyse et critique littéraire (1969-1970)*  
(Éditions du Seuil, 2025)

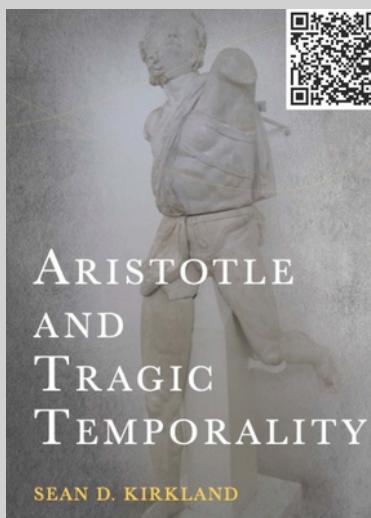
Elizabeth Rottenberg and  
Pascale-Anne Brault,



*Letters to God from a Former Atheist*  
(Vindicta, 2025)

Jason Hill

<https://a.co/d/fE2QsO3>

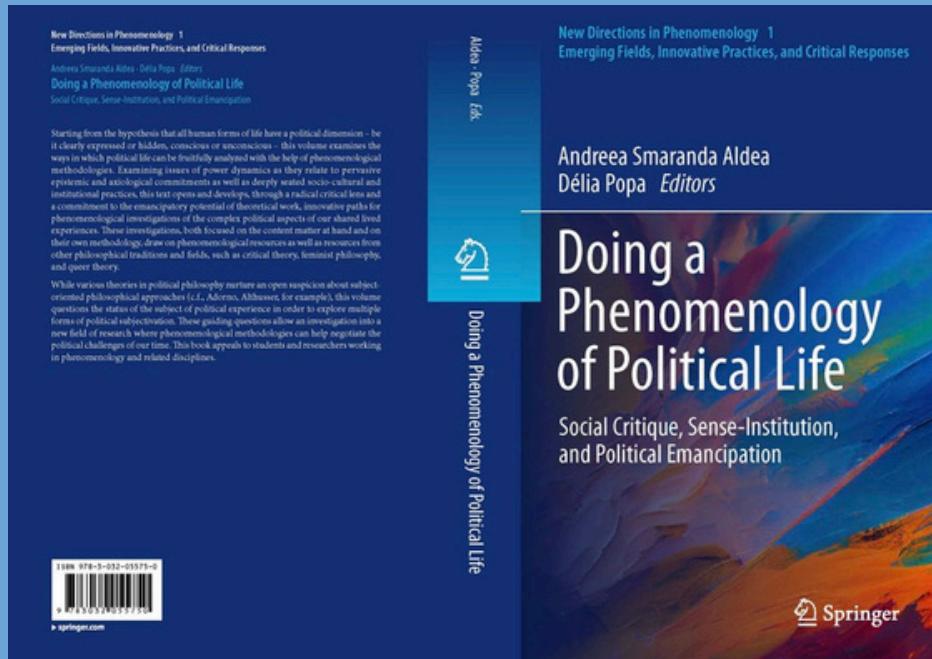


*Aristotle and Tragic Temporality*  
(Edinburgh University Press, 2025)

Sean Kirkland

# Faculty News

## ANDREEA SMARANDA ALDEA



### Edited Volume:

*Doing a Phenomenology of Political Life: Social Critique, Sense-Institution, and Political Emancipation* (co-editor: Delia Popa), Inaugural Volume of the *New Directions in Phenomenology* book series (Dordrecht: Springer) in press 2025; see book page [here](#).

### Book Chapters:

“Realizability, Radical Reflection, and the Critical Performativity of Phenomenological Work,” in *Doing a Phenomenology of Political Life: Social Critique, Sense-Institution, and Political Emancipation*, eds. Andreea Smaranda Aldea & Delia Popa (Dordrecht: Springer; inaugural volume of the New Directions in Phenomenology series) in press, 2025.

“Possibilities of Political Phenomenology” in *Doing a Phenomenology of Political Life: Social Critique, Sense-Institution, and Political Emancipation* (co-authored with Delia Popa), eds. Andreea Smaranda Aldea & Delia Popa (Dordrecht: Springer), in press, 2025.

# Faculty News

## ANDREEA SMARANDA ALDEA

### Talks:

*Husserl and the Historicity of Philosophical Reflection*, Workshop on Political Philosophy and its History: New Challenges in the Historical Approach to Philosophy, DePaul University (co-organizers: Giulia Valpione & Elizabeth Millán-Brusslan), October 2025 (invited)

*Phenomenology as Radical Critique of the Present*, Biennial Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Phänomenologische Forschung entitled 'Crisis and Critique,' TU Dartmstadt, Germany, September 2025, (invited, keynote)

*Husserl, Critique, and the Political Imagination*, Biennial Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Phänomenologische Forschung entitled 'Crisis and Critique,' TU Dartmstadt, Germany, September 2025, (co-panelist: Délia Popa; invited panel on *Doing a Phenomenology of Political Life*, Springer, 2025)

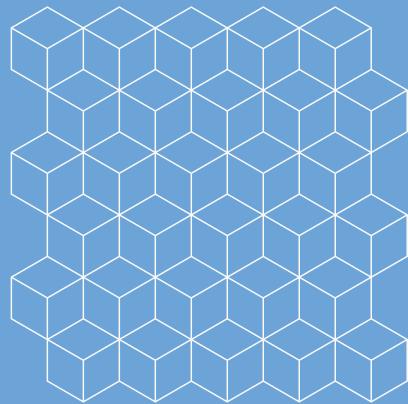


### Organization:

Intercontinental Phenomenology Research Seminar (see poster above)

# Faculty News

## Peg Birmingham



Peg ended the Autumn Quarter in a lunch discussion of Arendt with her Senior Capstone class at Paula's Thai Kitchen

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## Daryl Koehn



Daryl Koehn's *The Future of Business Ethics* is in production at Springer Nature and is slated to be published in 2026

IBPE (Institute for Business & Professional Ethics) hosted a webinar, "Ethics and AI: Power, Access, and Trust," as part of the annual IVBEC conference, this year held virtual. Daryl is the Wicklander Chair in Professional Ethics, Department of Management & Entrepreneurship

# Faculty News

## Sean Kirkland



### Roundtable on Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Hosted by DePaul Art Museum



#### Event description

In conjunction with *Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle: A Want for Nothing* at DPAM, join us for a roundtable discussion exploring the artist's deep engagement with conceptual art. Participants include Hannah Higgins, Sean Kirkland, Lane Relyea, and Manglano-Ovalle himself, in a conversation moderated by DPAM Curator Ionit Behar.

This program is in partnership with DePaul's Philosophy Department, DePaul's Institute for Nature and Culture, DePaul's Institute of Humanities, Northwestern's Art, Theory, Practice Department, University of Illinois at Chicago's Department of Art.

Image credit: Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, *Well 35°58'16"N - 106°5'21"W* (Santa Clara Pueblo, NM), 2014. Pictured: Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle. Courtesy of the artist.

Thursday, November 13

6:00 - 7:30 pm

DePaul Art Museum

935 W. Fullerton Ave.

Free admission

Tickets:



Sean participated in a roundtable discussion in conjunction with the current exhibit at the DePaul Art Museum, "Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle: A Want for Nothing."

POWERED BY  
**HUMANITIX**

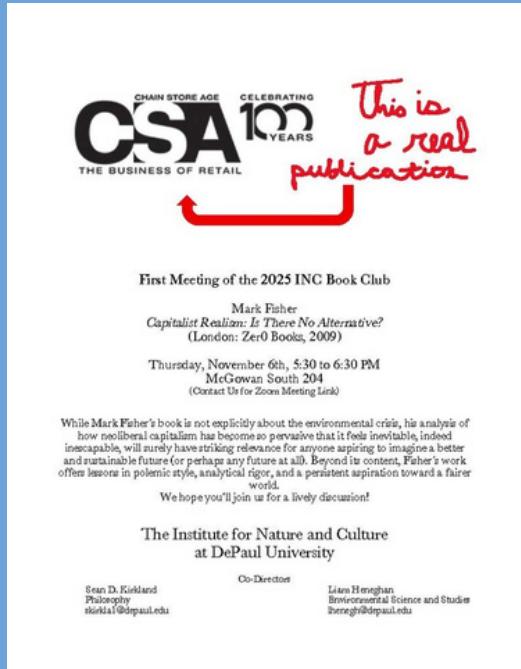
Tickets for good, not greed  
Humanitix dedicates 100% of profits from booking fees to charity



Photo courtesy of Ionit Behar

# Faculty News

## Sean Kirkland



First Meeting of the 2025 INC Book Club

Mark Fisher  
*Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?*  
(London: Zero Books, 2009)

Thursday, November 6th, 5:30 to 6:30 PM  
McGowan South 204  
(Contact Us for Zoom Meeting Link)

While Mark Fisher's book is not explicitly about the environmental crisis, his analysis of how neoliberal capitalism has become so pernicious that it feels inevitable, indeed inescapable, will surely have striking relevance for anyone aspiring to imagine a better and sustainable future (or perhaps any future at all). Beyond its content, Fisher's work offers lessons in polemic style, analytical rigor, and a persistent aspiration toward a fairer world.

We hope you'll join us for a lively discussion!

The Institute for Nature and Culture  
at DePaul University

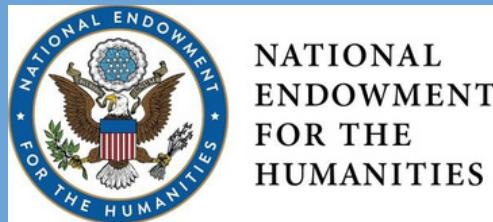
Co-Directors  
Sean D. Kirkland  
Philosophy  
skirkland@depaul.edu  
Liam Heneghan  
Environmental Science and Studies  
lheneghan@depaul.edu

The first meeting of the Institute for Nature and Culture 2025-2026 Book Club was a discussion of Mark Fisher's *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?*

Sean is the co-director of the Institute.

Sean was awarded, along with his co-translator Andrew Mitchell (Emory University), a National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions and Translations grant in the amount of \$100,000.

The award is meant to give faculty an opportunity to focus on completing their translation of Volume 10 of Stanford University Press's Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche, Unpublished Fragments from the Period of "The Birth of Tragedy" (Fall 1869–Spring 1872).



## Mary Jeanne Larrabee

Mary Jeanne published an essay on Husserl, "Critical Phenomenology and the Limits of Critical Buddhism: Edmund Husserl's Self-Reflective Strategies," pp.183-201, in *Cosmopolitan Husserl: From Transcendental Phenomenology to the Ethics of Renewal*. Edited by Curtis Hutt and Halla Kim. New York: Routledge, 2026 (12/2025).

# Faculty News

## Elizabeth Millán Brusslan

### Book Chapters Forthcoming:

“Nature, Freedom, and Political Change: Alexander von Humboldt’s Resistance to Eurocentrism.” for *German Idealism and the Question of Colonialism*, edited by Luis Felipe Garcia and Pavel Reichl (Routledge, forthcoming).

“Alexander von Humboldt’s Portrait of Nature: The Blending of Art, Nature, and Landscape in Schubert’s Time” for special volume of the Austrian Academy of Sciences volume on Landscape (forthcoming 2026)

“Fichte’s Wissenschaftslehre as Bildung: The Tale of a Working Class Hero for Freedom,” for *Fichte’s WL: A Critical Guide*, ed., Jeffery Kinlaw (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2026).

### Publications:

Two entries in *German for the Fichte Handbook*:

“Fichte und die Natur” (in German) for the *Nomos Handbuch, Johann Gottlieb Fichte. Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, eds. Matteo Vincenzo d-Alfonso and Christian Klotz (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2025): 779-781 and “Fichte und Friedrich Schlegel,” (in German) with Bärbel Frischmann for the *Nomos Handbuch, Johann Gottlieb Fichte. Leben-Werk-Wirkung*, eds. Matteo Vincenzo d’Alfonso and Christian Klotz (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2025): 603-606.

### Two Articles Forthcoming:

“Aesthetics and Cultural Liberation in Latin America as a Balm Against Isolationism,” for special volume of *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie, Reshaping the Narrative: Rethinking Methods in the History of Philosophy*, eds. Marco Tamborini and Andrea Gentili.

“Goethe and Hegel on the Beauties of Nature,” for special volume of *Estudios Hegelianos*, entitled *Hegel and Goethe: On the Relationship between Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Political Theory*, ed. Gregor Schäfer.

# Faculty News

## Elizabeth Millán Brusslan



### Talks:

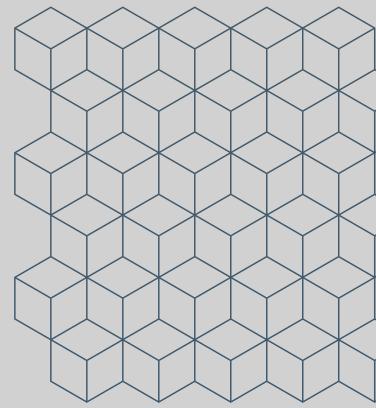
“Fichte and Schlegel on Bildung, Art, and Philosophy,” for the Tagung der Internationaler Johann Gottlieb Fichte Gesellschaft: Philosophie als Kunst: Imagination, Life, System. 17-20 September, 2025. Ferrara, Italy.

Comments on Living Economically: The Aesthetics of Antonio Caso, remarks on a paper by Juan Carlos González. American Society for Aesthetics. Baltimore, Maryland, October 23, 2025.

Elizabeth was also the co-organizer (with Giulia Valpione), of a Workshop on Political Philosophy and Its History: New Challenges in the Historical Approach to Philosophy, with talks by Massimiliano Tomba, Silvestre Gristina, Smaranda Aldea, and Dilip Gaonkar.

# Faculty News

## Rafael Vizcaino



Rafael published two anthology chapters: one on Sylvia Wynter's novel (a vastly understudied text) and another on the methodology behind Enrique Dussel's postsecular philosophy.

In September, he was a keynote speaker at the Ernesto Cardenal Centennial Conference, held at West Chester University, honoring the legacy of the Nicaraguan poet-theologian and Sandinista priest.

Similarly, he presented research papers at the Political Theology Network conference, held at Vanderbilt University, and the American Academy of Religion, in Boston.

He also nearly finished preparing an edited anthology that will function as a sort of "companion" to his first authored monograph, both of which will hopefully be published in late 2026.

# Faculty News

## Rafael Vizcaino

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH KURT MERTEL  
American University of Sharjah (AUS)



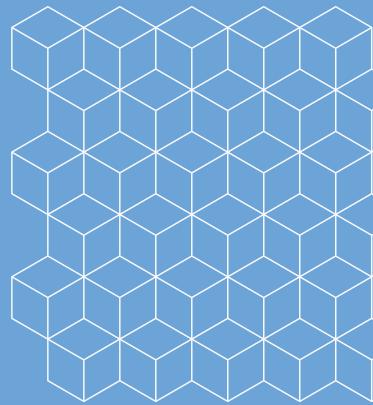
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025  
10:00AM – NOON  
PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE ROOM  
2352 N. CLIFTON, ROOM 150.33

**Re-Thinking the Sociality of the Self**  
The Emancipatory Project of Being and Time, Volume 1  
Kurt C. M. Mertel

Join us for a workshop on fundamental ontology and critical theory with Dr. Mertel (AUS). Attendees must email Prof. Vizcaíno if they wish to receive a copy of the book before the workshop.

QUESTIONS? PROFESSOR RAFAEL VIZCAINO  
R.VIZCAINO@DEPAUL.EDU

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Department of Philosophy



In November, Rafael hosted Professor Kurt Mertel, from the University of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates), who led a workshop on his recently published book *Re-Thinking the Sociality of the Self*. This event was part of a developing collaboration between both institutions.

## Publications

“Postsecular Philosophy and Decolonization as a Political-Theological Struggle.” In *Political Theology Reimagined*, edited by Alex Dubilet and Vincent W. Lloyd, 142-155. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

“The Ceremony beyond the Secular: Postreligious Autopoetics in Wynter’s *The Hills of Hebron*.” In *Words made Flesh: Sylvia Wynter and Religion*, edited by Justine M. Bakker and David Kline, 153-170. New York, NY: Fordham University Press.

# Faculty News

## Convocation



*Photos courtesy of Monika Lozinska*

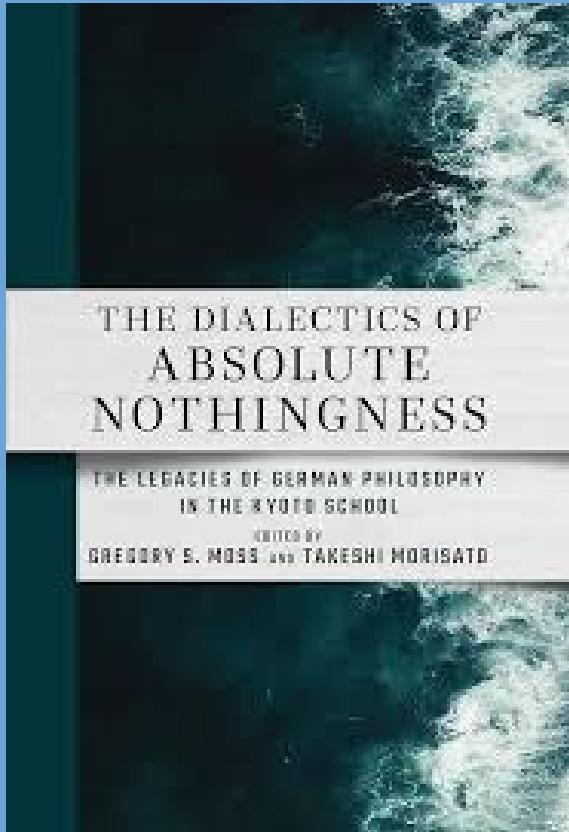
# Graduate Student News & Events

Philosophy Department  
Film Screening and Discussion



Thursday, October 16th at 6:30pm  
Location: Clifton Suite Room 155

The Department of Philosophy GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) held a film screening of Ken McMullen's "Ghost Dance," followed by a discussion with Professors Elizabeth Rottenberg and Michael Naas.



EDWARD KWOK, one of our first-year graduate students, reviewed the book, *The Dialectics of Absolute Nothingness: The Legacies of German Philosophy in the Kyoto School*, Gregory S. Moss and Takeshi Morisato, eds., Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2025.

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj  
<https://ejjp-journal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ejjp-10-kwok-review-of-moss-morisato.pdf>

# Graduate Student News & Events



EVAN O'DONNELL has had two papers published: 'Deleuze's Epistemology of Inquiry,' accepted in *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, and 'Quid Facti between Kant and Maimon,' accepted in *Kant-Studien*.

Evan was also invited to deliver a Pizza and Profundity Lecture at Connecticut College, where he delivered 'Arcesilaus on How to Be a Skeptical Evidentialist'.

Evan was made the editor of the *Sextus Empiricus* category for PhilPapers.

LUDOVICO ZIZZO had two papers published:

- "Tyranny, Freedom, and Moral Creativity in Nietzsche's 'Middle Period,'" *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 56, no. 2 (forthcoming: fall 2025).
- "Discovering Archetypes: Goethe and the Poetry of Natural History," *Studii de Istorie a Filosofiei Universale* 32 (2024): 81–93.

Ludovico participated in the following:

- November 21, 2025: "Plato's Critique of Technocracy in the *Statesman*," Ancient Philosophy Society Graduate Panel 2025, online event.
- September 5, 2025: "Nihilism and the Twilight of the Free Spirits," 30th International Conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- March 15, 2025: "Arendt and Sebald: The Displaced Narrative of Trauma," 18th Annual Meeting of the Hannah Arendt Circle, Loyola University Chicago.

## APS GRAD PANEL



Join the Ancient Philosophy Society for a virtual panel discussion featuring current and recently graduated doctoral students working in ancient philosophy, moderated by Norah Woodcock.

Plato's Critique of Technocracy in the *Statesman*  
Ludovico Zizzo, DePaul University

Socrates' Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning in the Symposium  
Gabriella Cunningham, Baylor University

Xenophon's Account of the Corruption of Autolycus  
Sam Hage, Tulane University

Mathematics, Play, and Reality in Plato's *Republic*  
Qian Cao, Columbia University

Friday, Nov. 21 2:00 PM Eastern [tinyurl.com/APSpanel25](https://tinyurl.com/APSpanel25)

# Successfully Defended Dissertations

## WILLIAM COX

Will successfully defended his dissertation, "The Reality of Reason: Fiction, Method, and Modernity in the Metaphysics of Francisco Suárez."



### The Reality of Reason: Fiction, Method, and Modernity in the Metaphysics of Francisco Suárez

Dissertation Defense:  
William Cox

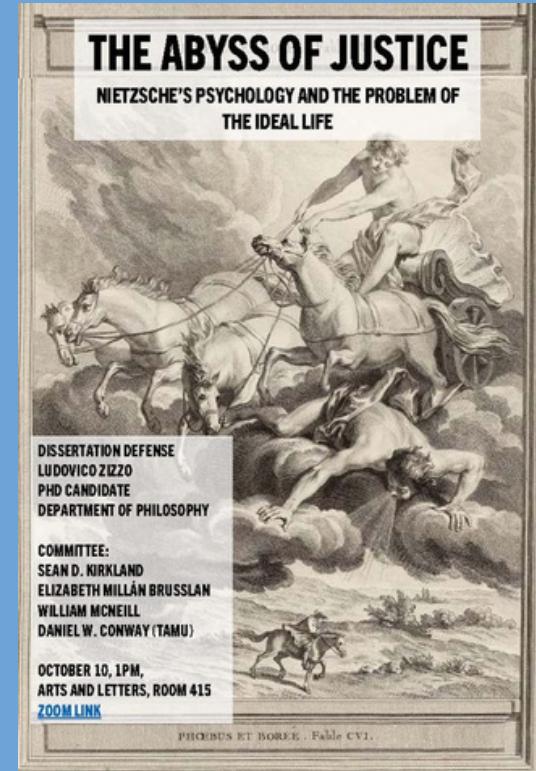
Friday, September 12  
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Committee:  
Richard A. Lee Jr.  
Sean D. Kirkland  
Elizabeth Rottenberg  
Victor M. Salas (SHMS)

Philosophy Department  
Conference Room 150-33  
(2352 N. Clifton)

## LUDIVICO ZIZZO

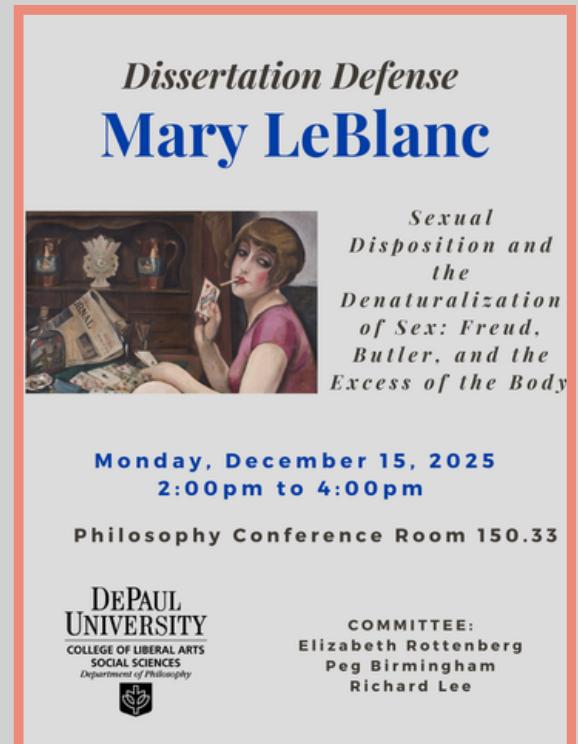
Ludovico successfully defended his dissertation, "The Abyss of Justice: Nietzsche's Psychology and the Problem of the Ideal Life."



# Successfully Defended Dissertations

## MARY LeBLANC

Mary successfully defended her dissertation, "Sexual Disposition and the Denaturalization of Sex: Freud, Butler, and the Excess of the Body."



Congratulations to Ludovico, Mary and Will!

# Events & Conferences

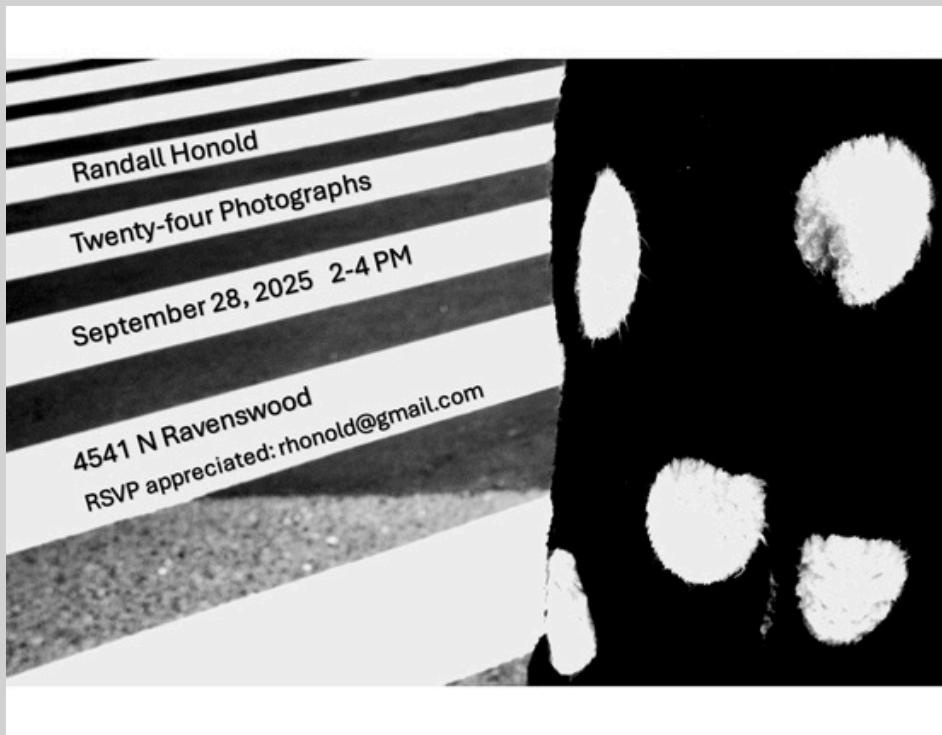
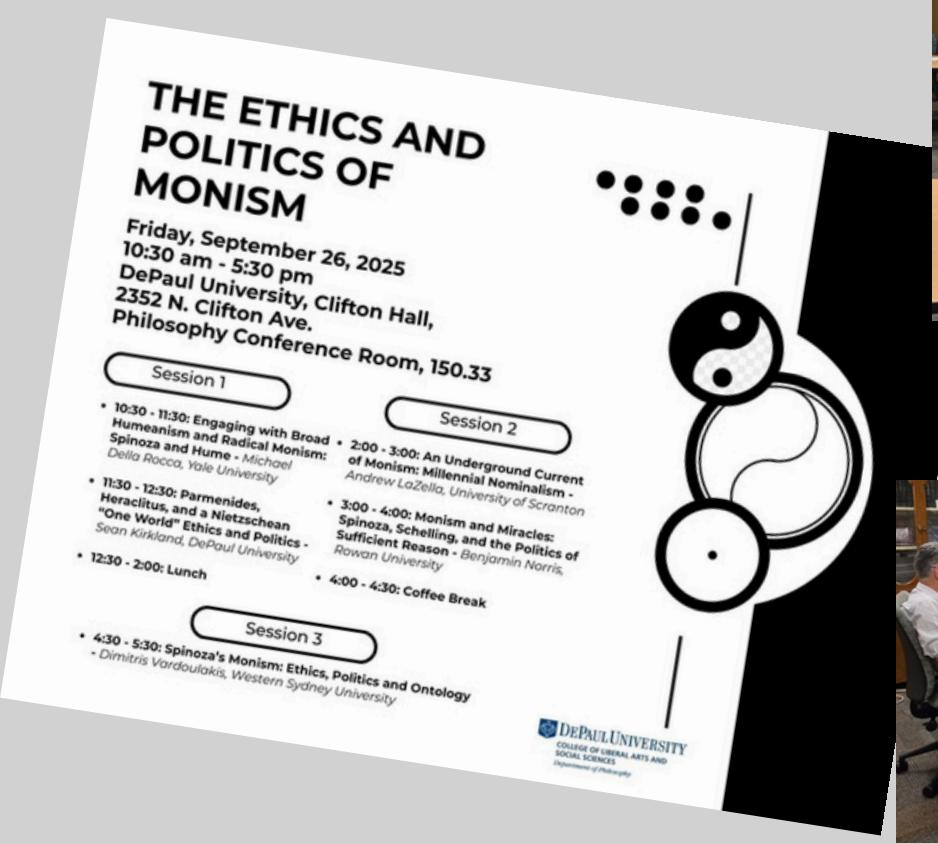
## Department of Philosophy Orientation 2025-26



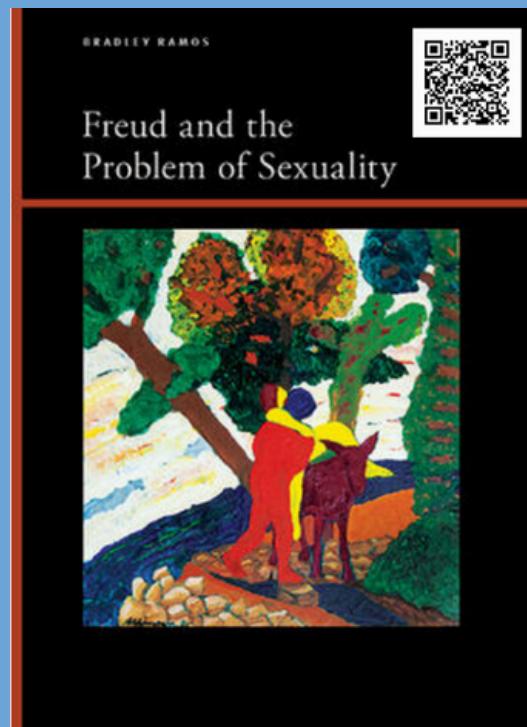
Congratulations to Evan O'Donnell, recipient of the 2025 Michael Mezey Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching.



# Events & Conferences



# Alumni News

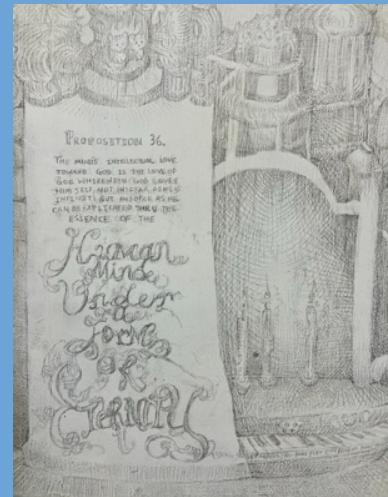


BRADLEY RAMOS ('21) published his first monograph, "Freud and the Problem of Sexuality," (SUNY Press).  
<https://sunypress.edu/Books/F/Freud-and-the-Problem-of-Sexuality2>

SARAH FERRARA, former undergraduate Philosophy student, currently at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has created some philosophically themed art.

Sarah said that she feels the philosophy training she received at DePaul has better prepared her to seek her visual art path more than attending art school might have.

The painting in black and white is a homage to Binswanger's patient Ellen West, and the silverpoint drawing has Spinoza's Proposition 36 from Ethics etched on it.



# Contact Us

Have something for the newsletter?

Send to Regina Robinson at [rrobin40@depaul.edu](mailto:rrobin40@depaul.edu) or [philosophy@depaul.edu](mailto:philosophy@depaul.edu)

Would you like to be added to our Friends of Philosophy events list?

Send your name and email to [philosophy@depaul.edu](mailto:philosophy@depaul.edu)



@DePaulPhilosophy

*AI Disclosure: Some photos were edited for content using a Magic Edit tool*