In “In Search of Kindness Lost,” Caroline Lundquist draws our attention to our tendency to dismiss lost opportunities for kindness as losses worth mourning. By contrasting our ordinary reticence to intervene on another’s behalf with the profound feelings of regret we feel when we attribute a suicide to our failure to intervene, she draws our attention to several fundamental truths about the nature of kindness as it relates to moral agency. After exploring the attitudes and *praxes* that comprise kind agency, the author offers a tentative explanation of our general reticence to actualize kindness. Drawing insights from Kant’s ethical thought and from the phenomenological ethics of Werner Marx, she ends by exploring ways to inculcate kindness, paying special attention to the types of judgments and affective states that best enable it.


For more information about this event please visit the Philosophy Department website.