

# THE THINKING DUCK

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



**W**ith this Fall 2018 edition of the Thinking Duck, we are continuing with our newsletter roots (for ease of reading, writing, and archiving). In this issue, we bring you the names of recent graduates (right) and interviews with our new faculty member and new graduate students (pp. 2-4). New and recent events are listed on p. 3, left. Achievements and awards of students, and faculty follow (p. 5). Finally, we wish you a happy holiday season and new year and welcome donations to the UO Philosophy Department (p. 6). These donations enable us to do a little extra for students on all levels, such as prizes for exceptional scholarship, so your generosity is much appreciated.

## Naomi Zack

Professor of Philosophy

## THE THINKING DUCK



EDITOR  
**Naomi Zack**



MANAGING EDITOR  
**Rebekah Sinclair**



COPY EDITOR  
**Pat Martin**



## 2017-2018 Graduates

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Department of Philosophy was pleased to congratulate 108 undergraduate and graduate students earning degrees in philosophy.

### Ph.D. Graduates

Anna Cook  
Russell Duvernoy  
Dana Rognlie  
Gus Skorburg

### M.A. Graduates

Amy Nigh  
Daniel Westbrook

### Philosophy Majors

Housten Chandler Ezell  
Aurora Jean Laybourn-Candlish  
(Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)  
Riley Joseph Moore  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
Bonnie L Rhodes  
Nikolas A Sifuentez  
Alyssa Amanda Curtis  
Jakob Connor Goldfarb  
Christopher Payton Pilette  
Giancarlo William Alfano  
Colin Robert Baylor  
Elizabeth Reyes Beltran  
Jaston Peter Burri  
(Summa Cum Laude)  
Olivia Nancy Chandler  
Micaela Petronella Chappelle  
Leah Darline Crewse  
Caroline Sarah Crisp  
William Douglas Dalquist  
Amanda P Di Grazia  
Alexus S Gandara  
(Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)  
Laura Tasha-Aimee Garcia  
Gabriel Martin Gardiner  
Stephanie Anne Gordon  
Hunter Sterling Hastings  
Julian Thomas Kane  
Israel Adam Lutes  
(Summa Cum Laude,  
Phi Beta Kappa)  
William James Maher  
Alejandro Mariscal-Salazar  
Kadyn Piper Mauldin  
Nicholas Scott McClurg  
(Departmental Honors)  
Kylee Nicole McConnell  
Matthew Ayden McGrew  
Monika Anne Minnigerode

Cassandra Janet Mullins  
Gabriel Alexander Naganuma  
Chase Tanner Tavernier  
Tanner Jackson Yamada  
(Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)  
Alec Gabriel Home  
Jia Rong Li  
Leyla K Ersan  
Adam Daniel Pfister

### Philosophy Minors

Heidi Olivia Rangel  
Colin Thomas Jones  
Jesse Daniel Preston  
Michelle Louise Booth  
Hayden Hamilton Burket  
Harrison Thomas Carr  
Alec Mitchell Cowan  
Julie Anne Goggins  
Angelina Marie Lachman  
Abbey Norton McBride  
Michael Keith Morrison  
Alexander Michael Parthemer  
Xavier Joseph Pinder  
Lucy Verrette Scholz  
Karl Olaf Unverferth  
Tucker James Molinski  
Samantha Lee Johnson  
Karina Symonne Mitarotonda  
Holly Jane Nuthmann  
Alanna Maylon O'Brien  
Andrew James Pardi  
Christian Beck Poncetta  
Mackenzie Alaine Stevens  
Zoe Clare Wong  
Leif K Woodford  
Sequoia Alexis Buchanan  
Nicholas Taylor Dauphinais  
Taylor Annette Garcia  
Brandon Alexander Gil  
Megan Elizabeth Lyslo  
Mariah Kilohana Victor  
Samantha Lee Johnson

### Ethics Minors

Matthew Dennis Kosanke  
Rachelle A Lonvera  
Megan Elizabeth Rouse  
Erik Anderson Belzer

Carlie Johnson Beiber  
Kar Mun Chong  
Christopher J Damewood  
James Matthew Dolan  
Hannah Elizabeth Ragland  
Amanda Marie Armstrong  
Shalini Avsarala  
Robyn Inez Babcock  
Parker James Belan  
Beau David Curtiss  
Taylor May Dalton  
Courtney Leigh Daum  
Kimberly Ann Duyck  
Ashley Nicole Ferris  
Nils Gustave Hagberg  
SarahMarie Jacqueline  
Hansen  
Samuel Jeffrey Hickman  
Halla Margaret Hinriksdottir  
Kaitlyn Ryan Hughes  
Randy Youngjae Jo  
Molly Elizabeth Johnson  
Erin Lyn Katovich  
Tracy Khang  
Aaron Nicholas Scott  
LeFore  
Charlotte Ann Leddie  
Mercedes Alexandra Mingus

# New Faculty Interview



Barbara Muraca joined the philosophy faculty as an Assistant Professor in 2018. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Greifswald, Germany. She specializes in Process Philosophy (A.N. Whitehead), Environmental and Social Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, and Political Ecology.

## RS: What drew you to the University of Oregon Department of Philosophy?

BM: First of all its reputation as a very well-respected philosophy department that links rigorous scholarship with a strong commitment for social justice and diversity. Especially in my field (environmental philosophy) University of Oregon is one of the first names that comes to mind. I have been the co-director of IAEP (International Association of Environmental Philosophy) for a few years now and have always been very impressed by the quality of the papers presented by graduate students from the UO Philosophy Department. I remember thinking every time 'this is the place to be!' And now I have the possibility of actually being here. This is an incredible opportunity. What I also find impressive is the variety of expertise represented in the Department. Students can find different perspectives, approaches, and traditions of philosophy in one place. I look very much forward to this richness and to the exchange with colleagues and students.

## RS: Among the current things happening in the department, what do you find most exciting?

BM: I cannot say much to this, because I have not started yet. From an external perspective what I truly appreciated so far is the transparency and clarity of communication with respect to class scheduling, administrative issues, and any of the questions I had about my position. I also enjoyed the few occasions of interaction with graduate students and had a sense that they build a real community, which is a key for success.

## RS: How do you see yourself contributing to the department and University more over the next few years?

BM: I think that my very first task after my starting date in March will be to understand how things work, meet people, and learn. In terms of teaching, I very much look forward to adding to the Department my expertise in Process Philosophy (Whitehead) and to sharing my experience with international and interdisciplinary collaborations with respect to environmental philosophy. I am excited about the possibility of

working together with graduate students on research projects (an opportunity that I did not have in the last years) and want to be a strong liaison (for them) with the environmental philosophy community. I do not know yet what the needs of the Department are, but I am committed to contributing to a welcoming and inspiring environment for everyone.

## RS: You have a joint position between Philosophy and Environmental Studies. Can you speak to the joint nature of this position, and how you understand the relationship between Philosophy and Environmental studies, both in general and with respect to this unique position?

BM: Environmental issues for me necessarily inform and challenge the way in which philosophy operates, the questions it asks, the critical perspectives it articulates, even when I am not teaching an environmental philosophy class in a strict sense. This does not mean that the 'content' has to be related to environmental problems. It can be a class on Hegel or Butler. But the entry point, the way of interacting with the material, changes. At the same time, philosophy brings a much needed critical perspective to environmental studies. The fact that philosophers have been increasingly often invited to participate to interdisciplinary panels shows that this is a shared acknowledgement. This is why I am so excited about the unique opportunity of having a joint position at UO. I hope not to work solely with students specifically interested in environmental issues (although this will probably be a central focus of my work), but also to engage with other traditions and topics, read and engaged from a perspective that is informed by taking seriously the current environmental crisis.

This challenges, for example, the way we think subject positions, relations, ontologies, and society. Part of my research is in the field of Social Philosophy and explores inter alia the role of the Imaginary for social transformation.

Let me give you a concrete example of the key role of philosophy in debates about environmental issues: I recently attended an international meeting about different conceptualizations of biodiversity. I was sitting in a room with experts from all disciplines, scholarly approaches, and countries, including representatives of indigenous people. The first hurdle we encountered was the attempt at finding some common ground around the term 'nature'. In many indigenous traditions the term does not exist or has a strong colonial meaning attached to it. That controversy, which runs across and challenges the Western tradition of thought, its own multiple layers of articulation between colonial imposition and less visible trends of reflexive (self)critique, as well as the attention to alternative narratives in their own terms and languages, is for me one of the dwelling places of a critical environmental philosophy. It requires a constant attention to current debates cutting across different fields of environmentally oriented disciplines (such as ecological economics, environmental sociology, human ecology, or environmental humanities) and policy-relevant discussions, while at the same time remaining deeply rooted in the specific skills and traditions of the philosopher's work.

# Upcoming and Recent Events

**FEB 1-2<sup>nd</sup>**

## Resistant Imaginations Conference,

Keynote by José Medina, Northwestern University, and Gaile Pohlhaus, Miami

**FEB 21<sup>st</sup>**

Colloquium with Tithi Bhattacharya, Purdue University

**MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Colloquium with Elena Cuffari, Worcester State University

**APR 11-12<sup>th</sup>**

## Kinsman Bioethics Conference,

“Raising Voices: The Ethics of Dialogue and Communication in Health Care”

**APR 18<sup>th</sup>**

## Colloquium with Mauro Carbone,

Jean Moulin University Lyon 3

**MAY 9-11<sup>th</sup>**

Critical Genealogies Workshop

# Diversity Focus

The Department of Philosophy is excited to announce the launch of the newly developed Diversity Focus. The Diversity Focus in Philosophy is an opportunity for students to combine diversity courses in race, gender, and class, with lectures, events, and workshops, to earn formal recognition of focused philosophical studies of diversity. The Philosophy department has long prided itself on offering courses taught by a diverse faculty, syllabi with highly diverse authors represented, and classes focused on contemporary issues concerning diversity. With this formal recognition, we formalize our commitment to diversity, and hope to draw students who recognize diversity as a shared value. We especially look forward to developing keystone courses at the graduate (coming 2019-2020) and undergraduate (coming 2020-2021) levels in which students will reflect on the important relationship between philosophy and diversity. The program will be available for undergraduates both within and outside of philosophy, and the graduate version is available to Philosophy MA and Ph.D. students. Interested undergraduate and graduate students can find application forms at <https://philosophy.uoregon.edu/diversity-focus-2/>.

# Achievements and Awards

## Faculty

### Colin Koopman

Faculty Research Award



### Colin Koopman

Seed Project Grant for the development of the Oregon Center for Law, Ethics and Neuroscience



### Mark Johnson

Outstanding Research Career Achievement Award



### Nicolae Morar

National Endowment for the Humanities Award

### Nicolae Morar

Seed Project Grant for the development of the Oregon Center for Law, Ethics and Neuroscience



### Alejandro Vallega

Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Humanities Professorship



### Daniela Vallega-Neu

Fund for Faculty Excellence Award



### Rocío Zambrana

Fund for Faculty Excellence Award

## Graduate Students

### Martina Ferrari

Iris Marion Young Prize



### Martina Ferrari

College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship

### Devin Fitzpatrick

Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Research Fellowship



### Joshua Kerr

Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Research Fellowship

### Joshua Kerr

Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Development Award



# New Graduate Students

The Thinking Duck asked the newest graduate students in our M.A. and Ph.D. programs about their reasons for coming to the University of Oregon, first impressions of the department, current scholarship, or future plans.



**Abram Fernandez**

My first impressions of the department were absolutely great. Coming into the department I felt included and welcomed by both faculty and other grad students. I am especially happy to have an inclusive and cohesive cohort. As for Eugene, I found it a good place to just arrive and situate yourself very quickly and I appreciate the beautiful scenery that is all around Eugene. I'm not much of a hiker, but perhaps I'll go on a few of those. I plan to continue studying my research interests of Latin American philosophy and philosophy of race. Specifically, I am interested in determining whether or not Latin American philosophy has a salient and robust characteristic of distinctiveness.



**Annie Ring**

I've had wonderful first impressions of the department and Eugene. I've enjoyed the sense of community in the department and am grateful for such a supportive space for critical thought. I love the forests and rivers surrounding Eugene and am excited to continue to get to know the nature around us. I am interested in existential phenomenology, especially the relationship in phenomenology between nature, the body, and language. I am also looking forward to widening my focus in Native American Philosophy, as my past research has been primarily centered on Diné ritual language their relationship with their lived space.



**Chris Shambaugh**

I was drawn to the Philosophy Department because it seemed the perfect place to pursue my interests in Continental and American Philosophy. Upon visiting, I was delighted by the kindness and diverse interests of the graduate students. Since arriving, I've been really pleased by the sense of community in the department. I am currently interested in how concepts of experience bring the idealist and pragmatist traditions into dialogue (particularly in the work of Hegel, Dewey and Brandom), but have also been reading Adorno, and am excited to get more exposure to Philosophy of Race, Feminist Philosophy, Marx, and Foucault.



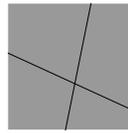
**Evan Quarles**

I am so very happy to find myself in this intellectual atmosphere. The diversity, rigor, and critical capacity of the thought with which I am surrounded is both a challenge and a joy. Everything to me is still a mystery, but a mystery that enlivens and does not debilitate. While I don't know if I have my own thoughts, I am primarily interested in a critical phenomenology of such experiences where both the subject of and the subject that describes an experience are in question.



**James Emery**

I was drawn to the department because of its focus on Continental philosophy. I am interested in pursuing my interests in Merleau-Ponty, Heidegger and other seminal figures of the 20th Continental tradition while still having the opportunity to learn from the other philosophical traditions as I further my education in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.



**John Montani**

Eugene is a beautiful place. It's green, mountainous, and contemplative. As someone coming from New York, I've felt much closer to the natural world since being here. The department is full with people of diverse backgrounds, both in terms of research interests and life experience, all of whom have been kind and welcoming. I have a background in the Continental tradition, but am eager to learn more about Pragmatism, Feminism, and Critical Theory. Recently, I've been interested in sensation, and how we as bodies form our world through the senses. Another research interest of mine has been rhythm, and the many ways our worlds become constituted through various kinds of rhythms. I feel grateful to have found myself in this supportive and intellectually stimulating community here in Eugene.



**Nicolas Brooks**

It was the pluralism of the department that first drew me to the University of Oregon, and I am excited by the opportunity to engage in a wide array of philosophical approaches and thought. My main areas of interest stem mostly from 20th Century French and German thinkers, and include topics such as the concept of transgression, the theme of rebellion and revolt, as well as the figure of the rebel. In my brief time here, I have found Eugene to be an excellent setting for studying philosophy.



**Reese Haller**

I was first drawn to the Oregon philosophy department because of the focus on feminist philosophy. I have long been interested in feminist issues and found that feminist epistemology was where I felt I could best contribute my understandings and efforts. With so many professors engaging with feminist issues, U of O was the perfect choice for me. Because professors in the department share these interests, I felt immediately upon arriving that I am in the right place.



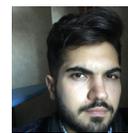
**Rhannon Lindgren**

I came to the UO after spending most of my life in the Chicagoland area. I was drawn in not only by the lively grad community, but also by the voluminous greenery in Eugene - what a beauty! I think the Philosophy department as a whole has a great sense of community and all the faculty so far has been quite welcoming and receptive while our cohort adjusts to graduate life. My philosophical interest include feminist theory, feminist responses to Marx, in addition to critical responses to the history of continental philosophy and phenomenology.



**Rosa O'Connor Acevedo**

My experience as an incoming student has been very stimulating and challenging in intellectual and personal growth. I couldn't be more excited about the classes I'm taking and the Genealogy reading group. There is a social and political commitment in the Department to engage critically with philosophical thought and our current political moment. I felt very supported by professors, staff and graduate students; I have particularly enjoyed learning from the diverse research interest of other students. I'm satisfied that I have been able to incorporate my Latin American and Foucault research interests in my papers along with new readings about Fanon and American philosophy of race.



**Tali Bitton**

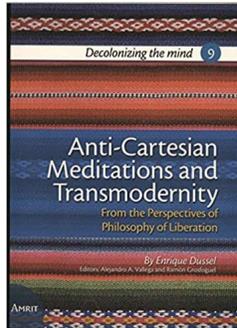
When asked to write a bit about myself and what drew me to UO's Philosophy Department, I hesitated—to the point of turning in this interview late. The hesitation was not because I had nothing good to say but rather I did not know what is worth saying. Should I mention that UO drew me because of its rich pluralism, especially for my interests within the Continental tradition? Or should I say that this was one of few departments that was welcoming, even during the application process? Perhaps it was because I needed to get as far away as possible from Washington, DC? In any case, I look forward to reflecting more on these questions.

## Recent Faculty Books

### **Anti-Cartesian Meditations and Transmodernity: From the Perspectives of Philosophy of Liberation,**

Edited by Alejandro Vallega

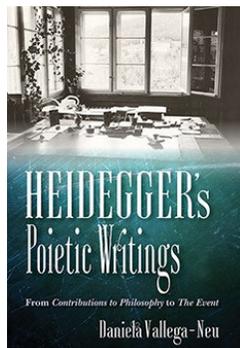
Argentine-Mexican philosopher of liberation Enrique Dussel (1934-) is one of the major figures in the development of world philosophies. Dussel's work is generally seen in the English speaking world as related particularly to Latin American concerns such as: the social and political revolutions in Latin America in the Seventies, the birth of the theology of liberation, and the role in Latin America of pragmatism and neo-Marxist theory. However, as the present volume reveals, the scope of Dussel's work is much larger as it points to a reconfiguration of the very way one understand the task and history of philosophy, ultimately offering a work necessary and pressing for today.



### **Heidegger's Poietic Writings: From Contributions to Philosophy to the Event,**

by Daniela Vallega-Neu

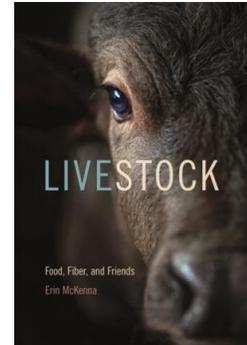
Engaging the development of Heidegger's non-public writings on the event between 1936 and 1941, Daniela Vallega-Neu reveals what Heidegger's private writings kept hidden. Vallega-Neu takes readers on a journey through these volumes, which are not philosophical works in the traditional sense as they read more like fragments, collections of notes, reflections, and expositions. In them, Vallega-Neu sees Heidegger searching for a language that does not simply speak about being, but rather allows a sense of being to emerge in his thinking and saying. She focuses on striking shifts in the tone and movement of Heidegger's thinking during these important years. Skillfully navigating the unorthodox and intimate character of these writings, Vallega-Neu provides critical insights into questions of attunement, language, the body, and historicity in Heidegger's thinking.



### **Livestock: Food, Fiber, and Friends,**

by Erin McKenna

This deeply informative text reveals that the animals we commonly see as livestock have rich evolutionary histories, species-specific behaviors, breed tendencies, and individual variation, just as those we respect in companion animals such as dogs, cats, and horses. To restore a similar level of respect for livestock, McKenna

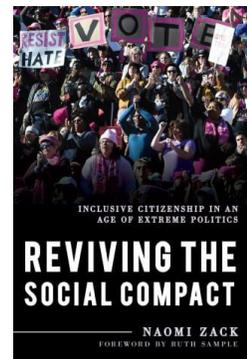


examines ways we can balance the needs of our livestock animals with the environmental and social impacts of raising them, and she investigates new possibilities for humans to be in relationships with other animals. This book thus offers us a picture of healthier, more respectful relationships with livestock.

### **Reviving the Social Compact: Inclusive Citizenship in an Age of Extreme Politics,**

by Naomi Zack

This book addresses current political and social upheaval and distress with new concepts for the relationship between citizens and government. Politics has become turbo-charged as a form of agonistic contest where candidates and the public become more focused on winning than on governing or holding the government accountable for the benefit of the people. This failure of the government to fulfill its part of the social contract calls for a new social compact wherein citizens as a collective whole make long-term resolutions outside of government institutions. Reviving the Social Compact is a call for good citizenship. Voting is the first step—because in a divided two-party system, a change from one party to the other is tantamount to revolution—and a new understanding of the social compact can lead to the stable civic life we need at this time.



# Support the UO Philosophy Department

Faculty, students, and staff members in the University of Oregon's Department of Philosophy are committed to advancing the educational and scholarly mission of the university. Although we are a public university, only 5 percent of the university's funding comes from the State of Oregon. Budget cuts during economic downturns over the past two decades have forced the legislature to shrink allocations for higher education. We are thus grateful that many of our alumni, friends, and sustainers share our educational, scholarly, and cultural ideals, and that they are able to support our efforts through financial gifts.

The philosophy department depends on gifts from our alumni and friends to support and enrich the content and form of the philosophy education that we provide. If you would like to help, one good way to support us is to make a donation to the philosophy department's general fund. To make a contribution online you can give to the University of Oregon Foundation Philosophy Department Fund on the UO Department of Philosophy website.

## At this time, the UO Department of Philosophy would greatly benefit from funds earmarked for the following:

- Travel funds for graduate students to attend professional conferences and conduct research at archives and field sites
- Undergraduate and graduate student essay prizes
- Research funds for undergraduate and graduate students to buy books, or to purchase books for the departmental library
- Funding for our Teaching Children Philosophy program, which brings philosophy to grade school classrooms

- Support for inviting speakers to campus, including stipends for video conferences
- Support for conferences on specific philosophical and cultural topics hosted by the department

In the past, donors have made innovative suggestions for program development and enrichment and we continue to welcome such contributions.

Cut out the coupon below and send it in to the philosophy department



Please make check payable to UO Foundation–Philosophy or charge

Mastercard     Visa     Discover     American Express

Account no. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my gift for

The Department of Philosophy's greatest needs

Other (specify)                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Double Your Gift

If your employer has a matching gift program, your gift may be worth twice as much. Your personnel office will have that information. If in doubt, fill in the name of your firm and we will do the checking.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of firm

Solicitation Code 10566

If you would like to give online, please visit [philosophy.uoregon.edu](http://philosophy.uoregon.edu) and click the "Give Now" button.