

THE THINKING DUCK

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



With this Fall 2017 edition of the Thinking Duck, we are returning to 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 faculty member now in the Provost's office, new Department Head, new faculty member, and new graduate students (pp. 2-4). New and recent events are listed on p. 2, left. Achievements and publications of staff, 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

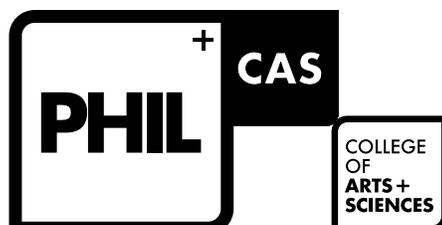
THE THINKING DUCK



EDITOR
Naomi Zack



MANAGING EDITOR
Joshua Kerr



2016-2017 Graduates

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Department of Philosophy was pleased to congratulate 75 undergraduate and graduate students earning degrees in philosophy:

Ph.D. Graduates

David Craig Baumeister

M.A. Graduates

Elizabeth Balskus
Lisa Blasch
Myles Cunningham
Madeline Georgevich
Evan Haney
AJ Harmond
Elliny Hiebert
Olga Kuskova

Philosophy Majors

Ghoncheh Azadeh
Jasmine T Beeson
Chaviante Unique Bell
Drew Scott Betts
Benjamin Chu
Zhenshan Dong Andrew Joseph Dunn
Nicholas L Dysinger
Thomas Aquinas Edmonds
Houston Chandler Ezell
Hayden Glenn Fawcett
William Fettig
Brandon Flanagan
Dylan Gamble
Azadeh Ghanizadeh
Adam Patrick Hendey
Clay Robert Hurand
Andre Anthony Lightsey-Walker
Christina Lyn
Tailer Chanel Murphy
Bonnie L Rhodes
Eleki M Romans
Robert Alan Stanton
Keith Summers
Benjamin Neil Johnson
Scott E Joli
Mara Geronimo Jones Tagatac
Dillon Marchello
Ian Inti Weckler
Jackson Richmond Ward
James Connor West
Ethan Lewis Wyman

Philosophy Minors

Colbey Gerald Carpenter
Tanainan Chuanchaiyakul
Andrew M Dorn
Nathan R Fairbairn-Mathers
Chase Mackenzie Graboyes-Reed
Susannah Rose Feiler
Andrew O Heeszel
Natalie Viola Justema
Claire Marie Pascual
Zachary David Pesznecker
Meerah Alijandra Powell
Bartosz Piotr Sawicki
Mackenzie Patrick Schlieff
Drew Schrader Stoll
Sarah Nicole Vivoli

Ethics Minors

Aina Steemann Aalton
Katherine Olivia Andersen
Erik Anderson Belzer
Jacob W Cavanaugh
Tyler Michael Chaffee
Mikayla Renee Cruz-Nicklas
James Matthew Dolan
Caitlin M Dieni
Kaitlyn Masako Endo
Casey Erickson
Courtney Marie Suzanne Farmer
Gabriel Halvor Gomez
Sydney V. Klotzer
Matthew Dennis Kosanke
Kaitlyn Marija LeBlanc
Cayla Deann Lussier
Jack Wayne Miller
Charlie Johnson Norczyk
Ashley Renee Proctor
Megan Elizabeth Rouse
Erin Wendy Schapiro
Genevieve Lauren Youngsma

Upcoming and Recent Events

OCT 12

Colloquium with
James Risser,
Seattle University

NOV 11

Pacific Northwest
American Philosophy
Reading Group

NOV 16-17

Colloquium with
Dan Smith,
Purdue University

NOV 30

Colloquium with
Ernesto Velasquez,
University of Dayton

MAR 15

Colloquium with
Bernat Tort,
University of Puerto Rico

New Faculty Interview



Camisha Russell joined the philosophy faculty as Assistant Professor in 2017. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Penn State University in 2013. She specializes in Critical Philosophy of Race, Ethics (esp. Bioethics), African American Philosophy, and Feminist Theory.

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

CR: I have long held two strong professional desires: (1) to mentor graduate students and (2) to transform the discipline of philosophy through the inclusion of diverse voices. Those desires have been tempered, however, by the need to work in a collegial environment where my interests and work are respected. Oregon seems to be one of the few departments where I can “have it all.”

TD: Among the various things currently happening in the department, what do you find most exciting?

CR: I think we’re developing a nice concentration in Critical Philosophy of Race. Similarly, we have several people interested in Bioethics, broadly conceived, and I am looking forward to some great opportunities for collaboration with the forthcoming Knight Campus.

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

CR: I look forward to helping graduate students in their job market and general professionalization efforts. I also hope to encourage graduate students to pursue unique projects that they love, while helping them to make those projects legible to the broader philosophical discipline and interdisciplinary audiences. As I mentioned earlier, I would like to make myself instrumental in building bridges between a Humanities approach to Bioethics and the work of scientists on the Knight Campus. I am also looking forward to collaborating with the several faculty starting this year in the Black Studies program.

Scott Pratt, Executive Vice Provost



Professor Scott Pratt became Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in Fall 2017 after serving as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Pratt is the author of three books, *Logic: Inquiry, Argument and Order*, *Native Pragmatism*, and *Philosophy, from Wounded Knee to the Present* (coauthored with Erin McKenna). Professor Pratt remains an active member of the Philosophy Department.

SP: For me, my work as an administrator is continuous with my work as a philosopher and a teacher. As a teacher, my task is to provide students with what John Dewey called “educative experiences”—opportunities to engage in problems in ways that help them think about meaning and values. Occasionally, those of us who teach need to step back from that work in order to support the work of colleagues and students by setting the stage for their work.

Interview with the New Department Head



Associate Professor Daniela Vallega-Neu became Philosophy Department Head in 2017. Dr. Vallega-Neu specializes in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European Thought, Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Deconstruction, and Ontology related to issues of body. Her newest book, *Heidegger's Poietic Writings: From Contributions to Philosophy to The Event*, is forthcoming from Indiana University Press.

TD: As the department begins a new phase of leadership, what do you find exciting about what is currently happening in the department?

DVN: I am happy about the positive responses I have enjoyed for assuming the leadership of the department, the atmosphere of a "new beginning" I feel, and the prospect of continuing to strengthen this department, with its collection of really fine, diverse, and productive faculty and graduate students. The biggest event this year is certainly our search for an environmental philosopher who will strengthen our collaborative ties with the Environmental Studies program. I am also excited about the prospect of beginning a permanent exhibition of photographs by a local artist, Sarah Grew, in our department.

TD: What are the concrete responsibilities of a Department Head?

DVN: Although the Department Head technically works for the administration, in practice she represents the department to the Dean and advocates for support of the department. The Head oversees the budget and has some (limited) say in the allocation of specific funds; she assigns committee work to faculty, is responsible for curriculum development and course allocations for both faculty and GEs, writes performance reports, and writes letters of support for faculty seeking grants and fellowships. She also oversees the organization of special events within the department and in collaboration with other departments.

TD: What do you like most about your job so far? What aspects have been difficult or unwelcome?

DVN: I am happy to have the opportunity to support our faculty and graduate students, although I would need substantially more funding to give everybody the support they deserve. I am grateful for the help I get from our staff in beginning this new job. It is interesting to learn more not only about the many achievements and initiatives of our own faculty but also about what is going on in the rest of the university and more specifically in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Humanities. What I encounter as most difficult is the number of different issues and tasks (and sometimes difficult situations) that demand my attention and pull me at once in many different directions.

TD: What opportunities do you see for the department in the near future?

DVN: We are not only the leading pluralist philosophy department (in the sense of comprising many traditions other than the standard analytical tradition) in the Western hemisphere of the United States but also have a strong standing in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Oregon thanks to the excellence of the research of our department and the strength of our graduate program. Because our department is unique on a national level, with its emphasis on diversity and the expansion to innovative and often inter-disciplinary fields of philosophical research, we can compete with programs that have substantially more money than we do and can attract top graduate students to our program.

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.



**Kit
Connor**

My service dog Seth and I are excited to live in such a beautiful setting, where there are so many folks who love dogs! The graduate community here is like no other I've experienced: genuinely warm, open, and supportive. I feel very lucky to get to be a part of it. After graduation, I hope to be able to teach philosophy in a university setting--someplace where I can teach classes in feminist theory. I was drawn to the University of Oregon philosophy in part by the support for feminist philosophy among both faculty and graduate students.



**Ricardo
Friez**

My first impressions of the department revolved around the accessibility and friendliness of the faculty. The professors here, while having diverse backgrounds, share in common their treatment of students as equals and as comrades in philosophical thinking. I was struck by Eugene's relatively small size and diverse neighborhoods, resulting in a city with a variety of styles and communities that are easy to explore without long drives.



**Lousie
Guizard**

I came to the University of Oregon thanks to an exchange with my French university. My first impression was that the department is quite small. Everybody seems to be close to one another, including staff, faculty, and students. Ultimately, though, I do not think there is a big difference between the graduate community here and the one back in France. I am graduating from The University of Lyon at the end of this academic year. Instead of starting a Ph.D., I intend to seek an internship with a company doing ethics advising within the fashion industry.



**Sterling
Hall**

Because of the pluralism of this department, I will be able to pursue my interests in both American and Continental philosophy. While here, I intend to study phenomenology, ethics, post-structuralism, critical theory, the philosophy of race, and feminist philosophy.



**Valérie
Simon**

I study phenomenology, especially Merleau-Ponty and Sara Ahmed. I also work in sexuality studies, feminist philosophy, and the philosophy of social science.



**Alex
Dong**

I currently have a wide range of interests, including metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ancient Greek philosophy, philosophy of religion, and comparative philosophy.



**Kenny
Knowlton**

Originally from Brazil, I did my undergraduate in Philosophy & Latin American Studies at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. What drew me to the University of Oregon was the atmosphere in combination with the variety of faculty interests. Particularly enticing for me is the research being done in phenomenology and Latin American Philosophy, but the amicable relationships among graduate students that I experienced during my visit was equally inviting.



**Zeinab
Nobowati**

My only prior experience of studying at a graduate level was at Humboldt University in Berlin, so I cannot draw a more general comparison, but I think a main feature of the graduate community here is combining the close intellectual exchange with friendship. There are several reading groups and graduate students often work closely together, but they also spend a lot of time together outside of work contexts. This builds a warm community which can be very helpful for one's intellectual flourishing. Upon arriving, I was surprised by the friendliness of the people here and by the beauty of its fall season.



**Xiao
Ouyang**

I was drawn to the University of Oregon because of the department's focus on continental philosophy. Since coming here, I have been impressed with the diversity of both teachers and students in terms of research, culture, and ethnicity.



**Shunji
Ukai**

I am from Japan. After graduation, I want to become a scholar. As of now, I am interested in the possibilities of Deweyan thinking and Japanese Pragmatism. I am surprised that Eugene is such a bike friendly community!



**Teague
Wiebe**

I already loved Eugene and was lucky enough to find that the focus of this philosophy department lined up perfectly with all of the areas of philosophy I was interested in. After earning my M.A. I intend to apply to Ph.D. programs and see where life takes me!

Recent Faculty Books

'On ne naît pas femme: on le devient': The Life of a Sentence

Edited by Bonnie Mann & Martina Ferrari

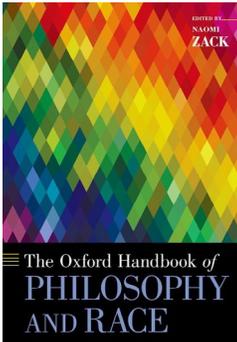


This collection of essays takes up Simone de Beauvoir's famous sentence, 'On ne naît pas femme: on le devient,' variously translated into English as 'One is not born, but rather becomes a woman,' and 'women are made, not born.' Since its publication, this sentence has inspired feminist thinking

and action in many different cultural and linguistic contexts. This collection of essays by philosophers, translators, other scholars includes a variety of positions on the meaning of the sentence in French, its correct translation, and on the meaning and status of the question of sexual difference in diverse languages, cultures, and political worlds.

The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Race

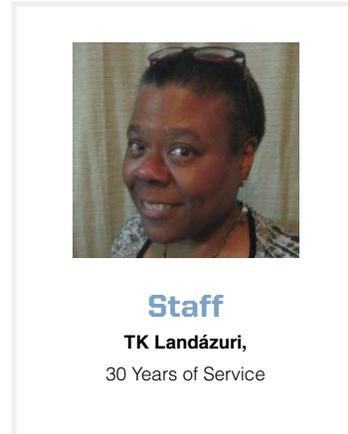
Edited by Naomi Zack



This collection of original essays by leading scholars addresses major topics and approaches in the emerging philosophical subfields of African American philosophy and philosophy of race. Ideas about race held by Locke, Hume, Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche are supplemented with twentieth-century African

American perspectives and Native-, Asian-, and Latin-American views. The contributors discuss racial divisions in the biological sciences, contemporary criticism, and conceptual analysis. Essays also highlight the applications of American and Continental philosophy to ideas of race as alternatives to more analytical approaches.

Achievements and Awards



Faculty

Steven Brence

Herman Faculty Achievement Award

Nicolae Morar

Faculty Research Award

Nicolae Morar

National Endowment for the Humanities Award

Mark Johnson

Herbert W. Schneider Award

Beata Stawarska

Fund for Faculty Excellence Award

Beata Stawarska

Residential Fellowship at Institute of Advanced Studies, Nantes

Rocío Zambrana

New School for Social Research Distinguished Alumni Award

Graduate Students

Anna Cook

Center for the Study of Women in Society Graduate Student Research Grant

Anna Cook

Margaret J. Wiese Graduate Research Award

Gus Skorburg

Oregon Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship

Lauren Eichler

Inter-American Philosophy Award

Shannon Hayes

Paideia Prize

Eli Portella

Tinker Field Research Grant

Rebekah Sinclair

Philosophy Matters Prize

Bonnie Sheehey

Oregon Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship

Undergraduate Students

Andrew Dunn

Phi Beta Kappa Oregon Six

Azadeh Ghanizadeh

Philosophy Matters Prize

James West

Centurion Award

Zoë Wong

Philosophy Matters Prize
Advanced Studies, Nantes

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.

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