The University of Oregon's Department of Philosophy is honored to present

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Institute of Philosophy & Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

For a colloquium discussion on

Thursday, May 24
4:00-5:30pm
In 101 Knight Library

"Overcoming Dualism: Thinking with Karen Barad about Metaphysics"

Abstract
Karen Barad writes that the remedy for the philosophy of the subject being stuck between the authoritarian ego cogito, and the mad-with-uncertainty non-subject of postmodernism is the reformulation of the very foundations of thinking, i.e. the adoption of a different metaphysics. In her view, the impasse becomes unblocked when we reject the dualist way of thinking in classical dichotomies, such as "nature-culture", "active-passive", "rational-irrational", "masculine-feminine". Barad proposes a new metaphysical point of view, according to which the world is a whole rather than composed of separate objects or social realms. From the perspective of the physical category of "entanglement", which would be the fundamental type of relation, she proposes to rethink those fundamental dichotomies. Searching for the possibility of a non-dualistic perspective, I would like to especially examine Barad's notion of the "agential cut" as metaphysically different from Descartes' cut between the object and the subject. Barad argues that they are absolute opposites, but the ontological status of the agential cut seems unclear.