



GRADUATE NEWS *continued from inside*

(PhD 2016; Volkswagenstiftung & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient), who has just been awarded a 2019/20 **Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarship at Deakin University.**

Since it was not announced until after the end of the 2018/19 academic year, allow me to also congratulate **Dr. Karim Barakat** (PhD 2018), who was awarded the **2018 Distinguished Dissertation in the Humanities Award** by a committee consisting of leading scholars from across the university.

Finally, congratulations to our 2019 graduating cohort of MA students, who received a dizzying array of PhD admissions offers at **Boston College, Duke University, DePaul University, Duquesne University, Fordham University, Georgetown University, New School for Social Research, Northwestern University, Penn State University, Purdue University, St. Louis University, University of California Berkeley, and Villanova University.** Good luck with all your future endeavors!

This year, the Duquesne Philosophy MA and PhD programs drove more than 34% of all fall 2019 Liberal Arts graduate applications and more than 8% of graduate applications to the entire University. In other words, we are a single department with a graduate application pool larger than 6 of the 9 schools at Duquesne, as of the April 5 report from Enrollment Management. This is all due to the excellent work of our faculty and, even more importantly, of our fantastic students. Thank you

Masters Student Placement

Iziah Topete- Ph.D. in Philosophy, Penn State

Marty Fitzgerald – Ph.D. in Healthcare Ethics, St. Louis University

Andrew Patrick Blough- Ph.D. in German Literature and Culture, UC Berkeley

Zachary Slocum- Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Duquesne University

William Cox- Ph.D. in Philosophy, DePaul University

Conference Presentations

Magda Figiel “The concept of essence in Spinoza’s Ethics. A Dynamic Metaphysics” Seventh World Conference of Metaphysics, Salamanca, Spain, on October 24–27, 2018.



Magda Figiel

Anthony Casadonte “Question Concerning the Selfie,” Feminism & Technology Conference, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, UK on December 3-4,

Will Cox “On the Tragicomic Character of Heideggerian Ethics: Reading *Being and Time* with Aristotle and Agamben,” Loyola University Chicago Graduate Conference, Chicago, IL, Oct. 12–13, 2018

Alexander Gorman, “Aleatory Materialism, a Philosophy for Marxism?” at Historical Materialism, London in Nov. 2018.

Alexander Gorman also participated in a panel discussion on Leopoldina Fortunati’s ‘Arcane of Reproduction’ at the Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, June 2018.

Andrew Blough, “Personation and Prosthesis: Grammatization and Political in Hobbes’ Leviathan” Marquette University’s philosophy graduate conference “All Men are Created Equal”: Democracy, Exclusion, and Freedom, March 30th 2019

Alessio Rotundo, “The Incommensurable and the Visible: Gaetano Chiurazzi’s Ontology of Incommensurability and Merleau-Ponty’s Theory of Perception” Society for Italian Philosophy (SIP). Hosted by Stony Brook University. Mar. 28.

Jeff Lambert, “The Truth of Relations in Leibniz: An Early Modern Approach to Intimate Knowledge of Relations” at the Scientiae



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Philosophy

Department

GRADUATE NEWS • SPRING 2019 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

Department News

SPEP At Duquesne Fall 2019!

The 58th International Annual Conference and Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) will be held at Duquesne University, October 30-November 4, 2019. SPEP is the leading organization of continental philosophy in the world. The conference also includes the satellite events of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP), Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences (SPHS), and a number of other scholarly organizations. Besides the rich tapestry of thought SPEP and the satellites will bring to Duquesne, it is important to us for two other reasons as well. First, its subject matter corresponds to our department’s two major areas of expertise, the history of philosophy and continental philosophy. The latter also constitutes a major area of investigation for the Psychology, Theology, Communication and Rhetoric, English and other departments at Duquesne. Second, the resources provided to our philosophy department by the University are weaker than those granted to the philosophy departments with which we compete. We therefore have to take full advantage of the adventitious opportunities that come our way if we are to do justice to ourselves, our graduate students, and our program. The prestige of SPEP will therefore strengthen our reputation and standing as a department and that of the University. This will help our faculty and graduate students obtain the national recognition they deserve because of their scholarly work and pedagogical commitment.

Jeffery McCurry and **Fred Evans** are the University’s co-organizers for the SPEP conference. SPEP itself selects the speakers (largely by anonymous review of the submitted papers) and puts together the conference program. In our hosting role, Jeff and Fred will draw on the resources provided to us by the Philosophy Department and the College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts. We will also put into play the assets of our two respective Centers, the Simon Silverman Center of Phenomenology and the Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research (CIQR). In particular, we have already helped produce a very specific and detailed contract between the Marriott City Center hotel and the SPEP Executive Committee. The conference will be held largely at the Marriott, just two blocks away from the Duquesne campus. Moreover, Jeff and Fred and the staff of their two Centers will work with graduate students in the philosophy department to prepare packets of information and

to organize the registration desk, the book exhibit space, audio/visual arrangements, the business meeting event, and a number of other important tasks. Currently, **Angela Dibelka**, the CIQR Fellow, and **Michael Kramer**, both graduate students in the philosophy department, have carried out a number of tasks regarding the conference. In particular, Angela has organized a group of graduate students to help with the aforesaid duties. She will assist in recruiting yet more students as we come closer to the event itself. We are hoping that all graduate students will volunteer to help us make the conference memorable and advance our image as a leading department in continental philosophy. It had that effect eleven years ago when the Duquesne philosophy department last hosted the event.

The registration fee will be \$40.00 for students, Professor Emeritus, and the underemployed, and \$90.00 for faculty and all other participants. The registration fee will be waived for those graduate students who volunteer for the hosting tasks.

With hopes for your support and enjoyment, Fred Evans and Jeff McCurry

Philosophy Department faculty and students profoundly thank Prof. Ron Polansky and Prof. Don Keyes for the many years of research, teaching, and service they contributed to our department, to Duquesne, and to the profession, as well as for the deep impacts they’ve had on the lives and scholarship of their students and colleagues. Thank you both! As they move into retirement, we wish them long life, idle bliss, and the freedom to think without interruption.

Tristana Martin-Rubio and **Zach Slanger** were both awarded this year’s Charles S. Dougherty Graduate Philosophy Teaching Award in Fall 2018. The 2018 Philosophy Essay Prize was awarded to both **William Cox** for his essay “The Peace and the Glory: *Acquiescentia* as a Paradigm of Action in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” and **Iziah Topete** for his essay “Towards a Critical Genealogy of Race: An Essay on Foucault and the Question of Mestizaje in Early 20th Century Mexico.”

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EVENTS, continued from cover

Alumni of the Duquesne MA and PhD programs are invited to participate in a graduate program reunion conference Wednesday, October 30, 2019 (the day prior to SPEP) in the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center. If you'd like to speak, by August 1, 2019 please send a 125-word-max abstract for a 20-minute presentation to philprint@duq.edu. Include your name, title, and current institutional affiliation. If appearing on the program would help you secure travel funding to come to Pittsburgh, please indicate that when you submit. Since this will be a one-day, one-space event, if too many submissions come in for the time we have available we'll give program priority to those who can use the alumni conference to help attend SPEP. If you're already on the program for SPEP, SPHS, IAEP, or any of the affiliated societies, you are welcome to submit to the alumni conference as well! (though not the same talk, please!). If you decide not to, please still let us know that you'll be speaking at SPEP etc. so we can include info about your session on the alumni conference program.

We welcome any news from alumni! If you have anything you would like to share with the department, please contact us at thompson@duq.edu

Events

Philosophy Department Speaker Series

Justin HUMPHREYS (University of Pennsylvania). "Moral Perception in Aristotle." September 21.

Kris COHEN (Reed College). "Never Alone, Except for Now: Art, Networks, Populations." October 12.

Elizabeth ROTTENBERG (DePaul University). "Intimate Relations: Psychoanalysis Deconstruction." November 2.

Jonny THAKKAR (Swarthmore College). "Plato as Critical Theorist." March 15.

Susan BERNSTEIN (Brown University). "The Other Synaesthesia." April 5.

Mariana ORTEGA (Penn State). "Altars for the Living: Shadow Ground, Aesthetic Memory, and the US/Mexico Border." April 26. ■

Polansky Grant Winners

Recipients for the 2018 Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship award include:

Jeremiah Noonan (Greek)

Christopher Lutz (Greek)

Daniel Cook (Latin)

Anthony Casadonte (German)

Alexander Dolabi (German)

Jacob Sanders (German)

Millie Marshall (German)

Michael Kramer (German)

Mine Sak (German)

Mackenzie Lefoster (German)

Molly Wallace (French)

Peter Heft (French)

Angela Dibelka (French)

Jurgis Viningas (French)

animals grounded in our duty to ourselves to maintain and protect our own humanity, it is furthered argued that we also have direct duties to our non-human companions grounded in our autonomous decision to enter into a human-animal relationship.

Dr. Jay Lampert recently published his fourth book, *The Many Futures of a Decision* with Bloomsbury Academic Press. Using a phenomenological approach, *The Many Futures of a Decision* explores what we learn about the structure of the future specifically from decision-making. Most theories of decision concentrate on the rationality: the evidence and value assessments that build up grounds for a rational decision. Instead, this book innovatively engages with the nature of the future as a multi-layered decisions project.

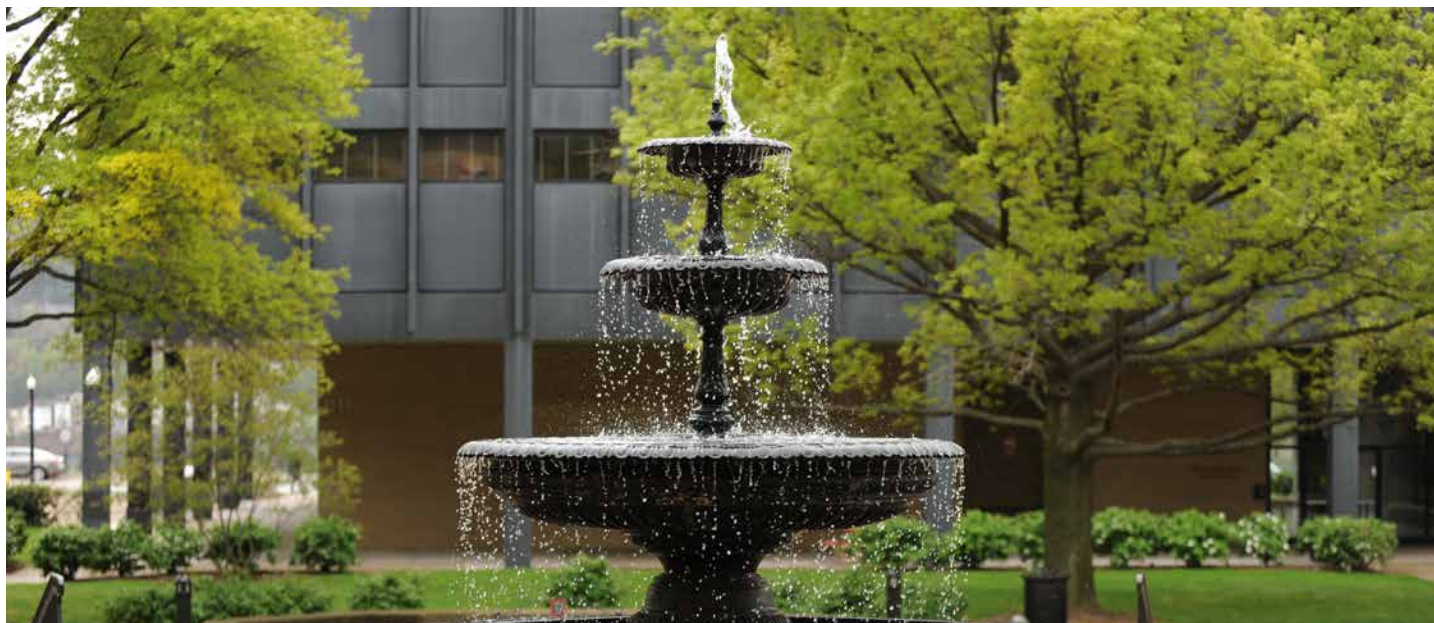
Of **Fred Evans** accomplishments for the academic year 2018-19, five stand out: the publication of his new book, *Public Art and the Fragility of Democracy: An Essay in Political Aesthetics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2019); the department launch of the book as well as another sponsored by MAP (Minorities and Philosophy), the College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, and Columbia University Press; participation in the review of the Philosophy Department of DePaul University; the presentation of a paper, "The Political Aesthetics of Public Art in Urban Spaces" in several venues (University of Colorado–Denver, Duquesne University, Slippery Rock University, and Dan Selcer's class on art), including also an audio-visual Spanish version of it for an Argentinian international association; and the CIQR/Young Democratic Socialists of Duquesne University/Pittsburgh Democratic Socialists of America jointly sponsored Democratic Socialism Symposium: Economics, Ethics, Politics, co-directed with philosophy graduate student, Alex Gorman, and abetted by philosophy graduate student and CIQR-Fellow, Angela Dibelka.

Dr. Kelly Arenson's first book, *Health and Hedonism in Plato and Epicurus*, came out in April 2019. It is a study of the ways in

which bodily and mental health factor into Plato and Epicurus' respective theories of pleasure and pain. In addition, she presented "Epicureans on Pity, Slavery, and Autonomy" at the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy; "Is Epicurus an Ageist?" at the meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy; "The Pedagogical Value of Philodemus' Work," at the Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy; and "Plato on Pleasure and Harmony," at Bates College. In addition, in spring 2019 Dr. Arenson took her Philosophy of Death and Living class on a field trip to Duquesne's human anatomy lab. As a result of viewing the corpses in the lab, the students (as well as Dr. Arenson) came away with a deeper sense of the significance of death.

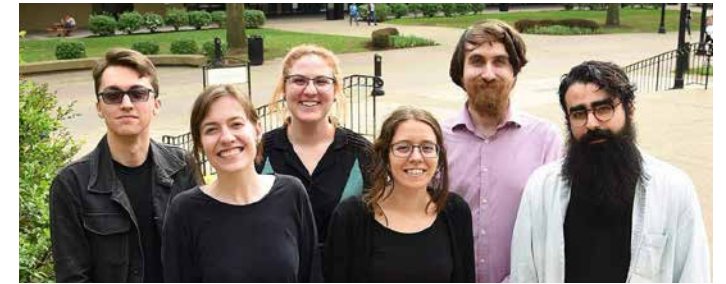
Dr. Michael Harrington's book, *The Yi River Commentary* on the *Book of Changes* is forthcoming with Yale University Press. This book is a translation of a key commentary on the *Book of Changes*, or *Yijing (I Ching)*, perhaps the most broadly influential text of classical China. The *Yijing* first appeared as a divination text in Zhou-dynasty China (ca. 1045–256 BCE) and later became a work of cosmology, philosophy, and political theory as commentators supplied it with new meanings. While many English translations of the *Yijing* itself exist, none are paired with a historical commentary as thorough and methodical as that written by the Confucian scholar Cheng Yi, who turned the original text into a coherent work of political theory.

Dr. Jeff McCurry presented papers on Freud and phenomenology at the Interdisciplinary Coalition of North American Phenomenologists in Montreal, the North American Society for Early Phenomenology in Pittsburgh, the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences in State College, and at the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Center, as well as a paper on Merleau-Ponty and enchantment at the Organization of Phenomenological Organizations in Memphis. He also graduated from the four-year academic track of studies at the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Center and has been invited to serve on its faculty. ■



Graduate News

The Graduate Students in Philosophy (GSiP) hosted their 13th annual conference February 23, 2019 on the topic "The Ascetic and the Ecstatic: The Limits of Pleasure." Thanks to all the GSiP officers and other graduate students who helped organize this conference, we were inundated with submissions the likes of which we have not seen in previous years. Special thanks goes to **Zachary Slangor**, president of GSiP, for going above and beyond in organizing this conference.



Philosophy Graduate Students

Colloquium Series

This year the GSiP Colloquia series underwent a significant transformation. Whereas the Colloquia series has predominately operated as a testing grounds for conference style-presentations, for the 2018-2019 academic year we implemented two additional formats designed to further address the diversity of professional needs for our graduate community.

To this end, two *round-table sessions* were held per semester wherein members of the graduate community were invited to present works-in-progress. These sessions focused primarily on constructive peer feedback, with the aim that they would facilitate and accelerate the process of sending out papers to journals for publication. In addition, one round-table session per semester was designed to cater to the needs of folks at specific points in the program. In the Fall, we held a round-table session for 2nd year MA students applying for PhD programs to receive feedback either on their writing samples or statement of purposes, and in the Spring a round-table event was convened to review and discuss dissertation prospectuses for those folks having completed all their other requirements for the PhD program.

Finally, the GSiP Colloquia planning committee introduced a new *professionalization workshop* series generously supported by the program's faculty. This new workshop series is designed to address the plethora of necessary, albeit easy to forget, aspects required for graduate students and young academics to succeed. This year, as a pilot project, we have held one of these workshops per semester, with presentations given by **Dr. Kelly Arenson** and **Dr. Daniel Selcer** on Academic CV's in the Fall, and **Dr. Jennifer Bates** and **Dr. Tom Eyers** on Journals and Publications in the Spring. Next Fall, we hope to begin the year with a workshop on grant applications and abstracts.

We also continued our Colloquium Presentations, which included **Marty Fitzgerald's** talk "A Pin in the Hand: Interventions in Utilitarianism."

Congratulations to the **six Duquesne Philosophy graduate students who have just received Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst / German Academic Exchange Service Fellowships** for summer intensive language study: Anthony Casadonte (MA program), Alexander Dolabi (MA program), Michael Kramer (PhD program), Mackenzie Lefoster (PhD program), Millie

Marshall (PhD program), and Mine Sak (PhD program). I am certain that this is **the largest number of these competitive grants ever awarded to Duquesne students in a single year.**

We extend our profound thanks to Dr. Edith Krause, Chair of Modern Languages, whose support for foreign language instruction for Liberal Arts graduate programs — and in particular the year-long intensive German for Research and French for Research courses — has been invaluable to their continued scholarship and to the significant national and international reputation of the Philosophy MA and PhD programs.

Congratulations to Dan Cook (PhD program), who has just been awarded a full **Folger Institute for Scholarly Programs Grant-in-Aid Award** to attend a Folger Library Research Methods & Agendas summer intensive. It is extremely rare for such awards to go to students at universities that are not members of the Folger Consortium, like Duquesne.

Congratulations also go to Robin Boddie (MA program), who has been awarded a **Critical Language Scholarship** by the US State Department. With the support of this prestigious award, Robin will spend the summer intensively studying Chinese in Suzhou, China during June and July 2019.

Congratulations also to Aaron Higgins-Brake (PhD program), who has been awarded a **stipend to attend the Third Immanuel Kant International Summer School** in Kaliningrad, Russia (covering travel, accommodations, and meals).

We are also happy for the continuing scholarships to doctoral students in our department from the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council**, providing continuing funding to Aaron Higgins-Brake, Tristana Martin Rubio (PhD program), and Thomas Szwedska (PhD program).

Congratulations also to **Dr. Bethany Somma** (PhD 2018) who is now completing the first of her five years with the support of a **European Research Council Postdoctoral Research Grant at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München** and to **Dr. Jim Bahoh**



Dr. Jim Bahoh

Philosophy Faculty News

In September of this academic year 2018-19, **Dr. Jennifer Ann Bates** became the Editor-in-Chief of the high-ranking philosophy journal *Idealistic Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*. She assembled a new Editorial Team for the journal (**Patrick "Paddy" Pender**, Assistant to the Editor; **Aaron Higgins-Brake**, Book Review Editor, both of whom are graduate students in the Philosophy Department at Duquesne), and she assembled a new, international Editorial Board including many luminaries (among whom are Rebecca Comay [Toronto, Canada], Angelica Nuzzo [CUNY], Anton Friederich Koch [Heidelberg, Germany], Jay Lampert [Duquesne], Andrew Cutrofello [Loyola], and Nicholas Rescher [Pittsburgh]). The journal publishes three issues a year and specializes in Kant and post-Kantian philosophy, broadly construed. Bates published her book chapter entitled "KISS ME, K . . . Engendering Judgement in Kant's first Critique and Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew" (in *The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Philosophy*, January 2019), and she signed a contract for a chapter in *The Coriolanus Reader* (with The Arden Shakespeare, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing). That Arden chapter is entitled "Hegel's Rome and Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*: Grounds for Tragedy," drafts of which Bates presented as a Keynote Speaker at a conference at Royal Holloway University in London, England (September 2018),

and again at the Speaker Series of the Philosophy Department of Miami University of Ohio (April, 2019). In Spring 2018, Bates completed an article entitled "Hegel's *Einbildungskraft* and its Role in His Critique of K. W. F. Solger" which she is submitting to a philosophy journal for consideration in May. Bates completed Direction of Fulbright-scholar Martin Krahn's Ph.D. Dissertation on Hegel (Defended November, 2018), and continued to direct the Ph.D. Philosophy dissertations of Jiho Oh and Aaron Higgins-Brake, as well as teach graduate courses on Kant and Hegel and undergraduate courses on Philosophical Ethics and the Philosophy of the Environment. Bates continues to advocate and publicize the "Philosophy and Law Connection" at Duquesne University (which she co-directs with Professor of Law Dr. Bruce Ledewitz).

Dr. Faith Bjalobok recently published "*Our Moral Duties to Ill and Aging Companion Animals*" in *The Palgrave Handbook of Practical Animal Ethics* in 2018. This essay argues that once we enter into a relationship with a companion animal or animals we acquire direct moral duties to our non-human companions. The basic contention of this essay is that our direct duties are derived from our own autonomous decision to enter into a human-animal relationship. While, as Kant argued, we have indirect duties to non-human