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For Alumni and Friends of the Department of Philosophy
2014 Annual Newsletter
PHILOSOPHY at the Graduate Center

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Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Last year at this time we were finalizing the results of our faculty search and I am happy to announce in this forum, what many of you already know, that Professors Catherine Wilson and David Papineau will be joining us every fall and spring, respectively, for the next five years. Faculty and students are eagerly anticipating their arrival. Professor Wilson will be teaching a seminar, "Science and Metaphysics in the 17th-18th Centuries", in the fall and Professor Papineau, "Consciousness, Representation, and Perception", in the spring.

We have just wrapped up an extremely successful admissions season. Our outstanding fall class is drawn from a record number of applications and is due to the hard work of the Admissions Committee, including Professors Graham Priest and Jesse Prinz, and students, Elvira Basevich and Josh Keton. Professor Carol Gould chaired the committee, handling the ever-increasing amount of logistical complexity involved in admissions with skill and good humor. (For details, see Professor Gould's report on the next page.)

Our Colloquium Series continues with many excellent speakers this year, including, among others, Dan Garber, Adam Elga, Susanna Schellenberg, Elizabeth Camp, Peter Railton, Kit Fine, Erin Eaker, Fred Neuhouser, Andrew Chignell, and our own Carol Gould and Jesse Prinz. Professor Prinz spoke at our second annual Prospective's Day, during which over 17 prospective students visited, met with faculty and students, listened to Professor Prinz' dynamic and far-ranging talk, "The Moral Self", and joined faculty and students for a wonderful dinner. This coming year we hope to inaugurate an annual Alumni Colloquium, where one of our alumni will deliver a talk, perhaps with commentary from one of our graduate students. Please keep up with all of the Program's activities on the GC Philosophy website and on our Commons site.

Over a dozen students have completed their Ph.D.'s this year, with thesis titles such as "An Account of Indeterminate Existence," "Speech Act Theoretic Semantics", "Acting Wide Awake: Attention and the Ethics of Emotion," "Systematics and the Selection of Species," and "Moral Motivation and the Authority of Morality: A Defense of Naturalist Moral Realism".

There are exciting developments at the GC as well. The administration has put a new Parental Leave policy in place for graduate students, beginning this fall, which will enable either parent to receive time off, extension of their overall time to degree, and a reduced workload when either having or adopting a child. The GC is currently in the midst of a search for a new President, which aims to be settled sometime this June, now that Interim Chancellor William Kelly has announced that he will not be returning to the GC as President. Finally, the GC will begin construction next year on a long-anticipated indoor/outdoor space on the roof, which will include areas to sit, talk, and host social events.

Iakovos Vasiliou, Professor of Philosophy and Executive Officer
New Faculty

We have hired two internationally known distinguished Professors of Philosophy for one semester each year for the next five years: David Papineau (King’s College London) and Catherine Wilson (University of York). Professor Wilson will join us beginning Fall 2014, with Professor Papineau following in Spring 2015. Professor Papineau is the author of eight monographs (including, most recently, Philosophical Devices, The Roots of Reason, and Thinking about Consciousness, all from Oxford University Press), three edited volumes, and dozens of articles on many topics in philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, and related areas. Professor Wilson is the author of six books (including the forthcoming A Very Short Introduction in Epicureanism, as well as Epicureanism at the Origin of Modernity and Moral Animals, all from Oxford University Press), three edited volumes, and dozens of articles in history of modern philosophy and moral theory.

Graduate Admissions

Our Admissions Committee this year reviewed over 250 applications and were able to bring in an incredibly talented and diverse cohort of 16 PhD students and 5 MA students. The fields of interest represented include mind, language, logic, metaphysics, aesthetics, ethics, social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy, history of philosophy, and continental philosophy. I would like to thank our Admissions Committee – Profs. Graham Priest and Jesse Prinz and grad students Elvira Basevich and Joshua Keton – for their intensive and careful work in reviewing the files and writing samples, and in their subsequent support during the process of recruiting the admitted students. Josh and Elvira took the lead in arranging accommodations for the large numbers of prospectives who attended our Visiting Day on April 2nd, and we are very grateful to the many philosophy program students who were kind enough to open their apartments and provide hospitality to the prospectives during their visit. We were also treated to a stimulating colloquium presentation by Jesse Prinz on “The Moral Self,” and the visitors had a chance to sit in on classes, and enjoyed a reception and dinner in their honor. Director of Admissions Les Gribben and Haslyn Miller from that office were responsive and immensely helpful, and we also appreciated the support we received from the Provost’s Office in enabling us to bring the prospective students to campus. I am also grateful to Prof. Stephen Neale for his useful suggestions, and especially to Prof. Iakovos Vasiliou, our EO, for his sage advice and steady support for our committee’s work throughout this process. We look forward to welcoming our new class this fall!

Center for Global Ethics & Politics, 2013-14
Professor Carol Gould, Director
Graduate Conference

The 17th annual graduate student philosophy conference was held on April 25th and 26th 2014. The theme this year was the senses, bringing together research in many areas of philosophy, including philosophy of mind, perception, epistemology, and philosophy of language, as well as engaging with much current empirical research in cognitive science. The keynote speakers were Tim Bayne (University of Manchester), who spoke on “Introspective Insecurity”, and Fiona Macpherson (University of Glasgow) who spoke on “The Structure of Experience, the Nature of the Visual, and Type 2 blindsight”. The conference also featured six graduate student speakers from universities across the U.S. and Canada, who spoke on topics ranging from flavor and taste individuation to the epistemology of the imagination to the semantics of color terms. Each talk was followed by a commentary by a Graduate Center student (Zoe Jenkin, David Neely, Kate Pendoley, Ben Phillips, Jake Quilty-Dunn, and Katie Tullmann).

We thank our sponsors for their support, as well as all of the participants and attendees for their contribution to the lively and successful conference.

Graduate Conference Organizers, 2013-14
Zoe Jenkin, David Neely, and Kate Pendoley

Conference website
http://senses.commons.gc.cuny.edu

SWIP-Analytic

This year marked the inaugural year of SWIP-Analytic, a student-run group funded by sources at the CUNY Graduate Center and the New York Institute of Philosophy. SWIP-Analytic strives to continue the New York Society for Women in Philosophy’s commitment to being a resource for all women in philosophy by providing a forum for women working in language, mind, metaphysics, logic, ethics, epistemology and philosophy of science. Presentations are open to all and are made monthly by invited female faculty and students selected from paper calls. Past SWIP-Analytic presenters include Sharon Street, Sarah-Jane Leslie, Lisa Miracchi, Ashley Atkins, Katalin Balog, and Gillian Russell; upcoming presenters include Deirdre Wilson and Laura Franklin-Hall.

Philosophy in New York

The CUNY Graduate Center is a member of the Interuniversity Doctoral Consortium, which allows students to cross-register for seminars at Columbia, NYU, Princeton, Rutgers, and other nearby institutions. There is rich interaction among the philosophy departments at these schools. In particular, CUNY and NYU faculty have been active in co-teaching seminars. Next semester there will be two seminars jointly taught by CUNY and NYU faculty, “Conditionals” with Graham Priest and Hartry Field on Tuesday afternoons, and “Perception” with Eric Mandelbaum (Baruch) and Ned Block, on Wednesday afternoons.
Interdisciplinary Concentration in Cognitive Science

The main activity of the Interdisciplinary Concentration in Cognitive Science, which in addition to Philosophy encompasses the Programs in Computer Science, Psychology, Linguistics, and the neuroscience side of Biological Sciences, is our weekly speaker series, drawing on speakers from faculty from these and other CUNY programs, faculty from other universities, and both CUNY and other graduate students. This year’s highlights included Lila Gleitman (psychology at the University of Pennsylvania), James Pryor (philosophy at NYU), David Chalmers (philosophy at NYU and ANU), Friederike Moltmann (linguistics and philosophy at CNRS in Paris), and Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini (cognitive science, linguistics, and psychology at the University of Arizona), and other outstanding interdisciplinary scholars. In addition to talks by graduate students from CUNY, Yale, and Columbia, we had talks by two of our program’s most notable alumni, Jody Azzouni and David Pereplyotchik. Plans are already in the works for the fall series. Talks are Friday afternoons, 1-3, followed by drinks at a neighborhood pub; they’ve been well attended by CUNY graduate students and others from NYU, Columbia, and other nearby universities. We continue to have many graduate students, both from philosophy and other programs, do the necessary interdisciplinary coursework to qualify for the Concentration.

Cognitive Science Concentration, 2013-14
Professor David Rosenthal, Director
Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies

The Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies will be hosting a year-long seminar next year on the theme of natural kinds, for faculty and a group of advanced graduate students. Over six academic fields will be represented, including philosophy. This spring (May 16-17), the Committee is also sponsoring a two-day workshop on scientism (https://sites.google.com/site/scientismworkshop/home), organized by CUNY's Massimo Pigliucci and Ghent University's Maarten Boudry. "Scientism" is a funny concept, originally meant as derisive of people (usually scientists and some philosophers) who think that a scientific approach can and should be applied to everything, and that nothing makes sense unless it can be approached scientifically. However, a number of philosophers and a few scientists have come to wear the term as a defiant badge of honor. The debate between opponents of scientism and proponents (whether they use the label or not), has been described as a clash between two cultures. That clash has divided the academy and society more broadly. 13 scholars will present on papers on scientism, with an eye to assembling an edited volume.

Science Studies Committee, 2013-14
Professor Jesse Prinz, Director

Center for Global Ethics & Politics

The Center for Global Ethics and Politics held eight colloquia this year, including talks by Pablo Gilabert (Concordia) on "Human Rights, Human Dignity, and Power," Fiona Robinson (Carleton Univ.) on "Rethinking Human Security through the Lens of Care," Daniel Weinstock (McGill) on "The Moral Limits of Compromise," Amy Allen (Dartmouth) on "Adorno, Foucault, and the End of Progress: De-Colonizing Critical Theory," and a panel discussion on Participatory Democracy. Our activities were ably assisted by Postdoc Adam Etinson, RAs Phoebe Friesen, Jonathan Kwan, Samru Atuk, and John McMahon. A Special Issue of the Journal of Social Philosophy, co-edited by Adam Etinson, Joshua Keton, and Carol Gould has just appeared, based on our Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series from last year on the theme "Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences," including contributions by Azizah Al-Hibri, Akeel Bilgrami, Rainer Forst, Carol Gilligan, Virginia Held, Will Kymlicka and Sue Donaldson, as well as by Etinson and Keton. We will kick off our colloquia next fall with a talk by Diana Meyers (Emerita, UConn) on "Victims of Trafficking, Reproductive Rights, and Asylum".
Much happened in 2013-14 at The Saul Kripke Center. Two forthcoming articles by Professor Kripke are now available to view online: “Yet Another Dogma of Empiricism” will appear in Philosophy and Phenomenological Research and “Fregean Quantification Theory” in The Journal of Philosophical Logic. The Center had two visitors this year: Sebastian Krebs, a visiting student from the University of Bamberg and Jonathan Berg, a visiting scholar from the University of Haifa. Jonathan delivered a brown-bag lunch seminar, “Metaphorical Behavior and Other Ways of Denaturalizing Meaning” in January. Another event in the brown-bag lunch series included a talk by Marilynn Johnson on tableaux methods in December (bottom left). The SKC teamed up with SWIP-Analytic to sponsor a lecture by Gillian Russell from Washington University in March. Professor Russell’s talk on “Hume’s Law and Other Barriers to Implication” drew a large audience (top left). This year, one of our fellows, Ben Phillips, published a paper, “Indirect Representation and the Self-Representational Theory of Consciousness” in Philosophical Studies. Ben has also won a Chateaubriand Fellowship for 2014-15. In February, PhD Student Thomas Whitney took photos of some of the items in the Saul Kripke Center archives. Four prints of his work are now hanging in the center. Below is his photograph of the page proofs of Naming and Necessity, and one of the tapes the lectures were originally recorded on in 1970. On the opposite page is the envelope the Naming and Necessity manuscript was mailed in. To read about future SKC events, please visit the Center’s website, kripkecenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu, or follow us on Twitter, @KripkeCenter.
**Student**

**Lauren Alpert** presented "Cosmetics, Self-Portraiture, and the Authentic Self" at SWIPshop, CUNY GC, on February 27, 2014 and at the Stony Brook University Philosophy and the Arts Conference on March 29, 2014.


**Javier Gomez-Lavin** was awarded a Graduate Student Travel Award for "The end of working memory: Describing a new neuro-ontology of central executive processes", Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, SC, February, 2014.


**Marilynn Johnson** presented "Tree Trimming" at the Saul Kripke Center, CUNY GC on December 9, 2013 and will present "Maxim of Politeness, Please" at Intercultural Pragmatics and Communication in Malta, May 2014.

**Katherine Tullmann**, **Laura Kane**, and **Denise Vigani** at the Pacific APA.

**Highlights**

**Laura Kane** presented "On Hegel, Women, and the Foundation of Ethical Life: Why Gender Doesn't Belong in the Family" at the poster session, Pacific APA, April 2014.

**David Neely** was awarded Best Student Paper for "Act-Theoretic Propositions and Forceless Predication" at the Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, April 5, 2014, and will also present this paper at the University of Western Ontario Graduate Conference in May, 2014.

**Ben Philips** was awarded a Chateaubriand Fellowship, Institut Jean Nicod, 2014-15 and a Dissertation Fellowship, 2014-15 for "Seeing and Perceptual Content".


**Adriana Renero** presented "Experiencing Sounds in Time: Why Mental States are Indeterminate" at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and her "Consciousness and Mental Qualities for Auditory Sensations" was accepted for publication in Journal of Consciousness Studies.

**Shawn Simpson** co-authored with Angel Pinillos "Experimental Evidence Supporting Anti-Intellectualism About Knowledge" in the anthology Advances in Experimental Epistemology, Bloomsbury.

**Elmar Unnsteinsson** published "Compositionality and Sandbag Semantics" in Synthese, 2014 and will present "Carston on Eternal Sentences" at Intercultural Pragmatics and Communications in Malta, May 2014.

**Katherine Tullmann** presented "Embodied, Embedded, Extended Problem-Solving: Toward a Unified Account of Ordinary and Scientific Cognition" at the poster session, Pacific APA, April 2014.

For a complete list of student, alumni, & faculty accomplishments see the online version of this newsletter.
Alumni

Ellen Fridland published “Skill Learning and Conceptual Thought” in Philosophy Naturalized, forthcoming, and presented “They’ve Lost Control: Reflections on Skill” at the University of Sussex.

Daniel Harris was hired as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Hunter College, CUNY.

Eva Kittay has been named a 2014 Guggenheim Fellow in the humanities and was appointed Distinguished Professor at Stony Brook University, SUNY.


Myrto Mylopoulos was appointed Assistant Professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, effective Summer 2015 and was awarded a 2014-2015 Post-Doc at Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France.


John Wigglesworth presented “Logics & Theories of Consequence” at the Institute of Philosophy on March 13, 2014.


Highlights

Ellen Fridland presenting “They’ve Lost Control: Reflections on Skill” at the University of Sussex


Jacob Berger was hired as Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of English and Philosophy, Idaho State University, to begin in Fall 2014.


Maureen Eckert was awarded the Chancellor’s Award Recognizing Excellence in Service at UMASS Dartmouth, February 2014.


Alumni Jacob Berger, Mark Alfano, Myrto Mylopoulos, David Pereplyotchik, and Brian Robinson at the Eastern APA.
PhD Completions

Frank Bennett
“Evolution and Ethics”
(Advisor: Prof. Steven Cahn)

Jake Davis
"Acting Wide Awake: Attention and the Ethics of Emotion"
(Advisor: Prof. Jesse Prinz)

Lily Frank
"Moral Motivation and the Authority of Morality: A Defense of Naturalist Moral Realism"
(Advisor: Prof. Steven Cahn)

Leonard Finkelman
"Systematics and the Selection of Species"
(Advisor: Prof. Massimo Pigliucci)

Cressida Gaukroger
"Conceptual Roles and Conceptual Explanation: How Internalism Can Provide Everything We Need From a Theory of Concepts, and Why Externalism Can't"
(Advisor: Prof. Jesse Prinz)

Daniel Harris
"Speech Act Theoretic Semantics"
(Advisor: Prof. Stephen Neale)

Lantz Miller
"Why Should One Reproduce? The Rationality and Morality of Human Reproduction"
(Advisor: Prof. Carol Gould)

Nathan Metzger
"Nature’s Goodness: An Aristotelian Account"
(Advisor: Prof. Peter Simpson)

Salas Sanchez-Bennasar
"An Account of Indeterminate Existence"
(Advisor: Prof. Graham Priest)

Daniel Shargel
"Constitutively Embedded Emotions"
(Advisor: Prof. Jesse Prinz)

Yael Sofaer
"The Moral Philosophy of William Wollaston"
(Advisor: Prof. Stefan Baumrin)

For a complete list of student, alumni, & faculty accomplishments see the online version of this newsletter.

Faculty Books

Jeffrey Blustein
Forgiveness and Remembrance
Oxford

Noel Carroll
Humour: A Very Short Introduction
Oxford

Carol Gould
Interactive Democracy
Cambridge

Peter Godfrey-Smith
Philosophy of Biology
Princeton

Nickolas Pappas
Politics and Philosophy in Plato’s Menexenus
Acumen

Graham Priest
One
Oxford
Daoist Philosophy Symposium

From May 27th to 29th, 2014, Graham Priest will be hosting a meeting of a research project funded by the Templeton Foundation. The project concerns the fact that, in reading East Asian philosophical texts, it is not uncommon to find writers endorsing paradoxical views. In the West, the reaction has typically been to try to diagnose and explain what is wrong with the paradox-producing arguments. But recent work in logic has made it possible to adopt a quite different attitude. The paradoxical conclusions are to be accepted as true. The members of the project are Yasuo Deguchi (Philosophy, Kyoto University), Jay Garfield (Philosophy, Yale-NUS College), Graham Priest (Philosophy, Graduate Center, CUNY), Robert Sharf (East Asian Languages and Cultures, UC Berkeley). This will be the first of three meetings. The second and third will be in Singapore and Kyoto. In each of the meetings, the members of the project will work with invited experts in the area. The New York meeting is devoted to Daoist texts. The public session, where those involved in the discussions talk about their views, will be on Thursday May 29th, 4-6pm, in the Segal Theatre. http://daosymposium.commons.gc.cuny.edu

Pragmatics Conference

This year, Stephen Neale and Rohit Parikh were awarded a CUNY Collaborative Incentive Research Grant that will fund a conference on “Pragmatics: Relevance and Game Theory”, October 14-15, 2014. The participants are Kent Bach, Anton Benz, Robyn Carston, Wayne Davis, Michael Devitt, Stephen Neale, Rohit Parikh, Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson. Inspired by the meetings Sperber and Wilson had with graduate students at the GC last year, there will also be two sessions of shorter student papers. Please let the organizers know if you have something you would like to present. Seminars scheduled for Tuesday October 14 and Wednesday October 15 that would be taught by conference participants are being rolled into the conference. The regular colloquium on October 14 will double as the last talk of the conference, with Deirdre Wilson as the speaker. A reception and dinner will follow.

Colloquium

Our colloquium schedule for the 2014-15 academic year will continue our tradition of weekly talks from stimulating philosophers hailing from both near and far, including, inter alios, Sara Buss, Ted Honderich, Deirdre Wilson, and Mark Wilson, following a year of visits by Elisabeth Camp, Andrew Chignell, Kit Fine, and Peter Railton, and many others. Our colloquia take place Wednesday afternoons from 4:15-6:15, with a reception after each event in the department lounge. The series is run by Professor Barbara Montero with assistance from PhD student Cosim Sayid.
This year, Philosophy Department Social Media Fellow Marilynn Johnson has continued to manage a number of initiatives with support from the Provost’s Office as a part of a project to enrich the department’s communications outreach, online, & social media presence. The Commons Site was created in Fall 2012 and since that time has received over 65,000 page views, from all over the world (see top left). Also hosted on the CUNY Commons are numerous student and faculty websites, the Saul Kripke Center website, and the Graduate Conference website. In addition, the department now has active Facebook and Twitter accounts which were created with the aim of creating stronger connections between current students and especially alumni of the department. Alumni and students are encouraged to add our social media accounts and let us know when they publish so we can share this on our Twitter feed.
The dignified B. Altman F, Company Building, located at the northeast corner of 34th Street and Fifth Avenue, is a distinguished design by Trowbridge & Livingston and one of the flagship department stores of Fifth Avenue. When the new B. Altman store opened in 1906, Fifth Avenue was essentially a small-scale street filled with shops catering to the upper crust of New York society. The opening of B. Altman catalyzed Fifth Avenue's transformation into a grand boulevard lined with many large department stores serving a broad clientele. It was the first large-scale department store on Fifth Avenue. The building was designed to blend into the grand residential structures that dominated the area at that time. An Italian Renaissance palazzo type design, B. Altman is elegant but reserved, stately rather than flamboyant; it is a reminder that the building was designed to blend into a neighborhood it then helped to transform. The architects were Trowbridge and Livingston, who also designed the St. Regis Hotel (1904), the J.P. Morgan headquarters on Wall Street (1913), and the Hayden Planetarium (1935). The American Olympic team depicted in the film Chariots of Fire trained on a rooftop running track. Escalators taken from 1939 World's Fair pavilions were incorporated into the structure. The building received landmark status in 1985. The building closed in 1989 when B. Altman & Co. went out of business. The Oxford University Press moved into the Madison Avenue side of the building in 1995, and in 1999 the building became the new home of the CUNY Graduate Center, which occupies about three-fifths of the building and fronts on Fifth Avenue.
Donate

Events like those featured in this newsletter are made possible through generous donations made by alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the department. We ask that you continue to give and keep the CUNY philosophy community thriving. To make a donation send a check to “PUG Fund” c/o Iakovos Vasiliou to the address listed above. Thank you for your contribution.