

PhiloNews

Newsletter of the Department of Philosophy

ΦΙΛΟΝΟΥΣ

Fall 2011



Report from the Department Chair

The new academic year is in full swing. The latest crop of graduate students are settled in and doing well, while several members of previous cohorts are defending and moving on, and undergraduate classes are well-advanced. Meanwhile, the administrative theme for the current semester is Integrated Planning redux.

The last round of IP ran from 2006/07 until 2010/11; this year we begin the process again to develop a plan for the next five years, 2011/12 to 2015/16. Integrated Planning is supposed to be a bottom-up process, where each unit of the University comes up with a plan, these plans are integrated into College-level plans, and then the College-level plans are folded into a University plan which is intended to drive institutional priorities and resource allocation. Some key goals for this process are to systematize planning efforts across the University, seek to match resource allocations with objectives, ensure that administrative structures are necessary and sufficient to support the academic enterprise, enhance accountability by measuring and reporting tangible progress and results,

and focus on longer-term forecasts and effects.

In addition to informing the College plans, unit plans are both an opportunity to make a pitch for institutional support—for new initiatives or expansion—and an obligation to justify the status quo and describe the outcomes for which we can be held accountable. In this new round, unit IPs will also form part of the documentation for the newly introduced Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) ... for which it will be our turn next year.

So in the next month or so we will be reflecting on our (considerable) strengths as a department, the opportunities and vulnerabilities we might see in our near-term future, and developing plans to deal with threats that might possibly arise (such as a reduction in faculty numbers). Good times!

-Andrew Bailey, Department Chair

Report from the Associate Chair

I'd like to begin by welcoming our incoming graduate students! Joining us this year are 7 new MA students and 4 new PhD students. We began the term with a department orientation event, on September 7th, which introduced our incoming students to grad student life in the Philosophy Department. To this end, we were joined by our Chair, Andrew Bailey, our speaker series coordinator, Mark McCullagh, and our graduate awards officer, Don Dedrick. Thanks to all of the faculty who attended--it was informative, and, we hope, not too overwhelming for the new students in attendance! We were also joined by one of our current MA students, Suzannah Mulvale, and one of our current PhD students, Brooke Struck, both of whom were able to contribute to the discussion from the grad point of view--thanks to you both, it was greatly appreciated. This event was immediately followed by our annual 'meet 'n greet" luncheon which allowed new students to mingle and chat with other faculty and graduate students over pizza and drinks. I would like to thank all of the faculty and students for making this event a great success.

Over the Spring and Summer, we had a number of successful FOEs:

- Aaron Masseur, PhD, May 4th: "How Theory Informs Practice in Charles S. Peirce's Writings"
- Matthew Furlong, PhD, May 10th, "Michel Foucault: The Logic of Freedom"
- Nick Purdy, MA, June 14th, "Work Proper: A Psychoanalytic "Reinvention" of Marxist Labor"
- Justin Carter, MA, June 21st: "The Ethics of Insults"
- John Yolkowski, MA, August 10th: "The Moral Value of Literature: Defending a Diamondian Realist Approach"

Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!

We also had a number of successful OQEs:

- Kyle Bromhall, May 26th, "William James's Theory of Action"
- Ryan Krahn, May 26th, "Hegel and the Aufhebung of Dialectics"
- Joshua Mousie, August 15th, "The Contemporary Politics of the Natural-Political Relationship."
- Adam Langridge, August 24th, "Adam Wodeham's Reliabilism"
- Cameron Clayton, September 2nd, "Falsification, Physiology and Evolution: Nietzsche and the Incorporation of Truth"

And, congratulations to our most recent MA, Jamie Robertson, who successfully defended her thesis "A Case for Decision-Maker Based Justification of Environmental Policy" on October 7th.

-Patricia Sheridan, Associate Chair & Graduate Coordinator

Announcements

Faculty News

Karen Houle gave a paper, "Devenir Vegetale," at Universite de Paris X (Nanterre) as part of a conference on Ecosophie. The paper will be published in French in *Chimeres* and in English in *Symposium*. Karen was also awarded a CIHR grant (24K) in February to bring together team of researchers (Canada and International) to develop a pilot version of an Ecosystem Approaches to Health teaching manual. She is currently the Muriel Gold Senior Visiting Scholar at the McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies for this research term.

In late August the new Philosophy Field Course undertook its inaugural expedition to Tofino, B.C., led by **Stefan Linquist**. The group of eight students met

with representatives from environmental groups, fishing and logging industries and First Nations. Overall the course was a great success. Students encountered competing ideas about sustainability, environmentalism and economic development while developing skills in applying philosophy outside the classroom. See www.biophilosophy.ca for more information and the course blog.

Omid Payrow Shabani presented a paper, "The Emerging Non-Violence in the Iranian Protest Movement," at the XXV World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Sciences, 15-20 August, Frankfurt, Germany, and he also presented "The Emerging Non-violence in the Iranian Protest Movement" at the 9th International Conference on New Directions in Humanities, 8-11 June, 2011, Granada, Spain.

This last summer, **John Russon** led a week-long seminar on John Locke and Adam Smith, focusing on the economic aspects of liberalism. In October, he delivered an invited, keynote address to the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy; the talk, entitled "Intimacy and Economy," similarly addressed the nature and the limitations of the economic interpretation of human life. Ideally, this seminar and talk will lay the foundation for a new book on economics.

Andrew Wayne is delighted to be on sabbatical this year. He is finishing his book on explanation in physics. He has floated some of his ideas for the book at various conferences and in two recent publications (*Synthese* 2010 and *Philosophy of Science* 2011). Several people have objected to parts of his account of scientific explanation, but fortunately none of the objections is valid and he remains convinced he is right.

Graduate Student News

Joe Arel's paper "The Necessity of Recollection in Plato's Meno and Derrida's Memoirs of the Blind" has

been accepted for publication in *Epoche: A Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

Cameron Clayton has a paper coming out shortly in *Sartre Studies International* entitled, "The Psychical Analogon in Sartre's Theory of the Imagination," and he will be giving a paper entitled, "The Retrospective Construction of Experience: Nietzsche's Phenomenology" at this year's SPEP conference.

Luke Fraser has been working as a researcher at the Jan Van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, Netherlands, where he is working on a research project on dialectical logic and formalization. This fall, he organized a workshop for the Versus Laboratory series that he's helping to direct (here's the site: <http://versuslaboratory.janvaneyck.nl/>). In October, he presented a short paper on the Maoist critiques of Althusser's theory of ideology put forward by J. Rancière (in *Althusser's Lesson*) and A. Badiou & F. Balmès (in *Of Ideology*), and another on Lacan's essay, "Logical Time and the Assertion of Anticipated Certainty" for the Centre for Lacanian Ideology Critique (CLiC). Both events took place at the JVE in Maastricht.

Matthew Furlong is currently employed at King's College, Halifax as a Teaching Fellow & an instructor in the Contemporary Studies Programme.

Dan Harris has a paper "Wittgenstein on Emotion" that appeared in summer 2011 in *International Philosophical Quarterly*, and another "Nietzsche's Responsibility" which will appear in *Southwest Philosophy Review* in early 2012.

Ryan Krahn's article 'Aufhebung and Negativity: A Hegelianism without Transcendence' has been published in *Cosmos and History: Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy* Vol. 7, No. 1 (2011), pp. 142-154. This title of this particular issue is 'Real Objects or Material Subjects: Essays in Contemporary Continental Metaphysics.' The current volume is available here: <http://www.cosmosandhistory.org/index.php/journal/issue>

[e/current](#). Ryan has a second article 'Hybrid Hermeneutics, Postcolonial Possibilities?' which has been accepted to be included in the forthcoming book *Cultures of Difference* (eds. Garry Sherbert, Lynn Wells) in the TEXTURES: Philosophy/ Literature/ Culture Series (edited by Hugh J. Silverman) for Lexington Books.

Lindsay Lerman will have two pieces published in edited anthologies in the coming months. One, titled "Lovingly Impolite" will be in a book called *Philosophy and Children's Literature*, published by Rowman and Littlefield. The other, titled "Nonknowledge and the Sacred" will be in a book called *Spirituality in the 21st Century: An Exploration*, published by Inter-Disciplinary Press.

Suzanne McCullagh and **Karen Houle** are convening an International Ecohealth Education Workshop to foster critical thought and dialogue on some conceptual issues surrounding education in transdisciplinary approaches to research in health and environment. During part of the workshop, participants will conduct a peer review of the Ecohealth Teaching Manual that the Canadian ecohealth research team has been developing over the past year. The meeting will take place in Montreal from November 4th - 6th, and participants will include people from across Canada, Latin America, Southeast Asia and Africa. This workshop is funded by a CIHR grant held by Karen Houle, and an IDRC grant which Karen holds conjointly with her colleagues at the Ontario Veterinary College.

Andrew Robinson presented a paper, "Lose the Porn and Keep the Sex: an Irigarayan Argument Against Pornography Use," in May at the 5th Annual PhiloSOPHIA conference in Nashville, TN.

Reiner Schaefer has an article forthcoming in *Dialogue* entitled: "A Defence of AI-Functionalism Against Brandom's Arguments from Holism and the Frame Problem".

Brooke Struck reports that a number of graduate students in the philosophy department are in the process of organizing the first Guelph Philopolis conference, an event focused on making academic philosophy accessible and discussing its real-world implications. The conference is to take place over the weekend of March 2-4, 2012.