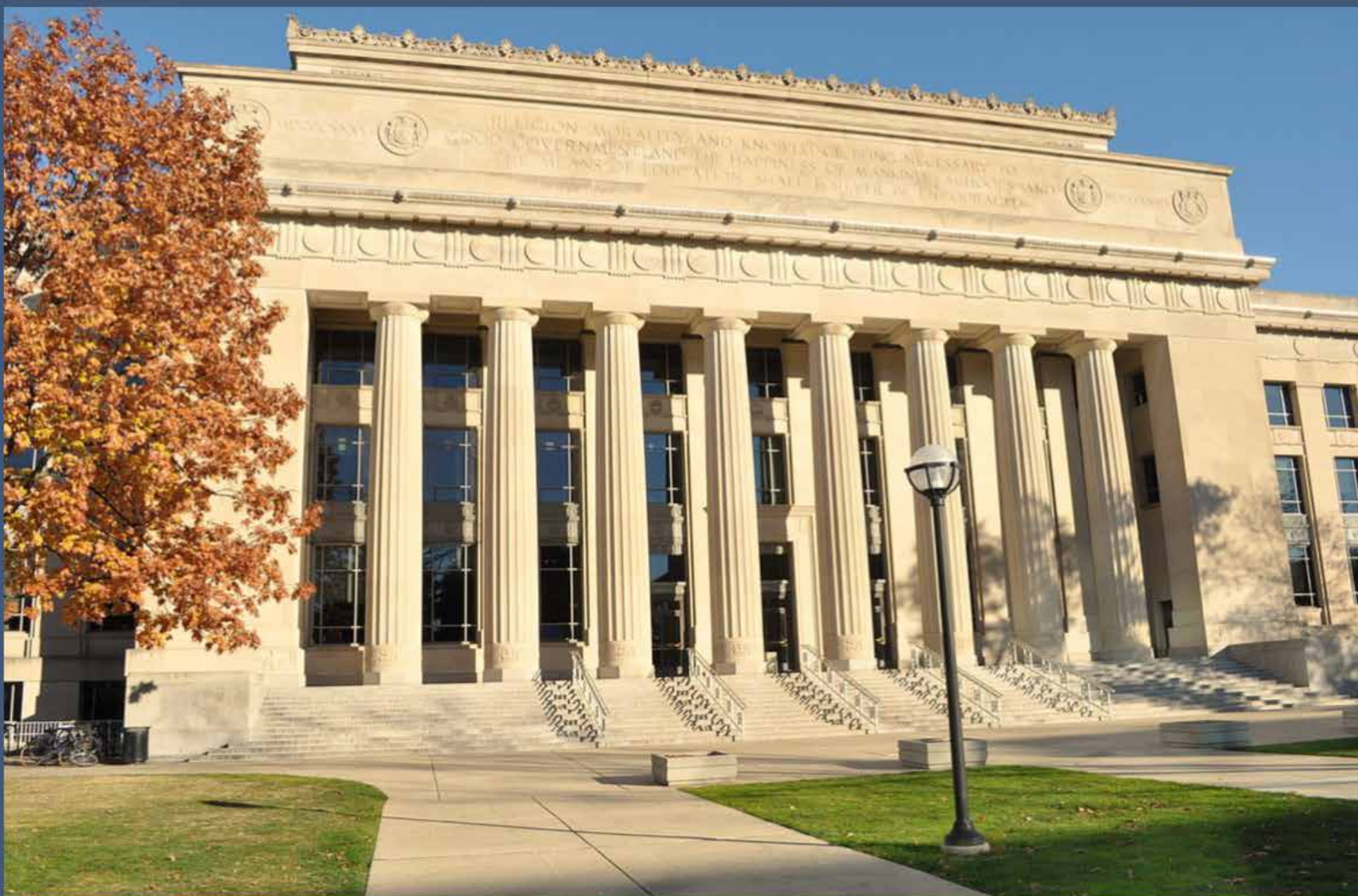


The GRACE

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PHILOSOPHY EVENTS 2020

TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

Wednesday, February 12 & Thursday, February 13, 2020
with Prof. Charles W. Mills, The Graduate Center at CUNY

FERRANDO LECTURE

Friday, March 13, 2020
with Yancy Strickler, co-founder of Kickstarter

SPRING COLLOQUIUM

Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2020

CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Friends of Michigan Philosophy,



I write to introduce myself as the new Chair of Philosophy, having succeeded **Liz Anderson** this past July. I joined the Department in 2010, and feel privileged to be a part of what continues to be one of the top philosophy programs internationally. The Department is currently in excellent shape due to Liz's remarkable leadership over the past five years.

This newsletter includes reports on various facets of our research and our graduate and undergraduate programs and activities. First, however, I would like to bring you some highlights from what has been a very active year for Michigan Philosophy.

FACULTY NEWS

Last year the Department successfully recruited **Emmalon Davis** as an LSA Collegiate Fellow. Previously at The New School in New York, Emmalon specializes in ethics, social and political philosophy, and epistemology, especially where these areas intersect with philosophy of race and feminist philosophy. She also has an excellent record of leadership with respect to issues involving diversity, equity and inclusion. Along with **Maegan Fairchild**, the other Collegiate Fellow associated with Philosophy, Emmalon will join the faculty as an Assistant Professor upon completion of her two-year fellowship.

Next year **Wade Munroe** will also be joining us as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow associated with the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science. Wade received his PhD from Indiana University (2019), and his research projects lie at the intersection of epistemology, philosophy of psychology, and ethics. In addition, **Zac Harmon** will be the new Postdoctoral Fellow associated with **Dan Jacobson's** Freedom and Flourishing Project. Zac received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2019), and his research areas are ethics and the history of ethics, with special emphasis on the relations among ethical and aesthetic values in the work of philosophers associated with the Scottish Enlightenment.

Joining us last year were **Anna Edmonds** and **Dan Lowe**, as Lecturers, and **Rishi Joshi**, as the Freedom and Flourishing Postdoctoral Fellow. Anna is a Michigan PhD (2018) who works on questions in epistemology and ethics. Dan received his PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder (2017), and works on moral and political philosophy, with a special interest in moral epistemology. Rishi received his PhD from Princeton (2016), and has research that focuses on normative issues at the intersection of philosophy, politics and economics. He will be taking up a tenure track position in the Philosophy Department at Bowling Green this coming year; congratulations, Rishi!

Three members of the faculty have been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor: **Sarah Moss**, **Eric Swanson** and **Jamie Tappenden**. In addition, **Gordon Belot** was named the Lawrence Sklar Collegiate Professor of Philosophy. Collegiate Professors are allowed

to choose the name in their title from among those who have previously taught at Michigan. Gordon chose for his title the name of **Larry Sklar**, a philosopher of physics who recently retired after a long and distinguished career at Michigan. Gordon also works in philosophy of physics as well as philosophy of science more generally. His book *Geometric Possibility* (Oxford University Press, 2011) received the prestigious Lakatos Award from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Other faculty members have received special recognition during 2018-19.

Particularly noteworthy, and a source of great pride for the Department, was a profile in the *The New Yorker* of our own **Liz Anderson**, highlighting in particular her work on equality. The profile is accessible online at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/01/07/the-philosopher-redefining-equality>.



In addition, there is late breaking news that **Liz has been awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship**, also known as "the genius grant." More can be read on this wonderful development on page 5.

Chandra Sripada has received the Stanton Award from the Society of Philosophy and Psychology (SPP), which is given to one person annually who has made significant contributions to research in both fields. This past year **Sarah Moss** had sessions devoted to her book, *Probabilistic Knowledge* (Oxford University Press, 2018), at both the Central and the Eastern Division meetings of the American Philosophical Association. (see Sarah's research article on p. 24).

SPECIAL EVENTS

The intellectual life of the Department was greatly enhanced by several events over the course of the past

year. Our regular colloquium series included presentations from Catrin Campbell-Moore (Bristol), Shamik Dasgupta (Berkeley), Rebecca Kukla (Georgetown), Fiona Macpherson (Glasgow), Ted Sider (Rutgers), and Sergio Tenebaum (Toronto). The Program in Ancient Philosophy sponsored talks by Cynthia Freeland (Houston) and Mariska Leunissen (UNC-Chapel Hill). Tyler Cowen (George Mason) presented the Ferrando Family Lecture, and the Freedom and Flourishing Project sponsored a panel discussion featuring **Rishi Joshi** and Lee Jussim (Rutgers).

Despite being hit by a Polar Vortex, we held our annual Tanner Lecture. The lecturer was the prominent anthropologist Michael Lambek (Toronto, Scarborough), who spoke on the nature of conceptual error and its application to both philosophy and anthropology. A symposium on the lecture included contributions from Jonathan Lear (Chicago), Sherry Ortner (UCLA), and Joel Robbins (Cambridge).

Since 1990 our graduate students have organized an annual Spring Colloquium. This year the topic of the colloquium was: Epistemology—Norms & Values. The featured speakers were Jennifer Carr (UC-San Diego), Jane Friedman (NYU), and Clayton Littlejohn (King's College London). The graduate student commentators were **Cameron McCulloch**, **Calum McNamara**, **Sumeet Patwardhan**, and **Elise Woodard**. Graduate students also organized a Philosophy Alumni Conference featuring Michigan Philosophy PhDs who are active in the profession. The speakers were **Kevin Coffey** (UM 2010/NYU Abu Dhabi), **Christie Hartley** (UM 2005/Georgia State), **Jason Konek** (UM 2013/Bristol), **Rohan Sud** (UM 2016/Ryerson), and **Sigrún Svavarsdóttir** (UM 1993/Tufts). The graduate student commentators were **Mercy Corredor**, **Josh Hunt**, **Eduardo Martinez**, **Calum McNamara**, **Elise Woodard**, and **Glenn Zhou**.

As they say on the late-night infomercials: But wait, there's more! The Department has also sponsored speakers for workshops and reading groups covering a wide range of topics:

The Minorities and Philosophy Group (MAP) invited Myisha Cherry (UC-Riverside), and the Race, Gender and Feminist Philosophy Group (RGFP) invited Sara Chadwick (UM-Psychology/Women's Studies), Heath Fogg Davis (Temple), James Hammond (UM-English/Education), Chike Jeffers (Dalhousie), and Elli Neufeld (USC).

The Ethics Discussion Group (EDGE) welcomed Alon Harel (Hebrew University), Jada Strabbing (Wayne State), and Aaron Weidman (UBC), and the Mind and Moral Psychology Group (MMP) welcomed Juan Pablo Bermudez (Colombia), Justin D'Arms (Ohio State), Mark Howard Herman (Bowling Green), Zachery Irving (Virginia), **Dan Jacobson**, Eric Mandelbaum (CUNY), Austin McGrath (Bowling Green), and Nadya Vasilyeva (Princeton).

The Philosophy of Science Group (PoSe) brought out Scott Aaronsen (MIT), Francesca Blando (Stanford), Alexey Kondrashov (UM-Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), and Mike Schneider (UC-Irvine), and the Foundations of Modern Physics Group (FOMP) brought out Marc Lange (UNC-Chapel Hill).

Finally, the Epistemology Reading Group (EPiG) sponsored Keshav Singh (UNC-Chapel Hill), and the Cognitive Science Seminar Series sponsored Sam Gershman (Harvard).

APPRECIATION

Over the years the Department has consistently benefitted from the extraordinary generosity of its alumni and friends. Donors have helped us recruit, train and support outstanding faculty, through such funds as the Malcolm M. Denise Endowment, in honor of Theodore Denise (which funds research), the Nathaniel Marrs Fund (for faculty retention), and the Weinberg Professorship (currently held by **Brian Weatherson**). Interdisciplinary initiatives have been supported by the Weinberg Fund for Philosophy and the Cognitive Sciences,

the Hough Fellowship in Psychology and Ethics, and the PPE Strategic Fund, the latter of which supports our Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Last, but certainly not least, donors have helped us to sustain and improve our undergraduate and graduate programs, through support from the Weinberg Endowment for Philosophy (which funds our Frankena and Stevenson graduate student prizes and graduate summer support, among many other things), and the Ilene Goldman Block Memorial Fund (which funds internships for our undergraduate Philosophy and PPE majors, among many other things).

We acknowledge those who have donated to the Department in 2018-19 on page 36 of this newsletter. There is a description of our several endowments on our website at <https://lsa.umich.edu/philosophy/alumni-friends/endowments.html>. The Department also has an Annual Fund that provides essential support for various undergraduate and graduate activities and programs. If you would like to donate to the Fund, or any other of our endowment funds, you can find information on how to do so at <https://lsa.umich.edu/philosophy/alumni-friends/annual-fund-giving.html>. We are grateful to all our contributors, past, present and future: Thanks for your support of a truly outstanding Department.

Best,



Tad M. Schmaltz
Professor of Philosophy
James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow
Philosophy Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELIZABETH ANDERSON! 2019 MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIPS RECIPIENT

By Jared Wadley,
Michigan News
as appeared in The University Record,
September 26, 2019, on-line at <https://record.umich.edu/articles/philosopher-elizabeth-anderson-named-2019-macarthur-fellow/>

University of Michigan philosophy professor Elizabeth Anderson, whose research focuses on democratic theory and equality in political philosophy, has been deemed an “exceptionally creative individual” by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Anderson, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies, and professor of philosophy and women's studies, was among 26 chosen for a 2019 MacArthur Fellowship, also known as a “genius grant.”

The prestigious fellowship is a \$625,000, no-strings-attached award given to extraordinarily talented and creative individuals as an investment in their potential.

There are three criteria: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishments, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.



Winners may use their fellowship to advance their expertise, engage in bold new work, or, if they wish, change fields or alter the direction of their careers.

“I am honored and energized by this amazing award,” Anderson said. “I consider myself extremely fortunate to have pursued my career at the University of Michigan, the leading university for interdisciplinary scholarship in the world.”

Anderson, who has been an LSA faculty member for 32 years, plans to write several books tracing the history of egalitarianism and what that history means for society today, in terms of how people ought to relate to each other.

“The key to my work has been to synthesize insights from across the disciplines, especially philosophy, history, the social sciences, women's studies and law,” she said.

“With virtually no barriers across departments, programs and schools, and numerous colleagues in all units eager to converse and collaborate, the University of Michigan provides a superb setting for facilitating the kind of research that I do.”

Anderson received her bachelor's degree in philosophy at Swarthmore College, and master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Harvard University. She joined the U-M faculty in 1987.

OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO DO INCREDIBLE WORK HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, throughout the wider academic world, and in the community. They are winning grants from major organisations, publishing in leading journals, appearing at international conferences, being recognized for their great teaching, and working with high schools and elementary schools in south-east Michigan to bring philosophy into the community.

Both **Josh Hunt** and **Laura Soter** won **NSF (National Science Foundation)** grants for their research; Josh for his work in philosophy of physics, and Laura for her work in philosophy and developmental psychology. And **Sherice Ngaserin Ng** was enlisted as a collaborator on a successful grant proposal for a **three-year project on Buddhist-Platonist philosophy**. As well as being pleased that our students are being recognized by these funding agencies, we're pleased at the range of work they are doing. This range reflects the breadth and vibrancy of the work being done throughout the department.

In the last year, the **publications** by our graduate students include:

- **Kevin Blackwell** and **Daniel Drucker**, "When Propriety is Improper", *Philosophical Studies*. (Kevin is a current student, and Daniel a recent graduate.)
- **Guus Duindam**, "Is Kant the Reason Everybody Hates Moral Philosophy Professors?" in *The Good Place and Philosophy* (Open Court Press).
- **Guus Duindam**, "On Bayne and Chalmers' Phenomenal Unity Thesis (or: Much Ado about Nothing)", *Philosophia*.
- **Ian Fishback**, "Honesty and Deceit in War" in *Military Virtues* (Howgate).
- **Emma Hardy**, "Applying a Model of Volunteering to Better Understand the Experiences of White Ally Activists", *Group Processes and Inter-group Relations*.

And the **papers accepted for publication** include:

- **Guus Duindam**, "Judicial Incoherence, Capital Punishment, and the Legalization of Torture", *Georgetown Law Journal Online*.
- **Ian Fishback**, Review of Isaac Taylor's *Ethics of Counterterrorism*, in *Ethics*.

As well as putting their work into print, **our students have been very active presenting work at conferences around the world**. As you can see from the list below, as well as talks at prestigious venues around America, our students have been presenting work in Britain, Austria and Sweden. We encourage this because as well as promoting their work, students get valuable feedback from experts they could not always access here at Michigan. The talks have included

- **Mercy Corredor**, "Good Fortune: A Precondition for Eudaimonia?", Toronto.
- **Kevin Craven**, "From Resisting Reality to Redefining Realness", Vienna.
- **Ian Fishback**, "The Toll of Policies, Strategies, and Tactics in OEF/OIF", Fairfax, VA.
- ---, "Obedience to Orders and the Structure of the Law of War", Oxford.
- ---, "Avoiding a Descent into Nazi SS Style Fascism in Special Operations Forces", Vienna.
- ---, "The Distinction Between Doing and Allowing in Moral Psychology and Moral Epistemology", Lund.
- **Emma Hardy**, "The Not-So-Bad 'Bad Results' of Free Will Skepticism", Boulder, CO.
- **Rebecca Harrison**, "Experiencing Resistance: Disruptive Protest as a Site of Moral Learning", at Michigan and in New York.
- ---, "Against Epistemic Neutrality: On the Presumption of Innocence in Sexual Violence Cases", APA Eastern in New York.
- ---, "Whose uptake matters? Sexual refusal and the politics of discursive norms", Vienna.
- **Josh Hunt**, "Modern methods for scattering amplitudes", Pittsburgh.

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE NEWS

By Professor Brian Weatherson,
Director of Graduate Studies
and
Carson Maynard,
Graduate Studies Coordinator



Professor Brian Weatherson



Carson Maynard

- ---, "Modularization and understanding through symmetry: a case study from crystal field theory", London, ON.
- **Eduardo Martinez**, "Epistemic Civic Virtue and Democratic Improvement", Tufts.
- ---, "Interest-Responsiveness as a Standard of Democratic Performance", PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- **Filipa Melo Lopes**, "'Cat Person' and The Narcissist", Washington, DC.
- **Sherice Ngaserin Ng**, "Against Atoms: Descartes and Vasubandhu's Anti-Atomist Arguments", Singapore.
- **Sumeet Patwardhan**, "Our Philosophical Canon Enacts Testimonial Injustice", Stirling.
- **Laura Soter**, "Metaethical Baggage and Moral Cognition", Sheffield.
- **Angela Sun**, "Pretentiousness", San Diego.
- ---, "Can Consent Be Irrevocable", Harvard.
- **Van Tu**, "The Beginnings of Preference Logic: Aristotle's Topics 3.1-5", Montréal.
- ---, "Restoring Aristotle's Evaluative Theory of Deliberation", APA Central in Denver.
- ---, "Aristotle on Women's Decisional Capacity as 'Ineffectual' (akuron): A Puzzle about Coming-to-Be", Brunswick, ME.
- ---, "Sex, Gender, and Science in Ancient Greece", Tampa, FL.
- **Elise Woodard**, "Consent and Luminosity", Michigan.
- ---, "Gaslighting, Implicit Bias, and Higher-Order Evidence", APA Eastern in New York.
- ---, "Bad Sex & Consent", Harvard.

The students also organized and hosted four conferences, many of which they presented at.

- In October 2018 they put on the **Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop**, which included talks by **Rebecca Harrison and Elise Woodard**. The primary organisers were **Eduardo Martinez and Elise Woodard**.
- In February 2019 they put on the **Spring Colloquium**, featuring visitors from across the US and UK. The topic was “Epistemology: Norms & Values”, and the primary organisers were **Calum McNamara, Cameron McCulloch, and Elise Woodard**.
- And in August 2019 they put on the **Michigan-Princeton Metanormativity Conference**. This included papers by **Emma Hardy; Rebecca Harrison; Calum McNamara and Elise Woodard**; and **Brendan Mooney**. We are thrilled to have work of this quality brought to Michigan.

We are very pleased to have all these philosophical events come to Michigan. It is especially nice to see the Alumni conference thriving. This was originally conceived of as a way of strengthening links between past and present students at Michigan. Ideally, we would build a community of Michigan philosophers that is well-connected across the world, and this conference is part of building that community.

Closer to home, **Mercy Corredor** is serving as the founding graduate **student representative of the Michigan Philosophical Association (MPA)** and is helping plan their first conference, to take place in October 2019. We’re looking forward to building more connections to the excellent philosophers around the state of Michigan.

But this isn’t the only way in which our graduate students are working with other organisations in Michigan. Michigan graduate students continue in their dedication to organizing outreach events

in cooperation with A2Ethics, a local nonprofit organization promoting ethics and philosophy initiatives in local communities. The **Ethics Bowl** committee, led by **Mercy Corredor, Kevin Craven, and Angela Sun**, won a \$1000 scholarship from the Marc Sanders Foundation to expand the Michigan High School Ethics Bowl to underserved schools. This year, Skyline and University Liggett joined the program, and Ypsilanti rejoined after a two-year hiatus. Coaches for the February **2019 Ethics Bowl** included **Kevin Craven, Gillian Gray, Emma Hardy, Alice Kelley, Brendan Mooney, Chris Nicholson, and Angela Sun**. In April, **Alice Kelley and Chris Nicholson** took one of their Pioneer High School teams to nationals in North Carolina.

Targetting slightly younger students, **Philosophy with Kids!**, organized by **Josh Hunt and Laura Sotter**, ran a successful second year at Heritage Middle School and St. Thomas School.

This is a small part of the **teaching** that our graduate students do outside of the University setting. **Abdul Ansari** taught intense intro to philosophy courses over the summer for his mosque and religious community. **Mercy Corredor** taught an intensive philosophy class, “Aftermath and Backlash”, at the Hamilton College Summer School in Philosophy in Clinton, NY, with the goal of helping students have difficult conversations about systemic violence. Mercy is also in the process of developing a course titled ‘Arete: Philosophy in Prison’ to teach at the Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility. **Alice Kelley** served as an Engaged Pedagogy Initiative fellow, promoting excellence in undergraduate teaching and graduate student professional development through a community-based learning graduate training program co-organized by LSA and Rackham.

And our students are working in a number of ways to **make academic philosophy a more inclusive**

place. **Angela Sun** was recently appointed to be an **International Organizer at Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)**, and **Elise Woodard** will join the Board of Trustees at MAP International in 2020. **Mercy Corredor, Rebecca Harrison, Eduardo Martinez, and Katie Wong** were last year’s organizers of the **University of Michigan’s MAP chapter**, which hosted several talks and discussions. Our **third annual Michigan COMPASS workshop**, co-organized by **Gillian Gray, Sumeet Patwardhan, Ariana Peruzzi, and Angela Sun**, for students from underrepresented demographics considering graduate school in Philosophy, was held in September 2019, with 15 of our students serving as mentors.

Back at Michigan, we continue to be impressed by how high the **teaching standards are among our students**. And this keeps being recognized by the wider university. This year, **Josh Hunt and Guus Duindam** won the **inaugural 2019 Honored Instructor award**, which was created by Student Housing and bestowed by undergraduates.

These weren’t the only awards our students won at Michigan. **Eli Lichtenstein and Filipa Melo Lopes** won **Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowships** that led to them finishing excellent theses. Both theses were lauded by their examiners at the defences over the summer. **Once again we had two of our admittees win Rackham Merit Fellowships**. This year **Abdul Ansari and Kayla Jackson** received this award.

And in the department, **Kevin Blackwell** won the **Charles L. Stevenson Prize** for excellence in a dissertation dossier, **Eli Lichtenstein** won the **John Dewey Prize** for his outstanding teaching, and our **inaugural Special Prize for Leadership in Cocurricular Enrichment (SPLICE)** was awarded to **Filipa Melo Lopes, Eduardo Martinez, and Elise Woodard**.

ON BEHALF OF
EVERYONE IN
MICHIGAN PHILOSOPHY,
we would like to say that we are
truly inspired by the work that our
graduate students have done on
behalf of the profession over the
past year, and we are looking
forward to appreciating many
more of their great
accomplishments
in the year ahead!



Celebrating
after the 7th
Annual
Princeton-MI
Normativity
Workshop



The Fab Four! 2019 Cohort!

GRADUATE AWARDS



The first annual 2018/2019 SPLICE Prize (Special Prize for Leadership in Co-Curricular Enrichment) had three winners!

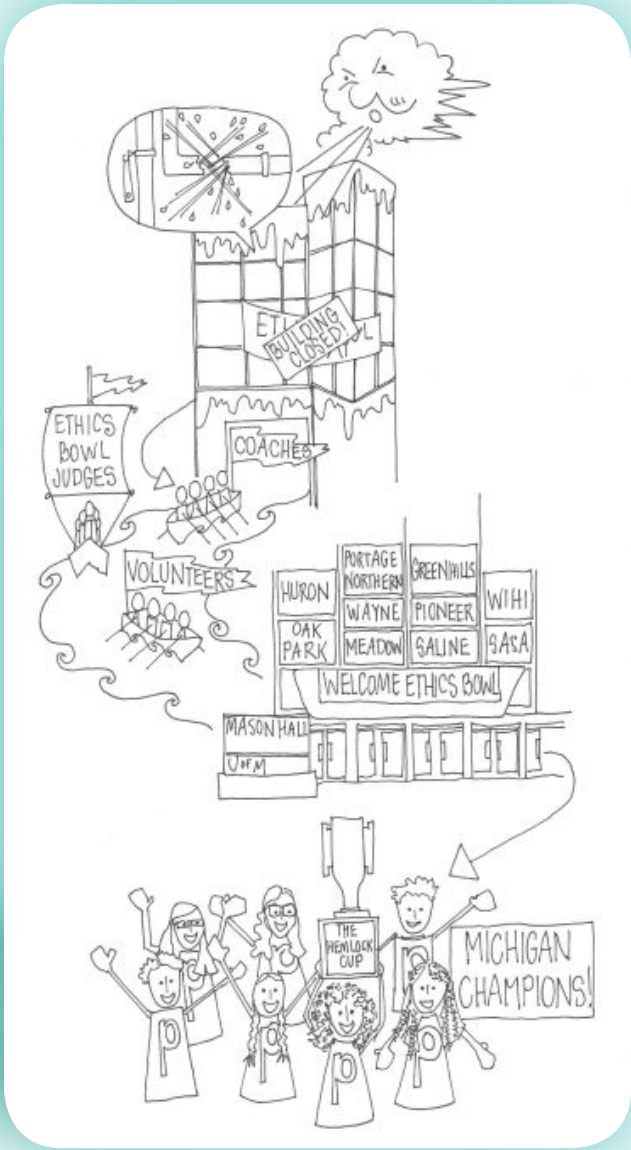
Filipa Melo Lopes,
Elise Woodard
and Eduardo Martinez!



Eli Lichtenstein received the 2018/2019 John Dewey Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching!



Kevin Blackwell received the 2018/2019 Charles L. Stevenson Prize for Excellence in the Graduate Program!



In addition to being a co-winner of Philosophy's annual SPLICE Prize, **Eduardo Martinez received a 2019/2020 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship.**

The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship is one of the most prestigious awards given to graduate students by the Rackham Graduate School. Those selected for this twelve-month fellowship have advanced to candidacy and are anticipating finishing their PhD within six years of beginning their studies. The award takes into consideration professional papers and presentations, publications, honors, as well as academic standing.

The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships are supported by the Horace Rackham Endowment which was created in 1935 by a gift to the University of Michigan from the Horace and Mary Rackham Fund. More than 2,300 doctoral students have received this fellowship since it was established.

Democratic Evaluation and Improvement: A Set of Standards for Citizens and Representative Institutions

"I develop a set of standards with which to evaluate democracies and guide interventions to improve political decisionmaking within them. The first standard is democratic health, which is a feature of the epistemic environment in which citizens operate. I argue that a democratically healthy environment is one in which citizens can develop key capacities to reason and communicate about their interests, and that democratic health can affect whether the values that justify democracy are, in fact, realized. The second standard is responsiveness. I argue that observed public opinion and the values, goals, and commitments of citizens can stand in tension, and that representative democracies must balance both factors for responsive representation. The third standard is formal civic education. I argue that the civic education program necessary to improve democratic health can avoid instilling particular substantive values in citizens, thereby overcoming objections of social engineering".

6TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL

Since 2013, the Philosophy Department has been co-hosting with A2 Ethics its annual Ethics Bowl which provides high school students with a forum to participate in ethical and moral debates under mentorship from UM Philosophy students. The tradition continued this past February and nothing could stop the event from happening - even closing the venue (Palmer Commons) due to frozen pipes resulting from the recent polar vortex. Thanks to our own Undergrad Coordinator, Judith Beck, who quickly found a new venue, students from 10 area high schools making up 16 teams, totaling over 100 students, braved the frigid temps and enjoyed two days of competition. The Purple Pioneering Philosophers from Pioneer High in Ann Arbor, came out on top with the runner-up award going to the Greenhills Green. Next year's competition will be held February 22-23, 2020 and there are currently no plans for another polar vortex!

New York City Is Leading the Way in Combating Hair Discrimination. It's Long Overdue

By Nicholas Serafin, UM Philosophy Grad Student

May 16, 2019 issue of Slate, also available on-line at <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/05/new-york-city-hair-discrimination-ban-racism.html>

In February, the New York City Commission on Human Rights released a landmark legal opinion about hair. That legal guidance document stated that grooming policies that “ban, limit, or otherwise restrict natural hair or hairstyles associated with Black people” are racially discriminatory and hence unlawful. Per the guidance, it is now illegal for New York City businesses to require black employees to chemically straighten their hair—a laborious, expensive, and often painful process. It is also now illegal for New York City schools to punish black children for wearing their hair in cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, and other traditionally black hairstyles. This change in public accommodations law, the first of its kind in the United States, was long overdue. As has been reported by many media outlets, hair discrimination is sadly commonplace. New York City’s decision is a deeply important shift in how we think about discrimination. Hopefully, it could eventually presage an important change in 14th Amendment jurisprudence.

The current legal regime around hair discrimination is a disaster. To understand why, you have to look back to the 1973 sex discrimination case *Frontiero v. Richardson*. In that case, the Supreme Court struck down a federal statute governing the distribution of financial benefits to military spouses. According to the statute, married servicemen could claim their wives as dependents without providing any evidence, whereas a married servicewoman had to provide the proof. The court held that the statute flunked a basic test of fairness, because it burdened servicewomen on the basis of an unchangeable trait, sex, that servicewomen had not

chosen to adopt. In the court’s view, this was perilously similar to racial discrimination. In one of the opinion’s most significant passages, Justice William Brennan drew out the analogy, explaining that discrimination on the basis of sex was wrongful because sex, like race, “is an immutable characteristic determined solely by the accident of birth.”

The moral logic of *Frontiero* was both compelling and prophetic. In case after case, from employment law to immigration courts, immutability would be used to justify expanding anti-discrimination law to cover other marginalized groups. To take but one recent example, in the majority opinion in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Justice Anthony Kennedy cited the “immutable nature” of

homosexuality as one reason for striking down state bans on same-sex marriage.

Yet the immutability standard is showing real signs of wear, largely because the Supreme Court has never actually defined immutability. Instead, the court has provided a list of characteristics—race and sex, but also national origin, alienage, and illegitimacy—that it considers unchangeable, leaving legal scholars to connect the dots in most other instances. This has not, of course, stopped the court from declaring that certain characteristics, such as hairstyle, can be easily altered and are thus

ineligible for protection under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. This seemingly commonsensical approach utterly breaks down, though, when it comes to mutable characteristics, like hair, that are tightly interwoven with immutable identities, like race.

Consider, for example, the case of Charles Eatman, a former UPS employee who brought suit for racial discrimination after being harassed on the job and eventually fired for wearing his hair in dread-

locks. Various UPS managers told Eatman, who is black, that he looked like an alien, that he looked like Stevie Wonder, that his hair looked like “shit,” and that he must have been a drug user. Yet in 2002, a federal court held that these comments did not create a

racially hostile work environment. According to the court, Eatman’s managers had only insulted his hair, and since hair is an “easily changed characteristic,” it could not be part of Eatman’s immutable racial identity; therefore, Eatman’s managers had not engaged in racist harassment.

This line of reasoning is implausible, to put it mildly. Hair discrimination has always been one means by which whites reinforce racial hierarchy in this country. Thomas Jefferson, for instance, claimed that blacks could never be incorporated into the state due to their supposed “physical and moral”

differences, among which he included the absence of “flowing hair.”

Nevertheless, other federal courts have reached the same conclusion as the Eatman court, meaning that change on this issue will have to come piecemeal, if at all. There are some signs of progress, though: In addition to the NYCHR’s new guidelines, the military recently lifted its ban on dreadlocks and twists.

If there’s a bright side to this breakdown in anti-discrimination law, it is that activists, courts, policymakers, and scholars have an opportunity to collectively rethink the relationships between law, identity, and equality. As I argue in a forthcoming law review article, the immutability standard can be salvaged if we think of immutability as characterizing social identities. This approach would protect any trait used by dominant groups to classify subordinate groups, regardless of how easily the trait can be changed. This might not sound like immutability strictly speaking, but consider that black people have been defined by and demeaned for their hairstyles for more than two centuries. Black social identity, in other words, is a fixed feature of American life, even if some of the traits associated with this identity are highly mutable.

Courts are slowly starting to recognize that immutable social identities depend, in part, upon mutable human characteristics. For example, some immigration courts have begun treating gender signifiers as an immutable characteristic of gender-nonconforming individuals, even though gender signifiers can be changed at will. As one court wrote, the important question is not whether a trait is literally unchangeable; it’s whether a trait distinguishes a minority group “in the eyes of a persecutor—or in the eyes of the outside world in general.” This is the right question, and hopefully it is one that the whole nation will eventually recognize. New York deserves great kudos for offering us a start.



MINORITIES AND PHILOSOPHY (MAP)* REPORT

By
Mercy Corredor and
Ariana Peruzzi,
UM Philosophy
Graduate Students

In 2018-2019 MAP focused on bringing engaging speakers to campus and hosting a variety of workshops. MAP brought out and hosted Myisha Cherry (UC Riverside) who gave a talk titled "On Conversations". In this talk Prof. Cherry engaged with the following urgent and difficult question: If conversations are a way for our social, linguistic species to express and explain, correct and collaborate, make sense of things and make things happen, then why are they — particularly the personal and political ones — so difficult to have? In addition to discussing abstract issues having to do with the norms of conversation, Prof. Cherry also offered some practical strategies for engaging in these challenging, but often politically and personally important, conversations. In addition to hosting Myisha Cherry, MAP also co-sponsored Elli Neufeld (USC) who presented her paper titled "An Essentialist Theory of the Meaning of Slurs."

MAP also put on a successful (and delicious!) workshop entitled "The ImPIEster Syndrome Workshop." In this workshop, participants had the opportunity to get caught up on the

recent empirical research on imposter syndrome and to discuss their own personal experiences, all while eating an assortment of tasty pies! Participants were guided through a variety of activities — including a game of Imposter Syndrome Bingo and Two Truths and a Lie (Imposter Edition) — which helped get the conversation going.

Finally, MAP put on several teaching workshops throughout the 2018-2019 academic year. We put on an "Inclusive Teaching Workshop" in the Fall semester and an "Epistemic Authority in the Classroom Workshop" in the Winter. The "Inclusive Teaching Workshop" was one in which evidence-based practices from empirical research were summarized and discussed (with a focus on methods and content of philosophy). With this in place, participants discussed a couple of applied cases: how to teach and discuss racism and sexism in Kant and Aristotle. The "Epistemic Authority in the Classroom Workshop" that was held in the Winter term discussed how to effectively leverage epistemic authority and respect in the classroom (with special attention to how to do so as a member of a relevant minority group among philosophy instructors). This was primarily a way of giving GSIs a venue for discussing their own difficulties (and successes!) with cultivating authority in the classroom.

In the 2019-2020 academic year MAP will be focused on hosting several other exciting speakers. In the Fall, Professor Michael Brent (University of Denver) will be giving a talk titled "From Inclusive Pedagogy to Public Philosophy and Beyond: The Examined Life Outside the Ivory Tower" and Robin Zheng (Yale-NUS) will also give a talk (title TBD). MAP will also be co-sponsoring Ann Cudd in the Winter term. Additionally, our hope for this academic year is to extend MAP programming and events to undergraduate students who might benefit from a supportive network geared towards minorities in the discipline. Stay tuned!



*MI MAP is a chapter of an international organization run by grad students to promote diversity in the field.

2020 Tanner Lecture on Human Values with Professor Charles W. Mills (CUNY)

presents

Theorizing Racial Justice

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Rackham Auditorium 4:00-6:00 PM

Tanner Symposium

Thursday, February 13, 2020
10:30 AM-12:30 PM - Rackham Ampitheater

Professor Charles W. Mills

Symposiastes:

Professor Michele Moody-Adams (Columbia)

Professor Samuel Freeman (UPenn)

Professor Nikhil Pal Singh (NYU)

****Lecture and Symposium are free and open to the public****

GREETINGS, FELLOW ALUMNI!

I'm thrilled to look back on another year of confronting our undergraduates' preconceptions with philosophical puzzles and preparing them for a successful life after college. As one of our 2019 graduates recently wrote to me in an email from his new office in the tech industry: "Looking back at my collegiate career, attaining a philosophy major changed the way I thought. Philosophy is special, because every class, every discussion, encourages you to challenge the status quo, think creatively, and intuitively." We strive to challenge our students in this way each day. **Our alumni are working all over the world now, from Citibank to the Center for Asylum Protection as well as several of the top philosophy departments in the United States. We couldn't be more proud of all of you.**

Our majors and minors have been busy this year, helping us reach out to potential philosophy students at the Prospective Transfer Student Day and Major/Minor expo, meeting and debating under the auspices of our undergraduate philosophy club, and curating their own in-house journal.

Michigan's undergraduate journal of philosophy, *Meteorite*, now has a history dating back more than twenty years, to its first issue published in 1998. Over those twenty years, the journal has been published only sporadically, with issues appearing in 2004, 2007, 2013 and 2018. (Although it makes me feel a bit old, I'm proud to say I was on the 2004 editorial board; shoutout to my fellow editors, including at least one other I know

is still in the philosophy business!) I am happy to announce that for the first time in its history, *Meteorite* has published its second consecutive issue with its Spring 2019 Edition. **Editors Jesse Kozler and Colton Karpman** have put together a nice collection of five essays from young scholars all over the United States and Canada. With Colton at the helm, another issue is now in the works. You can check out the latest issue, along with back issues, at the Meteorite site: meteorite.philosophy.lsa.umich.edu.

In 2018/2019 we introduced two new courses, both of which challenged students as ethical citizens of the world, but in very different ways. **David Manley created PHIL 250: Changing the World** to bring ideas connected with the

"effective altruism" movement to the attention of students and give them a philosophical venue to explore how best to make the world a better place. Although the course maintained a big-picture focus on the highly theoretical question of what it would mean for things to be better and which values responsible citizens should aim to promote, it also delved deeply into the very practical question of how an individual can make a difference. Which mix of volunteering, charity and professional work could best be of benefit to others? And which

others are most in need: fellow citizens, the global poor, animals? More speculative topics included the question of what we can do now to promote the odds of our species and our civilization surviving into the long-term future.

In a more classic, "pure ethics" vein was **Sarah Buss's new introductory-level course, PHIL 275: Moral Puzzles, Inner Conflicts.** This course aimed first and foremost to acquaint students with the pervasiveness of cognitive dissonance about moral matters—the difficulty, almost to the point of impossibility, of reconciling all of one's moral beliefs as a package. Specific topics covered included

the problems of free will and moral responsibility as well as our obligations to animals and to humans in need.

AY18/19 also saw sever-

al new syllabi taught for the first time under the auspices of our catch-all "topics" courses. At the advanced level, **Elizabeth Anderson** developed ideas from her successful 2017 book *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It)*, into an upper-level course connected to many of the book's themes. The course's title was "Discipline and Punish: The Political Philosophy of Work and Criminal Punishment," and the material connected Foucault's thoughts on criminal justice and social control with Liz's own



ideas concerning the control exerted over workers by their employers.

Our first-year seminars are also a laboratory for new course ideas and themed one-time offerings. In his seminar on "Hate Speech on Campus," **Derrick Darby** introduced students to the tough issue of whether and how to trade off the inclusive values of the university with its legal and moral obligations to respect free speech. Meanwhile, **Gordon Belot's** seminar explored philosophical questions about time, language and causality raised by the recent science fiction film *Arrival* and its inspiration, Ted Chiang's short story "Story of Your Life."

As always, our **2019 Graduation Reception** was an occasion to recognize our graduating seniors, including those who earned honors for thesis work and who received our departmental prizes.

The following theses were awarded honors in 2019:

- **Zainab Bhindarwala**, “Reparations for Racism and the Existence of White Supremacy in the United States” (advised by Derrick Darby with reader Elizabeth Anderson)
- **Ryan Britton**, “Probability and Philosophy of Mind in the Many Worlds Interpretation” (advised by David Baker with reader Laura Ruetsche)
- **Aruran Chandrasekhar**, “The Emergence of Social behavior in Multi-Agent Systems: A Logical Characterization” (advised by Rich Thomason with reader Jamie Tappenden)
- **Joshua Greenberg**, “The Limitations of Law in Post-Conflict Environments” (advised by Sarah Buss with reader Drew Winkler)
- **Jesse Kozler**, “I’ll Have What She’s Having: Reflective Desires and Consequentialism” (advised by Jim Joyce with reader David Manley)
- **Seth Randall**, “Reclaiming The People: Gilded Age Populism in the Era of Authoritarianism” (advised by Elizabeth Anderson with reader Derrick Darby)
- **Myka Yamasaki**, “Martha Nussbaum’s Capabilities Approach: A Philosophical Framework for Problematizing Black American Health Disparities in ‘Post-Racial’ America” (advised by Derrick Darby with reader Sarah Buss)
- **Gabriel Schat** (advised by Daniel Herwitz with reader Sarah Buss)

The **Haller Term Prize** goes to students who have done exceptionally good work in our 400-level courses. The Fall 2018 Haller was awarded to **Gabriel Schat** for his work in Dan Jacobson’s course on the philosophy of art. *This was Gabriel’s second Haller prize!*

The **William K. Frankena Prize** recognizes graduating seniors who have achieved excellence throughout their completion of the philosophy major. The 2018/2019 prize was split between **Jesse Kozler and Gabriel Schat**. Jesse was one of the most active undergraduate majors we’ve ever had, working to revive our Meteorite journal beginning in his sophomore year, endlessly volunteering in various roles for the department, and earning near-perfect grades in philosophy coursework at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Gabriel is one of the best philosophical writers to come through our program in my time here; his advisor Daniel Herwitz assures me that his honors thesis is of publishable quality.



CONGRATULATIONS 2019 UM PHILOSOPHY GRADS!



Jesse Kozler, Abigail Kennedy, Seth Randall & Myka Yamasaki



Adam Bean



Derrell Chapman



Zainab Bhindarwala with Professor Elizabeth Anderson



Victoria Johnson with her fan club!



Our program in PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS grows and flourishes more each year. In the eight years since the program's inception, our class size has increased from roughly twenty majors to the forty-two we admitted in 2018/2019. The program is also remarkably selective. Those forty-two were chosen from a record-breaking pool of more than 130 applicants! There's never been more interest in our once-humble major. **Michigan students are flocking to the study of political economy.**

As the program's reputation grows, more and more students have become interested and involved in PPE even prior to being admitted. **This year's PPE Club**, helmed by

co-presidents Kelsey Muniz and Clara Reinkemeyer, was larger than it's ever been and included many first-year and sophomore students interested in the major and its foundational and relevant subject matter. The club provides a venue for current and aspiring PPE students to network, discuss their mutual interests and pool information about the major and its curriculum. Leadership has now passed on to **new president Emma**

Fulweiler, who plans to broaden the club's role in organizing social events as well as connect club members with faculty at UM whose research explores questions related to political economy.

Our **2019 Ferrando lecturer was Tyler Cowen**, director of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and author of many books on economics and society, most recently *Stubborn Attachments: A Vision for a Society of Free, Prosperous, and Responsible Individuals*. Cowen spoke about the similarities and differences between philosophical and economic ways of thinking, and the ways in which economists and philosophers have succeeded and failed at guiding the public discourse surrounding

their respective disciplines. The lecture proved very popular and had to be moved to a larger room to accommodate the crowd. Next year's lecture (scheduled for March 13, 2020) will be given by Yancey Strickler, co-founder and former CEO of Kickstarter.

Peter Railton gave a brief address at the 2019 PPE commencement reception. At the reception we also recognized the following honors graduates for their senior theses:

- **Timothy Arvan**, "Civil Society and the Ambition Gap: NGO Influence and Countervailing lobbying in British and German Climate Change Mitigation Policy" (advised by Rob Mickey with reader Richard Rood)
- **Carolyn Dimitry**, "Autonomous Vehicle Adoption Issues: Moral & Legal Questions That Need to be Answered Sooner Rather than Later" (advised by Peter Railton with reader David Manley)
- **Arooshe Giroti**, "Legal Sovereignty: An Unjust Constraint on Humanitarian Intervention" (advised by Andrew Winkler)

- **Sabrina Inoue**, "The United States Supreme Court: How Court Ideology Affects Public Confidence in the Court" (advised by Kevin Quinn with reader Charles Shipan)
- **Kelsey Muniz**, "The United States and the Oppressed: How Legal Accountability Becomes Altered in a Fundamentally Unjust State" (advised by Elizabeth Anderson with reader Derrick Darby)
- **Nithin Vejendla**, "Rise of the Robots: Effects of Technological Automation on Societal Freedom" (advised by Hrishikesh Joshi with reader David Manley)

CONGRATULATIONS 2019 UM PPE GRADS!



Carolyn Dimitry along with fellow PPE Grads



Nithin Vejendla



Arooshe Giroti



Kelsey Muniz with more fellow PPE Grads



Oliver Ambros, Samuel MacDuffie, and Cole Stuart



Brett Cohen with Professor David Baker

UNDERGRAD STUDENT REPORTS

PHILOSOPHY INTERNSHIP REPORT Saveri Nandigama Gets to the Heart of the Matter

This summer, I completed an internship at a sustainability equity non-profit, Corazón Latino [Latin Heart], located in Washington, D.C. This organization centers on advocating for Spanish speakers throughout the U.S. and Latin America, in the environmental justice sphere that seeks to generate social, environmental, and conservation initiatives that foster natural resource stewardship. Throughout my internship, I worked with my supervisors and co-workers within the organization and my peer interns. I learned how to develop an accurate marketing campaign for non-profits that service a niche market. My favorite project was working to develop a white paper that can be used in marketing and research efforts that Corazón Latino chooses to pursue. Throughout my internship, I learned more about the need for environmental justice within all spheres of business. In

fact, my exposure to this field has prompted me to find ways to promote environmental justice on campus. This internship transformed the way in which I think of sustainability and I hope to use my experiences to build a better world for myself and future generations.



PPE COLLOQUIUM REPORT Arooshe Giroti: Learning From Both Sides of the Political Spectrum

Attending the PPE Colloquium was one of the highlights of my senior year. I enjoyed engaging with our topic, corruption, because it had been an interest of mine for a while already. Since our sessions were facilitated by professors with various political affiliations, I left our discussions with a wholistic understanding of the role of corruption in society (both Western and non-Western).



The readings and discussions gave me a useful set of vocabulary with which to talk about this very complex topic. In addition to the content, I enjoyed meeting the other students and professors at the colloquium. Since PPE is a relatively small program at Michigan, it was exciting to connect with other people in this discipline, and to learn how other schools structure their program. After coming back from the conference, I had a few productive discussions with my PPE professors about my reflections and about how our program at Michigan could be improved. Overall I had a fantastic experience and I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend!

Probabilistic Knowledge and the Law

By Sarah Moss, the 2018/2019 Thomas E. Sunderland Faculty Fellow, U-M Law School

Suppose you are on a jury for a murder trial. The prosecution has proved that the defendant belongs to an

organization with exactly 100 members, and they have proved that 99 of those members worked together to murder the victim. In light of that evidence, you may have a very high degree of confidence that the defendant is guilty. But without further evidence, you cannot convict. Why does

purely statistical evidence fail to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt? Why can a guilty verdict be properly based on eyewitness testimony, forensic examinations, and other fallible evidence? Is there a robust distinction between purely statistical evidence and other evidence, or is there some important sense in which all evidence is statistical?

These questions are not only intellectually intriguing, but increasingly relevant in the age of Big Data. They are also essentially inter-disciplinary, standing at the intersection of philosophy, law, statistics, and other fields. In *Probabilistic Knowledge* (OUP 2018), I defend a theory of knowledge that bears on these questions. Over the past academic year, I was invited to spend a year as the Thomas E. Sunderland Faculty Fellow and Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan Law School, where I was able to explore the implications of my work for the development of law and public policy. Tad has invited me to share a brief summary of my research here, along with an overview of some of its legal and political applications.

In brief, my work in epistemology concerns the kind of belief states that can constitute knowledge. According

to traditional models of the mind, your opinions consist of on-or-off beliefs about what the world is like. Either you believe that you ate cornflakes for breakfast, or you do not. Either you believe that God exists, or you do not. Traditional epistemology is the study of what makes these sorts of binary beliefs rational, what makes them justified, and what makes them constitute knowledge. Axiomatizations of probability theory prompted many twentieth-century philosophers to adopt more intricate models of the mind. In fact, you not only have binary beliefs, but also degreed beliefs about what the world is like. On a scale from 0 to 1, you may have degree of belief .5 that a certain fair coin landed heads, .98 that you ate cornflakes for breakfast, or degree of belief .3 that God exists. Formal epistemology is the study of norms governing these degreed belief states, or *credences*—that is, the study of rational constraints on what credences you have, and on how your credences should guide your betting behavior and other actions. For example, say you ask your friend Smith, “On a scale of zero to one, how likely is it that Jones smokes?” and also “How likely is it that Jones *doesn’t* smoke?” Suppose Smith says “.9 likely!” both times. Then there is something intuitively wrong with Smith. This simple intuition is naturally explained by the assumption that our credences ought to reflect the laws of probability, which entail that the negation of a likely proposition is unlikely.

Of course, full beliefs and credences have many properties in common, and so traditional and formal epistemology cover many common themes. Both your full beliefs and your credences should be consistent, for instance. Both sorts of opinions can play an important role in practical reasoning. Both full beliefs and credences can be justified or fail to be justified. Historically, though, there has been one major difference between formal and traditional epistemology. At its core, traditional epistemology is the study of *knowledge*—what it takes for a full belief to constitute knowledge, how we can transmit knowledge by testimony, how we can extend knowledge through inference, and so on. Meanwhile, in stark contrast with traditional epistemology, formal epistemologists hardly ever talk about *knowledge*. Although knowledge is perhaps the most foundational and significant mental state, it is not hard to see why formal epistemologists have had little to say about it. Philosophers take it for granted that if you know

something, then it must be *true*. The binary beliefs studied by traditional epistemologists are the sort of thing that can be true. If you believe you ate cornflakes for breakfast, and you did, then you have a true binary belief. By contrast, degreed beliefs are like numbers. According to philosophers, they are just not the sort of thing that can be true or false. “And so,” philosophers have concluded, “degreed beliefs cannot be knowledge. One must choose: either you can theorize about degrees of confidence, or theorize about knowledge, but not both.”

My research challenges this conclusion. The central theme of my research is revolutionary in spirit: degreed beliefs can indeed constitute knowledge, in just the same sense as full beliefs can constitute knowledge. In other words, we can have *probabilistic knowledge*. This is not a verbal question about the word ‘knowledge’ but a substantive question about what sorts of states can play a certain fundamental role in the normative assessment of belief. We think that it is important to seek knowledge, to act on knowledge, and to speak from knowledge, in part because knowledge has more authority and power to justify than mere belief. I argue that degreed beliefs can have all of these features. To give some simple examples: when it comes to opinions about the likelihood that you have cancer, the credences of medical experts might constitute knowledge, while the credences of your close family members do not. Your probabilistic knowledge states might include your .2 credence that God exists, or your .3 credence that it will rain later today. The same goes not just for assignments of precise credences, but also for more complicated subjective probability judgments, such as your having less than .5 credence that it will rain later, and your having higher credence in the proposition that it will be sunny than in the proposition that it will rain. The traditional study of knowledge focuses exclusively on the epistemic status of full beliefs in propositions, such as the proposition that you are not dreaming, or that you have hands, or that there is an external world. But in addition to having knowledge of black and white propositions like these, we have knowledge that comes in every shade of grey.

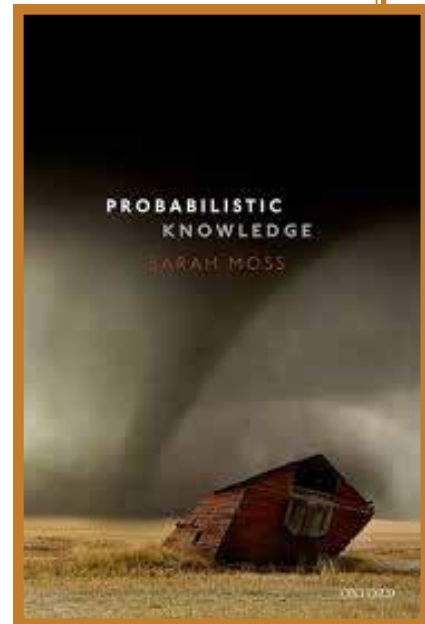
What are the legal implications of acknowledging that we have probabilistic knowledge? Well, for starters,

consider the following notorious question in criminal procedure: how should we understand the standard of proof *beyond a reasonable doubt*? A natural first pass understanding is that the standard imposes a constraint on your degreed beliefs, namely that you must be justified in having at least some threshold degree of confidence that the defendant is guilty. This understanding is reflected in the recurring use of thresholds in informal courtroom explications of reasonable doubt. Prosecutors have identified proof beyond a reasonable doubt as “kind of like 75 percent” (*State v. Casey* 2004 WL 405738, 7 (Ohio App. 2 Dist. 2004)), or “like getting to the 97 yard line” (*Petrocelli v. Angelone*, 248 F.3d 877, 888 (9th Cir. 2000)). However, appellate courts consistently condemn the association of reasonable doubt with any threshold degree of confidence, in part because it appears as if any threshold notion will fail to explain why we cannot convict a defendant on the basis of purely statistical evidence. In short, purely statistical evidence can justify arbitrarily high degrees of confidence in guilt, while still leaving room for reasonable doubt.

The reluctance of courts to associate reasonable doubt with a confidence threshold gives rise to an urgent practical problem.

In the absence of clarification of the reasonable doubt standard, jurors do not simply refrain from associating the standard with any confidence threshold. As a matter of fact, jurors associate the standard with a threshold that is dramatically lower than any that would be considered viable by legal experts. A disturbing proportion of jurors report that the standard requires only .6 to .75 degree of confidence in guilt. In their reluctance to sanction any determinate interpretation of the reasonable doubt standard, courts allow jurors to interpret it in a way that is determinately wrong.

(continued next page)



PROBABILISTIC KNOWLEDGE
(OUP 2018)

Research Report : Probabilistic Knowledge and the Law (continued)

Probabilistic knowledge provides an interpretation of reasonable doubt that can help address this problem. According to my interpretation, convicting a defendant requires not just that your high degree of confidence in their guilt is justified, but that your high degree of confidence *constitutes knowledge*. This interpretation appeals to a confidence threshold, but it does not thereby license convictions on the basis of purely statistical evidence. By simultaneously understanding reasonable doubt as requiring *confidence* as well as requiring *knowledge*, we may use tools from both formal epistemology and traditional epistemology in order to give more detailed theories of what it takes to prove something beyond a reasonable doubt. Procedures governing inadmissible evidence—particularly in trials where possibilities are raised in court but then dismissed from consideration—may be usefully informed by traditional epistemological theories of conditions under which knowledge is defeated by salient skeptical possibilities. In addition, my interpretation of reasonable doubt provides common ground between jurors and courts, namely by reflecting the intuitive connection between reasonable doubt and confidence, while at the same time respecting the wariness of purely statistical evidence motivating many court opinions.

Analyzing reasonable doubt is just one of many legal applications of probabilistic knowledge. Probabilistic knowledge can illuminate other evidential standards, such as reasonable suspicion and probable cause.

Discussions of probabilistic knowledge can guide our use of statistical evidence to determine whether policies have a discriminatory disparate impact on individuals. Probabilistic knowledge also has more general implications for what constitutes permissible action on the basis of statistical evidence. For example, probabilistic knowledge can help us articulate an important critique of racial and other profiling. Suppose you know that one in four cards in a given stack of cards is a diamond. Then you may be justified in having .25 credence that the next card you draw will be a diamond. By contrast, suppose you know that one in four residents of a certain neighborhood is a person with a felony conviction. Are you justified in having .25 credence that the next resident that you meet will

have been convicted of a felony? What separates permissible instances of statistical reasoning from impermissible instances of profiling? How could the moral status of the profiled subject make any epistemic difference?

According to my theory, one relevant epistemic difference is that when you reason using racial profiling, there is a salient possibility that prevents your resulting degrees of confidence from constituting knowledge, namely that the profiled person constitutes an exception to the statistical rule. As a matter of empirical fact, the moral status of a profiled person does not always make this sort of possibility salient. But morally speaking, it *should*. If you use racial profiling to form a false negative belief about someone, there is an intuitive sense in which your belief is unjust. This possibility should be salient to you as you form your beliefs. Hence it *morally* should be the case that you epistemically should not form beliefs on the basis of racial profiling.

In informal discussions of racial profiling, it is sometimes suggested that potential instances of profiling at least present a dilemma of some sort. The thought is that racial profiling catches us in a difficult situation where we morally ought to refrain from making epistemically perfectly good inferences, or at least morally ought to refrain from acting on the conclusions of those good inferences. As a matter of personal observation, members of profiled groups often find this thought repugnant. For many opponents of profiling, it is important that racial profiling presents no conflict between moral and epistemic norms. The theory I defend has just this consequence. In political, legal, and personal contexts, refraining from action on the basis of purely statistical evidence need not require epistemic compromise; in fact, it can be required by knowledge norms of action.

So far, I have explained how my research can help us think more clearly about the standard of reasonable doubt and about the use of profiling procedures. In my most recent paper, written during my Sunderland Fellowship year, I defend an account of legal proof that has more specific policy implications. At a first pass, my account says roughly that legal proof requires knowledge, and in particular, that a defendant has been proved guilty only if the judge or jury knows that the defendant is guilty. This account has significant consequences for cases where a jury forms

a justified belief that a defendant is guilty, but this belief turns out to be false. On my view, the burden of proof is not met in such cases, any more than it is met in cases where the jury is not even justified in believing the defendant is guilty—cases where juries ignore their evidence, say, or engage in overtly biased reasoning. In short, justified belief in guilt is not sufficient to meet the burden of proof, and wrongly convicted persons should be treated accordingly.

This account of proof recommends revisions to state statutes governing compensation for wrongly convicted persons. For instance, among those states that have compensation statutes, some states prohibit compensation to exonerated persons who played a causal role in their wrongful convictions, such as defendants who were coerced into confessing to crimes they did not commit. According to my view, such a defendant deserves compensation, even if the jury in his case has no way of knowing that his confession was coerced. Indeed, a much stronger conclusion holds. Suppose that a jury is perfectly justified in their belief that a defendant is guilty, and suppose that there was no procedural error in the arrest or trial of the defendant. If the defendant is innocent—for instance, if she is the victim of some string of extraordinarily unlucky coincidences—then the state owes her compensation if she has been falsely imprisoned, even though the state has not been negligent to any extent. As I see it, this conclusion appropriately reflects the fact that putting people in prison is a hazardous activity. We should hold the state accountable for the harms that inevitably result from this activity. Given the demonstrated prevalence of wrongful convictions, and the gravity of the harms they involve, the relevant standard of accountability should be strict liability. By defending an account on which legal proof requires knowledge, I have put forward one framework for understanding why all wrongful convictions deserve compensation. As my fellowship year draws to a close, I am looking forward to exploring additional practical applications of knowledge-first accounts of legal proof in my future work.

A New Kind of Critical Thinking Course (and Text) - Course Report

by David Manley

also appeared in the August 23, 2019 Daily Nous, available on-line at dailynous.com/2019/05/01/new-kind-critical-thinking-text-guest-post-david-manley/

Teaching **Intro to Logic and Critical Thinking** courses over the years got me frustrated with the standard material used for those courses. I felt that I was teaching students a grab-bag of items that had been handed down and were taught mostly out of convention. The material wasn't aimed at the most prominent reasoning errors, and wasn't using the tools best suited to fix them.

So I thought: what if we throw out the standard playbook and teach only the most useful skills from the toolkits of philosophy, cognitive psychology, and behavioral economics? And I started teaching the course that way. Using material from all of those disciplines, I ended up with readings from a dozen books and realized I had to create something cohesive that the students could use for readings. So I also wrote a textbook: *Reason Better*. It's about acquiring a mindset of inquiry, recognizing our cognitive biases, and adjusting our beliefs to match the strength of the evidence. You can check it out using this link: <https://app.tophat.com/e/455176>. (Use the "Enter as Guest" button on the right, and once you're in, view the

chapters properly by clicking "Full Screen" on the bottom.)

The result is a course that:

- emphasizes acquiring a mindset that avoids systematic error, rather than persuading others.
- focuses on the logic of probability and decisions more than on the logic of deductive arguments.
- offers a unified picture of how evidence works in statistical, causal, and best-explanation inferences—rather than treating them as unrelated.

The unified account of evidence I offer is a broadly Bayesian one, but there aren't any daunting theorems. (Without knowing it, students are taught to use a gentle form of the Bayes factor to measure the strength of evidence and to update.) It's also shown how this framework illuminates aspects of the scientific method, such as the proper design of experiments.

I'm happy to report that there's no need to accept the false choice between a narrow Intro to Logic course and a remedial Critical Thinking course. The

course at Michigan (Ann Arbor) that uses this text – at the moment being taught with great success by Anna Edmonds – is rigorous but immensely practical. Students come away with a sense of how to weigh the strength of evidence for claims, and adjust their beliefs accordingly. It has been getting a very large waitlist despite being offered to 275 students per semester.

When I used this text last Fall, I asked them to comment in their evaluations about all aspects of the course, including the text. The comments about my teaching itself were somewhat mixed, as expected! But the text and platform were just wildly popular. I don't think I've ever had unanimous consent in a large class on anything before.

I've been hesitant to turn to a traditional publisher, because I like the TopHat platform so much. The text is ready for use right now, but I'll be continuing to



Corinne Wasmuht / Pehóé P

improve it, so I'd be very happy to get any feedback. For the next month or so I'll be working on an additional chapter called "Communities", about social epistemology in a world of information overload: navigating science reporting, expertise, consensus, conformity, polarization, and conditions for skilled intuition.

I hope readers of this newsletter enjoy taking a look at the text!

FROM VAULT TO THE SCREEN: MISSOULA-BASED COMICS PUBLISHER GETS TITLES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

By: CORY WALSH (at the Missoulian.com)

Audiences increasingly demand diversity and new voices and stories in their entertainment — see blockbusters like “Wonder Woman” and “The Fast and the Furious” franchise — and Hollywood is responding. That drive may partly explain why Vault Comics, a not-quite-three-year-old publisher based in Missoula, is seeing a number of its books headed toward production.

The indie publisher specializes in science-fiction and fantasy genre stories told by emerging and established creators with a commitment to diversity, which has marked it from the beginning. “How can we present these voices to people?” said Tim Daniel of Vault. “There’s a real market for that. There’s a real interest in fresh perspectives, new voices, married with strong story and powerful iconography.”

Hollywood’s land grab for intellectual property has moved to indie comics like Vault, with its stable of artists based around the world, praise from critics, and growing sales.

Vault was founded by two brothers and a friend, modeling themselves after publishers they admire like Image/Skybound and Vertigo. “We have a similar path emerging before us and we definitely take note of what Image has done,” Daniel said.

“Nothing wrong with emulating that success.” Editor Adrian Wassel’s background is in creative writing. The Virginia native came to the University of Montana to study literature and creative writing. His brother, Damian, the CEO and publisher, is a trained academic philosopher.



While he was working on his doctorate at the University of Michigan, they teamed up with artist Nathan Gooden, a Pratt Institute graduate and now their artistic director. Their graphic novel, “The Gifted,” won a national award for its second volume, and the seed for Vault was planted. Through connections, they found investment to begin publishing other creators’ work. From their launch back in 2016, Adrian said they aimed to create “a space where diverse voices — and I don’t just mean diverse in race and ethnicity or sexual identity or gender identity, but also in tastes and inspiration — can all come and create stories that frankly, they wouldn’t find a home for elsewhere, and that’s resonated with a lot of audiences.”

The expansion plans aren’t limited to film and television projects. Earlier this summer, they launched a horror imprint, “Nightfall,” as a means of expanding its line of books. A young-adult line, “Myriad,” will begin publishing next fall. YA titles represent “the fastest growing section of the publishing market, period,” Damian said. It’s dominated by the graphics imprint of Scholastic but they see room for a different style of storytelling while experimenting with different formats of graphic novels. “It’s a chance for us to not only reach new audiences in terms of age and genre, but also

it’ll be fun for us to get to play around with the form a little bit,” Adrian said. Damian said they’ve sold several hundred thousand books so far, with audience reach and growth doubling year over year. “At the risk of taking a shot across a few bows, we’re one of the only publishers in comics that has growing sales right now. The comics market overall is growing, but we’re one of the only publishers that’s steadily increasing its market share,” Damian said. Daniel said they’ve reached the point where established creators are reaching out to them about collaborations, but they still comb through submissions and cultivate new artists. “We’re still breaking that new talent. There’s a home here, I think there always will be a home here, for new talent, fresh voices, new perspectives, but there’s also now a viable home here for the established creator so they can expect a decent return on the sales of their book.”

To read Cory Walsh’s article on Missoulian.com in full, please visit:

https://missoulian.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/from-vault-to-the-screen-missoula-based-comics-publisher-gets/article_7f49d331-edf1-5ba6-a0af-c378b780182e.html

more alumni news

recent grads



Zoë Johnson King (PhD 2018) has been awarded an Honorable Mention recognition from the 2018 ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards competition for her dissertation, “Trying to Act Rightly.” Zoë is currently a Bersoff Faculty Fellow with NYU’s Department of Philosophy. Beginning August, 2020, she will be an Assistant Professor at USC.



Filipa Melo Lopes (PhD 2019) defended her dissertation, *Recognizing Social Subject: Gender, Disability and Social Standing*, under the supervision of Ishani Maitra. Her dissertation discusses the observation that moves away from the classic philosophical question “what is gender?” and towards a more underappreciated one: “what is the role of gender”? Filipa has accepted a TT position at the University of Edinburgh.



Boris Babic (PhD 2017) has accepted a position at INSEAD (International Business School in Paris and Singapore) as an Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences.



Sara Aronowitz (PhD 2018) has accepted an Assistant Professor position at the University of Arizona to begin in Fall, 2020. She is currently completing her two year postdoc with Princeton’s University Center for Human Values.



Eli Lichtenstein (PhD 2019) defended his dissertation, *Force and Objectivity: On Impact, Form, and Receptivity to Nature in Science and Art*, under the supervision of Gordon Belot and Daniel Herwitz. His dissertation argues that scientific and poetic modes of objectivity are perspectival duals: ‘views’ from and onto basic natural forces, respectively. Eli was also this year’s recipient of the 2018/2019 John Dewey Prize.



Cat Saint-Croix (PhD 2018) has accepted a position at University of Minnesota.



Will Thomas (PhD 2015) has accepted a position at Ross School of Business, University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor of Business Law. Welcome back Will!

Steven Schaus (PhD 2019) defended his dissertation, *Law as Morality*, under the supervision of Scott Hershovitz. In his dissertation, he proposes that legal judgments and facts are best interpreted as moral judgments and facts of a certain sort, in effect, suggesting the understanding of law as morality - as a part or a branch. Steve is currently a Law Clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, DC following his postdoc fellowship at the Project on the Foundations of Private Law, Harvard Law School.



Mara Bollard (PhD 2018) has accepted a Lecturer position as Assistant Director of the Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science, University of Michigan. Welcome back Mara!



Van Tu (PhD expected 2020) has accepted a Visiting Instructor position at Bowdoin College.



Umer Shaikh (PhD 2019) defended his dissertation, *Aristotle’s Theory of Causal Powers*, under the supervision of Victor Caston. His dissertation explores how causal powers connect in Aristotle’s system to Aristotelian causation, hylomorphism and the composition and nature of material objects, and possibility and necessity.

best wishes to all in their new positions!

TANNER LIBRARY NEWS

2020 LOOKS TO BE AN EXCITING YEAR FOR THE TANNER LIBRARY!

Looking back over 2019, a number of equally exciting changes came to the library to set it into such good shape for the upcoming Winter Semester, and beyond. **A new library assistant** to the department, **Stephen Hayden**, was hired to manage the Tanner Library in September. Since then, the library has been open to the public part time, though the department's studious graduate cohort has kept the space well-used 24/7. Additionally, as a part of those changes, a number of improvements have been made to Tanner's catalog, including better access to Tanner's journal collection, the return of material circulation, and a collaboration with University Libraries to provide access to thirty+ new ebooks to Tanner patrons.

Beyond the library's holdings, Tanner has often found itself packed on Friday afternoons as it has played host to speakers from Princeton, Cornell, York, UToronto, and NYU, as well as for brown-bag lunches hosted by our incredible PhD students. 2019 has been an excellent year to find yourself in the Tanner Library to study, lesson plan, catch a lecture, or to simply read up. Looking forward, 2020 hopes to be even better as improvements and optimizations continue to come to the catalog, the collection expands, and new events populate the library.

MEET OUR NEW LIBRARY ASSISTANT!

Stephen Hayden is a current Master's of Information Science student in the UM School of Information, focusing on digital curation. Before coming to UM and joining the Philosophy Department, he graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in history, during which time he spent four years working in the Archival Description and Access department of OSU's Special Collections Archives, as well as sang in the Men's Glee Club. Stephen is honored to be a part of the University of Michigan's Department of Philosophy and genuinely enjoys the role of giving back through his position as library assistant to the department.



Stephen Hayden with the Tanner Library's William Frankena Collection

15 years of Google Books

by Haimin Lee, Google Product Manager
as first appearing on-line from Google at
<https://blog.google/products/search/15-years-google-books/>
published October 17, 2019

University of Michigan Librarian Scott Dennis (and Librarian for Philosophy, General Reference, and Core Electronic Resources) was recently interviewed by Google Books in the Tanner Library! As Scott tells us “we are in danger of literally losing every copy of some of these books from the 19th century”. Scott can now walk through the many UM library stacks and know that Google has preserved them all by digitizing each one. Since 2004, Google has partnered with libraries and publishers around the world to preserve books and make the information accessible for people everywhere.

For more information, please continue reading Hamin Lee's article below and enjoy this video featuring Scott at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=zz_vG9b9dv0

Books are the windows to new worlds. Through them, I've explored the wintry lands of Narnia and cast a spell at Hogwarts. I've danced with the Bennet sisters and attended the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta. I've delved into coding languages and learned about the Egyptian pyramids. Each world I've discovered has shown me the importance of preserving and protecting these stories for the future.

Fifteen years ago, Google Books set out on an audacious journey to bring the world's books online so that anyone can access them. Libraries and publishers around the world helped us chase this goal, and together we've created a universal collection where people can discover more than 40 million books in over 400 languages. But, there's still more we can do to make Google Books more useful for people.

Today we're unveiling a new design for Google Books on desktop and helpful features for anyone looking to read, research or simply hunt for literary treasures. We've re-designed Google Books so people can now quickly access details like the book's description, author's history and other works, reader reviews and options for where you can purchase or borrow the book. And for those using Google Books for research, each book's bibliographies are located prominently on the page and the citation tool allows you to cite the source in your preferred format, all in one spot.

Have you ever heard a phrase or quote and wondered what the original context was? With Google Books, you can search for key phrases or excerpts within books, and we'll show you where it's from, down to the page number and paragraph. Take “tesseract”, for example. Simply search the word with



Scott Dennis, U-M Librarian for Philosophy

the “Search Inside” feature and Google Books will show you where it appears in Madeleine L'Engle's “A Wrinkle in Time.”

For more literary exploration, Google Arts & Culture is recognizing iconic and rare books in an online project that features several works from Google Books' collection. People can learn about the history of books and dive into unique stories, like four books that made a mark as the first of their kind.

There's also an interactive experiment that gives people a fun way to browse the Google Books collection using artwork from Google Arts & Culture. Tap on an image and get recommendations for books written on related themes.

Over the last 15 years, Google Books has preserved the books that help people with academic and professional achievements, as well as personal discoveries. For me, Google Books is a place where I know I can go to discover new worlds I've yet to see. Turn the page to see what you'll discover next.

For more information on finding and using electronic books (e-Books), please visit Scott's guide at <https://guides.lib.umich.edu/ebooks>

A HIDDEN GEM (LETTER) FROM PROFESSOR FRED N. SCOTT

The Philosophy Department was given an old and tattered book this summer - a 1st Edition of *A History of Aesthetic* dated 1892, authored by Bernard Bosanquet, English philosopher and political theorist. But what proved to be a more interesting find was a handwritten letter, also dated from 1892, tucked neatly away in the book's first few pages. This exciting letter was authored by one of the department's oldest alumni, and former faculty member, Professor John Newton Scott.

Professor Scott was born in 1860, in Terre Haute, IN. His family later moved to Battle Creek, MI. He received his BA in 1884, his MA in 1888 and PhD in 1889 from UM. Quite the feat even for 130 years ago! As early as 1890-91, Professor Scott offered a course in "Rapid Writing" later developed into "Course 13, 'Newspaper Writing; Theory and Practice,'" which were offered in the newly formed Department of Rhetoric. He remained active upon retiring in 1927 and relocating to Tucson, AZ, where he continued to lend support to the teaching of rhetoric at the University of Arizona until his death in 1931.

The letter itself, dated October 17, 1892, is written to Mr. C.H. Ames, Boston, MA, of the American Historical Society, and reads as follows:

October 17, 1892

My Dear Mr. Ames:

I have asked the local publishers of my small pamphlet in the *Literature of Aesthetics* to forward a copy to Miss Bartlett. They will attend to the business side of the transaction. I have also dropped a postal card to Miss Bartlett telling her that if she will send five cents in stamps to the Librarian of the Univ. of California, she can have, gratis, a copy of the large bibliography. Further, I have mailed her a copy of the *University Record* containing a brief outline of my lectures. I need hardly say that I am always glad to have the name of students or teachers who are interested in work of this kind.

I had hoped to be able before this time to reply to your letter of Sept. 21. Perhaps I shall find leisure for it soon. But just at present this duty that lies nearest to me keeps me busy from breakfast until bedtime. I wish to tell you of my meeting with Professor Carrière, the old German Aesthetiker, of the results of my summer's work, and of one or two new ideas upon subjects in which we have a common interest.

I am delighted to hear that you met Mr. Bosanquet. Minds like his are the rare thing in the world. His *History of Aesthetics* of which I have read the greater part upon my return, is a marvelous piece of work. How he does go [much] to the heart of the matter! I have just begun reading his criticism of Von Hartmann and find on p. 425-6 so simple and inevitable a statement of the reasons for studying Greek Aesthetics that it seems as though nothing ever need be said on that subject again. You have doubtless found much besides such particular discussions as those on p. 3-4 and 337-8 to cast light on the aesthetics of natural beauty. Apropos of that subject I have just laid down the last number of the *Vierteljahrsschrift für Wissenschaftliche Philosophie* containing an article by R. Wlassak entitled *Zur Psychologie der Landschaft*. You would hardly be repaid for the labor of ploughing through it, yet he makes one or two points worth noting, of which I hope to write a little later.

It is on the point of my pen to ask you if you have looked into Prof. Brown's *The Fine Art* (in the same series with Prof. Knight's *Philosophy of the Beautiful*), but I must bring this letter to a hasty close.

Very truly yours

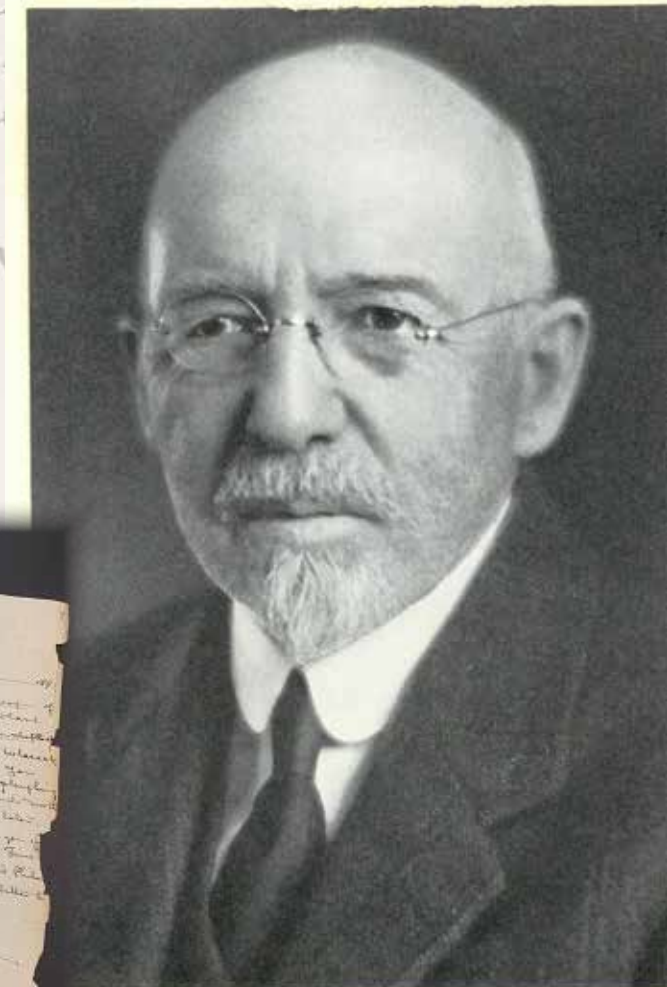
Fred M. Scott

Mr. C.H. Ames, Boston Mass.

Biography and photograph from
The Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.

* *A History of Aesthetic* (1st Ed., 1892) has been added to the
Tanner Library collection.

** The original letter from Professor Scott has been added to the
Bentley Historical Library archives.



Fred Newton Scott

PHILOSOPHY CONTRIBUTIONS

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the following individuals who made contributions
during the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

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Michael A. Zimmerman, A.B., ‘63

IN MEMORIAM DR. GEORGE ION MAVRODES (1926-2019)

Professor Mavrodes passed away on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at the age of 92. He was born on November 23, 1926 in Albuquerque, New Mexico to Tasso and Kathryn (nee Dardis) Mavrodes. George served in the United States Navy from 1945-1946. He received his B.S. degree in 1945 from Oregon State College, his B.D. degree in 1953 from Western Baptist Theological Seminary, and his M.A. degree in 1960 and Ph.D. degree in 1961 in Philosophy from the University of Michigan. George taught at Princeton University from 1960-1961, after which he returned to the Philosophy Department at U-M as an assistant professor of philosophy. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1973. He made important contributions to the Program on Studies in Religion, as well as to the Department. He retired in 1995 after 33 years of service from active faculty status to Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. He continued to be a presence in the Department long after his retirement.

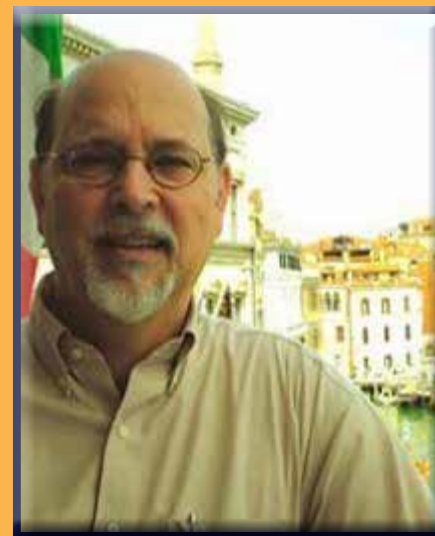
Professor Mavrodes was a vanguard of an influential movement that has used the tools of contemporary analytic philosophy to elucidate the foundations of religion, and of Christianity in particular. He authored the *Belief in God: A Study in the Epistemology of Religion* (1970) and *Revelation in Religious Belief* (1988) and has edited two

anthologies: *Problems and Perspectives in the Philosophy of Religion* (1967) and *The Rationality of Belief in God* (1970). He also has nearly one hundred other publications covering such topics as revelation, divine omnipotence, resurrection, miracles, personal identity and survival of death, and faith and reason, as well as ethics and social policy issues that intersect with religion and morality—abortion, pacifism, the just war, and nuclear deterrence.

A leader in his field, Professor Mavrodes has served as president of both the Society for Philosophy of Religion and the Society of Christian Philosophers and as a member of the executive committee of the American Theological Society. He has served in editorial capacities for *The American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Faith and Philosophy*, and *The Reformed Journal*. He has been a fellow of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship at Calvin College and of the Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame and has held visiting positions at Carleton and Kenyon colleges.

Over the years, faculty colleagues came to rely on Professor Mavrodes' shrewd and incisive philosophical criticism, while students took advantage of his wide learning and scholarship in philosophy, religion, and theology, and staff appreciated his consideration and personal kindness.

He is survived by his loving wife of fourteen years (Mary-Anne), two stepsons, four grandchildren, his nephew and niece, brother-in-law, and his pets who he loved more than life, Zander and Jasmine.



PHILOSOPHY'S NEW CHAIR - PROFESSOR TAD M. SCHMALTZ

Professor Schmaltz was made our next **Department Chair** effective July 1, 2019. He is a James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow at Michigan. Before coming to Michigan in 2010, he received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 1988, and was a member of the Department of Philosophy at Duke University for over 20 years. His areas of specialization are the history of early modern philosophy (17th and 18th centuries), the history and philosophy of early modern science, and the relation of philosophy and science to theology in the early modern period. He has particular research interests in the following features of early modern thought: the variety of early modern "Cartesianisms", the influence of late scholasticism, the nature of the "Scientific Revolution", substance-mode metaphysics and mereology, and theories of causation and freedom. ***We look forward to Tad's leadership for the next three years!!***

OTHER FACULTY NEWS/AWARDS

Associate Professor Chandra Sripada recently received the 2019 Stanton Award from the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Each year the SPP awards the Stanton to a young scholar in philosophy or psychology who has begun making significant contributions to interdisciplinary research as well as being an active member. This award is given to just one scholar per year. The Stanton award is presented in honor of Harry and Betty Stanton of Bradford Books/The MIT Press. ***Congratulations Chandra!***



Professor Gordon Belot was named the Lawrence Sklar Collegiate Professor of Philosophy this year. Collegiate Professorships are one of the highest honors that the College of LSA can award to active faculty members who warrant the distinctive recognition that such a named professorship carries. Awardees are not only outstanding in their scholarship and in both their undergraduate and graduate teaching, but they should also provide significant leadership within the unit, the College or the University. ***Congratulations Gordon!***

Department Faculty

Elizabeth Anderson - John Dewey Distinguished University Professor; Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; Moral and Political Philosophy, Epistemology, Feminist Theory, Philosophy of Social Science

David Baker - Associate Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science

Gordon Belot - Lawrence Sklar Collegiate Professor of Philosophy and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science

Sarah Buss - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Ethics, Action Theory, Moral Psychology

Victor Caston - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Ancient Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Austrian Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics

Derrick Darby - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Social and Political Philosophy, Race, Inequality, Philosophy of Law

Emmalon Davis - LSA Collegiate Fellow

Anna Edmonds - Lecturer

Maegan Fairchild - LSA Collegiate Fellow

Zac Harmon - Lecturer

Scott Hershovitz - Professor (Law); Philosophy of Law, Ethics, Political Philosophy

Daniel Herwitz - Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor; Aesthetics, Film, Philosophical Essay, Transitional Societies

Daniel Jacobson - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Ethics, Moral Psychology, Aesthetics, J.S. Mill

James Joyce - Cooper Harold Langford Collegiate Professor; Decision Theory, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science

Ezra Keshet - Associate Professor (Linguistics); Semantics

Mika Lavaque-Manty - Arthur F. Thurnau Associate Professor (Political Science); Political Theory, Political Action and Agency, Liberal and Democratic Theory

Eric Lormand - Associate Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Language

Daniel Lowe - Lecturer

Ishani Maitra - Associate Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Language, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

David Manley - Associate Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language, Epistemology

Sarah Moss - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Epistemology

Sonya Özbey - Assistant Professor and Denise Research Fellow; Chinese Philosophy

Peter Railton - Gregory S. Kavka Distinguished University Professor; John Stephenson Perrin Professor; Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; Ethics, Philosophy of Science, Political Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Aesthetics

Donald Regan - William W. Bishop Jr. Collegiate Professor (Law); Moral and Political Philosophy

Laura Ruetsche - Louis Loeb Collegiate Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Science



Tad Schmaltz - Department Chair, Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; History of Modern Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics

Janum Sethi - Assistant Professor and Denise Research Fellow; Kant, History of Modern Philosophy, Aesthetics

Chandra Sripada - Assistant Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Ethics, Moral Psychology, Mind, Cognitive Science

Eric Swanson - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Formal Epistemology

James Tappenden - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Philosophy of Language, Philosophy and History of Mathematics, Philosophical Logic

Richmond Thomason - Professor and James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellow; Logic, Philosophy of Language, Linguistics, Artificial Intelligence

Brian Weatherson - Marshall M. Weinberg Professor; Epistemology, Philosophy of Language

EMERITUS FACULTY
Frithjof Bergmann, Edwin Curley, Stephen Darwall, Allan Gibbard, Louis Loeb, Donald Munro, Lawrence Sklar, Kendall Walton, and Nicholas White



Judith Beck, Philosophy's Undergrad Coordinator, wins an LSA Staf Spotlight Award for Fall 2018!



Michelle Biggs (Classic Dept. and fellow Spotlight winner), Judith Beck, Kelly Campbell (Philosophy's Chief Ad)



Jude with LSA Interim Dean, Liz Cole

Jude has been the department's Undergrad Coordinator since 2010. She works with our undergrads on questions and issues regarding admissions, courses and advising. She also coordinates graduation events for both Philosophy and PPE students!



Ice Skating at Yost!



Annual Department Picnic, Burns Park



The Philosophy Staff have enjoyed several fun activities this past year including visiting UM's new Museum of Natural History, Planetarium, and the Washtenaw County Historical Museum featuring the Butter (dish) exhibit!



Philosophy Staff: Judith Beck, Shelley Anzalone, Carson Maynard, Kelly Campbell, Theresa Schmid



Some of our favorite butter dishes



Ugly Sweater Contest - Winter Solstice Party



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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY STAFF

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Carson Maynard - Graduate Coordinator
Shelley Anzalone - Executive Assistant; Newsletter Editor
Simon Nyi - Events and Publicity Coordinator
Kelly Campbell - Chief Administrator

Contact us at:

philosophy.staff@umich.edu

SAVE THE DATE

GIVING BLUEDAY IS **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**
HELP US MAKE 2019 THE BIGGEST ONE YET!

Philosophy devoted all donations received during the 2018 Giving BlueDay to the
Ilene Goldman Block Memorial Fund in Philosophy.

We would like to honor Ilene again this year
noting all of her many wonderful contributions to the Department!

Ilene Block, LSA '69, and an alumna of the Department of Philosophy, lived a rich fulfilling life, improving the lives of her family and many, many friends along the way. Her undergraduate experience at the University of Michigan, especially her time with the Department of Philosophy, was both formative and enriching. She was always extremely grateful for the opportunities made possible by her fine education at the University, and she never took for granted the chance to pass the wisdom and keen sense of logic that she developed here on to others. Among those others is her son, Jamie Block, who graduated with Honors in Philosophy at UM in 2011. Initiated by Robert and Dauphine Sloan, dear friends of Ilene and her husband Jerry, the Ilene Goldman Block Memorial Fund provides resources that will enhance undergraduate students' experiences in the department, including internships, conference attendance and related travel, research-related travel, hosting of guest speakers on campus, development of special events, special publication purchases, etc. The Fund will also aim to support students who may be underrepresented in the field of philosophy.

Thank you for your generosity and in honoring Ilene!

On December 3rd,
Think Giving Tuesday = Giving BLUEDAY!

PHILOSOPHY EVENTS 2020

TANNER LECTURE ON HUMAN VALUES

LECTURE

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 - 4:00-6:00 PM @ Rackham Auditorium
with Professor Charles W. Mills, The Graduate Center at CUNY

&

SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, February 13, 2020 - 10:30 AM-12:30 PM - Rackham Ampitheater
Professor Charles W. Mills

Symposiastes:

Professor Michele Moody-Adams (Columbia)
Professor Nikhil Pal Singh (NYU)
Professor Samuel Freeman (UPenn)

FERRANDO LECTURE

Friday, March 13, 2020 - 3:00-5:00 PM - Rackham Ampitheater
with Yancy Strickler, co-founder of Kickstarter

SPRING COLLOQUIUM

Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2020
Please visit our [website](#) for more details

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