

Department of Philosophy

2016 Newsletter



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Idea of God Conference



From 23-25 November 2016 the Philosophy Department and Queen's College co-hosted a conference on the *Idea of God*, featuring keynote addresses from Prof. Jean Grondin, Prof. Garth Green and Dr. Peter Harris, also featuring special guest Bishop Geoffrey Peddle PhD. On this occasion, many students and faculty from both institutions, along with international scholars presented papers

exploring the resurgence of the *idea of God* and its place and role in the history of philosophy and theology.

MUN Philosophy and Ecology



From March 3-5, 2016, MUN Phil initiative *For a New Earth*, in partnership with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted "The Future, the Arts and Ecology." The event opened at the Great Hall at Queen's College with a talk by Prof. Heather Eaton of Saint Paul University.

Dr. Antoine Guggenheim of the Bernardine College in Paris began the second day of interdisciplinary presentations with a lecture on Thomas Aquinas. The day closed with a talk by Innu elder Elizabeth Penashue. Finally, the conference ended with an activism panel and a Gala at the Rooms. *For a New Earth* also hosted a town hall meeting on 29 November 2016 in the Aula Maxima of St. Bonaventure's College on "What is a Green Economy?"

MESSP 2016: Krakow



The third Memorial European Summer School in Philosophy (MESSP) ran from 23-27 May 2016, at Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, Poland. The Theme of the seminar was "Education and the Hermeneutics of the Self"

Ten MUN graduate students and faculty members joined a group of Polish doctoral students and faculty for an intense four days of paper presentations and scholarly exchanges. MESSP 2017 is planned for June at KU Leuven on the theme "Politics and the Phenomenological Tradition." For more information see www.messp.org

The 3rd and 4th Conferences in Kantian Studies

were held at Memorial from 19-20 May 2016 ("Kant and Education") and 22-23 September 2016 ("Kant and Hospitality"), and co-organized by Dr. Joël Madore and Dr. Scott Johnston. The former included a keynote address from Prof. Robert Louden, and papers from Dr. Walter Okshevsky, Dr. Johnston, Dr. Margo Kondratieva and graduate students Shannon O'Rourke, Vahid Jafarzadehdarzi, Sarah Messer and David Tracey. Chris Martin (UBC), Dr. Jay Foster, Dr. Peter Gratton, Dr. Madore, Dr. Suma Rajiva and Dr. Paul Abela (Acadia) offered responses. The latter conference consisted of a keynote paper from Dr. Katrin Flikschuh (LSE), papers by Dr. Rajiva, Dr. Peter Trnka and Dr. Lucian Ashowrth (PoliSci), and responses from Dr. Johnson, Dr. Madore, Dr. Gratton and Dr. Stephen Crocker.

Nature and Ethical Thought: Reflections on *Laudato Si'*



On March 7-8 2015, Dr. Sean McGrath and Dr. Joël Madore co-organized with Dominican University College a workshop in ecology and metaphysics. "Nature and Ethical Thought: Reflections on *Laudato Si'*" demonstrated that Ecology is the new metaphysics or the old metaphysics in a new key. Special guests included Prof. Antonie Guggenheim of the College des Bernadins in Paris and Prof. Heather Eaton of Saint Paul University. Papers were also given by our own Dr. McGrath, Dr. Seamus O'Neill, Gil Shalev, Kyla Bruff, Michelle Mahoney, Stephanie Butera, along with DUC faculty and students.

Cognitive Science Lecture Series

Beginning in fall 2016, Dr. Arthur Sullivan and Dr. Yvan Rose (linguistics) rejuvenated the Cognitive Science Lecture series which ran from 2005-2007, sharing cross-disciplinary research on mind, cognition, language, and. Speakers included Dr. Todd Wareham (CompSci), Dr. Joe Argentino (Music), Dr. Sara McKenzie (Linguistics), Dr. Sullivan (Philosophy), Dr. Catherine Penney (Psychology), Dr. Ed Brown (CompSci) and Phil Branigan (Linguistics).

MUN Graduate Conference

From 22-23 April 2016, MUN Philosophy hosted a Graduate Conference entitled "Metaphysics Today," organized by Zachary Fouchard, David Tracey and Adam Haaga. The conference featured keynote speaker Dr. Marc De Kesel (Saint Paul University), and papers presented by Keely Whitelaw, Sarah Messer, Benedikt Rottenecker, Marlana Dugger, Kyla Bruff, Adam Haaga, Patrick Renaud and David Tracey, who were joined by other international graduate students.

Dr. Richard Kearney's Visit



Dr. Richard Kearney (Boston College) visited our department from 2-4 November 2016. He gave a paper entitled "The Hermeneutics of Wounds" and presented, with visual artist Sheila Gallagher, the critically acclaimed "Twinsome Minds.

Recovering the 1916 Easter Rising in Images and Stories." The duo brought us back to a foundational moment in the history of modern Ireland through a transformative interpretation of Dublin's Easter Rising for a new generation, using storytelling, animations, and poetry to address the ambiguity of commemorating an act of violence.

MUN Philosophy at SPEP

The department was very well represented at the 55th meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2016. Dr. Shannon Hoff's book, *The Laws of the Spirit: A Hegelian Theory of Justice* (SUNY Press, 2014) was the subject of a book session, with Emilia Angelova and Christian Lotz responding. Dr. Peter Gratton, Dr. Sean McGrath and PhD students Kyla Bruff and David Tracey also each presented papers at SPEP.

Recent Faculty Research

Dr. Peter Gratton: "Philosophy in Denial: Derrida, the Undeniably Real, and the Death Penalty." *Derrida Today*, vol. 10, n. 1 (2016).

Dr. Shannon Hoff's essay "Hegel and the Possibility of Intercultural Criticism" will appear in *Hegel and Canada: Unity of Opposites* (University of Toronto Press, 2017).

Dr. Scott Johnston: "The Logic of John Dewey's Democracy and Education." *Education Science*, vol. 2, no. 2 (2016).

Dr. Joël Madore: was a guest lecturer at the Sorbonne at the invitation of Prof. Danielle Cohen-Levinas (March 2016).

Dr. Sean McGrath: "Is the Late Schelling Still Doing Nature-Philosophy?" in *Angeliki*, vol. 21, no. 4 (2016): 121-141.

Dr. Seamus O'Neill presented "Why the 'Parasite Theory' is Essential to Augustine's Doctrine of Evil" at the ACPA.

Dr. Suma Rajiva continued work on her manuscript, *Kant's Concept of Reflecting Judgment: Rationality, Subjectivity, and Analogical Synthesis in the Third Critique*.

Dr. Arthur Sullivan presented "Cancellability and its Discontents" at the Pacific APA in San Francisco in April 2016.

Dr. Peter Trnka presented "Negotiating Time: the Dances of Collective Bargaining" at the 2016 Gwich'in Tribal Council Post Secondary Academic Conference II, Carleton, Ottawa, March 9 2016.

Graduate Students

The department welcomed two new PhD students: **Alişan Genç** and **Patrick Renaud**, and four new MA students: **Emma Pearce**, **Parker Biehn**, **Katie Zimmerman** and **Doroteja Čupković**.

PhD candidate Michelle Mahoney co-edited the Spring 2017 edition of the *Review of Metaphysics*.

PhD candidate Gil Shalev presented "The infinite God as Creator" at the MUN Philosophy Winter Colloquium.

PhD student Kyla Bruff contributed an essay to *Innen - Außen - Anders: Körper im Werk von Gilles Deleuze und Michel Foucault* (Transcript: Edition Moderne Postmoderne, 2016).

PhD student Adam Haaga presented a paper on Georges Bataille at the Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition (PACT).

PhD student Patrick Renaud presented two different papers on Quentin Meillassoux at PhiloPolis 2016 (Montréal).

PhD student Alişan Genç presented a paper in March 2016 at The Institute of Philosophy at Leuven with response from Jean-Luc Nancy.

MA student Benedikt Rottenecker presented a paper on the structure of reflection in Neoplatonism and Scepticism at the 14th Annual ISNS Conference.

MA student Stephanie Butera presented a paper at the Western Canadian Philosophical Association's 53rd Annual Congress (Alberta).

Guest Colloquium Speakers 2016

Prof. Heather Eaton (Saint Paul); Prof. Michal Naas (DePaul University, Chicago); Prof. Katrin Flikschuh (LSE); Dr. Patrick Madigan (Heythrop College); Dr. Devin Zane Shaw (University of Ottawa); Dr. Richard Kearney (Boston College).

Our Bradley Lecturer

this year was Prof. Doug Anderson (University of Texas), who gave a paper entitled "Peirce's Lost Community of Firstness" on Thursday the 17th of November.

And with that we bid adieu to 2016. Onward! Sean J. McGrath, Head.