

Department of Philosophy

Newsletter



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Welcome Dr. Shannon Hoff!



The department's most recent hire is Dr. Shannon Hoff, who specializes in Hegel, feminism and social and political philosophy. Dr. Hoff is also the president of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP) and the author of *The Laws of the Spirit: A Hegelian Theory of Justice* (SUNY, 2014).

Staging an Ecological Intervention: The Future of Nature, Gros Morne Park

From 10 to 13 September 2015, several members of the Philosophy Department, led by the principal investigator Dr. Sean McGrath, convened a SSHRC funded four-day festival of ecological ideas on the West Coast of Newfoundland. With over seventy participants from aboriginal communities, the natural and the social sciences,



Philosophers and friends enjoy the view at the Bonne Bay Marine Station, Norris Point on the West Coast.

the humanities, and the visual and performing arts, the event moved between venues in Corner Brook, Norris Point and Woody Point. It featured lectures by prominent scholars and scientists, a visual art show, an evening gala of dance, story and song, and an evening of music with *Dark by Five*. The transdisciplinary group also hiked the Tablelands and took a boat tour of Western Brook Pond.

Gwich'in Tribal Council Conference

In March 2015, Dr. Peter Trnka co-organized the annual Gwich'in



Tribal Council Academic Conference. This conference focuses on Aboriginal-state relations in Canada, more specifically on issues and challenges related to the socio-economic and political empowerment, and health and well-being of Aboriginal individuals and communities. This year's conference was entitled "Aboriginal Citizenship in the 21st Century, A Time of Challenge and Possibility" and was held at Memorial.

The 2nd Annual Kant conference

was held at Memorial from 21 to 22 May 2015, and co-organized by Dr. Joël Madore and Dr. Scott Johnston. The conference explored questions of the compatibility of faith with transcendental idealism, the legitimacy of belief in god and immortality, and the notion of a rational religion. The keynote speakers were Dr. Paul Abela, Dr. George Di Giovanni and Dr. Pablo Muchnick. Dr. Madore, Dr. Johnston, and graduate students Sarah Messer and Kyla Bruff presented papers. Responses were given by Dr. Suma Rajiva, Dr. Toni Stafford, Dr. Michelle Rebidoux and Dr. Seamus O'Neill and Dr. Francis Peddle.

Fourth Meeting of the North American Schelling Society

NASS
North American
Schelling Society

MUN re-confirmed its reputation as *the* place for the study of German Idealism by hosting the Fourth Annual Meeting of The North American Schelling Society from 17 to 19 September 2015.

The event welcomed

over fifty participants from all over the world and was planned by doctoral student Kyla Bruff and Dr. Sean McGrath. Dr. Paul Franks (Yale) delivered the keynote address. The conference ended with a memorable party at Dr. McGrath's house, followed by a Sunday boat excursion in Bay Bulls.

MESSP 2015: Freiburg

The second Memorial European Summer School in Philosophy (MESSP) ran from 16 to 19 June 2015, at the University of Freiburg with a seminar entitled, "Questioning the Secular." Nine MUN graduate



students and faculty members joined a group of doctoral students from Freiburg and faculty from various European universities for an intense three days of paper presentations and scholarly exchanges.

Recent Faculty Publications

Dr. Peter Gratton: (co-editor) *The Jean-Luc Nancy Dictionary* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015); "Survivance and Finitude: Derrida's 'Hyper-atheological' Deconstruction of the Death Penalty and the Proper of Man," *Derrida Today* 10, 1 (2016); "The Murderer, the Journalist, and the Responsibility between Us," in *Thinking the Postmodern: Essays in Honor of Hugh J. Silverman* (SUNY Press, 2016); "Derrida, Foucault, and the Punishment of Philosophy," in *Between Foucault and Derrida* (Edinburgh University Press, 2016).

Dr. Shannon Hoff: "Translating Principle into Practice: On Derrida and the Terms of Feminism," *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 29, no. 3 (2015); "Politics in Public: The History of Identity and the Aspiration to Universality," in *Public Sphere from Outside the West* (London: Bloomsbury, 2015).

Dr. Scott Johnston: "Afterword. On Enlightenment and the Most Difficult Problem of the Human Species," *Con-textos Kantianos* (2015:2).

Dr. Joël Madore: "Rancière, entre émancipation et aliénation: une interrogation critique à partir de Kant et Levinas," *Démocratie et modernité: La pensée politique française contemporaine* (PUF, 2015); "Disembodied Politics – Commitment and Formal Distance in Rancière," *The Journal of Cultural Research* (2015); Guest editor, *Con-textos Kantianos* (2015:2); "When Reason Began to Stir... —Kantian Courage and the Enlightenment" *Con-textos Kantianos* (2015:2)

Dr. Sean McGrath: "On the Difference Between Schelling and Hegel" in *Rethinking German Idealism* (McGill-Queens, 2016); "Schelling and the History of the Dissociative Self," *Symposium: The Journal of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy* 19, 1 (2015); "The Psychoanalytical Relevance of Jacob Böhme's Concept of Evil," in *Humanizing Evil: Psychoanalytic, Philosophical, and Clinical Perspectives*, ed. Ronald C. Naso and Jon Mills (Routledge, 2016).

Dr. Seamus O'Neill: "'Aequales angelis sunt': Demonology, Angelology, and the Resurrection of the Body in Augustine and Anselm." *Saint Anselm Journal* (2016); "Augustine and Boethius, Memory and Eternity." *Analecta Hermeneutica* 6 (2016).

Dr. Suma Rajiva: "Solus Secedo and Sapere Aude: Cartesian Meditation as Kantian Enlightenment," *Con-textos Kantianos* (2015:2).

Dr. Arthur Sullivan: "The Future of the Proposition" in *Language & Communication* 40 (2015); "What do Deviant Logicians Show about the Epistemology of Logic?" *Synthese* 190 (2015).

Dr. Peter Trnka: "Talk, Negotiate, or Blockade? Tactics & Strategies for Indigenous Power," *Northern Public Affairs* (August 2015); with Patrick Tomlinson, "Aboriginal Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century," *Northern Public Affairs* (August 2015).

Graduate Students

The department welcomed three new PhD students to St. John's: Adam Haaga, Zachary Fouchard and David Tracey, and seven new MA students: Stephanie Butera, Marlana Duggar, Maliheh Deyhim, Chris Herbert, Ali Karbaleei Mahdi, Ashkan Parchizadeh and Benedikt Rottenecker.

PhD Candidate Michelle Mahoney presented papers at McGill CREOR Graduate Conference ("Scientific Inquiry and Agapaic Creativity in C.S. Peirce"), University of Clemson, S.C. ("Abduction, Potencies and the Activity of Actualization" (invited)) and at the Fourth Meeting of the North American Schelling Society ("Overcoming Dualistic Ontology")

PhD Candidate Vahid Jafarzadehdarzi presented a paper at the 12th International Kant Congress in Vienna ("Life and the Organized Being in Kant's Pre-Critical Works")

PhD student Kyla Bruff presented a response at NASS4 and at the 2nd MUN Kant Conference ("Faith and the 'Ecstasis' of Reason: Kant's role in Schelling's Positive Philosophy")

MA student Sarah Messer presented a paper at the 2nd MUN Kant Conference ("Kant, Evil and Self-Attribution")

Michelle Mahoney Wins Aristotle Prize for her Work on C.S. Peirce



PhD Candidate Michelle Mahoney won the 2016 Aristotle Prize from the Metaphysics Society of America for her paper "Agape, Evolution & Chance".

Congratulations Michelle!

Visiting Speakers

In the past six months, we welcomed:

Dr. Paul Abela (Acadia)
 Prof. George Di Giovanni (McGill)
 Dr. Pablo Muchnick (Emmerson College)
 Prof. Paul Franks (Yale)
 Prof. Jason Wirth (Seattle)
 Dr. Steve DeCaroli (Goucher)
 Prof. Frank Peddle (Dominican)

Greetings from the Head

We are clearly a busy little Department. In the coming six months, we look forward to a "Future of Nature" follow-up ("The Future, the Arts, and Ecology," 3-5 March, St. John's), the 3rd Kant Conference (19-20 May), visits from Dr. Antoine Guggenheim (Paris), Dr. Garth Green (McGill) and Prof. Michael Naas (DePaul). All this and the Jockey Club too! Stay tuned. SJM