

Department of Philosophy Newsletter



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MESSP 2017: KU Leuven



The fourth Memorial European Summer School in Philosophy (MESSP) ran from the 6th until the 9th June 2017, at KU Leuven University in Leuven, Belgium, with Dr. Julia Jansen, head of the Husserl Archives. The theme of the seminar was "Politics and the Phenomenological Tradition." Twenty-seven MUN Graduate students and faculty members joined a group of Belgian doctoral students and faculty for an intense four days of paper presentations and scholarly exchanges.



2017 Bradley Lecture: Prof. D. Hedley



2017's Bradley Lecturer was Dr. Douglas Hedley, a professor of the philosophy of religion from the Faculty of Divinity at Cambridge University. The title of Hedley's lecture, given on November 13th, was "The Cambridge Platonists and the Idealistic Vision of Nature".



Public Philosophy Lecture: Do We Really Care About Climate Change?



Over two hundred people crowded into the Ship Pub on Nov 7th to debate the politics of climate change. The talk was hosted by environmental NPO *For a New Earth*, and featured Sean McGrath (Philosophy), Barry Stephenson (Religion), and . Kyla Bruff (Philosophy).

Other public lectures this year included Barry Stephenson from Religious Studies, "Common Sense and Why We Don't Have It: The Perspective of Gadamer" (7 February); John Sandlos from History, "Dangerous Places: Contamination and Indigenous People at a Northern Mine" (7 March); Joel Deshayes from English, "Moral Luck in Dirty Harry" (3 October); and Chandra Kavanagh from Ryerson, "Disability, Gender and Sexual Consent" (5 February).

Ethics for the 21st Century: Mind, Body, Spirit



ETHICS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
Mind — Body — Spirit
An Interdisciplinary conference at Queen's College, Memorial University
Featuring:

- Professor Françoise Baylis
Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Psychiatry,
Dalhousie University
- The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J Francis
Professor of Anglican and Catholic Theology,
University of Waterloo
- Professor Michael Schulz
Chairman and Director of Program,
University of Bielefeld
- Professor Judy Iles
Professor of Neurology and Public Health, Queen's University,
University of British Columbia

Begins November 29th, 4pm, in the Great Hall of Queen's College, 210 Prince Philip Drive

The register, email: conferences@mun.ca Full schedule: <http://www.mun.ca/philosophy>

Co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, Queen's College, Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University and Eastern Health.

From November 29th until December 1st, the Philosophy Department, Queen's College, the Faculty of Medicine, as well as Eastern Health and the Provincial Health Ethics Network, collaborated to organize an interdisciplinary conference on contemporary ethics. Keynote addresses were given by Dr. Françoise Baylis, Dr. Leslie Francis, Dr. Michael Schulz, Dr. Andrew Latus, and Dr. Judy Iles.

Faculty Research Highlights

Dr. Peter Gratton assumed the position of Treasurer of the Society for Phenomenology and Existentialism.

Dr. Shannon Hoff completed a draft of a book on feminism.

Dr. Scott Johnston is finishing a manuscript of the logic of John Dewey.

Dr. Joël Madore edited the recent issue of *Analecta Hermeneutica*, on The Idea of God, including his article: "Levinas' God: Ethical Horizon, Political Necessity."

Dr. Sean McGrath published "The Ecstatic Realism of the Late Schelling," in *Continental Realism and its Discontents*.

Dr. Seamus O'Neil published "The Demonic Body: Demonic Ontology and the Domicile of the Demons in Apuleius and Augustine," in *Philosophical Approaches to Demonology*.

Dr. Suma Rajiva published "The Value of Difference: Kantian Hospitality and Flikschuh's Rethinking of Nomadic Encounters" in *Con-Textos Kantianos*.

Dr. Arthur Sullivan continued work on *The Constitutive A Priori* under contract for Rowman & Littlefield.

Dr. Peter Trnka gave lectures on aboriginal sovereignty in New Zealand and has a forthcoming article, "Let the Names of Justice Multiply: Transitions, Retroactives, and Transversals" in *Global Ethics*.

Hot Air: The History and Philosophy of Carbon Dioxide



On March 2nd, visiting philosopher and chemist Jens Soentgen from the University of Augsburg delivered a presentation on the history, politicization, and moralization of carbon dioxide, sponsored by Memorial's Vice President's Office and local NPO For a New Earth. Dr. Soentgen argued that investigating

the history of this gas reveals the complexity of these political and moral dimensions, namely the role it plays in current climate change debate, alongside its recent reconstrual as a threatening pollutant—an aspect easily overlooked when paying mind exclusively to its chemical properties

Guest Colloquium Speakers 2017

Dr. Jens Soentgen – Augsburg University

PhD Candidate Daniel Griffin – University of Guelph

Dr. Stefanie Voigt – Augsburg University

Dr. Uwe Voigt – Augsburg University

Graduate Student Research

MA student Thomas Minguy published "Erotic Exuberance: Bataille's Notion of Eroticism" in *Phaenex*.

PhD Candidate Michelle Mahoney presented "Peirce's Contingency in Cosmology: A Platonic Origin of the Universe?" at the annual meeting of the Metaphysics Society of America at Harvard University, March 2017.

PhD Candidate Kyla Bruff has a forthcoming article on "Schelling," in *Deleuze's Philosophical Lineage: Volume 2*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018. She spent the summer at the University of Bonn during which time she organized and presented a conference called "Ways Out of History: The Frankfurt School and Religion."

PhD Candidate Shannon O'Rourke spent the winter doing research at the University of Augsburg.

PhD Candidate Adam Haaga published "Figures of Refusal. A Review of Irving Goh, *The Reject: Community, Politics, and Religion after the Subject*."

PhD student Benedikt Rottenecker presented "Eternal Motion and the Nature of Time in Plotinus" at the 15th Annual Conference of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies in Olomouc (Czech Republic).

PhD Candidate David Tracey presented at the conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society at Bath Spa University in the UK last September.

PhD Student Maliheh Deyhim presented "A Rancierean Analysis of Women's Movements in Iran," at Ryerson University in Toronto in March.

The Department welcomed four students into its doctoral program: **Sam Underwood** and **Elizabeth Hill** from the US, **Benedikt Rottenecker** from Germany, and **Maliheh Dethim** from Iran.

Greetings from the Head's Office

We continue to create a vibrant intellectual culture on the edge of the North Atlantic, with colloquia, conferences, public lectures and weekly Jockey Club meetings in the Peter Easton Pub every Friday afternoon. Coming this year: The MUN Philosophy Department's very own YouTube channel, MESSP5 in Galway and more.

Special thanks for Ethan Lewis for help preparing this newsletter.