

Ryerson University – Department of Philosophy

2015-2016 News Stories

- MA student Jordan Wadden will present a paper entitled "A Buddhist Alternative: Mindfulness Meditation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" at the [Sixth Annual Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference](#) in Kalamazoo, MI, September 15-20, 2016.
- MA student Tony Miller will present a paper entitled "What Kind of Ethic? Differing Types of Prescriptive Political Realism" at an [upcoming workshop at Manchester's Centre for Political Theory](#).
- MA student Josh Duffy will present a paper entitled "Domesticated Rat Ethics: Morally Encountering *Rattus Norvegicus*" at a [conference on animal politics](#) at the International School of Philosophy in Amsterdam (November 12-13).
- MA student Henry Goury-Laffont will present a paper entitled "Deconstruction without Deconstruction: On the Double Historicity of Difference" at the [5th Derrida Today Conference](#) at Goldsmiths University in London, UK (June 8-11).
- Congratulations to Prof. [Betty Trott](#) on celebrating [twenty-five years of service at Ryerson!](#)
- Congratulations to Prof. [Robert Murray](#) on being appointed Chair of the department for a 3-year term, starting in July 2016.
- The Department of Philosophy invites applications for a one-year Limited Term Faculty (LTF) position at the rank of Assistant Professor effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. See [our jobs page](#) for more information.
- Job postings for [\(PDF\)](#) sessional instructor positions for Fall 2016 have been posted. Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.
- MA student Madelaine Ley has been accepted into the [Summer Institute in Bioethics at Yale University](#). She also recently presented a paper, entitled "Encouraging Corporeal Narrative Through Attentive Touch", at a conference called [\(PDF\) A Palpable Thrill: An Introduction to the Medical Humanities](#).
- Special congratulations to Prof. [David Hunter](#) on his promotion to the rank of Full Professor.
- Ryerson philosophers will be well-represented at this year's [\(PDF\)](#) annual meeting of the [Canadian Philosophical Association](#), which takes place in Calgary from May 29th-June 1st. MA students Jeremy Dawson and Madelaine Ley are on the program, as are professors [David Ciavatta](#), [David Hunter](#), [Klaas Kraay](#), [Kym Maclare](#), and [Meredith Schwartz](#).
- Congratulations to MA students Will Little and Tony Miller, who were both accepted into "[Freedom Week](#)" -- an academic symposium organized by the [Institute for Liberal Studies](#) which will take place at McGill University from August 15th-20th.
- The Philosophy Department's annual research symposium will be held on Friday, May 20th, 2016. More details will be announced soon.
- Congratulations to MA student Jeremy Dawson, who has been awarded a prestigious [Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship](#) for his upcoming doctoral studies. This award is valued at \$35,000/year for three years. Jeremy will pursue his PhD at the University of British Columbia, starting in September 2016.
- Prof. [Meredith Schwartz](#) will speak at a [panel discussion on medical assistance in dying](#), to be held at [St. Matthew's Church, Riverdale](#), on April 13th.
- Congratulations to MA students Brooker Buckingham, Josh Duffy, Madelaine Ley, and Jordan Wadden on winning prestigious [Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships](#) from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#)!
- Prof. [Boris Hennig](#) will present his paper, "On the 'Causes' of Writings", at [a symposium on Aristotle](#) in Passau, Germany, on April 8th.
- Prof. [Thomas Land](#)'s paper, "Moderate Conceptualism and Spatial Representation", will appear in Dennis Schulting (ed.), *Kantian Nonconceptualism*, which is forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan.

- Congratulations to former [Philosophy Option](#) student Sarah Clairmont, who was just accepted into the doctoral program in philosophy at McGill, with full funding! (Sarah recently completed the MA in Philosophy at the New School for Social Research.)
- The 2016 Ryerson Graduate Student Conference will take place on March 11th. View the [\(Word Download\) 2016 Graduate Student Conference program](#).
- The 8th Annual meeting of the Canadian Hermeneutic Institute will take place in Toronto, June 15-17, 2016, sponsored by York University and Ryerson University, and led by Prof. [Kym Maclaren](#). [\[More information\]](#)
- Prof. [Thomas Hart's](#) research on Bob Hunter, [one of the founders of Greenpeace](#), was recently featured [in the Toronto Star](#). Prof. Hart was also [interviewed on Global News](#) about his work.
- Prof. [Kym Maclaren](#) recently published a paper in *Mind, Culture, Activity* entitled "The Magic Happens Inside Out: A Reflection on the Transformative Power of Self-Expression and Dialogical Inquiry in Inside-Out Prison Exchange Courses," and a commentary in *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* entitled "Existential-Ontological Psychotherapy: Attuning to How Being is at Issue." Her book, co-edited with David Morris, and called *Time, Memory, Institution: Merleau-Ponty's New Ontology of Self* came out in 2015, with Ohio University Press.
- MA student Tony Miller has had two papers accepted for presentation at conferences. He will present "How The World of Superheroes and Villians Shows our Natural Deontic Ethic" at the [2016 Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference](#), and he will present "Ellul's Anarchic Ideal and the Social Contract" at [a conference on Jacques Ellul at Berkeley](#). Congratulations, Tony!
- In Fall 2015, Prof. [Kym Maclaren](#) taught a capstone course in which twelve Ryerson students from the [Arts and Contemporary Studies](#) program collaborated with twelve students who have been released from prison. This innovative course was [recently profiled in Ryerson Today](#).
- MA student Jordan Wadden recently had one paper accepted for presentation at a conference, and another paper accepted for publication in a journal. His paper entitled "Film and Determinism: What Does Our Entertainment Say About Us?" will be presented at the 37th Annual SWPACA Conference in Albuquerque. Also, his paper entitled "The Courage to Be Yourself: A Que(e)rying of Contemporary Protestant Existentialist Theology" will be published in [The Journal Of Religion and Culture](#). Congratulations, Jordan!
- Prof. [Thomas Land](#) recently published two papers: his paper entitled "[No Other Use than in Judgment: Kant on Concepts and Sensible Synthesis](#)" appeared in the July 2015 issue of *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, and his paper entitled "Spatial Representation, Magnitude and the Two Stems of Cognition" appeared in a [new edited volume on Kant's philosophy](#).
- On November 23rd, former MA student [Leland Harper](#) passed the viva voce (oral defence) of his PhD dissertation at the University of Birmingham (UK). Leland's dissertation was entitled "Multiverse Deism", and it was written under the supervision of [Yujin Nagasawa](#). Leland is the first graduate of our MA program to complete a doctorate in philosophy. Congratulations, Leland!
- Prof. [Boris Hennig](#) has just published a paper, entitled "Aristoteles' Beschreibung der Ethischen Tugenden", in Jens Kertscher, Jan Müller (eds.), [Lebensform und Praxisform](#), Mentis Verlag 2015.
- The Philosophy Department is thrilled to announce that as of Fall 2016, it will offer two double majors: [\(PDF\) English-Philosophy](#) and [\(PDF\) History-Philosophy](#). For more information, click on the preceding links. If you have questions about the English-Philosophy double-major, contact [Ryan Walters](#). If you have questions about the History-Philosophy double-major, contact [Anne-Marie Donovan](#).
- On Thursday, November 12th (from 7:00-9:00pm in POD-349), the [Ryerson Philosophy Club](#) will host a [discussion of whether or not we should want God to exist](#). The discussion will be moderated by Prof. [Toby Betenson](#), who is a Lecturer at Bangor University in Wales, and also a [Templeton Visiting Research Fellow](#) at Ryerson. All are welcome - see the [Facebook page](#) for more information.
- On Thursday, November 5th (from 7:00-9:00pm in POD-349), the [Ryerson Philosophy Club](#) will host a [discussion of Canada's philosophical history](#). The discussion will be moderated by Prof. [Betty Trott](#). All are welcome.
- The Ryerson Graduate Student Union has issued a [call for papers](#) for its upcoming conference, which will take place on March 11th, 2016. The theme of the conference is "metaphilosophy", and the keynote speaker will be [Dr. Maudemarie Clark](#), whose address will be entitled "Nietzsche on the Nature of Philosophy".

- Congratulations to recent MA graduate Jason Poettcker, who recently published an article based on his Major Research Paper. Jason's article is entitled "[\(PDF\) Defending the Purpose Theory of Meaning in Life](#)", and it appears in a [special issue of the Journal of Philosophy of Life](#).
- [Prof. Glenn Parson's](#) latest book, *The Philosophy of Design*, is now available from Polity Press. Congratulations, Glenn!
- Congratulations to MA student Jeremy Dawson, who has had two papers accepted for presentation at three peer-reviewed conferences. He presented "Beta-Blockers as a Treatment for Traumatic Experiences in Military Contexts" at the [Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference](#), and he will present "Transparency and the Slippery Slope Argument" at the [Western Canadian Philosophical Association Conference](#) and at the [Virginia Philosophical Association Conference](#).
- The first annual Jehangir Saleh Lecture will take place on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, from 4:30-7:00pm in Heaslip House. The lecture will be given by [Dr. Havi Carel](#)(Bristol) and is entitled "The Art of Wellbeing: Living with Illness". To reserve a ticket, RSVP at the EventBrite site here: <http://bit.ly/1G3gq6>. (Jehangir passed away on June 28th, 2013, after a long battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Jehangir specialized in philosophy while he was a student in the [Arts and Contemporary Studies](#) BA program from 2003-2009, and later enrolled in the MA program in Philosophy at Guelph University. [\[Guelph profile\]](#) [\[Facebook memorial page\]](#) [\[Toronto Star Article\]](#))
- [Prof. David Hunter](#) will present a paper entitled "Reasoning and Belief" to the *Groupe de Recherche Interuniversitaire sur la Normativité* in Montreal on Nov. 13th.
- This year, we have several very active groups running in the department:
 - Prof. Boris Hennig is running a Greek Reading Group - [contact him](#) for details.
 - Prof. Meredith Schwartz is running a Feminist Philosophy Reading Group - [contact her](#) for details.
 - [Prof. Klaas Kraay](#) is also running a [philosophy of religion work-in-progress group](#) - all are welcome to attend.
 - Graduate student Lisa Goulet is running a reading group that is working through Heidegger's *Being and Time*. For details, [contact her](#).
 - Graduate student Tony Miller is running a formal logic reading group. For details, [contact him](#).
- The department is delighted to welcome its newest member, [Dr. Thomas Land](#). For more information about Dr. Land's research and teaching, see his [website](#).
- Congratulations to MA students Jeremy Dawson, Nathan Todd, Cole Powers, and Henry Goury-Laffont on winning prestigious [Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships](#) from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#)!
- Congratulations to MA student Henry Goury-Laffont on winning a [Canada Graduate Scholarship Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](#) from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#)! This award has enabled Henry to spend the Fall 2015 semester working with [Dr. Martin Hägglund](#), Professor of Humanities and Comparative Literature at Yale University. Henry's project explores the intersection of contemporary French philosophy and political thought, focusing on the intricate connection between religious experience and political action in Jacques Derrida's "Faith and Knowledge". Henry is the fourth student from our MA program to win a Foreign Study Supplement.
- Congratulations to MA students Becky van der Post and Kristian Piraino on winning prestigious [Ontario Graduate Scholarships](#).