

Ryerson University – Department of Philosophy

2016-2017 News Stories

- MA student Jordan Wadden has been accepted into New York University's MA in Bioethics, and into UBC's doctoral program in philosophy. Congratulations, Jordan!
- The department is co-sponsoring a [two-day conference on film and spirituality](#), to take place at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on April 3rd and 4th. Prof. [John Caruana](#) will be one of the speakers. The [keynote speaker will be legendary director and screenwriter Paul Schrader](#) (*Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, *Affliction*). Here is a [Globe and Mail story](#) on the event.
- MA student Madelaine Ley has been accepted as a "New Research Investigator" at the [Mind and Life Summer Research Institute](#) in June, and will present a paper entitled "Home is Where the Self Is" at the [upcoming Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy conference](#). Congratulations, Madelaine!
- Recent MA graduate Victor Bruzzone has been accepted into doctoral programs in political science at U of T and at York. Congratulations, Victor!
- MA student Josh Duffy has been accepted into two MA programs at Carleton University: Public Policy and Administration and Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. Congratulations, Josh!
- The next installment of the [Music Section's](#) series entitled *Sounds of the Times: Albums that Changed How We Listen* will take place on March 30th, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Imperial Pub, main floor (back room), at 54 Dundas St. East. Kristin Force will discuss how Bernard Herrmann's Murder theme in *Psycho* had an impact on 1960s audiences, and changed how we experience film music. [[Poster](#)]
- MA student Raffi Aintablian has had three papers accepted for presentation at upcoming conferences. He will present "The Politics of Haunting Pasts and Persistent Complex Bereavement Disorder" at the [International Society for Theoretical Psychology 17th Biennial Conference](#); "Corporeal Politics and the Refusal to Mourn" at the [University of Toronto's 2017 Philosophy Graduate Conference](#); and "Feminist Corporeal Politics and Complicated Grief" at the [Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy 2017 conference](#). Congratulations, Raffi!
- The Ryerson Graduate Student Philosophy conference will take place on Friday, March 17th. [[Poster](#)] [[Schedule](#)]
- MA student Tony Miller has been accepted to Masters programs in Public Policy and Administration at Ryerson and at Carleton. Congratulations, Tony!
- MA student Rebecca Kovacs will present her paper, entitled "The Nature of Subjectivity and the Moral Value of Subjects", at the [University of Alberta Philosophy Graduate and Postgraduate Conference](#) on "Interiority," May 5-7.
- The department is delighted to announce that Dr. [Antoine Panaioti](#) will be joining us as an Assistant Professor, effective July 2017. Dr. Panaioti's expertise on non-western philosophy - especially Indian Buddhism - will greatly enrich our teaching and research activities.
- Congratulations to three undergraduate philosophy students (Sajan Kumar, James Dittburner, and Iordan Nikolov), who all had research papers accepted for presentation at this year's [Arteries Undergraduate Research Conference](#). The conference will take place on Thursday, March 16th. [[Full Program](#)]
- MA student Jenny Duffy has been accepted into Ryerson's Masters of Public Policy and Administration Program. Congratulations, Jenny!
- Prof. [Paula Schwebel](#) will deliver a talk at the University of Guelph on Friday, March 17th. Her title is "Walter Benjamin's Leibnizian Political Theology: A Response to Carl Schmitt", and [details are here](#).
- Recent MA graduate Jeffrey D'Souza has defended his PhD in Philosophy at McMaster University. Dr. D'Souza's dissertation was entitled "Aristotelian Virtue Ethics and the Self-Absorption Objection", and his supervisor was Prof. [Mark Johnstone](#). Congratulations, Jeff!
- The next installment of the [Music Section's](#) series entitled *Sounds of the Times: Albums that Changed How We Listen* will take place on March 16th, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Imperial Pub, main floor (back room), at 54 Dundas St. East. Dr. Sean Bellaviti will discuss the Buena Vista Social Club phenomenon from the perspective of the group's self-titled album of 1997. Swapping well-earned retirement for international stardom, these pre-Cuban

Revolution luminaries succeeded in orchestrating one of the most important revivals of Caribbean popular music of the 20th century. [\[Poster\]](#)

- MA student Will Little has been accepted into two doctoral programs at Carleton University: Political Science and Ethics and Public Affairs. Congratulations, Will!
- MA student Jordan Wadden will present his paper, entitled "Painful Virtue: Strong Moral Character, Marginalisation, and Resistance", at the [Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics Annual Conference](#). He will also present another paper, entitled "Disagreement Among Ineqauls: Epistemic Disagreement as Minority Experience", at this year's [Canadian Philosophical Association Conference](#).
- Undergraduate students are invited to attend a workshop on graduate study in philosophy, to be held on Tuesday, March 28th, from 3-5pm in VIC106. The aim is to give you a better sense of what is involved in such graduate work -- both benefits and challenges -- and to help you think about why one might choose for or against doing a MA or PhD in philosophy. We are excited to have two alumni of our MA program join us for this event. Chandra Kavanagh is currently doing a PhD at McMaster University, and Rachel Robinson has launched a career outside of academia. The workshop is primarily intended for 3rd-year BA students in Philosophy or ACS, as well as 1st-year MA students in philosophy, but anyone considering graduate study in philosophy is encouraged to attend. Please note, however, that this workshop is **not** about the mechanics of applying (how to pick a writing sample, how to write a statement of purpose, where to apply etc.). There will be a separate workshop on this topic early in the Fall Semester. **If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Thomas Land (tland@ryerson.ca).**
- Prof. [Paula Schwebel](#) has co-organized lecture on Afro-Jewish thought with a colleague from the University of Toronto. [Details are here \[PDF\]](#).
- As of Fall 2017, the philosophy department will administer [two new courses in Religious Studies](#):
[REL100: Introduction to Religious Studies](#)
[REL101: Introduction to World Religions](#)
These are Liberal Studies courses, and so all Ryerson students are eligible to enroll in them.
- MA student Madelaine Ley will present her paper, entitled "Touch in Medical Care: Corporeal Conversations", at the [Canadian Bioethics Society Conference](#) in Montreal in May 2017. She will also present another paper, entitled "Touch that Attunes: Corporeal Listening in Healthcare", at a Medical Humanities conference called "[Creating Space VII](#)" in Winnipeg in April 2017. Last but not least, Madelaine has been accepted into the doctoral program in [Science and Technology Studies](#) at York University. Congratulations, Madelaine!
- Recent MA graduate Luke Teeninga has just published a paper, entitled "[Divine Hiddenness, Greater Goods, and Accommodation](#)", in the peer-reviewed journal *Sophia*. Luke is currently a D.Phil candidate at Oxford University. Congratulations, Luke!
- MA student Jordan Wadden will present his paper, entitled "Why We Ought to Prescribe Mindfulness Meditation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder", at the [28th Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Conference](#) in Montreal in May. Congratulations, Jordan!
- Nine of our MA students will be presenting papers at the [38th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference](#) in February: Jordan deJonge, Christine Bell, Jenny Duffy, Tony Miller, Jordan Wadden, Johanna Holbrook, Jared McAdam, Laila Koshkar, and Nathan Smith. To see the titles of their papers, see [the complete program](#). Congratulations to all!
- From May 27-June 2, 2017, Ryerson University will host [Congress 2017](#), the largest multi-disciplinary conference for the social sciences and humanities in Canada. Faculty members and graduate students in Ryerson's philosophy department will be involved in this event in various ways, [including these](#). [\[PDF\]](#)
- The third installment of the [Music Section's](#) series entitled *Sounds of the Times: Albums that Changed How We Listen* will take place on February 2, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Imperial Pub, main floor (back room), at 54 Dundas St. East. Prof. [Gillian Turnbull](#) will discuss Neko Case's *The Worse Things Get, The Harder I Fight, The Harder I Fight, The More I Love You*. Case's album came at a moment when female rage had been co-opted and repackaged by the music industry to be commercially viable and unthreatening. By challenging accepted expressions of the female experience, Case opened the door to a new era of angry pop music by women. [\[PDF poster\]](#)
- In September 2017, the Department of Philosophy will be hosting the annual meeting of the [Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy](#). This will be a three day conference featuring papers on Continental European philosophy by scholars from across Canada and the United States. More details to follow soon.

- Prof. [Paula Schwebel](#) has co-organized a series of events which will draw on the philosophical thought of Walter Benjamin to reflect on the contemporary situation in Palestine and Israel. For complete information, see this [\[PDF\] poster](#).
- Prof. [David Hunter](#) has two new papers forthcoming: "Directives for Knowledge and Belief" will appear in *Normativity: Epistemic and Practical*, Daniel Whiting, et. al. (eds.), OUP; and "Practical Reasoning and the First Person" is forthcoming in *Philosophia*. Also, Prof. Hunter will present "Explaining Disordered Belief" at the University of Graz in March 2017, and he will present "Virtuous Inferences and Virtuous Thinkers" at the European Conference on Argumentation, University of Fribourg in June 2017.
- Prof. [Klaas Kraay](#) has just published two new papers in *Philosophy Compass*: "[God and Gratuitous Evil \(Part I\)](#)" and "[God and Gratuitous Evil \(Part II\)](#)".
- Several reading/research groups will be running in the department in Winter 2017. For details, please contact the organizers.
 - Prof. [Boris Hennig](#) will be leading a German Philosophy Reading Group and a Modal Logic group.
 - Prof. [Meredith Schwartz](#) will be running a Feminist Philosophy Reading Group.
 - Prof. [Klaas Kraay](#) will be running the [Toronto Philosophy of Religion Work-in-Progress Group](#).
- Congratulations to Iris Murray for winning the [Jackie Smith Memorial Award in Ethics](#) for 2016. This award is given to a student registered in Ryerson's [Certificate in Ethics](#), "for demonstration and/or articulation of the importance of ethics for the common good (such as commitment to human rights, social justice, and advocacy)". This award honours the legacy of Continuing Education instructor Jackie Smith, [who passed away on Oct. 12, 2012](#).
- The second installment of the [Music Section's](#) series entitled *Sounds of the Times: Albums that Changed How We Listen* will take place on Thursday, November 17, 5:00-6:30 pm at the Imperial Pub (54 Dundas Street E). [Tim Falconer](#) will discuss the Wilco album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, which changed the way we view record label conglomeration and artist rights. [\[More info\]](#)
- Congratulations to the Philosophy BA students who were honoured for their academic achievement at the Humanities Awards Night on November 3rd. To see a list of the awards presented, and a complete list of winners, [see our undergraduate program page](#).
- The Philosophy Department invites applications for a [full-time tenure-track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor](#). The position will commence on July 1, 2017 (subject to budgetary approval). The area of specialization is either (i) Non-Western Philosophy or (ii) Metaphysics and/or Epistemology.
- The [Music Section](#) of the Philosophy Department presents a series entitled *Sounds of the Times: Albums that Changed How We Listen*. The first presentation will be on Monday, November 7th, 5:00–6:30pm, at the Imperial Pub (54 Dundas Street E). Dr. Peter Johnston will discuss Radiohead's *In Rainbows*, an album that forced the entertainment industry to reconceptualize musical work and reshaped how we buy, sell, and value popular music. [\[More info\]](#)
- From May 27-June 2, 2017, Ryerson University will host [Congress 2017](#), the largest multi-disciplinary conference for the social sciences and humanities in Canada. Many faculty members in the philosophy department will be involved in this event in various ways. Here is a [complete list of scholarly associations](#) that will hold meetings at Congress 2017. Stay tuned for more details!
- Prof. [Kym Maclare](#)n presented a paper entitled "Agency, Oppression, and the Retrospective Logic of Expression" at the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, in Halifax at the University of King's College (October 2016). She has also been appointed to the editorial advisory board for the journal [PhaenEx](#).
- Prof. [Boris Hennig](#) will present his paper, entitled "Self-Knowledge and Rational Capacities," at the 34th Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, at Fordham University, New York, on Oct. 29th. He will also present his paper, entitled "Self-Knowledge by Participation", at the [American Catholic Philosophical Association 2016 Annual Meeting](#) in San Francisco on Nov. 5th.
- Congratulations to recent MA graduate Jeremy Dawson on winning the [Ryerson Gold Medal](#). This award is the university's highest honour, and is given once per year to a student in each Faculty who combines outstanding academic achievement with important contributions to the life of the university, the profession, or the community. Jeremy will receive the medal at the October 20th convocation ceremony. Jeremy is currently a doctoral student in philosophy at UBC.

- The Music Section of Ryerson's Philosophy Department presents the first concert of the *Music in the City* series - Friday, October 21st, from 1-2pm in the Amphitheatre of the Student Learning Centre at 341 Yonge Street.
- Ryerson's first undergraduate philosophy conference will take place on October 21st, 2016, in the Layton Room of the Ryerson Student Centre at 55 Gould St, Toronto. Here is the complete program.
- The Ryerson Graduate Student Conference will take place in March 2017 - the exact date is still to be determined. Paper submissions are due December 1st. See the call for papers for complete details.
- The department extends a warm welcome to Dr. Zhang Xin, who is with us this year as a visiting scholar. Dr. Zhang teaches in the Art Department at Hebei University in Shijiazhuang, China. Dr. Zhang took her PhD in the Philosophy department at Nankai University in 2010, and will be working on a project on natural beauty.
- Ryerson now has a MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) group. See the blog here: <http://map.blog.ryerson.ca/>.
- Prof. Boris Hennig has secured funding for a research assistant via the new Ryerson Arts Society Undergraduate Research Assistants Program. Philosophy BA student Mohammad Sediq Zada will work on a project with Boris on Stoic philosophy.
- MA student Jordan Wadden will present a paper, entitled "The Ethical Dead: Should Post-Apocalyptic Ethics Inform Pre-Apocalyptic Reality?", at the 38th Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in February 2017.
- The second annual Jehangir Saleh Lecture will take place on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 5:30pm in Heaslip House, 297 Victoria Street. The lecture will be given by Dr. Kay Toombs, professor emerita at Baylor University. For event details visit, The Jehangir Saleh Lecture page. (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. Boris Hennig's article, entitled "Instance Is the Converse of Aspect", has been selected as the best paper published in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* in 2015. Congratulations, Boris!
- Much-beloved professor Jim Dianda is retiring as of July 1st, 2016. Prof. Dianda taught at Ryerson for 34 years. The department is grateful for his outstanding contributions in many areas -- far too many to summarize here! -- and wishes him great happiness in his future pursuits.