

Ryerson University – Department of Philosophy

2017-2018 News Stories

- The Philosophy Department is delighted to announce that Dr. Diane Enns will be joining our faculty for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Enns works in social-political Continental philosophy.
- The Philosophy Department is delighted to announce that Dr. Rohan Sud will be joining our faculty for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Sud works in metaphysics and in the philosophy of language.
- The department will host a workshop on Transparency and Apperception on May 11th-12th. Details.
- The department will host a workshop on Nietzsche and Politics on May 4th. Details.
- Congratulations to BA student Raymond Cacciato, who has accepted an offer from Concordia University's MA program in philosophy!
- Congratulations to MA student Nathan Smith, who has accepted an offer from McMaster University's doctoral program in Religious Studies!
- MA student Nathan Smith will present his paper entitled "History and Passivity" at a conference entitled "Strategies of Critique XXXI", to be held at York University on April 21-22, 2018.
- Prof. Antoine Panaioti will give two keynote addresses in the near future. He will present "The Substance-Self: Illusion, Delusion, or Philosophers's Invention" at the Ryerson Philosophy Graduate Student Conference on March 16th, and he will present "Nietzsche as Metaphilosopher" at the Guelph University Philosophy Graduate Student Conference Keynote Address on March 23rd. He will also present a colloquium paper, entitled "Three Buddhist Distinctions of some Consequence for the Philosophy of Personal Identity" at Brock University on April 6th.
- The German Philosophy Reading Group will begin working through some texts by Heidegger this spring. For details, contact Prof. Boris Hennig.
- The Philosophy Graduate Student Union's annual conference will take place on March 16th in Oakham House. The keynote speakers will be Prof. Mary Jeane Larabee (DePaul) and our very own Prof. Antoine Panaioti. [Complete schedule.]
- Prof. Antoine Panaioti is organizing the first-ever invited symposium on Non-Western philosophy at the Canadian Philosophical Association's annual congress, to be held in Montreal June 4-7, 2018). The first panel is devoted to *Ethical Reflection in Indo-Tibetan Philosophical Traditions* and the second to *Methodological and Hermeneutical Issues in Cross-Cultural Philosophy*.
- Former MA student Jeffrey D'Souza, having completing his PhD at McMaster University, has now accepted a position as a Research Associate at McMaster's Institute on Ethics & Policy for Innovation. Congratulations, Jeff!
- Under the auspices of the Walls to Bridges program, Prof. Kym Maclaren has once again brought together Ryerson philosophy students with incarcerated individuals for a transformational educational experience. This course (PHL803: Philosophy Engaging Communities) typically involves the study of philosophical texts on freedom and confinement, and aims to foster dialogue and self-reflection, build community, and break down social barriers. [Ryerson News Story] [CBC Radio Interview] [Now Magazine Article] Relatedly, this short film was made by as a group project by students who took an earlier version of this course in 2014, when it brought together Ryerson students with people on parole. [Watch]
- Prof. Antoine Panaioti will give a public lecture entitled "Buddhism and Cognitive Neuroscience: Are we Really Talking about the Same Subject?" at McGill University on January 23rd. [Details]
- The Music Section has organized a free concert for Friday, 1 December @ the SLC from 11:30 to 12:30. This presentation is part of our Music in the City concert series and will feature the Chris Quinn Bluegrass Band. Quinn is a critically acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and a Ryerson University alumnus. He has long been a driving force in Canada's vibrant bluegrass music scene and has performed on more than 75 recordings to date. The Music in the City concert series takes advantage of Ryerson's downtown location, pairing its music faculty and students with members of Toronto's broader musical community. Performances take place in public areas of Ryerson campus. [Poster]

- Prof. Kym Maclaren will give a public lecture, entitled "Sense, Synesthesia, and our Inherently Expressive Bodies", to the *Toronto Semiotic Circle*, on November 15th, 2017, 3:00-5:00pm, in SLC508 (341 Yonge Street). [\[Details\]](#)
- The Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University invites applications for the position of **Jarislowsky Democracy Chair** for a five-year renewable term beginning July 1, 2018. The Chair will hold an Academic Chair position and a tenured appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor. The Democracy Chair will be an internationally-recognized leader and scholar who will motivate an innovative research and public discourse agenda that addresses challenges to democratic structures and citizen engagement in the democratic process. [\[Details\]](#)
- The department has some contract lecturer positions available for Winter 2018. Various courses in Philosophy, in Music, and in Religious Studies are available. The deadline to apply is November 20th. [\[Details.\]](#)
- The Music Section of the department has organized a free concert this Friday, November 3rd @ SLC from 11:30 to 12:30. This presentation is part of our Music in the City concert series and will feature the Dánae Olano Trio with special guest Jane Bennett. Both Olano and Bennett are Juno Award winners and highly accomplished musicians. We are very excited to feature both of them in this concert series.
- The department invites applications for two tenure-track positions at the Assistant Professor level (subject to final budgetary approval): one position will be in **Metaphysics and Epistemology**, and the other will be in **Continental Social and Political Philosophy** (broadly construed to include philosophy of race or gender).
- Ryerson's **Graduate Student Conference** will take place on March 16th, 2018. Submissions are due on December 20th, 2017. See the call for papers [here](#).
- **The department will host a workshop on graduate study in philosophy on Tuesday, Nov 7, 3:00-5:00, in JOR 440.** This workshop focuses on the application process for graduate study (MA or PhD) in philosophy. The aim is to give participants a better sense of how the selection process works and thereby put them in a position to put together competitive applications. We are excited to have Gurpreet Rattan from the University of Toronto join us for this event. Gurpreet has lots of experience working on admissions committees for both MA and PhD programs and so will be able to give us the inside scoop on how it all works. Students planning to apply for graduate study for next academic year are **strongly** encouraged to attend. **If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Thomas Land (tland@ryerson.ca)** Please note that this event is targeted at those wishing to apply now (that is, to programs commencing in Fall 2018). If you are considering applying at a later date, or would simply like to find out whether graduate study in philosophy is something you want to consider, there will be a separate event in the Winter Semester at which questions such as these will be addressed.
- **The department will host a panel discussion and networking event for philosophy students** to learn how to leverage their degrees into careers in corporate, public, and non-profit organizations. It will take place on **October 24th, from 3:00-5:00pm, in JOR-440.** [\[Poster\]](#)
- Ryerson will host the **Southwestern Ontario Feminist Philosophy Workshop** on Friday, October 13 from 12-2 pm. This workshop will feature a discussion of two papers: (1) "What's Aggressive about Microaggressions?", by Emma McClure; and (2) "The Fantasy of Academic Freedom Trigger Warning: Calling out Virtue-Signaling and Displaced Academic Outrage", by Kelly Oliver. For more details, contact Prof. Meredith Schwartz.
- Congratulations to recent MA graduate Madelaine Ley 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. Madelaine will receive the medal at the October 12th convocation ceremony. Madelaine is currently a doctoral student at York University.
- Prof. Antoine Panaioti's book, *Nietzsche and Buddhist Philosophy*, has just been translated into Portuguese.
- Congratulations to first-year Philosophy BA student Jadiel Dowlin for receiving a **President's Entrance Scholarship**, valued at \$10,000/year. These awards honour students for their academic excellence, leadership qualities, original thought, and creative ability. Only twelve were awarded university-wide.
- Ryerson is pleased to be hosting the annual meeting of the **Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy**. The conference brings together continental scholars from across Canada and the United States. It takes place September 28th-30th at Oakham House, 63 Gould Street. For program and registration information, see [here](#). For more information, contact Prof. David Ciavatta.
- Prof. Thomas Land has just published a review of Mario Caimi, *Kant's B Deduction*, in *Kantian Review* 22.3 (2017), 509-514.

- The **feminist philosophy reading group** will continue meeting this semester. For details, contact Prof. Meredith Schwartz.
- The German Philosophy reading group will continue working through Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* this fall. For details, contact Prof. Boris Hennig.
- The **Philosophy Students' Union will host its second annual conference** on September 29th. The conference theme will be ethics, and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Luke Gelinas of Harvard University. Dr. Gelinas' paper is entitled: "What's in a Nudge? Automaticity and Autonomy in Interpersonal Influence". [More details to come.]
- MA student Laila Khoshkar presented her paper, entitled " 'Five Faces of Oppression' Perpetuated Against Syrian Refugees in North America" at the Rocky Mountain Ethics (RoME) Congress at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Congratulations, Laila!
- The new Program Director for Ryerson's BA in Philosophy degree will be Prof. Andrew Hunter. Many thanks to Prof. John Caruana for his years of outstanding service as the program's inaugural director.
- Two MA graduates from the class of 2012 have now completed their doctorates and have accepted university appointments. Leland Harper completed his PhD at Birmingham in 2016, and has since accepted a position at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Mike Butler completed his PhD at Memphis in 2017, and has accepted a position at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. Congratulations to both!
- The third annual Jehangir Saleh Lecture will take place on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, from 6:00-8:00pm in the Oakham Lounge (second floor) of Oakham House, 63 Gould Street. [RSVP here] The lecture will be given by Dr. Drew Leder (Loyola University Maryland), who writes frequently about the intersection of philosophy and medicine. The lecture will be entitled "Imprisoned Bodies: Liberation in the Midst of Limitation".

(Jehangir passed away on June 28, 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])

- 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 department is seeking to hire several sessional instructors for Fall 2017. To see complete details, see Ryerson's career website.
- BA student Mackenzie Bouverat has been selected to participate in the Summer School on Mathematical Philosophy for Female Students, which will be held from July 30 to August 5, 2017 in Munich, Germany. Congratulations, Mackenzie!
- Prof. David Hunter is a "Collaborating Member" on a major grant secured by Prof. Christine Tappolet (Montreal). The grant, awarded by Quebec's Fonds de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture, is entitled "The Foundations of Normativity/*Les Fondements de la normativité*", and is worth \$362,000 over the next 4 years. The grant will support research into the fundamental normative and evaluative dimensions of mind, knowledge and society.
- Congratulations to all of our students who convocated on May 17th! In addition to the graduates from our MA program, we had our first-ever graduates from the BA in philosophy, and from the History-Philosophy double-major. [Convocation Program]
- 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!