

Toronto Metropolitan University – Department of Philosophy

2024-2025 News Stories

- Congratulations to [Josh Brecka](#) (MA Class of 2020) on winning [an essay competition](#) sponsored by the journal *Religious Studies*. Submissions were asked to answer the following question: "In what ways can rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and/or the possibility of the technological singularity challenge or reshape traditional debates in the philosophy of religion?" Josh's winning essay is entitled "Creatures and Creators: God, Humanity, and Artificial General Intelligence", and it can be read [here](#).
- Congratulations to Prof. [Pirachula Chulanon](#), whose paper entitled "[Kant on the Theoretical Use of the Ideas of Reason: A Transcendental Interpretation](#)" has just been published by the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.
- Congratulations to Prof. [Diane Enns](#), whose book [Thinking Through Loneliness](#) (Bloomsbury 2022) has just been translated into Korean.
- Congratulations to the following MA students who had papers accepted for presentation:
 - Jasmine Frost's paper entitled "Cosmic Artwork and the Axiology of Theism: The Added Artistic Value Argument for Pro-Theism" has been accepted for presentation at the [British Society for Philosophy of Religion Conference](#), which will take place in Oxford from September 4-6.
 - Tanner Mercer's paper entitled "Trans Look: Perceptual Recognition and Freedom" was accepted for presentation at the [University of Waterloo's Graduate Philosophy Conference](#) (April 3-4).
- Congratulations to Philosophy BA student Tia Ben, who has been accepted into the [Avenue Black and Indigenous Undergraduate Law Internship Program](#), which helps Black and/or Indigenous undergraduate students in Canada gain real-world experience in the legal industry.
- Congratulations to Philosophy BA students Tia Bend and Jaihun Mohammadullah, who have been accepted into Penn State's [PIKSI-Rock Institute summer seminar](#). This event brings together a cohort of undergraduate students from groups underrepresented in the discipline of philosophy in order to support them in their pursuit of future study in the field of philosophy.
- Congratulations to Philosophy BA students Giovanni Lammirato and Charles Liu, who both won [Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Research Opportunity](#) awards. Giovanni will be supervised by Prof. [David Hunter](#) and Charles will be supervised by Prof. [Jeta Mulaj](#).
- Congratulations to Prof. [David Ciavatta](#) on his promotion to the rank of Full Professor!
- Congratulations to two first-year MA students, Luca DiMaio and Taher Hasoon, who have been awarded prestigious [Canada Graduate Scholarships from SSHRC](#)!
- Congratulations to Prof. [David Ciavatta](#), whose book manuscript, entitled *Hegel's Aesthetic Ontology: The Event of Beauty*, has been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. The book offers a new reading of Hegel's aesthetic thought, highlighting the peculiar

relationship Hegel sees between beauty and metaphysical truth. Also, Prof. Ciavatta's article, "Embodied Meaning in Hegel and Merleau-Ponty," has been translated into Spanish, and published in the book: *Percepciones de Merleau-Ponty*, edited by Leandro Sanchez Marin.



- MA students from Prof. [Jeta Mulaj's](#) graduate seminar on Queer Theory attended a performance of the Canadian Opera Company's [La Reine Garcon](#) on January 29, 2025. Here is a description of the opera: "Queen Christine of Sweden was raised as a boy by her father during a period of extraordinary change. At the height of the Scientific Revolution, she employed the philosopher René Descartes as her tutor, sparking an intellectual and spiritual transformation of massive historical significance."
- Congratulations to Prof. [Boris Hennig](#), who recently published these two papers:
 - "Aristotle on Ownership", *Phronesis*, forthcoming (online 2024).
 - "Avicenna's Agent Intellect as a Completing Cause", *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 41(1), 2024, 45-72.
- Congratulations to Prof. [Michael Milona](#), who was just awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Well done!
- Congratulations to Prof. [Katharine O'Reilly](#), whose co-edited book, [Ancient Women Philosophers: Recovered Ideas and New Perspectives](#) (Cambridge), has been receiving outstanding reviews in terrific venues, like [NDPR](#), [Archiv für Geschichte der](#)

Philosophie, *BMCR*, *The Classical Review*, and *Mind*.

- Congratulations to Profs. [Daniel Rubio](#) and [Klaas Kraay](#), who have signed a contract to co-edit the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Philosophy and the Multiverse*. This volume will include 25 essays that discuss the connections between multiverse theories and key topics in philosophy of science, philosophy of physics, metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of religion.
- Congratulations to Prof. [David Hunter](#), whose book manuscript entitled *Sortal Quality: Pleasure, Desire, and Moral Worth* has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. Here is a brief description:

My book is about the role goodness-of-a-kind plays in our moral psychology. It is the sort of goodness we have in mind when we say that something is a good pen or a good bit of evidence, or that someone is a good swimmer or a good person. I prefer the label 'sortal quality' because it better marks how it differs from simple or intrinsic goodness and absolute value. On my view, we can make good sense of pleasure and desire and of the idea of a good person even if nothing is simply good or has absolute value. In the book, I discuss how we can know about sortal quality, how we take pleasure in and enjoy it, and how the various sortals we fall under are tied to our desires. Wanting, I argue, is a matter of lacking something that would do us some good by improving our quality in some way. It is a matter of failing to be as good as one could be. The final chapter is about being a good person, understood as a case of sortal quality, and draws on John Rawls' ideas about goodness as rationality. My thinking is deeply indebted to the English philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe's work. But my deepest debts are to the great writings of the American philosopher Judith Jarvis Thomson.

- The TMU philosophy department is hiring! We invite applications for a tenure-track position in Epistemology. The area of competence is open, but we have a strong preference for candidates who demonstrate willingness and ability to teach Critical Thinking. Application Deadline: Dec. 1. [[Details](#).]
- Congratulations to MA graduate [Michael Butler](#) (Class of 2012), who has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at the University of North Dakota.
- Congratulations to Prof. [Michael Milona](#), who has just had these two papers accepted for publication in prestigious venues:
 1. "The Story of Romantic Love and Polyamory" (with Lauren Weindling), forthcoming in *Journal of Applied Philosophy* (early view [here](#)).
 2. "Despair" (with Katie Stockdale), forthcoming in *Ergo: an Open Access Journal of Philosophy* (penultimate version is [here](#)).

- The first issue of the TMU undergraduate student philosophy journal has [just been published here!](#) Congratulations to BA students Alexander Casucci, Danielle Tucci, and Jade Simpson, and everyone else involved in producing it, and to all the authors whose work was selected!
- Congratulations to former philosophy student Jan Wozniak, [who has been named TMU's first recipient of an Autism Scholars Award](#). Jan completed his BA in English and Philosophy, and also his MA in Philosophy, at TMU, and is currently completing a BA in Psychology.
- On May 7th, 2:00-4:00pm, the Philosophy Department TRC Reading Group hosted a roundtable on Indigenous Philosophy and Theory, which included [John Miller](#), (PhD Candidate in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto); [Renée Bédard](#), (Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies and Gender Studies at Western University); [Cara Peacock](#), (PhD Student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto); and [Jennifer Komorowski](#) (Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Toronto Metropolitan University).
- On May 9th, 2:00-4:00pm, [The Society for Women of Ideas](#) hosted a roundtable discussion on recent transnational feminist mobilization against gender-based violence, featuring four international scholars: Valentina Moro, Philosophy (Stony Brook University); Paola Rudan (History of Political Thought, University of Bologna); Verónica Schild (Political Science, Western University); and Verónica Zebadúa-Yáñez (Comparative Women's Studies, Spelman College).
- Prof. [Pirachula Chulanon](#) co-organized a conference, entitled "Other Epistemic Achievements: Global Perspectives", which took place from May 2-4, 2025. He has also co-organized two other workshops, which are about how to integrate Chinese, Sanskrit, Indigenous, Latin American, and Africana philosophy into one's pedagogy. For complete details on these events, [click here](#).
- Prof. [Jeta Mulaj](#) has co-organized a series of online talks on social reproduction theory in a global context, titled "Critical Perspectives on Care." [\[Details\]](#)