

Letter to Prospective MA students

Diane Enns

My primary field of research is contemporary social and political philosophy in the Continental tradition. I have published on a wide range of themes, including community, freedom, identity, loneliness, love, political resistance, reconciliation, violence, and victimhood. To address these themes, I have drawn from major European philosophers in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, especially Agamben, Améry, Arendt, Balibar, Berardi, De Beauvoir, Derrida, Esposito, Foucault, Merleau-Ponty, Rancière, Sartre and Weil. I also have a strong background in interdisciplinary approaches to philosophical questions, often referring to works of art, film, literature and social science research in my projects.

My most recent book, *Thinking Through Loneliness*, is a work of social philosophy that explores the nature, conditions and effects of loneliness in a social landscape dramatically altered by our current technologized version of capitalism, and investigates our responses to social failure. I am currently developing new research interests in the gendered nature of violence, women's fraught relationship to power, Italian philosophy, the political thought of Simone Weil, and the recovery of the work of marginalized women thinkers throughout history. This latter project is being pursued through a scholarly society I founded and direct (womenofideas.com).

I have supervised or participated on the committees of numerous students at Toronto Metropolitan University and McMaster University (where I taught for 14 years before coming to TMU). Most recently I have supervised several major research papers on the social effects of technology, but I have worked with students on a wide range of topics for MA and Ph.D. theses, including animal ethics, art and resistance, citizenship, genocide, identity politics, reconciliation, political resistance, privacy, racial profiling, xenophobia, and on a number of the philosophers listed above. As a supervisor I encourage students to focus on a question that nags them; to develop a strong voice in the pursuit of answers; and to move beyond exposition to reflect on the implications of the ideas they are analyzing. I thoroughly enjoy the mentoring process involved in supervision, and will provide support through regular conversations about the thesis/MRP research, feedback on written work, and advice on Ph.D. and grant applications.

If you are applying to Toronto Metropolitan University for a Philosophy M.A. and are interested in any of these research areas feel free to contact me: enns@ryerson.ca.