RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

Spring 2016

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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Peter Klein: Remembering 46 Years of Service

Peter Klein Retires after 46 Years of Service to Rutgers

His graduate and undergraduate students, colleagues in philosophy, longtime friends, and fellow deans and university administrators gathered together on Friday April 29th to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Peter Klein upon his retirement. The day included not only an honorary conference highlighting Peter's contributions to field of philosophy but also a delightful banquet at which students, colleagues, and friends reflected on the special significance Peter has had for them personally, for the Rutgers philosophy department, and for the university as a whole.

"We've never been wary of bringing in people who are more prominent in their fields than we are."

Peter and the Rutgers Philosophy Department

Peter joined the Rutgers philosophy faculty in 1970, just a few years after he had finished his PhD at Yale University. After settling in at what was then Livingston College, Peter soon dedicated himself to making the Rutgers Philosophy Department greater than anyone could have imagined.

Indeed, as Peter himself recalled in his remarks at the banquet, in 1982-1983 he and other colleagues from the philosophy faculty held a fateful meeting. They decided that they would either become one of the best philosophy departments in the country or move to shut down the graduate program. Peter and his colleagues felt that they owed it to their graduate students to ensure that these students would be able to get jobs. At the same time, they recognized the opportunity present in the reorganized University's emphasis on improving its graduate programs.

Needless to say, the faculty, largely through Peter's indefatigable efforts, achieved their goal: by the end of the 1980s, Rutgers' Philosophy Department was ranked among the top eight programs in the country, and, by the mid-90s, it was among the top three. In 2004, the department was ranked number one!

Today, the Rutgers Philosophy Department is second best in the country and third best in the world. Many Rutgers graduate students have gone on to lead successful academic careers, and several of them are now among the most prominent philosophers living today. In the past three decades, the faculty has counted among its number some of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century, many of whom were recruited through Peter's ingenuity and hard work.

"We've never been wary of bringing in people who are more prominent in their fields than we are," Peter emphasized in his remarks, repeating the dictum which continues to guide the department's hiring practices to this day. Peter always believed in Rutgers' potential for greatness, and indeed, as dean and department chair, as classroom mentor and dissertation adviser, he has transformed that dream into a reality.

"Our point has been all along that a state university can aspire to have departments and programs which are the best in the world, not just in the Big Ten."

Peter Klein: Remembering 46 Years of Service

Speakers and chairs: (from left to right) Robert Shope, Michael Huemer, Susanna Schellenberg, Peter Klein, Alvin Goldman, Catherine Elgin, and Sandy Goldberg

A Conference Honoring Peter's Work

Let's turn back to the events of Friday April 29th. The day began with a conference honoring Peter's influential work in the field of epistemology. The conference featured three talks, as well as short remarks from each of the speakers and chairs about Peter's impact on them personally. Of particular note was Alvin Goldman's humorous but heartfelt recounting of the warm welcome Holly Smith and he received from Peter upon joining the faculty - despite the well-known conflicts between their respective published epistemological views!

Catherine Elgin, a long-time colleague of Peter's in epistemology, kicked things off at the conference with her paper "Felicitous Falsehoods," in which she sympathetically examined Peter's innovative work on the role of "useful falsehoods" in how we come to know and believe things.

Afterwards, Sandy Goldberg took over with "Some Notes on the Possibility of Foundationalist Justification," in which he defended *foundationalism* against Peter's famous objections to it. Goldberg, a former Rutgers undergraduate and now a prominent epistemologist at Northwestern University, expressed regret at never having taken a class with Peter as an undergraduate. Nonetheless, he offered his paper as a tribute to the influence that Peter's writings have subsequently had on his own impressive career in epistemology.

Finally, former Rutgers graduate student Michael Huemer (now Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado Boulder) took one more go at examining his old dissertation adviser's infamous *infinitist* position about epistemic justification but, alas, found it lacking in the face of the well-known "finite mind objection." Peter, of course, disputed his former student's conclusion during Q&A, holding his ground with that familiar and undefeatable knowing smile of his.

All told, the conference was a splendid opportunity to celebrate Peter's inventive contributions to epistemology. Attended by current and former students and colleagues, the event sparked conversations between the old and the young, the expert and the novice, the specialist and the non-specialist, all people whom Peter's work has in some way touched.

Peter Klein: Remembering 46 Years of Service

A Banquet to Remember

Conversations continued into the night with the advent of the honorary banquet. Here former and current Rutgers deans, members of the President's Office and Provost's Office, university administrators, and lifelong friends joined the ranks of philosophers celebrating Peter's retirement. The many faces – faces from across the University – testified to the wide-ranging impact Peter has made on the University during his forty-six years of service.

Later on, when guests finished taking their seats for the evening's meal, Philosophy Department Chair, Larry Temkin, greeted them with the evening's opening remarks. He explained how the idea for the event originated from some of Peter's students (Cherie Braden, Andrea Parente, and Rodrigo Borges), students who had each been deeply affected by Peter's dedication as a teacher and mentor. Though originally planned as a surprise, Peter eventually found out about the event and, with his characteristic humility, insisted that he did not deserve the special recognition, especially since other colleagues had retired without such fanfare.

Larry, however, insisted that Peter was *sui generis* and eventually convinced Peter to go along with the event on the condition that it would be tied to a fundraiser which would raise money to support future Rutgers philosophy students in the name of not only Peter but also his fellow, unrecognized colleagues who have helped make the Rutgers Philosophy Department the place it is today.

After dinner, the evening was topped off with a video tribute and toasts from some of Peter's dearest students, colleagues, and friends. This was the magical hour when the inspiring story of Peter's work at Rutgers emerged from the amusing anecdotes, fond memories, heartfelt praise, and grateful acknowledgments of those who witnessed it.

Brian McLaughlin, a longtime colleague in the philosophy department, recounted Peter's instrumental role in putting the department on the map, both by hosting an immense international conference on Donald Davidson's work and by recruiting Ernie Lepore, Jerry Fodor, Richard Foley, among others. Here's Brian's account of how the Davidson conference happened:

"Ernie got the idea to run a small conference on Donald Davidson's work. And Peter loved the idea, but he wanted to Ernie to think bigger. And every time Ernie made it bigger, Peter thought it was not big enough…I remember being in Ernie's office at three o'clock in the morning, helping him write grant proposals. Well, when all was said and done, Ernie ended up organizing a massive international conference with philosophers from 35 different countries participating…I remember commenting on a paper by Jaegwon Kim at the conference with Donald Davidson, Quine, David Lewis, Harman, Benacerraf, Kripke, Putnam, Bernard Williams, and Michael Dummett sitting in the front row!"

Brian's stories were supplemented by those of Richard Foley, who emphasized again just how much Peter was "at the center of it all."

"It takes a lot to build a really, really great department. You have to have faculty that want to get better. You have to have great administrative support… But when I think of the Philosophy Department, especially in those early days, I think of what I think of as the holy trinity: Brian, Peter, and Ernie. Everyone else was involved, but it was that group of three people that really, more than anybody, did this remarkable thing."

Cocktail hour on the balcony (left to right: Brian McLaughlin, Richard Foley, and Catherine Elgin)

Peter Klein: Remembering 46 Years of Service

A Banquet to Remember (continued)

Ernie Sosa, another member of the Rutgers philosophy faculty and a good friend of Peter's, recounted how Peter and he got to know each other through many dinners together, dinners where they talked about philosophy, the University, the Department, family, Montana, and more.

Ernie's account of how Peter became "Pete" when he returned home to Montana every summer was echoed in the remembrances of Peter's lifelong friend from childhood, Robert Martin. Robert is, ironically enough, the one who spearheaded the effort to hire Peter at Rutgers back in 1970! During his toast Robert regaled guests with stories of Peter's life beyond philosophy, and he encouraged them to ask Peter in particular about the time when Peter, upon accidentally cutting himself with an axe, had to give first aid to his fainting partner!

Several of Peter's colleagues from the Dean's Office and Provost's Office entertained guests with stories from their work with Peter. Rutgers linguist Jane Grimshaw and Rutgers historian Ziva Galili told tales from their work with Peter in the Dean's Office. Jane emphasized how Peter

"aggressively, relentlessly pursued excellence against all the odds."

Ziva described the excitement of

"conspiring and scheming with Peter,"

whose imagination, ambition, and daring never ceased to amaze her.

Rutgers physicist Paul Leath reflected on his experience working with Peter in the Provost's Office, highlighting Peter's humor, skill as a negotiator, and effectiveness at recruiting new faculty members.

These remarks were echoed by the former President of the University, Richard McCormick, who recounted with some amusement Peter's incredible success at recruiting new, top-notch philosophy faculty – sometimes multiple senior hires at once! – even during times of financial stress.

Other toasts emphasized Peter's influence on his students. Rutgers mathematician Mike Beals, who also worked with Peter in the Dean's Office, noted in particular Peter's role as

"the key member of the committee which set up the undergraduate SAS Honors Program."

Rodrigo Borges, the last Rutgers graduate student to have Peter as a dissertation supervisor, remarked that his relationship with Peter

"made graduate school what it should be."

In the heartfelt words of Cherie Braden, one of Peter's former undergraduate students,

"Some people leave you feeling better about the world every time you sit down to have a conversation with them. Peter is one of those people."

Peter and his friend since childhood, Robert Martin, laugh over letters recounting past adventures in the forests of Montana.

Peter Klein: Remembering 46 Years of Service

Some Closing Words of Gratitude

The evening at last came to a close with Peter's own parting remarks. With characteristic humility, Peter told his story through the lens of those who helped him: friends, grade school teachers, undergraduate mentors, colleagues from his first job, mentors from early on his career, administrators and secretaries who showed him the ropes in the Dean's Office, and still others. Peter repeated again and again how lucky he has been and expressed gratitude for everything from his improbable conception (his father was a Jewish refugee who escaped Nazi Germany) to the forest service job which financially sustained him through graduate school.

Peter's Students: Rodrigo Borges and his family (left), Cherie Braden (below), Emily Podhorcer (top right), and Andrea Parente and Sheng-Yao Cheng (right)

It is fitting, then, that we also express our gratitude for Peter and for all that he has done to make our workplace, this world-class philosophy department, a reality!

Peter, we wish you all the best in your retirement and look forward to seeing you as often as you can join us in the coming years!

To the Organizers

Finally, special commendation is also owed to those who helped organize the conference and banquet for Peter. We offer thanks in particular to Cherie Braden, Andrea Parente, and Rodrigo Borges, the former students of Peter's who were the driving force behind the event.

Thanks are also due to Larry Temkin, Mercedes Diaz, Jean Urteil, Pauline Mitchell, and Pete Zitelli for the many things they did to make this event possible.

Faculty Update: Publications, Awards, and More

Highlights from the accomplishments of our faculty during this past semester!

Larry Temkin spent two weeks in China in March, delivering four talks at the University of Jilin and one talk at Tsinghua University. In June, he spent 18 days at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he gave a talk to the Law and Philosophy Workshop of the Law School, a special two week seminar on equality for a select group of graduates students from around the world, and the final lecture at an international conference on the Value of Equality, sponsored by the Center for Moral and Political Philosophy.

Martha Bolton published her article "Berkeley's Language of Vision and the Rules of Visual Signification" in a new edited volume entitled *The Battle of the Gods and the Giants Redux*. In March, she also gave two invited presentations, one on Mary Shepherd and one on Descartes, at Oxford University and King's College.

Alec Walen published an article entitled "The Restricting Claims Principle Revisited" in the journal *Law and Philosophy*.

Doug Husak completed a new book, *Ignorance of Law*, which will be published by Oxford University Press. He also spent much of the Spring Semester as a Fellow at the Israeli Institute for Advanced Studies at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, where he gave several lectures, including (on his way home) a lecture for the ethics seminar at Oxford University. Doug also gave the keynote address at a conference on Punishment and the Police at Bowling Green State University and lectured at the Law School of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Jonathan Schaffer wins a Humboldt Research Award!

In March 2016 Rutgers Distinguished Professor Jonathan Schaffer was honored with a Humboldt Research Award from Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

This honor is awarded annually to up to one hundred recipients from across the world. Recipients must be nominated by an established academic working in Germany or by a previous award winner of the Humboldt Foundation in conjunction with a researcher in Germany. The award honors those "whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future."

Jonathan and other recipients of the award are invited to spend up to a year collaborating on a major research project with other specialists at one or more research institutions in Germany. Jonathan plans to use the award to expand on his influential research on the topics of grounding and metaphysical explanation.

Alvin Goldman, one of the pair winners of the 2015 Lebowitz Prize for Philosophical Achievement and Contribution, delivered the prize lectures at the Eastern Division APA in January and at Fordham University in April. He also gave a lecture at the Oxford University Philosophical Society in February.

Finally, Alvin has also recently signed a contract with Oxford University Press (USA) for a new edited volume on metaphysics and cognitive science. Rutgers philosopher Brian McLaughlin will be coediting the volume with him.

Faculty Update: Publications, Awards, and More

A peek into the influence of Rutgers philosophers over the past six decades

Over the past year, the Leiter Reports, an influential philosophy blog, has released the results of a number polls asking respondents to rank the most important Anglophone philosophers since 1945. Each poll asks about the most influential philosophers in a certain subfield of philosophy. All candidates must be over the age of 60. Here's a small snapshot into the influence of our current and emeritus faculty:

Emeritus Professor Jerry Fodor
most important philosopher of mind since 1945

Regular Visiting Professor Derek Parfit
second most important moral philosopher since 1945

Board of Governors Professor Alvin Goldman
second most important epistemologist and fifteenth most important philosopher of action since 1945

Board of Governors Professor Ernest Sosa
sixth most important epistemologist since 1945

Emeritus Professor Peter Kivy
ninth most important philosopher of art since 1945

Distinguished Professor Doug Husak
21st most important philosopher of law since 1945

Not all subfields of philosophy were surveyed, so this is not an exhaustive list. However, this list gives one a taste of the impressive influence of our current and emeritus faculty.

Ted Sider deliver the famous John Locke Lectures at Oxford University during May-June 2016. His lecture series was entitled 'The Tools of Metaphysics and the Metaphysics of Science."

More highlights from the recent achievements of our faculty!

Andy Egan presented two new papers, "What I Probably Should Have Said About Epistemic Modals" and "What are We Doing When We're Doing Semantics?" at Ohio State University and the University of Nevada, respectively.

Ernie Sosa gave a lecture at the Collège de France in Paris in March and then another lecture at the Jean Nicod Institute in May. He was also awarded the 2016 Lebowitz Prize for Philosophical Achievement along with his Rutgers colleague **Steve Stich**.

Jonathan Schaffer won a Humboldt Research Award from the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. He also delivered a TEDx talk in Cherry Hill, NJ, and the keynote address for the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

During May 2016, **Dean Zimmerman** participated in a workshop held in his honor at the École Normale Supérieure and gave an invited series of three lectures on time and eternity at EHESS. Finally, Dean and his Rutgers colleague Jonathan Schaffer both participated in a conference on Monism hosted by the Jean Nicod Institute.

Trip McCrossin co-organized (with Azeem Chaudry) a symposium entitled "Our 'New Reality' in the Age of ISIS" with the Rutgers Race and Law Review at Rutgers-Newark. Trip served as one of the panelist at the symposium, along with Rutgers graduate student Beth Henzel. The Rutgers Race and Law Review will publish a proceedings of the symposium in one of its 2017 issues.

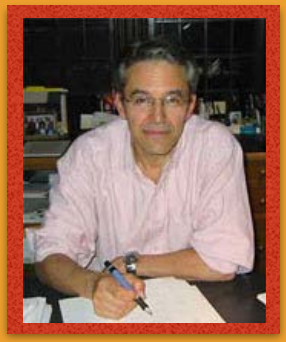
Faculty Update: Publications, Awards, and More

Ernie Sosa and Steve Stich awarded the 2016 Lebowitz Prizes for Philosopical Achievement

During this past May, the winners of the American Philosophical Association and Phi Beta Kappa's 2016 Lebowtiz Prize for Philosophical Achievement and Contribution were announced. Since its inception in 2013, the prize has been awarded to pairs of individuals for "outstanding achievement in the field of philosophy."

For the third year straight, a Rutgers philosopher has won the prize! In fact, this year both winners are Rutgers faculty members: Board of Governors Professors Ernest Sosa and Stephen Stich! (Board of Governors Professor Alvin Goldman was one of the 2015 recipients and Distinguished Professor Jonathan Schaffer was one of the 2014 recipients).

Board of Governors
Professor Stephen Stich



Board of Governors
Professor Ernest Sosa

The two winners of the prize must hold contrasting views on an issue of great interest to contemporary philosophers. Indeed, the recipients are invited to each present a lecture defending his respective viewpoint at one of the 2017 APA meetings and at a public venue organized by the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Professors Stich and Sosa will be speaking on the role of intuition in philosophical methodology, a topic about which each has well-known published views. The first pair of lectures are scheduled to be delivered at the special Lebowitz Symposium at the 2017 Pacific Division APA meeting, which will be held from April 12th to April 15th in Seattle, Washington.

Undergraduate Corner - Philosophy Club and Journal

Areté: The Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Rutgers University

By Daisy Lee (Current Editor in Chief)

Areté was founded to recognize original philosophical work at the undergraduate level. The journal publishes an issue annually at the end of the spring semester. Issues are published both online and in print and typically include three papers drawn from submissions from undergraduate students across the country.

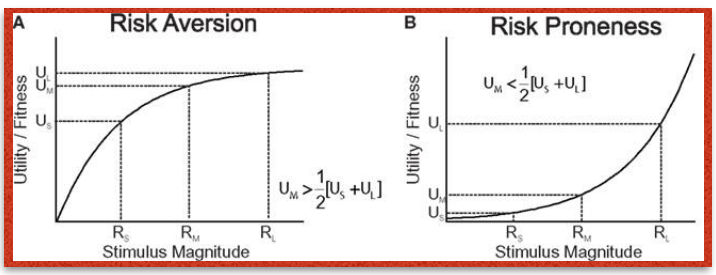
Areté meetings over the two semesters vary in responsibilities. During the fall semester, the staff receive submissions on a rolling basis from students at universities across the country, and the journal members are all assigned a paper or two to read each week. We then meet on Fridays to talk about the merits and flaws of each paper. At the end the meeting, everyone gives a numerical rating for the paper. At the end of the semester, we take the top 5 rated papers, re-read them, and collectively decide on 2 or 3 for publication.

The spring semester is focused on editing the chosen papers and communicating with the writers on how they can improve them. After the papers are finalized, the layout team puts together the journal in its final format using Adobe InDesign.

Last year's journal staff included the following students:

Editor in Chief: Iakovos Hatzdimitriou
Senior Editors: Daisy Lee, Ubtene Zamaninia, Saif Zaman, Aaron Jaslove, and Noah Gordon
Junior Editors: Matt Lukowicz, Matthew Menchaca, Radcliffe Bent, Cristina Sanchez, and Keanu Oliveira

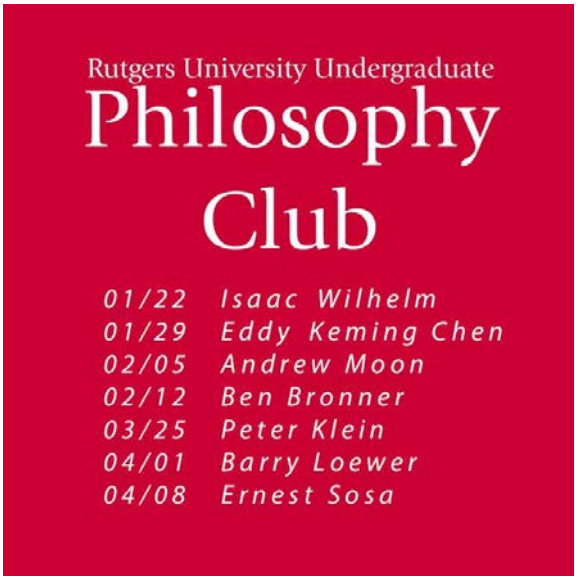
A link to the online publication can be found here: http://rutgersundergradphil.weebly.com/arete-undergraduate-journal.html



The Rutgers University Philosophy Club

By Ubtene Zamaninia (Former President)

The Rutgers University Philosophy Club is a Rutgers funded student organization for students interested in various aspects of philosophy. The organization not only serves as a space for philosophy majors to discuss philosophy outside of the classroom but also brings together students from other fields such as Psychology, Math, Physics, and English who are interested in the intersection of philosophy with their respective field(s) of interest.



The group's typical meeting, which takes place at 5:00 pm every Friday in Scott Hall Room 201, involves students presenting papers they have written or presenting a professional philosopher's paper which they want to discuss with the group.

The central event of the organization, however, is the "faculty lecture series". The lecture series features not only Rutgers faculty members but also our outstanding graduate students. The sole requirement of the lecture series is that the guest speaker present on a topic which he or she works on as part of his or her research.

Last semester's speakers included graduate students Ben Bronner, Eddy Chen, Daniel Rubio, and Isaac Wilhelm and professors Peter Klein, Andrew Moon, and Ernest Sosa. The topics of the talks included the ethics of war, Pascal's Wager, the nature of knowledge, rival theories of epistemic justification, and the history of scientific theories of orbital dynamics.

Rutgers graduate students Eddy Chen and Daniel Rubio take listeners on a tour through some fancy mathematics when presenting their paper "Pascal's Wager Meets Surreal Numbers" to the Philosophy Club.

Undergraduate Corner - Philosophy Conference

Princeton-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

By Sheng-Yao Cheng

The third annual Princeton-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (PRUPC) took place on April 9 at Princeton University. This year we invited three undergraduate students from the University of Miami, University of Toronto, and Rutgers University to present at the conference. The topics of their presentations covered issues in epistemology and philosophy of mind.

Our first keynote speaker was Professor Martin Lin from Rutgers, who presented on Spinoza's view of the mark of the mental (spoiler alert: Spinoza does not have one). Later in the afternoon, Professor Benjamin Morison from Princeton introduced the audience to the "problem" clauses in Aristotelian and Euclidean texts. Morison shared his own view on why these instructional clauses are not written in the standard propositional form.

The Conference Program:

Undergraduate Speakers:

Emily Podhorcer (Rutgers)
"On Doubt"

Lucas Bennett (Toronto)
"Finding Closure: A Response to Dretske's Criticism of the Justification Closure Principle in the Skeptical Argument"

Joshua Myers (Miami)
"Seeing and Seeming: Explaining Away Phenomenal Overflow"

Graduate Student Commentators:

Cherie Braden (Toronto)

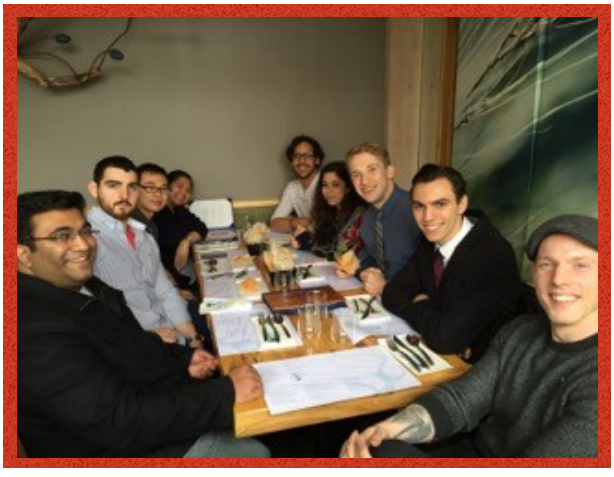
Anton Johnson (Rutgers)

Patrick Miller (Princeton)

Keynote speaker and Rutgers professor Martin Lin explains Spinoza's view of the mind to student listeners.

The conference would not have been possible without the dedication of the chief-organizers, Elliot Salinger from Princeton and Josh Rosario from Rutgers. We are also extremely grateful for the generous and enthusiastic support from the Princeton and Rutgers Departments of Philosophy. Many thanks also go to Rutgers' Phi Sigma Tau members for reading and selecting the conference papers. Lastly, we are indebted to Mercedes Diaz and Brina Breitbart for their tireless work ensuring that every piece of the conference came together smoothly.

Miami student Joshua Myers explains a phenomenon known as "Change Blindness" to his listeners.



Conference participants gather for a final dinner together before visiting students return home.

Undergraduate Corner - Student Spotlights

Work Study Students Spotlight

As a special token of appreciation, we would like to highlight the tireless work of three of our department's work study students:

Michael Constantino

Graduating in January 2017
Majors: Human Resource Management & Chinese

Michael has been a work student for the philosophy department since his first semester at Rutgers in the fall of 2012. Though he has worked on everything from filing to scanning chapters for professors and completing major/minor audits for graduating seniors, his main job has been completing TABERS so that they can be sent in for approval.

Outside of his work at the department, Michael is an avid student of Chinese. In the Fall Semester of 2015, he traveled abroad to Shanghai, China, where he was able to vastly improve his fluency in the language. After graduating from Rutgers, Michael plans to teach English abroad in China.

Rujan Ahmed

Graduating in May 2018
Major: Economics
Minor: Business Administration

Rujan also began as a work study student for the philosophy department during her first semester at Rutgers. Her duties include assisting Mercedes Diaz and Jean Urteil (the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Administrators) with composing travel and expense reports, certifying seniors for graduation, and handling other miscellaneous requests from faculty and graduate students.

Besides helping run our department, Rujan has served as a peer mentor for the Asian American Identities & Images Living-Learning Community (AII LLC), the Director of Marketing for the Association of Latino Professionals, and a performer for the Bengali New Years Celebration hosted by the Bengali Students Association. In fact, she was recently awared the Outstanding Inclusive Community Builder Award for her work as a peer mentor for AAII LLC.

Ever since she read the book Freakonomics, *Rujan has been interested in behavioral economics and learning about how human beings make decisions based on different incentives. She loves learning about different cultures, being involved in her community, and pushing herself further every day in her efforts to better the lives of the ones around her.*

"The most rewarding part of being a work study student has been developing rapport with the staff, other work study students, and faculty members" - Michael

"The most rewarding part of being a work study student is definitely the fact that I get to work for Mercedes Diaz and Jean Urteil. They are two of the most compassionate, kind, friendly, nice, and caring people that I have ever met at Rutgers...I look forward to going to work because of them and the fun conversations, smiles, and laughter we share." - Rujan

Undergraduate Corner - Student Spotlights

Work Study Students Spotlight

Mohamed Saeed

Graduating in June 2017
Major: Political Science
Minors: Philosophy & Criminology

Mohamed has been a work study student for the philosophy department since the fall of 2015. His duties have included completing expense reports, organizing and handling incoming graduate student portfolios, and managing the maintenance of the department as a whole.

One of Mohamed's main interests is swimming. He has been swimming competitively for the past eight years. He is also very interested in law and plans to go to law school after graduating from Rutgers. After earning his law degree, Mohamed hopes to work for a criminal or environmental law firm.

"The most rewarding part about working at the philosophy department has to be the continued interaction with the professors with whom I take classes" - Mohamed

Undergraduate Philosophy Majors and Minors Spotlight

Here are just a few highlights from the recent achievements of our majors and minors...

Noah Gordon (rising senior): paper accepted for presentation at Pacific University in Portland (Spring 2016); paper accepted for presentation at Washington & Jefferson College, PA (Spring 2016).

Atina Knowles (graduated in May 2016): paper accepted for presentation at Western Virginia University's Spring 2016 National Undergraduate Philosophy Conference; admitted to Temple University and the New School of Research's Philosophy PhD Programs and to Columbia University's MA program in the Philosophical Foundations of Physics; and received full scholarship for MA program in Bioethics at NYU.

Charlie Melman (rising senior): paper accepted for publication in *Stance*, Ball State's journal of undergraduate philosophy; paper accepted for presentation at the University of Chicago's Spring 2016 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.

Post-graduate plans for Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honors Society) members:

Paul Musso
PhD in Philosophy at UPenn

Sheng-Yao Cheng
MA in Bioethics at NYU

Arya Vaseghi
Medical School at UPenn

Jean Camille Gabat
Georgetown Law School

Grad Life - Prospective Students Visit

The Prospective Students' Visit

This year the Philosophy Department admitted 14 students and waitlisted 3 students. All 17 students were invited to visit the department in April.

Activities for the visiting students included one-on-one meetings with the faculty, a sample grad talk from current grad student Stephanie Leary, a colloquium presentation from Professor Alex Guerrero (formerly at Penn, joining the Rutgers faculty in this upcoming semester), "area of interest" dinners with faculty and current graduate students, and, of course, the famous end of visit party in Professor Dean Zimmerman's "basement o' sound."

The visit proved to be a recruiting success, as nine new students will be joining the department this upcoming fall:

Denise Dykstra (Calvin)
Formal Epistemology

Carolina Flores (Oxford)
Mind, Early Modern

Chris Frugé (Houston)
Early Modern, Metaphysics, Ethics

Adam Gibbons (Dublin)
X-phi, Language, Epistemology

Tyler John (Ceaderville)
Ethics

Ting Lin (Texas Tech)
Mind

Ezra Rubenstein (Oxford)
Mind

Josh Tarzia (Rutgers)
Mind

Chris Willard-Kyle (Oxford)
Epistemology, Philosophy of Religion

Many thanks to graduate students Eli Shupe and Nico Kirk-Giannini for their work organizing the visit and to Professor Martin Lin for his tireless work as this year's Admissions Director.

Graduate Student Update

Here's a look at what our grad students have been up to since January:

Eddy Chen

Presentations/Invited Talks:

1) "Quantum Theory Without Complex Numbers: or Goodbye, Mathematical Platonism!
   - 18th UK and European Conference on the Foundations of Physics (LSE, London, UK)
   - 4th Black Forest Summer School in Philosophy of Physics (Saig, Germany)
2) "Spacetime Functionalism," invited talk at the Beyond Spacetime Project (University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL)
3) "Our Fundamental Physical Space: An Essay on the Metaphysics of the Wave Function," Central APA Symposium (Chicago, IL)
4) "Great Expectations: A Surreal Decision Theory," (co-authored with Daniel Rubio), invited talk for the Dept. of Epistemology and Cognitive Science (Xiamen University, China)
5) "What is Analytic Philosophy? Some Examples," invited talk for the Dept. of Electric Engineering (Wuhan University, China)

Marilie Coetsee

Presentation:

1) "The Reasonability of Reasoning with the Unreasonable (Who Want to Reason)," Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA)

Will Fleisher

Publication:

1) "Virtuous Distinctions," forthcoming in *Synthese*

Presentations:

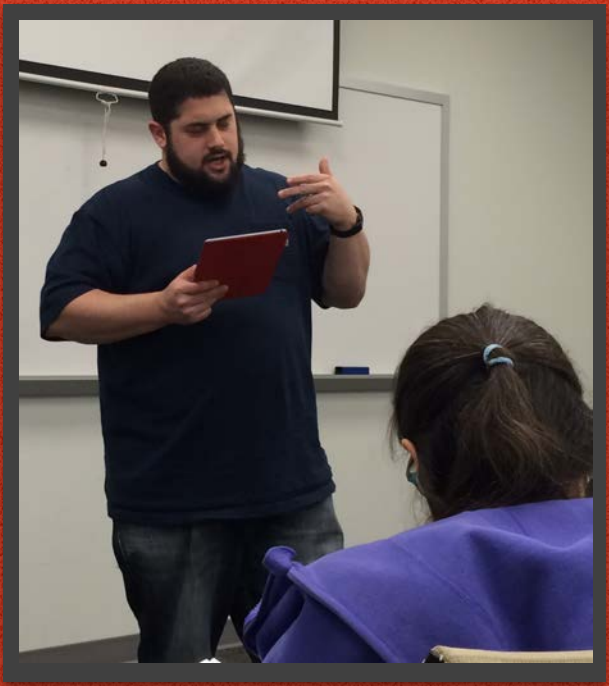
1) "Rational Endorsement"
   - Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)
   - Decisions, Games, and Logic 2016 (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)

Pamela Robinson

Presentation:

1) "End-relational normative relations," Humboldt Normativity Conference (Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany)

Grad Life - Life in the Department



Rutgers graduate student, Will Fleisher, offers his comments on Mesthene Lecturer Susanna Siegel's paper, "Epistemic Charge"

Georgi Gardiner, a Rutgers graduate student, raises an intriguing question during a department colloquium's Q&A period.

Georgi Gardiner

Publication:

1) "Coherence Without Conservation," book symposium contribution on *Reason and Explanation*, in *Syndicate Philosophy* (2016)

Presentation:

1) "Defending Non-Summativism about Group Belief," Eastern APA Symposium (Washington, D.C.)

Simon Goldstein

Publication:

1) "A Preference Paradox for Intention," forthcoming in *Philosophers' Imprint*

Presentations:

1) "Believing Epistemic Contradictions," Central APA (Chicago, IL)
2) "The Subjunctive Direct Argument," Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA)
3) "Epistemic Modality In Situ," Workshop on Operators vs Quantifiers (Barcelona, Spain)
4) "Triviality Results for Probabilities Modals," Formal Epistemology Workshop (University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands)

Christopher Hauser

Presentations:

1) "The Principle of Sufficient Reason, Inclining Reasons, and Rational Agency," The Continuing Relevance of Leibniz Conference (Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH)
2) "Soul, Body, and Person in Aquinas: A Personalist Analysis," The Past and Promise of Christian Personalism Summer Seminar (Dietrich von Hildebrand Project, Steubenville, OH).

Beth Henzel

Publication:

1) "Defense Categories and the (Category-Defying) De Minimis Defense," forthcoming in *Criminal Law and Philosophy*

Presentations:

1) "Retributivism Refined? An Expressivist Hope," Spring Legal Theory Festival (Edinburgh Law School, Edinburgh, UK)
2) "Hypothetical Consent and the Non-Identity Problem," Rutgers-Lund Graduate Conference (Lund University, Lund, Sweden)
3) "Constructive Consent: A Dangerous Fiction," Ontario Legal Philosophy Partnership Graduate Student Conference (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario)

Panel:

1) "Our 'New Reality' in the Age of ISIS," Symposium hosted by *Rutgers Race and Law Review* (Rutgers Law School, Newark, NJ)

Grad Life - Grad Talks

Spring 2016 Grad Talks

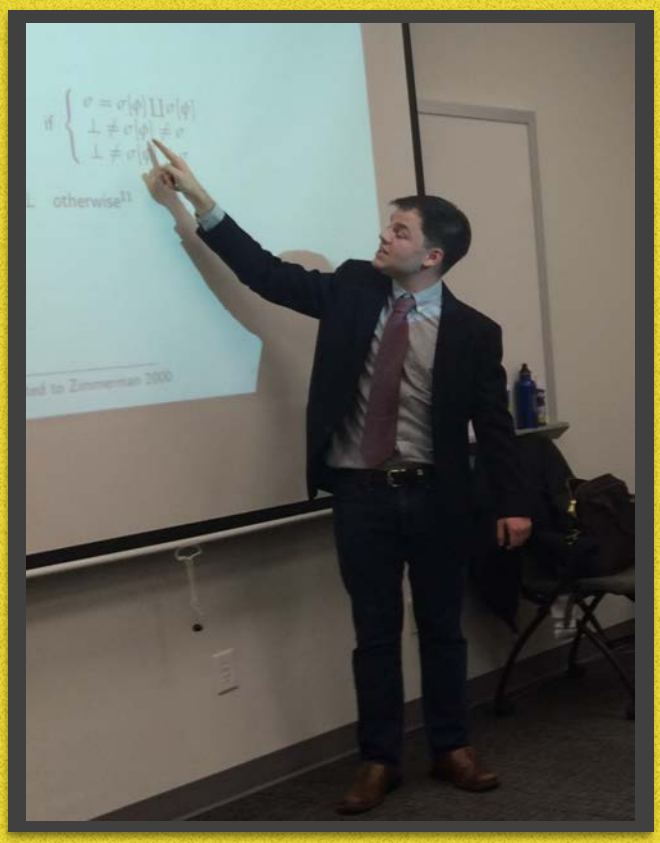
Every semester, our graduate students organize a series of graduate student talks in which students present original work to their fellow graduate students. Here were the presentations from this past semester:

Simon Goldstein
"The Subjunctive Direct Argument"

Christopher Hauser
"The Principle of Sufficient Reasons, Inclining Reasons, and Rational Agency"

Will Fleisher
"Rational Endorsement"

Stephanie Leary
"In Defense of Practical Reasons for Belief"



Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini
Presentations:
1) "Assertion Reconsidered"
- Pacific APA (San Francisco, CA)
- New York Philosophy of Language Workshop (New York, NY)

Stephanie Leary
Presentations:
1) "In defense of practical reasons for belief," Ethics and Practical Reason Workshop (Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH)
2) "Grounding the Domains of Reasons," Language and Metaphysics of Normativity Conference (Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden)

Daniel Rubio
Presentations:
1) "Divine Providence and Human Freedom," with Nevin Climenhaga, 4th International Conference for Philosophy of Religion (Al-Azad Research University, Tehran, Iran)
2) "God Meets Satan's Apple: The Paradox of Creation," Eastern APA (Washington, D.C.)

Christopher Willard-Kyle
Publication:
1) "Do great minds really think alike?" forthcoming in *Synthese*
Presentation:
1) "A puzzle for the equal weights view," Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ)

Nicholas Tourville
Publication:
1) "Embracing the Technicalities: Expressive Completeness and Revenge," co-authored with Roy T.Cook, forthcoming in *The Review of Symbolic Logic*

Simon Goldstein walks listeners through the details of his original "subjunctive direct argument" in a grad talk named after the argument.

Grad Life - Dissertations Defended

Dissertations Defended Spring-Summer 2016:

Stephanie Leary
"On the Grounds of Normativity"
Supervised by Ruth Chang and Andy Egan

Robert Beddor
"Reduction in Epistemology"
Supervised by Andy Egan and Alvin Goldman

Una Stojnic
"Context-Sensitivity in a Coherent Discourse"
Supervised by Jeff King and Ernie Lepore

EJ Green
"Seeing the Structure of Objects"
Supervised by Brian McLaughlin

Marcello Antosh
"Understanding Normative Practical Reasons"
Supervised by Ruth Chang

Graduate student Stephanie Leary gives a grad talk "In Defense of Practical Reasons for Belief" to an audience filled with both current and prospective Rutgers graduate students.

Participants in the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion gather for their weekly pub-night at Destination Dogs after the day's reading group and seminar meetings.

Grad Life - Talents, Philosophical and Otherwise

Rutgers Philosophers Have Talent!

Every semester, our grads, post-docs, young faculty, and their partners gather for an evening of food, drink, and fun as participants show off their non-philosophical talents at the department's talent show. As usual, last semester's talent show did not disappoint! Indeed, the show featured several musical performances (including a couple of duets), magic tricks, fine art displays, and more!

We thank Simon Goldstein for continuing the tradition of organizing and hosting these fun-filled events!

Graduate Student Job Placement Update

Rutgers graduate students did tremendously well on the job market this past year, as 13 of 15 students received at least one job offer. In fact, two of our students landed the two best entry-level jobs of 2016 (tenure track positions at Columbia and MIT)!

2016 Placements:

Tenure-Track (or Permanent) Positions

Bob Beddor: President's Assistant Professorship at the National University of Singapore (tenure-track equivalent); Postdoctoral Fellowship at KU Leuven, Belgium (2 years)
Matthew Benton: Assistant Professor at Seattle Pacific University
Rodrigo Borges: Associate Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (permanent post)
EJ Green: Assistant Professor at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Bersoff Postdoctoral Fellowship at New York University
David Rose: University of Nottingham (permanent post)
Una Stojnic: Assistant Professor at Columbia University; Bersoff Postdoctoral Felloswship at New York University; Postdoctoral Fellowship at Australian National University
Steve Woodside: Academy Professor of Philosophy at West Point (permanent post)

Non Tenure-Track (or Temporary) Positions

Alex Anthony: Rutgers Mellon Dissertation Research Fellowship
Marco Dees: Visiting Assistant Professor at Bard College (1 year)
Kate Devitt: Lectureship at Queensland University of Technology, Australia (1 year)
Mike Hicks: Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Consolidation of Fine-Tuning Project at the University of Oxford (1.5 years)
Stephanie Leary: Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University Bloomington (3 years)
Tobias Wilsch: Assistant Professorship at the University of Tübingen, Germany (up to 6 years)

Philosophy Department Colloquia & Lectures

Rutgers Philosophy Department Colloquia & Lectures

Every year, the Philosophy Department brings in a number of colloquia speakers and hosts several endowed lectures. Here is a run-down of last semester's colloquia speakers and lecturers:

Spring Semester 2016

COLLOQUIA
Ned Hall (Harvard)
"Causation and the Aims of Inquiry"
(comments by Eddy Chen)

Michelle Moody-Adams (Columbia)
"Moral Progress and Human Agency"

MARC SANDERS LECTURE
Eleonore Stump (Saint Louis University)
"The God of the Philosophers and the God of the Bible"

CLASS OF 1970 LECTURE
Thomas Scanlon (Harvard)
"Tolerance and Immigration"

MESTHENE LECTURE
Susanna Siegel (Harvard)
"Epistemic Charge"
(comments by Will Fleisher)

CLIMATE LECTURE
Rachel McKinnon (College of Charleston)
"Allies Behaving Badly: Gaslighting as Epistemic Injustice"

"BREAK IT DOWN FOR ME" SERIES
Alvin Goldman (Rutgers)
Social Epistemology

Howard McGary (Rutgers)
Philosophy of Race

OTHER DEPARTMENT TALKS
Jack Lyons (Arkansas)
"Causal Inference"

Alex Guerrero (Penn)
"The Case for Lottocracy"

Rutgers graduate student Eddy Chen offers his prepared comments on Ned Hall's colloquium paper, "Causation and the Aims of Inquiry."

Columbia University philosophy professor Michelle Moody-Adams defends the possibility of genuine moral progress.

Chinese Philosophy Workshop

The 3rd Annual Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy: Conversations with Western Philosophers

(article written by Eddy Chen)

The 3rd Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy (RWCP), organized by Tao Jiang (Rutgers), Ruth Chang (Rutgers), and Stephen Angle (Wesleyan), continued the success of the RWCP conferences of the past two years. The workshop included four sessions this year. Each presenter was asked to find a Western philosopher to conduct a dialogue on a common theme in Chinese philosophy and Western philosophy. The result was four highly suggestive and fruitful conversations.

Wagging Tails and Riding Elephants: Why Study Non-Western Philosophy?

Philip J. Ivanhoe (City University of Hong Kong) gave the first talk, which was titled "Wagging Tails and Riding Elephants: Why Study Non-Western Philosophy?" He advanced two arguments for why we should study non-Western philosophy.

First, philosophers, at least those working in ethics and political theory who advocate the principles of a wide "reflective equilibrium," are not being true to their principles when they tacitly assume that there are no relevant views outside the Western canon. This seems to suggest that one ought to begin one's study of these disciplines from only these canonical sources. If one were to take, as many in ethical and political theory would, the work in the social sciences to be necessary for a wide reflective equilibrium, then one should also incorporate non-Western philosophy (which includes the values and norms that people actually had and practiced) in one's philosophical reflection and theorizing.

Ivanhoe's second argument was based on a case study: Jonathan Haidt's use of metaphors in his work on the relationship between reason and emotion in ethical justification.

In his work on social institutionalism and moral foundations theory, Haidt employs two metaphors to represent the relationship between reason and emotion: (1) "(the emotional) dog and its (rational) tail" and (2) "(the emotional) elephant and its (rational) rider." But these metaphors, Ivanhoe notes, seem to rely on a "fundamental dichotomy between reason and emotion."

However, East Asian traditions as well as some parts of the Western tradition reject such a dichotomy and instead conceive of reason "in the form of a guide, organizer, contributor, and molder of emotions....always and in various ways deeply involved with orienting, augmenting, extending, and shaping our emotions." Confucianism provides a clear example of such ideas: Mengzi often uses metaphors of taste to describe the development of moral understanding. *Great Learning* compares moral insight to "disliking a bad odor or liking something beautiful."

Though it is but one case, the case of Haidt's work illustrates how these sorts of philosophical inquiries can benefit from engaging with non-Western traditions, as these traditions bring "something quite new and important to the table."

Ivanhoe's talk was followed by a response from Owen Flanagan (Duke).

The workshop concluded with a festive group dinner for the speakers, commentators, and organizers.

Chinese Philosophy Workshop

A Substantive Pluralist Theory of Truth in Early Chinese Philosophy: Wang Chong on Shi *(实)*

Alexus McLeod (Colorado State University) gave the second talk: "A Substantive Pluralist Theory of Truth in Early Chinese Philosophy: Wang Chong on *Shi* (实)." He first observed that it might seem that Chinese philosophers did not have a conception of truth and did not offer theories of truth. Such an appearance might be due to two factors: (1) their theories of truth are very different from those we find in Western philosophical thought, and there is a cluster of terms and concepts associated with truth (for one thing, Chinese philosophers allow for non-semantic notions of truth, such as in "true person" and "true friend"); (2) much attention has focused on the pre-Han philosophers whose principal concerns were ethical and political. McLeod argued that we can find theories of truth if we look more closely at the Han period. He suggested that, in fact, Wang Chong's *Lunheng (Balanced Discourses)* offered an interesting "substantive pluralist" theory of truth. McLeod noted that Wang Chong uses the term *Shi* (实), which we can translate as "truth. He went on to argue that we should interpret his theory of *shi* (实) as a "substantive pluralist" theory of truth.

At the heart of Wang's theory, the property of *shi* is "the property of having properties that we actually do and should seek when we appraise statements." Such an identification makes truth "rest in part on normativity." However, according to McLeod, the descriptive element (what we do) and the normative element (what we should do) are both basic facts. Together, they explain what makes a particular statement "true" (*shi*). McLeod emphasized that Wang's theory is pluralist in the sense that a statement is true just in case it has the properties we do and should seek when appraising sentences, but it is not necessary for there to be only one particular property playing the truth role for that statement. This fact helps Wang's account avoid some of the most common objections to pluralism about truth.

McLeod's talk was followed by a response from Gila Sher (UCSD).

Yuan *(怨) in Early Chinese Confucian Thought: With Insights into Escaping the Predicament*

Winnie Sung (NTU) gave the third talk, in which she sought to respond to the "bourgeois predicament" problem discussed in Jay Wallace's book *The View from Here*. The predicament has its origin in conflicts between objectionable or unjustifiable events in the past and an agent's retrospective attitude toward those events. For example, an agent acts without justification but later on does not regret her earlier decisions (e.g. Gauguin's case), or an agent experiences lamentable personal conditions that later give her life meaning (e.g. cases of hearing-impairment). This line of thought extends to our affirmation of life in general—we would like to affirm our lives unconditionally, including the social and historical conditions that brought them about. But often these conditions involve objectionable or unjustifiable events, and hence they give rise to the "bourgeois predicament."

Sung drew on insights from the early Confucian conception of *yuan* (怨), a reactive attitude about certain given conditions of one's life, in order to propose a response to the predicament broadly consistent with Wallace's own suggestion, though with one crucial addition: for the early Confucians, "from here, we should direct our eyes outward to others and the world, instead of inward to the conditions we ourselves are in."

Sung highlighted seven key observations about how *yuan* is discussed in early Confucian texts to support her interpretation of the early Confucian conception of *yuan*:

1. *Yuan* is a negative reactive feeling or attitude a subject has towards some inconvenience, disadvantage, or deprivation of benefits to oneself.

2. Even though *Yuan* is a negative reactive attitude or feeling, the early Confucians do not seem to think that it is always reprehensible for one to have or feel *yuan*.

3. Although the early Confucians do not condemn those who have *yuan*, they still seem to view *yuan* generally with disfavor, for a *ren* person does not hold *yuan*.

4. There is something particularly problematic about continually holding *yuan* and recalling the past event that triggers *yuan*.

5. *Yuan* is a specific kind of negative reactive attitude or feeling that is conceptually different from other negative reactive attitudes like anger or blame, even though phenomenally they might seem similar to the subject.

6. *Yuan* is used as a noun to describe the feeling or psychological state that the subject is in, and it is not always clear what the object of *yuan* is. But when it is made clear, the object of *Yuan* is often a person who occupies a hierarchically superior position relative to the subject.

Chinese Philosophy Workshop

7. *Yuan* is often a reaction specific to special relationships, i.e., a subject tends to have *yuan* towards those she perceives as standing in special relation to her (e.g., parents or siblings).

In summary, early texts suggest that *yuan* is not so much the subject's response to the moral wrong in what's done to the subject as it is the subject's response to the determining role external forces have on an unpleasant condition in which she finds herself (e.g., *yuan* parents). Sung also noted that for the early Confucians, it is good to have *yuan*, but it is bad to hold on to it for too long (不宿怨). With respect to escaping the predicament, the early Confucians would add that instead of indulging ourselves in the view that we are passively shaped and swayed by historical forces and conditions, it's imperative for us to shift our attention to other people.

Jay Wallace (Berkeley) responded to Sung's talk.

Harmony, Relativism, and Natural Daos

Hagop Sarkissian (CUNY, Baruch College) gave the final talk, titled "Harmony, Relativism, and Natural Daos: Confucian Reflections on Velleman's *Foundations for Moral Relativism*." In the first half of his talk, Sarkissian summarized some important points from Velleman's book. Velleman argues that moralities come from "a human drive to sociality—a drive to connect, be in communion with, and otherwise get along with others." That is, normativity consists of "nothing more than the normative pull one feels to be social and interpretable to others." Moreover, such a drive leads human communities to adopt certain communal "doables"—shared social ontology that allows for mutual interpretation.

In the second half of his talk, Sarkissian argued that there are interesting parallels between classical Confucianism and Velleman's theory, and that they can enrich one another.

First, Velleman's doables are analogous with the classical Confucian conception of the *li* (礼), rites or ritual propriety. (The term *li* has a broad profile of meanings, ranging from formal ceremonial rituals to basic rules of personal decorum.) For Velleman, *li* can be seen as a set of doables. That being said, for the early Confucians, *li* were "a near sacred cultural inheritance constituting the wise practices of ancient moral sages and exemplars filtered down through dynasties of the past." So they are not just any set of doables; they had "a distinctively spiritual dimension."

Next, Sarkissian suggested that there are two broad norms in early Confucian ethics: interpret others charitably and be interpretable. His way of characterizing the two norms invoked the notions of discernment (an ability to understand mood, intentions, and preoccupations that other people might have) and self-awareness (an ability to be conscientious of oneself as an actor in the social world and one's potential to influence others). If everyone is socialized according to *li*, then life is effortless (*wu-wei* 无为).

Finally, Sarkissian raised a question about the demarcation of the moral and the conventional. He suggested that the Confucian conception of *yi* (义) or rightness can serve to distinguish and counterbalance the *li*. He concluded by noting that the Confucian notion of *harmony* (和) might be a fruitful way to expand Velleman's notion of getting along with each other.

Last of all, Sarkissian surprised the audience by acting out an epilogue: a dialogue among Velleman, Kongzi (Sarkissian), Mengzi (Flanagan), and Xunzi (Angle). They agreed that Velleman's way and the Confucian way converge, but with one difference: the Confucians are not relativists. It opened up many interesting questions, all of which deserve further exploration. But it was late and the conference needed to come to a close. So Kongzi suggested that people go out for drinks; he would pay.

After Sarkissian's skit concluded, his discussant, David Velleman (NYU), offered a few comments.

Conference Craze!

Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop

On March 19th and 20th, Rutgers hosted the fourth annual Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Conference. The conference is devoted to exploring issues in the growing field of Social Epistemology, of which our own Board of Governors Professor Alvin Goldman is a prominent founding figure. Attendance for the conference is typically limited to members of the Penn, Rutgers, and Princeton philosophy departments, along with a few outside visitors.

This year's speakers included our own David Black ("Epistemic Sanction"), Chris Willard-Kyle ("A Puzzle for the Equal Weights View"), and Laura Callahan ("Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding").

This year's conference was organized by Alvin Goldman (Rutgers), Daniel Rubio (Rutgers), Adam Lerner (Princeton), and Daniel Singer (Penn). Past workshops have been held at Rutgers, Penn, and Princeton. Look for the next workshop this coming spring, which will be hosted by Penn!

The *Un*structured Conference

On April 22 and 23rd, 2016, Rutgers hosted a special conference on unstructured conceptions of propositions. The conference was organized by Andy Egan (Rutgers), Dirk Kindermann (Grasz), and Peter van Elswyk (Rutgers).

Talks were given by Kit Fine (NYU), Sarah Murray (Cornell), John Perry (Stanford), Robert Stalnaker (MIT), Frederike Moltmann (CNRS), Stephen Yablo (MIT), J.R.G. Williams (Leeds), Justin Bledin (John Hopkins), Kyle Rawlins (John Hopkins), and our own Susanna Schellenberg and Jeffrey King.

The conference drew an interdisciplinary crowd from the NJ/NY area. Given the recent resurgence of interest in the nature of propositions from metaphysicians and philosophers of language alike, the organizers are hoping to propose a collection of essays based on the talks given at the conference.

Philosophical conversations continue during a break at the Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop.

Stanford's John Perry offers readers a synopsis of "The Great Detour" taken by 20th century philosophers of language.

The 2016 Rutgers-Lund Conference

On May 19th and 20th, 2016, Lund University (Sweden) hosted the annual Rutgers-Lund Conference. Alternating locations at Rutgers and Lund every year, this conference offers a regular opportunity for the faculty and graduate students of each institution to collaborate and comment on each other's work.

Three graduate students from Rutgers participated in the conference: Sam Carter ("Vagueness without Sorites Susceptibility"), Austin Baker ("Resurrecting the Causal Theory of Knowledge in a Virtue Epistemic Framework"), and Beth Henzel ("Hypothetical Consent and the Non-Identity Problem").

In addition to these graduate students, two Rutgers faculty members also presented papers: Holly Smith ("The Asymmetrical Values of Fulfilling and Violating Duties") and Susanna Schellenberg ("Phenomenal Character as a Mental Activity").

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear All,

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Rutgers's founding, a year which included President Obama delivering the 2016 Commencement Address, I note that it has been another amazing year for the Philosophy Department.

Our undergraduates continue to distinguish themselves inside and outside of the classroom. Our philosophy club and undergraduate journal, Arête, continue to flourish; some of our majors gave talks at undergraduate conferences elsewhere; some had papers published in other undergraduate journals; and many of our graduating majors have desirable jobs lined up or have been accepted at excellent graduate schools.

Our graduate students continue to show the world why they are the world's best, as they publish up a storm and give talks at conferences and universities worldwide. The graduate students also continue to shape the climate of our Department in big ways and small, making this an unbelievably interesting, active, and collegial philosophical atmosphere. It is a testimony to our graduate students, and the atmosphere they engender, that this year 10 of the 14 students that we admitted wanted to come here, and we are confident that next year's graduate student class will continue the extraordinary tradition of excellence established by their predecessors.

Our faculty continue to shape the direction of contemporary philosophy through their publications, as well as their roles editing and advising the major journals, presses, and national and international institutions and organizations. And, of course, the faculty continue to give major named lectures and keynote addresses world-wide. Since January, Dean Zimmerman (France), Doug Husak (Israel), and yours truly (China and Israel) have all had special international conferences or seminars held in their honor. Among the many honors bestowed on our faculty since January, Jonathan Schaffer received the important Humboldt Award and

Philosophy Convocation

The Philosophy Department undergraduate convocation was held on May 14th, 2016. The ceremony took place in the Alexander Library Teleconference Room, with approximately 65 students, friends, and family members in attendance.

The following students received awards:

W. J. Norton Alumnae Prize (female senior with highest GPA in philosophy):
Emily Podhorcer

Sanford Doolittle Philosophy Prize (outstanding achievement in philosophy):
Sheng-Yao Cheng
Emily Podhorcer

Emily F Mitchell Prize
(an outstanding major who exemplifies a genuine love of learning and enthusiasm for thinking philosophically about the world around them):
Paul Musso

Highest Honors in Philosophy:
Sheng-Yao Cheng
Paul Musso
Emily Podhorcer

High Honors in Philosophy:
Shawmaf Khubba
James Palmer II

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (continued from previous page)

was also asked to deliver a Tedx talk, and Ruth Chang received a Fellowship from Stanford's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences. In addition, Ernie Sosa and Steven Stich were independently selected to receive the American Philosophical Association-Phi Beta Kappa Lebowitz Prize. This is one of the highest prizes that a philosopher can earn. I add that this is the *third straight year* that a Rutgers philosopher has earned this award. Indeed, of the total of eight philosophers who have received this prestigious award since its inception, four are in our Department (the other two were Jonathan Schaffer and Alvin Goldman).

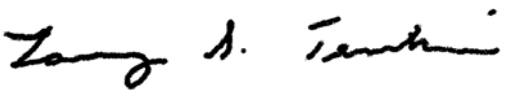
In the worst job market in memory, Rutgers had *phenomenal* success in placing our graduate students. We placed an unprecedented 13 of 15 students on the market, including the two top entry-level positions (MIT and Columbia), 7 permanent/tenure-track positions, and 6 prestigious post-docs. Importantly, *we placed more students, and more students in permanent/tenure track positions, than all three of our main rivals combined!!!*

Among the many other highlights of this semester, Susanna Siegel delivered the Mesthene Lecture and Tim Scanlon the Class of 1970 Lecture. In addition, there was a major conference and celebratory dinner honoring Peter Klein's contributions to epistemology, and his 46 years of devoted service to the Rutgers Philosophy Department. Susanna Schellenberg received a well-deserved promotion to the rank of Full Professor. Also, I am *very pleased* to announce that Alex Guerrero will be joining the Department from the University of Pennsylvania as an Associate Professor this fall, and that our very own former undergraduate Paul Pietroski will be joining us from Maryland as a Distinguished Professor in the Fall of 2017.

Sadly, Peter Klein and Martin Bunzl are both retiring this year. Peter began his career at Rutgers in 1970, and Martin in 1977. Both will be sorely missed, but they will not be forgotten.

I end, as I have my two previous letters from the Chair, by noting that this is a golden-age for Philosophy at Rutgers, and I am very proud to be a part of it. I am also deeply grateful to everyone who helps make the Rutgers Philosophy Department the truly special place that it is: faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduates, alumni, visitors, and friends.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and productive summer,



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