

Annual Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

May 2026

From the Department Chair

As I write, it's a beautiful and sunny spring day, and ten philosophy majors are in the room with me, quietly taking a final exam...

I'm happy to report that our department is going strong, and we have a lot to be proud of and thankful for! As ever, our faculty and students are doing great things: writing on exciting topics, speaking all over the world, and—no less importantly—maintaining a positive and friendly atmosphere within our halls. This is a wonderful place to be a philosopher, and I feel privileged to do philosophy with such a dynamic and good-humored group.

There's too much going on even to summarize all of it, so you'll have to forgive me for omitting any details about the dozens of exciting courses we've offered this year. But I do want to mention that we've had two dissertation defenses already this year (Vincent Tanzil's and Kevin Gausselin's), and anticipate two more this summer! The defense marks the culmination of a huge amount of work, and we are incredibly proud of our PhDs!

In other exciting news, two of our undergraduate alumni are joining the profession. Matthew Lyskawa ('18) is finishing his PhD at Harvard, and next year will be Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the Duke University School of Law. Aurora Yu ('19) has just finished her PhD at UNC Chapel Hill, and will be starting in fall as

Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Diego. Congratulations, Matthew and Aurora! It's hard to land jobs like these in philosophy in any climate, but given the current academic job market this is doubly impressive—and we couldn't be more proud! (Read more about Aurora and Matthew in our letters section!)

This year, we welcomed Grace Helton into our midst. Grace is Associate Professor and was on the faculty at Princeton before joining us here. I had the pleasure of teaching two of her papers in the seminar for majors, and the students and I enjoyed them tremendously (particularly the one about the meaningfulness of life, and what aspects of it would be preserved in a simulation)!

This has been the first academic year with David Litavsky as our Department Administrator. We all know that David had big shoes to fill; Cheryl ran a very tight ship and worked tirelessly to keep us on an even keel. So you'll know what a compliment it is to David when I say that it has been a seamless change of command! We all benefit so much every day from David's hard work and dedication, and I couldn't be more grateful to him!

As of February, we have a second administrator working closely with philosophy: Amanda Moore, whom some of you will know from her excellent service in other roles

In this newsletter:

Faculty

Graduates

Awards & Events

Alumni

Bibliography

in the university. Amanda is Program Administrator for Public Health, but part time in Philosophy as well, and it's great to have her as part of the team!

It is my pleasure to announce Alison Peterman's promotion to Professor, and (if that wasn't enough!) her appointment as the Arthur Satz Professor in the Humanities! Congratulations, Alison! These are both extremely well-deserved recognitions.

And I am also delighted to say that Randy Curren won a Ferrari Humanities Research award! These are very competitive awards given to Rochester faculty in the humanities who have a strong record of publication and promising plans for future work. In Randy's case, that's an understatement! Congratulations, Randy!

My best wishes to all the friends of our department. May we all have a wonderful, healthy, safe, and rejuvenative summer. Let's meet back here in August and do some philosophy!

Paul Audi

Updates from Our Faculty

Paul Audi

It's been another great year 'round these parts! In fall, I had the pleasure of teaching a course—new to me—entitled *The Infinite*, which I co-taught with my friend Steve Gonek of Mathematics. What a reading list! Anaximander, Aristotle, Parmenides, Descartes, Berkeley, Hilbert, Brower, Cantor, ... and my new favorite, Borges! This spring, I've been teaching the seminar for majors, which I taught on the philosophy of mind and its application to other subfields (including in particular philosophy of language, metaphysics, and ethics). This has been a lot of fun, and it's always a delight to teach our advanced majors. On the research side of things, I continued work on a number of projects both in metaphysics and the philosophy of humor. I have a paper on ethics, emotion, and humor under review, and another one in the works on a problem for humor objectivism. The problem parallels the Hume-inspired charge that moral realism cannot account for an essential connection between value and motivation; I consider how humor objectivism might understand the apparently essential connection between humor and amusement. I've also been developing some work on the idea of indeterministic grounding and the case for nihilism about composition. I'm hoping it'll be 74 degrees all summer so I can finish these projects outdoors in a lawn chair.

Randall Curren

My year has been dominated by some wonderfully gratifying collaborations. The primary organizing structure for these collaborations is a 40-chapter *Cambridge Handbook of Flourishing-Focused Education*, for which I have recruited 80 contributing authors across the world. My partner Sienna Park and I were able to work with 14 of these contributors during their fall 2025 residency at UR as Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for International Teachers (Fulbright DAI) recipients.

Many of the leading philosopher and scientist players in a global pivot away from a human capital orientation to education for flourishing

are writing for this *Handbook*, but we may ultimately learn more about what education for human and planetary flourishing can be in the very different circumstances of life across the world from these teacher-leaders in the improvement of education in their own countries.

It is an extraordinary gift to be able to work with them and so many others who persevere in life-giving work in these difficult times.

William FitzPatrick

I enjoyed mentoring two honors thesis students this year, one in Philosophy and one in Bioethics, each examining different theoretical and social complications surrounding death and dying, particularly in light of technological advances in both preserving and helping to end life.

I've also enjoyed ongoing work with graduate students in both normative ethics, particularly in our fall seminar working through two new books: *The Moral Universe*, and *One Life to Lead*, both of which led to lots of great discussions. One thing that came from that work is a critical paper, "Troubles in the Moral Universe," which I've submitted as part of a collection of essays on the book that the editors are pitching to Oxford University Press. Another new paper in metaethics is forthcoming in a special journal issue on ethical naturalism: "Beyond Non-Reductive Naturalism: The Motivation for Non-Naturalism in Ethics."

For conferences, I gave a commentary on a talk by Philip Pettit at the Cornell Workshop on Mind and Value in the fall, and this spring I gave a commentary on Adam Frank's new book, *The Blind Spot: Why Science Cannot Ignore Human Experience*, at our restarted Philosophy and Physics workshop (the title was "Can Human Understanding Include a View from Nowhere Without Blind Spots?"), and will be giving a commentary in June on a new book on responsibility for negligence in ethics and the law, for a conference in Surrey.

Finally, I was just elected to the Faculty Senate and then to the Senate Executive Committee for the next two years, so I see lots of busy Tuesdays in my future.

Grace Helton

I can't believe my first year in the department is almost over! Teaching Intro to Philosophy for the very first time was a highlight, as was teaching this Spring's graduate seminar on the

emotions. I gave talks locally for the RIT Cognitive Science series and the Syracuse-Cornell Graduate Conference. I also traveled to Southern California to give a talk at Scripps College and to Boston to give a talk at Boston University. I continue to work on a book on the emotions, and I've just written two guest blog posts on the topic of friendship and AI. I was deeply encouraged in the project on friendship and AI by the many colleagues in the University of Rochester Philosophy Department who gave me extraordinarily helpful feedback on it. And of course, I survived my first-ever Rochester winter. (Verdict: If you like to be outdoors and have the right clothes, it's not that bad.)

Mark Povich

This year I had a symposium presentation accepted at the Philosophy of Science Association conference in November 2026, and published two articles. I want to thank my department and the school for allowing me to teach remotely while I helped my mom take care of my dad in home hospice in St. Louis.

Lainie Ross

Since July 2025, I have been the chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics. In that role, I serve as a liaison to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Ethics Committee. Both committees are responsible for developing policies about ethical issues for their respective institutions. It is a busy time.

My own scholarship this year has focused mainly on pediatric ethics issues—vaccine policy, pediatric decision-making, and ELSI (ethical, legal and social issues) genetics. My most important publication this year was a co-authored manuscript (with Kelly Ormond, a genetic counselor) entitled “Newborn Sequencing: The Promise and Perils” which was published in the *Annual Review of Genomics and Human Genetics*. I will be participating in the 7th ELSI Congress in June 2026. My focus will be on ethical issues at the intersection of hematology and race.

A new area of scholarship for me this year is in dental ethics. The University of Rochester, with the University of Colorado, UT Houston, and Loyola University (Chicago) formed the National Collaborative on Humanities & Ethics in Dentistry (NCHED). I have now lectured and published on the Vipeholm studies—a set of studies post-World War II evaluating caries formation conducted on individuals with developmental disabilities in

Sweden that is unknown to most dentists and bioethicists. These studies, like the Willowbrook studies on Hepatitis B post-World War II here in New York State, are lessons in serious research ethics violations and need to become part of dental education.

Rush Stewart

This year I taught courses on decision theory, philosophy of science, and the ethics of AI. The AI seminar was small, but the group was excellent. The end of the seminar dovetailed with the CNY Humanities Corridor-funded AI & Human Values workshop hosted by the University of Rochester. Juan Cadile, who was in the seminar, also presented at the workshop.

I presented research on sustainability in the social choice setting here at the PHILMM seminar and at PPE conferences in London and New Orleans. I gave comments on a paper by Daniel Greco on fragmentation in epistemology at FLOW at UCLA in December. The workshop was a community-building effort for philosophers who practice Brazilian jiu jitsu, and included both philosophy and BJJ components.

I published a note on algorithmic fairness and have papers on abstract choice theory, imprecise probabilities, algorithmic fairness, and formal theories of freedom in various stages of review.

Rosa Terlazzo

What a year it's been to be a political philosopher. This year I finished a draft of a book manuscript on how to talk to children about injustice, which has benefited from lively discussion in a bunch of different places including Oxford, UC Davis, and right here in Rochester where I got to talk about it with the wonderful students in my graduate seminar “The Personal and the Political.”

I've also been working on a set of papers on the same topic, and the first one came out in *Economics & Philosophy* earlier this year. While the world lately feels like it's going swiftly in the wrong direction, I get hope and inspiration from the undergraduate students in my classes who are so eager to think about how to understand and respond to injustice in the world—and from the students in our wonderful new PPE major who have so many ideas about how to make the world a better place for all of us.

Updates from Our Graduate Students

Chad Brown

My first year at the University of Rochester has been both demanding and rewarding. The transition from undergraduate to graduate study has certainly been an abrupt one, and adjusting to the pace and expectations has required sustained effort. But, as the year concludes, however, I find that I have settled into a productive rhythm, and looking back, it has been a year of many exciting firsts!

The most notable of these for me was co-authoring a paper responding to a proposed refutation of the simulation hypothesis, which has been accepted and published this year in *Frontiers in Physics*. This is my first published work, and a huge milestone for me. I was also invited to serve as a peer reviewer for *The Apricot*, a graduate philosophy journal at KU Leuven, Belgium, where I evaluated a paper on the propensity theory of probability. I found it an enlightening experience to be on the referee side of a review process for once!

In addition, I delivered my first GradTalk this year, which was on the Bayesian Challenge and whether acceptances undermine the popular simplification-role solution. The discussion generated valuable feedback from faculty and fellow students, including Professors Soysal and Nickel, who generously met with me to continue the conversation afterwards.

Another highlight was a guest lecture on action theory by Robert Audi in Professor Stewart's course on probability and decision theory, which led to a brief discussion on the relationship between outright belief and credence, and the challenges involved in integrating these frameworks within a unified account of rational action.

Overall, the year has been formative and productive! I look forward to building on this foundation in my second year!

Juan Cadile

Year two flew by. Some highlights: I had a great time TAing Philosophy of AI and Ethics of

Technology, and I wrote a book chapter that will soon hit the Argentine bookshelves. Most of my research this year has been at the intersection of mechanistic interpretability and philosophy of mind, which means I spend a lot of time thinking about what neural networks are doing internally and whether philosophy can help us make sense of that.

I also got to meet two Argentines in philosophy, Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra and Patricia Marechal; devoured some of Plato's great works in a fantastic seminar led by Randy; and presented some work on AI ethics at UC Boulder. In May, I will be giving a talk at Oxford's Computer Science Department on measuring wellbeing, and I am looking forward to catching up with Gonzalo while I am there. This summer, I hope to turn some of this work into my first journal submission. I am very grateful for another year in the department, and for the support and encouragement from faculty and peers.

Adam DeDobbelaere

This past year has been exceptionally fruitful for me. In the fall, I presented my paper on Benardete paradoxes at both the Northern Illinois University Graduate Conference and the Illinois Philosophical Association annual conference, held at Eastern Illinois University. Unfortunately, the universities of Western and Southern Illinois did not have philosophy conferences open to graduate students. In January I passed my secondary exam in political philosophy, focusing on Rawls's public reason liberalism. This summer, I have managed to secure two research assistantships; the first is with Bob Fischer at the Center for Policy and Animal Welfare, and the second is with Jon Herington in the Health Humanities and Bioethics Department. The previous summer, I had only managed to secure one research assistantship. By induction, I anticipate I will have 4 research assistantships next summer, 8 research assistantships the following summer, and so on. I am looking forward to this run of good fortune.

Kevin Gausselin

Can't believe my time at UR is coming to an end! I've loved being a member of this department. My thanks to the faculty and graduate students

for making grad school such a wonderful experience! The opportunity to do a PhD here has been a dream, and this year has been as exciting as the last. Perhaps the highlight was road tripping to the Eastern APA in Baltimore with Xinlu, Ashley, and Yusuke, and then doing another (mini) road trip to Syracuse's grad conference with Harry and Ellise. Other highlights include meeting with Harry, Elise, Yusuke, Chris, and others over the summer to discuss our dissertation chapters and works-in-progress, and making wagers to submit papers to journals (I might have lost one of my bets), and seeing so many Rochesterians at the Creighton Club meeting at Colgate University. This year, I've had the opportunity to teach at Syracuse University and SUNY Brockport. By the time this newsletter is published, my scheduled defense will have passed. I hope I have too.



Ashley Labodda presenting at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress in Boulder, Colorado.

Harry Golborn

This year I finalized my course and qualifying requirements, it was also my last semester teaching for WSAP. I am looking forward to focusing on my research, and now that I am not sequestered in an office beneath the library I hope to see more of you around the department from time to time. I was sadly too busy to continue organizing GRADTALKS this semester, however I was able to present a paper at the [Syracuse University Philosophy Graduate Conference](#), alongside recent defender of all things evidentialist (and also his PhD) Kevin Gausselin (congratulations!). I also finished my first co-authored paper, with many thanks to my co-author from whom I learned a lot. Thanks to David

for responding to my endless emails on various things, some of which you will soon find out about. Congratulations to all those who passed various milestones, exams, writing seminars, and those moving on to or returning to various stages of their academic careers. You will be missed!

Ashley Labodda

This year marks the (hopefully) halfway point of my PhD! To start things off, I presented again this past summer at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress on the role of moral testimony in the ethics of animal research. I also attended my first APA where I participated in the APA Eastern works in progress workshop. I then presented this workshoped paper on the role of journalism in a democracy a few months later at the University of Rochester's graduate research day. I have been really grateful for the opportunity to participate in this workshop as I still keep in regular contact with my group, and we continue to talk about our current ideas and projects. I ended this academic year presenting a bioethics paper on the epistemic value of trying to create an advance directive. I have been working on this paper with Dr. Bryanna Moore in the Department of Health Humanities and Bioethics (HHBE) at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and the ability to also work with these professors outside of my department has been invaluable.

Through HHBE, I also had the opportunity to co-host an episode of the department's podcast called *In the Same Vein*. In the episode titled "On A Theory of Bioethics", Dr. Christine Slobogin and I interviewed Dr. David DeGrazia, and we talked about his recent co-authored book *A Theory of Bioethics* as well as several big topics in philosophy and ethics as they relate to bioethics. If you are interested in listening, you can find it on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

As for teaching, I taught and will continue to teach "Ethics in the Modern World" for now a third year for the University of Rochester Pre-College Program. I always enjoy getting the chance to talk with bright high school students about various ethical issues they may have never thought about! Looking at next year, I am excited to share that I received one of the Susan B. Anthony Teaching Fellowships through the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Rochester. As part of this fellowship, I will be developing and teaching a course on the philosophy of sex in Spring 2027!

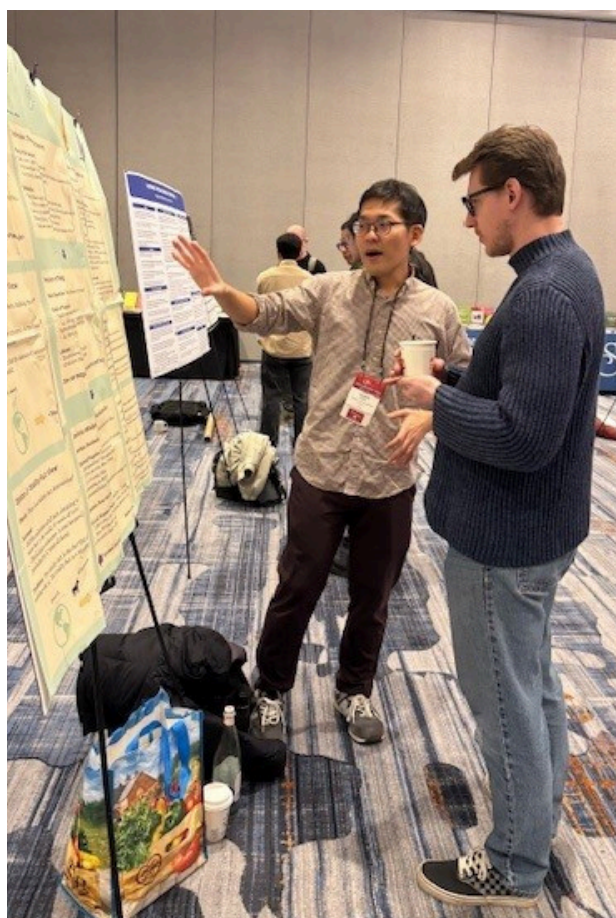
That's all for now! This year has definitely taught me the most about myself and my career goals, and hopefully in next newsletter I will be happy to report I am in full dissertation-mode!

Taylor Matalon

I've been loving my first year here! Already I've made good friendships, read more than I thought possible, and have developed some interesting (to me, at least) personal projects. In the Fall, I was so entranced by my first-ever metaphysics course that I immediately took my secondary exam on the metaphysics of personal identity. I also gave a grad talk on the value of continued living, and potential value of immortality, for non-human animals. This Spring, I got to virtually present a paper draft at the Pacific APA on the supposed value of generational diversity in population ethics. I'm hoping to punch up my writings on all these projects over the Summer. In between the philosophy, I've made sure to take advantage of all the perks that coming along with being a grad student: playing intramural soccer, attending colloquium dinners, snacking on grad lounge cookies, and enjoying plenty of the now-free coffee. Insofar as there can be a secular notion of a vocation, I'm quite confident that this is it.



Department of Philosophy graduates and chair attend a graduate writing seminar presentation in Lattimore Hall.



Yusuke Satake presents a poster at the 2026 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dylan Wang

This year I've been thinking about philosophy of psychiatry, especially the questions of whether a reductive, biomedical model of psychiatry falsely pathologizes perfectly fine religious forms of life, and, if it does, what implications it has for the so-called multiple realizability of the mental. A paper that has emerged is one in which I argue the biomedical definition of delusion seems to falsely pathologize the perfectly fine religious beliefs of charismatic evangelicals. It has been presented at the 2026 UR grad research day and the Kentucky Philosophical Association 2026 meeting. I want to thank Prof. Thomas Gibson in the anthropology department for inspiring the paper and his generous comments, and Kevin Gausselin for sending great resources and instructions on presenting a poster.

Most importantly, I want to thank Yusuke Satake for very generously allowing me to stay at his place last October while my house was under the threat of a mentally unstable person. I know my presence in his place must have disrupted his usual tempo of life and caused enormous inconvenience to him, yet he still agreed to let me stay at his place until I could feel safer returning. His accommodation allows philosophizing to be continued as usual but with inspiring conversation with a fellow philosopher. Words cannot express how grateful I am for his kindness and understanding during my stay. 心から感謝しています, Yusuke.

Department Awards and News

President's Ferrari Humanities Research Award

The University of Rochester awarded **Professor Randall Curren** for his project "The Educational Promotion of Human Flourishing." Recipients of the award must demonstrate a creative approach that either builds on a previous record of published work in peer-reviewed journals or books, or charts a direction that promises a new publication stream. The awarding committee highlighted the project's cross-disciplinary collaboration and the potential impact Prof. Curren's research could have on educational policy.

Arthur Satz Professor of Humanities

In 2020, former music major and influential arts education leader Arthur Satz (1951) bequeathed the largest-ever gift geared toward supporting the humanities at the University of Rochester. Part of the commitment funds a minimum of five new professorships in humanities fields. **Professor Alison Peterman** is to be named Arthur Satz Professor of Humanities in the Department of Philosophy.

2025 Departmental Outstanding Essay Competitions

Each fall, the department asks graduates to submit essays that are ranked by faculty. There are separate competitions: the Heidi M. Payne First-year Outstanding Essay for second-year graduates and the Outstanding Essay Competition for graduates in years two through five. The winners are:

- First-Year Competition: **Dylan Wang**, "Two Puzzles for an Imagination Theory of Faith"
- Upper-Years Competition: **Tong Zhao**, "Understanding without Knowledge"

2025-2026 Outstanding Teaching Assistant

PhD students in years two through five of their study serve as teaching assistants in philosophy. At the end of the academic year, faculty vote on which TA outperformed their duties as teachers, graders, and advisors to undergraduate students. This year's best TA features:

- **Taylan Cuyaz** for TAs in PHIL 105 Reason and Argument (Fall 2025) and PHIL 244 Philosophy of Mind (Spring 2026)

Meliora Digital and Interdisciplinary Fellowship in the Digital Humanities

This competitive fellowship provides graduate students the opportunity to learn more about the technologies available for advanced study of the humanities and to collaborate with other graduate students in similar fields. Starting in the 2026-2027 academic year, **Harry Golborn** will assume this role.

Susan B. Anthony Teaching Fellowship

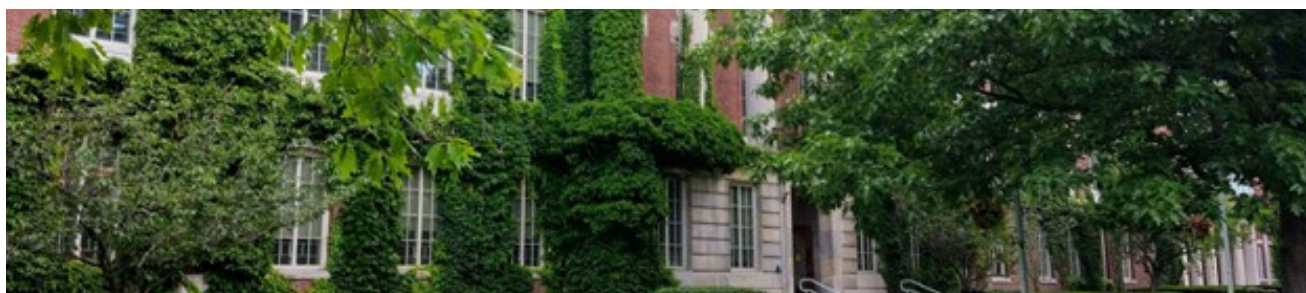
The Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies selected **Ashley Labodda** for a fellowship to develop and teach a course in Spring 2027 that explores different approaches to the challenge of introducing gender, sexuality, and women's studies to undergraduate students.

Graduate Placement

Philosophy PhD candidate **Yusuke Satake** began a new role as Assistant Professor in the Research Division for Ethics and Education for Future Society at Kyushu University in Japan.

Outstanding Dissertation Award

A University of Rochester School of Arts & Sciences panel of faculty reviewers selected **Vincent Tanzil** as recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award for his dissertation titled, "Conceptualism about Socially Constructed Properties." This honor is a testament to the exceptional quality, rigor, and impact of Vincent's scholarship.



Department Events

Fall 2025

Sept. 8 – Department Colloquium Series

Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra (University of Oxford)
“Moderate Truthmaker Non-Maximalism Defended”

Sept. 12 – Department Colloquium Series

Sukaina Hirji (University of Pennsylvania)
“Protests as World-Making Projects”

Oct. 17 – Central New York Language of Philosophy Workshop

Oct. 31 – Department Colloquium Series

Simon Huttegger (University of California, Irvine)
“Inductive Logic: Past, Present, and Future”

Nov. 14 – Department Colloquium Series

Terence Cuneo (University of Vermont)
“How Intuition Produces Action”

Nov. 21-22 – Philosophy of Journalism Workshop

Featuring guest speakers Eleanor Gordon-Smith (University of Southern California, *The Guardian*), Vanessa Schipani (Penn Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media), C.J. Oswald (University of Virginia), Ruben Marciel (University of Geneva), Dave Andreatta (*New York Times* freelancer and University of Rochester media relations), Carrie Figdor (University of Iowa, formerly with *The Associated Press*), Jason Silverstein (formerly with *The New York Times* and CBS), Viviane Fairbank (University of St. Andrews and University of Stirling), Lorenzo Manuali (University of Michigan), Alexander Prescott-Couch (Oxford University), Melissa Goldin (*The Associated Press*), Shohreh Laici (University of Rochester), and Jim Memmott (*Democrat and Chronicle*).

Dec. 5 – Department Colloquium Series

Patricia Marechal (University of California, San Diego)
“The Philosopher’s Nature in Plato’s *Republic*”



Spring 2026

Feb. 27 – Department Colloquium Series

Ben Bradley (Syracuse University)
“The Moral and Prudential Significance of Harm”

March 6 – Department Colloquium Series

Jennifer Blumenthal-Barby (Baylor College of Medicine)
“Grief, Simulation, and the Ethics of Digital Afterlives”

April 3 – Department Colloquium Series

Luara Ferracioli (University of Sydney)
“Depopulation: An Ethical Perspective”

April 6 – Department of Philosophy-Humanities Center co-hosted Lecture

Ryan Cox (University of Sydney)
“A Defense of Modest Epistemological Exceptionalism About Humanistic Inquiry”

April 24 – 6th Upstate Workshop on AI and Human Values

Featuring guest speakers Daniel Herrmann (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Alice Huang (University of Western Ontario)

April 30-May 1 – Philosophy-Physics Symposium

Spotlighting Adam Frank’s “The Blind Spot: Why Science Cannot Ignore Human Experience,” featuring keynote lecture by Robert Crease (Stony Brook University, Philosophy)

Updates from Alumni and Former Faculty

Andrei Buckareff (PhD 2005)

It's been a while since I last submitted an update on what's been going on in my life. In 2021, I was promoted to the rank of full professor at my institution (Marist University). I started serving as an Associate Editor at *Philosophia* in 2025, and I am stepping down this year from serving as book review editor at *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.

I continue to work primarily on metaphysical problems in the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of religion. I just completed work on a three-year grant on the theme of "Panpsychism and Pan(en)theism: Philosophy of Mind meets Philosophy of Religion," funded by the John Templeton Foundation (grant #62683) that explored the relationship between panpsychist approaches in the metaphysics of mind and pantheistic and panentheistic conceptions of the divine in the philosophy of religion. My co-PI on the project was Philip Goff (Durham University). The project was from 2023-2025 and included a workshop at Marist (which was reported on in *Scientific American*) on panpsychist theories of consciousness and a workshop at Durham University exploring how work on panpsychism can inform work on pantheistic and panentheistic conceptions of the divine. Papers from each workshop are available open-access in special issues of *Journal of Consciousness Studies* and *Religious Studies*, edited by Philip and me.

Most recently, I've been working with Brian Glenney (Norwich University) exploring the connections between philosophy of mind, cognitive science, and the philosophy of sport. In particular, we are examining the phenomenon of the skater's eye as a case study of how skill acquisition via embodied activity embedded in certain kinds of environments affects how we see the world. In particular, we are interested in how skateboarders (yes, I still skate, even at age 54) visually perceive urban landscapes differently from those who don't skate.

James Van Cleve (PhD 1974)

My biggest news is that I have been awarded a fellowship to spend the fall of 2026 at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. I will be writing a book with the ambitious title *Roderick Chisholm and Philosophy in America, 1950-2000*.

Eileen Daly-Boas (MA 2000)

Greetings from Rush Rhees Library! Once again, much of my year as the librarian for Philosophy and the Warner School was spent creatively managing funds so that scholars can keep access to the resources they need, and helping students, faculty and the community with research projects. The most fulfilling project was working with Alison Peterman's Modern Philosophy class as they each created a webpage on their chosen philosopher. For most of the rest of the year, I've been wrestling with GenAI and its impact (both positive and negative) for librarians and academics. If you're in need of a librarian, you can always email me at edaly@library.rochester.edu.

John Kwak (PhD 2021)

Since completing my PhD in philosophy of language in 2021, I've been carrying a combination of faculty and administrative roles at Western Seminary, in my hometown of Portland, OR. Most recently, I transitioned into the dual roles of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. (Quite unexpected!) Given my administrative load, I sadly don't get to utilize as much of my advanced philosophical training in the classroom as I'd like. However, there's no question that that training continues to inform my approach to all of the courses I teach (and I'd say how I administrate as well, after all, logical thinking is a life skill!). I remain ever grateful for my time at UR, feeling as warmly now towards the department as I ever have. Love and blessings to you all!

Matthew Lyskawa (BA 2018)

My name is Matthew Lyskawa and I am an incoming Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. I am a PhD candidate in Philosophy at Harvard and my dissertation concerns philosophical issues related to prison law particularly Eighth Amendment prison conditions jurisprudence. I graduated from the University of Rochester with a BA in Philosophy in 2018 after transferring from a community college in Los Angeles. I am incredibly grateful to Rochester's philosophy department, particularly Professor Paul Audi, for deepening and enriching my love for philosophy! I am also grateful to Professor Cornel West and Professor Gerard Robinson for igniting my interest in political philosophy and prison law, respectively. The dream is to teach courses on prison law and the history of U.S. imprisonment as a law professor. My secret dream is to produce a film on the Coal Creek War which you should totally look into if you are not familiar with it! Happy to chat about all

things related to imprisonment, prison law, and history of U.S. prisons. I am also a huge lover of film and food so happy to chat about those things too.

Bo Mou (PhD 1997)

I would like to report my recent research publications as stated in my recent post-tenure review of the past five years (2019-2024) since my (early) promotion to tenured full professorship in 2009 (starting teaching at San Jose State University in 2000). During this period, 5 books, 3 peer-reviewed monograph books and 2 edited books, were published as follows (also 5 peer-reviewed journal articles and 2 book chapters, omitted due to word limit). [Note: these three monographs resulted from decade-long work on the addressed fundamental issues, though having closely adjacent recent publication years.]

Cross-Tradition Engagement on the Laws of Logic: Approaching Identity and Reference from Classical Chinese Philosophy to Modern Logic (Routledge, 2024/2025 paperback).

Cross-Tradition Engagement in Philosophy: A Constructive-Engagement Account (Routledge, 2020/2022 paperback).

Semantic-Truth Approaches in Chinese Philosophy: A Unifying Pluralist Account (Lexington Books/Bloomsbury, 2019).

Edited anthology 2022: 《中國哲學研究的方法論反思：比較哲學與哲學分析 [Reflections on Methodology in Studies of Chinese Philosophy: Comparative Philosophy and Philosophical Analysis]》(Beijing: 商務印書館) (In Chinese);

Edited collection 2019: *Chinese Philosophy: Critical Concepts in Philosophy* [Routledge's "Critical Concepts in Philosophy" series], which consists of the following four volumes:

Volume 1: *Identities, Methodologies, Unity of Truth, Good and Beauty*

Volume 2: *Moral, Social and Political Philosophy*

Volume 3: *Metaphysics, Epistemology, Reflection on Science*

Volume 4: *Philosophy of Language, Mind and Logic*

My most recent peer-reviewed article that comes out in 2025 is this:

"A Unifying Double-Reference Approach to Semantic Paradoxes: From the White-Horse-Not-Horse Paradox and the Ultimate-Unspeakable Paradox to the Liar Paradox in View of the Principle of Non-Contradiction", *Open Philosophy* (2025)
<https://doi.org/10.1515_opphil-2025-0069>.

Joseph ("Josh") Stulberg (PhD 1975)

Together with an expanded group of younger co-authors, we wrote a new law-school textbook, *Mediation in an Evolving World*. It became available in printed form for Fall 2024 classes, together with a robust teacher's guide. I now use this text in the various short, intensive courses that I am fortunate enough to teach at various law schools.

I continue to participate actively in the *Divided Community Project* that my colleague and I launched in 2015; we have been particularly immersed for the past 1 ½ years in developing written guides for multiple college constituencies addressing the numerous campus dynamics – from classroom disruptions and interpersonal conflicts to large scale demonstrations – triggered by the war in the Middle East and, more recently, the U.S. political elections and its aftermath. We have convened a series of "office hours" conversations with university personnel from Hawaii to North Carolina in which colleagues have shared information regarding challenges they have faced and their efforts to address them constructively; those "lessons learned" have been remarkably energizing and supportive.

The Rochester community dispute resolution center (with mediation services) for which I was the first director celebrated its 50th year of continuous operation in August 2013; while in Rochester to attend its celebratory dinner, I had the wonderful good fortune to spend part of the afternoon with Robert Holmes, who was – and remains – so central to my intellectual training.

My long-distance running efforts have now transformed into my version of competitive walking; and my tennis has become golf. Most important, my wife, Midge, our children and grandchildren, and I continue to enjoy good health.

Aurora Yu (BA 2019)

I completed my BA in Philosophy with Highest Honors at Rochester, where I wrote my thesis on Descartes under the supervision of Alison Peterman, with Paul Audi serving as my external reader. I went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for my PhD, supported by the Royster Society of Fellows. My research spans ancient Greek philosophy and early modern philosophy, with dissertations on Aristotle's global teleology and Descartes' theory of sensation and the mind-body union. This past year I received the

Jan Wojcik Memorial Prize from the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* and the Kristeller-Popkin Travel Fellowship, and have presented my work at Cambridge, Rome, and venues across North America and Europe. In fall 2026, I will be joining the University of San Diego as Assistant Professor of Philosophy!

David Braun (UR Philosophy Faculty Member, 1989–2008)

I enjoyed being a philosophy faculty member at Rochester from 1989 through 2008. But in 1996, my wife, Gail Mauner, took an academic job at University at Buffalo (UB) and we moved to Buffalo. The result was a long commute for me between Buffalo and Rochester. In 2008, after twelve years of commuting, UB offered me a job, which I accepted. I consequently enjoyed spending less time commuting during snowstorms. I retired from UB in January 2024, but I am continuing to work on philosophy. I occasionally go to Rochester for philosophical events. When I've done so, I've enjoyed seeing my old friends and meeting newer faculty members. Thanks to everyone at the Rochester philosophy department, thanks to my former students, and best wishes to all of you.

Bibliography

Chad Brown

Commentary: Astrophysical constraints on the simulation hypothesis for this Universe: why it is (nearly) impossible that we live in a simulation (with E Edge). *Front. Phys.* 14:1808725 (2026). doi: 10.3389/fphy.2026.1808725

Andrew Buckareff

Buckareff, A. and Glenney, B. (forthcoming) The role of risk in programming the skater's eye. *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00948705.2026.2643342>

Buckareff, A. (2025) Direct manipulation undermines *intentional* agency (and not just *free* agency). *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy*, 12, 1459-1483. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.8580>

Buckareff, A. (2025) Clarifying the metaphysics of pantheism to better assess the threat posed by the problem of evil identified by Nagasawa in *The Problem of Evil for Atheists*. *Asian Journal of Philosophy*, 4, article 86 (21 pp). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44204-025-00309-4>

James Van Cleve

"Exemplar Representation and Explanatory Loops," in *The Philosophy of Keith Lehrer: Essays on Knowledge, Consciousness, and Freedom*, edited by Mylan Engel, Jr. and Joseph Campbell (New York: Springer, 2025), pp. 121-38.

"Putnam, Privileged Observers, and Special Relativity," forthcoming in *Interpreting Putnam*, edited by R. Gronda and G. Marchetti (Routledge Studies in American Philosophy series).

Randall Curren

Curren, R. (ed.) (forthcoming). *The Cambridge Handbook of Flourishing-Focused Education: Theory, Research, and Global Contexts*. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Curren, R. (2026) "Extended Review of Benjamin Miller (2026) *Against Aristotelian Character Education: Practical Wisdom, Flourishing, and Liberal Democracy*." *Journal of Moral Education*.

Lee, K., Azada-Palacios, R., Burbules, N., **Curren, R.**, Hansen, D., North, B., Ruitenberg, C., Siegel, H., Standish, P., Thompson, W., & Tillson, J. (2026) "Is Philosophy of Education Western? Anglo-American Responses." *Educational Philosophy and Theory*.

Curren, R. & Metzger, E. (2026) Sustainable Development," in Joshua Krassner, ed., *Encyclopedia of Global Justice* 2nd ed. Dordrecht: Springer,

Curren, R. (2025) "Philosophy of Education," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2025 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/education-philosophy/>

Curren, R., Boniwell, I., Ryan, R. M., Oades, L., Brighthouse, H., Unterhalter, E., Kristjánsson, K., de Ruyter, D., Macleod, C., Morris, I., & White, M. (2024) "Finding Consensus on Well-being in Education," *Theory and Research in Education* 22(2): 117–157 (**lead paper with commentaries** by A Duraippah, K. S. Finnigan, M. Levinson, & F. Martela).

William FitzPatrick

FitzPatrick, W.J. (forthcoming). "Beyond Non-Reductive Ethical Naturalism: The Motivation for Non-Naturalism in Ethics." *Philosophical Explorations*.

FitzPatrick, W.J. (forthcoming). "Ethical non-naturalism," in David Copp and Connie Rosati, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory* (Oxford University Press).

FitzPatrick, W.J. (forthcoming). "Metaethics and evolutionary biology," in David Copp and Connie Rosati, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory* (Oxford University Press).

Jim Leshner (PhD, 1967)

"Knowledge and Presence in Early Greek Thought" in R. Hahn and A. Herda, eds, *"Knowledge" in Archaic Greece* (Center for Hellenic Studies / Harvard University Press), forthcoming.

"Assertion and Argument in Xenophanes" in C. Vieira and G. Corneli, eds, *Style Matters in Presocratic Philosophy*, forthcoming as a special issue of *Archai*.

Comments on Glenn Most's "Eleatica", presented at the annual celebration of Eleatic philosophy at Velia, Italy.

"Understanding Heraclitus' Logos" in *The Ancient Greeks and Their Knowledge*, ed. Pietro Montinari, forthcoming as a special issue of *Dialogos*.

Mark Povich

Povich, Mark. (Forthcoming). "Neo-Conventionalism and the Imaginative Origin of Haecceitistic Intuitions," *Synthese*.

Povich, Mark. (Forthcoming). "No New Work for Metaphysics: Easy Ontology and Two-Dimensional Semantics," *Metaphilosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/meta.70023>.

Rosa Terlazzo

"Asking Messy Questions About Adaptive Preferences" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming).

"Justice, for Our Children: Using Non-ideal Theory to Talk to Children About Injustice" *Economics & Philosophy* (first view).

Donate to Philosophy

Your support of the program helps to provide an academically rigorous program led by esteemed faculty in a collegial environment—hallmarks of a Rochester education.

Thanks to generous gifts from our alumni and friends, our department is empowered to support our undergraduate and graduate programs. No amount is too small to make a difference.

sas.rochester.edu/phl/about/giving

(585) 275-4105

PhlAdmin@philosophy.rochester.edu