

Fall 2022 Newsletter

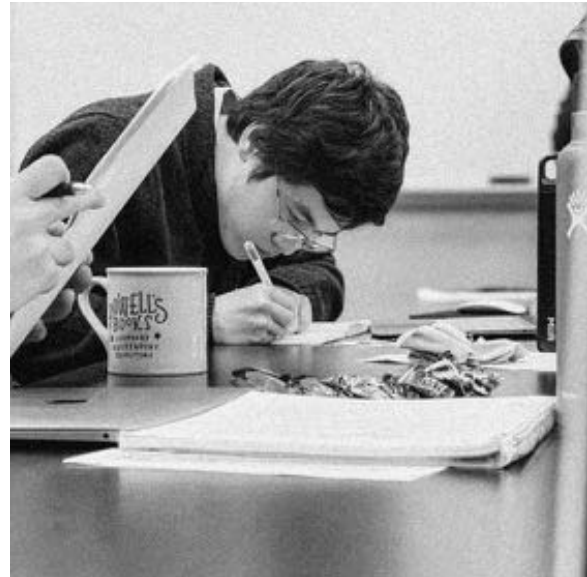


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Questions about Rutgers Philosophy?

For information about the graduate program, contact program coordinator Mercedes Diaz:
diaz@philosophy.rutgers.edu.
For information about the undergraduate program, contact program coordinator Jessica Koza:
jesskoza@philosophy.rutgers.edu.



A Letter From the Chair

A portrait of Karen Bennett, a woman with curly brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a purple top and a necklace with a small pendant.

**Karen
Bennett**

Department Chair

Greetings, friends –

Things are back to what passes for normal in the Rutgers Philosophy Department. (Unfortunately, this includes the sporadicness of our newsletter ...) Classes have been back in person for over a year, events have resumed, and most of us are back on campus on a regular basis.

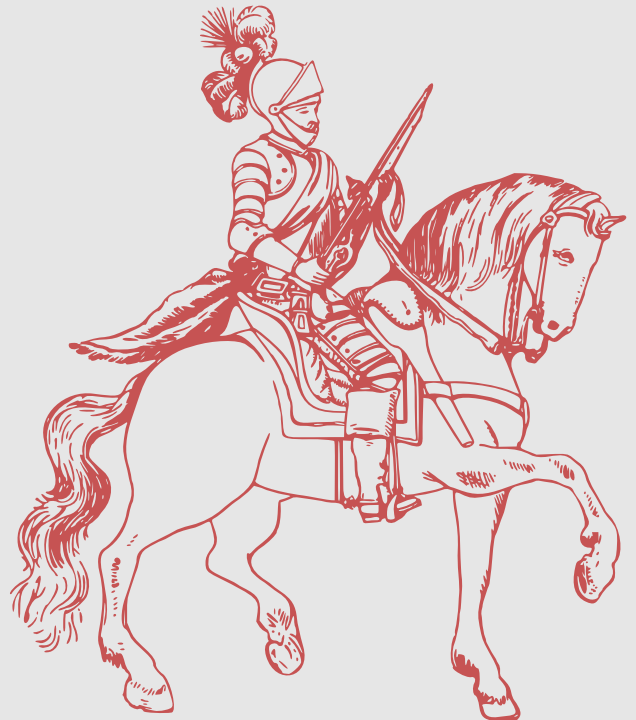
The pandemic was difficult in obvious ways, and devastating to a few of us who lost loved ones. Even so, we have discovered a few silver linings.

One is that we have learned that our staff can work perfectly well from home a couple of days per week. Thus far, the University agrees, and is experimenting with new policies that allow for better work-life balance for staff across campus.

Another silver lining is that our newfound familiarity with technologies for remote instruction has opened up new ways to engage with students and each other. It's easy to record

an undergraduate lecture instead of cancelling class for conference travel, a positive covid test, or whatever. And technology in both the large and small seminar rooms has transformed our meetings. They have microphones, a big screen, and a camera that tracks who is speaking – which makes it easy to conduct seminars, reading groups, and even faculty meetings in a hybrid format. While the majority of us come to the department as usual, it is undeniably handy to occasionally participate from home as needs arise. This technology has even re-energized joint seminars with neighboring departments like Princeton: the group meets on each campus in alternating weeks, with the non-local participants zooming in. (In principle, this makes it possible to jointly teach with non-neighboring departments, but we don't have reciprocal credit agreements with random other universities across the globe.)

Post-pandemic, both the undergraduate and graduate program are thriving. With the exception of a couple of low level asynchronous remote classes, we are back on campus.



A Letter From the Chair Continued

At the undergraduate level, we have a little more than 5000 enrollments and over 130 majors. We also have about 170 minors—not counting the 50 minors apiece in the two new programs in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics and Medical Ethics and Health Policy. Our students continue to be active in the undergraduate journal *Areté*, the Philosophy Club, and the honors society Phi Sigma Tau. New undergraduate courses range from 400-level courses in semantics of natural languages and the foundations of mathematics to Derrick Darby's introductory level *Rhymes and Reasons: Hip Hop and Philosophy* (an SAS 'signature course'). The past few years have seen our majors embark on all sorts of careers, including entering law school and medical school, and we continue to send a handful of students to Ph.D. programs. Recent graduates have gone on to the University of Southern California, the University of Connecticut, Yale, and one has even stayed here at Rutgers. Were I writing this letter a month or so later, I could add the name of another top program to that list; one of this year's graduates is still finding out where he has been admitted.

The graduate student community continues to be both intense and supportive. Grad students organize a number of reading groups (which faculty attend as well), a regular series of grad student work-in-progress talks, as well as various social events. As I write, our excellent cohort of first year graduate students are well into their second semester (see page 17 to meet them), and the graduate admissions committee is hard at work choosing our newest crop. Many of our recent Ph.D.s have taken up positions elsewhere. See page 12 for a quick update on the job placement of those who have finished in the past two years (full information, including updates and lateral moves, at <https://philosophy.rutgers.edu/placement>).



Unsurprisingly, the department is engaged in the standard ship-of-Theseus-like process of shedding and rebuilding the faculty. This year Rob Bolton, Martha Bolton, Frankie Egan, and Larry Temkin are all retiring, and will be much missed. But we are thrilled to welcome Juan Comesaña and Carolina Sartorio from the University of Arizona, who are joining remotely for '22-23, and coming live and in person starting fall '23. Here, again, the silver linings of the pandemic shine through. In the fall, Carolina and I jointly taught a grad seminar on causation with her on the zoom screen, and the rest of us in the seminar room. This spring, Juan is doing the same for an epistemology seminar with Ernie Sosa and Susanna Schellenberg. What's next on the hiring front? Stay tuned! Discussions are heating up again. ●●●

A Letter From the Chair Continued

We are very happy to report that in person events are back to normal. And man, have we been busy. See p. 22 for a complete list, which ranges from ordinary colloquia to the Rutgers Lectures (Timothy Williamson in fall '22) to workshops on Chinese philosophy to ongoing events like the Metaphysical Mayhem and the Rutgers Epistemology Conference.

Among the many, many, many events we regularly host, three trailblazing DEI efforts stand out for special mention.

- **The Summer Diversity Institute:** a week-long workshop for minority undergraduates interested in philosophy graduate school. Founded in 1996 by Howard McGary, now organized by Derrick Darby.
- **Athena in Action:** a biannual event to mentor graduate student women and gender minorities in philosophy. It has previously been held at Princeton and Cornell; 2022 marked the first visit to Rutgers, home of two of the three founding organizers (Jill North and Elisabeth Camp.)
- **Northeast Workshop to Learn About Multicultural Philosophy (NEWLAMP):** a new annual workshop to “teach the teachers” about non-Western philosophy, so they can return to their home institutions and diversify the curriculum. The inaugural event was held at Northeastern University in summer 2022; it comes to Rutgers—home of Alex Guerrero, one of the founding organizers—for its second installment in summer 2023.

These are genuinely successful efforts that make a difference to the profession far beyond the borders of Rutgers. The way to get more faculty of color in the field is to intervene early to address the pipeline problem. The way to encourage women graduate students is to mentor them and get them networking with each other. The way to broaden philosophy curriculums beyond the Western tradition is to educate the professors.



A Letter From the Chair Continued



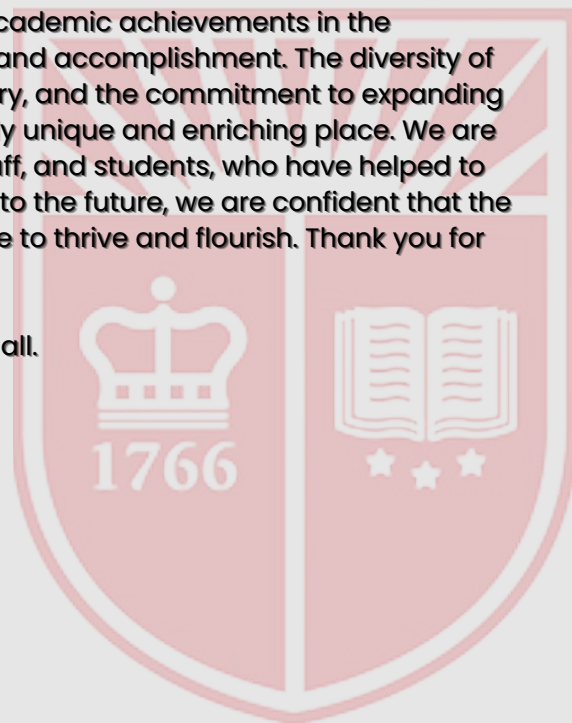
While such efforts [on the previous page] are very important, they aren't free. Every year we scramble to fund them, despite support from the School of Arts and Sciences, the Sanders Foundation, and other sources. We would welcome gifts intended for these programs. (We would of course also happily accept gifts for graduate student support, and even for general philosophy department use!) You can give to the Department online by clicking **this link**, or cutting and pasting this: **<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/896/giving19/interior.aspx?id=896&gid=1&pgid=2138&bledit=1&dids=561>**.

Or, to talk to someone about how you might impact the department, or to learn more about estate and gift planning, please reach out to Whitney Prendergast, Director of Development, School of Arts and Sciences Humanities Division. **whitneyp@sas.rutgers.edu**
848-932-6455
Gifts are of course tax-deductible! (Apologies for the shameless fundraising.)

As we reflect on another year of intellectual pursuits and academic achievements in the philosophy department, we are filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. The diversity of perspectives and ideas, the passion for philosophical inquiry, and the commitment to expanding our understanding of the world make our community a truly unique and enriching place. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, who have helped to build a vibrant and thriving department. As we look ahead to the future, we are confident that the tradition of excellence in philosophy at Rutgers will continue to thrive and flourish. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

That last paragraph was written by Chat-GPT. God help us all.
Onward and upward!

Karen Bennett
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Spotlight on Faculty Accomplishments

HOLLY SMITH

Last semester, Holly Smith's paper "Even More Supererogatory," was accepted by the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. A follow-on paper "Can a Single Account of Supererogation Handle both Finite and Infinite Cases?" was accepted for presentation to the *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division* meeting in April 2023.

In addition, Smith gave a Zoom presentation of "Moral Decision Guides: Counsels of Morality or Counsels of Rationality?" to the Normative Guidance workshop at Australian National University in October.

LARRY TEMKIN

Larry Temkin attended a conference on The Point of Moral Philosophy at the Uehiro Center at Oxford in July 2022.

Temkin lectured on "Effective Altruism, Long-termism, the Collapse of FTX, and Being Good" in Peter Singer's graduate seminar in Fall, 2022. In addition, he lectured on his own book *Being Good in a World of Need* (published in the U.S. in April of 2022) in a seminar at Washington University in St. Louis in Fall, 2022.

Temkin's essay "Population Ethics Forty Years On: Some Lessons Learned from 'Box Ethics'" appeared in OUP's *Ethics and Existence: The Legacy of Derek Parfit* edited by McMahan, Campbell, Goodrich, and Ramakrishnan (Spring, 2022).

Temkin appeared on Ben Yeoh's podcast, with two episodes released in July 2022: "Larry Temkin (pt 1): Moral Philosophy, transitivity, critiques of effective altruism, international aid, pluralism" and "Larry Temkin (pt 2): Critiques of Effective Altruism, long-termism, potential problems of international aid, philosophy".

BARRY LOEWER

Barry Loewer directed a summer institute for graduate students held at the Central European University in Budapest. Thirty-two students from around the world participated in the course, which covered the history and philosophy of the concepts of scientific law and probability.

In October 2022, Loewer was the speaker at a workshop on his work run by Thomas Blanchard (Cologne). In addition, he has continued his work from previous years in running MAPS (Metro Area Philosophers of Science), a talk series taking place about once month and whose recent speakers include Al Hajek, Sean Carroll, Elise Crull, Christian Wuthrich, Eddy Chen, and Tim Maudlin.

Loewer was the guest on Sean Carroll's popular podcast "mindscape" last November and will guest Jacob Barandes's (Harvard) video series on the Philosophy of Physics next April.

Faculty Accomplishments, Continued

STEVE STICH

During the Fall Term of 2022, Steve Stich was selected to be next APA Romanell Lecturer. The lecture will be at the Central Division APA, in Denver, in February 2023. The title will be "The Cognitive Science of Moral Judgment and the Tower of Babel Problem".

ERNIE SOSA

Ernie Sosa was the Keynote speaker at The USC-UCLA Graduate Conference in Philosophy. In September of '22, he gave the BSTK Lectures at the BSTK Inaugural Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

There was a conference at the University of Miami in November, from the 10th through the 13th, entitled "The Philosophy of Ernest Sosa," whose proceedings will be published in a special issue of *Philosophical Studies*.

LIZ CAMP

Liz Camp gave the Burman Lectures at Umeå University in Sweden in June 2022 (following in Karen's footsteps). The lectures consisted of three talks under the overall title "Perspectives, Frames, and the Coercion of Intimacy". In September, she also gave a keynote address at 'AI: The Act of Interpretation', a Seminar at the Institute for Philosophy and the New Humanities at the The New School in New York.

Camp is continuing her work as an organizer of the CCA-sponsored working group "Art and Aesthetics" (co-organized with Nancy Yousef in the English department). This year, the group has been focusing on translations across media.

ALEX GUERRERO

Alex Guerrero was awarded the 2022 School of Arts and Sciences Award for his *Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education*. The award was given in recognition both of Guerrero's qualities as an instructor and of his commitment to widening participation and representation in philosophy: "Professor Guerrero is not just an advocate for diversity in a field that is staunchly Anglo-American in its traditions", the official 2022 announcement by Rutgers reads, "He is an agent for change, whose individual commitment and institutional service is leaving a lasting effect on the Rutgers University–New Brunswick Department of Philosophy and the discipline of Philosophy for years to come."

Guerrero was also a recipient of the 2022 Dr. Martin R. Lebowitz and Eve Lewellis Lebowitz Prize for *Philosophical Achievement and Contribution*, awarded by the American Philosophical Association and the Phi Beta Kappa society in recognition of outstanding achievements in philosophy. The prize, which was instituted in 2012, is awarded annually to two philosophers who hold different (not necessarily opposing views) on a topic of current philosophical interest. There have now been five recipients of the award coming from Rutgers: Jonathan Schaffer, Alvin Goldman, Ernie Sosa, Stephen Stich and, of course, Alex Guerrero.



Faculty Accomplishments, Continued

KAREN BENNETT

Karen Bennett led the Hamburg/Vienna Summer School (sponsored by the Phlox research group) on Social Ontology and Traditional Metaphysics.

Bennett participated in an author-meets-critics session on Jessica Wilson's *Metaphysical Emergence* at the 2023 Eastern APA, and an author-meets-critics session on Mark Balaguer's *Metaphysics, Sophistry, and Illusion* at the 2022 Pacific APA.

FRANCES KAMM

Frances Kamm gave the *Sir Malcolm Knox Memorial Lecture* at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, with her talk "Handling Future Pandemics: Harming, Not Aiding, and Liberty".

October 2022 saw the publication of Kamm's new book, called *Rights and Their Limits: In Theory, Cases, and Pandemics* (Oxford University Press).

Kamm also has two forthcoming publications. Her paper "Abortion Bans and Cruelty" will be published in the *Journal of Practical Ethics*, and is already available online at: <https://journals.publishing.umich.edu/jpe/news/61/>, and her paper "Nonconsequentialism and the Trolley Problem," will appear in *The Trolley Problem*, ed. Hallvard Lillehammer (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2023).

DAN HAUSMAN

Dan Hausman's new book, *How Health Care Can Be Cost-Effective and Fair*, has just been published by Oxford University Press.

Central to the book is whether cost-effective allocation of healthcare violates ethical constraints. Several commentators argue that using cost-effectiveness reasoning to guide the distribution of healthcare is fundamentally unfair, not just because it does not take distribution into account, but because it fails to prioritize the severity of illness and fails to give everyone, and especially those who are disabled and those from historically underprivileged populations, a fair chance of being treated. While Hausman recognizes the complexity and shortcomings of cost-effectiveness reasoning, he maintains that it should be a leading principle in the allocation of health-related resources.

MICHAEL GLANZBERG

In May 2022, Michael Glanzberg visited the Mortimer and Raymond Sackler Institute for Advanced Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel, where he is a Distinguished Scholar.

During the summer of '22, Glanzberg gave two invited talks, first at the Panhellenic Logic Society in Volos, Greece, and later at the Conference on Truth and Truth-Making held at the University of Bristol, UK.

Glanzberg then went on to organize the Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics, Dubrovnik, Croatia, in September of '22. In December 2022, finally, Glanzberg visited and gave a talk at the Laboratory for Perceptual and Cognitive Systems at the University of Latvia.

Graduate Student Accomplishments

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- MIA ACCOMANDO presented her paper "Perspectival Inhibition in Perception" at the UC Boulder History and Philosophy of Science Conference titled "Philosophy of Cognitive Neuroscience: Content, Self, and Cognitive Ontology".
- ROSE FONTH presented her paper "The Inclusion Problem Persists: Accounting for Resistant Cross-Context Gender Identification" at the conference "Feminism in Crisis: Philosophical Interventions" held at CUNY.
- AUDREY POWERS presented her paper "Gender and Rights" at the conference "Feminism in Crisis: Philosophical Interventions" held at CUNY.
- AG MCGEE presented their paper "The Problem of Misgendering Beliefs: Ethical Considerations in Developing a Metaphysics of Gender" at the conference "Feminism in Crisis: Philosophical Interventions" held at CUNY.
- FREDERICK CHOO presented a paper on moral uncertainty at the 15th Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME XV), a paper on automation and work at the Australasian Postgraduate Philosophy Conference, and a paper on Divine Command Theory at the Virginia Philosophy of Religion Workshop 2022
- ITAMAR WEINSTOCK-SAADON is scheduled to present his paper "Responsibility, Causation, and Reversing the Order of Explanation" at the FSU Free Will, Moral Responsibility & Agency Graduate Conference in February of '23.
- CAROLINE VON KLEMPERER and TEZ CLARK (NYU) presented their paper "Moral Encroachment and Perspectival Structures" at the Uppsala Epistemology Workshop on Inquiry and Epistemic Harms.

MISCELLANEOUS

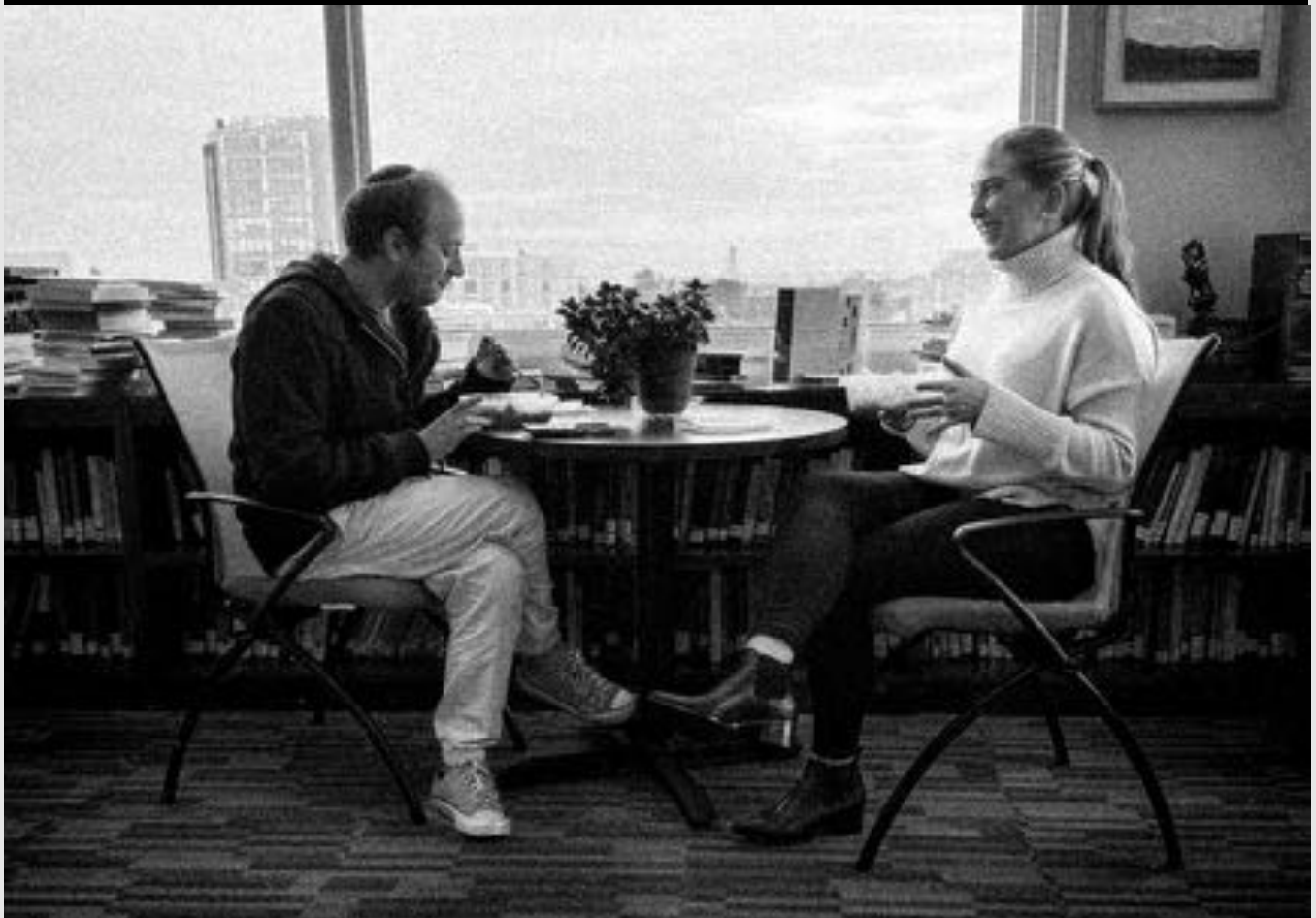
- JORDAN BRIDGES was an invited participant at a workshop on philosophy of journalism with UNC's Applied Epistemology Project in September 2022.
- DENISE DYKSTRA was a recipient of the 2022 School of Arts and Sciences Award for her Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education. Congratulations Denise!



GS Accomplishments, Continued

PUBLICATIONS

- JORDAN BRIDGES's paper, coauthored with Zac Irving, "Will-Powered: Synchronic Regulation is the Difference Maker for Self-Control" will be published in *Cognition*.
- FREDERICK CHOO's paper "Conversational Implicatures Cannot Save Divine Command Theory from the Counterpossible Terrible Commands Objection" will be published in *Religious Studies*.
- FREDERICK CHOO and ESTHER CHOO's paper "Addressing Two Recent Challenges to the Factive Account of Knowledge" will be published in *Synthese*.
- ITAMAR WEINSTOCK-SAADON's paper "A Dilemma for De Dicto Halakhic Motivation: Why Mitzvot Don't Require Intention" was published in the *Journal of Analytic Theology*.
- JORDAN SCOTT's paper "Does Racism Equal Prejudice Plus Power" was published in *Analysis*.



Dissertation Defenders

EZRA RUBENSTEIN

Rubenstein defended his dissertation called "Essays on Metaphysical Explanation."

Advisers: Jonathan Schaffer and Ted Sider



Ezra + advisers + committee (missing Karen Bennett)

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO:

CAROLINA FLORES HENRIQUE, ADAM GIBBONS, JAMES GOODRICH, TING-AN LIN, WHO WERE AWARDED THEIR PHDS AFTER DEFENDING THEIR DISSERTATIONS DURING THE SPRING OF '22.

CAROLINA FLORES HENRIQUE: "BAD BELIEVERS: EVIDENCE-RESISTANCE, RATIONAL PERSUASION, AND SOCIAL CHANGE."

ADVISERS: ELISABETH CAMP AND SUSANNA SCHELLENBERG

ADAM GIBBONS: "INCENTIVES, INSTITUTIONS, AND THE LANGUAGE OF POLITICS."

ADVISER: ALEXANDER GUERRERO

JAMES GOODRICH: "SELF-DEFENSE WITHOUT DEONTOLOGY."

ADVISER: LARRY TEMKIN

TING-AN LIN, "ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL WRONGS: FROM MORAL THEORY TO IMPLEMENTATION."

ADVISER: ALEXANDER GUERRERO



Placement Updates

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

to many of our previous graduate students. Here's a quick update on placement for those who have finished in the past two years (for full information, including updates and lateral moves, see <https://philosophy.rutgers.edu/placement>).

Carolina Flores will finish her postdoc at UC Irvine and move to a TT position at UC Santa Cruz in fall 2023.

Chris Frugé has been offered a 3-year (possibly extendible to 4 year) Junior Research Fellowship at Oxford.

Adam Gibbons has a TT position at the University of Lignan.

James Goodrich has a TT position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tyler John is a Global Priorities Research Programme Officer at Longview Philanthropy.

Ting-An Lin has a post-doc at Stanford and has received a tenure-track offer from the University of Connecticut.

Olivia Odoffin has a post-doc at the University of Antwerp.

Dee Payton moved in fall 2022 from a TT position at Howard University to one at the University of Virginia.



Ezra Rubenstein started a TT position at Berkeley in January 2023.

Daniel Rubio, who previously held a postdoc at Princeton and a visiting assistant professorship at Hope College, and was just offered a tenure-track post Toronto Metropolitan University.

Verónica Gómez Sánchez will wrap up her Bersoff Fellowship at NYU and start a TT position at Berkeley in fall 2023.

Isaac Wilhelm has a TT position at the University of Singapore.

Christopher Willard-Kyle has a post-doc at the University of Glasgow.

We are proud of them and miss them!

Meet the New Faculty

Carolina Sartorio

(1) What questions relating to your area of specialization (ideas, themes) are you finding particularly interesting at the moment and why?

I love to think about how metaphysics interacts with issues in the philosophy of action and ethics—questions that people normally don't think about, such as: What can moral responsibility teach us about causation/explanation? How is grounding relevant to debates about our agency and free will? I think we can learn some surprising things from thinking about questions like these. For example, we can learn that causation is intransitive without knowing what causation is. Or that acting freely can be "just" a matter of what actually moves us to act and still depend on what happens in other possible worlds.



Metaphysics, Philosophy of Action, Ethics

Selected Publications

**Causation and Free Will, OUP, 2016
(Paperback: 2019)**

**Do We Have Free Will? A Debate
(With Robert Kane), Routledge, 2021.**

**"The Concept of Responsibility in the
Ethics of Self-Defense and War",
forthcoming in Philosophical Studies.**

(2) What are you most looking forward to about being Rutgers?

A great group of people to hang out and discuss philosophy with; amazing colleagues and graduate students!

(3) What are your non-philosophical interests and hobbies?

I like yoga and hiking. And I'm really looking forward to picking up ice-skating again!

Meet the New Faculty



Epistemology, Decision Theory

Juan Comesaña

(1) What questions relating to your area of specialization (ideas, themes) are you finding particularly interesting at the moment and why?

I have been thinking for a while about the reasons we have for believing and acting. Many philosophers are attracted to the idea that they must be mental states of the subjects for whom they are reasons. Others think that they have to be facts, which must be known by the subjects for whom they are reasons. My own view is that reasons are not (in general) mental states, but they need not be facts either. For instance, her reason for taking a sip of what is in the glass in front of her could be that it is orange juice, even if it is not orange juice.

My book *Being Rational and Being Right* develops this view, and I'm thinking about it again because I'm writing the replies to a forthcoming symposium on it.

(2) What are you most looking forward to about being Rutgers?

Getting to work with the amazing graduate students, and being around wonderful colleagues.

(3) What are your non-philosophical interests and hobbies?

I like to play video games, and ride my bike. I have recently taken up the guitar again after a long hiatus, and sometimes I even manage to cajole one of my sons into playing with me (they both play the trumpet and are much better musicians than me).

Selected Publications

Being Rational and Being Right, OUP, 2020.

Skepticism: The Basics, (with Manuel Comesaña), forthcoming, Routledge.

"Whither Evidentialist Reliabilism?" In Kevin McCain (ed.), *Believing in Accordance with the Evidence*, 2018.

New Faculty, Continued

Michael Otsuka

(1) What questions relating to your area of specialization (ideas, themes) are you finding particularly interesting at the moment and why?

At the moment, I'm writing a pair of papers on lotteries in particular and the value and metaphysics of risks of harm and chances of benefits more generally. One of them asks what point there is to holding a lottery to allocate a scarce, indivisible good if one believes that determinism is true. The other one addresses other challenges to the case for distribution by lot, by way of providing a positive account of when such lotteries are fully fair in spite of the fact that some end up with more than others at the end of the day. The relevance of controversies in metaphysics to practical concerns in ethics is one reason why I find these issues so engaging.



Normative & Applied Ethics,
Political Philosophy

(2) What are you most looking forward to about being Rutgers?

I've become increasingly interested in issues in metaphysics, to do with determinism, counterfactuals, and objective versus subjective probabilities, which have arisen from my work in ethics on risk and lotteries. Rutgers is an ideal place to pursue these interests. More generally, I'm looking forward to a job where the administrative and teaching load leaves me with enough time to devote to teaching well, with plenty of time remaining to read and write philosophy. Finally, I look forward to working with such fantastic PhD students.

(3) What are your non-philosophical interests and hobbies?

During the year before I came to Rutgers, I reduced my LSE commitments to a 0.1 FTE part time fraction, to free up enough time to serve on the national negotiating team for a union representing 200,000 universities workers across the UK in a dispute over pensions. I remain highly engaged with this dispute (e.g., on Twitter and Medium) and interested in its resolution. I once played the cello and love classical music and opera. I also enjoy long walks to clear my mind, which often open up space for new thoughts.

Selected Publications

'Fair Terms of Social Cooperation among Equals',
Journal of Practical Ethics
(forthcoming).

Libertarianism without
Inequality (OUP, 2003)

Meet the First-Year Cohort

Interview Questions

- (1) What areas of philosophy are you most interested in right now?
- (2) If you were stranded on a desert island, what philosophy paper or book would you most like to have with you?
- (3) What are your non-philosophical interests or hobbies?



Isabel Uriagereka Herburger

- (1) Philosophy of Language and Ethics.
- (2) I unfortunately would probably not have the presence of mind to read philosophy if I were stranded on a desert island.
- (3) Some things I enjoy outside of philosophy are gardening and baking.

B.A. in Philosophy, Columbia University

Caroline Hoskins

- (1) Ancient, Epistemology, and Action.
- (2) The complete works of Plato, obviously.
- (3) Fitness, TV, and Trader Joe's.

B.A. in Philosophy, University of Chicago, J.D. (in progress) from the University of Michigan.



Amanda Karlsson

- (1) (Meta)Metaphysics and Epistemology.
- (2) Probably *The Critique of Pure Reason*. That would keep me occupied (or I could use it to start a fire).
- (3) I like painting and relaxing.

B.A. Cambridge University; M.A. from Uppsala University

First-Year Cohort, Continued

Adrian Liu

- (1) Political Philosophy without Ethics
- (2) Book: Sheldon Wolin: Politics and Vision.
- (3) Playing piano, making Spotify playlists that follow a specific order of keys, cat videos

B.A. in Mathematics and Philosophy, Stanford University



AG McGee

- (1) Feminist/Trans Phil, Epistemology, Applied Ethics
- (2) Eva Kittay's *Learning from My Daughter*
- (3) Writing poetry, FaceTiming my family's dog (pictured), mentoring queer youth, and dancing to Taylor Swift in the first-year office.

B.A. in Philosophy, Princeton University

Itamar Weinshtock Saadon

- (1) Metaethics, Epistemology, Metaphysics
- (2) Mark Schroeder's *Reasons First*
- (3) Spending time with Moria (my wife) and Tofu (the serious-looking cat in the picture) — something that sadly I haven't managed to do much in the last few months.

B.A., M.A. in Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Trevor Woodward

- (1) Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language
- (2) Lewis's *On the Plurality of Worlds*
- (3) Listening to music, watching NBA basketball, walking around Highland Park.

B.A. in Philosophy, University of Idaho

Retiring Faculty

Four beloved faculty members have announced their retirements. Frances Egan and Larry Temkin retired in the fall of '22, and Robert Bolton and Martha Bolton will retire as of July 23'. Their accomplishments are far too long to list in full, and they will be dearly missed (though, of course, we will surely continue to run into them as their work in philosophy continues).



Frances Egan
At Rutgers from 1990–2022.



Martha Bolton
At Rutgers from 1971– 2023.



Robert Bolton
At Rutgers from 1971–2023.



Larry Temkin
At Rutgers from 2000–2022.

Retiring Faculty, Continued

A note from Larry

Life as an academic is hard and stressful. Yet, it is an unbelievably great job. I remember as a young philosopher being amazed that someone was paying me to read Kant! Mind you, it wasn't much! Less than 15K a year. But to be paid to engage in the life of the mind, to read great thinkers, to ponder deep questions, and to inspire, and be inspired by, bright young students—what a life! Plus, ours is a job where you don't have to step on people to get ahead, and where you can look at yourself in the mirror each night and feel good about what you did that day—that's invaluable.

I'm proud of what I've accomplished as a philosopher—the fact that Jerry Cohen once described my book, *Inequality*, as undoubtedly one of the five or six greatest works in analytical political philosophy in the whole of the 20th century; and that Derek Parfit once claimed that I was one of the equal-best living moral philosophers. I am also proud of the impact that my work had on the World Health Organization, and through them on the Chinese Ministry of Health; thereby playing an important role in bringing basic healthcare to 800 million rural Chinese. However, what has been most meaningful to me are the relationships that I have formed with countless colleagues and students at Rutgers, Rice, and elsewhere. I will miss forming such relationships with new generations of colleagues and students. But the enduring friendships that I have formed with my fellow academic travelers have enriched my life immeasurably. And I shall cherish them always.



Undergraduate Spotlight

RISING STARS



Jake Khawaja

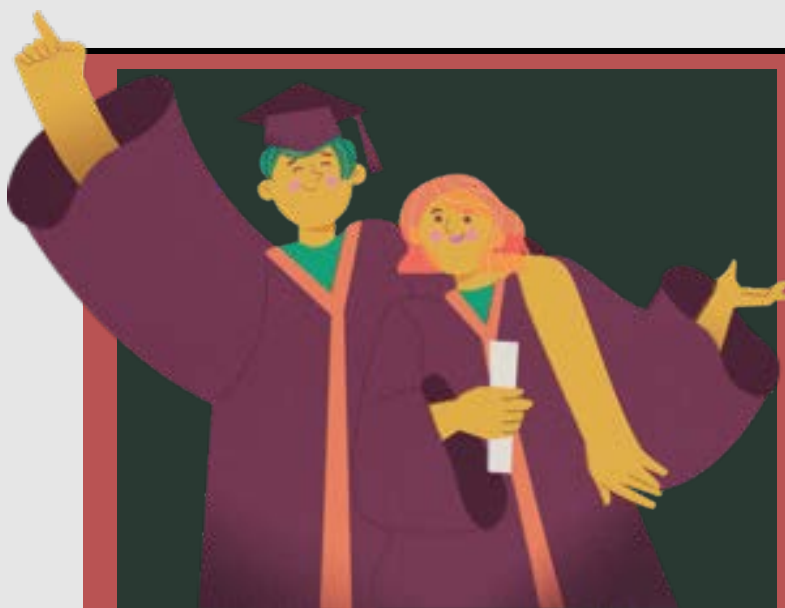


Khawaja gave a presentation entitled 'Rationalizing the Principal Principle for Non-Humean Chance' at the 2023 Eastern APA. Additionally, Khawaja published a paper entitled 'Interactionist Zombies' in *Synthese* and a co-authored paper entitled 'How to assess claims in multiple-option choice sets' in *Philosophy and Public Affairs* with Jonas Harney.

Xudong Ma



Ma, a double major in philosophy and linguistics, was selected as a recipient of the Koury Walker First-Generation Student Summer Scholarship for his research on 'Reference and Variability of Semantics' under the supervision of Professor Pietroski.



PHILOSOPHY HONORS SOCIETY

In the fall semester, the Honors Society (Phi Sigma Tau) organized a panel of graduate students for advice on applying to graduate programs in philosophy.

They are currently preparing for an alumni career panel in late February and for a joint undergraduate conference with Columbia on April 22. The Honors Society Spring Initiation Ceremony will occur on April 28. Their annual Alumni Career Panel will also be taking place in April.

Undergraduate Spotlight, Continued

PHILOSOPHY CLUB

The Undergraduate Club in Philosophy meets once a week, usually on Thursdays from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., at the College Ave Students Center.

During the fall semester of '22, the philosophy club:

- Hosted two debate nights, one on the topic of philosophy of religion and one on topic of philosophy of AI.
- Hosted several movie nights, screening films like the Matrix and the Ship of Theseus.
- Helped organize the Annual Class of 1970 Lecture, given this year by Susan Neiman.
- Organized a graduate panel discussion.
- Hosted a speaker's series.

List of speakers and topics:

- Justin Kalef - Against Moral Relativism
- Aaron Rabinowitz - Moral Luck
- Camille Buttingsrud - Dance and Philosophy
- Austin Baker - Nonverbal Marginalization
- Eno Agolli - Upward Grounding for the bundle Theory of Universals
- Brian McLaughlin - Subjectivity in an Objective World

The speaker's series will continue this term, featuring talks by some of our own graduate students (Adrian Liu, Avi Sommer, and Patrick Brooks).

For questions about how to get involved, contact Anjana Ramesh at: ar1631@scarletmail.rutgers.edu



Overview of Events

1. **The 2022 Rutgers Lectures:** Timothy Williamson on “Overfitting in Philosophy”
2. **Numerous ‘ordinary’ departmental colloquia**
3. **Special colloquia:**
 - **Class of 1970’s lecture 2022:** Susan Neiman (**Einstein Forum**)
 - **Class of 1970’s lecture 2023:** Tim Maudlin (**NYU**)
 - **Climate Lecture 2021–22:** Jennifer Morton (**Penn**)
 - **Climate lecture 2022–23:** Julie Walsh (**Wellesley**)
 - **Mesthene lecture 2022–23:** Suzanne Bobzien (**Oxford**)
 - **Sanders Lecture 2021–22:** Kris McDaniel (**Notre Dame**)
 - **Sanders Lecture 2022–3:** Trenton Merricks (**Virginia**)
4. **The Summer Diversity Institute:** a week-long workshops for minority undergraduates interested in philosophy graduate school. Founded in 1996 by Howard McGary, now organized by Derrick Darby, with help from Alex Guererro during the transition.
5. **Athena in Action:** a biannual event to mentor graduate student women in philosophy. It has previously been held at Princeton and Cornell; this was the first visit to Rutgers, home of two of the three founding organizers (Jill North and Elisabeth Camp.)
6. **Northeast Workshop to Learn About Multicultural Philosophy (NEWLAMP):** a new annual workshop to “teach the teachers” about nonWestern philosophy, so they can return to their home institutions and diversify the curriculum. The inaugural event was held at Northeastern University in summer 2022; it comes to Rutgers — home of Alex Guerrero, one of the founding organizers — for its second installment in summer 2023.
7. **Cognitive Science of Religion Workshop**
8. **Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy**
9. **The 14th Rutgers Epistemology Conference**
10. **McGaryfest** (in honor of his retirement)
11. **Free Will: Metaphysics and Physics**
12. **Workshop on Michael Moore’s Mechanical Choices**
13. **Conference in honor of Peter van Inwagen’s 80th birthday**
14. **Rutgers–Tel Aviv Workshop on Personal Identity**
15. **Mini-conference in Chinese Philosophy**, led by Bryan van Noorden
16. **Evil in Modern Thought at 20**, keyed by Susan Neiman
17. **Experiencing Divine Presence**
18. **Analytical Theology**
19. **The 17th Metaphysical Mayhem** (admittedly, it was not at Rutgers its entire existence. Go to <https://tedsider.org/mayhem/mayhem.html> for a pretty cool history of the event.)



Professional Events: Workshops

SUMMER 2022'S ATHENA IN ACTION

ORGANIZERS: JILL NORTH (RUTGERS), LIZ CAMP (RUTGERS), LIZ HARMAN (PRINCETON).

In June, the Rutgers Philosophy Department hosted the fifth Athena in Action Mentoring and Networking Workshop for Graduate Student Women in Philosophy. Twelve faculty mentors came together with 42 gender-minority graduate students for three days of intensive philosophizing and socializing. The graduate student participants came from 27 institutions, some from as far away as Australia. Seven philosophy sessions, with pre-read papers by the graduate students and commentaries from two graduate students, spanned topics from Plato's account of moral virtue and education to the metaphysics of tattoos; while five advice sessions engaged small groups led by mentors on issues such as how to get the most out of graduate school, writing a dissertation, preparing for the job market, publishing, networking and presenting at conferences, and balancing work and life.



The goal of these biennial workshops is to support philosophers who face a difficult environment in our currently male-dominated profession. We aim to provide a lot of professional development advice, but more importantly to reshape perceptions of what philosophy as a discipline is and can be, and which scholars are out there with whom our participants can be in dialogue. Participants clearly felt that these goals were achieved; here is a sampling of comments we received post-workshop: "The sessions combined a collaborative, productive, and supportive atmosphere with rigorous intellectual & philosophical engagement - and show[ed] that the former need not come at the cost of the latter." "It was like I was connected to a group of caring and smart people who also loves doing philosophy as a profession." "As a first-generation college student as well as a racial and gender minority, I struggle with feeling like I belong in academia. Being surrounded by mentors and peers who are in a similar boat was not only refreshing but cathartic." "I feel inspired to go back to my university to apply some of the actionable advice I'd gotten across the workshop." "There's nothing better that someone could do to support the continued and greater flourishing of philosophy than to support programs like this. The current state of things is depriving the world of so much important philosophical work, both through full-on exclusion of would-be philosophers and through the emotional and cognitive toll that discrimination takes on those of us who do stick around. Our communities could be so much better, intellectually and socially."

Text by Liz Camp

Professional Events: Workshops & Lectures



RUTGERS ANNUAL LECTURES SEPTEMBER 19-23

Timothy Williamson (Oxford) delivered the 2022 Rutgers Lectures in Philosophy, an annual lecture series that was launched in 2016 in partnership with the Oxford University Press.

Professor Williamson gave three lectures on topics in philosophical methodology, titled "Heuristics", "Overfitting", and "Hyperintensionality". Williamson also met with graduate students and faculty interested in his work to discuss and answer questions about the lectures.

Summer Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy

July 2022 Organizers: Derrick Darby, Alex Guerrero, and Mercedes Dias.

The *Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy* takes place every year over seven days. Together with graduate students and faculty members (from Rutgers and elsewhere), undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds explore areas of philosophy and what it means to be a professional philosopher.

In addition to Derrick Darby and Alex Guerrero, this year's participating faculty included Dr. Meredith Drees (Kansas Wesleyan University), Dr. Michael Merry (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Eric Bayruns Garcia (CSU, San Bernadino), Dr. Dee Payton (UVA), Dr. Amy Ferrer (Executive Director of the American Philosophical Association).

Mercedes Dias, who is the coordinator of the Institute, was interviewed about the aims, history, and activities of the program on the APA Blog: <https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/03/16/rutgers-summer-institute-for-diversity-in-philosophy-profile%E2%99%A2/>

2022 PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION SUMMER SCHOOL: GOD AND THE SPACETIME MANIFOLD JUNE 13-24, 2022

Organizers: Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers), Brian Leftow (Rutgers), and Katherin Rogers (University of Delaware). Generously supported by the John Templeton Foundation.

This 10-day seminar brought together professional philosophers and advanced graduate students to explore the connections between scientific theories about the nature of time and different conceptions of God's relationship to the temporal order. Topics included 'Relativity, the A-theory of time, and God's experience of time' and 'metaphysics of the wave-function and higher-dimensional space'.

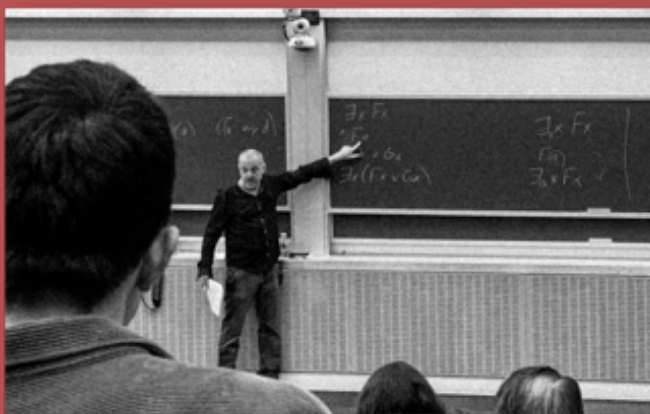
Professional Events: Conferences

A PHILOSOPHICAL CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF PETER VAN INWAGEN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER 13, 2022

Organizer: Dean Zimmerman

The department hosted a conference in honour of distinguished guest Peter Van Inwagen's 80th birthday (Duke University; University of Notre Dame, emeritus). The conference featured an exciting line-up of speakers, covering topics in metaphysics, philosophy of religion, and more.



Ted Sider gives a talk on the topic of quantifier variance.

Full list of speakers: Aaron Segal (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Alex Rosenberg (Duke University), Anna Marmodoro (Durham University & Oxford University), Barry Loewer (Rutgers University), Brian Leftow (Rutgers University), David Builes (Princeton University), Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers University), Ernest Sosa (Rutgers University), John Hawthorne (University of Southern California & Australian Catholic University), Lara Buchak (Princeton University), Laurie Paul (Yale University), Ted Sider (Rutgers University), Trenton Merricks (University of Virginia).

SANDERS LECTURE AT THE CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

The 2022 Sanders Lecture, titled "Arguments and Closure" was given by Trenton Merricks (University of Virginia).



Lara Buchak asks a question.

Professional Events: Workshops and Conferences

BRYAN VAN NORDEN MINI COURSE ON CHINESE PHILOSOPHY OCTOBER 20–21, 2022.

Organizer: Alex Guerrero

After an initial lecture providing a broad introduction to Chinese philosophy and the history of its reception in Europe, Professor Bryan Van Norden gave three more lectures titled "Mengzi's Virtue Ethics", "Zhuangzi's Therapeutic Critique", and "Zhu Xi & Wang Yangming's philosophy of Weakness of Will".

PERSONAL IDENTITY: CONVENTIONAL AND UNCONVENTIONAL VIEWS NOVEMBER 29–30

Organizer: Dean Zimmerman

This intensive two-day workshop, held at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, featured talks by our own Liz Camp and Karen Bennett, as well as by Aaron Segal, Yair Levy, David Mark Kovacs, Mark Johnston, Eli Pitcovski, Carol Rovane, and Anastasia Berg. Additionally, Daniel Rubio (Hope College) held a 2 hour-brainstorming session.



CLASS OF 1970 LECTURE AND EVIL IN MODERN THOUGHT AT 20

Susan Neiman gave the Annual Class of 1970 Lecture, titled "Paul Robeson: Hero of Cultural Appropriation". The lecture was organized by Liz Camp and Alex Skiles with help from the Philosophy Club.

After the lecture, Neiman remained at Rutgers for "Evil in Modern Thought at 20", a three-day conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of Neiman's book 'Evil in Modern Thought'.

The Conference, organized by Trip McCrossin, included the following participants: Annalise Acorn, Frederick Beiser, Jeremy Bendik-Keymer, Omri Boehm, Dan Brudney, Caroline Bynum, Lorraine Daston, Michael Della Rocca, Wendy Doniger, Wolfram Ellenberger, John Faithful Hamer, Carey Harrison, Patricia Kitcher, Philip Kitcher, Christia Mercer, Allen Wood, and James Wood.

Graduate Life

GRADUATE WORK-IN-PROGRESS TALKS

Organizer: Adrian Liu

The graduate student work-in-progress talks — a space for graduate students to present work for commentary to an audience of only other graduate students — has been well-attended over the past several months, thanks to robust organizing work by Adrian Liu and the enthusiasm of a multitude of speakers.



2nd-year Jordan Bridges presents on "Towards Attention Norms in Fem Phil"

List of Speakers on the Fall 2022 schedule: Éno Agólli and Jordan Bridges. List of Speakers on the Spring 2023 schedule: Kayla Jackson, Diego Arana, Frederick Choo, Jordan Scott, Audrey Powers, Caroline von Klemperer, Adrian Liu, Caroline Hoskins, Minghui Yang.



GRADUATE UNION INVOLVEMENT

Graduate students in the philosophy department joined together at the AAUP-AFT Union's rally for a renewed contract at a Fall Board of Governor's meeting. Graduate students continue working in the fight for a fair contract for University workers (through, e.g., organizing for and attending the Union's strike school).



Graduate Life, Continued

GRADUATE STUDENTS AROUND TOWN



Graduate students dress up for Pat and Toby's Halloween Party.



Cookies shaped like logical connectives, baked by Adrian Liu for Ted Sider's 'Logic for Philosophy' class.



Graduate students gather for a wine night ... and end up with matching accessories.



Soup is served at an end-of-term party for the first-years.

Department Life

FUN THROUGHOUT THE DEPARTMENT



Mercedes and AG at the Rutgers 'Big Chill' Charity 5k.



Graduate students stand as their 'ugly sweaters' are judged at the department's end of term holiday party.



Team Cogito Ergo Run, composed of philosophers from Rutgers and Princeton, ran the Princeton Half Marathon and raised \$2500 for charity.



Nick, Jake, and Caroline pose for a selfie in the department.