

# 2022-23 Annual Report to the Department from the GradDirector: A Year of Comps.

Skálholt, Iceland, 5/1/2023

Dear Department,

First of all, I would like to acknowledge that we had to go through a difficult Spring semester, given the gun violence on campus. Especially our graduate students were hit hard, given that they have to battle several fronts at once (teaching, research, taking seminars). They found themselves in difficult situations. In addition, the workloads are increasing, psychological pressures are mounting, and the overall precarious situation for many people in academia is troubling.

I am writing to you as the GradDirector because I won't be able to participate in the last committee of the whole meeting (I should be able to make it via Zoom) and the department retreat (this, I really regret). However, discussing Marx and Husserl at the conference of the Nordic Society of Phenomenology in Reykjavik was too tempting. I will in some remote Icelandic area, with Kantian admiration and awe, look at the starry heavens above me and the memory of the department in me [Prof. Rauscher will get this].

Dates to keep in mind: the orientation for new graduate students will take place 8/21 & 8/22 or 8/22 & 8/24 (possibly the afternoon on 8/25. I will let you know during the summer. I will ask faculty to come in for 30min slots during those days.

Here are the highlights of the GradDirector's report for AY 22-23. I'll cc the Associate Dean on this so that the college can see how well we are working here in philosophy!

## A GENERAL

### A.1 Overall

I think we had a very good year. I tried to push everyone involved in the graduate program to get back to "before covid" normal; i.e., follow basic expectations regarding milestones. The work on the graduate committee was very focused, and I'd like to thank everyone involved. I also would like to thank Melissa Arthurton for her administrative support. Issues tackled on the grad committee and issues I worked on during the last year, among many others, were

- interdisciplinary credits
- new evaluation forms (we will begin with this in fall!)
- new milestone forms
- new electronic filing system (in place! Wooah!)
- new iah workload form (needs dept. approval)

- minor handbook updates
- new best practices documents (so far only 2, more forthcoming)
- representation of graduate students on the committee of the whole
- election process addition to the handbook (needs dept. approval)
- a lot of other things 😊

Next year:

- We will discuss the PhD checklist, including distribution requirements. It was invented when we were a different program
- We will discuss our doctoral concentrations and the programmatic vision of our graduate program; be prepared for heated exchanges!
- we will discuss the Tech TA assignment and clarify expectations for awards reporting
- we need to talk more about what we have called "the culture of care"
- many other things 😊

## A.2. Program Development

We have excellent students in our program; everything looks sharp and in shape. I am aware that not everyone appreciates my "sheriff in town" approach. As long as I do not have knives stuck to my door, I can live with it. I have a sticker at my door entitled "No one gets hurt"! Here is the kicker: it is a quote from an early Brecht play; i.e., I feel intellectually covered! Also: remember: you never step into the same office twice (Prof. Grey approved it!). We had a record number of comps this year. I can't even keep track of them! I have the impression that the communication between graduate students and guidance committee chairs is excellent. The teaching mentorship aspect of our program that we introduced last year needs improvements, but I can see real advancements. Thank you! I think that - overall! - as this point we are strongest in engaged philosophy of science and social-political philosophy. It has been pointed out to me by people outside this department that we are by now known for this combination. Given seminar constraints, we might want to further consider how we can make better connections between our main 4 strengths and whether we should tweak our vision. Remember: one criterion we need to follow in our admissions process is whether we are able to setup a coherent and lasting guidance committee for our incoming students and whether we can offer a coherent set of seminars. Finally, I hope that the new centers that are in the making at MSU will open up new opportunities and venues for our graduate program and our strength, especially in the applied ethics areas.

## A.3. Seminars

Our seminar offerings & topics have been quite coherent this year and will also be next year.

- 2022-23

- Dean (870, Feminist Bioethics), Lotz (820, Materialist Societal Epistemology; Architecture and Politics), Peters (850, Contemporary Readings in Indigenous and Black Political Philosophy), Douglas (800/880, History of Philosophy of Science, 1900-1960)
- 2023-24
  - Douglas (800/880), Katz (801), Lotz (820), Peters (850), Rauscher (810), Ruiz (897)

#### A.4. Graduate Conference

Congratulations to the organizers of the conference, Cristóbal Arellano, Peighton Connor and Reese Haller, and all who were involved in this super successful conference [clapping in the background]! I counted 30 persons in the room at one point! I've heard that we received around 60 submissions. The key note speaker, Helen Sheehan, was very good in telling us how, intellectually and politically, boring our times have become, at least in comparison with the 60s and 70s. Prof. Sheehan seemed to come from a different planet. She seemed to be a Youfoe (see below). 😊

### B ADMISSIONS

#### B.1. Recruitment

We made an extra effort to recruit new students this year. It became a nail biting and busy experience for me. I am not sure whether the increasing "competitive nature" of this process is an effect of the commodification of grad school and the presentation of all of this to applicants as an economic choice. Well, I am sure! It is! We had successful on-campus visits in connection with the graduate student conference. We offered many meetings to applicants. Thank you for your heroic work!

#### B.2. New Graduate Students

I am super impressed by our new graduate students. I don't think that we could have recruited a stronger cohort. I want to say one thing: when I talk to potential candidates, I try to avoid PR talk, as if we are selling a product (well, in this social world we do!); instead, I try to honestly express what we do well and what we are not doing well. For example, I always point out that Prof. McKeon is really a very difficult character to work with!

- Ashley Krieger, BA (Florida Gulf University)
  - Critical Theory, Modern Philosophy,
  - writing sample: "The Roots of Climate Denial: Alienation and the Commodification of Nature"
- Rebecca Pincus, BA (Florida Gulf University)
  - Feminist Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Critical Theory

- writing sample: The Abstracted Cycle of Epistemology of Sexual Violation
- Delphine Michaud, MA (University of Montreal)
  - Critical Theory, Feminist Philosophy, Ethics of Care
  - writing sample: Attentiveness to Others within Damaged Life: Adorno and the Ethics of Care
- Qingxuan Pan, MA (University of Chicago & New York University)
  - Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Bioethics, Applied Ethics
  - writing sample: How would the spread of political dissent in defense of conscientious objection impact conditions of reasonableness?

Remember: we readmitted Emily LaRosa in January.

--> Ashley, Delphine, Rebecca, Qingxuan, and Emily: Welcome to our department!!

### B.3. Current Students

Name	Cluster	Concentration or Certificate (where applicable)	AOS	AOC	Dissertation Topic/Title (drafts)
<b>Arellano</b>	Science	Indigenous Studies	Philosophy of Science	Indigenous philosophy, environmental philosophy, philosophy of education	
<b>Branding</b>	Social-Political	Computer Modelling, EEB	Philosophy of Science	Logic	
<b>Bussell</b>	Social-Political		Feminist Theory	Social Epistemology, Environmental Philosophy, Social-Political Philosophy	
<b>Connor</b>	Social-Political	EEB	Social and Political Philosophy	Continental Philosophy, Environmental Philosophy, Animal Ethics	
<b>Cottone</b>	Social-Political		Feminist Phil, Social & Political Philosophy	Epistemology, Philosophy of Disability	Rape Ideology: Social Reproduction and Marxist Critique
<b>Davis</b>	Social-Political		Political Philosophy of Language	Philosophy of Disability, Feminist Theory, Social Epistemology	
<b>Ginsburg</b>	Environmental	Women's and Gender Studies, Double Major: EEB	Environmental & Animal Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Continental Philosophy	Social & Political Philosophy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Technology	
<b>Haller</b>	Social-Political		Marxism, Critical Theory, Philosophy of Race	Environmental Philosophy, Africana Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy	
<b>Halsne</b>	Social-Political	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	Social and Political Philosophy	Feminist Philosophy, Critical Pedagogy, Decolonial Theory	
<b>Hayes</b>	Environmental		Environmental Philosophy	Virtue Ethics, Philosophy of Technology	The Hopes of Rewilding

<b>Hollingsworth</b>	Social-Political		Social and Political Philosophy	20th Century Continental Philosophy	
<b>Kelley</b>	Social-Political		Continental Philosophy	Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, German Idealism, Phenomenology	
<b>LaRosa</b>	Science		Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Technology	Applied Ethics, Trust, Theory of Mind, Artificial Intelligence and Society	
<b>Lowenstein</b>	Bioethics	Philosophy and Ethics of Health Care	Bioethics	Philosophy of psychiatry, disability studies/mad studies	
<b>Martínez-Cruz</b>	Social-Political	Graduate Certificate in College Teaching; Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies; GC in Latin American & Caribbean Studies	Social and political thought, Environmental Philosophy, Philosophy of Memory	Philosophy of Population Health; Bioethics	
<b>Mills</b>	Social-Political	Graduate Certificate in College Teaching; Digital Humanities Certificate, Indigenous Law Certificate; Community Engagement Certificate; American Indian & Indigenous Studies Certificate; double degree with law (JD)	Engaged Philosophy of Law & Policy	Decolonial & Indigenous Philosophy; Feminist Critical Race Theory; Social Epistemology	Engaged Philosophy of Law and Policy
<b>Neefus</b>	Social-Political		Professional Ethics	Social-Political Philosophy, Feminist Epistemology	Structural Competency and Professional Ethics
<b>Roberts</b>	Social-Political	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Certificate	Social and Political Philosophy	Intersectional Social Feminisms, Decolonial/Settler Colonial Theory, and Queer/Gender and Sexuality Studies	
<b>Rogel</b>	Social-Political	Chicano/Latino Studies Graduate Certificate; Indigenous Studies Graduate Certificate	Social and Political Philosophy	Bioethics	An interdisciplinary approach to Latino immigrant health equity: Integrating social/political philosophy and population health science
<b>Yomi-Odedeyi</b>	Social-Political	Graduate Certificate in College Teaching	Philosophy of race, Social and Political Philosophy, Women of color and Indigenous Feminist Philosophy, Queer Theory	Political Philosophy, Feminist bioethics, African-America Political Philosophy	A Huge Leap of Faith in the Future: Black Feminist Identity Politics as Anti-colonial Strategy

## C AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

### Extraordinary Awards

Gregory Rogel has been named a Sadler Scholar at The Hastings Center; you can find more information [here](#); congratulations, Greg! Also check this [this article](#) on Greg's research and background!

### University Fellowship

Ashley Krieger (2023) received one of the most prestigious awards that MSU has to offer: a University Fellowship. Ashley joins Reese Haller (2022), Gabi Bussell (2022), and Gregory Rogel (2018). Given that the GradSchool has 10,000 students and hands out only 40 awards out every year, our department has done exceptionally well, indeed! We are the avantgarde! Congratulations to Ashley!

### Philosophy Summer Fellowships

Because Zeus - the God of lightning - interfered with causality on earth, we had more money available for summer scholar fellowships than usual. Last year we gave out one award; this year we gave out 5 awards. I am certain, at the Cartesian level (!), that next year we go down to "normal" again; competition will be high. In any case, the year of comps is also a year of summer scholars! Remember: [1] this fellowship improves the ability of our graduate students to come up with high quality papers, [2] leads to a better understanding of the difference between a seminar paper and a journal publication, and [3] strengthens mentoring relationships between faculty and students. Hooray! Here we go: Jonah Branding will work with Todd Hedrick on Freud and the politics of Lamarckian inheritance; Reese Haller will work with John McClendon on Racial Reification and the Philosophy of Cross-Racial Coalition; Chase Halsne will work with Christian Lotz on The State Speaks: Althusser, Ideology, and the Linguistic Apparatus; Matt Kelley will work with Megan Dean on Genealogy as Descent: Foucault and Marx on Method; and Emily LaRosa will work with Kevin Elliott and Matt Ferkany on Cultivated Information Flow: A Call for Appropriate Information Dissemination Amongst Various AI Deployers. For all involved: reports (Woooahh!) are due in fall.

### Broader Impact Fellowships

A Broader Impacts Fellowship has been awarded to Jessica Martínez-Cruz. Applicants can apply for an amount up to \$3000. Jessica is "interested in examining the complex history of state expansion, medical knowledge, and social control in Nicaragua. From the perspectives of decolonial studies and gender theory, she will study the period of early twentieth-century Nicaragua, a moment in which the United States intervened in Central America and the Caribbean." (quote slightly tweaked). There will be a cooperation with a researcher from the University of Michigan. Wonderful!

## McCracken Award

Jonah Branding has been awarded the Charles McCracken 1965-1999 Memorial Award for the best seminar paper written during an annual year by a 1st or 2nd year student. Jonah's paper title is Freud and the Politics of Lamarckian Inheritance. My goodness! Interdisciplinarity! The award amount is \$250. We give out one award per year.

## EPIP Presentations

Taylor Mills and Gregory Rogel presented their EPIP research collaborations to the department. Super impressive! Taylor talked about Tenjinaaknegeng: An Introduction to Engaged Philosophy of Law & Policy; she worked with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Legal Department, Harbor Springs, MI; Greg talked about Lights, Camera, Action: Philosophical Discourse and Praxis in the Digital Age ; he worked with: Project Rebound, CSUF, Fullerton, CA.

## Degree Completion Fellowships

Degree Completion Fellowships from the GradSchool have been awarded to Kahlia Roberts, Gregory Rogel and Taylor Mills. The award amount is \$10,000 and relieves them from one semester of teaching in order to finish their PhD degrees. Really, getting three of them is extraterrestrial! [Did you know that I always say "You foe"? Note that Corinne is laughing in the background]

## Summer Support Fellowships

Peighton Connor, Jessica Martínez-Cruz and Emily LaRosa received Summer Support Fellowships from CAL for summer 23.

## Travel Awards

This year we had a remarkable year - and luck (because the college & GradSchool approved additional funds for program funds this year). Travel Funding Awards have been given to Gregory Rogel (Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, Minneapolis, Minnesota), Taylor Mills (Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi's reservation; Law&Society Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico), Matt Kelley (SPEP, Texas A&M; Critical Genealogies Workshop, Richmond), Jonathan Hollingsworth (SPEP, Texas A&M, Critical Theory Conference, Rome), Chase Halsne (SPEP, Texas A&M; APA Pacific, San Francisco), Jessica Martínez-Cruz (Rockefeller Archive Center, New York), Gabi Bussell (North American Society for Social Philosophy, Portland), Jonah Branding (Vienna Circle Institute, Vienna), Reese Haller (online, critical theory workshop, Paris). I hope everyone had successful trips. For those of you who go to conferences this summer: Happy travels! Enjoy your intellectual engagements at these workshops, archives and conferences!

## D MILESTONES

### Comps

Hooray! Kahlia Roberts and, Nic Cottone passed comps. Jessica Martinez-Cruz, Chase Halsne, Jonathan Hollingsworth, and Matt Kelley are right now in the comps process. Overall: Wow! This is what I would call "a year of comps" 😊. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts on committees, and, even more, thanks to our students who made such an incredible effort to move to their dissertations!

Thank you, guidance committee chairs!

### Prospectus

Nic Cottone's dissertation prospectus Rape Ideology: Social Reproduction and Marxist Critique and Taylor Mill's dissertation prospectus Engaged Philosophy of Law and Policy have been discussed and approved by their committees.

### Dissertations

Charles Hayes successfully defended his dissertation The Hopes of Rewilding. The dissertation director was Matt Ferkany. Congrats to Dr. Hayes!

## E INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Gabi Bussell

#### Presentations

- "Liberal Views of Autonomy and Scientific Freedom: A Critique of Michael Polanyi and P.W. Bridgman" at MSU's Graduate Conference
- (upcoming) "'My Body, My Choice': Maximal Accounts of Autonomy and Sex Work" at the North American Society for Social Philosophy's 40th International Social Philosophy Conference at The University of Portland

### Nic Cottone

#### Publications

- Book Review at Marx & Philosophy Review of Books. Title: Women and Work: Feminism, Labour, and Social Reproduction  
[https://marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviews/20317\\_women-and-work-feminism-labour-and-social-reproduction-by-susan-ferguson-reviewed-by-nic-cottone/](https://marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviews/20317_women-and-work-feminism-labour-and-social-reproduction-by-susan-ferguson-reviewed-by-nic-cottone/)
- Mini publication at Public Philosophy Journal, forthcoming Vol. 5, no. 1 or 2



## Presentations

- "Social Reproduction and Labor Subsumption in Marx's Grundrisse", Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

Reese Haller

## Conference Presentations:

- "Scientific Socialism or Social Science: Epistemological Crisis and the Criterion of Practice" at the 1st Annual Michigan State University / University of Utah Engaged Philosophy Graduate Symposium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Hosted Remotely) February 2023.
- "Coalition, Counterintelligence, and the Inheritance of Racial Neutrality" at the 16th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. January 2023.

## Hosted Conferences:

- "Theory, Science, and Politics" MSU Graduate Philosophy Conference. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- "1st Annual MSU/UofU Engaged Philosophy Graduate Symposium," Department of Philosophy. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Chase Halsne

## Presentations

- "The State Speaks: Althusser, Ideology, and the Linguistic Apparatus" at the 60th Annual SPEP meeting in October
- "Creative Linguistic Practices as Revolutionary Acts" at the Radical Philosophy Association's Affiliate Session at APA Pacific 2023. I

## Of Note

- Travel funding fellowship from the WGS dept. for the APA presentation
- "Teaching Fellowship," WGS dept.

Jonathan Hollingsworth

## Presentations

- (forthcoming) "Adorno on Truth", Critical Theory Conference of Rome, Loyola University Chicago

- "Was the Early Frankfurt School Anti-Science?", Theory, Science, and Politics Graduate Conference, MSU
- "Automation and the Crisis of Value in the Grundrisse: Marx's 'Fragment on Machines' Reconsidered", Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Matt Kelley

Conference Presentations:

- "Genealogy as Descent: Foucault, Marx, and Critical History."
  - Fourth Meeting of the Critical Genealogies Workshop. Richmond, VA. October 2022
  - Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) Conference. College Station, TX. October 2022.

Publication:

- "Harsha Walia's Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism" in Marx and Philosophy Review of Books, 2022

Emily LaRosa

Presentations:

- Governance of Emerging Technologies, ASU
- Presenting, Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology, UT Dallas

Forthcoming publications:

- "The Tin Man Has a Heart: How HCAI Can Meet Population Needs and Address Healthcare Inequities", in *Körperliche Gegenwart: Figurationen durch Status, Macht und Sichtbarkeit*. Publication Date June 2023.
- "Carebots, Trust, and Justifiable Deployment: A Call for Appropriate Agential Trust Grounding in HCAI Use", in "Values, Pluralism, and Pragmatism."

Kathleen Lowenstein

Presentations:

- "MAiD and Mental Illness as the Sole Underlying Condition," invited, The Canadian Bioethics Society
- "Integrating Critical Perspectives into Clinical Practice: Thinking Interventions from a Mad Studies Perspective", delivered at
  - 12th Annual Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference

- International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis, US Chapter, National Conference 2022
- 32nd Annual Association for Professional and Applied Ethics International Conference
- (forthcoming) Too Mad to Be True II conference

Taylor Mills

Fellowships/Awards:

- MSU Law Gender & Sexuality Moot Court Competition Leadership Board Fellow  
Carolyn Stell Memorial Scholarship Award, from the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan  
ABA Judicial Clerkship Pipeline Program, February 1-4, 2023, New Orleans (selected representative from MSU; video featuring a brief interview)
- Associated scholarship: Harold and Franzie Henderson Mentorship Program Award

Forthcoming Publications:

- Anishinaabe Caselaw: An Introduction for Michigan Legal Practitioners (casebook published by the Michigan Supreme Court)

Conference Presentations:

- "Improving Legal Education in Tribal Law", Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, Pokagon Band, October 3-4, 2022  
"A Case for Creativity and Wellness in the Classroom", April 7, 2023, Champlain College, Experiential Learning Series (virtual presentation) (I'm not sure if this counts as a conference but I was a paid guest speaker for a workshop series at Champlain College)
- "La Posición No Triangulada de Puerto Rico: Complicating the Settler-Native-Slave Triad in Decolonial Theory and U.S. Jurisprudence", Law & Society Association, Puerto Rico, June 1-4, 2023

Kahlia Roberts

Presentations

- "The Thoughts that Unthink: The Hermeneutic Power of Academic Philosophy and the Severing of Sexual and Colonial Violences" at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's 19th Annual Conference of the Graduate History Association (the conference was titled "(De)Constructing Power: Historical Perspectives on Authority and Resistance."

Forza!

## Christian

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"Only the clown calls the circus into question" (Heiner Müller)