



PHILOSOPHY

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Introduction

As we greet the friends of our philosophy department, this newsletter highlights some of our accomplishments this past year. Recently the department thought it timely to refocus its mission. We encourage you to visit the department for the full statement of the department inclusionary goals:

<https://philosophy.uncc.edu/about-us/practicing-philosophy-today>

In its statement, and here in short, the department reiterated its commitment “to the robust inclusion and the epistemic and existential partnership of people who historically have been and often still are excluded from philosophical discourse: ... and [to] all other vulnerable populations.” Our collective commitment also encourages our student to understand that “[p]hilosophical knowledge is incomplete and inadequate if it does not engage with and include these standpoints.”

Workshop: Feminist Decolonial Politics

The Feminist Decolonial Politics Workshop is an annual event that took place this year at UNC Charlotte’s main campus in May 22-25, 2018. The workshop is designed to help participants develop methods for incorporating decolonial feminist theory into their research and teaching. The workshop aims to assist faculty and graduate students in diversifying the philosophical canon and attempt to create culturally-rich classroom environments that encourage students from underrepresented group to participate and succeed in their studies.

The chosen theorist for the 2018 workshop was Dr. Saidiya Hartman, who works in the areas of African American and American literature and cultural history, slavery, law and literature, and performance studies. One participant described their experience of the 2018 workshop in the following way: “I knew of Hartman’s work and knew it was powerful. However, I haven’t had the time to set aside to read it. The workshop allowed me to read Hartman’s work and dig deeply into its complexity. I love that I was able to read multiple works and unpack them with other scholars in this way. I am more confident about drawing on Hartman’s work in my research and teaching.” Overall, participants “really appreciated ... the opportunity [for] ... intellectual stimulation ... of the highest caliber.”

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Department at a Glance

Daniel Boisvert, PhD., Philosophy of mind, logic.
Ruth Groenhout, PhD., Bioethics.
Gordon Hull, PhD., Philosophy of law and technology.
Robin James, PhD., Feminist theory, critical philosophy of race.
Michael Kelly, PhD., Aesthetics, contemporary European philosophy.
Phillip McReynolds, PhD., American philosophy, philosophy of film.
Trevor Pearce, PhD., History and philosophy of science.
Elisabeth Paquette, PhD., Feminist and queer theory, decolonial theory.
Andrea Pitts, PhD., Philosophy of race and gender, critical prison studies.
Lisa Marie Rasmussen, PhD., Research ethics, ethical theory.
Mark Sanders, PhD., American philosophy, phenomenology.
Eddy Souffrant, PhD., Africana philosophies, collective responsibility.
Shannon Sullivan, PhD., Feminist philosophy, critical philosophy of race.
Jayne Tristan, PhD., American philosophy.
Olivia Love-Dembovsky, Department Administrative Assistant

The Southeast Roundtable on Philosophy of the Americas (SERPA) met for its fourth years at UNC Charlotte in the fall of 2018. It has, as in the past, assembled scholars on working on the philosophy of the Americas writ large. It served as a wonderful venue to showcase work from underrepresented sectors of the discipline. It happens to also be an opportunity to present our program to other sympathetic colleagues and consider, by their participation and presence, potential opportunities for our students as they consider their advanced degrees in the field.

The department also hosted Dr. Kim Q. Hall of Appalachian State University philosophy department to present a work titled: "On Being Slow: Philosophy and Disability in the U.S. South."

Dr. Kathryn Sophia Belle from Penn State University rounded up the Fall Philosophy Department Colloquia Series with a talk titled: "1949: Claudia Jones and Simone de Beauvoir 70 years Later."

Faculty Activities

Gordon Hull

Dr. Hull is completing a monograph on *The Biopolitics of Intellectual Property*, forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. As Director of the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, he plans to continue a speakers series this year on biohacking and immigration. The Center will also co-host conferences with social work and the Greater Charlotte Area Clinical Research Professionals, as well as one of the keynotes for the Data Science Initiative's Analytics Frontiers Conference. The Center also hosted the annual Southeastern Ethics and Philosophy of Technology (SEPOT) workshop in fall 2018. Folks can keep up on either the website (ethics.uncc.edu) or the Facebook page (UNCCEthics).

Robin James

Dr. James assumed a co-editorship, with Eric Weisbard (University of Alabama, American Studies), of *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*. She delivered the opening keynote at The Future/Present: Current Practices in Popular Music Studies conference at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden in June 2018.

Dr. James also published "Toned Down for What? How chill turned toxic" in the British newspaper *The Guardian*: <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2018/jul/02/toned-down-for-what-how-chill-turned-toxic>

Trevor Pearce

Dr. Pearce's "'Protoplasm Feels': The Role of Physiology in Charles Sanders Peirce's Evolutionary Metaphysics" was published in the Spring 2018 issue of *HOPOS*: <https://doi.org/10.1086/695760>. He gave an invited talk, "Pragmatist Logic: Evolution, Experiment, and Inquiry" on October 17 as part of a workshop on Pragmatism & Evolutionism at the University of Milan, Italy. He also presented "W. E. B. Du Bois's Evolutionary Sociology" on November 2 at the biennial meeting of the History of Science Society in Seattle, WA.

Andrea Pitts

In 2018, Dr. Pitts was awarded a Career Enhancement Fellowship through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, a Hypatia Diversity Grant with co-investigator Perry Zurn for “The Trans Philosophy Project,” and an American Philosophical Association Small Grant also for “The Trans Philosophy Project.” Dr. Pitts was also awarded a Frances Lumsden Gwynn Research Award, a Junior Faculty Development Award, and a Faculty Research Grant from UNC Charlotte for 2018-2019.

Recently, Dr. Pitts published “Examining Carceral Medicine through Critical Phenomenology” in *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 11 (2): 14-35, “Occidentalism and Orientalism in the Writings of Antonio Caso” in *Comparative Studies in Asian and Latin American Philosophies: Cross-cultural Theories and Methodologies*, edited by Stephanie Rivera Berruz and Leah Kalmanson, and “Epistemic Injustice and Feminist Epistemology” in the *Handbook of Applied Epistemology*, edited by David Coady and James Chase. In connection with the grants listed above, Dr. Pitts hosted a conference with co-organizer with Perry Zurn on “Thinking Trans//Trans Thinking Conference” in Washington, D.C. in fall 2018.

Elisabeth Paquette

Dr. Paquette will conduct The Feminist Decolonial Politics Workshop in May 2019. The workshop has benefited from the support of the Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund as well as various organizations at UNC Charlotte including the Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, the Department of Philosophy, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, and the Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

The author chosen for the 2019 Feminist Decolonial Politics Workshop will be Dr. Audra Simpson. More information for the May 2019 workshop will be posted on the website by spring 2019, with applications due February 1st. UNC Charlotte students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Elisabeth Paquette at epaquet1@uncc.edu.

Eddy Souffrant

Dr. Souffrant published “Hospitality, Identity, and Cosmopolitanism: Antidotes to the Violence of Otherness” in *The Routledge Handbook of Pacifism and Nonviolence*, Andrew Fiala (ed.). He also completed the manuscript for *Global Development Ethics: A Critique of Global Capitalism*, forthcoming with Rowman & Littlefield. He presented and/or chaired: (a) “Patriotism and the Foreigner,” 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, Portland, OR, in July 14-19, 2018; “RSE et les Écoles de Management”, ADERSE-Semaine du Management 2018, Cité Internationale Universitaire, Paris, France, May 2018; and “The Ethics of Disaster” at the Department of Philosophy, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, March 18-20, 2018. Dr. Souffrant was a Visiting Professor at IAE Lyon, École Universitaire de Management, Université Jean Moulin, Lyon 3, Lyon, France, in May 2018.