

the department of

# PHILOSOPHY

university of alberta

2014-2015

## news & events

### ► A message from the Chair...

It's been **another busy year** in the Philosophy Department. Our programs continue to be **highly ranked**, and not just in Canada. We are one of only three departments in the U of A Faculty of Arts (the others being Sociology and English & Film Studies) to rank in the top 100 in the world among their peers. [\[link to more details on p.11\]](#)

There were lots of things to celebrate right here in the Department as well... First and foremost was the appointment of our own **Ingo Brigandt** to a Tier II Canada Research Chair in the Philosophy of Biology. This gives us **three Canada Research Chairs** – Cressida Heyes, Tier II CRC on the Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality and Kathrin Koslicki, Tier I CRC in Epistemology and Metaphysics being the others – in a Department of seventeen faculty, the **highest number of CRCs per capita** among Philosophy Departments in Canada (by comparison, the University of Toronto has four CRCs, but with a Philosophy faculty of 52). [\[story on p.9\]](#)

We were all delighted when **Bernie Linsky** was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in September, in recognition of his **decades of work** on the history of logic. As his award citation notes, "Linsky is one of the world's foremost historians of the foundations of mathematical logic in the early 20th century. His incisive analyses have led to an extensive reconsideration of the received view of

the way logic has impacted both mathematics and philosophy. His innovative manuscript research has also opened, for the first time, essential works in the history of mathematical logic to direct study by anyone versed in modern logic." [\[see more on p.8\]](#)

Bernie's award was followed by more good news: **Chloë Taylor** was named to the inaugural class of the RSC's College of New Scholars in recognition of her her early career achievements and outstanding scholarly promise. Chloë was also tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Philosophy this year. **Kata Bimbó** was promoted to full Professor of Philosophy this year, a mere two years after receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. I think this might be an Arts Faculty record for speed of promotion, but as one of her referees put it, Kata has already become **"a logician of international renown."**

Our **students** continue to be the focus of everything we do, and enjoyed their share of the limelight too. **Kristin Rodier**, who successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in January, had her research featured on the **CBC radio** show, Ideas, on February 6, 2015. [\[watch the full episode; see p.11 for details\]](#)

**Hande Tuna**, who is writing her doctoral thesis with Alex



**ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE WITH KATHRIN KOSLICKI**

"Did Socrates Deserve to Die?"

MORE INFO ON PAGE 3



# Chair's MESSAGE

*continued...*

Rueger on **Kant's aesthetics**, received the Essay Prize for the best graduate student paper at the 2014 American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting. *[these stories & more; see pp. 10-11]*

Kudos as well to the grad student organizers of our highly successful **Graduate and Postgraduate Philosophy Conference** last May on Intelligibility, with a keynote address by **Graham Priest** (CUNY). We are all looking forward to the third annual conference, "**Thinking and Bias**," to be held in the Philosophy Department **June 12-14, 2015** – all are welcome. *[link to more details on p.11]*

Despite another year without university funding for outside speakers, we ran one of the **best colloquia series** in recent memory, thanks to the goodwill (and CRC and SSHRC grants, respectively) of **Kathrin Koslicki** and **Chloë Taylor**. *[more details; p. 7-8]*

Philosophical life at the U of A would grind to a halt without our **hardworking office staff**: Joanne McKinnon, Elizabeth French, Gail Mathew, Diane McKen, Santhi Thomas, Lex Bos, and Moyra Lang. Last year was special, though, in that **Elizabeth French**, our Research Grant Administrator, received the Faculty of Arts **Outstanding Staff Award**, given annually to the staff member "who has distinguished him/herself as providing outstanding administrative or technical service to the Faculty." Thanks to all our staff, and congratulations to Elizabeth!

Last, but not least, we hope to see everyone at the Philosophy Department's **Annual Public Lecture**, to be delivered this year by Kathrin Koslicki, with the



title, "**Did Socrates Deserve to Die?**" (I'm thinking the answer must be 'no', but I don't want to anticipate what Kathrin plans to tell us). **Everyone is welcome** to attend the lecture and reception afterward. *[poster on opposite page. further details on website; p.11]*

**Jack Zupko**

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR  
zupko@ualberta.ca

new faces



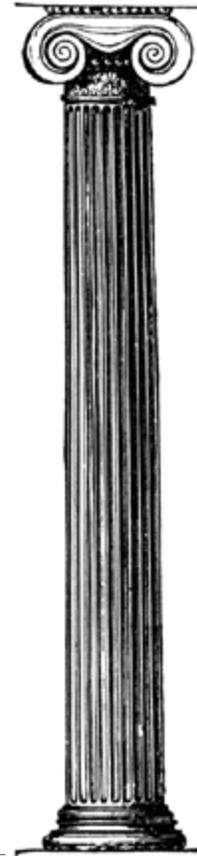
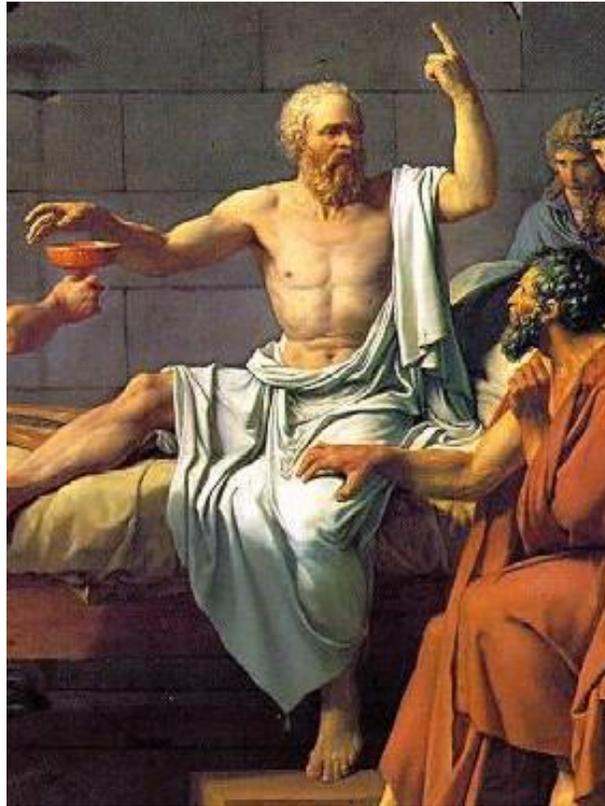
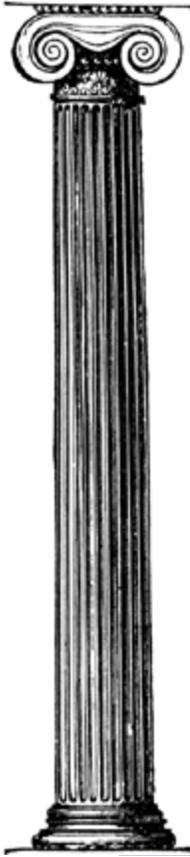
The **Department of Philosophy** is delighted to welcome

## Alan McLuckie

our new **Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow**.

Al received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University in 2013. His dissertation, 'Kant's Moral Anthropology,' was written under the supervision of Allen Wood and David Hills. Alan also holds a BA (2005) and MA (2007) from the University of Alberta, and worked under the supervision of Robert Burch. His areas of research interests are in the history of philosophy more broadly, with specialization in Kant (primarily Kant's Ethics and Anthropology), Early/Late Modern, and Ancient.

# Annual Public Lecture in Philosophy



**Kathrin Koslicki**  
*Professor of Philosophy and  
Tier 1 Canada Research  
Chair in Epistemology and  
Metaphysics  
University of Alberta*

## "Did Socrates Deserve to Die?"

In 399 B.C., when Socrates was 70 years old, he was brought to trial on the charge of impiety and sentenced to death by a jury consisting of 500 Athenian citizens. Many questions persist today concerning the circumstances of Socrates' trial and execution, his life, and the substance of his philosophical views. Professor Koslicki will investigate some of these questions — and offer a glimpse of how one might answer them.

Reception to follow at 227Athabasca Hall: All are welcome

**Lecture at Computing Sciences Center Room B2**  
University of Alberta Campus  
**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM**

# faculty profiles

Prior to joining the Department full-time,

## Glenn Griener

spent the bulk of his time in the University's health professional faculties, including Medicine and Dentistry, Nursing, and most recently, the School of Public Health. During those years his research explored such core areas of clinical ethics as euthanasia and medical futility, as well as issues in the ethics of research involving human subjects. Glenn's current research is focused in two areas. The first is protecting the privacy of personal health information collected in large electronic health record systems (like Alberta Netcare) in an era of big data mining and pervasive government surveillance. The second is social justice in health, particularly global justice in an era of globalised market for health care products and services. Throughout his career Glenn's academic research work in ethics has been intertwined with practical application through service on advisory bodies at the local and national level. This service includes a term as President of the National Council on Ethics in Human Research and a ten-year stint on Alberta Health's Electronic Health Record Data Stewardship Committee.

Glenn's publications have appeared in *Annals of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada*, *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, *CMAJ*, *Health Law Journal*, *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health*, *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* and *Nursing Ethics*.



## Howard Nye

(PhD University of Michigan)

is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Alberta. He works primarily in the areas of normative ethics, practical ethics, and metaethics, and has related interests in political philosophy, the philosophy of mind, and decision theory.

His recent publications include "Objective Double Effect and the Avoidance of Narcissism" (Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics 2013), "On the Equivalence of Trolleys and Transplants" (Utilitas 2014), "Non-Consequentialism Demystified" (Philosophers' Imprint 2015, with David Plunkett and John Ku), and "Directly Plausible Principles" (forthcoming the Palgrave Handbook of Philosophical Methods). Several of Nye's works in progress examine how clarification of the concept of well-being and its relevance to morality has important implications for theories of well-being, the ethics of what matters in survival, and the bearing of these topics on various practical issues.

# PHIL 230

## DEATH OF SOCRATES

During the fall of 2014, Kathrin Koslicki taught PHIL 230: GREEK PHILOSOPHY TO PLATO with a special focus on [the trial and execution of Socrates...](#)

### [Kathrin continues...](#)

“In connection with this course, I organized the Fall 2014 “Ancient Greek Philosophy” Lecture Series. As part of this lecture series, I invited colleagues from the University of Alberta’s Departments of Philosophy, History & Classics and Political Science as well as Concordia’s Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies to speak to us on a topic relevant to Socrates’ death from the perspective of their particular areas of expertise. These interdisciplinary contributions

helped us shed light on the cultural, historical and political milieu in which Socrates, Plato and their precursors were operating. As a result, we were in a unique position to gain valuable insights into the puzzling question of why the Athenians, despite their successes in having established the world’s first democracy, saw it fit to execute Socrates, a man who apparently was guilty of nothing more than simply speaking his mind.

## SOCRATES PROJECT – FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Last Fall’s version of Phil 230 is part of a larger project which involves both a teaching-component and a research-component. Together with two co-applicants, I have applied for a TLEF (Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund) grant to support the further development of an interdisciplinary course on the trial and execution of Socrates, which will have both a blended and a project-based learning component. My two co-applicants are Dr. Jana Grekul (Associate Professor, Sociology; Director, Arts Pedagogy Research and Innovation Laboratory (APRIL)); Ms. Laura Servage (PhD Candidate, Educational Policy Studies; Research Coordinator, APRIL). Among my research-related plans connected with this project is to guest-edit an interdisciplinary

special issue of a journal devoted to the trial and execution of Socrates. In the near future, with the help of a Kule Dialogue Grant and sponsorship from Concordia, I am organizing a one-day workshop on the trial and execution of Socrates which is to take place in Edmonton sometime between April and June 2015. The purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with the opportunity to debate both questions of scholarship surrounding Socrates’ death as well as innovations in pedagogy which can be brought to bear on this subject matter. I very much appreciate the support of both Concordia and the Kule Institute of Advanced Study in making this event possible.

current research in

# METAPHYSICS

speaker series

Kathrin tells us about her Fall 2014 **Current Research in Metaphysics Speaker Series**...

“This speaker series was organized in connection with my course PHIL 400/500: Seminar in Metaphysics and brought six scholars who are affiliated with Canadian institutions to the University of Alberta over the course of the Fall semester to present their latest work in metaphysics to the Philosophy Department. These six scholars are also members of a newly created

collaborative research team and the Fall 2014 “Current Research in Metaphysics” Speaker Series constituted the first phase of our collaboration. These two-day visits to Edmonton provided ample opportunity for in-depth discussions between our speakers and members of the department, including undergraduate, graduate students and faculty members.”

*the flyers for each talk with titles and abstracts are available on the department website*

The second phase of our collaboration will take the form of a workshop, focused on the theme, “**Artifacts and Metaphysical Explanation**”, which will take place at the **Banff Centre** on **May 17-20, 2015**.

This workshop brings the **nine collaborators** [including Kathrin, Phil Corkum and Jack Zupko] together at the same time, so that all participants can be exposed to each other’s current

research relevant to our theme and put into place further concrete plans by which to advance our research collaboration, with an eye towards the pursuit of peer-reviewed external funding and the dissemination of research results through publication. I am very grateful to the **Killam Research Fund** and the **Kule Institute for Advanced Study** for their generous support of this workshop.

# 2015 metaphysics WORKSHOP



# 2015 2016

## current RESEARCH IN METAPHYSICS speaker series



by Kathrin Koslicki

I am organizing another Current Research in Metaphysics Speaker Series for the next academic year, 2015/2016. In the Fall, the speaker series will again run in conjunction with Phil 400/500 (Seminar in Metaphysics), whose focus this time around will be on Social Ontology. So far, I have one speaker lined up for the Fall (Rebecca Mason, who is currently

finishing up a dissertation on social kinds at Northwestern and will end up in some yet-to-be determined tenure-track position starting in the Fall) and one for the Winter Term (Laurie Paul will be coming to speak to us on March 14, 2016). The talks in the Fall will take place on Tuesdays at 3:30pm and will be open to all members of the department.

We're really proud of

# Bernard Linsky

...who was inducted as a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada** in Quebec City in November!



Bernie tells us that last May he found lecture notes from a symbolic logic course in 1914 among Harry T. Costello's papers at Trinity College in Hartford Connecticut. Costello was the TA for the course on Symbolic Logic which Bertrand Russell taught at Harvard as a visiting professor that year. T.S.

Eliot was then a graduate student in Philosophy and audited the course, while also working on his thesis on F.H. Bradley. Linsky takes perverse delight in using the Costello notes to correct Eliot's own notes on his way to finding out what Russell taught about symbolic logic that year!



# CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

*The Department of Philosophy is now home to three Canada Research Chairs. Read on to learn more about Ingo Brigandt and Kathrin Koslicki.*

## Ingo Brigandt

was appointed as a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Philosophy of Biology. He describes his work:

“Philosophy of science may study the content of science, e.g., how evidence supports a theory. Ingo Brigandt’s research, however, more broadly addresses the practice of science, in particular how methodological and explanatory standards endorsed or the problems deemed in need of investigation guide the practice of scientists. He focuses on interdisciplinary areas of biology that investigate complex molecular and cellular systems or attempt to account for the evolution of novelty and complexity. Apart from attempting to understand how science works, his research program contributes to integration in biology by making biologists more reflective about the (conflicting) explanatory standards tacitly used.”

see p.11 for links to Kathrin’s and Ingo’s CRC profiles plus, check out the link to the public announcement of Kathrin’s CRC

## Kathrin Koslicki

was appointed as a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Epistemology and Metaphysics. She describes her work:

“Metaphysics, the study of being in its most general form, is traditionally seen as one of the central areas of philosophy and has been practiced since the beginning of Western philosophy. Analytic metaphysics is a more modern style of metaphysics which incorporates the methods of general analytic philosophy: it employs the tools of formal logic, aims for compatibility with science, and strives to achieve argumentative clarity and precision. A significant reorientation is currently under way in analytic metaphysics, away from an almost exclusive focus on questions of existence (“What is there?”) and towards a greater concentration on questions concerning structure and dependence. The study of parts and wholes in particular thrives under this reorientation, since wholes are evidently structured entities which depend on their parts in certain interesting ways. By placing the notions of structure and dependence at the very center of my research program, I seek to develop a viable neo-Aristotelian approach to metaphysics for the 21st century.”

# Faculty and Student Accomplishments...

## LIANGHUA ZHOU

received an Ivy A Thomson and William A Thomson Graduate Scholarship

## KRISTIN RODIER

"In December 2014," writes Cressida Heyes, "Kristin very ably defended her dissertation *Habits of Resistance: Feminism, Phenomenology, and Temporality*."

"Her research project beat out many others to win a CBC competition and feature in an episode of the radio show *Ideas (from the trenches)* —an offshoot of the famous *Ideas with Paul Kennedy* show that highlights the work of Canadian PhD students.

*Force of Habit* aired nationally on 6 February 2015. [watch the full episode online; see p.11 for the link](#)

## KATALIN BIMBO

SSHRC Insight Grant, "The third place is the charm: The emergence, the development and the future of the ternary relational semantics for relevance and some other non-classical logics."

*Proof Theory: Sequent Calculi and Related Formalisms*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2015.

Kata has also been promoted! She is a full professor, effective July 1st, 2015.

## JOHN SIMPSON

began a new alternative academic role with WestGrid and Compute Canada in mid-January. [more info available on p.11](#)

## JAY WORTHY

attended the thirty-ninth annual session of Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Città di Castello, Italy in July 2014. The topic of the three-week seminar was *Law and Violence: Hegel, Arendt, Derrida*.

## MARIE-EVE MORIN

was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant (\$99,177) for a research project named *Turning Back the Speculative Turn: Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Jean-Luc Nancy at the Limits of Phenomenology*.

## YASEMIN SARI

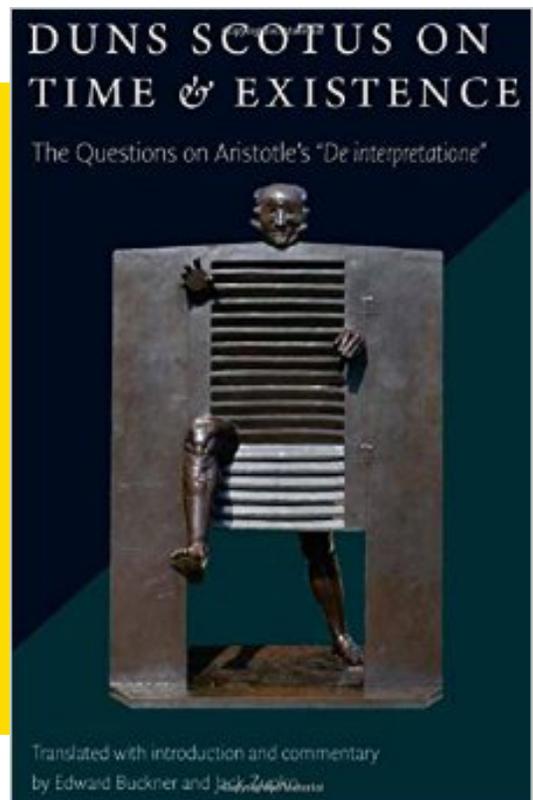
was a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College in October 2014. During her visit, she was also invited to give a public talk titled *An Arendtian Recognitive Politics: The "Right to Have Rights" as a Performance of Visibility*.

## EMINE HANDE TUNA

received the prize for the best graduate student paper at the 2014 American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting for her paper titled *The New Problem of Artistic Beauty and its Equally New Solution*.

The Philosophy Department is pleased to announce the publication of a new book by Professor **Jack Zupko**: *Duns Scotus on Time and Existence: The Questions on Aristotle's 'De interpretatione'*, Translated with Introduction and Commentary by Edward Buckner and Jack Zupko (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2014)

This is the first English translation of this important early work by the noted medieval philosopher and theologian, John Duns Scotus (c. 1265-1308)





# feeling generous?

If you are interested in donating to the Department of Philosophy, or would simply like more information about donating or department activities, please contact:

**Joanne McKinnon**

Assistant Chair, Administration

2-30 Assiniboia Hall

(780) 492 0130

[joanne.mckinnon@ualberta.ca](mailto:joanne.mckinnon@ualberta.ca)

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## TOP 100 IN THE WORLD...

[www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings](http://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings)

## KRISTIN RODIER ON CBC RADIO...

[www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/ideas-from-the-trenches-force-of-habit-1.2946666](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/ideas-from-the-trenches-force-of-habit-1.2946666)

## THINKING & BIAS CONFERENCE...

[www.philosophy.ualberta.ca/en/Department%20of%20Philosophy%20Nes/2014/November/ThinkingAndBiasConference.aspx](http://www.philosophy.ualberta.ca/en/Department%20of%20Philosophy%20Nes/2014/November/ThinkingAndBiasConference.aspx)

## KATHRIN KOSLICKI CRC ANNOUNCEMENT...

<http://uofa.ualberta.ca/news-and-events/newsarticles/2014/march/eleven-canada-research-chairs-announced-for-ualberta>

## KATHRIN KOSLICKI CRC PROFILE...

[www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=3188](http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=3188)

## INGO BRIGANDT CRC PROFILE...

[www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=3240](http://www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=3240)

## JOHN SIMPSON'S NEW POSITION...

[www.westgrid.ca/westgrid\\_news/westgrid\\_welcomes\\_new\\_digital\\_humanities\\_expert\\_expand\\_support\\_services\\_humanities](http://www.westgrid.ca/westgrid_news/westgrid_welcomes_new_digital_humanities_expert_expand_support_services_humanities)

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