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.”
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**


**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](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.


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