

Ryerson University – Department of Philosophy

2013-2014 News Stories

- MA candidate Ayesha Bhatti has had her paper, entitled “Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Medications”, accepted for presentation at the following conferences: the [Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium](#); the [Philosophy in the Public Sphere Conference](#) in Jindal, India; the [Medical Humanities Conference](#) at Western Michigan University; and the [Philosophical Activism Workshop](#) in Durham, UK. Congratulations, Ayesha!
- Congratulations to MA candidate Rachel Robinson, who won a [TA/GA award](#) for her outstanding contributions to undergraduate education in 2013-2014!
- Congratulations to [Thomas Hart](#), [Betty Trott](#), and [Glenn Parsons](#), each of whom were selected by Ryerson’s residence students as “[A Prof Who Made A Mark](#)” in 2013-2014.
- Stephanie Reyes (a recent graduate of the [Philosophy Option in Arts and Contemporary Studies](#)) has been accepted with full funding into the MA program in Philosophy at the University of Calgary. Congratulations, Stephanie!
- MA candidate Kirk Lougheed and recent MA graduate Aylish Chantler have had an annotated bibliography accepted for publication with [Oxford Bibliographies Online](#). The entry is entitled “God and Possible Worlds”, and it is co-authored with Klaas Kraay.
- The Philosophy Department’s Seventh Annual Symposium will take place on May 16th. [[Details](#)]
- MA candidate Victor Bruzzone’s paper, “Linguistic Habit and Color Perception” was awarded second place at the 2014 Gonzaga Philosophy Graduate Conference.
- Recent MA graduate [Leland Harper](#) has had a paper accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*. The paper is entitled “Evaluating the Fales/Gellman Debate on the Epistemic Status of Mystical Religious Experiences”. Leland is currently a doctoral student in philosophy at the University of Birmingham, UK.
- This year, students from our MA program have been accepted into PhD programs in philosophy at the following institutions: McGill, the University of Southampton, McMaster, the University of Western Ontario, Monash University, UCLA, Duquesne, the University of New Mexico, the University of Memphis, King’s College (London), Nottingham, and the University of Southern Illinois (Carbondale). Congratulations to all!
- Congratulations to several of our MA candidates who recently had papers accepted for presentation at conferences:
 - Victor Bruzzone’s paper, entitled “Desire and a Universal-Homogeneous State: Technology and Satisfaction” was accepted at both the Long Island Philosophical Society Conference and the Gonzaga Graduate Philosophy Conference.
 - Jason Poettcker’s paper, entitled “Defending the Purpose Theory of Meaning in Life” was accepted at a conference on Special Divine Action at the Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford University.
 - Anna Shevchenko’s paper, entitled “Authentic Emotion in Merleau-Ponty” was accepted at a conference organized by the New York Phenomenology Research Group at the New School in March, and also at the 2014 Diverse Lineages of Existentialism conference, in June.
 - Kirk Lougheed will be presenting two papers, “In Defense of Anti-Revision: The Benefits to Inquiry Argument” and “Pro-Theism and the Added Value of Morally Good Agents” (co-authored with Myron A. Penner), at the Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Conference held at Australian National University this July.

- Ayesha Bhatti's paper, "An Analysis of Policies Related to Intellectual Property Rights from a Rawlsian and Nozickian Perspective", was accepted into the Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference.
- Mike Brienza's paper, "Chalmers vs. Chalmers", was accepted at the 42nd annual meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy, to be held this year at Caltech.
- Congratulations to MA candidates Tara Abbawi, Adam Blackburn and Rebecca Kovacs, who both won [Canada Graduate Scholarships](#) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, valued at \$17,500 each. Congratulations to MA candidates David Collins and Anna Shevchenko for winning [Dennis Mock Student Leadership Awards!](#)
- The Philosophy Department is delighted to announce that [Dr. Paula Schwebel](#) will join the department as an Assistant Professor on July 1st, 2014.
- The Philosophy Department is pleased to announce the launch of a new [minor in ethics](#). This minor offers students fluency in the major ethical theories and traditions, while also developing skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and case analysis.
- The 2014 Ryerson Graduate Philosophy Conference, "Traversing Traditions: a Polyphony of Thought", will take place on Saturday, February 22nd in POD-250. Student papers will be presented from 9:00am-5:00pm, and at 5:15 pm, the Keynote Address will be delivered by Dr. [Lorraine Code](#) (Professor Emerita, York University). [[poster, program, and abstracts](#)]
- MA candidate Erik Bormanis' paper, entitled "War in Psychiatry Paradigms: A Levinasian Critique of Naturalistic Models of Diagnosis", has been accepted for presentation at the University of Memphis' graduate student conference: [Mental Illness and Power](#).
- MA candidate Michael Brienza was awarded a [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](#) (worth \$7000) from [SSHRC](#). Mike is currently visiting the [philosophy department at the University of Texas \(Austin\)](#), where he is studying with [Galen Strawson](#).
- MA candidate David Collins' paper, entitled "Expressing a Certain Vision: James, Collingwood and the Value of Artistic Pursuits", has been published in the [Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics](#).
- MA candidate Anna Shevchenko's paper, entitled "Authentic Emotion in Merleau-Ponty", was accepted for presentation at the [Southeast Philosophy Congress](#).
- MA candidate Tim Blank's paper, entitled "An Open Theistic Multiverse", has been accepted for presentation at two conferences: the [joint meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers and the Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology](#), and the [Evangelical Philosophical Society Midwest Region](#) annual conference.
- MA candidate Kirk Lougheed's paper, entitled "A Dilemma for the Theistic Multiverse" was accepted for presentation at the [Eastern Division Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers](#), and at the [Western Canadian Philosophical Association](#) conference. Another paper by Kirk, entitled "Faith as Acceptance: A Tentative Solution to the Problem of Religious Disagreement", has been accepted for presentation at the [joint meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers and the Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology](#).
- [Betty Trott](#) will present a lecture entitled "What is Canadian Philosophy?" to the Trent University Philosophy Department Colloquium Speaker series on January 29th.
- Congratulations to [David Checkland](#), the 2014 recipient of the Faculty of Arts [Dean's Service Award!](#)

- Philosophy MA students from Ryerson University and beyond will be presenting papers on phenomenology to a panel of scholars and their fellow students at a workshop on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013. This workshop was organized by [Kim Maclaren](#) in conjunction with her graduate course on phenomenology. Invited scholars are: [Don Beith](#) (Bishop's University), [Susan Bredlau](#) (Emory University), [Kirsten Jacobson](#) (University of Maine), [Scott Marratto](#) (Michigan Technological University), and [Ann Murphy](#) (University of New Mexico). [[Poster](#)] [[Program](#)]
- Congratulations to [Genele Rose](#), the first recipient of the [Jackie Smith Memorial Award in Ethics](#). This award is given to a student registered in Ryerson's [Certificate in Ethics](#), "for demonstration and/or articulation of the importance of ethics for the common good (such as commitment to human rights, social justice, and advocacy)". This award honours the legacy of Continuing Education instructor Jackie Smith, who [passed away on Oct. 12, 2012](#).
- The [Ryerson Philosophy Colloquium](#) features MA students in philosophy leading informal, interactive discussions about their research. All Ryerson students are welcome to attend. More details, including this term's schedule, are [here](#) and [here](#).
- Congratulations to MA student Kirk Lougheed, whose paper, entitled "Divine Creation, Modal Collapse, and the Theistic Multiverse", has just been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Sophia*.
- The Ryerson Philosophy Graduate Students Union has [a new website!](#)
- The department is delighted to welcome the first cohort of undergraduate students into the [BA program in philosophy](#). Best of luck to all!
- The department is delighted to welcome three visiting researchers for the 2013-2014 academic year: Dr. Richard Davis (Tyndale University College), Dr. Myron Penner (Trinity Western University), and Dr. Wellington Santana (Catholic University of Goiás, Brazil). [[Details.](#)]
- Congratulations to MA students Jason Poettcker, Ryan Froese, Catherine Fullarton, Jordan Van Den Hoonard, Anna Shevchenko, Kirk Lougheed, Chandra Kavanagh, Erik Bormanis, and Rachel Robinson, who all [published book reviews](#) this summer.
- Klaas Kraay's [research grant](#) about the value of God's existence was recently [profiled on Ryerson's Research News page](#).
- Congratulations to incoming MA students Adam Blackburn and Victor Bruzzone, and returning MA students David Collins and Rachel Robinson, who have been awarded [Ontario Graduate Scholarships](#). Congratulations to returning MA students Erik Bormanis, Mike Brienza, Codie Mitchell, Anna Schevchenko, and Jordan Van Den Hoonard, who have been awarded [Canada Graduate Scholarships](#).