

Letter to Prospective MA students
Diane Enns

My primary field of research is contemporary social and political philosophy in the Continental tradition. I have published on a wide range of themes, including community, freedom, identity, loneliness, love, political resistance, reconciliation, violence, and victimhood. To address these themes, I have drawn from major European philosophers in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, especially Agamben, Améry, Arendt, Balibar, Berardi, De Beauvoir, Derrida, Esposito, Foucault, Merleau-Ponty, Rancière, Sartre and Weil. I have an ongoing interest in moving beyond the philosophical canon of the Western tradition, especially with respect to women and non-European political thinkers. I also have a strong background in interdisciplinary approaches to philosophical questions, often referring to works of art, film, literature and social science research in my projects.

My current book project is a work of social philosophy: I am exploring the nature, conditions and effects of loneliness in a social landscape dramatically altered by our current technologized version of capitalism, and investigating our responses to social failure. Other research interests I am developing include Italian feminism, the political thought of Simone Weil, and the recovery of the work of marginalized women thinkers throughout history.

I have supervised or participated on the committees of numerous students working on such topics as animal ethics, art and resistance, citizenship, genocide, identity politics, reconciliation, political resistance, privacy, racial profiling, xenophobia, and on a number of the philosophers listed above. As a supervisor I encourage students to focus on a question that nags them; to develop a strong voice in the pursuit of answers; and to move beyond exposition to reflect on the implications of the ideas they are analyzing. I enjoy the mentoring process involved in supervision, and will provide support through regular conversations about the thesis/MRP research, feedback on written work, and advice on Ph.D. and grant applications.

If you are applying to Ryerson for a Philosophy M.A. and are interested in any of these research areas feel free to contact me: enns@ryerson.ca.