Dear Prospective MA Student,

How exciting that you're interested in Toronto Metropolitan University, and in studying Philosophy with us. It's a pleasure to hear from students who take an interest in joining our philosophical community. Here I will introduce the kind of work I do, and the areas I am interested in, and say a bit about my background and the type of projects I supervise.

My main research area is Ancient Greek philosophy. Within that, my own writing broadly centres on ancient moral psychology. I am especially interested in prudentialism – in other words, the strategies which ancient thinkers and schools recommend for conceiving of and concerning oneself with one's own good. This starts by asking questions about the nature of prudential self-concern as it is found in Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic schools, including its scope: do they concern themselves with (and urge others to concern themselves with) their future selves, or the good of their lives as a whole, or their posthumous good, or recollected goods of the past? How does this explain the specific strategies and therapies they recommend their followers adopt to bring about the right kind of self-interest, and then pursue that interest? Do these strategies and therapies have any bearing on our contemporary concerns? Are they effective? I am especially interested in attitudes to memory, anticipation, pleasure, and pain.

I also work on women in ancient philosophy. I have several projects underway which engage with the philosophical thought of various ancient women, as well as meta-philosophical issues of how to integrate these important figures into the canon, methods of recovering their ideas, and how to teach their thought.

I grew up in Windsor, ON, later moving to Toronto for middle school. I studied philosophy at the BA level at the University of Toronto, then moved to London, UK and spent a few years working in a start-up before beginning a part-time M.Phil in Ancient Philosophy at King's College London. I graduated with a D.Phil (PhD) from the University of Oxford in 2019, and began teaching at King's College London as a Lecturer that same year. I came to Toronto Metropolitan University as Assistant Professor in 2021.

I am attracted to departments with a cooperative ethos. I do my best work when I feel the support of those around me, and have opportunities to give support and encouragement to others. I aim to be part of friendly, lively and diverse philosophical communities where we can do serious work while also having fun. I try to foster this atmosphere of cooperation and mutual inquiry in my classes and supervisions, too.

I consider myself a philosopher more so than a historian or a classicist. Much of my work is about figuring out what some ancient philosopher thought, but I do so to then assess if they were right, what we can learn from their arguments, and what they have to say that has a bearing for us, now. I am interested in bringing ancient ideas to bear on contemporary debates in philosophy, psychology, and behavioural economics, in part because I find that the ancients sometimes got things *right*, or at least have insightful things to say which we would benefit from taking seriously.

At the graduate level I supervise student work on some Pre-Socratic philosophers, Plato (on whom I wrote my PhD thesis), Aristotle, ancient Greek women, and the Hellenistic schools – especially the Cyrenaics, Stoics, and Epicurus (who I am a particular devotee of). I am especially (though not exclusively) interested in projects on moral psychology and ethics. I have thematic interests in grief, self-knowledge, mental conflict, indominable emotions, metaphor, madness, mental illness, suicide, death, self-deception, intuition and empathy, to name a few.

But I am interested to know what *your* interests are – and I invite you to get in touch with me to discuss whether our department may be a good fit for you.

Best wishes,

Dr. Katharine O'Reilly (she/her)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Toronto Metropolitan University

www.katharineoreilly.com