



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

PHILOSOPHY

2020 Newsletter

2020 Highlights

A record number of students graduated from our Master of Arts program this year!

The seventh issue of our undergraduate journal, *Acta Cogitata*, was published with new cover art created by EMU students.

The Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020.

Keep reading for more details and other exciting news from EMU Philosophy, our students, and our alumni!

Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy

This year, EMU's Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy marked its 10th anniversary. Led once again by a faculty and student team, the conference was a terrific success. Featuring papers from across the philosophical landscape, the conference offered some of the world's newest philosophers an opportunity to showcase their skills, build on their own creative work, and learn to construct philosophical knowledge together. The conference continues to have an impact on the philosophical community, with more regional conferences coming together and asking for our research related to our conference.

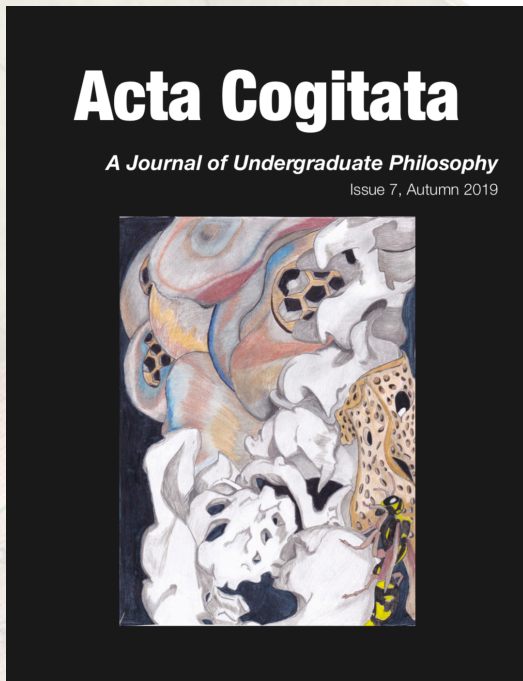


Dr. Shannon Spaulding of Oklahoma State University gave the keynote talk on her work on folk psychology. Our graduate students hosted a panel on graduate work in philosophy. This year's conference also featured some new events, including a Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) informational session and a series of presentations by faculty and graduate students about the arguments and ideas that got them hooked on philosophy.

EMU students organized almost every dimension of this event. Thanks to **Brian Bellinger, Natalie Anderson, Ben Magee, Collin Lucken, Áine Keefer, Cristóbal Arellano, Zachary Tobias, Brynn Ritchie, Sam Nesbitt,** and **Noah Cross** for serving on our organizing team, and, especially, to **Lauren Williams** for serving as the chair of that group. Presenters from EMU included **Sam Nesbitt, Natalie Anderson, Brynn Ritchie, Ethan Smith,** and **Marri Visscher.** Commenters included **Jacob Dunckel, Matthew Wheeler, Alex Kochan, Ali Qazwini, John Milkovich, Jenna Botti, Zachary Tobias,** and **Obiageri Ugwuegbu.**

Drs. Laura McMahon and **John Koolage,** the faculty mentors of the UCiP team, could not be more proud of this event and our students.

Acta Cogitata



Our undergraduate journal, *Acta Cogitata*, features creative work from undergraduate students from across the globe. This year's student editor, **Áine Keefer**, continued with their addition of some style to the journal, including art work from EMU students! Our own **Lauren Williams'** paper, "Ozturk's Disanalogies," appears in this, the seventh, edition of the journal. Read more here: <https://commons.emich.edu/ac/>

Philosophy Club

Over the last year, the Philosophy Club at EMU, led by President **Lauren Williams** and Vice President **Natalie Anderson**, has provided a forum for philosophical inquiry and supported student success through semi-regular, discussion-based meetings. Members met to discuss a wide range of contemporary philosophical topics relevant to their lives and research interests.

In addition to the meetings, the Philosophy Club heavily supported the annual Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy (UCiP) by securing additional funding from Student Government, staffing the UCiP, and hosting the annual UCiP Meet & Greet event. Philosophy club also aided the Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy by reaching out to EMU students to increase student attendance and participation.

Philosophy Speaker Series


The Speaker Series Committee (**Laura McMahon** (chair), **Michael Scoville**, **John Koolage**, and **Mike Doan**) invited a diverse group of philosophers from across North America and highlighted the work of one of our advanced MA students (**Collin Lucken**) for our 2019-20 lecture series. Our Distinguished Speaker of 2020 was **Dr. Alison Jaggar** (Colorado – Boulder). Talks were also given by **Dr. David Concepción** (Ball State), **Dr. Sean Valles** (Michigan State), and **Dr. McMahon** herself. Our final talk of the year, which was to be given by **Dr. John Russon**, was unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 campus closure.

2019-2020 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

ALISON M. JAGGAR

Decolonizing Anglo-American Political Philosophy: The Case of Migration Justice

Sponsored by the Departments of Women's and Gender Studies and History & Philosophy



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
5:00 – 6:30 P.M.
PRAY-HARROLD 204

Alison M. Jaggar is Arts & Sciences College Professor of Education and Philosophy and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Distinguished Research Professor of Global Ethics at the University of Birmingham, UK.

No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.
Warsun Shire, *Hana*, 2009

International migration is increasing not only in absolute terms but also as a percentage of the global population. In 2019, international migrants comprised 3.5 percent of the global population, compared to 2.8 percent in the year 2000. Over the past two decades, a philosophical literature has emerged to question what justice requires with respect to those who migrate across borders. Jaggar's talk critiques much of this philosophical work. Building on the work of Charles Mills (2013), she argues that the terms in which many Anglo-American philosophers generally debate migration justice neglect and even obscure consideration of the ways in which current migration flows may be shaped by Euro-American colonialism and neo-colonialism. Such evaluations produce systematic biases in much of the philosophical literature. To develop less biased understandings of migration justice, Jaggar proposes that Anglo-American philosophers should revise our methods and our conceptual frameworks to enable exploring the possible extent and ethical implications of colonial and neo-colonial influences. This is one part of the much larger task of decolonizing our political philosophy.

General Education LBC Approved

2019-2020 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

EARLY STEPS TO TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Attendees will be guided through activities and participate in discussions that highlight some of the most important things nascent philosophy teachers should consider as they build their pedagogical knowledge and course management skills.

Dr. David Concepción,
Ball State University


FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th
3:30 – 5:00pm
Halle Auditorium

General Education LBC Approved

2019-2020 EMU Philosophy Speaker Series

ADVOCACY AND PRACTICING PHILOSOPHY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN AN INEQUITABLE WORLD

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Sean Valles
Michigan State University

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
5:00-6:30pm, HALLE AUDITORIUM


Abstract: Health researchers have gradually uncovered that not only is health unequally distributed across populations, but 1) the health gaps are wider than they might seem, and 2) social determinants of health are responsible for many of those health problems and also point to social interventions that would deal with ill health at its root causes: fair wages, neighborhoods where it is safe to walk and play outside, affordable nutritious food, etc. As a result, some health science professional societies have started adopting explicit commitments to advocacy or related ethical commitments to promoting health justice. This raises the question of what roles philosophers ought to play when they engage with the philosophical aspects of health in a world where health is distributed in outrageously inequitable ways. In this talk, I explore some of the philosophical issues in these health inequities, and ways that philosophers could fit into the larger project of building healthier and more just societies.

General Education LBC Approved

2019-2020 EMU Philosophy Speaker Series

PALIMPSESTIC TRANSFORMATIONS: RELIGION, MULTICULTURALISM, AND PHENOMENOLOGY AS A CRITICAL PRACTICE

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Laura McMahon
Eastern Michigan University

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th
5:00-6:30pm, Halle Auditorium


Abstract: In "Algeria Unveiled," Frantz Fanon tells the story of women in the Algerian Revolution donning modern French clothing as part of the revolutionary efforts against French colonialism. This paper uncovers some of the principal lessons of this account through a phenomenological explication of agency, religion, and political transformation. Part I draws primarily on the philosophical insights of Martin Heidegger and Maurice Merleau-Ponty in order to explore the worldly and habitual nature of human agency in contrast to the Enlightenment stress on individual rationality and autonomy. Part II turns to John Russon's phenomenological interpretation of religion in order to argue for the ineluctable significance of religion in human existence, in contrast to the modern tendency to oppose religious tradition and secular modernity. Part III analyzes the dynamics of intercultural communication, and argues for the political power of phenomenology as a critical enterprise that enables more just and emancipatory visions of collective human life and political transformation to come to the fore.

General Education LBC Approved

2019-2020 EMU Philosophy Speaker Series

FROM ANCIENT SHAMANS TO CYBERNETIC LUNGS: HOW HEURISTIC THEORY CONSTRUCTION PERVADES THE MESSY SCIENCES

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



MA STUDENT SPEAKER OF 2020:
Collin Lucken
Eastern Michigan University

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
5:00 – 6:30pm, Halle Auditorium


Abstract: This paper argues that William Wimsatt's project of a heuristics-based philosophy of science can be used to repackage the core methods of complexity science into two new broadly applicable theory-building heuristics: Scaffold Transfer and Model Flip. In a first case study from cultural anthropology, I demonstrate how scientists use Scaffold Transfer to benefit from the scaffolding of pre-existing theories and overcome their seeming paucity of available evidence. In a second case study from systems biology, I explain how Scaffold Transfer helps scientists mitigate the difficulties of modeling complex, non-modular systems. In a third case study, I develop an account of how bio-engineers utilize the Model Flip heuristic to expand their available resources for theory building. By illustrating the presence and utility of my two new Wimsattian heuristics in each of these case studies, I integrate Zichowski's methodologies with a broader range of scientific theory building practices. The integration I accomplish is an example of the continued fruitfulness of Wimsatt's project and provides a way for philosophers of science to identify the most salient similarities of theory building methods across disciplines.

General Education LBC Approved

2019-2020 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

THE NEEDS OF COMMUNITY AND THE PROBLEM OF MODERN GOVERNMENT

Sponsored by the Dept



Dr. John Russon
University of Guelph

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th
5:00-6:30 pm, HALLE AUDITORIUM

CANCELED

Government is an unities in a values, its goals, I will identify four problems in contemporary government, however, which amount to ways in which the functioning of government actually undermines the communities it should be serving. After initially defining what I take to be the essential function of government, I will argue first that there is a fundamental problem of form in contemporary government, which I will take-up in relationship to the themes of bureaucracy and voting. Then I will argue that there are three problems of content in contemporary government, which I will take-up in relationship to economics, surveillance and transparency.

General Education LBC Approved

Be sure to check out the [Philosophy Speaker Series](#) page for information on upcoming talks, all of which are free and open to the public. We hope to see you at one of the 2020-2021 virtual talks!

Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The **George Rhodes Endowed Scholarship** was created in memory of a philosophy major who passed away while he was an EMU student and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major.

- 2020 Recipient: **Zachary Tobias**

The **Sophia Endowed Scholarship** was established by Professors Kate Mehuron, Jill Dieterle, and Margaret Crouch and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major or minor.

- 2020 Recipient: **Natalie Anderson**

The **Esther Walker Barnard Endowed Scholarship** was established by a supporter of the Department of History & Philosophy and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major.

- 2020 Recipient: **Omar Khali**

The **Stephen G. Cassar Memorial Endowed Scholarship** was created by Professor George Cassar in honor of his brother and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy MA student.

- 2020 Co-Recipients: **Cristóbal Arellano** and **Lauren Williams**

Prize and Award Recipients

The **Philosophy Prize** is given annually to our most outstanding graduating students.

- 2020 undergraduate recipient: **Wesley Schumaker**
- 2020 graduate student recipient: **Áine Keefer**

The **Outstanding Paper Award** is given to recognize excellence in philosophical writing.

- 2020 undergraduate recipient: **Sydney Yochum**, "Intragroup Oppressive Harm Via Indirect Psychological Forces"
- 2020 graduate student recipient: **Collin Lucken**, "From Ancient Shamans to Cybernetic Lungs: How Heuristic Theory Construction Pervades the Messy Sciences"

Student Accomplishments

Natalie Anderson presented her paper "How the Self-Serving Attributional Bias Affects Student Learning" virtually at Michigan State University's MID-Sure conference. She also presented this paper as a social media highlight for the canceled EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Cristóbal Arellano's paper "Trees, Green Space, and Environmental Racism's Mental and Physical Implications" was accepted to the Duquesne University Philosophy Graduate Student Conference.

Gabi Bussell presented "Feminist Theory, Gender Identity, and Liberation from Patriarchal Power: An Argument for an Ascriptive Account of Gender" at the University of Tennessee Graduate Philosophy Conference. This paper was also accepted for presentation at the International Social Philosophy Conference and the Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies Conference. She will present the paper virtually at the MANCEPT Workshop *What is gender and what do we want it to be?* hosted by Tampere University in Finland. In addition, Gabi was the graduate student coach of the Huron High School Ethics Bowl team and she helped found Service Industry Workers of the Ann Arbor Area, a group dedicated to service worker advocacy and workplace organization.

Marshall Corcoran was scheduled to present his paper "Collaboration and the Moral Responsibility to Resist Oppression" at the canceled EMU Graduate Research Conference.

Patrick Ewell presented "Informed Consent Policy at the State Level" at the Michigan Political Science Association conference. This research was also accepted for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association annual conference. He graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint's Master of Public Administration program with High Honors in April.

Lisa Gawel's paper "The Unseen: Invisible Disabilities in Sports Competition" was accepted to the Duquesne University Philosophy Graduate Student Conference. Her case submission was accepted for the 2020 Michigan High School Ethics Bowl.

Áine Keefer presented "Toward an Inclusive Ontology of Gender" in the Women's and Gender Studies Lecture Series and taught two sections of PHIL/WGST 226 (Feminist Theory) as instructor of record. Áine won the Distinguished Leaders Scholarship from WGST as well. They were scheduled to present "Citizenship and the Political Animal: Social Membership and the Rights of Nonhuman Animals" at the EMU Graduate Research Conference.

Omar Khali was scheduled to present his paper "Martin Buber and Pornography: The Objectification of Sex" at the canceled EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Steven Kurz's paper "A Levinasian Approach to Epistemological Virtues: A Virtuous Thinking of the Other" was accepted for presentation at the North American Levinas Society and the Great Lakes Philosophy Conference.

Collin Lucken was accepted to the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Cincinnati.

John Milkovich was scheduled to present his papers "An Apologetic Defense" and "Memento Mori" at the canceled EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Sydney Yochum's research project "Perceptions of a Race Advocate Vary as a Function of Attributional Complexity and the Use of a Novel Method to Induce Mortality Salience" was accepted for a poster presentation at the 2020 Association for Psychological Science Conference.

Master of Arts Graduates

Gabi Bussell (Summer 2020): "Feminist Theory, Gender Identity, and Liberation from Patriarchal Power: An Argument for an Ascriptive Account of Gender" (Faculty advisor, Peter Higgins)

Eva Chrysochoou (Summer 2020): "The Moment of Vision: Awakening the Authentic through the Aesthetic" (Faculty advisor, Laura McMahan)

Collin Lucken (Winter 2020): "From Ancient Shamans to Cybernetic Lungs: How Heuristic Theory Construction Pervades the Messy Sciences" (Faculty advisor, John Koolage)

Robert Scheuer (Summer 2020): "Ramshackle Glory: Towards an Ethical Aesthetic of Dwelling" (Faculty advisor, Laura McMahan)

Carl Wauer (Fall 2019): "Guided Passage: Planned Deviated Expert Judgment Model for Traditional Non-Rational and Intuitive Modes of Thought" (Faculty advisor, John Koolage)

Alumni News

Morgen Barroso (M.A., 2019) began the J.D. program at the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Sarah Bruckler (B.S., 2017) began the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Michael Cary (B.S., 2002) earned an M.A. in TESOL from EMU in 2008. Since then, he has been teaching English classes at Kyonggi University in Suwon, South Korea. His article "Practical and Innovative Applications for Wikis in a Language Classroom" was published in *The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Education* (2020).

Maxwell Czerniawski (B.S., 2010) was named one of the *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch 2021*. This list is based on a peer-review survey process in which thousands of leading attorneys confidentially evaluate other attorneys in their practice areas. Individuals honored as a "Lawyer of the Year" have received particularly high ratings for their abilities, professionalism and integrity.

Dylan Delikta (B.S., 2017) graduated from the M.A. program at Memorial University of Newfoundland. His thesis is entitled "Hegel's Aesthetics and Contemporary Art: Home, Vagabondage, and (W)hole," and was supervised by Professor Shannon Hoff (keynote speaker at our 2018 Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy).

Eric Garant (B.S., 2018) is now a copy editor at The Oxford Club.

Ryan Lemasters (M.A., 2019) is finishing his M.A. in religious studies at Western Michigan University this summer.

Mandy Mak (B.A., 2015) now works at a software company in New York City as a Front-end Software Engineer, a role that relies heavily on critical thinking, symbolic logic, and having an eye for design. She finds it incredibly fulfilling to work on challenging technical problems and have the opportunity to be creative. She is currently reading *A History of U.S. Feminisms* by Rory Dicker, and listening to *The Daily Stoic* podcast each morning.

EMU PHILOSOPHY ALUMNI:

We always love hearing from you. Tell us what you are doing!
Send us your news and we will include it in next year's newsletter.

Send updates to Peter Higgins at phiggin1@emich.edu

Faculty News



Brian Bruya spent the 2019-2020 school-year on a Teaching Fulbright in Taiwan, introducing comparative philosophy to students at National Taiwan University. This gave him a chance to re-acquaint himself with the island, spend time with his in-laws, and fortuitously skirt the pandemic. He looks forward to teaching at EMU again, even if only online, remaining for now at his distant perch in Taipei. Brian published a fourth article ("Three-Dimensional Wisdom and Perceived Stress among College Students") in his series on the psychology of wisdom and a fourth book (*Dao De Jing*) in his translations of illustrated Chinese classics. His series of lectures delivered in China the year prior have been accepted for publication by a major Chinese publishing house (working title: *Nature and Wisdom*). He gave two talks at universities in Taiwan—one on cognitive ontology and the other on aesthetics, both focused on introducing key ideas from Chinese philosophy into current philosophical conversations. In June, he wrapped up his third and final year as Chair of the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies. While in Taiwan, Brian has met regularly with a friend at a Belgian-style bar to do a bit of public philosophy in the form of a bilingual philosophical podcast. The production quality is not great, but the beer is.

Brian Coffey was this year's winner of the Full-Time Lecturer Distinguished Teaching Award for all of the College of Arts and Sciences—a truly high honor indeed! He was also set to present some new research on the nature and ethics of victim-blaming at a meeting of the Michigan Philosophical Association, but the event was postponed due to the pandemic.



Jill Dieterle was on sabbatical during the Fall 2019 semester, working on a project dealing with issues surrounding autonomous food choice. She wrote two papers and began a third while she was on leave. The first, "Shifting the Focus: Food Choice, Paternalism, and State Regulation" was published in the journal *Food Ethics* 5(2), December 2019. The second, "Agency, Autonomy, and Food Choice" is currently under review at *The Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*. The third paper is co-authored with Chemistry Professor Wade Tornquist. It is an interdisciplinary paper that examines both the science behind and the ethical issues surrounding antimicrobial use in concentrated animal feeding operations. The paper is called "Wilbur on Drugs: Antimicrobial Use in Hog CAFOs," and will be published as a chapter in the forthcoming volume *Interdisciplinary Environmental Ethics in the Midwest*, ed. Ian Smith and Matthew Ferkany, Michigan State University Press. Jill has spent her time in COVID lockdown riding her bike, reading lots of fiction, and trying to determine best practices for teaching remotely.

Peter Higgins continued as chair of the Philosophy section in 2019-20. Among his proudest accomplishments are making this newsletter, convincing the department head not to prematurely cancel low-enrolled classes that ended up filling to capacity, and learning how to run a meeting on Zoom! Peter's paper "Covering and the Moral Duty to Resist Oppression" was published in *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* (December 2019). He is currently working on two invited articles: "Gender and Migration" for the *Handbook of Migration Ethics* (Springer) and a contribution to a symposium on Gillian Brock's *Justice for People on the Move: Migration in Challenging Times* (Cambridge, 2020) to be published in *Res Publica*. This fall, Peter is scheduled to teach the Philosophy's section's sole on-campus class, our first year seminar for incoming MA students (PHIL 601). (At press time, the campus closure has been extended to include the first three weeks of the Fall 2020 semester.)



John Koolage continues to be hard at work in philosophy of science and teaching and learning. In 2019-2020, he published a book chapter (with Dr. Michael Goldsby) in *Conspiracy Theories: Philosophers Connect the Dots* from Open Court. He wrote the introduction for Lee Fearnside's *Field Guide to Animal Adaptation* (in press). At the 2020 Central APA, he presented (with Danielle Clevenger) new work on the relation between the practices of teaching and research, commented on a paper about road ethics, and presented his own work on flattening the hierarchy in teaching contexts. Dr. Koolage also presented work related to assessment and professional learning communities (with Dr. Stephanie Casey) for the Connect Conference and work on best practices in assessment (with Dr. Jenny Kindred) for the Assessment Institute, both hosted at EMU. This summer, as part of an ongoing grant, he helped developed scenarios for the Cyber Innovation Center.

Dr. Koolage continues to serve EMU students as the Director of General Education, where he renovates and stewards EMU's liberal arts core. He also attended the MAC Higher Education Leadership and Advocacy Summit and the Adaptive Organizations workshop, expanding his thinking about teaching and learning at the college level. Beyond EMU, he joined the APA Committee on Teaching and the Central APA Program Committee to give back to the discipline he loves. He also taught Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy's Teaching Practicum, both of which he found extremely rewarding.

With significant and demanding changes in our world in 2020, Dr. Koolage looks forward to the upcoming academic year. He continues to work on a project related to scientific objectivity, one on the relation between teaching and research, and has begun a new project on skepticism about self-knowledge. He will be teaching Philosophy of Science this fall, and that promises to be most enjoyable.

Laura McMahon was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and was elected president of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy this year. She published an article entitled "The Separation That is Not a Separation but a Form of Union': Merleau-Ponty and Feminist Object Relations Theory in Dialogue" in *Human Studies*, and has another article forthcoming in *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology* entitled "Religion, Multiculturalism, and Phenomenology as a Critical Practice: Lessons From the Algerian War of Independence." Professor McMahon also published a post on the APA Women in Philosophy blog, entitled "Vulnerability, Freedom, and Political Transformation"; has an encyclopedia entry on Merleau-Ponty forthcoming in *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of 20th-Century French Philosophy*; and published book reviews in *Continental Philosophy Review* and *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. She gave conference presentations at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in Pittsburgh, the International Merleau-Ponty Circle in New York City, and the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and two invited talks, one in EMU's own Philosophy Speaker Series and the other in the Philosophy Colloquium at Western Michigan University.



Professor McMahon taught courses in Phenomenology, Nineteenth-Century Philosophy, Existentialism, and Feminist Theory. She coordinated the 2019-2020 Philosophy Speaker Series and was a faculty advisor for the 2020 Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy.



Kate Mehuron began a new area of philosophical inquiry, partly due to inspiration gleaned from discussions in her Fall 601 First Year Seminar. Her paper, "Narrative and Phenomenological Possibilities of Moral Repair," was accepted by the 18th Annual Conference of the Nordic Society for Phenomenology, University of Helsinki, April 23-25, 2020. Unfortunately, this trip was cancelled due to COVID. Subsequently she has continued to work on various facets of this paper, critically addressing the gaps between the philosophical literature on moral repair pioneered by Martha C. Nussbaum and Margaret Urban Walker, and phenomenological examinations of the subjective formation of forgiveness. At the Fall Philosophy Reception, Kate was invited to present some recent work, so she delivered an outline of her recent paper, "Trauma: How the dissociative model of memory wrecks client normative capacities." Held at Tower Inn, few could hear a word of it, but it was an opportunity to reconsider the basic premises of her philosophical interest in dissociative models of memory and how these biomedical models are influential in domestic violence policy discourse.

She enjoyed teaching the interdisciplinary graduate/undergraduate course *Gender, World Religions and Social Justice*, offered for the first time in Winter term. Regarding interdisciplinary activist research, as Chair of the President's Commission on Women Kate developed the *Multicultural Faculty Mentorship Proposal* in collaboration with colleagues from Political Science, Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology. In retrospect,

this was prescient, acquiring special significance in the midst of the national Black Lives Matter movement this summer and ultimately finding a faculty and student forum in the *Race Matters Workshop* hosted by Faculty Senate and the EMU-AAUP, July 2020. Kate's membership in the EMU Title IX Research Committee culminated in that committee's delivery of the *Report on the EMU Campus Survey on Sexual Misconduct Culture* to Faculty Senate, May 2020. The survey and its analysis took three years to complete, but its results will be informative in developing campus policies and procedures that can improve the university's response to sexual misconduct.

John Ouko was promoted to Full-Time Lecturer this year. He presented a paper titled "Albert Borgmann's Metaphysics of Information and Communication Technologies: A Critique" at the Michigan Philosophical Association meeting in Flint, Michigan, in October of 2019.



Michael Scoville received a Faculty Research Fellowship for 2020-2021 and will be on leave from teaching in the fall semester. Over the last year, his research has been focused mainly on theories of practical reason, with special attention to the structure of our evaluative attitudes and the perspectival or agent-relative aspects of practical thought. Dr. Scoville is currently finishing an essay on the nature and distinctiveness of valuing as a practical attitude. The essay is part of a larger research project exploring normative reasons that reflect agents' particular histories, attachments, and situations. As part of that project, Dr. Scoville is working on another essay focused on the normative force and authority of attachment-based reasons to care about future generations and the effects of climate change. This line of argument aims to decenter, though not abandon entirely, the focus on impersonal and justice-based reasons for caring about climate change and the fate of future generations. Dr. Scoville's ongoing research will inform his teaching this year, notably, his upper-level environmental philosophy course (PHIL 429W/529) scheduled for Winter term. In addition to his research and teaching, Dr. Scoville continues in his roles as co-coordinator of EMU's interdisciplinary Environmental Science and Society (ENVI) program and as the adviser for the Environment and Society concentration within the ENVI major.

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[Philosophy Prize](#)

You can find more information about each of our scholarships here:

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