



Western Arts & Humanities

*Department of Philosophy Semesterly Newsletter
Fall 2016*



CHARLES WEIJER NAMED AMONG THE NEW 2016 ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA FELLOWS

The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) has named 89 new Fellows for 2016 including eight Western professors— six newly named Fellows and two New Scholars. Among them is the Department of Philosophy and Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry professor, **Charles Weijer**, who was elected by peers in recognition of outstanding scholarly, scientific and artistic achievement.

Weijer, one of the founders of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, is the world authority on the ethics of randomized controlled trials. His publications on placebos, harm-benefit analysis, and protecting communities in research are broadly influential. He co-led a team that produced the first ethical guidelines for cluster-randomized trials.

Read more about the other newly awarded Fellows.



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Special Points of Interest

- Winner of the 2016 Birkhoff-von Neumann Prize
- 2016 Chair's Essay Prize: Francesco Lucia
- Philosophy students shortlisted for the Undergraduate Awards

Undergraduate students, **Dylan Vallance** and **Victor Parchment** are among 29 Western students who have been recognized as Highly Commended Entrants for the Undergraduate Awards. With over 5,000 paper submissions from more than 250 universities across 39 countries, papers are recognized as Highly Commended if they finish in the top 10 per cent of their subject category. Students whose papers have been recognized as Highly Commended are invited to a Global Summit in Dublin. [Read more here.](#)



MARKUS MUELLER WINNER OF THE BIRKHOFF-VON NEIMANN PRIZE 2016

The Birkhoff-von Neumann Prize is “awarded once every two years during the award ceremony held at the bi-annual conference of the International Quantum Structures Association (IQSA). The candidates for the prize are selected by the IQSA prize committee for their outstanding scientific achievements in the field of quantum structures and the impact their work has on the research in quantum logic and quantum foundations.” The award ceremony took place on July 14, 2016 during the 13th Biennial Meeting of the International Quantum Structures Association in Leicester, United Kingdom. [Read more here.](#)

WINNER OF THE CHAIR’S ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE FOR 2015-16: FRANCESCO LUCIA

Congratulations to **Francesco Lucia**, winner of the Chair's Annual Essay Prize for 2015-16 for his essay "On the Alleged Inconsistency of Weak Epistemic Egoism". The paper was written for Professor Sullivan’s PHIL 3501G: Epistemology. Join us in celebrating Francesco Lucia on Friday, November 11 from 1:00–1:30 in Stevenson Lawson Hall 1145

MARKUS MUELLER TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM PHYSICS OF THE OBSERVER FOR HIS PROPOSAL

The Foundational Questions Institute, FQXi, newly announced program on Physics of the Observer, included a request for proposals on research and outreach projects. **Markus Mueller’s** proposal was selected among 23 others to receive a grant to hire a postdoc for two years. Mueller’s project titled Emergent Objective Reality, asks ““What if the notion of ‘observation’ is truly fundamental, and physics is an emergent phenomenon?” This ambitious project will look at this question and others related to the nature of observers using techniques from information theory and theoretical computer science, applied across diverse topics in physics.” To read more about the others who will receive funding, [click here.](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bell, John. *Oppositions and Paradoxes: Philosophical Perplexities in Science and Mathematics.* Broadview Press, April 2016

Brennan, Samantha, Colin Macleod. "Fundamentally Incompetent: Homophobia, Religion and the Right to Parent," Procreation, Parenthood, and Educational Rights: Ethical and Philosophical Issues, Edited by Michael Cholbi and Jaime Ahlberg. Routledge, 2016.

Donhauser, Justin. "Invisible Disagreement: An Inverted Qualia Argument for Realism." *Philosophical Studies* (2016): 1-14.

Donhauser, Justin. "The Value of Weather Event Science for Pending Climate Policy Decisions." *Ethics, Policy & Environment* (2016).

Gorham, Geoffrey, **Benjamin Hill**, Edward Slowik, C. Kenneth Waters, and Editors. *The Language of Nature: Reassessing the Mathematization of Natural Philosophy in the Seventeenth Century.* Vol. 12. U of Minnesota, 2016.

McLeod, Carolyn. *Conscience in Reproductive Health Care: Prioritizing Patient Interests.* Oxford University Press, UK. Forthcoming

McLeod, Carolyn. "The Medical Non-Necessity of In Vitro Fertilization," *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics.*

McLeod, Carolyn, Andrew Botterell. "Parental Licensing and Discrimination." In the *Routledge Handbook on the Philosophy of Childhood and Children.* Ed. G. Calder, J. De Wispelaere, and A. Gheaus.

Stainton, Robert J. "Full-On Stating." *Mind & Language Mind Language* 31.4 (2016): 395-413.

Stainton, Robert J. "A Deranged Argument Against Public Languages." *Inquiry* 59.1 (2016): 6-32.

Cameron, Margaret, **Benjamin Hill**, and **Robert J. Stainton.** *Sourcebook in the History of Philosophy of Language: Primary Source Texts from the Pre-Socratics to Mill.* Vol. 2. Springer, 2017.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Emilie du Chatelet–
Ruth Hagenruber**

Wednes. November 9
4:00– 5:30 P.M.
STVH 3101

Departmental Colloquium Series

Andrew Chignell
(Cornell University)

Friday, November 18
1:30– 3:00 P.M.
STVH 3101

Jennifer Nagel
(University of
Toronto)

Friday, December 2
1:30– 3:00 P.M.
STVH3101



SEMINARS & LECTURES

Brennan, Samantha. “Making Medical Decisions as if Childhood Mattered: Reflections on Medical Decision Making and the Goods of Childhood,” keynote speaker at the Austro-Canadian Medical Ethics Workshop - Man at the Heart of a Modern Medical Ethics: Challenges and Perspectives,” University of Innsbruck, May 2016.

Brennan, Samantha. “Well-being and Autonomy: The Balancing Act of Children’s Rights,” at “Children’s Rights—origins, normativity, transformations, prospects,” June 2016, Vadstena, Sweden. Hosted by the University of Linköping.

Hasan, Yousuf. “Beyond the Office: Philosophy Peer-Review Sessions for More Inclusive and Dynamical Office Hours” at the *American Association of Philosophy Teachers* (AAPT 2016), held at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan (July 27-31). The seminar is designed to help participants improve their skills as learning-centered philosophy teachers. Video of the talk is available [here](#).

Hasan, Yousuf. “Quine’s Flight from Analyticity” for his symposium on *Carnap and Quine on the Analytic/Synthetic Distinction* at The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS 2016). The eleventh biennial meeting was held in Minneapolis on June 22-25. Video of the talk can be viewed [here](#).

Hasan, Yousuf. “Quine’s Empirical Challenge to Carnap” at the Society for Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy (SSHAP 2016) on June 18 in Denver, Colorado. Video of the discussion period from this talk can be seen [here](#).

Hasan, Yousuf. “Quine’s Flight from Analyticity: Reassessing his Attacks on Carnap’s Analytic/Synthetic Distinction” at the 5th annual University of Calgary Graduate philosophy conference: Logic and Language. The conference was held late May 2016.

McLeod, Carolyn. “Conscientious Refusals: A Feminist Fiduciary Analysis,” Feminist Approaches to Bioethics World Congress, Edinburgh, June 2016.

McLeod, Carolyn. “Reproductive Justice—and Paid IVF?—for All!” A panel on the work of Anne Donchin. Feminist Approaches to Bioethics World Congress, Edinburgh, June 2016.

SEMINARS & LECTURES CONTINUED

McLeod, Carolyn. “Parental Licensing and Discrimination,” Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy, New Brunswick NJ, July 2016.

McLeod, Carolyn. Panelist for an event on Medically-Assisted Death. Western Law School and Medical School, September 2016.

McLeod, Carolyn. “The Exercise of Conscience by Health Professionals in Right-to-Die Cases,” Panel on Conscientious Objections for an event on Provider-Assisted Death, Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, Ottawa ON, October 2016.

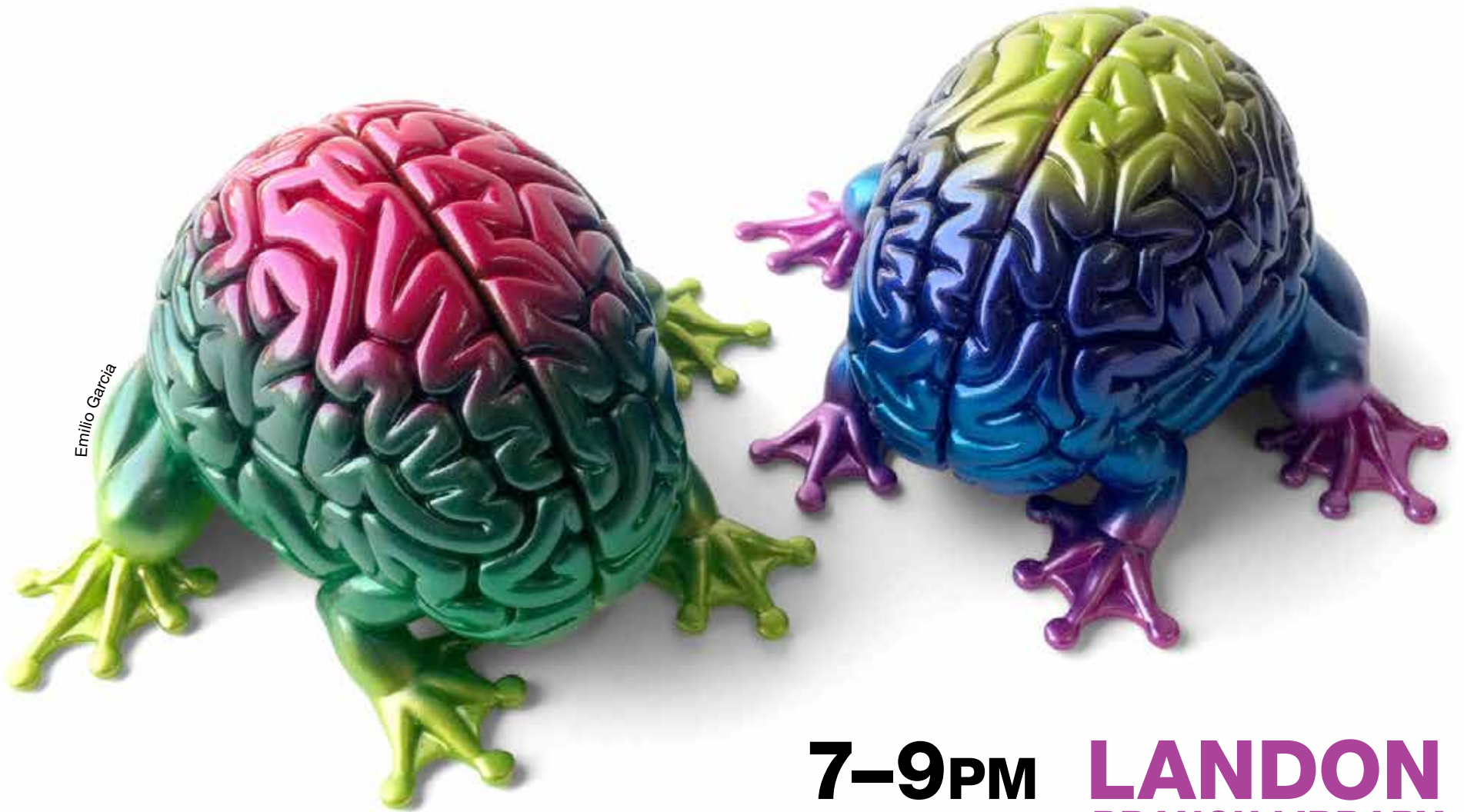
McLeod, Carolyn. “Conscientious Refusals: A Feminist Fiduciary Analysis,” Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP) conference, Mt. Allison University, Sackville NB, November 2016.

Muller, Markus. “Formulating and Finding Higher-Order Interference”. Co-organized a conference at Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario.

THE BRAIN BOOM:

Neuroscience and Society

A lecture series exploring the current relationship between neuroscience and society at large. Presented by the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University.



7-9PM
WEDNESDAYS

LANDON
BRANCH LIBRARY
167 Wortley Rd.

OCTOBER 5	OCTOBER 12	OCTOBER 26	NOVEMBER 2
The Body in 'Mental Illness'	Understanding Mental Illness: Will a Single Explanatory Model Do?	Brains and Persons	Why Neuroscience Needs "Passion"
<p>If mental and physical are separate domains, "mental illness" should not involve the body. But bodily symptoms are common among people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders. Examples are altered perceptions of hot and cold, and hallucinations of touch. Overlooking the body may contribute to the stigma of psychiatric diagnosis.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Catherine Stinson, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rotman Institute of Philosophy</p>	<p>The medical model of mental illness is often characterized as assuming that mental illness is a disorder of the brain. In contrast, the biopsychosocial model allows for the possibility that mental illness is caused by a combination of biological, psychological and environmental causes. Which model is superior for understanding, explaining and treating mental illness?</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Jackie Sullivan, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Western University</p>	<p>Is increasing knowledge of how our brains cause behaviour undermining the very conception of freedom that moral and legal responsibilities presuppose? Is our sense of ourselves as persons under assault from science? Must we rethink criminal responsibility? I present contemporary philosophical views of free will and question how they square with neuroscience.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Chris Viger, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Western University</p>	<p>After a brief review of the history of affective neuroscience and the theoretical status of emotion in contemporary neuroscience, it will be argued that present day neuroscience suffers from a serious theoretical limitation that is largely due to its focus on short-term observation and reliance on laboratory measurement technologies that restrict it to the study of affective states of short duration. Consequently we have very little theoretical understanding of how short term affective states, like emotions, are organized into complex networks that evolve overtime, forming complex affective processes of long duration, in which individual emotions are organized in law-like ways. The solution is to reintroduce the vocabulary and study of long term 'passions' into neuroscience and distinguish these from the individual emotions which they direct and organize.</p> <p>LECTURER: Dr. Louis Charland, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Health Sciences (joint), and Department of Psychiatry (cross), Western University</p>