
Kansas State University

Department of Philosophy Newsletter

October
2019

Aesthetics on the Prairie Spotlights on Faculty in Action

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Greetings from the Department Head

We have lots of
eventful news to
report this fall.

Last year we graduated more students than at any time in the past eight years. They are headed off to diverse places and activities, from positions in counseling and small businesses to law schools from Kansas to Vanderbilt to graduate school in Edinburgh. We wish them well: Jeremy Campbell, Emily Detiveaux, James Gillum, Kelli Holder, Jessica Johns, Braden Johnson, Sam Leyba, Ashley McCall, Hailee McKie, Jesse Oropeza, Evan Rose, Zachary Ruff, and Sam Smith.

Continuing students are doing some really nifty stuff too, from philosophy to short story writing. Papers by Sean McGimpsey and Suan Sonna on various issues in normative philosophy were accepted for presentation or publication in four venues. Some of that work is freely available on the web for those interested in having a gander: Sean's "[Paternalism in Academic Advising](#)", and Suan's "[Mishima in Love](#)".

We sadly must report the departure of four regular faculty: Jim Hamilton is now fully retired, Elliott Wagner has left us for a position at Apple, and Rosa Terlazzo and Jon Herington are off to the University of Rochester. Frank Cabrera and Megan Fritts, here as visitors last year, have also departed. Though we send them off with our best wishes, they will be missed. Happily, however, we welcome Nathan Kellen (U Conn, logic) for a year, and Shay Logan (Minnesota, logic), Shanna Slank (Wisconsin, ethics) and Reuben Stern (Wisconsin, formal epistemology) to tenure track positions.

Should you find yourself passing through Manhattan, do give us a shout. Tea and cookies are on every Thursday at 4. If you happen to be in the area for *Aesthetics on the Prairie* (see below), it would surely make us proud to welcome you on behalf of Ben to any part of the proceedings.

Sean McGimpsey's *Paternalism in Academic Advising* : <https://nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Paternalism-in-Academic-Advising-A-Student-Perspective.aspx>

Suan Sonna's *Mishima in Love*: <https://liveideasjournal.org/2019/01/29/mishima-in-love/>



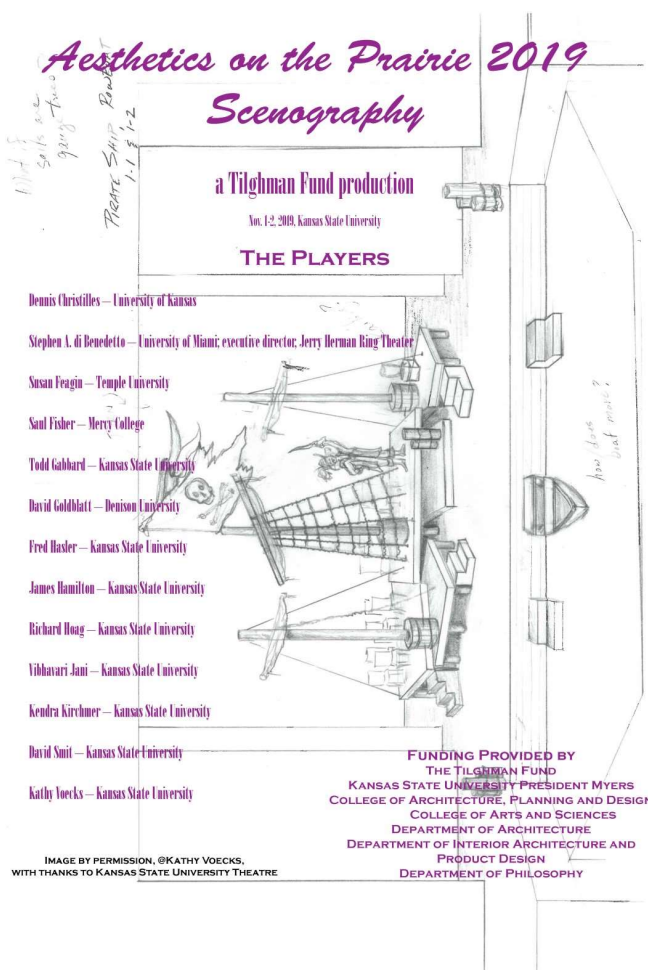
Aesthetics on the Prairie

Jim Hamilton has retired, but not quit working. This fall he has organized the inaugural rendition of [Aesthetics on the Prairie](#), a conference underwritten largely by the generous support of Ben and Marilyn Tilghman, and the several donors to the Tilghman Fund. This first meeting is centered on scenography, a subject whose focus has evolved in philosophically interesting ways. In the hands of architects, the term initially referred, as it often still does, to the design and painting of stage. However, it quickly came to encompass the design of theater buildings, and then to designs of the sets for performances. Along the way, issues about proper design goals and materials have come to the fore. Many of the same issues have arisen within both the practices and theory of theater performance, grounding discussions of how the designed scene constrains or enhances the range of actions and responses permitted to both performers and audiences. One result is that “scenography” now includes within its scope nearly every feature of a theatrical production that is not under the direct control of the author, director, or performers. Indeed, understood in this broad way, the scenographer and her scenographic products are often in conflict with authors, directors, and performers; in consequence scenography is now sometimes treated as an element of performance. These changes in the conception of scenography have challenged longstanding notions in the philosophy of art – notions concerning the functional dimensions of designs, notions about the kinds of environments that works of art produce and are produced within, and notions about how art and architecture is or can be experienced. In a series of papers and panel discussions, *Aesthetics on the Prairie* will explore these changes in the conception of what scenography is, and the connections between performance, plastic arts and architecture.

November 1-2, Regnier Atrium, Kansas State University

The conference is free and open to the public; friends and alumni are especially welcome. The conference is, as noted above, made possible by contributions from **Ben and Marilyn Tilghman**, and the Tilghman Fund. Ben spent 27 years as a faculty member, joining the department of Philosophy and Political Science in 1967 as head. He played a central role in establishing the stand-alone department of Philosophy, established in 1974. He served sequentially as head of Philosophy for some 13 years, until 1980, and retired from Kansas State in 1994. Ben’s philosophical work includes several important contributions to Wittgenstein scholarship and a large and influential set of essays in aesthetics, many of which are collected in his *Reflections on Aesthetic Judgment and other Essays* (Taylor and Francis, 2006). We are grateful for his and Marilyn’s continuing interest in and support of the department. Those wishing to join Ben and Marilyn in supporting aesthetics at Kansas State, our work, and our students can do so by contributing to the [Tilghman Fund](#) (when prompted for ‘Special Instructions’ just type in ‘Tilghman Fund’).

Conference Program: https://www.k-state.edu/philos/news_events/abstracts_announcements/aesthetics2019-



Spotlights on Faculty in Action

Graham Leach-Krouse has been developing logic software for education. “Carnap” is a free and open framework for the development of formal reasoning applications. It allows students to work on logic problems and submit them for automated grading.

Unlike more specialized software for logic, Carnap’s design runs in standard web browsers and emphasizes flexibility, giving instructors the ability to customize their courses and add extensions to their logic. At last count, it had 56 registered instructors and 784 registered users across a range of universities and colleges, and had graded over 33,000 logic problems!

$\vdash \forall x \exists y \forall z \forall w (X2(x,y) \leftrightarrow Y2(y,x))$	
1. Show: $\forall x \forall y (X2(x,y) \leftrightarrow Y2(y,x))$	+
2. Show: $\forall x \forall y (X2(x,y) \leftrightarrow \lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](y,x))$	+
3. Show: $\forall y (X2(a,y) \leftrightarrow \lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](y,a))$	+
4. Show: $X2(a,b) \leftrightarrow \lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](b,a)$	+
5. $X2(a,b):AS$	+
6. $\lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](b,a):ABS2\ 5$	+
7. :CD 6	
8. Show: $\lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](b,a) \rightarrow X2(a,b)$	+
9. $\lambda w \lambda v [X2(v,w)](b,a):AS$	+
10. $X2(a,b):APP2\ 9$	+
11. :CD 10	
12. $X2(a,b) \leftrightarrow \lambda x_1 \lambda x_2 [X2(x_2, x_1)](b,a):CB\ 4\ 8$	+
13. :UD 12	
14. :UD 3	
15. $\forall y \forall z \forall w (X2(x,y) \leftrightarrow Y2(y,x)):EG2\ 2$	+
16. :UD2 15	

In January 2019 **Amelia Hicks**, as part of the University’s [Presidential Lecture Series](#), went with Rosa Terlazzo to the ANW Special Education Cooperative in Chanute, KS, where they worked with about 50 gifted high school students in the Chanute area. Amelia gave a presentation titled “Dealing with Disagreement,” in which students compared different strategies for conversations about sensitive topics, and discussed logical and rhetorical fallacies that prevent those conversations from being productive. Rosa gave a presentation titled “What’s the Point of Democracy?” in which students discussed philosophical questions related to voting. Amelia gave the same PLS presentation in March 2019 at Riley County High School.

Amongst **Jon Mahoney’s** many activities forging international connections as a [Fulbright Scholar](#) in Kyrgyzstan last year was a two week stint in March travelling through Uzbekistan with writers and artists from Uzbekistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, India, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. He hopes to be able to invite some of his colleagues for visits to Kansas State.



Scott Tanona is co-hosting a podcast, “[Something to Chew On](#),” that asks questions about food from production to consumption. Sponsored by the [Global Food Systems Initiative](#), it has guest experts from K-State and elsewhere discuss food security, nutrition, agriculture, insects, engineering, climate change, genetic engineering, and making better tomatoes.

Your support counts!

Your generosity to the Department of Philosophy helps to support our important efforts. In these times of government cutbacks and increased tuition, gifts from alumni and friends -- those who value the role of philosophy in education -- make an extraordinary difference in what K-State can offer. Scholarships, in particular, help us attract the best students and ensure that we can give them the support they need to succeed.

To donate to the Department of Philosophy or to discuss the endowing of a scholarship, please contact Department Head **Bruce Glymour** (785-532-0369), or donate directly at:

[Philosophy Faculty Development](#)

[Philosophy Student Scholarships](#)

[The Tilghman Excellence Fund in Philosophy](#)