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January 2018

ND Philosophy

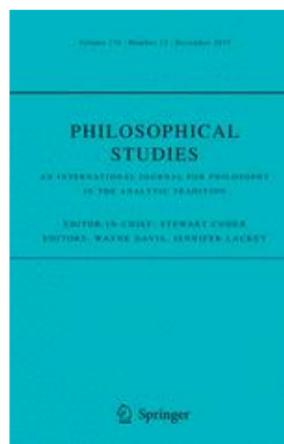
Philosopher in Print

This month's "Philosopher in Print" is Alumni, Peter Finocchiaro. His piece titled "The Intelligibility of Metaphysical Structure" is available in *Philosophical Studies* online.

Abstract:

Theories that posit metaphysical structure are able to do much work in philosophy. Some, however, find the notion of 'metaphysical structure' unintelligible. In this paper, I argue that their charge of unintelligibility fails. There is nothing distinctively problematic about the notion. At best, their charge of unintelligibility is a mere reiteration of previous complaints made toward similar notions. In developing their charge, I clarify several important concepts, including primitiveness, intelligibility, and the Armstrong-inspired "ontologism" view of the world. I argue that, ultimately, their charge is best understood as an objection whose central premise is that the notion of 'structure' runs contrary to an important presupposition of contemporary metaphysics. But that central premise is, on closer inspection, implausible. I respond to the objection by identifying three popular metaphysical theories that violate the alleged presupposition but are still generally regarded as intelligible. The objection thus fails to show that a theory that posits metaphysical structure is unintelligible.

[Link to paper found here](#)



January

- 19** **Lunchtime Talk: Meg Schmitt**
 "Rational Activity and Doxastic Control"
 12-1 pm
 220 Malloy Hall
- Shut Up and Write**
 1:45-2:15 pm
 220 Malloy Hall
- Pre-Colloquium Gathering**
 2:15-3 pm
 Philosophy Library/Lounge
- Stephanie Leary (IU)**
 "In Defense of Practical Reasons for Belief"
 3-5 pm
 DeBartolo Hall
- Reception**
 5-6 pm
 Philosophy Library/Lounge
- 24** **MAP Event-Louise Williams**
 "Is Buddhism Religion or Philosophy?"
 6:30-7:30 pm
 215 Malloy Hall
 Snacks Provided!
- 26** **Lunchtime Talk: Corey Dethier**
 "Models, Fictions, and Representing Scientific Practice: Or, I don't know much about models, but I know we learn from them"
 12-1 pm
 220 Malloy Hall
- Shut Up and Write**
 1:45-2:15 pm
 220 Malloy Hall
- Pre-Colloquium Gathering**
 2:15-3 pm
 Philosophy Library/Lounge
- Zoe Johnson King (UofM)**
 3-5 pm
 DeBartolo Hall
- Reception**
 5-6 pm
 Philosophy Library/Lounge

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Meghan Sullivan]

1. What is your favorite movie? *The Empire Strikes Back. Objectively the greatest film ever made.*
2. What was your first ever job? *Cashier at Harris Teeter grocery store.*
3. What are you currently reading? *For work? What Makes Time Special. For fun? This nerd-tastic fantasy trilogy about earthquake people that Sam Newlands got me hooked on.*
4. Where is your happy place? *The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. And Costco.*
5. What's one thing on your bucket list? *Go to Antarctica.*

15	Walk the Walk Week January 15-22
16	FIRST CLASS DAY
17	Fine Art Print Sale January 17-19 12-5 pm 306 Riley Hall
21	Conference: God, Virtue, & Moral Absolutes: Anscombe's "Modern Moral Philosophy" at 60 January 21-23 100-104 McKenna Hall
22	MLK Celebration Luncheon 11:30-1:30 pm North Dome, Joyce Center
23	Last Day for All Class Changes
26	29th Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival January 26-28 Browning Cinema, DPAF

- **Welcome back!**
We hope you all had a fabulous winter break! Below are a few things you should know for the start of the new semester:
 - Jeff Speaks is on leave this semester, so Paul Weithman will be our stand-in Chair for Spring 2018
 - ND Roll Call is available through January 23rd. **You will lose your schedule if you do not complete this.**
 - 5th year Graduate Students: If you intend on doing a 5+1 postdoc, please fill out this [LOI](#) and return to Jenny Petersen in the Deans office. There will be a 5+1 Postdoc Forum on February 13th at 2 pm in 119 O'Shag
 - Directed Readings: If you plan on taking a Directed Reading this semester, please turn in an [undergrad](#) or [grad](#) form to either Christine or Jennifer.
- **New Year, New you, New Shirt!**
Come get your 2017-18 Philo shirt in the office! They are still \$10, but now they come in mens and womens sizing and are much softer! Stop by 100 Malloy for yours!
- **Grad Student Recruitment Week**
This years recruitment "week" will be held March 19-21. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email Christine.
- **Winners!**
Over break we finalized our fantasy football league and the Bowl Mania Challenge. I am happy to report that undergrad, Jack Hurley, won Fantasy Football, and grad student, David Pattillo, won the Bowl Challenge. Congratulations! And thank you to all who participated. Next up is the mother of all challenges: MARCH MADNESS!!
- **Dissertation Writing Group**
Everyone in the dissertation phase is invited to attend the dissertation writing group. Starting on Monday, Jan 22, we'll meet every Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:30 (note the new time) at Au Bon Pain in the library to grab a quick breakfast and coffee (paid for by the department). Then we'll head up to the North Reading Room on the second floor to write for two hours (or longer, if you like).
The two rules of the group are (i) no internet and (ii) writing only (so no reading, grading, teaching prep, etc.).
- Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter? Fill out [this questionnaire](#) to tell us what!

[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

[CONFERENCE](#)

