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February 2018

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's "Philosopher in Print" is Alumni, Jeffrey Tolly. His piece titled "Swampman: A Dilemma for Proper Functionalism" is available in this month's issue of *Synthese*.



Abstract:

Proper functionalism claims that a belief has epistemic warrant only if it's formed according to the subject's truth-aimed cognitive design plan. The most popular putative counter-examples to proper functionalism all involve agents who form beliefs in seemingly warrant-enabling ways that don't appear to proceed according to any sort of design. The Swampman case is arguably the most famous scenario of this sort. However, some proper functionalists accept that subjects like Swampman have warrant, opting instead to adopt a non-standard account of design. But critics of proper functionalism hold that this strategy comes at a high cost: the design-plan condition now seems explanatorily superfluous. James Taylor construes cases like Swampman as posing a dilemma for the proper functionalist: either deny warrant in these cases and concede that proper functionalism doesn't capture our intuitions, or affirm warrant and undermine the explanatory power of the design-plan condition. Proper functionalists have replied to both horns of this dilemma. Recently, Kenny Boyce and Andrew Moon have argued that warrant-affirming intuitions on cases like Swampman are motivated by a principle that has a clear counter-example. Also, Alvin Plantinga presents a set of cases that supposedly cause problems for any analysis of warrant that lacks a design-plan condition. In this essay, I present a counter-argument to Boyce and Moon's argument, and show that a more robust reliability condition can accommodate Plantinga's problem cases. I conclude that we're left with no good reason to doubt that cases like Swampman raise a troubling dilemma for the proper functionalist.

[Link to paper found here](#)

February

02

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

Job Talk: John Morrison (Barnard)

"Perceptual Structuralism"

3-5 pm
DeBartolo Hall

Reception

5-6 pm
Philosophy Library/Lounge

07

Sebastian Rodl (University of Leipzig)

"A Priori Knowledge and Kants Limitation of it"

3:30-5:30 pm
220 Malloy Hall

09

Lunchtime Talk: Paul Blaschko

"The Ethics of Belief and Actional Influence: Rejecting 'The Standard View' of Epistemic Responsibility"

12-1 pm
220 Malloy Hall

Shut Up and Write

1:45-2:15 pm
220 Malloy Hall

Job Talk: Chelsea Rosenthal (NYU)

"Trying to Be Moral, Morally"

3-5 pm
DeBartolo Hall

Reception

5-6 pm
Philosophy Library/Lounge

16

Lunchtime Talk: Fr. Philip Neri

"Are we doing this right??? On Questions and Methodology in Metaphysics"

12-1 pm
220 Malloy Hall

Shut Up and Write

1:45-2:15 pm
220 Malloy Hall

Job Talk: Michael Rabenberg (Harvard)

Title TBA

3-5 pm
DeBartolo Hall

Reception

5-6 pm
Philosophy Library/Lounge

21

MAP Event

Philosophy You've Never Heard of: An Interactive Exploration

6:30-7:30 pm
215 Malloy Hall
Snacks provided!

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Paul Blaschko]

1. What is the best least-known hangout in SB? *On the deck of Chimichurri, eating empanadas*
2. What's the best Halloween Costume you've ever had? *I once stole an idea from my wife and went clubbing as the letter P with two black eyes. I was a black-eyed pea.*
3. What is your go-to napping strategy? *Gotta nap with Soloman's napping. If you check your email when he falls asleep, it's already too late.*
4. What's your most used emoji? 🤔
5. Favorite Kitchen appliance? *Tie between my beautiful dutch oven and my cast iron skillet*

Around Campus
February

News and Announcements

- 02** **First Friday Grad Dinner**
6:15-7:45pm
Coleman Morse 1st Floor
Lounge
[RSVP Here](#)
- 03** **Workshop: Getting Started in Undergraduate Research**
7-8 pm
110 Brownson Hall
- 07** **Workshop: Gathering Early Semester Student Feedback**
3:30-4:45 pm
210-214 McKenna Hall
- 08** **Blood Drive**
11 am - 4 pm
Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore
- 16** **[Junior Parents Weekend](#)**
February 16-18

- [Check out grad student Rachel Jonker's review in "Reading Religion"](#)
- **CPR News**
Mike Rea and Sam Newlands have been awarded a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to explore questions related to the nature of the self at the intersection of philosophy, theology, and the social sciences. [Read more.](#)
- LinDa found [this little gem](#) from a past APA program. The office staff got a good laugh ;-)
- **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.
- **Dissertation Writing Group**
Everyone in the dissertation phase is invited to attend the dissertation writing group. They meet every Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:30 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!