

December 2019

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's 'Philosopher in Print' is Grad Student, Corey Dethier. His article "How to Do Things with Theory: The Instrumental Role of Auxiliary Hypotheses in Testing" is available in the October issue of *Erkenntnis*.



Abstract

Pierre Duhem's influential argument for holism relies on a view of the role that background theory plays in testing: according to this still common account of "auxiliary hypotheses," elements of background theory serve as truth-apt premises in arguments for or against a hypothesis. I argue that this view is mistaken. Rather than serving as truth-apt premises in arguments, auxiliary hypotheses are employed as (reliability-apt) "epistemic tools": instruments that perform specific tasks in connecting our theoretical questions with the world but that are not (or not usually) premises in arguments. On the resulting picture, the acceptability of an auxiliary hypothesis depends not on its truth but on contextual factors such as the task or purpose it is put to and the other tools employed alongside it.

[Full article found here](#)

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December

- 04 Placement Meeting**
Job talks (including teaching presentations), and negotiating an offer
2-3:30 pm
215 Malloy Hall
- 05 Do We Have a Right to Build a Border Wall?**
A public debate on the ethics of immigration and citizenship
5-7 pm
101 DeBartolo Hall
- 06 Quinn Talk: Martha Nussbaum**
"Sexual Assault: Pride, Objectification, and Accountability"
3-5 pm
131 DeBartolo Hall
- 13 MAP Event: De-Stress & Study Party**
-Craft holiday cards for your loved ones
-Refuel with snacks
-Study among peers
3-5 pm
215 Malloy Hall
- 24 Office Closed for Break**
December 24-January 1

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Laura Callahan]

1. Favorite movie? *"Cool Hand Luke"*, I think. Sometimes I say *"Fight Club"*. Or *"It's a Wonderful Life"*
2. What was your first-ever job? *I waitressed for \$2.00/hour under the table at the Sugar Shack, a short-lived restaurant in Palmyra, IN - my 900-person small town*
3. What are you currently reading? *Iris Murdoch's "Nuns and Soldiers"*. I like novels with lots of character development
4. Where is your happy place? *My couch is very happy, especially when I'm eating ice cream. I also like being in the woods or on a hike, particularly in the UK. I did a lot of walking when we lived in Oxford, including the "walk across England"*
5. What's one thing on your bucket list? *I don't keep a bucket list. I'd like to do more long-distance walks, maybe a pilgrimage walk in Europe. Also, I have a 3-year-old. Going out with her for a drink or coffee once she's an adult is something I really hope will happen.*

philosophy.nd.edu/ for an up-to-date listing

Around Campus December

News and Announcements

- 02** **Classes Resume**
- 12 Days of Fitness**
Dec 2-13
[More info](#)
- 04** **Carols and Cookies**
4 pm
Great Hall - O'Shag
- 06** **Naughton Fellowship Information Session**
1-2 pm
253 Nieuwland Science Hall
- 10** **Annual Pottery Sale!**
Dec 10-12
9 am - 5 pm
Riley Hall Ceramics Room
- 12** **Last Class Day**
- 13** **Reading Days**
Dec 13-15
- 16** **Final Exams**
Dec. 16-20
- 21** **Winter Break**
Dec 21 - Jan 14
- 24** **Students can view grades**
- events.nd.edu for full list

- **Welcome Merry Jerry!**

This Christmas we thought we would introduce you to our friend, Merry Jerry. Merry Jerry is based off of the "Elf on the Shelf" phenomenon. (If you aren't familiar with "Elf on the Shelf", it's a little elf that moves around your house and makes sure the kids are being good for Santa.) Merry Jerry is based off of Philosopher Jeremy Bentham. He will be making his way around Malloy Hall this December. If you see him, post to social media with any of the hashtags #merryjerry, #benthamdonethat, #benthaminabox, or #elfitarianism (and tag us!).
- **Christmas Outreach!**

Reminder that all Christmas gifts bought for our South Bend family are due by Wednesday, December 4th. Thank you to everyone that participated!
- **Recruitment Week Save the Date!**

This years recruitment week will be April 1st-3rd, 2020. If you would like to help out with it, please email cgrandy@nd.edu.
- **Have a Fantastic Winter Break!**

The University will be closed December 24th-January 1st.
- **St. Michaels Laundry**

Did you know Notre Dame has a laundromat? Did you know they have monthly coupons? Check them out [here!](#)
- **Philosophy Merch!!!**

Looking for a gift for a family member that won't break the bank? Look no further! Buy a t-shirt or phone wallet today!
- Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter or have news that you want featured? Fill out [this questionnaire](#) to tell us!

Meme of the Month



Meme Contributor: Fr. Philip Neri

[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

