

January 2020

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's 'Philosopher in Print' is recent alum, Tobias Flattery. His article "Leibniz's Lost Argument Against Causal Interaction" is available in a forthcoming issue of *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy*.

Abstract

Leibniz accepts causal independence, the claim that no created substance can causally interact with any other. And Leibniz needs causal independence to be true, since his well-known pre-established harmony is premised upon it. So, what is Leibniz's argument for causal independence? Sometimes he claims that causal interaction between substances is superfluous. Sometimes he claims that it would require the transfer of accidents, and that this is impossible. But when Leibniz finds himself under sustained pressure to defend causal independence, those are not the reasons that he marshals in its defense. Instead, deep into his long correspondence with Burchard de Volder, he gives a different sort of argument, one that has gone nearly unnoticed by commentators and has not yet been properly understood. In part, this is because the argument develops slowly over four years of correspondence. It emerges in early 1704, but it is formulated tersely and appears murky unless understood in light of Leibniz and De Volder's tangled exchanges. There Leibniz argues that, on his distinctive ontology of an infinity of created substances, no two created substances could possibly causally interact, for roughly the same reasons that some Cartesians like De Volder deny interaction between minds and bodies on their substance dualist ontology. In this paper I draw out this lost argument, explain it and the metaphysics on which Leibniz builds it, and untangle Leibniz and De Volder's exchanges concerning causation from which this argument results.

[Full article found here](#)



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January

- 15** **Dissertation Defense: Corey Dethier**
 "From Variance to Convergence: Robustness and Epistemology of Science"
 12:30-2:30 pm
 107 Malloy Hall
- Mock Job Talk: Callie Phillips**
 "Are We Really Future-Biased?"
 3:30-5 pm
 320 Malloy Hall
- 17** **Talk: Chiara Cordelli (U Chicago)**
 "Privatization and the Problem of Representative Agency"
 3-5 pm
 126 DeBartolo Hall
 Reception to follow in Malloy
- 24** **Talk: Eden Lin (Ohio State)**
 "The Experience Requirement"
 3-5 pm
 126 DeBartolo Hall
- 31** **Talk: Mike Zhao (NYU)**
 "Guilt without Perceived Wrongdoing"
 3-5 pm
 126 DeBartolo Hall

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Don Howard]

1. Favorite movie? *"Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World."*
2. What was your first-ever job? *Maintenance and groundskeeping at a Putt-Putt golf course. I was fired for not trimming the grass well enough.*
3. What are you currently reading? *Joseph Roth, Hotel Savoy (auf Deutsch)*
4. Where is your happy place? *A good jazz or blues club*
5. What's one thing on your bucket list? *Mario Andretti Driving Experience at the Chicagoland Speedway*

Around Campus January

News and Announcements

- 01 **Happy New Year!**
- 02 **University Opens**
- 12 **Undergraduate halls open**
4 pm
Great Hall - O'Shag
- 14 **Classes Begin**
- 19 **MLK Events**
[Full schedule](#)
- 24 **Student Film Festival**
Jan 24-26
Browning Cinema
[Full Schedule](#)
- 28 **[Winter Career Fair](#)**
4-8 pm
Dahnke Ballroom-Duncan

events.nd.edu for full list

- **Introducing the History of Philosophy Forum!**

This year marks the beginning of an exciting new initiative that has its home in the department: The History of Philosophy Forum. Scholarship in the history of philosophy encompasses a vast sweep across times and places: from the Vedic literature of India to the Neoplatonism and Aristotelianism of the Islamic world, from the Scholastic projects of medieval Europe and Latin America to Early Modernity and the Enlightenment, and onward. By hosting an annual History of Philosophy Colloquium examining a single theme across different periods in the history of philosophy and sponsoring an International Visitors Program supporting international exchange and collaboration, the History of Philosophy Forum aims to make UND an internationally recognized hub for the history of philosophy, stimulating conversation and collaboration among scholars working with different periods, traditions, and methodologies. For more information, visit the Forum's website at <https://historyofphilosophy.nd.edu/>.
- **Welcome JC Beall!**

We are so excited to announce that JC Beall will be joining our faculty as the O'Neill Family Chair of Philosophy in the fall of 2020. He is especially well-known for his work in non-classical logic and for his defense of logical pluralism in the philosophy of logic. He also has research interests in a number of other areas of philosophy, including the philosophy of religion (he was previously a fellow with the CPR).
- **Recruitment Week Save the Date!**

This year's recruitment week will be April 1st-3rd, 2020. If you would like to help out with it, please email cgrandy@nd.edu.
- **CPR Save the Dates!**
 - Christology Workshop (February 3-4 at Notre Dame)
 - The Metaphysics of the Material World: Suárez to Spinoza (April 24-25 at Notre Dame)
 - Logos 2020 Workshop: Narrative, Personhood, and the Self (May 28-30 at Notre Dame)

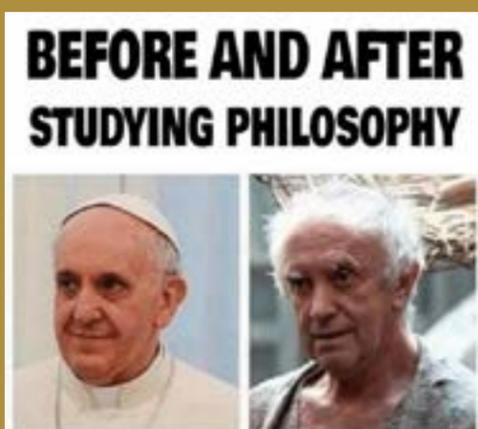
More information can be found on their [website](#).
- **MLK Day**

On Monday, January 20th classes will be cancelled from 11:30-1:30 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day. For a full list of events, [click here](#).
- **Roll Call!**

Don't forget to complete Roll Call by January 21st!!
- **Philosophy Merch!!!**

We still have lots of t-shirts and phone wallets available! Men's and Women's sizing! Stop in today!

Meme of the Month



Meme Contributor: Fr. Philip Neri

[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

