

February 2020

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's 'Philosopher in Print' is graduate student, Ellen Lehet. Her article "Impurity in Contemporary Mathematics" is available in a forthcoming issue of the *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*.



Abstract

Purity has been recognized as an ideal of proof. In this paper, I consider whether purity continues to have value in contemporary mathematics. The topics (e.g., algebraic topology, algebraic geometry, category theory) and methods of contemporary mathematics often favor unification and generality, values that are more often associated with impurity rather than purity. I will demonstrate this by discussing several examples of methods and proofs that highlight the epistemic significance of unification and generality. First, I discuss the examples of algebraic invariants and of considering a mathematical object from several different perspectives to illustrate that the methods used in contemporary mathematics favor impurity. Then I consider an example from category theory which demonstrates how unification and generality are related to impurity and that impure solutions can be explanatory. In light of this discussion, we see that purity only has marginal value within contemporary mathematics which instead prioritizes the epistemic values associated with impurity.

[Full article found here](#)

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Tobias Flattery]

1. What is the best least-known hangout in SB? *Wherever Tania and my kids are. Apart from that, you tell me! Because, y'know, my list of great places for which I don't have time to go isn't long enough yet...*
2. What's the best Halloween costume you've ever had? *I dressed up as (and acted like) Napoleon Dynamite one Halloween. It was kind of awesome.*
3. What is our go-to napping strategy? *What's a nap?*
4. What is your most used emoji? *Maybe 😊 but also maybe 😞*
5. Favorite kitchen appliance? *Refrigerator, duh. Also, toaster oven. It takes a few more minutes than a microwave, but for most things, the result is much better.*

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February

- 07 Medieval Philosophy Workshop**
 Guest Speaker: Lisa-Marie Knothe (Julius-Maximilians-Universität)
 "Visus, auditus and sermo: The Foundation of Albert the Great's Pedagogical Pyramid"
 Free lunch provided, email [PNR](#) to RSVP
 12-1 pm
 The Maritain Library (4th floor Geddes)
- Talk: Amy Breg (Rhode Island)**
 "How and Why to Be Well-Rounded"
 3-5 pm
 126 DeBartolo Hall
 Reception to follow in Malloy
- 12 Talk: David Shoemaker (Tulane)**
 "The Trials and Tribulations of Tom Brady: Self-Blame, Self-Talk, Self-Flagellation"
 3:30-5:30 pm
 138 DeBartolo Hall
 Reception to follow in Malloy
- 18 HPS Talk: Bennett Holman (Yonsei U)**
 "On Bias in Science"
 4:15 pm
 214 DeBartolo Hall
- 21 Colloquium: John Brunero (Nebraska-Lincoln)**
 Title TBA
 3-5 pm
 126 DeBartolo Hall

Around Campus February

News and Announcements

05 **Pizza, Pop, and Politics**
Discussion: "Girl Power: Examining the Role of Women Voters in Presidential Elections"
5-6:30 pm
Geddes Hall Coffee House

14 **Happy Valentine's Day!**
[Junior Parents Weekend](#)
Feb 14-16

15 **Trike Theatre presents "A Year with Frog and Toad"**
11-12
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

events.nd.edu for full list

- **Sebastián Murgueitio Ramírez and Don Howard restore forgotten letters of scholars' physics debates**

Sometimes what seems like a random bit of trivia turns into much more. As a student of history and philosophy of science, Sebastián Murgueitio Ramírez was aware of the existence of Epistemological Letters as an obscure journal/newsletter devoted to the foundations of physics at a time of deep skepticism of such inquiry within the wider physics community. So when he was asked to find and research an overlooked academic paper for a history of science class, he thought, "OK, I'll find something there." Full article [here](#).

- **NHC Graduate Student Summer Residency**

The annual [Graduate Student Summer Residency](#) will be hosted on July 6-17, 2020. Titled "Passionate Teaching in a Research Environment: Narratives, Objects, and the Accessible Classroom." They have a spot reserved for a Notre Dame student to participate in the program. Contact [Anna Dolezal](#) for more information.

- **Save the date!**

The annual end of the year party for faculty and graduate students will be held at The Brick on April 30th from 5-7 pm. Once again, Christine will be doing superlatives. If you have any ideas for them, [let her know!](#)

- **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 [Christine](#).

- **Did you know you can report safety concerns!?**

Risk Management has an Incident Reporting & Management section of their website where you can report various safety concerns such as an injury, property damage, and more! Visit their [website](#) for more information.

- **Love memes?**

Interested in creating funny philosophy memes for our social media pages? Contact [Christine](#)! And be sure to checkout our Instagram Page (@NDphilosophy) because we have some fun stuff coming your way!

- **Philosophy Merch!!!**

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

- Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter or have news that you want featured? Fill out [this form](#) to tell us!

Meme of the Month



[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

