

September 2022

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's "Philosopher in Print" takes on philosophy of logic by day, but poetry by night. Prof. Curtis Franks' latest poem "14 self-referential verses annagrammatically derived from William Shakespeare's 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?'" will appear later this month in [Fleas on the Dog](#). We sat down (aka emailed) Prof. Franks to get to know a little more about his life as a poet.

U: What got you into writing poetry and how long have you been doing it for?

Franks: I have messed around with words in various ways since my teenage years: anagrams, palindromes, rhyming and metrical excursions. Because most of my efforts are comical, they aren't typically suited for wide audiences. It is asking a lot to expect strangers to appreciate your sense of humor. So most of what I wrote over the years I kept to myself or shared with specific friends who would be in on the joke. For example, one of my personal triumphs involves the observation that "Beyonce" is pig-latin for "abeyance," as a pretended literary analysis of Michael Arceneaux's book about loss of religious faith. The world was not ready. By contrast, the pandemic was a great unifier, so my second-rate pun-poem where "flatten the curve" gets reappropriated from epidemiological slogan to plea for ZOOM-class grade-inflation had an audience.

U: Is your poetry inspired by your philosophical work or is it more of an escape?

F: There are occasional formal influences. A good bit of my poetry is about poetry itself, in a self-referential way that is familiar from certain logic puzzles and meta-perspectival endeavors. My haiku poem cycle is an example: a sequence of haiku each of which mocks haiku for being an inept form, which then paradoxically is meaningful only because of its adherence to that form. Smullyan did a lot of this sort of thing to great effect. In an ill-advised departure from light-verse, "The dao of mohs," I challenge the dual transcendentalist and quietist strategies for finding meaning in the world and recommend in their place an appreciation of the ordinary and fleeting, which of course is a famous theme from Wittgenstein. But mostly I just keep things silly. I catch myself reworking sentences in my professional writing that are metrically awkward all the time, and now and then, like in "Wittgenstein's wayward student," I am convinced that an oblique literary device is the best way to communicate a subtle idea. So I think there may be more influence in the other direction.

U: How is your experience with publishing literary work different from your experience publishing academic work?

F: Maybe the most notable difference is that poetry journals expect simultaneous submissions. They assume you'll send your work to 3--5 places, proceed with the first acceptance you get, and notify the other journals to discontinue your submission. I only work in formal poetry (metrically structured or rhyming or heavily constrained) and typically in light verse, all of which is a bit old-fashioned and unserious, so my options are limited. Another big difference is that the journals don't see themselves as gatekeepers on quality, or annals of contributions to a field, or anything like that. They are just trying to put together volumes that will be read and will sell. So they do things like publish previously published work and solicit work from well-known authors. And they definitely don't think they owe authors any explanation for why they aren't selecting their work to print! Also, the better journals deal with submission volume that is almost inconceivable to academics: over 100,000 poems a year, all screened and selected from by the editors with no refereeing advice. Another thing that strikes me is that if your poem appears in a good journal, lots of readers will contact you about it. My experience with academic writing definitely didn't prepare me for this, but I suppose it is possible that this happens to folks in philosophy, too.

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Anita Pillai]

1. What would you sing at Karaoke night? *Everytime by Britney Spears*
2. What did you want to be when you were small? *Marine biologist*
3. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? *The porcini mushroom pappardelle from the D.O.C Espresso restaurant in Melbourne*
4. What's the worst gift you've received? *A tissue box holder covered in butterflies*
5. Who would you want to play you in a movie? *Definitely Mariah Carey! Haha*

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September

13 **Grad Colloquium: Mack Sullivan**
Title TBA
7-9 pm
220 Malloy Hall

20 **PSTI Speaker: Neils Linnemann (Bremen)**
"Constructivist approaches to the epistemology of spacetime"
12:30-2:30 pm
220 Malloy Hall

Grad Colloquium: Rachel Dichter
Title TBA
7-9 pm
220 Malloy Hall

23 **Colloquium: Michelle Kosch (Cornell)**
Title TBA
3-5 pm
Location TBA
Reception to follow

27 **PSTI Speaker: Harry Crane (Rutgers)**
"Gambler's Wisdom: Adverse Selection, Severe Uncertainty, and Common Sense"
12:30-2:30 pm
220 Malloy Hall

CPR Talk: Lucy Osler (Univ. of Copenhagen)
"Objectification, Tech, and the Quantified Self"
3:30 pm
126 DeBartolo Hall

09 **Ahead of the Game Lecture Series**
O'Neill Hall of Music - LaBar Hall
1:30-4:00

10 **ND Football vs. Marshall**
Notre Dame Stadium
2:30 pm

13 **29th Annual Hesburgh Lecture in Ethics and Public Policy**
"Changing the Means But Not the Ends"
4:30-6 pm
Decio Theatre, DPAC

16 **Ahead of the Game Lecture Series**
O'Neill Hall of Music - LaBar Hall
1:30-4:00

17 **ND Football vs. Cal**
Notre Dame Stadium
2:30 pm

20 **President's Address to the Faculty**
4-5 pm
Decio Theatre, DPAC

- **The Majors Advisory Council is Accepting Applications**
The Philosophy Majors Advisory Council is proud to announce applications for new council members! Ideal council members would be philosophy majors who are seriously interested in the subject of philosophy and service to the department. Council members will assist the department in planning undergraduate events and improving the undergraduate experience. The only criteria for eligibility is that you're a philosophy major. The time commitment is low (only a couple of hours a week, at most). Applications are due on Friday, September 8, at 11:59pm ET. The form to apply can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact senior philosophy major and council member Elizabeth VanKammen (evankamm@nd.edu).

- **Congratulations to those who defended their disserations this past summer!**
Stella Zhu "Artifact and Social Intention a Consideration in Three Parts" Advisor: Christopher Shields
Fr. Philip Neri Reese "Thomas Aquinas and the Demonstrative Character of Metaphysics" Advisor: Therese Cory
Char Brecevic "A Philosophical Investigation of Patient Nonadherence: Imagining a Way Forward" Advisor: Don Howard
Jordan Lavender "The Subjective Turn: The Metaphysics of Experience in the Fourteenth Century" Advisor: Stephen Dumont

- **New International Travel Policy**
Please aware of the new international travel policy that requires you to register your travel before you leave. More information [here](#).

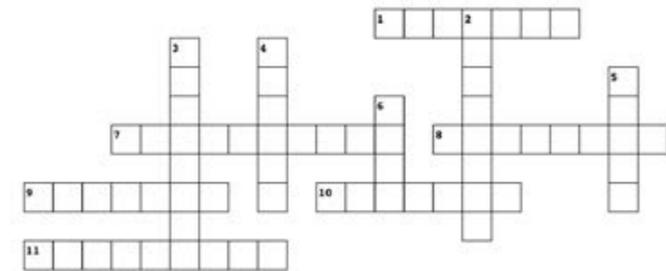
- **Undergrad and Grad Students!**
Want to tell the world why you love our department? Drop Christine a short video (we're talking just a couple seconds) on why you do! She is collecting them to make into a Reel.

- **Love Memes?**
Interested in creating funny philosophy memes for our social media pages? Contact [Christine!](#) And be sure to follow us on social media!

PHILOSOPHY CROSSWORD

By Paolo Mazzara '23

History of Philosophy Crossword



Across

1. Compilation of Aristotle's logical treatises.
7. Born in Spain and wrote a perplexing guide.
8. Our dear grad student has a pup named Benji (last name).
9. Peter author of the Sentences.
10. Our dear grad student who is an Olympic weightlifting enjoyer (first name).
11. Famous for his Golden Sayings.

Down

2. Epicurus' calm and untroubled condition.
3. Maker of the world in Plato's Timaeus.
4. Bonus! our amazing coordinator (last name).
5. The counterpart of Philonous in Berkeley's dialogues.
6. "Prima rerum creatarum est ___."

events.nd.edu for full list

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

two platonists having a nice talk after reading the Timaeus for the 10th time



[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

