

January 2023

ND Philosophy

Philosopher in Print

This month's 'Philosophers in Print' are Professor Joel David Hamkins and grad student Bokai Yao. Their paper titled, "Reflection in Second-order Set Theory with Abundant Urelements Bi-interprets a Supercompact Cardinal", is in the December issue of *The Journal of Symbolic Logic*.



Abstract

After reviewing various natural bi-interpretations in urelement set theory, including second-order set theories with urelements, we explore the strength of second-order reflection in these contexts. Ultimately, we prove, second-order reflection with the abundant atom axiom is bi-interpretable and hence also equiconsistent with the existence of a supercompact cardinal. The proof relies on a reflection characterization of supercompactness, namely, a cardinal κ is supercompact if and only if every Π_1^1 sentence true in a structure M (of any size) containing κ in a language of size less than κ is also true in a substructure $m \prec M$ of size less than κ with $m \cap \kappa \in \kappa$.

[Full article here](#)

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Kesavan Thanagopal]

1. Where is the coolest place you have traveled? *South Bend – I mean it did go down to about -8°F just before Christmas last year. And, perhaps, the Canadian Forces Base in the city of Cold Lake, Alberta – it's a military training ground for fighter pilots with a healthy population of black bears that just show up during air combat exercises.*
2. What did you want to be when you were small? *Many things: a track athlete, a stage actor, a politician, an international spy, an undercover cop masquerading as a consigliere of some Italian crime family, a consigliere of some Italian crime family, and an art thief. Surprisingly, being a mathematician or a philosopher never made it to that list.*
3. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? *Chimaek () – it's Korean fried chicken (the "chi" from "chicken") paired with beer (the "maek" from "maekju", the Korean word for beer).*
4. What is your useless talent? *Pretty much every talent I have – to the extent that it counts as "talent" – is useless... I once won a competition where the object was not to so much as show a smile whilst people tried to make you laugh without physically touching you.*
5. Who would you want to play you in a movie? *To be true to the source material, lest there be some outcry and protests on the streets, I'd need to pick someone who's not that attractive, so maybe, Leonardo DiCaprio? But seriously, perhaps, Dev Patel of Slumdog Millionaire fame. He checks all the relevant boxes: we share the same ethnicity and complexion; we have a similar build, he's about my age; and he's quite competitive in sports.*

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January

- 20 Guest Speaker: Seth Lazar (ANU)**
 "Communicative Justice and the Distribution of Attention"
 138 DeBartolo Hall
 3-5 pm
 Reception to follow in Malloy
- 24 HPS Colloquium: Patrick Gamez**
 "How to Delete the Manifest Image"
 4:15-5:38 pm
 311 DeBartolo Hall
- 27 Guest Speaker: Alix Cohen (Edinburgh)**
 "The Common Principle of Reason: 'the unity of practical with speculative reason in a common principle'"
 3-5 pm
 140 DeBartolo Hall
 Reception to follow in Malloy

- 20 **Harlem Globetrotters**
7-8:30 pm
Purcell Pavilion
- 24 **Last Day for Class Changes**
- 30 **Application Deadline:
Summer 2023 Fellowships**

- **Roll Call!**
Don't forget to complete ND Roll Call by Tuesday, January 24th!!
- **Mental Health Topic of the Month: Mindfulness**
Explore the mental health board in the philosophy kitchen for this month's theme as well as mindful.org for more resources.
- **Infinitely More**
Interested in logic? Take a look at Prof. Joel David Hamkins newly launched website, Infinitely More!
- **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!

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!

THE ELYSIAN CAFE

THE BAR OF LOST SOULS

Outside of space and time, outside of history, in a pocket dimension accessible from any time or place in human history, lies the Elysian Café. Found only by the fortunate chosen few, this bar will serve any beverage one can imagine, except the "three forbidden drinks" known only to the barkeep, Hesperus Cerberides.

PHILOSOPHER IN QUESTION: KADEN MCMILLAN

Which three philosophers would you invite to the bar?

1. Ludwig Wittgenstein
2. Bertrand Russell
3. Alexius Meinong

What drink do you imagine each of them ordering?

4. Wittgenstein: A nice Austrian Pinot Noir.
5. Russell: A virgin martini.
6. Meinong: A drink with the property of being extremely delicious but without the property of existence (he would, in turn, be served an empty glass).

What topic would you wish to see them debate? Why?

Their ontological views on objects.

Each of these philosophers have interesting and unique theories about the metaphysical nature of objects. These theories are also decidedly opposed. Russell and Meinong famously disagreed on the matter after years of philosophical agreement on other topics. Wittgenstein's theory, as proposed in the Tractatus, is also at odds with Russell, his advisor and mentor at Cambridge.

How does it all end?

Meinong and Wittgenstein would stay until the bar closed discussing the matter, though they would both be too stubborn to modify their respective views. Russell would also be too stubborn to modify his view, although I think his patience would very quickly wear thin. As such, he would probably slip out before Wittgenstein refuses to concede that there is no hippopotamus in the room at present and Meinong starts talking about how Pikachu is an object even though he doesn't actually exist.

Meme of the Month



[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

