

February 2023

ND Philosophy

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Philosopher in Print

This month's 'Philosopher in Print' is grad student Grace Hibshman. Her paper titled, "Why the Jesus as mother tradition undermines the symbolic argument against women's ordination", is in the latest issue of *Religious Studies*.



Abstract

The symbolic argument against women's ordination supposes that the theological significance of Christ's sex is his saving relationship to the Church, which takes the form of that of a bridegroom and his bride. It infers that a male priest alone is fit to represent Christ in his capacity as the Saviour of the Church, and thus that only men should be ordained. Since the emergence of the symbolic argument, however, scholars have rediscovered a long tradition of understanding Christ's saving relationship to the Church in maternal terms. While remaining neutral on whether women ultimately ought to be ordained or not, I argue that the kind of reasoning in the symbolic argument, if updated with the Jesus as Mother tradition, would suggest that it is fitting for a female priest to represent Jesus as Mother, just as it is fitting for a male priest to represent Christ the Bridegroom. Other critics of the symbolic argument tend to contest what is seen as its 'literalist' or 'essentialist' or overly gendered-valanced assumptions about priestly representation. I show that even if we grant to the symbolic argument more gendered and 'essentialist' views on each of the major points of disagreement in these debates, women might still be fit to represent Christ because of the maternal ways that Christ has traditionally been thought to relate to the Church. As a result, the symbolic argument may be repurposed to support women's ordination rather than undermine it.

[Full article here](#)

February

- 02 Tea Time for Faculty and Grad Students**
Malloy Alcove
4 pm
- 03 Talk: Michal Masny (Princeton)**
"The Shape of History"
3-5 pm
131 DeBartolo Hall
Reception to follow in Malloy
- 10 Zoom Talk: Jessica Isserow (Leeds)**
"Mixing Pride with Pleasure"
3-5 pm
140 DeBartolo Hall
Reception to follow in Malloy

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Michael Langl]

1. Where is the coolest place you have traveled?
Patmos, Greece
2. What did you want to be when you were small?
A detective
3. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? *Tacos*
4. What is your useless talent? *Philosophy*
5. Who would you want to play you in a movie?
David Harbour

03 **Lunch Lecture: "Decolonizing Scholarship in Philosophy"**
12:30-1:45 pm
1050 Jenkins Nanovic Halls

14 **Happy Valentine's Day**

17 **Junior Parents Weekend**
February 17-19

- **Mental Health Topic of the Month: Self Love**
Explore the mental health board in the philosophy kitchen for this month's theme as well as [these ways](#) to boost your self love!
- **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!

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

[events.nd.edu](#) for full list

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: PAOLO MAZZARA

Which three philosophers would you invite to the bar?

1. Marsilio Ficino
2. Pico della Mirandola
3. Parmenides

What drink do you imagine each of them ordering?

Marsilio Ficino would order a cup of sweet Dionysian nectar.

Pico della Mirandola would order a dignified bottle of Chianti sealed "Hermetically."

Parmenides orders the usual One, he truly thinks there are not many drinks to choose from.

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

To change topic from Pico della Mirandola talking about the Book of Genesis for the seventh time, Marsilio Ficino would propose to have Parmenides adjudicate his and Pico's dispute over Being and the One -- a dispute that arose in light of assessing the concord between Plato and Aristotle.

Because Aristotle ultimately agrees with Plato --duh!-- on the question (Aristot. Met. 12.1076a). However, Pico and Ficino seem to read Plato differently... and who would be more apt than Parmenides, a 'Pythagorean' who instructed Socrates and was revered by Plato himself, to settle this debate?

How does it all end?

Ficino and Pico proposed their accounts of Oneness and Being to Parmenides. Some think that the ancient philosopher concluded that since they give different accounts, and since what is "different, actually differs by means of a difference, and since a difference implies something additional, it follows that with their opinions they have hit on multiplicity and, thus, strayed from Truth. However, according to some others, eight (or nine?) different replies might have been given by Parmenides: which would be true? One must be.

Meme of the Month



[GRAD CFP'S](#)

[UNDERGRAD CFP'S](#)

