



PHI SIGMA TAU BULLETIN

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2019, ISSUE 32

WELCOME HOME PHILOSOPHERS!





Graduate Advisor, Dr. Robert Fischer.

Graduate Instructional Assistants

- Joshua Cartwright
- Bradley Frailicks
- Allie Crawford
- Raphael Melis
- Mariano Garcia
- Christopher Hall
- Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa
- Jake Rhodes
- Daniel Nance
- James Attwood
- Eric Munoz
- Lauren Felipe
- Amanda Standlee

Graduate Research Assistants:

- Alyse Spiehler

If you are interested in becoming a Graduate Instructional Assistant or a Graduate Research Assistant in the MAAPE program, please contact MAAPEadmissions@txstate.edu.



Philosophy & Religious Studies

faculty members:

Bagnulo, Vince	Gilbertson, Eric	Olson, Lon
Baltzly, Vaughn	Hanks, Craig	Ozturk, Burkay
Barcenas, Alejandro	Hobb-Darilek, Kyla	Pommerening, Amy
Bennett, Evan David	Hutcheson, Peter	Raphael, Rebecca
Benedikt, Amelie	Jones, Joi	Reesor, Nevitt
Bower, Matt	Johnson, Sean Daniel	Ross, Rebekah
Carson, Jo Ann	Kanon, Eli	Sala, James
Cross, Anthony	Laycock, Joe	Stansell, Ellen
Crisp, Carrie	Lewis, Holly	Stockton, Travis
Conkling, Parish	Luizzi, Vince	Surovell, Jonathan
Fischer, Bob	Marquez, Ivan	Venable, Hannah
Gallegos de Castillo, Lori	Mehta, Binita	Wiegman, Isaac
Garcia, Jennifer	Mikles, Natasha	Williams, Justin
Geuras, Dean	Moses, Greg	Wilson, Paul
Gerhart, Olga	O'Connor, Robert	Yuan, Lijun

NEW FACES IN THE PHILOSOPHY DEPT.

Kellea Goebel,
Budget Assistant

As a Texas State alumni, I am thrilled at the opportunity to be back on campus.

When I am not working I enjoy spending time outside, yoga, sewing, trying new restaurants, live music, and binging bad reality TV shows.

I am an avid coffee drinker, cat lover, and nap taker. You will probably catch me in my office listening to Willie Nelson or Christmas music year round. I am so grateful to be here and I have very much appreciated all of the warm welcomes into this department!

C. Andrew Boyd,
Support System Specialist II

Andrew Boyd joined the Texas State family at the beginning of the year and has been full time with the Philosophy department since June.

Andrew worked at Apple Inc in Austin for just under 10 years, and then got his degree in Natural Resource Management from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

Andrew enjoys rock & roll, swimming at Sewell Park, and margaritas with muddled jalapeños (but usually not all at the same time).

Sean Daniel Johnson,
Master of Arts,
Texas State University

My interest in philosophy started with my interactions with Camus' *Myth of Sisyphus*, and existential themes tend to run through a lot of my philosophical thought. I ended up attending Texas State mostly through happenstance, but I have definitely come to appreciate the focus on practical implications through this department's applied philosophy and ethics emphasis. My areas of interest are a bit dispersed, being very concerned with ethics, philosophy of science, phenomenology, and philosophy of education, particularly the manner in which many of these subject areas tend to overlap and interact with one another. I'm very excited to be teaching *ethic and society* courses and hope to be able to explore the pedagogical possibilities with this course.

Space Settlement Symposium

Our topic will be *On Becoming Homo Ex-Terra*. The round-table conversation will be held September 27th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Alkek Teaching Theatre (ALK 250). Please consider making this event a part of your curriculum this semester.

In association with the Common Experience and this year's theme of “**Truth**”, the 4th Annual Space Settlement Symposium will address the truth behind successful human colonization of space. It is important to identify actual risks/hazards of micro-gravity-living upon our species and how the species will adapt either through evolution or bio-engineering.

We have invited to speak at the round-table:

Scott Solomon, Rice Author of *Future Humans*.

Jennifer Fogarty, NASA-Human Research Program. Her interest is in space physiology and human system risk management.

Bob McLean, TXST Regent's Professor. Author of *Microbial Survival Mechanisms of Relevance to Panspermia*.



This year the Space Settlement Symposium was lucky to be included in the Step-Up-for-State fund drive. We hope to raise \$5,000 in order to pay for Honoria, travel and archiving expenses. It is our hope that faculty will consider donating \$5-\$10 dollars and students \$1-\$5. When you receive the donation request, please click the funding link and support us.

STUDENTS IN PHILOSOPHY

TXST SYMPOSIUM & TEXAS PHILOSOPHICAL CALL FOR PAPERS

23rd Annual Texas State Philosophy Symposium

Hosted March 27—29, 2020. Undergraduate or graduate papers on any philosophical topic are welcome.

Papers should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation, submitted for blind review (author's name on cover page only), and are due in Spring 2020, a CFP will be issued November 2019.

Send by email (.doc or .docx file) to Amelie Benedikt, ab53@txstate.edu.

Texas Philosophical

This journal is open to any philosophical essays written by Texan undergraduate students during the FY19-20 school year. Deadline for consideration is noon on 31st May 2020. Please check

TexasPhilosophical.com for information regarding submission. Papers are to be emailed as a word document or in rich text format to TXPHIL@txstate.edu.

ΦΣΤ ACTIVITIES

In addition to our regular dialogues, Phi Sigma Tau members will be coming together this fall for several fun activities. Members will join in movie nights, bowling at Sunset Lanes, participation in the Talk of the Times, and fundraising with our Book/Bake Sales.

Phi Sigma Tau will meet on Tuesdays at 5 PM in Comal 116.

TALK OF THE TIMES

Talk of the Times, an activity of the *American Democracy Project* at TXST University, is a weekly open forum on current events and issues led by members of Phi Sigma Tau.

Discussions are held on Fridays in the Comal Building.

FUTURE EVENTS

The philosophy department will host the following conferences in 2020

Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy in May 2020

Philosophy Born of Struggle in Fall 2020

Interested persons should contact philosophy@txstate.edu

International Business Ethics Case Competition (IBECC)

Carrie Crisp

For the sixth year in a row our students achieved success at the International Business Ethics Case Competition!

Please join us in congratulating:

Our undergraduate team, Leah Butterfield, Samantha Coyle, and Brent Redmon, who won second place in the 10 minute competition with their case "Problem Rooted in a River Polluted: Vedanta in Zambia," and our graduate team, Allie Crawford, Shineece Owens, and Alyse Spiehler, who won second place in the 25 minute competition, the 10 minute competition, and the 90 second competition with their case "People, Planet, and Product: Target's Brighter Future with Dunkin'." Great job to Leah, Sam, Brent, Allie, Shineece, and Alyse! These students worked tirelessly, dedicating many hours outside of their already-heavy workloads to prepare and compete on behalf of Texas State.

None of this would have been possible without the work of all of our wonderful instructors in the Philosophy department, as four of the six students from this year's teams are Philosophers. Great jobs, everyone!

We would also like to thank the following individuals: Dean Mary Brennan, Dr. Craig Hanks, Jim Sala, Chris Hall, Kellea Goebel, and Camrie Pipper. Thank you for EVERYTHING you do - there's no way we could do this without you!

And to the students: Leah, Sam, Brent, Allie, Shineece, and Alyse - you are exemplary individuals who care deeply about the world and its inhabitants. Thank you for your work, your time, your effort, your patience, but most of all - thank you for being you!



22nd Annual Philosophy Student Symposium

Friday March 29th and Saturday March 30th, 2019

Report by Dr. Amelie Benedikt

All of the papers accepted for presentation at the Student Symposium in Spring 2019 were written either by students or by ex-students of our department. As a result, most people at the symposium this year were friends and acquaintances before the event began, which made for particularly engaging and affable discussions. Sean Daniel Johnson took the role of master of ceremonies, assisted by faculty advisors, Rebekah Ross and Amelie Benedikt.

The papers accepted were in several areas: political philosophy, ludology, virtue ethics, philosophy of literature, Mexican American philosophy, ancient philosophy, and ethics. The undergraduate presenters were Chase Saladino, Brent Redmon, Leah Butterfield, Trent Oatman and Bob Jorash. Our graduate student presenters were Sean Daniel Johnson, Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa, Lillian Martinez, Alyse Speiher, and Allie Crawford. Also presenting was Stefan Sanchez, a graduate of our Master's program, now working towards his Ph.D at Rice University. Each presenter also served as a Respondent for another presenter, which helped create dialogue between presenters, and between audience and presenters.

In our two-day thought-fest, we shared coffee, broke bread (well pizza) and ended our event, according to PST tradition, with a Root Cellar banquet. Many thanks to Camrie Pipper, to Dr. Hanks, and to Professor Ross for their help in planning the 2019 Student Symposium. Thanks also to Sean Daniel Johnson for his convivial leadership as President of Phi Sigma Tau. And thank you, Sean, for playing such a vital part of Phi Sigma Tau, first as an undergraduate student, then as a graduate student, finally as President. Congratulations on completing your Master's degree.

Beginning this Fall 2019, Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa will begin his term as President of Phi Sigma Tau. Welcome President Rodriguez-Sosa!

Join us next year !

23rd Annual Texas State Philosophy Symposium

Hosted in March 27—29, 2020. Undergraduate or graduate papers on any philosophical topic are welcome. Papers should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation, submitted for blind review (author's name on cover page only), and are due in February 2020. Send by email (.doc or .docx file) to Amelie Benedikt, ab53@txstate.edu. A Call for Papers will be issued in November 2019.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE 2019 ALUMNI BANQUET
TRUTH IN FICTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

This is a catered event, with dinner options for both omnivorian and vegetarian diets.

Donations this year will be \$20.00 for attendees. It is being held at the Price Center, 222 W. San Antonio Street San Marcos, Texas 78666. Please contact Camrie Pipper at cp1292@txstate.edu for more information.



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
PHILOSOPHY DIALOGUE SERIES

The Texas State Philosophy Department, in conjunction with *The American Democracy Project*, is proud to present **The fall Dialogue Series at Texas State**. The Series is a platform for open, critical discussion of a number of topics and is returning for its 25th year, kicking off on Monday September 23, 2019 in our spacious Dialogue Room in the Comal Building.

For more information on the series, and to pick up your own copy of the full Dialogue Calendar, come by the Philosophy Main Office (Comal 102.) *The San Marcos Public Library portion of the Dialogue Series is sponsored by the Philosophy Dialogue Series, San Marcos Public Library, Texas State Common Experience, and National Endowment for the Humanities. Located at 625 E. Hopkins Street.

The 2018 Annual Philosophy Alumni Banquet

Theme: Philosophy as Protest

Reported Dr. Amelie Benedikt

On Friday, October 26, 2018, faculty, staff, students, friends, and some alumni gathered for the Annual Philosophy Alumni Banquet at the San Marcos Price Center. The setting and the company were elegant, the meal was lavish, the music was pleasant, and the ideas were inspiring.

At the Banquet, Dr. Craig Hanks, Dr. Greg Moses, and the officers and new members of Phi Sigma Tau each addressed the very timely (and timeless) theme of Philosophy as Protest.

Dr. Hanks gave a thought-inspiring welcome address about a puzzling Russian word used by playwright Anton Chekhov. Dr. Hanks discussed how the word “chudak” has been a difficulty for Chekhov translators, but is now read as “misfits.” Philosophers, he explained, are like the chudaki (plural) of Chekhov’s *Uncle Vanya*. In talking about philosophers as “misfits,” Dr. Hanks was reiterating his point from last year’s PST Newsletter, where he described philosophers, in every time and circumstance, as “ill-at-ease.”

After dinner, Dr. Greg Moses offered insights about protest and critical theory. Here is a quote from Dr. Moses’ remarks that evening: “When we comprehend the enormous gap between colonial practice and critical theory, we apprehend transformations necessary to convert the logic of a colonial status quo into a logic of life and liberation. And we find in that gap the reason why we say tonight that philosophy is protest. Protest is evidence that philosophy is awake to the gap, that philosophy is restless in its shackles of epistemological quiescence, and that philosophy affirms the premise of the struggling subject.”

Members of Phi Sigma Tau also gave their voices to the theme of protest by reading passages from writers who have disrupted cultural and philosophical presuppositions.

New members of Phi Sigma Tau Honors Society were inducted by PST President, Sean Daniel Johnson, with help from PST Officers, Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa and Declan Ward. Welcome to the newest members of Phi Sigma Tau! Felipe Barrera, Christopher Hall, Bria Henderson, Joseph Massengale, Lillian Martinez, Trent Oatman, Chase Saladino, Miranda Vincent, Camille-Fartun Jamal, Chloe Diaz, Erick Munoz, and Aaron Meier.

Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa and Erick Munoz gave visual emphasis to the protest theme with a slide show of photos of social justice philosophers. Nathaniel and Erick further emphasized the protest theme by draping caution and warning tape across the stage and tables, and by stringing naked light bulbs above the entrance. To underscore the urgent need for philosophers to protest social injustice, Nathaniel read the controversial letter to the Editor of The University Star written by Rudy Martinez about racial bigotry on campus.

In honor of the protest theme, Pianist and Professor, Morris Nelms played many avant-garde works for piano that had challenged the musical status quo when first written.

On November 8th, 2019, the next Annual Philosophy Alumni Banquet and Phi Sigma Tau Induction Ceremony will take place at the Historic Price Center.

Faculty, family, friends and alumni, you are all cordially invited to attend the celebration.

Students, we invite you to become a member of the PST Honors Society at the next Banquet!

For Membership Questions, contact Nathaniel Rodriguez Sosa at n_r74@txstate.edu

For Banquet Tickets and Reservations, contact Camrie Pippier at cp1292@txstate.edu



The Value of Consciousness: Rice University, Houston, Texas**Submission Deadline: October 1, 2019****Conference Dates: April 15—17, 2020**

- 1) Submissions to the conference will be automatically considered for inclusion in Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Mind, unless the author prefers not to be considered.
- 2) There will be funds available to help defray costs for participants coming from institutions that do not offer faculty research funds. It's hard to know in advance just how much will be available, but please don't hesitate to ask about this if your paper is selected.

Please submit full papers (word count: 5,000 - 15,000 word) to theuriah@gmail.com.

Midsouth Philosophy Conference**Submission Deadline: February 7, 2020****Conference Dates: March 20—21, 2010**

Keeping with the vast tradition of Philosophy, we accept papers on all topics, new traditions and old. Given the broad field of topics, we encourage everyone who participates to have an open mind and a desire to learn about the ideas and interests of fellow undergraduate philosophers. The undergraduate conference will be held at Rhodes College, in conjunction with the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, giving undergraduates the opportunity to participate in the larger philosophical community.

<https://sites.google.com/a/lclark.edu/midsouth/mpc/mupc>

71st Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society**Submission Deadline: December 1, 2019****Conference Dates: April 3—April 4, 2020**

We invite papers on any philosophical topic in English or Spanish for the annual conference of the New Mexico – Texas Philosophical Society to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Papers ought not exceed 3,000 words (excluding footnotes and references) and are to be presentable within 25 minutes.

Complete papers are required; abstracts will not be accepted. There will be commentaries on each paper, and authors of accepted papers are invited to comment on other papers. Papers that have been previously published (or are forthcoming for publication) are not eligible for submission.

<https://philevents.org/event/show/74330>

FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH

Undergraduate Students:

Texas State offers opportunities to fund your undergraduate research project or to fund travel to present your work at a conference with the grants below.

Undergraduate Research Fellowships (URF)

support undergraduate research and creative projects at Texas State University. Every semester the URF committee awards between 5 and 10 competitive scholarships of up to \$1000 to students seeking funding for their projects.

Rising S.T.A.R. Travel Grant

The Rising Scholarly Travel Activity and Research (S.T.A.R.) Grant program has been established by the Associated Student Government (ASG) to promote and enhance the efforts undertaken by the colleges and departments to send students to programs, conferences and activities of a scholarly nature.

Visit <https://www.txstate.edu/undergraduateresearch/resources/funding.html> for more information!

Graduate Students:

The Graduate College will partially fund up to *one* graduate student conference travel requests per academic year subject to availability of funding. (The content and title of the presentations must differ from one another.) Award amounts are determined by location of the conference:

\$150 for travel within Texas

\$200 for travel within the U.S., Mexico, and Canada

\$300 for travel outside North America

The philosophy department and the College of Liberal Arts may also contribute funds for your travel.

Eligibility:

- be enrolled in a graduate degree program at Texas State University
- have an accepted conference paper, poster, professional presentation, or performance/exhibit
- be in good academic standing during the semester the conference is held
- meet all Texas State University travel regulations

Visit <https://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding/travel/steps.html> for more information!

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