

CAL POLY

Philosophy

Department Newsletter

Winter 2019

Philosophy Research Workshop Series

The Cal Poly Philosophy department launched a [Philosophy Workshop](#) series. At these Research Workshops, graduate students from the UC Santa Barbara philosophy department come to Cal Poly to discuss some of their current work over lunch with our students and faculty.



Kyle Dickey

**"GRAPPLING HOOKS AND ANCHORS: THE
FUNCTION OF SINGULAR THOUGHT"**

Oct. 12, 2018



Sherri Lynn Conklin

**"THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMISSIBLE WRONG
DOING"**

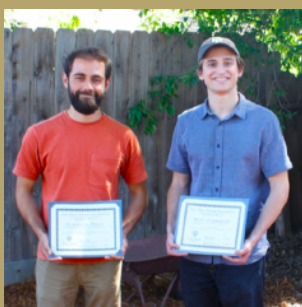
Nov. 16, 2018

Student Advisory Committee

The Philosophy Student Advisory Committee is a student-run committee aimed at ensuring effective and consistent communication between students, faculty and the department chair regarding topics and issues relevant to the students. Amber Shae Miller, a senior in Philosophy, holds the position of Committee Chair. Alongside her is Natalie Kerr as Committee Vice Chair, who is also a senior in Philosophy.

STUDENT AWARDS 2018

Student Essay Contest **1st Place:** Will Trammel
Student Essay Contest **2nd Place:** Armando Ruiz
Senior of the Year: Armando Ruiz



ETHICS + EMERGING SCIENCES GROUP

Patrick Lin, philosophy professor and Director of Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group, and Zachary Rentz, philosophy lecturer, traveled to Reykjavik, Iceland to lead Emerging Arctic Conflicts, Laws, and Ethics Workshop on June 18-19, 2018. The discussion involved the implications of political and economic competition in the Arctic Region as new land and resources become accessible due to climate change. For more information visit the [E+ESG website](#).

New Professor



Cal Poly Philosophy Department welcomes [Anya Foxen](#) as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Giving

Student research, student travel, colloquiums and events are made possible by the generous support of alumni and benefactors. To give, please visit our [website](#).

Alumni

Let the department know about what you've been up to since graduation. Email us at phil@calpoly.edu to be featured in the next newsletter.

Getting Social

Social Media and Web
Student Coordinators:
Camille Krahn and
Leece LaRue



Instagram:
[@calpolyphilosophy](#)



LinkedIn :
[Cal Poly Philosophy](#)



Facebook :
[Cal Poly Philosophy](#)



STUDENT SYMPOSIUM 2018

The Philosophy Department hosted a Student Symposium on May 18, 2018. Snacks and drinks were provided by the department. We welcome students and faculty to help inaugurate this new tradition to foster community between the students and showcase their achievements. The next Student Symposium will be in Winter 2019.

Natalie Kerr "Epistemological Luddism as a Response to Big Data"
Will Trammell "Interdependence in Hegel's Lordship and Bondage"
Amber Miller "Read the Fine Print"
Jacob Watson "Fictitonalism as Undergraduate Philosophy"
Nicholas Mazegue "Structural Internet Affordances for Non-Linear Politics by way of Fake News"
Dr. Ryan Jenkins "Why Don't Students Trust Philosophy"

Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl

Ethics Bowl is a team-based intercollegiate debate competition covering a range of current events and controversies in applied ethics. Cal Poly sends one or two student teams each year to compete in the a Regional Ethics Bowl competition, where students debate and discuss cases with college teams from California, Utah and Arizona.

Success in Ethics Bowl competition requires students to apply their philosophical training to provide oral arguments on the spot about moral issues on topics ranging from fake news to privacy, gun control, autonomous cars and weapons, international relations and new medical technologies. The team qualified for and was invited to compete in both the 2017 and 2018 Ethics Bowl National Championships. Our students traveled to Dallas, TX in 2017 and Chicago, IL in 2018 and competed against the top teams in the nation.

RESEARCH

At Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), philosophy major **Jacob Watson** and Professor **Ryan Jenkins** presented their co-authored paper, "The Three Faces of Technological Oppression," which examines the restricting characteristics of technology through the lens of oppression, a powerful framework in political thought and more. Watson and Jenkins presented this paper Aug. 8, 2018. Jenkins and Watson are in the process of having their paper published in a professional philosophy journal.

Philosophy major **Dean Boswell** and research partner, **Hannah Davis**, attended the 2018 National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) in Washington D.C. at the Hilton Resort in late June 2018. Boswell and Davis presented the hypothesis that undergraduate Pre-Medical students are at higher risk of depressive disorders.

Professor **Eleanor Helms** presented a paper titled "Real Knowledge from Made-up Things: Kierkegaard on Thought Experiments" at a meeting of the Fordham Philosophical Society, held at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association in San Diego on Nov. 11, 2018.

Professor Ryan Jenkins toured the Bay Area delivering his talk, "When Should Silicon Valley Work with the Pentagon?" at several venues — including Google headquarters in Palo Alto, Sonoma State University's Forum in Ethics, Law, and Society, and San Jose State University. A recording of the Sonoma State presentation can be found [on the Philosophy Department's website](#).

Professor Patrick Lin participated in two recent expert meetings in the SF Bay Area: one on AI and society, organized by The Royal Society UK and held at Stanford on Nov. 8; and the other on technology ethics at the World Economic Forum's Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution at the Presidio on Nov. 9.

