Welcome to a new academic year! We had a series of successful activities during the Summer quarter and are now ready not only to continue with the several projects we have been carrying on throughout the past years but also to start new initiatives. As we welcome new faculty, students, and partners, we also plan several activities for the year. We hope you will be able to join us.

The Philosophy Roundtable will continue to meet periodically and the Philosophy Roundtable Newsletter will report on news, events, opportunities, and other issues of philosophical interest. We welcome submissions by students, faculty, and friends. Please feel free to share this publication with others at UWT or in the community, to keep them in the know about what’s happening in the group.

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**Spotlight**

Adam Arnold is concluding his Dr. Phil. in Philosophy and working as Teaching Assistant at the University of Warwick, England. He continues to work on issues he researched as an undergraduate and graduate student at the University of Washington, Tacoma.

His current work focuses on issues of normativity and the constellation of authority, obligation, and legitimacy in Critical Theory and contemporary Anglo-American philosophy. He is also a member of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics, Law, and Public Affairs at the University of Warwick.

During the Summer Quarter, Adam Arnold taught “Environmental Ethics” at UWT, sharing information on recent philosophical trends in the United Kingdom.

He writes for a blog with news and commentaries on philosophy in England and has been very active with paper presentations and publications in his area of expertise. We hope to have him speaking to the Philosophy Roundtable in the Summer Quarter.

**Highlight this Fall Quarter: Seyla Benhabib**

On October 22-25, Professor Seyla Benhabib (Yale University) will be visiting the University of Washington. She will deliver the Walker-Ames Lectures and participate in colloquia at the Philosophy Department in the Seattle campus and with the Philosophy Roundtable in the Tacoma campus. Read more details on Benhabib in this issue.

**The Philosophy Roundtable**

**What is the Philosophy Roundtable?**

The Philosophy Roundtable is a colloquium led by Professor Amos Nascimento since 2007 at the University of Washington, Tacoma. In partnership with Professor Mike Kalton and Professor George Mobus, a group of faculty, students and guests at UWT meet periodically to discuss their research, consider contemporary issues related to the social and practical application of philosophy, and share information on several topics of philosophical importance.

Each quarter, participants in the Philosophy Roundtable focus on a specific theme, read recent publications, and discuss relevant themes, and open the opportunity for faculty and students to present their most recent research. The Philosophy Roundtable also provides an opportunity for participants to discuss their ideas in formal and informal meetings as we gather for meals and some time together.
Seyla Benhabib at the University of Washington

A week full of activities

Professor Benhabib will visit the UW on October 22-25 to deliver the Walker-Ames Lectures. We have prepared a full schedule of activities and invite you to join us. Benhabib’s work is well know among faculty and students working on philosophy and political theory in the Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE) program. Also, many in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences are familiar with her work and use her publications in their classes: Michel Forman regularly assigns her book, Another Cosmopolitanism (2004) to his students; Amos Nascimento uses her publications in his classes on cosmopolitanism and Critical Theory; Gregg Miller assigns her texts in his classes on political theory; Natalie Jolly and Margaret Griese use her work in their classes on feminism/women’s studies; Larry Knopp and Anthony Baiamonte link her work to research on gender and political geography.

Seyla Benhabib

Professor Benhabib is the Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University. Professor Benhabib was the President of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in 2006-07, a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin in 2009, at the NYU Straus Institute for the Advanced Study of Law and Justice in Spring 2012, and at the German Marshall Fund’s Transatlantic Academy in Washington DC in Spring 2013. In 2009, she received the Ernst Bloch prize for her contributions to cultural dialogue in a global civilization and in May 2012, the Leopold Lucas Prize of the Evangelical Academy of Tubingen. She holds honorary degrees from the Humanistic University in Utrecht in 2004, the University of Valencia in November 2010 and from Bogazici University in May 2012. She received a Guggenheim grant during 2010-2011 for her work on sovereignty and international law.


She has edited 8 volumes, ranging from discussions of communicative ethics, to democracy and difference, to identities, allegiances and affinities. Migrations and Mobilities. Gender, Borders and Citizenship, edited with Judith Resnik of the Yale Law School (NYU Press 2009), was named a “Choice outstanding book.” Her work has been translated into German, Spanish, French, Italian, Turkish, Swedish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Hebrew, Japanese, Chinese, and Portuguese. She has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Science since 1996 and has held the Gauss Lectures (Princeton, 1998); the Spinoza Chair for distinguished visitors (Amsterdam, 2001); the John Seeley Memorial Lectures (Cambridge, 2002), the Tanner Lectures (Berkeley, 2004) and was the Cátedra Ferrater Mora Distinguished Professor in Girona, Spain (Summer 2005).
Hannah Arendt: The Person
Johanna "Hannah" Arendt (14 October 1906 – 4 December 1975)

Arend grew up in Königsberg, the same city where Immanuel Kant was born in 1724. She showed a talent for reflection, critical thinking, political engagement, and assertiveness early in age. She then studied Greek, philosophy, and theology in Marburg and Heidelberg with Martin Heidegger, and Karl Jaspers. After a doctoral thesis on "The concept of love in Augustine," she was persecuted by the Nazi regime, she fled to France and then to the United States, where she started a career as a journalist and then as a political theorist at the University of Chicago and the New School of Social Research in New York. She published The Origins of Totalitarianism (1951), The Human Condition (1958), Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil (1963), On Revolution (1968) and many other books. For more information on her life and work, see the website of the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities at Bard College: 
http://www.bard.edu/hannaharendtcenter/

Hannah Arendt: The Film

Hannah Arendt: Her Thinking Changed the World
[Hannah Arendt: Ihr Denken veränderte die Welt]
Director: Margarethe von Trotta – Starring: Barbara Sukowa as Hannah Arendt

In this award-winning film, director Margarethe von Trotta continues her project of depicting important women leaders throughout the history, remaining loyal to her feminist orientation and to a feminist aesthetics. After having worked with Rainer Werner Fassbinder and participated in an important movement to renew German cinema after the 1960s, she worked with Volker Schlöndorff and then embarked in her solo career as director. In previous films such as The Second Awakening of Christa Klages, Rosa Luxemburg, and The Vision of Hildegard von Bingen, von Trotta pursued her project of exploring deep psychological aspects and intrinsic conflicts in the life of women who questioned their status quo. In her films, von Trotta is not shy of depicting the thought process, suicide attempts, violent experiences, and many other forms of mental and physical tension faced by women. This is very visible, for example, in the tension between Rosa Luxemburg’s personal life and her role as a leading political activist in Europe, who was executed in 1919.

Barbara Sukowa, a brilliant actress who worked with Fassbinder and participated in many of von Trotta’s films, is the star in Rosa Luxemburg, The Vision of Hildegard von Bingen, and Hannah Arendt. This last film, produced in Germany in 2012, focuses on some aspects in the life and work of the philosopher Hannah Arendt. According to Zeitgeist Films, von Trotta and Sukowa partner again in a brilliant performance that has already won many awards. The film presents her intellectual development and her work as a philosopher and political theorist, especially her report and reflections on the 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Israel for his "crimes against humanity" as an officer of the Nazi regime. The film presents her controversial portrayal of Eichmann as well as the polemic debates originated with the publication of her book, Eichmann in Jerusalem – in which she coined concept of the “Banality of Evil.” Von Trotta and Sukowa insisted in highlighting the “thinking” [das Denken] and the process of philosophical reflection in this film. This film is about Hannah Arendt’s “passion for thinking” – as expressed in the original German title of this film.

Hannah Arendt: The Lecture

Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem: Fifty Years Later
Speaker: Professor Seyla Benhabib (Yale University)

Eichmann in Jerusalem (1963) is one of the most controversial books of the second half of the twentieth-century. Hannah Arendt’s complex narrative –which originally was prepares as a trial report for the New Yorker – moves at multiple levels: historical, philosophical, psychological and legal. At the historical level, the book was one of the first times after the end of WWII that an extremely detailed historical account of the Jewish extermination policies of the Nazis was laid bare; furthermore, Arendt questioned the role of the Jewish Councils in this process. Philosophically, Arendt struggled with the question of evil and the relationship of evil to the activities of thinking and judging. Psychologically – and this is the aspect of Arendt’s analysis which gained most notoriety – Arendt introduced the term “the banality of evil,” to characterize Adolf Eichmann’s personality. Legally, the Eichmann trial raised deep questions about international jurisdiction, crimes against humanity, and punishing the perpetrators of genocide. This lecture will give an overview of the Eichmann controversy. Although some of Arendt’s claims concerning Eichmann’s personality and activities, as well as her analysis of the Jewish Councils are historically inaccurate, I will argue that her book leaves us with some enduring questions about human responsibility in extreme conditions.
Other Events

Ben Rabinowitz Symposium in Environmental Ethics
October 18
Savery Hall 408 and 264 – University of Washington, Seattle

Friday, Oct. 18 at 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – “Climate Justice: For and Against”
Panel with Stephen Gardiner, Avram Hiller, Marion Hourdequin, Jay Odenbough, David Schlosberg, and Allen Tythompson.

Friday, Oct. 18 at 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. – “Climate-Challenged Society”
David Schlosberg (Professor of Environmental Politics, University of Sydney, Australia)
Schlosberg will deliver the Ben Rabinowitz Lecture in Environmental Ethics

The Future of the Environmental Humanities
October 31-November 3
COM 120 – Simpson Center for the Humanities – University of Washington, Seattle

An important research network on “environmental humanities” is emerging in the Pacific Northwest and working in collaboration with partners in other parts of the country as well as in Canada, England, and Germany. Professor Sabine Wilke is leading this initiative that includes other professors and researchers at the University of Washington – Gary Handwerk, Richard Watts, Amos Nascimento, Sabine Frost, and Sabine Noellgen. The goal of this network is to insist on the role that humanities can play in fostering interdisciplinary theoretical and practical perspectives on environmental research.

This network is organizing an important conference that brings together researchers from the Western coast (from Vancouver, BC to San Diego, CA) as well as international scholars interested in cross-cultural and historical study of environmental issues a central concern of the universities and colleges in the Pacific Northwest. This event, “The Future of the Environmental Humanities,” includes two major lectures for public audiences:

Thursday, Oct. 31, at 6:30 p.m. – “Environmental Imagination at the Crossroads”
Lawrence Buell (American Literature, Harvard University). Buell, a pioneer in ecocriticism, delivers a talk as part of the Walker Ames Lecture series.

Friday, Nov. 1, at 4:30 p.m. – TBD
Ursula Heise (English, University of California, Los Angeles)
Heise, a noted scholar in environmental, literary, and interdisciplinary studies, speaks on the subject of environmental humanities, the Anthropocene, and posthumanism.

Women’s Rights
November 22

Friday, Nov. 22, at 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. – “Mary Wollstonecraft on the Rights of Women”
Susan James (Birbeck College, University of London)

Litigation and Political Movements
November 31

Thursday, Oct. 31 at 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. – “Challenging Prolonged Solitary Confinement in the United States”
Jules Lobel (School of Law, University of Pittsburgh)
Opportunities

Funding for Work on Human Rights

Next Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2014.

There are two sources of funding opportunities for UW Students doing work on Human Rights. These funds provide financial resources for undergraduate and graduate students to support human rights projects that promote social change through direct action. The awards are administered by the UW Center for Human Rights, and can provide funds up to $1500. The number of awards and amounts will vary depending on the number and quality of applications. All undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Washington (Bothell, Seattle, Tacoma) are eligible to apply. All hands-on human rights projects are eligible, whether the work involves human rights issues in the United States or elsewhere in the world. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate feasibility, sustainability, and partnership. For more information, please see the links below.

Osheroff/Clark Fund:
http://jsis.washington.edu/humanrights/students/osheroffclarkefundforstudents.shtml

Caldwell Fund:
http://jsis.washington.edu/humanrights/students/caldwellfund.shtml

For more information, contact the UW Center for Human Rights:
http://jsis.washington.edu/humanrights/

23th World Congress of Political Science

July 19-24, 2014 – Montreal, Canada

The next international gathering of this important political science organization will be held in Montreal. The main theme is “Challenges of Contemporary Governance.” This theme will provide an opportunity to reflect upon contemporary evolutions in governance in the face of numerous challenges:

- Political, economic and social systems have become increasingly fragmented, rendering global strategic initiatives ever more complex
- The variety of values, attitudes and behaviours exhibited by individuals and groups makes for a greater and more diverse demand for inclusion and participation
- As the structures through which these interests are represented continue to expand, systems of governance become increasingly complex, more difficult to interpret and understand and less responsive to the uninitiated citizen
- There is a growing risk that the democratic quality of our political systems will deteriorate as a result of the rising influence and decision-making capacity of technical-administrative and technocratic experts
- For a given sector or type of organisation, comparative analysis and an experimental methodological approach should help better evaluate the performance of different forms of governance
- It may also be fruitful to focus on the various competitive strategies and means by which models of governance are promoted, or even imposed (in the name of ‘good governance’ demanded by international institutions, for example)

For more information, see their website: http://ipsa.org/events/congress/montreal2014/theme
Upcoming Events

Meetings, Lectures, other campus events

Screening of film “Hannah Arendt” — 7:00 p.m. October 22
Kane Hall, Room 220
University of Washington, Seattle

Reading Group on Eichmann in Jerusalem — 2:00 p.m. October 23
Gowen Hall, 1A
University of Washington, Seattle

Lecture by Professor Benhabib — 6:30 p.m. October 24
Kane Hall, Room 120
University of Washington, Seattle

Philosophy Roundtable

Philosophy Roundtable Formal Meeting October 25

* Brief Colloquium with Professor Benhabib
Friday, October 25 — 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. — Joy 117
University of Washington, Tacoma

Philosophy Roundtable Informal Meeting November 1

Philosophy Roundtable Informal Meeting November 21

**Note**

Formal meetings 5pm at UWT Library (Chihuly Room)
Informal meetings 12:30pm at Renaissance Café

Agenda for the Next Meetings

Our next meetings will be held on November 1 and 21. UWT faculty and students will present their research. The last meeting of the Philosophy Roundtable in the Fall Quarter will be held on Tuesday December 3 at 12:30 PM at the Renaissance Café. This will be an informal time of sharing, learning and discussion.

Contact and Information

For more information on the Philosophy Roundtable and other philosophical activities related to the Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE) program, contact Professor Amos Nascimento:
E-mail: gnascim@u.washington.edu