
Friends of Philosophy NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 2009

*D*ear Friends of Philosophy,

I hope that this Newsletter finds you in good health and good cheer.

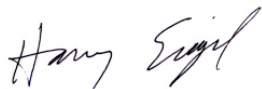
I am happy to report that the Department of Philosophy continues to flourish. This year we are joined by new faculty colleague Professor James Nickel, who specializes in moral philosophy, political philosophy, and philosophy of law, and whose particular passion is Human Rights. Appointed jointly in Philosophy and Law, Nickel will teach a range of philosophical, legal and interdisciplinary courses to students in both The College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Law. This new appointment brings the size of our tenure-track faculty to fifteen, the largest it has ever been. We are excited by our growth, and grateful to the Central Administration's strong support of our program.

Once again our faculty has produced a substantial list of recent and forthcoming books, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. They continue to contribute substantially both to philosophical scholarship and to the education of our students. Two years ago we introduced major and minor 'tracks' aimed at enhancing the philosophical education of UM's many pre-med students. Last year we introduced similar major and minor tracks for our pre-law students. Students in these tracks will take courses including a new one on the 'Philosophical Foundations of Criminal Law,' taught by Professor Bradford Cokelet, along with existing courses in ethics, philosophy of law, social and political philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, and other relevant courses that will help them think about the law in a philosophically informed way. We hope that these new tracks will both enhance the philosophy educations of existing majors and minors interested in pursuing careers in medicine or law, and attract some of the large numbers of UM pre-med and pre-law undergraduates to our subject. Early indications are good: enrollments in all our undergraduate courses are up, as is the number of majors. The graduate program also continues to grow and flourish; you can read more about our new and continuing graduate students elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As always, the department will host many colloquia, lectures, dialogues and speakers on a variety of topics this year, to which you are invited and always welcome. Of particular interest to our Friends is an upcoming Dialogue on 'Bertrand Russell and Humanism' on November 16. Details on this and several other upcoming events can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the accompanying flyers. Please join us for philosophical conversation as often as you can.

We are always happy to hear from you and to receive your comments and suggestions for future activities. You can contact me at (305) 284-5411, or by email at hsiegel@miami.edu; the department office number is (305) 284-4757. And of course, we hope you will take this opportunity to renew your membership in Friends of Philosophy. The Department of Philosophy greatly appreciates your interest and support. Thank you!

I hope to see you at one of our events soon!



Harvey Siegel
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COLLEGE of
ARTS & SCIENCES



DEPARTMENT NEWS

PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR WINS 2009 PROVOST'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY



UM Provost Thomas J. LeBlanc has honored Philosophy Professor Michael Slote with the 2009 Provost's Award for Scholarly Activity, during a ceremony March 31 on the Coral Gables campus. The Harvard-educated Slote, author of 12 books, is known for his groundbreaking work on moral sentimentalism.

The Provost's Awards are designed to foster excellence in research and creative scholarship at the University of Miami. The Provost's goal is to build a world class research university featuring a renowned community of scholars and robust externally-funded research programs. Marjorie Montague, professor of teaching and learning in the School of Education and Bonnie Blomberg, professor of microbiology and immunology at the Miller School of Medicine were the other recipients.

"The defining characteristic of a modern research university and the source of its academic reputation is the scholarly production of its faculty," Provost Thomas J. LeBlanc said. "Each of these individuals, chosen by a committee of previous award recipients, is an outstanding scholar and role model for their colleagues and students."

In *The Ethics of Care and Empathy*, Slote's most recently published work, he further advances a sentimentalist theory initiated in his earlier books and papers, showing the basis of morality in human feeling rather than reason or rationality. "There's been a lot of talk about empathy in American society and culture," Slote said, noting that while psychologists and evolutionary biologists have studied extensively in this area, philosophers have not. "What I've tried to do is show why empathy is terribly important to moral philosophy," Slote continued. "In addition and more general, if empathy is important to moral philosophy, then the rationalists who say that morality is just a matter of pure reason are missing out on something important to morality, namely the emotional content."

In his soon-to-be-published book, *Moral Sentimentalism*, he writes about this point, arguing that rationalists have missed out on the emotional, empathic side of morality. The text will be part of an Oxford University Press three-book series, which Department of Philosophy Chair Harvey Siegel says "will deepen [Slote's] contributions to moral theory and further cement his international reputation. Their publication will be a major event for ethicists the world over." *Moral Sentimentalism* will be published along with two others, *Essays on The History of Ethics* and *Selected Essays*.

Slote joined the Department in 2001.

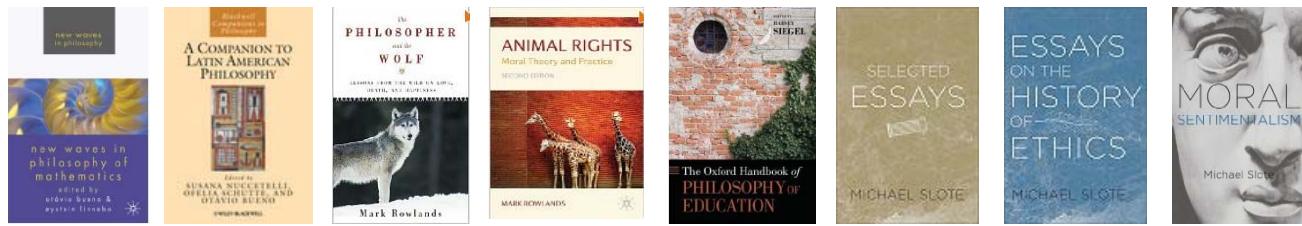
NEW FACULTY MEMBER



The department is happy to announce a new addition to our faculty, Professor James Nickel who joins us this fall.

James Nickel teaches and writes in moral philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of law, and human rights law and theory. He is the author of *Making Sense of Human Rights* (2nd ed. 2006) and many articles in philosophy and law. Recent articles include "[Rethinking Indivisibility: Towards a Theory of Supporting Relations between Human Rights](#)," "[Who Needs Freedom of Religion?](#)" and "[Are Human Rights Mainly Implemented by Intervention?](#)" During 2008-09 Nickel was Visiting Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. From 2003-08 he was Professor of Law at Arizona State University. From 1982-2003 Nickel was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado where he served as Director of the Center for Values and Social Policy (1982-88) and as Chair of the Philosophy Department (1992-1996).

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS



Otavio Bueno (ed.): *Stance and Rationality* - Synthese (forthcoming).

Otavio Bueno (ed.): *New Waves in Philosophy of Mathematics* - Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan (forthcoming).

Otavio Bueno (ed.): *A Companion to Latin American Philosophy* - Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell (forthcoming).

Mark Rowlands: *The Philosopher and The Wolf* - Pegasus, 2009;

Mark Rowlands: *Animal Rights: Moral Theory and Practice* - London/New York: MacMillan, 2009.

Harvey Siegel (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Education* - Oxford University Press, 2009.

Michael Slote: *Moral Sentimentalism* - Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Michael Slote: *Selected Essays* - Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Michael Slote: *Essays on The History of Ethics* - Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

Mark Rowlands' memoir, *The Philosopher and the Wolf* – a philosophically oriented account of the eleven years he spent living and traveling with a wolf – has become an international bestseller. Translated into fourteen languages, it is currently riding high in the Italian bestseller lists, and has achieved a similar level success in both Germany and the United Kingdom.

AWARDS

Stephen Sinclair was the recipient of the Ramon M. Lemos Excellence in Philosophy Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in Philosophy and the Phi Sigma Tau Award. **Geraldo Alvarez** received the Geritt and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Philosophy. **Brian Mondy** was the recipient of the Gerritt and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy and the University of Miami Center for the Humanities Fellowship. **Michael Hurlburt** received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for the Department of Philosophy. **Ryan Lake** received the Outstanding Graduate Paper Award at the 2009 Florida Philosophical Association Conference for his paper entitled "Compatibilist Objections to Prepunishment".

EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY & THE ETHICS OF AUTONOMY

The Department of Philosophy will host a conference March 12 - 13, 2010, on Experimental Philosophy & The Ethics of Autonomy, which will explore the ability of experimental methods and empirical findings to contribute to the resolution of 'traditional' philosophical questions. Experimental philosophers are well known for attacking virtue ethics and there has been extensive discussion of their attacks on ethical and political theories that rely on the concept of character. More recently, however, a new discussion has begun to emerge; a new wave of experimental philosophers have raised skeptical questions about theories that rely on the concept of autonomy and theories that presuppose the value of increased freedom or Socratic ethical reflection. These philosophers marshal experimental studies to motivate skepticism about people's abilities to form rational judgments about morality, happiness, and well-being, and in order to raise skeptical doubts about how much rational reflection, when it occurs, affects behavior. This conference is designed to stimulate discussion of these empirical arguments and to discuss whether such arguments can challenge normative ethical and political theories that valorize autonomy and Socratic reflection (e.g. Kantian ethical theories and Liberal political theories).

GIFT FOR GRADUATE PROGRAM

We are pleased to acknowledge and thank Ms. Luz Angela Sarmiento, a long time Friend of Philosophy, who has given the Department a very generous gift in order to support the research efforts of our graduate students. Her gift will fund Graduate Student Research Accounts, which are awarded competitively to our very best graduate students, enabling them to buy books, travel to professional meetings to present their work, and fund other research-related efforts. We are grateful to Ms. Sarmiento for her continuing support of our program!

ETHICS PROGRAM

Philosophy Department Wins Third Arsht Ethics Research Grant!

The Philosophy Department has continued its string of successful applications under the UM Ethics Programs' Arsht "Ethics and Community" research awards program. Dr. Brad Cokelet, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, and graduate student Philipp Schwind were awarded a grant for "Experimental Philosophy, Situationist Empirical Psychology, and Libertarian Paternalism." The project's abstract frames the issue thus:

"According to Situationism, a recent development in analytic philosophy, ethical theory needs to be rebuilt from the ground up because of experimental psychological studies which show that apparently impertinent contextual and situational factors - such as the temperature and the color of items in our environment - significantly influence our ethical deliberations and decisions. Presently, the debate about situationism is centering on the concept of character in virtue-ethics. We believe, however, that situationism has far-reaching implications that have not received the attention they deserve. In particular, we suspect that situationism poses a challenge to many current theories of human agency and moral responsibility and that an adequate account of human agency, which is compatible with situationism, would give further support to 'libertarian paternalism,' a promising model for political decision-making."

The Philosophy Department has received one Arsht award in each of the program's first three years, more than any other UM department. Arsht research projects must address a contemporary moral issue with implications for public policy, professional practice, human rights, etc. Arsht Grants are awarded to faculty-student teams. All applications undergo competitive peer review. This year there were 16 applications, of which nine were funded.

The ethics research program is made possible by a gift to the university-wide Ethics Programs from philanthropist and UM Trustee Adrienne Arsht. It is one of three initiatives, the others being a distinguished speaker series and an undergraduate ethics debate program.

A call for proposals for the fourth annual series (for 2010-2011) will be released in the spring. For more information, visit www.miami.edu/ethics or email ethics@miami.edu.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

The Department of Philosophy is delighted to announce the arrival of a terrific new class of entering graduate students. Please join us in welcoming them to the department, and wishing them all the best for successful philosophical careers here and beyond!

Daniel Corrigan earned his M.A. in Philosophy from Georgia State University in 2006. He has many interests in philosophy, but metaphysics is a particularly intriguing area for him.

Jennifer Etheridge received her M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Houston in 2009. Her main interest is in ethics, with particular emphasis on applied ethics. She is the recipient of a highly competitive University of Miami Fellowship.

Michelle Hunt comes to us from Illinois State University, where in 2009 she earned her B.A. in Philosophy. She has many philosophical interests, particularly in metaphysics.

Nurbay Irmak arrives from Turkey, where he earned in 2009 his M.A. in Philosophy at Bogazici University. His main philosophical interest lies in metaphysics, in particular the metaphysical status of fictional characters.

Sabrina Jamil received her M.A. in Philosophy from Florida State University in 2006. She is particularly interested in philosophy of science, and intrigued by the metaphysics of colors.

Benjamin Yelle earned in 2009 his M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He is particularly interested in exploring the interface between ethics and metaphysics.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Kristin Borgwald was Chair of the session entitled "Troublemaking, Anger and Resentment" at the 2009 Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Ryan Lake is presenting a paper entitled "Compatibilist Objections to Prepunishment" at Florida Philosophical Association Conference in Gainesville, Florida November, 2009.

Brian Mondy presented a paper entitled "Funniness and Normativity" at the 2nd Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Meeting in October 2008.

Aaron Wilson presented a paper entitled "Modal Expressivism and The Frege-Geach Problem" at the Southeast Graduate Philosophy Conference at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida in March 2009, and will be presenting the paper "Peirce and the Question of Metaphorical Meaning" at the 12th International Meeting on Pragmatism at 'Pontificia Universidade Catolica' in Sao Paulo, Brazil in November 2009.

Nicholas Wiltsher presented a paper entitled "Conceiving Possibilities Expressively" in the Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and The Mind Association at University of East Anglia, UK, 11-13 July 2009.

ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE IN EPISTEMOLOGY

Each year the Department of Philosophy is proud to host the University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology. Since its inception in 2004, the conference, organized and run entirely by our graduate students, has served as a dynamic and highly successful forum for the exchange of ideas in contemporary epistemology. The 2008 conference continued the tradition of excellence and featured a keynote address entitled "What Is The Problem of Induction?" by Dr. Gilbert Harman of Princeton University. Along with Dr. Harman's keynote address, the conference featured the presentation and discussion of papers selected competitively by graduates students from University of Rochester, University of Iowa, University of Georgia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Florida State University and Ohio University. The conference included a faculty panel on naturalism that included the diverse viewpoints of Professors Otavio Bueno, Edward Erwin and Harvey Siegel. We extend our thanks to all of the Philosophy Faculty Members and office staff, The College of Arts and Sciences and The Friends of Philosophy for their support and assistance in helping to make the conference a success.

The 7th annual Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology will take place Jan 14-16, 2010. This year's theme is modal epistemology, and the keynote speaker will be Prof. E.J. Lowe of the University of Durham. Though the deadline is not until November, the organizers have already received several submissions, and we expect that the quality of papers accepted, and of the conference itself, will be as high as in previous years.

ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP IN ETHICS, MIND & BRAIN

In September 2008, we held an in-house test run of what will become an annual graduate workshop on questions at the Intersection of Ethics, Brain, and Mind. The works of three UM philosophy graduate students, Daniel Hampikian, Dan Cohen and Mark Warren were discussed in closed sessions which included faculty members and graduate students. Dr. Michael Slote presented the Keynote talk entitled: "The Spectrum of Ethics Theories". The in-house test run was a great success. This year, we invited four philosophy graduate students from Cornell University, New York University, Duke University and Arizona University, whose works were discussed in closed sessions. The keynote talk was delivered by Professor Daniel Robinson from The University of Oxford entitled "Consciousness: Who Needs It?" Dr. Robinson has published works in Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Psychology, and Philosophy of Mind. Thanks to the UM Ethics Program and the Department of Philosophy the workshop held on Friday September 25th and Saturday, September 26th was a great success.

**2009 Ph.D. Graduate
Matthew Schuh**

Recent Job Placement

Congratulations to:
Osvil Acosta-Morales
Assistant Professor
Community College of
Philadelphia

ALUMNI UPDATE

Zachery Castiglione



I had four different majors at the University of Miami: computer science, mathematics, biology, and finally philosophy. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I got to the University of Miami. When I left I had learned that your major doesn't have to be critical to what you do after graduation. I am proud to be the only student with a B.A. in Philosophy at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry.

I think that philosophy has helped me tremendously in my path to and through dental school. When I started, I took philosophy classes because I enjoyed them. I never really thought they were anything more than entertaining intellectual stimulation: a delightful general education credit on the transcript of a relatively lazy pre-med/pre-dental student who enjoyed something outside of evolution and electromagnetic waves. Philosophy classes were scheduled to fit my desired college lifestyle. The professors that wore Birkenstocks and rode their bikes to work didn't want to be in class on Fridays, and neither did I. By my senior year, I was tired of all those science-y classes but still enjoyed the philosophy. I decided that I could get more value from learning to express complicated ideas clearly in an advanced philosophy class than I could from botany, zoology, or whatever it is that finishing a B.S. in biology would have required. So I switched majors at the last minute and took a crash course in philosophy. That year was so valuable because I really learned how to express myself and how to understand others.

I certainly believe that my philosophical education helped me get into dental school. I believe it set me apart. UCSF received over 2500 applications the year I applied and interviewed more than 250 people. The class size that matriculated was 85. I was one of 85 out of over 2500. I have to believe that the Philosophy major must have been memorable. I tried to set myself apart in other ways as well (when everyone else had white shirts and dark conservative ties, I was wearing a blue shirt with a pink tie. "What the hell? It's San Francisco"), but I think the philosophy major must have meant something.

Once I tricked them into letting me in, I wanted to try to put some of this philosophy to use. Sure, all the biology, chemistry, and biochemistry may have helped me a bit more through the first two (rather boring) years of dental school. I think philosophy helped make those first two years a bit more interesting, and gave me a unique perspective from which to frame the information we were being given. For example, I remember thinking about Thomas Kuhn's paradigm changes during a lecture by one of our famous and talented oral surgeons as he was discussing how the way we view pain has changed over the years. It was not a lecture I will soon forget, and if you've ever been to a heavy handed dentist you are probably glad to hear that. I also believe that philosophy prepared me to interact with my patients in a way that test tubes and Bunsen burners could not. In the scientific curriculum there is very little emphasis placed on being able to present specific ideas to others without a sufficient level of expertise. This is a skill that I believe is lost on professionals with only scientific training. I continue to be happy with my undergraduate major and believe that it has served me well in my attempt to be a well rounded professional.

Continuing my pursuit of well-roundedness, after UM I returned to the scientific world. UCSF is after all the preeminent dental research institute in the entire world. I figured I should give it a try. As a bonus, last year the national research conference was in Miami, and I wouldn't want to pass up a trip back to my alma mater. The title of my presentation at the conference was: "Dynamic Light Scattering and Zeta-potential of Self-Assembled Human Amelogenins." And yes, I had to look that up as I'm writing this. I went from Aristotle to Amelogenins, but I wasn't completely out of philosophy. I got to present my work at a few scientific sessions and student research competitions. Again, I think that my previous training allowed me to present what I knew about my complicated topic to those without my specific level of expertise. I was able to explain rather than simply spout facts. I managed to win one of the competitions and like to tell people I finished fourth in the others (I only know that I didn't finish in the top three). So much like philosophy, I had no background in research, but found it interesting and took it to heart. I have since moved on, but I think the lessons from that experience should help me in the future much as philosophy has.

I would say that the lesson I most appreciate from the University of Miami was the value of being well rounded. I have tried to appreciate that value as my education has continued, and I hope to continue that trend into my professional career. I am grateful to the philosophy department for bending the rules and allowing me to take that crash course in philosophy and I would like to specifically thank Dr Harvey Siegel for all of his support. When I started this, I felt as if I hadn't done enough since graduation to fill an alumni update, but I hope to have shown how one philosophy major took a different path and still manages to use the lessons almost every day. You probably guessed that one thing I haven't done very often since graduating is write, so I'll end your suffering with a big 'Go Canes!'

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY 2008-2009* HONOR ROLL

Dedicated to supporting the philosophy program at the University of Miami

INNER CIRCLE

(\$1000 and up)



Louis J. Appignani Foundation
Joseph George Frantin
Randy Lane Gittess

Dawn M. Moreau
Gonzalo Parodi
Luz Angela Sarmiento



SUSTAINING

(\$100 - \$499)

Eivind Balsvik
Raul E. De Velasco
Joseph Ellin
Lawrence M. Fishman
Alicia Juarrero
Anne Craft Lemos
David L. McNaron
Carmen & Howard Pospesel
Michael A. Roberts
Paul B. Rosencrantz
Charles Schwab Corp Foundation
Robert E. Schwartz
Richard T. Shankweiler
Ernest Sosa
Regina W. Spence Trust
Vernon Rollins Sumwalt

FRIENDS

(up to \$99)

Bruce Kenneth Bartoo
Susan M. Browning
Andrew Cappel
William Fay Durham
Reverend Kurt F. Erhard
Helen Louise Kilby
Shirong Luo
Thomas S. McClary, Jr.
Lynne R. Matous
Anthony M. Paul
David G. Payne
Herbert C. Quay
Gregory Preston Rich
Kevin Wall Saunders
Matthew W. Steele, Jr.
Mark Weinstein
David L. Wilson
H. Eugene Wine
Joanna Wragg

* 6/1/2008—5/31/2009

Department of Philosophy
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2009

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Colin Klein

University of Illinois at Chicago
November 12, 2009

Stephen Schiffer

New York University
November 20, 2009

Kieran Setiya

University of Pittsburgh
December 3 - 4, 2009

SPRING 2010

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Kit Fine

New York University
February 11 - 12, 2010

Stephen Engstrom

University of Pittsburgh
February 25 - 26, 2010

John Searle

University of California, Berkley
March 25 - 26, 2010

Lisa Warenski

Union College
April 23, 2010

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For more information:

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<http://www.miami.edu/phi/>

Friends of Philosophy Dialogue

Monday, November 16, 2009

Dr. James Nickel
University of Miami

&

Dr. Harvey Siegel
University of Miami

"Bertrand Russell and Humanism"

6th Annual Parodi Lecture In Philosophy of Art

Sunday, December 6, 2009

"Diagrammatic Spaces"

Dr. John Rajchman

Adjunct Professor of Art History
Columbia University

Friends of Philosophy Dialogue

Monday, February 22, 2010

Dr. Colin McGinn
University of Miami

"Is Morality Objective?"

Stanford Lecture Series

Bas van Fraassen

Princeton University

Monday, March 1, 2010

"Against Naturalism: a Parting of the Ways"

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

"Will the Real Anti-Realist Please Stand Up?"

Friday, March 5, 2010

"The Self: Beyond the Illusions of Reason"

Experimental Philosophy & The Ethics of Autonomy Conference

March 12 - 13, 2010

The Department of Philosophy and the Miami Art Museum are proud to present

The 6th Annual

Parodi Lecture in Philosophy of Art

Dr. John Rajchman

Adjunct Professor of Art History, Columbia University

“Diagrammatic Spaces”

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Miami Art Museum* (101 W. Flagler St.)

Seating begins at 10:30AM; Lecture begins at 11:00AM.

Refreshments will follow.

Whether they make paintings, photographs or installations, visual artists often sense that they are dealing with ‘space’ rather than ‘image’. They thus pose a question at once philosophical and artistic, critical, or curatorial, concerning the very idea of images -- what they are, how they work, what relations they have with space; how, for example they differ from ‘pictures’ or inner representations of external objects or from ‘the mirror of nature’. In this lecture, John Rajchman looks at two different sources of this larger problem: the attempt to substitute map or diagram for the proverbial ‘window’ as a principle of pictorial intelligibility; and the attempt to free ourselves from the ‘white cube’ or the display of distinct objects in favor of another conception, function and history of exhibition. A new idea of ‘diagrammatic spaces’ then emerges from the interconnections of these two questions.

John Rajchman is a philosopher who has written extensively on art and architecture, He is Adjunct Professor, Department of Art History at Columbia University, and is the author of several books including *Constructions (Writing Architecture)* (MIT 1998), and *The Deleuze Connections* (MIT 2000). He is currently completing on book on art and art institutions in contemporary China. He is also a Contributing Editor for *Artforum*.

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For more information visit us on the web:

[HTTP://WWW.MIAMI.EDU/PHI](http://www.miami.edu/phi)

This event is free and open to the public, and made possible by the generous support of Mr. Gonzalo Parodi.

* **Directions to the Miami Art Museum - From the north:** Take I-95 south to exit 2C (Downtown, Miami Ave, Biscayne Blvd and Brickell Ave) and make a left on SE 1st Ave. Take SE 1st Ave to Flagler St and make a left and proceed straight until you arrive to Miami Art Museum on the right. **From the south:** take I-95 north to exit 2A (Biscayne Blvd and Downtown) and make a left on SE 1st Ave. Take SE 1st Ave to Flagler St and make a left and proceed straight until you arrive to Miami Art Museum on the right.

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY

DIALOGUE

Bertrand Russell and Humanism

Monday, November 16, 2009

Learning Center, Room 110

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Bertrand Russell made fundamental contributions to 'technical' areas of philosophy, including logic, metaphysics and philosophy of language. But outside of the world of professional philosophy, he is most well known for his articulation and defense of *Humanism*: a view of life that eschews God, and emphasizes reason, freedom, and humane relationships. In this Dialogue we'll discuss Russell's Humanism. In what exactly did it consist? What were Russell's arguments for it? Are those arguments (still) powerful?



James Nickel

Professor of Philosophy and Law
University of Miami

Dr. Nickel teaches and writes in political philosophy, philosophy of law, and human rights law and theory. He is the author of *Making Sense of Human Rights* (2nd ed. 2006) and many articles in philosophy and law. Recent articles include "[Rethinking Indivisibility: Towards a Theory of Supporting Relations between Human Rights](#)," "[Who Needs Freedom of Religion?](#)" and "[Are Human Rights Mainly Implemented by Intervention?](#)"? During 2008-09 Nickel was Visiting Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. From 2003-08 he was Professor of Law at Arizona State University. From

1982-2003 Nickel was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado where he served as Director of the Center for Values and Social Policy (1982-88) and as Chair of the Philosophy Department (1992-1996).



Harvey Siegel

Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Miami

Dr. Siegel has held visiting professorships at Berkeley, Stanford, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Groningen. His research interests are in philosophy of science, epistemology, and philosophy of education. He is especially interested in issues concerning rationality, relativism and naturalism. He has published over 150 papers in journals including *Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Synthese*, *The Monist*, *Analysis*, and *Metaphilosophy*, and three books: *Relativism*

Refuted (Kluwer, 1987), *Educating Reason* (Routledge, 1988), and *Rationality Redeemed?* (Routledge, 1997). He is the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Education* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

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Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served following the discussion.

* Take US-1 to Granada Blvd., then Granada Blvd. west across University Drive to Pisano Ave. The parking lot is to your left across from Doctors Hospital.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US ON THE WEB
[HTTP://WWW.MIAMI.EDU/PHI](http://www.miami.edu/phi)

