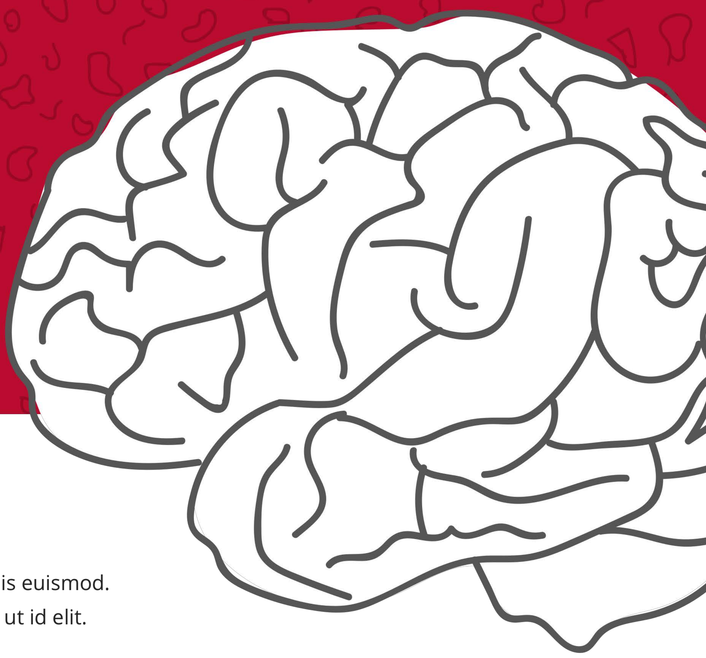
Philosophy Outreach Project



Bringing Philosophy to High School Students

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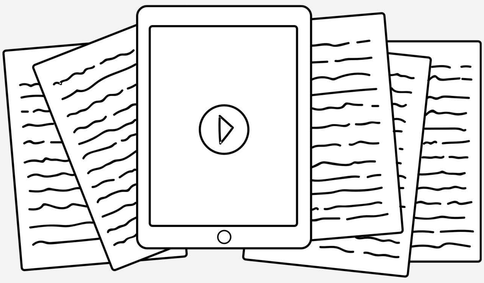

Resources

For teachers and students

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School Visits

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Annual Conference

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Register

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email@email.com

Conference for Pre-College

Philosophical Engagement

Saturday, April 19 • 8:45am – 4:00pm EST

Ball State University Student Center

Register

Schedule Speaker Sessions

A Marketing Headline

Sweet biscuit cake bonbon sesame snaps oat cake lemon drops dessert. Sugar plum bear claw marzipan. Chocolate macaroon chocolate.

Schedule

MORNING SESSIONS

8:45	**Check-in & Opening Remarks**
9:15	**Speed Philosophy**
10:00	**Keynote & Keynote Discussions**
11:00	**Breakout Session One**

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Lunch	12:00
Breakout Session Two	12:45
Breakout Session Three	1:45
Breakout Session Four	2:45
Closing Remarks	3:45

Keynote Speaker

Kevin Thomas

Kevin Thomas Miles received his Ph.D. from DePaul University in Chicago and is a Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana where he has been teaching since 2004. He has published essays on Du Bois and race theory. Currently he is teaching and doing research in Hesiod, Homer, and Plato specifically interested in references ancient Greek heroes and their tragic relations with their fathers.

Venturing the Risk of Sailing the High Seas of Philosophy

"What ship is that? The Athenians say that it is the one in which Theseus sailed away to Crete with seven youths and seven maidens and saved their lives and his own as well." – Phaedo 58a-b

Ancient Greek literature is filled with images of sailing the sea and all of the dangers attached to the enterprise. None of this was lost on Plato who arguably organizes his image of Socrates, who always seems to be grounded on land, around the idea of being engaged in the practice of philosophy as a way of being at sea; being at risk. The way of philosophizing Plato has Socrates practice appears to be intentionally risky and wrought with imminent danger. In this talk I appeal to the language of risk in Plato's Phaedo with a view toward arguing that Plato's understanding of philosophy calls us to a form of heroism informed by heroes like Achilles, Odysseus, and Theseus.

All Speakers

Register

Breakout Sessions

SESSION ONE 9:30 a.m. | SESSION TWO 12:45 p.m. | SESSION THREE 1:45 p.m. | SESSION FOUR 2:45 p.m.

What is Religion? *Dr. Matt Hotham*

If someone asked you to define religion, you might start by listing examples of major world religions. Or, you might describe central elements of your own religious tradition. But, what if you encountered a community, practice, object, or text "in the wild" and had to determine whether it was religious or not? How would you do so? In this session we will try to answer the question "what is religion, anyway?" through examining popular definitions of religion and applying them to complex and borderline cases like the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. We may not come to a firm definition by the end of the session, but we will gain some insight into how others have tried to answer this question and learn to identify what makes some definitions more useful than others.

Desert vs. Utility *Dr. David W. Concepción*

Participants in this session will make decisions about how scarce life-saving resources should be distributed. If all people have an equal right to life, but only some people can be saved, should a person who partially caused their life threatening illness not be treated so a more innocent person can be? Does it matter how many children the sick person has depending on them? Desert based accounts of distributive justice will be contrasted with consequentialist accounts.

How to Save the World *Prof. Jen Rowland*

What will it take to save the planet? Through a series of exercises, we'll think through what climate change means for the future of humanity, and what each of us ought to do about it. Be prepared for active participation and conversation!

How to Start a Philosophy Club *Lexi Wood*

Are you interested in starting a philosophy club at your school? Join Ball State's returning Philosophy Club executive board members to learn how to create and maintain a philosophy club. Find resources for building and leading presentations, researching topics, and facilitating philosophical debate. Additionally, gain helpful tips on keeping a philosophy club interesting, engaging, and enlightening for all members while still keeping everything behind the scenes functioning.

Wake Me Up Before You Gogh Gogh *Zoe Lawson*

We all know that there are "great works of art," art museums, artistic geniuses. Some call things like literature and music their own kinds of art. But, what is art? Who can make art? How do we know, and who gets to decide? In this session, students will get a look into the philosophy of art, a sub-discipline of aesthetics, and start to examine questions about the nature of beauty, creativity, and, of course, art. Once we get an idea of what art might be, students will consider what it means to own art and what makes something "original."

Register

Meet the Team

Past conference information

2018

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Conference Speakers

Dr. David Concepción

David W. Concepción is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Ball State University. Dave grew up in Berkeley, CA, but for some reason people think he is from Maine. He teaches ethics classes and leads BSU students in the production of Stance. He writes about teaching, especially diversity and inclusion. He is on the board of directors of the American Philosophical Association. His dogs "Pig" and "Gillis," think he spends too much time away from home.

Dr. Jeffery Brackett

Jeff Brackett is an associate professor of religious studies at Ball State University, where he teaches courses in Hindu and Buddhist traditions, religion and pop culture, world religions, and ethnography of religion. In the spring of 2015, he combined his interests in pedagogy and art by teaching a fifteen credit-hour immersive learning seminar, "Representing Religion in Comics." His current projects include transforming his translation of D. B. Mokashi's Marathi novel, Ananda Owari, into a graphic novel that he is drawing; and a study of "Spiritual-But-Not-Religious" in the Art World.

Dr. Jeffery Fry

Jeff Fry is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Ball State University. His current research interests lie at the intersection of the philosophy of sport, the philosophy of mind, neurophilosophy, and ethics. He once went ten consecutive years without missing a day of running at least two miles a day.

Dr. Kibujjo Kalumba

Kibujjo M. Kalumba, Associate Professor of Philosophy, completed his undergraduate studies in his native Uganda and earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Indiana University. He has taught philosophy at Ball State University for over 30 years, focusing on African Philosophy as well as Social and Political Philosophy. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of Philosophia Africana, a premier international journal of African Philosophy, a position he has held for the last 10 years.

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Conference Page

School Visits

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Fall 2018

Greenfield-Central High School Greefield, IN
April 10, 2019

Muncie Central High School Muncie, IN
April 10, 2019

Northeast Dubois High School Dubois, IN
April 10, 2019

Columbia City High School Columbia City, IN
April 10, 2019

Brownstown Central High School Brownstown, IN
April 10, 2019

SPRING 2019

Greenfield-Central High School Lafayette, IN
April 10, 2019

Muncie Central High School Lafayette, IN
April 10, 2019

Northeast Dubois High School Lafayette, IN
April 10, 2019

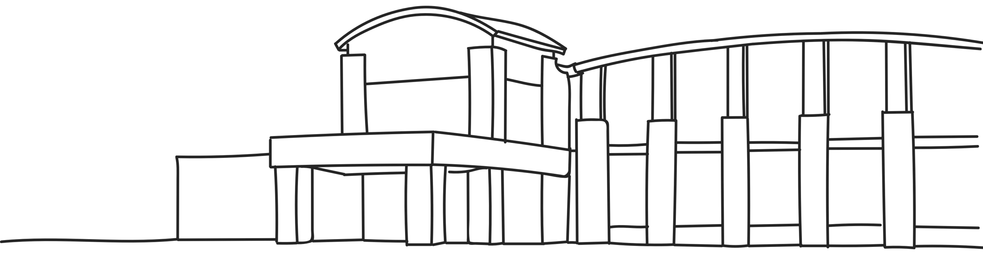
Greenfield-Central High School Lafayette, IN
April 10, 2019

Brownstown Central High School Brownstown, IN
April 10, 2019

Muncie Central High School Brownstown, IN
April 10, 2019

Gibson Southern High School Brownstown, IN
April 10, 2019

Request a Visit



Environmental Ethics

Videos
Further Reading
Key Questions
Key Thinkers
Key Texts
Key Terms

Is your life more valuable than one bee? Is your life more valuable than every bee? Your answer to this question will change based on what you value and how you value it. In environmental ethics there are three main perspectives to the question of how we should value non-human life. The first is biocentrism which says that all life is valuable and shouldn't be treated by humans as a means to an end. Biocentrism generally say bugs rule, and people suck if and when they mess with bugs. On the other hand, anthropocentrism says that value exists in humans or human needs. Basically, people rule, tough luck bugs. The third view is that value exists in the relationships between organisms, or between organisms and their nonliving context. This view it is called ecocentrism. In other words, bugs rule, people rule and we need to protect the relationship they share.

Understanding the three general branches of environmental ethics can help you make decisions about your diet, your appreciation of nature, your place in nature, and understand policies and decisions that directly affect you and/or nature.

Videos

"Environmental Ethics" Video Project

"Non-Human Animals: Crash Course Philosophy #42," Crash Course

"What are Environmental Ethics and Our Moral Responsibilities," Buzzle

Further Reading

"Duties Regarding Nature: A Kantian Approach to Environmental Ethics," Academia

"Environmental Ethics," Erratic Impact

"Environmental Ethics," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

"Three Approaches to Environmental Ethics," Applied Ethics

"What are Environmental Ethics and What's Your Role in Saving Nature?" Help Save Nature

Key Questions

What animals should we or should we not eat?

What value does animals have?

What value does humans have?

What value does an ecosystem have?

How should policies be written in regard to animals, people, and ecosystems?

Whose interests are more important? Species that we admire that are endangered, or species that are important to maintaining ecological balance within the local area?

Key Thinkers

William Baxter

Thomas Hobbes

Aldo Leopold

Alan Marshall

Arne Naess

Vandana Shiva

Paul Taylor

Key Texts

William Baxter, People or Penguins?

Aldo Leopold; A Sand County Almanac

Vandana Shiva, Stolen Harvest

Paul Taylor, Biocentric Egalitarianism

Key Terms

anthropocentrism

biocentrism

deep ecology

ecocentrism

ecofeminism

All Resources

Resources

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s.

for **Students** *for* **Teachers**

Starter Packets

Critical Thinking

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

Exisentialism

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

Environmental Ethics

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

Marxism

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

Metaphysics

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Modern Political Philosophy

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Natural Law Theory

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Philosophy Foundations

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Philosophy of Language

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

Critical Thinking

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

some other title

Doing Philosophy in a Pre-College Setting

Are textbooks objective? Why do we learn what we learn in school? If we as a society think assault is bad, then why is it entertaining when two hockey players or...

The Mission

of Philosophy Outreach Project

The Philosophy Outreach Project gets high school students across Indiana thinking. POP creates alternative spaces for learning in classrooms, clubs, online, and conference settings. By curating philosophical content and fostering philosophical discussion, POP provides high school students with tools and a platform to engage with each other and the world. POP believes that everyone deserves to live the examined life. We help them do so.

Our Supporters

PLATO — Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Sciences and Humanities

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Office of Entrepreneurial Learning

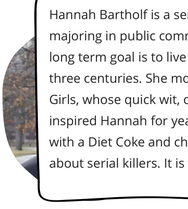
2019 Team

Hannah Bartholf
Social Media Team
Biography

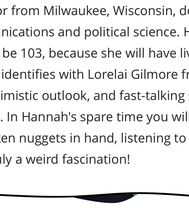
Mendim Akiti
Social Media Team
Biography

Dr. Sarah Vitale
Director
Biography

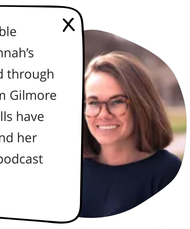
Hannah Bartholf is a senior from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, double majoring in public communications and political science. Hannah's long term goal is to live to be 103, because she will have lived through three centuries. She most identifies with Lorelai Gilmore from Gilmore Girls, whose quick wit, optimistic outlook, and fast-talking skills have inspired Hannah for years. In Hannah's spare time you will find her with a Diet Coke and chicken nuggets in hand, listening to a podcast about serial killers. It is truly a weird fascination!



Mendim Akiti
Social Media Team
Biography



Dr. Sarah Vitale
Director
Biography



Hannah Bartholf
Social Media Team
Biography

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Biography

Mendim Akiti
Social Media Team
Biography

Dr. Sarah Vitale
Director
Biography

Mendim Akiti
Social Media Team
Biography

Dr. Sarah Vitale
Director
Biography

Hannah Bartholf
Social Media Team
Biography

Meet past teams

2018

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