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RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Phenomenology

Areas of Competency: Environmental philosophy, Eastern Philosophy, Aesthetics

EDUCATION

Spring 2022 **PhD**, Philosophy, Queen's University, (Kingston)

Dissertation: Decreation for the Anthropocene

Summary: this dissertation examines the anti-Platonist stance of many environmental thinkers and suggests a rethinking of Plato as a philosopher of relations and *metaxu* through the interpretation of philosopher Simone Weil. This reading reconciles Plato to the non-dualistic and non-hierarchical "entangled" thinking of Ecofeminist and New Materialist philosophers. Ultimately, the dissertation works with Weil's thought to suggest a decreative ecological ethics that decenters the human being by cultivating human actions towards eco-justice.

Committee: Mick Smith (Chair), Lisa Guenther, Jacqueline Davies.

2020 **Visiting Student Fellowship**, *Cambridge University, Emmanuel College*, Cambridge, UK (Stephen Plant and Simone Kotva).

2016 **Summer School**, Theory and Criticism, Cornell (Branka Arsic).

2015 **Master of Arts**, Center for the Study of Theory and Criticism, Western University (London).

Dissertation: The Tapestry of Memory

Summary: Rationality points to the complete annihilation and end of a life when the body perishes, and yet when a loved one dies, we continue to experience that person in a myriad of ways. The focus of this thesis will be a phenomenological exploration of the earthly afterlife of those we have loved and lost. By positing the subject as always intersubjective and as temporal in nature, this thesis investigates how we continue to create and interact with the deceased upon the earth. Using the thought of Bergson, Levinas, Arendt, Irigaray, and Heidegger this work aims to conceptualize, celebrate, and live our relationships in a temporally liminal and environmentally vitalist way.

Committee: Antonio Calcagno (Chair), Jan Plug, Claudia Clausius, Helen Fielding.

2015 **Summer School**, Tilburg University, Netherlands (Simon Critchley).

2015 **Bachelor of Arts** (Honors Specialization in Philosophy) King's, Western University (London). Dean's Honor List.

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming “Enacting Decreation,” in *Rethinking Responses to Political Crisis and Collapse: Hannah Arendt, Edith Stein, Rosa Luxemburg, and Simone Weil* ed. Antonio Calcagno.
- Forthcoming “The Pandemic of Force.” Review of *Apollo’s Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way we Live*, by Nicholas A. Christakis. *Attention: The Life and Legacy of Simone Weil*. Forthcoming. Online: <http://attentionsw.org/>
- 2020 “Attention in the Time of COVID-19.” *Object Tales*. Cambridge Faculty of Divinity Online. 2020. <https://camdivonline.wixsite.com/divinitydispatches/post/kathryn-lawson-attention-in-the-time-of-covid-19>
- 2020 “Art and the Other: Aesthetic Intersubjectivity in Gadamer and Stein,” *Symposium* Vol. 24, No. 1 (Spring 2020), 74-91.
- 2019 “The Ethical Imperative of Reincarnation in the Timaeus and the Bhagavad Gita,” *Symposia: The Journal of Religion*, University of Toronto, 2019. <https://symposia.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/symposia/article/view/29347>
- 2017 Editor and Introduction. *Breached Horizons: Essays on the Work of Jean Luc Marion*. London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017.
- 2017 “One Hand Clapping: Anatheism and Contemporary Eastern Art” in *The Art of Anatheism: Essays on the work of Richard Kearney*. Ed. Matthew Clemente and Richard Kearney. London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2017.
- 2017 *The Tapestry of Memory*. Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Repository. 4866. Master’s Thesis. <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/4866>

EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Fellowships

- 2022 *The Citizen and the State*, 100 level undergraduate course. Philosophy Department, Queen’s University.
- 2019 *Philosophy of Religion*, 200 level undergraduate course. Philosophy Department, Queen’s University.

Teaching Assistance

- 2021 *Moral Issues*, 100 level undergraduate course. For Jacqueline Davies, Philosophy Department, Queen’s University. Online due to COVID-19.
- 2020 *Social Diversity and Political Resistance in a Global Pandemic*, 200 level undergraduate course. For Lisa Guenther, Philosophy Department, Queen’s University. *Principal’s Dream Course*. Online due to COVID-19.
- 2020 *Science and Society*, 200 level undergraduate course. For Mark Smith, Philosophy Department, Queen’s University. Online.

- 2018- 2019 *Fundamental Questions: Introduction to Philosophy*, 100 level undergraduate course. For Jacqueline Davies, Queen's University.
Nominated for excellence in Teaching Assistance award from the Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Society.
- 2018 *Philosophy: Gender, Sex, and Love*, 200 level undergraduate course. For Jaqueline Davies, Queen's University.
- 2017 *Aesthetics*, 300 level undergraduate course. For Deborah Knight, Queen's University.
- 2016 *Girlhood Studies*, 200 level undergraduate course. For Miranda Green-Bartee, Gender Studies department, Western University.

Guest Lecturer

- 2019 On Feminist Aesthetics including Linda Nochlin and Anne Eaton. For Jacquelyn Maxwell, *Philosophy and Feminism*, 300 level undergraduate course, Queen's University.
- 2018 On the first three speeches of Plato's *Symposium*. For Jaqueline Davies, *Philosophy: Gender, Sex and Love*, 200 level undergraduate course, Queen's University.
- 2017 On aesthetics in Continental Philosophy including Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, and Walter Benjamin. For Deborah Knight, *Aesthetics*, 300 level undergraduate course, Queen's University.
- 2016 On Monique Wittig, Hélène Cixous, and Jacques Derrida. For Antonio Calcagno, *French Thought*, 400 level undergraduate seminar course, King's College at Western University.

Research Assistant

- 2018 Editor. For Paul Fairfield. *Artistic Creation: A Phenomenological Account*. Lexington Books, 2019.
- 2016 Editor. For Stephen Lofts. Translation of Ernst Cassirer's *The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms*.
- 2013- 2014 Editor. For Paul Werstine. English department, King's College at Western University and editor of *Folger Shakespeare Library*.
- 2014 Editor. For Julius Kei Kato, Philosophy and Religious Studies, King's College at Western University.
- 2013 For Leslie Harmann. Sociology department, King's College at Western University.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Doctorate- Philosophy at Queen's University Kingston, Canada

- 2020 David Edney Travel Fund, \$2 000.
 Junior Weillienne Scholar Grant, American Weil Society, \$350.
 Canada Graduate Scholarships Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements, \$6000.
 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship- Doctoral, Social

- 2019 Sciences and Humanities Research Council, \$105 000.
The Dr. H. Martyn Estall Graduate Award in Philosophy to attend the Canadian Philosophy Association Conference, \$850.
Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Assistance Award, Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Society.
- 2018 Robert Charles Wallace Graduate Award- \$7,000.
Ontario Humanities Graduate Scholarship- \$15,000.
- 2017 R.S. McLaughlin Fellowship - \$10,000.
Entrance Scholarship - \$13,000.

Master's Degree- Theory and Criticism Centre at Western University, Canada

- 2017 Hutchins Prize: Best Paper at *Art, Nature and the Sacred* Conference, Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington - \$200.
- 2016 Canadian Graduate Scholarship - \$17,500.
- 2015 Director's entrance Scholarship - \$2,000.
Ontario Graduate Scholarship - \$15,000.

Undergraduate Degree- Honors Philosophy- King's College at Western University, Canada

- 2014 John and Mary Snyder Philosophy Scholarship - \$400.
- 2013 The Great Philosopher's Award - \$2,000.
- 2013 John and Mary Snyder Scholarship - \$400.
- 2012 King's Continuing Scholarship for students with an average over 90%
- 2011 King's University College Entrance Scholarship.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Invited Speaker at "Creation/ Destruction" *Café Philo* series run by the interdisciplinary arts organization, Inter Arts Matrix, Kitchener, Ontario, Dr. Katy Fulfer (moderator), April 27, 2021.
"Decreation for the Anthropocene" at the *American Weil Society annual conference*, Boston College, MA, USA, April 23-25, 2021. Online due to COVID-19. Awarded the Junior Weillienne Scholarship, \$350.
- 2020 "Decreating Plato: An Ecological Reading of the *Phaedrus* with Simone Weil" at the *International Association for Environmental Philosophy*, Toronto, Ontario, October 9-10, 2020. Online due to COVID-19.
"Decreation as Destruction or as Creation?" at the *Trans disziplin Denxkollektiv's* conference *Death | text | resonance: Simone Weil and Writing to(wards) Death*, Erfurt and Berlin, Germany, July 23-25, 2020. Online due to COVID-19.
"Simone Weil's Ethics: The Confluence of Faculty and Action" at the *American Weil Society Annual Conference*, Boston College, April 23-25, 2020. Awarded the Young Weillienne Scholarship, \$350. Online due to COVID-19.
- 2019 "The Cartesian Other: Intersubjectivity in Descartes" at *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference*, University of British Columbia, June 1-3, 2019.
"Environmental Ethics in Simone Weil's Gravity and Grace: The Absence of Nature and God" at *The Existential Phenomenological Theory and Culture Annual Conference*, June 3-5, 2019.

- 2018 “Art and the Other: Aesthetic Intersubjectivity” and “Anatheism and Buddhist Art” at *Oxford University’s Mystical Theological Network: Metaphor, Making and Myth* Conference, Boston College, February 28- March 3, 2019.
- 2018 “Margaret Atwood and a Feminist Aesthetics of the Small Screen” at *The American Society of Aesthetics*, October 10-13, 2018. *Student Travel Award* of up to \$1250 USD.
- “Irigaray’s Temple” at *Irigaray Circle 2018 Conference*, Brock University, St. Catherine’s Ontario, June 14-16, 2018.
- “A Glass of Whiskey: Memory and Art” at *Undisciplined 2018 Cultural Studies Graduate Conference*, Queen’s University, March 23- 24, 2018.
- 2017 “Unearthing Ethical Relations in the Temple: Heidegger, Hegel, and Irigaray” at *Heidegger: Dwelling, Thinking and the Ethical Life*, The Centre for Advanced Research in European Philosophy (King’s University College), October 27–29, 2017.
- “Re-Imagining God among the Sodden Cigarette Ends: James Baldwin and Emmanuel Levinas” at *Toxic/cities: An interdisciplinary conference in Theory, Hispanic Studies and Comparative Literature*, University of Western Ontario, March 2-4, 2017.
- “One Hand Clapping: Anatheism and Buddhist Art” at *Art, Nature and the Sacred Conference*, Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington, January 28-29, 2017. Awarded the Hutchins prize for best paper at the conference and \$200.
- 2015 “The Sunset of Dissolution: Nietzsche and Kundera making sense of the eternal return” at Simon Critchley’s *Nihilism Summer School*, University of Tilburg, Netherlands, August 6, 2015.

ACADENIC SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

- 2021 **Editorial Assistant**
Assistant to the Editor, Ronald Collins for a comprehensive Simone Weil website, journal, and archives project: *Attention*.
- 2013-2021 **Conference Work**
- 2021 Organizer: *The Self and the Selfless: Hannah Arendt and Simone Weil on Individual Action in Dark Times*, Philosophy department, Queen’s University, three-day interactive online conference:
<https://www.arendtweilconference2021.com/>
- 2019 Moderator: *Iris Murdoch: Perspectives on Moral Philosophy*, Philosophy department, Queen’s University.
Organizer: *Imagining Otherwise: Radical Alterity, Social Justice, and Philosophies of Difference*, Philosophy Department, *Graduate Equity Collective*. A two-day graduate conference at Queen’s University.
- 2017 Moderator: *Heidegger: Dwelling, Thinking and the Ethical Life*, The Centre for

- Advanced Research in European Philosophy, King's University College, Western University.
 Organizer: *Toxic/cities: An interdisciplinary Graduate conference in Theory, Hispanic Studies and Comparative Literature*, Western University.
- 2016 Moderator: *Passionate Dis attachments: Catherine Malabou*, Centre for Advanced Research of European Philosophy, King's College, Western.
- 2015 Moderator: *Breaching Horizons: The Work of Jean-Luc Marion*, Centre for Advanced Research in European Philosophy, King's College, Western.
- 2013 Registration: Edith Stein Conference hosted by the *Centre for Advanced Research in European Philosophy*.

2017- 2021 **Philosophy Graduate Student Association Work**

- 2020 Chair
- 2019 Committee of Graduate Studies
 Webmaster
- 2018 Graduate Student Colloquia Facilitator
 Graduate Representative in Equity and Women in Philosophy
 Graduate Equity Collective (founding member)
- 2017 Graduate Representative in Equity and Women in Philosophy

Extra Curricular

- 2018 Organizer: *Equity, Philosophy, and Film* Movie Night Series.
- 2013 Writer and Director: Staged reading of "The Divine Tragedy: The Theatre of the Absurd and Existentialism Explore an Absurd Treatment of Human Existence" at King's College at Western University.

REFERENCES

Dr. Mick Smith, Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Queen's University (PhD supervisor) michael.smith@queensu.ca

Dr. Christine Sypnowich, Professor of Philosophy at Queen's University (Chair of Department) christine.sypnowich@queensu.ca