



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

PHILOSOPHY

2021 Newsletter

2020-21 Highlights

Professor Kate Mehuron received the EMU MI-ACE Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Award for 2020 and was formally recognized by the EMU Board of Regents in June for her outstanding leadership.

The Philosophy section successfully navigated a full year of remote teaching and learning. Thank you to everyone who, under very trying circumstances, helped make that happen!

Keep reading for more details and other exciting news from EMU Philosophy faculty and students!

Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy

This year, EMU's Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy (UCiP) marked its 11th anniversary and had a dramatic change in format! The conference was led once again by a faculty and student team; this group was responsible for an outstanding move to a Zoom format. This year's wholly online version of our international conference went extremely smoothly and was quite well attended. Undergraduate philosophers from across the world demonstrated their philosophic creativity, research skills, and disposition toward fruitful and collaborative dialectic. Papers ranged from ethics and ecosystems to the nature of calling bullsh*t. We were very glad to host such energetic and thoughtful philosophers. While we missed the camaraderie of the in-person conference, the Zoom format permitted engagement from around the world. We are hoping to return to a face-to-face event next year, but we are thinking hard about whether a hybrid format could work for us.



Dr. Carol Hay of University of Massachusetts—Lowell gave a thought-provoking and inspiring keynote talk, providing us with a snapshot of her new book, *Think Like a Feminist: The Philosophy Behind the Revolution*.

EMU students organized almost every dimension of this event. Thanks to **Lauren Williams** for her leadership, and to **Natalie Anderson, Mac Neaville, Noah Cross, Zachary Tobias, and Steven Kurz** for serving on our organizing team. Presenters from EMU included **Hudson Villeneuve, Omar Khali, Candice Wiesner, and Zachary Tobias**. A tip of the cap to Professor Jeremy Proulx, whose class inspired so many of our speakers this year. Commenters from EMU this year included **Matthew Wheeler, Omar Khali, John Milkovich, Zachary Tobias, Candice Wiesner, Patrick Jobst** and **Jes Emery**.

Professors **Laura McMahan** and **John Koolage**, the faculty mentors of the UCiP team, could not be prouder of this event and our students.

Acta Cogitata

ACTA COGITATA



Our undergraduate journal, *Acta Cogitata*, features creative work from undergraduate students from across the globe. This year's student editor, **Cristóbal Arellano Borges**, continued the tradition of exemplary graduate student service set by his predecessors delivering another exceptional issue of the journal. The work of EMU students **Natalie Anderson** and **Marri Visscher** is included in this year's edition.

Read more at:

<https://commons.emich.edu/ac/>

Philosophy Club

Over the last year, the Philosophy Club, led by President **Natalie Anderson** and Vice President **Lauren Williams**, provided a forum for philosophical inquiry and supported student success through a wide range of contemporary philosophical topics relevant to participants' lives and research interests.

During each meeting, there was a different philosophy game played and the implications of each game scenario were discussed. Additionally, Philosophy Club offered two peer review sessions, one each semester, where students were able to receive constructive feedback on final papers for their philosophy classes.

In addition to the meetings, the Philosophy Club heavily supported the annual Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy (UCiP) by staffing and helping with the coordination of the conference. Philosophy Club also contributed by providing a session to help student participants prepare their presentations and comments for the conference and answer any questions they had about the conference.

Philosophy Speaker Series

The Speaker Series Committee (**Laura McMahon** (chair), **Michael Scoville**, **John Koolage**, and **Brian Bruya**) invited a diverse group of philosophers from across North America for our 2020-21 virtual speaker series, and also highlighted the work of Outstanding Graduate Student Essay Award winner, **Lauren Williams**. Our Distinguished Speaker for the series was **Dr. Lewis Gordon** (Connecticut). Talks were also given by **Dr. Colin Koopman** (Oregon), **Dr. Benjamin Hale** (Colorado—Boulder), and **Dr. Jean Kazez** (Southern Methodist University).

EMU Philosophy Speaker Series Presents
the 2020-2021 Distinguished Speaker

LEWIS R. GORDON

BLACK EXISTENTIALISM AND BLACK LIVES MATTERING

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Lewis R. Gordon (University of Connecticut) is an Afro-Jewish philosopher, political thinker, educator, and musician. Gordon's research in philosophy is in African philosophy, philosophy of existence, phenomenology, social and political philosophy, philosophy of culture, race, and racism, aesthetics, philosophy of education, philosophy of science and technology, philosophy of human sciences, philosophy of psychiatry, and philosophy of medicine, psychiatry, and psychosociology. His many major works include *Earl Faith and Antiblack Racism* (1996), *Existential Africana* (2000), *Disciplinary Decadence* (2006), *What Fanon Said* (2015), and *Freedom, Justice, and Decolonization* (2020).

This talk will examine the relationship between Black Existentialism and aspects of the Black Lives Matter Movement. The speaker will first explain what Black Existentialism is, the philosophical problems it raises, and conclude with a discussion of Black lives mattering not only as a concern for Black peoples but also for the core set of values and institutions through which humanity could flourish. In short, why Black Lives matter is a clarion call to fight for democracy.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
5:00-6:30 pm (Online)
Free and open to all, but registration is required
REGISTER HERE



2020-2021 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

SHIFTING CONCEPTIONS OF DEPENDENCY

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



**MA Student Speaker
2021:**
Lauren Williams
Eastern Michigan
University

In this paper, and accompanying presentation, I argue that the negative perception of dependency leads to the exclusion of disabled people from philosophical discourse. My analysis of the concept of dependency reveals a positive conception of dependency which requires the inclusion of disabled people in philosophical investigations. To support this conclusion, I first draw on the work of Sumara Taylor and Eva Kittay to elucidate a standard negative conception of dependency and how this negative conception results in the exclusion of disabled people from venues for engagement, having a voice in the production of philosophical work, and being subject of such philosophical work. From there, I detail a shift in disability studies towards a more neutral conception of dependency. Then, I use feminist philosophy of science to discuss a positive conception of dependency before finally surveying implications of my analysis.



Thursday, March 18th, 2021
5:00-6:30 pm (ET)
Zoom: <https://emich.zoom.us/j/81034346737>

2020-2021 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF DATA

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Colin Koopman
University of Oregon



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
5:00-6:30 pm (ET)

Zoom: <https://emich.zoom.us/j/89976033208>

Abstract: Despite our widespread recognition of an emergent politics of data in our midst, we strikingly lack a political theory of data. We readily acknowledge the presence of data across so much of our political lives, but we often do not know how to conceptualize the politics of all those data points: the forms of power they constitute and the kinds of political subjects they constitute. Recent work across a range of academic disciplines is evidence of the first steps toward a political theory of data. This talk offers a survey of this emergent literature with the specific goal of mapping some of its limits and underdeveloped possibilities. Three foci for the political theory of data emerge. First, the study of political institutions is crucial for understanding data politics, but also insufficient. What is needed is a shift to the study of the politics of technologies. Second, and with respect to data technology specifically, contributions to political theory, and elsewhere, have thus far focused on the algorithm. But a focus on the politics of algorithms already suggests the need for inquiries into other politicizing elements of data technology. Therefore, third, this talk invites a further dimension of data politics in the work of *forming*: technology, or more simply, *forming*. If technologies are too often captured by political analyses focusing on institutions, then similarly are technologies of *forming* too often overlooked amidst all the recent focus for a political analysis of the algorithm.

2020-2021 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

CLEAN MEAT AND DIRTY DOLLARS: SUBSTITUTION AND INDETERMINACY IN TECHNOCRATIC SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Benjamin Hale
University of Colorado,
Boulder



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2021
5-6:30 pm (Eastern Time)

Zoom: <https://emich.zoom.us/j/89999187676>

Dr. Benjamin Hale University of Colorado, Boulder, Sebastian Durkin Ocampo, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia, and Alexander Lee, Alaska Pacific University

Abstract: The past few years have been big for meat substitutes. The Impossible Whopper is now available at Burger King. Beyond Meat has found its way into grocery stores, and recent technological advancements look increasingly likely to enable the production of synthetic "cultured" meat burgers in the lab. The hope and promise of these technologies is that they will serve as inexpensive substitute proteins that replace meats made by the much more problematic animal agriculture industry. In this paper, we flip the problem of meat on its head: asking not what is wrong with meat, so much as how consumer indifference and producer strategy might influence the uptake of clean meat in the economic market. Rather than approaching the problem in terms of substitution value, which appears to be the prevailing interpretive framework for making sense of many environmental problems, meat included, we approach the problem of substitution from the standpoint of reasons for and reasons against. Doing so, we suggest, exposes problems with "causal indeterminacy" that in turn implicate our thinking both about moral responsibility and the broader nature of technocratic solutions to environmental problems.

2020-2021 Eastern Michigan University Philosophy Speaker Series

HOW TO THINK ABOUT OLD AGE

Sponsored by the Department of History & Philosophy



Dr. Jean Kazez
Southern Methodist
University



THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
5:00 - 6:30pm (ET)

Zoom: <https://emich.zoom.us/j/81641464961>

Philosophers have not written a great deal about old age, but it's an important topic. How we think about aging concerns us personally, if old age lies ahead of us. Our understanding of old age also matters to the extent that we interact with or care for elderly parents or otherwise play a role in the lives of elderly people. How we think about the lives of old people affects decisions we must make about ourselves and others, and emotions we're bound to have about aging. Though old age has had its defenders and its detractors, the philosophical literature is strikingly scant on the question how, in the most basic sense, we should think about how life goes for the very old. Should we approach the question with general norms—the same account of wellbeing that we would apply to people at any other stage of life? Or do we need stage-adjusted norms for thinking about old age and perhaps for thinking about childhood as well? I'll spend most of this talk arguing that we need stage-adjusted norms and exploring what appropriate norms would look like. I'll end by addressing the debate between old age's defenders and detractors and asking whether our lives would go better as a whole if we could skip old age, though without losing shorter lives.

For information on upcoming talks, all of which are free and open to the public, be sure to check out the Philosophy Speaker Series page, accessible at:

<https://www.emich.edu/history-philosophy/philosophy/beyond-classroom/speaker-series.php>

We hope to see you at one of the 2021-2022 talks!

Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The **George Rhodes Endowed Scholarship** was created in memory of a philosophy major who passed away while he was an EMU student and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major.

- 2021 Recipient: **Omar Khali**

The **Sophia Endowed Scholarship** was established by Professors Kate Mehuron, Jill Dieterle, and Margaret Crouch and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major or minor.

- 2021 Recipient: **Alexis Kettler**

The **Esther Walker Barnard Endowed Scholarship** was established by a supporter of the Department of History and Philosophy and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy major.

- 2021 Recipient: **Zachary Tobias**

The **Friends of History and Philosophy Endowed Scholarship** was established by Professor Gersham Nelson during his tenure as department head of History and Philosophy and is awarded in alternating years to a major in Philosophy and in History.

- 2021 Recipient: **Nicole Reid**

The **Stephen G. Cassar Memorial Endowed Scholarship** was created by Professor George Cassar in honor of his brother and is awarded annually to an outstanding philosophy MA student.

- 2021 Co-Recipients: **Gabe Kasper** and **Mac Neville**

Prize and Award Recipients

The **Philosophy Prize** is given annually to our most outstanding graduating students.

- 2021 undergraduate recipient: **Chanda Victoria**
- 2021 graduate student recipient: **Lisa Gawel**

The **Outstanding Essay Award** is given to recognize excellence in philosophical writing.

- 2021 undergraduate recipient: **Natalie Anderson**, "How the Self-Serving Attributional Bias Affects Teacher Pedagogy"
- 2021 graduate student recipient: **Lauren Williams**, "Shifting Conceptions of Dependency"

Student Accomplishments

Natalie Anderson graduated from EMU with a double major in Elementary Education Mathematics Comprehensive and Philosophy. She received University Honors, Departmental Honors in Philosophy, and Highest Honors from the Honors College. Her senior thesis was “Teaching, Learning, and Everyday Folk Psychology.” Natalie presented “The Self-Serving Attributional Bias and Effective Teaching and Learning” at EMU’s Undergraduate Symposium and had two publications: “How the Self-Serving Attributional Bias Affects Student Learning” (*Acta Cogitata*, Fall 2020) and “How the Self-Serving Attributional Bias Affects Teacher Pedagogy” (*Compos Mentis*, Spring 2021). In addition, Natalie received several awards: a Symposium Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the Undergraduate Symposium; an Honors Undergraduate Research Senior Project Fellowship from the Honors College; a Graduate Fellowship for Symposium Participants Award from the Undergraduate Symposium; the College of Education Endowed Scholarship from College of Education; the Gerald J. Henry scholarship from the College of Education Dean; and the Outstanding Senior Award for Excellence in Elementary Education Mathematics Comprehensive Award from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics—the highest honor bestowed by the department.

Lisa Gawel wrote an Ethics Bowl case (“Parasports and Athletes with Non-Apparent Disabilities”) that was included in the Michigan High School Ethics Bowl finals. She presented “The Unseen: Invisible Disabilities in Sports Competition” at Duquesne University’s Embodied Voices conference. She presented “Non-Apparent Hermeneutical Injustice: ‘Not Disabled Enough’” at the 2021 EMU Graduate Research Conference. Lisa’s essay “Non-Apparent Injustice” was published in Spork magazine. She volunteers on the advisory board for Special Ministries of Livingston County, a faith-based disability organization. Lisa received her MA in Philosophy in April 2021. Starting this fall, Lisa will be teaching Introduction to Ethics at Lansing Community College and Philosophy of Race, Gender and Sexuality at University of Michigan—Flint.

Omar Khali presented “Hegel, Marx, and the Realization of the Self in Work: Towards a Humanistic Ontology of Labor” at the EMU Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy. This paper has been accepted for publication in *Acta Cogitata*. Omar presented “The Primacy of the Body: Gender and Embodied Knowledge” at the Johns Hopkins University Macksey Symposium and had two additional papers accepted for publication: “The Fragile Relation between Anxiety and Authenticity: Heidegger and *The Stranger*” in *The Reed: Journal of Undergraduate Existentialism* and “Understanding the Other: Spaulding and the Inclusion of Being-in-the-World in Folk Psychology” in *Compos Mentis: Undergraduate Journal of Cognition and Neuroethics*.

Steven Kurz presented “A Phenomenology of Death and Hope” at the Marquette University Graduate Philosophy Conference.

Zachary Tobias presented “Discovering an Animal Friendly Kantian Moral Framework” at the 2021 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference. Zachary also presented this paper at the EMU Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy.

Hudson Villeneuve presented “On the Origins of Property” at the EMU Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy.

Krista Webb presented “The Epistemic Status between the Hard and Soft Sciences” at the 2021 EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Candice Wiesner’s paper “Concepts, String Theory, and Separate Mental Reality” was accepted for publication in *Compos Mentis: Undergraduate Journal of Cognition and Neuroethics*. In addition, Candice presented “The Connection Between Humanism and Transhumanism: Giovanni Pico” at the EMU Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy.

Lauren Williams presented “Zoom and the One Minute Paper: Like Chocolate and Peanut Butter” with Dr. Koolage at the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Student Success Conference. She participated in the “Graduate Voices in Teaching Philosophy” panel at the 2021 Central AAPT-APA Teaching Hub (with Dr. Koolage) and presented “Shifting Conceptions of Dependency” at the 2021 EMU Graduate Research Conference. Lauren’s co-authored “An Infrastructural Account of Scientific Objectivity for Legal Contexts and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis” (with Dr. Koolage and Morgen Barroso) has been accepted for publication by *Science in Context*. Lauren will receive her MA in Philosophy in Summer 2021.

Master of Arts Graduates

Cristóbal Arellano Borges, Project

“From Beyond the Armchair and Into the Field: An Inquiry into the Role of Philosophy in Ecology, and the Upshot of a More Inclusive Epistemic Tool Kit”

Committee: John Koolage (Advisor), Kate Mehuron (Reader), Michael Scoville (Reader)

Lisa Gawel, Coursework Paper

“Evaluating Fibromyalgia Exclusion from Para Sports”

Committee: Kate Mehuron (Advisor), Jill Dieterle (Reader), John Koolage (Reader)

Lauren Williams, Coursework Paper

“Shifting Conceptions of Dependency”

Committee: John Koolage (Advisor), Jill Dieterle (Reader), Peter Higgins (Reader)

Faculty News



Jill Dieterle took on a new position as a Faculty Associate in the Graduate School this year. She spends one quarter of her time working on policy issues and assisting faculty, staff, and graduate students with problems and concerns. Jill will be presenting “Food Choice and Epistemic Vulnerability” at the Food and Communication conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the conference will be virtual. Jill’s co-authored paper, written with Chemistry Professor Wade Tornquist, “Wilbur on Drugs: Antimicrobial Use in Hog CAFOs” went through a series of revisions this past year. It will be published in the fall in a volume entitled

Interdisciplinary Environmental Ethics in the Midwest, ed. Ian Smith and Matthew Ferkany, by Michigan State University Press. Currently, Jill is working on a co-authored paper with Philosophy Major Zachary Tobias as well as starting a new research project on food and epistemology. She will be teaching Social Epistemology in Fall 2021, and she very much looks forward to being back in a real classroom.

Recognizing that the worst thing that happened to him was not being able to get a haircut for 14 weeks, **Peter Higgins** thought the 2020-21 school year was not so bad. (He knows he was fortunate.) Peter quite enjoyed teaching on Zoom and had some of his most fulfilling classes ever in the remote/synchronous format. In scholarly news, Peter completed two invited articles that are currently under review (“Migration Justice and Legitimacy,” a contribution to a symposium on Gillian Brock’s *Justice for People on the Move*, to be published in *Res Publica*; and “Gender and Migration,” co-authored with Amy Reed-Sandoval, to be published in *The Handbook of Migration Ethics*.) He is currently finishing an invited contribution to a symposium on Amy Reed-Sandoval’s *Socially Undocumented*, to be published in the *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*. Among his last duties as Philosophy section chair was to pull together the contents for this newsletter, which was completed by incoming section chair Michael Scoville. Peter stepped into the role of department head of History and Philosophy in July 2021.

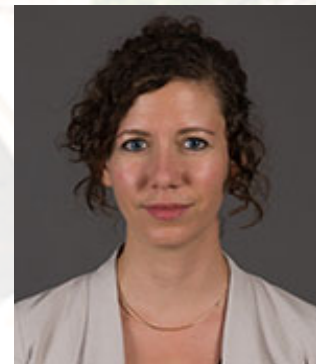




2020-2021's academic year was certainly like no other **John Koolage** can remember. This year we collectively navigated a change in US leadership, faced loss, learned about caring for one another, and witnessed some truly inspiring efforts to change our society for the better. It was a tough year, but not without some silver linings, he supposes. This year, Professor Koolage wrote two pieces for the Blog of the APA: "Syllabus Showcase: Philosophy of Science" and "Remote Synchronous Learning: Some Thoughts." He participated in a number of webinars, including one on remote synchronous learning for the APA and one on collaborative leadership for the MAC Fellows program. Thanks in no small part to Zoom, he presented work on the assessment of student learning (with Drs. S. Casey and Laura McMahon) and on meaning making and Bachelor's degrees (with Drs. A. Johnson, R. Shah, and C. Deacons) at the AAC&U Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment. He also presented work on the QCCRs (with Lauren Williams), institutional engagement (with M. Collins and Dr. D. Still), and high impact practices (with Drs. A. Johnson, D. Pawlowski, and R. Shah) at the Great Lakes Regional Student Success Conference. He also participated in the development of cyber security scenarios on a grant with the Cyber Innovation Center. His thoughts on argument and curiosity are featured on the Ethics and Education podcast. Additionally, he is looking forward to the publication of "An Infrastructural Account of Scientific Objectivity for Legal Contexts and Bloodstain Pattern Analysis" (with Lauren Williams and Morgen Barroso) in *Science in Context* sometime in the coming year. John continues to serve as the Director of General Education at EMU, a member of the APA Committee on Teaching, and an editorial board member for *Studies in Pedagogy*.

Embodied cognition, extended cognition, folk psychology, scientific pluralism, scientific objectivity, and epistemic optimism proved to be ideas that were up to the challenge this year. John is very thankful to all of his students for making teaching fun, despite the ongoing impact of the Covid pandemic. Next year, John looks forward to thinking about multi-level selection and 'messy' epistemic pluralism in relation to the aforementioned ideas. Additionally, he looks forward to seeing his campus office again, and is excited to be a non-pandemic dad again.

This past year, **Laura McMahon** taught Twentieth-Century European Philosophy in the Fall and was on a Faculty Research Fellowship in the Winter. She published two articles and one book chapter: "Religion, Multiculturalism, and Phenomenology as a Critical Practice: Lessons from the Algerian War of Independence" in *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology*; "Phenomenological Variation and Intercultural Transformation: Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology and Abu-Lughod's Ethnography in Dialogue" in *Studia UBB.Philosophia*; and "The 'Great Phantom': *Habitus*, Freedom, and Political Transformation in Merleau-Ponty and Fanon" in the edited volume *Transforming Politics With Merleau-Ponty: Thinking Beyond the State* (Rowman and Littlefield). She also published an encyclopedia article on Maurice Merleau-Ponty in the *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Philosophers* and



has an article forthcoming in *Sartre Studies International* entitled “The Poverty and Richness of the Imagination: Sartre on (Anti-)Racist Ways of Seeing.” She gave an invited talk in Oakland University’s Philosophy Speaker Series and a presentation in the research seminar Critical Perspectives in Phenomenology, of which Professor McMahon is a co-founder.

Professor McMahon continued her work as President of the Canadian Society for Phenomenology (CSCP) and was hired as Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), a position which will begin in Fall 2021. She coordinated this year’s Philosophy Speaker Series and was a faculty advisor for the Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy. She cannot wait to resume classes and philosophical events on campus this coming year!



Kate Mehuron achieved the Certificate of Academic Psychoanalyst from the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute after a five-year course of study at the Institute. Her culminating paper, “The Autopoietic Mind and Its Relevance to Caring for People with Dementia” develops a phenomenological and psychoanalytic account of the autopoietic resources of mind within the context of the intersubjective life world and the mind’s capacity for “belated coming to terms with experience” as conceptualized by Freud’s memory concept *nachträglichkeit*. The paper critiques some dehumanizing assumptions about memory impairment in western philosophy and in certain diagnostic frameworks of dementia. Her constructive method of demonstrating conceptual compatibilities between existential phenomenology and intersubjective psychoanalytic theory is used to suggest alternatives to these rejected assumptions and to argue that clinical care for people with memory impairment is humanized by a better care paradigm guided by this account of the autopoietic capacities of mind. As the ongoing Graduate Coordinator of our Philosophy Program, Professor Mehuron’s experience of completing a “capstone” for her psychoanalytic certification was valuable for keeping her attuned to the trials and satisfactions of our M.A. students’ capstone experiences.

Professor Mehuron also participated as Commentator on the panel “Unifying Declarative Memory” at the American Philosophical Association Central Meeting in February 2021. Her commentary synthesized her recent research on problems presented by theories of narrativity and memory confabulation, to neurocognitive accounts of memory reconsolidation. It was fun to discuss with another panelist, Professor Michael Doan, who had recently separated from EMU and taken a position at Oakland University. In June, the EMU Board of Regents, in a special Resolution, congratulated Kate for her service as an outstanding leader and commended her as the EMU MI-ACE Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Award Recipient for 2020.

John Ouko presented “A quest for Global Justice and Peace in the Present Times: Insights from Martin Luther King Jr.” at the Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Programs Conference held at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in January 2021. In October 2020, he peer reviewed a manuscript on African epistemologies for *Genealogy*, one of MDPI’s open access journals. From late April to early May 2021, he participated in the EMU’s Writing Across the Curriculum Virtual Spring Institute, a four-day event that provided participants with the opportunity to develop or refine a course that uses writing. Lastly, from May 13-27, 2021, John completed a two-week course titled “Improving Your Online Course” that was being offered by Quality Matters, and a certificate of completion was granted to him upon successful completion of the course.



This year, **Jeremy Proulx** continued his work as an Executive Officer for the EMUFT, the union representing Part-time and Full-time Lectures at EMU. With a new contract for Part-time Lecturers and a drastically different system for giving Part-time Lecturers course assignments, Jeremy spent a lot of time working with university administrators to develop policies and procedures to ensure that the new system worked as seamlessly as possible. Jeremy is currently working on a project exploring and diagnosing the reliance on part-time and contingent labor in higher education, what Jeremy calls ‘the Adjunct Problem’. During the winter term, Jeremy presented part of this research at the Great Lakes Philosophy Conference in a paper that interprets the Adjunct Problem through the lens of Herbert Marcuse’s concept of technological rationality, *The One-Dimensional University: Marcuse and the Adjunct Problem*. Jeremy also continued his tenure on the APA Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession and served as a reviewer for a free, open-source textbook in philosophy, to be published by openstax. Jeremy taught Modern philosophy in the Fall and Existentialism in the Winter and looks forward to teaching Philosophy of Art and Philosophy of Religion this coming Fall. Most of all, having been stuck on the other side of the U.S./Canada border since March of last year, Jeremy is very much looking forward to getting back into the classroom, but not to cleaning the dirty coffee cups in his office.

Over the last year, **Michael Scoville** has been actively engaged in several research projects, each of which connects to his teaching in environmental philosophy and ethical theory. The first project is a series of essays analyzing different concepts of nature at play in environmental theory. The second is focused on recent developments in theorizing about climate justice and policy. The third project is a pair of essays exploring the nature and distinctiveness of valuing as a practical attitude, with special attention to normative reasons that reflect agents' particular histories, attachments, and situations. These projects will inform Dr. Scoville's teaching this coming year, notably, his Ethical Theory course this Fall and his newly created Environmental Values, Justice, and Policy course to be offered in Winter. In addition to his research and teaching, Dr. Scoville continues to serve in a number of different roles at EMU. He is co-coordinator of the Environmental Science and Society (ENVI) program, a member of the ENVI steering committee, advisor for the Environment and Society concentration within the ENVI major, and a member of the planning committee for the Philosophy Speaker Series. On July 1, he also began a new role as Philosophy section chair.



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Sophia Philosophy Endowed Scholarship
Philosophy Prize

You can find more information about the scholarships and prize at:

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