

THE FORUM  
FOR PHILOSOPHY

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Annual Report  
2018-19



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# ABOUT THE FORUM

New developments in science and the arts already have well-established ways of reaching a public audience. By contrast, thoughtful reflection on contemporary life and culture—philosophical reflection, broadly conceived—is far less well supported. Since its launch in 1996, the Forum for Philosophy has gained widespread recognition for its work as an initiator and sponsor of engaging and thoughtful philosophy events open to the general public. Today, in all of our activities, we aim to encourage wider participation and promote thought-provoking discussion on issues connected with contemporary cultural and intellectual life. Our full and varied programme of events showcases the work of contemporary academic philosophers from all philosophical traditions, often in conversation with each other and with academics from other disciplines. Our events are always open to everyone, free to attend, and do not require registration. Along with our events, our website hosts a rich archive of podcasts and writing from contemporary philosophers on a wide variety of topics.

The Forum is based in the Department for Philosophy, Logic, and Scientific Method at the LSE. It has an Executive Committee, the members of which constitute *ipso facto* its board of trustees and who come from both academic and business backgrounds. We have a Director, Dr Elizabeth Hannon, and a number of Fellows: Prof. Shahidha Bari, who is Professor of Cultures and Histories, University of the Arts London, University of London; Dr Jonathan Birch, who is

Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the LSE; Dr Sarah Fine, who is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at King's College London; Dr Clare Moriarty, who is IRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Trinity College Dublin; and Dr Danielle Sands who is Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Thought at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The Forum is non-profit organization, and we are extremely grateful for the support of its long-standing sponsors, Stephen and Caroline Butt, Ariane Braillard, Tim Sanderson, The Grut Trust, and Jacques Boissonnas and the Clarence Westbury Foundation. For both their academic endorsement and financial support, our thanks are also due to the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, the British Society for the History of Philosophy, the Centre for the Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences, LSE, the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE, and the Royal Institute for Philosophy.

We are also especially grateful to the many academics who have given up their time to participate in Forum events.

In order to be able to continue and, hopefully, expand its work, the Forum is actively seeking to secure financial support from interested individuals and grant-awarding bodies. For further information about our fundraising efforts and ways to get involved, please contact either the Forum's Director or Honorary Treasurer.

# SUPPORT FOR THE FORUM

## Praise from Our Speakers

The conversations at the Forum provide an excellent opportunity for thoughtful contributions on matters of public interest and importance. Bravo!

– Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy and Law,

The discussion was excellent, both amongst the panel members themselves and also from the large and attentive audience. It's crucial to have these sorts of interactions between academic practitioners and the interested general public. The widespread love of ideas and of passionate but informed debate need to be nurtured now more than ever, and the Forum makes a significant contribution to the conversations that we need to have with one another.

– Prof. Helen Steward, Professor of Philosophy, University of Leeds

For over twenty years the Forum has been the pre-eminent agent of public engagement with philosophy in the UK, with every word of that mission counting. It doesn't just open its doors to the public, it reaches it; it doesn't just give them philosophy, it engages them with it; and it offers is the real deal, not watered down pop-philosophy.

– Julian Baggini, Director, Royal Institute of Philosophy

## Praise from Our Audience

Having not been in an environment like this in years I lapped up every word. Very refreshing for me to hear such an academic discussion about a topic I hadn't thought of in that way before.

Wow! Good discussion. What an event! Always a privilege and a pleasure to hear new perspectives.

Best lecture that I have attended at LSE or elsewhere! Interested to read round the subject following this lecture.

Caused me to reconsider my own ideas on the topic. Please continue giving these lectures.

Fantastic talk! Thank you for putting on this event.

Great talk, great chair facilitation!

Absolutely brilliant and hugely enjoyable, thank you for the wonderful work you do.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

My first full year as Director has been more eventful than I could have imagined. We lost our friend and Honorary Treasurer Stephen Lewis this year. Stephen's involvement with the Forum dates back to its earliest days, though his interest in philosophy goes back even further, to his undergraduate days in Balliol College, Oxford under the tutelage of Alan Montefiore. Although he didn't pursue an academic career, Stephen's interest in philosophy did not wane, and as well as his deep involvement with the Forum, he pursued postgraduate study in philosophy at Birkbeck, University of London. Stephen's abiding love of philosophy and his astute guidance as Treasurer was instrumental in the Forum's success over the years. We are so much less without him and he is dearly missed.

In more positive news, we were delighted when Paul Loach agreed to become our new Honorary Treasurer. His capable hands on the tiller of the Forum's finances gives us good reason to feel more hopeful for the Forum's future.

Another important development was the Forum's move to the Centre for Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences, in the LSE's Department of Philosophy, Logic, and

Scientific Method. Our gratitude to Prof. Jason Alexander and Prof. Roman Frigg for enabling this move is inestimable. Huge thanks are also due to Becky Matthams and Laura O'Keefe for ensuring the move was as smooth and painless as possible. And already the benefits of this move have been evidenced, most obviously in the joint venture that is the Out of the Vat podcast, produced by the Department's Ewan Rodgers.

I wrote in my last report of the difficulty in securing funding for organizations such as ours. Whereas various opportunities exist for the promotion of science, medicine, and technology, the humanities in general and philosophy in particular are not so well served. Added to this are the challenges faced by all non-profit organizations fundraising against the backdrop of Brexit. The Forum's financial future is far from secure.

Nonetheless, I can report that the quality of the Forum's work has not been undermined. While we have slightly reduced the amount we do, each event is just as carefully considered, assembled, and steered by our fantastic team of fellows: Prof. Shahidha Bari, Dr Jonathan Birch, Dr Sarah Fine, Dr Clare Moriarty, and Dr Danielle Sands. They

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

bring together their academic expertise with their understanding of how best to promote philosophy to a wider audience, creating a programme of events that widens out participation without ever dumbing down the conversation. The result is considered but informal discussion of cutting-edge research, enabling engagement with complex ideas from various angles and creating space to think in public.

The success of this approach is marked by our growing audience and the overwhelmingly positive feedback we receive, from the audience on the night to podcast listeners around the world, from those new to philosophy to those already immersed in it. I am particularly proud of the fact that we garner such wide interest from outside of academic philosophy while securing the endorsement of its various institutions; we have not needed to trade academic credibility for popularity. In all of this, the work of our Fellows has been crucial.

An exciting development in the programme is the addition of The Philosophers' Book Club. This is a termly event where our speakers dissect the philosophical themes of the selected novel or memoir. We were thrilled that our inaugural event, in which we discussed *The Cost of Living*, featured the writer herself. Deborah Levy was joined by Edward Hardcourt and Kathryn Hughes to discuss, among other things, De Beauvoir and living philosophically. Future events will feature Iris Murdoch's *Under the Net* and Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman*.

Finally, I could not end this message without extending my thanks to Nenna Chuku, without whom there would be no Forum. Her tireless work, creativity, and all-round competence are more than anyone could reasonably hope for, and we are incredibly lucky to have her with us.

Elizabeth Hannon  
*Director*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Following the death of Stephen Lewis, I was asked to take over his position as Honorary Treasurer of the Forum. He will be a hard act to follow so I will not try. His commitment to the Forum was evident for a long time, giving freely of both his time and money, and his experience and wisdom will be much missed.

The economic circumstances of the twelve months under review have not been encouraging. The economic slow puncture which started just after the Brexit Referendum in 2016 continued and this has dampened our fundraising hopes. However, once again our band of regular supporters continued their generous support which proved vital to our activities.

UK interest rates have remained low despite a rise from 0.5% to 0.75% in August 2018 where they have since remained. This continues to frustrate our long term aim establishing an endowment fund to meet most of our expenses. The chink of light referred to in the last review dimmed again. The US central bank, The Federal Reserve, reversed their inclination to raise rates and while the subsequent reductions have been less than politicians wanted, it indicates the scope for rises are limited. The monetary policy makers have started to wonder, out loud, whether the policy of low rates is still helping the developed economies, but this is unlikely to resolve itself in the near future. The Bank of England is appointing a new Governor soon

and it will be interesting to see if she will be a rate hawk or dove. One potential appointee has said she will be neither but rather a wise owl.

We hope we have acted in a similar light in the pursuit of our financial goals. We have established a fundraising committee, which even after its short existence is managing to attract new support. We have reduced by one session a term our activities and continued to re-focus our Benefactors' Dinners to create greater awareness of what we do and attract financial support.

The Stipendiary Fellows scheme continues as a cost effective means of meeting our objectives. We continue to aim for cash balances and pledges of financial support to cover at least one year's projected expenses. We are maintaining that target. We owe thanks to all who have helped with their contributions, but especially to Jacques Boissonnas, Ariane Braillard, Stephen and Caroline Butt, and Tim Sanderson. I would also like to thank our Director Dr Elizabeth Hannon who, despite her other obligations, efficiently manages our finances on a day to day basis.

Paul Loach  
*Honorary Treasurer*



## AUTUMN 2018

**Artificial Meat**

Monday 8 October

Speakers

**Anat Pick**

Reader in Film Studies, Queen Mary, University of London

**Mark Post**

Professor of Vascular Physiology, Maastricht University

**Adam Shriver**

Research Fellow, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Applied Ethics and Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities

Chair

**Danielle Sands**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Culture, RHUL

Lab-grown meat promises a future of burgers, meatballs, and even foie gras, without the side order of animal suffering and environmental damage. But is fake meat a real solution to these problems? And will its success lead to the extinction of farm animals? If lab-grown meat is the ethical option, how can we persuade consumers to overcome their aversion to it? We discuss the science, ethics, and meaning of artificial meat.

**Sleep**

Monday 15 October

Speakers

**Marina Benjamin**Author, *The Middlepause* and *Insomnia*; Senior Editor, *Aeon***Russell Foster**

Professor of Circadian Neuroscience, University of Oxford

**Simon Morgan Wortham**

Professor in Humanities, Kingston University

Chair

**Shahidha Bari**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Professor of Cultures and Histories, UAL

Philosophers have diligently examined consciousness, but what do they have to say about our nightly loss of consciousness? In an age of mindfulness, is there something to be said for sleepfulness too? And for those of us still rubbing our eyes at 4am, what is it that keeps us awake in the wee small hours? With apparently two-thirds of Britons suffering from sleep problems, this discussion promises to be your wake-up call, exploring the science, philosophy and literature of sleep.

**Imagination in Science**

Wednesday 24 October

Speakers

**Steven French**

Professor of Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds

**Melanie Keene**

Fellow, Homerton College, University of Cambridge

**Alice Murphy**

Postgraduate Researcher, University of Leeds

Chair

**Jonathan Birch**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, LSE

Science is often mistakenly thought to involved nothing but cold reason. In reality, very human acts of creativity appear everywhere. We explore the role of imaginative thinking in science. Are thought experiments sources of knowledge or just hypotheses? Can a story or narrative also be a scientific explanation? And how should a scientist balance creative thinking with respect for the facts?



# FORUM ACTIVITIES 2018-19

## Pragmatism

Monday 29 October

### Speakers

**Matthew Festenstein**

Professor of Politics, University of York

**Clara Fischer**

Marie Curie-Sklodowska Fellow,  
Centre for Gender, Feminisms and  
Sexuality, University College  
Dublin

**Paniel Reyes Cardenas**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
UPAEP, Puebla México

### Chair

**Clare Moriarty**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
ICT Postdoctoral Fellow, Trinity  
College Dublin

What if instead of worrying about truth as a fundamental, objective notion, we just focused on what works? What if we just believed in what is practical or beneficial to us to believe? Pragmatism is the great American contribution to philosophy, and it has serious implications for politics, philosophy, and science. Join us to discuss the history of this idea, and what might be entailed by 'doing what works'.

## Dance

Monday 5 November

### Speakers

**Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca**

Reader in Theatre and  
Performance, University of Surrey

**Hamish MacPherson**

Choreographer and researcher

**Anna Pakes**

Reader in Dance, University of  
Roehampton

### Chair

**Sarah Fine**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
KCL

Humans are not mere brains in vats. We are living, moving creatures, and this fact matters for not only for how we think about ourselves, but also how we think about thinking itself. We consider dance's contribution to philosophical debates about knowledge. What can we learn from dance? And can we learn through dance? Might dance itself be unique way of knowing?

## Biography

Wednesday 14 November

### Speakers

**Hannah Dawson**

Senior Lecturer in the History of  
Political Thought, KCL; Author,  
*Life Lessons from Hobbes*

**Robert Rowland Smith**

Quondam Fellow, All Souls  
College, Oxford; Author,  
*Autobiophilosophy* and *Driving  
with Socrates*

**Helen Tyson**

Lecturer in 20th and 21st Century  
British Literature, University of  
Sussex

### Chair

**Shahidha Bari**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Professor of Cultures and  
Histories, UAL

When the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau set out to write his *Confessions* in 1782, he proposed 'to set before my fellow-mortals a man in all the truth of nature; this man shall be myself'. Philosophers have long engaged with the confessional form, from Plato and Augustine to Derrida and Cixous. Is biography an inherently philosophical medium? How does life inflect the philosophy of any given thinker? Or should we make a distinction between the facts of a philosopher's life and their philosophical thought?

**Black Holes**

Wednesday 21 November

Speakers

**Stephen Baxter**

Author of *Xeelee: Vengeance*,  
*Obelisk*, the Long Earth series with  
Terry Pratchett, and the Time  
Odyssey series with Arthur C.  
Clarke

**Amelie Saintonge**

Associate Professor of  
Astrophysics, UCL

**Karim Thébault**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy of  
Science, University of Bristol

Chair

**Jonathan Birch**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

What are black holes, why are physicists so sure they exist, and how did we come to know about them? Can we know, or at least imagine, what happens inside a black hole? The science of black holes has long inspired science fiction writers, but might science fiction help us understand science fact? We discuss black holes, philosophy, and the long-standing and productive relationship between science and sci-fi.

**Being Disabled**

Wednesday 28 November

Speakers

**Claire Jones**

Lecturer in the History of  
Medicine, University of Kent

**Fiona Kumari Campbell**

Senior Lecturer in Social Work,  
University of Dundee

**Hannah Thompson**

Professor of French and Critical  
Disability Studies, RHUL

Chair

**Danielle Sands**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature  
and Culture, RHUL

What is disability and how has it been understood through history and across different cultures? How is disability presented in the arts and in our changing idea of what it means to be human? Is the term 'disability' useful for the development of disability rights or does it fail to capture the diversity of disabled experience? We address these questions and consider the nature of disabled experience and the ways in which society is disabling.

**Bad Language**

Monday 3 December

Speakers

**Emma Byrne**

AI Researcher; Author, *Swearing Is  
Good for You: The Amazing  
Science of Bad Language*

**John Gallagher**

Lecturer in Early Modern History,  
University of Leeds

**Rebecca Roache**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
Royal Holloway, University of  
London

Chair

**Clare Moriarty**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
ICT Postdoctoral Fellow, Trinity  
College Dublin

Language allows us to communicate. It also allows us to charm, shock, delight, and offend. It is political and we can use it to harm and manipulate. And some words are just not okay in polite company. Should there ever be restraints on what can be said? If so, what kind? We navigate the deeper issues around swearing, slurring, and slander. Swear-jars at the ready!

# FORUM ACTIVITIES 2018-19

## SPRING 2019

### Protest Art

Monday 10 December

Speakers

**Sacha Golob**

Director, Centre for Philosophy  
and the Visual Arts, KCL

**Robert Montgomery**

Poet and artist; Author of *Echos of  
Voices in the High Towers*

**Stephanie Schwartz**

Lecturer in American Modernism,  
UCL

Chair

**Sarah Fine**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
KCL

What is protest art? What are its limits and what are its possibilities? Might there be a unique role for art in protest or does the political statement diminish the art? And once a piece of art becomes popular in the art world, can it still be protest art? We discuss what protest art has been, what it is, and what it might be.

### War

Tuesday 15 January

Speakers

**Susanne Burri**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

**Michael Muthukrishna**

Assistant Professor of Economic  
Psychology, LSE

**Michael Robillard**

Research Fellow, Oxford Uehiro  
Centre for Practical Ethics

**Joseph Maiolo**

Professor of International History,  
Department of War Studies, KCL

Chair

**Jonathan Birch**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

War scars human history and continues to mar lives across the globe. Is war part of human nature? Is it ever morally justified? And with the development of advanced weapon technologies, will future wars be more destructive than ever before? Bringing together philosophy, history, and cultural evolution, we explore the past, present, and future of war and ask what, if anything, can be done to make war less likely.

### W E B Du Bois

Monday 21 January

Speakers

**Liam Kofi Bright**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

**Brian Kelly**

Reader in History, Queen's  
University Belfast

**Meera Sabaratnam**

Senior Lecturer in International  
Relations, SOAS

Chair

**Jonathan Birch**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

W E B Du Bois is usually remembered as a sociologist and civil rights campaigner, and his analysis of race and racism continues to shape the way social scientists think about these issues today. But a genuine polymath, he was also a skilled philosopher and in this event we will consider Du Bois's philosophical thought, from art, propaganda, and science, to the very purpose of philosophy itself.

## The Politics of Memorials

Tuesday 29 January

### Speakers

**Michelle Codrington-Rogers**

Activist; Junior Vice-President, NASUWT

**Margaret O'Callaghan**

Reader in History, Queen's University Belfast

**Rahul Rao**

Senior Lecturer in Politics, SOAS

### Chair

**Sarah Fine**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
KCL

Memorials have been fiercely debated in recent times. What roles do memorials play in a society and how do these acts of remembering contribute to a community's sense of identity? What gets remembered and what forgotten, and who decides? When, if ever, should memorials be removed? We discuss past and present controversies around public memorializing, from Ground Zero and Confederate monuments to Rhodes Must Fall and Trafalgar Square.

## Philosophy and Psychiatry

Monday 4 February

### Speakers

**Lisa Conlan**

Consultant Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

**Jean Khalfa**

Senior Lecturer in French Studies, University of Cambridge

**Stella Sandford**

Professor of Modern European Philosophy, Kingston University London

**Alistair Stewart**

Consultant Psychiatrist, Fairfield General Hospital, Bury

### Chair

**Danielle Sands**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Culture, RHUL

Mental disorders are widely held to have a chemical basis best treated with medication, and contemporary psychiatry is more closely allied with the neuro- and behavioural sciences than with philosophy. So what, if anything, does philosophy have to offer psychiatry today? Exploring both historical examples and contemporary psychiatric practice, we ask what the theoretical and therapeutic benefits of a philosophically informed psychiatry might be.

## Being an Ally

Wednesday 13 February

### Speakers

**Carys Afoko**

Activist and Co-Founder, Level Up

**Dawn Foster**

Journalist, *The Guardian*

**Sridhar Venkatapuram**

Senior Lecturer of Global Health and Philosophy, KCL

### Chair

**Sarah Fine**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
KCL

Many people see themselves as allies, not themselves marginalized but nonetheless standing alongside members of marginalized groups in their struggle for social justice. The role of more powerful groups can be important, but some attempts at solidarity can also badly fail the very people they intend to help. We reflect on the significant questions and challenges involved in being an ally amidst the changing social justice movements of the twenty-first century. What does being an ally mean? When and why are allies important? And why do some attempts end in failure?

# FORUM ACTIVITIES 2018-19

## Doping

Monday 18 February

### Speakers

**John William Devine**

Lecturer in Sports Ethics and Integrity, Swansea University

**Vanessa Heggie**

Lecturer in the History of Medicine, University of Birmingham

**David Papineau**

Professor of Philosophy, KCL

### Chair

**Clare Moriarty**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
IRC Postdoctoral Fellow, TCD

World-class athletes push themselves beyond normal limits and transform their bodies through training and diet. But in the wake of various scandals across the world of sport, we know pharmaceuticals can also play a role. Doping is considered a form of cheating, but should it be? And with the arrival of 'smart drugs', this is no longer only a worry for sports. Can we ensure a level playing field, in sports and beyond, or will the advances in drug development always outpace regulation? We explore the philosophy behind all things doping, competing, and cheating.

## The Haunting of Neo-liberalism

Thursday 28 February

### Speakers

**Robert Eaglestone**

Professor of Contemporary Literature and Thought, RHUL

**Simon Glendinning**

Professor of European Philosophy, LSE

**Maja Zehfuss**

Professor of International Politics, University of Manchester

### Chair

**Danielle Sands**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Culture, RHUL

Marx famously wrote in the nineteenth century of the spectre of communism haunting Europe, and the end of the Cold War might be considered to mark its exorcism. But has communism really been laid to rest? Despite the fall of the Berlin Wall, Derrida certainly thought not. He argued that in the 'new world disorder', ideologies like neo-liberalism were enmeshed with communism, haunted by the spectre of communisms yet to come. Is Derrida's analysis still applicable to the post-9/11 world? And have new spectres appeared in our midst?

## Brave New World

Saturday 2 March

### Speakers

**Richard Ashcroft**

Professor of Bioethics, Queen Mary University of London

**David Healy**

Professor of Psychiatry, Bangor University

**Emily Jackson**

Professor of Law, LSE

### Chair

**Shahidha Bari**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Professor of Cultures and Histories, UAL

In this age of utopian technologies, we can design mechanical limbs for amputees and chemically engineer happiness for depressives. From the fluoride in our water to genetically modified babies, scientific advances pose complex new ethical questions. We explore the major bioethical issues of our time. Is philosophy braced for this brave new world? Are scientists and engineers morally obliged to design a utopia? Or are things best left to 'nature'?



**The Irish Enlightenment**

Monday 4 March

Speakers

**Ian McBride**Foster Professor of Irish History,  
Hertford College, Oxford**Katherine O'Donnell**Associate Professor in History of  
Ideas, University College Dublin**Tom Stoneham**Professor of Philosophy, University  
of York

Chair

**Clare Moriarty**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
IRC Postdoctoral Fellow, TCD

Though often overlooked in discussions of the Enlightenment, Ireland was a vibrant centre for intellectuals of many stripes. Jonathan Swift, Edmund Burke, George Berkeley, and many others made lasting contributions to literature, philosophy, politics, and science. How did the turbulent political times of eighteenth-century Ireland affect this intellectual landscape? Is there something distinctively Irish about this writing? We discuss the thought and times of this remarkable group of thinkers.

**Mood**

Wednesday 13 March

Speakers

**Ben Highmore**Professor of Cultural Studies,  
University of Sussex**Carolyn Pedwell**Reader in Cultural Studies,  
University of Kent**Anil Sebastian**Singer, composer, producer, co-  
founder and director of London  
Contemporary Voices choir

Chair

**Shahidha Bari**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Professor of Cultures and  
Histories, UAL

Mood is an ephemeral thing, changing with the seasons and eluding our control. Why are our moods so susceptible to drugs, the weather, and music alike? Hegel wrote of Geist and Heidegger rhapsodized over Stimmung, so can an age have a mood too? And if so, how do we read a Zeitgeist or measure the spirit of a time? Join us as we get moody.

**Disgust**

Monday 25 March

Speakers

**Jo Applin**Reader in the History of Art, The  
Courtauld Institute of Art**Tina Chanter**Professor of Philosophy and  
Gender Studies, Kingston  
University**Sophie Russell**Lecturer in Social Psychology,  
University of Surrey

Chair

**Danielle Sands**Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature  
and Culture, RHUL

Disgust is deceptively simple: physical repulsion to something revolting or potentially contagious. Behind this straightforward exterior, however, lies the 'rich universe of the disgusting' (William Ian Miller). Within this universe dwell questions about ugliness and beauty, the animal and the civilized, even life and death. We delve deep into disgust and the many ways it has shaped our thought, our art, and our sense of self.

# FORUM ACTIVITIES 2018-19

## SUMMER 2019

### Plants

Tuesday 30 April

Speakers

**Karine Bonneval**

Visual Artist

**Paco Calvo**

Director, Minimal Intelligence  
Lab, University of Murcia

**Tom Greaves**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
UEA

Chair

**Danielle Sands**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature  
and Culture, RHUL

Philosophers have long assumed that plants are inferior to humans and animals: static, inert, and unreflective. But recent scientific advances suggest that we may have underestimated plants. They can process information, solve problems, and communicate. We explore what plants can teach us about intelligence and agency, and ask whether plants think.

### Schopenhauer

Tuesday 7 May

Speakers

**Christine Battersby**

Reader Emerita in Philosophy,  
University of Warwick

**Christopher Janaway**

Professor of Philosophy, University  
of Southampton

**Christopher Ryan**

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy and  
Education, London Metropolitan  
University

Chair

**Danielle Sands**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Lecturer in Comparative Literature  
and Culture, RHUL

Schopenhauer's work prefigured important developments in philosophy, psychology, and political thought. On the two-hundredth anniversary of the publication of his *The World as Will and Representation*, we examine the life and work of Arthur Schopenhauer. How can we better understand his relationship with Eastern philosophy? How can his work help us address current questions in art and ethics? And what can he teach us about human suffering?

### On Strike

Tuesday 14 May

Speakers

**Jo Grady**

Senior Lecturer in Employment  
Relations, Sheffield

**Martin O'Neill**

Senior Lecturer in Political  
Philosophy, York

**Waseem Yaqoob**

Lecturer in the History of Modern  
Political Thought, University of  
Cambridge

Chair

**Sarah Fine**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,  
KCL

Workers of the world, unite! We discuss the history, politics, and ethics of strikes, and their place in the labour movement. Why do they happen and what makes for a successful strike? What justifies workers in withdrawing their labour to push bosses for improved pay and conditions?



**The Philosophers' Book Club**  
**Deborah Levy, *The Cost of Living***

Monday 20 May

Speakers

**Edward Harcourt**

Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
University of Oxford

**Kathryn Hughes**

Professor of Life Writing,  
University of East Anglia

**Deborah Levy**

Poet, playwright, author, and  
Fellow, Columbia Institute of Ideas  
and Imagination

Chair

**Shahidha Bari**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Professor of Cultures and  
Histories, UAL

At the Philosophers' Book Club, we select a work of fiction or non-fiction and our panel discusses its philosophical themes. For this inaugural gathering, we'll be reading Deborah Levy's new memoir, *The Cost of Living*. 'Levy explicitly recuperates De Beauvoir's position, not only by engaging closely with *The Second Sex*, but by going deeply into the philosopher's personal struggles to reconcile sexual love with intellectual liberty', says Kathryn Hughes.

**Replication Crisis?**

Tuesday 28 May

Speakers

**Alexander Bird**

Peter Sowerby Professor of  
Philosophy and Medicine, KCL

**Laura Fortunato**

Associate Professor of Evolutionary  
Anthropology, University of  
Oxford

**Marcus Munafò**

Professor of Biological Psychology,  
University of Bristol

Chair

**Jonathan Birch**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
LSE

The hallmark of good science is often supposed to be experiments that produce the same results when repeated. But over the last number of years, scientists have replicated a number of established, high-profile experiments and produced different results. Does it point to serious flaws and biases in the sciences? Or is it evidence of the power of science to self-correct? And what can be done to make science more replicable? We explore whether the replication crisis undermines our trust in science.

**Molyneux's Problem**

Monday 3 June

Speakers

**Marjolein Degenaar**

Author, *Molyneux's Problem: Three Centuries of Discussion on the Perception of Form*

**Barry Ginley**

Equality and Access Adviser,  
Victoria & Albert Museum

**Brian Glenney**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,  
Norwich University

Chair

**Clare Moriarty**

Fellow, Forum for Philosophy  
IRC Postdoctoral Fellow, TCD

William Molyneux posed the following question: Consider a person who has been born blind and who has learnt to distinguish a globe and a cube by touch. If this person could suddenly see, would they be able to distinguish these objects by sight alone? This seventeenth-century thought experiment, known as 'Molyneux's problem', received attention from some of philosophy's greatest minds. We discuss how thinkers like Locke and Leibniz, as well as artists with visual impairments, responded to Molyneux's challenge.

## OTHER FORUM ACTIVITIES

### Podcasts

The Forum's reach extends well beyond London . Our events are recorded and released as part of the Forum for Philosophy podcast, which reaches an audience of over 50,000.

This year, in conjunction with the Centre for the Natural and Social Sciences and the Department of Philosophy, Logic, and Scientific Method, LSE, we also launched Out of the Vat. This podcast features short interviews with philosophers about their current research, their approach to philosophy, and their lives more generally.

Both the Forum for Philosophy and Out of the Vat podcasts can be found via our own website and on iTunes.

### Contemporary Writing

Bringing academic philosophy to a wider audience, our essay series makes cutting-edge research accessible to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. Each essay is based on a published, peer-reviewed article or book. Unlike these academic publications, however, the essays are neither hidden behind paywalls nor obscured by academic terms of art. This is open-access scholarship in its fullest sense.

# WHO WE ARE

## Director

Elizabeth Hannon  
*London School of Economics  
& University of Leeds*

## Fellows

Shahidha Bari  
*University of the Arts, London*

Jonathan Birch  
*London School of Economics*

Sarah Fine  
*King's College London*

Clare Moriarty  
*Trinity College Dublin*

Danielle Sands  
*Royal Holloway, University of London*

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Remo Bodei  
Vincent Descombes  
Axel Honneth  
Onora O'Neill  
Quentin Skinner  
Charles Taylor

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Yally Avrahampour  
Nick Bunnin  
Miguel de Beistegui  
Hugo Dixon  
Paul Flather  
Hilary Lawson  
Angie Hobbs  
Paul Loach  
Alan Montefiore  
Ziba Norman  
Richard Spiegelberg

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*University of Oxford*

## Emeritus President

Alan Montefiore  
*University of Oxford*

## Chair

Catherine Audard  
*London School of Economics*

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Paul Loach

## Administrator

Nenna Chuku

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Adam Ferner  
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Roman Figg  
Simon Glendinning  
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Veronique Munoz-Darde  
Clare Moriarty  
Ziba Norman  
Mahon O'Brien  
Constantine Sandis  
Danielle Sands

# WHAT YOU CAN DO...

The Forum relies on donations. We are extremely grateful to our supporters, all of whom make our work possible. If you would like to give a donation, of any size, there are several ways to do so.

You can find our JustGiving page via our website, [www.philosophy-forum.org](http://www.philosophy-forum.org).

## Cheques

Please make payable to 'Forum for European Philosophy'

Forum for Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Logic, and Scientific Method  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London WC2 2AE, UK

## BACS transfer

Bank: CAF Bank  
Account name: Forum for European Philosophy  
Account no.: 00084372  
Sort code: 40-52-40

## Gift Aid

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, the Forum will receive an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. This means that £10 can be turned into £12.50 just so long as donations are made through Gift Aid. Imagine what a difference that could make, and it doesn't cost you a thing. Please help us keep our programme of events running and return this form to us with your donation.

I would like to make a donation to the Forum for Philosophy using Gift Aid. My details are:

Name

Address

Postcode

I would like to Gift Aid the enclosed donation of £\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to Gift Aid all donations I've made to the Forum for Philosophy since 6 April 2019 and all donations in the future until I notify you otherwise.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2019.

The Forum for Philosophy is a registered charity (no. 1070105)



**FORUM FOR PHILOSOPHY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
31 MARCH 2019**

**Charity Number 1070105**

**FORUM FOR PHILOSOPHY**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**Bankers:**

HSBC  
16 King Street  
Covent Garden  
London  
WC2E 8JF

CAF Bank  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

**Solicitors:**

Battens  
Mansion House  
Princes Street  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA20 1EP

**Independent Examiner:**

Lisa King FCCA MAAT  
Burdett King Accountancy Limited  
8 The Hamiltons  
Newmarket  
CB8 0NF



## FORUM FOR PHILOSOPHY

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The Forum for Philosophy is governed by a Constitution adopted on 28 May 1998, amended on 18 October 2018, and is a registered charity in England and Wales, charity number 1070105.

The Trustees of the Forum for Philosophy for the year ended 31 March 2019 were:

Paul Flather	Hilary Lawson (Vice Chair)	Catherine Audard (Chair)
Nicholas Bunnin	Gloria Norman	Paul Loach (Treasurer)
Angela Hobbs	Timothy Sanderson	Yally Avrahampour
Miguel Beistegui	Simon Glendinning	Richard Spiegelberg
Alan Montefiore		

The Association was established for the advancement of education in the field of Philosophy on a pan-European basis.

According to the present Constitution of the Forum, the members of its Executive Committee act ipso facto as the Forum's Trustees, while Clause 5.5 of the Constitution states that the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. It should also be noted that according to the memorandum of understanding between the Forum for Philosophy and the London School of Economics (LSE), the Head of the European Institute, or his appointed alternate, should be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee of the Forum. All decisions taken by the Forum are either in direct response to resolutions passed at meetings of the Executive Committee or subject to confirmation (or otherwise) at such meetings, while the decisions and resolutions of the Executive Committee are in turn subject to confirmation (or otherwise) at meetings of the AGM (or, if called, at an EGM). When appointed, Trustees are duly informed of their responsibilities as such, but, given the nature and purposes of the Forum, no further special training is considered to be necessary.

When planning the activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and arranged a number of conferences, lectures and discussions pursuant to its objectives.

The Receipts and Payments Account attached shows receipts of £81,525 less payments of £89,423 giving a net cash outflow of £7,898 for the year which when taken from the bank balances at the beginning of the year of £56,577 gives bank balances at the end of the year of £48,679.

The Executive Committee is required under the Charities Act to prepare financial statements for each year and as a small charity is entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis. Executive Committee members are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detections of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf by

.....  
Paul Flather - Acting Chair

Forum for Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London WC2A 2AE

Date: October 2019

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S UNQUALIFIED REPORT**

### **Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Forum for Philosophy**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2019, which are set out on the following pages.

#### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### *Basis of independent examiner's report*

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
Lisa King  
Burdett King Accountancy Limited  
8 The Hamiltons  
Newmarket  
CB8 0NF

Date: October 2019

FORUM FOR PHILOSOPHY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2019 £ Unrestricted Funds	2018 £ Unrestricted Funds
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>		
Donations	75,696	88,357
Events	5,804	3,329
Investment Income: Bank interest	25	16
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>81,525</b>	<b>91,702</b>
<b><u>Payments:</u></b>		
Direct Charitable Expenditure:		
Conference expenses incl. travel, accomodation and subsistence	22,761	19,968
Employment costs	48,150	49,468
Donations to fund Consultants	15,000	21,000
	<b>85,911</b>	<b>90,436</b>
Other expenditure:		
Independent Examiner's fee	3,000	1,995
Printing, stationery and office equipment	209	590
Charity donations	-	-
Bank charges	87	68
Maintenance	-	100
Membership fees	216	216
	<b>3,512</b>	<b>2,969</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>89,423</b>	<b>93,405</b>
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year</b>	<b>(7,898)</b>	<b>(1,703)</b>
Bank balances at 1 April 2018	56,577	58,280
<b>Bank balances at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>48,679</b>	<b>56,577</b>

FORUM FOR PHILOSOPHY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Monetary Assets:</b>		
Bank Balances	<u>48,679</u>	<u>56,577</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Other Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Related Party Transactions:

There were no related party transactions in the year.

During the year ended 31 March 2018 a stipend of £6,000 was paid to Simon Glendinning.

Note: The funds of the Charity are unrestricted.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Executive Committee on ..... October 2019  
and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Paul Loach - Treasurer