

# KENTUCKY PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION

## FALL 2011 MEETING PROGRAM

### NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE CENTER 302 AND 304  
HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, KY 41099

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011

8:30 AM-4:30 PM

8:30-9:00 am	<b>Registration, Breakfast, Welcome</b>  <b>Science Center 302</b>	
9:00-10:00 am	<b>Audrey Anton</b> , Western Kentucky University  "Willing, Unwilling, and Binding Addiction"  <b>Commentator:</b> Zachary Purdue, Kent State University  <b>Science Center 302</b>	<b>Elaine Blum</b> , Kent State University  "Queering Kristeva's Subjectivity"  <b>Commentator:</b> Benjamin Norris, The New School for Social Research  <b>Science Center 304</b>
10:00-11:00 am	<b>Ryan Comeau</b> , Kent State University  "Incommensurability and Anti-Realist Worries: Thomas Kuhn's Underlying Semantic Commitments"  <b>Commentator:</b> Joseph Spino, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  <b>Science Center 302</b>	<b>Peter Murphy</b> , University of Indianapolis  "Justified, Despite an Unjustified Pedigree"  <b>Commentator:</b> Audrey Anton, Western Kentucky University  <b>Science Center 304</b>
11:00-Noon	<b>Benjamin Norris</b> , The New School for Social Research  "Harm as a New Approach to	<b>Ruth Poproski</b> , Carnegie Mellon University  "Cooperativity and the Role of

	Ugliness in the <i>Critique of Judgment</i> "  <b>Commentator:</b> Jerome Langguth, Thomas More College  <b>Science Center 302</b>	Common Interest in Gricean Pragmatics"  <b>Commentator:</b> Ian Schnee, Western Kentucky University  <b>Science Center 304</b>
Noon-1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>  <b>Location TBA</b>	
1:30-2:30 pm	<b>Henry Southgate</b> , University of Wisconsin-Madison  "Hegel and the Identity of Indiscernibles"  <b>Commentator:</b> Daniel Kirchner, Centre College  <b>Science Center 302</b>	<b>Morey Williams</b> , Boston College  "Asking the Right Questions: A Discussion of the Role of Women in Book V of Plato's <i>Republic</i> "  <b>Commentator:</b> Erin Tarver, Georgetown College  <b>Science Center 304</b>
2:30-3:30 pm	<b>Keynote Address</b>	
	<b>Sandy Goldberg</b> , Northwestern University  "Mutuality and Assertion"  <b>Science Center 302</b>	
3:30-4:30 pm	<b>Presidential Panel</b>	
	<b>Nancy Hancock</b> , Northern Kentucky University <b>Laura Newhart</b> , Eastern Kentucky University <b>Pamela Ryan</b> , Morehead State University (Chair) <b>Erin Tarver</b> , Georgetown College  "Women and Philosophy"  <b>Science Center 302</b>	

## ABSTRACTS

**Audrey Anton**, Western Kentucky University

"Willing, Unwilling, and Binding Addiction"

Ever since Harry Frankfurt introduced his example of the willing addict, much attention has been given to the fact that such an addict only acts freely if she happens to want what she is determined to do. In this paper, I consider viewing this objection in light of an additional addict: *the willingly dry addict*. The willingly dry addict is one who has a history of unwilling addiction, but has her addiction under control. However, the method by which she becomes free requires an intermediary step of irrational and unfree behavior. In this paper, I argue that the possibility of such an addict suggests that getting what one rationally wants is sufficient for free action. I contend that direct control over behavior is not required for free and rational behavior, but rather a rational connection between deliberation and goal acquisition is required.

**Elaine Blum, Kent State University**

### **“Queering Kristeva’s Subjectivity”**

In “Women’s Time,” Julia Kristeva defines female subjectivity in opposition to male subjectivity. Additionally, she argues that female subjectivity must be (re)conceived to provide women with an agential role and expression in time. This new conception of female subjectivity will avoid the dual dangers of (i) absolutizing difference and (ii) subsuming all difference under some essentialistic notion of womanhood. However, in order to achieve this new conception of subjectivity, we must queer the notion of subjectivity itself. We must abandon the assumed binary between male and female subjectivity. Instead, we may adopt a performative notion of self, as proposed by Judith Butler, that allows and accounts for greater deviation in constructions of subjectivity. In this paper, I outline the various conceptions of female subjectivity that Kristeva addresses and explain how each inadequately accounts for women in particular and subjects in general. I then explain how Kristeva can only fully account for deviations in subjectivity if she abandons her dichotomized understanding of gendered subjects and instead acknowledges the queerness of the performative self. Finally, I show how we construct this queer subjectivity through alternatingly cognitive and non-cognitive aspects, paying particular attention to the question of what primacy we grant the body in the construction of subjectivity.

**Ryan Comeau, Kent State University**

### **“Incommensurability and Anti-Realist Worries: Thomas Kuhn’s Underlying Semantic Commitments”**

Thomas Kuhn’s book *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* is considered one of the most influential books in the philosophy of science. However, I find the underlying semantic commitments that Kuhn is forced to accept troublesome, especially if we are to take science seriously. I argue that the semantic commitments underlying Kuhn’s theory regarding the incommensurability of

paradigms entail that he must also accept a form of anti-realism. My goals for this paper are three-fold. First, I offer a discussion of Kuhn's work in the philosophy of science, specifically his ideas regarding paradigms and incommensurability, including the underlying semantic commitments that Kuhn's theory implies. Second, I touch on descriptivist accounts of reference, and explain how Kuhn is best interpreted as falling within a quasi-descriptivist category. Third, I argue that the underlying semantic structure to his theory commits Kuhn to an anti-realist notion of science.

**Sandy Goldberg, Northwestern University**

◆**Keynote Address**◆

### **“Mutuality and Assertion”**

Can assertions be warranted under conditions of systematic disagreement (of the sort we find in philosophy, politics, religion, and some of the more theoretical parts of the social and natural sciences)? On the one hand, there are strong reasons to regard assertion as governed by a demanding epistemic norm (such as knowledge), and it is plausible to think that in contexts of systematic peer disagreement we sometimes (often? typically?) fail to attain knowledge. On the other, the practice of assertion persists in these areas. (Indeed, the practice of philosophy would appear to depend on this practice.) In this paper I argue that this tension can be resolved by appeal to the hypothesis that the standard set by assertion's norm is fixed in part in terms of what is mutually believed by the speaker and her audience in the context in which the assertion is made. This paper aims to provide independent grounds for this hypothesis.

**Nancy Hancock, Northern Kentucky University**

◆**Presidential Panel**◆

**Laura Newhart, Eastern Kentucky University**

**Pamela Ryan, Morehead State University (Chair)**

**Erin Tarver, Georgetown College**

### **“Women and Philosophy”**

In this panel discussion we will explore the experiences of women in academic philosophy, the issues they face, and the resources available to them. After a brief personal statement from each of the panelists, we will consider recent data on women in philosophy including statistics by gender on Ph.D.'s, academic appointments, and publications. From there, we will briefly survey existing support for women in philosophy including professional organizations, APA committees, journals, undergraduate workshops, and special projects. Finally, we will consider new and innovative strategies for improving the status and conditions of women in philosophy. Audience participation is welcome and encouraged.

**Peter Murphy, University of Indianapolis**

### **“Justified, Despite an Unjustified Pedigree”**

It is widely thought that a belief is inferentially justified only if all of the beliefs from which it is essentially inferred are justified. This pedigree condition on inferentially justified beliefs plays a central role in everyday argumentation, the debate over the structure of justification, and general accounts of the epistemology of inference. This paper presents a counterexample to this condition and sketches a more permissive view of justified inferred beliefs.

### **Benjamin Norris, The New School for Social Research**

#### **“Harm as a New Approach to Ugliness in the *Critique of Judgment*”**

Kant's *Critique of Judgment* is most famously a book about beauty. In this paper I examine not the beautiful, but the Kantian concept of ugliness. I argue that ugliness is not to be considered as the opposite of beauty in the form of a cognitive disharmony or displeasure. Instead, ugliness is intimately connected to the harmful and not the beautiful. To do this, I briefly summarize the debate between David Shier and Christian Wenzel about ugliness in the third *Critique* emphasizing the way that both accounts presuppose that judgments of ugliness must be structurally identical yet opposed to judgments of beauty. I then expand on the relationship of harm to ugliness by examining Kant's examples of ugliness (the Furies, diseases, devastations of war). The paper concludes with a discussion of the disjunction between the possible “sublimity” of battle and the ugliness of the devastations of war in order to show how ugliness in Kant's *Critique of Judgment*, when considered in its proper relation to harm, is not the opposite of beauty but a reformulation of the sublime inherited from Edmund Burke.

### **Ruth Poproski, Carnegie Mellon University**

#### **“Cooperativity and the Role of Common Interest in Gricean Pragmatics”**

In this paper I demonstrate that Gricean behavior is a result of two contributing factors: Gricean cooperativity and a general commitment to truth-telling (otherwise known as the Gricean maxim of Quality). Using Horn (1984)'s interpretation of Gricean cooperativity as the balancing of speaker and hearer interests I model cooperativity as common interest, incorporating it into the payoff structure of a game-theoretic model of conversation. Through this feature of the model I demonstrate that Gricean cooperativity indeed contributes—though not uniquely—to the persistence of scalar implicature in a population of language users. Furthermore, by way of some expected utility comparisons I argue that a general constraint of truth-telling on speakers produces the conditions that are necessary for a population to exhibit the linguistic behavior under investigation. In the absence of a general commitment

to truth-telling, the result falls away and agents are left with no reason to adopt Quantity signaling or receiving strategies.

**Henry Southgate, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**“Hegel and the Identity of Indiscernibles”**

Hegel is commonly thought to affirm Leibniz's principle of the identity of indiscernibles (PII), which states that no two things are exactly alike. I argue that this interpretation is mistaken: it cannot accommodate passages in which Hegel rejects PII, and the texts cited in favor of this interpretation admit of another reading, which I provide. On my view, Hegel distinguishes between different senses of PII, and the sense of PII he accepts only entails that determinacy is immanent to individuals *qua* concrete particulars. Thus Hegel avoids a false dichotomy between bundle- and bare-particular accounts of individuation.

**Morey Williams, Boston College**

**“Asking the Right Questions: A Discussion of the Role of Women in Book V of Plato’s Republic”**

While the question whether Plato was a feminist brings about an engaging and multifaceted debate, anachronistically applying the modern term “feminist” to the premodern context of the Platonic dialogues renders this debate obscure. I propose that instead of asking whether Plato was a feminist, a more fruitful way to examine the Platonic view of women is to evaluate whether Plato permits a woman to become her own *kyrios* or guardian. My paper will focus on the role of women in Book V of Plato's *Republic* and the dialectic that Plato establishes between *nomos* (custom or law) and *physis* (nature).

**REGISTRATION**

The meeting is open to the public. A \$5 registration fee is required, for both KPA members and nonmembers.

**DIRECTIONS AND PARKING**

For directions and parking, please visit <http://www.nku.edu/campusmaps/directions.php> and <http://www.nku.edu/campusmaps/map.php#directions>. Visitor parking: maximum \$5 per day.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

The nearest accommodations to the NKU campus would be either the Hampton Inn & Suites at 10 Hampton Lane, Wilder KY 41076 (859-441-3049)

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=CVGWIHX> or the Country Inn & Suites at 10 Country Drive, Wilder KY 41076 (859-441-3707)  
<http://www.countryinns.com/wilder-hotel-ky-41076/kywilder>.

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## ABOUT THE KPA

For more information about the KPA, please visit  
<http://kentuckyphilosophy.blogspot.com/>.

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- ✚ All the speakers, panelists, and commentators, especially Drs. Sandy Goldberg and Laura Newhart.
- ✚ All the referees, especially the Faculty of Philosophy at Eastern Kentucky University and the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Kentucky.
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- ✚ The Faculty of Philosophy at Northern Kentucky University.
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