



Annual Report

2018-2019



Toril Moi
Director of PAL

Stanley Cavell, the tutelary spirit of PAL, died on June 19, 2018 at the age of 91. The Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value Emeritus at Harvard University, Stanley Cavell came to Durham with his wife Cathleen Cavell in October 2009 to give PAL's opening lecture. The event, which took place in the Nasher auditorium, was memorably introduced by Duke's president Richard Brodhead.

PAL owes Stanley Cavell an immense debt of gratitude. In the years to come we will honor his life and work in different ways. In 2018, we began the new academic year by hosting an event in memory of Cavell: Professor Richard Fleming lectured on Cavell's and Thoreau, focusing on Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience." In the fall of 2019 we will host a special conference on Cavell's magnum opus *The Claim of Reason*. And there will be more to come.

For PAL, 2018-19 was a year crowned by the 2nd annual Duke-Stanford graduate student conference in literature and philosophy, which we were proud to host in April. We continued our collaboration with the English Department's Working Group on "Writing and Academic Work" to co-host two workshops on writing: with Sharon Marcus in the fall and Verlyn Klinkenborg in the spring. Our intellectual women series continued to thrive with talks by Linda Zerilli and Nancy Bauer. And we even had a lively New Year's party!

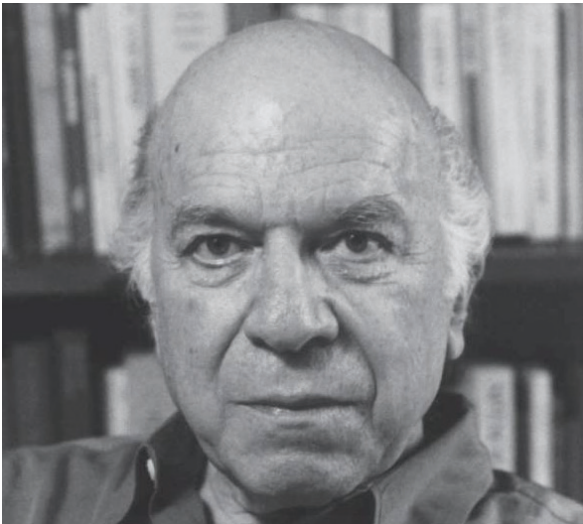
2 None of this could have happened without the dedicated work by the "PAL people" listed

Introduction

at the end of this report. I am so grateful for their work. A special, heartfelt thanks to Heather Wallace (Philosophy) who has been PAL's Associate Director – and the life and soul of PAL work -- for five years. Given that she is about to complete her Ph.D. she will soon be leaving us. We will thank her properly in the year to come!

In a time when the humanities are under threat, I was encouraged by the “Stages of Life” conference. Graduate students from across the country and across the disciplines demonstrated with vibrant intensity that for them the humanities remain an irreplaceable source of insight in life and existence. Their commitment and energy showed me, again, why PAL exists: to promote the dialogue between literature, art and philosophy, and to remind us, again, of the value of the humanities.

Toril Moi
Director of PAL



In Memoriam
Stanley Cavell
(1926-2018)

Threads of Resistance:
Disgrace Imprisonment
Neighbors: Reading Tho-
reau Hearing Cavell

Richard Fleming

Author of

Evil and Silence; First Word Philosophy

September 17 | 2018

A lecture by the author of *Evil and Silence; First Word Philosophy* focusing on Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience."

Stanley Cavell
Memorial conference

Harvard University

On November 9 PAL Director Toril Moi and PAL Steering Committee member Sarah Beckwith joined scholars from across the world to pay their respects to Stanley Cavell in Harvard's Memorial Church. The next day they both gave papers at the Harvard Philosophy Department's memorial conference honoring the life and philosophy of Stanley Cavell.

Honoring Stanley Cavell at PAL and Harvard

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**REMEMBERING
STANLEY
CAVELL**

Threads of Resistance

disgraceimprisonmentneighbors

Reading Thoreau Hearing Cavell

A lecture by:
Richard Fleming
Author of *Evil and Silence*,
First Word Philosophy

Monday September 17, 2018
5 pm reception at 4:30pm
Ahmadih Family Lecture Hall
Smith Warehouse, Bay 4
First Floor

dukepal.org

From Pitch to Publication: Dos and Don'ts for Public Scholars

Sharon Marcus

Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, and founding editor of *Public Books*

October 18 | 2018

Her public lecture was followed by a closed – and packed – workshop the next day. 15 Duke graduate students from across the disciplines signed up to learn how to pitch ideas to editors. Participants submitted article proposals in line with *Public Books* guidelines. During the workshop, they critiqued and reworked proposals, and learned how to communicate their academic work to a wider audience.

Writing is Thinking at PAL

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A PAL Writing Is Thinking Event:

**From Pitch to Publication:
Do's and Don'ts
for Public Scholars**

Sharon Marcus
Orlando Harriman Professor of
English and Comparative Literature, Columbia U.
Founding editor of Public Books

Come and
learn how to
pitch your
ideas to editors!

Thursday 18 October
5pm Talk
4:30 Reception
English 314
Allen Building
Duke West Campus

dukepal.org

The Realist Turn in Contemporary Critical Thought: An Arendtian Critique

Linda Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago

October 18 | 2018

Linda Zerilli is the Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and the author of *Signifying Woman* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1994), *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), *A Democratic Theory of Judgment* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016), and articles on subjects ranging across feminist thought, the politics of language, aesthetics, democratic theory, and Continental philosophy.

In her lecture, Professor Zerilli showed that the writings of Hannah Arendt provide a much needed political corrective to recent theory formations, including speculative realism. Duke graduate students Utku Cansu (Political Science) and Mav Block (MALS) delivered responses.

Intellectual Women

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THE REALIST TURN IN CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THOUGHT AN ARENDTIAN CRITIQUE

A lecture by
Linda M. G. Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service
Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago

Author of
Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom
A Democratic Theory of Judgment

Respondents:
Utku Cansu (Political Science)
Mav Block (MALS)

Monday November 12, 2018

5 pm reception at 4:30pm

Ahmadieh Family Lecture Hall
Smith Warehouse, Bay 4
First Floor

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New Year's Party

January 17 | 2019

We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks to ring in 2019 and learned about PAL courses and events in Spring 2019.

PAL for Graduate Students



Writing as Awareness

Verlyn Klinkenborg

Yale University, Blackburn Visiting Writer in English at Duke for Spring 2019

Author of *Timothy and The Last Fine Time*, and *Several Short Sentences About Writing*

February 15 | 2019

This was Professor Klinkenborg's second visit to Duke. The Breedlove room was packed with faculty and graduate students wanting to learn how to write effective and graceful academic prose. 15 selected participants had gamely submitted writing samples. After reading from a work in progress, Klinkenborg walked the audience through his editing process. His focus was always on attention, alertness to the words on the page.

Writing is Thinking

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Verlyn Klinkenborg

WRITING AS AWARENESS

YALE UNIVERSITY
BLACKBURN VISITING WRITER
IN ENGLISH AT DUKE FOR SPRING 2019

Author of
Timothy and The Last Fine Time
Several Short Sentences About Writing

FRIDAY FEB 15
10AM-12PM
BREEDLOVE
CONFERENCE ROOM
RUBENSTEIN 349

dukepal.org

#metoo: ‘Epistemic Injustice’ and the Sexual Harassment Tipping Point

Nancy Bauer

Professor of Philosophy, Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the Arts School at Tufts University.

Author of *Simone de Beauvoir and Philosophy*, and *How To Do Things With Pornography*.

March 18 | 2019

Professor Bauer analyzed the history of the concept of sexual harassment from its inception in the 1960s until today. The concept responded to the needs of a movement, and over time helped change our understanding of moral behavior. She showed that one of the main effects of the #metoo movement has been to shift contemporary moral intuition such that we now are more likely to believe complaints of sexual harassment.

Other Events



#metoo

Epistemic Injustice' and
the Sexual Harassment
Tipping Point

March 18

5:00 pm

4:30 reception

Ahmadieh Family
Lecture Hall
Smith Warehouse Bay 4

Nancy Bauer

Professor of Philosophy, Tufts University

Author of
Simone de Beauvoir, Philosophy, and Feminism
How To Do Things With Pornography

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Stages of Life

March 18 | 2019

Since 2017, PAL has collaborated with Stanford University's "Phil+Lit" (The Initiative in Philosophy and Literature), to organize an annual graduate student conference. This conference is jointly organized by graduate students from the two universities. In Spring 2018, the first conference took place at Stanford, with strong participation from Duke graduate students. This spring it was Duke's turn to host the event. The participants were welcomed by Toril Moi (PAL) and Lanier Anderson (Senior Associate Dean for the Humanities and the Arts and J.E. Wallace Sterling Professor of the Humanities and Philosophy at Stanford University), and the conference was opened by Ranjana Khanna (Professor of English, Literature and Women's Studies and Director of the Franklin Humanities Institute). Stages of Life called for papers dealing with life, writing, existence across the boundaries of literature and philosophy.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN
HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

PAL
Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature

STAGES OF LIFE

The Second Annual
Duke-Stanford
Graduate Conference

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

John Gibson
Professor of Philosophy, University of Louisville
On the Peculiar Conditions of Aesthetic Insight
2:00 p.m. Friday April 5

Skye Cleary
Associate Director of the Center for New Narratives in Philosophy
Columbia University
Almost Existential: An Ambiguous Journey of Becoming
4:30 p.m. Saturday April 6

**APRIL
5 - 6
2019**

Ahmadieh Family Lecture Hall
& FHI Conference Room
Smith Warehouse Bay 4
Duke University

Full program on
dukepal.org

An interdisciplinary forum bringing together graduate students from Duke, Stanford, UNC, Johns Hopkins and UI-Chicago

Drawing on the resources of philosophy, English, comparative literature, and the social sciences, the participants ask how philosophy and literature help us to read fundamental passages of life: birth and childhood, sickness and health, maturity, ageing and death.

Duke-Stanford Second Annual Graduate Student Conference

Keynote Speakers:

John Gibson (Professor of Philosophy, University of Louisville), author of *Fiction and the Weave of Life: "On the Peculiar Conditions of Aesthetic Insight"*

Skye Cleary (Associate Director of Columbia University's Center for New Narratives in Philosophy), author of *Existentialism and Romantic Love: "Almost Existential: An Ambiguous Journey of Becoming."*

Special guests:

Joshua Landy (Andrew B. Hammond Professor of French and Professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford). Together with Professor Anderson, Professor Landy directs the "Phil+Lit" Initiative at Stanford.

Yi-Ping Ong (Assistant Professor of Comparative Thought and Literature at Johns Hopkins University).

Professor Ong was one of the keynote speakers at the first Duke-Stanford conference, and was brought back by popular acclaim to lead a text workshop.

Graduate students from Duke, Stanford, UNC, Johns Hopkins and the University of Illinois at Chicago presented a total of 17 papers. The presenters represented a wide range of disciplines: Philosophy, English, German, Romance Studies, Comparative Literature, and Statistical Science.

PAL Graduate Student Certificate

The PAL Graduate Certificate seeks to connect the study of specific works of art and specific art forms (e.g., literature, music, theater, painting, film) to questions concerning creativity, the nature of specific art forms, the relationship between knowledge and art, and between ethics and aesthetics. The Certificate aims to make students conversant with philosophical reflections on literature and the arts. The Certificate seeks to foster an understanding of the historical nature of different art forms, and of aesthetics and philosophy, and to encourage exploration of philosophy, art and literature from different historical periods.

PAL Graduate Student Certificate

Certificate Courses 2018-19

Fall 2018

Markos Hadjioannou: Deleuze: Cinema & Philosophy
LIT 850S / AMI 850S / ENGLISH 860S / ROMST 850S

Toril Moi: Writing is Thinking ENG 822 / LIT822

Toril Moi: Wittgenstein and Literary Theory
LIT681S-01; PHIL681S-01; ENG582S-01

Rob Mitchell: Hannah Arendt & the Human Condition. ENG 890S.03

(at UNC) Professor Gabriel Trop: Immanence GERM 860

Spring 2019

Neil McWilliam: The Symbolist Movement in the Arts and European Thought.
ARTHIST541S

Thomas Pfau: The Melancholy of Art.
ENG 890S.05/German 890S.01/LIT 890S.02.

Corina Stan: Culture, Civilization, World (Literature)
ENG 590 (cross-listed in Literature, Romance Studies, and German)

Jacqueline Waeber: Aurality and Music In Cinema
Music S790

(at UNC) Gregg Flaxman: The Evolution and Ecology of Images
ENGL 680

PAL Steering Committee



Sarah Beckwith
*Professor of English and
Theater Studies; Chair of
Theater Studies*



Owen Flanagan
*James B. Duke Professor
of Philosophy; Professor of
Neurobiology*



Neil McWilliam
*Walter H. Annenberg Pro-
fessor of Art History*



Toril Moi
*James B. Duke Professor
of Literature and Romance
Studies; Professor of
Philosophy, English and
Theater studies*



Thomas Pfau
*Alice Mary Baldwin Profes-
sor and Eads Family Profes-
sor of English and German;
DGS-German Studies*



Jacqueline Waeber
*Associate Professor of
Music*

PAL People

PAL Staff

Toril Moi (Literature)
Director

Heather Wallace (Philosophy)
Associate Director

Matia Guardabascio and Quantá Holden
Staff Support in the English Department

Myles Oldershaw (English)
Assistant Director

Kevin Spencer (English)
Assistant Director

Filippo Screpanti (Romance Studies)
Graphic Designer



108 Friedl Building
Box 90670
1316 Campus Drive
Durham, NC 27708

Duke
UNIVERSITY

palinfo@duke.edu
www.dukepal.org