



Philosophy



Philosophy
Postgraduate programmes



ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Philosophy at Royal Holloway, University of London offers an exciting, diverse and unique way to study one of the oldest and most fundamental forms of human enquiry. We have a distinctive programme that works across the traditional divisions between analytic and continental philosophy, contemporary philosophy and the history of philosophy, and that connects the study of philosophy to related disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

Philosophy teaching began at Royal Holloway in 2007 and was established and developed as a discipline that linked together subjects across the arts, humanities and social sciences. The result has been the creation of a truly interdisciplinary and collaborative programme that brings together academic staff from departments across the College – including scholars working in drama and theatre, literature, and political philosophy – working alongside a core of philosophy staff whose research specialisms include ancient and Hellenistic philosophy, nineteenth and

twentieth century French and German philosophy, contemporary analytic philosophy, and American pragmatism. In 2012 Philosophy was incorporated into the Department of Politics and International Relations to allow it to collaborate in particular with the Department’s political theorists to develop a range of new programmes, including an undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) degree and an MA pathway in Political Philosophy.

Philosophy launched a new taught MA programme in 2016/17, adding to an already vibrant postgraduate research student community. Philosophy is part of the TECHNE Doctoral Training Partnership, through which its PhD students have access to Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) studentships. Royal Holloway also offers research student funding in the form of fee waivers and maintenance bursaries, the most prestigious of which, the Reid Awards, are equivalent to full AHRC funding.

royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy



Please see our website for entry requirements, details on how to apply, fees and funding opportunities
royalholloway.ac.uk/postgraduate

Philosophy at Royal Holloway

Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey
TW20 0EX

+44 (01784) 443687

Professor Nathan Widder

MA Programme Director

n.e.widder@royalholloway.ac.uk

Dr John Sellars

Philosophy PhD Director

john.sellars@royalholloway.ac.uk

Ms Kathryn Morley

Postgraduate Administrator

kathryn.morley@royalholloway.ac.uk

MA/PGDip Philosophy

(with pathways in European, Modern, and Political Philosophy)

Our taught Master's/Postgraduate Diploma (MA/PGDip) Philosophy programme offers three pathways that reflect our diverse strengths in analytic, continental, and political philosophy.

European Philosophy: includes focus on German Idealism, the Frankfurt School and French philosophical movements from Bergson and existentialism to poststructuralism and psychoanalysis. Available options include Continental aesthetics and political philosophy.

Modern Philosophy: enables students to investigate both Continental and Analytic traditions of contemporary philosophy, with a focus on recent work that crosses the divide between them.

Political Philosophy: Advanced training in key thinkers and issues from both Anglo-American and Continental political thought. Research interests among the teaching staff include applied analytical political theory (with issues such as citizenship and the politics of recognition), post-Nietzschean theories of identity and post-identity politics, democratic theory and pragmatist philosophy.

Students on all pathways take an 'Advanced Topics in Philosophy' course, along with pathway-specific courses in European, modern or political philosophy, and option courses. There is also a 10-12,000 word dissertation submitted at the end of the programme and supervised individually by a member of staff. The Postgraduate Diploma has the same structure as the MA, but without the dissertation. The full MA programme comprises 180 credits (90 ECTS); the PGDip programme is 120 credits (60 ECTS)



MA Philosophy taught programme structure

European Philosophy	Modern Philosophy	Political Philosophy
Advanced Topics in Philosophy		
<p>Two courses from among:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Continental Political Theory • The European Philosophical Trajectory: From Kant to the Present • Twentieth Century French Thought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Philosophical Trajectory: From Kant to the Present • Legacies of Wittgenstein 	<p>Two courses from among:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-American Political Theory • Contemporary Continental Political Theory • Political Concepts
<p>Two courses from available options such as:</p> <p>Continental Aesthetics Cultivation of the Self Human Rights Identity, Power, and Radical Political Theory Issues in Normative Epistemology Philosophy of Psychology</p>		
Dissertation in European, Modern or Political Philosophy		



Postgraduate research

MA by Research

The MA by Research offers the opportunity to conduct independent research with the support of a supervisor to produce a dissertation of 40,000 words. There are no required courses, but students are welcome to audit MA courses and participate in advanced research seminars offered by the department, by Royal Holloway's Humanities and Arts Research Centre as well as the Institute of Philosophy at the School of Advanced Study in central London.

MPhil/PhD

We welcome highly-qualified and well-motivated applicants for MPhil/PhD study in areas related to the research interests of our members of staff. We are very keen to encourage interdisciplinary research in which philosophy is used to illuminate other subjects, and vice versa, and so are particularly interested in research relating philosophy to the arts, politics and history. Topics of current and recent postgraduate research include:

- Responses to representation in Rorty and Deleuze
- The phenomenology of displacement
- The role of music and dance in Nietzsche's theorization of novelty in the eternal return
- Empiricism and the concealment of Earth
- Essayistic forms of writing as a response to the sceptical problem in philosophy
- Time and the self in Nietzsche, Bergson and Deleuze
- The development of the concept of 'lines of flight' in the works of Deleuze and Guattari

- The event in Marxist philosophy
- The philosophy of immanence in Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault and Deleuze
- Non-Linear conceptions of time and the understanding of modernity and identity
- Reification, music and problems of modern philosophy
- Plato's account of memory
- Epictetus and anger
- Global Justice and Recognition Theory
- The concept of *pneuma* in Stoic philosophy and its relation to physics, ethics and logic.

Research Facilities

Philosophy is located in the College's historic Founder's Building, where research students have access to two dedicated postgraduate computer rooms with networked computers, as well as access to central computing facilities across the College and at Royal Holloway's central London location at Bedford Square. In addition to the substantial library collections on campus, postgraduates also have access to other libraries of the University of London, including Senate House and the London School of Economics. Philosophy students also benefit from our collaboration with and support from the Institute of Philosophy in the School of Advanced Study in central London, which offers a very wide range of seminars and lectures throughout the academic year. Research activities in philosophy are also supported by Royal Holloway's Humanities and Arts Research Centre, the Contemporary Political Theory Research Group and a Centre for European Philosophy to be launched in 2018/19.

Staff

Dr Michael Bacon, BSc (Econ.), MSc, PhD (LSE)

Michael Bacon is a Senior Lecturer in Political Theory. His research interests are in contemporary political theory, in particular political liberalism, pragmatism, and theories of democracy. He is author of *Richard Rorty: Pragmatism and Political Liberalism* (2007) and *Pragmatism: An Introduction* (2012). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/MichaelBacon

Dr G. Anthony Bruno, BA (Toronto), MA (Queens, Canada), PhD (Toronto)

G. Anthony Bruno is a Lecturer in Philosophy. His research focuses on metaphysics and epistemology in Kant, German idealism, and phenomenology. He is also interested in the legacy of early modern philosophy and the contemporary reception of Kantian and post-Kantian thought. His published work investigates transcendental arguments and transcendental idealism, the relation between human freedom and systematic accounts of nature, skepticism about justification and normativity, conceptions of finitude and mortality, and nihilism and the contingency of value. You can find out more about him and

read some of his work at ganthonbruno.weebly.com

Dr Neil Gascoigne, B.Eng. (Leeds), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)

Neil Gascoigne is a Reader in Philosophy. His principal interests are in pragmatism, metaphilosophy, and epistemology, and he is the author of *Scepticism* (2003), *Richard Rorty: Liberalism, Irony, and the Ends of Philosophy* (2008), and (with Tim Thornton) *Tacit Knowledge* (2013). He is currently working on *A Comedy of Errors: The Long History of Scepticism*. You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/NeilGascoigne

Dr Rebecca Roache, BA, MA (Leeds), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)

Rebecca Roache is a Lecturer in Philosophy. She came to Royal Holloway in September 2014 from the University of Oxford, where she was Research Fellow in the Faculty of Philosophy. She has broad philosophical interests, which include philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychiatry, applied ethics, and metaphysics (especially philosophy of time, personal identity, and free will). She is currently working on a monograph on *The Philosophy of Swearing*. You can find out more about her and read some of her work at rebeccaroache.weebly.com



Dr Jonathan Seglow, BA (Oxford), MSc (LSE), PhD (Manchester)

Jonathan Seglow is a Reader in Political Theory. His research interests are in contemporary liberal political philosophy. He has written on liberalism, multiculturalism, theories of recognition, religious accommodation and special duties. He is co-author (with Niall Scott) of *Altruism* (2007) and author of *Defending Associative Duties* (2013). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/JonathanSeglow

Dr John Sellars, BA (Wales), MA, PhD (Warwick)

John Sellars is a Lecturer in Philosophy. He has published on ancient, renaissance, and early modern philosophy, and particularly on ancient Stoicism and its later reception. John has previously taught at the University of the West of England and Birkbeck and has been involved in the Ancient Commentators on Aristotle project at King's College London. He is author of *The Art of Living: The Stoics on the Nature and Function of Philosophy* (2003, 2009), *Stoicism* (2006) and *Hellenistic Philosophy* (forthcoming, 2018). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at johnsellars.org.uk

Dr Henry Somers-Hall, BA, MA, PhD (Warwick)

Henry Somers-Hall is a Reader in Philosophy. His research interests are in nineteenth and twentieth century German and French philosophy, and in particular Kant, Hegel, Deleuze, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre. He is author of *Hegel, Deleuze and the Critique of Representation: Dialectics of Negation and Difference* (2012) and *Deleuze's Difference and Repetition* (2013), and is co-editor and contributor to the *Cambridge Companion to*

Deleuze (2012). He is currently working on a monograph on *Judgment in Twentieth Century French Philosophy* as well an edited work on *A Thousand Plateaus and Philosophy*. You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/HenrysomersHall


Dr Daniel Whistler, BA (Warwick), MPhil, DPhil (Oxford)

Daniel Whistler is a Lecturer in Philosophy. He completed my DPhil in 2011 at the University of Oxford on F.W.J. Schelling's theory of language and its theological implications. His research can be split into history of philosophy—particularly German Idealism, its origins and aftermath—and continental philosophy of religion. He is author of *Schelling's Theory of Symbolic Language: Forming the System of Identity* (2013), (with Daniel J. Hill), *The Right to wear Religious Symbols* (2013) and (with Benjamin Berger) *The Schelling-Eschenmayer Controversy, 1801: Nature and Identity* (forthcoming). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/DanielWhistler

Professor Nathan Widder, BA (Johns Hopkins), MSc (LSE), PhD (Essex)

Nathan Widder is a Professor of Political Theory. His research interests are in modern and contemporary continental philosophy, particularly Hegel, Nietzsche, Foucault and Deleuze, and the history of Western thought, including major and marginal figures in ancient, early Christian and medieval philosophy. He is author of *Genealogies of Difference* (2002), *Reflections on Time and Politics* (2008) and *Political Theory after Deleuze* (2012), and is currently working on *The Concept of Sense in Gilles Deleuze's Philosophy*. You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/NathanWidder



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01784 434455
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