
NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF RHETORIC, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATIONS

WINTER 2019

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2019 AXWORTHY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES



Dr. Matthew Flisfeder and Dr. Paul Lawrie (History) with world-renowned philosopher, Slavoj Žižek, after his Spring 2019 Axworthy Distinguished Lecture, “Hegel with Neuralink: Are we Still Human if Our Brain is Wired?” April 18th, 2019.



Dr. Flisfeder in conversation with Prof. Žižek.



RHET Students, **Quinn MacNeill** and **Conrad Vandenberg** speaking with Prof. Žižek during the Q&A at the Axworthy Lecture.

(Photos by Naniece Ibrahim)

Happy Retirement, Sheila!



(Photos by Tari Muvingi and Naniece Ibrahim)

Sheila Page came to University of Winnipeg in 1988. A committed idealist, she worked from the start to draw on everyone’s strengths and energies, modelling a collaborative approach to teaching and learning. In recent years, we’ve depended on Sheila to develop writing curriculum to support Business students—for this, she was able to draw from her experience in government and her MBA in business—it’s of note that before coming to UW, Sheila had a successful and lucrative career in government, which she left to pursue her passion for teaching. Chairing our DRC year in and out, she has shouldered the often-thankless task of standardizing and clarifying outlines and final grades. Renowned for her understanding of academic misconduct procedures, she was asked to write a procedural handbook which the Senate Committee still uses. We will all miss all Sheila’s dedicated work and teaching.

- Dr. Jaqueline McLeod Rogers

DIALOGUES:

The Department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications organized two DIALOGUES events this term. The first was entitled, “The Revolution Will Be Instagrammed: Lessons From @NotMyStellas,” featuring Christina Hajjar, the driving force behind the historic Not My Stella’s campaign. The second event was entitled, “The Elvis of Cultural Theory: Understanding Slavoj Žižek,” featuring Dr. Jane Barter, **Dr. Matthew Flisfeder**, and Esther Wolfe. Both events attracted a large audience and sparked a spirited and engaged discussion.

- Dr. Jason Hannan

WRITING CENTRE TUTORS 2018-2019:



(Photo courtesy of Dr. Helen Lepp Friesen)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters:

Jason Hannan, “The Kids Are Alright: Lessons from the March for Our Lives.” In *How Technology is Changing Human Behavior*, edited by C. G. Prado (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2019).

Articles:

Matthew Flisfeder, “Postmodern Marxism Today: Jameson, Žižek, and the Demise of Symbolic Efficiency.” *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 13.1 (2019): 22-56.
<http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/IJZS/article/view/1105>.

Matthew Flisfeder, “‘Make America Great Again’ and the Constitutive Loss of Nothingness: An American Nightmare.” *Third Text: Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Art and Culture* 32.5-6 (2018): 647-655. Published online January 15th, 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09528822.2018.1559144>.

Jason Hannan, “A Blind Spot in Political Theory: Justice, Deliberation, and Animals.” *Journal of Animal Ethics* 9.1 (2019): 27-38.

Invited talks:

Matthew Flisfeder, “Power and Ideology in Social Media: The Trouble with Platform Capitalism.” *Skywalk Lecture Series*. Millennium Library. Winnipeg, MB. March 6th, 2019.

Matthew Flisfeder, “Post-Humanism: An Ideology of Twenty-First Century Capitalism.” CLASS Spring Institute: Thinking the Human. The University of Winnipeg. Winnipeg, MB. May 14th, 2019.

Jason Hannan, “Ethics After Humanism.” CLASS Spring Institute: Thinking the Human. The University of Winnipeg. Winnipeg, MB. May 9th, 2019.

Andrew McGillivray “Paganism, Medieval Iceland, and the Myth of Vafthrudnir.” *Skywalk Lecture Series*. Millennium Library. Winnipeg, MB. February 20, 2019.

Andrew McGillivray, “Comedy in Old Norse Mythology.” *TGIF Dinner and Speaker Series*. The Scandinavian Cultural Centre of Winnipeg. March 23, 2019.

Tracy Whalen, “Rhetorical Witnessing, Comparatively Considered: Remembering the Crash of Arrow Air Flight 1285 in Newfoundland and Kentucky.” CRiCS Research Talks. University of Winnipeg. February 11th, 2019.



Dr. Whalen presenting her CRiCS Research Talk.

(Photo by Lauren Bosc)

Conference presentation:

Matthew Flisfeder, “The Swiping Logic of the Signifier; or, Sexuality in the Field of the Algorithm.” *LACK III: Psychoanalysis and Separation*. Clark University. Worcester, MA. May 10th, 2019.

Andrew McGillivray. “Viking Iconography in Manitoba’s Interlake.” *Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians*. University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg. March 23, 2019.