

Sandmeyer – 4. Mentoring/Advising – Graduate Students

Overview:

Thesis Work

1. Ph.D. Thesis Committees – Philosophy
 - a. I am **co-chair** of one thesis committee on which I am rather a late entry into the process. The student has had difficulty completing work since defending her Qualifying Exam, and she has also been impacted by the COVID pandemic. I am the de facto chair of this committee, though assistant professors are not permitted to chair thesis committees. Consequently, I share the title of chair with a full professor in our department. The dissertation project is titled "Advancing Livability by Understanding Relational Subjectivity: Zoe-Centric, Collective, Local, and Experimental Efforts to Change Everyday Ways of Life."
 - i. Over the spring 2022 term, I met every week with this student to get her back on track. She successfully defended her thesis proposal at the end of that term. She is currently writing the first chapter of her dissertation this summer and we are meeting semi-regularly.
 - b. I am **co-chair** of thesis committee formed AY 2021-22. I share the title of chair with another professor in the department whose AOS includes Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics, and Metaphysics. While the thesis centers primarily on the philosophy of Edmund Husserl, the defined thesis area spans across the traditional analytic-continental divide. Hence, the student has opted for two chairs. This student's committee also include Walter Hopp from Boston University, who is the editor of Husserl Studies.
 - i. In addition to supervising the thesis research of this student, I am this summer/fall 2022 participating in a graduate book group on Husserl's *Ideas I*.
 - c. Additionally, I am a **committee member** on another graduate student's thesis committee who is writing on epistemological problems associated with climate change science.
2. **Master of Science Committee** – Outside Philosophy
 - a. A student who took my PHI336 Environmental Ethics class a few years back is currently completing his Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Biology here at UK. Given that his research focuses to some degree on the ethics of wildlife restoration, he has asked me to be a member of his committee.

The Bluegrass Phenomenology Group (as group leader)

1. In fall 2015 I taught a graduate seminar on Husserl's *Logical Investigations*. After the term ended a core group from that seminar asked if I would lead a book group on other logical writings by **Edmund Husserl**. I thus organized the Bluegrass Phenomenology Group. For the next two years, these and other graduate students in the department met weekly to discuss, first, Husserl's *Formal and Transcendental Logic* and then, Husserl's posthumously published *Experience and Judgment*.
2. During the AY 2018-19 the Bluegrass Phenomenology Group was reorganized, and we read **Martin Heidegger's** *Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics*.
3. Currently, I am participating in a graduate student reading of **Edmund Husserl's** *Ideas I*. We started in the summer and hope to finish the book by fall 2022.