
Letter from the Editors

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Dear ASAGE Readers,

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the American Society for Aesthetics graduate E-Journal which is now in its twelfth edition in 2020. This issue contains an article, a dissertation abstract, a conference report, and an interview with a faculty member.

The article entitled “Contradicting Contours: The Problem with Contour Theory” is by graduate student Ursula Chojko-Bolec from the University of Manitoba. Her article utilizes a musically well-informed analysis of Liszt’s *La Campanella* to illustrate a problem she raises with Peter Kivy’s contour theory of emotion in music.

The abstract entitled “The Phenomenology of Time-Consciousness in Art: Merleau-Ponty, Temporality, and the Rupture of Freedom” by Jordon Kokot, provides an exciting peek at his dissertation on temporality in artistic experience. As a reminder, student members of the ASA are eligible to publish their dissertation abstracts in ASAGE, which can be a great way to make connections for future research.

The conference report entitled “Reflections on Virtual Conference Formats” by Jeremy Fried highlights the pros and cons of virtual conferences. Fried’s piece takes an insightful, non-traditional approach to a conference report that is well-suited to the current times.

The final piece is an interview with Katherine Thomson-Jones from Oberlin College on questions about the academic job market. This interview is part of a new series of interviews called “Ask the Aesthetician” launched by ASAGE, which features established faculty members answering questions about the job market, publishing and working with a degree in philosophy.

This issue also comes at a time of much transition for ASAGE, this last year we have transitioned our website and are excited to announce a new direction for the journal which has been in the works for some time. The Editors at ASAGE want to ensure that the journal is fostering a community for graduate students in aesthetics, while providing them with useful opportunities for career and research development. Thus far we have done this by being a venue where graduate students can publish while retaining copyright over their work. We hope to expand what we can offer to graduates by turning ASAGE into a place where graduates can share their new ideas and engage in short written dialogues with other graduate students. This noted, we are happy to highlight the call for Fast Philosophy Submissions.

Fast Philosophy is a new submission format from ASAGE. A fast philosophy submission can be a maximum of 1000 words. The submission should raise a question or present an underdeveloped idea or fringe topic in aesthetics. Replies to initial submission will then be solicited in order to start a discussion between graduate students. The initial submission and replies will be published as a

set. We envision Fast Philosophy pieces as an online supplement to the kind of research development often done at conferences, where students can make connections and share resources, develop and refine their arguments, and strengthen papers to submit to other journals for publication.

Making ASAGE useful to graduate students in aesthetics is our primary goal. If you have suggestions for ways in which we can improve the journal, including content that you'd like to see featured, or suggestions for how we can run the space more effectively, please let us know at asa.graduate.ejournal@gmail.com. Thank you for reading.

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