As you read this you might be asking yourself the following question: “What is an institutional repository?” Otherwise known as an IR, an institutional repository is an online database that consists of intellectual output or digital assets. In ICS’ repository, works created by the faculty, research staff, students and alumni, as well as archival documents have been organized and made openly available for the public. From the standpoint of scholarly communication and an archival perspective, an IR fulfills several needs: the preservation of older materials that have been digitized as well as born-digital materials, the organization of the digital output through specialized metadata understood by Internet search engines, and the provision of open access to scholarly materials that could have remained behind licensed paywalls.

Since January 2013, ICS has been developing an institutional repository with the assistance of Open Repository (BioMed Central/Springer). Digital copies of our scholarly and popular works will be stored and made freely accessible through using the open source software DSpace and the hosting services of Open Repository. As this project progresses, we plan to add various archival collections (images, audio recordings, archival finding aids, etc.), specialized unpublished works located in our historical collections and works by our alumni. Up to this point and with the assistance of Daryl Kinsman (IT & Communications Manager), Matt Johnson

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(Junior Member) and Heather Blomberg (volunteer), we have been digitizing, indexing and storing our holdings of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), senior member and junior member publications, and our newsletter Perspective. The official launch of the repository (ir.icscanada.edu) will take place during International Open Access Week, Oct. 21-25, 2013. Launch activities will include a global media and partners blitz by Open Repository.

To continue our participation in the Library/Archives Canada (LAC) Theses Canada Portal, ICS had to develop and implement an institutional repository. In 2006, we joined the Theses Canada Portal program, when LAC would no longer accept paper copies of our theses and dissertations. (see: Perspective, 41 (September 2007): 5) hdl.handle.net/10756/277517). For us to continue sending our theses and dissertations to the Portal, we needed a repository that would be OAI-PMH compliant (a world-recognized data format standard) for the LAC metadata harvesting agent. We are quite excited to be able to deliver our theses electronically, not only to LAC, but to other international ETD portals and to global academic search engines such as Google Scholar and OpenDOAR. Our older theses are also being digitized and will be globally accessible for the first time in electronic format. (If you are an ICS alum and find that your thesis is under embargo in our repository, please contact us so we can send you the necessary permission forms for your thesis to be released.)

Secondly, in terms of our archival holdings we wanted a system that would allow for the preservation and communication of Perspective, as well as some of our archival special collections (photographs, audio recordings, etc.). When our repository is formally launched, visitors will find the full text (with images) of most Perspective issues, dating from the earliest issues in the 1960s to the most current. These were already available online but difficult to search for and laborious to maintain.

Finally, we wanted a mechanism that would highlight and preserve the scholarly output of our senior and junior members.

We hope to realize several benefits through the implementation of our institutional repository. The primary benefit is to substantially increase our scholarly visibility. It is fascinating to study the statistical analysis feed that is a component of the DSpace repository software. Who knew a particular master’s thesis would be repeatedly viewed by people in Iraq, the United States, United Kingdom, Poland and Sweden? The repository also provides a safe mechanism for the storage of our digital scholarly and archival publications. Above all, it will make it easier for our supporters to keep abreast of our latest research, authored by senior and junior members as well as alumni, thus contributing to the overall mission of ICS.

“Open Repository provides a sustainable technological foundation that allows us to meet our stewardship obligations today while embracing Open Access, which is relatively new to the humanities, at an appropriate pace.”

— Daryl Kinsman
Manager of Information Technology

Faculty Spotlight:
Isabella Guthrie-McNaughton

While most of my time for the foreseeable future will be spent on the further development of our institutional repository, I am also dabbling into the world of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course). As an information specialist I am curious about MOOCs and how academic librarians could support this method of education delivery. (Not that ICS is getting into the business of offering MOOCs). How better to understand a MOOC than to enrol in one or two myself!! Luckily the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is offering an eight week course on metadata. Metadata is a key component of each publication in an institutional repository, hence my interest in this specific course. As a student of the course, I will be reading several e-books purchased for my Kindle and various articles delivered in electronic format through the course website. Lectures are offered through online video — where if I wish, I can make online notes in a program that will automatically synchronize my notes with the lecture video for future reference. At this stage, I often reflect on how much the delivery of information to students has changed since the beginning of my career and how much library support for faculty and students has adapted to reflect those changes.
Faculty Spotlight:
Ronald A. Kuipers

Life and its Public Accountability (Editions Rodopi, 2002) highlights the ways in which religious faith remains a ‘critical’ or crucial component of contemporary social and political life, providing persons of faith with a significant and imaginative alternative life vision to the one currently pervading an unjust status quo. In that effort, he also explores and develops the potential for contemporary religious life patterns to assume more dialogical, self-critical forms.

Director of ICS’ Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics (CPRSE), Kuipers splits his time between regular ICS teaching and research assignments and the projects he directs at the CPRSE. Among the latter is a partnered research project with the Christian Reformed Church entitled Justice and Faith: Individual Spirituality and Social Responsibility in the Christian Reformed Church of Canada. This community-based research project will send Kuipers’ team of researchers into CRC congregations across Canada in order to stimulate dialogue about the relationship between a life of faith and the call to pursue justice. With King’s University College in Edmonton, the CPRSE is also planning a conference at the King’s campus on May 12-13, 2014. Entitled Are We There Yet? Economic Justice and the Common Good, the conference will feature keynote speakers Dr. Christopher Lind and the Hon. Diane Ablonczy, PC MP for Calgary-Nose Hill and former cabinet minister.

This fall Kuipers is teaching one of his favourite courses, Wittgenstein, Language, and the Philosophy of Religion. With eleven keen students from ICS and the Toronto School of Theology, the group is exploring Wittgenstein’s claim “Wisdom is grey. Life on the other hand and religion are full of colour.”

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Faculty Spotlight:
Rebekah Smick

Rebekah Smick, BA (Brandeis University), MA (Columbia University), PhD (University of Toronto), is Associate Professor of Philosophy of Arts and Culture at ICS.

Rebekah specializes in pre-Kantian art theory and criticism, in particular the relation of early modern visual arts theory to poetics and rhetoric in the Western tradition. Her research and teaching investigate the aesthetic values of beauty and grace in the early modern period, the link between knowledge and imagination, the aesthetic function of metaphor, and the place of compassion. She is especially interested in delineating the connections made during the early modern period between aesthetics, metaphysics, ethics, and theology. She is author of Antiquity and Its Interpreters (Cambridge UP, 2000).

Rebekah has been working on sabbatical since January on a book manuscript entitled “The Artist as Compassionate Soul: Aesthetic Theory in the Art and Poetry of Michelangelo.” Organiser of ICS’ Art Talks! events, including last year’s Imagination’s Truth featuring Richard Kearney (see our Youtube channel), Rebekah is currently planning our next Art Talks! event, a joint endeavour with St. Michael’s College bringing the American novelist [name] to campus.

(continued on page 4)
Rebekah Smick, continued

and essayist Marilynne Robinson to Toronto. She is also an active member of the Advisory Committee for an upcoming exhibition (2016) at the Art Gallery of Ontario on the “religious turn” in late nineteenth century European art entitled The Mystical Landscape.

In addition to her teaching duties at ICS (see Junior Member News) Rebekah was a guest lecturer in April, 2013 on Renaissance conceptions of narrative and story-telling at Gordon College’s “Gordon IN Orvieto” program, an undergraduate semester abroad program in the arts offered in Orvieto, Italy “to inspire young people of faith to re-connect with the artistic traditions of the past, neither in a mood of nostalgia nor in a mode of academic dispassion, but to foster a creative response to the past in order to shape a humane future in the arts” (quote from the College’s website).

Rebekah will also be offering an undergraduate version of her ICS course “Art, Religion and Theology: Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Theologies of Art” at Gordon IN Orvieto in May of 2014 and in June she will be giving a paper on Renaissance periodization at “Rethinking Early Modernity: Methodological and Critical Innovation since the Ritual Turn,” a conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University of Toronto’s Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies.

Faculty Spotlight:
Lambert Zuidervaart

Lambert Zuidervaart, BA (Dordt College), MPhil (Institute for Christian Studies), PhD (VU University, Amsterdam), is Professor of Philosophy at ICS as well as an Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty in Philosophy at the University of Toronto.

A recognized expert in critical theory, especially the work of Theodor Adorno, Lambert’s teaching ranges across continental philosophy, hermeneutics, social philosophy, and philosophy of art, with an emphasis on Kant, Hegel, Marx, Heidegger, Gadamer, and Habermas. He is currently developing a comprehensive and transformative conception of truth, in debate with prominent philosophers in both analytic and continental traditions. His most recent books include Art in Public: Politics, Economics, and a Democratic Culture (Cambridge UP, 2011), Social Philosophy after Adorno (Cambridge UP, 2007), and Artistic Truth: Aesthetics, Discourse, and Imaginative Disclosure (Cambridge UP, 2004).

Lambert has a busy schedule this fall as a graduate instructor and scholar. He is teaching two seminars this fall as a graduate instructor and scholar. He is teaching two seminars at ICS: “Religion, Life, and Society,” an introduction to reformational philosophy; and “Theories of Language and Interpretation,” a study of three influential philosophers in the German, French, and Anglo-American traditions. Lambert also is helping organize the annual conference of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy, held October 10-12, and co-hosted by ICS’s Centre for Philosophy, Religion and Social Ethics (CPRSE) and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. Lambert’s keynote lecture, titled “Husserl’s Conception of Truth,” will conclude the conference. This lecture arises from his work on a new book about what truth is and why it matters.

Lambert has two other book projects underway. He is the senior editor for a new collection of essays, titled Truth Matters: Knowledge, Politics, Ethics, Religion, that stems from a 2010 conference in Toronto co-sponsored by ICS, Calvin College, Dordt College, and the VU University Amsterdam. McGill-Queen’s University Press will publish the book in late 2013 or early 2014. The other book project is about topics in reformational thought. Working with ICS research assistant Sarah Hyland, Lambert plans to revise many of his essays from the past three decades and publish them as two volumes containing 15 chapters each.

Two substantial journal articles by Lambert will come out this fall. “Art, Religion, and the Sublime: After Hegel” will appear in The Owl of Minerva, published by the Hegel Society of America. This essay takes issue with the art historian James Elkins and shows why Hegel’s conception of the sublime is significant for interpreting contemporary artworks such as Terrence Malick’s film The Tree of Life. The other article, titled “Critical Transformations: Macrostructures, Religion, and Critique,” will appear in the new journal Critical Research on Religion. This essay offers a programmatic critique of religion—a critique both aimed at religion and inspired by religion in a self-critical fashion.
Andrew ("Drew") Van’t Land

Drew came to ICS with an interest in thinking through political life from a Christian perspective. In the course of his MA studies, a second interest came to the fore: ancient philosophical ways of writing and speaking, and a desire that Christian thought in the twenty-first century discern what is valuable and helpful in those ways and habits, so as to deploy them in its address of today’s world. This interest involved classical Greek and the prodigious thought of the Radical Orthodoxy political theologian John Milbank. Drew added two pieces to the puzzle: an emphasis upon ancient rhetorical theory as an organizing device for his own writing and as a tool to understanding the intellectual project of John Milbank. In the process he brought out Milbank’s use of rhetorical refutatio in his interaction with contemporary social theory, a trope that ties his discourse to that of Augustine, and beyond to Cicero, on whom Augustine was playing. In addition, he brought to light Milbank’s use of a theological via media in placing his own project, a use which, despite his predilection for radicality and hyperbole, marks his project with surprisingly subtle, Anglican undertones.

Andrew Tebbutt

On May 6, 2013, Andrew successfully defended his master’s thesis entitled Action, Love, and the World: An Inquiry into the Political Relevance of Christian Charity. Through his engagement with Hannah Arendt’s work, Andrew develops an intellectual vehicle to address what he perceives as a certain degree of political apathy among many of his cohorts in the evangelical Christian world. In Arendt’s characterization of Christianity as “worldless” and “antipolitical,” he recognizes the very way his own community’s overwhelming concern with the issue of personal salvation often leads its members to neglect the concrete political affairs of the surrounding world. At the same time, however, Andrew remains dissatisfied with Arendt’s characterization of Christianity as worldless, even if his experience might confirm that characterization, especially because his intellectual instincts tell him that the Christian virtue of love possesses a political relevance that Arendt’s work fails to take into account. Contesting her interpretation of love as a worldless, antipolitical force, Andrew appeals to the French phenomenologist Jean-Luc Marion’s contention that love is not mere passion, but rather a kind of knowing and willing that allows us to see the invisible other as a person rather than a mere object. Understanding love in Marion’s terms, as the charitable will to see others as fully enfleshed persons, is not worldless, according to Andrew. Instead, love thus construed is a force that enables us to see the other in his or her singularity and plurality, and therein lies its relevance to political concerns, even on Arendt’s own terms. As his thesis examiners all attest, Andrew’s work displays highly developed skills in textual interpretation, and its delicate prose is a pleasure to read.

Since successfully completing the ICS MA, Tebbutt has embarked upon doctoral studies in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Toronto.
Elita Fung

We are excited to announce the graduation of Elita in May. Elita has been a part-time student at ICS since 2008, completing two courses a year while carrying on her full-time job as a social worker in Toronto. The very exciting news about Elita is that she is the first ICS student to complete our new Aesthetics, Religion and Theology (ART) Master of Worldview Studies by fulfilling the requirements for the program with an arts concentration. In addition to holding a degree in sociology and carrying on her work at the Toronto City Mission, Elita is an irrepressible writer of deeply compelling short stories and novellas. Her initial aim in coming to ICS was to take some time out of her everyday life in a structured academic setting to think deeply about the ways in which her worldview as a person of faith informed and shaped her life and work. Once she arrived at ICS, however, she was delighted to find that her work as a writer was also able to flourish through her work with her mentor, Rebekah Smick, Senior Member in Philosophy of Arts and Culture. Under the direction of Prof. Smick, Fung concluded her program by writing a novella entitled “Sydney Frankfurt and his Wonderful Cabinet of Curiosities.” According to Canadian author John Terpstra, Elita’s external examiner for the project, the novella was a “wonderful accomplishment, just two or three drafts away from publishing readiness.” Congratulations to Elita, in more ways than one!

Rebecca Tait

Rebecca successfully completed her Master of Arts degree in May. Rebecca, whose supervisor was also Smick, wrote her thesis, The Importance of Contextualization in Visual Biblical Reception History: Contrasting Images of the “Songs of Songs” from the Saint Vaast Bible, the Bible moralisée and Marc Chagall. Rebecca came to ICS in the fall of 2010 from Briercrest College in Saskatchewan. She was interested in grounding her undergraduate academic studies in biblical literature in a Reformational perspective before deciding whether to continue with an academic career. Working with Prof. Smick, Rebecca was able to combine her love for biblical studies with a longstanding interest in aesthetics and art history. In her thesis, she took one of her discoveries at ICS – that worldview can even affect how we conceive the role and function of art – and applied it to the way in which images are currently used in biblical reception history, an increasingly popular methodology in contemporary biblical scholarship. What her thesis adds to that discourse – through her investigation of several, historically diverse, visual interpretations of the Song of Songs – is the importance of recognizing what different historical modes of symbolization can contribute to the greater hermeneutical project of biblical studies. Congratulations to Rebecca, whose wonderfully enthusiastic, team-spirited presence is already missed at ICS.
Institutional Repository Photo Essay

**LIBRARIAN ISABELLA GUTHRIE-MCNAUGHTON AND JUNIOR MEMBER MATT JOHNSON HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO DIGITALLY PRESERVE ICS THESIS AND MAKE AS MANY PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AS POSSIBLE.**

Most legacy theses exist only as printed books in the ICS library and must be scanned to become digital files. The ICS repository contains both these older theses and newer “born digital” ones.

A bookbindery removes theses from their jackets so they can be scanned efficiently. Once scanned, these are rebound and reshelved.

Unbound theses are scanned on the photocopier and the image files are sent to a computer for processing into completed “digital objects.”

Isabella uploads the documents into the repository and makes sure they have accurate metadata catalogue records. The files are uploaded when the author has signed a non-exclusive license agreement. Once uploaded to the repository, theses become visible to a wide range of academic and popular search engines as well as databases such as the Theses Canada Portal, Google Scholar and BASE.

Matt applies optical character recognition and other finishing touches to the scanned thesis images using ABBYY FineReader software. Completed theses files are saved as PDF documents containing searchable text and an image of the original, thus preserving any illustrations.
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