Ian Hacking

2014 Balzan Prize for Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind

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Affiliated Institution: The University of Toronto
Period: 2015-2020
Website: http://www.philosophy.utoronto.ca/research/balzan-research-project-2015-19-styles-of-reasoning/

Ian Hacking is University Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. The aim of his Balzan Styles of Reasoning research project is to contribute to his important and groundbreaking work through the support of young researchers, conferences, travel, and publications. Although Professor Hacking’s work covers a tremendous range, it is united by a single concern. He shows how our contemporary investigations of nature and of ourselves – our sciences, mathematics, philosophy, and definitions of chance, illness, and the self – have been shaped by our concepts and their histories. Hacking’s socio-historical-philosophical examinations of the rise and fall of different styles of reasoning have had a lasting impact on all the major domains of inquiry: science, social science, and humanities. His work demonstrates his mastery of the formal techniques of logic and confirmation theory, as well as his tremendous learning in contemporary science and its history. It has led to the introduction and elaboration of new conceptual structures; distinctive ways of understanding the possibility and
growth of knowledge; and new understandings of the relation between thought, language, and cognition.

The *Balzan Styles of Reasoning* research project allows emerging scholars to continue to explore styles of reasoning in the wide range of topics dealt with by Professor Hacking: medicine, psychiatry, sociology, philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophical psychology, statistical inference, the philosophy of mathematics and logic, ethics, the philosophy of language, and history. In order to continue to advance the overarching project, detailed studies of different kinds of reasoning and inquiry are conducted. In each of the years of the project, funds are made available to support doctoral students, designated “Balzan Styles of Reasoning Graduate Fellows,” so that they can explore a style of reasoning in depth. The plan is to support at least one graduate student in each of the philosophical areas most centrally connected to the project: The Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science and Mathematics, and Social and Political Philosophy. Funds are also made available, via travel fellowships, to support graduate student members of the Styles of Reasoning community to disseminate the results of their research. In addition, for each of the four years of the project, money will be made available for one or more visiting international graduate students writing dissertations in relevant areas to further enrich the University of Toronto community of scholarship on Styles of Reasoning.

In 2016-17, the Balzan Styles of Reasoning Project at the University of Toronto supported ongoing Balzan Graduate Fellows with major scholarships, incoming Balzan Graduate Fellows with major scholarships, and Balzan Travel Fellows with more modest sums to cover the costs of their research and travel. One of the Balzan Fellows, Johanna Thoma, has had outstanding success. That success would not have been possible without the Balzan funding, as it was used to support her during a research trip to Stanford, which launched her career. Her accomplishments have provided international recognition of the Balzan Styles of Reasoning project.

In the fourth year of the research program, a highly successful conference on Styles of Reasoning was organized, with Professors Susan Haack and Robert Brandom as the keynote speakers and graduate student participants from the Toronto Styles of Reasoning project and beyond. Whereas the precise organization of panels for the conference depended in part on the specific research areas of the students working in them, the major two-day conference saw principal papers presented by students who have worked in the Styles of Reasoning Project, with commentaries by more established but still relatively junior researchers.
Balzan Styles of Reasoning Fellowships

2018-2019 Incoming Balzan Styles of Reasoning
Jack Beaulieu
Jovy Chan
Alexandra Gustafson
Shiying Li

Jack Beaulieu (BA, Philosophy, UBC) works on epistemology and epistemology and philosophical methodology, and argues that philosophical methodological reflection suffers from ignorance of non-Western philosophical methods. His work promises new challenges and insight into philosophical methodology and styles of reasoning.

Jovy Chan (BA, University of Hong Kong; MA, Chinese University of Hong Kong) is interested in the metaphysics of free will and legal philosophy. Her work challenges reasoning that philosophers have used to argue against the view that free will and determinism are compatible and explains how subtle shifts in context obscure fallacies in reasoning about free will.

Alexandra Gustafson (BA, Wooster College; MA, Brandeis University) is an eclectic philosopher working on the nature of romantic love and of the emotions more generally, on mathematical logic, and on the role of poetical forms in philosophical argument and methodology.

Shiying Li (BA, University of Wisconsin–Madison; MA, University of Chicago) is a philosopher with a background in philosophy and psychology. Her work on moral and political philosophy includes a project on the role of emotions in moral decision-making and practical reasoning.

2017-2018 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Graduate Fellows
Caroline Blaney
Caitlin Hamblin

2017-2018 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Travel Fellowships
Michael Blezy
Lu-Vada Dunford
Michaela Manson
Robert Mason
Róbert Mátyási
Michael Szlachta
Jessica Wright
Matthew Wurst

2016-2017 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Graduate Fellows
Natalie Helberg
Maria Keller
Melissa Rees

2016-2017 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Travel Fellowships
Dominic Alford-Duguid
Roberto Granieri
Rory Harder
Griffin Klemick
Michaela Manson
Robert Mason
Damian Melamedoff
Owen Pikkert
Hamish Russell

2015-2016 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Graduate Fellows
Natalie Helberg
Zachary Irving
Maria Keller
Melissa Rees
David Suarez

2015-2016 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Visiting Fellows
Li Haosheng
Taro Okamura
Kristina Puck

2015-2016 Balzan Styles of Reasoning Travel Fellowships
James Davies
Griffin Klemick
Róbert Mátyási
Prach Panchakunathorn  
Julia Smith  
Johanna Thoma

Each student has produced a short report of what the Balzan Travel Fellowship enabled them to do.

**Balzan Styles of Reasoning Research Output**

**Publications**


__. “A Philological Reading of Alypius’ Curiositas in the Confessiones (VI, 8, 13).” Augustinianum 60, no. 2 (forthcoming, Dec. 2020).


__. “Kristeva vis-à-vis Hegel: Forgiveness as Psychoanalytic Interpretation and Absolute Knowing.” Philosophy Today (forthcoming).


**Presentations**

Davies, James. “Mathematical Fictionalists Cannot Be Sceptics about Reference to Abstract Objects.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meetings, St. Louis, MO, February 2015.


__. “The Transmission Dilemma for Revisionism.” MANCEPT Workshop on Collectivism in the Morality of War, Manchester University, UK.


__. “Peirce and ‘Objective Pragmatism.’” Boston University Graduate Conference in Philosophy, October 2016.


*All publications, conferences, websites, scholarships, and visitorships acknowledge the generosity of the Balzan Foundation in making this vital project possible.*

**Theses Completed**

Jessica Wright, “Owning Implicit Attitudes” (2020)


*PhD thesis submitted to the University of Toronto, passed without corrections March 2017. This thesis won Canada’s most prestigious dissertation prize: a Governor General’s Gold Medal for the best graduate student in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Toronto, 2017.*


*This thesis won the David Savan Prize for the best thesis written in the Philosophy Department in 2016.*


*All dissertations gratefully acknowledged the generosity of the Balzan Foundation.*