

 **Priority #2: Diversify the discipline— who we include, how they participate**

To broaden the scope of our discipline, we must recruit candidates from a wider pool of applicants. Your gifts will ensure we're building a cohort of scholars that reflects the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of our greater community.

**Your gifts for graduate student fellowships** will help us compete for talent and draw the brightest minds to Minnesota. They'll also provide critical research support for graduate students, providing travel funds to conduct primary research at the source and offering students time and resources to work during the summer months.

**Your gifts for scholarships** will help us recruit students to the discipline. They'll also provide critical access to experiential learning opportunities, like internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad. With your help, every one of our students can chart a path to success.

You can help make philosophy at Minnesota a destination for promising students from around the globe by investing in **new programs like Ethics Bowl**. You'll help ensure we're engaging prospective students early, demonstrating the range and relevance of philosophy at a time when students are making choices about their future.



"Although philosophy and neuroscience are two seemingly contradictory majors, they helped me get at understanding human thought in a way that allowed me to draw my own conclusions. Ethics is all-pervasive in medicine, and I already feel more comfortable than most of my peers in discussing the ethics of any given case. Applying philosophy to science trained me to think critically about how we are using data and models to represent complex issues as well as the dangers of taking those models too far."

— Divya Palanisamy, BA 2015

**SHATTERING EXPECTATIONS**  
The Campaign for Liberal Arts

**DEPARTMENT of PHILOSOPHY**  
CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



Academic distinction and innovative scholarship have long characterized the University of Minnesota's Department of Philosophy.

As we continue to build on this tradition of excellence, we recognize that 21<sup>st</sup>-century philosophy scholars must embrace not only the deep traditions of Western philosophy that have dominated the field, but also innovative new approaches that are transforming our discipline. These transformations can only be realized, though, if we broaden the canon to include new voices.

Indeed, philosophy departments in universities across the country are coping with the reality that the voices of women and minorities have not been heard in defining what the issues of philosophy are, or what counts as philosophy in the first place.

We are determined to position ourselves as a national leader in diversifying the discipline and doing so in a way that builds on our traditional strengths.

We want Minnesota to be known as a leader in expanding the scope and reach of philosophy. Your gifts will ensure we're a destination both for the world's most inventive thinkers and the passionate individuals who will transform our world into a better place.

## Priority #1: Explore new fields of inquiry—what we study, what we teach

Philosophy at Minnesota leads the way in newer fields like feminist philosophy and the philosophy of science, and we embrace an inclusive environment that places the department among the nation's top five in graduating women PhDs.

As the department looks ahead, we'll enhance this environment to emphasize perspectives across genders, origins, and cultures, in turn reinforcing the value of interdisciplinary work and building a more diverse group of philosophers from a wider pool of people. We'll set an example of how diversification can enhance all philosophical research and education in a pluralistic, welcoming environment.

To make this happen, we'll need to broaden our curriculum and our ideas about sub-fields to include areas of philosophy that are unjustly marginalized; reward philosophers for their efforts at public engagement; update our standards for recruitment, tenure, and promotion; and do all this in a collegial environment.

We need to increase the number of students taking philosophy in the first place and engage them in ways that continue their commitment to the field. We need to encourage faculty who teach introductory classes to promote the benefits of philosophy and to engage students in compelling ways. We must expose students to a set of diverse philosophical perspectives, beyond the traditional canon, and connect what they're learning to the critical challenges facing our world today.

Your gifts for faculty research and teaching will invest in scholars who both contribute to our traditional disciplinary strengths and broaden our horizons. Recruiting these scholars will require competitive funds for **endowed chairs and professorships**, as well as for **research awards** and **seed grants** to explore promising new areas of study.



"Studying philosophy produces better reasoners, both in terms of evaluating other's arguments and in constructing their own. It makes people more inquisitive and more skeptical of whatever authority says is the case, and these are all good things. Philosophy is helpful and useful and enriches your life, whatever kind of life you decide to pursue."

— Professor Samuel C. Fletcher



Professors Jessica Gordon-Roth and Roy T. Cook might at first look like an unlikely pair of collaborators. While Gordon-Roth specializes in feminist philosophy and the history of early modern thought, Cook devotes the bulk of his scholarly attention to mathematical logic, semantic paradoxes, and the aesthetics of popular art forms, such as Lego sculptures and superhero comics. But amidst their divergent academic interests, the two professors of philosophy point to a region of overlap which is, they argue, in desperate need of philosophical reflection: feminist philosophy and formal logic.

"Given the absolute centrality of questions about gender to discussions and debates occurring both across the University and across our culture," says Gordon-Roth, "we think it is absolutely essential that feminist approaches to any subject be included whenever we take ourselves to be presenting a balanced, comprehensive discussion of that subject."

Cook adds, "Feminist philosophy, with its connections to a multitude of other disciplines in the humanities, and formal logic, which is studied not only in philosophy departments but mathematics and computer science departments, are two of the most interdisciplinary areas of philosophy, and thus there is the potential for this work to be influential across a wide and diverse segment of intellectual life."