

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FEATURING SPEAKER DR. *Lori Gallegos*

“Academic Philosophy and the Pursuit of Genuine Dialogue: Embracing Radical Friction”

ABSTRACT

Academic philosophy's lack of diversity is of concern because it results in a discipline that does not adequately reflect or address the experiences, concerns, and perspectives of many people outside of the dominant demographic. In this paper, I examine some of the practical and psychological challenges of entering into dialogue with thinkers whose background knowledge, culture, life experiences, and/or methodologies generate philosophical thought that is radically different from one's own. I contend that in order to build a discipline is more genuinely dialogical, academic philosophers should embrace this challenging tension between incommensurable worlds of sense. Specifically, I consider how the philosophical practice of translating foreign concepts into terms that have meaning for us might be carried out in a way that preserves radical friction. I warn of the risk of projecting our ideas onto those whose world views are incompatible with our own, and I offer strategies for navigating these risks.

BIOGRAPHY

Lori Gallegos is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Dr. Gallegos is interested in ways that our contemporary social and political scene poses a challenge to classical notions of the self.

Dr. Gallegos received her PhD from the Department of Philosophy at Stony Brook University, where she also earned a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. She received her B.A. in Philosophy and Foreign Languages from the University of New Mexico.



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