Dear Members of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle,

We are writing this newsletter jointly, on this special occasion, as we transition the General Secretary position from David Morris to Rajiv Kaushik. Rajiv was elected to this position at our recent business meeting. Kym Maclaren very graciously agreed to stand for election as Associate General Secretary for an exceptional one-year term (versus the usual 3 years) to help with the transition, and to allow us to shift to a 'staggered' electoral cycle, so that both positions are not turned over in the same year.

We are very pleased about this new moment in the Circle and know the Circle will continue to flourish and develop in new and exciting ways. Those of you at our 2025 meeting will recall we read through the program of our very first meeting, in memory of Al Lingis, so it feels like an apt moment to open a new temporal circle, as some of our members pass into history, and we pass their ideas forward into new thoughts, and we turn to our fifth General Secretary, after Mike Dillon, Galen Johson, Gail Weiss, and David.

We are presently sketching out the sequence of upcoming conferences, and moving some of the infrastructure of the Circle from David's university to Rajiv's (please see the last section below for an important update about changes to how we are sending out emails). It's wonderful to have an abundance of willing conference directors, extending far into the future. It shows an enthusiasm for the Circle, and the continuing vibrancy of Merleau-Ponty scholarship.

2025 Conference

The 49th Annual International Merleau-Ponty Circle was directed by Susan Bredlau, Don Beith and Kirsten Jacobson at the University of Maine in Orono. The conference theme was "Health and Healing: personal, social, environmental." There were two keynote addresses, by Professors Havi Carel and Drew Leder. Havi Carel's talk was titled "Radical Bodily Doubt," and Drew Leder's was "The Chessboard of Healing: Structures of Embodiment and their Clinical Significance." There were also four invited talks: Khameer Kidia's "Empire of Madness: Uprooting Psychiatry from its Colonial Origins"; Bryan Bannon's "Ecological Health: A Phenomenological Perspective"; Lucy Schultz' "Personal, Social and Environmental Healing through Ecological Restoration"; and Martina Ferrari's "Living with Ruptures: Healing Bodies through History."

2025 Award Winners

The recipient of the 2025 M.C. Dillon Award for the best graduate student submission was Gael Caignard. His paper was titled "Institution et ouverture de l'histoire: Merleau-Ponty lecteur de

Lucien Febvre." This was the second time the Dillon Prize was awarded to a paper in French. The first was Anna Catarina Dalmasso's. Both Gael and Anna Catarina are essential to the editing of *Chiasmi International*. We think these connections show that the future of Merleau-Ponty studies in North America and abroad is in a very healthy position.

The Ron Morstyn Prize winner was Adam Blair, whose paper was titled "Attuned Otherwise: Aesthetic Experience and the Communication of Perceptual Difference."

(The IMPC welcomes donations to fund both these awards, which also help cover the Business Lunch and Banquet fees for every graduate student who presents a paper at the annual conference. Donations can be made directly to us using PayPal. The link is labelled for the Dillon fund, but you can also designate this for the Morstyn prize, just send Rajiv an email.)

2026 Conference and Future Conferences

The 2026 International Merleau-Ponty Circle will be hosted by Stefan Kristensen and Benjamin Thomas at the Université de Strasbourg. The topic will be "Bodies and Landscapes." There will be collaborations between the Fine Arts School, the Philosophy Department, the Francophone Society of Phenomenology, and the art school (Haute école des arts du Rhin). A tentative line up for the following years, extending as far as 2029, was discussed at the Business Meeting. We have very strong proposals from Keith Whitmoyer, Laura McMahon, and Hayden Kee. The precise order of these events will need further discussion.

Transferring our email list to a Google Group

Concordia University's mail system doesn't allow bulk emails, so David needed to send emails using a listserv service, which is sending you this email. With the change to Rajiv, and to make it easier down the road, we are transferring our member's list to a Google Group. (We will use this Group to maintain our email list and to let recipients unsubscribe–but it also will let you see our previous messages to members.)

Here's how the transfer will work. *You shouldn't have to do anything*. But you'll receive a few emails, so we wanted to let you know:

- After this message, we'll pause before the transfer, to see if there are members who unsubscribe from our list.
- On December 1st, we'll transfer everyone who is subscribed on the Concordia list, to our Google Group, IMPCircle.

- When we do this, you'll receive a message, from IMPC <intlmpcircle@gmail.com>, that you've been added to the group. Please check for this in junk or spam, in case your university email is as tetchy as David's.
- A few days after that, we'll send one last message from the Concordia listserv, asking you to let us know if you weren't added, so we can fix it.

If you want to update your email, or a friend or colleague wants to be added, please email intlmpcircle@gmail.com.

Appreciations

On behalf of the membership and this year's participants, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, Susan Bredlau, Don Beith and Kristen Jacobson. We are especially grateful to the various parties that funded the event: the Department of Philosophy, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, the University of Maine Foundation, the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund, & the Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series with additional support from the Canadian American Center, the Department of English, the Honors College, the Department of Communication and Journalism, & the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions.

We would like to take this time to thank David for his leadership as General Secretary, which has sustained the Circle and kept it alive and vibrant. We would also like to thank Kym for agreeing to be elected for one more year, for the good of us all.

We ask members to please let us know about any changes in your contact information. We would like to remain in contact and let you all know about upcoming events and information about our annual conference.

With warm wishes to you all,

David Morris

Kym Maclaren

Rajiv Kaushik