PHILOSOPHY SYMPOSIUM

Vulnerability Humanity, Predictable Machines
November 17th, 2016 (7:30pm-9:00pm)
Carroll College (Sage Room, Corette Library)

SYMPOSIUM CO-DIRECTORS/HOSTS

Marisa Diaz-Waian, M.A. (Founder & ED, *Merlin CCC*)
Tim Holmes, M.F.A. (Local & Internationally-Renowned Artist)
Dr. Barry Ferst, Ph.D. (Professor of Philosophy, *Carroll College*)

SYMPOSIUM THEME

The philosophical rendering of humans in terms of a material reductionism leads to a computer-jargon framework for understanding humanity. Given our reliance upon and development of increasingly sophisticated forms of technology, in a twenty-first century mechanistic philosophy, mind is reduced to brain and brain to CPU – life becomes electrons flowing through electronic circuitry, reasoning becomes software programs, and memory, RAM. By so conceptualizing human behavior, gesture, speech, and more, humanity becomes virtually indistinguishable from the robots, bions, androids, and cyborgs of science fiction. But is this actually the case?

"Vulnerable Humanity, Predictable Machines" is an evening symposium that looks at the less emphasized properties of the human spirit. Instead of our ability to reason, the suggestion here is that our propensity to be vulnerable, unpredictable, arbitrary, and at times, unreasonable, are the very things that make material reductionism nonsensical and, thus save humanity from a life of artificial robotic realities.

SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

Several invited guest speakers will briefly address the theme and then open the symposium up to general, free-flowing discussion. Some paradoxes for discussion might include: *Is it meaningful to say that unpredictability can be programmed? Can artificial intelligence be unreasonable? Why is it that to be vulnerable is to be human? Can a computer enjoy odd human behavior (or "enjoy" anything at all)? Are vulnerability, unpredictability, arbitrariness and unreasonableness void of "reasoning," "thinking," "intelligence," or "consciousness"? Do the arguments against material reductionism pertain to non-human animals, too?*

INVITED SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Dr. Mark Smillie, Ph.D. (Professor of Philosophy, *Carroll College*)
Dr. Edward Glowienka, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *Carroll College*)
Dr. Eric Hall, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Theology, *Carroll College*)
Dr. Kelly Cline, Ph.D. (Astrophysicist & Associate Professor of Mathematics, *Carroll College)*
Dr. Nikki Honzel, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor of Psychology, *Carroll College*)
Michael Sangray, B.A., CISSP (Cyber Security Engineer & Consultant, *Anderson ZurMuehlen* and Adjunct Instructor of Cyber Security, *Carroll College*)
Edward Gray, M.S., LCPC (Mental Health Counselor, Private Practice)

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☎ 406.204.0064   ✉ info@merlinccc.org
📠 406.204.0063   🖥 www.merlinccc.org

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