Tanine Allison - Rejuvenating White Masculinity: Digital De-aging in Hollywood
Digitally “de-aged” actors have appeared in Hollywood movies over the last 15 years, including The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The Irishman, and various Marvel films. In most instances, the artificially “youthened” actors are White men. My project explores the industrial, cultural, and technological reasons for this, as well as its implications for the kinds of stories about race and gender that get told.

Yeongju Lee - Latino Soldiers and Global Coloniality: The Korean War
My dissertation project addresses limitations in our grasp of coloniality through the narratives of Latino soldiers deployed in the Korean War. Beyond the conventional geographical setting of Latinx Studies (the Americas and transatlantic connections), it considers how the putatively democratic inclusion of Latinx subjects into transpacific empire-building during the Cold War complicated Latinx-Asian relations and Latinx intra-ethnic dynamics. Drawing on archival materials and literary texts written in English, Spanish, and Korean, it demonstrates that the U.S. military expansion in Asia enabled a relative sense of racial, economic, and sexual empowerment of Latino soldiers, but kept intact white supremacist capitalist patriarchy.

Laura Vrana - Phillis Wheatley and African American Poetry of the "Post" Era
Although poems written to, for, and about Phillis Wheatley—the first person of African descent in the colonies to publish a book—date to her lifetime, they have proliferated since 1960. This project examines motivations behind and approaches within this ever-growing body of texts: it suggests that “Wheatley poems” provide a useful index for understanding how numerous little-explored developments in contemporary African American poetry on all topics relate to shifting social and institutional views of Blackness and poetics.

Calvin Warren - Incalculable Blackness: Mathematics and Existence
This project responds to the recent "mathematical turn" in Continental Philosophy (one thinking Being through mathematics) by arguing that blackness constitutes an abyss within mathematics—the utter collapse of calculative and arithmetical reasoning. By reconsidering imaginary numbers, set theory, and calculus as formations of ontology, I attempt to demonstrate how blackness throws these enterprises into crisis.

Rachel Bath - On the Value of Imperfect Empathy: Edith Stein on the Socially Dependent Nature of Personal Becoming
This presentation introduces Edith Stein’s concept of empathy and explains its relevance in relation to her account "self-formation." Self-formation is defined as willed personal becoming, or how we actively shape ourselves as individuals. According to Stein, we learn about who we are as individuals from empathy in two ways: first, empathy allows us to see ourselves from the perspective of concrete others; second, empathy teaches us how to view ourselves objectively. What we learn about ourselves via empathy can motivate personal transformation, yet empathy is an imperfect form of intersubjective perception that may involve error and deception. I argue that the fallibility of empathy is not a weakness of Stein’s theory of self-formation, but rather an important feature that testifies to the contingency of the self and the socially dependent nature of personal becoming.

Mary Dudziak - The Politics of Death in the U.S. War in Vietnam
American military intervention in Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s was the last major U.S. conflict reliant on drafted soldiers, and the subsequent end of the draft is often thought to have enabled the forever war. This project instead centers the erosion of democratic restraint over time, stemming in part from the culture of death in U.S. distant wars, and this chapter engages the broader culture of death in Vietnam, including the deaths of Southeast Asians.
Hwa Yeong Wang - *The Birth of Feminist Consciousness in Confucian Philosophy*

Hwa Yeong Wang’s research aims to explore the unique reception of Chinese neo-Confucianism in Korea, especially its influence on women and gender through the institution and practice of ritual, and to show why versions of these ideas and practices still challenge and inspire contemporary societies. Her current project focuses on retelling the history of Korean neo-Confucianism from the perspective of women and securely positioning them within the history of Korean philosophy and the global history of philosophy. The discussion will draw on Wang’s work on the two women Confucian philosophers of 18-19th century Korea, Im Yunjidang and Gang Jeongildang, in comparison to their counterparts in the West, Anne Conway and Harriet Taylor Mill.

Mary Taylor Mann - *A Turbulence of Blood and Brain: Reading Menstruation in Aurora Leigh*

Nineteenth-century theories of gynecology and adolescent medicine depicted puberty, the onset of menstruation, and the transition to adulthood as a time of physiological crisis, in which blood, brain, and uterus collide in a complex choreography of circulatory disorder. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, I argue, incorporates these assumptions into her recounting of the growth of a woman’s poetic power in *Aurora Leigh* (1856). In my work, I explain how theories of female physiological function engender systems of biological regulation that determined how Victorian women experienced their own bodies and minds and thus how a woman poet like Aurora makes sense of her poetry as a physiologically laden enterprise.

Victoria Bergstrom - *"Rester dans l'image" (Staying in the Image): Anne Portugal's Poetic Technologies*

This paper explores the influence of image technologies within the work of contemporary French poet Anne Portugal. Bringing together works that draw inspiration from both "old" and "new" media forms, this paper captures Portugal’s acute sensitivity to processes of mediation and recruits theoretical accounts of the image from art history and media theory to unpack the critical potential of poetry in the face of the ontological and ideological consequences of our image-world's digital turn.

Ben Jeffery - *Revenge Psychology and "Loss of Reality" in The Tempest*

My project uses Shakespeare's *Tempest* as an instrument for thinking about the activity of literary criticism in relation to certain profoundly disordering, "objectless", modes of desire; primarily the urge towards revenge (which the main informing motivation in the play's story). I pursue this aim not only by way of argument and textual analysis but also, more experimentally, by telling the story of my own relationship to the play in the aftermath of my father’s death, a story which functions as a tool for reflecting on this form of misalignment.

Dilek Huseyinzadegan - *Reframing Freedom, or Re-Visioning the History of Political Thought*

This project interrogates our contemporary liberal notions of freedom and how we talk and write about freedom in academia. Skeptical of academic prose as an appropriate form for analyzing and advocating for political freedom in political philosophy as well as interdisciplinary humanities today, I contend that a re-framing or re-visioning freedom in light of historical-structural injustices already exists in Black and transnational feminist political traditions, which are also necessarily antiracist and anticolonial.

Cheryl Crowley - *Stars Shining on Water: Japanese Women Haikai Poets (1600-1810)*

My project examines the haiku verse of women in early modern Japan to better understand the interplay of language, gender, and genre in the Japanese literary tradition. I focus on poets who belonged to a small but significant number of women who flourished in 17th and 18th century literary and intellectual communities in spite of—and sometimes because of—the strict social and economic conditions in which they lived. These poets included wives, widows, nuns, and sex workers; some lived in urban centers, others in small farming villages. I explore their work, its cultural contexts, and the ways it came to be published, preserved, and circulated.