



CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY

COLLOQUIUM SERIES



* All talks will be held on Fridays in Room 101 Paterson Hall at 11:30 am unless otherwise noted *

* Please visit our website at <http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy/> for detailed abstracts *

**"Social and Global Justice
Beyond Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach"
Jay Drydyk
Carleton University**

According to Martha Nussbaum, distributive justice demands bringing people's capabilities for living well to 'decent' levels that allow for living a life of human dignity. While she does not deny that justice may ultimately require equalizing those capabilities, she contends that we are so far away from being able to achieve such equality that not much can be gained from discussing it now. What justice demands, then, from our present vantage-point, is sufficiency, 'enough for all'.

Nussbaum's approach generates a paradox once we interrogate the meaning of 'sufficiency' by asking, 'Sufficient for what?' To avoid Harry Frankfurt's answer, 'Sufficient for not feeling dissatisfied,' Nussbaum answers, 'Sufficient for a life of dignity'. I will show how difficult it is to argue from equal human dignity to any distributive conclusion except a demand for equal capabilities. For the capability approach, I will argue, nothing is 'enough', short of the highest level of capability that is actually achievable for everyone by existing productive forces.

**Friday, January 27, 2017
Room: 101 Paterson Hall
Time: 11:30 a.m.**