CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF

PHILOSOPHY

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*All talks will be held on Fridays in Room 202 Tory at 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted *
* Please visit our website at http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy/ for detailed abstracts *

"Justice and Benevolence"

Gabriele Contessa

Carleton University

This paper argues that political philosophers have a tendency to conflate intuitions due to benevolence with intuitions about distributive justice. In particular, I focus on the luck egalitarian concern for those who suffer the consequences of bad brute luck and argue that, on closer inspection, this concerns is not about the differential effects of brute luck, as the luck egalitarian seem to think. To support this conclusion, I propose a test to check if one's intuitive reaction to a specific scenario is due to a sense of justice or to benevolence. I argue that, once we distinguish these two sources of intuitions, we can shed light on certain debates in political philosophy, such as the debate between telic and deontic egalitarians and the one between luck egalitarians and their critics.

Friday, February 1st

Room: 202 Tory

Time: 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome!