Progress Report  
2010-2011 Faculty Grants for International Connections  

Gordon C.F. Bearn  
Professor of Philosophy,  
Lehigh University  
gcb0@lehigh.edu  
610.758.4662  

June 7, 2012  

1) Summer 2011.  

On March 23, 2011, The Office of International Affairs at Lehigh University awarded me $3,200 to begin making international connections with Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. [See: Appendix 1] The money was to be used to send me to Católica in the Summer of 2011 to lead a seminar on those aspects of my research which overlapped with my contact at Católica: Victor J. Krebs, Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Humanities at Católica in Lima.

I wrote up a description of the short course [See: Appendix 2], and Victor advertised it amongst his students. And Victor and I gave four seminars on the themes there articulated. The turn-out for these seminars was a little disappointing. There were a sprinkling of graduate students (perhaps 5). The bulk of the rest of the audience (perhaps 7) were on the faculty at Católica. Nevertheless, all four seminars have been placed on the website at Católica. Links are provided below. [See: Appendix 3]

Victor and I engaged each other most directly in the first seminar. What became more and more clear as we discussed the texts of Wittgenstein, was that we were in total agreement that Wittgenstein's sensitivity to the sensual dimensions of language was astonishing and that especially in Part II section xi of his Philosophical Investigations, Wittgenstein, again and again, draws his reader's attention to those sensual dimensions. However, we disagreed in our understanding of what Wittgenstein took to be the philosophical significance of these amazing descriptions of the feel of words. As I would put it, Victor stops reading after the descriptions of the feel of language, but had he read on, he would have seen that Wittgenstein denies that these sensual dimensions of language are of any philosophical relevance.

During that first seminar, after long beginnings we addressed ourselves to the interpretations of those passages that immediately followed the descriptions that both Victor and I enjoy. As I was leading the seminar, we moved on from that disagreement
to readings of Bouwsma and Ziff that I thought demonstrated the essential linguistic and philosophical relevance of those sensual dimensions of language.

The seminar closed with a far too brief characterization of how it was that Grice, in his William James Lectures of 1967, provided criticisms of the approach to language I was following which re-organized the field of philosophy of language just as Kripke was coming on the philosophical (as opposed to the logical) scene.

2) Summer 2012.

Although it was based, ironically, on my failure to attend to language, in particular my failure to attend to the language of Prof. El-Aasser's letter awarding me my grant, I will sketch the plans Victor and I made for the summer of 2012. In late May 2012, I managed to find sudden, emergency funding from CAS Deans office, the Philosophy Department, the Humanities Center, and the generous permission of the Office of International Affairs to roll over the lingering $650 from my Summer 2011 grant, so that the following plans will in fact be realized this July 2012. Those three parts of the CAS college were excited enough with the schema of the seminar we set up that they were willing to fund it just to see how successful it could be.

As there are no LU philosophy grad students for Victor to teach, we decided to reach more broadly. The original proposal indicates that we decided to enlist the help of a slightly better known philosopher to join us in leading the seminar. In the Fall of 2011, we selected Steven Affeldt of Le Moyne College who is a highly respected interpreter of Stanley Cavell.

We put together a call for participants [See: Appendix 4] and launched it on the web at general philosophy sites and also at specifically relevant sites such as http://olponline.wordpress.com/ We are planning an intensive series of 7 three-hour seminars extending over 10 days (July 9-18, 2012). For more detailed descriptions of the 7 sessions see the seminar website at: https://sites.google.com/site/stakesofspeech/

We received 33 applicants for our 10 spots. Applicants or inquiries came from Brazil, Ireland, Australia, and Germany, as well as all across the US. We accepted 10 people and put 3 people on a wait list, but everyone we accepted came. Because we are building LU-PUCP connections, we made sure that someone who had graduated from LU (and was now in philosophy grad school) was admitted and we struggled to admit someone from PUCP. Unfortunately the best students that Victor had encouraged to apply were unable to come up with the air travel funds, so when it was all over there was one graduate student of Lehigh descent, but no graduate students from PUCP.

In order to facilitate future exchanges, at the faculty level, LU's lawyers have produced a contract, finalized and ready for signatures, that is even now (June 7, 2012) moving through the machinery of PUCP on its way to being signed. It is a PDF and so it is being sent by e-mail with this report but it is not represented as an appendix.

4) Undergraduate and Graduate Student Exchange.

Matt Bush, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literature at Lehigh University, went to PUCP last summer 2011 to talk with the Provost for Research, and when he came back he secured MLL's endorsement of a PUCP summer program for foreign (non-Peruvian) students to study Spanish Language and Peruvian Culture both Pre-Columbian and Contemporary. Both Matt and I have spoken with the International Studies group at Lehigh and it looks like there is not currently any model that would fit what the LU-PUCP student exchange might become.

We are currently imagining a two tier student exchange in which (a) LU undergraduates go to PUCP to study Spanish and other subjects at PUCP either in the summer or during the year and (b) PUCP graduate students in English or American Literature or History or one of the sciences or engineering fields applies to the relevant department on a one-off basis. Sometimes foreign students at LU are able to be paid for teaching in MLL in lieu of receiving an actual grant from the department in question, but such details are all to be worked out in the future.

Matt Bush will be in Lima this summer 2012 and he will be trying to speak once again with the relevant members of the PUCP administration.
Appendix 1: Bearn's Application

2010-2011 Faculty Grants for International Connections
February 15, 2011

Gordon C.F. Bearn
Professor of Philosophy, Lehigh University
gcb0@lehigh.edu 610.758.4662

Connecting with the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú:
Philosophy and Archaeology.

The Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP), in Lima, is the premiere university in Peru. I am proposing to create connections between Lehigh University and this university at the level of Faculty (Philosophy and Archaeology) and Students (mostly general undergraduate students but with the possibility of some graduate student involvement).

(a) Professional and Personal Goals for this Visit.

My current research project, at the most general, is an effort to recover a stream of analytic philosophy that was flowering in the 1950’s, but was sadly uprooted in the 1960’s. I am providing the foundations for a sensual semantics. In December 2010, I was in Peru at the PUCP participating in a conference on Wittgenstein’s mature work on experiencing the meaning of a word. Wittgenstein scholars have not been suspicious enough of Wittgenstein’s rejection of experiential analyses of meaning, and recovering this experiential dimension of our linguistic life is what I will be doing in Peru.

(b) Expected Outcomes: short term and long term

Victor Krebs, my contact at the PUCP, has been urging Wittgenstein interpretation in the same direction. Our work together in the Summers of 2011 and 2012 will permit us to present our suspicious interpretation of Wittgenstein’s mature work in seminars and in publications. We hope that this exchange of ideas will open a flow of undergraduates between PUCP and LU. In the long term we hope to involve other faculty in the Lehigh Valley. In the first instance, I have already spoken with Matt Bush, Asst. Prof. of Spanish at LU, whose research involves Peru, and Ben Carter, Visiting Asst. Prof. of Anthropology at Muhlenberg an Andean Archaeologist, most of whose work is currently in Ecuador, but who has contacts already at PUCP. I have also spoken with Tanya Saunders, Asst. Prof. in the LU Dept of Sociology and Anthropology; she is primarily a Caribbeanist and won’t be able to participate until after tenure.
Prof. Krebs is the co-editor of *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew* (Cambridge 2010), and our work with in the summer 2011 would very likely appear in another collection he is already planning *Una nueva Forma de Ver: Wittgenstein y el pensamiento del silo XXI.*

(c) Nature of Interaction.

Our plan is to run a short (2 week) seminar, "The Wittgenstein Experience," in the Summer of 2011 at PUCP, Centro de Estudios Filosóficos, for graduate and undergraduate philosophy students at PUCP, and then we would run an analogous seminar at LU in the summer of 2012. At Lehigh, we would try to involve 5 grad students and 1 faculty member from other institutions, and 1 have added those expenses in our budget below. (There are no Philosophy grad students at LU.)

The intensive seminar will be modeled on intense architectural studios in which 2 weeks of furious invention produces models of architectural energy. The participants in this seminar will be given the task to produce an interpretation of the nature and position of experience in Wittgenstein's later philosophy, and they will be expected to present their work to the group by the end of the seminar. The meetings of the seminar will therefore be in the line of working together on texts of Wittgenstein that are unavoidably significant for the work at hand.

(d) Pre-Planning.

My contact at PUCP is Dr. Victor J. Krebs Profesor Asociado, Departamento de Humanidades, PUCP. When I was there for a conference in December 2010, we both spoke with Dra. Pepi Patrón, the Vice Rector for Research at the PUCP and she was excited by this proposal. I have attached an e-mail from Prof. Krebs extending an invitation outlining in concrete terms the proposed joint activities during at PUCP during the Summer of 2011, and articulating his expectations for the interaction.

(e) Expected Follow-Ups on return to LU.

I look forward to bringing my work in Peru back to Lehigh.

(f) Proposed budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2011 (Bearn to Lima, 14 days)</th>
<th>Summer 2012 (Krebs to B’hem, 14 days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flight: round trip to Lima: $1200</td>
<td>est flights to B’hem $1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel: 14 nights $1300 in lima</td>
<td>est hotel in B’hem $1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals at $50/day: $700</td>
<td>meals at $50/day: $700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>extra expenses for 1 faculty visiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>faculty member and $400 support each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for 5 grad students, total: $4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2011 total = $3,200</td>
<td>Summer 2012 total = $7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined total Summers 2011 and 2012 = $10,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: Bearn's Seminar in Lima.

Experiencing Wittgenstein.
Gordon C.F. Bearn
Victor J. Krebs
PUCP August 2011

Plunge with us into the sensual seas of language.

During the 1950's Wittgenstein's mature philosophy was posing a serious challenge to the dominance of that tradition of analytical philosophy inspired by Russell and continued by Carnap. Wittgenstein’s appeal to the rich contexts of linguistic life made the thin formalisms of Russell and Carnap seem ridiculous. It looked like the logicians were going to be forced to separate off as of little relevance to our thick life with words. And then in 1967, Grice killed the tradition of Wittgenstein and ordinary language philosophy.

This seminar will re-open this period of philosophy from two directions.

(A) From the side of Wittgenstein, we will suggest that as radical as Wittgenstein's work was, as eager as he was to resist the formalisms of Russell and Carnap, his mature work stopped at the stage of grammatical form, grammatical essences, when it ought to have gone all the way. There are two aspects of this. An aspect of taking the sensual experience of words seriously, and here we will move forward by criticizing Wittgenstein's own repression of sensual experience, and we will glance at Bouwsma, and an aspect of taking sensual experience of things seriously, if we look into this aspect we will rely on Bergson’s Introduction to Metaphysics.

(B) From the side of Grice, we will show that Grice's defense of the Russell-Carnap tradition begged the question. Here we will be arguing against Grice by relying on the work of Ziff and Cavell.

If there are time issues we will focus exclusively on (A)

Bibliography


2) O.K. Bouwsma "The Expression theory of Art" in his Philosophical Essays, pp. 21-50.


4) Grice, Studies in the Way of Words, Chapters 1,2,3, pp. 1-57

5) Ziff, "What is Said" in his Understanding Understanding pp. 21-38.

6) Cavell, The Claim of Reason, especially, Ch VIII, pp. 191-231, ((also Part Two as a whole, chapters VI, VII, and VIII))
Appendix 3: Recordings of Bearn's Seminars

These four recordings are on the website at Católica.

Experiencing Wittgenstein - Seminario del profesor Gordon C.F. bearn (16-08-2011)  
http://videos.pucp.edu.pe/videos/compartido/e7a1aa87e71c3f231de305bf5bb0a660

Experiencing Wittgenstein - Seminario del profesor Gordon C.F. bearn (18-08-2011)  
http://videos.pucp.edu.pe/videos/compartido/5b23cadc58ba4fad38116342d8f091f

Experiencing Wittgenstein - Seminario del profesor Gordon C.F. bearn (22-08-2011)  
http://videos.pucp.edu.pe/videos/compartido/4f4fe65b03c5aaa267360de3ad561505

Experiencing Wittgenstein - Seminario del profesor Gordon C.F. bearn (23-08-2011)  
http://videos.pucp.edu.pe/videos/compartido/1d5a7248aa4a0a2cac68fe1a61aaff65
Appendix 4:  
Call for Participants Summer 2012

A Call for Participants

Stakes of Speech: Self-Revelation and Theatricality  
A Summer Seminar on Wittgenstein in the Spirit of Cavell and Rhees

July 9-18, 2012  
The Humanities Center  
Lehigh University  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Seminar Leaders:  
Steven G. Affeldt, Le Moyne College. (stevenaffeldt@gmail.com)  
Gordon C.F. Bearn, Lehigh University. (gordon@lehigh.edu)  
Victor J. Krebs, Pontifical University of Peru, Lima. (vjk5555@gmail.com)

Stipend for all Participants: $500.  
Accommodations provided for all participants, free of charge.

Applications due May 1, 2012, Decisions made May 8, 2012  
Application Information Below

1. Seminar Description

It was to have been a revolution. Wittgenstein hoped to turn our (philosophical) lives around, or upside down. But the fires of Wittgenstein’s revolution were no match for philosophy’s fantasy of rigorous science and his work was soon assigned its narrow place on the shelf of formal semantics: an appendix of pragmatics. The fires cooled to embers guarded—perhaps smothered—by a dwindling band of devotees.

Thankfully some continued to write as though nothing had happened in analytic philosophy of language. And now the years of work and the shelves of books by Stanley Cavell and Rush Rhees seem finally to be reigniting those old revolutionary hopes, not only in philosophy but throughout the literary humanities.

As taken up by Cavell and Rhees, the heart of Wittgenstein’s effort to revolutionize our lives lies in his binding the intelligibility of speech to self-revelation: to revealing the positions
from which we speak and the multiplicity of cares, interests, expectations, and more that
give shape and direction to our lives. Such revelation is not inevitable. Nor is the only
alternative the sensible silence that comes of recognizing that you can’t, and shouldn’t, talk
to everyone about everything. On the contrary, the revolutionary urgency of Wittgenstein’s
work is rooted in confronting the myriad forms of emptiness and nonsense that spring
from trying to evacuate the self from our words and to mean without disclosing ourselves.

This summer, we will spend an intensive and collegial week exploring some of the
questions provoked by this picture of what is involved in speaking intelligibly. How should
the demand for self-revelation or the presentation of the self be understood? What are its
presuppositions and implications? What kinds of factors and forces (linguistic,
psychological, aesthetic, inter-personal, cultural, social, political, etc.) that shape the
possibilities of self-presentation and so intelligibility? Does the demand for self-revelation
insinuate, or even essentially involve, a concern for audience? If so, does this attractive
Wittgensteinian picture begin to smack of theatricality and stage work and so of insincerity
and inauthenticity? Must it endure a Beckettian fate where "damnation lies not in a
particular form of theater, but in theatricality as such" (MWM p. 160)?

2. Financial Support.

The generous support of the Lehigh University Office for International Affairs the
Philosophy Department of Lehigh University make it possible for us to offer each
participant in this seminar:
   a. A stipend of $500
   b. Free dorm style accommodations across the street from the Lehigh Humanities
      Center where we will be meeting.
   c. Lunches on every meeting day and dinners at the opening and closing of the
      seminar.

3. Eligibility.

Although there are places for only 10 participants, this seminar is open to any graduate
student, faculty member, or independent scholar who expresses an interest in its themes.

4. Application

Send a CV along with a letter to Gordon C.F. Bearn at gordon@lehigh.edu articulating how
the themes of this seminar engage your research interests either in philosophy, or in the
literary humanities more broadly, or in both.

Deadline: e-mail applications should be sent by May 1, 2012 to gordon@lehigh.edu
Notifications: We will notify all applicants by May 8, 2012.

5. Further Information.

For further information feel free to contact any of the three leaders of this seminar:
Steven G. Affeldt, Le Moyne College. (stevenaffeldt@gmail.com)
Gordon C.F. Bearn, Lehigh University. (gordon@lehigh.edu)
Victor J. Krebs, Pontifical University of Peru, Lima. (vj5555@gmail.com)

There is a website for this seminar:
https://sites.google.com/site/stakesofspeech/home