

Doing Philosophy Borderlessly: An Editorial Manifesto



Edward Hopper, "People in the Sun"

What Philosophy Can and Should Be

Like Edward Hopper's self-satisfied tourists toasting themselves in the sun, ignoring the vast, mountainous world in front of them, contemporary professional academic philosophy falls drastically short of what philosophy can and should be.

By *philosophy*, we mean serious, synoptic thinking about the human condition in all its manifold variety and ineluctably embedded in its broader and wider natural and social world; as such, philosophy can and should be truly descriptive, fundamentally explanatory, profoundly insightful, life-transforming, and world-changing.

Borderless Philosophy is a new philosophy journal that strives to embody that vision.

Borderless Philosophy not only *doesn't conform to the narrow, stultifying frameworks of traditional or contemporary professional academic philosophy*, it also *does philosophy borderlessly*, in at least three different ways:

- (i) it's *fully cosmopolitan*, crossing all State and continental borders, connecting philosophers from all over the world, and extending its scope to the entire natural world,
- (ii) it's *maximally unrestricted as to presentational format*, and
- (iii) it's *maximally unrestricted as to philosophical content*.

Essentially, we aim to publish philosophical work that is of genuine interest to philosophers or any other philosophically-minded person, no matter how that work is presented and no matter what the content, and is generally accessible to professional academic philosophers and non-academics alike.

But we also aim to publish philosophical work in a maximally wide range of voices, especially including non-English voices, the voices of those without a formal degree in philosophy, and the voices of those who passionately want to do philosophically creative work without being straitjacketed by false conceptions of philosophical "rigor" that actually promote philosophical *rigor mortis*.

Because it is universally freely accessible and published online, without publishing fees, *Borderless Philosophy* is not accountable to any publishing company or any academic institution.

Moreover, the seven members of our editorial team have *less-than-zero* interest in so-called "impact factors," "citation counts," "philosophy gourmet rankings," etc., etc., or in any of the other all-too-familiar gimcracks and trappings of contemporary professional academic philosophical prestige and status.

Fuck all that.

So prepare to be surprised, or even a little shocked, by *Borderless Philosophy*.

—But also prepare to be fully engaged, intrigued, and inspired to critical, creative, serious synoptic reflection and thinking about all and only the things that really matter.

What Contributors to *Borderless Philosophy* Can and Should Do

Philosophical work published by *Borderless Philosophy* need not feature an abstract, introduction, consideration of standard objections, or a lengthy bibliography.

Dialogues, poems, short-stories or novellas, movies, music, plays, images of all sorts, stream-of-consciousness writing, humor or satire, mixed formats and genres, and any philosophical topic under the sun, are all real possibilities, in addition to the more traditional formats and subjects.

We especially value experimentation, and we don't exclude anything a priori.

Therefore, we most enthusiastically encourage and invite contributors *to do philosophy borderlessly with us*.

Our Review Process

Borderless Philosophy's review process is uniquely *author-centered, collaborative, and constructive*.

We call it *work-shopping review*.

After an initial selection/deselection phase, lasting no more than *four weeks*, selected works are forwarded to a work-shopping phase *lasting at least two months*, in which special work-shopping teams offer constructive, friendly comments-&-feedback that allow authors not only to improve their work, but also to engage in collaborative, substantive philosophical conversation at any point during the process leading up to publication.

Thus authors have maximum creative control over the ultimate versions of their works in a way that's also fully consistent with the collaborative contributions of the Editorial Team.

And One Last Thing

By a *manifesto* we mean a declaration of basic commitments and principles that are fully open to further critical examination, discussion, development, and revision, and not a set of dogmatic, *ex cathedra* pronouncements.

According to *Borderless Philosophy*, *nothing* of philosophical import should ever be written in stone and stored in an intellectual mausoleum; *nothing* of philosophical import should ever be beyond the reach of more serious philosophizing; and *nothing* of philosophical import should ever be boarded up, imprisoned within a barbwire fence, hidden behind a wall, locked down, or bordered in.

So even our Editorial Manifesto is an instance of doing philosophy borderlessly, and thereby critically encountering and representing the vast mountainous world in front of us—like Hopper's Jo.



Edward Hopper, "Jo in Wyoming"