Philosophy Now ISSUE 139 Aug/Sept 20

Philosophy Now,

43a Jerningham Road, Telegraph Hill, London SE14 5NQ United Kingdom Tel. 020 7639 7314 editors@philosophynow.org philosophynow.org

Editor-in-Chief Rick Lewis
Editors Grant Bartley, Anja Steinbauer
Digital Editor Bora Dogan
Book Reviews Editor Teresa Britton
Film Editor Thomas Wartenberg
Editorial Assistant Alex Marsh
Design Grant Bartley, Rick Lewis,
Anja Steinbauer
Marketing Sue Roberts
Administration Ewa Stacey, Alex Marsh
Advertising Team

Jay Sanders, Ellen Stevens jay.sanders@philosophynow.org

UK Editorial Board

Rick Lewis, Anja Steinbauer, Bora Dogan, Grant Bartley

US Editorial Board

Dr Timothy J. Madigan (St John Fisher College), Prof. Teresa Britton (Eastern Illinois Univ.), Prof. Peter Adamson, Prof. Charles Echelbarger, Prof. Raymond Pfeiffer, Prof. Massimo Pigliucci (CUNY - City College)

Contributing Editors

Alexander Razin (Moscow State Univ.) Laura Roberts (Univ. of Queensland) David Boersema (Pacific University)

UK Editorial Advisors

Piers Benn, Constantine Sandis, Gordon Giles, Paul Gregory, John Heawood US Editorial Advisors

Prof. Raymond Angelo Belliotti, Toni Vogel Carey, Prof. Harvey Siegel, Prof. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

Cover Image Stephen Lee 2020

Printed by Acorn Web Offset Ltd Loscoe Close, Normanton Ind. Estate, Normanton, W. Yorks WF6 1TW

Worldwide newstrade distribution: Intermedia Brand Marketing Ltd Tel. +44 1293 312001

Australian newstrade distribution: Gordon & Gotch pty Level 2, 9 Rodborough Road French's Forest, NSW 2086 Tel. 02 9972 8800

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or editorial board of *Philosophy Now.*

Philosophy *Now* is published by Anja Publications Ltd ISSN 0961-5970

Subscriptions p.54 Shop p.55



Bumps ahead!

Philosophy looks to tomorrow See pages 6-21



Life and Death

What do they mean? p.22-27



Iris Murdoch

A novel experience, page 51

EDITORIAL & NEWS

- 4 The Shock of Things to Come by Rick Lewis
- **5** News by Anja Steinbauer
- **37** Interview: Graham Harman
 Thiago Pinho interviews the first O.O.O. man

FUTURE SHOCKS

- **6** Pascal's Artificial Intelligence Wager Derek Leben weighs the odds
- 9 Robot Rules!

Brett Wilson asks who is responsible for what robots do

- **12** Virtual Reality as a Catalyst for Thought *Joakim Vindenes wonders what VR is actually good for*
- **14** The Singularity of the Human Hive Mind *James Sirois anticipates a webbed world where we are all one*
- **16** The Battle for the Robot Soul James K. Wight compares Western & Japanese attitudes
- **20** A Survival Guide for Living in the Simulation *Harry Whitnall on the dos and don'ts*

GENERAL ARTICLES

- **22** Leo Tolstoy & the Silent Universe Frank Martela reveals how to find meaning in life
- **26** The Meaning of Death

 Laszlo Makay and friends reveal how to find meaning in death
- 28 Philosophical Misanthropy

 Ian James Kidd tells us what's not to like about humanity
- **32** Neoliberalism & Social Control Arianna Marchetti lays out Foucault's and Han's critiques

REVIEWS

- **44** Book: The Existentialist's Survival Guide by Gordon Marino reviewed authentically by Doug Phillips
- **46** Book: *Philosopher of the Heart [Kierkegaard]* by Clare Carlisle, reviewed anxiously by Roger Caldwell
- **48** Film: Crimes & Misdemeanors
 Terri Murray passes sentence on Woody Allen's movie

REGULARS

- **31** Philosophical Haiku: *Plotinus by Terence Green*
- **34** Question of the Month: *How Do We Understand Each Other?* Read readers' responses to see if they understand anything
- **40** Letters to the Editor
- 43 Philosophy Then: Back to the Future
 Peter Adamson, historian of philosophy, cycles through history
- **51** Brief Lives: *Iris Murdoch*
 - Gary Browning on the colourful life of a modern Platonist
- **56** Tallis in Wonderland: *Philosophy in the Time of Plague*, pt.2 Raymond Tallis, doctor and philosopher, reflects on recent events

POETRY, FICTION & FUN

- **11** Uploaded Mary Scheurer doesn't want to be digitised
- **19** Simon & Finn Melissa Felder
- **8** What Colour Are Numbers? *Keith McVeigh contacts philosophical aliens with one last question*