

Statement on Scholarship

Philosophy Department

By “scholarship” the Department of Philosophy means the presentation of one's research and philosophical argumentation and conclusions, in written or oral form, to an audience for philosophical dialogue and assessment. Research by itself is not scholarship. Research, to qualify as scholarship must be presented in a public form open to potential philosophical assessment. "Philosophical" in this definition is not to be construed narrowly. It is understood within the context of the rich and diverse subject-matter of philosophy: its history, problems, aspirations, its philosophers and scholars, its methods of exegesis, analysis, argumentation, and assessment, and includes challenges to and departures from its traditions.

Examples of evidence of scholarship include, but are not restricted to, published books, journal articles, and book reviews. Written work need not be published in order to qualify as scholarship. Work that is presented to one's colleagues for assessment, at BSU or elsewhere, can also meet the definition. Oral presentations at professional meetings, at conferences, and public lectures are also evidence of scholarship. The Department is committed to the importance of philosophy outside academia as well, and thus many public-facing forms of presentation. e.g., podcasts, documentaries, interviews, and other forms of engagement with the public intended to share and disseminate philosophical ideas, tools, or approaches are also evidence of scholarship.

Criteria for assessing the quality of scholarship include, but are not restricted to: its originality, significance, erudition, precision, clarity, thoroughness, cogency; the reputation of its locus of publication or presentation; opinions and citations of other philosophers. Evaluation of scholarship, for the purpose of BSU personnel actions, rests upon the informed and responsible assessment of duly elected Department Personnel Committee members. The Department Chairperson has the responsibility to ensure the integrity of the review process.

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