

*Society for Women in
Philosophy*

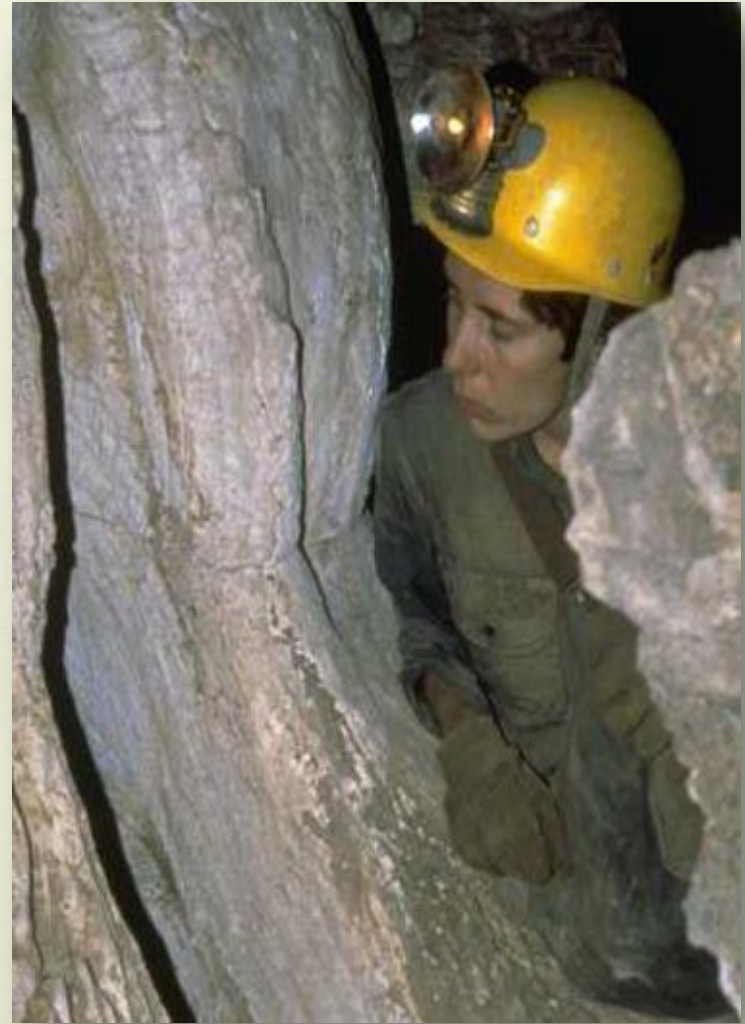
**2013 Distinguished
Woman Philosopher**

Alison Wylie, PhD



*In celebration of
Alison Wylie*

A life of the mind,
digging in the dirt.



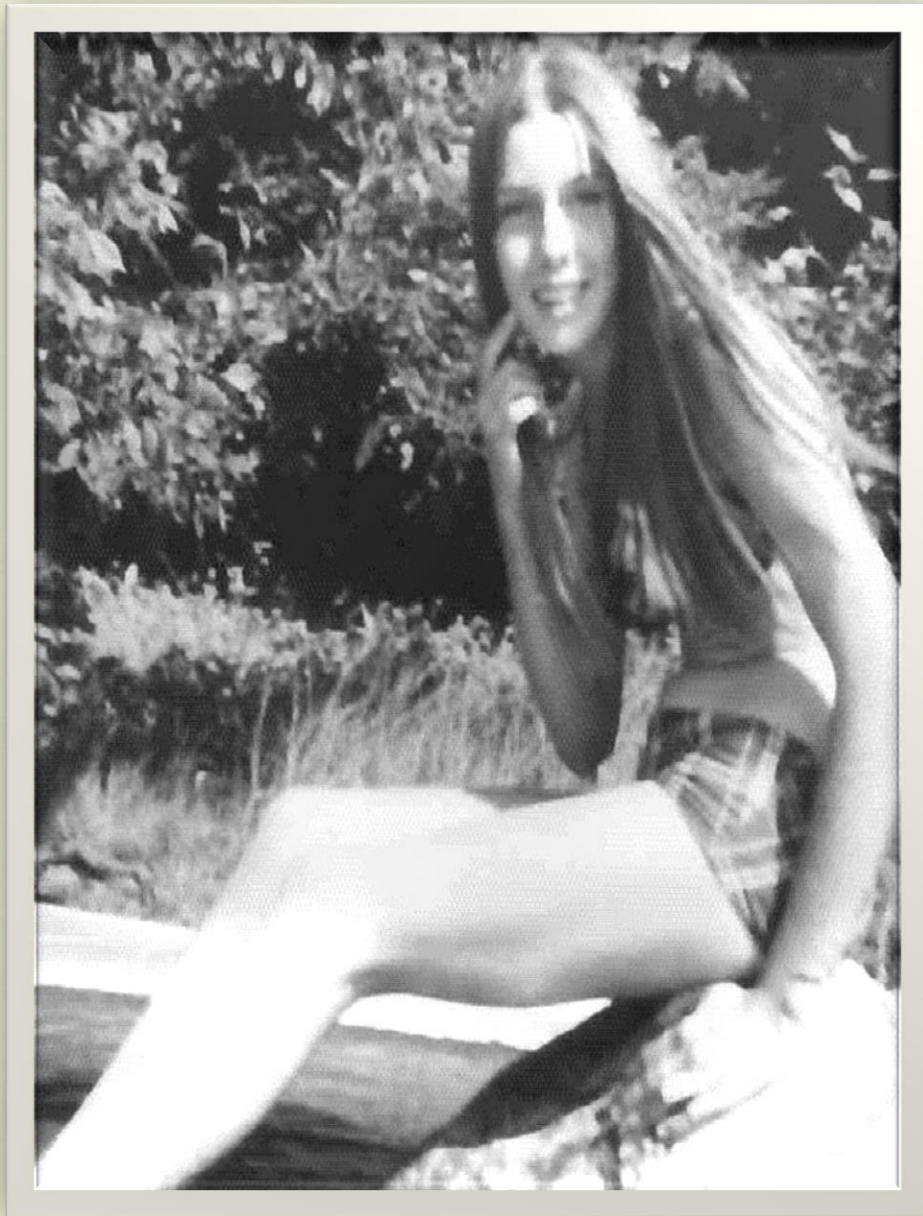
Beginnings

Swindon, UK, 1954

With brother Rob in Oxford, UK







Alison at 15

Summer 1969
Ontario

*Summer digs at
Ft. Walsh, Saskatchewan, 1974*



*Undergraduate
philosopher*

Mount Allison
University,
Sackville, NB
1976



Graduate Studies

M.A. 1979: Anthropology, SUNY Binghamton

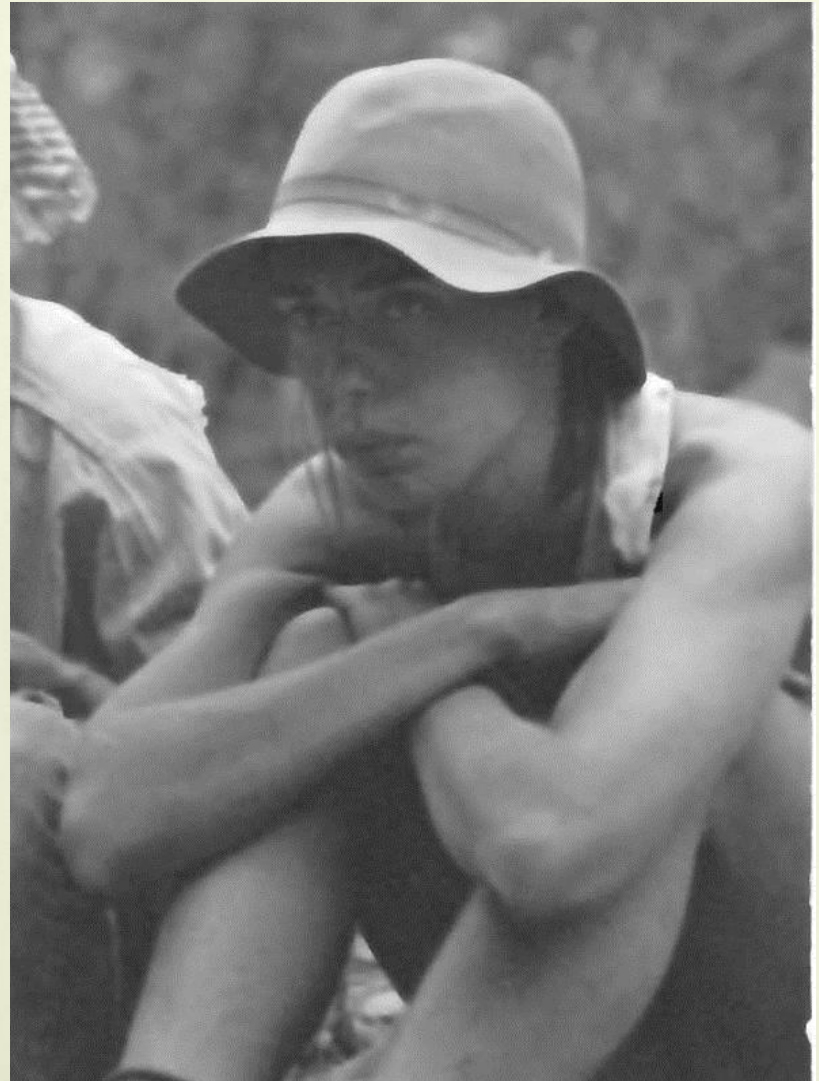
Ph.D. 1982: Philosophy, SUNY Binghamton

*Program in the History and Philosophy of the Social and
Behavioral Sciences*

Dissertation: Positivism and the New Archaeology

Director: Rom Harré

Summer
doctoral research,
digging in Tucson, AZ
1977/78





Postdoctoral
Fellowship
*Institute for the
Humanities*
University of
Calgary
1981-1983

With dancer/choreographer
Anne Flynn at a performance of
"Hempel's Dilemma," 1982

I first met Alison when I was a Masters student at the U of C – nearly thirty years ago. Alison’s influence has been a crucial part of my professional development, and of my image of what a philosopher is, and can be. When we met, Alison was pretty much at the start of her career, but it was already obvious to everyone that she was just an extraordinary force. It wasn’t just her phenomenal work ethic – how does she do it? – it was the way that she drew students in by being interested in what they thought, and supportive of their work. No matter how tentative (or, it must be said, overconfident) a student’s fledgling efforts were, Alison was never dismissive or harsh, she never sent students away to read what the important people have had to say on a topic, she encouraged us to ask for courses, to write, to engage in dialogue, to present at conferences, to submit for publication, just as though we were already philosophers, until, almost without noticing it, we were. And there was Alison again; doing the same sorts of things in the profession that she had been doing for us as students, treating us as valued peers. There are other professors who do all of these things, of course, but few do them so naturally or with such ease as Alison does, as though there is nothing exceptional about fostering enthusiasm and skill in philosophy. But there is. There is just something extremely exceptional about being the sort of philosopher that Alison is.

Edrie Sobstyl, Dec. 19, 2013

The UWO Years

University of Western Ontario

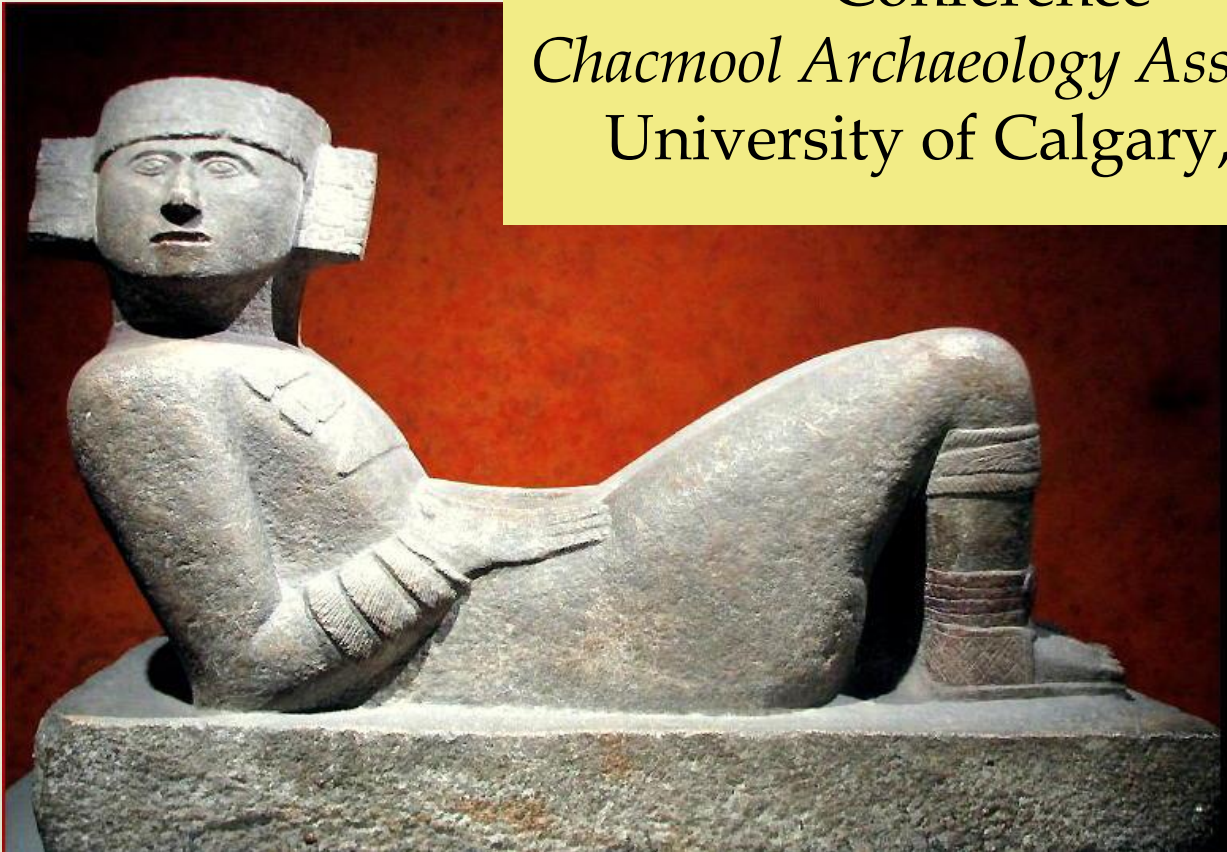
Assistant Professor (1985-1989)

Associate Professor (1989-1993)

Professor of Philosophy (1993-1998)

The Archaeology of Gender
22nd Annual Chacmool
Conference

Chacmool Archaeology Association,
University of Calgary, 1989



Meeting Alison

Canadian Society for
Women in Philosophy
1993 Conference

**“Respecting
Women’s
Experiences/s:
Revisions to Theory
and Practice”**

**September 17-19, 1993
The University of Calgary**

Conference support:

The Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy is pleased to acknowledge generous support from:
The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
The University of Calgary Conference Grants Program
The University of Calgary Endowment Fund
The Faculty of Humanities, The University of Calgary
The Faculty of General Studies, The University of Calgary
The Faculty of Medicine, The University of Calgary
The Faculty of Nursing, The University of Calgary
The Faculty of Science, The University of Calgary
The Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Calgary
Department of English, The University of Calgary
Department of French, Italian and Spanish, The University of Calgary
Department of German, Slavic and East Asian Studies, The University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy, The University of Calgary
Department of Political Science, The University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta

PROGRAMME

FRJDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

5:30-7:00 REGISTRATION

All A sessions are in SS106, All B sessions are in SS105 and
all C sessions are in SS110

7:00-8:10 SESSION I

A Heidi Grasswick, U of Minnesota
ST106 "Theorizing Epistemic Communities"
com: Ann Levey, U of C
chr: Jill Gatfield, U of C

B Nergis Canefe Gunluk, York
ST105 "Excesses of the Female Body and
Performative Experience: Critical Readings
of Lesbian Spectatorship"
com: Karen Pilkington, Berkeley
chr: Michelle Newman, Drama, U of C

C Amy Mullin, U of T
ST110 "Diversity in Woman and Women: *45 mins*
Alternatives to Assimilation" *7 mins*
com: Edrie Sobstyl, U of A
chr: Alison Wylie, UWO *15 mins*

for question

8:20-9:30 SESSION II

A Anne Gätensby, York
ST106 "Social Practice & Scientific Knowledge:
A Feminist Critique of Cardiovascular Research"
com: Alison Wylie, UWO
chr: Sharon Clough, SFU

*Ian Hacking - The subject
& power*

4:15-5:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Room ST143
Diana Tietjens Meyers, U of Connecticut
"Difference and Empathy: A Critique
of Impartial Reason"

chr: Lorraine Code, York

5:45-6:30 BUSINESS MEETING

Philosophy Dept., 12th Floor, Social Sciences Bldg.

6:30 CASH BAR

7:30 BANQUET

Faculty Club, MacEwan Student Centre

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

9:30-10:45 SESSION I

PAIRED SESSIONS

A Sharyn Clough, SFU
ST106 "Just the Facts Ma'am:
The Relation Between Evidence and
Essentialism in Feminist Critiques"

Shelley Tremain, York
"Joint Ventures: Carving up Sex,
Gender and Sexuality".

chr: Kathleen Okruhlik, UWO

B Elizabeth Boetzkes and Jennifer Parks,
ST105 McMaster
"A Re-Vision of Commercial Surrogacy"

Colleen Stainton, U of C
"Mismatched Caring: Women's Stories of
High Risk Reproductive Care"

chr: Laurie Hardingham, U of C

“I found a photograph that I took of you in June 1996 – a few years after we met – you were showing me around the Stanford Center for Advanced Behavioral Studies, where you were spending the year.”

Miriam Solomon



Warmest congratulations on being selected SWIP Distinguished Woman Philosopher! I can't remember exactly when I first met you, but I got to know you in the early 1990s at a series of conferences and talks at UWO, Boulder, the *British Society for Philosophy of Science*, and of course PSA. I have always admired your adventurousness, your healthy disrespect of academic hierarchies, your engaged and interdisciplinary work, and your wonderful poise in presentations. You are still a role model for me. One of your great talents is the ability to understand and find value in the work of others. I have benefited greatly from this and from the professional opportunities that you have steered my way. Your editorship of *Hypatia* took the journal to a new level--from an excellent publication to an outstanding one--packed with articles and features and with gorgeous covers. You are a cherished friend and colleague and I look forward to many more years of conferences and talks and committee work and celebrations with you!

Miriam

Solomon, Dec. 08, 2013

*Another encounter
on the prairies*

Minneapolis 1995

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



The Women, Gender, and Science Question:

What do research on the history of women and science, and research on science and gender have to do with each other?

May 12-14, 1995
Earle Brown Continuing Education Center
St. Paul Campus
St. Paul, Minnesota

Sponsored by:
University of Minnesota

Funded in part by: Program for the History of Science and Technology; Program for the Philosophy of Science; Center for Advanced Feminist Studies; Institute of Technology; College of Liberal Arts; Institute for Agriculture, College of Human Ecology; College of Biological Sciences; The Continuing Education and Extension Program Innovation Fund, Continuing Education and Extension

The Minnesota WISE Initiative

Janet Spector, Commission on Women, University of Minnesota
Mindy Kurzer, Food, Science & Nutrition, University of Minnesota
Wendy Grebner, Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics, University of Minnesota
Susan Page, Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota

Why Get Smart? A Workshop to Make Science Fun for Girls

Chair: Karen Mason, Minnesota Science Teachers Association
Kathy Koepfer, YWCA and Girls Incorporated, St. Paul

"Women in 20th Century Physics"

Chair and Commentator: Helena Pycior, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

"Lise Meitner (1878-1968): At the Edge of Historical Amnesia"

Ruth Lewin Sime, Sacramento City College, Sacramento

"Taking Advantage of Disadvantage: Maria Goeppert Mayer and Nuclear Physics"

Karen Johnson, Department of Physics, St. Lawrence University

"Marie Curie in America"

Susan Quinn, Author

"Nuclear Physics and Radiochemistry, 1918-1939: Women's Success and the Emergence of an Discipline"

Teresa Hopper, Program in History of Science, Princeton University

3:30

Break

5:15

Concurrent Sessions

Feminist Critiques of Science Revisited

Chair and Commentator: Naomi Scheman, Department of Philosophy, University of Minnesota

"Feminist Science Criticism and the Problem of Demarcation"

Sharyn S. Clough, Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Edrie Sobstyl, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Texas at Dallas

"What's at Stake in Feminist Critiques of Science?"

Elizabeth Hedrick, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin

"Constructing 'Science' in Post-Colonial Worlds: Problems with the Absence of Power in Actor-Network Theory"

Wairimu Ngaruiya Njambi, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

"Gender and Body Image in Historical and Contemporary Medico-Scientific and Feminist Discourses"

Pamela Wakewich, Sociology/Women's Studies, Lakehead University, Canada

Sexual and Reproductive Encounters

Chair and Commentator: Pauline Boss, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota

"Sexual Politics, Expert Politics, and the Kenyan State: International Technical Assistance and Women's Health in the AIDS Crisis"

Karen M. Booth, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Gendered Assumptions

"Influences on Women Graduate Students in Engineering and Science: Rethinking a Gendered Institution"

Carol Hollenshead, Stacy Wenzel, Barbara Lazarus, Indira Nair, University of Michigan

"The Mathew Effect Revisited"

Mariane Ainley, Women's Studies, Concordia University, Canada

6:30 p.m.

Reception

Sponsored in part by the Commission on Women and The College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

Banquet

Just Say Know: Educating Females for the 21st Century
Jane Curry, Comedy and Commentary from "Pandora College"

Sunday, May 14, 1995

9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

10:30

Concurrent Sessions

Biology and Bodies: Policing the Boundaries

Chair: Alison Wylie, Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario
Commentator: Hillary Rose, Institute of Education, London

"Gender, Technology, and the Rise of Neo-Naturalism"

Kathryn Morgan, Department of Philosophy and Women's Studies, University of Toronto

"Racism and Sexism in Science: Levels of Integration—The Genes & Gender Perspective"

Geraldine J. Casey, Women's Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

"Interspecies Pregnancy"

Susan Squier, Department of English and Women's Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

"Im/Partial Visions of Life: Gender Ideology in Molecular Biology"

Bonnie B. Spanier, Department of Women's Studies, University at Albany-State University of New York

Alternative Practices

Chair and Commentator: Roberta Whiteman, Department of English and American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Starting from the Practices of Women Scientists"

Nancy Tuana, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon

"Feminist Science Inside and Outside of Academia: Women Reshaping Meanings of Nature and Knowing"

Lisa H. Weasel, Women's Spirituality Program, California Institute of Integral Studies

"Ojibway Women, Plant Knowledge, and the Practice of Traditional Medicine"

Patricia Jasen, Department of History, Lakehead University, Canada

Washington University
St. Louis, MO
1998-2003

Professor of Philosophy
Program for Social Thought
and Analysis



Life-long
influences begin
here, including
the inception of
**The
Philosophy of
Social Science
Roundtable**

Left, Alison with
Roundtable co-founders,
James Bohman and Paul
Roth, St. Louis, 2004

I have known Alison Wylie for 30+ years, but we became particularly good friends with her arrival in St. Louis. I regard Alison as a (benign) force of nature; when she appears on the scene, good things just start to happen. Noteworthy among these is the Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable. Although there had been off and on discussions about doing something to try to revive philosophy of social science, it was Alison's landing in St. Louis that really galvanized the three of us – Alison, Jim Bohman and me--into action. The rest – meaning the (formerly St. Louis, now international) Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable – is, as they say, history. Alison's boundless energy, her acute intelligence, and her endless resourcefulness have made her an asset to everyone who has had the opportunity and pleasure to work with her. And although I confess to basking in the 70s here in Santa Cruz, I join in spirit with all who have braved the chill winds of the East to salute Alison on this occasion.

Paul Roth, Dec. 19, 2013

I often refer to Alison as my favorite former colleague. She came to Washington University when my career was just starting, and helped teach me what it is to be a good member of our profession. As a citizen, Alison was immediately recognized as among the most trusted and judicious members of our department, and she treated me, a lowly assistant professor, with such friendship and respect, that I was able to briefly forget that academia is a hierarchy. Alison also broadened my intellectual horizons with lasting effect. Though her AOS may have sounded narrow (feminist philosophy of archeology, really?), I'd never known someone with more ecumenical interests. Regardless of the topic, Alison would listen to lectures with equal seriousness, and her questions always managed to get to the heart of things, engaging the speakers' positions, rather than pursuing any agenda of her own. Through her work, I have learned to re-conceive narrowness of interests (rigid designation, really??), and I also came to see how standpoints are not just a theory, but a practice. I continue to miss having Alison as a colleague. I have kept her with me, however, as a model of how to be a philosopher.

Jesse Prinz, Dec. 13, 2013

Meanwhile in the Department of Small
Worlds and Fuzzy Photography....



...Jesse and Shari respond to a query regarding the
merits of evolutionary psychology,
Central APA, NOLA, Feb. 2013.

FEMINISM AND NATURALISM
Working Conference
SEPTEMBER 24-26, 1999

Organizers: Lynn Hankinson Nelson
and Alison Wylie

Sponsors: University of Missouri-St. Louis and
Washington University in St. Louis

*In a pattern to be repeated at
FEMMSS conferences a decade later,
the **Canucks** take over feminist
philosophy of science.*



Conference participants in alphabetical order:

William Bechtel (Washington): On the Naturalistic Turn

Richmond Campbell (Dalhousie): Naturalized Moral Epistemology

Sharyn Clough (Rowan): Out-naturalizing the Naturalists

Catherine Hundleby (University of Western Ontario): Naturalist
Feminist Standpoint Epistemology

James Maffie (Denver/Boulder): Sources of Epistemic Normativity

Lynn Hankinson Nelson (UM-St. Louis): Naturalism, Socialized and
Normative

Phyllis Rooney (Oakland University): Feminism and the Full Facticity of
the Facts

Paul A. Roth (UM-St. Louis): Feminism and Naturalism: If Asked for
Theories, 'Just Say No'

Joseph Rouse (Wesleyan): Feminism and the Two Poles of Philosophical
Naturalism

Miriam Solomon (Temple University): Epistemic Justice

Nancy Tuana (University of Oregon): The Prospects for a Feminist
Naturalism

Alison Wylie (Washington University): Naturalizing Epistemic Virtues



Back row: **Alison**, Linda Nicholson, Joe Rouse,
Alison Jaggar, Nancy Tuana
Front row: **Edrie Sobstyl**, **Shari Clough**, **Cate Hundleby**



Left, **Alison** with Lynn Hankinson Nelson, and Nancy Tuana
Right, **Alison** with **Rich Campbell** and **Shari**

Alison is a great sender of postcards, this one to Shari, from 2001, featuring Canadian content, PLUS, Andy Warhol, presaging the NYC years.



THE NEXT BIG THING

Value Free Science: Ideal or Illusion?

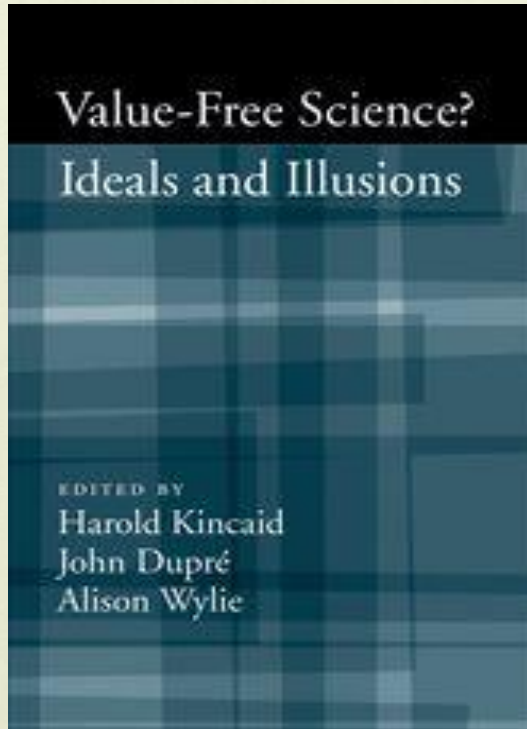
Center for Ethics and Values in the Sciences, at the
University of Alabama, Birmingham
February 23 - 25, 2001



Shari Clough and
John Dupre, and in
the background,
some other guy 😊

I first met Alison Wylie when I was finishing up my PhD at Stanford University in 1995. She was a senior research fellow at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, and agreed to serve as the external examiner on my dissertation committee. She went above and beyond the responsibilities of an external examiner, however, and provided detailed feedbacks and recommendations; some of those recommendations made it into the revisions, others were incorporated into my first book, but what I most remember, getting on towards two decades later, is that they were all both insightful and helpful. For a while after finishing my thesis, my contact with Alison was only sporadic, but since moving back to the West Coast it has been my real pleasure to get to know her better. I am of course disappointed that I can't be here today to help celebrate Alison being named the Distinguished Woman Philosopher, a well-deserved honor.

Jonathan Kaplan, Dec. 14, 2013



It's impossible, of course, to sum up someone of such broad interests and diverse contributions as Alison Wylie in a few sentences. Alison has been one of the very first philosophers of science to make clear to the mainstream of the discipline that feminism provided a perspective that could not be ignored. She has almost single-handedly opened up a major field of scientific inquiry to philosophical attention, and a field that is pivotal in debates about human history and the nature of gender difference. And speaking as a close friend and colleague of many years, she is one of the most personally and politically admirable human beings I know.

John Dupre, Dec. 22, 2013

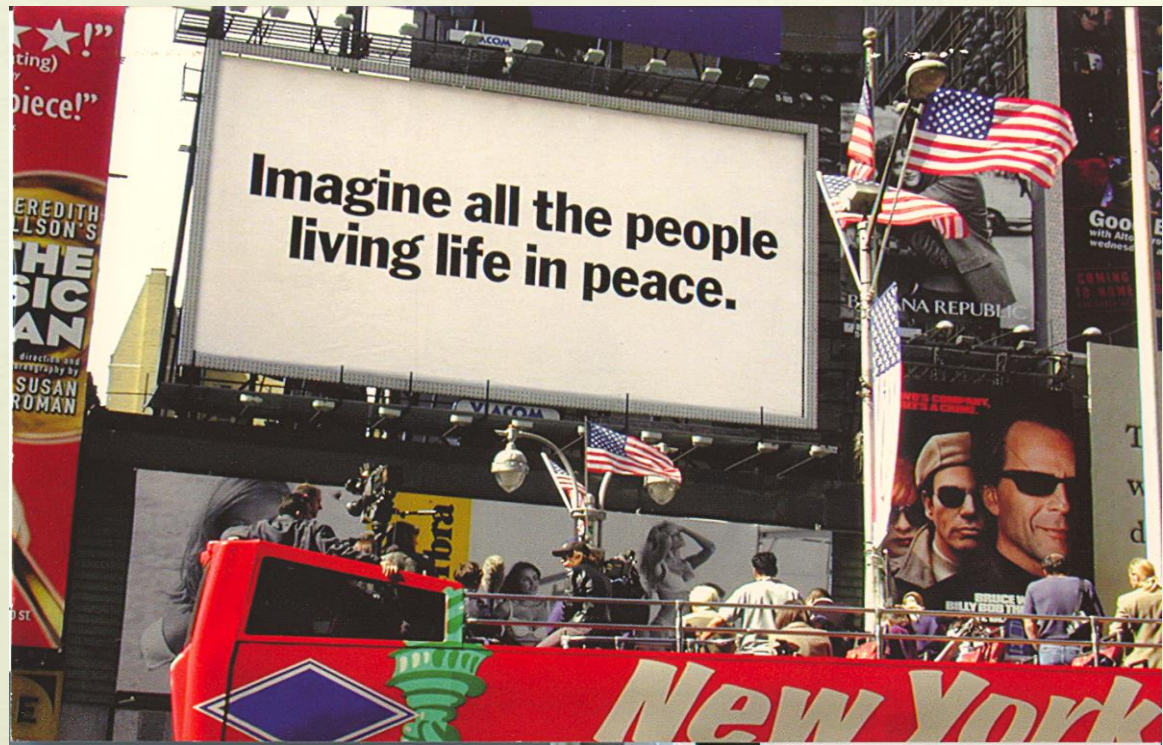
On the occasion of the release of Miriam's book *Social Empiricism*.



Philadelphia, 2002

Postcards from Alison, continued

Moving to the Big Apple, 2003



New York Stories

Professor,
Barnard College,
Women's Studies;
Columbia University,
Philosophy
2003-2005

*At home in her deluxe
apt in the sky, 2004*





WOMEN, WORK, AND THE ACADEMY

STRATEGIES FOR RESPONDING
TO 'POST-CIVIL RIGHTS ERA'
GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Written by Alison Wylie, Janet R.
Jakobsen, and Gisela Fosado

The Barnard Center for Research on
Women

*Association of Feminist
Epistemologies,
Metaphysics, Methodologies
and Science Studies*

The first biennial meeting,
Nov. 2004
University of Washington

Alison's keynote:
"The feminism question in
the social sciences: Epistemic
virtues and the method
debate"

*Right: Cate, Shari, and Edrie,
reunited.*





Westward Ho!

**To the other
Washington, 2005**

Professor,
Philosophy and
Anthropology;

Adjunct Professor in
the Department of
Gender, Women and
Sexuality Studies.

*With Libby Potter and Sam
in Northern California*



**Alison as house guest,
Chez Kaplough, Corvallis, OR**

*Above, avec slippers, Dec. 2005
Right, avec chickens, Summer 2010*





Society for Social Studies of Science

November 1-5, 2006
Vancouver, B.C, Canada

A MORE SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY

Organizer/Chair: Alison Wylie, University of Washington
Norms and the Goals of Science, Helen Longino
Solomon's Science Without Conscience, Alan Richardson
The Devil is in the (Historical) Details, Naomi Oreskes
Solomon's Empirical/Non-Empirical Distinction, Sharyn Clough
Commentary and Response, Miriam Solomon

The Non-Violent FEMMSS 2!



*Feb. 2007, Tempe, AZ
Alison, Shari, and Libby*



*Alison and Sandra, Feb. 2007,
Tempe, AZ*

It is a huge pleasure to see Alison so rightly honored as a Distinguished Woman Philosopher. Her long history of innovative interventions in and development of standpoint theory, the philosophy of archeology, the ethics of archeological research, and now in the powerful new forms of collaborative research have had wide influence in several disciplines, and have shaped my own thinking many times. Moreover, she is one of our several "Philosopher Queens" who have again and again, selflessly and wisely, organized and administered important feminist philosophy conferences, not to mention such institutions as *Hypatia* and the Pacific APA. I send her my very best wishes for her continued flourishing.

Sandra Harding, Dec. 22, 2013

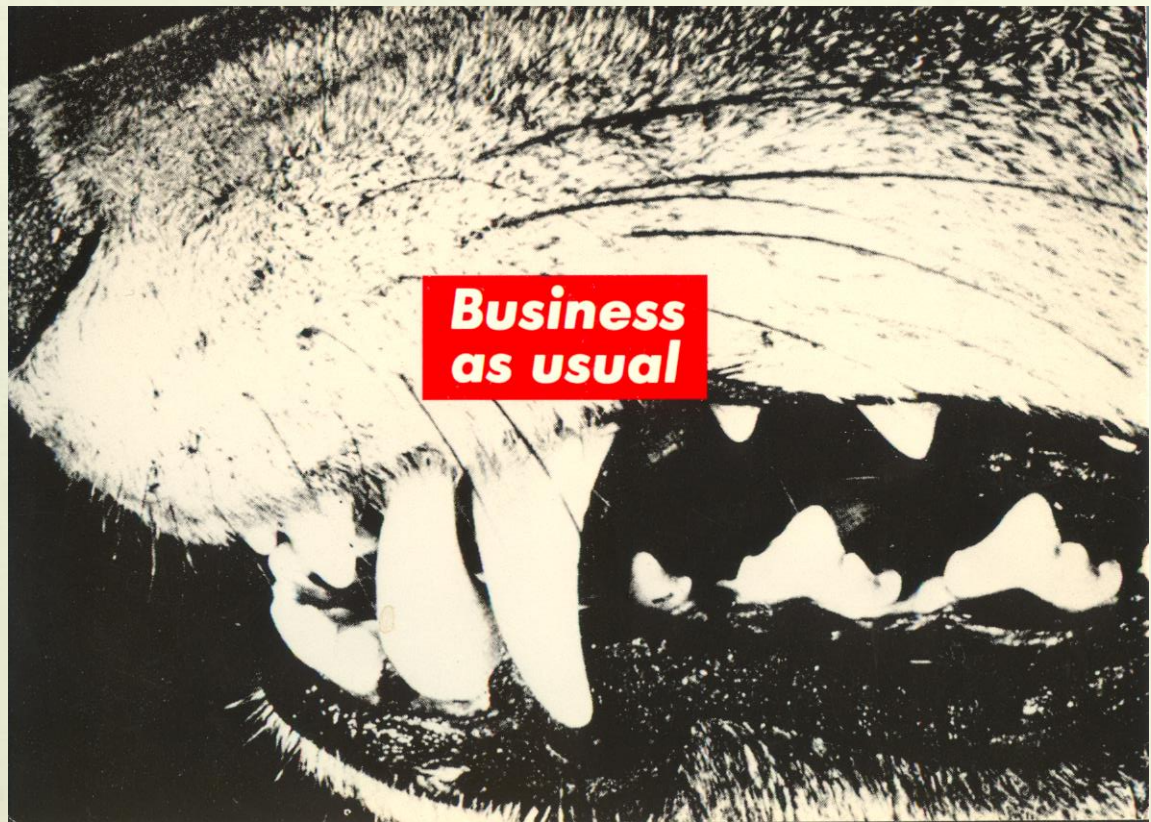


*And, as is the tradition,
Shari, Edrie, Cate.*

FEMMSS 2, Feb. 2007

Postcards from Alison, continued

June 2009



... and in her spare
time

*The Philosophy of
Science Association
Women's Caucus*

*Breakfast meetings!
Here's one from
PSA 2008 with
Andrea Woody and Nancy.*





And.... Hypatia!

*Celebrating the 25th
anniversary of the journal*

*With Joan Callahan
Seattle, Fall 2009*



*Constructive Engagement: Aboriginal and Scientific
Communities in Collaboration*

June 2010

Alison with George Nicholas, Sonny McHalsie, Dave Schaepe, Laura Arbour, Doris Cook, and Louise Fortmann



*86th Annual
American
Philosophical
Association
Pacific Division*

*Presidential
Address
Seattle, WA
April 6, 2012.*

... later that same
weekend

*Celebrating with
Sally Haslanger*

Carus Lecturer

April 7, 2012



Which brings us to 2013

a VERY BIG year



On the occasion of Canberra's 100th anniversary, Alison was invited to give the Mulvaney Lecture at ANU.

March 20, 2013

**"Collateral evidence:
Ethnographic analogy
revisited"**



In April we handed off
dear *Hypatia*
to the new editorial team.

*Above, Sally Scholz, Shelley Wilcox,
Shari, Alison, and Ann Cudd
Right, Alison signing off,
Seattle April 2013*



Delivering the *British Society for the Philosophy of Science*,
Plenary lecture:
"Collateral Evidence:
The Vagaries
of Evidential
Reasoning in
Archaeology" brought
Alison back to the UK
in July.

*Right, with Nancy
Cartwright,
"Are you coming?"*





And now today,
she is being honoured
as the
*Society for Women in
Philosophy*
Distinguished Woman
Philosopher

Dec. 28, 2013,
Baltimore, MD

Some final words from current students:

Women in philosophy like Alison Wylie make me feel hopeful about the discipline's future. Not only is she a kind and charitable human being, she also pursues academic projects that make a difference. Alison is an inestimable role model.

Michelle Pham, Dec. 16, 2013



What she said.



With love,

Shari