

Institute of Practical Philosophy

2014-15 Report

DIRECTOR AND RESEARCHER: *Dr. Robert Pepper-Smith*

PROMOTIONS CO-ORDINATOR: *Dr. Carolyn Swanson*

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HONORARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: *Bob Lane*

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Founded by Bob Lane, the Institute promotes innovative ways of exploring contemporary social and political problems. The Institute has, for example, hosted a conference on B.C.'s new health care consent and representation agreement legislation, offered an upper level course in health care ethics at NRGH, developed a clinical case consultation workshop, and hosted several symposia on such topics as genetically modified foods, environmental ethics, and social and political issues in Latin America. The Institute also publishes a chapbook series on a number of topics including health care ethics and effective social responses to crime.

In 2014-15 the Institute redesigned its website and made many of its publications accessible electronically. The Institute also continued to develop the [Canada Pension Alert](#) website, tracking the growing social demand for pension plans to invest ethically. The Institute published a 4th edition of [Cases in Health Care Ethics](#) in the fall of 2014.

Over the year, the Institute hosted a number of public presentations, including *Gadamer, Emerson and Philosophy as a Way of Life* by William Konchak (PhD student, University of Iceland), *Albert Camus: the Absurd Hero* by Bob Lane (professor emeritus, VIU), *Our Changing Landscape: Aboriginal Title in British Columbia* by Doug White (Director of the Centre for Pre-Confederation Treaties, VIU), and *Big Data and the Surveillance of Everything* by Nik Richers (PhD graduate, York University).

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