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## G Canadian Journal of Philosophy

REDUCTIVE EXPLANATION AND THE 'EXPLANATORY GAP' Peter Carruthers	153
INTENTION AND VOLITION Jing Zhu	175
PARADOX LOST Jon Cogburn	195
CARTESIAN BODIES Alice Sowaal	217
MALEBRANCHE ON IDEAS Andrew Pessin	241
CRITICAL NOTICE OF CHRISTOPHER HOOKWAY TRUTH, RATIONALITY AND PRAGMATISM Mark Migotti	287



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TABLE OF CONTENTS	REDUCTIVE EXPLANATION AND THE 'EXPLANATORY GAP' Peter Carruthers	153
	INTENTION AND VOLITION Jing Zhu	175
	PARADOX LOST Jon Cogburn	195
	CARTESIAN BODIES Alice Sowaal	217
	MALEBRANCHE ON IDEAS Andrew Pessin	241
	CRITICAL NOTICE OF CHRISTOPHER HOOKWAY TRUTH, RATIONALITY AND PRAGMATISM Mark Migotti	287
	Notes on Contributors/Sur les Collaborateurs	311
	Information for Authors/Avis aux Auteurs	
	Subscription Information/Abonnements	
	Other Business Information/ Services administratifs—détails supplementaires	



## FROM THE EDITORIAL OFFICE

This June Samantha Brennan has stepped down as an editor; the board gratefully acknowledges her five years of service to the Journal, and as well, welcomes her replacement on the editorial board, Christine Tappolet from the University of Montreal.

The board is also pleased to announce this year's winner of the Best Essay Award, Peter Carruthers from the University of Maryland, for his article in this issue entitled 'Reductive Explanation and the "Explanatory Gap".' The award carries with it a prize of C\$1000, and it is presented annually to the best overall paper accepted within the year, as judged by a vote of the editorial board.

This past year the Journal received 256 papers. Of these, 16 were accepted and another 11 were conditionally accepted. This yielded a combined acceptance rate of 10.5%. Both the total number of papers received and the acceptance rate were up from past years, suggesting that the Journal continues to attract papers of high quality.

All papers receive blind review at the editorial office. Promising papers are sent on to appropriate editors, who blindly review them a second time. Promising papers are then sent on for blind refereeing. Depending on the referees' reports, an editor may recommend acceptance of a paper; if so, the paper, still blind, together with the referees' reports and the editor's own comments, is circulated to the entire board for a vote on acceptance. In this way the board hopes to be both rigorous and fair. Turnaround time for most papers is four months or less.

Critical Notices are by invitation and normally appear one per issue.

Finally, the board congratulates our Executive Secretary, Marda Schindeler, on the birth of her daughter, Ada.

Michael Stingl Administrative Editor Editorial Board Coordinator