



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS

Brianne Donaldson, Rice University

**“Jainism and Bioethics:
From Consequences to an "Ethics of Carefulness”**

By analyzing the evolution of medical treatment in the Jain tradition from antiquity to modernity, I trace a conceptual shift from consequences to carefulness in Jain ethics. I develop a Jain "ethics of carefulness" as an important philosophical adaptation rarely recognized in common representations of the Jain concept of nonviolence, or *ahimsā*. Beyond prescriptive rules, an ethics of carefulness offers a distinct contribution to western normative bio/ethics, demanding a more robust account of pervasive life forms, of one's desires and motivations, and of direct and indirect modes of harm. I will conclude by considering an ethics of carefulness in relation to Jain views on modern reproductive ethics such as abortion and in vitro fertilization.

Date: Friday, February 22, 2019

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Event Location: HIB 55

