Many scientists, sources of funding, and the public have been worried about a “reproducibility crisis” in the sciences. Although there are important questions about experimental design and statistical methods, current recommendations overlook the essential role that failures of reproducibility play in scientific inquiry. In many ways, how science responds to these failures determines whether it succeeds. The Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science (MCPS) is committed to exploring these questions and questioning assumptions made in these discussions through regular activities like our research groups with faculty, post-docs, and graduate students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. Included here are some highlights of recent events. As always, for more details, visit us online (www.mcps.umn.edu).

Alan C. Love
Director

“Structural Bias and the Commercialization of Medicine”

REBECCA KUKLA
Department of Philosophy, Georgetown University

Abstract: The rapid and massive commercialization and privatization of medical research and practice constitutes a seismic shift in how medical knowledge is built, disseminated, and applied. In this presentation, I examine the epistemological (as opposed to the narrowly ethical) effects of this commercialization. I consider how private interests shape what gets researched, using what methods, and how research results are communicated, as well as how these interests shape clinical practice and even our theoretical understanding of what counts as a disease. I argue that commercialization and private interests result in various epistemically distorting biases being built directly into how we organize medical research and practice, quite independently from anyone’s intentions or conscious goals.

Friday, October 13, 2017
3:35 PM 275 Nicholson Hall
(refreshments at 3:15)

Janella Baxter is a postdoctoral researcher at the MCPS as part of the grant project From Biological Practice to Scientific Metaphysics. Her research investigates the nature of biological practice, causal explanation, and biological possibility by studying the technological successes of biologists. She works to expose various ways in which scholars have mischaracterized the scope of biology by ignoring research programs aimed at making new things happen with technology.
**Fall 2017 - Colloquia**

**September 22nd**  
**Alison Gopnik (UC-Berkeley)**  
When children are better learners than adults are:  
Theory formation, causal models, and the evolution of learning

**October 13th**  
**Rebecca Kukla (Georgetown University)**  
Structural bias and the commercialization of medicine

**October 27th**  
**C. Kenneth Waters (University of Calgary)**  
An epistemology of scientific investigation

**November 10th**  
**Robert DiSalle (University of Western Ontario)**  
Absolute space, relative motion, and the method of Newtonian physics

**December 1st**  
**Nora Berenstein (University of Tennessee)**  
Active ignorance and the rhetoric of biological race realism

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**Minnesota Studies in Philosophy of Science**

We are excited to announce three forthcoming volumes in the series:

**Volume 21**: *The Experimental Side of Modeling* (edited by Isabelle F. Peschard and Bas C. van Fraassen)

**Volume 22**: *Beyond the Meme: Development and Structure in Cultural Evolution* (edited by Alan C. Love and William C. Wimsatt)

**Volume 23**: *Causal Reasoning in Biology* (edited by C. Kenneth Waters and James F. Woodward)

In addition to these volumes, two more are in the early stages of planning and execution. More details to come….

 Former MCPS director C. Kenneth Waters gave a colloquium presentation on “The Epistemology of Scientific Investigation” this past fall. Interested? Watch it on YouTube:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=q3sbRnBC3_8

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