

Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series

Thursday
November 25,
2021
4-6 p.m.

in-person:
Kingston Hall
Room 201

or on Zoom
(details below)

**Everyone
Welcome!**



Relations of Power in Aesthetic Communities



Nicholas Wiltsher (Uppsala)

An aesthetic community is a group of people engaged in coordinated practices oriented towards aesthetic value: Marvel fans, classical music connoisseurs, Instagram aestheticians. Recent work on aesthetic communities aims at articulating a "communitarian" account of the aesthetic domain, opposing an "individualistic" alternative. For example, the communitarian account says that aesthetic value owes to social engagement, rather than individuals' engagements with aesthetic objects. I argue that the emerging communitarian account is actually still pretty individualistic. This, I suggest, shows that proper analysis of aesthetic communities requires analysis of relations of power within them. I further suggest that focus on such relations allows us to see the theoretical options more clearly than an approach using only a distinction between communities and individuals.

Please note that all in-person attendees must conform to the Queen's vaccine policy:
<https://www.queensu.ca/safereturn/update-queens-mandatory-covid-19-vaccination-requirements>

For those who cannot join us in person, Zoom details will be distributed Thursday morning.
If you are not on our colloquium mailing list, please contact us at philug@queensu.ca to receive updates.