# The Philosophy Department Presents

# SOCIAL HOUR



On Tuesday, November 19th, 2019
From 12:30 – 2:00 PM
3308 Boylan Hall
With Matthew Moore

Topic:
White Ravens and Purple Bananas:
The Paradoxes of Confirmation



How would you go about confirming the hypothesis that all ravens are black? The natural answer is: examine as many ravens as you can, and see if they are all black. Every black raven we find will strengthen our confidence in that hypothesis. But some very elementary reflection on the logic of confirmation seems to show that observing a piece of white paper *also* confirms the hypothesis that all ravens are black. This is one of the simplest, and most puzzling, of the paradoxes of confirmation.

In this social hour we will examine the Raven Paradox and an even more puzzling argument, which seems to show that all the yellow bananas we've observed so far support the prediction that the next banana we see will be purple! Join us to find out why Hume's skeptical arguments about the *justification* of inductive inference are only half the story. We also have our work cut out for us in saying exactly what inductive inference *is*.

Come to Social Hour to ask questions and discuss philosophical issues in a relaxed environment!

Snacks and drinks will be provided.