



Fram Focus volume 2:3 / November 2016

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December 7, 2016 at 12pm: Teaching of Applied Critical Thinking at RIT with Larry Torcello
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You are invited to attend our featured event!



Teachers on Teaching: Our own Larry Torcello of COLA Philosophy presents, 'The Uses and Abuses of Critical Thinking' on December 7, 2016, at noon. Register for the lecture here: [Teachers on Teaching with Larry Torcello](#)

Abstract: No society can be or remain healthy without well informed citizens. In order to be well informed, citizens must be able to think critically. Reasoned skepticism plays a crucial role in clear thinking, but it can be bypassed, and when it is, our attempts to think critically devolve into cynicism. This talk is about the difference between skepticism and cynicism, about the moral stakes of their difference, and about how we can support practices of reasoned skepticism. In it, I will discuss how instructors can utilize

techniques from critical thinking pedagogy to guide students through controversial topics.

A Few Thoughts:

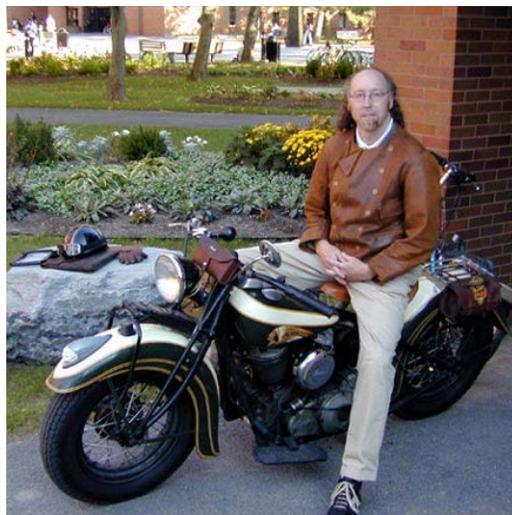
With this issue of the Focus we begin to meet some of RIT's notable critical thinkers.



Sarah Brownell is an alumna of RIT and a lecturer in KGCOE and SOIS, teaching Multidisciplinary Senior Design, Engineering and the Developing World, Wicked Problems, and Grand Challenges. She writes, 'Working with the other disciplines to better understand and adapt solutions to these systems (without causing major new problems) is one of the main challenges of engineering moving into future. The simple problems have been solved; wicked problems are our future.' Read her answers to a few critical thinking questions: [ACT Excellence with Sarah Brownell](#)

Continue the Conversation:

Tim Engstrom shares his excellent editorial, '*Driverless cars are calculative but not ethical: the confusion of safety with ethics*'.



“We don’t live at the speed of light. We’re slow. And such slowness is often a condition of the ethical. Deliberation and ethical concern is increasingly at risk in a world that is ceding the domain of “decision making” to the systematic encroachment of automation. We increasingly prize the continuous presence of automated systems because that’s what they’re good at. They appear to relieve us of the anxiety of time, of the responsibility to decide.’ Read the entire editorial [here](#) on our Facebook page.

Fram It!

The Challenge: Friend us on Facebook and join the conversation.

The Rules:

- You ‘Friend the Fram’ and post your thoughts to our Facebook page.
- You email us a copy of your post to: RITFramChair@rit.edu. (why? Because FB identities don’t match RIT IDs)
- You must have an active RIT ID to participate.

The prize:

The first 5 RIT community members who Fram It! Win a Java Wally’s treat coin.