



**Bruce Gilbert, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Liberal Arts, Coordinator of the Social Justice and Citizenship Minor at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec**

### **Philosophy Department Colloquium Talk: "Sketch of a Phenomenological Plato"**

**Date & time:** Wednesday, March 30th, 4:00-5:30p.m.

**Location:** Maples 110

**Featured topic:**

Phenomenology is typically taken to be anti-Platonist: human beings are constrained by a horizon of finitude, and thus resoluteness in the face of anxiety or boredom and, ultimately our death, is the limit of any transcendence we may be capable of. This paper will argue, on the contrary, that meaningfulness is impossible without Platonic forms and the ideals to which they give rise. I will show that Plato's forms function erotically (as invitations), provoke creativity, generate the criteria of better and worse, and demand a universal recognition and promotion of all that "participates" in forms. I will conclude by suggesting that Plato's forms are metaphysically real, and not the operators of some kind of constituting consciousness.

### **Socialist and Marxist Speakers Series Talk:**

**"Occupation and Cooperation: Strategies for Socialism in Brazil's Landless Worker's Movement"**

**Date & time:** Thursday, March 31st, 12:30-1:45p.m.

**Zoom link:** <https://maine.zoom.us/j/3657262020>

**Socialist and Marxist Speakers Series website:** <https://umaine.edu/socialistandmarxiststudiesseries/>

**Featured topic:**

Marxist politics has often focused on seizing state power through revolutionary or electoral means, producing mostly failures of great bloodshed and violence, coup d'états, and weak social democratic policies. In Brazil, the Landless Workers Movement (MST) has adopted a different strategy to build socialism: tracts of underutilized land "occupied" by hundreds of impoverished and marginalized families and turned into farming cooperatives that typically have their own schools and health care facilities. The MST has its own university near São Paulo for training activists from around the world. The MST's strategy has been, by most measures, enormously successful, with 1.5 million members and thousands of cooperative settlements in Brazil.

For more information about this event, please contact Don Beith in the Department of Philosophy at [donald.beith@maine.edu](mailto:donald.beith@maine.edu) or 207.581.3866.

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. These programs are free and open to the University of Maine community and the public. If you need accommodations for this event, please contact Student Accessibility Services (121 East Annex, 207.581.2319).