

UCI Philosophy Department's

*Brown
Bag*

APRIL 15, 2025

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

HG4200

JASON D'CRUZ (SUNY ALBANY)

LUNCH SERIES

COURAGE TO TRUST

In his 1947 *Delhi Diary* Gandhi advocates for a comprehensive rejection of distrust: "we should trust even those whom we suspect as our enemies. Brave people disdain distrust."

Gandhi's position in this passage is extreme, and one may even detect a whiff of bravado. Where Gandhi sees "bravery" secular readers may find recklessness, in particular if trust puts at risk the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable parties. But I think that Gandhi's view contains insight that deserves elaboration and refinement. Gandhi challenges us to think about the norms of trust as extending beyond the pursuit of self-interest or individual agency. Realizing the moral ends of trust (empowerment, solidarity, intimacy, respect) requires managing and overcoming the fear that trust naturally occasions. Such a task, I maintain, calls for courage. Conversely, given distrust's tendency to demoralize, exclude, and insult, withdrawing trust out of fear can be symptomatic of morally criticizable cowardice.

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