A Code of Conduct & Professional Ethics for Philosophy

A collective enterprise by subscribers to the Philosophy in Europe e-list

1. Don't exclude from the conversation any discussant who does not have a named chair at a top-five university, or indeed anyone who does not have university affiliation at all. Give us pipsqueaks a forum in which we can squeak freely, and squeak truth to power.

2. Don't exclude from the conversation any topic X unless it is logically impossible to do or teach The Philosophy of X, i.e. just in case X =df. !#*@%&#**!

3. Don't ignore your discussant's comments and questions unless she or he is speaking Pig Latin.

4. Don't make comments about your discussant's physical appearance unless she or he is wearing a clown suit.

5. Confine your gaze to the region above your discussant's neck, unless her or his head is a beach ball on a stick. In that case, stare at the ceiling.

6. Don't make sexual, pornographic, or scatological jokes or remarks in your discussant's presence.

7. Don't engage in personal grooming rituals (e.g. picking your nose, flossing your teeth, digging for earwax, sniffing your armpits, etc.) in your discussant's presence.

8. Don't comment on your discussant's gender, racial or ethnic identity unless she or he is The Alien. Here you will find a picture of The Alien for purposes of reference.

9. Don't interrupt, talk over, shout down, or threaten your discussant with a weapon, or with job termination.

10. Don't throw or hit your discussant with a poker.

11. Reply to what your discussant is saying and not to how she or he looks.

12. Don't gas on for more than three minutes max.

13. Don't express disagreement through ridicule, insults, physical violence, ostracism, demonization, scapegoating, bullying, mobbing, or vandalism.

14. Don't violate your discussant's personal space (hint: if you can count the pores on her or his nose, or if her or his breath is fogging up your glasses, or if she or he cannot gesture spontaneously without hitting you, you're too close).

15. Don't grab, push, pat, pinch or poke your discussant unless she or he is a blob of pie dough on a plate.

16. Keep your hands in your pockets. If your attire does not include pockets, sew some on.