



The Official Newsletter of Dr. Peter Boghossian

March 2012

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Upcoming Events:

Title: "Reason and Unreason"

When: May 6, 10:00am

What: Public Lecture

Where: Friendly House Community Center on the southwest corner of NW 26th and Thurman in Northwest, Portland, OR (1737 NW 26th Avenue)

With: Quilter Drew Stefani**

Admission: Free

Alan from [The Malcontent's Gambit](#) will be live Tweetcasting the lecture

Title: "Critical Thinking Crash Course: 3 Techniques, 20 Minutes, Lifetime Reward"

When: May 11, 12:00pm

What: Public Lecture

Where: Intel. Intel Jones Farm Campus (JFCC Auditorium), 2111 NE 25th Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Admission: Free

Event: I'll be addressing George Fox Evangelical Seminary candidates for the DMIN (Doctorate in Ministry)

When: May 14

Where: Online, England

The transcripts of our conversation should be available within 24 hours.

Two of my public lectures on university campuses have been cancelled due to complaints. I've challenged those who've managed to have the talks cancelled to a debate. My offers have not yet been accepted.

**Drew Stefani will quilting *live* during my lecture.

A Few Months Away:

- ↳ [The Mercury](#) is doing a cover story on me that will come out Thursday, April 5
- ↳ I'll be delivering the Easter Bunny presentation in Salem and Eugene. The tentative dates are April 27 & 28. Thanks to the [Center for Inquiry](#) for sponsoring these lectures.
- ↳ [Malcontent's Gambit](#) will interview me for their pilot podcast. They have great content and I'm happy to help promote their page.
- ↳ Todd Steifel of the [Steifel Freethought Foundation](#) asked me to participate in the [Light the Night Walk](#), and I'm delighted to do so.

Recent Online Media:

- ↳ [Podcast](#) on Philosophy News. For an in-depth take on my views, this is a good primer.
- ↳ Easter Bunny [video](#). If you haven't seen this yet, this is not to miss.
- ↳ [Lars Larson](#) (Unfortunately, the last part of the interview gets cut off).
- ↳ The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Science and Reason, and Dawkins himself, posted the podcast and the Easter Bunny video.

If you like these, I'd appreciate a Facebook "Like" or Google+ + from the Philosophy News page. The more likes we get, the better we're able to get the word out. Thanks.

Suggested Videos:

[Skepticism & Spirituality](#) in the Martial Arts, with Matt Thornton (guest lecture in my critical thinking class).

An obscure Sam Harris [video](#)--truly excellent. Packed with nuggets.

My "Faith as a Cognitive Sickness" promo [video](#).

Recent Endorsements:

"We need more educators like Peter Boghossian." -- Sam Harris, bestselling author of "The End of Faith" and "Letter to a Christian Nation"

"[Peter Boghossian is a] master presenter and a masterful debater. I have known all his presentations to be accessible, crystal clear, and bulletproof." -- Kevin Boileau, Executive Director of the Existential Psychoanalytic Institute of Seattle

"[Peter Boghossian's] lecture is one of the best single summaries of how to

think clearly I've ever seen." -- Michael Shermer, Founder of the Skeptics Society and Editor in Chief of *Skeptic Magazine*

"Dr. Peter Boghossian is a rare and invaluable voice of reason in a global culture that continues to stumble and suffer within the fog of delusion... As a thinking process and means of discovery, faith fails. It is a drag on the progress of civilization as well as the potential of individuals. The critical message about science and skepticism that Boghossian presents in his brilliant lectures is the antidote for this insidious poison of the human mind." -- Guy P. Harrison, author of *50 Popular Beliefs That People Think are True* and *50 Reasons People Give for Believing in A God*

"In the centuries-long contest between rationality and religious faith, its time for the knock-out blow. Boghossian delivers it, showing in simple terms why no-one should put any faith in faith." -- Tim van Gelder, renowned critical thinking and argument mapping expert, University of Melbourne

"Pete is one of the smartest people I have ever met; he is also difficult, contentious and compelling, a true fucking original." -- Chris Johnson, co-founder of *The Onion*

"Dr. Peter Boghossian isn't afraid to tell it like it is...It's OK to doubt, and he has made it the 'gateway drug' of choice." -- Amanda Brown, Co-Founder of WeAreAtheism.com

"Provocative, polemical, passionate...agree with him or not, love him or hate him, Professor Boghossian's perspective cannot be ignored, and is perhaps more timely than ever." -- Phil Zuckerman, founder of Pitzer College's Secular Studies program & author of *Society Without God*

"Peter Boghossian's lecture on the deficiencies of faith as a means of acquiring knowledge is lucid, witty, and eminently persuasive. It is a much needed antidote to fuzzy thinking and irrational beliefs." -- Ronald A. Lindsay, President & CEO of the Center for Inquiry

"Dr. Boghossian fascinates as he illuminates how to think effectively." -- Todd Stiefel, President & Founder, Stiefel Freethought Foundation

"In his dynamic and entertaining presentation, Boghossian effectively conveys why evidence-based processes should be valued over other ways of forming beliefs. Faith as an epistemological principle is unmasked as an imposter, and one is left wondering why it is accorded so much respect in society. Boghossian's reasoning is clear-headed, incisive, parsimonious – a must-see for skeptics and believers alike." -- Sylvia Benner, Coordinator, Center for Inquiry (CFI), Portland

"Dr. Boghossian offers a powerful message with broader applications that we can utilize in all other decision-making processes in life." -- Brian Dunning, host of the award winning weekly science podcast *Skeptoid*

"Boghossian launches a full scale nuclear attack on faith. By challenging your most deeply held beliefs, he provides you with a trenchant analysis of what it takes to really know the world." -- Stephan Lewandowsky, Winthrop Professor and Australian Professorial Fellow, University of Western Australia

Current Projects:

- ↳ I've been asked to be on the [Center for Inquiry](#)'s newly forming Oregon Think Tank. I've accepted and I'm looking forward to using this as an opportunity both to combat instances of unreason and to promote critical thinking and reasoning.
- ↳ I'm hard at work on a Critical Thinking and Reasoning Capstone, with PSU *student created* curricula, that will be delivered in the public schools. We're currently looking for a public school community partner. We'll also be licensing PSU student work under a Creative Commons license so that others may have access to their intellectual work.
- ↳ Dr. Randy Blazak and I secured a grant to work with prisons and Portland State. I'm really looking forward to working with Randy.
- ↳ I've just finished my book proposal and I'm currently writing the first chapter. The book is about faith, overcoming faith, and the hope of rationality.
- ↳ I just co-wrote a piece arguing that two new fallacies should be included in the lexicon of fallacies: *Appeal to Righteous Indignation* and *Appeal to Sanctity*. It's currently under peer-review.
- ↳ I've been invited to write an online piece for [The Philosophers Magazine](#). It's nearly finished, and I hope to email it to the reviewer by the end of April.

What I'm Reading:

- The Koran (my third time through)
- Higher Superstition: [The Academic Left and Its Quarrels with Science](#)
- [The Suicide of Reason](#): Radical Islam's Threat to the West

Hate Email of the Month:

<snip> So I DON'T find this funny at all. Neither does OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. You WILL be burning in the FIRES OF HELL FOR ETERNITY. Is that what you really want? Do you want to burn in hell FOREVER?? DO YOU??

Facebook Post of the Month:

Pete- FYI within the first 5 minutes of a "Boghossian rebuttle talk" given at PSU SMSU, you were compared to BOTH a nazi and a member of China's Red Guard.

Homepage: <http://pdx.edu/philosophy/peter-boghossian>

Follow me on Twitter @peterboghossian



“Critical Thinking About American Culture,”
February 6, 2012 guest lecture for
The International School, fifth grade classes,
with Headmaster and great guy Dr. Alfonso
Orsini

Not willing to reconsider your belief?



Cha-ching! Delusional.

Twitter: @peterboghossian

Gear available here: <http://www.cafepress.com/philosophynews/8651218>