



*BUILDING COMMUNITY VISION  
THROUGH OPEN INQUIRY*

PRESS RELEASE  
October 22, 2019  
For Immediate Release

### **Building Bigger Minds: Teaching Philosophy to Children**

**Speakers:** Paul Bodin and Caroline Lundquist, University of Oregon  
**Date:** Friday, November 15, 2019  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon – 1:15  
**Location:** UO Continuing and Professional Education at the Baker Center  
975 High Street, Eugene, OR 97401

**Coordinator:** Ralph Pledger

In Eugene and in many school districts throughout Oregon, the curriculum emphasizes content that can be measured through standardized assessments. Yet children also need to be challenged with big ideas that require multiple interpretations and connect to their personal experiences. As adults, their full engagement in community life will depend on the ability to think critically about complex issues. Philosophy lessons prompt children to support their opinions with reasons, to employ counter arguments and hypotheticals to test the validity of new ideas, and to be open to revising personal points-of-view as they hear the opinions of peers. In a time of polarized politics and hyper-emotional responses to important issues that affect everyone, it is particularly important to promote critical thinking, reasoned responses, collaboration, and empathy around topics that are deeply meaningful in our lives.

For years, Paul Bodin and Caroline Lundquist have been promoting philosophy for children, parents, and teachers in our community in a variety of places and formats.

Between 2013 and 2019, the UO departments of Philosophy and Education Studies collaborated with Eugene 4J schools to offer weekly philosophy lessons to more than 2,500 children, ages 7-12, at Camas Ridge, Edison, McCornack, Holt, Adams, Willagillespie, Edgewood, and Family Schools. Individuals and two-person teams of undergraduates who were enrolled in PHIL 372, "Teaching Children Philosophy," led the discussions. They talked about ethics, environmental studies, epistemology, aesthetics, metaphysics, gender identity, and race. The curriculum behind this philosophy-for-children approach developed in a collaborations involving the course instructor, Paul Bodin, his graduate students in philosophy, original lessons prepared by the undergraduate students themselves, and ideas generated by leaders in an international children's philosophy movement, including the Center for Philosophy for Children in Washington State, and the Philosophy Foundation in London, England.

Since moving to Eugene in 1975 **Paul Bodin** has worked in many capacities with children and youth in District 4J schools. He has taught music, folk and swing dancing, drama and storytelling to elementary and middle school students; worked with talented and gifted students as a Sheldon region specialist; and taught blended third-through-fifth grade classroom groups and sixth grade at Spencer Butte Middle School. After retiring in 2003, Paul worked as an instructor and supervisor for graduate students pursuing elementary certification and, most recently, brought philosophical discussions to elementary and middle

school classrooms. He earned a BA in music composition at the University of California at Santa Barbara and an MEd in Music Education from the University of Oregon.

**Caroline Lundquist** earned her PhD in philosophy from the University of Oregon and decided to stay here in Eugene, her childhood home. She teaches philosophy courses for the Clark Honors College and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Oregon. She also co-directs Carnegie Global Oregon, an ethics-based undergraduate community at the UO. Before working for the UO, Caroline was an ethics instructor at Lane Community College for five years.

### **About the City Club of Eugene**

The mission of the City Club of Eugene is to build community vision through open inquiry. The Club explores a wide range of significant local, state, and national issues and helps to formulate new approaches and solutions to problems. Membership is open to all, and Club members have a direct influence on public policy by discussing issues of concern with elected officials and other policy makers. The City Club's mailing address is: PO Box 12084, Eugene, OR, 97440. For more information, please call (541) 485-7433, or visit us online at [cityclubofeugene.org](http://cityclubofeugene.org).

### **Admission**

The public is encouraged to attend; admission is \$5 per person. Admission is free for City Club of Eugene members.

### **Broadcast**

This program will be broadcast Monday, November 18, 2019, at 6:30pm on KLCC 89.7 FM.

**Contact:** Silver A. Mogart, City Club of Eugene Executive Director  
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