



2022 Recipient of the Distinguished Research Award

Deborah A. Boyle, Ph.D.



The College of Charleston's Distinguished Research Award, established in 1977, recognizes those faculty members who have a significant career of research – demonstrated by the body of a faculty member's scholarly and/or creative works within the past few years and evaluated based on their quality and significance as well as their quantity. The College of Charleston Faculty Research and Development Committee enthusiastically recommended that this year's award go to Dr. Deborah Boyle from the Department of Philosophy.

Since joining the Department of Philosophy in 1999, Dr. Boyle has made significant contributions to her field of the history of modern philosophy. After establishing a strong scholarly reputation extending her dissertation work on Descartes and publishing on Hume, Dr. Boyle has shifted her focus to the writings of female philosophers -- especially Margaret Cavendish, Mary Shepherd, and Elizabeth Hamilton. Dr. Boyle published one of the first book-length English-language scholarship works on the philosophy of Cavendish (*The Well-Ordered Universe: The Philosophy of Margaret Cavendish*, Oxford University Press, 2018) and has a forthcoming monograph on Shepherd (*Mary Shepherd: A Guide*, Oxford University Press, which will appear in print later this year as the first published monograph on her work). Dr. Boyle also has edited editions of the works of both Shepherd (2018) and Cavendish (2021) and since 2018 has published 6 Journal Articles on Cavendish, Shepherd, and Hamilton as well as 6 published or forthcoming book chapters.

Dr. Boyle's significant scholarly output is also acclaimed for its high quality. Her nominators for this award pointed out that Dr. Boyle is now the best-known scholar on both Cavendish and Shepherd in the world. Book-reviewers have called her Cavendish monograph a "masterly study", "ground-breaking", "creative", and "the most important study in Cavendish scholarship to date." In 2020 she was awarded the American Philosophical Association's Edinburgh Fellowship which typically funds one philosopher per year to travel to the University of Edinburgh and serve as the scholar in residence.

Dr. Boyle also serves as the editor of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*; her colleagues assert that this is the highest-rated English-language journal for work in the history of philosophy – an unusual and significant contribution and responsibility for a faculty member at a predominantly undergraduate institution. We are pleased to recognize Dr. Deborah Boyle's outstanding career of creative activity with the 2022 Distinguished Research Award.