I received $400 from the Berry Fund for Public Philosophy for the project “Internet Spaces and Public Philosophers and Theologians: Public Philosophy and Theology in a Digital Context.” This grant money helped make this a successful and fruitful public philosophy event.

This conference took place on June 21st, 2019 at Molloy College. We had four philosophers and two theologians on the main program, as well as two plenary sessions: Dr. Stephen Okey, Assistant Professor of Theology at Saint Leo University, and Dr. Barry Lam, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Vassar College and producer of the Hi-Phi Nation Podcast.

Speaker topics included social media as a public philosophy tool, public philosophy as a form of political organizing, online imagery and aesthetics, and how public philosophy can help navigate our “post-truth” political discourse.

Dr. Lam, the plenary philosophy speaker, presented the talk “Fighting the Future: The Use of Predictive Algorithms in Criminal Justice.” This talk was very well received and discussed the benefits and dangers of using algorithms as a means of targeting potential criminals. The talk was interdisciplinary and attracted members from our philosophy department as well as our criminal justice department.

Overall the event was a great success and we intend to host the conference again this summer.

The $400 went towards paying Dr. Lam a modest stipend of $350. The remaining $50 went towards his mileage for traveling to the event.