

*Foreword*

Andrew Bingham

In general, *Modern Horizons'* long-form dialogues are designed as a vesperal avenue for sitting down one-on-one with people who have dedicated their life to some particular area of work and discussing their personal provenance, vocational experiences, loved ideas, and sense of the future. I was a student of Ian Angus at Simon Fraser University, studied Continental and Canadian philosophy with him, and have retained a particular regard for how he thinks and what he thinks about. My aim with these dialogues was to provide time for Ian to articulate and consider what he has found meaningful in his working life – and at the same time to build on it and churn it afresh for our contemporary moment. To do this requires time – several hours, at least – to move past the shorthand method of commentary, in which (as Ian notes) one may become 'mired,' and to draw near once again to the lived reality of one's ideas. Here one is not only a 'custodian of thought' but also a participant in the activity of thinking, a task Ian indicates poignantly in both his rich notion of 'locative thinking' and his personal efforts to establish customary rhythms in his daily life with others.

Where ideas are embodied and practised, meaning abides; when ideas are deformed into beliefs disconnected from our tangible relationships, we encounter nihilism and fundamentalism. Ian's working and personal life attest to his commitment to realising and even demonstrating the eminently practical nature of philosophical ideas – here, dwelling with critiques of technology, matters of phenomenology, conceptions of the university, and subtle distinctions apprehended in Jewish theology. To approach ideas like this in our time requires patience, endurance, and (perhaps above all) a lightness of touch, a willing capacity to encounter difference with cordiality and limits with laughter. It means to take in hand Nietzsche's tuning-fork, to listen to how thinking resonates here and there in living voices, to go to a place, stay, attend, and see what has taken root there and how it is alive.