

CALL FOR PAPERS

Metaphysical Society of America

68th Annual Meeting

Cambridge/Boston, MA

March 30—April 2, 2017

The Metaphysics of Contingency: East and West

Since Plato and Confucius, the concept of contingency has figured in one form or another in philosophical traditions both east and west. Often a foil for its contrast term “necessity,” other times a supreme category of its own, contingency and its relation to metaphysics remains unclear and disputed. While most philosophers concede the contingency of historical events, of biological forms, and of individual existents, they display more caution on the question of the contingency of the world-universe itself. Is this a question for science? For theology? For metaphysics? What bearing does contemporary scientific cosmology have on metaphysics? Is a metaphysics of contingency defensible, or is it a contradiction in terms? Is the nature of contingency compatible with teleology in history, or in biology? Does contingency have a necessary shape, as argued by some process philosophers? Indeed, is a metaphysics of pure process intelligible? How is the concept of contingency theorized in the work of select philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle, Hegel, Hartshorne, Rorty, Meillassoux, Agamben, as well as Indian and Chinese philosophers? Proposals for papers on these and other related questions are welcomed, but other topics of metaphysics will also be considered.

500-word abstracts should be submitted electronically by September 1, 2016 to: Nancy Frankenberry, Department of Religion, Dartmouth College at:
nancy.k.frankenberry@dartmouth.edu

Those whose abstracts are chosen by the Program Committee should submit completed papers by January 15, 2017 to allow time for review by commentators and publication of the program. Further information on the conference will become available at:
www.metaphysicalsociety.org

Aristotle Prize: Papers submitted by persons who have not yet earned a PhD or who have received the PhD within five years of the submission date will be considered for the Aristotle Prize, if the Program Committee is made aware of their eligibility. The prize carries a cash award of \$500, inclusion in the program, and assistance with costs associated with attending the meeting. Please encourage graduate students and junior colleagues to consider entering the competition. Full papers must be submitted for the Aristotle Prize by **September 1, 2016**.

Travel Grants: Thanks to the generous support of members of the Metaphysical Society and a grant from the Hocking-Cabot Fund for Systematic Philosophy, we are pleased to offer travel grants to graduate students whose papers are selected for the program for our annual meeting. More information and an application can be found on the Society’s website.