

*****CALL FOR ABSTRACTS*****

REALITY: ACTUAL, POSSIBLE, AND VIRTUAL

Metaphysical Society of America

75th Annual Meeting

March 20-22, 2025

Marriott Conference Center Atlanta/Decatur Downtown/Emory

Atlanta, GA, USA

Due Date: October 1, 2024



The question “What is reality?” is as old as ancient wisdom traditions and as new as large language models, VR headsets, and contemporary theories about infinite parallel universes, alternative political worlds, or a single multiverse. It is a question that has been answered by philosophers, artists, and scientists in many, often incompatible ways—including naturalism and materialism, idealism and spiritualism, mind/body dualism, radical empiricism and neutral monism, and constructivism and linguistic relativism. This multiplicity of views invites related questions: On what evidence does a reasoned account of the nature of reality depend?; Does the

answer to this question itself depend on prior metaphysical assumptions?; If so, is it possible to address this question without simply assuming what needs to be shown?; Can reality be represented at all, or is it ineffable?; Is reality properly an object of thought alone or a wider, affective experience?; Is this question about the nature of reality one that does have, or should have, one answer, the same answer for everyone?; and, Is this question simply idle speculation or does its answer make any practical difference?

Abstracts for papers that take up these and related questions and issues in original ways are especially encouraged and will be given priority. Submissions of abstracts for papers on other metaphysical topics are also welcome.

Guidelines for the Submission of Abstracts, and for Aristotle and Plato Prize Candidates

Abstracts must be submitted electronically to the President of the MSA at jstuhr@emory.edu by **October 1, 2024**, and must be .docx documents between 400-600 words long. Late abstracts and those shorter than 400 words or longer than 600 words will not be considered. To facilitate double-anonymous review, an abstract should *not* contain the author's name or otherwise identify the author. In the email to which the abstract is attached, authors should indicate full name, institutional affiliation (if any), and abstract title. *The email subject-line should read: 2025 MSA Submission [last name of author]* -- for example: 2025 MSA Submission Weiss.

Graduate Student Session(s): As a new part of this meeting, there will be one or two sessions dedicated to new work by graduate students. These sessions will feature four graduate students. At these sessions, each author will have 12 minutes to highlight or extend a paper that will be made available February 20 (see below). This will allow for maximum discussion. Graduate students interested in being considered for this session(s) should clearly indicate this fact in the email with their anonymous submission. Persons who are interested in this opportunity may also indicate that they wish to be considered for the Aristotle Prize (see below). Graduate student sessions will have equal standing and status with all other program sessions. There will also be a "professionalization and publication" session for all graduate students registered for the conference (whether or not they are presenting papers). This additional new session will feature three senior faculty from different institutions who will discuss professional publication and the process that can take a seminar paper or conference paper to publication in a professional journal.

Aristotle Prize: The MSA's annual Aristotle Prize is open to persons who have not (yet) received a Ph.D. The Aristotle Prize carries a cash award of \$500, inclusion in the annual program, and assistance with costs for attending the annual meeting. Persons who wish to be considered for this prize must a) clearly state (in an email message accompanying their submission) their eligibility for this prize and their desire to be considered for it, and b) submit *a full, final paper* in addition to the abstract by the October 1, 2024 deadline. The body of the text (as it proposed to be read at the meeting) must be no longer than 3,750 words.

Plato Prize: The MSA's annual Plato Prize is open to persons who have received a Ph.D. in the last six years—and thus (for the 2025 meeting) in 2019 or more recently. The Plato Prize carries

a cash award of \$500, inclusion in the annual program, and assistance with costs for attending the annual meeting. Persons who wish to be considered for this prize must a) clearly state (in an email message accompanying their submission) their eligibility for this prize and their desire to be considered for it, and b) submit a *full, final paper* in addition to the abstract by the October 1, 2024 deadline. This body of the text (as it proposed to be read at the meeting) must be no longer than 3,750 words.

Travel Grants: Thanks to the generous support of past MSA Presidents, Society members, and a grant from the Hocking-Cabot Fund for Systematic Philosophy, the Metaphysical Society is pleased to be able to offer reimbursements for travel expenses up to \$350 to current graduate students whose submissions are selected for the conference program. (Persons who wish to receive such reimbursements must provide the Metaphysical Society with all relevant expense receipts).

In all cases, MSA Program Committee decisions on submissions will be announced no later than **November 20, 2024**.

Those whose abstracts are chosen by the Program Committee must submit completed papers by **February 20, 2025** to allow review by session chairs and other speakers in the same session, publication of the program, and possible online sharing of the papers to conference participants. Papers may not exceed 3,750 words.

Further information on the conference will be available at: www.metaphysicalsociety.org.