The Metaphysical Society of America

69th Annual Meeting

*Constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies*

*www.metaphysicalsociety.org*

Atlanta, Georgia

March 22-25, 2018

“The Metaphysics of Agency: Intention, Purpose and Action”

**Thursday March 22**

Registration 4-7 pm

Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

**4:00-6:00 PM** **Society for the Study of Process Philosophies** (all MSA members welcome)

*Chair and Commentator*: George Lucas (Distinguished Chair of Ethics *Emeritus*, U.S.

Naval Academy)

Lisa Landoe Hedrick (University of Chicago Divinity School), “McDowell, Whitehead and the Metaphysics of Agency”

**6:30-7:30 PM** Welcoming Reception for Attendees

Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

**Friday March 23**

Executive Council Breakfast (TBA)

8:30-9:30 AM Meeting Registration

**9:00 AM Welcome** by Ann Hartle, Professor of Philosophy *Emeritus*, Emory University

**9:10 AM** **Introduction** to Keynote Speaker by Richard Velkley, MSA President

**9:15 AM** **Opening Keynote Address:** **John McDowell,** University of Pittsburgh

“Self-Knowledge in Acting: Anscombe on Practical Knowledge”

*Respondent*: David Weissman (City College of New York)

10:45 AM Coffee Break

**11:00 AM** **Plenary Session**: **Aristotle Prize Lecture**

*Chair and Commentator*: Michelle Mahoney, Memorial University-Newfoundland

Zachary Calhoun (Tulane University)“Kant on Positing: Being as Self-Determination”

12:15-1:30 Lunch (in Atlanta-Buckhead on your own)

**1:45 Plenary Session: Pragmatism and the Metaphysics of Agency: Individual, Social and Political**

*Chair and Commentator*: Nancy Frankenberry (Dartmouth College)

Jessica Wahman (Emory University) “Psyche as Agent: Overcoming the ‘Free/Unfree’ Dichotomy”

Vincent Colapietro (Pennsylvania State University) “First Personal Plural: A Robust Conception of Communal Agency”

John Stuhr (Emory University) “The Politics of the Metaphysics of Agency AND the Metaphysics of the Politics of Agency”

**3:30 Break**

**3:45 Plenary Session: Presidential Address**

Introduction by Daniel Dombrowski (Seattle University; Vice-President, MSA)

Richard Velkley (Celia Scott Weatherhead Chair of Philosophy, Tulane University; President, MSA) “The Fate of Human Action: The Agency of ‘Reason’ in Modern Philosophy.”

**5:00** Presidential Reception (Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel)

**6:00** Banquet (Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel)

**Saturday March 24**

**8:00-9:00 AM Registration**

**9:00 AM Plenary Session: Speculative Metaphysics of Agency**

*Chair and Commentator*: Jeffrey Dirk Wilson (Catholic University of America)

Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University), “Freedom is Necessity or The Logic of Posterior Anteriority in Schelling’s *Freiheitschrift*”

Eric v. d. Luft (Gegensatz Press), “The Concept of Power in the Metaphysics of Edward Pols”

**10:30 AM** Coffee Break

**10:45 AM Concurrent Sessions: Contemporary Perspectives on Agency**

*Chair and Commentator*: Daniel Stambovsky (Capt. U.S. Air Force)

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| 1. Michael Brent (University of Denver), “Mental Action and the Metaphysics of Mind” | 2. Nathan Biebel (Tulane University), “How to Resist Epistemic Skepticism about Moral Responsibility” |

*Chair and Commentator*: Douglas McAdams (Georgetown University)

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| 1. Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio (Marquette University), “Can We Hold Psychopaths Morally Responsible? Reassessing Agency Cultivation and Moral Participation” | 2. Wesley DeMarco (Clark University), “Choosing Natural Agency” |

**12:15** Lunch (in Atlanta-Buckhead on your own)

MSA Executive Council Meeting

**2:00** **Concurrent Sessions: Platonic Perspectives on Metaphysics of Agency**

*Chair and Commentator*: Michael Baur (Fordham University)

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| 1. Owen Goldin (Marquette University), “Eros and Action in Plato” | 2. Charlie Gustafson-Barrett (Tulane University), “The *Logos* of Agency: on Plato’s *Ion*” |

*Chair and Commentator*: Dilek Huseyinzadegan (Emory University)

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| 1.Andrew German (Ben Gurion University), “Is the World Complete without Human Beings? The *Status Questionis* in Plato” | 2. Tony Leyh (Emory University), “From *Homonoia* to *Sumphonia*: A Shift in the Agential Conditions for Friendship in Plato’s *Laws*” |

**3:30** Coffee Break

**3:45** **Plenary Session: Aristotelian Perspectives on Metaphysics of Agency**

*Chair and Commentator*: Lawrence Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross)

1. May Sim (College of the Holy Cross), “Wise Agents East & West: From Individual to Cosmic Agency”

2. A. Culbreth (Emory University), “Hope, Intention, and Courageous Agency: Aristotle’s Puzzling Description of Courage and Deliberation in *Nicomachean Ethics* 3.6-9”

**5:15** Annual Business Meeting (Announcements, Future Plans, 2019 Seattle) followed by meeting of the President’s Council (present and past Presidents of the Society)

**6:00** Dinner on your own

**Sunday March 25**

**9:00 AM** **Concurrent Sessions:** **German Idealist Perspectives on Agency**

*Chair and Commentator*: Kyle Foley (San Diego State University)

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| 1. Zachariah Primiano (New School for Social Research), “Inspiration of Moral Action through Aesthetic Experience of the Beautiful: Reconciling Autonomous Lawgiving and Moral Teaching in Kant’s *Critique of the Power of Judgment*” | 2.Aaron Halper (Catholic University of America), “The Purpose of Pleasure: Kant’s Development of the Moral Agent” |

*Chair and Commentator*: David Takamura (Duke University--UNC Chapel Hill)

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| 1. Edward Halper (University of Georgia), “The Paradox of Transcendental Agency” | 2. James Sares (Stony Brook University), “Fichte on the Theoretical-Practical Unity of the I and its Paradox” |

**10:30** **AM** Coffee Break

**10:45** **AM Plenary Session: Metaphysics of Agency in Theological Perspective**

*Chair and Commentator*: Francesco Poggiani (Pennsylvania State University)

1. Michael Vendsel (Tarrant County College), “Contemporary Applications of Anselm and Aquinas on the Relationship between Divine and Human Agency”

2. Paul Wilford (Boston College), “The Theological Conditions of Agency: Recognition and Responsibility in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”

**12:15 Meeting Adjourns**