The Metaphysical Society of America

71st Annual Meeting

Constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies

[www.metaphysicalsociety.org](http://www.metaphysicalsociety.org)

College of the Holy Cross

March 19-21 2021

“Nature and its Meanings. II”

*Remote Conference*

**Friday March 19**

10:00amWelcome Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross)

10:05-11:30 am *Keynote Address Plenary*

Introduction by Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross)

Mario De Caro (Tufts University and *Università* *Roma Tre*), “Naturalism and Pluralism”

11:45-1pm *Aristotle Prize Lecture Plenary*

Chair & Commentator: Robert Neville (Boston University *emeritus*)

Jeffrey B. Speaks (Boston University), “Experience and Value: Radical Empiricism and an Axiological Religion of Nature”

Lunch

2-3:15pmConcurrent Sessions

*Aristotle and Purpose* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Maher (Assumption College)

May Sim (College of the Holy Cross), “Moving Naturally and Knowledge for Aristotle and the Daoists”

Edward Halper (University of Georgia), “Nature, Life, and Purpose”

*Values and Human Nature* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Dombrowski (Seattle University)

David Takamura (University of North Carolina and Duke University), “Sentimental Marx: The Eternal Charm of Ancient Greece for the *Grundrisse*”

Owen Goldin (Marquette University), “Human Nature and the Transhuman”

3:30-5:00pm *Society for the Study of Process* *Philosophy* *Plenary*

Chair & Commentator: Thomas Pashby (University of Chicago)

Leemon McHenry (California State University Northridge) “The Metaphysics of Events: In Search of a Unified Theory”

5-7pm Metaphysical Reception (open to all participants)

**Saturday March 20**

10-11:15 *Presidential Address Plenary*

Introduction by Owen Goldin (Marquette University)

Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross), “Towards an Ordinal Naturalism”

11:30am-1pm *Plenary Session on the Work of Hans Jonas*

Chair & Commentator: Michelle Mahoney (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Nicholas Anderson (Boston College), “From Metabolism to Metaphysics: Hans Jonas on the Natural Grounds of Metaphysical Speculation”

Paul Wilford (Boston College), “Alienation from Nature: Hans Jonas on Reason’s Gnostic Temptation”

Zachary Calhoun (Tulane University), “‘The Greatest of Gods, Deathless Earth’: Hans Jonas and the Ethical Ground of Environmental History”

Lunch

2-3:15pm Concurrent Sessions

*Whitehead* Chair & Commentator: George Allan (Dickinson College *emeritus*)

Thomas Pashby (University of Chicago), “Value in Whitehead's Emerging Metaphysical Synthesis”

Lisa Landoe Hedrick (University of Chicago), “Locating Nature and Its Other: A Critique of the Spatialization of Concepts”

*Semiosis in Nature* Chair & Commentator: Robert Innis (University of Massachusetts Lowell *emeritus*)

Nicholas L. Guardiano (Southern Illinois University), “The Metaphysical Grounds and Aesthetic Primacy of Universal Semiosis”

Vincent Colapietro (University of Rhode Island), “Nature as a Matrix of Meanings: Nature, Judgment, and Query”

3:30-4:45pm Concurrent Sessions

*American Naturalism* Chair & Commentator: Elizabeth Baeten (Emerson College)

Jessica Wahman (Emory University), “Are Metaphysics and Naturalism Contradictory?”

John J. Stuhr (Emory University), “Being, Experience, and Language: Plastic Naturalism and Some Meanings of the Word ‘Nature’”

*Generating Complexity* Chair & Commentator: George Lucas (U.S. Naval Academy *emeritus*)

Michael Baur (Fordham University), “Teleology in Nature, or Why Dead Men Tell No Tales”

C. Wesley DeMarco (Clark University), “Naturalizing Nature”

**Sunday March 21**

10-11:15am Concurrent Sessions

*George W. Shields Memorial Session* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Stambovsky (United States Air Force)

Andrew German (Ben Gurion University of the Negev), “What Makes Nature Intelligible: Some Aristotelian Reflections on Quantum Mechanics”

Timothy E. Eastman (Plasmas International), “Triads as Primal: Peirce's Logic, Category-Theoretic Algebras, and Quantum Mechanics”

*Spirit and Nature* Chair & Commentator: Predrag Cicovacki (College of the Holy Cross)

Philip Stambovsky (Fairfield University), “On the Nature of Spirit as Intelligence: Onto-Epistemology of Inference and the Factor of the Transcendent”

Oleg Beltek (Ss. Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute, Petersburg), “Religious materialism: metaphysics of nature by Sergei Bulgakov”

11:30-12:45 Concurrent Sessions

*The One and the Many* Chair & Commentator: William Wians (Merrimack College)

Rose Cherubin (George Mason University), “Nature, Mortals, and Truth in Parmenides”

Matthew Childers (Kendall College-Ferris State University), “Naturalism and the Uniformity of Nature”

*Nietzsche* Chair & Commentator: Kendy Hess (College of the Holy Cross)

Jordan Rogers (King’s College, Wilkes-Barre), “Oedipus Eyes and Odysseus Ears: Nietzsche on the Modern Naturalistic Project”

Charlie Gustafson-Barret (Xavier University, Cincinnati), “Woman vs. Superman: On the Nature of Nietzsche’s Great Stupidity”

Lunch

2-3:15pm Concurrent Sessions

*Kant and Hamann* Chair & Commentator: Wiebke Deimling (Clark University)

Aaron Halper (Catholic University of America), "The Purposiveness of Nature: Progress and Kant's Gap between Nature and Freedom"

Jason E. Cabitac (Emory University), “Hamann and the Subversion of Reason: Nature as the Matrix of Revelation and Response”

*Physis and the Polis* Chair & Commentator: Jeffrey Bernstein (College of the Holy Cross)

Samuel Lee (New School for Social Research), "The hidden connection between *physis* and *nomos*: On Carl Schmitt’s *nomos* of the earth"

Karl von der Luft (St. John’s College, Santa Fe), “*Physis* and the Political in Heidegger and Strauss”

3:30-4:30pm Business Meeting (open to all MSA members)