CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Metaphysical Society of America

72nd Annual Meeting

Marquette University

March 24-27, 2022

**Metaphysical Traditions in Dialogue**

Metaphysics strives to give an account of the whole by articulating the principles and structures that underlie all things. Ideally, an account of a whole is itself whole, its unity reflective of the kinds of unity thought to be exemplified in reality. (Even metaphysical theories that advocate a plurality of local accounts of different kinds of being must offer a unified account of how these local accounts are related to one another.) This works against eclecticism in metaphysics, for because a part of a whole is what it is only in the context of that whole, the parts of truly unified accounts cannot be substituted for one another. It is perhaps for this reason that metaphysics, more than other areas of philosophy, tends to congeal into competing schools and traditions. Nonetheless, because parallel problems and parallel philosophical strategies always emerge within these different traditions, metaphysical sectarianism has always been more than counterbalanced by fruitful dialogue. This allows for the development of new approaches and insights. Thus, in antiquity, the dialogue between the Platonists and Aristotelians led to Neoplatonic and scholastic metaphysics, and today new metaphysical insights are promised by dialogues such as those between “analysts” and “Continental” philosophers, and between process philosophers and idealistic or naturalistic traditions. The MSA has played an important role in nurturing such work, and continues to do so. As the outlook of academic philosophy becomes more global, and as the metaphysical insights of both nonwestern academic traditions and indigenous wisdom traditions are more universally recognized, this sort of dialogue continues to gain in scope.

This conference will focus on papers that 1) explore the history of dialogue between traditions that partially share a common metaphysical framework (for example, the dialogue among medieval philosophers from the different Abrahamic traditions), 2) explore the history of dialogue between philosophers working from very different metaphysical frameworks, 3) discuss how fruitful dialogue across metaphysical traditions is possible, and 4) continue such dialogue.

Our keynote speaker will be D. A. Masolo, Professor of Philosophy, Distinguished University Scholar at the University of Louisville.

Proposals for papers on other topics of metaphysics are also welcome.

Abstracts of approximately 500 words should be submitted electronically by September 1, 2021 to: Owen Goldin, Department of Philosophy, [Owen.Goldin@Marquette.edu](mailto:Owen.Goldin@Marquette.edu)

Those whose abstracts whose abstracts are chosen by the Program Committee should submit completed papers by January 15, 2022 to allow review by commentators, publication of the program and online sharing of the papers to conference participants. Further information on the conference will become available at: www.metaphysicalsociety.org

**Aristotle Prize**: Papers submitted by persons who have not yet earned a Ph.D. or who have received a Ph.D. 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 the costs associated with attending the meeting. Graduate students and relatively recent Ph.D.s are encouraged to apply. Full papers must be submitted for the prize by September 1, 2021.

**Travel Grants**: Thanks to the generous support of past presidents of the MSA and a grant from the Hocking-Cabot Fund for Systematic Philosophy, we are pleased to be able to offer reimbursements for travel expenses up to $350 to graduate students whose papers are selected for the program for our annual meeting (contingent on submission of receipts).