

PROGRAM

The Metaphysical Society of America
75th Annual Meeting

REALITY: ACTUAL, POSSIBLE, AND VIRTUAL

March 20-22, 2025; Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Marriott Conference Center Atlanta/Decatur Downtown/Emory
Sponsored by the Metaphysical Society of America and
the Department of Philosophy, Emory University



THURSDAY MARCH 20

2—5pm: REGISTRATION (Conference Center Foyer)

3:00—4:30pm: SESSION I

Session I-A: Plural Selves, Plural Realities (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Harald Thorsrud (Agnes Scott College)

Speakers:

[“Situated Selves in Plural Realities”](#)

YF Xu (Georgetown University)

[“The Self as Multiplicity in Woolf’s *Orlando*: Tracing Identity by Way of Pragmatism”](#)

Kelly Schoina (Emory University)

Session I-B: Ineffability, Faith, and Reality (Swanton Amphitheater)

Moderator: Michael J. Rubin (Christendom College)

Speakers:

[“The Reality of Having and Being: Understanding Ineffability Through Campagna & Fromm”](#)

Patrick Fahey (Boston College)

“Faith, Reality, and the "Diamond Net" of Reason”

Ryan May (Boston College)

4:30--5pm: BREAK

5--6:15pm: SESSION II: KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: John Stuhr (Emory University)

Speaker:

“The Poetry of Physics: What Literature Can Teach Us About the Ultimate Nature of Reality”

William Egginton (Johns Hopkins University)

6:45--8pm: RECEPTION (for conference registrants; Avalon Room)

FRIDAY MARCH 21

8:30am—5pm: REGISTRATION (Conference Center Foyer)

9--10:30am: SESSION III

Session III-A: Stable Metaphysics and Convergent Meanings (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Simon Dutton (Emory University)

Speakers:

“Reassessing Plato’s Forms in the Context of Virtual Reality and Materialism”

Eleanor Oser (Boston University)

“The Metaphysical Significance of Meaning: Pragmatic, Phenomenological, and Hermeneutical Convergences”

Vincent Colapietro (Penn State University & University of Rhode Island)

Session III-B: The Virtual (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Lisa Landoe Hedrick (Bates College)

Speakers:

“The Blur of Virtuality”

C. Wesley DeMarco (Clark University)

“A Story to Tell: What Virtuality and Actuality Can Teach Us About History”

Jarrad Felgenhauer (Seattle University)

10:30-10:45: BREAK

10:45am—12:15pm: SESSION IV

Session IV-A: Metaphysics, Reality, and Ancient Greek Thought (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Jennifer Lobo Meeks (Perimeter College, Georgia State University)

Speakers:

“Cornford, Myth, and Metaphysics”

Owen Goldin (Marquette University)

“The Origins of Philosophy in Ancient Greece: Did Aristotle Get It Right?”

Robert Hahn (Southern Illinois University)

Session IV-B: Reality Without Dualisms (Swanton Amphitheater)

Moderator: Michael Schwarz (Emory University)

Speakers:

“A New Theory of Compatibilism”

Caleb M. H. Camrud (Brown University)

“Aspects of Reality: A New Approach to Physical/Mental Dichotomy”

Ataollah Hashemi (St. Louis University)

12:15--1:30pm: LUNCH BREAK

1:30--3pm: SESSION V

Session V-A: Reality Organic and Vital (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Kipton Jensen (Morehouse College)

Speakers:

“Untangling the Metaphysical Knot: Kant and Whitehead on the Real”

Daniel Dombrowski (Seattle University)

[“A Perfect Metaphysical Storm”](#)

Lena Nowak-Laird (New School for Social Research)

Session V-B: Reality, Rift, and Coherence (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University)

Speakers:

“Reality is Riven, or The Rift in Reality that Makes the ‘Space of Reasons’ Possible”

Michael Baur (Fordham University)

“Reality as Coherence”

Edward Halper (University of Georgia)

3—3:15pm. BREAK

3:15--4:45pm: SESSION VI

Session VI-A: Hegel and Reality (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Sebastian Rand (Georgia State University)

Speakers:

“Hegel’s Actualism”

Benjamin Berger (University of Hartford)

“Hegel, Baseball, and the Nature of Reality”

Tyler van Wulven (Santa Clara University)

Session VI-B: Pragmatism About Reality (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: John Lysaker (Emory University)

Speakers:

[“What We Talk About When We Talk About Connection”](#)

Stephen Gaunt (Boston College)

[“Virtual and Actual Parts of Monads in Deluze's Neo-Leibnizian Metaphysics from the Persoective of Peirce's Logic”](#)

Antonis Iliopoulos (University of Oxford and Emory University)

4:45—5pm BREAK

5—6:15pm SESSION VII: MSA PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Phillip Stambovsky

Speaker:

“Radical Empiricism and *Animal Farm* Naturalism”

John Stuhr (Emory University)

SATURDAY MARCH 22

8:30—1pm: REGISTRATION (Conference Center Foyer)

9:00—10:30am: SESSION VIII

Session VIII-A: Buddhism (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Sara McClintock (Emory University)

Speakers:

“The Role of Metaphysical Commitments in Shaping Philosophical Conclusions: A Case Study of the Nyāya-Buddhist Debate on Self”

Lee Ling Ting (Vassar College)

“[Śūnyatā Unbound: Nothingness from Laruelle to Nishida via Brassier](#)”

Christian Halstead (Fordham University)

Session VIII-B: Reality as Inconceivable, Excessive, and Self-Sufficient (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Quentin J. Murphy (University of Georgia)

Speakers:

“The Inconceivability of Reality: Unveiling the Metaphysical World Through Non-Euclidean Geometry”

Songeun Jang (The New School for Social Research)

“Solar Legacy: the Excess of Self-Sufficiency”

Emmanuel Jakob Auerbach-Baidani (The New School for Social Research)

10:30-10:45am: BREAK

10:45—12:15am: SESSION IX

Session IX-A: The Subject of Metaphysics (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Daniel Westbrook (Emory University)

Speakers:

“[The Abyssal Reality of the Subject: Zizek on Kant](#)”

Richard Velkley (Tulane University)

“[Spinoza's Substance Monism in Light of Copernican and Psychoanalytic Turns in Philosophy](#)”

Matthew Thomas Sherman (The New School for Social Research)

Session IX-B: Ontological Parity and Instability (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Jessica Wahman (Emory University)

Speakers:

“[Reality and Ontological Parity](#)”

Lawrence Cahoon (The College of the Holy Cross)

“The Instability of Soft Naturalism”

Daniel Dal Monte (Rowan University and Jefferson University)

12:15--1:30pm: LUNCH BREAK

1:30—3pm: SESSION X

Session X-A: Reality: In the Making (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Michael Chiddo (Kennesaw State University)

Speakers:

“Reality and Its Accomplishment in Levinas”

Bernardo Andrade (Augsburg University)

“[Regarding the Philosophical Premises of Nietzschean Genealogy](#)”

Despina Mandratzi (Panteion University)

Session X-B: The Actual, the Possible, and the Necessary (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Rylie Johnson (Emory University)

Speakers:

“Toward an Ontology of Possibility”

Pascal Massie (Miami University, Ohio)

“[Physicalism and Necessity](#)”

Olle Lövgrén, (Johns Hopkins University)

3-3:15pm: BREAK

3:15—4pm: SESSION XI: ARISTOTLE PRIZE PAPER (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Nancy Frankenberry (Dartmouth College)

Speaker:

“Plato’s Constructive Realism”

Yan Lu (Humboldt University of Berlin)

4—4:15pm: BREAK

4:15—5:45pm: SESSION XII

Session XII-A: Quantum Hegel (Mary Gay Room)

Moderator: Andrew Mitchell (Emory University)

Speakers:

“Beyond the Divide: Hegel’s Metaphysics and the Scientific Inquiry into Quantum Reality”

Kara Slagell (Fordham University)

“[Imagine an Atom](#)”

Katherine Everitt (The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research)

Session XII-B: Extended Minds and Extra-Mental Realities (Henry Oliver Room)

Moderator: Aminah Hasan-Birdwell (Emory University)

Speakers:

“An Interactive Reality: Phenomenology’s Contribution to the Extended Mind Thesis”

Pol Vandavelde (Marquette University)

“Recovering Reality in the British Empirical Tradition after Hume”

Jeffrey Wilson (The Catholic University of America)

6-6:45pm: BUSINESS MEETING (Swanton Amphitheater)

7:15-- BANQUET (for conference registrants) (Mary Gay Room)