

76th Annual Meeting of the Metaphysical Society of America

Metaphysics and the Authority of Intelligence

March 19-21, 2026

— SCHEDULE —

All events located at the Humanities Quadrangle, Yale University, 320 York Street, New Haven, Connecticut

Thursday:

10:45-12:00 **Session A: Prolegomena**

Chair, (TBA)

“Metaphysics Today: The Return of *Metaphysica Specialis*?”

Dylan Shaul (University of California, Riverside)

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**

12:45 – 2:15 **Session I: Speculative Metaphysics: Medieval and Modern**

Chair, (TBA)

Ia. Aquinas and Nietzsche

1. “Why Metaphysics Does Not Presuppose a Proof of Immaterial Being for Aquinas”

Michael J. Rubin (Ava Maria University)

2. “Nietzsche’s Embryonic Will to Power”

Sebastian Abdou (Charles University)

Ib. Spinoza and Hegel

1. “Sublime and Generous Intelligence: Spinoza and Ruyer on the Infinite Intellect”

John Robert Bagby (California Institute of Integral Studies)

2. “Intelligence and Its Night: On Hegel’s Intelligent Will”

Rylie Johnson (Independent Scholar)

2:15 – 2:30 **Break** (DON’T MISS THE BOOK EXHIBIT!)

2:30 – 4:00 **Session II: On the Metaphysics of Knowing and the Authority of Intelligence**

Chair, (TBA)

IIa. Intelligence: Metaphysical and Rational

1. “From Synderesis to Nous: What MacIntyre Misses in Becoming Independent”

May Sim (College of the Holy Cross)

2. “Rational Intelligence and Givenness: Variations on Aristotelian and Kantian Themes”

Lorenzo Guardini (University of Pisa)

IIb. On the Noetic Authority of Phenomenological Thinking

1. “To Know is to Answer: Metaphysical Intelligence in Levinas”

Attila Ákos Tóth (University of Budapest)

2. “Flesh, Phenomenality, and the Ontology of Responsibility”

Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University)

4:00 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:45 **Session III: Metaphysics, Art, and Onto-Epistemology**

Chair, (TBA)

IIIa. The Metaphysical Authority of Intelligence in Art

1. “Art as Metaphysics: Hegel’s Constructivism and the Authority of Intelligence”
Berker Basmaci (Bilkent University)
2. “Metaphysics of the ‘Dark Event’ and the Authority of Intelligence: On the Noetic Grasp of Fact as Meaning in Ceramic Art”
Antonis Iliopoulos (Emory University)

IIIb. Onto-Epistemological Approaches to Knowing: Aesthetic and Critical

1. “Knower, Knowing, and Known: The Onto-Epistemological Unity of Aesthetic Experience”
Rebecca Taylor (Columbia University)
2. “Knowing, Participation, and a Paradox of Onto-Epistemology”
Gary Krenz (University of Michigan)

6:00 – 7:30 **Reception**

Friday:

8:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Registration**

9:15 Formal Welcome and Introduction: Phillip Stambovsky, Society President

9:30 – 10:45 **Keynote Address:** Paul Franks (Yale University)

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:15 **Invited Plenary Speaker:** Sebastian Rödl (Leipzig University)

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch (on your own)

Executive Council Lunch Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 **Session IV: The Character and Purchase of Intelligence in Platonism and Beyond**

Chair, (TBA)

IVa. On the Character of Intelligence in Platonism

1. “Intelligence, Ritual, and Theurgy in Ancient Thought”
Owen Goldin (Marquette University)
2. “On the Inseparability of the Intellect and Intelligibility in the Platonic Tradition”
Lloyd Gerson (University of Toronto)

IVb. On the Authority of Noetic Intelligence

1. “Nourishing on the Meadow of Truth: Plato on Eidetic Enjoyment”
Huaiyuan Zhang (Pennsylvania State University)
2. “Noesis and Necessity”
Wesley DeMarco (Clark University)

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:45 **Session V: The Character and Purchase of Intelligence in Aristotle**
Chair, (TBA)

Va. Aristotle on Noetic Intelligence

1. “Aristotle’s Noesis: Poetry vs. Philosophy”
Eric v. d. Luft (Gegensatz Press)
2. “Aristotle – Noûs, Nature, and Freedom”
Duncan Charles Maclean (St. Mary’s University)

Vb. Nous as Analytic and Ethical Reason

1. “Spinoza: The *Ingenium* of the Wise Person, An Eternal Mode of Thinking
Melanie Catherine Zappulla (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
2. “Ethics, Contemplation, and the Unity of Nous”
Caroline Wall (Boston University)

5:00 **Business Meeting**

Saturday:

8:15 – 9:45 **Session VI: Modern Metaphysics of Knowing-as-of-Being: Kantian and Hegelian Variations**
Chair, (TBA)

VIa. Kant and Kantian Themes

1. “Kant on the Inseparability of the Human Standpoint”
Kuizhi Lewis Wang (Boston University)
2. “Metaphysics, Science, and Semblance: Rethinking Kant’s Constitutive-Regulative Distinction”
Mang Su (Temple University)

VIIb. Hegel and the Varied Character of the Authority of Intelligence (I)

1. “The Geist-God-Reality Triad in Hegelianism and al-Ḥikamat al-Muta’ aliyyah: The Hegel-Ṣadrā Metaphysical Affinity”
Abdul Rahim Afaki (University of Karachi)
2. “The Possibility of First Philosophy and the Critique of Mathematics in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*”
Paul Wilford (Ohio State University)

9:45 – 10:00 Break

10:00 – 11:15 **Plato Prize**

“Reason is Still Real, and Reality is Still Rational”
James Sares (University of Kentucky)

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:45 **Invited Plenary Speaker:** Stephen Houlgate (Warwick, UK)

12:45 – 1:45 Lunch (on your own)

1:45 – 3:15 **Session VII:** Onto-Epistemological Intelligence in Metaphysical and Scientific Thinking
Chair, (TBA)

VIIa. Hegel and the Varied Character of the Authority of Intelligence (II)

1. “Self-Movement and the Unity of Being and Thinking: Hegel on the Non-Actual”
Andrew Davis (Belmont University)
2. “The Groundwork for a Hegelian Descent”
Oliver Guinan (Independent Scholar)

VIIb. The Character and Authority of Noetic Intelligence in Physical Science

1. “Quantum Measurement and the Participatory Unity of Knowing and Being”
Madhurenda Mishra (University of Delhi)
2. “Systematic Metaphysics vs. Empirical Knowledge”
Panagiotis Kalyvas (University of Athens)

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 5:00 **Session VIII:** Metaphysics in Our Time
Chair, (TBA)

VIIIa. Idealist Themes

1. “The Authority of Intelligence, Dialectical Thinking, and Classical Metaphysics”
Michael Baur (Fordham University)
2. “Metametaphysics: First Philosophy after the Transcendental Turn”
Günter Zöller (University of Munich)

VIIIb. Post-Idealist Themes

1. “Beyond Onto-Epistemology: A Phenomenological and Pragmatic Approach to the Self as Another”
Kelly Schoina (Emory University)
2. “The Authority of Intelligence in the Age of Artificial Reproduction”
Nicola Siddi (University of Turin)

6:00 **Banquet**

7:00 Founder’s Medal Award: *George Allan*

Presidential Address: “That *Knowing Is of Being*: On the Onto-Epistemological Authority of Noetic Intelligence,” *Phillip Stambovsky*

8:00 Plato Prize Award

Transfer of MSA Presidency to Professor Tyler Tritten

Plans for the 2027 Meeting

Parting Toast