

Maryland Philosophy Conference

October 17, 2025
Towson University
Towson, MD

Conference Organizers

Björn Freter, Nick Tebben, [Patrick Roney](#), [Gilad Sharvit](#), and [Kristen Hine](#)

Acknowledgements

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October 17, 2025

8:30-12:30: Registration and Breakfast (LA 2314)
8:45-8:55: Opening Remarks (LA 2317)
9:00-10:55: Concurrent Sessions 1A-1D
10:55-11:15: Break
11:15-12:30: Concurrent Sessions 2A-2C
12:30-1:30: Welcome and Lunch (LA Café—LA 4400)
1:30-4:05: Concurrent Session 3A-3C
4:10: Reception (LA 4400)

1A Philosophy of Law – LA 2315

Chair: Jake Bartholomew

9:40-10:15 David Atenasio (Frostburg State University), “The Concept of Crime”

1B Philosophy of Religion—LA 2316

Chair: Patrick Roney

9:00-9:35 Olanrewaju Shitta-Bey (Howard University), “On Epistemic Values of Religious Expressions”

9:40-10:15 Hashem Morvarid, (Johns Hopkins University), “Avicenna on Divine Simplicity”

10:25-10:55 Anna Grace Kalvelage (Loyola Marymount University), “Pascal and Augustine on Time”

1C Philosophy of Mind—LA 2317

Chair: Tim Jankowiak

- 9:00-9:35 Jeremy Schlanger (University of Houston), "Cognition Without Perception is Empty; Perception Without Cognition is Blind"
- 9:40-10:15 Olle Lövgrén (Johns Hopkins University), "Phenomenal Disunities in the Split Brain"

1D Art, Liberation—LA 4315

Chair: Emily Parker

- 9:00-9:35 William Allen (Bowie State University), "Afropessimism, Derrick Bell and Black Liberation"
- 9:40-10:15 Seth Vannatta (Morgan State University), "Conservatism, Radicalism, and Pragmatism in Art"

20 minute break

2A Political Philosophy—LA 2315

Chair: Gilad Sharvit

- 11:15-11:50 Emily Parker (Towson University), "Two Democracies, One Body Problem"
- 11:55-12:30 Chrysoula Gitsoulis (City College, CUNY), "Socrates and Dr. Martin Luther King on the Relationship Between the Individual and the State"

2B Ethics of Technology—LA 2316

Chair: Steve Scales

- 11:15-11:50 Zhaoqi Hu (University of Maryland, College Park), "The Problem of Fake News"
- 11:55-12:30 Jon Joey Telebrico (American University), "A Cyborg Theory of Deepfakes"

2C Self-knowledge—LA 2317

Chair: Kristen Hine

- 11:15-11:50 Donnie Barnett (Saint Joseph's University), "A Memory-Free Version of the Memory Argument?"
- 11:55-12:30 Yichun Sun, "How Others Feature in Knowing Oneself"

PHIL/RLST Chair Welcome and Lunch: 12:30-1:30 CLA Cafe

3A Ethics—LA 2315

Chair: Jill Stinchcomb

- 1:30-2:05 Chris Weigel (Utah Valley University), "The Relational Approach to Deception in Dementia Care"
- 2:10-2:45 Cooper Sarafin, "From Art to Action: Merleau-Ponty's Expression as an Ethical Response to Moral Relativism"

- 2:50-3:25 Steve Scales (Towson University), "On the Violinist's Body"
 3:30-4:05 Richard Wilson (Towson University) and Mike Nestor (Chief Science Officer, Autica Bio Board Director. GUIRR, National Academy of Science), "Convergent Neuroscience, Anticipatory Ethics and Anticipatory Governance: Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Biology, and CRISPR"

3B Metaphysics—LA 2316

Chair: Brian Hillman

- 1:30-2:05 Jacob Lettie (Johns Hopkins University), "Explaining Markovian Time"
 2:10-2:45 Ziren Yang (University of Miami), "Nonactual Possibilities as Targets, or Defending Hypothetical Modeling"
 2:50-3:25 Jessica Pfeifer (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), "Nomic Necessity, Irreducibility, and Invariance"
 3:30-4:05 Izaak Piknjac Phillips (University of Windsor), "The Impossibility of a Critical Realism: Contrasting James' Account of Interest with Whitehead's Account of Importance"

3C Philosophy of Psychology, Practical Reason—LA 2317

Chair: Suk Choi

- 1:30-2:05 Cara Cummings (Morgan State), "Was Plato Melancholic? Assessing the *Problems*"
 2:10-2:45 Audrey L. Anton (Western Kentucky University), "Rehabilitating Incontinence: Mending the Jekyll-Hyde Divide in Aristotle's Moral Psychology"
 2:50-3:25 Ricky Mouser, "Quantification is Commensuration"
 3:30-4:05 Matthew Coate (Kent State University), "Repetition as Resolution vs. Repetition as Ritual: an Existential Analysis of OCD"