

Maryland Philosophy Conference

October 23, 2026
Towson University
Towson, MD

Conference Organizers

Jake Bartholomew, Nick Tebben, Patrick Roney, Gilad Sharvit, Justin Harmon, and Kristen Hine

Acknowledgements

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October 23, 2026

9:00-9:30: Registration and Breakfast (LA 4400)

9:30-11:25: Concurrent Sessions 1A-1D

11:30-12:30: Lunch

12:30-2:25: Concurrent Sessions 2A-2C

2:25-2:45: Break

2:45-5:20: Concurrent Sessions 3A-3C

5:20: Reception (LA 4400)

1A Social Philosophy– LA 4302

Chair: Justin Harmon

09:30-10:05 Calum Hodgson, “Towards a Realist Principle of Inclusion”

10:10-10:45 Daniel Burkett, Binghamton University, “(Not) Punishable by Death. Why the Death Penalty Can Never Count as Punishment”

10:50-11:25 Ellen Miller, Rowan University, “Love through Alienation in Butler’s “Bloodchild” and Merleau-Ponty”

1B History of Philosophy--LA 4315

Chair: Patrick Roney

09:30-10:05 Jason Caro, “The Reluctant Path beyond Kant’s Radical Evil”

10:10-10:45 Kevin Busch, Claremont McKenna College, “A Problem for Humean Modality”

1C Ethics and Social Philosophy-- LA 4303

Chair: Jake Bartholomew

- 09:30-10:05 Xiamara Brooks, "Did You Mean It?"
- 10:10-10:45 William Allen, Bowie State University, "Insurrectionist Ethics and the Late Period of W.E.B Du Bois"
- 10:50-11:25 Michael Nestor, "Governing at the Edge of Convergence: Anticipatory Ethics for Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Biology, and Quantum Computing"

1D Metaphysics--LA 4317

Chair: Chloe Tran

- 09:30-10:05 Philip Matveev, "Selective Effective Metaphysics"
- 10:10-10:45 Chad Hall, UConn, "Higher-Order Vagueness and Ideal Language Philosophy"
- 10:50-11:25 Hong Phuc Nguyen, "Truth and the Internalization of Predication: From Plato to Leibniz"

PHIL/RLST Chair Welcome and Lunch: 11:30-12:30, CLA Cafe

2A Social Philosophy and Language —LA 4302

Chair: Rachel Hubble

- 12:30-1:05 Isaac Raymond, University of Oxford, "Microaggressions and the Directive to Be: Speech Acts, Presupposition, and Heteronomy"
- 1:10-1:45 Jed Young, "Reclaiming Graham v. Connor: Epistemic Injustice In Police Brutality Court Cases"
- 1:50-2:25 Sophie Gibert, University of Pennsylvania, "Manipulation and Voluntary Consent"

2B Ethics --LA 4303
Chair: Kristen Hine

- 12:30-1:05 Andrea Villalba Cuesta, Lafayette College, "Shape of a Childhood"
- 1:10-1:45 David Atenasio, "In Defense of Root Cause Radicalism"
- 1:50-2:25 Elizabeth Sontag, "Debunking Labor-Based Accounts of Special Parental Responsibility"

2C Religion and Ancient Philosophy—LA 4315
Chair: Tim Jankowiak

- 12:30-1:05 Audrey Anton, "Consenting Character: Aristotle on Responsibility for Akrasia"
- 1:10-1:45 Hydar Hussein Arastu, "Always and for the Most Part - But Not for the Sake of: Understanding Physics ii.8 through Material Constraint and Teleological Opportunism as Demonstrated by Residual Matter"
- 1:50-2:25 Zack Akin, "Why an Unsurpassable Being Can Create a Surpassable World"

20 Minute Break

3A Ethics and Metaethics LA 4310
Chair—Veneta Nikolera

- 2:45-3:20 Cade Schafer, "The Authority Within: Reflective Commitment and Moral Agency in Sentimentalist Relativism"
- 3:25-4:00 L. Allison Herzog, Attorney with Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice, "Causally Responsible Obstacles"
- 4:05-4:40 Matthew Lamb, "Objectionability and Agent-Relative Offensiveness: Accounting for Formative Circumstances on a Quality of Will Framework"
- 4:45-5:20 Tyler Olds, "Kant on the Value of Human Beings"

3B Science and Metaphysics—LA 4317

Chair: Nick Tebben

- 2:45-3:20 Leo Alvarez Ceja, “Mereological Voids”
- 3:25-4:00 Marcos Alcázar Estrella, University of Connecticut, “The Theory of Inquiry and the Problem of Biological Individuality”
- 4:05-4:40 Rich Wilson, “Husserl’s View of Science: From Philosophy of Arithmetic to The Crisis of the European Sciences”
- 4:45-5:20 Tyler Hess, “Was Hobbes a Compatibilist?”

3C Technology—LA 4302

Chair: Dami Daniel

- 2:45-3:20 Josh Greenbaum, “Engagement All the Way Down: Why Language-Model Agents Don't Fix Recommendation”
- 3:25-4:00 Matthew Taylor and Kimora Hardy, “Vicious Technologists”
- 4:05-4:40 Michael Milhim, “Is Ad-Blocking Theft?”