

New Directions in Metaphilosophy

Dates

13-14 May 2021

Venue

University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

Plenary Speakers

Christopher Daly (University of Manchester)
Stacie Friend (Birkbeck College, University of London)
Charles Pence (Université catholique de Louvain)
Jon Williamson (University of Kent)
Timothy Williamson (University of Oxford)

Organiser

Yafeng Shan (University of Kent)

Funders

The Analysis Trust
The Aristotelian Society

Conference Description

There has been an increasing interest in the metaphilosophical issues for the past two decades. Whether philosophy makes progress has been widely debated (e.g. Williamson 2006, Dietrich 2011, Chalmers 2015, Stoljar 2017, Beebe 2018). Experimental philosophy and its scope have been examined (e.g. Sosa 2007, Kamber 2011, Kriegel 2017). The role of the principle of simplicity in philosophy has been contested (e.g., Sober 2002, Willard 2014, Brenner 2017). The evidential function of intuitions has been reassessed (e.g. Silva 2013, Buckwalter 2014, Chudnoff 2014). New methods (e.g. digital philosophy of science) has been developed (Pence and Ramsey 2018). This conference aims to explore and examine new approaches, new theories, and new problems in metaphilosophy.

The questions to be addressed include (but are not limited to):

What is the principle of simplicity? Is simplicity a virtue of philosophical hypotheses?

What is the role of thought experiment in philosophy?

Does intuition provide a justificatory basis?

What is the prospect of experimental philosophy?

What is the difference between philosophical and scientific methods?

Does philosophy progress? What is the nature of philosophical progress?

The conference is planned to be an in-person event at the University of Kent, but it might be converted to a virtual event if travel and gathering are still difficult by then.

The deadline for submissions is 28 February 2021. Please submit a 500-word abstract to Yafeng Shan (y.shan@kent.ac.uk). Submissions by members of minority and under-represented groups are particularly welcome.

Thanks to the generous support of the Analysis Trust, there are some travel bursaries available for PhD speakers. In order to apply for travel bursaries, please provide a short CV (maximally 1 page long) while submitting an abstract.