

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
*Metaphysical Society of America*  
63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
University of Georgia  
March 11-12, 2012

**Reason and the Rationality of Being**

What, if any, is the ground for supposing that human reason is capable of grasping reality? Why should a phenomenon that occurs within our minds grasp or, indeed, be capable of grasping the nature of the cosmos, truths about the world, or reality? We can ask whether reality is such as to be grasped by reason. Or, proceeding in the opposite direction, we can inquire into reason, that is, into intellectual intuition or logical inference, and ask (a) why we should expect intellectual intuition to grasp principles of reality and (b) why a rational inference drawn from true principle would yield a conclusion that is also true of reality. In other words, what is it about reality that makes it subject to reason? What is it about reason that allows it to grasp reality? Are there any good grounds to believe that the world is intelligible? Furthermore, what sort of an entity is reason itself? That is, does a principle or an argument exist have its own being and reality?

These questions were raised and examined by ancient Greek philosophers, and they have been explored by subsequent philosophers, at least some of whom have rejected the rationality of being. According to one contemporary tradition, the notion that reality is intelligible is a central error; according to another, the issue cannot even be cogently posed. In short, the issue has been examined in diverse ways.

Like many metaphysical problems, part of what is at issue is how best to formulate and pursue the issue. Original metaphysical reflections are very welcome, as are discussions and assessments of important philosophical treatments of the issue.

Interested philosophers are encouraged to submit abstracts of essays that would address some form of this topic. While the conference theme is the metaphysics of reason, the program committee will consider papers on any area of metaphysics.

**500-word abstracts should be submitted by June 1, 2011 to:**

Edward Halper, Department of Philosophy, University of Georgia ehalper@uga.edu.

Those whose abstracts are chosen by the Program Committee must submit completed papers by December 31, 2011 to allow time for review by commentators and publication of the program. Further information on the conference will be available at: [www.metaphysicalsociety.org](http://www.metaphysicalsociety.org)

**ARISTOTLE PRIZE:** Papers submitted by persons who have not yet earned a Ph.D. or whose Ph.D. is less than five years old at the time of submission will be considered for the Aristotle Prize if the Program Committee is alerted to eligibility. The prize carries a cash award of \$500 and inclusion in the program. Please encourage graduate students and junior colleagues to consider entering the competition. Papers submitted for the Aristotle Prize must be complete by the deadline for submission: June 1, 2011.