The Metaphysical Society of America

71st Annual Meeting

Constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies

[www.metaphysicalsociety.org](http://www.metaphysicalsociety.org)

College of the Holy Cross

March 19-22 2020

“Nature and its Meanings”

**Thursday March 19\***

3:00-6pm Break Room and Registration Hogan 4th floor Suite A (Building #34 campus map)

4-6pm *Society for the Study of Process* *Philosophy* Hogan 519

Chair and Commentator: Thomas Pashby (University of Chicago)

Leemon McHenry (California State University Northridge) “The Metaphysics of Events: In Search of a Unified Theory”

6-7pm Welcoming Reception Hogan 4th floor Suite A

Dinner on your own

**Friday March 20\***

8am-4pm Break Room and Registration Hogan 4th floor Suite A (Building #34 campus map)

9:00amWelcome Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross) Hogan 519

9:05-10:45 am *Plenary Session on Hans Jonas* Hogan 519

Chair & Commentator: Michelle Mahoney (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Nicholas Anderson (Boston College), “From Metabolism to Metaphysics: Hans Jonas on the Natural Grounds of Metaphysical Speculation”

Paul Wilford (Boston College), “Alienation from Nature: Hans Jonas on Reason’s Gnostic Temptation”

Zachary Calhoun (Tulane University), “‘The Greatest of Gods, Deathless Earth’: Hans Jonas and the Ethical Ground of Environmental History”

11-12:15 *Aristotle Prize Lecture* Hogan 519

Chair & Commentator: Robert Neville (Boston University *emeritus*)

Jeffrey B. Speaks (Boston University), “Experience and Value: Radical Empiricism and an Axiological Religion of Nature”

Lunch on your own 12:15-2pm

2-3:30pm *Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*Aristotle and Purpose* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Maher (Assumption College) Hogan B

May Sim (College of the Holy Cross), “Moving Naturally and Knowledge for Aristotle and the Daoists”

Edward Halper (University of Georgia), “Nature, Life, and Purpose”

*Values and Human Nature* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Dombrowski (Seattle University) Hogan C

David Takamura (University of North Carolina and Duke University), “Sentimental Marx: The Eternal Charm of Ancient Greece for the *Grundrisse*”

Owen Goldin (Marquette University), “Human Nature and the Transhuman”

3:45-5:15 *Keynote Address* Rehm Library in Smith Hall (Building #3 campus map)

Introduction by Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross)

Mario De Caro (Tufts University and University of Roma Tre), “Naturalism and Pluralism”

Dinner on your own

**Saturday March 21\***

8am-4pm Break Room and Registration (until 12pm) Hogan 4th floor Suite A (Building #34 campus map)

9-10:30am *Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*Whitehead* Chair & Commentator: George Allan (Dickinson College *emeritus*) Hogan B

Thomas Pashby (University of Chicago), “Value in Whitehead's Emerging Metaphysical Synthesis”

Lisa Landoe Hedrick (University of Chicago), “Locating Nature and Its Other: A Critique of the Spatialization of Concepts”

*Semiosis in Nature* Chair/Commentator: Robert Innis (University of Massachusetts Lowell *emeritus*) Hogan C

Nicholas L. Guardiano (Southern Illinois University), “The Metaphysical Grounds and Aesthetic Primacy of Universal Semiosis”

Vincent Colapietro (University of Rhode Island), “Nature as a Matrix of Meanings: Nature, Judgment, and Query”

*10:45-12:15pm Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*Quantum Mechanics* Chair & Commentator: Daniel Stambovsky (United States Air Force) Hogan B

Andrew German (Ben Gurion University of the Negev), “What Makes Nature Intelligible: Some Aristotelian Reflections on Quantum Mechanics”

George W. Shields (University of Louisville) and Timothy E. Eastman (Plasmas International), “Triads as Primal: Peirce's Logic, Category-Theoretic Algebras, and Quantum Mechanics”

*Spirit and Nature* Chair & Commentator: Predrag Cicovacki (College of the Holy Cross) Hogan C

Kyle J. Barbour (University of Guelph), “Absolute Ecology: On the Simultaneous Immanence and Transcendence of Nature”

Oleg Beltek (Ss. Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute, Petersburg), “Religious materialism: metaphysics of nature by Sergei Bulgakov”

Lunch on your own 12:15-2pm (Executive Committee lunch Hogan 404 )

2-3:30pm *Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*American Naturalism* Chair & Commentator: Elizabeth Baeten (Emerson College) Hogan B

Jessica Wahman (Emory University), “Are Metaphysics and Naturalism Contradictory?”

John J. Stuhr (Emory University), “Being, Experience, and Language: Plastic Naturalism and Some Meanings of the Word ‘Nature’”

*Generating Complexity* Chair & Commentator: George Lucas (U.S. Naval Academy *emeritus*) Hogan C

Michael Baur (Fordham University), “Teleology in Nature, or Why Dead Men Tell No Tales”

C. Wesley DeMarco (Clark University), “Naturalizing Nature”

3:45-5:00pm *Presidential Address* Rehm Library in Smith Hall (Building #3 campus map)

Introduction by Owen Goldin (Marquette University)

Larry Cahoone (College of the Holy Cross), “Towards an Ordinal Naturalism”

5:15-6pm Business Meeting (open to all MSA registrants) Hogan 519

6-8pm Banquet (open to all MSA registrants) Hogan Suite A

**Sunday March 22\***

8am-11am: Break Room Hogan Suite A (Building #34 campus map)

9-10:30am *Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*The One and the Many* Chair & Commentator: William Wians (Merrimack College) Hogan B

Rose Cherubin (George Mason University), “Nature, Mortals, and Truth in Parmenides”

Matthew Childers (Kendall College-Ferris State University), “Naturalism and the Uniformity of Nature”

*Nietzsche* Chair & Commentator: Kendy Hess (College of the Holy Cross) Hogan C

Jordan Rogers (King’s College, Wilkes-Barre), “Oedipus Eyes and Odysseus Ears: Nietzsche on the Modern Naturalistic Project”

Charlie Gustafson-Barret (Xavier University, Cincinnati), “Woman vs. Superman: On the Nature of Nietzsche’s Great Stupidity”

10:45-12:15pm *Concurrent Sessions* Hogan 4th floor Suites B/C

*Kant and Hamann* Chair & Commentator: Wiebke Deimling (Clark University) Hogan B

Aaron Halper (Catholic University of America), "The Purposiveness of Nature: Progress and Kant's Gap between Nature and Freedom"

Jason E. Cabitac (Emory University), “Hamann and the Subversion of Reason: Nature as the Matrix of Revelation and Response”

*Physis and the Polis* Chair & Commentator: Jeffrey Bernstein (College of the Holy Cross) Hogan C

Samuel Lee (New School for Social Research), "The hidden connection between *physis* and *nomos*: On Carl Schmitt’s *nomos* of the earth"

Karl von der Luft (St. John’s College, Santa Fe), “*Physis* and the Political in Heidegger and Strauss”

\* Shuttles between Hogan and Hilton for 1 hour before earliest and 1hour after latest event of the day. Services on Hogan First Floor. For information, contact Larry Cahoone [lcahoone@holycross.edu](mailto:lcahoone@holycross.edu) (508)793-2460

*Sponsored by Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture, the Dean’s Office, and the Department of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross*.