

CALL FOR PAPERS
Metaphysical Society of America
65th Annual Meeting
Williams College
April 11-13

Questions of Being

According to the 1957 MSA Presidential Address,¹ “the problem of being” is “of central importance to metaphysics,” but “the problem of being is not necessarily a single problem.” According to the 1990 MSA Presidential Address,² there is a “singular question of being” that has taken at least the forms: “What is being?”; “What is entity, *ousia*?”; and “Why is there something rather than nothing?” The “singularity” of the question is not destroyed, according to the 1990 Address, when Heidegger distinguishes Being and beings, or when Aquinas formulates it as “the inquiry into *esse* as actuality and perfection.”

Are the various formulations introduced in the 1990 Address best understood as versions of what is, somehow, one and the same question—or, in the terms of the 1957 Address, is there a single problem of being? Or do at least some of the 1990 Address’s formulations raise significantly distinct issues? Interested philosophers are invited to consider one or more of these questions or problems of being (or beings, or Being), or other such questions they deem important.

Although the theme of the conference is question(s) or problem(s) of being, the program committee will consider abstracts of essays on any area of metaphysics.

500-word abstracts prepared for blind review should be submitted by July 1, 2013 to:
Alan White (Department of Philosophy, Williams College); awhite@williams.edu.

Those whose abstracts are selected by the Program Committee must submit completed papers by December 31, 2013, to allow time for review by commentators and publication of the program. Further information on the conference will be available at www.metaphysicalsociety.org.

Aristotle Prize: Papers submitted by persons who have not yet earned a PhD or who have become PhD within five years of the submission date will be considered for the Aristotle Prize, if the Program Committee is made aware of their eligibility. The prize carries a cash award of \$500, inclusion in the program, and assistance with costs associated with attending the meeting. Please encourage graduate students and junior colleagues to consider entering the competition. Papers submitted for the Aristotle Prize must be complete by September 1, 2013.

Travel Grants: Thanks to the generous support of members of the Metaphysical Society and a grant from the Hocking-Cabot Fund for Systematic Philosophy, we are pleased to offer travel grants to graduate students whose papers are selected for the program for our annual meeting. More information and an application can be found on the Society’s website.

¹ Klubertanz, George. The Problem of the Analogy of Being. *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (June 1957), 553–579.

² Sokolowski, Robert. The Question of Being. *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 43, No. 4 (June 1990), 707–716.