

The Metaphysical Society of America
68th Annual Meeting

Constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies
www.metaphysicalsociety.org

Cambridge/Boston, MA
March 30—April 2, 2017

“The Metaphysics of Contingency: East and West”

Thursday March 30

**4:00-7:00 PM Registration Table Open in 3rd Floor Foyer The Courtyard by
Marriott Boston-Cambridge, 777 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA**

4:00-6:00 PM Ballroom B, Courtyard by Marriott

Society for the Study of Process Philosophies (all MSA members welcome)
Chair: George R. Lucas, Jr. (U.S. Naval Academy, Emeritus)

Dan Dombrowski (Seattle University) “Contingent Creativity as Necessary”
Commentator: Brian Henning (Gonzaga University)

**6:00-8:00 PM Welcoming Reception for Attendees
Ballroom A The Courtyard by Marriott**

**Friday March 31 All Meetings Held in Beren Hall at Harvard Hillel,
52 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA**

8:15-9:30 AM Registration Table Open in Foyer of Hillel

9:00 AM Welcome by Edward J. Hall, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Harvard Univ

9:10 AM Introduction to Keynote Speaker by Nancy Frankenberry, MSA President

9:15 AM Opening Keynote Address: Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, NYU
“Banishing Contingency: Einstein’s God and Spinoza’s Necessity”

10:30 AM Coffee Break

10:45 AM Plenary Session: Aristotle Prize Lecture

Chair and Commentator: Vincent Colapietro (Pennsylvania State University)

Lisa Landoe Hedrick (University of Chicago Divinity School)
 “Processing Contingency with Theology: A Defense of Whitehead's Pragmatism”

12:00-1:30 Lunch (in Cambridge on your own)

1:45 Plenary Session: Fundamental Metaphysical Inquiry

Chair and Commentator: William Desmond (Villanova University and
 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Robert Neville (Boston University) “Cosmological and Ontological Contingency”

Daniel Stambovsky (Capt. U.S. Air Force) “Contingency: The Metaphysics of
 Entangled Hurricanes”

3:15 Plenary Session: Presidential Address

Introduction by Richard Velkley (Tulane University; Vice-President, MSA)

Nancy Frankenberry (Dartmouth College, *Emeritus*; President, MSA)
 “Consenting to Contingency After Rorty and Nagarjuna”

4:30 Harvard-Hillel to close at sundown

6:00-7:00 Presidential Reception (**Waterfront Ballroom Foyer**, The Courtyard by
 Marriott Cambridge)

7:00-9:30 Banquet Dinner (**Waterfront Ballroom**, The Courtyard by Marriott
 Cambridge)

**Saturday April 1 All Meetings Held at The Courtyard by Marriott
 Cambridge**

8:00-8:55 Executive Board Meeting **Ballroom B**

8:00-9:00 Registration Table Open **3rd Floor Foyer**

**9:00 Plenary Session: Contingency in Comparative Perspective: East-West I
 Ballroom A**

Chair and Commentator: George Lucas (Distinguished Chair of Ethics *Emeritus*,
 US Naval Academy)

May Sim (College of the Holy Cross), "Rethinking Contingency with Plato and
 Zhuangzi"

Timothy Eastman (Plasmas International, Silver Spring, MD), Farzad Mahootian
 (New York University), Guoxiang Peng (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China)
 “Contingency, Necessity and *Potentia*, East and West”

10:30 Coffee Break (3rd Floor Foyer)

10:45 Concurrent Sessions: Contingency in Comparative Perspective: East-West II

Chair: Richard D. Winfield (University of Georgia)

Ballroom A

1. Diogo Cesar Porto de Silva (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil), “Kuki Shūzō’s Redefinition of Metaphysics Through Contingency: A Bet on Difference”	2. Antoine Cantin-Brault (Université de Saint-Boniface), “Finding a Common Ground: Löwith and Nishida”
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Chair and Commentator: Jonathan Sanford (University of Dallas)

Ballroom B

1. Amod Lele (Boston University), “Resolving Disagreements Across Metaphysical Traditions: A Methodological Exploration”	2. Owen Goldin (Marquette University), “Contingency, History, and Eschatology in Plato and Philoponus”
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12:15 Lunch (in Boston/Cambridge on your own)

2:00 Concurrent Sessions: Contingency in Historical Perspective I

Chair and Commentator: Margarita Fenn (Boston College)

Ballroom A

1. Daniel Bloom (West Texas A&M University), “The Necessity and Contingency of <i>Logos</i> in Plato’s <i>Sophist</i> ”	2. James Wood (Xavier University), “Parmenides on Necessary and Contingent Being”
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Chair and Commentator: Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University)

Ballroom B

1. Samuel Stoner (Assumption College), “Kant on the Transcendental Philosopher’s Admiration of Contingency”	2. Paul Wilford (Boston College), “World Historical Individuals and the Problem of Contingency in Hegel’s Philosophy of History”
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3:30 Coffee Break (3rd Floor Foyer)

**3:45 Plenary Session: Contingency in Historical Perspective II
Ballroom A**

Chair and Commentator: Eric v.d. Luft (Gegensatz Press)

1. Jeffrey Dirk Wilson (Catholic University of America), “A Proposed Resolution of Thomas Aquinas’ Third Way: The Contingency of Secondary Analogates”
2. Jon Burmeister (Assumption College/Boston College), “What is Left to Contingency: Hegel’s Philosophical Minimalism”

**5:15 Annual Business Meeting (Announcements, Future Plans, 2018 Atlanta) followed by meeting of the President’s Council (present and past Presidents of the Society)
Ballroom A**

6:00 Dinner on your own

**Sunday April 2 All Meetings Held at The Courtyard by Marriott
Cambridge**

**9:00 Plenary Session: Contingency in Contemporary Perspective I
Ballroom A**

Chair and Commentator: Robert Neville (Boston University)

1. George Allan (Dickinson College, Emeritus), “Living Contingently”
2. JeeLoo Liu (California State-Fullerton), “Metaphysics without Metaphysical Necessity: The Case of Neo-Confucian Metaphysics”

10:30 Coffee Break (3rd Floor Foyer)

10:45 Concurrent Sessions: Contingency in Contemporary Perspective II

Chair and Commentator: Jessica Wahman (Cornell University)
Ballroom A

1. Michele Mahoney (Memorial University of Newfoundland), “Contingency and Freedom in Peirce’s Logic of Continuity”	2. Edward Papa (Sacred Heart), “The Sense of Historical Contingency in Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics”
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Chair and Commentator: Joseph Carter (University of Georgia)

Ballroom B

1. C. Wesley DeMarco (Clark University), "The Touch of Contingency: How Changing My Mind Can Change Your Being"	2. Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University), "Hume, Boutroux, and the Demise of the Principle of 'Like Cause Like'"
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12:15 Meeting Adjourns