

American Philosophies Forum

The 2025 Conference:

COMMUNICATION

**3-5 April 2025, Austin, Texas, USA; Sponsored by Emory University and
The Center for Media Engagement, University of Texas, Austin**



American Philosophies Forum

Thursday, 3 April (Hilton Garden Inn, Austin Capitol District)

----*Arrivals*

3--3:45pm: CONFERENCE OPENING: Introductions and background

4—5:45pm: SESSION I:

MEANINGS, CONTEXTS, POWERS

Speakers:

Jessica Wahman (Philosophy, Emory University):

“What is Shared in Shared Meaning?: Communication, Language, and Education”

Sarah Warren (Philosophy, Siena College):

“Slender Roots Suffuse Clay: Events, Poetic Meaning, and Resilience
Under Darkening Skies”

Megan Craig (Philosophy, Stony Brook University):

“Failure to Communicate: Language Games in *Cool Hand Luke*”

John Stuhr (Philosophy and American Studies, Emory University):

“Talk This Way: Description Games and Powers”

6:15—7:30pm: OPENING RECEPTION

----dinner (on one’s own)

Friday, 4 April (LBJ Room, Moody College of Communication, UT campus)

---breakfast (on one's own)

9:30--11:15am: **SESSION II:**
COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Speakers:

Gail Weiss (Philosophy, George Washington University):
“Curating Embodied Resistance Through Social Media: The Role of Virtual Audience in the Fight for Social Justice”

Carmela Epright (Philosophy, Furman University):
“Everyone, Everywhere, All at Once: Tics, Tik Toks, and Media Induced Somatic Symptom Disorder”

Cory Wimberly (Philosophy, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley):
“Online Communications as Propaganda”

Joe Larios (English and Creative Writing, Hollins University):
“AI, Social Media, and the Collapse of the Common World: John Dewey and Distortions of Inquiry”

---break (coffees, teas, water provided)

11:30am--1:15pm: **SESSION III:**
COMMUNICATION AND AI

Speakers:

Steven Brence (Philosophy, University of Oregon):
“AI and the Self”

Mark Fagiano (Philosophy, Politics, and Public Affairs, Washington State University):
“Communication Breakdown: The Value-Alignment Problem in Artificial Intelligence”

Tara Mastrelli (Philosophy, Stony Brook University):
“Cultivating Habits of Democratic (and Anti-Democratic) Communication”

Jennifer Hansen (Philosophy, St. Lawrence University):
“Ill-Communication: A Deweyan Analysis of Morally Harmful Communication Revealed in AI-Human Interaction”

----lunch (on one's own)

3:15—5:15pm: **SESSION IV:**
SPEECH ACTS, PRESUMPTIONS, DISPOSITIONS, DISSEMINATIONS

Speakers:

John Lysaker (Philosophy and Center for Ethics, Emory University):

“Surely you should be frank: on the importance of being earnest”

Alain Beauclair (Humanities, MacEwan University):

“On Promising”

Carlos Pereda (Philosophy, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México):

“Communicative Presumptions”

Vincent Colapietro (Philosophy, Penn State University and University of Rhode Island):

“Dialogue, Dissemination, and Semiosis: Toward a Pragmatic Reconstruction”

Emily McRae (Philosophy, University of New Mexico):

“Silence and Self-Discovery: On Communicating Ourselves to Ourselves”

----dinner (on one's own)

Saturday, 5 April (LBJ Room, Moody College of Communication, UT campus)

---breakfast (on one's own)

9:30—11:15am: **SESSION V:**
ATMOSPHERES, AURAS, AND BODIES

Speakers::

Richard Shusterman (Humanities, Florida Atlantic University):
“Atmosphere in Pragmatism”

Lori Gallegos (Philosophy, Texas State University):
“Atmospheric Communication and the Listening Body”

Mary Magada-Ward (Philosophy, Middle Tennessee State University):
“Balanchine’s *Duo Concertant* and Ballet’s Communicative Power”

Jessica Locke (Philosophy, Loyola University, Maryland):
“From the Gods’ Lips to Our Ears: Charismatic Communication”

---break (coffees, teas, water provided)

11:30am—1:30pm: **SESSION VI:**
COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRACY

Speakers:

Emily Zakin (Philosophy, Miami University, Ohio):
“Populism and Symbolic Representation”

Brendan Hogan (Liberal Studies, New York University):
“Democracy in Translation”

Matthew Robb and **Lawrence Marcelle** (School of Design Strategies,
Parsons School of Design):
“Deweyan Democracy in the Age of Disinformation”

Robert Danisch (Communication Arts, University of Waterloo):
“Living Democracy: How Communication Systems and Communications Practices Shape
Political Culture”

Scott Stroud (Communication Studies, University of Texas, Austin):
“Faith in Communication and Faith in Democracy”

7pm: **BANQUET:** Roaring Fork restaurant (701 Congress Avenue)

Sunday, 6 April

---breakfast (on one's own) and **Departures**

