

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS **Deadline: 1 November 2025**

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHIES FORUM

2026 Conference

Selves and Subjects



Conference dates: 2-4 April 2026

Location: Atlanta, GA USA

(Decatur Conference Center/Courtyard Atlanta/Decatur/Emory)

Sponsor: Emory University

The American Philosophies Forum invites abstracts for its 2026 Conference, “Selves and Subjects”

Submissions are invited on any aspect of this topic, and authors should make clear what dimension(s) of this topic they propose to address. In this context, submissions may focus on any of the following non-exhaustive prompts:

- What is the nature of the self?
- Is the notion of the self a biological one?
- Is the self irreducibly social?
- Is the self both a linguistic animal and an effect of language?
- Is the self a legal posit?
- Is being a self an affair of self-creation and self-knowledge, the life of a self as a kind of work of art or self-cultivation?
- Are human selves divine creations? Are selves different from souls? Are selves in some part or in some way eternal?
- Is the self a process or function, always a matter of becoming?
- Are animals other than humans also selves? Are selfhood and animality related?
- Does AI have selfhood? If not now, in the future could it?
- Are there extended minds? If so, are there extended selves?
- What are the conditions or requirements for selfhood? Who is authorized to determine this?
- What is the relation between selfhood and self-identity or plural self-identities?
- Is the self fundamentally an illusion, a fiction, or obstacle?
- Does the notion of the self rest on an inward perspective or personal experience? Is the self an object of representation or knowledge at all? Does selfhood involve experience of self-agency?
- By contrast, does the notion of the subject rest on an external, cultural perspective—a position within and defined by social positions, forces, and histories?
- Should any ontological notion of the self be jettisoned in favor of a thoroughgoing social, historical examination of different subjects in different times and places?
- Are subjects always in positions of dependence? Can they attain freedom and agency? How?
- How can we best understand and, perhaps, transform, relations among subjects marked by race and ethnicity, sex and gender, economic class, nationality, religion, age, ability, and so on?
- How has the notion of the self been understood in different philosophical and cultural traditions?
- What are consciousness and self-consciousness, and how are they related to selves and subjects?
- What are the relations between selfhood, memory, and will?
- Are differences between subjects and objects grammatical, epistemological, ontological, ethical, political, aesthetic?
- What are the normative assumptions and the normative implications of any given view of selves and subjects? In what ways can such assumptions be justified?

All submissions selected for presentation at the conference will reflect the broad mission of the American Philosophies Forum: “to contribute to the critical development, imaginative growth, and shared understanding of American philosophical traditions; and, to bring the resources of these multiple philosophies to bear on the reconstruction of contemporary culture and the amelioration of its problems.” Submissions and presentations may take, or include, any medium and media. Submissions which are primarily textual explications or exclusively historical in focus will not be accepted. Authors are very strongly encouraged to speak in their own voices. All authors shall attend the entire conference and all its sessions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline for Electronic Submission:

The deadline for receipt of all submissions is **1 November 2025**. Submissions received after midnight USA Eastern Daylight Savings Time on this date will not be considered. All submissions must be received in electronic form as a .DOC or .RTF attachment (and not in any other format) to an e-mail message sent to: americanphilosophiesforum@gmail.com

Eligibility and Single Submission:

Persons who submit an abstract must be APF Associates. To become an Associate—there is no cost--, simply e-mail name, address, institutional affiliation (if any), and preferred e-address to: americanphilosophiesforum@gmail.com (Note: The APF is not an academic “society.” There are no membership dues, registration fees, business meetings, or similar bureaucratic structures.). Only one submission per person is allowed. Multiple submissions will be rejected.

Anonymous Review:

Author information should be provided in the e-mail message to which the submission is attached. The submission itself must be ready for anonymous review: References, proper names, specific content, endnotes, or anything else that makes possible author identification are not allowed and will disqualify a submission. All submissions will be anonymously reviewed: persons who submit and persons who review will not know each other’s identity.

General Formatting:

All submissions must be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1” top, bottom, and side margins. Do not include any other special formatting

Submissions:

Submissions length: 350-650 words. Shorter or longer submissions may be disqualified. **Authors of accepted abstracts must submit final essay drafts of no more than 15 pages (including any notes, images, or other content, all formatted as above) by 1 March 2026. Conference papers are expected to be polished drafts that profitably may be revised in light of conference discussions.** All papers will be made available electronically to participants a month in advance. At the conference, authors will be provided only 10-12 minutes to summarize, emphasize, or develop further the contents of the full essay--allowing significant time for questions, discussion, and genuine exchange.

Technology Needs:

Please indicate any AV/technology needs in the e-mail to which the abstract submission is attached.

Confirmation and Decision Dates:

All who submit an abstract will receive confirmation of receipt--sent as a reply to the e-mail message to which the submission is attached. Confirmations will be sent by **5 November 2025**. Anyone who has not received confirmation by this date should e-mail a follow-up inquiry. Final selections will be made by **21 November 2025**. Anyone who has submitted an abstract but has not received notice of a final decision by this date should send a follow-up inquiry by e-mail.

For additional information about The American Philosophies Forum, see:

<https://philosophy.emory.edu/people/stuhr/american-philosophies.html>