

American Philosophies Forum

The 2026 Conference:  
**Selves and Subjects**



**2-4 April 2-4, 2026; Atlanta/Decatur, GA USA**  
(Decatur Conference Center/Courtyard Atlanta/Decatur/Emory)  
Sponsor: Emory University

# American Philosophies Forum

**Thursday, 2 April**

*----Arrivals*

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

4—5:45pm: **SESSION I:**  
**SELF, EMERGENCE, REMEMBRANCE**

**Speakers:**

**Lawrence Cahoon** (Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross):  
“Helen: When Did She Acquire a Self?”

**Antonis Iliopoulos** (Philosophy, Emory University):  
“Early Body Ornaments and the Prehistoric Origins of Human Selfhood”

**Joshua Swank** (Interdisciplinary Scholar, U.S. Senate):  
“Remembered Selves: A Cross-Cultural Study on Memory, Will, and Selfhood”

**Alain Beauclair** (Humanities, MacEwan University):  
“Our Haunted Subjectivity”

6:15—7:30pm: **OPENING RECEPTION**

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

**Friday, 3 April**

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

9:30--11:15am: **SESSION II:**  
**SUBJECTIVITIES**

**Speakers:**

**Steven Brence** (Philosophy, University of Oregon):  
“On The Resilience of Human Subjectivity”

**John Muckelbauer** (English Language and Literature, University of South Carolina):  
“The Soul of Style: On Training, Relation, and Subjectivity”

**Mary Magada-Ward** (Philosophy, Middle Tennessee State University):  
“The Esthetics of Subjectivity”

**Megan Craig** (Philosophy, Stony Brook University):  
“Subject Matter in Painting”

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

11:30am--1:15pm: **SESSION III:**  
**DEMOCRATIC SELVES**

**Speakers:**

**Susan Jean** Mayer (Independent Scholar):  
“The Socialization and Subjectification of Democratically Minded Souls”

**Kathy Hytten** (Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations, University  
of North Carolina, Greensboro):  
“Deweyan Selves in an Age of Algorithmic Subjects”

**Danielle Lake** (Design Thinking and Human Service Studies, Elon University) and John  
Cirelli (Student, Elon University):  
“Cultivating Habits of Democratic (and Anti-Democratic) Communication”

**Melvin Rogers** (Political Science, Brown University):  
“Faith and the Formation of Democratic Selves”

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

3:15—5:15pm: **SESSION IV:**  
**SELVES, INCLUSIONS, EXCLUSIONS**

**Speakers:**

**Céline Leboeuf** (Philosophy, Florida International University):  
“The Selves of Self-Care: When Does Caring for Oneself Become  
an ‘Act of Political Warfare’”

**Carmela Epright** (Philosophy, Furman University):  
“Medical Moral Panic Entrepreneurs: From Satanic Cults to ‘Munchausen Mothers’”

**Jena Jolissaint** (Philosophy, South University):  
“Sexed Selves and Legal Subjects”

**Tara Mastrelli** (Philosophy, Stony Brook University):  
“Radical Black Feminist Pragmatism and an Identity Politics of Becoming”

**Natalie Nenadic** (Philosophy, University of Kentucky):  
“Feminist Thought and the Harms of AI Deepfake Pornography”

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

Saturday, 4 April

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

9:30—11:15am: **SESSION V:**  
**SELVES IN PLACES AND SPACES**

**Speakers::**

**Sarah Warren** (Independent Scholar):  
“Cultivating a Tender Self”

**Lucy Schultz** (Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga):  
“Expressive Bodies Born of the Earth”

**Emily McRae** (Philosophy, University of New Mexico):  
“Telling Stories About Ourselves”

**John Lysaker** (Center for Ethics and Philosophy, Emory University):  
“Moral Selves, Moral Spaces”

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

11:30am—1:30pm: **SESSION VI:**  
**SELVES: REFLEXIVITY, CRITIQUE, AND SOCIAL CONVENTION**

**Speakers:**

**Vincent Colapietro** (Philosophy and Humanities, Penn State University and  
University of Rhode Island):  
“Subjectivity, Reflexivity, and Futurity”

**Jessica Wahman** (Philosophy, Emory University):  
“What *Severance* (and John Locke) Gets Wrong About Selves”

**Emily Zakin** (Philosophy, Miami University, Ohio):  
“The Agonistic Self and the Ethos of Critique”

**John Stuhr** (Philosophy and American Studies, Emory University):  
“Do Selves Exist?”

7pm: **BANQUET**: Café Lily (308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave, Decatur; [inquiry@cafelily.com](mailto:inquiry@cafelily.com) )

**Sunday, 5 April**

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





## 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”