

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)

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”