

# Philos. Psychiatry Newsletter

A Collaborative Production of the Association  
for the Advancement of Philosophy and  
Psychiatry (AAPP) and the International Network for Philosophy and  
Psychiatry (INPP)

INPP Website: <https://inpponline.com/>

AAPP Website: <https://aapp.press.jhu.edu/About>

August 2023 - Volume 5, Issue 2

(The content of this newsletter is dependent on what people on the INPP and AAPP mail lists report and is not a comprehensive bibliography.)



## Philosophy of Psychiatry News



John Sadler to step down as  
Editor-in-Chief of *Philosophy,  
Psychiatry, and Psychology* in  
after 32 years on the job.  
More on Dr. Sadler's legacy to  
follow in future issues.

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*John Sadler has been the soul of PPP, we salute him for his guidance, his generosity with young scholars, and, yes, his modesty.*

*James Phillips*

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**AAPP Executive Council names Selection Committee to choose next PPP Editor-in-Chief.**

**From the U.S and Canada**

Robyn Bluhm (Chair) – Michigan State University

Brent Kious – The University of Utah

**From the U.K.**

Derek Bolton – Kings College London

David Crepaz-Keay – The Mental Health Foundation

**From Outside the U.S./Canada and the U.K.**

Anthony Fernandez - Danish Institute for Advanced Study

Guilherme Messas - Santa Casa de São Paulo School of Medical Sciences

Michael TH Wong - The University of Hong Kong

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

PPP seeking new editor to follow Sadler's tenure

Jaspers Prize Winners announced

2024 INPP Conference in Vienna

2024 AAPP Conference in New York City



# Interviews and Media

Lisa Bortolotti interviewed for Behind the Stigma (April 2023), *Philosophy of Psychiatry*. <https://behindthestigma.buzzsprout.com/1402324/12712785-philosophy-of-psychiatry-with-professor-lisa-bortolotti?t=0>

## Blog posts

Eisuke Sakakibara (2023), "Epistemic injustice in the therapeutic relationship in psychiatry", EPIC blog, <https://epistemicinjusticeinhealthcareproject.blogspot.com/2023/06/epistemic-injustice-in-therapeutic.html>

Ellie Harris et al. (2023), "Should epistemic injustice matter to psychiatrists?", EPIC blog, <https://epistemicinjusticeinhealthcareproject.blogspot.com/2023/05/should-epistemic-injustice-matter-to.html>

Janko Nesic (2023), "Ecological-enactive account of autism spectrum disorder", Imperfect Cognitions <https://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/06/ecological-enactive-account-of-autism.html>

Darryl Mathieson (2023), "What psychopathology teaches", Imperfect Cognitions <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/06/what-psychopathology-teaches.html>

Federico Burdman (2023), "What is special about addictive desires", Imperfect Cognitions <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/04/what-is-special-about-addictive-desires.html>

Lucienne Spencer (2023), "An Intersectional Approach to Phenomenological Psychopathology", Imperfect Cognitions, <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/03/an-intersectional-approach-to.html>

Reinier Schuur (2023), "The Puzzle of Addiction and Knowledge of the Good as an Achievement", Imperfect Cognitions, <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/03/the-puzzle-of-addiction-and-knowledge.html>

Sam Wilkinson (2023), "Philosophy of Psychiatry: a Contemporary Introduction", Imperfect Cognitions <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2023/02/philosophy-of-psychiatry-contemporary.html>

Serife Tekin (2023), "Participatory interactive objectivity in psychiatry", Imperfect Cognitions, <http://imperfectcognitions.blogspot.com/2022/10/participatory-interactive-objectivity.html>

**Psychiatry at the Margins** is an online newsletter on substack by Awais Aftab about exploring critical, philosophical, and scientific debates in the psy-sciences.

Readers can view or subscribe to it at <https://awaisaftab.substack.com/>

Selected posts from Psychiatry at the Margins of relevance to philosophy and psychiatry:

Reconsidering the Place of Dualism in Medicine and Psychiatry – A Dialogue with Diane O’Leary

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/reconsidering-the-place-of-dualism>

A Psychopharmacology Fit for Mad Liberation?

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/a-psychopharmacology-fit-for-mad>

Acute Religious Experiences as a Way of Seeing Madness

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/acute-religious-experiences-as-a>



An introduction to the Trieste model, and why it matters

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/an-introduction-to-the-trieste-model>

Is ketamine as good as placebo or as good as ECT?

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/is-ketamine-as-good-as-placebo-or>

Do all roads lead to mitochondria?

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/do-all-roads-lead-to-mitochondria>

Mixed Bag #2: Hel Spandler on Mad Studies

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-2-hel-spandler-on-mad-studies>

Mixed Bag #5: Alastair Morgan on Continental Philosophy of Psychiatry

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-5-alastair-morgan-on-continental>

Mixed Bag #7: Philip R. Corlett on Predictive Processing and Delusions

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-7-philip-r-corlett-on-predictive>

Mixed Bag #8: Richard Gipps on Loneliness

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-8-richard-gipps-on-loneliness>

Mixed Bag #9: John Z. Sadler on Creativity

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-9-john-z-sadler-on-creativity>

Mixed Bag #11: Sofia Jeppsson on Philosophy of Madness

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-11-sofia-jeppsson-on-philosophy>

Mixed Bag #15: Kristopher Nielsen on Embodied, Embedded, and Enactive Psychopathology

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-15-kristopher-nielsen-on>

Mixed Bag #19: Lisa Bortolotti on Delusions and Philosophy

<https://awaisaftab.substack.com/p/mixed-bag-19-lisa-bortolotti-on-delusions>

**Daily Nous** — Philosophy of Psychiatry: a Journal's 30th Anniversary & Recent Developments in the Field

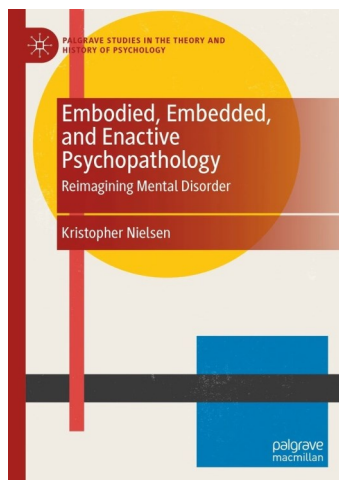
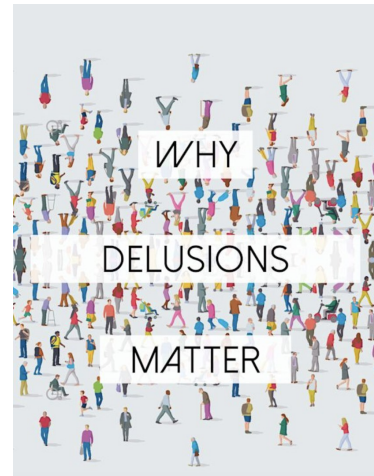
Awais Aftab, Nancy Potter

<https://dailynous.com/2023/05/24/philosophy-of-psychiatry-a-journals-30th-anniversary-recent-developments-in-the-field/>



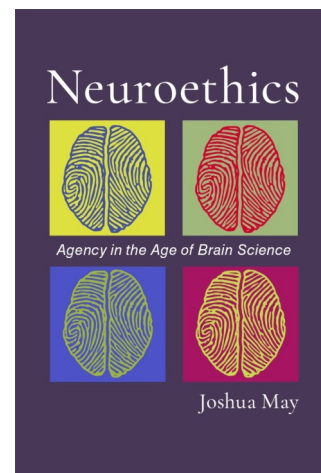
## Recent Books

**Lisa Bortolotti.** *Why Delusions Matter.* **Bloomsbury.** Why do people adopt delusional beliefs and why are they so reluctant to part with them? In *Why Delusions Matter*, Lisa Bortolotti explains what delusions really are and argues that, despite their negative reputation, they can also play a positive role in people's lives, imposing some meaning on adverse experiences and strengthening personal or social identities. In a clear and accessible style, Bortolotti contributes to the growing research on the philosophy of the cognitive sciences, offering a novel and nuanced view of delusions.



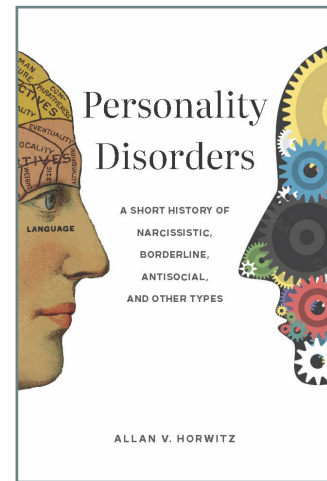
**Kristopher Nielson.** *Embodied, Embedded, and Enactive Psychopathology.* **Palgrave.** Kris Nielson presents a new way of thinking about mental disorder that is holistic yet critically minded, biologically plausible yet value-inclusive, and scientific yet deeply compassionate. Grounded in an embodied, embedded, and enactive (3e) view of human functioning, this book presents a novel conceptual framework for the study and treatment of mental disorders and explores implications for the tasks of classification, explanation, and treatment. This engaging work offers fresh insights that will appeal to clinicians, researchers, and those with an interest in the philosophy of psychiatry.

**Josh May.** *Neuroethics: Agency in the Age of Brain Science.* **Oxford.** Is free will an illusion? Is addiction a brain disease? Can neuroscience be trusted to read the minds of criminals and consumers? *Neuroethics* answers these and other ethical questions raised by brain science through captivating cases, philosophical analysis, and scientific evidence. By soberly scrutinizing the science and avoiding alarmist reactions, a “nuanced neuroethics” is developed that reconceives human agency as less conscious and reliable but more diverse and flexible than we ordinarily think. A central lesson for medicine, law, ethics, cognitive science, and public policy is that disordered and neurotypical minds are more alike than they are unlike.





**Allan Horwitz. *Personality Disorders: A Short History of Narcissistic, Borderline, Antisocial, and Other Types*. Johns Hopkins.** *Personality Disorders* traces the historical evolution of defining these disorders within traditional medical conceptions of disorder. It focuses on the efforts of the DSM-III to mold them into conventional portrayals of mental illnesses, which led them to hold a unique status as a totally separate category of disorder. It also explores the ultimately unsuccessful attempts of the DSM-5 to consider them as dimensional rather than categorical conditions. Throughout, the book focuses on the differing notions of clinicians and researchers of personality conditions that might be impossible to resolve.

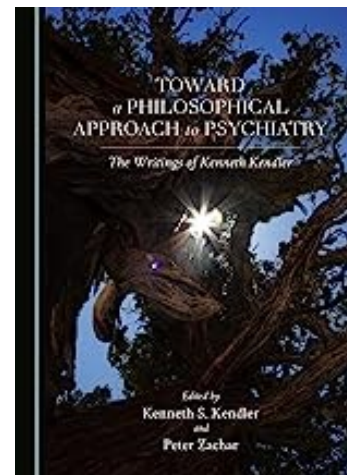


**Christophe Gauld, Steeves Demazeux, & Elodie Giroux (Eds.)**

***Promise and Limits of Precision Psychiatry*.** The concept of personalized medicine is now extending its use beyond the context of molecular pathologies such as cancers to enter psychiatry. What legitimacy and relevance does this extension have? What contributions beyond the promises can reasonably emerge in the knowledge of mental disorders and especially their clinical management? What about current, clinical and technological applications? What do these currents in favor of precision psychiatry tell us about the evolution of psychiatry? The purpose of this book is to cross-reference views on contemporary research in psychiatry from different disciplines: psychiatry, but also philosophy, anthropology, ethics and sociology.

## Newly Published in Paperback

**Kenneth S. Kendler and Peter Zachar. *Toward a Philosophical Approach to Psychiatry: The Writings of Kenneth Kendler*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.** The chapters in this book compile the key philosophical papers authored by Kenneth Kendler into a single volume and organized by topical content. The book begins with an intellectual biography of Kenneth Kendler which sets the stage for Kendler's own introduction to each paper, where he reflects on how the paper came to be written and its place in his larger body of work.





# Publications

## January to June 2023



### PPP Volume 30 (1)

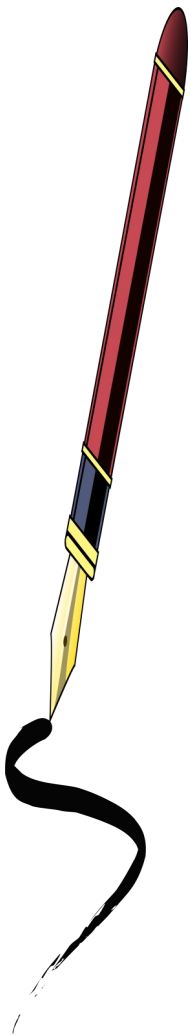
March 2023 Table of Contents

[https://muse.jhu.edu/  
issue/49884](https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/49884)

### PPP Volume 30 (2)

June 2023 Table of Contents

[https://muse.jhu.edu/  
issue/50370](https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/50370)



Arnaud, S., & Gagné-Julien, A. M. (2023). The new self-advocacy activism in psychiatry: Toward a scientific turn. *Philosophical Psychology*, 1-24.

Bluhm R., Sipahi E.D., Achtyes E.D., McCright A.M., & Cabrera L.Y. (2023). Stakeholders' ethical concerns regarding psychiatric electroceutical interventions: Results from a U.S. nationwide survey. *AJOB Empirical Bioethics* 1 -11.

Brencio, F. (2023). Review of Thomas Fuchs's *In defense of the human being*. *Philosophical Psychology* 36 (1): 214-219.

Cabrera L.Y., Achtyes E.A., Bluhm R., & McCright A.M. (2023). Views about neuromodulation interventions for depression by stakeholder group, treatment modality, and depression severity. *Comprehensive Psychiatry* 122; April 152365.

Friesen, P., & Goldstein, J. (2023). Standpoint theory and the Psy Sciences: Can marginalization and critical engagement lead to an epistemic advantage. *Hypatia*.

Gagné-Julien, A. M., & Bérubé, A. (2023). Should social pragmatic communication disorder be included in DSM-5? On uncertainties, pragmatic considerations, and the psychiatric kind debate. *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 13(3), 1-21.



## Publications continued...

- Gómez-Carrillo, A., & Kirmayer, L. J. (2023). A cultural-ecosocial systems view for psychiatry. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14, 486.
- Gómez-Carrillo, A., Kirmayer, L. J., Aggarwal, N. K., Bhui, K. S., Fung, K. P. L., Kohrt, B. A., ... & Lewis-Fernández, R. (2023). Integrating neuroscience in psychiatry: a cultural–ecosocial systemic approach. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 10(4), 296-304.
- Gómez-Carrillo, A., Paquin, V., Dumas, G., & Kirmayer, L. J. (2023). Restoring the missing person to personalized medicine and precision psychiatry. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 17, 1041433.
- Kind, A. (2023). How does the psychiatrist know?. *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 4.
- Koch, U. & Cratsley, K. (2023). The normative turn in recent literature on psychotherapy. *Philosophical Psychology*. Advance online publication
- Leder, G., & Zawidzki, T. . (2023). The skill of mental health: Towards a new theory of mental health and disorder. *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 4.
- Moskalewicz M and Fuchs T (2023) Psychotic disorders of space and time – A contribution of Erwin W. Straus. *Front. Psychiatry* 14:1150005.
- Radden, Jennifer. (2023) Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Ideas about Delusional Thought in Burton's *Anatomy*. (pp 54-81) In Ana Falcato & Jorge Goncalves (eds). *The Philosophy & Psychology of Delusions: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Routledge 2024. Pp 54-81.
- Rappe, S. and Wilkinson, S. (2023). Counterfactual cognition and psychosis: adding complexity to predictive processing accounts. *Philosophical Psychology* 36 (2): 356-379.
- Ritunnano, R., Papola, D., Broome, M. R., & Nelson, B. (2023). Phenomenology as a resource for translational research in mental health: methodological trends, challenges and new directions. *Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences*, 32, e5.





### Publications continued...

- Sakakibara, E. (2023). Epistemic injustice in the therapeutic relationship in psychiatry. *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, Online first.
- Stephensen, H., Urfer-Parnas, A. & Parnas, J. (2023). Double bookkeeping in schizophrenia spectrum disorder: an empirical-phenomenological study. *Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci*.
- Tyron, J.M. Bluhm R., Achtyes, E.A., McCright, A.M., & Cabrera L.Y. (2023). The influence of prior awareness on views about psychiatric electroceutical interventions among non-clinician stakeholders. *npj Mental Health Research* 2, article number 6.
- Vazard, J. (2023). Losing the light at the end of the tunnel: Depression, future thinking, and hope. *Mind & Language*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/mila.12457>
- Waugh, M.H., Zachar, P., Flanagan, E.H., 2023. Diagnosis and classification in the early 21st century. In: Friedman, H.S., Markey, C.H. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Mental Health*, vol. 1. Elsevier, Academic Press, pp. 644–654.
- Zachar, P., First, M.B., and Kendler, K.S. (2023). Prolonged grief disorder in the DSM: A history. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 211, 386-392.
- Zachar, P. (2023). Heterotypic patterns, psychopathology beyond symptomatology, and the legacy constructs of the DSM-ICD. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*, 132, 324-329.
- Zachar, P. (2023). Non-specific psychopathology: A once and future concept. *World Psychiatry*, 22, 154-155.
- Zachar, P. Banicki, K., and Aftab, A. (2023). Historical and philosophical considerations in the study of psychopathology. In P. Blaney and R.F. Krueger, (Eds.). *Oxford textbook of psychopathology*. (pp. 33-52). Oxford University Press.



# Honors and Awards

## Jaspers Award 2022 Rosanna Wannberg—Recipient



I am clinical psychologist, and currently a PhD candidate in philosophy, affiliated to the Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles (Centre Prospero) in Belgium and to the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales/School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Laboratoire interdisciplinaire d'études sur les réflexivités - Fonds Yan Thomas) in Paris, France.

My Jaspers Award paper - "Institution or individuality? Some reflections on the lessons to be learned from personal accounts of recovery from schizophrenia" - aims at defending a social conception of the self, via a philosophical reading of *Schizophrenia Bulletin's* "First person accounts". The paper posits that these accounts of recovery (in the sense of having restored one's sense of self and personal agency, despite or independently of residual or remitting symptoms) exemplify a more general tension between normative and experiential dimensions of the self.

While this might seem to shed doubts on the author's claims about their recovered "self" - at least if one sticks to familiar sociologist, phenomenological or narrativists conceptions - I argue on the contrary that a more positive understanding could be found in the idea of a *grammar of recovery*, which does not oppose the individual to the social or the institutional, but rather sees the latter as a condition for the former.

## Honorable Mention—Kathryn Petrozzo

Kathryn Petrozzo is a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at the University of Utah, studying under the direction of Dr. Natalia Washington. Her research interests lie at the intersection of psychiatry, neuroscience, law, and clinical ethics. She is focused on the relationship between agency, responsibility, and mental illness; chiefly, how the act of diagnosing psychiatric disorders creates particular characterizations of individuals with mental illnesses, which has effects both within and outside of the clinician's office. She is particularly concerned about the treatment of individuals with mental illnesses in the penal system.

Her paper, "Less Than Whole: Implications of Reduced Agency" is an exploration of the relationship between mental illness, agency, and responsibility; namely the characterization of individuals with mental illness as less than full agents, and therefore, less responsible (legally and morally). While there may be instances where we do want to hold these individuals as less responsible, these accounts do not take into consideration that there are detrimental pragmatic consequences for these individuals as they move through the penal system.





## Honorable Mention Laura Keulartz



My name is Laura Keulartz, I am 26 years old and I live in Amsterdam. Last fall, I graduated from the Radboud University in Nijmegen as a philosophy major [master's degree in philosophy]. I have always been interested in the intersection of philosophy and psychiatry. What kinds of things are diagnoses? How do we define (ab)normal behavior? And how do we understand other people in terms of mental states? This last question is also at the basis of my Jaspers Award paper. More specifically, the paper is about how to understand mentalizing problems in borderline personality disorder. I argue that hypermentalizing is not caused by a lack of epistemic trust specifically, as Peter Fonagy and colleagues have argued, but rather by a more fundamental lack of trust: the lack of trust in other people's good will and intentions.

## Wellcome Discovery Awarded to project on preventing 'silencing' of patient voices.

Havi Carel (Bristol) is the Principal Investigator of a project called Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare (EPIC) featuring also Lisa Bortolotti and Matthew Broome (Birmingham), Ian Kidd (Nottingham), and Sheelagh McGuinness (Bristol). The project is funded by a 2.6 million pound Wellcome Discovery Award and will last six years beginning in September 2023.

Press release here: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2023/philosophical-expertise-highlights-patient-voices-in-healthcare-research-and-practice>

## Promotions, New Positions, or Other Changes

Andrew Evans completed his PhD in Philosophy from University of Cincinnati and will be a Visiting Assistant Professor of Health, Humanities, and Society at the University of Notre Dame Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values.



## In Memoriam

### Ian Hacking (1936—2023)

One of the most important philosophers of science in his generation, Hacking offered historically grounded analyses of how a variety of concepts and kinds came to be (or faded away) in the course of intellectual history. Among the concepts he addressed that are of direct relevance to the philosophy of psychiatry and psychopathology are probability and chance, child abuse, suicide, autism, schizophrenia, hysteria, transient mental illnesses, and multiple personality disorder. His notion of the looping effect of human kinds and his ideas about scientific realism as grounded in interventions have been especially influential.



## Conferences, Workshops, and Announcements

### 2024 Jaspers Award: Submissions Open

The Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry (AAPP) holds an annual competition for students and trainees. Eligibility includes medical students, graduate students in philosophy, psychology and related fields, and residents and fellows in psychiatry. Entrants must meet eligibility requirements as of the dates of authorship and submission.

The Karl Jaspers Award is given for the best paper in the area of philosophy of psychiatry. Entries cannot have been published, nor can they have been submitted or accepted for publication, prior to submission for this award. Resubmissions will not be accepted.

Papers must have relevance for psychiatric theory, clinical practice or psychiatric research. Papers on general topics in philosophy of mind or cognitive science without relevance to psychiatry, broadly understood, are not appropriate for this award. Similarly, clinical reports or reflections that do not advance philosophical understanding are also inappropriate entries for this competition.

More information can be found here: <https://aapp.press.jhu.edu/jaspers>

#### Criteria considered in judging the entries include:

1. Demonstrated or potential relevance to psychiatric theory, research, or clinical practice
2. Novelty and/or significance of the contribution
3. Quality of argumentation
4. Quality and clarity of writing



Jaspers Award continued...

The deadline for submission for the 2023 Karl Jaspers Award is Sunday, December 11, 2023 by 11:59 p.m. ET (UTC—5:00) Also:

- Each submission must be between 3000 and 7500 words in length, excluding footnotes and bibliographies.
- Each submission must include a word count.
- Each submission must be in PDF format.
- Each submission must be ready for blind review and not contain the author's name or other information that will make the author identifiable.
- Each entrant must also send separately, in PDF or Word format, an explanation of her or his current career status and eligibility to enter the competition. In cases where the work is part of a project undertaken with others, entrants should also add explanations of the contributions of advisors or others to the work submitted.
- Submissions that do not meet the requirements will be rejected without being considered.

Please send Jaspers submissions to Dr. G. Scott Waterman ([Scott.Waterman@uvm.edu](mailto:Scott.Waterman@uvm.edu)).

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## Call For Papers: *Synthese* Topical Collection: The Normativity of Mental Health Conditions.

Guest Editors: Víctor Fernández Castro (University of Granada) and Miguel Núñez de Prado (Utrecht University).

Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2023.

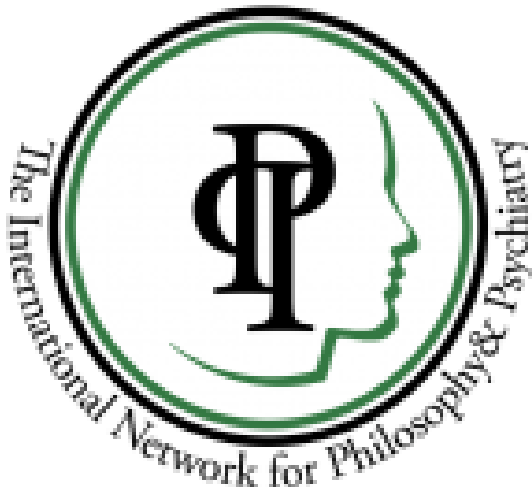
Appropriate topics (among others):

- a) Applications of contemporary theories of evaluative language to the analysis of notions like mental disorder, neurodivergence, or mental health;
- b) Applications of norm-based theories on social cognition or meta-cognition to the integration of the social, psychological, and biological levels of explanation in psychiatry and clinical psychology;
- c) Different conceptions of “functionality” (i.e., biological, psychological, etc.) and their role in discussions about the presumed adaptive character of some mental health conditions (e.g., depression, delusions, etc.);
- d) Exploring normative aspects of different philosophical conceptions of self, identity, etc., and their consequences for self-knowledge or self-understanding in psychopathology— i.e., self-illness ambiguity or self-prejudice.);
- e) Epistemic oppression in mental healthcare services and research;
- f) Affectivity in mental conditions in the light of different views on the philosophy of emotions.

Contact: [vfernandezcastro@ugr.es](mailto:vfernandezcastro@ugr.es); [m.nunezdepradogordillo@uu.nl](mailto:m.nunezdepradogordillo@uu.nl)

More info: <https://sites.google.com/view/philosophyofmentalhealth/cfp-synthese>





## 25th INPP Conference in Vienna - Change of date to 2024 - and new call for papers!

The International Conference on Crisis and Mental Health - philosophical and social aesthetic perspectives, organized by the International Network of Philosophy and Psychiatry (INPP), is pleased to announce its 25th edition, to be held at the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna, Austria. Due to late rescheduling of another international conference in Vienna the conference will now take place from May 23-25, 2024.

We invite researchers, practitioners, and scholars from around the world to submit their original contributions to the field of crisis intervention and mental health.

### Submission Guidelines:

Researchers, practitioners, and scholars are invited to submit their original, unpublished work that aligns with the conference theme. Submissions can take the form of research papers, case studies, empirical studies, or theoretical perspectives. All submissions should be written in English and follow the APA style guidelines.

Proposals previously submitted and acknowledged will be carried forward as submissions to the new conference date unless you advise us to the contrary.

### Important Dates:

Submission deadline: November 30, 2023

Notification of acceptance: January 31, 2024

Conference dates: May 23-25, 2024

Please submit your abstract or full paper electronically to [conference24@sfu.ac.at](mailto:conference24@sfu.ac.at) by November 30, 2023. We kindly request that you also include your curriculum vitae (CV) along with your submission.

For further information and updates, please visit the conference website: <https://conference2024.at/>

For any inquiries, please contact the conference organizing committee at [conference24@sfu.ac.at](mailto:conference24@sfu.ac.at)





## Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry Call for Abstracts 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, May 6-7, 2024, New York City

Co-sponsored and hosted by The City University of New York  
(CUNY) Graduate Center, Department of Philosophy

Conference co-chairs: G. Scott Waterman, Peter Zachar, and Phoebe Friesen

**May 6: Placebos, Unconventional Interventions, and Therapeutic Effects: The Roles of Context, Expectation, and Hope in Clinical Care**

**May 7: Open Topic**

### May 6: Placebos

As Jennifer Harrington has pointed out, the term ‘placebo’ connotes several complex and conflicted meanings: 1) a “sugar pill” used to trick patients into feeling better, 2) the so-called “non-specific” factors (e.g., expectations, context) in clinical trials that must be controlled for in order to assess the efficacies of new treatments, and 3) a powerful healing phenomenon that operates across what are commonly conceived of as “psychological” and “somatic” realms. These diverse uses and meanings all make their way into the fields of mental health care, where placebo effects raise an array of conceptual and clinical questions and dilemmas that comprise the theme of this conference.

Possible topics for the conference include but are not limited to:

What is the best or most useful way to define “placebo” or “placebo effect”?

Are the mechanisms that are causally responsible for placebo phenomena part of what defines placebos or distinguishes them from non-placebos?

What are the implications for the nature of disorders of their differential responsiveness to placebos? For example, depression and pain show much higher placebo-response rates than psychosis or obsessive-compulsive disorder. Are the former somehow more “psychological” than the latter? How does one understand the wide range of placebo responsiveness?

What are the implications of superiority over placebo-control outcomes having become the “gold standard” by which efficacy of clinical intervention is determined?

Are factors that are common across forms of psychotherapy – expectation, hope, interpersonal support – validly understood as placebos? If so, is the notion of “placebo control” applicable to studies of psychotherapy efficacy? How should studies of efficacy of psychotherapies be designed and interpreted?

What constitutes adequate informed consent for clinical use of treatments that are clearly, or likely, placebic?



Are favorable responses to treatments whose purported mechanisms of therapeutic action are scientifically implausible (i.e., many “complementary and alternative” therapies) validly conceived as placebo effects?

What are the ethical and epistemic implications of “open-label placebos” in which deception is not required for effectiveness?

How do narratives related to placebos and placebo research interact with stereotypes related to gender, race, disability, etc?

How can medical care maximize the benefits of placebo effects while upholding ethical standards related to patient autonomy and collaborative care?

### May 7: Open Topic

Any topic that addresses philosophical issues relevant to psychiatry or psychiatric issues that are relevant to philosophy is acceptable. Psychiatric and psychological themes can address any issue in psychiatric/psychological education, research, diagnosis, or mental health care. The psychiatric issues should have clear philosophical implications or demonstrate the importance of philosophical positions in psychiatric work.

Clinical reports or reflections that do not advance philosophical understanding or talks on general topics in philosophy or cognitive science without relevance to psychiatry or mental health, broadly understood, are unlikely to be accepted for presentation.

#### **AAPP 2024 Keynote Speakers:**

**Helena Hansen, M.D., Ph.D.,  
University of California, Los Angeles**

**Phoebe Friesen, Ph.D.,  
McGill University**

Presentations will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Detailed abstracts should be 500-600 words in length and sent via email by December 1, 2023, to Scott Waterman (Scott.Waterman@uvm.edu), Peter Zachar (pzachar@aum.edu), and Phoebe Friesen (Phoebe.Friesen@mcgill.ca). Abstracts will be peer reviewed blindly, so the author's identifying information should be attached separately. Please note whether the abstract is for May 6 (placebos) or May 7 (open topic). Notices of acceptance or rejection will be distributed in January. The conference will be open to all, free of charge, and held in an ADA-accessible building.



# Templeton-Sowerby Joint Workshop: Function and Dysfunction in Medicine and Psychiatry

*20th – 21st of February 2024*

The John Templeton Foundation-funded project ‘Agency, Directionality and Function’ at the City University of New York, and the Sowerby Philosophy and Medicine Project at King’s College London will hold an interdisciplinary workshop on ‘Function and Dysfunction in Medicine and Psychiatry’.

For nearly 50 years, philosophers have debated whether we should understand disease and disorder in terms of biological function and dysfunction. One prominent view holds that in order for something to qualify as a disease or disorder, it must involve the failure of some part or process to perform its natural function. Such debates often take on a special urgency in psychiatry, where theorists often debate whether a specific condition, like ADHD, depression, or even delusions, represents a ‘dysfunction,’ ‘normal cognitive variation,’ or a ‘functional’ response to a life circumstance. Some argue that many putative dysfunctions featuring in medicine are instead cases of ‘evolutionary mismatch’ relative to our post-Pleistocene world. In turn, differing conceptual frameworks for making sense of pathology may impact upon stigma and treatment.

The purpose of this workshop is to promote novel philosophical and conceptual work on the relationships between function and dysfunction, and the notions of disease, disorder, and pathology. In exploring this topic, we hope to move beyond the naturalism/normativism debate in philosophy of medicine and consider issues of function and dysfunction in greater depth.

## **Confirmed Speakers:**

David Papineau (KCL),  
John Matthewson (Massey)  
Ema Sullivan-Bissett (Birmingham),  
Justin Garson (CUNY),  
Fabian Hundertmark (Bielefeld),  
Harriet Fagerberg (CUNY)

General inquiries can be directed to Justin Garson at [jgarson@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jgarson@hunter.cuny.edu). For more information and recent updates, see [www.philosophyandmedicine.org](http://www.philosophyandmedicine.org).

## **Organisers:**

David Papineau, Nick Makins, Rivkah Hatchwell, Harriet Fagerberg, and Justin Garson



# World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, 1-8 August 2024

## Call for Submissions

### Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

#### World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, 1-8 August 2024

From: Chairpersons of Section 50: Philosophy and Psychoanalysis

Currently both psychoanalysis and philosophy are fragmented into a multitude of different approaches. This fragmentation indicates a richness of thought, and also serves as an occasion to reflect on connections, differences and possible links – thematic, interdisciplinary and interprofessional.

Submissions are welcome on any topic relevant to philosophy and psychoanalysis or psychodynamic psychotherapy, from any theoretical orientation, and from the perspective of any discipline or profession, including from current or past patients/analysands. Purely clinical papers with no philosophical dimension should not be submitted. However, our aim is to organize those submissions accepted for presentation at the World Congress as far as possible into multidisciplinary thematic panels and thereby to intensify a dialogue between philosophy and psychoanalysis

Please see <https://wcprome2024.com/paper/> for instructions on how and where to submit your paper. The deadline for submissions is **10 November 2023**, though papers received after that deadline but before 1 February 2024 may be accepted, depending on availability. For general information about the 2024 World Congress of Philosophy, please see <https://wcprome2024.com/>.

Please do *not* submit papers or abstracts directly to us.

Prof Felice Cimatti, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Calabria (Italy)

Prof Edward Harcourt, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford (UK)

Dr Brigitta Keintzel, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy and Education, University of Vienna (Austria)

Professor Romano Màdera, Department of Philosophy, University of Milan Bicocca; psychoanalyst (Italy)

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## 2nd Workshop Mental health and normativity: Metaphysics and (in)justice.

*Keynote Lecturers:* Robert Chapman, Michelle Maiese

*Date:* 5-6 October 2023

*Venue:* Carmen de la Victoria, University of Granada.

Contributions will address the intertwining of metaphysics and social (in)justice in either of the following two ways: (1) exploring the socio-political implications of available metaphysical conceptions regarding mental health (e.g., metaphysical aspects of personal identity, the concept of mental disorder, etc.); (2) developing or arguing for a particular metaphysical conception on the grounds that it best serves the purposes of promoting justice in mental health (promoting epistemic justice, avoiding stigmatization, promoting political action, etc.).

*Organizers:* Virginia Ballesteros (University of Valencia / University of Granada), Víctor Fernández Castro (University of Granada), and Miguel Núñez de Prado (Utrecht University).

*Contact:* [healthandnormativity@gmail.com](mailto:healthandnormativity@gmail.com)

*More info:*

<https://sites.google.com/view/philosophyofmentalhealth/events/2workshop-metaphysics-injustice>

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PHILOS. PSYCHIATRY NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2024. CONTENT FOR THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO PETER ZACHAR AT [pzachar@aum.edu](mailto:pzachar@aum.edu).

Appropriate content includes.

1. Philosophy of Psychiatry News
2. Interviews and Media
3. Publications for the period July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. PPP articles will be listed via links to the Table of Contents for issues published in that period.
4. Honors and Awards
5. Promotions, new positions or other changes
6. In Memoriam notices
7. Conference and workshop announcements, funding opportunities.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the email list write Peter Zachar.