Eastern Regional Meeting
of
The Society of Christian Philosophers

September 24th – 26th, 2015

Conference Theme
The Existence of God

Messiah College
Department of Philosophy
One College Avenue Suite 3048
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 24, 2015

REGISTRATION

Location: Howe Atrium, Boyer Hall

1:30-5:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSION I:

A. How a Flaw in Augustine’s Proof of God’s Existence Forced Descartes to Write the Meditations
   Speaker: Micah D. Tillman, George Washington University
   Chair: Caleb Miller, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 230

B. Normative Principles for No-Best-World
   Speaker: Philip Swenson, Rutgers University
   Chair: Nevin Climenhaga, University of Notre Dame
   Location: Boyer 137

C. Science, Religion, and Incompatibility: Can Philosophy of Science Help?
   Speaker: Aaron Brooks, Florida State University
   Chair: Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 336
A. The Independence Principle and a New Way to Remain Steadfast in Disagreements About Theism  
   *Speaker:* Andrew Moon, Rutgers University  
   *Chair:* Michael Rota, University of Saint Thomas  
   *Location:* Boyer 230

B. Theodicy for Creeping Things  
   *Speaker:* Dustin Crummett, University of Notre Dame  
   *Chair:* David Schenk, Messiah College  
   *Location:* Boyer 277

C. Divine Simplicity and Free Human Action: Barry Miller’s Solution  
   *Speaker:* Elmar J. Kremer, University of Toronto  
   *Chair:* Micah D. Tillman, George Washington University  
   *Location:* Boyer 336

D. Why Same-Sex Marriage is not Christian Marriage  
   *Speaker:* Caleb Miller, Messiah College  
   *Chair:* Jim Taylor, Westmont College  
   *Location:* Boyer 137

**DINNER:**  
*Location:* Lottie Nelson Dining Hall, Eisenhower Student Center

**CONCURRENT SESSION III:**  
*Location:* Boyer 277
B. A Statistical Defense against the Argument from Evil
   Speaker: Joshua Hershey, The King’s College
   Chair: Anthony Bolos, Virginia Commonwealth University
   Location: Boyer 230

C. God is Aspatial
   Speaker: Joseph Jedwab, Kutztown University
   Chair: Justin J. Daeley, University of Northwestern - St. Paul
   Location: Boyer 336

D. Cosmological Argument for the Trinity
   Speaker: Nicholas Sooy, Messiah College
   Chair: Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 131

**Plenary Session I:**

7:00-9:00 p.m.

God and the Success of Science
   Speaker: Robin Collins, Messiah College
   Response: Paul Draper, Purdue University
   Chair: Caleb Miller, Messiah College
   Location: Parmer Hall, High Center for the Performing Arts

**Reception:**

9:00-10:00 p.m.

Location: Aughinbaugh Gallery, Climenhaga Fine Arts Center

**Friday, September 25, 2015**

**Registration**

8:15-11:30 p.m.

Location: Howe Atrium, Boyer Hall
Concurrent Session IV: 8:55-9:52 a.m.

A. A Critique of C.S. Lewis’s Argument from Desire
   Speaker: Gregory Bassham, King’s College
   Chair: James Kintz, Saint Louis University
   Location: Boyer 330

B. Hallucinating God
   Speaker: Evan Fales, University of Iowa
   Chair: Andrew Moon, Rutgers University
   Location: Boyer 137

C. Divine Source Compatibilism and Divine Thankworthiness
   Speaker: Justin J. Daeley, University of Northwestern--St. Paul
   Chair: John A. Keller, Niagara University
   Location: Boyer 434

D. The Parent Analogy: A Response to Dougherty
   Speaker: Jonathan Rutledge, University of Oklahoma
   Chair: Caleb Miller, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 237

Concurrent Session V: 9:55-10:52 a.m.

A. Two Forms of Teleological Argument? Paley, Aquinas, & Modern Thomism
   Speaker: Logan Paul Gage, Franciscan University of Steubenville
   Chair: David Schenk, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 338

B. Theism without Modal or Moral Collapse
   Speaker: A.P. Taylor, North Dakota State University
   Chair: Gregory Bassham, King’s College
   Location: Boyer 131
**Concurrent Session V:** 9:55-10:52 a.m.

C. Epistemic Oughts and Pascal’s Wager
   
   *Speaker:* Liz Jackson, University of Notre Dame  
   *Chair:* Michael Rota, University of Saint Thomas  
   *Location:* Boyer 137

D. A Controversial Premise of the Theistic Argument from Intentionality
   
   *Speaker:* Lorraine Juliano Keller, Niagara University  
   *Chair:* Jonathan Rutledge, University of Oklahoma  
   *Location:* Boyer 434

**Lunch:** 11:00-11:55 p.m.

*Location:* Lottie Nelson Dining Hall, Eisenhower Student Center

**Concurrent Session VI:** 12:00-12:57 p.m.

A. Compositional Compatibilism
   
   *Speaker:* John A. Keller, Niagara University  
   *Chair:* Joseph Jedwab, Kutztown University  
   *Location:* Boyer 338

B. Pascal and the Voiceless Inarticulacy of Despair
   
   *Speaker:* Alexander Jech, University of Notre Dame  
   *Chair:* Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College  
   *Location:* Boyer 137

C. Can Faith be Knowledge?
   
   *Speaker:* Jim Taylor, Westmont College  
   *Chair:* James Baird, Westminster Theological Seminary  
   *Location:* Boyer 131

D. The World Is Not Enough...Neither Are Levels I-IV
   
   *Speaker:* Kevin Vandergriff, BIOLA University  
   *Chair:* John Pittard, Yale University  
   *Location:* Boyer 331
A. Pascal’s Wager Meets Surreal Numbers
   *Speakers:* Eddy Keming Chen, Rutgers University
   Daniel Rubio, Rutgers University
   *Chair:* Liz Jackson, University of Notre Dame
   *Location:* Boyer 131

B. Forgiveness Then Satisfaction: Why The Order Matters For a Theory of the Atonement
   *Speaker:* James Kintz, Saint Louis University
   *Chair:* Philip Shadd, Institute for Christian Studies and Redeemer University College
   *Location:* Boyer 137

C. Biting Gaunilo’s Bullet
   *Speaker:* Peter A. Sutton, Virginia Union University
   *Chair:* David Schenk, Messiah College
   *Location:* Boyer 338

D. The Moral Significance of Pain in Draper’s Argument from Evil
   *Speakers:* Megan J. Fritts, University of Wisconsin
   Robert P. Reed, Texas A&M University
   *Chair:* Robin Collins, Messiah College
   *Location:* Boyer 330

**Coffee Break**

2:00-2:30 p.m.

*Location:* Howe Atrium, Boyer Hall

**Concurrent Session VIII:**

2:30-3:27 p.m.

**Best Graduate Student Paper**

A. Revealed to the Little Ones: Love, Presence, and Hiddenness
   *Speaker:* Donald Bungum, Saint Louis University
   *Chair:* Joshua Mugg, Indiana University Kokomo
   *Location:* Boyer 231
B. Could God Fail to Exist?
   Speaker: Joshua Rasmussen, Azusa Pacific University
   Chair: Andrew Moon, Rutgers University
   Location: Boyer 330

C. Epistemic Probabilities: A Guide for the Perplexed
   Speaker: Nevin Climenhaga, University of Notre Dame
   Chair: Robin Collins, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 131

D. The Moral Ups and Downs of Skeptical Theism
   Speaker: Anthony J. DeBonis, Yale Divinity School
   Chair: Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 338

Concurrent Session IX: 3:30-4:27 p.m.

A. In Defense of Proper Functionalism: Cognitive Science Takes on Swampman
   Speakers: Kenneth Boyce, University of Missouri
              Andrew Moon, Rutgers University
   Chair: James Baird, Westminster Theological Seminary
   Location: Boyer 231

B. Flourishing, Fine-Tuning, and the Bayesian Balancing Game: A Tale of Two Drapers
   Speaker: David Wood
   Chair: Robin Collins, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 338

C. Evil and God’s Toxin Puzzle
   Speaker: John Pittard, Yale University
   Chair: Joshua Harris, Institute for Christian Studies
   Location: Boyer 131
Concurrent Session IX:

D. Re-Imagining the Imago Dei

Speaker: Anthony Bolos, Virginia Commonwealth University
Chair: Adam Johnson, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Location: Boyer 330

Ecumenical Worship Service: 4:30-5:00 p.m.
Location: Hostetter Chapel

Banquet: 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Location: Hostetter Chapel

Plenary Session II: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

God and the Mystery of Evil
Speaker: Paul Draper, Purdue University
Response: Robin Collins, Messiah College
Chair: Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College
Location: Hostetter Chapel

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Concurrent Session X: 9:00-9:57 a.m.

A. Lyric and Lamentation: Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Problem of Existential Hiddenness
Speaker: Ian DeWeese-Boyd, Gordon College
Chair: Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College
Location: Boyer 131

B. How to think of a Circle with Corners: Assessing the Value of God’s Existence
Speaker: Joshua Mugg, Indiana University Kokomo
Chair: David Schenk, Messiah College
Location: Boyer 235
C. The Islamic and Cumulative Versions of the ‘Mad, Bad, or God’ Argument
   
   *Speaker:* Bryan Frances  
   *Chair:* Gregory Ganssle, Talbot School of Theology—BIOLA University  
   *Location:* Boyer 137

D. Laws of Nature and Benevolent Dictatorship
   
   *Speaker:* Sungwon Woo, University of Maryland  
   *Chair:* Micah Tillman, George Washington University  
   *Location:* Boyer 130

**Concurrent Session XI:**  
10:00-10:57 a.m.

A. The Ineliminable God of Romans 13
   
   *Speaker:* Philip Shadd, Institute for Christian Studies and Redeemer University College  
   *Chair:* Caleb Miller, Messiah College  
   *Location:* Boyer 130

B. Starting points in Atheistic Arguments
   
   *Speaker:* Gregory E. Ganssle, Talbot School of Theology—BIOLA University  
   *Chair:* John Pittard, Yale University  
   *Location:* Boyer 131

C. From Absolute to Maximal God: Would that solve the problem?
   
   *Speaker:* Majid Amini, Virginia State University  
   *Chair:* Elmar Kremer, University of Toronto  
   *Location:* Boyer 235

D. Evil: Only Sometimes Evidence against God
   
   *Speaker:* Laura Frances Callahan, Rutgers University  
   *Chair:* Ian Deweese-Boyd, Gordon College  
   *Location:* Boyer 137
Coffee Break 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Location: Howe Atrium, Boyer Hall

Concurrent Session XII: 11:30 a.m.-12:27 p.m.

A. Old Fashioned Metaphysics
   Speaker: Jarod Sickler, University of Rochester
   Chair: Joshua Mugg, Indiana University Kokomo
   Location: Boyer 131

B. An Incompatibility in William Lane Craig’s Moral Argument and AntiPlatonism
   Speaker: Daniel Linford, Christopher Newport University
   Chair: Caleb Miller, Messiah College
   Location: Boyer 130

C. Onto-theology: What it is and why it’s a problem
   Speaker: Joshua Harris, institute for Christian Studies
   Chair: Jonathan Rutledge, University of Oklahoma
   Location: Boyer 235

D. God and the Multiverse
   Speaker: Michael Rota, University of St. Thomas (MN)
   Chair: Alexey Burov, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
   Location: Boyer 137

Plenary Session III: 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Boxed lunch will be provided for registrants.

The Existence of God
   Panel: Paul Draper, Purdue University
   Robin Collins, Messiah College
   Evan Fales, University of Iowa
   Katherin Rogers, University of Delaware
   Stephen Barr (Physics), University of Delaware
   Chair: John Pittard, Yale University
   Location: Hostetter Chapel
Local Organizers
Caleb Miller and Timothy Schoettle, Messiah College

The Eastern Regional Planning Committee of the SCP
John A. Keller, Niagara University (Chair)
Mark Murphy, Georgetown University
Claire Peterson, Asbury University

This conference was made possible by the generous financial support of the Messiah College School of Humanities and the Society of Christian Philosophers.