

Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology 2022 Midwinter Meeting

Extended Conversations

As part of our 2022 midwinter programming, we will be hosting two extended conversations, one in April and one in May. Like all of the Midwinter sessions this year, these will be roundtable discussions. Details, including topic, time, presenters and a link for each session, are included below. The first of these conversations is coming up in a few weeks and we look forward to seeing you there!

April 29th, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., EDT

Heterogeneity in the Framing of Phenomenological Research

Facilitators: Mary Beth Morrissey, Yeshiva University; Stephen Yanchar, Brigham Young University; Scott Churchill, Amy Fisher Smith, University of Dallas; Michael Barber, St. Louis University

Description: The aim of this roundtable session will be to feature phenomenology as an unfolding historical achievement, highlighting epistemic access to unique or evolving phenomenological positions or variations on the theme of phenomenology. Presenters from several disciplines (1. Mary Beth Morrissey from public health, social work and law; 2. Scott Churchill and Amy Fisher Smith from psychology; 3. Michael Barber from philosophy; and 4. Stephen Yanchar from psychology and education) will draw upon the work of philosophers such as Edmund Husserl, Edith Stein, Alfred Schutz, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Emmanuel Levinas, Charles Taylor, Lester Embree, and John Drummond to foster a discussion regarding the diversity of phenomenological positions within the social sciences and humanities. The specific themes addressed will include (1) Practice of phenomenology in the maternal attitude and in paradigmatic example of humanitarian crisis; (2) Empathy as epistemic access to the other in both qualitative research and clinical psychology, and the transformative impact of empathic presence on the participant as well as the researcher; (3) Phenomenological analysis of African American folklore humor; and (4) Phenomenology as a subversive intellectual practice. The presentations and discussion will be facilitated by Mary Beth Morrissey. Each of the four presentations will be brief (no more than 5 minutes), leaving the majority of time for discussion of the ideas presented and break-out sessions.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221833569?pwd=TDRVYXFqODJpeC9CakRaZ01NZithZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2183 3569

Passcode: 777854

May 13th, 2022, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., EDT

Is It Possible and Worthwhile to Develop a Universal Account of Human Flourishing?

Facilitators: Blaine J. Fowers, Lukas Novak, Nona Kiknadze, and Alex Calder, University of Miami

Description: The idea of human flourishing has been debated for millennia, mainly by philosophical and religious scholars, but psychologists have recently entered the discussion. Several psychologists have developed models of human flourishing that claim to have universal applicability. This conversation hour will focus on a central difficulty of this claim: Is it meaningful and valuable to discuss flourishing in a general way?

This topic is important for theoretical and philosophical psychologists because it is an interdisciplinary question that began in philosophy and is being pursued in psychology. Theoretical and philosophical psychologists have expertise and interest in philosophical/psychological interdisciplinarity.

This topic is important regarding epistemic access because available models of flourishing have been developed almost exclusively in elite research universities in the United States based on Western ideas, and assessed with Western research methods, largely with Western populations. People outside these elite Western research universities have had very little, if any, input into these models. The claim that the models have universal applicability leads to two unpalatable conclusions: either the WEIRD conception of flourishing should simply be applied to everyone around the world or flourishing is only really available to WEIRD populations.

We propose to investigate, with our audience, these questions: Is it valuable and plausible to create a general account of flourishing? How can one deal with the inevitable Western bias that we embody? How can one incorporate cultural and individual variation in the model? Must a general conception of flourishing be multidimensional and multilevel (e.g., human, cultural, and individual levels)?"

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87527475642?pwd=MVIQa3c3TjAxN3JBK2IFemFGSHNkUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 2747 5642

Passcode: 112850