Eastern Michigan University

# Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy

2026 Schedule

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14th**

**8:00 AM - 8:50 AM | WELCOME**

**Tower Room (348):**
Join Dr. John Koolage for a brief welcome message and breakfast!

**9:00 AM - 9:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Emma Jones, Eastern Michigan University: “Social Epistemological Themes in the Film Sinners”
*Comments: Ellie Johnson, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Daniel Shitandi, St. John's College Sante Fe: "Accepting Extinction: Beyond the Fossil Record"
*Comments: Andre Kolak, Stony Brook University*

**10:00 AM - 10:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
David Harris, McMaster University: “The Right to Make a World: Communication, Social Facts, and the Limits of the Cosmopolitan Right”
*Comments: Zoey Patten, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Justice Dunn, University of Wyoming: “Counterexamples Against Revisionary Ontologies: What Is and What Should Never Be”
*Comments: Stephen Armstrong, Eastern Michigan University*

**11:00 AM - 11:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Nerea Vidal Arrieta, University of Minnesota: "Democracy and collective well-being"
*Comments: RJ (Ronald) Gurunian, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Penelope Sanchez, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor: “On Human Rights and the Necessity of Open Borders”
*Comments: Elijah Card, Eastern Michigan University*

**12:00 PM - 1:15 PM | LUNCH & KEYNOTE**

**Guild Room (330):**
Dr. Brandon Polite, Knox College: ""Collective Listening, Social Virtues, and Popular Music"

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14th - Continued**

**1:30 PM - 2:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Yushi Bai, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School: "The Unfinished Case for God"
*Comments: Isaac Jensen, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Mason Sanchez-Lassos, Western Michigan University: "An Unwilling Subjugation: Alien Disclosure and the Crisis of Higher Reason"
*Comments: Eric Ellerbe, Eastern Michigan University*

**Guild Room (330):**
A2 Ethics High School Presenters

**2:30 PM - 3:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Cici Zhang, Vassar College: "Can Consciousness Change Reality? Manifestation and Yogācāra"
*Comments: Mary Kushner, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
George Bowyer, University of Cambridge: "Empirical Adequacy Is an Incomplete Defence of the Proximate-Ultimate Distinction"
*Comments: Daniel Shitandi, St. John's College*

**Guild Room (330):**
A2 Ethics High School Presenters

**3:30 PM - 4:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Delaney McNear, University of Mississippi - Twin Cities: "Condemned to Be Free, Free to Have Hope: Optimism and Authenticity in Sartrean Existentialism"
*Comments: Brooke Bender, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Jonathan Huynh, Oakland University: "Syntax, Semantics, and the Impossibility of Strong AI"
*Comments: Everett Peabody, Eastern Michigan University*

**Guild Room (330):**
A2 Ethics High School Presenters

## SUNDAY, NOV. 15th

### 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM | WELCOME

**Tower Room (348):**
Join Dr. John Koolage for a brief welcome message and breakfast!

### 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS

**Tower Room (348):**
Deepthisri Paruchuri, Ohio State University: "The Role of Ancient Chinese Philosophies in Modern Medical Ethics"
*Comments*:*Junhou Chen, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Nadia Jeelani-Socia, University of Cincinnati: "Feminist Approach to Ethical Duties in Healthcare"
*Comments: Kayleigh Peace, Eastern Michigan University*

### 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS

**Tower Room (348):**
Raymond Modregon, University of Wyoming: "The Ontology of Non-Representational Art"
*Comments: Grace Stockhausen, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Matthew Roxas, Purdue University: "Does Artificial Intelligence Truly Reason? Embodiment, Reflection, and the Limits of AI"
*Comments: Jason Folk, Eastern Michigan University*

### 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM | PRESENTATIONS

**Tower Room (348):**
Samuel Lundy, Santa Clara University: "Philosophy as a Poietic Endeavor: A Comparative Analysis of Martin Heidegger and Daoist Conceptions of Poetics"
*Comments: Matthew Roxas, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Naina Krishnamurthy, Northern VA Community College: "When Responsibility Disappears: The Harm Attribution Gap and Group Negligence in Public Health"
*Comments: Claire Filthaut, Eastern Michigan University*

### 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM | LUNCH

**Restaurant of your choice**
Enjoy lunch at one of the wonderful restaurants within walking distance of McKenny Hall. Vegetarian and vegan options are available.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15th - Continued**

**1:30 PM - 2:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Max Gretchokoff, University of New Mexico: “The Logic of the Animal State Suicide Born from Suffering, Absurdist Revolt, and an Ethics of Survival”
*Comments: Ava Ryan-Young, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Sanaa Taqvi, Claremont Mckenna College: “Yours, Truly? The Ownership and Authorship of Desire”
*Comments: Luke Nordberg, Eastern Michigan University*

**2:30 PM - 3:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Andre Kolak, “Cene without Me? But Anthro Makes Three! Structural Relations and Necessary Conditions”
*Comments: Ivy Oeseburg, Eastern Michigan University*

**Alumni Room (342):**
Graduate Student Panel

**3:30 PM - 4:20 PM | PRESENTATIONS**

**Tower Room (348):**
Writing Workshop

**4:20 PM - 4:50 PM | CLOSING CEREMONY**

**Tower Room (348):**
Join the UCiP Team as we thank you for your participation!