

Call for Papers: Fourth International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life

JANUARY 17, 2022 - JANUARY 19, 2022
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

We invite submissions concerning meaning in/of life as considered in the field of philosophy. Please send an abstract of approximately 500 words (excluding any references), prepared for blind review to the organising committee.

Meaning in life is one of the most fundamental philosophical problems, discussed for centuries but having acquired considerable depth in English-speaking philosophy over the past 30 years. Is there any meaning in life? If so, how can we find it? Can life be meaningful if death is the ultimate end of our existence? How is meaning related to well-being and happiness? What are the moral implications of philosophical debates on meaning in life? Can life be objectively meaningful, or can it only be subjectively meaningful? What are the links between God and meaning? What do we mean by 'meaning' in the first place?

The aim of the conference is to address these fundamental questions from a wide range of philosophical perspectives, including both western and non-western traditions. Potential topics could include, but are not limited to: theoretical approaches to meaning in/of life; the relationship between death and meaning; anti-natalism and nihilism; procreation and extinction; spiritual, religious, and psychological implications of meaning; linguistic, metaphysical, and epistemological issues concerning meaning; meaning in applied ethics, such as bioethics, environmental ethics, and transhumanism; the roles of narrative, identity, and agency; comparative accounts of meaning in religio-philosophical traditions around the world; implications of meaning for health, well-being, or virtue.

Deadline: 10 October 2021

Applicants will be notified of the result via email by the beginning of December 2021.

Publication: Speakers are encouraged to submit their papers for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Philosophy of Life to be published by the end of 2022 (or possibly early 2023).

Time for presentation: Normally 50 minutes for live presentations (roughly 20-25 minutes for talk and the rest for discussion).

Format of presentation: Online via Zoom and Slack. Some talks will be pre-recorded, while others will be live.

Official language: English

Registration and Website available here: <https://www.up.ac.za/cf-pcml2022>

*Queries can be directed to the Organising Committee at:
philosophymeaninglife@gmail.com*

Thaddeus Metz
University of Pretoria

Yujin Nagasawa
University of Birmingham

Masahiro Morioka
Waseda University

Nobuo Kurata
Hokkaido University

Tatsuya Murayama
Tohoku University



Faculty of Humanities
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho



WASEDA University