

HEALTH AND HEALING: PERSONAL, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL

49TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MERLEAU-PONTY CIRCLE

2025 IMPC CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Judy Chicago, "The Creation" (tapestry, 1984)
<https://throughtheflower.org/projects/birth-project/>

Co-directors:
Susan Bredlau, Don Beith and Kirsten Jacobson

Throughout his work, Merleau-Ponty conceives of the person as always existing in creative communion with others and the natural world. This dynamic model of personhood in turn calls for a dynamic understanding and approach to health and healing. Concepts such as embodied subjectivity, intercorporeity, existential healing, habits that sustain or deny meaningful living, our strange kinship with nonhuman others, chiasmic or symbiotic relationships, and intersubjectivity, provide avenues for exploring human and nonhuman flourishing, for critiques of practices or institutions that are detrimental to our health, and, ultimately, for radical reflections on lived experiences of caring and healing at individual, communal, and global levels.

Visible and mobile, my body is a thing among things; it is one of them. It is caught in the fabric of the world, and its cohesion is that of a thing. But because it moves itself and sees, it holds things in a circle around itself. Things are an annex or prolongation of itself; they are incrustated in its flesh, they are part of its full definition; the world is made of the very stuff of the body.

- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "Eye and Mind"

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Wells Conference Center, University of Maine, Orono, ME

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

8:00-9:00 AM	Registration & Refreshments
9:00-9:20 AM	Opening remarks by Emily Haddad (Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Maine) and Derek Michaud (Department Chair, Philosophy, University of Maine)
Session 1	Moderator: TBD
9:20-10:05 AM	Ann Murphy, Philosophy, University of New Mexico: "Phenomenology as Undergoing"
10:05-10:50 AM	Peter Antich, Philosophy, Dominican University New York: "A Phenomenological Description of Confusion in the Case of Dementia"
10:50-11:05 AM	Coffee break (refreshments provided)
Session 2: Keynote Address	Introduction: Don Beith, Philosophy, University of Maine
11:05-12:35 PM	Havi Carel, Philosophy, University of Bristol: "Radical Bodily Doubt" (remote presentation)
12:35-2:15 PM	Lunch Break (on your own)
Session 3	Moderator: TBD
2:15-3:00 PM	Cooper Sarafin, Independent Scholar: "Hesitation and the Epistemic Structure of Perception: A Phenomenological Account of Coherence and Alterity in Merleau-Ponty, Ngo, and Al-Saji" (remote presentation)
3:00-3:45 PM	Fiona Utley, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, University of New England–Australia: "Reverie in the experience of grief and thinking about loss" (remote presentation)
Session 4	Moderator: Liam Maher, Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University
3:55-4:40 PM	Bryan Bannon, Philosophy, Merrimack College: "Ecological Health: A Phenomenological Perspective" (invited presentation)
4:40-5:25 PM	Benjamin Decarie-Daigneault, Philosophy, Penn State University, "The Slippery Slope of History: Reading Merleau-Ponty's Post-War Writings Amidst the Environmental Crisis"
5:25-5:40 PM	Refreshment break (refreshments provided)
Session 5: Ron Morstyn Prize Winner	Introduction: Kym Maclaren, Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University
5:40-6:25 PM	Adam Blair, Independent Scholar: "Attuned Otherwise: Aesthetic Experience and the Communication of Perceptual Difference"
6:25-7:25 PM	Reception (light dinner provided)

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

8:30-9:00 AM	Registration & Refreshments
Session 1	Moderator: Gail Weiss, Philosophy, George Washington University
9:00-9:45 AM	Talia Welsh, Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta: "Authority and Teleology—A Phenomenological Sketch of Vaccine Resistance"
9:45-10:30 AM	Molly Kelly, History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences, Rhode Island School of Design: "The Child's Relations with (Harmful) Others: Rethinking Childhood Maltreatment and Attachment Through the Phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty"
10:30-10:45 AM	Coffee Break (refreshments provided)
Session 2	Moderator: Gabe Schendler, Philosophy, Villanova University
10:45-11:30 PM	Shannon Hoff, Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador: "Merleau-Ponty and the (Gendered) World"
11:30-12:15 PM	Khameer Kidia, Harvard Medical School: "Empire of Madness: Uprooting Psychiatry from its Colonial Origins" (invited presentation)
12:15-2:00 PM	Lunch Break (on your own unless attending mentoring lunch) <i>**A mentoring lunch will be arranged for attending grad students at The Maples (home of the University of Maine Philosophy Department)</i>
Session 3: M.C. Dillon Memorial Lecture Award Winner	Introduction: David Morris, Philosophy, Concordia University
2:00-2:45 PM	Gael Caignard, Independent Scholar, "Institution et ouverture de l'histoire : Merleau-Ponty lecteur de Lucien Febvre"
Session 4	Moderator: Frédéric Rondeau, Canadian-American Center and Modern Languages and Classics, University of Maine
2:55-3:40 PM	Cécilia Lombard, Philosophy, St. Patrick's Pontifical University, "De la dialectique de l'instant au bonheur"
3:40-4:25 PM	Stefan Kristensen, Faculté des Arts, Université de Strasbourg: "The Good Ambiguity of the Ritual – On the Ontology of Healing Practices"
4:25-5:10	Reception (light dinner provided)
Session 5: Keynote Address	Introduction: Susan Bredlau, Philosophy, University of Maine
5:10-6:40 PM	Drew Leder, Philosophy, Loyola University Maryland: "The Chessboard of Healing: Structures of Embodiment and their Clinical Significance"
7:00-7:45 PM	Artistic presentation by Rori Smith (Intermedia, University of Maine) at the Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

8:30–9:00 AM	Registration & Refreshments
Session 1	Moderator: Amanda Dunbar, Visual and Performing Arts/Art History, University of Texas at Dallas
9:00-9:45 AM	Caleb Faul, History and Philosophy, Westfield State University: “The Re-Creational Musician: On Playing a Piece of Music”
9:45-10:30 AM	Sage Cugino, Philosophy, York University: “The Sense of Colour”
10:30-10:45 AM	Coffee Break (refreshments provided)
Session 2	Moderator: TBD
10:45-11:30 PM	Jeffrey Bell, History and Political Science, Southeastern Louisiana University: “Healthy Aestheticism”
11:30-12:15 PM	Lucy Schultz, Philosophy and Religion, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: “Personal, Social, and Environmental Healing through Ecological Restoration” (invited presentation)
12:15-2:15 PM	Business Lunch (lunch provided for those registered) <i>**Registration Required. Note: All graduate students on the program are invited to the Business Lunch free of charge. Graduate students' attendance is especially encouraged!</i>
Session 3	Moderator: TBD
2:15-3:00 PM	William Hamrick, Philosophy (Emeritus), Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville: “Searching for a Proper Physician”
3:00-3:45 PM	Martina Ferrari, Philosophy, Villanova University: “Living in Ruptures: Healing Bodies through History” (invited presentation)
Session 4	Moderator: Rori Smith, Intermedia, University of Maine
3:55-4:40 PM	Kym Maclaren, Philosophy, Toronto Metropolitan University: “The Unsynced Time of Healthy and Unhealthy Becoming” (invited presentation)
4:40-4:55 PM	Refreshment break (refreshments provided)
Session 5	Moderator: TBD
4:55-5:40 PM	John Russon, Philosophy, University of Guelph: “Drawing out Sexuality”
5:40-6:25 PM	Laura McMahon, History and Philosophy, Eastern Michigan University: “Queer (Trans)formations”
6:30-8:30 PM	Conference Banquet (dinner provided for those registered) with Acadian fiddle by Gus LaCasse