

About Us

The Lighthearted Philosophers' Society (LPS) is an organization for philosophers who approach their work with a sense of humor. We strive to create a venue for professional philosophy that is welcoming, enjoyable, and engaging. Please join us in our merry ruminations!

Membership Information

Please direct inquiries to lighthearted.philosophers@gmail.com.

The Lighthearted Philosophers Society invites interested parties to join the organization. The dues schedule is as follows:

Rich (gainfully employed)	\$75 annual
Poor (not-so-gainfully employed)	\$50
Starving (student membership)	\$25

Conference registration is discounted for members (\$25 instead of \$50). Members are also included in our email list, to keep you informed of updates and information about the annual meetings.

**Please note that if you are facing financial difficulty as a result of COVID-19 university downturn, please contact us so we accommodate your circumstances while still allowing you to attend the conference. We have a number of options available to ease your attendance.

Undergraduate students may attend the April 2021 conference free of charge.

To become a member, visit our website at:

<http://www.lightheartedphilosophers.com>



14th Annual Conference Program

April 9-10, 2021

The leadership team of the LPS is committed to creating a strong, engaged, and meaningful conference experience. We take the health and safety of our membership as our highest priority. We are committed to maintaining the stellar level of programming you've come to expect while not compromising the integrity and health of our membership. To that end we want to make certain that our conference venue will be a safe and productive environment while meeting the challenges we all face in our current climate. As a result of our deliberations, we have decided that the best way to achieve our standard of quality while also maintaining the health and safety of our membership is let everyone remain at their homes, festooned in their comfy pants of choice with appropriate refreshments at hand. In this way we guarantee that all of our meeting spaces and accommodations are clean and sanitary – or at least as clean as you can keep them. See you on Zoom.

Friday, April 9 (all times Eastern Standard Time)

10:45-11am Welcome

11-11:50am: “The Superiority Theory of Humor”

Sophia Stone (Lynn University)

Heckler: Steven Gimbel (Gettysburg College)

2-2:50pm: “Vis Comica: A Guide to Cultivating the Comic Spirit in Kierkegaard’s Philosophy”

Grant Julin (Saint Francis University)

Hecker: Sam Welbaum (California Baptist University)

3-3:50: “Instructional Communication and Humor”

Nikki Christen (University of Tennessee)

Scott Christen (University of Tennessee)

Michelle Garland (University of South Carolina, Upstate)

Stephanie Kelly (North Carolina A & T State University)

Tiffany Smith (University of North Carolina Greensboro)

Michelle Violanti (University of Tennessee)

7-7:50pm: Lighthearted Philosophers’ Happy Hour

(Each Participant is Responsible for their Own Refreshments)

Saturday, April 10 (all times Eastern Standard Time)

9:45-10am Welcome

10-10:50am: “Live Free and Laugh Hard: A Qualified Attack on Privately Censoring Offensive Jokes”

Connor Kianpour (Georgia State University)

Hecker: Vanessa Voss (Lone Star College – University Park)

11-11:50am: “Is Laughing at Morally Oppressive Jokes Like Being Disgusted by Phony Dog Poop? An Analysis of Belief and Alief in the Context of Questionable Humor”

Chris A. Kramer (Santa Barbara City College)

Heckler: Mike Cundall (North Carolina A&T State University)

2-2:50pm (Undergraduate Spotlight Panel): “Breaking Up [With] the Myth of Medusa: Valerie and Viva Cut Up [in] Warhol”

Ariel Weaver Pickett (McGill University)

Heckler: Eugene Zaldivar (Santa Fe College)

2:55pm: Voting and Announcement of the Joseph Ellin, Richard Richards, and Eugenio E. Zaldivar Award recipients (Award funds will be issued via PayPal)

End of Conference

3-3:50pm: LPS Business Meeting (Members Only)