



Lighthearted Philosophers' Society

20th Annual Conference

October 9–10, 2026

Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library
543 Indiana Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46202

FRIDAY · October 9, 2026

9:30–10:00 am

Registration & Breakfast

10:00–10:50 am

“The Clash Theory of Humor”

Author: Chris Land, Independent Scholar

Commentator: Liz Sills, Indiana University Kokomo

11:00–11:50 am

“Humor and the Vicissitudes of Truth”

Author: Elliott Oring, Professor Emeritus, Cal State LA

Commentator: Eugenio E. Zaldivar, Santa Fe College

12:00–1:30 pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:30–2:20 pm

“Boxing and Caressing”

Author: Michael Hoppmann, Northeastern University

Commentator: Thomas Wilk, Widener University

2:30–3:20 pm

“The Lighter Side of American Justice”

Author: Lou Marinoff, City College CUNY

Commentator: Erin Doss, Indiana University Kokomo

3:30–4:20 pm

“Playful Detachment or Humorous Reengagement”

Author: Mike Cundall, NC A&T State University

Commentator: Carl Vincent Ong, Far Eastern University

4:30–5:20 pm

Vonnegut & Humor Panel Discussion

Panelists: M. Cundall, V. Voss, T. Wilk, TBA

6:00 pm

Conference Dinner (Restaurant TBD, OYO)

SATURDAY · October 10, 2026

9:30–10:00 am

Registration & Breakfast

10:00–10:50 am

“Don’t Threaten Me with a Good Time”

Author: Carl Vincent Ong, Far Eastern University

Commentator: Steve Gimbel, Gettysburg College

11:00 am–12:30 pm

Student Paper Panel

Authors: Taylor Matalon; Joanne Crawford

MC: Eugenio E. Zaldivar, Santa Fe College

12:30–2:00 pm

Lunch

2:00–2:50 pm

“Laugh or Die: Jokes as Authoritarian Propaganda”

Author: Vanessa Voss, Lone Star College

Commentator: Mike Cundall, NC A&T State University

3:00–4:00 pm

Debate: Was Cicero Right?

Participants: M. Hoppmann, L. Marinoff, S. Gimbel,

Liz Sills, Vanessa Voss

4:15–4:45 pm

LPS Business Meeting & Presidential Address

Members only

Register & Join the LPS



lightheartedphilosophers.com/join.html

Next Year

October 15–16, 2027 · Rochester, New York
Sponsored by the University of Rochester
Hosted by the Strong Museum of Play



Thank you for attending!

Safe travels and see you next year.