

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

The Lighthearted Philosophers Society invites interested parties to join the organization. Please direct inquiries to lighthearted.philosophers@gmail.com.

Conference dues, including membership in LPS, are as follows:

Rich (gainfully employed)	\$125 annual
Poor (not-so-gainfully employed)	\$75
Starving (student membership)	\$50
Virtual	\$25

Sustaining memberships are also available for \$50. Members gain access to updates and information about annual meetings, other events, publications, and the like.

Day-long observation passes for undergraduate students are available for \$10 each day. FIT and Lynn University students may attend without cost.

To become a member, visit our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/lightheartedphilosophers/>

Or send your payment to:

Thomas Brommage
Attn: Lighthearted Philosophers' Society
Sam Houston State University
Department of Psychology and Philosophy
P.O. Box 2447
Huntsville, TX 77340



18th Annual Conference Program

November 8-9, 2024

Melbourne, FL

Friday November 8th

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration, light refreshments, & welcome

9:00 – 9:50 AM: Power and Humor Ethics

Michael Hoppmann (Northeastern University)

Heckler: Paul Audi (University of Rochester)

10:00 – 10:50 AM: The Bamboozle of the Funny: Conservative Comedic Counterfeit Resistance

Liz Sills (Northern State University)

Heckler: Vanessa Voss (Lone Star College)

11:00 – 11:50 AM: Defending Gorgias, The Comedian

Cara Cummings-Coughlin (Morgan State University)

Heckler: Peter Westmoreland (St. Petersburg College)

12:00 – 1:30 PM: Break for Lunch at Local Restaurants

(Each Participant is Responsible for Own Lunch)

2:00 – 2:50 PM: Trust and Comedy: Unguarded Encounters

George Kassimis (University at Albany, SUNY)

Heckler: Drew Chastain (Loyola University, New Orleans)

3:00-4:30 PM: Panel: The Suspension of Seriousness: philosophical critiques of Jorge Portilla's *Fenomenological del relajo*

Humor v. Seriousness

Michael Cundall, Jr. (North Carolina A&T State University)

Socratic irony & *relajo*: a critique

Sophia Stone (Lynn University)

The Concept of Liberating Humorous Irony: Jorge Portilla, Carlos Alberto Sánchez, Richard Rorty, Jonathan Lear, and Socrates, with Minimal Reference to Kierkegaard

Chris A. Kramer (Santa Barbara City College)

Heckler: Carlos Alberto Sánchez (San Jose State University)

6:00 – 8:00 PM: Conference Dinner at El Ambia Cubano

950 E. Melbourne Ave.

(Each Participant is Responsible for Own Dinner – note 3% cash discount)

Saturday November 9th

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Registration & light refreshments

9:00 – 9:50 AM: Humor as Antagonism: Exploring the (Im)possibility of a Comprehensive Theory

Teodora Marija Grigaitė (Lithuanian Culture Research Institute)

Heckler: Michael Cundall Jr. (North Carolina A&T State University)

10:00 – 10:50 AM: Performing Absurdity, Play and Humor

Drew Chastain (Loyola University, New Orleans)

Heckler: Michael Hoppmann (Northeastern University)

11:00 – 11:50 AM: Moralism, Amusement, and the Dispositional Account of Funniness

Paul Audi (University of Rochester)

Heckler: Eugenio Zaldivar (Santa Fe College)

12:00 – 1:30 PM: Break for Lunch

(Each Participant is Responsible for Own Lunch)

2:00 – 2:50 PM: Humor as Situated Normativity and Directed Discontent

Jacob Ebbs (University of Cincinnati)

Heckler: Kermit Cole (Independent Scholar)

3:00 – 4:30 PM: Debate: Is humor essentially healing, or is humor essentially combative?

Moderator: Liz Sills (Northern State University)

Team A: Michael Hoppmann (Northeastern University)

Kane Anderson (Northern State University)

Team B: Peter Westmoreland (St. Petersburg College)

Tom Brommage (Sam Houston State University)

5:00 PM: Awards Presentation

5:15 PM: LPS Business Meeting and Elections (Members Only)

5:30 PM: Presidential Stand-Up

Sophia Stone

Heckler: LPS