



**FIFTH
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
PHILOSOPHY &
MEANING IN LIFE**

28 to 30 June 2023
Programme timezone
GMT 0

Hosted by the Graduate School
of Arts & Letters
Tohoku University
Japan

Day One: Wednesday, 28 June 2023

11h00 – 11h15	Opening & Welcoming: Tatsuya Murayama		
11h15 – 11h30	CfP for the Journal of Philosophy of Life: Masahiro Morioka		
Plenary Session 1			
GMT 0	1. Theme: Concept of Meaning Chair: Thad Metz	2. Theme: Extension to Other Fields/Themes Chair: Masahiro Morioka	3. Theme: World Philosophy Chair: Zoheir Bagheri Noaparast
11h40 – 12h30	Nobuo Kurata Meaning of Life and the 'World'	Bernice Brijan Meaning in Life in the Context of Psychopathology and Personal Recovery	Zahra Rashid Sufi Archetypes in Rumi's Poetry: Meaning in Life via the Fire Symbolology of Love
12h40 – 13h30	Stephen Leach The Meaning of Life: a question of definition?	Mirela Oliva Fine-Tuning and Life's Cosmic Significance	Leila Mosavi The meaning of life from Farabi's point of view
Plenary Session 2			
GMT 0	1. Theme: Autonomy and MiL/MoL Chair: Nobuo Kurata	2. Theme: Extension to Other Fields/Themes Chair: Danka Radjenović	3. Theme: Life and Death Chair: Gita Leitlande
16h00 – 16h50	Alex Mendez Reconceptualizing Meaning Incompatibilism: Freedom and Expressivity	J Spencer Atkins Meaningfulness Encroachment: The Epistemology of Meaningfulness	Kiki Berk Meaning After Death
17h00 – 17h50	Samuel Bennett Is Autonomy Necessary for a Meaningful Life?	Joshua Tepley Finding the Meaning of Life through Science Fiction	Matthew Pianalto Collective Mortality and the Point of Living
18h00 – 18h50	Keynote 1: Frances Kamm: Considering the rationality of suicide (Chair: Masahiro Morioka)		

Day Two: Thursday, 29 June 2023

Time scheduled on GMT 0

Plenary Session 3				
11h00 - 11h50	Keynote 2: Aribiah David Attoe, A Patient-Centred Concept(ion) of Meaning: Lessons from the African Perspective (Chair: Tatsuya Murayama)			
GMT 0	1. Theme: Concept of Meaning Chair: David Matheson	2. Theme: Morality Chair: Nobuo Kurata	3. Theme: Life and Death Chair: Kiki Berk	4. Theme: Intelligibility and Narrative Chair: Ernesto Garcia
12h00 - 12h50	Charlie Potter Permissive Meaning Pluralism	Matthew Hammerton Self-Sacrifice, Betrayal, and Intelligibility	Mousa Mohammadian Deathbed Wisdoms and the Meaning of Life	Camil Golub The good, the bad, and the meaningful
13h00 - 13h50	Alon Shalev Two Concepts of Meaningfulness	Hayate Shimizu Virtuous Agents and Meaning of Life from Kantian Perspective	Masahiro Morioka Is It Possible for Offenders to Affirm Their Own Birth?	William Pamerleau The Narrative Self and the Meaning of Life
Plenary Session 4				
GMT 0	1. Theme: Religion, Nihilism & Ultimate Meaning Chair: Nobuo Kurata	2. Theme: Interpreting Figures/Traditions Chair: Drew Chastain	3. Theme: Authenticity and (Im)perfection Chair: Masahiro Morioka	4. Theme: World Philosophy Chair: Mirela Oliva
16h00 - 16h50	Jacob Fox Subjective Universality: How to Find Ultimate Meaning in a Natural World	Gita Leitlande Meaning in Life for a Contemporary Stoic	Open Session	Vinay Hejjaji The Upaniṣadic View of the Self and Meaning in Life
17h00 - 17h50	Ernesto Garcia Is God Necessary for a Maximally Meaningful Life?	Andrea Cimino Rudolf Eucken on the Meaning and Value of Life	David Matheson Perfectionism about a Meaningful Life	Arthur Schechter The Acquisition of Meaning (Ma'nā) as Divine Emanation in Applied Islamic Ethics
18h00 - 18h50	Christopher Cloos God's Love Makes Life Maximally Meaningful	Armand Babakhanian A Thomistic View of Choiceworthy Immortality	Iddo Landau Why Achieving Our Goals Is Not So Bad	Seyyed Jaaber Mousavirad The Purpose of Life from the Point of View of two Main Islamic Denomination Ash'arites and Shia

Day Three: Friday, 30 June 2023

Time scheduled on GMT 0

Plenary Session 5			
GMT 0	1. Theme: Religion Chair: Danka Radjenović	2. Theme: Subjectivism & Objectivism Chair: Iddo Landau	3. Theme: Happiness/Well-being Chair: Bernice Brijan
11h00 - 11h50	Zoheir Bagheri Noaparast Evil-God and the Cosmic meaning of life	Kangyu Wang What makes life meaningful? A novel subjectivist theory	Roxana Baiasu Vulnerability, Wellbeing, Health and Meaning in Life
12h00 - 12h50	Michael Ridge Immoral Hopes	Michael Hauskeller If Life Is Objectively Meaningless, Should We Kill Ourselves?	Shunsuke Sugimoto Meaning in Life and Objective Theory of Well-being
13h00 - 13h50	Roberto Di Ceglie Divine Revelation and the Meaning of Life	Benjamin Matheson In Defence of Blob: Toward a Radical Subjectivist Account of Meaningfulness	Xihe Ouyang Which Desire Helps the Desire Satisfaction Theory Avoid the Experience Machine Objection?
Plenary Session 6			
GMT 0	1. Theme: Nihilism & Ultimate Meaning Chair: Michael Hauskeller	2. Theme: Morality Chair: David Matheson	3. Theme: World Philosophy Chair: Arthur Schechter
16h00 - 16h50	Jonathan Morgan Elusive Meaning	Alec Stubbs Play as Existential Sovereignty	Kirk Lougheed Liveliness as a Theory of Meaning in Life: Problems and Prospects
17h00 - 17h50	Drew Chastain Humor, Absurdity, and Meaningful Living	José Antonio Pérez-Escobar Is the lack of meaning in life a disorder?	Chu Kwan Chan The Role of Philosophers in Seeking Meaning in/of Life - A Buddhist Answer
18h00 - 18h50	Adam Edward Zweber Cosmic Indifference	Irene Liu The Meaning of Morality	Davide Andrea Zappulli Dancing with the Dao: Wuwei and Divine Creativity
18h50 - 19h00	Closing Session: Closing Remarks by Kiki Berk & Announcement by Michael Hauskeller on the 6th ICPML (Chair: Nobuo Kurata)		

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



KIKI BERK, SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kiki Berk is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Southern New Hampshire University. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the VU University Amsterdam in 2010. Her current research interests include value theory (especially happiness), analytic existentialism (especially the meaning of life), and the philosophy of death.



NOBUO KURATA, HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Nobuo Kurata is a Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. His research focuses on Applied Ethics (especially Bioethics and Environmental Ethics), normative Ethics, ethics of Kant, and metaethics. He has written many articles on applied ethics, including 'Guardians of Responsibility: Human Embryo Research and the Question of Human Dignity' in A.Perry et al (eds), *New Perspectives in Japanese Bioethics* (2015). As for the meaning of life, his present research zooms in on the relation between objective normativity and the meaning of life.



IDDO LANDAU, UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

Iddo Landau is editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Meaning in Life* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and author of *Finding Meaning in an Imperfect World* (Oxford University Press, 2017) as well as many papers on meaning in life.



THADDEUS METZ, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Thaddeus Metz is often credited for having helped develop life's meaning as a distinct field in Anglo-American philosophy. His books on the subject include *Meaning in Life: An Analytic Study* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *God, Soul and the Meaning of Life* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). As a fun fact, he was once featured as a clue on the American game show *Jeopardy*: 'Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry written by Thaddeus Metz, or a movie co-written by John Cleese' was the answer to the question 'What is the Meaning of Life?' (8 December 2016).

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



MASAHIRO MORIOKA, WASEDA UNIVERSITY

Masahiro Morioka is a professor at Waseda University. He specializes in the philosophy of life, applied ethics, and metaphysics. His English books include: *Painless Civilization* (2003), *Manga Introduction to Philosophy* (2013), *What is Antinatalism? and Other Essays* (2021), and others. He is the director of Tokyo Philosophy Project and the editor-in-chief of *Journal of Philosophy of Life*.



YUJIN NAGASAWA, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Yujin Nagasawa specialises in the philosophy of religion, the philosophy of mind and applied philosophy. He is the author of *Maximal God: A New Defence of Perfect Being Theism* (Oxford University Press, 2017), *Miracles: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2017), *The Existence of God: A Philosophical Introduction* (Routledge, 2011) and *God and Phenomenal Consciousness: A Novel Approach to Knowledge Arguments* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). He is Editor of *Religious Studies*, Co-Director of the Birmingham Centre for Philosophy of Religion and former president of the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion.



TATSUYA MURAYAMA, TOHOKU UNIVERSITY

Tatsuya Murayama is Associate Professor of Ethics at Tohoku University, Japan. His research focuses on French Philosophy and Ethics (especially the meaning of individual life). Besides his work on Descartes, Pascal, and other French philosophers, he has published many articles on Bergson, including 'Portrait de famille: Bergson et le dernier Wittgenstein' in *Annales bergsoniennes V* (PUF, 2012) and 'Bergson on Virtuality and Possibility' in Sinclair and Wolf (eds.), *The Bergsonian Mind* (Routledge, 2021). As for the meaning of life, his present research zooms in on the history of the phrase 'the meaning of life'.



RIVKA WEINBERG, SCRIPPS COLLEGE

Rivka Weinberg is Professor of Philosophy at Scripps College, Claremont, CA. She is the author of *The Risk of A Lifetime: How, When, and Why Procreation May Be Permissible*, OUP 2015. She specializes in ethical and metaphysical issues regarding birth, death, and meaning, and is currently working on a book about death, time, and meaning.



Call for Papers: Journal of Philosophy of Life *only for conference presenters*

The Journal of Philosophy of Life (www.philosophyoflife.org), a peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal, will publish a special issue for our 2023 Tohoku conference. Although it is not a requirement for speakers, we encourage all speakers to submit papers based on their presentations at our conference for the special issue.

The deadline for submission is 31 October 2023. Manuscripts should not exceed 8000 words. A 150-word abstract will be required for evaluation and publication purposes. A final manuscript and an abstract should be sent to both journal@philosophyoflife.org and morioka@waseda.jp together with information about the author.

Please download the form (from www.philosophyoflife.org/informationaboutauthor.doc) to accompany your submission. If the author is not a native speaker of English, the manuscript must be proofread by a native speaker before submission. We do not charge authors any open-access or other fees. We will notify the results by the end of December 2023. Accepted papers will be published in the Spring of 2024.

You can freely download the Journal of Philosophy of Life: Special Issue for the 2022 Pretoria Conference at:
http://www.philosophyoflife.org/jpl2022si_book.pdf

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If you have any questions, please send an email to morioka@waseda.jp.