

Cosmology Between Philosophy and Science: Deleuze, Guattari, and the Rest of Us

A Conference Dedicated to the Open Exchange Between Philosophy and the Sciences

May 25—27, 2023

Call for Papers



Cosmology raises questions at once scientific and philosophical, mathematical and existential, technological and conceptual. Thereby, creative answers can only be sought through exchange across methodological approaches and disciplinary boundaries. We intend this conference as the site of such an exchange between philosophers and scientists. We take our inspiration for this approach from Deleuze and Guattari, whose work is fundamentally cosmic. This puts them at odds with the contemporary tendency of narrowing philosophical questions to anthropocentric concerns. However, they do not simply return to a pre-critical view of the cosmos. Instead, Deleuze and Guattari theorize a chaotic universe without transcendent orderings or fundamental necessary beings, a productive, immanent chaosmos, and forge concepts to help us find our way therein. On the one hand, this highlights the cosmic aspects of human existence, that we are only one sort of machine entering into assemblages with other machines and experimenting with new connections. On the other hand, it has interesting resonances with contemporary scientific cosmology, where aspects of reality that classical cosmology took to be transcendent (time, space, etc.), are shown to be immanent to and affected by the things of the universe (e.g., the warping of Spacetime by mass as described by General Relativity).

While giving a radically new view of the cosmos, Deleuze and Guattari are not without their important precursors. In philosophy, they find resources in thinkers who moved against the grain of transcendence such as the Stoics, Lucretius, Spinoza, Nietzsche, and Bergson. Nor did they hide their scientific and mathematical influences such as Poincaré, Prigogine, and Mandelbrot. In rejecting transcendence, the affective and expressive dimension of an immanent cosmology are brought to the fore alongside the philosophical and scientific. Deleuze and Guattari find the very idea of a chaosmos in the writings of Joyce

and see the cosmic as no less expressed through art such as the work of Klee and Stockhausen. In line with this, we seek papers on the philosophy of cosmology generally and on the current state of the sciences regarding cosmology in addition to scholarship on or applications of the cosmic in Deleuze and Guattari's work.

To explore these and related topics, the Gilles Deleuze and Cosmology Research Group is hosting a conference entitled *Cosmology Between Philosophy and Science: Deleuze, Guattari, and the Rest of Us*. The conference will take place May 25—27th in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Papers will be accepted in either English or French. The conference will be hybrid in format, with both virtual attendance and presentation.

The conference will include a visit to SNOLAB. SNOLAB, located in the nearby VALE's Creighton Mine, is the deepest underground laboratory in the world focused on particle astrophysics (e. g. direct dark matter search experiments and neutrino experiments).

Possible topics include:

Immanent vs. Transcendent Cosmologies
Issues and Alternatives to the Standard Model of Cosmology
Search for Dark Matter and Dark Energy (theoretical/experimental)
Immanent Epistemologies of Science
Assembly and Constructor Theories as Alternatives to Transcendent Laws
Deleuze and Guattari's Philosophy of Science
The Status of Physical Laws in Deleuze's and Guattari
Philosophical Implications of the Quest for Exobiology
Royal, Minor, and Nomad Science
The Mathematization of the Cosmos
Deleuze and Guattari's Engagement with Cosmic Art, Literature, or Music
Guattari, Anthropology, and Indigenous Cosmologies
Stenger's Cosmopolitics
Approaches to Quantum Gravity and the Philosophical Questions They Raise
Chaosmos and Classic Cosmology
Deleuze and Guattari's Scientific Influences
Ancient Cosmologies and Modern Science
The Role of Aesthetics in Science
How to Live Well in a Chaosmos

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Michael J. Bennett (Philosophy, University of King's College, Canada)
Dr. Robert Brandenberger (Physics, McGill University, Canada)
Dr. Chantelle Gray (Philosophy, North-West University, South Africa)
Dr. Dorothea Olkowski (Philosophy, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, USA)
Dr. Arkady Plotnitsky (College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, USA)
Dr. Arnaud Villani (Philosophie, Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis, France)

Paper Proposals:

Please send an abstract of up to 500 words to dgc cosmologyconference@gmail.com along with a brief bio. Presenters will be allotted 30 minutes for presentation, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. When writing, please keep in mind the audience will be transdisciplinary, and so technical terms may need to be defined and common disciplinary assumptions explicitly stated.

Extended Deadline for Submission is January 3rd, 2023. Authors will be notified by January 15th, 2023.

We plan for the conference to lead to an edited volume on Deleuze, Guattari, and Cosmology. Presenters will be notified after the conference if their paper has been chosen for the volume.

For any further inquiries, please email the conference organizers at dgc cosmologyconference@gmail.com

Conference Organizers:

Dr. Michael J. Ardoline (LSU Ethics Institute, USA and Laurentian University, Canada)

Dr. Alain Beaulieu (Laurentian University, Canada)

Dr. Martin Boucher (Human Studies & Interdisciplinarity, Laurentian University, Canada)

Dr. Gennady Chitov (Institut Quantique, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada)

Dr. Kyle Novak (Laurentian University and Guelph University, Canada)

Dr. Janae Sholtz (Alvernia University, USA)

Dr. Ubi Wichoski (Snolab, Canada)

This event is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), housed at Laurentian University, and developed in partnership with Alvernia University, Université de Sherbrooke and SNOLAB, by the [Gilles Deleuze and Cosmology Research Group](#).

Suggested Accommodations:

[Laurentian University Residence](#)

[Travelway Inn, Sudbury](#) (5-minute taxi ride to conference site, 35-minute walk)