

Perspectives about Truth 4

(November 14-15, 2025 - online)

Truth is a central notion in philosophy and in many related areas of inquiry. Through this conference, we aim to provide an opportunity for researchers to debate the concept of truth and related notions. To encourage constructive discussions, the topics will be organised into panels, allowing participants to engage with others who share similar interests.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Mircea DUMITRU (University of Bucharest)

Peter ELDRIDGE-SMITH (Australian National University)

Paul HORWICH (New York University)

Graham PRIEST (CUNY Graduate Center)

Gabriel SANDU (University of Helsinki)

Panel 1: TRUTH IN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

Panel 1, part A: Truth and other semantic notions (Organisers: Paula Tomi, Adrian Ludusan)

In analytic philosophy, various theories of truth aim to define truth and provide a complex and comprehensive explanation. From substantive theories of truths (such as coherence and correspondence) to deflationary approaches, each seems to have its own strengths and weaknesses. We welcome presentations that engage with questions regarding truth and other semantic notions. Sample research topics may include, but are certainly not limited to:

- **How can truth be defined?**
- **What are the links between different semantic notions?**
- **Can semantic deflationism be epistemologically and metaphysically thin?**
- **How is truth presented in different philosophical traditions?**

Panel 1, part B: Modal truth (Organisers: Mihai Rusu, Alexandru Dragomir)

Despite the extraordinary development of modal logic and the pervasiveness of modal notions in contemporary philosophical analysis, modal truth remains controversial. While not many philosophers would maintain nowadays that modal notions are useless or insignificant, the nature and source of modal truth, especially metaphysical modal truth, is disputed. Some philosophers believe that modal truth is inextricably linked to our mental capacities (such as conceivability, imagination or intuition), while others argue that modal truth is independent of minds and that we may come to know modal facts by knowing facts about essences or by making

various kinds of inferences starting from our knowledge of actual objects. This panel aims to address main issues concerning modal truth and modal knowledge, such as:

- **What is the nature and source of modal truth?**
- **What are the “ingredients” of our modal assertions? Are there merely possible objects or everything is actual? Are there modal facts?**
- **How do we acquire modal knowledge? Is modal knowledge fundamental or derivative?**
- **How can we understand essences?**
- **What are the most promising contemporary accounts of modal knowledge?**
- **How can we solve modal disagreement?**
- **How can modal logic be used to model and shed light on core philosophical problems?**

Panel 1, part C: Truth and AI (Organisers: Paula Tomi, Adrian Luduşan)

In a society that aims towards knowledge and progress, truth seems to be a necessary concept that helps differentiate between relevant information and fake news, conspiracy theories, misinformation, and lies. In the case of AI, we expect it to provide relevant, reliable, and useful output. Thus, an AI system must be able to filter false information from accurate data. This panel aims to address - without being limited to - questions such as:

- **Can truth be formalised in order to be computationally modelled within AI systems?**
- **How can different philosophical theories of truth be incorporated into the design of AI models?**
- **How can AI contribute to the preservation of truth in an era of misinformation and post-truth politics?**
- **What roles do language, meaning, and interpretation play in how AI represents or constructs truth?**

Panel 2: Truth in/of the Anthropocene (Organiser: Ciprian Bogdan)

The Anthropocene is not only a challenge to our planetary ecological systems (Crutzen and Stoermer 2000), but also to our representations of society and nature. These often rely on an ontological divide between social constructions and natural causality (Bonneuil and Fressoz 2013). While continental philosophy has been more willing to trespass (or simply ignore) this divide, analytic philosophy has mostly remained faithful to it by advancing social ontologies based upon the distinction between „social” and „physical facts” (Searle 1995). Our panel will address several questions without being limited to them:

- **Does the Anthropocene question philosophical assumptions about truth?**
- **What social ontologies are needed to address the challenges of the Anthropocene?**
- **Where is the new boundary between society, politics, and nature?**
- **What is the role of scales in the Anthropocene?**
- **How should social (including philosophy) and natural sciences interact in the context of our ecological predicament?**

Panel 3: Truth and Ethics (Organiser: Mircea Toboşaru)

Understanding truth equates to the understanding of our ethical relation to truth. Do we owe the truth to our peers and to ourselves? Does it have intrinsic value, so that it is our duty to seek, expand, and affirm it? Is there such a thing as moral truth different from scientific truth? If so, what is their relation? Do our current moral practices depend on a strong notion of moral truth? Would they collapse if it disintegrates under philosophical analysis? This panel seeks to explore the horizon of such concerns, but also other subjects relevant to the connection between truth and ethics.

Panel 4: What do we do with the hard truths? Ethical and theoretical challenges for the anthropology of unpleasant realities (Organiser: Ciprian Tudor)

Social scientists may sometimes encounter evidence which could contribute to a negative representation of the people involved in their research. Perhaps some popular stereotypes have some truth to them, or perhaps they discover new truths that could damage the reputation of their subjects and ethnographic collaborators. What is there to be done about such hard, inconvenient truths? Should researchers try harder to see the error of their data or interpretations? Or should they keep such ideas to themselves as an ethical act of preventing marginal groups from being further discriminated against? Or, conversely, should they disclose everything that comes up in empirical research as a commitment to truth irrespective of the social outcomes of their research? Are “hard truths” an obstacle or a challenge to rethink methodology, theory and the social use of science? This panel invites contributions from researchers who faced the problem of dealing with “hard truths” in their writing, academic conversations, collaborations with state or non-governmental agencies, or engagement with the general public. We are interested in the personal experience of ethical dilemmas, the dynamics of social engagement around “hard truths”, the negotiation of positionality both with academics and informants, as well as any other forays into the issue of uncomfortable truths. The panel is open to any empirical and/or theoretical contributions coming from anthropology and other social sciences that deal with controversial issues.

Abstract submission:

- If you would like to present a paper or work in progress, please submit an abstract of no more than 500 words (excluding bibliography), including 5 keywords and a short bibliography, by **November 5, 2025** [here: Abstract Submission](#)
- There are no participation fees.
- The official language is English.
- Although the official deadline is November 5, 2025, contributors are encouraged to submit their abstracts as soon as they are ready.
- You will receive an email of acceptance by November 9, 2025.
- For any questions, please, do contact us at: [perspectivesabouttruth\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:perspectivesabouttruth[at]gmail.com).
- Some selected presentations may be invited for publication in special issues.

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