

Yale Teleology Conference
Humanities Quadrangle 136 (320 York St)

Tuesday | May 5, 2026

9:00: Coffee and pastries

9:20: Opening remarks

9:30: Jeffrey McDonough (Harvard), Leibniz on Monadic Teleology and Optimal Form

11:00: Break

11:10: Karl Schafer (UT Austin), The Inescapability of Teleology

12:40: Lunch (catered)

1:30: Panel 1:

Aurora Yu (UNC), Aristotle's Global Teleology

Vittorio Alves (KU Leuven), Minimal Teleology: Schelling's Kantian Argument for the Constitutive Purposiveness of Nature

Gunnar Babcock (Cornell) and Dan McShea (Duke), Abiotic Teleology

3:30: Break

3:40: Mark Schiefsky (Harvard), Galen's "Unnatural" Teleology

5:10: Dinner (catered)

Wednesday | May 6, 2026

9:00: Coffee and pastries

9:30: Jessica Gelber (Toronto), What is Hypothetical Necessity?

11:00: Break

11:10: Jim Kreines (Claremont McKenna), Weirdly Good Teleology: Beyond Intuition and Scientific Debunking

12:40: Lunch (catered)

1:30: Panel 2:

Isabel Sharp (Chicago), Goodness as Mere Rationality in Foot's *Natural Goodness*; Ari Deller (Cambridge), A Teleological Critique of 'Can AIs be X?' Scholarship; Eleonore Neufeld (UMass Amherst), Against Teleological Essentialism

3:30: Break

3:45: Jonathan Schaffer (Rutgers) and David Rose (Stanford), Folk Teleology: The Direct and the Diagnostic Views

5:15: Closing remarks

5:30: Dinner (catered)