

Identity and Community in Times of Uncertainty:

“Existential Philosophy for Times of Change and Crisis” series, 6th Edition

International Conference, 22-23 October 2026

Call for Papers

Venue:

Faculty of Humanities | AGH University of Krakow, Poland

Room 5.12, 5th floor, C7 Building

Czarnowiejska 36, 30-054 Kraków, POLAND

The conference is hosted in an accessible venue. For specific access needs, please notify us in advance in your registration request.

Description:

This sixth edition of the Existential Philosophy for Times of Change and Crisis series seeks contributions exploring issues surrounding identity and community in times of uncertainty.

Writing in the aftermath of the Second World War, Simone de Beauvoir's existential ethics centred around the ambiguity of the human condition. Her work critiques traditional ethical frameworks subsuming plurality and ambiguity under the generalisations of normative concepts and practices. Ethics, she argues, should enable individuals to assume this ambiguity and plurality, mindful of the diversity of our human condition. *Ethics of Ambiguity*, notably, strives to demonstrate how existentialism can be and indeed is inherently moral or social. Beauvoir appeals to us to recognise our freedom and responsibility, yet at the same time highlights the limits of this freedom in situations of oppression, and that this freedom is the most precarious in times of 'uncertainty'—where 'crushed by present events, [one] loses one's way before the darkness of a future haunted by frightening spectres: war, illness, revolution, fascism.'

Beauvoir's existential ethics sought to respond to the challenges addressed to existentialism, accused of miserabilism and solipsism. This conference seeks to develop on Beauvoir's works and legacy and those of her contemporaries, and to explore the resources available within existential philosophy for rethinking the role of identity and community in times of uncertainty and crisis. Does the focus that existential philosophy places on the singular individual impede the construction of community? Does

existentialism provide tools for articulating situations of oppression, and navigating hostile environments? Does it provide guidance for concrete forms of action and activism, and paths for navigating the uncertainty in the contemporary world?

Contributions should engage with current issues from the perspectives of thinkers in existential philosophy and phenomenology, such as Albert Camus, Theodor Adorno, Simone Weil, Emil Cioran, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, Karl Jaspers, Hannah Arendt, Martin Heidegger, and their nineteenth-century predecessors (Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Stirner...).

To propose a talk:

Scholars interested in presenting should send a 300-word abstract and brief bi-bibliographical information by **31 August 2026** to conference.eptcc@gmail.com . Notification of acceptance by 15 September 2026. For scholars requiring earlier notification in order to organize travel, **early submission** and acceptance is possible. In that event submissions should be sent by **1 July 2026** for notification by 15 July 2026. Please clearly indicate in the body of the email that you wish to be considered for early acceptance.

Presentations should be 25 minutes, followed by 25 minutes discussion time.

Conference participation open to all and *free of charge* for all speakers and participants, but no funding is available for travel or accommodation.

For specific queries (other than submission of abstracts or registration), contact: melissa.fox-muraton@clermont-sb.fr .

Registration:

To participate without presenting a talk, please register by email to conference.eptcc@gmail.com by 15 October 2026, providing your name and institutional affiliation.

Organisers:

Mélissa Fox-Muraton (Clermont School of Business/PHIER, University Clermont Auvergne, France)

Jakub Gomułka (AGH University of Krakow, Poland)

Maciej Kałuża (Krakow University of Economics, Poland)