



UW-Madison Spinoza Conference “The Transformative Power of Knowledge”

May 28-29, 2026

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Bunge Room 4207, Helen C. White Hall
600 N. Park St. Madison, WI 53706

Thursday, May 28

Time	Event
8:55 am	Steven Nadler , UW-Madison Opening Comments and Welcome
Session 1	Chair: Jacob Zellmer , UW-Madison
9-10 am	Huimin Liu , University of Notre Dame “The Partiality of Finite Minds: Spinoza on Error and Its Overcoming”
10:15- 11:15 am	Vincent Navarro , UW-Madison “ <i>Oculis apertis somniant</i> : Spinoza on Madness, Prophecy, and Superstition”
11:30 am- 12:30 pm	Brandon Smith , UW-Madison “Stoic vs. Spinozistic Flourishing: Passion, Reason, and Therapy”
12:30- 2:00 pm	Lunch
Session 2	Chair: Mélanie Zappulla , Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
2-3 pm	Daniel Schneider , UW-La Crosse “ <i>Scientia Intuitiva and Interpretatio Naturae</i> . (Or, Why Our Sciences Need a Bit of Spinoza)”

3:15-4:15 pm	Michael Rosenthal , University of Toronto “Passive Agency in Spinoza’s Theory of the Affects”
4:30-5:30 pm	Sanem Soyarslan , North Carolina State University “Beyond the Human Perspective? The Transition from Reason to Intuitive Knowledge in Spinoza’s <i>Ethics</i> ”
6:30 pm	Dinner for Speakers and Organizers

Friday, May 29

Time	Event
Session 3	Chair: Vincent Navarro , UW-Madison
9-10 am	Kristin Primus , University of California, Berkeley “Who Are We as Reasoners?”
10:15-11:15 am	Karolina Hübner , University of California, Los Angeles “God's Knowledge of New Things”
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Noa Lahav-Ayalon , Harvard University “Self-Knowledge and the Garden of Eden”
12:30-2 pm	Lunch
Session 4	Chair: Brandon Smith , UW-Madison
2-3 pm	Jacob Zellmer , UW-Madison “Spinoza on Vivid Imagination and Prophetic Projection”
3:15-4:15 pm	Mélanie Zappulla , Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne “Spinoza’s Ethics: Who Can Become Wise?”
4:30-5:30 pm	Daniel Garber , Princeton University “Salvation Through Imagination in Spinoza’s <i>TTP</i> ”