

Organised by Clara Carus and Gonzalo Rodríguez-Pereyra

THEORIES OF FIRST PRINCIPLES IN EARLY MODERN METAPHYSICS

Oriel College, University of Oxford • 2–3 October 2026



FRIDAY | 2 October 2026

- 09:30–10:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**
- 10:00–11:15 **Clara Carus** (*Heidelberg University*)
The Principle of Contradiction as a First Principle
in Early Modern Philosophy
- 11:15–11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30–12:45 **Ursula Renz** (*University of Graz*)
Spinoza on Constitutive Goodness and the Principle
of Plenitude
- 12:45–14:15 **Lunch**
- 14:15–15:30 **Peter Anstey** (*Australian Catholic University*)
Locke, Maxims, and the Theory of Principles
- 15:30–15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45–17:00 **Samuel Levey** (*Dartmouth College*)
A Clash Between Principles: Totality and Infinity
in Leibniz (and Cantor)
- 17:00–17:15 Coffee break
- 17:15–18:30 **Xi Luo** (*Minzu University of China*)
Kant's Critique of the First Principle of
Metaphysica Specialis

SATURDAY | 3 October 2026

- 09:30–10:45 **Julia Peters** (*Heidelberg University*)
First Principles and Hard Choices: Kant on the
Non-Foundational Structure of Moral Character
- 10:45–11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00–12:15 **Jeffrey McDonough** (*Harvard University*)
Mary Shepherd's Two Principles of Induction
- 12:15 **Closing remarks and end of workshop**

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The aim of the workshop is to discuss the conception, demonstration, formulation, and logical implications of first principles in early modern metaphysics leading up to and including Kant.

The event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.
Please register by 30 September at
clara.carus@uni-heidelberg.de

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