Perspectives about Truth 5
(November 20-21, 2026 - 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:

Scott F. Aikin (Vanderbilt University)
Sorin BANGU (University of Bergen)
Mircea DUMITRU (University of Bucharest)
Mona SIMION (University of Oxford)

Panel 1: Truth in Analytic Philosophy (Organisers: Paula Tomi, Adrian Ludușan)

Panel 1, part A: Truth and other semantic notions

In analytic philosophy, various theories of truth aim to define the nature of truth and provide a comprehensive account. From substantive theories (such as coherence and correspondence) to deflationary approaches, each perspective offers distinct strengths and limitations. We welcome presentations that engage with fundamental questions regarding truth and related semantic notions, including specific kinds of truth such as modal truth. Sample research topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- **How can truth be defined?**
- **What are the links between different semantic notions?**
- **To what extent can semantic deflationism remain epistemologically and metaphysically thin?**
- **How is truth conceptualised in different philosophical traditions?**
- **What is the nature and source of modal truth?**
- **How do we acquire modal knowledge?**

Panel 1, part B: Truth and AI

In a society that aims towards knowledge and progress, truth is an essential concept for distinguishing genuine information from misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories. In the context of artificial intelligence (AI), we expect systems to provide relevant, reliable, and accurate output. Thus, an AI model 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: <u>Truth in/of the Anthropocene (Organiser: Ciprian Bogdan)</u>

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: <u>Truth and Ethics (Organiser: Mircea Toboșaru)</u>

Understanding truth means also understanding our ethical relation to truth. Do we owe the truth to our peers and to ourselves? Does it have instrumental value, but also intrinsic value, so that it is our duty to seek, expand, and affirm it no matter what? 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: <u>What do we do with the hard truths? Ethical and theoretical challenges for the anthropology of unpleasant realities (Organiser: Ciprian Tudor)</u>

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 10, 2026 here: Abstract Submission
- There are no participation fees.
- The official language is English.
- Although the official deadline is November 10, 2026, contributors are encouraged to submit their abstracts as soon as they are ready.
- You will receive an email of acceptance by November 14, 2026.
- For any questions, please, do contact us at: perspectivesabouttruth[at]gmail.com.
- Some selected presentations may be invited for publication in special issues.

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