

**Regional Conference on Teaching Philosophy**  
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI  
24 -25 September 2016

**Call for Proposals**  
***Teaching Philosophy in the Michigan Area***

The Michigan area is home to many high schools, community colleges, colleges, and universities, most of which offer courses in philosophy. However, because of the dominance of Research I universities in the education of philosophy graduate students, little attention is paid to the *teaching* of philosophy. Furthermore, although there are a number of national conferences on teaching philosophy each year, there has never been a conference in the Michigan area that brings together educators from local high schools, community colleges, colleges, universities, and beyond.

***This conference will bring together educators who teach philosophy in Michigan in various contexts and under differing conditions, within and beyond institutions of different sorts.***



**Sponsored by Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College**

## Not Your Usual Philosophy Conference

- In the spirit of collaboration and inclusivity, we highly encourage submissions of panels, roundtables, and workshops. (We may also group individual presentations into panels by theme.)
- We urge participants to use formats that allow for greater interaction with their audiences (e.g. presenting an outline, rather than reading a paper) and that emphasize collective inquiry and learning.
- We are particularly interested in learning from and working with philosophers who teach in precarious contexts or who otherwise feel excluded or marginalized as educators. Thus, we invite submissions not only from tenured and tenure-track philosophers, but especially from philosophy instructors teaching in fixed term positions, in high schools, as graduate students, and as independent scholar-educators.

## Conference Topics and Themes

We invite proposals for individual presentations, panels, roundtables, and workshops that address the following topics and themes:

- **what we (ought to) teach** in our survey and other introductory philosophy courses, as well as outside of institutional settings;
- **how we teach**, including how to make philosophy accessible and relevant to students with a wide range of preparedness, interests, and reasons for studying with us;
- **who we teach**, including questions about the conditions our students face while taking classes, their differing levels of preparedness and ability; the full nature of our role as educators (e.g., whether our roles include psychological or other elements of relating to students that were previously not expected of instructors, and to what extent we are responsible for the safety and security of our students);
- **where and under what conditions we teach**, including institutional, historical, departmental, and economic conditions that provide the framework for and inform the content of our teaching;
- **how philosophy teachers are treated within our institutions**, including how we are evaluated; whether we are included in decision-making processes that affect our lives; whether we are respected as peers in our disciplines;
- **the future of teaching philosophy in our region**, including changing educational aims and environments (e.g., the push to increase on-line course offerings); whether we are supported professionally and financially with respect to improving our pedagogy

## **Submission Guidelines**

Please note that participants will be selected for at most one presentation (individual presentation, panel, roundtable, etc.) at the conference.

### **Please include the following information in your email:**

- Names:
- Positions (e.g., Adjunct, Graduate Student, Independent Scholar):
- Institutional Affiliations (if any):
- Type of Proposal (e.g., individual presentation, panel, etc.):
- Proposal of 150-500 words (as attachment—please prepare proposals for anonymous review).
- Whether you would you be willing to be part of a panel?

**Email proposals as attachments to [teachingphilosophysemi@gmail.com](mailto:teachingphilosophysemi@gmail.com) with subject line “Teaching in MI from [your name].”**

**Deadline for Submissions:** June 30<sup>h</sup>, 2016

**Notification of Acceptance:** August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## **Accessibility**

This conference will prioritize accessibility. Conference rooms and the reception space are wheelchair accessible, and information about wheelchair accessible transportation and accommodations will be available by the time of notifications of acceptance. Participants are asked not to bring or wear strong scents. A quiet room will be available.

Further information, including information about childcare, breastfeeding and change room areas, as well as transportation to and from Ypsilanti, will be available upon request.

**Questions or concerns about accessibility?** Please contact the conference organizers at [teachingphilosophysemi@gmail.com](mailto:teachingphilosophysemi@gmail.com)

**\*We encourage all philosophy students and educators in the area to attend and participate, regardless of whether one is presenting. We will also be organizing a follow-up meeting in the Winter to continue our conversation\***