

Joy, Care, and Resistance

Forty-Third International Social Philosophy Conference

A joint conference by the North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) and the Canadian Society Working for Inclusion in Philosophy (CSWIP)

*University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
July 16-18, 2026*

NASSP and CSWIP are excited to invite abstract submissions for proposed presentations at our joint 2026 conference. Proposals in all areas of social philosophy (broadly construed) are welcome, whether the content is contemporary or historical, Western or non-Western, analytic or Continental.

Our keynote speakers will be Professor **Kathryn Norlock** (Trent University) and Professor **Quill Kukla** (Georgetown university).

This year's conference theme is **Joy, Care, and Resistance**. Although proposals in all areas of social philosophy are welcome, submissions on this theme are especially encouraged. Some possible topics include:

- Solidarity, coalition-building, and allyship
- Loneliness and connection across difference
- Social trust and epistemic environments
- Communities of resistance and care, real and digital
- Indigenous, decolonial, Mexican, and borderlands philosophy
- Chaos and disruption as forms of creation
- Joy, laughter, and hope as forms of resistance
- Play as world traveling
- Social and liberatory emotions and virtue
- Prefigurative politics
- Reform versus revolution
- Nonideal theory in ethics
- Abolition and resistance to carceral logics
- The recognition of care labor

Abstracts must be submitted on or before **March 15, 2026**. Acceptance/rejection decisions will be emailed to authors by April 15, 2026.

We welcome submissions from both members and non-members, but we require that all presenters join the North American Society for Social Philosophy if their papers are accepted and they wish to present at the conference.

Submissions may take the form of **individual submissions** for traditional presentations or **panel submissions**.

Individual Submissions

Abstracts of 250-500 words should be submitted to the [2025 NASSP Abstract Submission](#) form. Abstracts should:

- Be prepared for anonymous review.
- Convey an identifiable and engaging thesis, argument, or overall perspective.
- Motivate the author's approach to the issue, by conveying the outlines of the argument or explaining why a particular theoretical frame is helpful for understanding the topic.
- Be clear and well-written, avoiding jargon when possible and explaining it when necessary.
- Demonstrate some engagement with the relevant literature, either through brief citations or an awareness of existing contributions.

NASSP will host an optional workshop via Zoom on abstract writing in January, dates to be announced.

Panel Submissions

The default format for panel submissions is to have three presenters speak individually on a related theme or topic, followed by comments or open discussion by the panelists on each other's work, followed by audience Q&A. However, we encourage you to propose alternative formats including a workshop, a moderated discussion, a single paper with commentators, a session honoring the career of a particular scholar, or an author-meets-critics session.

Panel submissions should be submitted to the [2025 NASSP Panel Submission](#) form.

Panel abstracts should aim for the same qualities as individual submission abstracts. Panel submissions need not be prepared for anonymous review but should include:

- An abstract for the topic of the whole panel (250-500 words).
- The format of the panel. Include time estimates for the different aspects of the panel, ensuring that no panel lasts longer than a typical session, which is two hours long.
- Abstracts for each participant (250-500 words).
- The names of participants who are willing to attend, if relevant.

Social Philosophy Today

Papers presented at the conference are eligible for consideration for publication in *Social Philosophy Today*, a peer-reviewed journal published electronically and available for print on demand. Although most articles published in *Social Philosophy Today* are based on papers

presented at the conference, the journal is not a proceedings volume. Only those articles recommended on the basis of peer review will be accepted for publication.

NASSP Graduate Student Prize

The North American Society for Social Philosophy awards an annual prize of **\$800** for the best Graduate Student Paper presented at the conference. To be considered for this award, full papers of no more than 3,000 words must be submitted on or before **March 15, 2026** to gradaward@northamericansocietyforsocialphilosophy.org.

Please include a word count with submission. Prizes will only be awarded to conference attendees who are still enrolled in a program towards a degree beyond the B.A. or first university diploma at the time of the conference. (Note that if the paper is coauthored then all the authors must meet this requirement.) There is no obligation to use prize money for conference-related costs.

NASSP Support for International Presenters

The NASSP will waive fees for conference registration and for the banquet for those participants traveling from outside of the United States and Canada.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

NASSP is committed to creating an inclusive intellectual community where philosophers from historically marginalized groups feel welcome and are able to participate. NASSP recognizes that there are a variety of barriers of entry due to systemic discrimination and oppression that might prohibit participation in its events and governance (and in professional philosophy more broadly). NASSP is committed to removing those barriers and challenging oppressive norms within the profession more broadly, specifically (though not exclusively) for those related to race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, sexual orientation, ability, class, or gender.

Accommodations will be available either in a residence hall or at a hotel near both campuses.

Questions? contact@northamericansocietyforsocialphilosophy.org

The Program Committee

program@northamericansocietyforsocialphilosophy.org

Dan Lowe, University of Michigan (chair)

Nikki Ramsoomair, Dalhousie University

Kevin Timpe, Calvin University

Theresa Tobin, Marquette University

Local Hosts

Katy Fulfer and Chris Lowrey, University of Waterloo