

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Philosophy and Representation

Annual Student-Run Conference

Saturday, 7 April 2018 | 9:00am – 6:00pm | Storm Hall



KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

NICK RIGGLE, PhD

University of San Diego

“Transformative Expression and Participatory Art”

The hope that art could be personally or socially transformational is an important part of 20th century avant-garde work, and it shaped a movement away from traditional media in an effort to make social life a medium. Artists imagined and created scenarios that facilitated potentially transformative self-expression. In this paper I develop the concept of ‘transformative expression’ and illustrate how it informs a diverse range of such avant-garde works. I then argue that understanding these social artworks in this way raises two interesting questions, one about the nature of aesthetic value and the other about the nature of expressive action. Answers to these questions lie in understanding the aesthetic character of our capacity to act freely and playfully.

TYLER BURGE, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles

“Perception: Basis for Empirical Objectivity”

The role of perception as a type of empirical objectivity, and as a source for more sophisticated types of objectivity that it itself does not realize, will be discussed. Perceptual representation is distinguished from the sort of representation explained in terms of information theory. Perceiving is also distinguished from sensing. Some threads in the history of philosophy that have taken perception not to be a type or source of objectivity are discussed and criticized. Often inevitable limitations on the types of objectivity that perception can embody have been misconstrued as marks of subjectivity. Often perception has been mis-characterized in the interests of one or another philosophical ideology. The irony of this history is that the ultimate basis for the objectivity of the empirical sciences has commonly been miscast in the philosophical tradition.

This conference aims to bring several dynamic learning communities together for an enriching meeting of the minds, stimulating research, and an opportunity to participate in a connection along philosophical lines in our interdisciplinary inquiries. This theme is meant to be inclusive, inviting those within and outside of any one discipline to engage in a variety of conversations that move across disciplinary lines – be it philosophy, psychology, cognitive sciences, film and media, literature, art history, and a variety of others. We certainly wish to take care as we approach the furtherance of these philosophical, scientific, and artistic efforts and discussions on local and international scales alike. (Visit: studentphilconference.sdsu.edu, for more information)