

WCU GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE 2026

PROGRAM/SCHEDULE

8:00-8:50 **Breakfast**, Anderson Hall, room 215

8:50-9:00 **Welcome Remarks, Dr. Cassie Striblen,**
Chair of the Department of Philosophy
Anderson Hall, room 211

Session 1: **Creation and Metaphysics of Being**
Anderson Hall, room 211
Chair: Dr. Dan Forbes

8:40-9:20 Presenters:
Isaac Fried, Villanova University
“Embodied Coalitions: Raising Consciousness in Lukács, Collins, Yancy,
and Fanon”

9:20-9:40 **Hyda Hyastu, University of South Florida**
“Resurrecting God: Iqbal’s answer to Nietzsche

9:40-9:10 **Robert Seletsky, University of New Mexico**
“The Premise of Maximal Creation Immediately Entails the Law of
Continuity”

10:10-10:30 **Break**

Session 2: **Personhood & Body Politics in Modern Society**
Anderson Hall, room 211
Chair: Dr. Steven James

10:30-10:50 Presenters:
Syeda Fuzna Haider, University of Karachi, Pakistan
“The Stature of Women in Taliban’s Ideological Authoritarian Regime: An
Old Religious Theory versus a New Life-Praxis”

10:50-11:10 **Benjamin Williamson, Liberty University, Virginia**
“Beholding Her Face—Perceiving the daughter in Every Woman”

11:10-11:30 **Tiera Danheux, West Chester University**
“Black is Beautiful: Challenging Hegemonic Standards of Beauty”

11:30-11:50 **Hade Agee, Virginia Tech**
“Hermeneutical Misappropriation”

12:00-1:00 **Lunch Break**, Anderson Hall, room 215

Session 3: **Authenticity, Inequality & Human Psychology**
Anderson Hall, room 211
Chair: Dr. Cassie Striblen

Presenters:

1:00-1:20 **Rachel Green, Colorado State University**
“The Burden of Finitude: Psychological Tensions in Heideggerian Authenticity”

1:20-2:00 **Connor Holm, West Chester University**
“Exploring the Role and Implications of Qualia in Mental Disorders”

2:00 – 2:20 **Ethan Shap, McGill University, Montreal**
“From the New World to Mars: Locke’s Theory of Property and the Endurance of Structural Inequality”

2:20 – 2:35 **Break**

Session 4: **Resistance, Social Progress and Democracy**
Anderson Hall, room 211
Chair: Dr. Matthew Pierlott

2:40-3:00 **Tom Rickards and Alice Bateman, William Penn Charter School**
“Deliberating Democracy: The Importance of Engagement Right Now”

3:00-3:20 **Nada Mohamed, University of Minnesota**
“Strategic Ignorance and Incompetence as Resistance”

3:20-3:40 **Michael Milhim, Cornell University**
Is Ad Blocking Theft?

3:40-4:00 **Edwing McQuillen, West Chester University**
“Responsible When Uncertain”

4:00 – 4:15 **Break**

4:15 -5:15

KEYNOTE

Anderson Hall, room 211

Introduction by Dr. Bayo Oluwayomi

Dr. Sabeen Ahmed

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *Swarthmore College*

“The Responsibility of Philosophy in the Age of Fascism”