

Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry Call for papers

30th ANNUAL MEETING
May 5-6, 2018
New York, New York

PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AFFECT, EMOTION, AND MOOD IN PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

Conference co-chairs

Gerrit Glas, Jeffrey Bedrick & Peter Zachar

Keynote speakers:

Otto F. Kernberg, M.D., Weil Cornell Medical College: 2018 Wallace Lecturer

Jesse Prinz, Ph.D., Director of the Committee for Interdisciplinary Studies, City University of New York Graduate Center

Mathew Ratcliffe, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna

As the common sense term 'emotional disorder' indicates, emotion, affect, and mood are central features of psychiatric disorder. Despite this centrality, the treatment of emotion and affect in psychiatry is not unified. The conceptual framework used in psychology and cognitive neuroscience views emotions and moods as dispositions of an organism that serve certain (often evolutionary) purposes. These purposes are general and defined at the level of the human species. There is on the other hand a rich literature in the field of experiential and psychodynamic psychotherapy which views emotion, feeling, and affect as – primarily – subjective experiences which express what is going on 'inside.' These experiences are usually put in a developmental, narrative context.

As long as it has existed, psychiatry has lived with the gap between these two ways of thinking about emotion, the objective, 'organismic' way and the subjective, experiential way – and with the contrasting views about normality and abnormality that they engender. The conference will focus on clinically informed, philosophical attempts to elucidate this and related puzzles connecting the nature of emotion and affect with the nature of psychiatric disorder.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- In what ways are normal affect/emotion distinguished from abnormal affect/emotion?
- How and to what extent can emotion theory and its philosophy contribute to the academic understanding of psychopathology?
- How and to what extent can emotion theory and its philosophy contribute to our clinical understanding of psychopathology?
- Can the objective, organismic, way of conceptualizing emotion and the personal, narrative, sense of emotion be integrated?
- Are some disorders more emotional and others more cognitive?
- Which structure of affect model is best suited to psychiatry?
- What have been the effects on psychiatry of historical changes in how affect and emotion are viewed?
- Are there affective traits and if so how do they relate to personality disorder?
- How we are to understand those people and/or patients who seem markedly lacking or even devoid of affect?
- Is there a place for the concept of 'unconscious emotion' and, if so, how should it be conceptualized?

Presentations will be strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion.

Abstracts will be blind reviewed, so the author's identifying information should be attached separately.

Abstracts should be 500-600 words and sent via email by November 25, 2017 to Peter Zachar (pzachar@aum.edu). The submission will be confirmed by a returning email message. Notices of acceptance or rejection will be distributed in mid-January.