



# Council for Research in Values and Philosophy

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# DISCERNING BOUNDARIES

## Philosophy across Cultures

**JULY 29-31  
2024**

**ROME, ITALY**  
SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, VILLA MIRAFIORI, VIA CARLO FEA 2

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**ORGANIZED BY**

 Council for Research  
in Values and Philosophy

 Theological Center for the Study of Culture and Values  
The Catholic University of America

**Pre-World Congress of Philosophy Conference**  
**Discerning Boundaries: Philosophy across Cultures**

**July 29-31, 2024**

**Rome, Italy**

Under the Auspices of  
**Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy**  
**The 25<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, Italy**

**Thematic Description**

In conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) “Philosophy across Boundaries,” the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy along with the CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values will hold its pre-Congress conference on the theme of “Discerning Boundaries: Philosophy across Cultures” at the Department of Philosophy of Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy, July 29-31, 2024. The Department of Philosophy is located at the historical *Villa Mirafiori* (Via Carlo Fea 2, 00161 Rome, Italy ). It is under the auspices of Sapienza University of Rome and the 25<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Philosophy.

It has been a tradition for the Council to organize such quinquennial pre-Congress conferences, for instance, in 1998 at Boston College “Philosophical Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization,” in 2003 at the University of Istanbul “Philosophical Challenges and Prospects of the Dialogue of Cultural Traditions,” in 2008 at the Soongsil University “Philosophy Emerging from Culture,” in 2013 at University of Athens “Culture and Philosophy as Ways of Life in Times of Global Changes,” and in 2018 at Shandong University “Re-Learning to Be Human for Global Times: Dialogue of Cultures and Civilizations.

What do boundaries mean from a philosophical perspective as well as in our lived experience? What kinds of boundaries are necessary and what not? How are we to discern boundaries (positive/negative) in our world and beyond? How is philosophy able to play its role in crossing boundaries, not only within the discipline of philosophy itself – different philosophical schools, traditions, ideas, etc. – but also with other disciplines – the social sciences, natural sciences, and so on? What are the relationships between philosophy and culture? Do we know the true meaning of philosophy and culture?

In order to answer these and other questions, it is necessary for philosophy as one of the humanities to continue to deepen and widen its range according to the circumstances of the times and to relearn its meaning and relevance in the ever-changing world. This requires philosophers and thinkers to work within the contemporary life of all peoples, cultures, and traditions to generate new visions of philosophy. And this requires philosophy to embrace all aspects of the lifeworld – economics, socio-politics, culture, ecology, science and technology, etc. – so that philosophy can develop new inquiries into fundamental questions. Indeed, these philosophical investigations are significant in shaping human minds and hearts.

Although philosophical traditions, which are as old as humanity, are different, all have things in common. All peoples have developed their ways of thinking, acting, and being as well as their understandings of reality; accordingly each culture has produced its own thought and value systems and made its unique contribution to world philosophy as a whole, while being open to other philosophical traditions through dialogue and communication. As G.F. McLean once

stated: there is need for dramatically new ways of thinking in terms both of the whole in which all are related and of the responsive individual person by which values are shaped, freedom is exercised, and hope is generated. Dialogue that is global and universal—open and mutual—is necessary in the present intercultural context; such conversation, not clash, is the philosopher’s trade. Through such thinking what is personal can become more social, and what is global more humane; ethics can thereby be enriched by the cumulative cultural experience of many peoples, and civilizations can be more dialogical in an aesthetic context marked by harmony and beauty. This is the real challenge to philosophers in our day. Such a conversation is most urgent, practical, and filled with promise and can help understand the real meaning of philosophy and culture across boundaries.

In these complex times, the challenges have become ever more daunting and unprecedented, but opportunities are also plenty and foreseeable. In order to assure a better future, the role of philosophy becomes even more vital because philosophical wisdom can help humanity not only understand the meaning and purpose of existence, human and non-human, but also provide some guidance for our socio-political lives. If philosophy means “love of wisdom,” people who truly love philosophy should live up to its meaning and give up their philosophical prejudices so as to embrace as much as possible the given, with no artificial or man-made boundaries either conceptually/philosophically or physically.

The Council, as usual, invites all philosophers, scholars, thinkers of the world, who are interested in the conference thematic, to come together to converse and share insights, ideas, and experiences from different philosophical and cultural traditions.

### **Abstract**

In order to help organize the conference program, please fill in the [Registration Form](#) online ([www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org)). An abstract with 300-500 or more words and a proper title should be sent by April 30, 2024.

### **Contact**

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## **Registration Form**

information, subscription: [cua-rvp@cua.edu](mailto:cua-rvp@cua.edu); [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org)