Call for papers

Preconference on Themes in Transformative Experience
2017 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
Seattle, WA
April 11th, 2017
The Seattle Westin

Transformative experience is a new area of research in philosophy that raises questions in epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and aesthetics. An experience can be epistemically transformative by teaching you something distinctive by having the experience, and enriching your ability to imagine, represent, and predict. An experience can be personally transformative by transforming some of your core values or preferences. Of special interest are cases in which one kind of transformation leads to the other, or in which an experience is both epistemically and personally transformative; examples of such cases may include becoming a parent, fighting in a war, or undergoing a religious conversion. Questions raised by transformative experience include: Do epistemically transformative experiences create new concepts or abilities in those that have the experiences? Are transformative experiences best understood by appeal to perspectival or indexical notions, or to the notion of the de se? Should they be taken to involve the destruction of the self, or of the replacement of one self with another? What is the perceptual content of a transformative experience? Can transformative experiences provide us with knowledge of ourselves? Do they lend support to probabilistic conceptions of knowledge? Do they reveal the need for empathy, not just for others who exist now, but for one’s own possible selves, especially possible future selves? Can one imagine having a transformative experience? Can one learn about transformative experiences through testimony from those who have had them? Are they valuable in themselves, or do they reveal a kind of value that is otherwise hidden? Do they show that the space of utilities associated with a decision problem may be gappy or otherwise not well-defined? Can artistic or other aesthetic experiences be transformative? The workshop aims to explore the connections between transformative experience and topics in a range of areas in philosophy.
Keynotes

Shamik Dasgupta, Trenton Merricks, Sarah Moss

Other invited speakers include:
Nomy Arpaly
Kati Balog
John Campbell
Josh Dever
Martin Glazier
Amy Kind
Jennifer Lackey
Enoch Lambert
Carla Merino-Rajme
Barbara Montero
Raul Saucedo
Meghan Sullivan
Evan Thompson

There are a small number of sessions available for additional papers, to be selected from submitted abstracts. Abstracts prepared for anonymous review should be submitted to transformativeexperience2017@gmail.com by December 20th, 2016. Abstracts should be no more than 750 words and should be suitable for a 25 minute presentation. Accepted contributors will be notified by January 6th, 2017.

Further inquiries may be addressed to Martin Glazier (glazier@unc.edu).

Pre-Conference Organizers:
L. A. Paul, UNC Chapel Hill
Martin Glazier, UNC Chapel Hill