

# **The 2025 Eastern Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers: The Philosophical Legacy of Robert Merrihew Adams**

October 2–4, 2025 at Princeton Theological Seminary

*Sponsors:* Princeton Theological Seminary, the Princeton Project in Philosophy & Religion, and the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion

Conference Abstracts: <https://tinyurl.com/myzj9h48>

## **Thursday, October 2**

1:00–5:00: Conference check-in at Erdman Center Kiosk, Princeton Theological Seminary

2:00–2:50: Session 1

### Cooper Conference Room

Dan Howard-Snyder (Western Washington) and Daniel J. McKaughan (Boston College), “The Virtue of Faith”

*Commentator:* Lara Buchak (Princeton); *Chair:* Daniel Klugman (Princeton)

### Adams Living Room

Sarah Valdman (Michigan), “A Theory of Sin”

*Commentator:* Finney Premkumar (Birmingham); *Chair:* Anya Ezhevskaya (Dallas International)

3:00–3:50: Session 2

### Cooper Conference Room

Joshua Thurow (Texas-San Antonio), “Adams, Symbolic Value, and Inefficacy”

*Commentator:* Katerina von Kühn (PTS); *Chair:* Sarah Malak (PTS)

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Clarke Lounge

Cameron Lugo (Notre Dame), “Two Theistic Models of the Epistemic Grounds of PNC”

*Commentator:* Tyler Hildebrand (Dalhousie); *Chair:* Abram Xavier (Neo Dark-Age Foundation)

Adams Living Room

Sabrina B. Little (Ohio State), “Shame and Guilt in Christian Spiritual Development”

*Commentator:* Anastasia Guo (Princeton); *Chair:* Derk Pereboom (Cornell)

4:00–4:50: Session 3

Cooper Conference Room

Daniel Rubio (Toronto Metropolitan), “Modal Normative Parity”

*Commentator:* David Builes (Princeton); *Chair:* Mark Johnston (Princeton)

Clarke Lounge

Nolan Whitaker (UNC-Chapel Hill), “Killing Weights to Save Constraints”

*Commentator:* Madeleine Roberts (Princeton); *Chair:* Hans Halvorson (Princeton)

Adams Living Room

Emily McCall (Biola), “Emotion in Adams’ Epistemology of Value”

*Commentator:* Eyob Zewdie (UC-Irvine); *Chair:* Cody Dolinsek (Des Moines)

5:00–6:30: Keynote 1 (Theron Room - PTS Library)

*Speaker:* Keith DeRose (Yale), “Middle Knowledge and the Problem of Evil and Bob Adams”

*Commentator:* Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers)

*Chair:* John Pittard (Yale)

6:30–7:30: Reception at Erdman Center Kiosk

Dinner on your own

## Friday, October 3

9:00–5:00: Conference check-in at Erdman Center

9:30–10:20: Session 4

### Cooper Conference Room

Kelly Sorensen (Ursinus), “Robert Adams against Proportional Valuing”

*Commentator:* Enoch Kuo (Seton Hall); *Chair:* Eric Gregory (Princeton)

### Clarke Lounge

William Vincent (Florida State) and Ethan Butt (UVA), “Explanation and Molinism”

*Commentator:* Ethan Millar-Virkutis (Princeton); *Chair:* Samuel Newlands (Notre Dame)

### Adams Living Room

Z Quanbeck (NYU), “The Representational and Dispositional Dimensions of Kierkegaardian Faith”

*Commentator:* Charles Duke (South Florida); *Chair:* Braden Dyreson (PTS)

10:30–11:20 Session 5

### Cooper Conference Room

John Walker (Princeton), “Divine Commands, Directed Duties, and the Problem of Moral Occasionalism”

*Commentator:* Frederick Choo (Rutgers); *Chair:* Jesse Couenhoven (Villanova)

### Clarke Lounge

Godehard Brüntrup (Munich), “Adams: Determinist, Theist, Idealist”

*Commentator:* Raimundo Cox (Pittsburgh); *Chair:* Scott Ragland (St. Louis)

### Adams Living Room

Kenneth Pearce (James Madison), “I Should Not Exist”

*Commentator:* Jacob Harvey (Notre Dame); *Chair:* Brian Leftow (Rutgers)

11:30–12:20: Session 6

Cooper Conference Room

Daniel Grasso (St. Louis), “Aquinas on Hope, Fear, and Daring” (*Winner of the prize for best graduate student submission*)

*Commentator*: Onsi Kamel (Princeton); *Chair*: Andrew Chignell (Princeton)

Clarke Lounge

Daniel Woolnough (Oxford), “How To Compare Worlds: Axiological Comparison in Modal Context”

*Commentator*: Joseph Cobon (Rutgers); *Chair*: Jerome David (Columbia International)

Adams Living Room

Josiah Matthew Brace Omiecinski (Mississippi), “Leibniz’s Principles of Reasoning: The Ariadne’s Thread of the Divine”

*Commentator*: Avraham Sommer (Rutgers); *Chair*: Fanhao Meng (Princeton)

12:20-2: Lunch on Own

2–3:15: Keynote 2 (Theron Room - PTS Library)

*Speaker*: Sukjae Lee (Seoul National), “Adams on Leibniz on Moral Necessity”

*Chair*: Desmond Hogan (Princeton)

3:30–4:20: Session 7

Cooper Conference Room

Leigh Vicens (Augustana), “Finding Meaning in the Greater Good”

*Commentator*: Sarah Lane Ritchie (Templeton); *Chair*: Gabriel Citron (Princeton)

Clarke Lounge

Hye Jin Kim (Notre Dame), “Can an Unlocatable, Timeless God be perceived?”

*Commentator*: Wes Skolits (Rutgers); *Chair*: Brian Leftow (Rutgers)

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Adams Living Room

Ho Yeung Lee (Oxford), “Essence Apophaticism”

*Commentator:* Amy Seymour (Princeton/Rutgers); *Chair:* Shawn Lawrence Assar (Biola)

4:20–4:50: Snacks and coffee break [Erdman]

4:50–6:20: Panel on the Philosophical and Theological Legacy of Robert Merrihew Adams

*Panelists:* Jacqueline Mariña (Purdue), Scott Ragland (St. Louis), Sam Newlands (Notre Dame), Jesse Couenhoven (Villanova), Derk Pereboom (Cornell), and possibly one or more of the keynote speakers

*Chair:* Andrew Chignell (Princeton)

6:30–8:00: Banquet (Mackay Dining Hall)

Derk Pereboom (Cornell) and John Bowlin (PTS) to deliver remarks

**Saturday, October 4**

9:00–11:00: Conference check-in at Erdman Center

9:30–10:20: Session 8

Cooper Conference Room

Brian Ballard (Loyola Maymount), “The Ultimate Argument for Pro-Theism”

*Commentator:* Hamid Masoudi (Princeton); *Chair:* Charles Guth (PTS)

Clarke Lounge

Daniel Lightsey (Notre Dame), “Phenomenalism and Adams’ Idealism”

*Commentator:* Zachary Ottati (Princeton); *Chair:* Bas Tönissen (Princeton)

Adams Living Room

Armand Babakhanian (Illinois - Champagne-Urbana), “Divine Knowledge of Present Contingents”

*Commentator:* Garrett Pendergraft (Pepperdine); *Chair:* Denys Turner (Yale)

10:20–10:40: Coffee break

10:40–11:30: Session 9

Cooper Conference Room

Tien-Chun Lo (Hong Kong CU), Peter Fritz (UC-London), and Joseph Schmid (Princeton),  
“Symmetry Lost: Anselm, Adams, and Atheism”

*Commentator:* Ted Poston (Alabama); *Chair:* John Pittard (Yale)

Clarke Lounge

Jashiel E. Resto Quiñones (Purdue), “Adams on Moral Motivation”

*Commentator:* Patrick Haley (PTS); *Chair:* Jacqueline Mariña (Purdue)

Adams Living Room

Thes Kascsak (St. Louis), “Relational Perfectionism”

*Commentator:* Toni Alimi (Princeton); *Chair:* Christopher Rubin (Princeton)

11:40-12:55: Keynote 3 (Theron Room - PTS Library)

*Speaker:* Marleen Rozemond (Toronto), “Bob Adams and Leibniz”

*Chair:* Daniel Garber (Princeton)

12:55: Boxed Lunch available

*Organizers:* Andrew Chignell, John Pittard, Dean Zimmerman

*Organizing Committee:* Frederick Choo, Minsoo Choo, Joseph Cobon, Hüseyin Güngör,  
Z Quanbeck, Joe Schmid, Wes Skolits, Avi Sommer

“The Holy is fascinating, the Holy is beautiful, the Holy is bliss; the Holy is just, the Bible claims, though we may not understand its justice; the Holy is love, according to Christians; but ‘nice’ is definitely not the word for it. From a human point of view, the Holy has rough edges. It screams with the hawk and laughs with the hyenas. We cannot comprehend it. It is fearful to us, and in some ways dangerous. All of this, on the theistic view that I favor, is true of the Good itself. We are not the measure of all things, and have at best a very imperfect appreciation of the full dimensions of the good.” Robert Adams, *Finite and Infinite Goods*, Chapter 2.