

CALL FOR PAPERS

Calvin College and Grand Valley State University (GVSU)
1st Annual Joint Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
April 12-13th, 2013

Keynote Speaker:

Gary Gutting



This year we are very pleased to have Notre Dame philosopher Gary Gutting as our keynote speaker. On Friday April 12th, Dr. Gutting will present his lecture titled "Religion, Atheism and Agnosticism."

Abstract: My approach in this paper differs in two ways from standard philosophy of religion. First, I begin not with "Is religious belief rationally justified?" but with "Is atheism rationally justified?" This makes sense since today most people claiming that they have a strongly rational basis for their view on religion are atheists (e.g., Richard Dawkins and his followers). Also, although these claims don't stand up to philosophical scrutiny, answering them sets important limits to what believers can claim on behalf of religion.

Second, turning to the case for religious belief, I ignore traditional master-arguments designed to convince any rational being and instead look at the reasons informed, intelligent, and reflective people (in particular, philosophers) actually have for believing. This leads, among other things, to a conception of religious belief that is unusual in analytic philosophy of religion but that I think accords with the implicit attitude of many believers: religious agnosticism.

ABOUT

Calvin and GVSU's philosophy conference is a two-day event held each year to promote excellence in philosophy. In addition to keynote lectures from leading contemporary philosophers, the conference provides students an opportunity to present and receive rigorous feedback on their own work in the form of formal comments from a peer and Q&A.

INFORMATION

- *Participants:* The conference is free of charge and open to the public.
- *Papers:* Accepting papers on all topics in philosophy.
- *Lodging:* Calvin and GVSU students offering to host visiting students.
- *Contact:* For further questions about the conference, please contact Yunus Prasetya: yap4@students.calvin.edu
- *Funding:* We can offer limited funding to those who are not getting reimbursed by their department.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submission deadline is March 3rd. Acceptance notification is March 17th. All papers are subject to blind review.
- Include detachable title paper with name, title, and institution affiliation. The paper itself should include only the paper title. Submit papers as attachments in pdf/word.doc format to Yunus Prasetya: yap4@students.calvin.edu
- Papers should be prepared to be read within 30-45 minutes.