



**PPA**      **GSP**



**8<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Dialogical Practice & Dialogical Philosophising**

## **Philosophy in the Community**

**Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September 2024**

**Holgate Centre, Grey College, Durham University, Durham, UK**

**FURTHER DETAILS, LINK TO APPLICATION FORM, DRAFT PROGRAMME**



The [Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy](#) (SFCP, UK), [Philosophisch-Politische Akademie](#) (PPA, Germany) and [Gesellschaft für Sokratisches Philosophieren](#) (GSP, Germany) are pleased to announce that our 8<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on dialogical practice and dialogical philosophising will be held in the historic city of Durham in the UK. The Colloquium will be held in collaboration with Durham University's [Centre for Social Justice and Community Action](#). The theme will be 'Philosophy in the Community'. Further details of the theme are given overleaf.

The event will start with dinner on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> (check-in and tea/coffee available from 16.00) and end after lunch on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The cost will be £250 for three nights (12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> September) with all meals included. The non-residential rate (meals only, no accommodation) is £150. The fee has been generously subsidised by SFCP, PPA and GSP. Reduced fees and full bursaries for fees and travel will be available on application. Additional nights before and after the colloquium can be booked at Grey College at your own expense, if required.

**The aim of the colloquium** is to create space for dialogue amongst participants, with a focus on group discussion and other collaborative activities. Numbers will be limited to about 35, and all participants will be expected to stay for the full event, engage actively in the colloquium and have experience of, and a commitment to, dialogical practice.

**If you wish to apply for a place, please complete [this form](#).**

**If you are offered a place**, you will then be sent a link by Durham University to complete your registration and payment. We will respond to applications as quickly as possible, and certainly within one month.

**If you have any questions** about the colloquium or difficulties with the form, please contact: Sarah Banks, [s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk)

## About the theme: Philosophy in the Community

Doing philosophy outside the academy is increasingly popular – in pubs, workplaces, prisons, youth clubs, neighbourhood centres and outdoor settings. Often the aim is to engage people from a range of age groups and diverse backgrounds in collaborative, critical dialogue. ‘Communities’ may comprise people who live near each other, and/or people who share other common interests and identities. Questions we may address during the Colloquium include:

1. What are some of the benefits and challenges of engaging people in community philosophising?
2. How do we reach people who would not normally think of doing philosophy, and how do we facilitate groups of people from diverse economic, cultural and religious backgrounds?
3. What is the potential of dialogical philosophising for healing conflict, inspiring collective action for change and empowering groups and individuals?

## About the colloquium

The colloquium will comprise a variety of dialogical activities, usually undertaken in small groups, which may include Socratic Dialogues, short dialogical exercises, dialogical and arts-based workshops, an outdoor dialogue, sharing methods and challenges in working with specific communities (e.g. medical professionals, business people) and poster-focused activities. There will be a free afternoon on the Saturday, with opportunities to undertake a guided walk, and/or visit Durham Cathedral, Castle, Botanic Garden, Oriental Museum, tea shops and more. The full programme and abstracts are available on the following pages.

## About Durham

[Durham](#) is a small historic cathedral city with a castle and river setting. [Grey College](#) is about 20 minutes walking distance from the centre. Conference participants will have free access to the Botanic Garden just behind the college and lovely walks through woods and along the river.

Durham is three hours by direct train from London Kings Cross station, just across the road from the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras station. Nearest airports are Newcastle (metro to Newcastle station and train to Durham) and Tees Valley (bus/taxi to Darlington and train to Durham). There are direct flights with Lufthansa from Frankfurt and with Eurowings from Dusseldorf to Newcastle. There are also direct flights from Amsterdam and Paris.

If you wish to apply for a place, please fill in [this form](#)

Any queries please contact: Sarah Banks, [s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk)



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Philosophy in the Community, Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September 2024

Holgate Centre, Grey College, Durham University, Durham, UK

## Draft outline programme

### Thursday 12 September

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
16.00-17.00	Tea/coffee and informal chat	Holgate Centre
18.00-19.00	Dinner	Dining Hall
19.15-20.45	<b>Session 1 – Welcome</b> , introductions to each other and to Socratic Dialogues	Holgate Centre

### Friday 13 September

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8.00-8.45	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9.00-9.15	<b>Plenary – Checking in</b> , outlining plans for the day	Holgate Centre
9.15-10.45	<b>Session 2 – choose one workshop</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Dialogical practice with medical trainees during COVID</i>, Mike Jones and Miriam Armstrong</li><li><i>Creative connections in community arts-based philosophical inquiry</i>, Rosie Carnall</li></ol>	
10.45-11.15	Tea/coffee	Dining Hall
11.15-12.45	<b>Session 3 – Join one Socratic Dialogue</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Socratic Dialogue – What do we mean when we say we respect someone or something?</i> Anu Virtanen, Finland</li><li><i>Socratic Dialogue – What is courage?</i> Paolo Dordoni, Italy</li><li><i>Socratic Dialogue – Topic to be confirmed</i>, Sára Pokorná, Czech Republic</li></ol>	
12.45-14.00	Lunch	Dining Hall
14.00-15.00	<b>Session 4 – Continuation of Socratic Dialogues</b>	
15.00-15.30	Tea/coffee	Dining Hall
15.30-17.00	<b>Session 5 – Continuation of Socratic Dialogues</b>	
18.00-19.00	Dinner	Dining Hall
19.15-20.45	<b>Session 6 - evening activities, including posters 1 and 2</b>	Holgate Centre

## Saturday 14 September

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8.00-8.45	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9.00-9.15	Plenary – Checking in, outlining plans for the day	Holgate Centre
9.15-10.45	<b>Session 7 – choose one workshop</b> 1. <i>Dialogical plays and activities</i> , Evelina Ivanova, Bulgaria 2. <i>Debate and dialogue, what interaction?</i> Tatiana Arrigoni, Italy 3. <i>Towards dialogue through shared experience</i> , Sára Pokorná, Adam Lalak, Lukáš Mareš, Eliška Havlová, Czech Republic	
10.45-11.15	Tea/coffee	Dining Hall
11.15-12.45	<b>Session 8 – continue with the same workshop</b> 1. <i>Dialogical plays and activities</i> , Evelina Ivanova 2. <i>Debate and dialogue, what interaction?</i> Tatiana Arrigoni 3. <i>Towards dialogue through shared experience</i> , Sára Pokorná, Adam Lalak, Lukáš Mareš, Eliška Havlová	
12.45-13.45	Lunch	Dining Hall
14.00-18.00	<b>Free time.</b> Optional activities include visits to: Durham Cathedral Durham Castle Botanic Garden (behind Grey College) Oriental Museum (nearby) Guided walk via Houghall Woods and the River Wear to Durham City Centre	City of Durham
18.00-19.00	Dinner	Dining Hall
19.15-20.45	<b>Session 9: Reflections on the day, evening activity, posters 3 and 4</b>	Holgate Centre

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8.00-8.45	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9.00-9.15	<b>Plenary – Checking in</b> , outlining plans for the day	Holgate Centre
9.15 -10.45	<b>Session 10 – Choose one workshop</b> 1. <i>Working with the business community through shorter dialogical exercises</i> , Anna Bromley, UK 2. <i>Freedom or fellowship?</i> Kresten Thue Andersen, Denmark 3. <i>In dialogue with nature</i> , Rachel Kellett and Sarah Banks, UK	
10.45-11.15	Tea/coffee	Dining Hall
11.15-12.45	<b>Session 11</b> – Closing session, sharing learning, evaluation etc.	Holgate Centre
12.45-13.45	Lunch	Dining Hall
14.00	Depart	

## Abstracts of workshops, dialogues and posters

### FRIDAY

**Session 2: Workshop 1. Evaluating themes around ‘managing challenging situations’ developed through dialogical practice by the trainee medical community during the COVID pandemic (2020 – 2021),** Miriam Armstrong and Mike Jones, UK

This workshop will examine approaches to managing challenging situations (e.g. breaking bad news) developed, through dialogical practice, by trainee consultant physicians during the COVID pandemic (2020-2021). The aim of the workshop is to review the approaches developed by doctors from lay and patient perspectives using a combination of small group work and wider discussion. The purpose of the review is to consider where, and how, lay and patient perspectives might diverge from those of doctors and consider whether further joint dialogical practice between medical and patient communities, or other approaches, might be beneficial.

**Session 2: Workshop 2. Creative connections in community arts-based philosophical inquiry,** Rosie Carnall, UK

The workshop will be based on my philosophical enquiry work in community settings, including galleries and pubs. We will start by looking at an artwork together and using it as the stimulus for a series of philosophical thinking activities. These will develop shared thinking and an ideas bank on the theme of community. Following this, there will be the opportunity for participants to develop their thoughts through a simple creative response activity. The final stage of the enquiry will bring the creative expressions together to create a communal response on the theme. We will close with time for a short review and questions.

**Sessions 3, 4, 5: Socratic Dialogues (choose ONE for all 3 sessions)**

**Socratic Dialogue 1: What do we mean when we say we respect someone or something?** Anu Virtanen, Finland

As children we are taught to respect our parents and teachers, other people's feelings and rights, school rules, our home country and its laws, different cultures. We come to value the respect for these things and may also expect the same from others. Respect has great importance for life in the community. Our lives together go better if we have respect for each other and can discuss issues in mutual respect. Many people also experience a lack of respect and there are calls to respect for nature and members of racial, ethnic, gender or sexual minorities. What do we actually mean when we say or call to respect someone or something?

**Socratic Dialogue 2: What is courage?** Paolo Dordoni, Italy

To be citizens in a community sometimes requires taking a position and having courage to look at the consequences of our action, both for us and the others affected by us. For instance, taking a position to defend some rights; to be actively

engaged in politics; even sometimes to decide who to vote for... What kind of courage is required to be a responsible member of a community? Is there anything that makes this courage peculiar? Depending on the example we choose, we could put our attention on some aspects related to our understanding of courage.

**Socratic Dialogue 3: Topic to be confirmed**, Sára Pokorná, Czech Republic

**Poster 1: The history of the Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy (SFCP)**, Dieter Krohn, Germany.

This set of posters offers a fascinating account of the origins and development of the Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy in the UK, including photographs of key members and reproductions of archival material.

**Poster 2: Socratic dialogue for developing wisdom in teacher education**, Anu Virtanen, Finland

This poster focuses on an action research project that aims to apply and develop Socratic dialogue for teaching wisdom in primary school teacher education. Through this approach, students seek to identify and resolve ethical dilemmas in the everyday

## SATURDAY

**Sessions 7 & 8: Workshop 1. Dialogical plays/Introducing dialogue/Dialogical activities**, Evelina Ivanova, Bulgaria

In the workshop some activities will be presented which promote dialogical attitudes and skills. Participants will have opportunity to explore the activities and reflect on their experience. The activities were designed and developed in the frame of the Erasmus+ project "The Power of Consensus", a partner project between Sokratovske rozhovory, Czech Republic, Plovdiv University, Bulgaria and Collegio Archivescovile, Italy. The aim of the project was to promote democratic culture through philosophical dialogue. The playful nature of the activities is a strategy to motivate participation and to foster dialogical experience in various situations in formal and informal education.

**Sessions 7 & 8: Workshop 2. Debate and Dialogue: what interaction?** Tatiana Arrigoni, Italy

Goal of this workshop is to have (academic) debate and (neo-Socratic) dialogue, interact, thus exploring the potential of each one of them, and their combination, for philosophising in the community. Debate amounts to analysing an issue by means of logically correct, evidence-based arguments for opposite ways for interpreting it (e.g. acceptance of diversity: real possibility or illusion?); dialogue, instead, is aimed at answering an initial question (e.g. what does it mean to accept diversity?) through conceptual analysis and abstraction. What about the interaction between them? What its added value, if any? To answer these

questions, we will first address a distinguished issue in a debate setting and then have a dialogue about it.

**Sessions 7 & 8: Workshop 3. Towards dialogue through shared experience,** Sára Pokorná, Adam Lalak, Lukáš Mareš, Eliška Havlová, Czech Republic

The workshop will focus on exploring the impact of experiential activities on understanding within a philosophical dialogue. The Institute of Living Philosophy works with principles of experiential pedagogy and combines them with philosophical dialogue. Participants of the workshop will have an opportunity to experience a designed activity and to lead a dialogue based on that activity. In the second part of the workshop, we will conduct an inquiry into the question “How does a shared experience influence understanding within a dialogue?”

**Session 9: Poster 3. Developing dialogical practice in the medical community during the COVID pandemic,** Miriam Armstrong and Mike Jones, UK

This poster and short talk will highlight how dialogic practice was used to engage trainee consultant physicians in making sense of their COVID experiences. The objectives are to outline:

- How the programme was developed
- Introduction of the online format
- Preparation for communicating with trainee and trainer audiences
- Additional support provided for trainees after the dialogues
- Evaluation.

**Session 9: Poster 4. Promoting dialogue with health care professionals: hints from Socratic Dialogue and from moral deliberation in the ethical discussion of clinical cases,** Paolo Dordoni, Italy

This poster will briefly show two different ways to cope dialogically with moral dilemmas in clinical practice: moral deliberation and Socratic dialogue. Whereas the first one represents a modality to transform, when possible, dilemmas into problems by cultivating practical wisdom and our implicit knowledge; the second one offers a chance to deepen into some essential matter related to the case by enforcing our competence in reflecting and searching together. This poster can also be connected to the workshop given by Evelina Ivanova “Dialogical plays/Introducing dialogue/Dialogical activities“ because of one of the activities related to dilemmas was developed in the Erasmus+ Project, “The Power of consensus”.

## SUNDAY

**Session 10: Workshop 1. Working with the business community through shorter dialogical exercises,** Anna Bromley, UK

I will explore the integration of Socratic dialogue into a business environment. I aim to provide participants with a view of how to engage with business

professionals and encourage critical thinking and reflective insight. It would be good to cover practical approaches to implementing Socratic dialogue in a business setting and address common obstacles such as time constraints and participant engagement. I would like the session to be interactive and make use of dialogical exercises to reveal people's thoughts and ideas. This workshop aligns with the colloquium's theme 'philosophy in the community' by demonstrating the versatility of Socratic dialogue in a business context.

**Session 10: Workshop 2. Freedom and fellowship**, Kresten Thue Andersen, Denmark

After an introduction to Socratic dialogue viewed through the analogy 'Into the forest' the participants are invited to investigate their upcoming questions in the relation between freedom and fellowship. The analogy 'into the forest', which I have formulated in an article from 2019, visualizes both the interaction of the participants and the aim of Socratic group-dialogue: The analogy is meant to support the sense of being together in the dialogue and that the upcoming wonder becomes common. While sitting, standing, and walking together the participants enter dialogues with one another and together, and during the session the participants change dialogue-partners. The two words 'freedom' and 'fellowship' will be the basis of the participants upcoming ideas in the session. In the end, if time allows, we will formulate different analogies and metaphors that may inspire the group.

**Session 10: Workshop 3. In dialogue with nature**, Rachel Kellett and Sarah Banks, UK

This dialogue will start in the wood near the college, weather permitting. The topic is the relationship between humans and the 'natural world'. We aim to work together to identify a question for a dialogue linked to topics such as: the meaning of 'nature', whether humans are part of or apart from nature, what it means to argue that nature has or should have rights, and what responsibilities humans have for nature. Participants will be invited to notice features of plants, trees, soil, rocks, birds, animals and have conversations together. Having formed a question we will seek a relevant example to explore the question further in a short dialogue indoors. We will reflect on the role of the senses, emotions and bodily movement in the process. The idea of community pervading this dialogue is the ecological community.