



Call for Contributions

Thoughtful Conference

University of South Wales

Newport Campus

15 November 2025

09.30 - 17.30





Call for contributions

‘If a [person’s] actions are not guided by thoughtful conclusions, then they are guided by inconsiderate impulse, unbalanced appetite, caprice, or the circumstances of the moment.’

— John Dewey:

Our 2025 conference takes place on Saturday 15 November at our partner institution, the University of South Wales (USW) at their Newport campus. This will be our first conference to be held in Wales. This conference is also our first event as Thoughtful. Inspired by our new name, the theme this year is Thoughtfulness.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- What does it mean to be thoughtful?
- Is thoughtfulness something philosophy promotes?
- Do you encourage thoughtfulness in your educational practice, if so how?
- Where, when and why do we need thoughtful people?
- What is the role of thoughtfulness in addressing problems like climate breakdown, misinformation, and extremism?
- Is thoughtfulness something distinctively human? (Can AI be thoughtful?)
- Are we becoming more or less thoughtful?
- Is thoughtfulness a virtue? If so, how do we *live* thoughtfully?
- Can philosophy be taught thoughtlessly?
- How thoughtful are our schools, universities, hospitals, museums and prisons?.
- Is the notion of thoughtfulness any less problematic than the idea of reasonableness?
- What provision for thoughtfulness is there in the Curriculum for Wales?

We invite anyone with a stake in philosophical education—understood broadly as P4C, community/public philosophy, philosophical pedagogy, or the teaching of philosophy as an academic subject—to join us to ask these questions and others.

In the spirit of thoughtfulness, this year we will experiment with a slightly slower pace, fewer parallel sessions and more time for ideas to breathe. This means there won’t be as many speaker slots as in previous years. We will reflect on this experiment as we plan for our 2026 conference and we welcome your feedback on which format works best.

Emma Swinn MBE

Director of Operations and Development

Grace Lockrobin

Director of Philosophy and Education



How to contribute



Presentation formats

We encourage contributions in the following formats:

- Verbal presentations (40 min talk + 20 min interactive discussion)
- Panel discussions with 2-4 speakers (40 min conversation + 20 min interactive discussion)
- Interactive workshops for conference delegates (50 min activity + 10 min Q&A)
- Live demonstrations with accompanying students (40 min demo + 20 min Q&A)*
- Displays of posters, artwork, films, resources or examples of students' philosophical work

Submission requirements

To apply, please submit the following in a single Word Document attached to an email which includes all of the following information:

- A short title for the session
- The names, emails, phone numbers and affiliations of all contributors to the session
- A 100-word (max) biography of each contributor, outlining your experience of or interest in philosophical education
- A 100-word abstract or overview of your proposed contribution
- A 300-word plan for your session including a description of any technical, practical or access requirements you may have
- Any issues with hybrid presentation or any copyright issues around filming (see notes)

Deadlines

Deadline for submissions: **Thursday 14 July 2025**, 17.00.

Email all applications to: DavidLocke@sapere.org.uk

We will let all contributors know the outcome by Thursday 31 July 2025, 17.00.



Further information

Hybrid requirements

Most sessions of the conference will be hybrid, meaning that the speaker will simultaneously present to the delegates in the room and to conference attendees on Zoom. A member of SAPERE staff will assist with setting up Zoom, support the delegates on Zoom and monitoring the chat. For a hybrid session we ask that contributors try to respond to questions from online delegates as well as those in person. We appreciate that not all sessions will work in this way, e.g., highly interactive workshops, or live demonstrations. Please notify us if you think your contribution will *not* work as a hybrid session. This information will not prejudice our decision about what to include.

Video and photography

As well as streaming some sessions, we also intend to photograph and/or film most sessions of the conference and use this material for advocacy and publicity purposes. We will also make some video material available on YouTube after the conference. If you do not consent to streaming, filming or photography, or you have concerns about any copyrighted material in your presentation, please make a statement on this in your submission. Again, this information will not prejudice our decision about what to include.

Tickets and bursaries

All conference contributors are required to purchase a ticket. The most cost-effective way to do this is to purchase a super early bird ticket at the cost of £70 before 29 August.

As a charity committed to ensure the benefits of philosophical education are felt widely and distributed equitably, we have worked hard to keep the ticket price for the conference as low as possible and we believe it is low compared to other professional and academic conference. While we are not able to offer expenses to contributors via this open call for submissions, we do not want cost to be a barrier to individuals joining us if we can help it. Therefore, for both contributors and other delegates who do not have institutional support and for whom it will make the difference, we will reduce or waive the ticket cost as necessary. Please see the website for a link to a short self-assessment and bursary request form.

Support

No prior experience of contributing to a conference is required to respond to this call. If you'd like support to contribute, please contact our Conference Lead, David Locke, for assistance DavidLocke@sapere.org.uk. David can talk through your idea or put you in touch with a SAPERE trainer who may be able to collaborate with you.