Dr. Alban W. Urbanas

Conference Outcome Report

Attendance at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings,

I attended the 114th annual meetings of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, of which I am a member, which were held at the Savannah Convention Center, 1 International Drive, Savannah, GA, January 3-6, 2018.

I attended several talks and presentations addressing contemporary issues in philosophy. In particular, I attended and engaged in the discussion of Christopher Buckman’s (Auburn University) paper entitled “Individual and Social Power in Hobbes”. The discussion reviewing whether individual or social power is considered more fundamental by Thomas Hobbes in his political philosophy was robust and informative. I also attended and engaged in the discussion of Geoffrey Holtzman’s (Geisinger Health System) paper entitled “Beyond Emotion Versus Reason: Does Neuroscience Undermine a Classic Metaethical Distinction?”. Discussion generated by this paper focused on whether neuroscientific evidence—specifically, brain scans of cognitive activity—can provide evidence challenging the traditional dichotomy of emotion conflicting with reason in morally relevant contexts. Most participants engaging in the discussion of the presented paper concurred that a strict opposition between the influences of emotion and reason in moral decision making appears suspect at best. Finally, I reviewed posters that had been compiled by undergraduates in philosophy from a number of colleges and universities. The topics addressed by these posters included evidential reasons for belief, the philosophical applications of experiential learning, and qualia as process, to name a few. Attendance at the conference also allowed me to review and acquire new publications relevant to courses that I teach, and to discuss with publishers potential future research initiatives.

Alban W. Urbanas

January 8, 2018

Financial support was provided through the Delaware EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) program funded by the National Science Foundation and the State of Delaware under grant number IIA 1301765.