

Mind, Ethics, and Metaphysics in Buddhism Workshop

Date and Location:

20th – 22nd February, 2026
Humanities Seminar Room (H-232)

Primary Organizers:

Sean Smith (University of Hawai'i Mānoa) and Alex Moran (Bilkent University)

Hosted by:

Bilkent University Department of Philosophy

Speakers:

- [Amber Carpenter](#) – Einstein Forum/KCL
- [Bronwyn Finnigan](#) – Australian National University
- [Maria Heim](#) – Amherst College (via Zoom)
- [Mark Johnston](#) – Princeton University (via Zoom)
- [James Kinkaid](#) – Bilkent University
- [Keya Maitra](#) – University of Hawai'i Mānoa
- [Alex Moran](#) – Bilkent University
- [Kranti Saran](#) – Ashoka University
- [Sean Smith](#) – University of Hawai'i Mānoa
- [Koji Tanaka](#) – Australian National University

Program:

Friday 20th (half-day)

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| 15.00 – 16.30 | Kranti Saran
“Burning questions in burning houses: The Great Departure as a Case Study in Erotetic Action” |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | Break |
| 17.00 – 18.30 | Amber Carpenter
“Mental Cultivation: Stories and Philosophical Inquiry” |

Saturday 21st (first full day)

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| 10.00 – 11.30 | Alex Moran
“Compassion, No Self, and the Place of Persons in Fundamental Metaphysics” |
| 11.30 – 11.45 | Break |
| 11.45 – 13.15 | Sean Smith
“The Causes of Suffering in Buddhist Philosophy: Craving for Feelings vs. Ignorance of Selflessness” |
| 13.15 – 14.30 | Lunch Break |

- 14.30 – 16.00 Bronwyn Finnigan
 “Conventional or emergent persons?
 Navigating a dispute in Abhidharma Buddhism”
- 16.00 – 16.30 Break
- 16.30 – 18.00 Mark Johnston
 “Against Buddhist Metaphysics: Aren’t the Four Noble
 Truths Compatible with Non-Reductionism About
 Personal Identity?”

Sunday 22nd (second full day)

- 10.00 – 11.30 James Kinkaid
 “Transcendental Idealism and the Two Truths”
- 11.30 – 11.45 Break
- 11.45 – 13.15 Koji Tanaka
 “On Dialogical Pragmatism: A Buddhist
 Challenge”
- 13.15 – 14.30 Lunch Break
- 14.30 – 16.00 Keya Maitra
 “*Anattā/Anātman* and Buddhist Mindfulness: A
 proposal for Transnational Feminist Self-consciousness”
- 16.00 – 16.30 Break
- 16.30 – 18.00 Maria Heim
 “Abhidhamma as Phenomenological Analysis”