



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Media Release

Thursday 29 October 2026

Notre Dame's philosophy leaders unite for inaugural symposium

The University of Notre Dame Australia will bring together leading philosophy scholars from its Fremantle and Sydney Campuses for the inaugural [Notre Dame Symposium on the History of Philosophy](#) this November.

As the first collaboration between the University's Centre for the History of Philosophy (CHOP) and the School of Philosophy & Theology, the symposium will explore philosophical traditions spanning the ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary periods.

Taking place on Thursday 12 November in Fremantle and Thursday 19 November in Sydney, the event is open to all students, academics and members of the wider community interested in philosophy and the enduring questions it seeks to answer.

Each ninety-minute session will include a scholarly paper, a student response and an opportunity for audience discussion.

Notre Dame's Co-Head of the School of Philosophy & Theology and symposium speaker Dr Heath Williams said the event represented an important new collaboration that would strengthen philosophical inquiry across the University.

"We cannot possibly understand today's world unless we understand the history of ideas that preceded it," he said.

"Notre Dame and CHOP are nationally recognised leaders in the study of the history of philosophy. This symposium represents the first collaboration of its kind between the two, bringing together their expertise to deliver a landmark event.

"Philosophy belongs to everyone, and this symposium is an invitation to join an engaging and accessible conversation about ideas that continue to shape our world."

CHOP Co-Director, Associate Professor Nathan Lyons, said the symposium was a chance to experience the breadth of Notre Dame's expertise in intellectual history.

"It's rare to have scholars in one place familiar with this much of the history of philosophy, from antiquity right through to contemporary thought, and that's what participants will get a taste of at this event."

The symposium will feature presentations from Notre Dame scholars including Dr Catherine Wesselinoff, Dr Rajat Denzil Acharya, Dr Richard Hamilton, Dr Heath Williams, Professor Angus Brook, Dr Samuel Kaldas and Mr Russell Gore.

Attendance is free, but registration is essential. Register here:

<https://events.nd.edu.au/symposium-history-of-philosophy>

Event details:

The Notre Dame Symposium on the History of Philosophy

Fremantle:

- Thursday 12 November, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
- ND36/103, Fremantle Campus, 2-8 Mouat Street, Fremantle WA 6160

Sydney:

- Thursday 19 November, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
- NDS23/102, Broadway Campus, 46-52 Mountain Street, Ultimo NSW 2007

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