

GUEST SPEAKER

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
at Gonzaga University

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3:30 PM-5:30 PM “FICTIONALISM ABOUT AGENTIC AI”

NOVEMBER

14

2025

ILC 202

This paper motivates, sketches, and argues for a new meta-ethical theory in AI Ethics, namely, fictionalism about AI systems, especially agentic AI. On this view, AI agents are not moral agents and not truly held accountable for their decisions or outputs, but they are according to the fiction. It is also argued that the fiction is useful and that developers and deployers of AI systems should be explicit in setting up the context so that it is clear to users that an AI agent is a fictional individual. Fictionalism has many attractive features; importantly, it allows for liberal licence to build responsible AI frameworks where some notions of responsibility are applied to AI systems directly (within the fiction), which can fill responsibility gaps.

11:00 AM-1:00 PM “MAKING TIME: AN ONTOLOGY OF TEMPORAL FIAT OBJECTS”

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ILC 304

In the social world, our lives are informed, impacted, and controlled by time. Behind this grand saying there is the phenomenon of making time. More precisely, there are acts and processes, largely conventional and oftentimes institutional, that create temporal fiat objects (TFOs for short). A TFO is an abstract entity set with temporal boundaries, much like a national park is a creatable spatial fiat object with spatial boundaries. In this paper, I construct an ontology of TFOs and argue that it is explanatorily useful for understanding how TFOs are created and maintained (often at the hands of those in power) and for solving justice issues that arise from TFOs generated in morally problematic ways. A comprehensive social metaphysics should make room for such temporal entities.

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