Eighth International Conference on the Nature and Ontology of Spacetime

Conference program

Talks - 25 min + 5 min question period
Only a (Windows) laptop with a projector for the presentations will be available; make sure you have a PDF version of your presentation (for more details see the Program page on the conference site)

Monday, September 14, 2026

9:00 - Registration
9:25 - 9:30 Welcome Remarks

Chair: Vera Lyubenova (Department of Philosophy of Science of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

9:30-10:00 - Garnet N. Ord (Department of Mathematics, Toronto Metropolitan University), Decoding Feynman's Path-Integral via Minkowski Space

10:00-10:30 - Aaron Collavini (University of Udine and University of Geneve), Foundations of Torsion in Theories of Gravity

10:30-11:00 - Coffee break and discussions

11:00-11:30 - Bruce M. Boman (Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Delaware), A Kinetic Model of Gravity

11:30-12:00 - Anand Ekbote (Ohio State University, Department of Philosophy), Counterfactuals-based Stress Test for Theory Choice in the Geometric Trinity of Gravitation

12:30-14:00 - Lunch

Chair: Calin Galeriu (Military Technical Academy "Ferdinand I", Bucharest, Romania; affiliated member of Minkowski Institute)

14:00-14:30 - Timothy Clemson (MSc from Imperial College London, PhD from the Institute for Cosmology and Gravitation at the University of Portsmouth and a MPhys in Theoretical Physics from the University of Sussex), PIEs with ERBs in

14:30-15:00 - Panel Discussion on the Nature of Gravitation

15:00-15:30 - Coffee break and discussions

15:30-16:00 - Panel Discussion on the Nature of Gravitation (continued)

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Chair: Aaron Collavini (University of Udine and University of Geneve)

9:30-10:00 - Tomasz Bigaj (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw), Determinism, generalism, and the hole argument

10:00-10:30 - Yifei Ren (University of Western Ontario), Inertial Structure Without Elimination: Three Objections to Barbour-Bertotti Intrinsic Dynamics

10:30-11:00 - Coffee break and discussions

11:00-12:00 - Panel Discussion on the Nature of Spacetime

12:30-14:00 - Lunch

Chair: Timothy Clemson (MSc from Imperial College London, PhD from the Institute for Cosmology and Gravitation at the University of Portsmouth and a MPhys in Theoretical Physics from the University of Sussex)

14:00-14:30 - Georgios Kallidis and Nikolaos Kallidis, Material Media and Vacuum as Operational Solution Classes of a Spacetime Transport Cauchy Problem: Classification, Physical Realization, and Diagnostics

14:30-15:00 - Victor Borsevici (Emeritus Prof. of Republic of Moldova), Spacetime as a bridge between quantum mechanics, particle physics, and general relativity: Beginning of Time, the origin and production of dark matter and dark energy

15:00-15:30 - Coffee break and discussions

15:30-16:00 - Petri Muinonen, One, two, three: How to produce interactions, space, particles, and calculate Lambda

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Chair: Garnet N. Ord (Department of Mathematics, Toronto Metropolitan University)

9:30-10:00 - Calin Galeriu (Military Technical Academy "Ferdinand I", Bucharest, Romania; affiliated member of Minkowski Institute), Microscopic time reversal symmetry and the ontology of spacetime

10:00-10:30 - Ovidiu Cristinel Stoica (Horia Hulubei National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Department of Theoretical Physics), From Quantum Time to Emergent Spacetime?

10:30-11:00 - Coffee break and discussions

11:00-12:00 - Panel Discussion on Open Questions in Spacetime Physics

12:30-14:00 - Lunch

Chair: Francesca Battistoni (University of Urbino 'Carlo Bo')

14:00-14:30 - Vera Lyubenova (Department of Philosophy of Science of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Einstein, Kant, and Their Debt to Hume

14:30-15:00 - Steven Moore, Relational Ontology for Space and Time

15:00-15:30 - Coffee break and discussions

15:30-16:00 - Available slot

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Chair: Ovidiu Cristinel Stoica (Horia Hulubei National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Department of Theoretical Physics)

Special session "Spacetime Physics and Free Will"

9:30-10:00 - Christian D. Schade (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Free will exists, in a clustered-minds block multiverse

10:00-10:30 - Jan Pilotti (Affiliated member of Minkowski Institute), Free will/free choice in six-dimensional spacetime

10:30-11:00 - Coffee break and discussions

11:00-11:30 - Vesselin Petkov (Minkowski Institute, Montreal), Spacetime Physics and Free Will: The "Art" of Ignoring Irrefutable Arguments

11:30-12:00 - Tomasz Bigaj (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw), The passage of time and relativity

12:30-14:00 - Lunch

Chair: Tomasz Bigaj (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw)

14:00-14:30 - Kotryna Elijosiute (Università della Svizzera italiana), Recovering simultaneity. A Compatibilist account of Presentism and Special Relativity

14:30-15:00 - Francesca Battistoni (University of Urbino 'Carlo Bo'), Aristotle on Relational Time

15:00-15:30 - Coffee break and discussions

15:40 - Excursion to Cape Kaliakra