

Philosophy Special Interest Group Annual Conference: Autonomy and responsibility in psychiatry and mental health care

Date: Friday 7 November 2025

Location: Royal College of Psychiatrists, London E1 8BB

Time	Session
08.30-09.15am	Registration and refreshments
09.15-09.30am	Welcome and introductions – Dr Temi Metseagharun, Chair of the RCPSYCH Philosophy SIG, International member RCPSYCH-Pacific Division, FRANZCP
09.30-10.10am	Keynote lecture: Mental disorder, self-disclosure, and responsibility Dr Anelli Jefferson, Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University
10.10-10.30am	Discussion and Q&A
10.30-10.50am	Morning refreshment break
10.50-11.50am	A journey into neurolaw: can neuroscience provide normative borders between mental health and disorder? Professor Drozdstoj St. Stoyanov and Dr Kristina Stoyanova, Medical University Plovdiv
11.50-12.30pm	Plenary Lecture: Why philosophy? Dr Sam Wilkinson, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Exeter
12.30-12.50pm	Discussion and Q&A
12.50-1.40pm	Lunch

Time	Session
1.40-2.30pm	<p>Making psychiatric education intellectually stimulating and emotionally fulfilling: How can the Philosophy SIG help?</p> <p>Professor Subodh Dave, Dean of Royal College of Psychiatrists</p>
2.30-2.50pm	Afternoon refreshments
2.50-3.50pm	<p>Agency, Responsibility and Recovery: Domain-Specific Approaches to Personality</p> <p>Professor Jonathan Hill, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Dr Anna Bergqvist, Reader In Philosophy, Manchester Metropolitan University</p>
3.50-4.00pm	Comfort break
4.00-5.00pm	<p>Responsibility, risk, and the disordered mind: intersections of philosophy and forensic psychiatry</p> <p>Dr Hasanen Al Taiar, Oxford University and Dr Anelli Jefferson, Cardiff University and His Honour Judge Jonathan Cooper, Resident Judge at Aylesbury and Amersham Crown Courts and Judge Teresa Munby, First Tier Tribunal Judge, Mental Health</p>
5.00-5.10pm	Closing comments
5.10pm	Close of conference

RCPsych is an inclusive organisation with over 22,000 members who have a diverse range of views, which we look to represent across the programme. To further open dialogue, scientific discovery and enrich learning, we provide our members with the opportunity to hear from a range of professionals. The speakers, panellists and participants views and comments are their own and not the established views of the College.