

First-Person Perspectives in the Human Sciences

University of South Carolina
Spigner House, 915 Gregg St, Columbia, SC
April 17-18, 2026

Friday

- 8:30-9:00 Coffee
- 9:00-10:15 **Awais Aftab** (Psychiatry, Case Western University)
“An Analysis of Objectivity in the Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology”
Commentator: Quinn Hiroshi Gibson (Clemson University)
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:45 **Riana Betzler** (Philosophy, San José State University)
“Skilled Empathy and the Possibility of Understanding Others’ Experiences”
Commentator: Leah McClimans (University of South Carolina)
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch (catered)
- 1:00-2:15 **Robyn Bluhm** (Philosophy, Michigan State University)
“The goals of a science of first-person experience”
Commentator: George Khushf, University of South Carolina
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:45 **John D. Dunne** (Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin)
“Studying Distorted Consciousness: Dharmakīrtian Perspectives on the First-Person”
Commentator: Christian Coseru (College of Charleston)
- 3:45-4:00 Break
- 4:00-5:15 **Shaun Gallagher**, (Philosophy, University of Memphis)
“Nothing to it: The perceptual zero-point”
Commentator: Michael Dickson (University of South Carolina)
- 6:00 Dinner (3500 Wilmot Ave)

Saturday

- 8:30-9:00 Coffee
- 9:00-11:00 **Russel Hurlburt** (Psychology, University of Nevada Las Vegas)
Participation in and Discussion of Descriptive Experience Sampling
- 11:00-noon **Panel discussion**
Facilitator: Agnes Bolinksa (University of South Carolina)