

We are inviting students
to a Philosophy Conference

Why are we fighting?

Philosophy
in Polarized Times

It is becoming a truism that polarization is on the rise, our societies dividing—often *violently*—into so many “us” and “them” groupings around moral and political questions and along national, religious, and identity-based lines. This extends even to questions of truth and the trustworthiness of scientific institutions and experts. What is the role of philosophical thinking in such times? Can philosophical arguments actually settle all disagreements, or are there differences that run so deep that agreement cannot be reached? Is agreement always to be desired, or is difference sometimes valuable? When grave harm has been done, are reconciliation and forgiveness always possible (or good)? How should we engage with the world? Or are we sometimes justified in becoming cynical, disengaged, or “minding our own business” amidst the fighting?

April 10, 2026
University of Pardubice
(Pardubice, Czech Republic)

Submission Guideline

This conference is only open to current undergraduate students or recent graduates who are not currently enrolled in a PhD program.

Submissions will be accepted from students from any university and from any discipline. Submissions should be sent to LesleyPaige.Jamieson@upce.cz.

We will be providing travel bursaries of up to 500 CZK to accepted speakers attending the conference from within Czechia. In addition, we will provide a limited number of travel grants (2 500 CZK) for students travelling from Ukraine.

Applications must include:

Abstract of Proposed Talk. Abstracts should be approximately 200—400 words and describe the ethical or political problem/topic that the proposed talk would address and the central claim that the paper would defend. Document title and document should not contain any indicators of the identity of the submitter.

Cover Sheet. This document should include the title of the talk (matching the title attached to the abstract); the name of the author; institutional affiliation; year of study; email address.

Submission Deadline: February 16, 2026

Decisions on Acceptances: February 23, 2026

For more information

bit.ly/whywearefighting

