

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Critical Social Ontology Workshop  
Zoom format – May 2nd & 3rd, 2026  
Call for Papers

The Critical Social Ontology Workshop is an interdisciplinary venue for radical thinking about the metaphysics of irreducibly social phenomena. Core members of CSOW are Ruth Groff (Coordinator), Sally Haslanger, Tony Lawson, Doug Porpora, Vanessa Wills and Charlotte Witt.

We didn't meet in 2025, but invite paper proposals for the almost-annual 2026 meeting of the Workshop, to be held via Zoom due to the on-going SARS-CoV-2 (Covid) pandemic as well as for environmental and accessibility considerations. As always, we welcome contributions the aim of which is to address fundamental issues of social ontology (and/or foundational meta-theoretical issues that have implications for social ontology) in ways that shed light upon and/or offer alternatives to existing positivist; Humean; post-modern; or other orthodoxies in philosophy and social science.

CSOW meetings are intended to be supportive, working conferences. Each presenter is given 30 minutes on the program. Feel free to discuss unanswered questions, as well as answers.

The Critical Social Ontology Workshop is unfunded. Since we will be on-line, there will be no cost to participate. We will, however, require that those who participate be registered to do so, and we expect that participants will treat the meeting as though it were an in-person event, devoting the weekend to taking part in sessions, even if it's from the convenience of home. Let us know if you'd like to take part but can't give a paper.

To submit a paper proposal:

Send an e-mail to BOTH  
[ruth.groff@slu.edu](mailto:ruth.groff@slu.edu) AND [criticalsocialontologyworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:criticalsocialontologyworkshop@gmail.com)

in which you provide the following:

- (1) a title;
- (2) a short abstract (~200 words, though less is fine) that includes a direct statement of what the driving claim of the presentation will be (i.e., "I will argue that ... "); your argument may well be in the preliminary or exploratory stage, and it doesn't have to be fancy, but formulating the abstract in this way allows us to see clearly what the point of your presentation will be;
- (3) your contact information & institutional affiliation (if you have one), including whether or not you are a graduate student.

Please do adhere to these guidelines.

Deadline for proposals: Sunday, April 6th, 2026.