

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
PHILOSOPHY POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

IMAGINATION, FICTION, AND EXTENDED REALITY

10 – 11 February 2026 | Sir Duncan Rice Library
Meeting Room 1

Keynote Speakers:

Stacie Friend
(University of Edinburgh)

Neil McDonnell
(University of Glasgow)

Hosted by:
Johanna Alt, Kelvin Chan, Jerry Lu, Jim Sigalov-Lanfranchi
(PhD Students, University of Aberdeen)

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PROGRAMME

10 February 2026

11:50 Welcome

12:00

Opening Keynote
STACIE FRIEND

(University of Edinburgh)

Chatbot-Fictionalism and Empathetic AI:
Should we worry about AI when AI worries
about us?

13:00 Lunch

13:45

LIN LIN

(University of Glasgow)

Virtual Causation as Counterpart-
Sensitive Dependence Anchored in Digital
Event Groups

14:30

ERIK WÖLLER

(Free University of Berlin)

Author's Authority

15:15 Break

15:30

MICHELLE SALLUCE

(University of Bologna)

The Self as Adaptive Fiction: Altered States
and the Phenomenal Self-Model

16:15

MARIA FEDOROVA

(University of Vienna)

What Psychedelic Experience Teaches

19:00 Conference Dinner at Rishi's

11 February 2026

9:30

GEORGINA BRIGHOUSE

(University of Liverpool)

Aphantasia and the Plurality of
Imagination

10:15

DIANA CRACIUN

(University College London)

Imagine That! The Imagination Can Be a
Source of Self-Knowledge

11:00 Break

11:15

ROLAND FRANZ

(University of Würzburg)

On the Relation between Assuming and
Phantasy

12:00

LAURA OPPI

(University of Copenhagen)

What Effect? Reassessing the Perky Effect

12:45 Lunch

13:30

ENRIQUE ARANDA-MURILLO

(University of Granada)

Fictive Utterances and the Role of the
Imagination

14:15

Closing Keynote

NEIL McDONNELL

(University of Glasgow)

Virtual Fictionalism and the Metaphor of
Dead Metaphors