



Sydney Philosothon 2025

Hosted by Newington College

31 July 2025

COI I: *It is better to be inclusive than it is to be reasonable (or it is reasonable to exclude people?).**

Guiding questions	Resources/stimulus
Is it possible to be both inclusive and reasonable at the same time?	https://youtu.be/w89vn8WmJKs?si=tXXbbSIqJN-QZMEj (Paradox of Tolerance)
Can a belief or idea be unreasonable but still deserve to be heard?	
Are there situations where including someone could be unfair to others?	https://youtu.be/V1wkfnXhRfQ?si=mA8AyaVyPz7TPDC3 (What is social cohesion?)
What develops trust between people?	
Is reason ever used to justify exclusion?	https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/572217.572221 (The role of emotion in reasoning)
What makes a community fair—shared reasoning or shared belonging?	
Can insisting on reason be a way of silencing people?	https://youtu.be/ORp3q1Oaezw?si=sLMgDNxvJXhtzw_W (Why I, as a black man, attend KKK rallies. Daryl Davis)
Is valuing reason a kind of inclusion or exclusion (or neither)?	

COI II: *We should 'de-extinct' animals or plants**

Guiding questions	Resources/stimulus
Do humans have a responsibility to bring back what they've destroyed?	https://theconversation.com/de-extinction-of-dire-wolves-promotes-false-hope-technology-cant-undo-extinction-254479
Would a de-extinct species be the same as the original one?	https://theconversation.com/should-we-bring-back-the-thylacine-we-asked-5-experts-188894
Is it more important to save endangered species than bring back extinct ones?	https://theconversation.com/bringing-woolly-mammoths-back-from-extinction-might-not-be-such-a-bad-idea-ethicists-explain-167892
Does bringing back a species for curiosity or science make it morally questionable?	
Would a de-extinct animal or plant have the same moral status as a naturally living one?	https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/cambridge-prisms-extinction/article/philosophy-and-ethics-of-deextinction/8486EF7E9B0E7A4AB5A16CC40DC00049
Could de-extinction be used for the wrong reasons?	

COI III

Live stimulus presentation by Professor Mark Colyvan (USyd)
"Realism and Anti-Realism"

Mark Colyvan is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney, Honorary Professor at The Australian National University, and Visiting Professor at the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy at the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich. He holds a BSc with first-class honours in mathematics (UNE) and a PhD in philosophy (ANU). He has published extensively in many areas of philosophy, including philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of logic, decision theory, and environmental philosophy. He is a past president of the Society for Risk Analysis (Australia and New Zealand), and a past president of the Australasian Association of Philosophy. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his research, including an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship and a lifetime achievement award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Outside of philosophy he likes to rock climb, play guitar, and repair old guitars.

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