

Metaphysics of Algebraicism

Wednesday, 3 December 2025, 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: AS3-05-23

Algebraicism dispenses with a fundamental spacetime manifold and describes physical fields by their algebraic interrelations. This view is criticized for its incredulous ontological commitment to vast amount of mere possibilia (that is, all possible configurations of all physical fields). I argue for a higher order, quantity type regiment of the ontology: fields are first order entities; configurations are higher-order quantities and ontologically innocuous.



Lu Chen

Lu Chen is primarily interested in the foundational questions of spacetime, and has published on algebraicism, emergent geometry, structuralism, gauge symmetries, infinitesimal space and so on.

After graduating from University of Massachusetts, she first worked at Koc University in Istanbul and is currently an assistant professor at University of Southern California.