# PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES

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## *"Moral Imagination and Why It Matters"*

Moral imagination is a process that enables groups or individuals who hold apparently incommensurable ethical truths to envision and collaborate on common goals. The first step is to see that their truths are mental models, often shared across a culture. Truths are sacred, and those who disagree with them are heretics of one form or another. Mental models provide valuable exemplars of right and wrong actions that are specific to a culture. Because these are models, one can share them with those who have different exemplars and perhaps even work together toward common goals that take advantage of the combined wisdom of different cultures.

**Thursday, November 2nd, 2017**
**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

## *"Trading Zones, Interactional Expertise, and Mental Models as Solutions to Incommensurability"*

Scientists and engineers often have to collaborate on projects that require apparently incommensurable expertises. The example in this paper will be a team of two Civil Engineers, two Computer Scientists, and one Social Psychologist working together to develop improved strategies for managing the effects of climate change in a highly populated and heavily trafficked area on the Virginia coast. This group created a trading zone to get funding for its project and is now trying to share expertises as it plans the research. Further progress may depend on developing interactional expertise in each other's domains and also in developing a shared mental model for traffic and flood management in this region.

**Friday, November 3rd, 2017**
**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

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