

# Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series

Thursday,  
April 7  
4-6 p.m.

Watson Hall  
Room 517



## Are People Abstract?



**David Friedell**  
(Union College)

Beach's Gaelic Symphony, the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin, and the number  $\pi$  are abstract objects. They are non-physical and not located in space. Tables, cars, and planets are concrete. Could it be that people are abstract, as opposed to concrete? Are we more like Gaelic Symphony than a table? Are we more like software than hardware?

I think the answer, probably, is: no—obviously, we are not abstract. But I'm less confident than I used to be. I will discuss some theoretical (and practical!) advantages of the view that people are abstract. And I will defend the view against some serious objections, most importantly an objection that relies on the claim that people, but not abstract objects, think.

**Everyone Welcome!**

For accessibility requirements, please contact [philosophy@queensu.ca](mailto:philosophy@queensu.ca)

Please note that all in-person attendees must conform to the Queen's vaccine policy:

<https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/administration-and-operations/covid-19-vaccination-requirements>