



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Artificial Intelligence Takes Center Stage at Upcoming Philosophy and Religion Forum Series**

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — The University of Southern Mississippi School of Humanities is delighted to announce its upcoming Philosophy and Religion Forum series for Fall 2023, with the inaugural lecture scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST). The Philosophy and Religion Forum series is a unique opportunity for intellectual engagement with experts in their respective fields. All lectures will be hosted online via Zoom, with access details shared with registered participants for remote participation worldwide.

Commencing the series is a lecture on the highly controversial subject of artificial intelligence (AI). Keith Abney, a senior lecturer at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Tech), will ponder and discuss the ethical implications of AI in his lecture titled "AI/Robots and Ethics: Surveying the Risk Environment." Mr. Abney possesses extensive expertise in the fields of philosophy of science and religion, applied ethics, and axiology. Dr. Teresa Baron, a research associate at the University of Nottingham, will follow with her lecture, "Genes, Ectogenesis, and the Acquisition of Parental Rights," on Friday, October 6, at noon (CST). Concluding the series is Dr. Jason Ananda Josephson Storm, a professor of religion at Williams College, who will present his lecture titled "Revolutionary Happiness: Redefining Progress in the Human Sciences" on Friday, November 3, at noon (CST). Please note that advanced registration is required for the lecture titled "Revolutionary Happiness: Redefining Progress in the Human Sciences".

About the University of Southern Mississippi: Founded in 1910, the University of Southern Mississippi is a leading research university located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, and community involvement, the University of Southern Mississippi offers a wide range of academic programs and strives for intellectual exploration and innovation. For more information about the University of Southern Mississippi, please visit <https://www.usm.edu/>.

For more details and to register for these lectures, please visit the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Humanities website <https://www.usm.edu/humanities/index.php>.