



Oct. 13, 2011

Thursday

3:45pm

BLTN 213



Department of Philosophy

presents



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"A New Kalam Argument: The Grim Reaper's Revenge"

Modifying Benardete's Grim Reaper paradox results in a new version of the Kalam cosmological argument: an argument for the necessary finitude of the past. The argument relies upon two crucial assumptions: the intrinsicity of causal powers, and a generalization of Lewis's Patchwork Principle. I distinguish two different senses in which the past might be finite and consider their logical relations. Finally, I argue that the argument's conclusion is consistent with the potential infinite divisibility of time and the potential infinity of the future, and that it provides support for the hypothesis that the universe has an extra-temporal cause.