



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE  
PHILOSOPHIE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES

[www.fisp.org](http://www.fisp.org)

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The Secretary General

Copenhagen, August 21 2026.

**Closure of Philosophy Dept at the University of Dundee**

Dear Colleagues,

The news about the intended closure of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Dundee has raised serious concerns and dissatisfaction among members of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies ([www.fisp.org](http://www.fisp.org)).

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Dundee has a wonderful scholarly reputation on a global scale. It is largely considered as a leading academic center of continental philosophy in Scotland, and certainly an important reference for academic cooperation and networking. At a time of dramatic and violent changes such as those we witness daily, critical thinking in continental philosophy and philosophical reflections on AI is central to scientific progress, rational thinking, academic scholarship, strong learning environments, democracy and freedom for the future of humanity.

We believe that it would be a tragic catastrophe and very serious mistake to diminish philosophical training in your university during a time when massive increase in philosophical research and education is evident in other parts of the world. The upcoming World Congress of Philosophy, to be held in Tokyo in August of the year 2028, is already proving the tremendous capacity of attraction that philosophy and indeed continental philosophy and philosophy of AI and general philosophy still has at a global scale. We expect more than 4,000 participants from all regions of the world to submit their works to the Congress in Japan, showing the considerable import philosophy has in today's academia.

A programme in philosophy, not least in continental philosophy and in the philosophy of AI is a key tool for creating a competitive university. It helps sharpen knowledge and awareness of ongoing debates, results, and scholarship in critical domains such as theoretical and applied ethics, critical thinking, political philosophy, and theories of argumentation and persuasion. It is unlikely that a university without a well-structured philosophy programme will be able to remain a leading university across sciences and disciplines.

Dear colleagues, we hope that you will not continue with this decision to close the Philosophy Department at the University of Dundee.

*Jacob Dahl Rendtorff*

**Jacob Dahl Rendtorff, Secretary General of FISP, Professor, Roskilde University, Denmark**