

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: CMC Philosophy Dept Speaker Series: Rachana Kamtekar, 2/17/26 at 4:15p

From: Tillman, Dorlisa

CMC's Philosophy Department invites you to attend an evening with American Philosopher and Professor, Rachana Kamtekar.

Please see flyer below for more information.

CMC Philosophy Department Presents:

Rachana Kamtekar

Cornell University

"Plato on Wanting and Liking"

17

February 2026

4:15-6PM

Kravis 102



Abstract:

I argue that for Plato, pleasure and pain, like sense-perception, give us appearances that can be true or false. And like sensory appearances, appearances of something as pleasant or painful include an appearance of magnitude—a pleasant or painful experience is always at the same time an experience of a certain quantity of pleasure or pain, just like the sight of a visible object also involves a representation of the size of that object. This appearance of magnitude too can be true or false. The reason pleasure and pain are liable to misrepresent magnitude is that their representations of magnitude are essentially contrastive. This makes so-called "mixed pleasures", pleasures whose pleasantness depends on/is partly constituted by pain/pain-relief, especially likely to misrepresent magnitude. As a result, a painful desire will ipso facto misrepresent the magnitude of pleasure to be gained from its fulfillment. Contemporary researchers on addiction who theorize wanting without liking or expected liking should give heed to Plato's views on the relationship between desire and pleasure.

Sent on behalf of Gabbrielle Johnson, CMC Assistant Professor of Philosophy