

## Call for Abstracts

**28th Conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry  
9-11 July 2025**

We are pleased to announce that the 28th annual conference of the *International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry* (ISPC 2025) will be held from **9 to 11 July 2025**, in Antwerp, Belgium under the joint auspices of the *Royal Flemish Chemical Society* (KVVCV), and the *University of Antwerp*.

We herewith invite proposals addressing a diverse range of contemporary questions in the epistemology and metaphysics of chemistry.

**Confirmed keynote speakers:**

Prof. em. dr. Klaus Ruthenberg - University of Applied Sciences Coburg

dr. Georgiana D. Hedesan – University of Oxford

Prof. dr. Tuomas Tahko – University of Bristol

**Dates:** 9, 10 and 11 July 2025

**Location:** Klooster van de Grauwzusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

**Conference website:** [www.uantwerpen.be/ispc2025](http://www.uantwerpen.be/ispc2025)

**Deadline for abstract submission:** 31 March 2025

**Notification of acceptance:** 20 April 2025

Further details regarding the venue, programme, and registration process will be provided in due course.

Please direct any inquiries to dr. Filip Buyse (Royal Flemish Chemical Society), prof. dr. Pieter Thyssen (University of Liège) or prof. dr. Erik Neyts (University of Antwerp).

We look forward to welcoming you all in Antwerp,

Kind regards,

*The organising committee*

## Call for abstracts

We welcome submissions on any topic in the philosophy of chemistry. However, please note the conference theme outlined below. Presentations will be **20** minutes, followed by **10** minutes for Q&A.

Candidate speakers should submit a **1-page abstract** (in docx or pdf format) of no more than 600 words (excluding references) by 31 March. All abstracts must contain a title and be prepared for anonymous review.

**Please send your abstracts to [ispc.2025.antwerp@gmail.com](mailto:ispc.2025.antwerp@gmail.com)**

Please include your affiliations in the body of your e-mail and specify whether your paper will be presented in person or online.

Submitted abstracts will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee. Notifications of acceptance will be delivered by 20 April.

## Conference theme

Approximately 400 years ago, around 1625, the Flemish chemist Jan Baptist van Helmont (1579–1644) introduced the term "gas" into scientific discourse. He derived the term from the Greek word chaos (χάος), reflecting his conception of an unformed, chaotic state of matter. Van Helmont used "gas" to describe substances that were neither solid nor liquid, with a particular focus on what we now recognize as gases. His pioneering work greatly advanced early chemistry and the study of gases, particularly through his experiments on carbon dioxide, which he referred to as "gas sylvestre".

Van Helmont's ideas about substances, their properties, and their chemical reactions were instrumental in the transition from alchemy to modern chemistry. His emphasis on experimentation and his conceptualization of gas laid important foundations for scientific thought in the 17th and 18th centuries.

This historical milestone connects the chemistry of the 17th century to contemporary issues, including climate change and environmental challenges. We are particularly interested in papers that examine the philosophical dimensions of Van Helmont's experiments and ideas, as well as their influence on later scientists such as Robert Boyle (1627–1691), Franciscus Sylvius (1614–1672), Johann Joachim Becher (1635–1682), Georg Ernst Stahl (1660–1734) and Antoine Lavoisier (1743–1794). Additionally, we welcome discussions on the broader historical significance of gases.