What are rights? How do they relate to duties, powers, and interests that ought to be protected? What normative work is done by calling something a right? Could morality or law provide the basis of genuine rights, and if not, what does?

These and related questions – vigorously debated by moral philosophers and legal theorists for decades – are taken up in a much-anticipated book by UCI Distinguished Professor Margaret Gilbert, *Rights and Demands: A Foundational Inquiry* (OUP 2018). Professor Gilbert advances her own account of what she calls “demand-rights,” arguably the central case of rights, an account that she grounds in the social phenomenon of joint commitment. The view serves not only as a novel alternative to leading theories of rights, but as a challenge to widely held views about the scope of morality, the nature of obligation and the existence of a whole class of phenomena that go by the name “rights.”

At the conference, prominent theorists of ethics and jurisprudence engage with this provocative account and its wide-ranging implications, addressing some fundamental questions for ethics and rights theory going forward.

**Featured Speakers Include:**

**Richard Arneson**  
Distinguished Professor and Valtz Family Chair in Philosophy  
University of California, San Diego

**Allen E. Buchanan**  
Research Professor  
University of Arizona

**Stephen Darwall**  
Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy  
Yale University

**Frances Kamm**  
Distinguished Professor  
Henry Rutgers University Professor of Philosophy  
Rutgers University

**Gregory Keating**  
William T. Dalessi Professor of Law and Philosophy  
University of Southern California

**Gary Watson**  
Provost Professor of Philosophy and Law  
University of Southern California

**February 8-9, 2019**  
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