

We had issues getting into the conference because of some construction, but we got there on time. I was part of the 'History and Philosophy of Science' section which was relatively small compared to some of the other sections. There were about 15 people in our room at first, and that number fluctuated between 8-30 people between the two days. I presented on Friday, Mar 20 in the early morning. I was supposed to present later, but someone else had an emergency so I had to step in for them. My talk was a narrative about the convergence of two stories in the history of philosophy and history of math respectively. Specifically, I delved into whether Kant's theory of geometry holds up to the scrutiny introduced by the advent of non-Euclidean geometry and relativity. I watched every presentation in our section, and there was a huge variety (likely due to the openness of the category). There were presentations on taxonomy, medicine, physics, evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, and more. I also got to talk to a few poster presenters. There was only one poster from our section, and their project happened to be somewhat similar to mine so we had an insightful conversation comparing our projects. I also walked around and talked to some presenters from other sections, notably the psychology section which had a lot of posters on trauma. Other than that, I didn't have any interaction outside of our section, but ours had such a diversity of thought that I don't feel like I lost any opportunities. I sat with these two grad students from Tulane who were doing their projects on hypothesis testing and psychedelic research respectively. I also met students/professors from USM, Ole Miss, Tulane, ASU, and CUNY. For my first conference and my first time presenting my research I found MAS to be a welcoming environment and I appreciate all the connections I was able to find there. I've been on the fence about academia, but this experience affected my position in a positive way.