

**First Annual Clemson - University of South Carolina  
COLLABORATIVE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR LECTURE**



# **TOWARD A THIRD PLACE AESTHETICS**



THE EXPERIENCES OF CAFES, COFFEE SHOPS, BARS, & PUBS

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2021 • 3:30PM • VIA ZOOM**  
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In *The Great Good Place*, sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the term “the third place” to refer to “the core settings of informal public life,” among which he included English pubs, French cafes, traditional main streets, and American taverns. We could add college town coffeeshops, gyms and, in certain contexts, libraries. While Oldenburg discusses the personal benefits and social value of these third places, he does not address their aesthetic dimension—how the aesthetic experiences and values we find there might contribute to personal and social goods. At the same time, philosophical aestheticians, under the heading of “everyday aesthetics”, have recently begun to address aesthetics outside the domain of art and nature. But they have not addressed the aesthetic dimension of third places. In this lecture, Professor Meskin offers a diagnosis of the neglect of third place aesthetics, a defense of its significance, and an account of some of the most important aesthetic values that are realized in third places.