



**PHILOSOPHY**  
department

# JORDAN MACKENZIE

University of Virginia

“Love, Loss, and the Duty to Grieve”

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025**

**4:00-6:00PM**

A&H Building, Room 0426. Snacks will be provided.

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We often feel duty-bound to grieve our loved ones after their deaths. But how can we owe grief (or anything) to those who are no longer alive? In this paper, Michael Cholbi and I propose that the duty to grieve the deceased is part of a wider duty found in mutually loving relationships, which we call a duty of practical fidelity. The duty of practical fidelity commands us to ‘factor’ our loved ones into our practical identities, while encouraging them to do the same. Fulfillment of the duty requires that we attend to radical changes in their identities – and few changes are more radical than death. And so, grief is one of the last ways in which we can factor our loved ones into our ever-changing selves.

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