

CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Conference for the Study of Political Thought, an International Organization
Volume 33, Number 3 — Spring, 2007

FROM THE CHAIRS

Across the wide range of political theory, from historical to topical and contemporary problematics, the past year has been a rich one for CSPT. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the area conveners who have contributed to keeping us all up to date on activities around the globe. And, of course, we'd also like to encourage everyone to send announcements for events planned for the coming year.

For our part, we'll kick off the new academic year in North America with the CSPT reception on Thursday, August 30th at the Chicago meeting of the American Political Science Association. There, in addition to the usual conviviality, we'll be awarding the Elaine and David Spitz Prize for the best book in liberal and/or democratic theory published in the last two years. More generally – and just glancing at the preliminary program on the APSA website (available at www.apsanet.org) – this promises to be a tremendously lively meeting, with over 150 panels devoted to political thought, theory, and philosophy of all sorts. We look forward to seeing many of you there and hope that, amidst all the competing charms of Chicago, you'll find time to stop by the reception.

The 2007 CSPT Annual Meeting itself (on which more below) will be held at Columbia University in late September. We are also in the process of organizing a symposium on "Reason of State" to be held at UCLA in early 2008. Details on this event will be forthcoming in the fall newsletter, but we hope the addition of a west-coast venue to our annual schedule will be of interest to the membership.

*David Johnston and Kirstie McClure
Co-Chairs, CSPT*

2007 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

*Intellectual Foundings:
J. G. A. Pocock and the Cambridge School*

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Conference for the Study of Political Thought will be held on Friday, September 28, 2007 at Columbia University to celebrate and reconsider *The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law*. Published fifty years ago by John Pocock, one of the principal founders of the CSPT, *The Ancient Constitution* launched the late twentieth century revolution in the study of the history of political thought that gave rise to what is widely labeled the "Cambridge School."

This conference will bring together a highly distinguished collection of historians, legal thinkers, and political theorists to engage in a concentrated discussion of the intellectual vistas opened up—as well as of those which might have been supplanted or occluded—by the tsunami set off by this work and a few companion works of the same period.

We hope this event will be of interest to scholars of history and theory from the U.S. west coast to the east, as well as points between, and Professor Pocock himself has made plans to attend. All members of CSPT and other interested parties are welcome to attend; there is no fee for attendance, though we do very much encourage all those who are not yet members of CSPT to join. We hope to see you there!

CHAPTER NEWS

CANADA

Western Canada

In the Fall of 2006, Michael Walzer visited the University of Regina's Social and Political Thought Program, where he delivered a public lecture "Beyond Humanitarian Intervention."

Shadia Drury of the University of Regina made a number of presentations this spring: "Terrorism from Samson to Atta," at the University of Victoria, February 12, 2007; "Sin, Sex, and Celibacy: The Case of Abelard and Heloise," at the University of Saskatchewan, March 30, 2007; and "What is wrong with the Bush Doctrine?" at York University, April 19, 2007.

— *Margaret Ogrodnick*

EUROPE

Western Britain

In March, the Department of Politics and International Relations at Swansea University hosted a one day conference on Continental Political Thought and International Politics.

In May the Department is holding a two-day international conference entitled "'Becoming Plural': The Political Thought of William E. Connolly." Speakers will include William E. Connolly, Thomas Dumm, Stephen White, Jeremy Valentine, Michael Shapiro, Moya Lloyd, and Nick Rengger.

— *Samuel Chambers*

ISRAEL

On May 15th, Eric Nelson (Department of Government, Harvard University) gave a lecture sponsored by the Department of Political Science of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on the topic: "From Hellenism to Hebraism: The Transformation of Republicanism in Early Modern Political Thought."

The conference "Spinoza as Social and Political Thinker," organized by the Jerusalem Spinoza Institute, will take place on May 30th–June 1st, 2007. Among the speakers will be:

Steven Smith (Yale), Antonio Negri (International College of Philosophy, Paris), Theo Verbeek (Utrecht University), Aaron Garrett (Boston University), Yirmiyahu Yovel (Hebrew University), and Elhanan Yakira (Hebrew University).

— *Efraim Podoksik*

JAPAN

The year 2006 was memorable for CSPT-Japan due to its active commitment to the 20th IPSA (International Political Science Association) World Congress in Fukuoka, Japan. Unlike the regular form of Annual Research Meeting, eight sessions were organized by members of CSPT-Japan and joined by many scholars from abroad. They were held consecutively as Japanese Sessions for IPSA between July 11th and 13th, 2006. These sessions were preceded by a graduate and post-graduate student session held at Kyushu University on July 8th, in which eight papers were presented.

The CSPT-Japan sessions at the meeting were on the following topics: Liberalism, Pluralism, and Multiculturalism; Maruyama Masao, Political Philosopher; Justice in an Age of Diversity; Carl Schmitt's Significance in the 21st Century; Democracy as a Public Philosophy in the Global Perspective; Hannah Arendt's Political Theory; and A Political Challenge From the Perspective of Domestic Labor.

Sad news has to be reported that Kanichi Fukuda, emeritus professor of the University of Tokyo passed away on January 7th, 2007, at the age of eighty-three. He, with Masao Maruyama, was one of the key figures in the history of political thought in postwar Japan. A meeting for the memory of Fukuda was held at the end of the month at Meijigakuin University in Tokyo and many members of CSPT-Japan attended.

— *Masashi Sekiguchi*

UNITED STATES

Indian Territory

Under the auspices of "Couples in the Academy," the political science department this April invited political theorist Glyn Morgan (Harvard)

and political economist Margarita Estevez-Abe (Harvard) to give talks. On the occasion of Eldon Eisenach's retirement, Glyn Morgan honored Professor Eisenach's career-long interest in religion and politics with a provocative contribution: "Why Americans love God and Europeans don't." Margarita Estevez-Abe, once Michael Mosher's student in Japan, gave a talk entitled "Gender Inequality and the Varieties of Capitalism." Eisenach will remain in Tulsa and continue his professional career (without the teaching).

At UC-Berkeley in March, Michael Mosher revisited the primal scene of his undergraduate participation in the Berkeley Free Speech Movement and at the Political Theory Colloquium flirted with apostasy to the good old cause with reflections on "The Ordinary Awfulness of Politics."

Michael Mosher has also been working on a project related to Montesquieu and colonialism. His characterization of the philosophe was rehearsed in "Montesquieu: the Anti-colonialist as Imperial Liberal," presented at the Northeastern Political Science Association meetings in Boston (November 2006), and will appear as chapter six in *Modern Political Thought and Empire*, ed. Sankar Muthu (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). He published another take on these issues in the French journal *Revue Montesquieu*, No. 8 (2006): "Montesquieu on Conquest: Three Cartesian Heroes and Five Good Enough Empires." In addition, "What Montesquieu taught: 'Perfection does not concern men or things universally'" appears in *Modernity in Question: Montesquieu and his Legacy*, ed. Rebecca Kingston (SUNY Press, forthcoming).

Paul Rahe has been busy on the lecture circuit. Last June he gave a talk, "Israelis and Palestinians: The Present Discontents," at The Institute of Current World Affairs, Monmouth University. In September, at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, he spoke on "The Political Theory of the American Foundation," in the Polaris Lecture Series. He also gave a talk, "Empires Ancient and Modern," for the Alaska World Affairs Council. In October, he served as

Chair and Commentator for a Symposium, "From Mesopotamia to Iraq: Historical Perspectives on the Middle East," at Tulane University. In December, for a peace conference at the Joint Center for Operational Analysis, United States Joint Forces Command, Army War College, his talk was "The Peace of Nicias."

Eldon Eisenach gave a paper, "Migrations of 'Spirit' in Mill's Theory of History" at the John Stuart Mill Bicentennial Conference in London (also presented in November, at a similar conference in Bucharest, and for a faculty seminar at the University of Toronto). In March, he gave a paper, "Hobbes's Church and State in the Sacred History of *Leviathan*," at the Southwestern Political Science Association meetings in Albuquerque, where he also chaired a roundtable on a recent book by Jeffrey Collins, *The Allegiance of Thomas Hobbes*, and served as a discussant on a panel on civic education. In April, he gave a public lecture at Colorado College, "How the Progressives Transformed American Liberalism."

— Eldon Eisenach

Louisiana

The 23rd Annual International Meeting of the Eric Voegelin Society, comprising ten panels (including two on China) will be held in conjunction with the APSA convention in Chicago, August 30th–September 2nd. All interested persons are welcome to attend and take part in the sessions!

The Eric Voegelin Institute and Intercollegiate Studies Institute sponsored a lecture on "Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's spiritual and political vision," by Daniel J. Mahoney (Assumption College) at Louisiana State University on March 15th. Mahoney's new large anthology of Solzhenitsyn's writings, some translated into English for the first time, appeared in 2006 from ISI Books.

Ellis Sandoz directed a Liberty Fund colloquium on "American Exceptionalism," in Savannah, Georgia, February 8th–11th.

James R. Stoner, Jr. (Harvard, 1988), has been appointed chair of the Department of Po-

litical Science at Louisiana State University for a three year term beginning July 1st. His writings include *Common-Law Liberty: Rethinking American Constitutionalism*.

— *Ellis Sandoz*

New York

The Columbia Seminar in Political and Social Thought has an exciting series of speakers planned for the 2007–08 academic year. Visitors will include Arash Abizadeh (McGill), Archon Fung (Harvard), Karuna Mantena (Yale), Patchen Markell (Chicago), Alan Patten (Princeton), and Dana Villa (Notre Dame). Political theorists in the New York area who would like to attend CSPST sessions should contact Melissa Schwartzberg (ms3125@columbia.edu) or Annie Stiliz (as3113@columbia.edu).

— *Melissa Schwartzberg*

Pacific Northwest

The annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association will take place this year at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington, from October 18–20th. Several panels in political theory will be offered. For additional information or inquiries about panel participation, please contact Robert Eisinger, PNWPSA President, at eisinger@lclark.edu. Vacancies still exist for presenters, chairs, and discussants.

Gregg Miller, Assistant Visiting Professor of Political Science (theory) at Western Washington University in Bellingham was awarded the outstanding dissertation award last year by the Western Political Science Association. The title of his dissertation is “Mimesis in Communicative Action: Habermas and the Affective Bond of Understanding.” Before going to Western Washington University, Miller spent two years as visiting assistant professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

— *Curtis Johnson*

Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountain CSPT group met on May 5th to discuss Pierre Manent’s new book “A World Beyond Politics?”

— *Steve McCarl*

St. Louis

Next year marks an exciting expansion of the Political Theory Workshop at Washington University in St. Louis. Entering its 6th year, the workshop will move to a more or less weekly format, interrupted by certain holidays, meetings, or other events. The upshot is that we will be meeting 10–12 times each semester.

Of note for next year: Ian Shapiro (Yale, Political Science) will be giving a paper in November; and Ira Katznelson (Columbia, Political Science) and Philip Pettit (Princeton, Government and Philosophy) will be presenting next April.

— *Frank Lovett*

NEWS EXCHANGE

Books and Publications

Margaret Ogrodnick of the University of Manitoba has published “Myth and Historicism in Rousseau” (*Culture and Politics* 1, no. 1).

Shadia Drury of the University of Regina reports a number of recent publications, including: “Leo Strauss and the American Imperial Project” (*Political Theory* 35, no. 1); “Exterminating the Enemy” (*Free Inquiry* 27, no. 2); “The Lost Sobriety of Conservatism” (*Free Inquiry* 26, no. 2); “Judicial Activism and the Conservative Revolution” (*Free Inquiry* 26, no. 3); and “America: Beacon Or Bully?” (*Free Inquiry* 26, no. 5).

Recent publications from Indian Territory include, Eldon Eisenach “Progressivism as a National Narrative in Biblical-Hegelian Time,” in *Liberalism: Old and New* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) a book edition of *Social Philosophy and Policy* 24, no. 1 (2007); and Paul Rahe, “In the Shadow of Lucretius: The Epicurean Foundations of Machiavelli’s Political Thought,” *History of Political Thought* 28:1 (Spring, 2007). His book, *Against Throne and Altar: Machiavelli and Political Theory under the English Republic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) is forthcoming next year.

Ellis Sandoz of Louisiana State University has published *Republicanism, Religion, and the Soul of America* (University of Missouri Press, 2006).

Forthcoming this May in the Eric Voegelin Institute Series in Political Philosophy: Studies in Religion and Politics is Jeffrey C. Herndon, *Eric Voegelin and the Problem of Christian Political Order* (University of Missouri Press).

Forthcoming in June is *Collected Works of Eric Voegelin, vol. 30: Selected Correspondence 1950–1984*, ed. Thomas Hollweck (University of Missouri Press).

Gabriel Herman, *Morality and Behavior in Democratic Athens: A Social History* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Arie M. Dubnov, "Between Liberalism and Jewish Nationalism: Young Isaiah Berlin on the Road towards Diaspora Zionism," *Modern Intellectual History*, Vol. 4 no. 2.

Graduate Student News

E. Ann Wilson has completed her dissertation, "Fetishes of 'Empowerment': The Arguments, the Confusions in Contemporary Feminist Theory," at Texas A&M University.

Her dissertation examines the major schools of feminist political theory through the lens of how they conceptualize 'empowerment.' Drawing on traditional theories of power as well as an 'integralist' framework of self-other relations, the dissertation argues for a different and more adequate idea of 'empowerment' as a path out of the entrenched conflicts between diverging feminist schools.

Ann presently holds an appointment in the Department of Political Science at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Several recent Louisiana State University political theory PhDs. have received appointments: Jeffrey C. Herndon (2005) to a tenure-

track position at Texas A&M University at Commerce; his *Eric Voegelin and the Problem of Christian Political Order* is forthcoming in June from the University of Missouri Press. Scott Segrest (2006) is completing a year as Visiting Scholar at the Liberty Fund, Inc. Jeremy Mhire (2006) is completing a post-doc at the University of Virginia. Elizabeth Campbell Corey (2004) has accepted a tenure-track appointment in Honors and Political Science at Baylor University; her book *Michael Oakeshott on Religion, Aesthetics, and Politics* appeared in 2006.

Visiting Scholars and Other Moves

Paul Rahe is leaving the University of Tulsa after twenty-four years to take up a joint position in the Departments of History and Political Science at Hillsdale College.

David Ciepley, PhD from Chicago, is joining the Dept of Political Science at the University of Denver this fall. Harvard University Press recently published Ciepley's book, *Liberalism in the Shadow of Totalitarianism*.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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