

CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Conference for the Study of Political Thought, an International Organization
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FROM THE CHAIRS

There are two main things to report at this point in the year, the award of the David and Elaine Spitz Prize and the ongoing plans for our 2009 Spring conference. So to take each in turn:

This year's Spitz Prize has been awarded to Martha Nussbaum for *Frontiers of Justice* (Harvard University Press, 2006). *Frontiers of Justice* examines several important issues that seem to lie on the periphery of the most salient conceptions of social justice: namely, our moral obligations to those with disabilities, to foreign nationals, and to nonhuman animals. Nussbaum carefully explores the resources and the limitations of social contractarian approaches in dealing with these questions; and she argues that these theories need supplementation by a modified form of the capabilities approach she previously articulated in *Women and Human Development*. This book provides an admirably lucid survey of both these important issues and also the relevant theoretical landscape. Even those who are ultimately not convinced by this book's constructive conclusions will find it immensely provocative and illuminating, an essential reference point for future discussions of the important questions it addresses. Chaired by Thomas Spragens (Duke), the 2008 Spitz committee included Nadia Urbinati (Columbia) and Joshua Dienstag (UCLA). We thank them for the energy and commitment they brought to the task of selecting this year's prizewinner.

As announced in the last Newsletter, the 2009 CSPT Spring Conference, **Possibility and Paradox: On Rhetoric and Political Theory** will be held at Northwestern University. The dates are now settled for Thursday to Sunday,

April 2–5th, 2009. Organized by Keith Topper (now of UC Irvine) and Dilip Gaonkar (Northwestern), this multi-day conference will span classical, Renaissance and early modern, modern, and contemporary political thought. The conference description was included in the last newsletter so we won't repeat that here, but a preliminary program will soon be available on the "Conferences" link of the CSPT website. The lineup of participants is still in the process of confirmation, as are the titles of their papers, so we will hold the full program for the next newsletter. At present, though, it looks like the participants will include (ranging from ancient to modern topics rather than alphabetically): Peter Euben, Bernard Yack, Joy Connolly, John McCormick, Mary Dietz, James Martel, Ronald Beiner, Tracy Strong, Samuel Fleischacker, Uday Mehta, Bryan Garsten, George Shulman, Andrew Norris, Miguel Vatter, Anne Norton, and Kari Palonen.

As further information comes available – both details on the program itself and information about location, hotels, etc. – we will be updating the conference link on the CSPT website. Further details can also be had from Keith Topper, whose new e-mail is ktopper@uci.edu.

Finally, and as always, we are grateful to all the area conveners for keeping us up to date on happenings of interest to CSPT members. If you have news to contribute to future newsletters, whether an area convener or not, please pass it along to Frank Lovett at Washington University flovett@artsci.wustl.edu, or to any of the chairs.

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CHAPTER NEWS

CANADA

Western Canada

Bruce Baum (University of British Columbia) has organized a workshop, with a number of notable invited political theorists and philosophers, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Isaiah Berlin's famous lecture/essay, "Two Concepts of Liberty," delivered in October 1958. The workshop will be held at UBC on October 18th and 19th, 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.berlinonliberty.com/>.

— *Margaret Ogrodnick*

EUROPE

Germany

From September 11th to 14th, 2008, Hendrik Hansen (University of Passau and German Association for the Study of Political Thought) and Hans-Joachim Veen (University of Trier and Ettersberg Foundation for the Comparative Study of European Dictatorships and their Democratic Transition, Weimar) have hosted a conference in Weimar on "Reflecting the totalitarian experiences of Communist Germany and building a democratic political culture." After the fall of the communist regimes in 1989, the way of reflecting the totalitarian experiences differs largely from the reflection on National Socialism after 1945. For instance in Germany, one can witness both in East and in West Germany a process of belittlement of the political crimes committed in GDR. After the German reunification, emphasis was laid on building democratic political institution in East Germany and on promoting the emergence of a free market economy, whereas the impact of the experience of a totalitarian system on the citizens' understanding of the rule of law and of ethical values (their political culture) had been neglected. The conference focused on the relation between reflecting the past and building a democratic political culture.

The participants in the conference were scholars from social sciences and jurisprudence as well as civil rights activists who were engaged in the peaceful revolution in GDR in

1989. A podcast with a summary of the conference has been produced by the "Deutschlandfunk" and is available on: <http://www.dradio.de/rss/podcast/sendungen/studiozeit/>. The papers will be published in German language in the "Jahrbuch Politisches Denken 2009" (Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 2009, edited by Hendrik Hansen and Hans-Joachim Veen).

— *Peter Nitschke*

ISRAEL

The Summer Course in the History of Concepts took place in the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute on September 7th–11th. Its aims were to inform students and researchers about the tools, methods and insights of the field; to provide a framework for feedback, exchange of ideas and scientific collaboration; and finally, to open discussion with a view to promoting the history of concepts in Israel and to the initiation of future research projects. The course opened with introductory lectures on the history and methodology of the field, given by lecturers from the International Research School in Conceptual History and Political Thought "Concepta" and the "History of Political and Social Concepts Group" (HPSCG). This was followed by a workshop in which works-in-progress of the participants were presented and discussed. The course concluded with a series of lectures by both international and Israeli guest speakers.

— *Efraim Podoksik*

JAPAN

The 15th conference of CSPT-Japan was held at Okayama University in Okayama City on May 24th–25th, 2008. The common theme for the sessions was "Transformation of the Political Sphere." Two sessions were organized by CSPT-Japan committee and other sessions were set for panels or individual papers submitted from the CSPT-Japan members.

The first organized session was entitled "Liberty in Political Sphere," in which two speakers read papers on Isaiah Berlin's concept of liberty and its recent criticism by Quentin Skinner and Charles Taylor. The title of the second organized session was "Visions of Political

Order after the Liberal-Communitarian Debate: Community, State, World.” The first paper discussed the cosmopolitan tradition in the European political thought. The second was on Aristotelian concept of the order, and the third on the concepts of the empire, the universal monarchy, the balance of power in the 17th–18th century France. Other sessions included eight papers submitted from the general members.

Also on June 19th–22nd, the Korean Society for Political Thought and CSPT-Japan co-organized the 7th annual joint conference at Seoul, which was entitled “Asian Political Tradition and Nationalism: Past, Present, Future.”

— *Tomoya Yoshioka*

SINGAPORE

The National University of Singapore (NUS) hosted a conference on the topic of globalization, September 11th–13th 2008. Globalization has brought questions about the moral basis of world order to the forefront of debate among political theorists. Some think the principles of human rights and global justice articulated in the West provide that basis, arguing that only these principles are truly universal. Others, skeptical of this claim yet unwilling to relinquish the authority for adjudicating moral claims that universal principles offer, look to alternative forms and sites of universal thinking. This workshop brought together scholars from around the world to discuss modes of knowledge-formation, moral judgment, and political association that invite rethinking universalism in the light of cultural differences.

Among the many presenters were Steven Macedo (Princeton University), Jeff Spinner-Halev (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Terry Nardin (NUS), and Ten Chin Liew (NUS). Chandran Kukathas (LSE and NUS) delivered the keynote address, “Local Culture versus Global Justice: 1537–2008.”

— *Terry Nardin*

UNITED STATES

New York

The Columbia University Seminar in Social and Political Thought is off to a great start. Upcoming speakers this academic year will include Jeffrey Tulis (Texas) on October 20th, Frank Lovett (Washington University) on November 13th, Danielle Allen (Institute for Advanced Study) on February 19th, Lawrie Balfour (University of Virginia) on March 5th, and Corey Brettschneider (Brown) on April 30th. Please contact the seminar chair, Melissa Schwartzberg, at ms3125@columbia.edu, or the seminar rapporteur, Pablo Kalmanovitz, at pk2115@columbia.edu, if you are interested in attending the seminar.

Political theorists at Columbia will host two major conferences this year. The first is “Varieties of Majority Rule,” which will take place from November 7th–8th, 2008, at the Maison Francaise at Columbia University. The conference will bring together scholars from France and the United States on the history and theory of majority rule, and is organized by Bernard Manin (NYU/Ecole des Hautes Etudes), Samuel Moyn (Columbia) and Melissa Schwartzberg (Columbia). The conference is sponsored by the Sterling-Currier Fund, the Maison Francaise at Columbia University, and the Columbia Department of Political Science. For more information, please contact the graduate student coordinator, Jeffrey Lenowitz, at jal2154@columbia.edu. The second conference is “Republic and Empire,” which will take place at Columbia from April 3rd–5th, 2009. Jean Cohen (Columbia) is the organizer. Conference details will be available shortly.

— *Melissa Schwartzberg*

Rocky Mountains

At our most recent meeting we discussed Leo Strauss’s essay, “Progress or Return?” It can be found in two places: *Jewish Philosophy and the Crisis of Modernity*, edited by Kenneth Hart Green (State University of New York Press) or *An Introduction to Political Philosophy: Ten Essays*, edited by Hilail Gildin (Wayne

State University Press). At our next meeting, November 1st, we will discuss Plato's *Phaedrus*.

— *Steve McCarl*

St. Louis

The Political Theory Workshop at Washington University in St. Louis has a full slate of presentations for the fall. On October 10th, Michel Wieviorka (Sociology, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) will present "The Lure of Anti-Semitism in Contemporary France;" on October 17th, Tim Pachirat (Politics, New School) will present "The Place Where Blood Flows: Disgust, Repugnance, and Sight on the Kill Floor of an Industrialized Slaughterhouse;" on October 24th, Anna Alexandrova (Philosophy, UMSL) will present "When Analytic Narratives Explain;" on November 7th, Ian MacMullen (Political Science, Washington University) will present "Raising Children to Comply with Political Authority;" on November 14th, Sarah Song (Law and Political Science, UC Berkeley) will present "Democratic Theory and the Ethics of Immigration;" on November 21st, Zach Hoskins (Philosophy, Washington University) will present "A Kantian Account of Punishment;" and on December 5th, Iver Bernstein will present "Maroon Politics, the Revitalization of America, and the Coming of the Civil War."

— *Frank Lovett*

Southern California

The SoCal CSPT is still in the process of getting itself organized. In the south at UCSD and toward the north at UCLA there are regular and ongoing workshops, lectures and colloquia. Through October speakers and topics this year have included Mark Bevir, UC Berkeley, "The Contextualist Approach" (UCSD); Ernesto Laclau, Northwestern, "Discourse and Social Antagonism" (UCLA); and Jeffrey Minson, UCSD, "The Sense of Existing and its Political Implications (on François Flahault's 'general anthropology')" (UCLA). November and December speakers and topics will include Simone Chambers, Toronto, "Rhetoric and the Public Sphere: Has Deliberative Democracy Abandoned Mass

Democracy?" (UCSD); Filippo Del Lucchese, Université de Picardie Jules Verne & Occidental College, "Words of Resistance: Language and Violence in Fanon" (UCLA); David Leitch, UCSD, "Language Learning and Moral Education" (UCSD); and Harvey Mansfield, Harvard, "Tocqueville's Political Metaphysics" (UCLA).

For further information on either of these ongoing series, contact Alan Houston at UCSD <ahouston@ucsd.edu> or Kirstie McClure at UCLA <kmmac@ucla.edu> or check the websites for UCSD at http://polisci.ucsd.edu/ptw/ucsdPTC/Current_Schedule_%26_Papers.html or for UCLA at <http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/departement-workshops/political-theory-workshop>. Schedules are usually posted quarterly.

After the success of last spring's SoCal CSPT 'drive-by' symposium on "Reason of State," we're looking for further opportunities in the region for similar events. This fall, in combination with University of California Humanities Research Institute, Utrecht University, UC Irvine Political Theory Group, and the UC Irvine Program in Political Psychology, we will be co-sponsoring an afternoon symposium at UC Irvine on "Political Conflict and Deliberative Competence." This will be an interdisciplinary symposium focused on gaps, tensions, and points of conflict within deliberative democracy. Aimed at challenging deliberative democracy from a variety of perspectives, speakers will consider the demands that deliberation puts on democratic citizens, the questionable resources citizens bring to deliberation, and the distance between what deliberation requires and what citizens are able to deliver. The symposium traces the internal politics of deliberative democracy, its entanglement with forms of power and social distinction, and its place in the political in the broadest sense. For more information, contact Kevin Olson, kevin.olson@uci.edu. The full program and copies of the papers will be available soon on the conference website, full program and copies of the papers will be available at <http://politicaltheory.ss.uci.edu>. Until then, the program with information about scheduled

speakers, paper titles, time and location can be accessed on the UCLA workshop website listed above.

Finally, the William Andrews Clark Library in Los Angeles will be hosting a number of conferences this year that may be of interest to CSPT members. In addition to four conferences in the library's core program on "The British Atlantic in an Age of Revolution and Reaction: From Boston to Peterloo and Tea Party to Massacre," organized by Saree Makdisi and Michael Meranze, there will also be a conference on "The Limits of the Atlantic Republican Tradition," organized by Margaret Jacob & Wijnand Mijnhardt. For details on these events go to <http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/c1718cs/calendar.htm> or contact Kirstie McClure.

— Sharon Snowiss & Farah Godrej

NEWS EXCHANGE

Books and Publications

Jeremy Garrett of Rice University has 2 recent articles: "History, Tradition, and the Normative Foundations of Civil Marriage," *The Monist*, 91(3), July 2008, pp. 446–474; and "Why the Old Sexual Morality of the New Natural Law Undermines Traditional Marriage," *Social Theory and Practice*, 34(4), October 2008, pp. TBD.

J.S. Maloy of Oklahoma State has published a new book: *The Colonial American Origins of Modern Democratic Thought*, Cambridge University Press (2008): This first examination in almost 40 years of political ideas in the seventeenth-century American colonies reaches some surprising conclusions about the history of democratic theory more generally. The origins of a distinctively modern kind of thinking about democracy can be located, not in revolutionary America and France in the later eighteenth century, but in the tiny New England colonies in the middle seventeenth. The key feature of this democratic rebirth was honoring not only the principle of popular sovereignty through regular elections but also the principle of accountability

through non-electoral procedures for the auditing and impeachment of elected officers. By staking its institutional identity entirely on elections, modern democratic thought has misplaced the sense of robust popular control that originally animated it.

Steven Lecce (University of Manitoba), has published an article, "How Political is the Personal? Justice in Upbringing," *Theory and Research in Education* (March, 2008). This paper is part of a larger book project that he is currently working on entitled *Equality's Domain*: it explores the interface between personal ethics and political morality in a variety of legislative and policy areas.

Shadia B. Drury (University of Regina) has published a book, *Aquinas and Modernity: The Lost Promise of Natural Law* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008). In this startling book, Drury overturns the long-standing reputation of Thomas Aquinas as the most rational and moderate exponent of the Christian faith. Instead, Drury reveals that Aquinas' zealous defense of the Inquisition, the persecution of Jews, and the Crusades, are integral to his political philosophy. Far from being an antiquarian exercise, Drury shows why the study of Aquinas is relevant to the politics of the twenty-first century, where theocracy has new and powerful adherents. For Drury, religion is as incompatible with political moderation and sobriety in our time as it was in the thirteenth century. This is why she defends a secular version of Aquinas's theory of natural law—a theory that he betrayed in favor of what she calls "the politics of salvation."

Paul Thomas (Berkeley) has published *Marxism & Scientific Socialism: from Engels to Althusser*, Routledge (2008). Engels declared at Marx's funeral in Highgate Cemetery that "just as Darwin discovered the law of development of organic nature, so Marx discovered the law of development of human history." Scientific socialism was the term Engels used to describe Marx's socio-economic philosophy and many

later theorists sought to reinforce Marxist theory with a supposedly scientific basis. This book explains the development of the idea of scientific socialism through the 19th and 20th century from its origins in Engels to its last manifestation in the work of Althusser. It provides a detailed analysis of Engel's own conceptualization, the impact of Darwin, the relationship to the 'official' historical materialism of the Soviet states and later reformulations by Althusser and others. In so doing it provides a vivid intellectual history of Marxist and socialist thought, exploring its significant insights as well its manifest failures.

Conferences

Princeton University Center for Human Values will be hosting a conference, "Beyond Elections: The Democratic Legitimacy of New Forms of Representation," December 5th–6th, 2008. The conference is cosponsored by the Department of Political Science of Columbia University and the Department of Political Science University of British Columbia. The conference organizers are Nadia Urbinati (Columbia University), Mark E. Warren (University of British Columbia), and Stephen Macedo (Director, Center for Human Values).

Elections for representatives are the central means through which representative governments institutionalize responsiveness to their citizens. Two considerations, however, suggest that this is a good time to think about the democratic functions of non-electoral representation—that is, individuals and organizations that make representative claims on behalf of others, but operate outside of electoral processes. The first consideration is a critical one. As contemporary societies become more pluralistic, complex, information-saturated, and global, elections seem to leave much of the work of democratic representation undone. The second consideration has to do with evolving political practices. Democratic innovation has been driven by policy development and administration. The older practices of public hearings are now complemented by a host of newer processes, such as public

consultations, stakeholder meetings, citizen juries, and citizen assemblies. International organizations increasingly seek formal roles for "civil society," supplementing or bypassing the representative functions of their members, usually states.

Though these new forms of representation do not make use of elections as mechanisms of democratic authorization and accountability, their "democratic" credentials should not be dismissed out of hand. Considered as a whole, these new forms probably do much of the work of inclusion and deliberation central to the functioning of democratic systems, and may be essential to furthering democratic norms.

Democratic theorists today are quite aware of these issues and problems, and many have developed partial approaches. But we have not yet developed the systematic theoretical approaches that new forms of representation require—approaches that both theorize the nature of the phenomena, and assess their roles in democracy. This workshop aims to advance our thinking about nonelectoral representation within democracy by bringing together a small number of scholars who have been working on facets of this general problem

Graduate Student News

The Department of Government at Harvard University is pleased to announce the following dissertations completed in the 2007–08 academic year:

Marius Hentea, "Realism's Classical Tradition: Thucydides, Machiavelli, and Hobbes" (Supervisor: Stanley Hoffmann); Helene Landemore, "Democratic Reason: Politics, Collective Intelligence, and the Rule of the Many" (Supervisor: Richard Tuck); Aziz Rana, "Settler Empire and the Promise of American Freedom" (Supervisor: Nancy Rosenblum); and Almaz Zelleke, "Radical Pluralism: Arguments for an Unconditional Basic Income in the United States" (Supervisor: Dennis Thompson and Jennifer Hochschild).

Lisa Uhler received her PhD from North Texas this summer. Her dissertation was entitled "Pride and Sexual Friendship: The battle of the sexes in Nietzsche's post-democratic world." The dissertation analyzes Nietzsche's notoriously ambiguous view of women by drawing on a wide range of his writings. It argues that Nietzsche's attitude toward women is not as negative as many believe, that he saw the possibility of a higher role for woman. The dissertation takes issue, on Nietzsche's behalf, with many feminist arguments concerning the nature of woman, and woman's proper role.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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