

# CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

The 2008 CSPT spring symposium on “Reason of State” was held on April 25th at UCLA. Co-sponsored by the University’s Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Center for Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies, and Political Theory Workshop, the event drew a lively and engaged audience of sixty or more for the day’s wide-ranging discussions. Panelists and audience participants included philosophers, historians, political theorists, and sociologists, as well as scholars of literature and the fine arts. The final program appears below in this newsletter, and the symposium papers are available (password-protected) to members on the CSPT website <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/polisci/cspt/conferences.html>.

The close of the North American summer will again find many of us at the American Political Science Association annual meeting. This year, that will happen in Boston, MA, and although the date has not yet been confirmed by APSA, the CSPT Reception should be slotted for the evening of Thursday, August 28th. Final details as to day and location, of course, will be available in the conference program when it is posted on the APSA website at <http://www.apsanet.org>. In addition to conversations circling around the ever-popular no-host bar, we look forward to announcing the winner of the Elaine and David Spitz Prize for the best book in liberal and/or democratic theory published two years previous to the 2008 competition. We very much hope that those of you who are attending the conference or living in the greater Boston area will join us for the festivities.

Looking further ahead: Planning continues for our major event of 2008–09, a three-day conference titled “Possibility and Paradox: On

Rhetoric and Political Theory,” now tentatively scheduled for early April 2009 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, on the shore of Lake Michigan. Organized by Keith Topper and Dilip Gaonkar, and co-sponsored by CSPT and Northwestern University’s Center for Global Culture and Communication, the conference will investigate the recent ascendance of interest in rhetoric among historians of political thought and contemporary political theorists. Focusing on key texts and thinkers in the history of political thought and twentieth-century political theory, the conference will examine both theoretical questions concerning the role of rhetoric in political life (e.g., in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*) and the rhetorical dimensions of influential texts in the history of political thought (e.g., Machiavelli’s *The Prince* or Hobbes’s *Leviathan*). Bringing into dialogue scholars of political theory and rhetoric working in a variety of distinct academic disciplines, the aim is to analyze and assess the significance of rhetorical analysis for understanding and addressing central problems of political thought and conduct. The conference will include a number of prominent scholars of political thought and rhetoric from North America, South American, Europe, and elsewhere. A list of participants and conference schedule will be available by the end of June 2008. Anyone wishing to obtain additional information about the conference should contact Keith Topper ([ktopper@northwestern.edu](mailto:ktopper@northwestern.edu)). Updated information will also be available shortly at the Center for Global Culture and Communication website: <http://commweb.soc.northwestern.edu/global-communication>.

Still looking to the future, and reiterating a plea made last fall, we would like to encourage you to invite friends and colleagues in history, political philosophy, political theory, and related

areas to sign onto the e-mail list and participate in CSPT's interdisciplinary network. Although access to CSPT conference papers remains a privilege of paid membership, the newsletter is open to all as a place to exchange information, news, calls for papers, fellowship announcements and other notices of general interest. Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter electronically can do so by contacting Kirstie McClure at [kmmac@ucla.edu](mailto:kmmac@ucla.edu). Membership applications for paper access and yearly passwords should continue to be sent to the CSPT Treasurer, Sharon Snowiss, as directed on the form at the end of this newsletter.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the CSPT area conveners for their contributions to keeping us up to date on programs and events in their regions. And, once again, in keeping with the new CSPT goal of co-sponsoring and publicizing a range of events across the year in multiple locations, we invite suggestions and initiatives for future conferences, colloquia, and symposia. Any and all contributions to furthering our commitment to interdisciplinary work at the intersection of history and theory can be sent to any or all of the CSPT co-chairs.

*David Armitage ([armitage@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:armitage@fas.harvard.edu))*

*Kirstie McClure ([kmmac@ucla.edu](mailto:kmmac@ucla.edu))*

*John McCormick ([jpmccorm@uchicago.edu](mailto:jpmccorm@uchicago.edu))*



## **CSPT SPRING SYMPOSIUM: “REASON OF STATE”**

April 25th, 2008

Introductory Remarks, Kirstie M. McClure

Session I: 10:00 am –12:00 noon

- Moderator: Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA)
- John P. McCormick (University of Chicago), “Prophetic Statebuilding: Machiavelli, Weber and the Passion of Cesare Borgia”
- Remo Bodei (University of Pisa/Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa & UCLA), “From secrecy to transparency? Reason of state and democracy”

Session II: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

- Moderator: Lynn Hunt (UCLA)
- Jacob Soll (Rutgers University), “Commonplace Kings: History and the Culture of Reason of State, 1580–1680”
- Carla Hesse (University of California-Berkeley), “The Spirit of Revolutionary Law: Foundational Justice and the Politics of Legitimation in Republican France”

Session III: 3:45 – 5:15 pm

- Moderator: Brian Walker (UCLA, Political Science)
- Peter Lassman (University of Birmingham), “The Dualism of Realism and Moralism: Max Weber and Reason of State”

## CHAPTER NEWS

### CANADA

#### Western Canada

John von Heyking (University of Lethbridge) presented “Civil Religion and Human Rights in Canada” at a conference on “Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Conscience, Right of Unification: International and Russian Experience of Application: The 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” held in Ekaterinburg, Russia, April 2008. The conference was sponsored by The Expert Council for the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, of Sverdlovsk Region, the “Znanie” Society of Russia, and the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University.

John von Heyking also presented “Religious Education and the Canadian Regime: Some Considerations,” at a conference on “Respecting Religion in Public Education: International Experience and Current Russian Debates,” in April 2008 at the Russian State Humanities University in Moscow.

Margaret Ogrodnick (University of Manitoba) will present “Melancholia and Political Action: Simone de Beauvoir” in June 2008 at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom. This will be part of the “Legacies of Simone de Beauvoir Conference” being held from June 13th–15th. This is the 16th annual international conference organized by the Simone de Beauvoir Society. Conference details can be found at the following website: <http://northumbria.ac.uk/sd/academic/sass/sassevents/simonebeaucon/>.

— *Margaret Ogrodnick*

### UNITED STATES

#### Indian Territory

On March 16th, 2007 Michael Mosher was invited by organizers Mark Bevir and Shannon Stimson to the Berkeley Political Theory Colloquium where he gave a paper regarding: “The Ordinary Awfulness of Politics: Oakeshott, Ma-

ryama, and Tocqueville on the Pathologies of Association.”

— *Eldon Eisenach*

### Louisiana

Ellis Sandoz (Louisiana State University) delivered the Alpheus T. Mason Lecture in Constitutionalism and Political Theory at Princeton University’s James Madison Center in April, on “The Free Man and Free Government in Political Philosophy.”

David Walsh (Catholic University of America) delivered a lecture for the Eric Voegelin Institute and Department of Political Science at Louisiana State University, sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, in January: “Eric Voegelin, Leo Strauss, and the Modern Revolution in Philosophy.”

— *Ellis Sandoz*

### New York

On March 8th 2008, the President of the Italian Republic awarded Professor Nadia Urbinati (Columbia University) the Order of Merit known as “Commendatore della Repubblica.” The Order of Merit is awarded for contributions in the fields of literature and humanities, the economy, public service, and social, philanthropic and humanitarian activities.

In awarding the medal, the President cited Professor Urbinati “For her contribution to the study of democracy and the diffusion of Italian liberal and democratic thought abroad.” This year, the award carries a special meaning because it coincides with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Italian Democratic Constitution and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Columbia University Seminar in Social and Political Thought is finalizing its schedule for the 2008–09 academic year. Speakers will include Danielle Allen (Institute for Advanced Study), Seyla Benhabib (Yale), Corey Bretschneider (Brown), and Jean Cohen (Columbia). The seminar meets approximately once per month on Thursday evenings from 7–9 p.m., and is preceded by dinner. If you are interested in

attending the seminar, please contact Melissa Schwartzberg at:  
ms3125@columbia.edu.

— *Melissa Schwartzberg*

### **Pacific Northwest**

The annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association will be held this year in Portland, Oregon at the world-famous Benson Hotel on November 6th–8th. The conference will feature an array of panels, including panels (still being put together) on a range of political theory topics. The meeting will also feature, as usual in presidential election years, an “election post-mortem,” in which campaign strategists, polling experts, and media people assemble to explain to political scientists what really happened. Anyone interested in presenting a paper or serving on a panel should contact Dr. Vernon Johnson, Department of Political Science, Western Washington University (vernon.johnson@wwu.edu).

— *Curtis Johnson*

### **Rocky Mountains**

We are in the middle of a series of meetings devoted to Platonic dialogues. Once a month we meet to discuss one or two dialogues. Next up are “Minos” and “Hipparchus.” Our last meeting focused on “Alcibiades I.”

— *Steve McCarl*

### **Southern California**

The last meeting of this academic year for the SoCal CSPT took place on Friday, May 16th at UCLA. Patchen Markell (University of Chicago) presented a paper on “Arendt, Aesthetics, and ‘The Crisis in Culture’” to a gathering that included participants from UCSD, Cal State Fullerton, Loyola-Marymount, Pitzer College, UCLA, and UCSB. The respondent, Beltrán Urdurraga of UCLA, provided sparkling remarks for what turned out to be a sustained discussion not only of the paper itself, but of the promise and perils of inquiry into the Cold War contexts of one of the twentieth century’s most provocative thinkers.

This year’s SoCal meetings have been held on Friday afternoons at 4 pm, ranging southeast to northwest across the LA basin from UC Riverside, to Pitzer College, to UCLA. Next year, however, we would like to vary the format slightly to facilitate attendance in a region legendary for sluggish rush-hour freeways. Preliminary plans are that we will meet once each quarter on a Saturday, and organize the event as a topical symposium with two or more papers. We will continue to meet at different institutions in the Southern California region, and welcome ideas and proposals for topics.

Individual institutions in the region also continue to sponsor regular colloquia and workshops that are open to all. Websites detailing these events over the year are maintained at UCSD and UCLA, respectively, at <http://web.mac.com/jrfritsch/ucsdPTC/Welcome.html> and <http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/department-workshops/political-theory-workshop>.

— *Sharon Snowiss and Farah Godrej*

### **St. Louis**

On May 13th, the Political Theory Research Group at Washington University in St. Louis hosted a one-day conference on “New Approaches to Distributive Justice.” The main presentations were: Philippe Van Parijs (Catholic University of Louvain and Harvard) – “Egalitarian Justice and the Market;” Peter Vallentyne (University of Missouri-Columbia) – “Left-Libertarianism and Gifts;” and John Roemer (Yale) – “Prospects for Equality in Market Economies.” Comments were provided by Steve Fazzari (Washington University), Frank Lovett (Washington University), Eric Rakowski (Berkeley), Colin MacLeod (University of Victoria), David Johnston (Columbia University), and Steve Pressman (Monmouth University).

Meanwhile, the political theory workshop hosted presentations by: Anne Newman (Washington University), “Public Deliberation about Educational Policy;” Mark Piper (St. Louis University), “Personal Autonomy and Prudential Value;” Philip Pettit (Princeton), “Strategies of Freedom;” and Ingrid Crepell (George Washing-

ton University), “Liberal Democracy and the Idea of the Enemy.”

— Frank Lovett

## NEWS EXCHANGE

### Books and Publications

Richard Bellamy’s *Citizenship: A Very Short Introduction* will be published by Oxford University Press in September. The book explores the political character of citizenship and the ways membership, rights and participation interact.

Cecile Laborde’s *Critical Republicanism: The Hijab Controversy and Political Philosophy* will be published in the series Oxford Political Theory in October. The first comprehensive analysis of the philosophical issues raised by the hijab controversy in France, this book also conducts a dialogue between contemporary Anglo-American and French political theory and defends a progressive republican solution to so-called multicultural conflicts in contemporary societies.

*The Constitutionalism of American States*, ed. George E. Connor and Christopher W. Hammons (Festschrift for Donald S. Lutz); University of Missouri Press, 2008.

Charles R. Embry, *The Philosopher and the Storyteller: Eric Voeglin and 20th Century Literature*. University of Missouri Press, 2008.

*The Collected Works of Eric Voeglin, vol. 30: Selected Correspondence, 1950–1984*, ed. Thomas A. Hollweck, has been published by University of Missouri Press, bringing the 34 volume edition to completion saving only vol. 29, which is in preparation and collects the earlier correspondence of Voeglin (1921–1949).

John von Heyking (University of Lethbridge), “Against the Edwardians: Why Religion Has a Place in Politics.” Chapter in *Cross-*

*Currents: Contemporary Political Issues*, 6th edition. Eds. Mark Charlton and Paul Barker. Nelson.

The *History of European Ideas* published a special issue (34/2, 2008) on “Jacob Talmon and Totalitarianism Today: Legacy and Revision.” The issue includes articles by Arie Dubnov, Malachi H. Hacohen, Eran Shalev, David Ohana, Hedva Ben Israel, Ezra Mendelsohn and Efraim Podoksik.

Jeremy Garrett of Rice University will have an article published on the topic of marriage in June 2008: “History, Tradition, and the Normative Foundations of Civil Marriage,” *The Monist*, vol. 91, no 3.

Sandrine Baume has published several works: *Kelsen. Plaidier la démocratie* (Paris, 2007); *Carl Schmitt, penseur de l'Etat. Genèse d'une doctrine* (Paris, 2008); ed. with Biancamaria Fontana (ed.), *Les usages de la separation des pouvoirs / The uses of the separation of powers* (Paris, 2008).

Léonard Burnand, “Nicolas Baudeau polémiste,” in Alain Clément (ed.), *Nicolas Baudeau, un "philosophe économiste" au temps des Lumières* (Paris, 2008): p. 306–31.

André Holenstein, Thomas Maissen, Maarten Prak eds., *The Republican Alternative: The Netherlands and Switzerland compared* (Amsterdam, 2008).

Emer de Vattel, *The Law of Nations*, edited and with an Introduction by Béla Kapossy and Richard Whatmore, Natural Law and Enlightenment Classics, Liberty Fund (Indiana, 2008).

Béla Kapossy (ed.), “Republican Political Economy,” Special Issue, *History of European Ideas*, Vol. 33, Issue 4, 2007.

Béla Kapossy and Richard Whatmore, “Emer de Vattel's *Mélange de littérature, de mo-*

rare et de politique,” *History of European Ideas*, Vol. 34, Issue 1, 2008, p.77–103.

Thomas Maissen, *Die Geburt der Republic. Staatsverständnis und Repräsentation in der frühneuzeitlichen Eid-genossenschaft* (Göttingen, 2006, 2nd ed. 2008).

Thomas Maissen, “Inventing the Sovereign Republic. Imperial Structures, French Challenges, Dutch Models, and the Early Modern Swiss Confederation,” in André Holenstein, Thomas Maissen, Maarten Prak (ed.), *The Republican Alternative. The Netherlands and Switzerland compared* (Amsterdam, 2008).

### Conferences

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 Stiftung Ettersberg, Foundation for the Comparative Study of European Dictatorships and their Democratic Transition, Weimar) will host a conference in Weimar on “Dealing with the totalitarian experience of Communist Germany and building a democratic political culture.” The purpose of the conference is to investigate how the political culture of a country shapes the way in which it deals with its totalitarian experience. Further, the conference aims at shedding light on the influence this way of dealing with a country’s totalitarian past has on its citizens’ understanding of the rule of law and of ethical values.

The conference will be organized in four sections: I. Political culture: Theoretical concepts and empirical findings; II. Historical comparisons and country studies: Differences in dealing with the Nazi- and the Communist experience; comparisons between Germany, Poland and Hungary in dealing with the Communist past; III. Major political actors in dealing with the past and shaping the political culture: The Office of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi-files, the decisions of the German parliament on the rehabilitation of victims of political persecution in the GDR; the role of the courts in

dealing with political persecution etc. IV. Is the Communist totalitarian experience neglected by German scholars of Politics & Government and Political Philosophy?

The conference language will be German. For further information please contact Dr. Hendrik Hansen at the University of Passau (hendrik.hansen@uni-passau.de).

The University of Glasgow will be hosting a conference on Adam Smith, March 31st–April 2nd, 2009. Plenary lectures will be given by Nicholas Phillipson (University of Edinburgh), J. Chandler (University of Chicago), Tom Campbell (Australian National University), and Amarty Sen (Harvard University). Throughout the Conference an exhibition of the University’s Smith-iana will be open free to Registered participants. For further information, please contact C.J.Berry@socsci.gla.ac.uk.

### Graduate Student News

On May 19th, 2008, Reidar Maliks, Columbia University (Department of Political Science), defended his dissertation on “Making the Center Hold: Kant on Sovereignty and Resistance.” The dissertation explores the puzzle of Kant’s two-fold commitment to individual rights and absolute state sovereignty. Via an investigation of Kant’s larger context, from Althusius to Herder, the basic claim is that Kant was motivated by a desire to secure the transition from the unjust and disorderly German empire to the lawful sovereign state, capable of protecting rights. Rationally reconstructed, Kant’s political theory does not require submission to entirely unjust government and can even serve to justify practices of loyal opposition, such as civil disobedience.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please send to:*

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Secretary-Treasurer, CSPT  
Political Studies Department  
Pitzer College  
Claremont, CA 91711  
USA

***Dues apply to the calendar year, and entitle members to access copies of the conference papers for the year. Payable in US Dollars.***

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