

CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

It has been some time since the CSPT has seen the arrival of a new chapter, so it gives us great pleasure to announce that, after a long hiatus, the Southern California CSPT has been restored to life. Thanks to the energies of Farah Godrej (UC Riverside), Sharon Snowiss (Pitzer College), and Susan McWilliams (Pomona College), the SoCal group is now off to a running start, as you'll see in their first report to the 'Chapter News' section below. We extend a warm welcome as well as congratulations to all involved in making this happen.

California is also the site of our next general CSPT event—a daylong symposium on “Reason of State,” organized by Kirstie McClure and Tracy Strong, to be held at UCLA on April 25th. In contemporary political theory, the question of “reason of state” seems to have given way to that of “the state of exception.” Contributors to this symposium, however, will focus on key historical moments and theoretical problematics attending “reason of state” from its inception in the 16th century to its echoes and transformations in the 20th. The core presenters and their topics will be:

- John P. McCormick (University of Chicago), “Prophetic Statebuilding: Machiavelli, Weber and the Passion of Cesare Borgia”
- Remo Bodei (UCLA and University of Pisa), “From Politics as a Secret Science to Politics as a Transparent Public Activity”
- Jacob Soll (Rutgers University), “Commonplace Kings: History and the Culture of Reason of State 1580–1680”
- Carla Hesse (UC Berkeley), “The Spirit of Revolutionary Law: Foundational Justice and

the Politics of Legitimation in Republican France”

- Peter Lassman (University of Birmingham), “Realism and Moralism”

Program times and final details will be soon posted on the main CSPT website. Contact Kirstie McClure at kmmac@ucla.edu for further information.

Our last general announcement shifts in time to next year and in space to Chicago. Planning is now under way for a three-day conference at Northwestern University in the spring term of 2009. Organized by Keith Topper and Dilip Gaonkar, both of Northwestern, its focus will be “Possibility and Paradox: On Rhetoric and Political Theory.”

This 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*). Its aim is to analyze and assess the significance of rhetorical analysis for understanding and addressing central problems of political thought and conduct.

In addition to these broad aims, the organizers plan to explore a variety of overlapping issues and to accomplish a number of more distinctive goals. First, they hope to bring into conversation perspectives and modes of analysis that are often isolated from, or in apparent tension with, one another. Significantly, the recent interest in the rhetorical dimensions of political

theory percolates across familiar divisions within the field of academic political theory: textualists and contextualists, historians of political thought and contemporary political theorists, Anglo-American and Continental scholars, and students of various “traditions” of political thought (liberal, republican, conservative, and multiple branches of democratic thought) have all contributed to recent investigations of the topic. More broadly, interest in questions of rhetorical practice and political thought cut across a variety of disciplinary divisions that often separate scholarship in political theory from work in the adjacent fields of communication, literary studies, and history. Unfortunately, scholars working in disparate corners of political theory and in disciplines other than political science and philosophy often conduct their inquiries in isolation from one another, thereby missing opportunities to explore collectively their common interests and diverse perspectives. One purpose of this conference is to establish a dialogue among diverse scholars who wish to understand the complex and contested relationship between rhetoric and political thought.

A second goal of the conference is to examine systematically questions that emerge when one proposes a pivotal link between an understanding of rhetoric and an understanding of political thought and theory. One key issue concerns the very meaning and significance of “rhetoric” in political thought and discourse, i.e., what it is and why it matters. While it is undoubtedly the case that the resurgence of interest in rhetoric among students of political thought has been fueled in part by a rethinking of the nature and meaning of rhetoric itself—one that, among other things, departs from popular views of rhetoric as inherently deceptive, dissimulating, and manipulative—the question of what makes a text or utterance rhetorical, and why and how those rhetorical dimensions matter, remains a source of lively and often intense controversy. Rather than settle this dispute by definitional fiat, the conference proposes to examine the issue itself by exploring the diverse sources and political significance of recent and enduring

disagreements about the meaning of rhetoric and the rhetorical dimensions of political discourse.

Third, the conference will examine how attention to the role and function of rhetoric in political discourse inflects and illuminates our understanding of a range of other key issues in political theory. These include, for example, questions regarding the role of affect and emotion in political life, the poetics and aesthetics of political discourse and experience, the nature of political judgment, the relationship between language and political power, and the proper character of public speech and discourse in democratic polities.

We will keep you posted in future newsletters with further information about this event as planning proceeds.

Finally, we’d like to thank all the area conveners for keeping us abreast of happenings of interest to CSPT members. CSPT has long been a lively communications network for scholarship across the disciplines, and we are grateful for all of our correspondents’ efforts to keep us up to date.

Kirstie McClure, UCLA
John McCormick, Chicago
David Armitage, Harvard

CHAPTER NEWS

CANADA

Western Canada

Margaret Ogrodnick (University of Manitoba) will be giving a lecture at the University of Regina entitled “Simone de Beauvoir: Philosophy or Autobiography?” on March 14th, 2008. This lecture is sponsored by the Departments of Philosophy and Classics, Political Science, and Women’s Studies.

An Interdisciplinary Political Theory network (IPT) is being organized at the University of Alberta by Anna Yeatman and Magdalena Zolkos. The IPT Network provides a forum for paper presentation and discussion for political and social theorists, as well as philosophers at the University of Alberta. Meetings planned for

this semester include: Sharon Rosenberg (University of Alberta) on January 11th, presenting “Trauma and Ignorance: Deliberations in Precarious Theorizing;” Kamila Stullerova (University of Alberta) on February 8th, presenting “Uncertainty and Politics: Liberalism and Schmitt’s Critique;” David Kahane (University of Alberta) on March 7th, presenting “Obligation, Compassion, and Global Justice;” Joanne Faulkner (University of Alberta) on March 14th, presenting “Innocence and the Political Community;” Vicki Kirby (University of New South Wales) on April 4th, presenting “Judith Butler and the Impasse of Cultural Constructionism;” Anna Yeatman (University of Alberta) on April 11th, presenting “The Politico-Ethical Significance of Individuality;” Rebecca Stringer (University of Otago) on April 25th, presenting “Neoliberalism and Victim Politics;” and a guest lecture by Thomas Kemple (University of British Columbia) on May 2nd.

— *Margaret Ogrodnick*

EUROPE

Germany

In September 2007 the German Society for the Study of Political Thought (“Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Erforschung des politischen Denkens,” or DGEPD) has chosen a new board of directors with Barbara Zehnpfennig (University of Passau) as first director, Clemens Kauffmann (University of Erlangen-Nuernberg) as second director, and Peter Nitschke (University of Vechta) as secretary.

At Passau, September 27th–29th, 2007, the DGEPD organized under the responsibility of Barbara Zehnpfennig an international conference with members from Germany, Spain, Croatia and America. The conference’s topic was Plato’s *Laws*: “Die Herrschaft der Gesetze und die Herrschaft des Menschen.” The lectures and the results of the discussions will be published in 2008. For more information, please contact Peter Nitschke at peter.nitschke@uni-vechta.de.

— *Peter Nitschke*

ISRAEL

The spring schedule for the Jerusalem Seminar in the History of Political Thought is as follows: February 27th, Erich Kofmel (University of Sussex/Sciences Po Paris), “Anti-Egalitarianism in Plato, Nietzsche, Ibsen, and Rand;” March 26th, Chad Alan Goldberg (University of Wisconsin-Madison), “Towards a Durkheimian Theory of Anti-Semitism;” April 30th, Rony Klein (Hebrew University), “The Political Dimension in French Jewish Thought in the 1970s and 1980s;” May 28th, Hanan Yoran (Ben Gurion University): “Machiavelli’s Critique of Florentine Civic Humanism: The Discovery of the Dark Side of Modernity;” June 18th, João Tiago Proença (Universidade Nova de Lisboa), “Caesar Waiting for God: A Chapter on the History of Political Thought in the 19th century.” Please send your paper proposals and all other questions to Efraim Podoksik. E-mail: podoksik@mscc.huji.ac.il.

The Posen Research Forum for Jewish European and Israeli Political Thought (Haifa University) is dedicated to the intellectual history of political and legal cultures in Europe and in Israel, with particular emphasis on the Jewish-European millennium and its viable legacies for modern political thinking, and for positive Israeli-European dialogue. Launched in October 2003, the Posen Forum offers a discussion setting and research support for scholars and students interested in various aspects of Jewish-European and European-Israeli political and legal thought.

— *Efraim Podoksik*

UNITED STATES

Lonestar

Lisa Ellis at Texas A&M announces the seventh annual Texas A&M Political Theory Conference, to be held Saturday, March 1st, 2008. This year’s theme is “Must Political Theory Engage the Market? A Conference on Political Theory and the World of Production.” Speakers include Eric MacGilvray (Ohio State), Russell Muirhead (UT-Austin), and Jacqueline Stevens (UC-Santa Barbara). The meeting is

preceded by a dinner, to be held Friday, February 29 at Lisa's house in College Station. For details, see <http://tamutheoryconference08.blogspot.com>.

Dwight Allman at Baylor announces that the annual meeting of the Lone Star chapter of CSPT will be held on April 12th, 2008, at Texas A&M University. Four papers will be presented: Dwight Allman (Baylor), "The Question of History in Rawls' Liberalism: On the Overlapping Consensus and the Problem of Public Culture;" Jeremy Garrett (Rice), "The New Natural Law Argument against Traditional Marriage;" Jason Maloy (Oklahoma State), "Prudence and Statecraft against Reason and Deliberation;" Erum Shaikh (North Texas), "Echos from the Past: Osama bin Laden's Inspiration for Jihad?" Contact dwight_allman@baylor.edu for more details.

— *J. S. Maloy*

Louisiana

David Walsh of Catholic University of America will lecture at LSU on: "Voegelin, Strauss, and the Modern Philosophical Revolution They Missed," March 11th, 3 p.m., Hill Memorial Library Lecture Hall. Sponsored by the Eric Voegelin Institute.

— *Ellis Sandoz*

New York

The spring lineup for CSPT at Columbia University includes: Arash Abizadeh (February 7th), Archon Fung (March 13th), Dana Villa (April 3rd), and Patchen Markell (April 24th). Political theorists in the New York area who are interested in attending any of the sessions or becoming a member of the seminar should contact Anna Stilz (as3113@columbia.edu).

— *Anna Stilz*

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

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is currently reading and discussing Platonic dialogues. Each monthly meeting is devoted to a dialogue. So far we have considered *Phaedo*, *Meno*, and *Charmides*. *Gorgias* is next, and then we will decide to continue with others or not.

— *Steven McCarl*

Southern California

Farah Godrej (UC Riverside), Sharon Snowiss (Pitzer), and Susan McWilliams (Pomona) have collaborated to reactivate the Southern California regional chapter of the CSPT. UC Riverside hosted the first meeting February 8th, where John Seery of Pomona College was to present a work-in-progress titled "Jesus for President." Sadly, at the last minute Seery fell ill, but Farah Godrej stepped into the breach to present work in progress on "Gandhi's Civic Virtue of Nonviolence: A Public Philosophy for Multicultural Democracies?" The core question debated and discussed was how to how to tap both the promise and the limits of what many of us now call 'comparative political theory'.

John Seery will now be the featured speaker at the SoCal chapter's second meeting, at Pitzer College in March. April will bring Sankar Muthu to UC Riverside, and in May Patchen Markell will come to UCLA. For more information, maps, and locations of the meeting/s (and in some cases dinner/s)—or if you would like to be put on the SoCal CSPT mailing list—please contact Farah Godrej (godrej@ucr.edu).

On the western side of the SoCal region, Kirstie McClure and Andrew Sabl are now convening the UCLA Political Theory Workshop. Papers are made available in advance on the workshop website. Anyone in the area who is interested is welcome to come. The workshop schedule, archive, and notices of other events of SoCal CSPT interest can be found at:

<http://www.polisci.ucla.edu/departments-workshops/political-theory-workshop>

Workshops thus far are archived on the site; upcoming workshops include Andrew Norris (UC Santa Barbara), “Thoreau, Cavell, and the Foundations of True Political Expression” on February 22nd; Cristina Beltran (Haverford College), “The Borders of Resentment: Hannah Arendt, Immigrant Action, and the Space of Appearance” on March 7th; Chandran Kukathas (London School of Economics), “Genocide and Group Rights” on March 13th; Megan Thomas (UC Santa Cruz), “Orientalism, Anthropology and Nationalist Thought of the Late Nineteenth-Century Philippines” on May 2nd. On May 16th the UCLA group will host the SoCal meeting with the visit of Patchen Markell (University of Chicago), “Arendt, Aesthetics, and the Crisis of Culture.” Within the next month or so, as we work out the requisite technology, CSPT members will be able to access these and other SoCal-CSPT resources via the main CSPT website.

— *Sharon Snowiss*

St. Louis

The Political Theory Research Group at Washington University has a packed lineup of speakers for the spring. So far, we have had presentations by Andrew Rehfeld, Neil Richards, Laura Rosenbury, and Larry May.

Upcoming sessions include: Anne Newman (Washington University), “Public Deliberation about Educational Policy;” Mark Piper (St. Louis University), “Personal Autonomy and Prudential Value;” Ira Katznelson (Columbia University), “Liberal Beginnings: Making a Republic for the Moderns;” and Philip Pettit (Princeton University), “Strategies of Freedom;” among others.

On May 13th, Washington University will host a special one-day conference on the topic of new research in equality. Among the speakers will be Philippe van Parijs, John Roemer, and Peter Vallentyne. For more information, contact Frank Lovett (flovett@artsci.wustl.edu).

— *Frank Lovett*

NEWS EXCHANGE

Announcements

A Mellon-funded interdisciplinary program—the Atlantic Imagination in the Age of Romanticism—invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship in the Humanities at UCLA. The fellowship builds on, and will be part of, a developing program that brings together faculty and advanced graduate students from the departments of English, Comparative Literature, History, Geography, Political Science and Latin American Studies, and is intended not only to transcend disciplinary frontiers within the humanities but to build extensions beyond what is ordinarily considered the purview of the humanities. The program's temporal focal point is the age of revolution and Romanticism (for our purposes, 1785–1848), although its interests extend beyond those dates in both directions, and we would welcome applications from scholars whose work ranges forward into the nineteenth century, or back into the earlier eighteenth and even late seventeenth centuries as well.

Geographically speaking, the program's focal point is the Atlantic itself, one of the primary sites of activity driving the global economy in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The merchant, slave and war ships crossing the Atlantic served to transmit not just wealth but also ideas, knowledge, philosophical and political concepts, and new cultural and aesthetic forms back and forth between both sides of the ocean. On the one hand, they circulated among cultural and political elites who (at least in the English-speaking world) constituted a single public sphere—a shared universe of authors, publishers, readers, and reviewers that would remain centered on London until later in the nineteenth

century. On the other hand, they circulated among working-class or enslaved black, white and mulatto men and women, who crossed and re-crossed the ocean, carrying with them-and generating their own-new ideas, narratives, concepts, associations and forms of thought, in a variety of languages, among which English itself sometimes seemed marginal; these ideas, and the plebeian subculture that they embodied, had considerable cultural and political impact on both sides of the Atlantic, and all along the coastal and island communities of the Western Hemisphere. The program's research agenda engages scholarship that explicitly addresses transatlantic currents as well scholarship that is limited to either side of the Atlantic but that is interdisciplinary in nature or ambition. It aims to transcend the national, cultural, class, racial, economic, political or linguistic boundaries traditionally imposed on scholarship.

The fellowship carries a salary of \$45,000 (plus benefits) as well as a moving allowance and research budget. The fellow would be expected to teach two courses a year, and to be housed in one of the departments affiliated with our program, and to participate in an ongoing series of lectures and seminars with distinguished visiting scholars whose ultimate objective is to help transform the way in which the humanities are taught at UCLA. We invite applications from scholars in the humanities who will have received their doctoral degrees by July 1st, 2008 (but no earlier than 2003). Applications should include a statement of purpose, a cv, a writing sample of no more than 25 pages and three letters of recommendation; they should be postmarked by March 1st, 2008 and addressed to Saree Makdisi, UCLA Department of English, 149 Humanities Building, Los Angeles CA 90095.

Call for papers: The Tenth Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies (ISUS) will be held on September 11th–14th, 2008, at the University of California, Berkeley. The meeting is co-hosted by the Berkeley School of Law and its Kadish Center for Moral-

ity, Law and Public Affairs. The conference seeks paper and panel proposals concerning the study of utilitarianism and the utilitarian tradition broadly conceived. This includes scholarship (both positive and critical) on contemporary utilitarianism and consequentialism, as well as more wide-ranging scholarship concerning figures within the utilitarian canon and the leading social and political issues – such as democracy, law reform, political economy, welfare and equality, colonization and international law – which have figured centrally in the utilitarian tradition.

Scholars representing all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are encouraged to participate. Past ISUS meetings have included faculty and graduate students in philosophy, political science, law, economics, history and literature. Conference highlights will include distinguished plenary lectures and panels, as well as monetary prizes awarded to the best graduate student papers presented at the meeting. Papers from younger faculty and advanced graduate students are encouraged.

The conference welcomes proposals for individual papers and encourages proposals for panels round-table discussions linked to a common theme. All proposals should include a 200-word abstract for each paper and a one-page C.V. for each participant. Proposals for panels of papers and round tables also should include a brief précis of the panel topic as a whole. Please place the proposal and C.V. in electronic format and submit as an email attachment to: ISUS@law.berkeley.edu. The deadline for application is February 18th, 2008.

Books and Publications

Istvan P. Bejczy and Cary J. Nederman, eds., *Princely Virtues in the Middle Ages 1200-1500* (Brepols, 2007). The ethical dimension of medieval political thought has always received sustained attention, yet the theme of the meaning and function of specific virtues in a political context has thus far been largely neglected. The contributions to the volume discuss various aspects related to this theme, such as the relation

between virtues of rulers and general moral precepts; the tension between 'secular' or philosophical perspectives on virtue and Christian moral thought; and the use of moral virtues for political ends.

Sandrine Baume, *Carl Schmitt, penseur de l'Etat. Genèse d'une doctrine* (Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2008). 315 pp.

Biancamaria Fontana, *Montaigne's Politics: Authority and Governance in the Essais* (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2008). 216 pp.

Béla Kapossy (ed), "Republican Political Economy," special issue of *History of European Ideas* 33(4): 2007.

Simone Zurbuchen (ed), *Bürgerschaft und Migration. Einwanderung und Einbürgerung aus ethisch-politischer Perspektive* (Münster, LIT, 2007). 315 pp.

Léonard Burnand, "Necker et la politique d'information: le Compte rendu au Roi (1781)," in *Genève et la Suisse dans la pensée politique, Actes du XVIIIe Colloque de l'Association française des historiens des idées politiques* (Aix-en-Provence, Presses universitaires d'Aix-Marseille, 2007), p. 137–145; and "Necker historien de la Révolution française," *Annales Benjamin Constant* 31–32 (2007): p. 71–84.

Etienne Hofmann, "Prefazione," in *Benjamin Constant, Principi di politica, A cura di Stefano de Luca* (Soveria Mannelli: Rubbettino, 2007), p. XVII-XXV.

Hanan Yoran, "Florentine Civic Humanism and the Emergence of Modern Ideology," *History and Theory* 46 (2007): pp. 326-344.

Fania Oz-Salzberger, "The Political Thought of John Locke and the Significance of Political Hebraism," *Hebraic Political Studies* 1 (2006): pp. 568–592; and "Adam Ferguson's Philosophy of Action," in: Eugene Heath and Vincenzo

Merolle (eds.), *Adam Ferguson: History, Progress and Human Nature* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2007), pp. 147-158.

Amos Morris-Reich, *The Quest for Jewish Assimilation in Modern Social Science* (London: Routledge, 2007).

Amos Morris-Reich, "Ruppin and the peculiarities of race: A response to Etan Bloom," *History of European Ideas* 34 (2008): pp. 116–119.

John von Heyking (University of Lethbridge) & Richard Avramenko, *Friendship and Politics: Essays in Political Thought* (Notre Dame Press, 2008).

Shadia Drury (University of Regina) published a number of papers: "Leo Strauss and the American Imperial Project," *Political Theory* 35 (2007): pp. 62–67; "Reply to Smith," *Political Theory* 35 (2007): pp. 73–74; "Exterminating the Enemy," *Free Inquiry* 27 (2007): pp. 22–23; "Gurus of Endless War" *The New Humanist* (2007): pp. 24–27; "Biblical Religion and Deadly Wars," *Free Inquiry* 27 (2007): pp. 18–19; "Faith, Hope, and Charity," *Free Inquiry* 27 (2007): pp. 21–22; "Reply to my Critics," *Free Inquiry* 27 (2007): pp. 61 and 66; "Reading Leo Strauss," *Claremont Review of Books* 7 (Summer 2007).

Conferences

The following conference will be held at NYU Law School on March 13th–15th, 2008: "A Just Empire? Rome's Legal Legacy and the Justification of War and Empire in International Law." We hope that many CSPT members will be able to attend.

Roman law and other texts dealing with Roman armed expansion and warfare were among the most influential traditions in the 16th and 17th century development of the law of nations in Europe and in European imperial expansion. The first panels of this conference inquire into the importance of Roman law and of judg-

ments about Roman practice as sources for later thinking about the law of nations, imperialism, and just war. Several of the papers will use the work of the sixteenth-century Roman law scholar Alberico Gentili (1552–1608) as one focal point for the discussion of these wider issues. The later panels consider connections between these Roman traditions and major European thinkers on international law in the 18th century such as Barbeyrac, Montesquieu and Vattel, and the impact of this tradition and of other justifications of European expansion in the Americas and elsewhere.

The conference aims to bring together participants from several different disciplines, extending from ancient historians to specialists in modern international legal and political theory, in order to deepen understandings of this Roman tradition and of its ebb and flow among the different projects to justify and shape imperialism through law. The conference will also draw wider attention to Alberico Gentili’s work, and provides an opportunity for deeper evaluation of the traditions of Roman and international legal thought on war and imperialism to which he was a signal contributor. For more information, visit: <http://www.law.nyu.edu/conferences/gentili>.

The Eric Voegelin Society plans to hold its 24th Annual International Meeting concurrently with the APSA Annual Conference in Boston, August 28th–31st, 2008. Tentative panels include: “America as Vindicator or Exemplar,” “Voegelin and the Liberal Political Order,” “Politics Unto Creativity: Eric Voegelin Applied,” “Mysticism and Philosophy in Voegelin’s Work,” “Resistance to Tyrants is Obedience to God,” “Eric Voegelin and Modern European Continental Thought,” among others. For further information, please contact Ellis Sandoz (esandoz@lsu.edu).

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please send to:

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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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Areas of interest in political theory:
