

CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

Thanks to everyone who attended the CSPT reception at APSA in Toronto for helping to make it such a rousing success. Many people from various stages of their careers (graduate students to professors emeriti) dropped by to share drinks, carry on conversation and hear the announcement of the Spitz Prize (more on this below). We look forward to attracting an even larger crowd next year in Washington, DC!

We would also like to remind everyone that CSPT is an affiliate organization of the American Historical Association (AHA), which meets annually in early January. It has been some years since CSPT sponsored a panel there, and it would be beneficial for both organizations if we were to do so again, and to do so regularly. In 2011, the AHA will meet in Boston, January 6th–9th. The call for proposals has just been issued and can be found online at: <http://www.historians.org/Perspectives/issues/2009/0909/0909ann3.cfm>. For further guidelines on submitting a proposal see: <http://www.historians.org/annual/2007/proposalFAQ.cfm>. If you have a panel topic in mind, but would like to discuss it further or find other members to join the session, please contact David Armitage armitage@fas.harvard.edu. The deadline for submission of proposals is February 15th, 2010.

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

2009 SPITZ PRIZE WINNER

The winner of the Spitz Prize for 2009 is Richard Bellamy for *Political Constitutionalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). In a lively and powerful style, Bellamy's book brilliantly discusses the three main political traditions (liberalism, republicanism, and democracy) according to a very timely and important issue: the relationship between politics and human rights.

Bellamy criticizes legal constitutionalism as opposed to political constitutionalism and argues that democracy is a constitutionalized politics, and in this sense constitutionalism is not the domain of judges and lawyers because it states not merely rights and the rule of law but also, and moreover, the political institutions that are to implement those rights. "In fact, the rule of law, in the sense of all being equal under the law, emerged from the self-same process of economic development and social pluralism that gave rise to democracy, and has only survived and developed in those societies where the democratic control of power and the socio-economic conditions that support it persist" (p. 2). Bellamy argues convincingly that a reading of the constitution as a stop on and containment of politics is the main source of misunderstanding in present debate on democracy and the rights. Moreover, in making his case he discusses, very intelligently and effectively, both the liberal and the republican theories of liberty, and makes us see how modern neo-roman republicanism represents an inversion rather than an evolution of classical republicanism, insofar as it opposes the "republic of reason" and impartial judgment to the republic of politics.

Chaired by Nadia Urbinati (Columbia), the 2009 Spitz committee included Joshua Dienstag (UCLA) and Sharon Krause (Brown). We thank

them for the energy and commitment they brought to the task of selecting this year's prizewinner. For more information on the Spitz Prize, visit <http://icspt.uchicago.edu/spitz.html>.

CHAPTER NEWS

EUROPE

Eastern Britain

The University College London (UCL) program of talks in political thought for the coming academic year will include the Legal and Political Theory Seminar, organized by Professors Richard Bellamy and Cecile Laborde. The speakers will be: David Miller, University of Oxford (October 28th); Michael Freedon, University of Oxford (November 4th); Zofia Stemplowska, University of Reading (November 25th); John Horton, Keele University (December 2nd); Jonathan Quong, University of Manchester (December 9th); Bhikhu Parekh, University of Westminster/House of Lords (February 17th). All seminars are held at 5:00 pm in the Council Room, School of Public Policy, UCL. Papers can be downloaded a week before the talk at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/seminars>.

The Colloquium in Legal and Social Philosophy organized by George Lestas (Laws) and Jonathan Wolff (Philosophy) will host another series: Matthew Kramer (Cambridge) on January 27th; a memorial event to G. A. Cohen on February 3rd; Paul Casal (Barcelona) on February 10th; Jon Elster (Paris /New York) on February 24th; Sophia Reibetanz Moreau (Toronto) on March 3rd; Cecile Fabre (Edinburgh) on March 10th. All sessions begin at 4:00 pm and continue until 7:00 pm. They are held in the Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, Wilkins Building, UCL. Papers can be downloaded a week before the talk at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/seminars>.

UCL has just launched a new Institute for Human Rights. The Institute web site can be found at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-rights/>. The launch event will be on October 15th, and will be a conference on "Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Rights: Have Ten Years of Voluntarism Worked?," with a keynote lec-

ture by Onoroa O'Neill, and discussants including Leif Wenar. Details can be found on <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-rights/events>. The new Institute directors are Saladin Meckled-Garcia (Department of Political Science) and George Lestas (Laws).

The Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health at UCL will host a conference on "Research Ethics Committees: Help or Hindrance?" on the 12th November 2009. Details at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpjh/recs>. This term's seminar will be on Capability, Health and Measurement and held in the Department of Philosophy, Seminar Room, October 7th through December 16th. The conveners are Shepley Orr and Jonathan Wolff. Details available at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cpjh/chm>.

— *Richard Bellamy*

ISRAEL

The schedule of the Jerusalem Seminar in the History of Political Thought for 2009–2010 is as follows: on November 4th, Suzanne Last Stone (Yeshiva University), "Talmudic Reflections on False Prophecy and Self-Deception;" on November 25th, Jean Khalfa (University of Cambridge), "The Polemic between Foucault and Derrida on Descartes and Madness;" on December 23rd, Gordon Schochet (Rutgers University): "Hobbes on Judgment, Will, and the (Changing) Meanings of Conscience in Mid-Seventeenth-Century England;" on January 6th, John Pocock (Johns Hopkins University), "Historiography as a Form of Political Thought;" on February 24th, Guilel Treiber (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), "Taine: from Literary Criticism to Critique of Politics;" on March 17th, Naomi Sussman (Hartman Institute, Jerusalem), "How Many Commonwealths Can a Leviathan Swallow?"

— *Efraim Podoksik*

UNITED STATES

Lonestar

On October 22nd, Sharon Krause of Brown University will give a lecture at the University of Texas at Austin on "Agency, Inequality, and the Meaning of Freedom."

Lorraine and Tom Pangle have been named the first Co-Directors of the new Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and ideas, an undergraduate great books program at the University of Texas at Austin. This includes a lecture series, and anyone wishing to be put on the mailing list should please email.

— *Randy LeBlanc*

Louisiana

The Eric Voegelin Society met in conjunction with the APSA during the Toronto convention – its Silver Anniversary session. Thirteen panels exploring a large range of political theory were conducted and attracted a total audience of more than three hundred. It concluded with a reception in the Churchill room of the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel on Saturday evening, September 5th. The DVD of “Voegelin in Toronto – the 1978 York University Conference” was the subject of one panel and briefly viewed. The DVD which runs 4.5 hours. Is available through Amazon.com. The forthcoming documentary film “Eric Voegelin Philosopher of Resistance” is set for release later this year.

The 26th International Meeting of the Eric Voegelin Society will be held in conjunction with the APSA meeting in Washington, DC., September 2nd–5th, 2010. Suggestions for papers and panel proposals are welcome until December 15th. Persons with proposals (title and two hundred word precis) should directly contact the Eric Voegelin Society secretary, Prof. Ellis Sandoz esandoz@lsu.edu.

— *Ellis Sandoz*

New York

The Columbia Seminar in Political and Social Thought has an exciting lineup of speakers for the 2009–2010 academic year: on October 2nd, Seyla Benhabib, (Yale); on November 13th, Charles Taylor (Northwestern); in December, David Johnston (Columbia); on January 22nd, Melissa Lane (Princeton); on February 12th, Richard Tuck (Harvard); on March 5th, Bob Goodin (Australian National University); and on April 16th, Janet Coleman (London School of

Economics/New York University). For more information about seminar membership, please contact Pablo Kalmanovitz at pk2115@columbia.edu.

— *Melissa Schwartzberg*

Pacific Northwest

The annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association will be held this year in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia, October 15th–17th at the Empress Hotel. There is an especially rich array of political theory panels this year, featuring about twenty papers by younger and more senior scholars. Titles of panels include: “Democratic Engagements: Diverse Approaches;” “Reinterpreting the Canon;” “Contemporary Political Thought;” and “Race, Gender, and Citizenship.” The conference also features the usual array of panels from other parts of the discipline. For more information, including about registration and accommodations, contact Amy Timmins (timmins@lclark.edu); or Curtis Johnson (johnson@lclark.edu).

— *Curtis Johnson*

Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountain chapter met twice during the summer, each session devoted to discussing the *Orestia*. At our September meeting we discussed Hannah Arendt’s essay “Socrates.” At our next meeting, October 31st, we will consider Arendt’s essay “Thinking and Moral Considerations.”

— *Steve McCarl*

St. Louis

The Political Theory Workshop at Washington University in St. Louis has entered into its eighth year, now under the direction of Frank Lovett. The schedule for the fall semester is as follows: on August 28th, Ian MacMullen (Washington University, Political Science) presented “Civic Education and Political Conservatism;” on September 18th, Linda Nicholson (Washington University, Women’s Studies) presented “Identity After Identity Politics;” on September 25th, Gerald Izenberg (Washington University,

History) presented “Tocqueville’s Democracy: The Tyranny of Individualism;” on October 2nd, Jeff Brown (Washington University, Philosophy), presented “Disability, Equality and the Minority Group Model;” on October 9th, Jennifer Rubenstein (University of Virginia, Politics) will present “The Ethics of NGO Advocacy;” on October 30th, Andrew Rehfeld (Washington University, Political Science) will present “Representation and Democracy;” on November 6th, Anne Newman (Washington University, Education) will present “Luck of the Draw? On the Fairness of Charter School Admissions Policies;” on November 13th, Jill Delston (Washington University, Philosophy) will present a paper TBA; on November 20th, David Speetzen (Washington University, Philosophy) will present “Democratic Cosmopolitanism and Forcible Democratization;” and on December 4th, Cristiana Tarnopolsky (McGill University, Political Science) will present “Interrogating Plato’s Noble Lie.” For further information about the workshop, contact flovett@artsci.wustl.edu.

— Frank Lovett

NEWS EXCHANGE

Announcements

The Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy (CRISPP) Essay Prize 2009, for the best article in Volume 11 (2008), goes to Alexander Brown for his article “The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006: a Millian response” *CRISPP* 11.1 (2008): 1–24. The article is available at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g791093668>.

The judges, Professors Peter Jones (Newcastle University, UK) and Richard Vernon (Western Ontario, Canada) regarded the article as an excellent example of the journal’s “Aims and Scope” being “clearly and carefully argued, dealing with an issue of substance, having something new to say on a much discussed topic, and nicely relating issues of principle to a current issue of public policy.” They also commended Gerald Gauss’s article “Reasonable utility functions and playing the cooperative way” *CRISPP*

11.2 (2008): 215–34 as “intellectually very impressive.”

The CRISPP Essay Prize is for an outstanding article that deploys philosophical analysis of any school or variety to examine some concrete policy issue, be it political, social or economic, domestic or international. The prize is awarded annually. All articles appearing in a given volume qualify for consideration. The next prize will apply to articles published in volume 12 (2009).

Books and Publications

David Armitage has recently co-edited, with Conal Condren and Andrew Fitzmaurice, *Shakespeare and Early Modern Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). The volume includes essays by the editors, Stephen Greenblatt, Susan James, Eric Nelson, and Quentin Skinner, among others.

Lorraine Pangle of the University of Texas at Austin has an article in the latest *APSR*, “Moral and Criminal Responsibility in Plato’s LAWS.”

Jeffrey Abramson of the University of Texas at Austin has a new book, *The Owl of Minerva*, just out from Harvard University Press.

Devin Stauffer of the University of Texas at Austin has article on Plato’s *Thrasymachus* in the latest issue of *POLIS*.

Shannon Mariotti, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Southwestern University has a book, *Thoreau’s Democratic Withdrawal: Alienation, Participation, and Modernity*, that will be published in January 2010 by the University of Wisconsin Press, as part of their “Studies in American Thought and Culture” series. The book reads Thoreau through the theoretical lens of Theodor W. Adorno to show how withdrawals from the public sphere can paradoxically be a valuable part of democratic politics. There is more info at the press’s website: <http://uwpress.wisc.edu/books/4570.htm>.

Steven Forde of the University of North Texas, has an article in the current issue of the *Review of Politics* (71:3), "The Charitable John Locke."

Cary J. Nederman, Texas A&M University, has published a book, *Lineages of European Political Thought: Explorations on the Medieval/Modern Divide from John of Salisbury to Hegel* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2009). This book examines some of the salient historiographical and conceptual issues that animate current scholarly debates about the nature of the medieval contribution to modern Western political ideas. The book argues for a nuanced historiography of intellectual continuity and change that depends upon analyzing a host of contextual as well as philosophical factors to account for the emergence of the European tradition of political theory in the medieval and early modern periods. Categories such as "medieval" and "modern" can and should be usefully deployed, yet always with the understanding that they are provisional and potentially fluid.

Conferences

Harvard University hosted the conference "Isaiah Berlin: Centennial Reflections," September 25th and 26th, 2009. Isaiah Berlin was a unique figure in the intellectual life of the twentieth century. A famous public figure, his work on the history of ideas and political theory also made him one of the two most celebrated political philosophers of the century. To mark the centenary of Berlin's birth, Harvard University hosted a two-day conference devoted to exploring both the historical significance and internal complexities of Berlin's thought, and its relevance for contemporary discussions of liberty, liberalism, moral and cultural pluralism, and the history of ideas. Reflecting the range and diversity of Berlin's own interests and accomplishments, the distinguished list of speakers is international and multidisciplinary, and thus approach Berlin from a variety of viewpoints.

Speakers included: Svetlana Boym, Ioannis Evrigenis, Peter Gordon, Malachi Hacoheh, Stanley Hoffmann, Erin Kelly, Janos Kis, Louis Menand, Pratap Mehta, Martha Nussbaum, Nancy Rosenblum, Emma Rothschild, Alan Ryan, T.M. Scanlon, Amartya Sen, Michael Walzer, and Bernard Yack.

Graduate Student News

Natalie Elliot, PhD student in Political Science/Political Theory at the University of North Texas, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, entitled "Letters and Liberty in the Democratic Age: Alexis de Tocqueville on the Place of the Literary Arts in Modern Democracy." Elliot will receive her degree in December 2009.

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:
