

CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Conference for the Study of Political Thought, an International Organization
Volume 35, Number 2 — Winter, 2009

CHAIR'S NOTE

The chairs are happy to report further details concerning CSPT's 2009 Spring conference on rhetoric and political theory to be held at Northwestern University (see details below). Since access to the conference papers will be limited to members, we'd like to remind folks to bring their memberships up to date.

We wish everyone a productive Winter, and hope to see as many of you as possible in Evanston come April.

*David Armitage
Kirstie McClure
John P. McCormick*

CSPT CONFERENCE

Possibility and Paradox: On Rhetoric and Political Theory

Northwestern University
Evanston, IL
April 2nd–5th, 2009

Co-sponsored by Northwestern University's
Center for Global Culture and Communication
and
the International Conference for
the Study of Political Thought

Co-organizers:
Keith Topper, University of California – Irvine
Dilip Gaonkar, Northwestern University

This conference brings together distinguished and emerging scholars in political theory, philosophy, communication, literature, history, and other areas of the social sciences and humanities who share an interest in the rhetorical character

of political thought and discourse. Our discussions will focus on a wide range of issues regarding the pivotal function of rhetoric in the history of political thought and contemporary political theory. These include, but are not limited to, questions about the performative dimensions of language, the role of affect and emotion in political life, the poetics and aesthetics of political discourse and experience, the rhetorical structure of political texts, the relationship between the logic and style of political argument, between author and audience, and between what political texts say and what they do.

To provide our inquiries with historical scope and interpretive depth, each of our nineteen speakers will focus on a single key figure in the history of social and political theory, from Thucydides and Plato to Hannah Arendt and Frantz Fanon. Our goal is to make the case that an understanding of the rhetoric is not just relevant but central to an understanding of political thought and conduct.

We hope this event will appeal to scholars of political thought across North America and beyond its borders. To facilitate discussion, papers will be circulated among all participants two weeks prior to the conference and will be available to CSPT members. The event is free and open to the public.

Scholars planning to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association should note that the Evanston campus of Northwestern University is easily accessible via public transportation from downtown Chicago. Using the "L," take the Red Line north to the Howard Street station. From the platform on which you exit the train, transfer to the Purple Line going toward Linden and get off at the Davis Street exit. Proceed east on Davis Street until you reach Chicago Avenue. Turn left on

Chicago Avenue until you reach Sheridan Road, which borders Northwestern University. “L” maps can be accessed on-line at <http://www.chicago-l.org/index.html>.

Additional information about the conference will be available shortly at the website of Northwestern University’s Center for Global Culture and Communication: http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/global_communication/. For other queries about the conference, including questions about the location of panels, lodging, restaurants, and transportation, please contact Jesse Baldwin-Philippi (j.baldwin.philippi@northwestern.edu).

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, April 2nd:

- Opening Remarks
- “Thucydides in Baghdad” (Peter Euben, Duke University)
- “Plato,” title TBA (Jill Frank, University of South Carolina)
- “Subdue the Senate: Machiavelli’s ‘Way of Freedom’ or Path to Tyranny?” (John McCormick, University of Chicago)
- “Niccolò Machiavelli.” title TBA (Mary Dietz, Northwestern University)

Friday, April 3rd:

- “Bringing Home the Case of the Poor: The Rhetorical Achievement of Adam Smith’s Wealth of Nations” (Samuel Fleischaker, University of Illinois at Chicago)
- “Edmund Burke,” title TBA (Uday Mehta, Amherst College)
- “Aristotle,” title TBA (Bernard Yack, Brandeis University)
- “Cicero,” title TBA (Joy Connolly, New York University)
- “Hobbes Reading Hobbes: Applying Hobbes’ instructions for reading Scripture to a reading of Leviathan itself” (James Martel, San Francisco State University)
- “Spinoza’s Failed Rhetoric of a Supposedly Inconspicuous Transition to Secularity” (Ronald Beiner, University of Toronto)

Saturday, April 4th:

- “John Locke,” title TBA (Kirstie McClure, UCLA)
- “Jean-Jacques Rousseau,” title TBA (Peter Meyers, Sorbonne Nouvelle and Princeton University)
- “Benjamin Constant,” title TBA (Brian Garsten, Yale University)
- “Ambivalent Prophecy: the Rhetoric of Tocqueville’s Democracy in America” (George Shulman, New York University)
- “‘Hyperbolic rhetoric and polemics’: the question of Nietzsche” (Tracy Strong, University of California – San Diego)
- “On Public Action: Rhetoric and Glory in Hannah Arendt’s The Human Condition” (Andrew Norris, University of California – Santa Barbara)

Sunday, April 5th:

- “Leo Strauss,” title TBA (Miguel Vatter, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
- “Frantz Fanon,” title TBA (Anne Norton, University of Pennsylvania)
- “Quentin Skinner’s ‘Rhetorical Turn’ and its Implications for the Study of Political Thought” (Kari Palonen, University of Jyväskylä)
- Concluding Discussion

CHAPTER NEWS

EUROPE

Eastern Britain

A new Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health (CPJH) has been created at the University College of London, set up as a partnership between many UCL departments, including Philosophy, Political Science, Laws, the Medical School and Epidemiology, with the aim to provide a UCL-based focus for research into distributive justice and health.

Professor Jonathan Wolff, the Centre’s Director and Professor of Philosophy at UCL, believes that “recent organizational developments in biomedicine – such as the creation of the UCL Institute for Global Health,

the International Institute for Society and Health, and the Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre – are evidence of a strong interest on the part of those who work within biomedicine to pursue joint projects with other UCL faculties, especially those which do work on health and social values. At the same time, issues of health and distributive justice have become increasingly important in political philosophy and public policy.”

Discussions between members of a number of different UCL faculties revealed a similar widespread desire to cross interdisciplinary boundaries in order to work on questions such as priority-setting in health care and health inequalities, and it was decided to set up a Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health where such research can be conducted collectively, by a number of means: collaborative research projects and publication of papers, conferences, public engagement, workshops and reading groups, and MA and PhD supervision.

“The general mission,” Professor Wolff said, “is to be able to equip a multidisciplinary team of scholars and students to play a central role in debates concerning distributive justice and health both in the domestic and global context. We are, for example, already advising an interdepartmental government group on the valuation of life and health.”

2009–2010 will see the launch of a new MA course in the Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Health. Future plans include securing funding for postdoctoral fellowships and for distinguished and junior visiting scholar programmes, as well as providing further conferences on such questions as the ethics of health screening and health inequality.

The CPJH’s launch conference, on “Justice and the Social Determinants of Health,” took place on December 8th and 9th at Goodenough College and Senate House. Speakers included Professor Wolff, Professor Sir Michael Marmot (MRC Research Professor of UCL Epidemiology & Public Health), Professor Richard Wilkinson (Nottingham Social Epidemiology), Professor Gopal Sreenivasan

(Crown Professor of Ethics, Duke University), Professor Dan Hausman (Herbert A. Simon Professor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison), Dr James Wilson (Lecturer in Philosophy and Health, UCL), and Sridhar Venkatapuram (ESRC–DFID Research Fellow, Epidemiology, UCL).

Details of the Centre can be found at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/cpjh/about>.

— *Richard Bellamy*

UNITED STATES

Lonestar

Baylor University staged the inaugural Colloquium for Ancient and Modern Political Inquiry on November 6th–7th, 2008. The Colloquium featured plenary presentations by three prominent scholars of the political thought and practice of the ancient world. Josiah Ober, from Stanford University, delivered an address entitled “Democracy, Innovation, and Learning,” in which he applied a rational-choice paradigm to the study of Athenian democracy. Ober argued that a rational-choice approach to the historical investigation of ancient democracy confirms the considerable advantages it boasted of vis-a-vis its rivals in the ancient world. Danielle Allen, resident scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study, entitled her address “The Authority of Philosophy: On Ideas and Political Influence.” Allen drew on ancient political philosophy, especially Aristotle, to assemble a framework for the critical examination of public culture and civic life in contemporary democracy. Stephen Salkever, from Bryn Mawr College, spoke of “Constructing Philosophical Conversations: We Moderns, the Ancients, and the Problem of Democracy,” exploring and assessing features of Aristotle’s political teaching as he considered the issues involved in translating that teaching into contemporary democratic contexts.

The annual meeting of the Lone Star chapter of CSPT will take place on April 18th, 2009, in Austin, hosted by the Dept of Government at the University of Texas. Two graduate students and two faculty members will present papers based

on work in progress; paper-givers and titles will be announced later.

Texas A&M University will be hosting the annual conference of the Association for Political Theory on October 22nd–24th, 2009. A call for papers is currently circulating, with proposals for papers due on February 15, 2009.

The next annual conference of the Michael Oakeshott Association will take place November 12th–14th, 2009, at the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University in Waco. The 2009 meeting will broaden its scope to include the thought of Leo Strauss and Eric Voegelin as well as Oakeshott. Papers are invited on topics that all three thinkers address, such as the function and place of liberal education, the fruitful tensions between reason and revelation, the relationship of religion and politics, the meaning of political philosophy, the crisis of modernity, and the role that studying the ancients may play in better understanding our modern situation. Abstracts, no more than 500 words, should be sent by April 30, 2009 to Elizabeth Corey at Elizabeth_Corey@baylor.edu. Abstracts should also include: title of paper, full name(s), affiliation, current position, and an email address.

— *J.S. Maloy*

Louisiana

The Eric Voegelin Society will hold its Silver Anniversary meeting September 3rd–6th, 2009, in Toronto, parallel with the APSA annual meeting. Panel topics include: Conscience, Expression & Liberty: Pitfalls of Political Correctness; Voegelin and the Ancients; Assessing Voegelin's Critique of Hegel; and The Primacy of Persons in Politics: Empiricism and Theory.

— *Ellis Sandoz*

St. Louis

This spring, the Political Theory Workshop at Washington University will host the following talks: Neil Richards (Law, Washington University) will present "Brandeis, Privacy and Speech" on February 13th; Wolfram Schmidgen (English, Washington University) will present "Atomic Philosophy and the Virtues of Political

Deformity" on February 20th; Anna Stilz (Princeton University) will present "Collective Responsibility and the State" on March 20th; Lester Spence (Johns Hopkins University) will present "Obama and the Neo-Liberal Turn in Black Politics" on March 26th; Julia Driver (Philosophy, Washington University) will present "What Adam Smith Got Right About Virtue" on March 27th; Jack Knight (Political Science and Law, Duke University) will present "Pragmatism and Legitimacy" on April 10th; Frank Lovett (Political Science, Washington University) will present "Law and Social Conventions" on April 17th; and Marilyn Friedman (Philosophy, Washington University) will present "How to Blame People Responsibly" on April 24th.

— *Frank Lovett*

Southern California

The Southern California CSPT continues to see ongoing workshops and colloquia at two of its larger institutions, UC San Diego and UC Los Angeles, each of which draw scholars widely from the larger Southern California region. Recent and upcoming presentations at UCSD include Lawrie Balfour, University of Virginia, "Resurrecting John Brown: Remembering Emancipation in an Age of Terror" (January 26th); Susan Clark Muntean, UC San Diego, "A Political Theory of the Firm: Bringing Ownership Back Into Normative Discourse" (February 23rd); Rogers Smith, University of Pennsylvania, "Lincoln and Obama" (March 9th); Harvey Goldman, UC San Diego, "Intellectuals and Politics" (April 6th); Steve Vanderheiden, University of Colorado at Boulder, "Justice and Global Climate Change" (May 11th); Harlan Wilson, Oberlin College, "Is Environmental Authority Possible?" (June 1st); and Suzanne Dovi, University of Arizona, "In Praise of Exclusion" (June 8th).

At UCLA the schedule of recent and upcoming visitors includes Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, Whitman College, "Political Theory as a Profession" (January 9th); William Sokoloff, Chapman University, "Counter-Fascist Aesthetic: Heideg-

ger on Anxiety” (February 6th); Kevin Olson, UC Irvine, “The Power of the People Revisited: Collective Identities, Imagined Normativities, and Constituent Powers” (February 20th); Nadia Urbinati, Columbia University, title TBA (March 6th); Dean Mathiowetz, UC Santa Cruz, “The Memory of Lust: Luxury in Thomas Hobbes's Leviathan” (May 17th); and Cricket Keating, Ohio State University, title TBA (May 1st).

For those who might find (or lose) themselves in the Los Angeles area in the near future, the spring program at the Williams Andrews Clark Library, “The British Atlantic in an Age of Revolution and Reaction: From Boston to Peterloo and Tea Party to Massacre,” might also be of interest. Organized by Michael Merenze and Saree Makdisi, of UCLA’s History and English departments, respectively, this yearlong series of conferences still has three to go before the end of the year. The second, titled simply “London” will be held on February 20–21st, and will feature the following speakers and topics: Luke Gibbons, University of Notre Dame, “Reflections on the Slave Trade: James Barry’s Commerce, or, the Triumph of the Thames;” Jon Mee, University of Warwick, “Conversation, Candor, and Dissent: Godwin, Hays, Wollstonecraft;” Jenna M. Gibbs, UCLA, “‘By birth a Briton, my heart clings to America.’ Susanna Rowson’s Antislavery in Transatlantic Perspective;” Sandra Macpherson, Ohio State University, “Emancipation (Sex) Acts;” Aris Sarafianos, UCLA, “Spectacles of Dissection: William Hunter, Jan van Rymdyk and the Politics of Anatomical Hyper-Naturalism;” Gregory Claeys, Royal Holloway, University of London, “Godwinism and Utopia;” John Bugg, Fordham University, “Secrets, ca. 1795;” David Bromwich, Yale University, “Burke Against the People, 1794–1797.”

Information on the remaining conferences in the series, as well as on a related conference, “The Limits of the Atlantic Republican Tradition,” organized by Margaret Jacob, Wijnand Mijnhardt (University of Utrecht), and Catherine Secretan (CNRS, Paris), will be posted on the

Clark Library’s website: <http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/c1718cs/calendar.htm>.

— *Kirstie McClure*

Virginia

Charles Larmore will visit the University of Virginia in March to deliver the annual Rowland Egger Memorial lecture. Other visitors to this year’s Political Theory Colloquium include Jane Bennett (Johns Hopkins), Jason Frank (Cornell), Susan Song (Berkeley), and Henry Richardson (Georgetown). In April 2010, our political theory group will host a conference on “Affect, Imagination, and Politics.”

— *George Klosko and Stephen White*

NEWS EXCHANGE

Announcements

The constitution and officers of the Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought (APT) were formally approved on January 9th, 2009, at the Oxford Political Thought Conference. The decision to create this Association was taken at the previous conference in 2008. Its aim is to promote the study of all branches of political thought. The study of political thought tends to be dispersed within and across a number of different disciplines – political science, philosophy, history, law, sociology, economics, and cultural and literary studies, amongst others – and to involve a wide variety of approaches. As a result, the distinctive interests and concerns of this subfield risk being lost because so much academic policy focuses on addressing the main branches of the disciplines within which political thought is to be found – and the fact that political thought often challenges the boundaries of these disciplines makes it even easier to ignore or marginalize. The foundation of the APT is intended to address two main dimensions of this situation:

First, it aims to overcome the tendency for political thought to be marginalised or fall between different disciplines (for example, in the way support for research and graduate study in the field is divided between the ESRC and

AHRC) by providing a mechanism for advocating the concerns of those engaged in political thought to relevant policy makers.

Second, it aims to facilitate scholarly interaction and collaboration between the whole range of practitioners in the field.

In promoting these dual aims, the Association seeks to: represent the interests of political thought with regard to both teaching and research in relation to the relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies (e.g., HEFCE, ESRC, AHRC) and secure and even advance its place within the Academy; act as a facilitator for the research activities of its membership (for example, by, among other activities, setting up a web site and email lists to advertise conferences and symposia, alerting members to grant opportunities and helping to link people for grant projects through a register of interests, opening up new publishing outlets for theorists and supporting existing ones through links with publishers and contacts with the main general and specialist journals to which those in the field regularly submit); assist the exchange of ideas on teaching activities, e.g. through sharing reading lists via the web site; and forge connections with related associations in the UK and other countries.

The Association will be formally linked to both the January Oxford Political Thought Conference, at which there will be an annual plenary meeting of the Association, and the Manchester Workshops in Political Thought that take place every September. All participants at these conferences will automatically become members of APT for that year.

Membership costs £10 and is open to any graduate with an active involvement with the political thought community in Britain and Ireland. Requests to join should be sent to Dr Elizabeth Frazer, elizabeth.frazer@new.ox.ac.uk. The constitution and minutes of the recent meetings are available at <http://huss.exeter.ac.uk/politics/events/politicalthought2009/index.php>.

Appointments

Jennifer Rubenstein has joined the University of Virginia's Politics Department, after

completing a three-year postdoc at the Princeton Society of Fellows.

Books and Publications

Richard Bellamy published *Citizenship* (Oxford, 2008) in the best-selling 'a very short introduction to' series, and has unexpectedly found himself on the literary festival circuit with outings in Malmsbury, Oxford and London. The book defends a 'political' and state-based view of citizenship against those that focus on the 'legal' status of citizenship and civil society respectively. An even shorter video presentation of the book is available at <http://www.meettheauthor.co.uk/bookbites/1745.html>. He has also employed the general framework of this book in an article: "Evaluating Union Citizenship: Belonging, Rights and Participation within the EU," *Citizenship Studies* 12:6 (2008), pp. 597–611.

Cecile Laborde's new book, *Critical Republicanism. The Hijab Controversy and Political Philosophy* has also just been published by Oxford (2008) in the prestigious Oxford Political Theory series. The book provides a philosophical critique of the hijab ban in schools, but also articulates a progressive republican solution to multicultural and religious conflicts in contemporary societies. This new theory is rooted in a republican theory of citizenship as non-domination – an alternative both to liberal emancipation and to multicultural recognition. It has already led to interviews on the BBC and French television.

Cary J. Nederman has published *Machiavelli* (Oneworld Publications, 2009). This volume proposes that an understanding of Machiavelli's intellectual "core" emerges from paying careful attention to a set of basic dichotomies and contrasts that troubled and guided him throughout his life and to which he returned regularly. These dichotomies include the relationships between the heavens and the earth, between psychology and ingenuity, between violence and law, and between security and liberty. Such

themes become evident from an examination of the range of his writings – prose and poetry, political theory and history, diplomatic dispatches and private correspondence.

Takashi Shogimen and Cary J. Nederman have published an edited volume, *Western Political Thought in Dialogue with Asia* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008). This book demonstrates that the exclusive focus on the Western traditions of political thought is inadequate even for the understanding of the origins, characteristics and indeed achievements of Western political thought by addressing such issues as: the role of Asian traditions in the making of medieval and modern Occidental political discourse; the dissemination of Euro-centric political thought in the Asian world, especially the ways in which the Western traditions of political ideas were accepted, rejected or transformed in contact with the local intellectual traditions; and comparison of the historical process of the making of political discourse between European and Asian worlds. Enquiries into these issues among others offer reappraisals of the achievements and significance of Western traditions of political discourse in a wider, global context.

Ellis Sandoz, “The Philosopher’s Vocation: The Voegelinian Paradigm,” *Review of Politics* 71:1 (2009): pp. 1–14. This article is the first in a special issue devoted to significant political philosophers of the twentieth century.

The last volume completing *The Collected Works of Eric Voegelin*, 34 vols. (University of Missouri Press, 1991–2009) is now in press and due for publication in June: vol. 29, *Selected Correspondence 1921–1950*, ed. Juergen Gebhardt, trans. William Petropulos.

Melvin Roger’s book, *The Undiscovered Dewey: Religion, Morality, and the Ethos of Democracy* has recently been published by Columbia University Press (2008).

Graduate Student News

Laura Valentini defended her thesis “Global Justice: Cosmopolitanism, Social Liberalism and the Coercion View” in October and took up her new position as Junior Research Fellow in Politics at Queen’s College, Oxford in September 2008. She has already published articles in high-quality international journals such as *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Review of International Studies*, and *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*. She is currently working on a monograph based on her PhD thesis.

Bashir Jiwani defended his thesis, “Ethically Justified System-Level Decisions in Health Care: Toward a Decision Support Workbook for Healthcare Leaders,” at the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta. This dissertation begins by offering a normative account of what makes a system-level decision ethically justified in the pluralistic context of the Canadian healthcare system. It then explores the characteristics required of decision support tools if they are to usefully assist leaders to make better decisions; it proposes suggested tools that might match these characteristics; and it reports on a pilot study of utility of these tools from the perspectives of leaders in the health system.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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