

# CSPT INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

---

Conference for the Study of Political Thought, an International Organization  
Volume 35, Number 3 — Spring, 2009

---

## FROM THE CHAIRS

We are delighted to report that the conference “Possibility and Paradox: On Rhetoric and Political Theory,” held at Northwestern University, April 2nd–5th, 2009, was a resounding success! The conference was attended by faculty, students and interested parties from the Chicago area and from throughout the country.

We thank The Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC) at Northwestern, which co-sponsored the conference, and, especially the co-conveners, Keith Topper, of the University of California, Irvine, and Dilip Gaonkar, of Northwestern University, for their vision and hard work. Papers and participants from the conference are listed here:

[http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/global\\_communication/conference.php](http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/global_communication/conference.php)

We are also proud to announce the fact that CSPT is in the process of moving online. Very soon we will be launching a new webpage on which the newsletter and conference papers will be posted, and where individuals can renew their memberships or sign-up as new members.

While not confirmed at this time, the web address of our site is likely to be [icspt.uchicago.edu](http://icspt.uchicago.edu). Feel free to check that address from time to time, until the next newsletter, to see when it is up and running!

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

## CHAPTER NEWS

### CANADA

#### Western Canada

Shadia B. Drury (University of Regina) was presented “Demonizing the Enemy in the War on Terror” at the 9th International Conference on The Muslim World and the West, Laurel Point Inn, Victoria, British Columbia, March 28th to March 31st, 2008.

— *Margaret Ogrodnick*

### ISRAEL

The Jerusalem Seminar in the History of Political Thought continued during the spring semester of 2009. The speakers included: on March 18th, Dr. Melissa Lane (King’s College, University of Cambridge), “Motivation in Mass Democracy;” on April 22nd, Mr. Shlomo Kaplan (History, Hebrew University), “The Gender Politics of Rousseau;” on May 20th, Dr. Gabriel Danzig (Classical Studies, Bar Ilan University), “What Makes Plato’s Dialogues So Bad?;” on June 17th, Prof. Fania Oz-Salzberger (Faculty of Law, University of Haifa / Modern Israel Studies, Monash University). “John Locke reads the Bible;” and on July 1st, Prof. Roslyn Weiss (Philosophy, Lehigh University, USA), “The Philosophic Nature in Plato’s Republic.”

— *Efraim Podoksik*

### JAPAN

On May 23rd–24th, 2009, the 16th annual congress of the CSPT-Japan was held at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. The common theme of the sessions was “Political Thought and Periphery: Outside, Minority.”

On July 4th–5th, the Korean Society for Political Thought and the CSPT-Japan will organize the 8th joint conference on the subject of

“Tradition and Revolution in Political Thought”  
at Rikkyo University in Tokyo.

— *Tomoya Yoshioka*

## UNITED STATES

### California

Over the past twelve months or so, the Political Theory Community at Berkeley suffered the huge loss of Norman Jacobson, but has also benefited enormously from the appointments of Kinch Hoekstra (formerly Balliol College, Oxford) and Sarah Song (formerly of MIT). Each of our new additions have presented papers at our Bay Area Colloquium series, as have I myself. Other visitors have included Stephen Homes, Christopher Bonobich, and Christopher Tomlins. Kinch Hoekstra delivered a paper at a the Jurisprudence and Public Policy colloquium, and Terrell Carver presented a paper in March (on the eve of the WPSA meeting at Vancouver, where he and I, along with Yves Winter, a graduate student from our Rhetoric Department, were on a panel on Marx and Marxism). In April, Nicola Lacey delivered the Kadish Lecture, and last but by no means least, Tzevetan Todorov presented a paper on “Memory, A Remedy for Evil?”

The main event of interest—of considerable interest—to Political Theorists which took place outside the Department at Berkeley were the Tanner Lectures on Human Values, delivered by Jeremy Waldron of NYU, with comments from Michael Rosen (Harvard), Don Herzog (Michigan) and Wai Chee Dimmock (Yale).

Inside the Department of Political Science, George Ciccariello Maher (one of our graduate students) delivered a paper entitled “Jumpstarting the Decolonial Engine: Symbolic Violence from Fanon to Chavez.” Professor Terrell Carver (University of Bristol, UK) delivered a paper entitled “The German Ideology Never Took Place.” Third, our very own Professor Shannon Stimson presented a chapter entitled “The Economic Machine and the Invisible Hand” from her forthcoming book *After Adam Smith*. Finally, Conal Condren from the University of Sydney, Australia recently presented a

paper on “Lucianic Humor in Philosophy: Hobbes, His Critics and a Paradox of Contextualization.”

— *Paul Thomas*

### Lonestar

The annual meeting of the Lone Star chapter of CSPT took place on April 18th, 2009 in Austin, hosted by the Department of Government at the University of Texas. Four papers were presented to the workshop: Daniel Betti (Texas A&M), “The Cosmopolitanism of Plato’s Early Dialogues;” Randy LeBlanc (University of Texas, Tyler), “Articulating Presence: the PRIME Textbook and the Political Possibilities of Narrative in Said and Bhabha;” Katy Arnold (University of Texas, San Antonio), “The Rhetoric of Necessity: Economic Prerogative and Its Political Consequences;” Maggie Haas (University of Texas, Tyler), “Addressing Global Terrorism through a Feminist Ethic of War and Peace.”

The annual conference of the Association for Political Theory will take place on October 22nd–24th, 2009, in College Station, hosted by the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University. For more information, contact Lisa Ellis at [ellis@politics.tamu.edu](mailto:ellis@politics.tamu.edu) or Cary Nederman at [nederman@politics.tamu.edu](mailto:nederman@politics.tamu.edu).

The annual conference of the Michael Oakeshott Association will take place November 12th–14th, 2009, at the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University in Waco. For more information, contact Elizabeth Corey at [elizabeth\\_corey@baylor.edu](mailto:elizabeth_corey@baylor.edu).

— *J.S. Maloy*

### Louisiana

Ellis Sandoz organized a Liberty Fund colloquium on “The Great Awakening Revisited: Political Theology & the Rise of American Liberty” at Pensacola, May 7th–10th.

The 25th International Annual Meeting of the Eric Voegelin Society will be held in Toronto (September 3rd–6th) in conjunction with the APSA convention. It will consist of 13 panels (for full details see the 2009 Program on the

APSA Web site under Related Groups or <http://ericvoegelin.org>). Some highlights will include panels on “Conscience, Expression, and Liberty: Pitfalls of Political Correctness,” “The Languages of Political Order: Experience and Symbolization in Non-Western Modes of Thought,” “Assessing Voegelin’s Critique of Hegel,” “Revisiting Reinhold Niebuhr in the 21st Century,” and “Theorists, Theologians, and Littérateurs: Evil and Modern Political Thought.

— *Ellis Sandoz*

### **New York**

During the 2008–09 academic year, the Columbia University Seminar in Political and Social Thought featured papers by Jean Cohen (Columbia), Jeffrey Tulis (Texas), Frank Lovett (Washington University), Danielle Allen (Institute for Advanced Study), Lawrie Balfour (Virginia), and Corey Brettschneider (Brown).

The Columbia Seminar is finalizing its schedule for the 2009–10 academic year, which will change its meeting time and day. The seminar will now meet approximately monthly on Friday afternoons from 1–3 pm, preceded by lunch at 12 noon. Please direct inquiries about the Columbia Seminar to one of the seminar chairs, David Johnston at [dcj1@columbia.edu](mailto:dcj1@columbia.edu) or Melissa Schwartzberg at [ms3125@columbia.edu](mailto:ms3125@columbia.edu).

— *Melissa Schwartzberg*

### **St. Louis**

This spring, the Political Theory Workshop at Washington University hosted many talks, including the following: Neil Richards (Law, Washington University), “Brandeis, Privacy and Speech” on February 13th; Wolfram Schmidgen (English, Washington University), “Atomic Philosophy and the Virtues of Political Deformity” on February 20th; Anna Stilz (Princeton University) “Collective Responsibility and the State” on March 20th; Lester Spence (Johns Hopkins University) “Obama and the Neo-Liberal Turn in Black Politics” on March 26th; Julia Driver (Philosophy, Washington University) “What Adam Smith Got Right About Virtue” on March

27th; Jack Knight (Political Science and Law, Duke University) “Pragmatism and Legitimacy” on April 10th; Frank Lovett (Political Science, Washington University) “Law and Social Conventions” on April 17th; and Marilyn Friedman (Philosophy, Washington University) “How to Blame People Responsibly” on April 24th.

— *Frank Lovett*

### **Virginia**

On April 2nd–3rd, 2010, the political theory group at the University of Virginia will hold a conference on “Affect, Imagination and Democratic Values.” Participants will include: Lawrie Balfour, Christina Beltran, Colin Bird, William Connolly, Michael Dawson, Alessandro Ferrara, Fonna Forman-Barzilai, Bryan Garsten, George Klosko, Sharon Krause, Melvin Rogers, Jennifer Rubenstein, Christina Tarnopolsky, Jack Turner, and Stephen White.

— *George Klosko and Stephen White*

## **NEWS EXCHANGE**

### **Books and Publications**

Mary Nichols (Baylor University) has published *Socrates on Friendship and Community* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), which addresses Kierkegaard’s and Nietzsche’s criticism of Socrates and recovers the place of friendship and community in Socratic philosophizing. This approach stands in contrast to the modern philosophical tradition, in which Plato’s Socrates has been viewed as an alienating influence on Western thought and life. Nichols’ rich analysis of both dramatic details and philosophic themes in Plato’s *Symposium*, *Phaedrus*, and *Lysis* shows how love finds its fulfillment in the reciprocal relation of friends. Nichols also shows how friends experience another as their own, and themselves as belonging to another. Their experience, she argues, both sheds light on the nature of philosophy and serves as a standard for a political life that does justice to human freedom and community.

J.S. Maloy (Oklahoma State University) has published two recent articles: “The Aristotelianism of Locke’s Politics,” in *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70: 235–57 (2009), and “Two Concepts of Trust,” in *Journal of Politics* 71: 492–505 (2009).

The final volume completing *The Collected Works of Eric Voegelin* (34 vols., University of Missouri Press) will appear in June: vol. 29, *Selected Correspondence: 1924–1949*, ed. Juergen Gebhardt, trans. William Petropoulos.

The Eric Voegelin institute monograph Series in Political Philosophy and in Religion and Politics now has 28 volumes published, most recently: Eugene Webb, *Worldview and Mind: Religious Thought and Psychological Development*, and Barry Cooper, *Beginning the Quest: Law and Politics in the Early Work of Eric Voegelin*, both from University of Missouri Press.

Shadia B. Drury (University of Regina) has published two books: *Aquinas and Modernity: The Lost Promise of Natural Law* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008); and *Alexandre Kojève: The Roots of Postmodern Politics*, Chinese translation (Shanghai Sanhui Press, 2008), which includes a new “Preface for my Chinese Readers.”

Prof. Drury has also published a number of articles and chapters, including: “Aquinas and the Inquisition: A tale of Faith and Politics,” *Salmagundi*, No. 157 (Winter 2008) pp. 91–108; “Are Muslims a Menace to Christian Europe?” *Free Inquiry*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (December 2008/January 2009), pp. 21–22; and “Power and Knowledge: The Precariousness of Free Inquiry,” in *Universities at Risk: How Politics, Special Interests and Corporatization Threaten Academic Integrity*, Edited by James L. Turk (Toronto: James Lorimer & Co. Ltd., 2008).

Stephen White is happy to report that his new book, *The Ethos of a Late-Modern Citizen*, has recently been published by Harvard University Press.

## Conferences

The Scottish Common Sense philosopher and Enlightenment polymath Thomas Reid (1710–96) taught at King’s College, Aberdeen, and at Glasgow University. To celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of his birth the universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow are jointly hosting an international conference on his work, its present-day relevance and its historical influence: “Thomas Reid From His Time to Ours,” March 21st–26th, 2010. Plenary speakers will include James Harris, Laurent Jaffro, Galen Strawson and Paul Wood.

The conference will convene in Aberdeen on Sunday March 21st, 2010 and move to Glasgow on Wednesday March 24th, ending on Friday March 26th. Papers are invited on any aspect of Reid’s thought in terms of its historical or its present-day relevance, its relationship with his contemporaries in the Scottish Enlightenment, and on any aspect of his influence on philosophical thinking in Britain, Europe, North America or any other part of the world where he has been studied. Proposals of not more than 500 words for papers should be submitted to Professor Alexander Broadie (a.broadie@history.arts.gla.ac.uk) or Professor Cairns Craig (cairns.craig@abdn.ac.uk). Proposals are accepted from now and until September 30th, 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/riiss/reid2010.shtml>.

## Graduate Student News

Steven Bilakovics has defended his PhD dissertation at the University of Texas: “Constituting Political Freedom and the Democratic Way of Life.” This project uncovers and explores the democratic sources of the modern contempt for politics. Against prevailing opinion, it argues that such contempt follows primarily from neither the discontents of our liberal political system, nor from market social structures. Instead, extending Tocqueville’s work on democracy, it argues that the anti-political prejudice so apparent today is actually inscribed in democratic modernity itself. Democratic society is imagined as a sort of pre/post political

state of nature—paradoxically both wholly determined by economic forces and the material equations of power and wholly undetermined, “open” and free. Within this dialectic of cynicism and idealism, we see ourselves as at once incapable of and better off without the democratic practice of politics.

Lisa Uhlir has defended her PhD dissertation at the University of North Texas: “Pride and Sexual Friendship: The Battle of the Sexes in Nietzsche’s Post-Democratic World.” It details the effects of the Enlightenment, Christianity and democracy upon society, as well as the individual, and particularly women. An argument for the necessity of a continuation of the battle of the sexes, and the struggle among men and women in a context of sexual love and friendship is given. In conclusion, Uhlir argues that one possible avenue for change is a Nietzschean call for a modern reevaluation of values by noble woman in conjugation with her warrior scholar to bring about the elevation of mankind.

Lindsey MacDonald defended his PhD thesis “A Political Philosophy of Property Rights” in December 2008, and has joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The thesis argues that legitimate political authority is justified, in part, by its treatment of property rights: a state may or may not have liberty or equality but it has no justification at all if it does not decide and enforce the rights of property. Using J.C. Penner’s idea of property as a right of exclusion, the thesis demonstrates that a plausible normative defense of such property regulation by a legitimate political authority is provided by neither libertarian (historical) nor egalitarian (contemporary distributive justice) theories. This leaves the modern state without a philosophic defense of one of its key roles—the regulation of property rights.

The Department of Government at Harvard University is pleased to announce the following dissertations completed in the 2008–09 aca-

democratic year: Isaac Nakhimovsky, “Fichte’s Closed Commercial State and the Problem of Perpetual Peace,” and Joseph Kochanek, “The Intellectual Origins of the League of Nations,” both supervised by Richard Tuck.

### **Research and Grants**

David Kahane (University of Alberta) is leading a large project called “Deliberative democracy and climate change: Alberta and beyond,” which is designing, implementing, and studying a province-wide program of citizen deliberations, as well as pilot deliberations at the University of Alberta. This is being done in collaboration with partners from across sectors in Alberta, together with international experts in deliberative democratic theory and practice.

The project is currently supported by SSHRC LOI funds for a Community-University Research Alliance, and will submit a full application in the fall. Those interested can contact [david.kahane@ualberta.ca](mailto:david.kahane@ualberta.ca).

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please send to:*

Professor Sharon Snowiss  
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.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tenured \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Untenured \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$12 \_\_\_\_\_ Emeritus \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(include zip or postal code)

email \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription year \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest in political theory:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_