



*SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY:  
HISTORICAL, CONTINENTAL, AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES*

## **NEWSLETTER 2003/1 (APRIL)**

Dear Members and Friends,

I am writing to invite you to participate, as members, in shaping our society for the years to come. Our society was created in 2001 in order to allow for an alternative space of engagement in, and of exploration of, social and political philosophy from historical, continental, and feminist perspectives. SSPP would like to provide a forum for emerging scholarship, research, and activities that have not been adequately reflected in the established spaces of philosophical practices. While the society values rigorous work, steeped in text, in history, and in continental and feminist traditions and/or orientations, it also aims at addressing practical issues through social and political analyses, in ways that would be open to various other “disciplines” in the humanities and in the social sciences.

We are particularly interested in opening up an inclusive, non-hierarchical, and interdisciplinary space for engaging in issues in and around Social and Political Philosophy. Unlike other societies, our aim is not merely personal or professional advancement but the possibility of creating different and differing means of approaching social and political issues. Our membership is involved in decision-making processes, and the e-board will share with you, on a regular basis, a Newsletter with updates and plans and get your recommendations, suggestions, and proposals. We only act on items that have been discussed and approved by MEMBERS (usually finalized at our annual business meeting). See our “constitution,” at [www.sspp.us](http://www.sspp.us), for further details on the functioning of the society.

This NEWSLETTER covers the following:

- 1) Call for papers, within the (due-paying) membership pool, for our 2003 and 2004 meetings:  
a) meetings held in conjunction with SPEP (Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy); b) meetings held in conjunction with APA (American Philosophical Association, Eastern division)—and future sites--and c) publications starting 2004.
- 2) Application forms and membership dues
- 3) Minutes of last business meeting
- 4) Call for suggestions, and other items to be submitted to the membership at the next business meeting (in November 2003, in Boston).

## **1) CALL FOR PAPERS 2003-2004**

All due-paying members are invited to submit papers for our upcoming meetings in 2003 and 2004, especially for 2004 meetings that will (hopefully) be published in an edited volume. We hope to represent our members' obsessions and research work at different venues and we are asking for your best work, your creative contributions, your groundbreaking findings, your emotional and passionate commitment, which are of relevance to social and political thought/praxis from historical, continental, and feminist perspectives ("Historical" is understood as encompassing textual, interpretative, and discursive analyses not limited to Marxist, Hermeneutic, Genealogical, Post-Colonial, and other approaches. "Continental" is understood in the broadest possible terms as inclusive of the encounters between European, Latin American, Asian, and African systems of thought and philosophical practices. "Feminist" is intended here to include anything that privileges sex, gender, and queer identities in approaching social and political relations). The E-board developed the Call for Papers for the 2003-2004 meetings, taking into consideration suggestions and discussions with the membership.

We invite you to submit description of projects and research work and proposals for future CFPs, at various venues. The society's e-board will do its best, in association with the membership, to develop panels, meetings, conferences, and publications that will introduce themes and subject matters that best reflect the areas of interest of the membership. Starting 2003, we will have limited possibilities of meetings (mainly SPEP and APA, in the USA), and the selection of papers will be somewhat limited. But starting 2004, with the development of our membership, we hope to develop panels, events, and meetings across various geographical areas—and wherever our membership is—and start publishing one (or more) edited volume(s) annually. On the long run, and given enough time, resources, and members, we will be able to create a "global" (supra-national) network: if a few members are based on the West Coast of the united states, we can set up meetings at the Pacific division of APA (or other associations) for example; if a few members are based in Sydney, Dakar, London, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Delhi, or in Cairo, we can sponsor them and support them in developing local or regional panels. But all this will take some time and many more members (so please invite friends and colleagues to join!). Please disseminate the following CFPs as widely as you can.

### ***A) CALL FOR PAPERS for 2003 and 2004 meetings at SPEP:***

We will form one panel that will take place before the annual business meeting of 2003 (taking place this year in conjunction with SPEP in Boston, on November 6, 2003, 9 am-1 pm) that covers the topics we discussed at the last business meeting (production of structures of knowledge; transformations of capitalism, work, education, etc.; modes of subjectivization; etc.). The following CFP applies for the 2003 as well as to the 2004 meeting (when we may be able to form MORE than one panel).

*CALL FOR PAPERS – SPEP* (the complete text of the CFP is on our website)

*SSPP calls for papers that address issues pertaining to structures of knowledge (education, information, meaning and interpretation, etc.) and social imaginaries, and/or to the current transformations of Capitalism in its various manifestations (work; production/consumption; international, social, and cultural relations; sexuality; hegemony and dominance; class, race, gender, and ethnicity; etc.). Papers should be of interest to an interdisciplinary and intercultural audience,*

*while being rigorous, widely informed, and creative and innovative in their approach to social and political thought/praxis.*

*Complete papers of 3000-5000 words (that can be summarized and presented in 20-30 minutes) should be submitted for consideration for the 2003 meeting (deadline: May 1, 2003). Either complete papers (as above) or summaries/abstracts of 750-1500 words should be submitted for consideration for the 2004 meeting (deadline: August 1, 2003). Papers could be mailed to: SSPP, Philosophy Documentation Center, P. O. Box 7147, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147, or e-mailed to: [papers@sspp.us](mailto:papers@sspp.us). For any questions or information contact [information@sspp.us](mailto:information@sspp.us)*

### ***B) CFP for 2003 and 2004 APA meetings:***

For the APA Eastern division group meetings (approved this year) held annually at the end of December, we are planning to hold two sessions: one will be entitled “Social and Political Philosophy Today” (covering important theoretical contributions to the field) and another will be entitled “Social and Political Issues Today” (covering important and relevant practical and specific social and political situations, problems, events, etc.). We will only be able to select a few papers for 2003, but many more for 2004.

*CALL FOR PAPERS – APA (the complete text of the CFP is on our website)*

*SSPP calls for papers for the 2003 and 2004 panels set up in conjunction with the APA-Eastern Division (December 28-30, 2003- Washington, DC) and 2004 (probably NYC). The panels are entitled 1) Social and Political Philosophy Today and 2) Social and Political Issues Today. Of concern to us are the interconnected domains of theory/praxis in relation to the following*

*1) “Empire, Imperialism, and/or Colonialism”: to what extent these conceptual designations are TODAY intertwined and could be applied to the social and political environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Social imaginaries that control needs and desires and globally de-centralized means of subjectivization are mixed with a somewhat imperial mode of international affairs (manifested in a feudal interstate system, and with centralized military and economic planning), and with some kind of a colonial setup of an international caste system (where some lives are worthier than others in the eyes of the dominant and superior minority in power). Applications could include: a) analyses of military, economic and other social areas, for example the “new slavery” emerging worldwide in the economic sphere (trafficking with women, children, and poor workers; the transformation of work); b) the discussion of a new “civilizing mission” masquerading under the guise of concepts that have been emptied of their meaning and of their practical significance and circumscribed within determinate spheres of interpretation such as “freedom” and “democracy;” c) the study of the intellectual sphere, the ideologies, and the logic(s) at work in justifying and perpetuating empire, imperialism, and/or colonialism (from neo-enlightenment to neo-modern fundamentalisms; from identity formation to identity restructuring in religious, nationalist, ethnic, or other meanings; from “just war” theoreticians to evangelists of “democratic institutions”; and from the dumbing down of education to the construction of values, meanings, hopes and dreams produced and consumed through the media, information and communication, etc.).*

*2) Most importantly, we are interested in a serious exploration, from a variety of perspectives, of how can “resistance,” “subversion,” or “strategies and tactics” undermine the politics of fear and the reign of terror inaugurated through the construction of a new “politics of the real”—a “real” that is*

*constructed as dualistic, monolithic, simplistic, reductive, stupid, and righteous. Theoretically, how can indeterminacy, multiplicity, singularity and difference as philosophical bases for a new ontology and epistemology lend themselves to social and political thought in ways that could accommodate a complex world, multicultural environments, and a conception of justice interested in taking into consideration asymmetries of power and heterogeneity? How can we redress a social and political sphere that only acknowledges determinacy and unity as its foundations and that applies these to cover up its genocidal history? In the practical applications, one can consider: a) the privileging of presence, determinacy, and the “clear and distinct” in social, political, and legal systems (including international law and definitions of “genocide” and of “crime against humanity”) in ways that allow for the production of “subjects” that can be easily shaped according to dominant imaginaries; b) the crimes being committed at mass scale while protected by a limited and determinate perspective of “time and space” (and a certain control of means of interpretation and understanding) that does not acknowledge starving millions to death as a crime and does not call the elimination of thousands of human beings via precision-bombing criminal; c) the dominant (circumscribed) understanding of “justice” in terms of “individual rights” (that guarantee a non-participatory “individualism” seeking independence “from” shaping society and politics and concentrating on dwelling in a “private” world, reality, or psychosis) rather than in terms of “social and economic rights;” and d) the process of stripping down cultures and transposing the depths of values and meanings onto the values of a “free market” (where economy is god, purchase power is absolute value, and celebrities are the clergy).*

*Complete papers of 3000-5000 words (that can be summarized and presented in 20-30 minutes) should be submitted for consideration for the 2003 meeting (deadline: May 1, 2003). Either complete papers (as above) or summaries/abstracts of 750-1500 words should be submitted for consideration for the 2004 meeting (deadline: August 1, 2003). Papers could be mailed to: SSPP, Philosophy Documentation Center, P. O. Box 7147, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147, or e-mailed to: [papers@sspp.us](mailto:papers@sspp.us). For any questions or information contact [information@sspp.us](mailto:information@sspp.us)*

### **C) Publications:**

Starting 2004, papers presented by our members at the SPEP and APA panels (and other sponsored sessions), along with papers that have been selected but could not be presented due to space/time limitations, will be collected under a specific book title (and NOT as “proceedings”) via an established academic publisher.

## **2) MEMBERSHIP FORMS and DUES**

Following the 2002 decision to set two-tiered annual membership dues (\$35 and \$20) in order to sustain the activities of the society, we have concluded an agreement with the Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC) to collect membership information and membership dues. Our own e-board member, Steve DeCaroli, has developed a web site (at [www.sspp.us](http://www.sspp.us)) where membership forms are available, as well as relevant information (constitution, minutes, call for papers etc.). PLEASE print out the “application form” from the web site ([www.sspp.us/membership.html](http://www.sspp.us/membership.html)), fill it out, and mail it ASAP to:

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (or SSPP)

Philosophy Documentation Center

P. O. Box 7147

Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147

For those of you who would like to « charge » their membership dues on a credit card, you could either fill out the application form at the PDC website ([www.pdcnet.org](http://www.pdcnet.org)) or call 1-800-444-2419 (US & Canada) or 1-434-220-3300

Our membership dues are necessary to support the society's activities, including the setup of meetings, events, and publications, of our members. All of our planning is contingent on building a solid base of members who are willing to actively participate in shaping the society and to contribute towards its well-being—including financially, if they can. As the society builds a solid membership base, we hope to assist and support the setting up of events, meetings, conferences, and publications in different locations of the world (where our members could actively participate in organization), covering various subject matters—thus making the society a supra-national network and not merely a society based in the united states.

### **3) MINUTES OF 2002 BUSINESS MEETING**

The first business meeting (held in conjunction with SPEP, at Loyola University in Chicago, on October 10, 2002) followed a panel of presentations addressing the theme of *Potentialities of "Biopower" and of "Societies of Control."* The panel, moderated by Hasana Sharp, consisted of the following papers: 1) Roger Mourad, "After Foucault: A New Form of Right;" 2) Amit S. Rai, "Terror Tubbies, Monsters, and Despots: Monstrosity in the Discourses of Counter-Terrorism;" and 3) Steven Shaviro, "From Confinement to Performance: Digital Networks and the Society of Control."

The meeting included ballot voting after discussion of various aspects associated with each vote. What follows are the final decisions decided through ballot voting:

- a) The five members of the 2003-2005 Executive Board Members were elected: Steven DeCaroli; Fouad Kalouche; Jason Read; Piya Pangsapa; and Hasana Sharp.
- b) Annual membership fees, starting January 2003, were set at: \$35 for employed members in core countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, United States, and Western European countries) and \$20 for students and unemployed members in core countries and all members in other countries.
- c) Due to the changing nature of the constituency of the e-board (including secretary-general), it was voted that a) the society collaborates with the Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC), by paying an annual fee per person, to provide a permanent address, a centralized membership database, and other services as needed, and b) to incorporate the society in the state of New York as a not-for-profit organization and open a corporate account at a banking institution.
- d) The society should develop a web site.
- e) The society should aim at publishing an annual edited volume.
- f) The society should use the acronym "SSPP."

The meeting included the discussion of the following issues, resulting in some decisions:

- The next main annual (business) meeting will take place at the 2003 SPEP meeting in Boston (and not at the 2003 Eastern APA meeting in Washington, DC).

- The possibility of “group meetings” within the Eastern APA meeting was discussed and encouraged.
- Members were invited to submit topics for the 2003 call for papers. Topics brought up included: structures of knowledge and education; transformations of capitalism; work; etc.

The meeting was adjourned, and the elected executive board appointed Fouad Kalouche as secretary-general (for 2003-2005).

#### **4) CALL FOR MEMBERS’ SUGGESTIONS/PROPOSALS FOR THE 2003 BUSINESS MEETING**

We ask all (due-paying) members to submit by mail (at PDC address above) or by e-mail (at [information@sspp.us](mailto:information@sspp.us)) their suggestions and proposals for future activities and engagement of the society. We may also include some of your suggestions and comments in our NEWSLETTER (received via e-mail or in print form when requested), but the best way to reach out to the membership is through submitting items to be distributed to the membership (via the secretary-general), discussed, and voted upon at our annual business meeting.

All members can introduce items to be submitted to vote at the annual membership business meeting. Please check the “constitution” on the web site (or request a print copy) for various procedures, including how to vote through “proxy” ballots, if you cannot attend the annual business meeting. Send your suggested items and/or your concerns and recommendations by e-mail to the secretary-general at [information@sspp.us](mailto:information@sspp.us) or by snail mail to the PDC address above.

Thank you for being a friend of our society. We hope that you will become a participating member of the space of engagement we are trying to shape together. In these difficult times, a new impetus is needed in (re-)assessing social and political issues. We should all give it a try.

*Executive Board, 2003-2005*

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Historical, Continental, and Feminist Perspectives (SSPP)*