



Society for Social and Political Philosophy
Historical, Continental and Feminist Perspectives

NEWSLETTER 2003/2 (SEPTEMBER)

Dear Members and Friends,

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 Executive Board will share with you, on a regular basis (as in the *Newsletter*), 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, for further details on the functioning of the society—and by all means, introduce at our business meetings amendments to the constitution, in order to make it more reflective of the vision and needs of our constantly expanding membership.

This NEWSLETTER covers the following:

- 1) Invitation to SSPP sessions held at 2003 meeting of SPEP (*Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*) in Boston, MA.
- 2) Invitation to SSPP sessions held at 2003 meeting of Eastern APA (*American Philosophical Association*).
- 3) Update on 2004 sessions at SPEP and APA, including planned panels with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (2004 SPEP) and Noam Chomsky (2004 APA).
- 4) Update on other planned 2004 sessions and call for members’ involvement.
- 5) Membership dues.
- 6) Procedures for introducing items on the society’s business meeting agenda, for nominations, and for voting.
- 7) 2003 Business Meeting proposed items :
 - a) Reports (web page, membership, budget, 2003 and 2004 sessions, publications, cooperation).
 - b) “Publications Committee” formation and nominations.
 - c) “Conferences and Meetings Committee” formation and nominations.
 - d) 2004 E-Board Elections.
 - e) Proposed projects for 2005.
 - f) CFP themes proposals.
 - g) Members’ proposed activities, projects, and concerns.
- 8) Members’ Corner and Other Announcements.

1) SSPP at 2003 SPEP:

You are cordially invited to attend the SSPP panel at the 2003 meeting of SPEP on November 6, 2003, in Boston, MA. The session will be held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, located at 64 Arlington Street, Boston, MA (phone 617- 426 2000 or 800- 225 2208):

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: HISTORICAL, CONTINENTAL AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES (SSPP)

Room: Lexington

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Moderator: Steven DeCaroli (Goucher College)

“The Present as Pre-History: Adorno, Balibar and the Transformation of Labor,” Jason D. Read (University of Southern Maine)

“Hobbes’ Logic of Force: The Logic of Liberal Capital,” Richard A. Lee, Jr. (DePaul University)

10:30-10:45 Break

“Laplanche and the Formation of Raced Unconscious: Towards a Psychoanalytically-Informed Critical Race Theory,” Shannon W. Sullivan (Pennsylvania State University)

“Producing and Consuming Knowledge: The Relevance of the ‘New Production of Knowledge Debate’ for Disciplinary and Transdisciplinary Social Science,” Mark J. Smith (The Open University, U.K).

The Society’s Business Meeting will follow, from 12:30 pm to 1 pm.

All 2003 members will receive bound copies of the complete papers presented at the panel and the full-text of the papers will be available to members on a password-protected section of our website section, under “archives” (the password is communicated to members via e-mail and/or mail).

2) SSPP at 2003 Eastern APA:

You are cordially invited to attend the two SSPP panels that will be held at the 2003 meeting of the Eastern APA in Washington, DC. The panel on Social and Political Philosophy Today will take place on December 28. The panel on Social and Political Issues Today will take place on December 29. Both panels will take place at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel, located at 1919 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC (phone: 202- 483 3000):

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: HISTORICAL, CONTINENTAL AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES (SSPP)

Room: Grant (Terrace)

Sunday Morning, December 28, 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Social and Political Philosophy Today

Moderator/Chair: Jason David Read (University of Southern Maine)

“Memoirs of an Accidental Materialist: The 18th Brumaire of Karl Marx,” Daniel W. Conway (Pennsylvania State University)

“The Philosophy of Multiplicity and Indeterminacy: Nietzsche, Castoriadis, and the Politics of the Real,”

Fouad Kalouche (Albright College)

“Banishment and the State of Exception: Giorgio Agamben at the Edge of Politics,” Steven DeCaroli (Goucher College)

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: HISTORICAL, CONTINENTAL AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES (SSPP)

Room: Hemisphere (Concourse)

Monday Evening, December 29, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Social and Political Issues Today

Moderator/Chair: Charles F. Peterson (College of Wooster)

“The Labor of Suffering: Liberalism, Materialism, and the Body,” Asma Abbas (Pennsylvania State University)

“Black Bloc, Pink Bloc: Reflections on the Tactics of the ‘Anti-Globalization’ Movement,” Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves (Morgan State University)

“Black Americans and Muslims: Statelessness and the New Pariahs and Parvenus,” Falguni A. Sheth (Hampshire College)

All 2003 members will receive bound copies of the complete papers presented at both panels and the full-text of the papers will be available to members on a password protected section of our website, under “archives” (the password is communicated to members via e-mail and/or mail).

3) Update on 2004 SSPP sessions at SPEP and Eastern APA:

Our CFPs for 2003 and 2004 meetings received a great response, and unfortunately, many excellent papers had to be turned down due to the space restrictions (that is why we are trying to expand the meetings the society sponsors; see below). This year, we had to combine 2003 and 2004 call for papers due to organizational restrictions and to our dependence on professional societies. In the future, CFPs will be conference specific and *the deadline for submissions will be March 1 for the SPEP panel and APA panels.*

We have confirmed the 2004 SPEP and APA panels and we will share the details with the membership in our next newsletter (April 2004). All 2004 members will receive bound copies of the complete papers presented at both panels and the full-text of the papers will be available to members on a password protected section of our website, under “archives” (the password is communicated to members via e-mail and/or mail).

Besides regular panels, we are in the process of developing a new panel format at each one of our meetings. The panel is called “Around the Work of -----” and is conversational and informal in style. The honored guests would sit with a few colleagues and students of their work and would engage in a comfortable conversation and respond to some questions or comments about their work. The conversation would highlight the most important contributions of the guest, with a special emphasis on social and political ones. The society’s members will be involved as they can submit questions, comments, and/or ideas for conversation to the panelists and/or moderator. The audience will also participate through moderated questions/comments.

We are proud to announce that we have confirmed arrangements with Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak to be our guest at a SPEP panel on her work (October 2004, Memphis) and we have confirmed arrangements with Prof. Noam Chomsky to be our guest at an APA panel on his work (December 2004, Boston) and we hope to open up these panels to a variety of participants. The Executive Board is certainly open to members’ suggestions, recommendations, and questions to be compiled and organized by panelists and a moderator (names and e-mails will be communicated in the next newsletter). These sessions present the perfect opportunity for the society to show its appreciation and respect for the exceptional contributions of certain individuals or groups to social and political thought/praxis. The society will be arranging similar panels for 2005, and members are invited to get involved in their organization and setup.

4) Update on other specially planned SSPP panels for 2004 and beyond:

The Society is founded in order to create various spaces of engagement with social and political philosophy from historical, continental, and feminist perspectives. To that end, the executive board is planning to organize special panels at various national and international venues. Most of our regular panels undergo a rigid blind review process, although a few specially planned sessions are formed through coordinators assigned by the E-Board. These coordinators are entrusted with forming society-sponsored panels through a process that takes quality, thematic concordance, and membership representation into account (in the future, the “conferences and meetings committee” would assist in the coordination of such panels). *SSPP Members will be informed of these planned sessions and will have the opportunity to submit relevant papers directly to the coordinator(s).*

For 2004, we are already working on a specially planned SSPP panels that will take place at *the XV Inter-American/II Ibero-American Congress of Philosophy on the theme “Tolerancia/Toleration.”* The Congress will take place mid-January 2004 in Lima, Peru, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Alejandro de Acosta is the SSPP coordinator for that conference. Please contact him at

deacosta@southwestern.edu for paper submissions or if you have any questions. Keep in mind that, due to our 2003 APA meetings, we can only plan one session at this congress (with three papers).

A specially planned session may take place in 2005, as a mini-conference at the Pacific Division of the APA. The theme of the mini-conference will be “Social and Political Thought/Praxis Today: Multi-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Perspectives.” Our aim will be to present various contemporary social and political contributions, with a special emphasis on African, Asian, Latin American, Indigenous and Sub-Cultural thought/praxis. In 2005-2006, we would like to set up a major international conference dealing with contemporary social and political thought/praxis, and this would be our “trial run” on a much smaller scale.

If members would like to organize sessions and meetings, contact the secretary-general who would forward the request to a coordinator and/or coordinating committee. SSPP will sponsor members’ panels, whenever possible, by negotiating with societies and associations, assisting in panel formation (providing advice and recommendations to guarantee quality) and asking the membership at large, when needed, for cooperation, participation, and/or assistance.

5) Membership 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 concluded an agreement with the Philosophy Documentation Center (PDC) to collect membership information and membership dues. Membership Forms are available on our web site (at www.sspp.us)—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), fill it out, and mail it 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 their application form at the PDC website (www.pdcnet.org) or call 1-800-444-2419 (US & Canada) or 1-434-220-3300

You will receive a reminder directly from PDC to pay your dues or renew your memberships. 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.

6) Procedures for introducing agenda items, nominations, and voting

Following are the sections of the society’s constitution that outline procedures for members’ participation in decision-making processes at business meetings:

Members should try their best to attend the Annual Meetings of the Society that will be held yearly at a specified site, such as at an annual meeting of a national or international professional association in the humanities or the social sciences. In case members cannot attend the Annual Meeting of the Society, they should try to be “officially represented” by communicating issues of concern to a member of the Executive Board at least one week before the meeting, or by communicating the name of a proxy and providing a written and signed affidavit to that effect to a member of the Executive Board at least one week before the meeting. (Article II, 5)

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by fifty-one percent of members attending an Annual Meeting of the Society (including members officially represented as above), provided that the text of the proposed amendment has been communicated to all members at least 30 days before the Annual meeting. The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members attending the Annual Meeting (including members officially represented as above), provided the amendments are proposed and passed as prescribed above. (Article V, 1)

Any member could introduce items to be added to the agenda of the business meeting, provided s/he communicates that item at least one week before the date of the meeting (and preferably much before). Nominations and self-nominations to committee positions should follow the same guidelines as those for nominating Executive Board members:

Nominations for the Executive Board must be received by both the Secretary General and the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Society in order to be put to a vote at the Annual Meeting. (Article III, 2)

Our second business meeting will be held in conjunction with SPEP (in Boston, Massachusetts) on November 6 2003—following panel presentations, from 12:30 pm to 1 pm. Members present can participate and vote through ballots available at the meeting. Members who cannot attend the meeting can assign a “proxy” (as described above) or communicate their votes to the secretary-general in advance. Votes will take place after discussion. At the 2003 meeting, most votes will be to approve or disapprove of actions submitted to the membership (as plans of actions, after discussion); votes for members of proposed committees can defeat nominations if “no” votes are more numerous than “yes” votes. Only in the case where positions are limited in number will the “yes” votes count be determining of the outcome (for example, in October 2004, the membership will vote for the 2005-2006 executive board; in case there will be six or seven nominees, only the five nominees with the highest “yes” counts will be elected).

We ask all (due-paying) members to submit by mail (SSPP, P. O. Box 686, Buffalo, NY 14213) or by e-mail (at information@sspp.us) agenda items, concerns, suggestions and/or proposals for future activities 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 at any time before October 29, 2003.

7) 2003 B business meeting proposed items

What follows are proposed items as of September 26, 2003:

- a) Reports: Steve DeCaroli and Jason Read on Web Page and Publications; Fouad Kalouche on Membership and Budget; Executive Board member Hasana Sharp will not be present but a short report on possible cooperative efforts will be read; Executive Board member Piya Pangsapa will not be present but a short report on cooperation with ASA will be read; Other short reports on cooperation with APA, SPEP, and international organizations/associations will be read.
- b) Publications Committee Formation and Nominations: Jason Read and Steve DeCaroli are nominated to the committee. Nominations or self-nominations will be accepted from members until October 8th. The committee coordinates themes for CFPs and has editorial control over SSPP publications. The committee reports to the e-board and consults with the membership.
- c) Conferences and Meetings Committee Formation and Nominations: Fouad Kalouche and Alejandro de Acosta are nominated to the committee. Nominations or self-nominations will be accepted from members until October 8th. The committee coordinates society regular panels and specially planned panels. The committee reports to the e-board and consults with the membership.
- d) Announcement of elections for the 2005-2006 Executive Board that will take place at our 2004 business meeting at SPEP (in Memphis, TN).

- e) Proposed projects for 2005, including:
 - 1) Mini-conference at the Pacific Division of the APA; March 2005, San Francisco; “Social and Political Thought/Praxis Today: Multi-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Perspectives.”
 - 2) Major international conference dealing with contemporary social and political thought/praxis; in collaboration with various international organizations, societies and institutions; significant event.
 - 3) One or two SSPP panel(s) at the American Sociological Association; August 2005, San Francisco; “The Transformation of Capitalism.”
- f) Call for CFP “themes” proposals for 2005.
- g) Members’ activities, projects, and concerns.

8) Members’ Corner and Announcements

?? **New Book:** *The Micro-Politics of Capital: Marx and the Prehistory of the Present*. SUNY Press, 2003. By Jason Read.

“What is the relation between the economy, or the mode of production, and culture, beliefs, and desires? How is it possible to think of these relations without reducing one to the other, or effacing one for the sake of the other? To answer these questions *The Micro-Politics of Capital* re-reads Marx in light of the contemporary critical interrogations of subjectivity in the works of Althusser, Deleuze, Guattari, Foucault, and Negri. The book suggests that what characterizes contemporary capitalism is the intimate intersection of the production of commodities with the production of desire, beliefs, and knowledge.”

?? **Journal of Practical Philosophy:** published twice a year by Lexington Press.

Editors-in-Chief: Jennifer Hansen, Michael Collins Hughes, and Malek Moazzam-Doulat.

Mailing Address: Department of Philosophy, Box 404, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg PA 17325.

“ The journal is dedicated to opening up new spaces for political and social engagement. Its goal is to make evident the ethical and political force of Continental thought as it bears on current social problems. This evolution within Continental thinking also strives to engender dialogue with analytical philosophers who hold common practical concerns. Instead of seeing the realms of theory and practice as separate and distinct, this publication challenges the tradition theory/practice dichotomy with a view to a more dynamic and interactive model.”

?? **Toleration/Tolerancia: XV Inter-American/II Ibero-American Congress of Philosophy:**

The congress will take place in Lima, Perú, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in January 2004. All the information concerning the event is available on the web site:

www.pucp.edu.pe/enventos/congresos/filosofia

Thank you for being 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.

Executive Board (2003-2004)

Steven DeCardi
Philosophy Department
Goucher College

Jason Read
Philosophy Department
University of Southern Maine

Fouad Kalouche (Secretary-General)
Philosophy Department
Albright College

Hasana Sharp
Philosophy Department
Pennsylvania State University

Piya Pangsapa
Women's Studies Department
University at Buffalo-SUNY