



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

NEWSLETTER 2004/1 (APRIL)

Dear Members and Friends,

This newsletter includes various action items that require your immediate attention, especially those members who have presented at previous meetings and/or are interested in presenting and publishing their work through us. We also urge you to pay membership dues for 2004/2005 as soon as possible (a link on our website will allow you to pay your dues online, through a secure PDC site). You will receive an update in our September Newsletter on Elections, By-laws, Timeline, and on possible 2005 special meetings (APA Pacific division, American Sociological Association, International Society for African Philosophy and Studies, etc.).

This NEWSLETTER covers the following:

- 1) Information and update on our Publications schemes, in a book series and in a guest issue of a journal in 2005 and request for completed papers from 2004 presenters as well as from due-paying members. We also invite members to become involved in our publications committee and in suggesting topics or themes for 2005 call for papers.
- 2) Information and update on our panels, meetings, and special sessions at the 2004 meeting of SPEP (Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy) in Memphis, TN and the 2004 meeting of the Eastern Division of the APA (American Philosophical Association) and request for finalized titles and affiliations (by April 30) and papers (by July 15) for publications consideration. We also invite members to submit questions/topics to be discussed in our special “conversation” meetings with Gayatri-Spivak (2004 SPEP), Noam Chomsky (2004 APA), and possible 2005 meetings.
- 3) Request to pay membership dues for 2004/2005, and/or donations or contributions that should be tax deductible.
- 4) Invitation to all members to nominate themselves or others to positions 2005-2006 Executive Board positions (for elections to be held at our 2004 meeting).
- 5) Call for proposed items for the agenda of our 2004 business meeting(s) and Minutes of our 2003 Business meeting.
- 6) Members’ Corner and Other Announcements.

1) SSPP PUBLICATIONS:

A- SSPP involvement in editing a book series entitled “Out Sources: Philosophy, Culture, Politics”

The co-directors of our publications committee are in the final stages of negotiations with an academic publisher leading to the launching of a book series, supported by the SSPP membership, and with an SSPP member on the advisory board. The series will be co-edited by current (2003-2005) co-directors of the SSPP publications committee, Jason Read and Steve DeCaroli. One at large-member of the advisory board of the series will be elected by the membership for a two year term at our 2004 meeting.

The series initial(draft) description is as follows:

Despite the pretension of philosophy to grapple with universal questions, philosophy as a practice is largely divided into sectarian camps. The most apparent of these is of course the division between Anglo-American and Continental philosophy, but this is by no means the only division. The divisions that structure philosophic writing are not just those between different methodological uses of canonical texts or standard themes, but are also characterized by divisions between different nations or languages, as well as between divergent local socio-political concerns. Philosophy has perhaps always been burdened by a particular sort of nationalism, at the very least in the various native or natural languages that constitute the distinct philosophical traditions—German, French, English, Japanese and so on. These sedimented divisions are further complicated by the institutions and political decisions that determine the global transmission of published material. Philosophers in Asia and Latin America, for instance, debate and discuss both Continental and Anglo-American philosophy—along with Asian and Latin American texts and philosophical traditions; work to adapt political theory to political realities; and write broadly about core philosophical and political concerns, but due to distribution barriers these discussions rarely shape or influence discussion in the global North.

It is the founding belief of this series that the existing divisions and hierarchies governing philosophical discussion ought to be called into question. For this reason our series, which we have entitled *Out Sources*, is dedicated to publishing books that not only open up new avenues of research in philosophy, politics, and the humanities in general, but do so by foregrounding aspects of the global philosophical dialogue that are not typically accessible to English-speaking audiences. While we realize that the majority of the texts published in this series will come to us in English, we also wish to occasionally pursue the publication of significant translated texts so as to introduce important works to an English-speaking audience and to thereby broaden the often parochial concerns of political and philosophic debate.

Out Sources, then, is dedicated to publishing texts that demonstrate an awareness of the global character of philosophical debate—recognizing both that the western canon continues to be put to work outside the west and in distinctly non-canonical ways, and that in addition to the highly marketed western tradition there exist equally instructive, though currently less dominant, non-western traditions that deserve wider distribution, and ultimately greater influence, in the English-speaking world. Moreover, we recognize that these types of texts often demand that the nature of philosophy itself be called into question. Cognizant of this, we encourage works that envision a heteronymous philosophy, a philosophy that engages the intersection between philosophical texts and other disciplines not from a position of epistemic authority (as in the various philosophies of science, social science, history, etc.), but rather views the intersection between philosophy and other disciplines of knowledge as an encounter in which both the object and the mode of inquiry are transformed.

By working to overcome the divisions and hierarchies that shape political philosophy, *Out Sources* is ultimately guided by a singular focus, namely, the production of modes of philosophical inquiry

that are adequate to the existing realities of the world. While the last decades of the twentieth century were characterized by an explosion of publications (primarily of European origin) that cut across the confines of discipline and culture, this activity has largely subsided—and with it the promise of new modes of globally relevant political inquiry. Rather than return to academic business as usual, *Out Sources* aims to continue to extend the promise of a new global philosophical culture, based on the idea that the fundamental problems of political philosophy do not exclusively belong to one language, one location or one discipline.

We invite members to contact the co-directors if they are interested in participating as regular members of the committee and we hope that members who are established scholars will nominate themselves (or be nominated) for the at-large SSPP position on the advisory board to be filled through members' voting as part of our 2004 elections. You can contact our co-directors through our website (under committees) or by e-mailing Jason Read (jasondavidread@yahoo.com) or Steve DeCaroli (sdecaroli@goucher.edu).

B- SSPP publication of selected papers in a “guest issue” of *International Studies in Philosophy*

SSPP has negotiated with the editors of *International Studies in Philosophy (ISP)*, a reputable and refereed scholarly journal committed to interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approaches to philosophy, a trial "guest issue" (Fall or Spring of 2005) that would allow both parties to assess whether to enter into a contractual agreement to publish one volume annually while receiving a full-subscription as part of our membership dues (the possibility of this contractual obligation will be introduced, discussed, and voted upon by members in due time). A "guest issue" means that while our publications committee may select papers (that have undergone the blind referee process of the society for selection or that have been invited by SSPP), the editors of *ISP* still reserve the right to referee these selected papers and have the final say in publishing submitted papers. A contractual agreement would mean that the SSPP blind referee process, along with the decision of our publications committee, would be sufficient for publication in the journal.

The SSPP publications committee will consider all papers submitted and presented at our 2002, 2003, and 2004 meetings (except those that have been published elsewhere or when the authors inform us that they are not interested in publishing their paper with us) and submit selected papers by August 1, 2004, to *ISP* editors. *We ask you to send the secretary-general an electronic mail letting him know if you do NOT want us to consider your paper for publication and we ask all 2004 presenters to submit their completed and finalized papers for consideration no later than July 15, 2004. We also invite dues-paying members to submit finalized papers that they deem publishable and concordant with the CFP themes of 2002 or 2003/2004 for publication consideration. All papers and e-mails should be sent in WORD or RTF format to (papers@sspp.us) no later than July 15, 2004, and preferably much earlier. All papers should follow the Chicago Manual of Style format with endnotes (and not footnotes).*

C- CFP themes for 2005 regular meetings (SPEP and APA)

We invite all members to suggest themes for our 2005 Call for Papers. The SSPP publications committee needs to finalize the 2005 themes by September 2004, to be included in our next newsletter and disseminated widely. Please contact one of the co-directors of the committee with your recommendations.

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2) SSPP PANELS IN 2004-2005:

A- You are cordially invited to attend the *SSPP panel at the 2004 meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) on October 28, 2004, in Memphis, Tennessee*. All panels will take place at the Memphis Marriott Downtown Hotel, located at 250 North Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. Information on the SPEP meeting, travel, and accommodations, can be found on the SPEP website (www.spep.org):

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

Room: TBA **Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

Moderator: Piya Pangsapa (University at Buffalo)

“How Errors in Theories of Commensurability Lead to Universal Commodification of Law,” Nick Smith (University of New Hampshire)

“Can Alain Badiou’s Account of Time Account for Political Events?,” Antonio Calcagno (University of Guelph, Canada)

“Levinasian Ethics and Feminist Ethics of Care,” Chloe Taylor Merleau (University of Toronto, Canada)

10:45-11:00 a.m. Break

Room: TBA (same as above) **Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Conversation with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

Moderator: Hasana Sharp (Pennsylvania State University)

Conversation between Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (Columbia University), Jason Read (University of Southern Maine) and Asma Abbas (Pennsylvania State University)

On-Site Coordinator: Fouad Kalouche (Albright College)

The Society’s Business Meeting will take place sometime in the evening of Thursday or Friday. The place and time will be announced at the panel and posted near the SPEP registration booth.

It is imperative that presenters at our SPEP panel communicate to us a full and complete paper by July 15, 2004 for publication consideration but that they summarize their paper and present for 20-minutes, allowing 10 minutes of Q/A for each. A 15-minute discussion and further Q/A is set aside at the end of the panel. All members are invited to submit questions/topics to be incorporated in the discussion with Spivak, by submitting them to Jason Read (jasondavidread@yahoo.com) before July 1, 2004. On-site SSPP coordinator Fouad Kalouche will collect written questions from the audience, but only a few of those will be integrated into the discussion. The discussion will be tape-recorded, transcribed, and edited for possible publication. The full-text of the papers, and an edited version of the “conversation with Spivak,” will be available to members on the password-protected section of our website, under “archives.”

B- You are cordially invited to attend the **two SSPP panels that will be held at the 2004 meeting of the Eastern APA in Boston, MA (Boston Marriott Hotel, Copley Place)**. Due to unexpected circumstances, we will only hold one panel combining Social and Political Philosophy Today/Social and Political Issues Today. The panels will take place on **December 28 or 29, 2004** and we will communicate times and places in the near future. All sessions will be held at the Boston Marriott Hotel, Copley Place. For further information about travel, accommodations, etc., check the APA’s website at www.udel.edu/apa

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

Room: TBA (Boston Marriott, Copley)

Tues. or Wed., Dec. 28 or 29 time: TBA

Social and Political Philosophy Today/Social and Political Issues Today

Moderator: Steve DeCaroli (Goucher College)

“The Sense of the Other: A feminist and phenomenological critique of John Searle’s Collective Intentionality,” Wendy Lynne Lee (Bloomsburg University)

“Neocolonialism, Language, and Culture in Present Mexico,” Graciela Lechuga Solis (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, Mexico)

“The Evental Site of Resistance: Badiou as supplement to Foucault,” David Pekerow (DePaul University)

Break

“Autonomy, Figuration, Embodiment: Meyers and Irigaray,” Andrew Schwartz (University at Buffalo)

“Humanitarian Support Agencies, not Militaries: the Anti-Colonial Potential of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” Jeremy Bendik-Keymer (The American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates)

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

Room: TBA (Boston Marriott, Copley)

Tues. or Wed., Dec. 28 or 29 time: TBA

“Conversation with Noam Chomsky”

Moderator: Fouad Kalouche (Albright College)

Conversation between Noam Chomsky (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alejandro DeAcosta (Southwestern University), and Falguni Sheth (Hampshire College)

On-Site Coordinator: Piya Pangsapa (University at Buffalo)

[We may hold a supplementary Business Meeting at the APA, to discuss and vote on pending items. The meeting will take place sometime before or after one of the panels, and we will send you a confirmation at a later date.]

It is imperative that presenters at our APA panel communicate to us a full and complete paper by July 15, 2004 for publication consideration but that they summarize their paper and present for 20-minutes, allowing 10 minutes of Q/A for each. A 15-minute break will follow the first three papers, and a 15-20 minutes discussion and further Q/A is set aside at the end of the panel. All members are invited to submit questions/topics to be incorporated in the discussion with Chomsky, by submitting them to Alejandro DeAcosta (deacosta@southwestern.edu) before July 1, 2004. On-site SSPP coordinator Piya Pangsapa will collect written questions from the audience, but only a few of those will be integrated into the discussion. The discussion will be tape-recorded, transcribed, and edited for possible publication. The full-text of the papers, and an edited version of the “conversation with Chomsky,” will be available to members on the password-protected section of our website, under “archives.”

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3) REQUEST TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2004/2005 AND/OR DONATIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE) TO SSPP

You can now pay your membership on line (using a credit card) by using the link on our website, under membership, to the secure site of the PDC (Philosophy Documentation Center). Otherwise, you can print out the “application form” from the web site (www.sspp.us/membership.html), fill it out, and mail your check made out to SSPP to:

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (or SSPP)
Philosophy Documentation Center
P. O. Box 7147
Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147

You can also “charge” your membership dues on a credit card by either filling out the application form at our website or by calling 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.

Being a not-for-profit 501c(3) corporation we can also accept donations or contributions that should be fully tax-deductible. Please contact the Secretary-General if your department or institution can contribute to SSPP and would like to be acknowledged as a supporter of our conferences, meetings, publications, and other activities.

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4) 2005-2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS – 2004 ELECTIONS

We invite members interested and willing to serve the society to nominate themselves as candidates for the 2005-2006 Executive Board positions. Elections will take place at our October meeting at SPEP, but members who cannot attend can still vote (as described in Article III of the constitution, reproduced below). Ballots will be attached to our September newsletter. For further information, please consult our constitution (posted on our website).

Executive board members are responsible for running the society. Once elected, they will choose one of them to become the “Secretary-General” of the society. We are reproducing below Article III of the constitution related to the role of executive officers. While not written into the constitution (voted on in 2001) or the by-laws (currently being finalized, and to be submitted to the membership in our next newsletter for amendments, discussion, and vote at one of the 2004 business meetings—either SPEP or APA), the E-Board reflects the non-hierarchical and interdisciplinary nature of our society by incorporating graduate students and faculty from different disciplines of the humanities and the social sciences.

You can send your nominations or self-nominations to the secretary-general at information@sspp.us and can contact him with any questions or information you may need. An e-mail or letter of intent and willingness to be one of the society's officers will suffice to put your name on the ballot. We may ask each nominee to provide a short bio to be distributed to the membership.

Article III. Executive Officers

1. The executive officers of the Society shall be five members of the "Executive Board" elected for terms of two years at the Annual meeting of the Society by a majority of members present (or officially represented through a signed affidavit communicated to a member of the Executive board at least one week before the meeting and that either communicates a vote on one or more issues or assigns a proxy for a vote on one or more issues). One board member will be appointed "Secretary General" by the Executive Board and will take on major administrative tasks. All executive decisions need to be taken by a majority of the Executive Board, through decision-making processes coordinated and implemented by the Secretary General.

2. Nominations for the Executive Board must be received by the 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.

3. The executive officers shall have the authority and responsibility to oversee the administration of the Society, including a) organizing and administering all aspects pertaining to annual meetings, conferences, panels, and publications of the Society; b) collecting and disbursing funds related to the membership and the overall activities of the Society; c) coordinating communication and cooperation between members of the Society, as well as with members of other societies, organizations, or groups, national or international; c) ensuring that all members are informed of, and consulted on, issues of relevance to the membership at large; d) and arranging for adequate ways for members to participate in decision-making processes and in providing support for, recommendations to, and critical assessments of, the Society's activities and/or the Executive Board.

Keep in mind that the creation of the "Publications Committee" and of the "Conferences and Meetings Committee" has reduced the working responsibilities of the E-board members, even though they remain involved in decision-making processes. The society's by-laws will describe the responsibilities of committees that function in consultation with the E-board. Anyone can volunteer to become a member of the society's committees, thus offering to assist the elected co-directors who run the committees.

One more elected position will be on the ballot, in 2004, and that is the position on the advisory board of the *Out Sources* book series. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome from members who have some experience in the academic community and are well qualified to offer advice on scholarly publications.

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5) CALL FOR PROPOSED ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF OUR 2004 BUSINESS MEETING(S) AND MINUTES OF THE 2003 BUSINESS MEETING

We are 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 we invite you to reach out to other members by submitting items to be distributed, discussed, and voted upon at our annual business meeting(s). You can also share with the membership 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. Send your suggested items and/or your concerns and recommendations by e-mail to the secretary-general at information@sspp.us or by snail mail to the society’s P. O. Box address at SSPP, P.O. Box 686, Buffalo, NY 14213.

Minutes of 2003 Business Meeting

After the approval of Minutes of 2002 Business Meeting, a few reports were read hastily (Publications and Website; Membership and Budget; Conferences, Projects, and Cooperation). The Secretary-General announced that the elections for the 2005-2006 Executive Board will take place at our 2004 business meeting to be held at SPEP (in Memphis, TN), and that the E-Board will submit by-laws to the membership for amendments and vote in 2004. Members were encouraged to consider becoming Executive board or committee members. Jason Read and Steve DeCaroli were nominated to the SSPP Publications Committee (November 2003-November 2005) and Alejandro DeAcosta and Fouad Kalouche were nominated to the SSPP Conferences and Meetings Committee (November 2003-November 2005). Ballots (for elections and consultation on proposed projects) were distributed but due to the lack of time, many ballots were collected after the meeting and the final tally of votes was completed in the evening. It was however determined before adjourning the meeting that the formation of the committees and the election of their members were approved by a majority (of ballots by present members and proxy ballots). There was enough discussion, before and after adjourning the meeting (outside of the meeting room), of the individual items in the proposed projects. The final tally confirmed the elections, supported holding panels or a mini-conference at the APA Pacific starting 2005 (on social and political issues as well as on the history of philosophy), rejected holding a major international conference at this time, supported holding panels with the American Sociological Association (on the “Transformation of Capitalism” or other theme), and a majority supported publishing in a guest issue of an interdisciplinary philosophy journal (more members selected “such as *International Studies in Philosophy*” than “such as *Studies in Practical Philosophy*”) along with editing a book series.

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6) MEMBERS' CORNER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) To access restricted sections on our website (www.sspp.us), members please use the following:

User ID: ssppmember
User Password: socialpolitical

b) International Conference on “Michel Foucault and Social Control” at the University of Montréal from May 8 to May 10, 2004. For program information consult: www.grasp.umontreal.ca/colloque.htm Organizer: Alain Beaulieu (Philosophy, McGill University).

Thank you for being a participating member of the space of engagement we are trying to shape together.

Executive Board (2003-2004)

Steven DeCaroli
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