

About the things themselves

***Newsletter of the Society of
Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture
Volume II.2, Fall 2004***

About the things themselves

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Contents:

1. **Editor's comments**
2. **President's Message**
3. **NEW / NOUVEAU: EPTC's website now available**
4. **Important: Member's list for the website**
5. **Call for papers, EPTC**
6. **Call for papers Panel: Media and the Other**
7. **EPTC 2005, Special Sessions on the Work of Claude Lefort.
Call for papers**
8. **Announcements**
 - a) **The job market**
 - b) **Sartre Session and Panel, 13th Biennial Conference of the NASS (North American Sartre Society) commemorating Sartre's 100th Birthday**
9. **Members' activities**
10. **LAST MINUTE: Call for papers, The Society for Phenomenology and the media.**

1. Editor's comments Christine Daigle

Welcome to the second issue of the second volume of *About the things themselves*. This issue of our newsletter contains our call for papers for the coming annual meeting, to be held in London at The University of Western Ontario, from May 28 to May 30. Please consider submitting your work and pay special attention to the deadlines. The quality of your submissions ensures the success of our annual meetings.

In the last issue of the newsletter I asked members to send information about their activities. I want to stress this reminder as we would like to report on our members' academic activities throughout the year. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we rely on you to submit any relevant information (publications, conferences, performances, exhibits, etc.). Please send this information, or any other information you wish to submit to the Newsletter, to the assistant to the editor, Christinia Landry: cl03vd@brocku.ca

Cheers, Christine

2. President's message/Message du président John Duncan

The chief role of EPTC has been to provide an annual international conference for the presentation and discussion of existential and phenomenological research. At the Winnipeg Annual General Meeting we discussed the possibility of establishing an EPTC electronic journal called *PhaenEx* to provide a forum for the publication of some of that research. Although many academics still prefer paper journals, a number of electronic journals in the sciences and in the humanities have established themselves as reputable forums for academic publication. We will all have to wait to see whether or not this trend is the leading edge of a revolution in publishing, but there is little doubt both that the trend will continue for the foreseeable future, and that it will never be completely reversed. After preliminary research, the committee struck to consider the matter has met, and we are quite excited about the project. We are now in the earliest stages of working to establish the journal. We will keep you posted.

Cheers, John

3. NEW: EPTC's website now available **Christine Daigle**

We are pleased to announce that the website for EPTC is now available! You will find all sorts of information on the site including a member's list. As it stands the list is somewhat short. Very few of you have sent us your info! (See item #4) However it is not too late and we will update the website's content as information is received. The URL is:

<http://www.brocku.ca/eptc-tcep>

Make sure to add it to your favourites!

4. IMPORTANT: Member's list for the website **Christine Daigle**

One of the features of the website is a listing of EPTC members. The purpose of this list is to assist you in contacting a member with whom you are already acquainted or a member with whom you have similar interests. The member list will also provide non-members with relevant information regarding our society and those involved.

If you have participated in the Society at a relatively recent Congress (and this includes anonymous referees), you are a member of EPTC. If you wish to be listed as a member on the EPTC website, please send your name and email address, relevant interests, and affiliation to Christinia Landry at cl03vd@brocku.ca.

Example:

Christine Daigle, cdaigle@brocku.ca

(Nietzsche, Sartre, Beauvoir, ethics, aesthetics, environmental philosophy)

Philosophy Department, Brock University

E-mail all information to Christinia Landry (cl03vd@brocku.ca).

5. Call for papers, EPTC 2005 **John Duncan**

2005 Congress: Call for Papers

The society for the study of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) invites papers and panel proposals discussing any aspects of existential or phenomenological theory or culture. For example, papers or panel proposals dealing with theoretical or cultural issues in relation to authors such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Beckett, Husserl, Heidegger, Jaspers, Levinas, Malraux, Marcel, Buber, Frankl, Sartre, Camus, Merleau-Ponty, Beauvoir, Irigaray, or

Laing are all welcome. Submissions from all disciplines are welcome.

EPTC will meet at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario (a short drive from Toronto, Buffalo, and Detroit) in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities of Canada from May 28 to May 30, 2005. Every year the Congress brings together some 100 learned associations and more than 5,000 scholars from Canada and the international community for approximately 10 days of interdisciplinary symposia, cultural events, and public discussions. For more information see: <http://www.fedcan.ca/>.

I. Interested authors should submit the following in both electronic and paper formats:

1. A copy of your paper, not more than 4,500 words, and prepared for anonymous review (identifiable by paper title only). 2. A separate abstract, not more than 100 words, also listing the paper's title, author's name, complete mailing address, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address.

II. If you are interested in either presenting a commentary (of not more than 1,000 words) on a paper, or chairing a session, please submit a brief email note indicating as much, including your name, complete mailing address, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, and relevant areas of interest.

III. If you are interested in organizing a panel, please submit the following in both electronic and paper formats: 1. A brief description of the proposed panel by Friday January 7, 2005. Then, by Friday February 4 please submit: 2. a copy of each participant's paper, not more than 4,500 words, and prepared for anonymous review (identifiable by paper title only); and 3. a separate abstract, not more than 100 words, also listing the paper's title, author's name, complete mailing address, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address (for each participant). Each panel organizer is encouraged to ensure both that the papers for his or her proposed panel meet the general standards of academic conferences, and that the panel as a whole is suitable for EPTC; EPTC reserves the right to reject individual papers or panels.

Except for item III.1., the submission deadline for the above materials is Friday February 4, 2005.

Submissions should be sent to:

John Duncan
Trinity College
6 Hoskin Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5S 1H8
john.duncan@ukings.ns.ca

6. Call for papers Megan Penney

EPTC Panel: Media and the Other

Annual Meeting: Society of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, CSSHC, London (Ontario), May 2005.

The impact of the media on society has never been more apparent than it is in our present time. The media has reshaped how we view the world, others and ourselves. This reshaping has also altered philosophical discussion. A few of the well-known philosophers who deal with the media are Chomsky and Luhmann. Although they both present interesting theories of the media, this panel proposes examining the media with particular focus on the existentialist, phenomenological and feminist ramifications to the shaping of the Other. The inquiry into the status of the Other has been well developed by many existentialist thinkers, particularly Sartre and Beauvoir. There have been few inquiries into the status of the Other as it relates to the media, even though the media increasingly influences our daily lives. This panel would examine whether the ontological status of the Other (as defined in purely existentialist, phenomenological or feminist terms) has been altered because of the media. Some questions to consider examining include: Has the internet further objectified the Other? How has the easy accessibility of pornography changed the status of woman as the Other (in Beauvoir's sense of the woman as the Other)? Has the status of women as the Other been altered because of the internet? Has the Other been changed into a neutral gender because of the media? Has the media changed the status of the Other from a purely female object to a male object? Any of these questions and others could begin by examining the existential, phenomenological or feminist role of the Other either by critiquing or expanding previously held philosophical theories. We may ask whether these theories are still applicable given the technological onslaught or whether we must rethink the Other in order to accommodate this advent. Papers that focus on the existentialist, phenomenological or feminist interpretations of the Other are welcome. In addition papers from all disciplines are encouraged.

All those who are interested should submit a completed paper, following the format standards of EPTC (see item 5 of this Newsletter) to Megan Penney at megan_j_penney@hotmail.com by **December 2nd, 2004**. Panel organizers will respond to submissions by December 16th, 2004.

7. EPTC 2005, Special sessions on the work of Claude Lefort. Call for papers Mark Blackell

EPTC 2005 will be hosting a special set of sessions on the work of Claude Lefort. Lefort is arguably one of the most influential living French political philosophers, but he

has remained relatively obscure to English North America readers. As a student of Merleau-Ponty, Lefort was deeply influenced by phenomenology in his attempt to understand the nature of modern political forms of society. With Castoriadis, through the journal *Socialisme ou Barbarie*, Lefort was at the centre of early criticisms of Stalinism, and as an important contributor to the journal *Les Temps Modernes*, from the 1940s onward Lefort contributed to debates over structural anthropology, phenomenology, Marxism, colonialism, and the nature of sovereignty. He is known most importantly for his attempts to understand the natures of modern democracy and totalitarianism and their related symbolic logics.

Call for Papers: Claude Lefort and the Nature of the Political

Claude Lefort's writing has played a significant role in provoking a reconsideration of the nature of the political in modern democracy. While a dialogue with Lefort's work continues in France, and while his work has influenced post-Marxist social theory, a direct attempt to think with, through, and against his work in a systematic fashion is lacking in an English environment. To address this lack, we seek papers that engage with Lefort's theorizing on the forms of modern political society. Papers are sought for panel presentations at EPTC/TCEP 2005 to be held in London, Ontario May 28-30, 2005. Following the conference, we will be seeking publication of the articles. Those unable to attend the conference but interested in submitting for publication are encouraged to do so.

Lefort's account of the fundamental political forming of society presents us with a host of questions about the nature of the political, the social, and the economic. What can we say about the particular nature of the social, given Lefort's account of the political forming of society? What tensions, if any, may be said to exist in the symbolic order of modern democratic power? What are we to make of Lefort's suggestion that what distinguishes democratic power is that, despite appearances, it is thoroughly symbolic? Is the modern "empty place of power" fully empty? What of popular fantasies around power and embodiment? Indeed, what of the realm of fantasy itself, and of depth psychology, in relationship to Lefort's reading of the political forming of society? Following Lefort's claims of a loss of metaphysical certainties in political modernity, in what ways can it be said that the question of metaphysics remains present for democratic thought?

Papers are most heartily welcome on the above and any other questions that seek to think with Lefort's thought rather than simply explicate it or compare it to other thinkers. Papers are welcome in English or French (those in French will be translated for publication). Please e-mail substantial paper proposals by February 4, 2005 to one of the following organizers:

Brian Singer (bsinger@yorku.ca); Matthew Trachman (MTrachman@qcc.cuny.edu); Mark Blackell (mark.blackell@ukings.ns.ca)

8. Announcements

Christine Daigle

a) The job market

It's that time of year for our members who are on the job market. It looks like a good year for continental philosophers as many positions are now being advertised in the CAUT bulletin and in the *Jobs for Philosophers*. We wanted to draw your attention to positions that include continental philosophy as their AOS or AOC. Such positions are advertised by the following universities or colleges:

Colby college (Waterville, ME), Fordham University (Bronx, NY), Salem State College (Salem, MA), Trinity College (Hartford, CT), Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, MD), University of Memphis (Memphis, TN), Beloit College (Beloit, WI), University of Illinois at Chicago (Chicago, IL), Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO), University of Houston-Downtown (Houston, TX), University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM), Claremont Graduate University (Claremont, CA), Occidental College (Los Angeles, CA), San Diego State University (San Diego, CA), University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Manitoba), International Academy of Philosophy (Santiago de Chile, Chile).

b) Sartre Session and Panel, 13th Biennial Conference of the NASS (North American Sartre Society) commemorating Sartre's 100th Birthday Information provided by Adrian van den Hoven

The NASS meeting will be held in San Francisco, February 18-20, 2005. A good number of EPTC members will participate to the Sartre Session and Panel organized by Adrian van den Hoven. The following papers will be presented. The final program is not available yet.

Marie-Andrée Charbonneau (U. of Moncton, N.B.), "Le scénario Freud"

Christine Daigle (Brock University, St.Catharines. Ont.), "Sartrean Aesthetics in *Nausea*"

Dennis Gilbert (Boston College), "For a Sartrean Esthetic of Theater"

Ronald Aronson (Wayne State University, Detroit), "Camus's unpublished *L'Impromptu des philosophes* as a satirical take on Sartre and himself."

John Ireland (IUC): "Sartre and Scarry: Bodies and Phantom Pain"

Steve Martinot, "Skin for Sale: Race and Sartre's *Respectful Prostitute*"

Benedict O'Donohoe, "Sartre and Camus: Parallel Playwrights"

There will also be a book session: Matt Eschleman will discuss Adrian van den Hoven and D. Sprintzen's book, *Sartre and Camus. A Historic Confrontation*, as well as Ronald Aronson's book, *Camus and Sartre. The Story of a Friendship and the Quarrel that Ended it*.

9. Members' activities

Christine Daigle

Christine Daigle (Vice-President EPTC, Brock University) has presented a paper called "Sartrean Aesthetics in *Nausea*" at the Image and Imagery Conference that was held from October 13 to 15, 2004 at Brock University. This was a shortened version of a longer paper that will be presented in San Francisco in February 2005, at the 13th Biennial Conference of the NASS (North American Sartre Society) commemorating Sartre's 100th Birthday.

Matthew King (York University) has presented a paper called "Turning from Being and Time to "Ereignis"" concerning Heidegger's conceptions of being on either side of the "turn". The paper was presented at the annual meeting of SPEP (Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy) on October 30, 2004 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Monique Lanoix (Concordia University) has presented a paper called "No Room for Abuse" on the notion of abuse and "gray zones" in Giorgio Agamben and Claudia Card. The paper was presented at the pacific meeting of SWIP (Society for Women in Philosophy) in Eugene, Oregon on October 16, 2004.

10. LAST MINUTE: Call for Papers, The Society for Phenomenology and Media

The Society for Phenomenology and Media will hold a conference on "Education and Media" in Cannon Beach, Oregon, May 12-14, 2005.

Proposal for panels or papers should be submitted by January 31, 2005.

Contact Dana Ulveland at ulvelad@wou.edu

Further information is available at <http://www.wou.edu/spm/>