

About the things themselves

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About the things themselves

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1. Editor's Comments

Gregory Cameron

Another year done and gone; now it is time to start thinking about next year's conference in Ottawa. I was unfortunately unable to attend the conference in Vancouver, but all reports suggest that the event was a great success. It has also been a great year for EPTC/TCEP in general. PhaenEx is doing extremely well and the articles are excellent, a great read. Don't forget to check out the various calls for papers listed below and on the website. We also now have the added benefit of being listed with the Philosopher's Index. But now it is time to turn to the future...

As usual with the first newsletter of the year, the primary purpose is to circulate the next call for papers: you will find this immediately after this message. This newsletter also contains short reports from panel organizers at the Vancouver meeting, giving a basic sense of what went on and what plans there are for the future. It is a good idea to check these out since it is often the case that a given theme is on-going. For those of you new to the society and the newsletter, I should also say a word about the format of the meeting. EPTC is in many ways unique in that rather than each participant receiving only twenty minutes to present, we are given a full fifty minutes. Each session involves thirty minutes for paper presentation and ten minutes for response and ten minutes or so for discussion. What this implies is that each participant receives far more attention to their work than is generally the case, but it also means that completed papers, not merely abstracts, have to be submitted for review. It is for this reason that the call for papers comes out so early – it is already time to start thinking about your paper for next year! Information concerning panels will be published in the next newsletter: the call for panels has been sent out in a separate letter.

As always more information concerning EPTC/TCEP, including information on how to access PhaenEx, can be found at our website -- <http://www.brocku.ca/eptc-tcep/> -- so check it out and check out the various calls for papers associated with EPTC and with PhaenEx. And please send us your calls for papers, comments, notice of publications, reviews, etc. If they arrive in time for the next newsletter we would be happy to include them. Do not forget to check out the French language version of the newsletter for information for French speaking members and earlier editions of the newsletter for ongoing information.

Hoping the heat is not as bad everywhere else as it is here in Guelph, but, regardless, enjoy what's left of the summer!

Gregory Cameron: Chief Editor
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2. Call for Papers : EPTC/TCEP Ottawa 2009

The society for the study of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (EPTC) invites papers 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, Dostoyevsky, 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 Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities of Canada in late May, 2009. The Congress will bring together some 100 learned associations and more than 9000 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 electronically in Rich Text Format: 1. A copy of your paper, not more than 4500 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 1000 words) on a paper, or chairing a session, please submit a brief e-mail note indicating as much, including your name, complete mailing address, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, and relevant areas of interest.

EPTC is able to waive Congress fees for a few delegates each year. Such awards will be made according to criteria of financial need and quality of paper at the discretion of the conference program coordinator. Non-tenure-stream delegates interested in this award should append a note indicating as much to their submission materials.

The submission deadline for the above materials is **Monday, February 2, 2009**.

Submissions should be sent to: eptc2009@gmail.com.

3. Call for Papers: PhaenEx.

PhaenEx vol. 4, no. 1 (spring/summer 2009): Open Issue: Due Date: October 1, 2008.
Lead Editor: Paul Gyllenhammer (gyllenh@stjohns.edu). Check EPTC/TCEP website, www.eptc-tcep.net, for information on PhaenEx and details of call for papers and instructions for contributors.

4. Panel Reviews: EPTC/TCEP Vancouver 2008.

1) Beauvoir at 100/Beauvoir centenaire Co-organized by Christinia Landry (WLU) and Christine Daigle (Brock)

Christine and I felt that the philosophic relevance of Beauvoir's work deserved some attention and what better time for a panel than a 100th birthday. We put out a call for papers which would explore contemporary problems associated with identity, embodiment and intersubjectivity. Instead of opting for a key speaker we chose to invite two Beauvoir scholars to present within the framework of our panel. We hoped that this format would encourage the sharing of ideas amongst both the life-long Beauvoir scholars and the more novice scholars –myself included. This format proved to be a success indeed.

The day began with a paper on Beauvoir's notion of joy and disclosure by Kristana Arp. Cécile Decousu presented on the ambiguous writings of Beauvoir. Bronwyn Singleton's paper called for a rethinking of feminine sexuality. She used Beauvoir's notion of the erotic encounter to forward a new definition of virginity. The morning wrapped up with a commentary by Richard Holmes. He wove together the ideas of the three presenters beautifully and opened the floor for what proved to be a fruitful discussion on Beauvoir's notion of joy, ambiguity and eroticism.

The afternoon opened with my paper on transcendence and the problem of existential ethics. I was followed by Christine Daigle's paper on gender as ambiguous. Finally, Debra Bergoffen

presented a paper on dignity and old age. Kevin Gray wrapped up the day with an insightful commentary and some helpful discussion questions for each of the presenters.

We would both like to thank Kevin for filling in at the last moment and Richard for his enthusiasm. We would also like to thank Chloe Taylor and Richard for keeping us on track, acting as chairs.

2) Back to the Things Themselves

This year EPTC hosted our second "Back to the Things Themselves" event. Once again, our goal was to encourage authors to put the books aside and return to deep and attentive descriptions of things themselves. By soliciting papers around a common theme, we hoped to facilitate dialogue not only around the phenomena in question, but also more broadly about the practice of phenomenology as a rigorous philosophical mode of inquiry. Building on the encouraging momentum generated at last year's Congress, we decided to revisit the theme of the in-between, but expanded this theme to include explorations of edges as well. Our BTTTT! 2008 panel included seven excellent and diverse papers on edges and the in-between, including two architecturally inspired phenomenologies (one on bridges and one on Japanese architecture), a meditation on philosophy as "living erotically," a phenomenology of the startle as an in-between that challenges some of our sedimented phenomenological categories, cyborg life, and a sound-text that invited the audience to listen as a mode of embodied engagement. Our panel culminated with an extended paper delivered by Ed Casey, who invited us to consider life "on the edge." On our second morning, Ed Casey led us in a deeper collaborative exploration of the phenomenon of edges. This unique opportunity to dialogue and exchange ideas with colleagues, ranging from graduate students to seasoned phenomenologists, was both refreshing and rewarding. Again, as organizers of BTTTT!, we were pleased to receive positive feedback from participants and look forward to organizing BTTTT! 2009 in Ottawa. Moreover, we are currently investigating ways of continuing the conversations generated at BTTTT! in an on-line forum. For those of you who missed BTTTT! 2008 but are interested in joining our discussions, please send an email to either David or Astrida. Stay tuned for our next announcements and CFP!

3) Rethinking 1968.

The turbulent events of 1968 changed the way in which philosophers think about politics. Forty years later, philosophers are returning to the events to consider the ways in which the criticisms of 1968 have changed the world. In our sessions, we examined the relevance of these themes to our present world.

The first three presenters focused on the French context of 1968: the French Academy during the 1960s, Althusser's critique of the police state, and Sartre's impact on contemporary French politics (and the presidency of Sarkozy).

At the 2009 conference in Ottawa we will again return to the topic of 68 and reconsider some of the questions that were raised in 2008. A selection of papers will be published in a special volume of PhaenEx.