

# ***About the things themselves***

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## ***About the things themselves***

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## **1. Editor's Comments**

### **Gregory Cameron**

Hi Folks,

It is that time of year again; time to start thinking about papers for the next meeting of EPTC/TCEP. The 2010 meeting is in Montreal at Concordia University and no doubt this will be a very popular event. The call for papers posted below gives the details. It is, though, worth remembering that in submitting to EPTC/TCEP a complete paper of 3000-4000 words is required, which explains the early call for papers. The call for panel proposals was been sent to members under a different cover. If you are new to EPTC/TCEP and didn't receive the original call, you may want to keep an eye on the website for future calls. Deadline for proposals is usually the beginning of September.

I was not, unfortunately able to hear as many papers as I might have liked at the 2009 meeting in Ottawa, but what I did hear was excellent. The quality of EPTC/TCEP papers is always exceptionally high, and the fact that an hour is devoted to each presenter, allows for the development of some extremely engaging discussion. Both as an audience member and as a presenter, EPTC/TCEP presentations always prove to be rewarding and challenging. It was also very good to see so many familiar faces, to put faces to familiar names and to meet new members.

Included in this newsletter are the reports from some of the panel organizers at the 2009 EPTC/TCEP meeting. Have a read through them, perhaps they will generate ideas for future panels or since some of the panels are on-going they may inspire you to write your paper with the panel in mind.

This newsletter also contains a message from EPTC's new president, David Tabachnick. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome David, but also to thank the former president, John Duncan, for his years of hard work and dedication to EPTC/TCEP. As Editor of the newsletter I will miss John's stern but friendly reminders. Thanks a ton, Dude!

I would also like to remind readers that we are always looking for announcements and comments for the newsletter. Don't be shy! If you have recently published a paper or a book that you think will be of interest to EPTC/TCEP members, send us the info. This is a good way of getting to know each other's work outside the confines of Congress.

Gregory Cameron: Chief Editor  
[grcameron@wlu.ca](mailto:grcameron@wlu.ca)

## **2. General Call for Papers: EPTC/TCEP Montreal 2010.**

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 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 Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities of Canada, from May 31 to June 3, 2010. 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 1, 2010**.

Submissions should be sent to: [eptc2010@gmail.com](mailto:eptc2010@gmail.com).

### **3. Presidents Message.**

Greetings from the President

I'd like to give a word of thanks to John Duncan, past President of EPTC. John worked tirelessly for the last seven years founding and building the society. Thank you, John, for your friendship and leadership. I am honored that the executive nominated me and the membership voted for me in as his successor.

I attended my first EPTC conference in 2006 at York University when John asked me to serve on a panel exploring the place of tragedy in Heidegger. Immediately, I recognized that this conference was quite different than the large and impersonal conferences I had grown accustomed to. Not only were the papers of a high quality but the discussion was both passionate and collegial. We actually had time to listen and talk to each other. I went on to serve as program coordinator for the 2007 and 2008 conferences, trying always to keep in mind the importance of quality of papers over quantity of presenters. As the new President, I hope to continue to support and facilitate this tradition at future conferences and in the society's journal, PhaenEx.

David Tabachnick: President  
[davidt@nipissingu.ca](mailto:davidt@nipissingu.ca)

### **4. Panel Reviews: EPTC/TCEP - Ottawa, 2009.**

#### **A) Special Panel on Shame.**

Organizer: Lisa Guenther

This panel addressed the theme of shame from phenomenological, political and literary perspectives. Alexis Shotwell of Laurentian University discussed the relation between shame, racism and anti-racist political movements in "Shaming Whiteness" (which, incidentally, forms part of her forthcoming book, *Knowing Otherwise: Implicit Understanding and Political Change*.) Lisa Guenther compared the analysis of shame in Sartre and Levinas in her paper, "Shame and the Temporality of Social Life." And finally, Karen Houle explored concepts of the face and the back in a synthesis of literary, philosophical and artistic works on shame in her paper, "Full-Frontal." Thanks to each of the participants, and to the audience for a lively and far-ranging discussion of shame!

## **B) Phenomenology of Disorientation**

Organizer: Ami Harbin

Our lived experiences of disorientation shape our understandings, actions, theories, and identities. Our panel aimed to consider specific ways in which this is so, and to chart implications, with an eye to examining not only how our disorientations disrupt aspects of our lives, but also to rethinking the promise of such disorientation.

In our first session, Ami Harbin considered the disorientation that can accompany and shape self-destructive impulses and behaviour, discussing how testimonies of self-destruction highlight not only disorientation, but also its impact on how we can re-orient ourselves fruitfully, in ways that open up new possibilities for agency. In the second presentation, Sean Braune linked disorientation to cartography and physical dislocation, connecting Heidegger to Borges' short story "On Exactitude in Science," while also continuing a discussion that started with Stuart Grant's paper on bodyweather and phenomenology the day before. And Jennifer Bates' paper concluded the panel by charting a connection between Hegel and King Lear, taking up the role of wonder (and, as the discussion pursued it, the relevance of wonder to philosophy), as a crucial element of disorientation, leaving us with a consideration of how important disorientation is to philosophical practice itself. We really appreciated the insights of our commentators, Kristin Rodier, Pat McHugh, and Christophe Perrin, and want to thank Sarah Hoffman and Pat McHugh again for filling in as readers. As panel participants, we were glad for the opportunity to take up these discussions together, and grateful for everyone who came to flesh them out with us.

## **C) Doing Phenomenology: Back to the Things Themselves! "Methodologies and Practices"**

Organizers: D.R. Koukal and Astrida Neimanis

We have been organizing Back To The Things Themselves! for three years now at EPTC, and each year we come away from the experience more convinced than ever that there is enthusiasm for this kind of work and that we should continue on with the panel. This year was no different--all of our panelists and commentators fully engaged with the spirit of BTTTT! as a forum for the application of phenomenology's insights and the generation of detailed, rigorous, extended descriptions of the lived world. This year's papers included a phenomenological inquiry into what can count as "trash" (D.R. Koukal); an exploration of "thick urban space" in Mumbai and Delhi and the integration of images into phenomenological methods (Orit Shmueli); a meditation on philosophical meditation (Chris Drohan); and a description of "bodyweather" practices as a means of phenomenological inquiry (Stuart Grant). We were very pleased with the outcome of the Ottawa meeting, and we owe all of our panelists, reviewers and commentators a sincere debt of thanks.

Very special thanks is due to our workshop facilitator, Rachel McCann from the Mississippi State School of Architecture, who performed heroically in the face of adversity. Despite a missed flight, missing luggage and a malfunctioning bank card, Rachel managed to arrange for the use of studio space at Carleton's architecture school and provide a variety of materials for our annual phenomenological workshop, which this year had the theme "Flesh and Space." Roughly twenty

panelists, commentators, random EPTCers, and a couple Carleton architecture students came together for almost five hours to produce a series of exploratory models attempting to "capture space," under Rachel's gracious and gentle guidance. This unique experience will not soon be forgotten, and we are grateful for all of Rachel's hard work.

We are already at work on our fourth BTTTT! as part of the EPTC/Congress next year in Montreal, and a more detailed CFP will be sent out shortly.

## **5. Call For Papers: PhaenEx 5.1.**

*PhaenEx: Journal of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture* welcomes your submissions for the following upcoming issues.

(5.1) *PhaenEx* 5, no. 1 (spring/summer 2010). Papers dealing with any topic relevant to the goals of *PhaenEx* are invited for publication review for the Open Issue to be published by early summer 2010. Submissions are to be made on line, are due October 1, 2009, and will be subject to peer review.

Lead Editor: David Tabachnick ([davidt@nipissingu.ca](mailto:davidt@nipissingu.ca)). Please contact the editor with any questions regarding submissions.

*PhaenEx* publishes in both French and English.

## **6. Call for Papers: 'Foucault and the Sciences of the Soul'**

In the Fall of 2010, *PhaenEx*, the electronic journal of the society for Existentialist and Phenomenological Theory and Culture (<http://www.eptc-tcep.net/>), will publish a special issue of papers on the topic of Foucault and the Sciences of the Soul. We invite papers which consider the history of madness and its political formations, as well as the psychiatric narrative of the normal and the pathological, as unfolded by Foucault and by his contemporaries in the fields of philosophy, psychiatry, and psychology. We welcome papers which consider Foucault's works in conjunction with those of thinkers such as Marcel Gauchet, Gladys Swain, Georges Canguilhem, Ludwig Binswanger, Ronald David Laing and David Cooper, among others, and on any topic touching upon Foucault and the psychological sciences.

Please submit papers electronically to both Bettina Bergo and Chloë Taylor by April 1, 2010: [bettina.bergo@umontreal.ca](mailto:bettina.bergo@umontreal.ca) and [chloe3@ualberta.ca](mailto:chloe3@ualberta.ca)

## **7. Call for Papers: 'Situated Selves'**

'Situated Selves: Phenomenology, Law and Aesthetics' (Department of Philosophy, University of Liverpool 30th - 31st October 2009).

This conference will bring together researchers in phenomenology, law and contract theory and philosophy of art to discuss how a phenomenological concept of the subject may alter our approach to politics, law and art appreciation. Each area - subjectivity and consciousness, political philosophy, social contract theory and aesthetics - has benefited from insights gleaned from thinking of the self and object as a synthetic unity. The benefits gained from such philosophical analysis have been

enhanced by the fruitful dialogue with feminism over issues such as objectivity, realism, perception and power. The aim of the conference is to continue with this dialogue in a productive and constructive fashion and to clarify a number of conceptual problems in these areas of practical concern.

Confirmed speakers include: Christine Battersby; Rosemary Betterton; Joanna Hodge; Kimberly Hutchings; Rachel Jones; Diane Morgan; Janice Richardson; Stella Sandford; Linnell Secomb; Margrit Shildrick and Alison Stone.

This conference is a celebration of the work of Christine Battersby and is supported by the European Journal of Philosophy, the Society of Women in Philosophy and the University of Liverpool.

Registration fee: Â£40. Bursaries available.

Deadline for abstracts: Friday September 4th.

E-mail: [philosophyconference@liv.ac.uk](mailto:philosophyconference@liv.ac.uk)

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