
POLITICS AND LITERATURE NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2002

Membership

Don't forget to renew when completing your annual APSA registration form! The Politics and Literature Organized Section must meet mandatory enrollment. Ask friends to join or, better yet, help celebrate their birthday by paying their dues.

2002-2003 Officers

Chairperson:

David Nichols
Montclair State University
Email: nicholsd@mail.montclair.edu

Chair-Elect:

Patrick J. Deneen
Princeton University
Email: pdeneen@princeton.edu

Secretary/Treasurer:

Lisa P. Vetter
American University
Email: lvetter@american.edu

Members at Large:

Mary P. Nichols
Fordham University
Email: mpnichols11@hotmail.com

Joseph Alulis
North Park University
Email: jalulis@northpark.edu



APSA News

Join us in Boston!

Wednesday, August 28 – Sunday, September 1

Politics and Literature Business Meeting

Thursday, Aug 29, 12:30 PM

Location will be announced in the
Final Program

All members are encouraged to attend

Call for Chair Nominations, 2003-2004

Nominations are due to David Nichols via e-mail at
nicholsd@mail.montclair.edu by August 21, 2002.

Note: Nominations cannot be accepted at the business meeting.

Other News

Politics and Literature Hosts Courtesy Panel at the Southwestern Meetings

The Politics and Literature organized section is grateful to the Southwestern Social Science Association for allowing it to sponsor a courtesy panel on "Shakespeare's Vision of New Political Orders." Papers were presented by Susan S. Benfield (Fordham University), on the "Two Faces of Heroism in a Changing World: Lord Talbot and Joan La Pucelle in Shakespeare's Henry VI, Part One," Paul Kirkland (Dominican University), on "Patriarchy, Poetry, and Politics in Shakespeare's Hamlet and Midsummer Night's Dream," and Carly Kinsella (Fordham University), on 'Sigh No More Ladies': Honor, Autonomy, and Marriage in Shakespeare's Late Comedies." David Nichols (Montclair State), and Sara MacDonald (St. Thomas University), served as discussants. The meeting was held in New Orleans, on March 27-30, 2002.

APSA 2002

Politics and Literature Panels

41-1 The Forgotten Countries: Literature and Dignity Under Communist Rule

Thursday, Aug 29, 1:30 PM

Chair: Patrick D. Bernardo, Montclair State University

Papers:

"Paul Goma and the Courage to Say No: A Romanian Experience"

Mihaela Mihailescu, University of Minnesota

"Bohumil Hrabal: Writer as the Bad Conscience of a Nation"

Jakub Franek, Boston College

"Havel's Vanek Plays: Disobedience and Responsibility"

James F. Pontuso, Hampden-Sydney College

"The View from the East: Milosz and Solzhenitsyn on Intellectuals and Communism"

Flagg Taylor, Fordham University

Discussant(s):

Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Washington and Lee University

Daniel J. Mahoney, Assumption College

41-2 Roundtable on the Politics of Academic Fiction

Thursday, Aug 29, 8:45 AM

Chair: Scott D. Gerber, Ohio Northern University

Participants:

"The Curious Enlightenment of Professor Caritat"

Steven Lukes, New York University

"The Ivory Tower"

Scott D. Gerber, Ohio Northern University

"The Stagnant Pool"

Nancy Maveety, Tulane University

"The Ticking Tenure Clock"

Blair French

"Rousseau's Ghost"

Terence Ball, Arizona State University

41-3 Modern Poets and the Revival of Aristotelian Republicanism: Milton, Shaftesbury, and Wodehouse

Saturday, Aug 31, 1:30 PM

Chair: Paul A. Cantor, University of Virginia

Papers:

"Milton's Critique of Machiavelli"

Paul A. Rahe, University of Tulsa

"Shaftesbury's Hopes for the Arts in Liberal Societies"

Mark Lloyd, Washington and Lee University

"Wine, Women and Song in P.G. Wodehouse"

James W. Muller, University of Alaska, Anchorage

Discussant(s):

Paul A. Cantor, University of Virginia

41-4 Mark Twain's Politics

Thursday, Aug 29, 3:30 PM

Chair: David L. Schaefer, College of the Holy Cross

Papers:

"Was Huck Greek? The Odyssey of Mark Twain"

Patrick J. Deneen, Princeton University

"Divine Right: Mark Twain's Joan of Arc"

Wilson Carey McWilliams, Rutgers University

"Tom Sawyer: Potential President"

Catherine H. Zuckert, University of Notre Dame

Discussant(s):

Martha Rice Martini, Independent Scholar

41-5 Liberalism, Postmodernity, and the Modern Novel

Thursday, Aug 29, 10:45 AM

Chair: Jonathan D. Marks, Carthage College

Papers:

"Liberalism's Pale Fire"

Eric S. Petrie, Michigan State University

"Transcendence in Tom Wolfe's America"

Carol McNamara, Utah State University

"Shelby Foote's Civil War"

Steven Kautz, Michigan State University

Discussant(s):

Alice Behnegar, Boston College

Jonathan D. Marks, Carthage College

41-6 History and Freedom in Contemporary Literature

Sunday, Sep 1, 10:45 AM

Chair: Lauren Weiner, U.S. Senate Staff

Papers:

"Postmetaphysical Literature: Reflections on J. M. Coetzee's Disgrace"

Michael S. Kochin, Tel Aviv University

"Slavery, Self-Government, and the Good Life in Kazuo

Ishiguro's 'The Remains of the Day'"

Lucas E. Morel, Washington and Lee University

"Political Liberty and Individuality in Jorge Luis Borges' Fictions"

Alejandra M. Salinas, Liberty Fund, Inc.

"Political Inquiries as Human History in the Novels of

Michael Ondaatje"

Lisa P. Vetter, American University

Discussant(s):

Susan Storing Benfield, Fordham University

Lauren Weiner, U.S. Senate Staff

41-7 The Politics of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter Series

Friday, Aug 30, 10:45 AM

Chair: John E. Seery, Pomona College

Papers:

"On the Marauder's Map: The Political Geography of Harry Potter"

Susan J. McWilliams, Princeton University

"Democratic Longing in Harry Potter"

Mariah Zeisberg, Princeton University

"Heroism and the Political Morality of Democracy in Harry Potter"

Jeffrey A. Becker, Rutgers University

"Cultural Phenomena: Dumbledore's Message"

James A. Morone, Brown University

Discussant(s):

Wilson Carey McWilliams, Rutgers University

41-8 Perspectives on Virtue Across Time and Genres

Saturday, Aug 31, 3:30 PM

Chair: Susan D. Collins, University of Houston

Papers:

"Rousseau and the Identity of Virtue"

Lorraine Pangle, University of Toronto

"Rousseau and Montaigne on Goodness and Virtue"

John T. Scott, University of California, Davis

"Martial Virtue and Erotic Virtue in Shakespeare's Henry V"

Constance Hunt, James Madison College

Discussant(s):

Pamela K. Jensen, Kenyon College

41-9 Viewing Political Theory through the Past Decade of American Film

Sunday, Sep 1, 8:45 AM

Chair: Robert M. Schaefer, University of Mobile

Papers:

"No Business Like Show Business?: Political Satire in '90's Film"

John M. Parrish, Ohio State University

"Reading Rousseau's Critique of Bourgeois Liberalism Through the Film 'Hannibal'"

Catherine Ann Connors, University of Toronto

Patti Tamara Lenard, Oxford University

"Injustice and the Love of One's Own in 'A Simple Plan'"

Travis D. Smith, Harvard University

"Laboring in the Field of Justice: Comparative Portraits of Feminism in Popular Culture: Jane Tennison of 'Prime Suspect' and Laine Hanson of 'The Contender'"

Lilly J. Goren, College of St. Catherine

Discussant(s):

Michael L. Ferguson, University of Washington

41-10 Educating Citizens

Friday, Aug 30, 1:30 PM

Chair: James W. Ceaser, University of Virginia

Papers:

"Literature and the Education of Citizens"

Sharon A. Barrios, California State University, Chico

Troy Jollimore, California State University, Chico

"Friends, Fakes and Fools: Political Judgement in Marlow's 'Edward II'"

Sara MacDonald, Saint Thomas University

"Emerson's Poetic Democracy: Rejection, Reflection, Representation, and the Emergence of the Self-Reliant Individual"

Joanna Bache Tobin, Georgetown University

"Diderot and Rousseau on the Politics of the Theater"

Patrick Kernahan, Boston College

41-11 The Aesthetic Michael Oakeshott: Poetry, Transcendence and Political Philosophy

Saturday, Aug 31, 10:45 AM

Chair: Timothy Fuller, Colorado College

Papers:

"Poetry and the Limits of Politics"

Debra Candreva, Boston University

"Text and Context in Oakeshott's Political Philosophy"

Eric Steven Kos, University of Michigan

"Poetry and Transcendence in Oakeshott"

Elizabeth Campbell Corey, Louisiana State University

"Oakeshott and Eliot on the Relation of Poetry, Philosophy and Practice"

Corey Abel, Louisiana State University

Discussant(s):

Wendell John Coats, Connecticut College

41-12 The Politics of the Afterlife

(Co-sponsored by 1-13, Political Thought and Philosophy:
Historical Approaches)

Friday, Aug 30, 3:30 PM

Chair: Patrick J. Deneen, Princeton University

Papers:

"Homer and the Politics of the Afterlife"

Mark Kremer, Boston University

"The Politics of the Afterlife in the Gorgias"

Damjan de Krnjovic-Miskovic, The National Interest

"Citizen and Brother: Some Figures for Justice in Dante's Commedia"

Dennis Costa, Boston University

"Pascal and the Human Aliens"

Peter Augustine Lawler, Berry College

Discussant(s):

Patrick J. Deneen, Princeton University



A Message from the Chair-Elect:

The Politics and Literature Section is a thriving and active section, based both on the number of panels that are regularly sponsored and attended, and upon informal conversations that laud the kinds of work that is done by participants in conferences and elsewhere. There is something naturally attractive about the subject: since antiquity, in such works of "literary philosophy" as the dialogues of Plato, and subsequently in the plays of Machiavelli, Rousseau's novels, and Nietzsche's aphorisms, as well as in "philosophical" literature by such figures as Homer, Sophocles, and Shakespeare, among many others, political thinkers have regularly employed literary forms as one of the best means of instructing readers about politics in a manner both subtle and accessible. It could be argued that we are at the intersection of "politics" and "philosophy," a point at which political thinking and political action meet and intermingle.

At the same time, I am often concerned that the Section is not as visible nor even as respected throughout the discipline as it might and ought to be. At a time when many thinkers of both "practical" and "theoretical" bent bemoan the lack of connection between the two "worlds," it would seem desirable for members of the Section to articulate the ways that this takes place in the realm of political literature (or literary philosophy). This is especially true, it seems to me, in democratic polities, in which the expectation of political knowledge and practical wisdom among the populace is high, but in which a relatively small number of citizens evince an active political interest. Literary forms - and here, one can think broadly about not only literature, but film, theater and television, among other media - remain a singular kind of accessible yet serious political pedagogy. I want to encourage "practitioners" of our Section - those who are adept at reading and interpreting literary texts with depth and subtlety - to think additionally about why such work is desirable, what are its political and especially democratic implications, and in what ways we can articulate the excellence of this work to those who may not readily discern it but may be subject to persuasion and evidence. I hope to put together a roundtable at next year's A.P.S.A. conference that will reflect on these and other related questions - perhaps with an aim toward eventual publication - and I encourage you to think about participating in or attending such a session.

Patrick J. Deneen
Princeton University

Politics & Literature Organized Section/APSA
c/o Lisa P. Vetter
Department of Government
School of Public Affairs
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

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