
POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND FILM NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2005

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APSA NEWS

Join us in Washington, DC! August 31-September 4

Politics, Literature, and Film Business Meeting Saturday, September 3, 12:00PM

Johnson Room, Marriot Hotel

All members are encouraged to attend

To view a copy of the meeting agenda, visit our
website at www.apsanet.org/~politicsandlit

John Uhr Australian National University Wins 2004 Best Paper Award

for

"Inequality and Inequity in Political Leadership:
Henry Fielding's Satire in Jonathan Wild"

Announcements

New Book Series

"Political Companions to Great American Authors"

University of Kentucky Press

Series Editor: Patrick J. Deneen, Georgetown University

This series seeks to publish edited volumes on individual authors in the American tradition, combining classic interpretive essays with new interpretations, both of which should have a substantial political content. We are inviting potential editors to propose volumes on individual thinkers. Examples of authors that the series might include are: Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, James Baldwin, Saul Bellow, etc. Please contact Patrick Deneen at pjd35@georgetown.edu.

ATTENTION 2005 PANEL CHAIRS

Please be sure to consider nominees
for 2005 Best Paper Award

**Nominations may be submitted
on our website**

www.apsanet.org/~politicsandlit

APSA 2005 PANELS

41-1 Terror and Civilization

Sunday, Sep 4, 10:15 AM Maryland B, Marriott
Co-sponsored by 1-23, Political Thought and Philosophy
Chair: Jan H. Blits, University of Delaware
Papers: "Terror and Prudence in the Machiavellian Prince"
Lijun Gu, St. John's College
"Tyranny and Education in the Odyssey"
Mark Kremer, Kennesaw State University
"Dostoevsky and the Psychological Origins of Terrorism"
Jack P. Moran, Kennesaw State University, and Khalil Habib,
Boston University
"Hobbes & Terrorism"
David Lay Williams, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Discussants: Jan H. Blits, University of Delaware
Richard Buckwalter, London School of Economics

41-2 Roundtable: The Daily Show and American Politics

Saturday, Sep 3, 8:00 AM Cotillion BR North, Marriott
Chair: Darrell A. Hamlin, Spring Hill College
Participants: John Lombardini, Princeton University
Susan J. McWilliams, Princeton University
Joseph Romance, Drew University
Daniel J. Tichenor, Rutgers University

41-3 Race and Politics in Twentieth Century American Writing

Thursday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM Park Tower 8224, Marriott
Chair: Catherine H. Zuckert, University of Notre Dame
Papers: "The Impossibility of the Flight to Freedom: Slavery and the West in Robert Penn Warren"
Joseph H. Lane, Emory & Henry College
"The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Political Salvation in Ralph Ellison's Juneteenth"
Lucas E. Morel, Washington & Lee University
"Race and the Grim Arithmetic: Shelby Foote on the Causes of the Civil War"
Eric Petrie, Michigan State University
"Race and Calculation in the Politics of Tom Wolfe's America"
Carol L. McNamara, Utah State University
Discussants: Steven Kautz, Michigan State University
Pamela K. Jensen, Kenyon College

41-4 Thinking and Acting in Modern and Contemporary Literature

Thursday, Sep 1, 2:00 PM Calvert, Omni Shoreham
Chair: Simon A. Stow, College of William & Mary
Papers: "Philosophy and Generation in Turgenev's Fathers and Sons"
Michael S. Kochin, Tel Aviv University
"Magical Realism and Political Foundings"
Michael Neblo, Ohio State University
"The Lifting of Rawls's Veil of Ignorance in Saramago's Blindness"
Michael Keren, University of Calgary
"Milan Kundera and the Art of the Political Novel"
Yvon Grenier, St. Francis Xavier University
Discussants: Simon A. Stow, College of William & Mary
Alberto Spektorowski, Tel Aviv University

41-5 Postmodernism Rightly Understood: Literary Approaches

Friday, Sep 2, 2:00 PM Wilson C, Marriott
Chair: Peter Augustine Lawler, Berry College
Papers: "Postmodernism Rightly Understood: Walker Percy and Flannery O'Connor"
Peter Augustine Lawler, Berry College
"The Postmodernism of Solzhenitsyn's Nobel Lecture"
Daniel J. Mahoney, Assumption College
"Aristophanes as the Founder of Postmodernism Rightly Understood"
James Pontuso, Hampden-Sydney College
Discussants: Ralph C. Hancock, Brigham Young University
Mark C. Henrie, Intercollegiate Studies Institute

41-6 The Science of Fiction and the Fiction of Science

Saturday, Sep 3, 4:15 PM Marriott Balcony D, Marriott
Chair: Denise Schaeffer, College of the Holy Cross
Papers: "Ex Astris iter, Scientia: A look at the Political Theory of Star Trek"
Peter W. Brusoe, American University
"The Interplanetary Dialectic: Freedom and Equality in Ursula's Le Guin's The Dispossessed"
Susan Storing Benfield, Fordham University
"What Should be Done: Revolutionary Technology and the Problem of Perpetuation in Stephenson's 'The Diamond Age'"
Charles T. Rubin, Duquesne University
Discussant: John R. Bokina, University of Texas, Pan American

41-7 Eros, Power, and Politics

Friday, Sep 2, 4:15 PM Park Tower 8224, Marriott
Chair: Lilly J. Goren, Lake Forest College
Papers: "Nietzsche's Politeia: Beyond Good and Evil and Plato's Republic"
Laurence D. Cooper, Carleton College
"Sex as a Weapon: The Politics of Desire in Machiavelli's La Mandragola"
Catherine Ann Connors, University of Toronto
"Eros and Moderation in Plutarch's Lives"
Andrew Hertzoff, California State University, Sacramento
"The Politics of Love and Sex: Democracy and Liberalism in Michel Houellebecq"
Marius Hentea, Harvard University
Discussants: Ann Ward, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Joseph M. Knippenberg, Oglethorpe University

41-8 American Vistas and the Political Imagination

Thursday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM Delaware A, Marriott

Chair: Peter Josephson, Saint Anselm College

Papers: "Re-Thinking Uncle Tom"

W. B. Allen, Michigan State University

"Whitman's Multitudes: Leaves of Grass at 150"

Aaron Keck, Rutgers University

"Mark Twain: American Educator"

Benjamin A. Kleinerman, Virginia Military Institute and

Bernard J. Dobski, Hofstra University

"Democracy and the Individual: Emerson's Urgent Call to Self-Reliance"

Joanna Bache Tobin, St. John's College

Discussants: Kevin Costa, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Denise E. Dutton, Missouri State University

41-9 Existential Terrors and Modern Self-Consciousness

Thursday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM Coolidge, Marriott

Chair: B. Jeffrey Reno, College of the Holy Cross

Papers: "Democracy and a Politics of the Impossible: Derrida and Don Quixote"

Beverly Ann Gaddy, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

"Primo Levi and Political Philosophy"

Dustin Howes, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"A Re-Evaluation of Political Theory in the Works of Albert Camus"

George Patrick Lynch, Liberty Fund

"Invocations of Kafka in American Law: An Empirical Examination"

Brian Kristopher Pinaire, Lehigh University

"Heroes or Whores: The Gender Politics of Literary

Representation in DeLillo's Pseudonymous Amazons and Plato's Menexenus"

Heather Hadar Wright, Wittenberg University

Discussants: Kamila Stullerova, Central European University
Peter Josephson, St. Anselm College

41-10 Theological and Literary Responses to Affliction

Friday, Sep 2, 10:15 AM Cotillion BR South, Marriott

Chair: Jane Flax, Howard University

Papers: "Post-Holocaust Political Theology: Or, How to Engage the Ineffability of Affliction in Relation to the Ineffability of God"

Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University, and Sara Botwinick, Independent Scholar

"Affliction in Camus' The Plague: A Phenomenology of Political Subjectivity"

Stephen F. Schneck, Catholic University of America

"Is Job's Experience of Affliction Still Possible? For Whom?"

C. Fred Alford, University of Maryland, College Park

Discussants: Jane Flax, Howard University

Margaret S. Hrezo, Radford University

41-11 Literary Deployments of Freedom and Democracy At War

Sunday, Sep 4, 10:15 AM Virginia A, Marriott

Co-sponsored by 1-28, Political Thought and Philosophy

Chair: John S. Nelson, University of Iowa

Papers: "Literary Representations of the Democratic Warrior"

Richard Avramenko, Georgetown University

"A Connecticut Yankee in Saddam's Court: Mark Twain on Benevolent Imperialism"

Joel A. Johnson, Augustana College

"The Political Animals of Watership Down: Of Self-Interested Wars of Liberation and Other Noble Deeds"

Travis D. Smith, Concordia University

"God, History, and War in Tolstoy's War and Peace"

Lee Trepanier, Southern Utah University

Discussants: John S. Nelson, University of Iowa

Lilly J. Goren, Carroll College

41-12 Tragedy and Loss in Contemporary American Culture

Sunday, Sep 4, 8:00 AM Governor's, Omni Shoreham

Chair: George M. Shulman, New York University

Papers: "From Politics to Evil: Melodrama, Moralism, and National Victimization"

Elisabeth Anker, University of California, Berkeley

"Contemporary Tragic Film and the Critique of Perfection"

Robert E. Watkins, Furman University

"Ruins and Excess Americans: Camilo Vergara and David Simon's Conflicts with City Identities and Urban Development Strategies"

Blake D. Ethridge, The Johns Hopkins University

Discussants: Steven Johnston, University of South Florida
Michael J. Shapiro, University of Hawaii

41-13 Aristophanes and Politics

Friday, Sep 2, 8:00 AM Nathan Hale, Marriott

Co-sponsored by Society for Greek Political Thought

Chair: Terence E. Marshall, Universite Paris X--Nanterre

Papers: "How to be a Liberal Conservative Radical: Aristophanes' Clouds and the Pursuit of Knowledge"

Kennan Ferguson, University of South Florida

"On War and Injustice: Aristophanes' Acharnians 513-578"

Eleni Panagiotarakou, Concordia University

"Nietzsche as Judge in the Quarrel between Aristophanes and Socrates"

John Francis Ryan, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Discussant: Jason M. Adams, University of Hawaii

A Message from the 2006 Panel Chair:

The opening scene of Homer's *Iliad*, arguably the first scene in our literary heritage, graphically presents the consequences of the use and abuse of political power: Agamemnon invokes his authority as king to seize Achilles' prize, and Achilles' anger results in a struggle that "put pains thousandfold upon the Achaians, hurled in their multitudes to the house of Hades strong souls/ of heroes, but their bodies to the delicate feasting of dogs . . ." Literary representation enjoys unique advantages as a conceptual tool for opening vantages on the character of political power and its consequences for human life. Literature in all its forms (both poetry and prose, whether on page, stage, and screen) allows us look inside the minds of those in power and those subjected to power. This imaginative inside view is essential to understanding how power relationships transform the character of human beings. From Shakespeare's kings to Robert Penn Warren's re-framing of the Kingfish, from the struggles between men and the gods that characterize Greek tragedies to the hideous physical and metaphorical transformations that illustrate the impact of power on the soul in the most recently released films, we are led to reflect on the relationship between the human condition and the quest for "power after power ceasing only in death." The Politics, Literature, and Film section seeks papers on the ways that narratives help us understand power as a constituent element in all human social and political relationships: How do authors portray characters' understanding of their own power (or lack thereof)? How do they reveal the sources of the human longing for power or the injuries and resentments of those who lack power or suffer at the hands of those with power? How do texts themselves constitute a tool for constructing and solidifying (or unmasking and undermining) the claims of powerful elites? How can narratives reinforce, educate, transform, critique, or contain those who wield political power? We invite papers that address questions like these through the study of works of poetry, prose, drama, film, and television.

Joseph H. Lane
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