

DRAFT

9th Annual Conference of the International Social Theory Consortium

3-4 June, 2010

University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

Call for Papers

Conference theme 'The Future of Capitalism and Democracy'

The annual conference provides a forum for social and political theorists to meet to discuss topics of importance for an understanding of current times. This year's conference has a specific focus on the future of capitalism and democracy as well as a wider concern with exploring how social and political theory can move beyond the cultural turn. During the 'disciplinary' period of the midtwentieth century, there was a marked separation between social, political and cultural theory. This was followed by a more complex triangular relation in the last part of the century, influenced by the model of Foucault and a politicized cultural studies. Present writing in this area has moved beyond the 'cultural turn,' but not back to the earlier separation. The interpenetration of these domains, both at the level of theory and in political life itself, produces challenges for theory in all these areas. Central to all of this is a sense of the uncertainty about major social and political institutions that the present global economic crisis has heightened and clarified. Papers on key topics in contemporary social and political theory that reflect this situation are invited.

Conference convenor: Gerard Delanty, Professor of Sociology and Social & Political Thought, University of Sussex

The conference is hosted by The Centre for Social and Political Thought, Sussex University <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cspt/>

The Department of Sociology, Sussex University <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sociology>

The European Journal of Social Theory <http://est.sagepub.com/>

Keynote Speakers:

Richard Sennett (London School of Economics)

Stephen P. Turner (University of South Florida)

William Outhwaite (University of Newcastle)

Three additional speakers currently being invited

This is the 9th annual conference of the ISTC www.socialtheory.org

Previous ISTC conferences have been hosted in Singapore, Toronto, Tampa, Dubrovnik, Lexington, Kentucky, Knoxville, and Roanoke. In 2001 the annual conference was held in Sussex. Bringing cultural, social, and political theorists of a variety of disciplines and from a broad international background together has been an aim of all of these conferences. Participants have come from such fields as Philosophy, Film Studies, Comparative Literature, English, Geography, German Studies, Economics, Theology, and many other fields.

Abstracts (between 150 and 200 words in length) for papers should be submitted by 18th January to Gerard Delanty. A decision on acceptance will be made by 1 February.

Please send your abstract (with a short biographical note and your address) by email to the conference manager, Dr Jasper Chalcraft jmc40@sussex.ac.uk

Possible topics which papers might address:

Major Contemporary Trends in Theory

The Marxist Legacy, the Foucauldian legacy, psychoanalysis and the political, Bourdieu and after, rights, justice and equality, liberalism after communitarianism, the republican heritage, pragmatism, social norms, feminist theory, race and race critical theory

New and Emerging Developments and Topics

Deliberative democracy, collective identity theory, cosmopolitan theory, posthumanist theory, cognitive theory, performativity, affect theory, neuropolitics, states of exception, social norms, post-universalism and relativism, civilizational analysis, embodiment

Social and Political Theory Beyond the West

Contemporary south American, contemporary Chinese political thought

The Transformation of Political Community

Future of the state, the possibility of radical politics, political Islam, power, legitimacy and authority, constitutionalism, empire and territory, nationalism, public sphere, European transformation, trust, the future of the left

Major Social Transformations

Modernity, technology and mediazation, The transnational social question, Anti-Globalization movements, environment and risk, capitalist crisis, hospitality, rights, networks, migration/territoriality, memory and forgiveness, post-secular society, nature and society

Practical information

The conference will be held at the Freeman Centre, Sussex University over two days (3 and 4 June 2010). It is anticipated that people will arrive on 3rd and depart on 5th

The conference is partly subsidised by the above sponsors, but there is a fee of £100 payable in advance. This includes lunch and refreshments during the conference, dinner in a restaurant in Brighton on 3 and 4 June with transport, general administrative costs. The deadline for payment is 5th April.

People attending the conference will book their own accommodation (a list of hotels will be provided). Campus accommodation is also available (£40 per night for ensuite room).

The conference manager is Dr Jasper Chalcraft jmc40@sussex.ac.uk

The organizing committee includes Charles Masquelier cm25@sussex.ac.uk

Addresses

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