Final Schedule

Thursday, May 14, 2009

12:00-12:15  Welcome
            Wolfgang Natter
            Director, ASPECT, Virginia Tech
            Location:  203 Haslam Building

12:15-1:00  Re-Visioning the Future:  Modernity between Utopia and Dystopia
            Harry F. Dahms
            Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
            Location:  203 Haslam Building

1:00-2:15  The Era of Obama
            Chair:  Wolfgang Natter
            Location:  203 Haslam Building

            Brian Butler
            Philosophy, University of North Carolina, Asheville
            The Obama Presidency, the Cost-Benefit State and Pragmatism

            Josh Tremill
            University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
            Barack Obama and the “Change We Need”

2:15-2:30  Coffee Break

2:30-3:45  Globalization, Climate Change, and the Current Ecological Crisis
            Robert Antonio
            Sociology, University of Kansas
            Chair and Moderator:  Daniel M. Harrison, Sociology, Lander University
            Location:  203 Haslam Building
4:00-5:30  **Session I: Literature and Intellectual Production**  
Chair: Allen R. Dunn  
Location:  203 Haslam Building

Elizabeth Chaves  
Governance and Globalization, Virginia Tech  
*The Changing Nature of Intellectual Production*

Robert Kirsch  
Political Science, Virginia Tech  
*Why Literature Matters in [U/Dys]topia*

4:00-5:30  **Session II: Morality and Social Justice**  
Chair: Harry F. Dahms  
Location:  302 Haslam Building

George Gondo  
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Doing Justice to the Social: Toward a Sociology of Social Justice*

Clint W. Jones  
Philosophy, University of Kentucky  
*Moral Decision Making in the Global Village: Moral Consumers, Ethical Consumption, and Living Simply in the Modern World*

4:00-5:30  **Session III: Does the Public Sphere have a Future?**  
Chair: Steven P. Dandaneau  
Location:  303 Haslam Building

Asaf Bar-Tura  
Philosophy, Loyola University, Chicago  
*Arendt, Habermas and Facebook: An Analysis of Cyber Public Spheres*

Liam Hysjulien  
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*The Rational Torturer: The Need for Public Discourse and Critical Thought after 9/11*

Eric R. Lybeck  
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Mailer v McLuhan: The Poet, The Prophet, and Our Faustian Bargain With Electronic Media*
9:00-10:45  **Pragmatism in Sociology and Philosophy**  
Chair: Robert J. Antonio  
Location: 202 Haslam Building

J. I. (Hans) Bakker  
Sociology, University of Guelph  
*Peirce, Pragmaticism and Public Sociology: Translating an Interpretation into Praxis*

Allen R. Dunn  
English and Philosophy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*The Future is Now: The Politics of John Dewey's Aesthetic Immanence*

David G. LoConto  
Sociology, Jacksonville State University  
*Pragmatism and the Christian Sociology of Shailer Mathews: Common Ground Against Nominalist Sociology*

11:00-12:15  **Session I: Modernity and Personal Development**  
Chair: Allen R. Dunn  
Location: 302 Haslam Building

Chris Drain  
Philosophy, Boston College  
*Towards a New Topology of Utopia: On Language, History, and the Primal Experience of Infancy*

Adnan Semilovic  
Social and Political Thought, York University  
*Psychopolitics of Childhood: Trauma of Modernity and the Political Prospects for Bosnian Youth*

11:00-12:15  **Session II: Individual & Social Structure**  
Chair: Steven P. Dandaneau  
Location: 202 Haslam Building

Melvin W. Barber  
Sociology, Flagler College  
*Spencer and Marx from the point of view of evolutionary theory*

Philip Webb  
American Studies, DePaul University  
*The Clash of Social Structures: The Contradictions of Family Values and Social Capital*
11:00-12:15 **Session III: Meaning and Death in Modernity**  
Chair: Harry F. Dahms  
Location: 303 Haslam Building

Jason Eastman  
Sociology, Coastal Carolina University  
*Modern Identity: The Search for the Meaning of Self in a Meaningless World*

Alex Stoner  
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Toward a Critical Theory of Death*

12:15-1:15 Lunch  
Location: Hermitage Room, University Center

1:15-2:30 **The Imagination of the (Sociological) Imagination**  
Lauren Langman  
Sociology, Loyola University, Chicago  
Chair and Moderator: Steven P. Dandaneau, Sociology, University of Tennessee  
Location: 202 Haslam Building

1:15-2:30 **Session I: The Great Refusal: Feminist Resistance from Marcuse to DIY Punk**  
Chair: Allison Anders  
Location: 302 Haslam Building

Vanessa Walilko  
Independent Scholar  
*Beyond "Feminisms": Refocusing the Women's Movement through the Lens of Liberation*

Rachel Seher  
Political Science, DePaul University  
*Personal Identity as a Site of Political Resistance: Power and Gendered-Identity among Teenage Girls in Public School*

Barbara Thayer-Bacon  
Cultural Studies in Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
*Befriending (White) Women Faculty in Higher Education?*

2:45-4:30 **Session II: The Future of the Theory of the State**  
Chair: Paul K. Gellert  
Location: 303 Haslam Building

Brent Adkins  
Religion & Philosophy, Roanoke College  
*The National Mood: Spinoza's Affective Theory of the State*

Jon Shefner and Patricia Fernandez-Kelly  
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Princeton University  
*The End of Neoliberalism? How We Got Here, and What Might be Next*

Wolfgang Natter  
ASPECT, Virginia Tech  
*The Place of the Present*
Saturday, May 16, 2009

4:45-6:00  
**Dystopia**  
Garry Potter  
Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Location:  *202 Haslam Building*

6:15-8:00  
**Reception**  
Location:  *International House*

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9:00-10:15  
**Schmitt, Telos, the Collapse of the Weimar Constitution, and the Bad Conscience of the Left**  
Stephen Turner  
Philosophy, University of South Florida  
Chair:  Allen R. Dunn  
Location:  *202 Haslam Building*

10:30-12:00  
**Session I: Critical Theory, Deleuze, and Žižek**  
Chair:  Harry F. Dahms  
Location:  *302 Haslam Building*

  - Wai Kit Choi  
    Sociology, California State University, Los Angeles  
    *Defending Lost Causes Without Decisionism? From Žižek back to the Frankfurt School*

  - Scott Dill  
    English & Comp. Literature, UNC-Chapel Hill  
    *Deleuze, Adorno, and Forming Utopia*

  - John Bradford  
    Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
    *Luhmann, Deleuze, and the production of selves*

10:30-12:00  
**Session II: Holding on to the Utopian Moment**  
Chair:  Steven P. Dandaneau  
Location:  *303 Haslam Building*

  - John Meeks  
    American Theological Library Association  
    *Μακαριος (makarios): Reading Divine Corpses and the Persistence of Utopia*

  - Sean Huss & Jeremy Honeycutt  
    Sociology, Arkansas Tech University & University of Tennessee  
    *We May Not Have an Economy Tomorrow: The Social and Anti-Social Mechanisms that Fundamentally Challenge Wall Street Utopianism*

12:00-1:00  
**Lunch**  
*Location: Einstein Bagels area, Haslam Building*
1:00-2:45  **Beyond Postmodernism**  
Chair: Harry F. Dahms  
Location: 202 Haslam Building

James Block  
Political Science, DePaul University  
*After Post-Modernism: Toward the Recovery of Theory*

Arnold Farr  
Philosophy, University of Kentucky  
*Another Note on Dialectics: Getting Beyond Postmodern Political Paralysis*

Bill Martin  
Philosophy, DePaul University  
*The persistence of deconstruction: results and prospects for social theory*

3:00-5:00  **Re-Visioning the Future: Final Discussion**  
Chairs: Allen R. Dunn and Steven P. Dandaneau  
Location: 202 Haslam Building