From the Co-Coordinators

The Radical Philosophy Association marked its 30-year anniversary at the October 11-14, 2012, conference at Canisius College in Buffalo by asking: what is radical philosophy today? To raise a question presupposes the space where inquiry can unfold. Thirty years ago the RPA founders recognized that existing graduate programs, journals, presses, and conferences made radical inquiry difficult to pursue. New spaces were needed. This was the RPA’s tenth biennial conference, and the Radical Philosophy Review is entering its 17th year of publication, having taken the place of the Radical Philosophy Review of Books. The RPA has helped to open up the academic world to critical thinking about race, gender, class, sexuality, and disability, topics that have been working their way into the curricular mainstream. The association has fostered an intellectual community among radical scholars and encouraged the practice of philosophy as theorizing and resisting oppression. The presence of the RPA has made doing critical theory in late capitalism less scattered and less lonely.

The RPA began as the neo-liberal restructuring of capitalism took hold. Too few of our students grow up without ever confronting a picket line. Too few know anyone who belongs to a union or can retire with a pension, beyond some public-sector workers. Most households with only one parent in the paid workforce can no longer send children to college. Students graduate with massive debt that burdens them for years. They are more likely to associate products with the finance “industry” than with manufacturing. For many, government now replaces Communism as the major threat to their freedom. What is heard on Fox they call news. Students are more familiar with the physical universe than with global capitalism. Black holes make more sense to them than a 300-trillion-dollar world derivatives market.

During the Vietnam War, teach-ins educated us to the contradictions behind U.S. policies. We are five years into one of capitalism’s deepest dives, yet discourse on campuses to grapple with the neo-liberal economy and state is scarce. How many lectures on campus ever mention capitalism? Increasingly, just using the word “capitalism” marks one as a Marxist loony. Otherwise well-educated people blame the crisis on greedy homeowners. As if the flat earth were still a viable idea in geography, some economists deny that a bubble or a crisis is possible, and few view the crisis as a test of neo-liberal policies. Despite an increasingly diverse curriculum, how many students understand what capital is or how it functions? They are taught that capital includes any resource—education, psychology, family, health, culture, climate, concepts, and experience—except the self-valorizing value that dominates our lives.
From ethics to social science, we have hardened our ways not to think about capitalism.

Our students will pass their lives amidst two persistent crises: global climate change and stagnant economic growth. Free money from the Fed and high unemployment has become the new normal. Today’s students are more equipped to take up the struggle for environmental reform, such as university divestment in fossil fuels, than they are able to debunk neo-classical economics or libertarianism. Philosophy asks the basic questions to which other disciplines presuppose answers. In recent times, especially since the Second World War, these questions have focused on metaphysics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, and ethics. Social and political topics, concerning what Hegel calls objective spirit, have been pushed to the side. When capitalism is ignored, social and political analysis is less compelling. When we recover the adequate phenomenological grounds of being-in-a-capitalist world, the energy of real thinking can be unleashed. In Time in the Ditch, John McCumber reveals how McCarthyism helped to shift the profession of philosophy away from broad, public concerns to narrow analysis that is more conversant with thought experiments than with real situations. Philosophy needs to shake off the shadow of the Cold War. The university can be what the assassinated Salvadoran Jesuit philosopher Ignacio Ellacuría envisioned as a seedbed of justice. The tasks of radical worldly philosophy are more important than ever.

Report on the Tenth Biennial Radical Philosophy Association Conference

The Tenth Biennial Radical Philosophy Association Conference, which also marked the 30th anniversary of the Radical Philosophy Association, was held October 11-14, 2012, in Buffalo, New York. The conference was sponsored and generously supported by Canisius College. Tanya Loughead, a member of the Canisius Philosophy Department, was the lead organizer of the conference. Support for the conference came from many sources at Canisius, including the Department of Philosophy, the Ethics and Justice Programs, the William H. Fitzpatrick Institute of Public Affairs and Leadership, and the Vincent M. Cooke Chair in Ethics Endowment. Financial support from groups at Canisius helped materially in bringing plenary speakers to the conference. Canisius students helped out in many ways throughout the conference. Thank you, Canisius College.

In view of the double RPA anniversary, the theme selected for the tenth conference was “What is Radical Philosophy Today?” The Program Committee was chaired by Melissa Burchard, and included Tommy J. Curry, Gertrude Postl, Scott Zeman, Devin Shaw, and Sarah Tyson. The Program Committee succeeded in combining three plenary sessions with many coherent concurrent sessions, giving us opportunities to hear one another a whole as well as to have many chances for individuals and groups to present diverse ideas. Several members of Occupy Buffalo led a two-session long panel. The conference program was quite an achievement, and it succeeded in attracting over 170 participants.

In the first plenary Lewis Gordon (Temple University) and former RPA co-coordinator Anne Pomeroy (Richard Stockton College of New Jersey) addressed the basic question of the conference: What is Radical Philosophy? The second plenary took up the topic: Thinking Radically about Identities. Kim Hall (Appalachian State University), Reiland Rabaka (University of Colorado at Boulder), and Eduardo Mendieta (Stony Brook University) were the
featured speakers. In the third and final plenary, Tony Smith (Iowa State University) and David McNally (York University, Ontario, Canada) presented radical approaches to understanding the present political and economic crisis.

Radical Philosophy Review will publish a special edition, 17.1, featuring work presented at the 2012 conference. Richard A. Jones and Tommy Curry are the guest editors of this edition. Please consider submitting a conference paper for this special edition. Papers are due March 15, 2013. See the call for papers in this newsletter for details.

At the banquet a number of RPA leaders shared their spirited recollections of the founding and development of the RPA. Cliff Durand, RPA historian, gave a substantial account of the origins and early days of the RPA. Bob Stone and then Betsy Bowman followed Cliff and added their reminiscences of the early years of the RPA. Then, past RPA co-directors Richard A. Jones and Anne Pomeroy spoke to the more recent history of the RPA. We thank all of these RPA leaders and stalwarts for helping us to celebrate the RPA’s thirty-year history so warmly and thoughtfully.

Radical Philosophy Review will publish a special edition, 17.1, featuring work presented at the 2012 conference. Richard A. Jones and Tommy J. Curry are the guest editors of this edition. Please consider submitting a conference paper for this special edition. Papers are due March 15, 2013. See the call for papers in this newsletter for details.

The Eleventh and Twelfth Biennial Radical Philosophy Association

At the RPA Business Meeting, we received two generous invitations, one from Eduardo Mendieta, to hold the eleventh RPA biennial conference in the fall of 2014 at the University of Stony Brook (SUNY Stony Brook). The second invitation, from Arnold Farr, was to hold the twelfth RPA Biennial Conference at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, in the fall of 2016. Both invitations were warmly accepted by those at the business meeting. Thank you Eduardo and Arnold! Volunteers formed a Program Committee for the 2014 conference in Stony Brook with Jeffery Nicholas (Providence College) as chair and Sean Donaghy-Johnson (Canisius College and Niagara College), James Manos (DePaul University), José Jorge Mendoza (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Michael Paradiso-Michau (North Central College), Anne Pomeroy (Richard Stockton College), and Eduardo Mendieta (University of Stony Brook) filling out the committee. Thank you all. Planning for the 2014 RPA conference at Stony Brook is underway.

In this issue of the RPA Newsletter

–RPA Secretary Richard Peterson’s minutes of the 2012 Business Meeting.

–RPA Treasurer Harry van der Linden’s annual treasurer’s report for 2012, which shows that the RPA is in good financial shape, though we continue to seek membership renewals and new members.

–The announcement of a special edition of Radical Philosophy Review (17.1), guest edited by Richard A. Jones (Howard University) and Tommy J. Curry (Texas A&M University), featuring work presented at the 10th Biennial RPA Conference, held at Canisius College. Submissions
are due March 15, 2013.

--Call for a volunteer to serve as the new RPA Webmaster

--Cuba in 2013 flyer from the Center for Global Justice

--A Call from the Book Review Editor of the Radical Philosophy Review, Richard Peterson (Michigan State University)

--A Report from José Jorge Mendoza on RPA activities at the Pacific Division of the APA

--An announcement of the up-coming RPA Group Session at the Central APA Meeting, February 20-23, 2013, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana. Thanks to Forrest Perry for organizing the session.

--An announcement of the up-coming RPA Group Sessions at the Pacific APA Meeting, March 27-31, 2013, at the Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, California. Thanks to José Jorge Mendoza for organizing the two sessions.

--Join the RPA!

**Thanks**

Thanks to out-going RPA Co-coordinator Jeanne Schuler; this is the last “From the Co-coordinators” column that she will work on. Thanks to Tanya Loughead, organizer of the Tenth Biennial RPA Conference and the in-coming RPA Co-coordinator. Thanks to Melissa Burchard, Chair, and all the members of the conference Program Committee. Thanks to Michael Stulman for his service as the RPA’s webmaster; he has moved to Africa and resigned the position. Thanks to RPA secretary Harry van der Linden, RPA Secretary Richard Peterson, and all the members of the RPA Advisory Board. Thanks to Richard Schmitt for his work in putting the newsletter together.

Patrick Murray
Jeanne A. Schuler
Minutes of the 2012 RPA Business meeting

October 13, 2012,
RPA 10th Biennial Conference, October 11-14, 2012, Canisius College, Buffalo, New York

1. Meeting called to order by Patrick Murray and Jeanne Schuler (Co-coordinators) at 1:15 pm.

2. Agenda approved with following modifications: add discussion of an RPA representative to the World Congress of Philosophy in Athens, August 2013; add need to replace the APA Pacific regional planning coordinator; add discussion of Journal and RPA Bylaws; add discussion of future avoidance of conflict with hotel employee strikes (as currently at the local Hyatt).

3. Report from the co-coordinators, given by Patrick Murray. Thanks to Tanya Loughead and the administration and staff at Canisius College for hosting the conference, and thanks to Melissa Burchard and the other members of the Planning Committee, Tommy J. Curry, Gertrude Postl, Devin Shaw, Sarah Tyson, and Scott Zeman, for arranging the program. RPA activities at the APA meetings, along with the Journal, the Newsletter, and the Center for Global Justice indicate continuing vitality of the organization, yet the absence of other initiatives in recent years should be acknowledged. It is important to reaffirm the political side of the Association.

4. Secretary’s Report: Richard Peterson read the Minutes from the previous Business Meeting, in 2010, and these were accepted.

5. Treasurer’s Report: Harry van der Linden distributed a detailed budget showing a healthy balance ($14,530.70) on hand. Since finances are interdependent with the workings of the Radical Philosophy Review, discussion then turned to news and issues about the RPR.

   Next year there will be three rather than two issues, the third being a second issue drawn from the recent conference on Marcuse and subsidized by the Marcuse Society in conjunction with U of Pennsylvania Press, which will assist in distribution. Next year an issue based on the present conference will be edited by Tommy J. Curry and Richard A. Jones; materials from the next Philosophy Born of Struggle will also be considered for this issue.

   Changes in the Editorial Committee. With the resignations of Anatole Anton and Chad Kautzer, Brandon Absher and Jose Mendoza have joined the committee. Chad and Harry reported on disagreements about how to constitute the committee, noting considerable discontinuity in the past. One issue is how members should be designated; another is whether membership should be restricted to members of the RPA. Eduardo Mendieta noted Harry’s role in stabilizing the functioning of the journal, and Anne Pomeroy suggested that this could be the time for the Editorial Committee to suggest procedures for staffing the editorial work of the journal. Patrick Murray moved that the Editorial Committee, in consultation with the RPA Advisory Committee, develop bylaw language that would specify a process for staffing the editorial committee, including whether members must also be RPA members. This proposal for the process should be ready for a vote at the next RPA conference in 2014. The proposal passed with no apparent opposition.

   Discussion followed on the accessibility online of the journal – it is available on various indexes – and on the desirability that members press their local institutions to subscribe to both print and electronic versions of the journal.
6. Reports from the chairs of the regional planning committees: only Forrest Perry, Central Division chair, was present, and he reported on past and projected panel activity at the APA. Jose Mendoza sent in a written report of activities at the Pacific APA.

7. Report on the Center for Global Justice by Cliff Durand: the Center remains active in hosting events and planning several trips to Cuba. It invites RPA members to visit and notes the attractions of the location for conferences and for long-term visits by those on sabbatical or by retired members of the Association.

8. Planning for the next national conference: prior to deciding on a location, Cliff Durand and other spoke of the desirability of participation by activists as well as academics and the value of more international participation. Eduardo Mendieta offered to work on hosting the conference at Stony Brook University (SUNY/Stony Brook), and Arnold Farr offered to work on hosting the conference at the University of Kentucky. After some discussion, both offers were accepted, planning to hold the 2014 conference at SUNY/Stony Brook and the 2016 conference at the University of Kentucky. The assembled group voiced its appreciation of these offers.

9. Formation of Program Committee for 11th Biennial RPA Conference. Members will include Michael Paradiso-Michau, Jeffrey Nicholas, Anne Pomeroy, Eduardo Mendieta (or someone else from the host institution), and Jose Mendoza (who, though not present, was reported as interested). Sean Donaghue-Johnston was mentioned as a possible international member. Jeffrey Nicholas agreed to act as chair of the Program Committee.

10. Selection of new Co-Coordinator, replacing Jeanne Schuler whose two-year term has come to an end in keeping with the changes to the RPA Constitution adopted at the 2010 RPA business meeting at the University of Oregon. According to the changes adopted, when there are two co-coordinators, each will serve four years but with staggered terms to provide continuity in leadership. After her nomination, Tanya Loughead was selected by acclamation. Thanks to Jeanne for her service these past two years.

11. New Business: Karsten Struhl and Betsy Bowman were selected to represent the RPA at next year’s World Congress of Philosophy in Athens. Patrick Murray agreed to recruit someone to serve as the Pacific RPA coordinator if Jose Mendoza steps down. There was general agreement that in the future the host committee would research whether local hotels are objects of union action.

12. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Peterson
2012 Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2012- December 31, 2012

Income
RPR, RPT (subscriptions, online articles) 6739.44
International Herbert Marcuse Society (support for RPR 16.1 and 2) 5000.00
Travel fund* 100.00

Total: 11839.44

Expenses
PDC (subscription fulfillment 2011 plus postage) 1735.95
Printing and typesetting RPR 14.2 2183.25
Printing and typesetting RPR 15.1 3485.25
CA Franchise Tax Board 50.14
Tax attorney 144.00
Web domain name registration (3 years) 110.97
Newsletter 31.70
Web design (RPA conference) 100.00
Iris Young Prize 300.00
Travel fund disbursements 1525.00
Mailing and copying 36.40

Total: 9702.66

Surplus: 2136.78
Funds on hand on 1/1/2012: 16439.30
Funds on hand on 12/31/2012: 18576.08
(94.80 petty cash; 18481.28 in bank account)

*Most of the funds received for the travel fund were directly put in the Canisius conference account and will be received by the RPA treasurer in 2013.

Harry van der Linden
RPA treasurer
1/21/13
What is Radical Philosophy Today?

Call for Papers from 10th Biennial Radical Philosophy Association Conference

The Radical Philosophy Review invites article submissions (of no more than 10,000 words) for a special edition on the theme “What is Radical Philosophy Today.” We encourage conference participants at the 10th Biennial Meeting of the Radical Philosophy Association to develop their presentations into article-length works suitable for publication in the RPR.

The 10th Biennial conference committee had several productive debates over the meaning, utilization, and political efficacy of laying claim to “Radicality,” in today’s economic and neo-colonial crisis. The editors are seeking papers attempting to get to the heart of this question. We especially encourage the exploration of this question from the perspective of peoples traditionally marginalized in philosophy, including persons of Africana, Latin American (Americana), Indigenous, or Asian descent or traditions, GLBT persons, persons with disabilities, poor and working class persons.

Guidelines for Submissions

Manuscripts (of no more than 10000 words) should be sent as e-mail attachments (preferably in MS Word) to the guest editors of the special issue. Please attach two copies, one of which is prepared for blind refereeing with all direct or indirect references to the author removed. Include an abstract of no more than 100 words, a short author bio, and email and mailing address. Citation style should follow the Chicago Manual of Style.

Submissions are due March 15th 2013. This is a hard deadline.

Guest Editors:
Tommy J. Curry, Texas A&M University, Email: t-curry@philosophy.tamu.edu
Richard Jones, Howard University, Email: rajones19@cox.net
Webmaster for the Radical Philosophy Association

The Radical Philosophy Association is seeking someone who would be willing to serve on a volunteer basis as the webmaster for the RPA’s website. Since the website is already constructed and up on the internet, this position would primarily involve up-dating the website as needed, for example, posting the new editions of the RPA Newsletter.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact one of the RPA Co-coordinators: Patrick Murray (jpm@creighton.edu) or Tanya Loughead (tanya.loughead@canisius.edu). Thank you.

Visit Cuba in 2013
With the Center for Global Justice

The Center for Global Justice is planning several educational trips to Cuba under its people-to-people exchange license (renewal pending). Drawing on our 20 year connections with this unique, forbidden (by the US government) country, we are able to provide an in-depth experience.

Check out these exciting options:

March 9 to 19, 2013: CUBAN SOCIETY TODAY offers a panoramic overview of the Cuban Revolution, its accomplishments and current reforms.

June 16 to 30, 2013: RENOVATION OF CUBAN SOCIALISM continues a dialog with leading Cuban thinkers in the social sciences about current changes underway, the reasons for them as well as their impact. There will also be some focus on the global crisis of capitalism.

Fall 2013: CUBAN SOCIETY TODAY offers a panoramic overview of the Cuban Revolution, its accomplishments and current reforms.

For more information on any of these trips contact cuba@globaljusticecenter.org

Visit our website at www.globaljusticecenter.org.

The Center for Global Justice is a project of RPA.
Call from Radical Philosophy Review's

Book Review Editor,
Richard Peterson

Dear members and friends of the RPA,
I have recently begun as book review editor for the RPA’s Radical Philosophy Review and would like to learn your views on books (or work in other media) that we should review. I would also welcome statements of interest in doing reviews for us, whether you have a specific work in mind or not.

My hope is that we can balance some individual reviews of recent works with one or two review articles that would examine a few related texts.

Having recently received a DVD entitled “Philosophers: Debates and Dialogues” (featuring Chomsky, Foucault, Kolakowski, and Lefebvre among others – you can see that it is somewhat dated), I am also interested in reviews that address other media, not least for their possible use in teaching or political discussion.

If you have more general thoughts about the direction our review policy should take, that would be helpful too.

Richard Peterson
petrsnrt@msu.edu

Department of Philosophy
509 South Kedzie Hall
Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI 48824 USA
As the chair of the Pacific committee for the RPA, I would like to report on (a) what we have been doing at the Pacific APA for the last two years and (b) what the guiding principle behind these panels has been.

This past year (2012) we had two very exciting panels. The first was an author-meets-critics session for Naomi Zack’s new book: *The Ethics and Mores of Race: Equality after the History of Philosophy*. Among the critics we had Kristie Dotson (from Michigan State University), Lewis Gordon (from Temple University), and Lucius T. Outlaw (from Vanderbilt University). If you missed this great panel, I’m happy to report that these papers, along with a response to her critics from professor Zack, can be found in the latest edition of *Radical Philosophy Review*.

The second panel was entitled: “Solidarity with Those Most Vulnerable: Ethical and Political Responses to Immigration.” This panel, as the title makes clear, centered on the ethics and politics of immigration, but what made this panel unique among other philosophy panels on immigration was that it was an all-women panel. This is important to note because one of the problems with how philosophers have traditionally dealt with the issue of immigration is that they have treated it as though sex and gender play little to no role in determining the proper ethical or political response to immigration. I think that this panel really helped to challenge that view and to open up a new philosophical dimension to this debate.

This coming year we will have another set of exciting panels, so if you or someone you know is planning to go to the Pacific APA please come check us out. The first panel is entitled: “The Ethics and Politics of Permanent War.” This panel will look at everything from Cyberwarfare, to the ethics of using drones, to whether there is a way out of this current condition of permanent war. The second panel is entitled: “Immigrants, Refugees, and Liberation: Latino/a Philosophy at and from the Border.” The aim of this panel is to showcase some of the new and radical work that is being done by both established and up-and-coming Latino and Latina philosophers.

Lastly, I just want to say something about the guiding principle behind these panels. It has been my view that as the Radical Philosophy Association it is our duty to establish and nurture a space within the philosophical discipline where important moral and political issues, which philosophers tend to ignore, can be discussed and where traditionally marginalized views within philosophy can be given an audience. This is obviously not the only thing that RPA does or should do, but over the last few years this, I think, is what has made the RPA panels unique at the Pacific APA.

Thank you!

José Jorge Mendoza
Radical Philosophy Association Sessions
at the APA Pacific Meetings

March 27-31, 2013,
at the Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, California

Session 1
Date: Wednesday, March 27
Time: 6-8 pm
Topic: The Ethics and Politics of Permanent War
Chair: José Jorge Mendoza (Worcester State University)
Speakers:
Bassam Romaya (UMass Lowell) “Permanent War and the Problem of Cyberwarfare”
Harry van der Linden (Butler) “The Condition of Permanent War: Is There a Way Out?”

Session 2
Date: Saturday Evening, March 30
Time: 6-9 pm
Topic: Immigrants, Refugees, and Liberation: Latino/a Philosophy at and from the Border
Chair: José Jorge Mendoza (Worcester State University)
Speakers:
Grant J Silva (Marquette University) “An Argument for Economic Refugees: War, Drugs and Gray Moral Areas”
Natalie Cisneros (Allegheny College) “Death and the “Illegal Alien”: Normalizing Racism and Immigrant Detainment”
Carlos Alberto Sánchez (San Jose State University) “Philosophical Interventions: Centeotl and post-NAFTA Mexican Immigration”
Joseph Orosco (Oregon State University) “Overcoming a Certain Blindness: Latin@ Thought as American Liberation Philosophy”

Radical Philosophy Association Sessions
at the APA Central Meetings

February 20-23, 2013,
at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana

GV-7. Radical Philosophy Association
Saturday, February 24, 12:15–2:15 p.m.
Topic: Differential Treatment: Limits and Justifications
Chair: Ken Levy (Louisiana State University)
Speaker:
James Rocha (Louisiana State University) “Sexuality in the Workplace: The Homophobic Sexual Harassment Accusation”
The Iris Marion Young Award

The Iris Marion Young Award for the outstanding paper by a graduate student was presented at the banquet by Karsten Struhl to Soren Whited (University of Stony Brook) for his paper “The Historical Legacy of Struggles Against Racial Oppression in Present Forms of Anti-racist Politics.”

Congratulations, Soren.

The RPA gave out over $1,500 to support graduate student travel to the conference; $1,000 came from a special contribution by the RPA, the remainder from private contributions made to the graduate student travel fund. Thank you to those who contributed.

Join the RPA!

or

Renew your Membership!

Regular membership in the Radical Philosophy Association costs $42 a year. Reduced rate memberships for students or unemployed persons are $25. Membership in the RPA includes a year’s subscription to the Radical Philosophy Review, a peer-reviewed journal published on behalf of the RPA by the Philosophy Documentation Center. Electronic access to the Radical Philosophy Review is available at higher membership rates, $67 for regular members and $50 for student members.

You can join the RPA or renew your membership easily by clicking on the Memberships tab on the RPA homepage (http://www.radicalphilosophyassociation.org/), where you can also check to see if your membership is current.

Or you can contact the Philosophy Documentation Center, P.O Box 7147, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7147, or on the web at www.pdcnet.org.