

ISTC 2009

Re-Visioning the Future: Modernity between Utopia and Dystopia

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

May 14-16, 2009

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, May 14, 2009

- 12:00-12:15 **Welcome**
Wolfgang Natter
Director, Aspect, Virginia Tech
- 12:15-1:00 **Re-Visioning the Future: Modernity between Utopia and Dystopia**
Harry F. Dahms
Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 1:00-2:15 **The Era of Obama**
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
Moderator: Daniel M. Harrison, Sociology, Lander University
- 4:00-5:30 **Session I: Literature and Intellectual Production**
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: Does the Public Sphere have a Future?**
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

- 4:00-5:30 **Session III: Morality and 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
 George Gondo
 Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Doing Justice to the Social: Toward a Sociology of Social Justice
- 5:30-7:30 Reception

Friday, May 15, 2009

- 8:45-10:00 ***The Place of the Present***
 Wolfgang Natter
 Director, Aspect, Virginia Tech
- 10:15-11:30 **Session I: Modernity and Personal Development**
 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
- 10:15-11:30 **Session II: Individual & Social Structure**
 Mel 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
- 10:15-11:30 **Session III: Meaning and Death in Modernity**
 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
- 11:30-11:45 Coffee Break
- 11:45-1:00 ***The Imagination of the (Sociological) Imagination***
 Lauren Langman
 Sociology, Loyola University, Chicago
 Moderator: Steven P. Dandaneau, Sociology, University of Tennessee
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch Break

- 2:00-3:30 **Session I: The Great Refusal: Feminist Resistance from Marcuse to DIY Punk**
 Rachel Seher
 Political Science, DePaul University
***Personal Identity as a Site of Political Resistance:
 Power and Gendered-Identity among Teenage Girls in Public School***
 Vanessa Walilko
 Independent Scholar
***Beyond "Feminisms":
 Refocusing the Women's Movement through the Lens of Liberation***
 Megan Wells
 Linguistics, Northeastern Illinois University
Sisterhood and Struggle: Using the DIY Punk Network to Find/Define Ourselves
- 2:00-3:30 **Session II: The Future of the Theory of the State**
 Brent Adkins
 Religion & Philosophy, Roanoke College
The National Mood: Spinoza's Affective Theory of the State
 Marcus Arvan
 Philosophy, University of British Columbia
Bridging the Ideal/Non-Ideal Theory Gap in Rawlsian Political Theory
 Jon Shefner
 Sociology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The End of Neoliberalism? How We Got Here, and What Might be Next
- 3:45-5:00 ***Dystopia***
 Garry Potter
 Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University

Saturday, May 16, 2009

- 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
- 10:15-12:00 **Session I: Pragmatism, Deleuze, and Beyond**
 J. I. (Hans) Bakker
 Sociology, University of Guelph
***Peirce, Pragmatism and Public Sociology:
 Translating an Interpretation into Praxis***
 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
- 10:15-12:00 **Session II: Holding on to the Utopian Moment**
 Wai Kit Choi
 Sociology, California State University, Los Angeles
***Defending Lost Causes Without Decisionism?
 From Žižek back to the Frankfurt School***

John Meeks
American Theological Library Association
Μακάριος (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 Break

1:00-2:45 **Beyond Postmodernism**
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