

The International Merleau-Ponty Circle

December 2018 Newsletter

New Year's Greetings! The 43rd Annual Meeting of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle was a great success and took place in Chattanooga, TN, November 8-10, 2018, on the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga campus. The conference theme was "The Normal and the Abnormal" and the Conference Director was Professor Talia Welsh, UC Foundation Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The program included twenty-two individual presentations over the three days and the attendees included 49 registered participants from 8 different countries as well as UTC students and faculty. The first of two keynote addresses was given by Jenny Slatman, Professor of Medical Humanities at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Her paper was entitled "What is Abnormal Embodiment?" Lawrence Hass, Dean of the McBride Magic and Mystery School and Retired Professor of Philosophy of Austin College gave the second keynote, which consisted of a talk and professional magic performance entitled: "What is Magic? The Philosophy and Psychology of a Neglected Art Form." Longtime Merleau-Ponty Circle member and former Mississippi State University Conference Director Rachel McCann also entertained us with a wonderful jazz performance by her band *Rachel McCann and Carnal Echo* at our first evening reception on Thursday, November 8th at Bessie Smith Hall in downtown Chattanooga.

The M. C. Dillon lectureship is awarded annually to the best graduate student conference paper submission chosen by the conference director together with the General Secretary, Associate General Secretary, and a co-editor of *Chiasmi International: Trilingual Studies Concerning Merleau-Ponty's Thought*. The 2018 annual Martin C. Dillon Memorial Lecture, "Wild Red: Synesthesia, Deuteranomaly, and Euclidean Color Space" was given by Rawb Leon-Carlyle, Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University. The honorarium for the lecture is made possible through the generous contributions of Merleau-Ponty Circle members to the M. C. Dillon Endowment Fund and Rawb's award-winning paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Chiasmi International*. Thanks to a very generous annual bequest from Joey Dillon, the Dillon Fund also covers the cost of both the Business Lunch and the end of conference Banquet for all graduate students who appear on the program each year. Donations to the M.C. Dillon Fund can be made directly through our website at: <http://www.merleauponty.org/m-c-dillon-memorial/> Alternatively, checks can be made out to the International Merleau-Ponty Circle and sent it to: Gail Weiss, 6713 N. 25th St., Arlington, VA, 22213, USA.

On Friday, November 9th, we held our third graduate student mentoring session on the job market. It was organized by our conference director, Talia Welsh, and was led by Gayle Salamon (Princeton University), Gail Weiss (George Washington University), Susan Bredlau (Emory University), and Jim Morley (Ramapo College). We are grateful to both the faculty and graduate students who participated in this session and look forward to continuing the Friday graduate student mentoring session in future years.

At the Saturday Business Meeting, 2019 Conference Director Shiloh Whitney discussed her plans for the 44th annual conference, which will be held at Fordham University's downtown Manhattan campus in NYC from September 12-14, 2019. The theme of the conference will be "Affect, Emotion Feeling." Alia Al-Saji (McGill University) and Matthew Ratcliffe (University of York) will be the keynote speakers. Paper submissions directly pertinent to the conference theme are especially encouraged, but papers on any area of current research in Merleau-Ponty studies will be considered for inclusion on the program. Paper submissions of no more than **3,500** words accompanied by a 200 word abstract should be submitted via email to **mpconference2019@gmail.com** by midnight EST **June 1st, 2019**. Please place papers and abstracts together in one document that is suitable for anonymous review, and be sure to include your full name, paper title, and preferred email contact info in your message. **Notification of acceptance will occur by July 15th, 2019**. Additional information regarding the 2019 conference can be found at the 2019 IMPC conference website: https://www.fordham.edu/info/28643/international_merleau-ponty_circle_hosted_by_fordham_university

At the Business Meeting, we voted to accept official invitations for the 2019 and 2020 conferences. Shiloh Whitney, as noted above, will host the 44th conference of the Circle September 12-14, 2019 at Fordham University in New York City. Donald Landes will be organizing the 45th conference on the theme: "The Phenomenology of Perception: 75 Years Young" at the University of Laval in Quebec City in late October, 2020. We also provisionally approved an informal invitation for our 2021 annual conference from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where Susan Bredlau will serve as conference director and for our 2022 annual conference which will be hosted by Jack Reynolds at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. After a thorough discussion of the three possible time-frames for the 2022 Melbourne Conference that Jack offered us (mid-July, late September, late November/early December), we agreed that the first week in December, 2022 would be optimal (note: this is the beginning of Australia's summer and should be the nicest time of year of the three options). Jack is blocking December 1-10, 2022 and will be coordinating our conference with the annual ASCP Australian continental philosophy conference once the latter's dates are announced for 2022 so that MP Circle participants will have the option to attend both events.

Though we have a wonderful line-up for the next few years, we encourage those of you who are interested in serving as a future conference organizer to contact the General Secretary, Gail Weiss (gweiss@gwu.edu), or Associate General Secretary, David Morris (David.Morris@concordia.ca) to learn more about the process. We were both elected to a second three-year term at the end of this year's Business Meeting and we are very grateful to our members for their continued support.

At the Business Meeting, papers were also solicited for the two Merleau-Ponty Circle panels that are being organized for the June 3-5, 2019 Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II (DLE II) conference that is taking place at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Gail Weiss is the conference director and 22 philosophical and interdisciplinary societies will be participating in this three day event. For the latest details on DLE II, please check out our

conference website: www.dleii.com And, if you have a Facebook account and have not already done so, please join the International Merleau-Ponty Circle Facebook group. It currently has over 400 members from all over the world and is an excellent place to post CFPs and news about upcoming conferences as well as information about new publications that you think would be of interest to Merleau-Ponty scholars.

Last, but not least, on behalf of this year's participants, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Talia Welsh, who did an absolutely stellar job as our 2018 conference director! Talia put together a fabulous program that included many new members from a variety of institutions and disciplines including philosophy, art, magic, music, psychology, medicine, and feminist studies. We are especially grateful to the UTC administrators and units that made this year's conference possible including: Department Head of Philosophy & Religion Professor Josh Davies, Vice-Chancellor of Research and the Dean of the Graduate School Joanne Romagni, Dean of Arts and Sciences Joe Wilfert, and Dean of the Honors College, Linda Frost. We would also like to extend special thanks to the UTC student volunteers who helped to make the conference run so smoothly: Jamison Colston, Colton Greganti, and David King.

Please consider submitting a paper (or volunteering to moderate a session) for the 2018 conference at Fordham University in New York City next September. We look forward to seeing many of you there next year!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,

Gail Weiss, General Secretary

David Morris, Associate General Secretary