31st Conference of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle
September 26th-28th, 2006
George Mason University
Arlington, VA

Conference Director: Prof. Wayne Froman

(Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will be held in room 329 of “the original building,” George Mason University Arlington campus, which is located at the Virginia Square stop of the Washington Metro, 3401 Fairfax drive, Arlington, Virginia [5 blocks, or one metro stop, from the Arlington Hilton].)

Thursday, October 26th

8:45 a.m. University welcome

9:00-9:50 Moderator: Theodore Kinnaman, George Mason University; speaker: Bryan Smith, Mcgill, University, “Bringing Philosophy to Life”


10:45-11:00 refreshment break

11:00-11:50 Moderator: Rachel McCann, Mississippi State University; speaker: Thamy Ayouch, Université Lille III, Charles de Gaulle, “Merleau-Ponty’s Conception of the Body and Psychoanalysis: the Imaginary Bond”

11:55-12:45 Moderator: Martin J. De Nys, George Mason University; speaker: James Mensch, St. Francis Xavier University, “The Intertwining: The Recursion of the Seer and the Seen”

12:45-2:30 lunch

2:30-3:20 p.m. Moderator: Kirk Besmer, Gonzaga University; speaker: Stephen Watson, University of Notre Dame, “Reading The Barbarous Source: on Merleau-Ponty’s Rehabilitation of the Sensible”


5:10-5:30 refreshment break
5:30-6:45 (Room 244 of “The Original Building”) Moderator: Wayne J. Froman, George Mason University; speaker: Hugh J. Silverman, SUNY Stony Brook, “Bodies Sharing Institutions: Traces of Responsibility”

7:15-8:15 Opening Reception (Arlington Hilton Hotel).

Friday, October 27th

8:45-9:35 Moderator: James Morley, Ramapo College of New Jersey; speaker: David Morris, Trent University, “The Body as the Institution of Temporality and as the Temporality of Institution”

9:40-10:30 Moderator: Daniel Rothbart, George Mason University; speaker: Glen A. Mazis, Pennsylvania State University/Harrisburg, “Institution and the Scope of Humanity”

10:30-10:45 refreshment break

10:45-11:35 Moderator: Mark Stephan Rudnicki, George Mason University; speaker: John Murungi, Towson State University, “Merleau-Ponty and the Practice of Torture”

11:40-12:30 Moderator: James Hatley, Salisbury University; speaker: Bettina Bergo, Université de Montréal, “Passivity in Merleau-Ponty and Levinas”

12:30-2:30 lunch

2:30-3:20 p.m. Moderator: James Risser, Seattle University; speaker: Galen A. Johnson, University of Rhode Island, “Instituting Art and the Mystery of Rodin”


4:20-5:10 Moderator: Helen Fielding, University of Western Ontario; speaker: Véronique Fóti, Pennsylvania State University, “Expression, Alterity and the Philosophy of Nature in Merleau-Ponty’s Dialogue with the Rationalists”

5:10-5:30 refreshment break

5:30-6:45 (Room 244 of “the original building”) Moderator: Michael Gendre, Emerson College; special distinguished lecture: Jacques Taminiaux, University of Leuven, “Merleau-Ponty’s Reading of Heidegger”

7:15-8:15 reception (Arlington Hilton Hotel)
Saturday, October 28th

8:45-9:35 Moderator: Kym Maclaren, Ryerson University; speaker: Donald A. Landes, SUNY Stony Brook, “The Tracing of the Body: From Expression to Institution to Exscription in Merleau-Ponty and Jean-Luc Nancy”

9:40-10:30 Moderator: Margret Grebowicz, Goucher College; speaker: Kurt Keller, Aalborg University, “Institution and Corporeal Intentionality”

10:30-10:45 refreshment break

10:45-11:35 (Room 244 of “the original building”) Martin Dillon Memorial Session. Moderator: Lawrence Haas, Muhlenberg College; speaker: Caterina Rea, Institut Supérieur de Philosophie, Université Catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-neuve belgique), “Corporeal Ipseity Between Natural Finitude and Institution: The Enigma of Human Living According to Merleau-Ponty and Castoriadis”

11:40-12:30 (Room 244 of “the original building”) Moderator: Duane Davis, University of North Carolina at Asheville; speaker: Josep Maria Bech, University of Barcelona, “Institution at the Crossroads: Ontological Extension or Corporeal Restatement”

12:30-2:30 business lunch (Room 329 of “the original building”)

2:30-3:20 (Room 244 of “the original building”) Moderator: William S. Hamrick, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; speaker: Anne Ashbaugh, Colgate University, “The Continuity of Time Through the Self: Institution and Constitution in Merleau-Ponty’s Understanding of Temporality”

3:25-4:15 (Room 244 of “the original building”) Moderator: Patricia Locke, St. John’s College; speaker: Alia Al-Saji, Mcgill University, Montréal, Canada, “Seeing Differently: Perspectives for Ethical and Critical Vision in Merleau-Ponty and Bergson”

4:20-5:10 (Room 244 of the original building) Moderator: John Rose, Goucher College; speaker: David Kleinberg-Levin, Northwestern University, “The Remembrance of Nature: Echo Ecology in Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology”

5:10-5:30 refreshment break

5:30-6:45 Keynote Session (Room 244 of “the original building”) Moderator: Len Lawlor, University of Memphis; speaker: Mauro Carbone, Università Degli Studi di Milano, “Love and Music”

7:30 Gala Conference Dinner (Arlington Hilton Hotel).

The International Merleau-Ponty Circle thanks the following George Mason University offices and programs for their generous sponsorship of this conference: the Office of the Provost, the office of the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Department of Philosophy, the College of Nursing and Health Services, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, the Doctoral Program in Cultural Studies, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, the Program in Art and Visual Technology of the School of the Arts, and the new seminar program in Paris of the Office of Global Education.