

Call For Papers

15th Annual Michigan State University Department of Philosophy
Graduate Student Conference

THE SPACE OF POSSIBILITIES: RESISTANCE, CRITIQUE, AND IMAGINATION

KEYNOTE: DAVID SCHWEICKART (LOYOLA CHICAGO)

FOLLOWED BY MSU FACULTY ROUNDTABLE:
KRISTIE DOTSON, MARILYN FRYE, CHRISTIAN LOTZ, AND KYLE WHYTE

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Critical philosophers are often challenged to go beyond critique and provide accounts of alternatives that can guide political action aimed at achieving emancipatory social change. Today it is clear that such change is necessary. However, it is less clear 1) what a better world would be like, 2) what sorts of social and political changes are possible, 3) how we should proceed in engaging with such questions, and 4) whether the development of alternatives is a challenge that critical theorists should accept. This conference is intended to explore these questions.

We invite submissions from any area of philosophy, with preference given to papers from social and political philosophy (broadly construed).

Possible topics include:

- Imagination and alternatives in feminist, race, queer, disability, Marxian, or other critical theories
- Politics and theory of resistance
- The history of social and political philosophy
- Critique of a given successor system theory (e.g. Schweickart's Economic Democracy)
- Is the demand that *critical* philosophers offer *constructive* alternatives legitimate?
- What philosophical methodologies are important for resistance, critique, and imagination?
- What are the *limits* to imagination in transcending oppressive structures?
- Can Marxian thought still be valuable to feminist philosophy, race theory, queer theory, or disability theory?
- How can critical and Marxian frames contribute to bioethics, environmental philosophy, and other "engaged" philosophies?

Submission Guidelines:

Submissions should be sent to philconf@msu.edu. They should be prepared for blind review with cover sheet including author's name, university affiliation, and email address. Papers should not exceed 4000 words. They should be accompanied by a short abstract (up to 250 words).

Submission deadline: January 17, 2014

Notification of acceptance no later than: February 1, 2014

For additional information, including registration information and information about accommodations and the conference itinerary, visit the conference website: www.msu.edu/~philconf/.