

NEWS

Women's Philosophy Network

Moves are underway to set up a network for women philosophers in the UK to promote feminist philosophy. The main functions of the network will be:

- the provision of contact lists of women philosophers and their special interests
- the provision of speakers' lists for debates, conferences, etc.
- the setting up of working groups on issues of importance to the improvement and development of feminist ideas
- the production of a journal of women's philosophy.

Suggested topics for the first issue of the journal include:

Why do we need women's philosophy?

What should be the relation of academic standards to the development of feminist theory?

The relation of women philosophers working in academia to feminist theory and to other feminists.

Any work by women on topics related to feminist theory will be welcomed.

Editorial policies so far suggested include:

- plain language
- a bias towards those women who do not have an academic outlet for their work
- commitment to positive improvements in feminist theory.

Production of the journal is planned to be organised via collective meetings, perhaps three times a year, at which work submitted would be discussed. Actual production of the journal would rotate between groups.

For further information, please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

Women's Philosophy Network
Cardiff Women's Centre
2 Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff

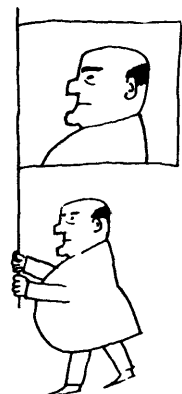
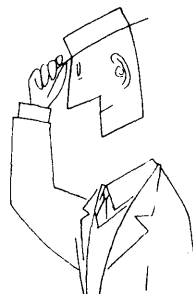
Peace Research Forum

Philosophers for Peace are convening a series of fortnightly meetings in London under the title of Peace Research Forum in the hope of bringing together both theoreticians and activists to explore the theoretical aspects of peace issues. The meetings will be held from 7 to 9.30 pm at the Quaker International Centre, 1 Byng Place, London WC1. The programme for the spring and summer of 1986 is as follows:

9 February	Economics, Industrial Relations, Class Conflict
24 February	Political Science
10 March	Geopolitical Conflict, Cold War, Nuclear Arms Race
26 March	Philosophy of Science
9 April	Philosophy of History, Historiography
24 April	International Law, Legality of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Human Rights, World Order
8 May	The Middle East
23 May	Healing, Psychology, Medicine
7 June	Women's Studies
22 June	Ecology and the Environment
7 July	The Arts
21 July	Recapitulation: Philosophy of Peace, Theology, etc.

All those attending are encouraged to contribute material to the topic under discussion.

In the news item announcing the formation of Philosophers for Peace in RP41 the misleading impression may have been conveyed that it was an entirely separate organisation from International Philosophers for the Prevention of Nuclear Omnicide (IPPNO). In fact, it is the UK affiliate of the latter, and is consequently represented on its International Organising Committee. The date of the IPPNO's first conference has now been fixed for 30 April to May 4 1986, in St Louis, Missouri, USA.



Royal Institute Lectures

The Royal Institute of Philosophy has organised a series of lectures in conjunction with the GCE examining boards to cover the main topics of the new 'A' Level Philosophy courses. The lectures are aimed primarily at 'A' Level Philosophy teachers. Unfortunately, out of the hundred or so people who attended the first lecture only three or four proved to be teachers.

The quality of the programme so far is variable. Julia Annas's delivery of Plato's theory of knowledge was lucid and well-recapitulated, whilst Nicholas Denyer (Plato's Ethics) seemed unrehearsed, reading word for word from notes. John Cottingham (Descartes' *Meditations*) appeared to have difficulty in adjusting the scope of his interesting and sympathetic account of Cartesian scepticism to the 'one-off' format of the series.

All in all, the lectures were fairly reminiscent of the undergraduate philosophy lectures I myself attended, circa 1970. There was little evidence of contextualisation of the issues and debates. It was plain that no pedagogic revolution amongst philosophers had taken place since those days.

A brighter note is the formation of an association of

philosophy teachers, a project that the Radical Philosophy Group would do well to involve itself in. Such a pressure group would be a means of influencing the examiners on questions of course content etc.

Howard Feather

Radical Philosophy Conference

Plans are afoot for the organisation of a weekend conference to be held in London in Autumn 1986. Discussion is still in the preliminary stage, but the conference will combine plenary and workshop sessions, with probably at least one plenary session being devoted to discussion of the idea of a 'radical philosophy'. Hopefully, there will be opportunities for readers to discuss articles in recent issues of the magazine with their authors, and for the establishment of links between readers, contributors and the collective more generally. Further details will appear in *RP43*. In the meantime, we would be glad to receive suggestions both for possible workshop topics and regarding conference organisation. These should be sent to John Fauvel at the Radical Philosophy editorial address.

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