

Annual Conference 2011
of the
Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society
(OVPES)

Call for Proposals

The Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society (OVPES) invites proposals for the 2011 annual meeting to be held at the Bergamo Conference Center in Dayton, Ohio, Thursday through Saturday, September 22-24, 2011.

Conference Theme –

Immortal Conversations: Doing 21st Century Philosophy of Education

Clint Collins, in his engaging essay on the history of the Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society (<http://www.ovpes.org>), notes that John Dewey's work was one of the most salient factors in the formation of the Philosophy of Education Society in 1941. Further, Collins suggests that a 90-year-old Dewey likely sent a welcome letter to OVPES at the occasion of its inception in 1950 or 1951. And it is probably fair to guess that not a single OVPES conference since has been without reference to Dewey.

It seems appropriate to ask a decade into the 21st Century whether we should still be thinking and writing about Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, Locke, and Dewey (to name the most obvious classical heroes of the discipline) or not. Put another way; is there still such a thing as an immortal conversation with regard to philosophy of education? Nel Noddings's answer to "discouraged students" who ask in regard philosophy of education's eternal questions (i.e., "What should be the aims and purposes of education") "Why study questions that never go away?" could be instructive here. She says that even though such questions go ultimately unanswered, "every society must answer them, not once and for all time but as well and as conscientiously as it can for the benefit of its people and the future of the earth" (Noddings, 1995, p. 4).

More contemporary heroes of the discipline have been added to the traditional roster of names typically referenced at philosophy of education conferences such as Noddings, Maxine Greene, Richard Rorty and others. Philosophers of education at the last part of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st Century now attempt to uncover new insights related to old questions and often create new questions out of old ideas and texts. If Noddings is right, even though we reach no tidy conclusions and we often seek and find aporetic arguments in each other's work, our enterprise is appropriate because it continues a conscientious conversation about education that benefits our society.

There is now a rather wide range of thought that is represented at philosophy of education conferences like OVPES. In addition to what we might think of as traditional philosophers and philosophical texts and in addition to the standard branches of philosophy, other disciplines and schools of thought often provide the guiding ideas for papers. It is not uncommon to hear arguments using sociology, curriculum theory, psychoanalysis, or postmodern social theory at philosophy of education conferences. It now seems as common to hear papers on Foucault or Derrida as it is to hear them on Kant and Dewey.

The fact that these auxiliary disciplines exist alongside philosophy of education in its more narrow or perhaps traditional manifestation raises possible questions that could be explored by philosophers of education. In this call we ask for papers dedicated to exploring the state and direction of our field by examining its past, anticipating its future, or perhaps both. In this way, the conference theme is animated by the idea of the two-headed Roman god, Janus, who symbolizes gates or doorways and gazes simultaneously into the past and the future. We welcome papers that connect the history of philosophy of education to the future of educational practice. Some questions that may begin to stimulate thinking with regard to the theme include: Is there still an “immortal conversation” going on in philosophy of education? What are the limits and possibilities of our field? What is the relationship between philosophy of education and (for example) postmodern social theory or psychoanalysis? How should philosophy of education intersect with other disciplines in the foundations of education? Are we now more familiar with “panopticism” than we are *Democracy and Education*? If so, is this a problem or a sign of progress? We look forward to papers that look back to ideas and thinkers situated in philosophy of education’s past and also those that push the boundaries of the discipline, both for the purpose of enriching the (im)mortal conversation and perhaps even the future of the earth.

PRESENTATION FORMAT, DEADLINE AND NOTIFICATION:

Proposals for individual papers, panels, or symposia involving two or three speakers on a single topic are welcome. All proposals will be blind and peer reviewed. (See Proposal guidelines at end of this document.) *As always, topics not related to the conference theme will certainly be considered for acceptance.*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Submit your proposal via email with an attachment as a Word document. All proposals should be received on or before Friday, May 6, 2011. Submit to: Dr. Bryan Warnick, Program Chair at warnick.11@osu.edu. Proposals accepted for presentation at the conference will be notified by June 24, 2011. Full-length conference papers should be no longer than 15 double-spaced pages, following the Chicago Manual of Style. Papers meeting all the editorial requirements will be considered for publication in *Philosophical Studies in Education*, the refereed journal of OVPES. (See manuscript requirements at www.ovpes.org)

CONFERENCE PROPSAL GUIDELINES:

Part 1 (submit in the body of your email message)

1. Title of your proposal.
2. Format of your presentation (i.e, paper session, panel or symposium)
3. Your name, title, institutional affiliation (should be the contact person)
4. Your address, phone, email, fax number.
5. The name(s) of other panel or symposium members, if applicable.
6. An abstract of up to 100 words.

PART 2 (in a Word document with all identifying information removed for “blind” review)

1. Title of your paper or panel or symposium
2. Provide a brief summary of your topic in two pages, up to 500 words. Provide a brief descriptive summary of how your topic will be developed and/or its line of argument. Explain the significance of your topic. List several major references upon which you will draw in developing the topic in order to “place” the scholarly conversation.
3. Provide two or three terms of reference for your papers. This will guide the program committee in grouping presentations.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. The proposal should be sent as an attachment in Microsoft WORD document format.
2. The subject of your message should read “OVPES-2011 Proposal.”
3. If any special formatting, presentation, or special characters are essential to the proposal, please submit a paper copy.
4. The Program Committee reserves the right to request you to resubmit electronic proposals, to submit them in the body of an email message or to submit a paper copy within a reasonable time frame in case of any technical problems with the electronic submission.
5. Receipt of email submissions will be notified via email.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD

OVPES is pleased to announce a \$100 award for the most outstanding graduate student paper submitted for the 2011 conference. The recipient of the award will be determined by the program committee and will be based on the quality of the proposal. Please indicate your desire to be considered for the award in the subject of your submission email.

All submissions and inquiries should be directed to Dr. Bryan Warnick.