

Ethica

The Newsletter of the National Communication Association's Communication Ethics Division

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The 101st Annual Convention of the National Communication Association

Thursday, November 19 –
Sunday, November 22, 2015
Las Vegas, Nevada

Message from the Vice Chair: Submit to the 2015 NCA Communication Ethics Division on "Embracing Opportunities"

Leeanne Bell McManus, Ph.D.
Stevenson University

As Vice Chair and Program Planner for our Communication Ethics Division, I am honored to be responsible for creating our slate of sessions. We hope you will join us for the National Communication Association's (NCA) convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 19-22, 2015. NCA's 101st Annual Convention encourages participants to think "out of the box" in terms of papers. This year's theme, **Embracing Opportunities**, calls for unique papers and panels that promote networking, partnerships, dialogue, and activism. With Vegas as the background, Christina S. Beck, NCA Second Vice President, asks us to think about what awaits the communication ethics

division in our next century. She is using the slogan "**What Happens in Vegas Shouldn't Stay in Vegas!**" as the informal theme. This second theme promotes active discussion of our scholarship. As a division, this is our opportunity to spread the word about the importance of communication ethics. Communication ethics research can be found within all divisions, and it is our job to create conversations that encourage collaboration. This year our goal is to focus on projects that promote partnerships and growth within our division. Thus, with the 2015 convention themes as your guidelines, we are encouraging you to submit your papers to NCA Convention Central. Convention Central opened on January 19, 2015, and will close at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. The call for papers is presently on the NCA website and included in this edition of *Ethica*.

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Written contributions for *Ethica* REQUESTED and ENCOURAGED!

Send articles, notes, news, requests to the Communication Director. The next edition is scheduled for Fall 2015. **Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2015.**

Brent C. Sleasman
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**2015 Convention Call:
Communication Ethics Division Call
for Papers**

**Leeanne Bell McManus
Vice Chair
and Program Planner
Grand Valley State University**

The Communication Ethics Division invites submissions of scholarly research for presentation at the NCA Annual Convention in Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015. We welcome submissions from across the discipline. Our members share the belief that in an age of diversity and difference, communication ethics plays a vital role in communication. The theme of “Embracing Opportunities” offers a unique occasion for developing new scholarship, research, and engagement activities. Examples of such work might include sessions, papers or performances that address:

- 1) Key scholars in the field of communication ethics
- 2) Communication ethics scholarship, pedagogy, and/or engagement as applied in various contexts
- 3) Ways in which history and epistemology influence communication ethics
- 4) Explorations on cross-disciplinary linkages (i.e. between reflexivity/ethics in action)
- 5) Interrogations into our field’s unique responsibility to infuse ethics throughout our teaching
- 6) Considering the question of whether communication ethics is having the influence it should beyond academe. If not, how does it lose out to other fields of less relevant expertise?

We welcome submissions for individual papers, paper sessions centered on embracing opportunities for various outlets of communication ethics scholarship, panel discussions/ performances, or scholar-to-scholar posters. Presentations that embrace opportunities for co-sponsored panels (e.g. interpersonal and communication ethics) are highly encouraged, as we look to expand the collective range and inclusivity of communication ethics. Given the continuing need for guided practice across

communication professions and the prominence of ethics in the NCA mission and the NCA Credo for Ethical Communication, we believe that communication ethics is a highly important connection that runs through our diverse and rich field. Interested parties in co-sponsoring are encouraged to indicate this in the special requests box.

All submissions must be made via NCA Convention Central. For a definition of submission types, please refer to the step-by-step “How to Submit” Instructions provided in the Convention Resource Library (<http://www.natcom.org/conventionresources/>).

1. Individual Paper Requirements: These papers are stand-alone and are not associated with any other paper sessions or panel discussions. Please complete the required electronic submission fields including title, description, author(s), and keywords. Please indicate if your submission is a student paper on the electronic submission form. Paper submissions must include no more than a 30-page [excluding references], single-spaced uploaded copy of the paper. Copies must be uploaded into NCA Convention Central and must NOT include identifying information. Instructions on how to prepare a blind copy are provided in the Convention Resource Library (<http://www.natcom.org/conventionresources/>). **PAPERS THAT ARE NOT BLIND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE AUTHOR FOR PROPER PREPARATION.** Based on the results of the blind reviews, the Division’s 2015 convention planner will use these submitted papers for the creation of a few paper sessions, including the top paper panel. **EXTENDED ABSTRACTS** with bibliography will be considered, but completed papers will carry more weight in final decision-making. Scholar-to-Scholar (S2S) is typically presented in a poster format. So, if your work lends itself better to visual presentation, one-on-one discussion, or you are looking for personal feedback on your ideas, check the Scholar-to-Scholar (S2S) agreement box in NCA Convention Central. At the convention, division/caucus leaders, journal editors and other experts, known as Wandering Scholars, will

circulate at S2S and interact with participants and their work, seeking to energize, enhance, and expand collective thinking as they make connections with your presented work.

2. Paper Session Requirements: This session is comprised of approximately 3-5 papers presented together, based on a particular theme. Paper sessions are evaluated as a whole. A respondent for these sessions is highly desirable while a chair is required. Submissions must include:

- a) a session title
- b) an overall session description
- c) the name of the session's chair (chair may also be a session author)
- d) the name of the session's respondent (if you have one).
- e) a title, description (no more than 75 words) for each individual paper and author's information
- f) a rationale for the session (no more than 250 words), outlining the importance of the submission as it relates to the convention theme and communication ethics research

3. Panel Discussion Requirements: This type of session is a group of approximately 3-6 people, creating a theme around which to discuss their particular ideas and/or expertise regarding communication ethics. Papers are not presented during a panel discussion. Submissions must include:

- a) a panel title
- b) a general description of the panel discussion topic (no more than 75 words)
- c) the name of the session's chair (chair may also be a panel presenter).
- d) the name for each individual on the panel
- e) a rationale for the panel discussion's importance as it relates to the convention theme and communications ethics interests (no more than 250 words)

4. Performance Session Requirements: This session is comprised of a single or multiple performances based on a particular theme. Performance sessions are evaluated as a whole. A respondent for these sessions is highly

desirable while a chair is required. Submissions must include:

- a) a session title
- b) an overall session description
- c) the name of the session's chair (chair may also be a session performer)
- d) the name of the session's respondent (if you have one).
- e) a title, description (no more than 75 words) for each individual performance and performer's information
- f) a rationale for the session (no more than 250 words), outlining the importance of the submission as it relates to the convention theme and communication ethics research

Please be sure to note audio-visual or other special requests where indicated for all submission types.

The Communication Ethics Division recognizes excellence in communication ethics scholarship with an **annual award for top conference papers**. Based on reviewers' responses, a top papers panel will be created by the Division's convention planner. A top paper by a scholar(s) and a top paper by a graduate or undergraduate student will be presented. The top paper by a scholar(s) will receive a certificate of achievement, and the top student paper will receive small cash award and certificate during the panel presentation and both are recognized during our business meeting. All submitters are encouraged to review the Professional Standards for Convention Participants, located in the Convention Resource Library, prior to submission. Helpful resources, including live and recorded step-by-step instructions on how to submit, are also available in the Convention Resource Library (<http://www.natcom.org/conventionresources/>). NCA Convention Central will open Monday, January 19, 2015, and will close at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. Notification of acceptance will occur in June 2015.

Any questions about this call or process may be directed to the Communication Ethics Division 2015 convention program planner, Leanne Bell McManus (leeannebell@hotmail.com).

Message from Division Chair & 2014 Division Awards

The Centennial NCA Convention, with its theme “The Presence of Our Past(s) NCA at 100.” was a flagship year for the Communication Ethics Division with **12** session slots and **3** outstanding Scholar to Scholar (S2S) presentations. Of the 45 individual papers, paper sessions, and panel discussions that were submitted, 21 were accepted (acceptance rate of 46%) with 4 panels sessions formed, 7 paper sessions, and 1 business meeting. This is a 21% increase in the number of submissions over the previous year. In sum, the high quality of our submissions earned us **2** additional slots from years past as well as one additional S2S presentation.

As a testament to the breadth and depth of scholarship in the Communication Ethics Division at this 100th Annual Convention, **9** of our **12** session slots were co-sponsored by the following sister divisions: Environmental Communication Division; Instructional Development Division; Organizational Communication Division; Critical and Cultural Studies Division; Communication as Social Construction Division; Ethnography Division; Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division.

Of course, none of this would’ve been possible without our stellar 13 reviewers. They are: **Marie Baker-Ohler** (Northern Arizona University); **Janie Harden Fritz** (Duquesne University); **Pat Gehrke** (University of South Carolina); **Annette Holba** (Plymouth State University); **Michelle Leavitt** (Independent Scholar); **Christina McDowell Marinchak** (University of Alaska, Anchorage); **Sorin Nastasia** (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville); **Jeanne Persuit** (University of North Carolina, Wilmington); **John Prellwitz** (University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg); **Brent Sleasman** (Gannon University); **Tammy Swenson Lepper** (Winona State University and; **Cem Zeytinoglu** (East Stroudsburg University).

We also thank our S2S Wandering Scholars for their deep engagement with our field and willingness to serve. They are: **Lee Wilkins** (Wayne State University); **Brent Sleasman**

(Gannon University and; **Chad Okrusch** (Montana Tech of the University of Montana).

Finally, the vitality and strength of the Communication Ethics Division at NCA’s 100th Annual Convention was on full display with our 2014 Top Papers. The **top student paper** went to **Margaret Mullan** (Duquesne University) for her paper entitled: “Dialogic Civility 2.0: Space for Dialogic Civility Emerging Online.” The **top scholar papers** went to Lindsay Palmer from University of Wisconsin, Madison for her paper entitled: “Bob Woodruff and the Rhetoric of Safety in Iraq: Revisiting the U.S. Embedding Model through the Lens of Global Media Ethics,” and to **Christina L. McDowell Marinchak** (University of Alaska, Anchorage) with Co-Author **Sarah Michelle Flinko** (Duquesne University) for their paper entitled: “Machiavellianism Alive and Well in Organization Decision-Making: The Case of Highmark and UPMC.” We congratulate and thank these scholars for their exceptional achievement this year.

2014 Clifford G. Christians Research Award Recipient

Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research (CCCSIR) is pleased to announce the winner of 2014 Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award.

Sun Youzhong (Beijing Foreign Studies University) won the 2014 Christians Award with his efforts in advancing media ethics research in China. Sun organized workshops on media ethics in China featuring the works of Clifford Christians. He also translated and published in China *Media Ethics: Cases and Moral Reasoning*, by Clifford Christians, Mark Fackler, Kathy Richardson, Peggy Kreshel and Robert Woods.

Christians Award is an annual competition established by the Couch Center to recognize outstanding ethics research that interpret or address important theoretical issues in the areas of ethics, mass communication theory, and the

relationship between media and technology and culture, interpret and apply concepts employed in Christians' work in new and insightful ways. Submissions are evaluated based on the quality of (1) mastery of Christians' approaches and concepts, (2) originality, (3) organization, (4) presentation, and (5) advancement of knowledge.

For more information about the Christians Award please contact Shing-Ling Chen at sarina.chen@uni.edu, or visit the Couch Center website at www.cccsir.org.

2014 Business Meeting Minutes November 21, 2014 Chicago, Illinois

Welcome & Call to Order

Chair Bert Ballard called the meeting to order at 2:05PM. The Executive Board was introduced. Bert thanked the Executive Board for its service.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve: Melissa Cook
Second: Tammy Swenson-Lepper

3. Treasury Report

The Division updated its non-profit designation status with the State of Colorado. The Division's account balance is \$370. The costs of the plaques and student monetary award will be close to the amount allotted to the division.

4. 365 Days of Communication Research

Chair Bert Ballard reported that the year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of NCA. To commemorate, the association asked each division to submit ten short, 100-150 word descriptions that summarize or assess the impact of a concept, theory, or research discovery from our interest area. These descriptions were posted on NCA's website on April 7-18, 2014. He encouraged members to go back and find them through the NCA website.

Bert acknowledged the excellent team of reviewers and authors from the Ethics Division who helped solicit and write the submissions. The topics were on the NCA credo, ethics and

technology, pedagogy and texts, ethical sensitivity, narrative, journalism, dialogical ethics, public relations, and the media.

The team of reviewers and authors included Bert Ballard, Sandy Borden, Janie Harden Fritz, David Gunkel, Annette Holba, Spoma Jovanovic, T. Randall Morris, Melba Hoffer, Connie Fletcher, Tammy Swenson-Lepper, and Paula Tompkins. Special recognition goes to Annette Holba who spearheaded this effort and led the team!

Bert reported that this was a nice effort on behalf of the division.

5. 2014 Program Planner

Melba reported that NCA's 100th Annual Convention is showing the **vitality** and **diversity** of the Communication Ethics Division with **12** session slots and **3** outstanding Scholar to Scholar (S2S) presentations.

The division received **45** submissions over all (37 in 2013; 29 in 2012).

The division received **30** individual paper submissions (27 in 2013; 20 in 2012)

The division received **15** panel discussion/paper session submissions (10 in 2013; 9 in 2012)

Out of the **30** individual paper submissions **11** were accepted

36.6 % acceptance rate in 2014 (44.4% in 2013; 40.0% in 2012)

Out of the **15** panel discussion/paper session submissions **10** were accepted

66.6 % acceptance rate in 2014 (70% in 2013; 66.7 in 2012)

Innovations

Melba reported that this year, we opened our submissions to **performance** entries and although none were received, we hope in the future scholars laboring in this area will feel encouraged to submit to our division

In 2013 and 2012 we had a total of 10 slots. Outreach for 2014: 12 sessions, 9 co-sponsored. Melba thanked the reviewers for their work.

- **Marie Baker-Ohler** Northern_Arizona University)
- **Janie Harden Fritz** (Duquesne University)
- **Pat Gehrke** (University of South Carolina)
- **Annette Holba** (Plymouth State University)
- **Michelle Leavitt** (Independent Scholar)
- **Christina McDowell Marinchak** (University of Alaska, Anchorage)
- **Sorin Nastasia** (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)
- **Jeanne Pursuit** (University of North Carolina, Wilmington)
- **John Prellwitz** (University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg)
- **Brent Sleasman** (Gannon University)
- **Tammy Swenson Lepper** (Winona State University)
- **Cem Zeytinoglu** (East Stroudsburg University)

Melba also thanked this year's S2S Wandering Scholars for their deep engagement with our field and willingness to serve.

- **Lee Wilkins** (Wayne State University)
- **Brent Sleasman** (Gannon University)
- **Chad Okrusch** (Montana Tech of the University of Montana)

Melba also announced the 2014 Top Papers Panel.

This year the **top student paper** went to **Margaret Mullan** (Duquesne University)

The **top scholar papers** went to Lindsay Palmer from University of Wisconsin, Madison and to **Christina L. McDowell Marinchak** (University of Alaska, Anchorage) with Co-Author **Sarah Michelle Flinko** (Duquesne University)

6. 2015 Program Planner

Vice Chair elect, Leeanne Bell McManus, announced the theme and call for reviewers. The 2015 Conference will be held in Las Vegas.

The theme is Embracing Opportunities. The call opens on January 19th and closes on March 25th. Decisions will be made by June 8th. Two sub themes-Think outside the box. How can your division do things differently? What happens in Vegas shouldn't stay in Vegas.

7. 2014 Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award

8. Award Committee Report
Top Book Award in Communication Ethics:
Communicative Engagement and Social Liberation Justice Will Be Made by Pat Arneson, Duquesne University

Top Journal Article Award in Communication Ethics

“The Dark Side of the Online Self: A Pragmatist Critique of the Growing Plague of Revenge Porn”
Journal of Mass Media Ethics
 Scott R. Stroud
 University of Texas at Austin

9. Ethica Report

In 2013-2014, the newsletter was sent out in spring and fall. January 30th is the deadline for spring 2015. If you are interested in signing up for listserv, contact Brent Northup at bnorthup@carroll.edu

10. Digital Communication/Website/Social Media Report and Update

The Communication Ethics Division now has 2 websites: Paul Turpin coordinates the NCA site. Pat Gerhke and Lisbeth Lipari were responsible for commethics.org site. Send any Website resources to Michelle Leavitt. Melba Hoffer will continue to assist with the Facebook page.

11. Bylaws Proposal

Bert introduced the proposal to change the “Newsletter Editor” to “Communication Director” to include *Ethica* and managing digital communication. Members discussed the 2-year term for the position and the need for this position to be elected just like the other officers.

Bert made the change to Section 7 of the Bylaws.

Motion to approve: Tammy Swenson-Lepper; 2nd, Melissa Cook

12. Elections

Melissa Cook put forth the slate of candidates. Amanda McKendree- VP Chair elect; Gina Ercolini-Secretary. Communication Director- Brent Sleasman. All candidates were elected.

13. Legislative Assembly and Nominating Committee Report

The 1st session addressed Real Estate – earlier vote that gave NCA staff and Executive Council authority to continue to explore options around selling.

Most of the first session focused on a resolution introduced at the last minute to take a position on Stephen Salaita at University of Illinois whose offer of employment was rescinded after he made inflammatory and derogatory remarks. Both Melissa and Bert voted no on the resolution:

- 1) Lack of information
- 2) Support UI comm dept, who were against the resolution
- 3) Beyond scope – not a comm dept issue, not a comm scholar

Melissa and Bert believe it was egregious breach of academic freedom and freedom of speech, but we also think the issue is more complex and some of it lacks civility; the boycott went too far.

NCA good financial health; budget passed.

Session two happens on Saturday – two major agenda items.

Addition of 4 divisions – take a look at whether or not this hurts or helps NCA, and the COM ethics division – Two of our members were supportive of at least 2 of these new divisions.

Bylaws revision – Cleans up governing documents, puts in 1 document, fiduciary responsibility, intercaucus council and provisions to add members/consult more,

increase in dues. Packet being handed around and a chance to discuss this near the end of the meeting with NCA directly. Feedback for us, for NCA

Bert will email an update for 2nd session.

NCA nominating committee to put forth candidates for 2nd VP of NCA. Melissa worked over the summer to prepare the slate: Ronald Jackson and Michael Kramer.

For next year, Bert will be the contact for nominations of 2nd VP.

14. NCA: Trevor Parry-Giles and Kathleen Glenister Roberts

Trevor Parry-Giles offered an update on the learning outcomes project funded through a grant secured by NCA. This is a faculty driven project focused on creating the best learning outcomes. What should a person know, do and be able to understand? The goal is to use the document for discussion and use the learning outcomes for individual contexts. The group is heading into its 3rd meeting. The group is composed of a variety of diverse folks and is working well together.

Trevor also updated the group on social media outreach: The Facebook page is active, Twitter feed has followers. Trevor encouraged the group to use the social media platforms to promote research connected to communication ethics and rhetoric and to like the Facebook page. Trevor also mentioned that the NCA website has resources on data about the discipline—how many degree holders, job market information. Communication is the most popular undergraduate major so far, according to the Humanities Indicator project. This information is useful to share with administrators. The doctoral program guide site also has heavy traffic. This research and data are helpful for deans and provosts.

Kathleen updated the group on the governing documents revision process. She's been on the Finance Board for 3 years and currently serves as Director of the Board. Associations routinely look at Bylaws. Four years ago the Task Force

found problems. In 2012, a set of revisions was put forth. In January of 2014-64% approved the new version. In June 2014, meetings were held to discuss suggestions. The Board is still gathering information. In January of 2016 the revised documents will be put forward for the 2/3 approval. Kathleen encouraged group members to visit the information booth and talk to others about the revision process. Several members asked questions related to fiduciary responsibility and giving the responsibility to a smaller board. Some members reported that changes are long overdue. One member asked how we compare to other associations. Kathleen mentioned that NCA is the outlier; no other association has fiduciary responsibility with such a large group. We're now aligning with what other associations do.

Bert reminded the group that we made cautionary statements and encouraged members to ask questions, talk with Melissa, Bert, and Kathleen, and engage in opportunities to talk about this. He also mentioned that Janie Harden Fritz participated in the meetings in June and shared her perspective with him.

15. Announcements

Melba recognized Bert and his work.
Please Attend the Top Papers Panel

16. Other Business

17. Meeting adjourned at 3:13.

Minutes prepared by Amanda G. McKendree,
Secretary, Communication Ethics Division

Book Review: *Kant and the Promise of Rhetoric* written by Scott Stroud Review by Melba Hoffer, Ph.D.

The Apriori "Other"

Scott Stroud's *Kant and the Promise of Rhetoric* is a brilliant, systematic, and long overdue treatment of the role of communication AND rhetoric in Kant's ethics. Kant's philosophy as a whole can be regarded as an attack on egoism: the first *Critique* being an

attack on an egoistic "presumption of understanding"; the second *Critique* being an attack on egoistic presumption of "practical interest"; and the third *Critique* being an attack on egoistic presumption "of taste" (Anth 7:128). In the Anthropology from a *Pragmatic Point of View*, Kant discusses the epistemic and aesthetic egoists and points out that what is needed to rectify these dispositions is the "touchstone" of others:

The *logical egoist* considers it unnecessary also to test his judgment by the understanding of others; as if he had no need at all for this touchstone (*criterium veritatis externum*). [...] The *aesthetic egoist* is satisfied with his own taste, even if others find his versus, paintings, music, and similar things ever so bad [...]. He deprives himself of progress toward that which is better when he isolates himself with his own judgment; he applauds himself and seeks the touchstone of artistic beauty only in himself. [...]. (Anth 7:29-30).

But when Kant turns to the moral egoist, his criticism is that the egoist is fixated on his or her own happiness and has "no touchstone at all of the genuine concept of duty, which absolutely must be a universally valid principle" (Anth 7:130). According to Kant, the opposite of being a moral egoist, is being a moral pluralist (Anth 7:130). "*Pluralism*," Kant states, is "the way of thinking in which one is not concerned with oneself as the whole world, but rather regards and conducts oneself as a mere citizen of the world" (Anth 7:130).

What is common to these egoisms, as Stroud astutely points out in chapter 6 of *Kant and the Promise of Rhetoric*, is "the loss of *common sense (sensus communis)*" which according to Kant is also the "ONLY universal characteristic of madness" (Anth 7:219). The *sensus communis* indicates to us "a subjectively-necessary touchstone of the correctness of our judgments generally, and consequently also of the soundness of our understanding"—namely, that "we restrain our understanding by the *understanding of others*, instead of *isolating* ourselves with our own understanding and judging *PUBLICLY* with our private representations" (Anth 7:219). This touchstone

of truth and soundness is “the greatest and most useful means of correcting our own thoughts”: the process of advancing them “in public in order to see whether they also agree with the understanding of others” (Anth 7:219). Kant makes it clear in the Anthropology, that by isolating ourselves, we make our “mere habits” or “inclinations” into objective standards, AND WORSE, we must also resort to self-deception and the deception of others, censorship, and force to avoid the scrutiny of the public that the *sensus communis* necessitates. Of such a person, Kant says they no longer exist in a “common world” but “in his own world (as in dreaming)” (Anth 7:219).

As Stroud argues in chapter 6, Kant believes that the *sensus communis* gives us a categorical imperative to be “broad minded” (Critique of Judgment 5:295). Now Kant notes in the Critique of judgment that *part* of that injunction is to ascend to a “universal standpoint” (Critique of Judgment 5:295). But Kant’s anthropology recognizes that we must gather “knowledge of the world” for the purpose of enlarging and “making agile” our imagination and memory (Critique of Judgment 7:120).

Thus, embedded within the concept of the *sensus communis*, and its manifestation as the impulse to make our reason social and to communicate with others, is the assumption that Kant calls “universal communicability” or “the universal voice” (Critique of Judgment 5:126). That is to say, the external touchstone of truth in question, can be regarded as operating through a presumptive ascription of universality to a judgment and then, rather than looking for confirmation of that judgment among one’s own concepts, one looks for “the consent of others” (Critique of Judgment 5:216). Kant’s discusses this with regard to judgments of taste or beauty because in that case one has no internal, conceptual standard of truth: one has only a feeling and can only rely on communication with others for confirmation of its veracity (Critique of Judgment 5:216). However, this speaking in a “universal voice” is presented as “only an idea” which Kant means is a regulative principle that guides us and NOT the assumption that there is universal agreement or even that it CAN be reached (Critique of Judgment 5:216). Obviously, our concepts and our communication

with and through them presumes something like universal communicability: we assume what we say and think can be understood by others. But Kant also believes that we assume a universality for our subjective, non-conceptual “states of mind” (Critique of Judgment 5:218).

Additionally, Kant does not assume all of human experience can be reduced to universal concepts, which would then allow us to ignore the culture and experience of others and appeal entirely to formal, universal notions. Instead, there are states of mind and feelings that are entirely subjective and which emerge from the orientation of the subject towards and interaction with the world, others, and objects. These can only be universally communicated through the enactment of those states in others. This point has also been clarified Heinz Kimmerle in his essay on *Sensus Communis. Clarification of a Kantian Concept on the Way to an Intercultural Dialogue Between Western and Indian Thought*.

On his own right, Stroud shows a side of Kant rarely seen. Confusingly, Kant often talks about reason and rationality as if we were all ideally rational, which he never believed to be the case. So when Stroud talks about reason and rationality as a collective process, requiring the individual to set aside the distorting influences of “self-love” to actually LISTEN to other people and other reasons....one can clearly see Kant is NOT arguing for the imposition of rational ideals onto others, but he is recognizing the struggle that we are all engaged in, from the ground up, to arrive at mutual, reasonable understanding. The notion that Kant praises the individual rational person, without any recognition of the social conditions of rationality, as Stroud has shown, is quite mistaken.

Facile readings of Kant aside, Stroud asks the earnest question, is there any significant role for the act of communication and for rhetorical care within Kant’s philosophy? His investigation uncovers a resounding yes and goes beyond that to isolate the role or many roles rhetoric plays in both the theoretical and moral philosophies. Stroud’s project is admittedly ambitious, but well executed, and ultimately successful. My own hypothesis is that if one can find within Kant’s philosophy an *AN APRIORI RECOGNITION OF THE OTHER*,

then KANT'S finitely rational human being will have as an intrinsic part of their fundamental existence in concrete, communicative relations with other people. As Kant is always interested in the "*a priori*", then our challenge becomes to REALLY show that Kant's ethical system is not only predicated on the fact that we have to rely on interpersonal communication (because we are imperfectly rational) BUT that part of the *a priori* structure of the rational agent IS communicative engagement with other agents. In other words, that other people are not just important because they can lead us towards our rational ideals (moral and theoretical) but that our rational ideal IS the continual process of comparing and hashing out our moral and theoretical reasoning (our worlds) with the reasoning (or worlds) of others. This is consonant with Foucault's somewhat subversive reading of Kant's "What is Enlightenment?" essay which I find to be useful though not detailed enough on this point.

Instead, I believe, Stroud has at last laid the proper foundation for a reading of Kant that posits the recognition of "the other" and "universal otherness" as an "apriori" principle.

Announcements

David Gunkel's book *The Machine Question: Critical Perspectives on AI, Robots and Ethics*, which won the division's Top Book Award in 2012, was the inspiration for and was featured in an episode of the PBS Ideas Channel. The episode is titled "When Will We Worry About the Well-Being of Robots?" and is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLieeAUQWMs>

Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee

As chair of this year's selection committee, I hope you will help promote NCA's dissertation award competition to your division members.

NCA believes very strongly in the importance of these dissertation awards and thus we welcome submissions from the full range of divisions represented in our association. Especially in

divisions where members have not historically nominated such works, you as division chairs are in a position to encourage your members to make such nominations. Thus, I hope you will share the call for awards below with a reminder that the deadline is April 1, 2015. Thank you.

Craig R. Scott, Chair, Gerald R. Miller
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award
Committee

Communication Ethics Division LISTSERV

To use the listserv, follow these guidelines:

To start sending messages to members of our group, send an e-mail to comethics@yahoogroups.com

- ✓ To reply to a message, simply answer the message and your reply will be sent to all members.
- ✓ To become a new subscriber to our listserv, send an e-mail to comethics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- ✓ To communicate with the moderator, send an e-mail to comethics-owner@yahoogroups.com
- ✓ If you do not wish to belong to our comm ethics group, you can unsubscribe by sending an e-mail to comethics-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you wish to receive a private response from our group members, enclose your e-mail address in your note and encourage people to send you a note using that address, rather than the group address.

**Communication Ethics Division
Officer Contact Information**

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