

# Introducing Ourselves

## PPA

Philosophisch-Politische Akademie (Philosophical-Political Academy)

PPA is dedicated to the promotion of critical philosophy, particularly as espoused by the German philosopher Leonard Nelson (1882-1927) and his followers, in its application to social and political life. In his writings, Nelson was concerned mainly with ethics, pedagogy and politics, and in all three fields he tried to put his theories into practice. He was an ethical socialist, he adapted Socrates' method of searching for truth, developed the neo-Socratic Method for group work, finally he founded the PPA to further develop and promote his philosophical ideas and the practice of Socratic Dialogue. Founded in 1922, PPA was, of course, banned by the Nazis but was re-established in 1949. The Academy organises national and international conferences on socio-political and philosophical subjects, sponsors the publication of books and, last but not least, supports Socratic courses and the Socratic work of the GSP. In 1994 the PPA established the Series on Socratic Philosophizing ("Sokratisches Philosophieren", LIT), that serves a forum for discussion of the philosophical basis and the practice of Socratic dialogue. In 2010 the volume XII "The Challenge of Dialogue" was published.

<http://www.philosophisch-politische-akademie.de>

## GSP

Gesellschaft für Sokratisches Philosophieren (Society of Socratic Facilitators)

The GSP was founded in 1994. Its purpose is to develop Socratic Dialogue (SD) in theory as well as in practice in the tradition of Leonard Nelson, Gustav Heckmann (1898-1996) and other Socratics who developed Nelson's Socratic method further, and to train facilitators. An increasing number of Socratic courses have been organised by GSP in co-operation with PPA, in different parts of Germany. Since the 1980s courses have been held three to five times a year, recruiting up to 40 people each time who work in small SD groups of about 10 participants. Furthermore, annual academic conferences related to the methodology of SD have been added. Beyond this, GSP contributes to the training of teachers in school, university and adult education.

<http://www.sokratisches-gespraech.de>

## SFCP

Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy



The SFCP, the sister educational charity of the PPA in Britain, was established in 1940. During the Second World War it supported an experimental school, founded in Germany in the 1920s by the Kantian philosopher Leonard Nelson and his co-worker Minna Specht, which had taken refuge in Britain from the Nazis. Subsequently, other elements of the Society's objectives came into prominence. Support was given to philosophical conferences, publications and a journal. Until today the SFCP has sponsored scholarly research at doctoral and post-doctoral levels; has organized a number of International Conferences, has arranged Socratic seminars for half days, full days and weekends, and has introduced educationists to a Socratic approach to learning and teaching. With the introduction of citizenship into the UK school curriculum and the growing interest in philosophy, SFCP is focusing more on acquainting teachers with the Socratic method as a valuable tool for these developing subjects. In recent years SFCP has established weekend courses for training new Socratic facilitators.

<http://www.sfcf.org.uk>

## Institute of Comparative Ethics

The Institute of Comparative Ethics at the Free University of Berlin took up its work on January 1, 2006. Its research and teaching deal with rules, norms, and values that people follow to guide their thinking and actions. In Germany and particularly in Berlin people live together who are characterized by very different cultures, religions, and philosophies. Positive interactions can only be achieved if the different people and groups know each other, respect their differences, and agree on principles that are recognized by all parties. The Institute of Comparative Ethics aims to provide academic support in this process of developing a pluralistic and democratic society.

<http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/ethik>



**Philosophizing through Dialogue**



**Dialogisches Philosophieren**

**International Conference of PPA, GSP, SFCP and the  
Institute of Comparative Ethics at the Free University of Berlin**

Berlin, 26 July to 2 August 2013

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Keynote

**Prof. Dr. Susan Neiman, Einstein Forum**

**Coming of Age, Thinking for Yourself**



**Socratically Oriented Theatre by Richard Schmutz and his  
Company:**

**COSMOS\*, 70 Minutes To Think by CITS AUG**

**Part 1: Inquiries about Empathy on the North-South Axis**

## Philosophizing through Dialogue

### International Conference of PPA, GSP, SFCP and the Institute of Comparative Ethics at the Free University of Berlin

Berlin, 26 July to 2 August 2013

The International Conference "Philosophizing through Dialogue" aims to foster critical and dialogical philosophizing.

The Conference is organized by the Philosophical-Political Academy (PPA), the Society of Socratic Facilitators (GSP), the Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy (SFCP) and the Institute of Comparative Ethics (Free University of Berlin).

**The Conference in Berlin** is intended to strengthen relations within communities of practitioners of dialogue. It attaches particular importance to the social and political significance of philosophical dialogue. The conference will bring together representatives of current forms of dialogical philosophizing and give them the opportunity to deliberate on differences and similarities among their approaches and upon controversial issues that are of particular concern. We want to promote discussion of the possibilities and limits of their approaches as well as the relevance of those approaches applicable to different contexts of action and life. We hope that mutual exchange of experiences and deepening of discussion will lead to better understanding, to enrichment for all participants and will facilitate ground-breaking renewals in the field of dialogical philosophizing.

During the **first part of the Conference (26 to 28 July)** you will have the chance to take part in a Socratic Dialogue. Each of the Dialogues will be facilitated by a team of two facilitators, who will be from different countries.

During the **second part of the Conference (28 to 31 July)** you will be able to attend presentations and workshops on different forms of dialogical philosophizing. We would also welcome offers from participants who wish to contribute.

The **third part of the Conference (1 and 2 August)** is restricted to about 20 invited participants. It will provide a forum for experts in dialogical practice and dialogical philosophizing who want to work more intensively on clarifying similarities and differences among their respective approaches. If you feel you could make a contribution based on substantive experience of philosophical dialogue, please do not hesitate to apply to take part in this final section of the conference.

Each of the three parts of the Conference can be booked separately. Conference languages will be **English and German**.

For more **detailed information** regarding contents and entry conditions see the website <http://philosophisch-politische-akademie.de/ic-2013.html> and the internet forum <http://dialogue-conference-2013.forumprofi.de>.

Organisation:

Michael Bongardt (FU Berlin)

Horst Gronke (PPA/GSP)

Dieter Krohn (PPA/GSP)

Michael Strain (SFCP)

**Main objectives** of the Conference are:

- to intensify discussions on controversial issues of dialogical philosophizing
- to enhance relations among the international community of practitioners of dialogical philosophizing
- to deepen understanding of the philosophical background of different forms of dialogical philosophizing
- to offer participation in Socratic Dialogues and reflection on methodological aspects of Socratic Dialogue, e.g. cooperative forms of facilitation
- to emphasize the socio-political importance of dialogue in general and of philosophical dialogue in particular.

**Workshops and presentations** will primarily be on the following subject areas:

- Theory and practice of different forms of dialogical philosophizing (Socratic Dialogue, Dilemma Discussion, Bohm Dialogue, Community of Inquiry, etc.)
- Methods, techniques and tools of dialogical philosophizing
- Relation between philosophical, psychological and theological dialogues
- Role of reason, emotion and body in dialogical philosophizing
- Dialogue as a tool of political participation
- Dialogical philosophizing in schools and other educational contexts
- Training facilitators for philosophical dialogues.

### Part B: Selection of programme items

Multicultural Dialogues for communities (H. Kimmerle, R. Schepen),  Day of Dialogue in Amsterdam (L. de Jong, S. Francken),  Organized Dialogue as a tool of political participation (Ch. Gohl),  Socratic Dialogues about art. Working with examples from music and arts (B. Littig),  The wisdom of old persons – Socratic Dialogues in houses for the elderly (T. den Boer),  Gibt es Erkenntnis durch Erfahrungen in "Bewusstheit durch Bewegung" (Feldenkrais)? Wenn es sie gibt, von welcher Art ist diese Erkenntnis? (V. Siegmund)  Learning to philosophize - What does that mean? Basic principles of the Socratic Dialogue (G. Raupach-Strey),  Socratic Method in art mediation (A. Lielich-Wolf),  What role does language play in a Socratic Dialogue? (W. Noot),  How can philosophical dialogues conducted over time contribute in human Bildung and relationship building in multi-cultural and multi-faith education? (G. Helskog),  Are metaphors productive in thinking Socratically? (P. Dordoni),  Socratic Dialogue as an art of conceptual analysis (M. Soloviova),  Mehr Schweigen im Sokratischen Gespräch!? (G. Kalter),  Philosophische Spielwerkstatt (E. Ivanova-Vardzhyska),  Experiment: Who gets better results? - Socratic Dialogues or other forms of Dialogue? (H. Gronke),  The hardware and the software of freedom (A. Ilnatovich),  What is the socio-political significance of a Neo-Socratic Dialogue on difficulties of a home-nursing service for participants of diverse backgrounds? (K. Aizawa)  Socratic Dialogue is not a set of models and rules! – A Correction of some myths of what SD is (D. Krohn),  Why most of the Socratic facilitators see Dialogue solely as a means to an end, and not as an end in itself (H. Gronke),  Sokratisches Gespräch und reflexive Supervision (H.-P. Griewatz),  Archiflection – experiencing architecture, reflection upon art (V. Lemes),  How to lead a Socratic dialogue in a one-to-one-position? (K. Van Rossem),  What is the art of questioning? (V. Chernenko) ...



### Venue of the Conference

Bildungs- und Begegnungszentrum

Clara Sahlberg

Koblanckstraße 10

D-14109 Berlin-Wannsee

### Secretariat

International Conference 2013

Philosophizing through Dialogue

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