

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Merleau-Ponty Circle

34th Annual Conference

Mississippi State University School of Architecture **September 10-12, 2009**

The Experience and Expression of Space

Keynote Speakers

Suzanne **Cataldi** Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Roy **Decker** / Anne Marie **Decker** Duvall Decker Architects, Jackson
Helen **Fielding** The University of Western Ontario, London
Alberto **Pérez-Gómez** McGill University, Montreal

Panel Discussion: *Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy* by Lawrence Hass

Panelists: Galen Johnson, Dorothea Olkowski, Jonathan Singer

Panel Discussion: The Experience and Expression of Space

Panelists: Suzanne Cataldi, Helen Fielding, Alberto Pérez-Gómez

Interdisciplinary by design, the 2009 meeting is co-organized by Rachel McCann (School of Architecture, MSU) and Patricia Locke (St. John's College, Annapolis). We welcome papers investigating all aspects of spatial experience and expression. Music, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and embodied daily experience are all expressions that are illuminated by this central theme in Merleau-Ponty's thought. See other side of this sheet for questions in play.

Papers: Submit your completed paper (maximum 4,000 words/30 minutes reading time) with a 100-150 word abstract. Graduate students who wish to be considered for the annual M. C. Dillon Memorial Lecture, an honor and monetary award for the best graduate student submission, should indicate this in their cover letters. Submit materials to the address below. Submissions by email attachment (pdf) are preferred. Hardcopy must be submitted in triplicate, to the MSU address.

DEADLINE for submissions: JUNE 10, 2009

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.caad.msstate.edu/merleau-ponty/>

The Experience and Expression of Space

International Merleau-Ponty Circle 34th Annual Meeting

Spatial depth is a central theme in Merleau-Ponty's work. The 2009 meeting will consider various acts of spatial experience and spatial expression within the generous and ambiguous philosophical framework of the Flesh. Music, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and countless other expressions illuminate the depths of our embodied experience. This meeting calls for papers investigating aspects of spatial experience and spatial expression. Topics include, but are not restricted to, the following:



How does Merleau-Ponty's ontology fundamentally restructure spatial experience and spatial expression? What is the nature of the intimate, indeterminate, and transformational relationship between perceiver and perceived? How do we interact with and draw from the world's *wild being*?



What is the nature of spatial depth? How does spatial experience intertwine vision, touch, and movement? How do the other senses participate in the experience? What is the nature of spatial interrogation? How do memory and anticipation vitalize the creative act? What is the relationship between perception and imagination?

How does anonymous, pre-reflective communality inform spatial expression? Does the relational character of the Flesh propel us towards an ethical dimension in our spatial expression through our shared carnality with the human and non-human world?

How do sensible and intelligible intertwine in spatial experience? What is the nature of the uneasy relationship between spatial experience, spatial expression, and meaning? What of metaphors, profiles and caricatures, and the initial "mistaken" impressions that inform and deepen our experience of unfolding spatial phenomena? What of temporality?

What is the relationship of words and wordlessness in the creative act? How do we pin down the ineffable long enough to engage technique in the creative process and yet ensure its subsequent escape? How do likeness, resemblance, and abstraction participate in spatial expression? What do we learn of embodied intentionality in experiencing another's spatial expressions? How can spatial expression slow down a reductive rush to meaning?

We particularly encourage considerations of the spatial experience and expression of architecture. Through embodied experience, the architect internalizes the world's spatial and material depths. She intertwines spatial and pragmatic imperatives with receptivity to the beckoning of a site's (and a program's) spatial and phenomenal potential. Through sensitivity to material and light, she proposes a built structure that is also a continual phenomenal unfolding experienced through multi-sensory movement. Thus the architect's body is the hinge between embodied experience and spatial expression. And the resultant architecture provides for its inhabitants originary carnal experience intertwined with the architect's embodied intentionality.



Philosophers, architects and Merleau-Pontians of all stripes welcome.

Visit our site at <http://www.caad.msstate.edu/merleau-ponty/>