

Gramsci Now: Cultural and Political Theory

An International Symposium



November 9-11, 2007

Michigan State University

East Lansing Marriott at University Place

East Lansing, Michigan

Antonio Gramsci

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the death of Antonio Gramsci, the College of Arts and Letters at Michigan State University will sponsor **Gramsci Now: Cultural and Political Theory**, an international symposium. The event will bring together distinguished scholars in fields throughout the humanities and social sciences who will explore a wide range of topics, including the translation into English and editing of the *Prison Notebooks*; Gramsci's ongoing importance to postcolonial theory, cultural studies, and economic and political theory; and Gramsci's relevance to our understanding of the contemporary world, particularly the "new world order" that came into being following the collapse of the Soviet bloc.

Co-sponsored by the African Studies Program, the Center for European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and International Studies and Programs

Program

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:00-7:00 pm
On the Terrace

Registration/Check-in

7:00-8:30 pm
University AB

WELCOME

Karin Wurst, *MSU College of Arts and Letters*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Moderator: Joseph Francese, *MSU Department of French, Classics, and Italian*

Joseph Buttigieg, *University of Notre Dame*
"Reading Gramsci Now"

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:00-9:00 am
On the Terrace

Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:00 am
On the Terrace

Registration/Check-in

9:00-10:30 am
University AB

SESSION 1

Gramsci and Post-Colonial Theory

Moderator: Patrick O'Donnell, *MSU Department of English*

Frank Rosengarten, *City University of New York Graduate Center*

"From Semi-Colonialism to Postcolonialism: The Contemporary Relevance of Gramsci's Views on Italy's Southern Question"

Epifanio San Juan, Jr., *Philippines Cultural Studies Center*

"Gramsci's Inventory and the Nihilism of Postcolonial Studies"

10:30-10:45 am
On the Terrace

Refreshment Break

10:45 am-1:15 pm
University AB

SESSION 2

Gramsci and Cultural Studies

Moderator: Elizabeth Drexler, *MSU Department of Anthropology*

Kate Crehan, *City University of New York*

"Gramsci and the Rule of Experts"

Roberto M. Dainotto, *Duke University*

"Gramsci, Labriola, and the Philosophy of Praxis"

Marcia Landy, *University of Pittsburgh*

"Gramsci In and On Film"

1:15-2:30 pm

Lunch

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 - *continued*

2:30-4:00 pm
University AB

PLENARY SESSION

Moderator: Richard Peterson, *MSU Department of Philosophy*

Guido Liguori, *University of Calabria*

“Common Sense and Good Sense in Gramsci’s Prison Notebooks.”

4:00-4:15 pm
Outside University BC

Refreshment Break

4:15-6:45 pm
University AB

SESSION 3

Gramsci: Economic and Political Theory

Moderator: Folu Ogundimu, *MSU Department of Journalism*

Michael Denning, *Yale University*

“‘Once Again on the Organic Capacities of the Working Class’: Gramsci as Theorist of Labor”

Benedetto Fontana, *Baruch College, City University of New York*

“Gramsci’s Political Thought: The Uses and Abuses of Hegemony”

David Ruccio, *University of Notre Dame*

“Gramsci in Latin America: Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony”

7:00-10:00 pm
University CD

BANQUET AND PLENARY SESSION

Ticket required for admission (*see “Registration Form” for details*)

Moderator: Lawrence Busch, *MSU Department of Sociology*

Stanley Aronowitz, *City University of New York Graduate Center*

“Gramsci’s Conception of Political Organization”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00-9:00 am
On the Terrace

Continental Breakfast

8:00-9:00 am
On the Terrace

Registration/Check-in

9:00-11:30 am
University AB

PLENARY SESSION

Gramsci and ‘The New World Order’

Moderator: Richard Zinman, *MSU James Madison College*

Stephen Gill, *York University*

“Pessimism of the Intelligence, Optimism of the Will: Theorizing New Forms of Global Political Agency”

Speakers

STANLEY ARONOWITZ is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Technology, and Work. Aronowitz studies labor, social movements, science and technology, education, social theory, and cultural studies. He is author or editor of 25 books, including *Left Turn: Forging a New Political Future* (2006); *Just Around the Corner: The Paradox of the Jobless Recovery* (2005); *How Class Works: Power and Social Movement* (2003); *The Last Good Job in America* (2001); *The Knowledge Factory* (2000); *The Jobless Future: Sci-tech and the Dogma of Work* (1995, with William DiFazio); *False Promises: The Shaping of American Working Class Consciousness* (1973, 1992); and forthcoming from Paradigm Publishers, *Against Schooling*. He is founding editor of the journal *Social Text* and is currently a member of its advisory board. He is also co-editor of the journal *Situations: Project of the Radical Imagination*.

JOSEPH A. BUTTIGIEG, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, University of Notre Dame, has been a Fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies since its inception. A specialist in modern literature and critical theory, his recent work has focused on the relationship between culture and politics in 20th-century Europe. In addition to numerous articles, Buttigieg has authored a book on James Joyce's aesthetics, *A Portrait of the Artist in Different Perspective* (1987). He is also the editor and translator of the multivolume complete critical edition of Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*. Several of his articles on Gramsci have been translated into Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese, and he has lectured widely in the United States and Europe as well as in Mexico, Brazil, Tunisia, South Africa, and Japan. He was a founding member of the International Gramsci Society and was appointed by the Italian Minister of Culture to a commission of experts to oversee the preparation of the "National Edition" of Gramsci's writings.

KATE CREHAN is Professor at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is an anthropologist who has carried out fieldwork in Zambia and Britain. Her publications include *The Fractured Community: Landscapes of Power and Gender in Rural Zambia* (1997) and *Gramsci, Culture, and Anthropology* (2002).

ROBERTO DAINOTTO is Associate Professor of Italian at Duke University. His publications include *Place in Literature Regions, Cultures, Communities* (2000) and *Europe (in Theory)* (2007). He has edited *Racconti Americani del '900*, and the forthcoming *Mediterranean Studies* (with Eric Zakim). His current research looks at representations of Italian-Americans in Italian culture, where they consistently appear as allegories both of an uprooting modernity, and of the unresolved "southern question" of Italy's failed modernization. He is also working on articles on the "philosophy of praxis," on Gramsci in the United States, and is editing contributions for *Le parole di Gramsci*.

MICHAEL DENNING is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Studies at Yale University. He is the author of *Mechanic Accents: Dime Novels and Working Class Culture in America* (1987); *Cover Stories: Narrative and Ideology in the British Spy Thriller* (1987); *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century* (1997); and *Culture in the Age of Three Worlds* (2004). His research interests are cultural theory, social movements, and 20th-century cultural history.

BENEDETTO FONTANA is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Baruch College of the City University of New York. His research interests include ancient, medieval, and modern political theory, as well as contemporary political and social theory. He is the author of *Hegemony and Power: On the Relation Between Gramsci and Machiavelli* (1993) and co-editor of *Talking Democracy: Historical Perspectives on Rhetoric and Democracy* (2004). He is currently working on Antonio Gramsci and his notions of politics and the state, on Machiavelli and his Romans, and on rhetoric and democracy.

STEPHEN GILL, Distinguished Research Professor of Political Science at Toronto's York University and Senior Associate Member, St. Antony's College, Oxford, specializes in International Relations and Political Economy. His publications include *The Global Political Economy* (1988, with David Law); *American Hegemony and the Trilateral Commission* (1991); *Gramsci, Historical Materialism and International Relations* (1993); and *Power, Production and Social Reproduction* (2004, with Isabella Bakker). His *Power and Resistance in the New World Order* (2002) was the winner of *Choice's* "Outstanding Academic Title Award." His current research interests include new forms of political agency, the political and juridical constitution of global capitalism, American strategy, and cultural and civilizational aspects of globalization.

MARCIA LANDY is Distinguished Service Professor of English/Film Studies and is on the faculty of the Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches courses on film history and theory, politics and film, national and transnational cinema, and classical and popular cinema. Her books include *Fascism in Film: The Italian Commercial Cinema, 1931–1943* (1986); *Imitations of Life: A Reader on Film and Television Melodrama* (1991); *British Genres: Cinema and Society, 1930–1960* (1991); *Film, Politics, and Gramsci* (1994); *Queen Christina* (1996, with Amy Villarejo); *Cinematic Uses of the Past* (1996); *The Folklore of Consensus: Theatricality and Spectacle in Italian Cinema 1930–1943* (1998); *Italian Film* (2000); *The Historical Film: History and Memory in Media* (2002); *Stars: The Film Reader* (2004, co-edited with Lucy Fischer); and *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (2005).

GUIDO LIGUORI is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Calabria and vice-president of the International Gramsci Society–Italia. The editor of *Critica marxista*, Liguori has published numerous essays on 20th-century political philosophy and on the Marxist tradition in Italy. He also enjoys an international reputation as one of the most widely cited Gramscian scholars. In addition to his seminal work *Gramsci conteso* (1996), Liguori is the author of *Sentieri gramsciani* (2006) and *Gramsci: Guida alla lettura* (2005, with Chiara Meta). He co-edited (with Fabio Frosini) *Le parole di Gramsci* (2004).

FRANK ROSENGARTEN is Professor Emeritus of Italian and Comparative Literature at the City University of New York (CUNY). He taught at Case Western Reserve University from 1962 to 1967 and at CUNY's Queens College from 1967 to 1992. Among his publications are *Vasco Pratolini: The Development of a Social Novelist* (1965); *The Italian Anti-Fascist Press, 1919–1945* (1968); *Silvio Trentin: From Interventionism to the Resistance* (1980); *The Writings of the Young Marcel Proust, 1885–1900: An Ideological Critique* (1980); and *Urbane Revolutionary: C. L. R. James and the Struggle for a New Society* (2007). He is editor of the English-language translation of Gramsci's *Letters from Prison* (1993) and is a co-founder (with Michael Brown) of the Research Group on Socialism and Democracy. He was editor of the journal *Socialism and Democracy* from 1985 to 1992.

DAVID F. RUCCIO is Professor of Economics and Policy Studies and a Faculty Fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and Higgins Center for Labor Research Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Ruccio's scholarly interests are economic methodology, Marxian theory, and international political economy. His most recent book is *Postmodern Moments in Modern Economics* (2003). The author of more than 50 journal articles and chapters in books, he has also been the editor of *Rethinking Marxism: A Journal of Economics, Culture, and Society* for the past ten years. He is currently working on three books: *Economic Representations: Academic and Everyday*; *Planning, Development, and Globalization: Essays in Marxian Class Analysis*; and *Economics, the University, and the World*.

EPIFANIO SAN JUAN, JR. is director of the Philippines Cultural Studies Center and co-director of the board of Philippine Forum in New York City. He was recently a fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation Study Center at Bellagio, Italy, and a Fulbright professor of American Studies at the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium. In addition to the groundbreaking *Racial Formations/Critical Transformations* (1992), San Juan's works are *Hegemony and Strategies of Transgression* (1995); *Beyond Postcolonial Theory* (1997); *From Exile to Diaspora* (1998); *Racism and Cultural Studies* (2002); *Working Through the Contradictions: From Cultural Theory to Critical Practice* (2004); *In the Wake of Terror: Class, Race, Nation, Ethnicity in the Postmodern World* (2007).

Symposium Site, Lodging, and Logistics

The symposium will be held at the East Lansing Marriot at University Place in downtown East Lansing, Michigan, adjacent to the campus of Michigan State University.

Lodging is available at the East Lansing Marriott at a special conference rate of \$109 + taxes/night (if reservation is made on or before October 12, 2007).

To make a reservation, call the hotel at (517) 337-4440 or (800) 646-4678, or visit www.marriott.com/lanea.

Please specify group code GRAGRAA to get the special rate.

For more information, visit www.cal.msu.edu/Gramsci.php

Registration Form

Attendance at the general symposium sessions is free and open to the public. All symposium attendees must register. Registration includes: a name badge, attendance at the general symposium sessions, continental breakfasts, and refreshment breaks. A \$35 ticket is required to attend the Saturday evening Banquet/Plenary Session (see details below). **The deadline for registration is November 1, 2007.** An e-mail message confirming receipt of your registration form will be sent within five working days of our receiving it. **If you do not receive a confirmation, please telephone 517-432-2479.**

First Name:

Last/Family Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Mail Code:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email address (required for confirmation/receipts):

Special requests for accommodations (mobility, hearing, etc.):

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participants in all programs, services, and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Bets Caldwell, Gramsci Symposium Coordinator, at caldwell@msu.edu or at the address below before October 5, 2007. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

I am registering:

To attend the general symposium sessions on (check all that apply):

- ☐ Friday, November 9
- ☐ Saturday morning, November 10
- ☐ Saturday afternoon, November 10
- ☐ Sunday, November 11

☐ To attend the Saturday evening Banquet/Plenary Session

A \$35 ticket is required to attend the Saturday evening Banquet/Plenary Session. The ticket entitles the bearer to: entry to the Banquet/Plenary Session; choice of entrée (*see below*); fresh field greens with assorted dressings; roasted red skin potatoes; rolls and butter; beverage (coffee, tea, iced tea, lemonade, milk, or soda); and, choice of assorted desserts. A cash bar will be available throughout the banquet. Banquet tickets will be available for pick-up at registration.

Select one of the following entrees:

- ☐ Seared Salmon (*Seared Fillet of Salmon with Whole Grain Mustard Sauce*)
- ☐ Chicken Wellington (*Boneless Breast of Chicken topped with a Mushroom Duxelle, Wrapped in Puff Pastry and Baked*)
- ☐ Vegetable Stir Fry with Teriyaki Glaze (*Sauteed Vegetables with Teriyaki Glaze and a Rice Timbale*)

Payment Method for Ticket to Banquet/Plenary Session:

- ☐ CHECK enclosed, payable to "Michigan State University" (MSU Tax ID #38-6005984)
- ☐ CREDIT CARD payments will be accepted by telephoning 517-432-2479 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. For security purposes, **do not e-mail or fax credit card information.** Receipts for all payments will be e-mailed to payees.

IMPORTANT: We will confirm receipt of your registration form by e-mail within five working days of receiving it. **If you do not receive a confirmation, please telephone 517-432-2479.**

Cancellations/Refunds

Cancellations of registrations for general symposium sessions and/or the Saturday evening Banquet/Plenary Session should be made in writing to caldwell@msu.edu before Thursday, November 1, 2007. 100% of the Banquet/Plenary Session ticket price will be refunded if written cancellation is received before November 1. Refunds will not be given for cancellations received after November 1, but tickets are transferable to other registrants.

Return completed registration form by mail, fax, or email to:

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