

2008-09



Annual Report



FORUM FOR
EUROPEAN
PHILOSOPHY

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About the Forum

The Forum in 2008-09

Since its launch in 1996 the Forum for European Philosophy has gained widespread recognition for its work as an initiator and sponsor of engaging and thoughtful events open to the general public. Today, in all of our activities we aim to encourage wider participation and promote thought-provoking discussion on issues connected with contemporary cultural and intellectual life.

During 2008-9 we presented a strong and lively programme to a wide public audience. Along with our core philosophical strands, the Provocations, Dialogues and Re-Visions, we held well-attended lectures and talks on distinctively European themes: on the idea of Europe; on solidarity in the European Union, on EU expansion, on Turkish claims to membership of the EU, on European migrant authors, and on contemporary European democracy. We also hosted three major conferences, one held at the LSE on 'Ethics, Politics and the State of Israel', one held at Oxford University on 'Memory, Politics and Forgiveness', and the annual SEP-FEP event, held this year at University College Dublin, Ireland.

Highlights this year included a Dialogue with Michael Tanner (at which the interviewer, Sebastian Gardner, managed to ask only his opening question before Michael Tanner went his own way giving a sublime description of post War Cambridge philosophy), a packed-to-the-gunnels lecture on Science and Religion by John Worrall, and the first of our collaborations with *Standpoint* magazine, a Dialogue on the fall of the Berlin Wall between with editor of *Standpoint*, Daniel Johnson (who was there when it happened) and journalist and author Nick Cohen.

The work of the Forum remains at the forefront of efforts to take philosophy out of the ivory tower and into the wider British culture. Our events enable audiences to meet thinkers and discuss themes in ways that would not take place without

us. Attendance at our events is very healthy, and for the most popular topics we are left with standing room (or floor-sitting-room) only.

The Forum is based at the European Institute of the London School of Economics. It has an Executive Committee whose members come from both academic and business backgrounds. We have a full-time Director, Dr Simon Glendinning, who holds a post of Reader in European Philosophy at the European Institute, and a full-time Coordinator, Dr Juliana Cardinale. This year we have also added a new 'cell' in Oxford, coordinated on a voluntary (un-paid) basis by Dr Roxana Baiasu.

We are also especially grateful to the academics who have given up their time to speak and participate at Forum events.

The Forum is privately funded and we are extremely grateful to its longstanding sponsors, The Grut Trust and The Alan Bekhor Charitable Trust, and to an increasing circle of Friends: Eli and Judith Avrahampour, Martin and Jacqueline Green, Ernst and Thilde Fraenkel, Martin and Paola Fraenkel, Christian and Sarah Thun-Hohenstein, Peter and Martine Halban, Zvi and Ofra Meitar, Leslie and David Bacon, Dr. David Cohen, Richard and Suzanne Spiegelberg, Barbara Sieratzki, Michael Dudley, Paul Loach, Stephen and Caroline Butt, Stephen John Lewis and Felix Posen.

In order to achieve a real change in the public culture in Britain, the Forum has been actively seeking to secure financial support from interested individuals and grant-awarding bodies. If you would like further information about our fundraising effort please contact the Forum's President Alan Montefiore.

Support from The London School of Economics and Political Science

We are extremely grateful to LSE for the tremendous support it has given to the Forum. We have received very positive feedback for our work and our programme.

The European Institute welcomes the role played the Forum for European Philosophy within the Institute and the School. The Forum is a natural extension of the work of the Institute, which exists as a multidisciplinary body devoted to the study of Europe in its different aspects. The Forum's commitment to reflection and debate on issues of contemporary concern across disciplines, and its willingness to reach out to diverse public audiences, is fully consistent with the Institute's remit. The Institute looks forward to the continued development of the Forum and to the expansion of its role as a facilitator and lead for fresh thinking.

Professor Damian Chalmers

Head, European Institute, LSE

The Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method supports the work of the Forum for European Philosophy very strongly.

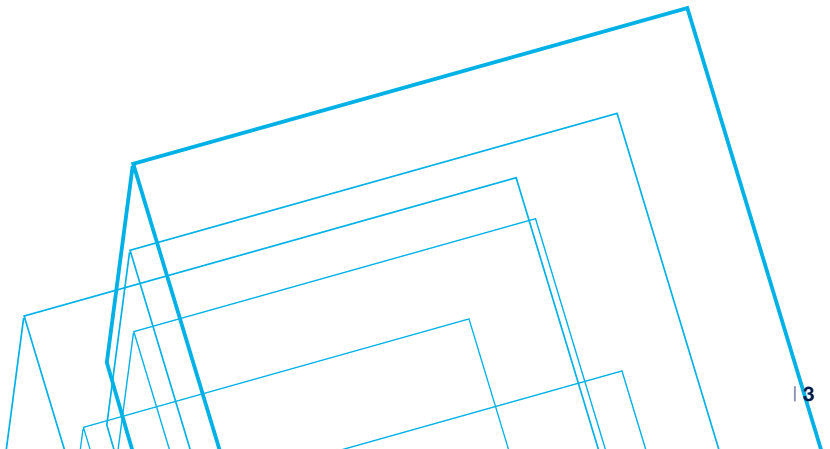
Professor Richard Bradley

Head, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE

We at the Centre are very happy to be associated with the Forum for European Philosophy and support it. With the appointment of a new Fellow in Philosophy working for the Forum and based in the Philosophy Department, we look forward to the possibility of extending and deepening our relationship with the Forum through collaboration and joint events.

Dr Roman Frigg

Deputy Director, Centre for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, LSE



President's Report

I have, I fear, yet again to start by reporting that the Charity Commissioners have still been unable to produce their promised proposals for a change in the law governing the types of constitutions available for adoption by charitable bodies. This year, however, I have also to report that the Forum has decided, through resolutions passed first by its Executive Committee and, as subsequently endorsed, by its Annual General Meeting, that it no longer makes sense for it simply to go on waiting to see what the promised changes might eventually amount to. The Forum is fortunate in having a number of committed supporters ready and well qualified to act as its Trustees with the fundamental responsibilities of Trustees for assuring the soundness of its financial and operative structures, but who for the most part are not members of our Executive Committee as constituted at present. Our present constitution, however, being that which is appropriate to an Association rather than to a Company, stipulates that it is the members of that Committee who *ipso facto* constitute its 'Board' of Trustees. In practice the principal (and essential) working concern of the Executive Committee has always been with the planning of the Forum's programmes and with its general intellectual direction; and a significant number of its present members have been elected – and accepted election – on the assumption that this was to be the nature of their contribution, as indeed to most practical intents and purposes of its limits. At the same time, given the constitutional limit on membership of the Executive Committee to a maximum of 15, it has proven impossible, within our existing framework, to find a constitutionally viable way of providing our Trustees-in-waiting, so to speak, with the status appropriate to Trustees constitutionally recognisable as such. Thus, we have a situation in which a number of (very committed) members of the Executive Committee have no particular interest in or desire to carry

the responsibilities of Trustees, while we have been unable to welcome as Trustees a significant number of those who have most generously signalled their readiness to be elected as such.

Our hope had been, of course, that the new constitutional arrangements to be proposed by the Charity Commission might provide us with an appropriate way of resolving this problem. It is still possible, no doubt, that this may eventually happen. Meanwhile, however, it has been decided that we must do what we can to remedy the situation within our constitution as we presently have it. The plan is, therefore, for all those present members of the Executive Committee who have no wish to continue as Trustees to resign from their membership of this Committee, this leaving enough places vacant for the election of those of the Forum's 'real' future Trustees who are not already members. The Executive Committee as such, its membership having been renewed in this way, would then move to create a new sub-Committee of itself, with some such name as the Policy and Planning Sub-committee, to which all those previous members of the Executive Committee whose interests lay in policy and planning, but not in continuing as Trustees, would be invited to join. As I said, this plan has already been approved in principle by both the existing executive Committee and by the AGM. The details, however, have still to be properly worked out, and will have to be put before the Executive Committee and then before a General Meeting for its final approval before the plan can be put into actual working effect.

The other outstanding development that I have to report – and I do so with very great pleasure – is that Stephen Butt has agreed to become Vice-President of the Forum with a view to succeeding me as President when I retire from that post, (though Stephen hopes that this may not become necessary for a further two years). It is, in my view, of very great value to the Forum

President's Report continued

that it should have as my successor someone of strong and committed intellectual interests who is not a professional academic, but who is very much a member of the 'real' non-academic world with strong personal roots in the world across the Channel, and who, as such, symbolises everything that the Forum has always stood for. At the time that the Executive Committee welcomed and endorsed Stephen's election, it was still hoped that it might be possible to give formal recognition to the post of Vice-President within a new constitution, and the motion actually passed was that he would be become Vice-president elect as of the date of the meeting. However, our present constitution does in fact give the Association powers to elect such Honorary Officers as it may from time to time decide, and given that we shall for the moment at least be sticking with our present constitution, this important 'detail' will no doubt be tidied up at the next meeting.

There is yet a third significant development to report. Simon Glendinning, our Director, is at the moment in the third year of his appointment to that post, which, of course, he holds jointly with a post as Reader in European Philosophy at the European Institute of the London School of Economics. At the end of this current academic year, Simon will revert to full employment with the LSE, and though, as Director, he will continue to keep an actively watching eye on the Forum's development, he will no longer be paid by us or to be in any sense a Forum employee. In this situation, we are extremely pleased to have been able to come to an agreement with the Department of Philosophy at the School for the creation of a new 3-year Joint Post, that of a Deputy Directorship of the Forum to be held jointly with a Fellowship in the Department. This post will be partly funded through the Forum, something which has been made possible above all through the generosity of our new Vice-President, Stephen Butt; it is not too much to say that, without this encouragement

and very practical support, its continued existence would at this stage of its life been at threat. And we are delighted too to establish this new close working relationship with the Department of Philosophy, whose present Chair, Luc Bovens, is an active and committed member of our present Executive Committee, and whose support in securing the crucial institutional underpinning for this new post has been quite indispensable. The post, I should add, has already been advertised and interviews for it are scheduled to take place in the spring. I should add too that we have every wish and intention to continue also our close and happy relationship with the European Institute, for whose continued support it has our own very real and continuing gratitude.

After the very sad death of Robert Brown, on which I reported last year, the City Circle has started again with its highly successful dinner/discussion evenings, thanks essentially to the efforts of Richard Spiegelberg, with the active and very effective support in bringing guests to these occasions of the Forum's two Stephens, Stephen Butt and Stephen Lewis, our Honorary Treasurer. To all three of them the Forum owes its most grateful thanks. The City Circle series of dinners has in effect been a continuation of the earlier series of Benefactors' Dinners with the range of subjects taken for discussion being more focussed on topics likely to be of particular interest to participants from the worlds of business and finance. Those concerned with the planning of these dinners are at present discussing the possibility of widening this focus once more. In any case the intention is very definitely to continue with these dinners, and I look forward to being able to report on just what form they will now be taking in my Report next year.

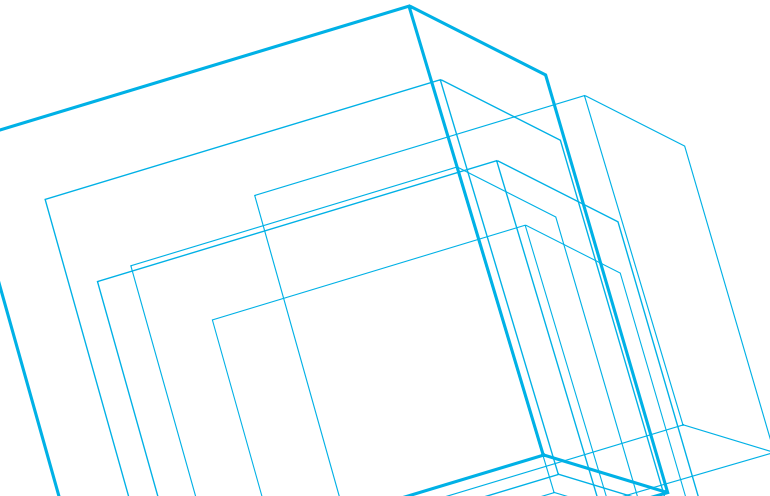
The Forum's own programmes for the past year have again been a very notable success. In addition to our London-based events, moreover, we are now able to offer a full and stimulating

President's Report continued

programme at our recently established branch in Oxford. For making this possible we have above all to thank Roxana Baiasu, without whose efficiency and enthusiasm this new venture would not have been possible; we are most grateful, too, to Pamela Sue Anderson for all the help and support that she has been providing to Roxana. And overall, of course, we owe, as usual, our admiration and thanks to Simon Glendinning our Director, to whom I leave it to report on the programmes themselves in his own Director's Report. He has, it goes without saying, to share this admiration and thanks with our Co-ordinator, Juliana Cardinale. To both of them the Forum owes an immense and continuing debt of gratitude.

Alan Montefiore

President



Treasurer's Report

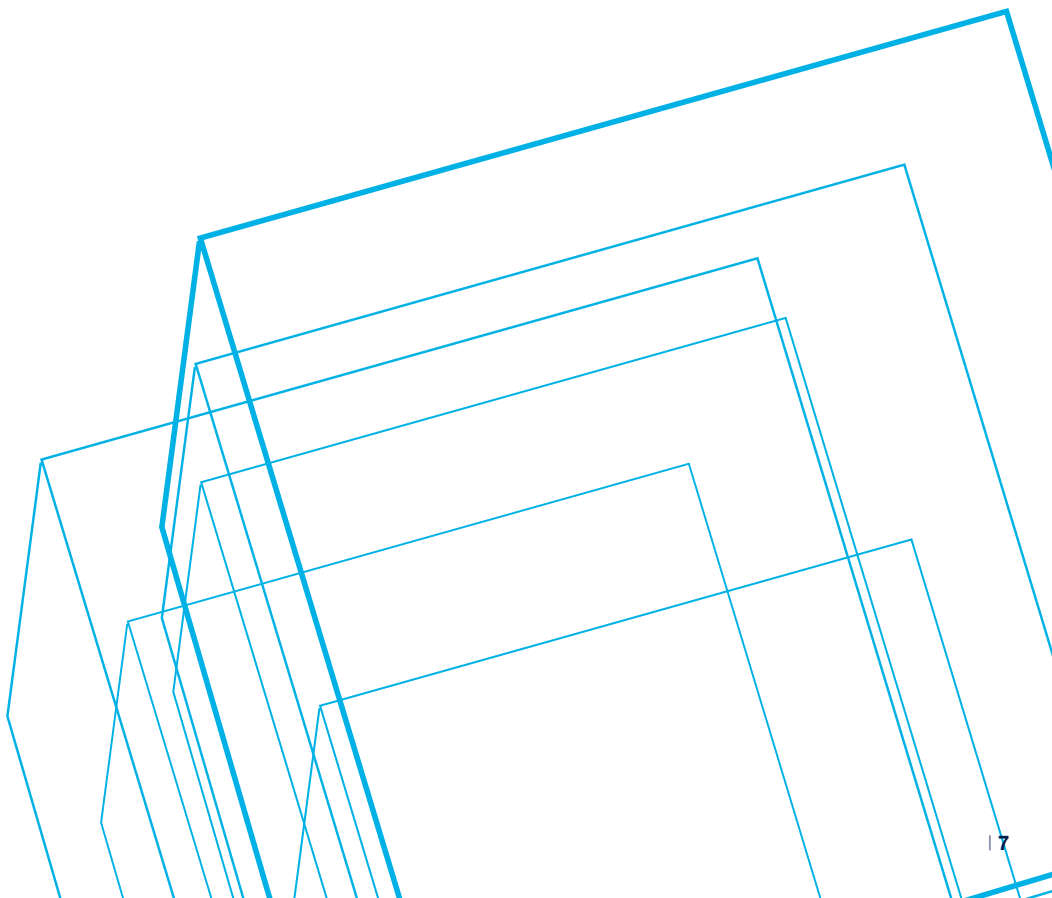
The Forum has entered into an agreement with the Philosophy Department of the London School of Economics to set up the joint post of Fellow in Philosophy in the Department and Deputy Director of the Forum to run from 2010 to 2013. We would like to record our thanks to Mr Stephen Butt for providing the financial support for this arrangement. This should assure the Forum's future for at least the next three years.

While global financial conditions remain difficult for fund-raising, the Forum has the resources to stage events in the year ahead on a similar scale to recent years. There is no room for complacency,

however. The Forum's objective is to expand the range of events it organises and to initiate interdisciplinary research projects. To this end, the Forum hopes to develop a substantial body of benefactors on whom it may rely for support, with the ultimate objective of setting up an endowment fund. This is necessarily a long-term project since, with current low rates of return on investments, it would be impractical to raise enough funds in the near term to form the basis for a viable endowment.

Stephen Lewis

Hon. Treasurer



Director's Message

The Forum Today

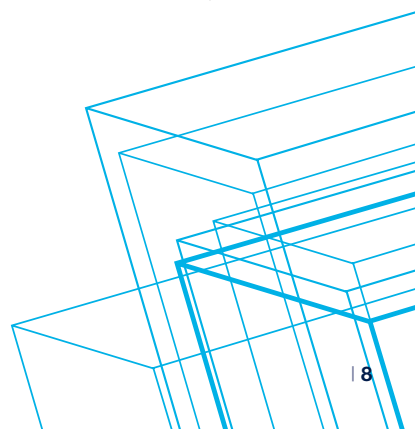
The Forum's programme continued to offer a very full and varied series of events open to the general public. We have a clear sense of how best to structure our programme and how to present philosophically informed discussions for audiences who may have little or no background in philosophy. Our events cleave to a golden rule not to let academics give 'papers' or 'research talks' of the sort they might give to their peers. This does not mean we want them to give dumbed down versions, or a sugared pill. It is simply a different kind of event and requires different presentation forms and formats. All of our core events – the Provocations, Dialogues, Public Lectures, and the Re-Visions series – provide various templates for disrupting academic dreariness, and enabling our speakers to meet a wider public in a space that is philosophically rich and yet accessible and provocative. We will strive to continue to develop and increase our reach and impact, bringing reflective and thoughtful discussions into the mainstream of British cultural life.

There were a number of events that stood out this year, but I was particularly pleased with the public conference on 'Ethics, Politics and the State of Israel'. One could ask of any state how its political character and practices are intertwined with ethical or moral considerations. On the other hand no one would think today of organizing an international conference on ethics, politics, and the French

state, or ethics, politics, and Norway. Is Israel a special case? What is certainly distinctive is that Zionism and the Jewish commitment to a state grounded in Judaism is often seen as a political act that is also importantly an ethical enterprise. At this conference we did not narrow any participant's options to discussing the Israel-Palestine issue. But there was a good deal of discussion of the relationship between the Jewish dimension of the state and its duties both to itself and its neighbours that arise from that dimension. In doing so, I am convinced we made a real contribution to the debates on this issue in Britain today.

More traditional philosophical themes were addressed in many of our Provocations and Dialogues with an impressive list of 'the great philosophers' given air-time in a world where they are more usually passed over in silence. This year's events included discussion of Kant, Schiller, Hume, Darwin, Wittgenstein, Gramsci, Adorno, Lyotard, Foucault, Le Doeuff. An impressive list – all presented with suitably provocative introductions by our invited speakers.

The lectures on 'Turkey: East or West' pursued themes around European identity and European politics that we began to develop last year. Once again our annual lecture series brought leading thinkers and scholars to the LSE to discuss and debate a crucial contemporary theme. This year our output in this area has been complimented



Director's Message continued

by a growing partnership with the European Institute at the LSE, with collaborative events on the philosophy of political economy, on the idea of Europe, on EU expansion, on solidarity in the European Union, and on the state of contemporary democracy. There were other Europe related events too – on European migrant authors, on the individual and society, and on the fall of the Berlin Wall – which made this year a particularly rich one for the European dimension of the Forum for European philosophy.

A lively interest in religion and society was also evident in this year's programme with well attended events on science and religion, and on markets for religion. The topic of religion and the secularity of contemporary society is clearly one that has shot up in public interest and concern and we look forward to further events on this theme in the future.

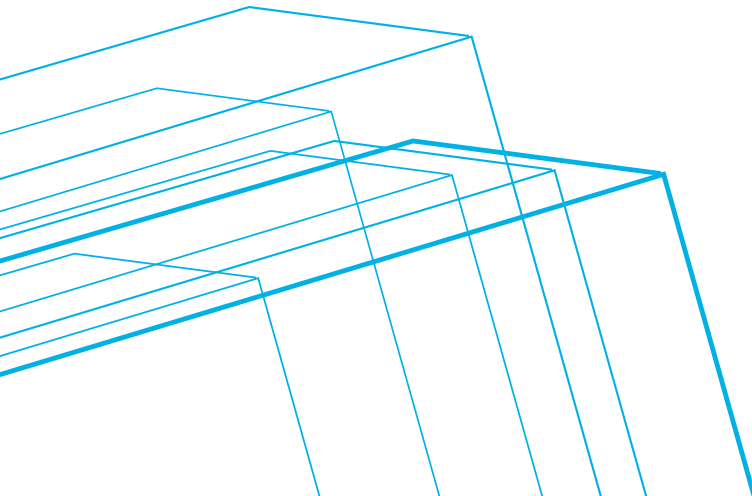
This year also saw the launch of a new initiative: the Oxford Forum. With the assistance of Dr Roxana Baiasu, the new Oxford Forum Coordinator, we have begun to develop a 'cell' based in Oxford putting on Forum events in our 'house' styles and formats, for an audience beyond London. We have tried to do this before, in Manchester, but without much success. We

think that the new set-up – with a coordinator on the ground in the host city – may prove more successful. This may be the first of many such 'cells', as the Forum brand becomes viral!

I look forward to another successful year in 2009-10.

Simon Glendinning

Director of the Forum for European Philosophy
Reader in European Philosophy
European Institute
The London School of Economics
and Political Science
December 2009



Forum Activities 2008-09

Provocations

Daniel D Hutto

Wittgenstein: The End of Philosophy?

Mike Martin

Hume on Celebrity Culture

Annabelle Lever

Catharine MacKinnon: Is Privacy the Enemy of Equality?

Rupert Read

Gramsci and 'The Lord of the Rings': Optimism and Pessimism at a Time of Crisis

Pamela Sue Anderson

Michèle Le Doeuff: 'Each to her own primal scene'

Eileen John

Schiller, O'Connor, Paley: On Humour and Moral Influence

Fabian Freyenhagen

Adorno on How to Live the Wrong Life

Re-Visions

Andrea Sangiovanni

International Distributive Justice, Reciprocity, and the European Union:

- *The Role of Facts*
- *Equality, Reciprocity, and the State*
- *Solidarity in the European Union*

Aoife Monks

The Actor and the Audience in the Theatre:

- *The Actor and Identity*
- *The Actor and Theatricality on the 20th Century Stage*

Jonathan White

Democracy Beyond Aggregation:

- *The Concept of Public Opinion*
- *The Concept of the Political Party*

Dialogues

Stephen Mulhall and **Douglas Smith**

Nietzsche in English

Christopher Janaway with **Ken Gemes**

Nietzsche in English

Michael Tanner with **Sebastian Gardner**

Miguel de Beistegui and **Robert Eaglestone**

Jean-François Lyotard's 'The Postmodern Condition'

Tim Lewens and **David Papineau**

Darwin and Philosophy

Standpoint Dialogue

In collaboration with *Standpoint* magazine

Nick Cohen with **Daniel Johnson**

The Fall of the Berlin Wall: Twenty Years On

Panel Discussion

In collaboration with *Standpoint* magazine

Panel: **David Willetts** and **John Cottingham**

Chair: **Daniel Johnson**

The Individual and Society: does the West have the balance right?

Public Lectures

John Worrall

The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

John Micklethwait

Discussant: **John Gray**

Religion and the Market: Are they in conflict?

In collaboration with the LSE Law Department Legal Theory Subject Group

Martin Saar

The Subject of Politics: From Foucault to Political Philosophy

An *FT Business* - LSE European Institute 'The Future of Europe' Lecture series in association with the Forum for European Philosophy

Christopher Caldwell

Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: can Europe be the same with different people in it?

Roundtable with European Migrant Authors

This event was part of the LSE *Space for Though Literary Weekend*. The round table was supported by the Migration Studies Unit (LSE); by POLIS, Journalism and Society and by the Forum for European Philosophy

Speakers: **Kapka Kassabova**, **Mustafa Kör** and **Naema Tahir**

Chair: **Luc Bovens**

Roundtable on the Idea of Europe in Philosophy, Art and Literature

Peter Schroder

Chair: **Simon Glendinning**
Philosophy and the Idea of Europe

Guy Dammann

Chair: **Jonathan Dronsfield**
Art and the Idea of Europe

Jeremy Lane

Chair: **Robert Eaglestone**
Literature and the Idea of Europe

Book Launch Discussion Seminar

The Forum for European Philosophy hosted this discussion seminar jointly with the European Institute (LSE) and Cambridge University Press

Richard Bronk

Discussants: **Simon Glendinning** and **Christa van Wijnbergen**

The Romantic Economist – Imagination in Economics

The Forum Annual Lecture Series

Turkey: East or West?
(May – June 2009)

This event was jointly organized with The Transatlantic & Caucasus Studies Institute, London

Andrew Mango

The Creation of the Secular State of Turkey

Hakan Yilmaz

Turkey Looking West: Culture, Identity and European Integration

Ilhan Uzgel

The Rise of Religion in the Public Sphere

Ziba Norman

Turkey's Changing Role in Geopolitics

Conferences

Ethics, Politics, and the State of Israel

Speakers: **Paul Franks**, **Annabel Herzog** and **Michael Morgan**

Dialogue: **Anthony Julius** with **Alan Montefiore**

Forum Activities 2008-09 continued

SEP-FEP Joint Conference

University College Dublin, Ireland

(29-31 August 2008)

Organiser: **Brian O'Connor**, UCD
School of Philosophy

Keynote speakers: **Françoise Dastur**,
Alessandro Ferrara, **Michael Rosen** and **David Smith**

Plenary sessions:

Maeve Cooke

The Possibilities of Critical Theory

Dermot Moran

The Future of Phenomenology

Forum Sponsored Events

The Institute of Art and Ideas

How the Light Gets In: A Philosophy Festival at Hay

(22-31 May 2009)

Crunch: Values and Beliefs in a New Era

Contact: **Hilary Lawson**

Oxford Forum Dialogues

Simon Glendinning and **Stephen Mulhall**

Wittgenstein and the Question of Being

David Farrell Krell and **William McNeill**

The Fleeing Gods

Graham Bird and **Adrian W Moore**

*Kant, Metaphysical Illusions and
the Limits of the Universe*

Oxford Forum Provocations

Miranda Fricker

Bernard Williams: The Limits of Philosophy

Anita Avramides

How to Think About the Mind: Thomas Nagel and 'The View from Nowhere'

Oxford Forum Conference

Ricoeur: On Memory,
Politics and Forgiveness

**Faculty of Philosophy and Regent's
Park College, University of Oxford**

Speakers: **Pamela Sue Anderson**,
Luc Bovens, **Morny Joy**, **David Klemm** and **William Schweiker**

Chair: **David Jasper**

The European World

This year we held many events which were focused on themes central to the European World today:

Re-Visions

International Distributive Justice, Reciprocity, and the European Union

(October-November 2008)

- ***The Role of Facts***
- ***Equality, Reciprocity, and the State***
- ***Solidarity in the European Union***

Speaker: **Andrea Sangiovanni**

In response to economic, social, and political pressures originating from both within and outside their borders, European states have progressively re-negotiated the terms in which they exercise legal and political authority over their territories. As a result of this process, the exercise of authority is now carried out increasingly at trans-, inter-, and supra-national levels. This poses a fundamental question for political thought. Do the new circumstances in which states operate require a reassessment of our understanding of distributive justice? In this series of talks, **Andrea Sangiovanni** argued for three interconnected claims. First, that facts about political and social institutions should affect not only the implementation of principles of justice but also, and more controversially, their content, scope, and grounds. Second, that equality as a demand of justice only applies among citizens and residents of a state. This is not because citizens and residents share a collective identity, or because they are subject to the same coercive power, but because they share in the mutual provision of the collective goods necessary for a flourishing life. Equality is therefore best understood as a demand of reciprocity. Third, that

this reciprocity-based conception of distributive justice can be extended to the inter-, trans-, and supra-national level. Despite the fact that equality is a demand of justice only among citizens and residents of a state, this does not imply that we have no obligations of distributive justice beyond the state. It only implies that these will be different in both form and content from those we have at the domestic level. The third claim was developed in the institutional context of the European Union.

Re-Visions

Democracy Beyond Aggregation?

(May 2009)

- ***The Concept of Public Opinion***
- ***The Concept of the Political Party***

Speaker: **Jonathan White**

These talks explored conceptually two central features of modern democracy: public opinion and the political party. Both are widely conceived in terms of the aggregation of units, be it opinions, preferences, interests, or another. In discussion we examined some of the presuppositions of such accounts, whether there exist alternatives, and whether these alternatives are recommendable.

Panel Discussion

The Individual and Society: does the West have the balance right?

(October 2008)

Panel: **David Willetts** and **John Cottingham**

Chair: **Daniel Johnston**

To many people, the contemporary emphasis on the individual in politics is responsible for loosening the web of duties and relationships that is crucial to civil life and flourishing communities. Of course, the emphasis is typically intended

The European World

as an ontological as much as a moral one. The reference to the individual aims to give politics a secure foundation in reality, and, so the argument goes, the real foundations of human forms of life are individuals and their families, not societies.

In the forms of life characteristic of the West today have we got the balance between the individual and society right? Why do we find it so hard to agree the boundaries of personal freedom and collective responsibility? And is the West indeed guilty of privileging the individual at the expense of society?

In this panel discussion the Forum for European Philosophy collaborated with the new culture and politics magazine *Standpoint* to explore a fundamental question about the Western image of the individual and its implications for our lives with others.

Roundtable with European Migrant Authors

(February 2008)

Speakers: **Kapka Kassabova**, **Mustafa Kör** and **Naema Tahir**

Chair: **Luc Bovens**

This roundtable on migrant literature featured migrant authors who are living and writing in various Western European countries. The migrant intellectual, writes Edward Said, has 'double perspective'. He or she is in a constant dialogue with his or her old and new home. Their writings often convey both a sense of loss and yearning but also display a richness wrought by the integration of multiple cultural identities, unique experiences and diverse modes of expression.

We explored what is it like to be migrant writers in these respective societies – what are the points of divergence, what are the commonalities? The authors were invited to start off the evening by reading short excerpts from their work that

typify their experiences as migrant authors. We then explored some of the following questions in a roundtable discussion. What modes of expression have migrant writers found to intermediate between where they came from and what they are confronted with in European cultures? What impact does the work of migrant writers have on the politics of multiculturalism in their respective societies? Are the political conditions in their respective countries supportive of artistic work by migrant authors? What explains the interest of the public in migrant literature in contemporary society? How is the work of migrant writers received in their countries of origin?

This event was part of the LSE *Space for Thought Literary Weekend*. The round table was supported by the Migration Studies Unit (LSE); by POLIS, Journalism and Society and by the Forum for European Philosophy.

Roundtable on the Idea of Europe in Philosophy, Art and Literature

(June 2009)

Elections to the European Parliament were held in the 27 member states of the European Union between 4 and 7 June 2009, the actual polling days varied from country to country according to local custom: in the UK voting took place on Thursday 4th June. More than 700 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were elected by proportional representation to represent some 500,000,000 European citizens, making these the biggest trans-national elections in history.

The aim of this event was to provide an orientation into Europe that has its focus beyond the realm of European Union politics. We approached Europe as a cultivated space that precedes and stimulates a project of European political governance, a space opened up in its most

The European World

fundamental aspects by traditions in philosophy, art and literature. Through the exploration of these traditions in relation to the idea of Europe we were able to open debates around Europe in British civil society in a new and compelling way.

There were three one-hour roundtable sessions, one on each of the elements, each session led by an 'expert witness' who introduced the topic:

Peter Schroder

Chair: **Simon Glendinning**

Philosophy and the Idea of Europe

Guy Dammann

Chair: **Jonathan Dronsfield**

Art and the Idea of Europe

Jeremy Lane

Chair: **Robert Eaglestone**

Literature and the Idea of Europe

Standpoint Dialogue The Fall of the Berlin Wall: Twenty Years On

(April 2008)

Speakers: **Nick Cohen** with **Daniel Johnson**

This event was jointly organized with *Standpoint* magazine

In the twenty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, socialism has been in hibernation - yet Britain has lived through its longest period of left-wing government. **Nick Cohen** discussed the future of the Left with **Daniel Johnson**.

Public Lecture

Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: can Europe be the same with different people in it?

(May 2009)

Speaker: **Christopher Caldwell**

An *FT Business* - LSE European Institute 'The Future of Europe' Lecture series in association with the Forum for European Philosophy

After a half-century of mass immigration, has Europe overestimated the need for immigrant labour and underestimated the culture-shaping potential of religion? **Christopher Caldwell** discussed whether Europe can be the same with different people in it.

The Forum for European Philosophy Annual Lecture Series

Turkey: East or West?

(May – June 2009)

This event was jointly organized with The Transatlantic & Caucasus Studies Institute, London

The Republic of Turkey, as a secular nation state, was created out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. Since then Turkey has moved steadily westward, being hailed as a model for the Islamic world. Now an established member of NATO, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, though membership of the European Union has proved elusive. But as a nation that straddles two continents (Asia and Europe) it has always had a complex identity. This lecture series looked at the forces that are shaping Turkey from within and the impact and influence Turkey is projecting in the region and beyond; ultimately asking the question: where next for Turkey?

Andrew Mango

The Creation of the Secular State of Turkey

Hakan Yilmaz

Turkey Looking West: Culture, Identity and European Integration

Ilhan Uzgel

The Rise of Religion in the Public Sphere

Ziba Norman

Turkey's Changing Role in Geopolitics

Other events which proved particularly successful with our audience were:

Conference

Ethics, Politics, and the
State of Israel

(December 2008)

Speakers: **Paul Franks, Annabel Herzog** and **Michael Morgan**

Dialogue: **Anthony Julius** with **Alan Montefiore**

One could ask of any state how its political character and practices are intertwined with ethical or moral considerations. On the other hand no one would think today of organizing an international conference on ethics, politics, and the French state, or ethics, politics, and Norway. Is Israel a special case? What is certainly distinctive is that Zionism and the Jewish commitment to a state grounded in Judaism is often seen as a political act that is also importantly an ethical enterprise.

At this conference we did not narrow any participant's options to discussing the Israel-Palestine issue. There was a good deal of discussion of the relationship between the Jewish character of the state and its democratic character and even the primacy of the state and its institutions to the Zionist project. We neither foreclosed discussion of these issues, nor discussion on how Israel does and should deal with minorities within the state – Palestinian Arabs, Sefardi Jews and other immigrant groups, women, and so on.

While debates in Israel about what Israeli citizenship means and what the state means are one thing, they are not exactly what others – specifically Jews in the diaspora – might take Israel to mean for them and their Judaism. Marking the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel, this conference was a major

Other Events

opportunity for thinkers from Europe, America and Israel to think seriously about Israel today in political, ethical, and even religious terms.

Public Lecture

The Incompatibility of Science and Religion

(January 2009)

Speaker: **John Worrall**

Galileo was put under house arrest by the Inquisition for defending Copernicus. If religious fundamentalists had their way, Darwinian theory would (at best) be taught as one theory among many with no greater claim to rational assent than the theory that God created the universe essentially as it now is in roughly 4004BC. More sophisticated thinkers hold that such direct clashes between science and religion are quite unnecessary: that one can be a religious believer without coming into the slightest conflict with science. **John Worrall** examined various ways in which this compatibility view has been defended. This examination showed that while religion and science can indeed avoid direct conflict, there is ineliminable conflict between religion and the general scientific approach – an *approach* based on the axiom that it is reasonable to believe only what *evidence* gives you reason to believe.

Book Launch

Discussion Seminar

The Romantic Economist – Imagination in Economics

(February 2009)

The Forum for European Philosophy hosted this discussion seminar jointly with the European Institute (LSE) and Cambridge University Press

Speaker: **Richard Bronk**

Discussants: **Simon Glendinning** and **Christa van Wijnbergen**

Economies are dynamic processes, characterised by massive uncertainty and driven by creative imagination, social norms and emotions, as well as rational calculation. So why do economists largely study them through the prism of static equilibrium models and narrow rationalistic assumptions?

Richard Bronk argued that it is our imaginations that allow us to chart our way though the future yet to be created; and that economists can best model and explain the creative and social aspects of markets by using new structuring assumptions and metaphors derived from the poetry and philosophy of English and German Romanticism.

Dialogues

Darwin and Philosophy

(June 2009)

Speakers: **Tim Lewens** and **David Papineau**

Darwin was primarily a biologist rather than a philosopher, but his work has changed the way we think about many central philosophical issues. **Tim Lewens** and **David Papineau** discussed the bearing of Darwin's work on such topics as the origin of life, the human mind, the nature of knowledge, and the foundations of morality, and assessed the extent to which Darwinian thinking is essential to a satisfactory understanding of human nature.

Trustees and Governance

The Executive Committee is entitled by the Constitution of the Association to appoint one or more new charity trustees at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Members of the Executive Committee are elected for a term of three years and one third retire annually but are eligible for re-election. Nominees for positions on the Committee must be in the hands of the Secretary at least fourteen days before the AGM.

Reports of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2008

The Forum for European Philosophy is governed by a Constitution approved on 28 May 1998 and is a registered charity number 1070105.

If you would like a copy of the accounts for the year April 2008-March 2009, then please contact the Co-ordinator, Juliana Cardinale at the address detailed below.

Forum for European Philosophy
Room J5, Cowdray House
European Institute, Houghton Street
London School of Economics
London, WC2A 2AE

Policies:

- (i) The Forum's level of income reserves are determined in discussion with the major contributors. The Treasurer and the Executive Committee have determined both a level of guaranteed ongoing funding for 2009-10 and a level of appropriate reserves until that time. This has been a regular matter of discussion at meetings of the executive and of the officers of the charity.
- (ii) The Forum for European Philosophy sponsors conferences held at universities across the country and abroad. We welcome applications for funding from any interested departments or individuals. Grants will be awarded to projects which are open to the public and which are both European in scope and interdisciplinary.

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Forum for European Philosophy Giving Page

What we do...

New developments in science and the arts already have well established ways of reaching a public audience. By contrast, thoughtful reflection on contemporary life and culture – philosophical reflection broadly conceived – is far less well supported. Over the past eight years, the Forum for European Philosophy has gained widespread recognition for its work in this area, developing a distinctive programme of thought-provoking discussions open to the general public. In order to achieve a real change in the public culture of contemporary Britain and in Europe, the Forum is actively seeking to secure further financial support from interested individuals and grant-awarding bodies. It is a fantastic opportunity to produce a step-change in our organisation and activity.

What you can do...

The Forum relies on its membership scheme and donations. We are extremely grateful to our supporters, all of whom make our events programme possible.

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If you would like to give a donation, of any size, please print out the Gift Aid form below and return it with a cheque to the address below or visit **www.philosophy-forum.org** to donate online and for further information about Giving.

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If you would like to join the membership scheme please print the membership form enclosed and return it to Juliana Cardinale at the address shown or visit **www.philosophy-forum.org** for more details.



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