



# North American Sartre Society La Société Sartrienne de l'Amérique du Nord

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Newsletter **September 2008**

## *Highlights from the 2008 NASS Conference*

On April 4-6, the North American Sartre Society convened on the beautiful University of Mary Washington campus in Fredericksburg, VA, for a meeting that was – as usual – interesting and stimulating. Many thanks to our local host Craig Vasey for his great event planning. The keynote address was given by David Drake of the Université de Paris VII, entitled “Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Communism.” This year’s meeting also included a well-attended screening of John Huston’s 1962 film, “Freud: the Secret Passion,” followed by a discussion of Sartre’s own *Freud Scenario* and his comments on Huston’s production. Finally, in light of the recent death of Hazel Barnes in March of this year, it was poignant and appropriate that a session was scheduled for a screening and discussion of her televised lectures on Existentialism, organized by Jeff Larsen.

### *From the Business Meeting:*

- The position of **Graduate Student Representative** has been added to the Executive Committee. We are looking for nominations and self-nominations of interested candidates.
- David Detmer is now the new North American executive editor of *Sartre Studies International*. Thank you to Steve Hendley for many years of service in that position. The new reviews editor is Connie Mui. We discussed whether the journal should have the right of first refusal for papers presented at the NASS conference. We ultimately decided against the proposal, but we agreed that NASS shall “strongly encourage” all those presenting at the conference to send their papers to SSI. If you are interested, see <http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/ssi/index.php>
- There was discussion of whether NASS should move to a process of **blind review for all conference submissions**. It was passed: that we shall use blind review for the upcoming 2009 conference as a trial run, that the Program Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee shall still have the authority to invite speakers, and that we shall return to this topic at the next business meeting in 2009.

**NEXT NASS  
CONFERENCE:**

**November 2009**

**University of Memphis**

The Call for Papers with a precise meeting date will be announced on the listserv later this Fall. The deadline for submissions will be in the Spring of 2009.

## *A Message from the President...*

Dear NASS members,

Has it already been five months since we last saw each other on the beautiful University of Mary Washington campus? I am sure your summer was put to good use, taking some needed relaxing time but also advancing your projects. I did exactly that. Part of my work has included thinking about the next NASS meeting. The executive committee has discussed how to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Critique of Dialectical Reason*, which will be just around the corner when we meet in November 2009 in Memphis. We have some plans which we hope will concretize. We will let you know more in the next newsletter in the Spring of 2009.

All best wishes for this new academic year,

Christine Daigle

## *Sartre Scholarship – Conference Information:*

- The annual conference of the **UK Sartre Society** was held in Central London on Friday, **September 19, 2008**. The conference program is available at [www.sartreuk.org](http://www.sartreuk.org).
- At the **2008 SPEP Conference**, on **Saturday, Oct. 18**, at 1:30 PM, there will be a session entitled “Phenomenological Attitudes towards Memory and Resistance: Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre.”
- Meeting in conjunction with the **2008 SPEP Conference**, the Society for the Philosophic Study of Genocide and the Holocaust will host a session on **Thursday, October 16**, at 9:00 AM entitled, “The Terror of Animality: Sartre, Arendt, and Badiou,” by Ryan Crawford, University at Buffalo.
- **The Sartre Circle will meet at the 2008 APA Eastern Division Meeting on Monday, Dec. 29**, from 9:00AM – 12:00 noon. This will be an “Author Meets Critics” session, on David Detmer’s *Sartre Explained: From Bad Faith to Authenticity*. Ron Santoni will chair, Matthew Eshleman and Gail Linsenbard will discuss the work, and David Detmer will respond.
- The **Groupe belge d’études sartriennes** met on May 30, 2008, at the Université de Liège in conjunction with a weekend of study on “Actualités de Mai 68.” The topic was “Les pensées 68: l’universalité en question.”
- The **Groupe d’études sartriennes** had its annual meeting at La Sorbonne in Paris on June 20-21. NASS members were in attendance for both days. The first was dedicated to the theme “Sartre, history and historians” while the second was exploring the relationship between Sartre and poets. Thanks to Heiner Wittman, webmaster for the GES, one can listen to some of the papers on the website of the GES: [www.ges-sartre.fr/sartre-colloque-annuel-2008.html](http://www.ges-sartre.fr/sartre-colloque-annuel-2008.html)

## ***Sartre Scholarship – Publications by NASS Members:***

Ron Santoni has an article published in the June 2008 issue of *Review of Metaphysics*, entitled “Camus on Sartre's Freedom: Another Misunderstanding.”

### ***Sartre Explained: From Bad Faith to Authenticity***

By David Detmer. Open Court, June 2008.

*Sartre Explained* offers a clear and concise introduction to Sartre's ideas. Its focus is comprehensive, as it discusses texts from all periods of Sartre's career, and addresses both literary and philosophical works. An introductory chapter provides an overview of Sartre's life and work. The next chapter analyzes several of Sartre's earliest philosophical writings. Each of the next six chapters is devoted to an in-depth examination of a single key book. Two of these chapters are devoted to philosophical works (*Being and Nothingness* and *Critique of Dialectical Reason*), two to plays (*No Exit* and *The Devil and the Good Lord*), one to a biography (*Saint Genet*), and one to a novel (*Nausea*). These chapters also contain some discussion of other writings insofar as they are relevant to the topics under consideration there. The book concludes with a short annotated bibliography with suggestions for further reading.

### ***Race after Sartre: Antiracism, Africana Existentialism, Postcolonialism***

Edited by Jonathan Judaken, in the SUNY series, “Philosophy and Race,” September 2008.

*Race after Sartre* is the first book to systematically interrogate Jean-Paul Sartre's antiracist politics and his largely unrecognized contributions to critical race theories, postcolonialism, and Africana existentialism. The contributors offer an overview of Sartre's positions on racism as they changed throughout the course of his life, providing a coherent account of the various ways in which he understood how racism could be articulated and opposed. They interrogate his numerous and influential works on the topic, and his insights are utilized to assess some of today's racial quandaries, including the November 2005 riots in France, Hurricane Katrina, immigration, affirmative action, and reparations for slavery and apartheid. The contributors also consider Sartre's impact upon the insurgent antiracist activists and writers who also walked the roads to freedom that Sartre helped pave.

### ***Beauvoir and Sartre. The Riddle of Influence***

Edited by Christine Daigle and Jacob Golomb, Indiana University Press, Fall 2008.

This collection addresses the questions of influence between two of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's greatest minds. It includes essays by Debra Bergoffen, Christine Daigle, Guillermine de Lacoste, Matthew Eshleman, Debbie Evans, Edward Fullbrook, Sara Heinämaa, Michel Kail, Sonia Kruks, Éliane Lecarme-Tabone, William McBride, Adrian van den Hoven, Gail Weiss and Andrea Veltman.

# *The North American Sartre Society...*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Interested in joining NASS? Need to renew your dues? Go to <http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/ssi/> - an annual subscription (\$55) includes membership in the NASS or UKSS

## **JOURNAL: SARTRE STUDIES INTERNATIONAL**

If you are interested in subscribing to, submitting to, or reviewing past articles found in *Sartre Studies International*, visit the journal's website at <http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/ssi/index.php>

## **WEBSITE**

NASS has a new online home! Thanks to the efforts of our webmaster, Farhang Erfani, a new website has been developed for NASS. Visit [www.sartresociety.org](http://www.sartresociety.org) for up to date news about the Society and other information that is pertinent to Sartre scholarship.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Please submit any information that you believe might be useful to other NASS members, for possible inclusion in upcoming NASS Newsletters, to: Beth Butterfield ([ebutterfield@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ebutterfield@georgiasouthern.edu)) or Michelle Darnell ([mdarnell@uncfsu.edu](mailto:mdarnell@uncfsu.edu)).

## **\* REQUEST FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Grégory Cormann, editor of *L'Année sartrienne*, an annual bibliographic bulletin devoted to Sartre scholarship, has requested that anyone who has information to contribute to the bulletin contact him for future bulletin submissions. His contact information is: [gregory.cormann@ulg.ac.be](mailto:gregory.cormann@ulg.ac.be).

### **NASS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Past President: Adrian van den Hoven [vdhoven@uwindsor.ca](mailto:vdhoven@uwindsor.ca)

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