

Third International Peace Workshop
Toward Perpetual Peace
On the Distinction between North, East, South, West

The Third International Peace Workshop
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
25th to 27th of June 2009

If you are interested in giving a paper, please send an abstract (max. 500 words) including a title and your contact details, by March 25th 2009 to peace.istanbul@hotmail.com. Applicants will be informed if their papers are accepted by April 1st.

The compass rose:

After having explored the philosophical meaning of the concept of peace and some of its particular applications at our last workshop held in 2008 in Berlin, we would like to continue our philosophical examination of peace and the causes of the political, economical and cultural and psychological factors that endanger and challenge peace. Although we will accept papers on all aspects of peace, in this meeting we would like to focus on the image of the compass rose and its four cardinal points. The philosophical interest of this image is that it insists on the relativity of any kind of difference, as well as on its necessity. North, East, South and West are relative to the position of the observer: it has no meaning without a centre. Such a fixed structure of orientation is absolutely necessary in order to be able to orientate ourselves and our thoughts. We suggest both a deconstruction and a reconstruction of the image of the compass rose. The compass rose is a colonial symbol: it connotes navigation, exploration, mapping, and its Eurocentric imperial history still conditions our divisions of the world (the “south”, the “middle-east”, the “west”, etc), and in this sense it needs to be critically deconstructed. But at the same time, a reconstruction of some kind of structures is needed, since categories are absolutely necessary to our concrete life.

We see these workshops as experiments: the goal is to bring together philosophers from radically different backgrounds, and researchers from other disciplines, and hope that this confrontation is constructive. Because the 2009 Peace Workshop will take place in Istanbul, we welcome papers on questions relating to Turkey, its culture, identity, religion, and to its social, political, juridical and economical concerns, in addition to questions concerning the relationship between Europe and the so called “Greater Middle-East”, Turkey and the Arab world, Islam and other religions, and the relationship between modernity and tradition. What can Europe bring to Turkey? What can Turkey bring to Europe? What shouldn't they bring to each other? Which relationships could the Islamic, Christian, Ottoman, Arab, European, Greek traditions have today? Are there certain types of relationship that are impossible? What can they bring to each other? What are the points of conflicts? How can they be solved? What are the ones of harmony? And, most importantly, how is peace possible within those issues? Those are some of the questions we would like to be addressed during the workshop.

Toward Perpetual Peace: for a transcendental understanding of peace

In addition to papers dealing with the more concrete issues discussed above, we are also interested in more abstract papers, particularly from the so-called transcendental point of view on peace, which examine the conditions of the possibility of peace. *Toward Perpetual Peace* (Zum ewigen Frieden) is the title of Kant's famous text published in 1795. But far more than being a title of a particular book, this notion summarises a truly philosophical understanding of peace. It immediately presents peace as a utopia, a "good place" (εὖ-τοπος), and in that sense, it has not been achieved, it has-to-come, it is a "nowhere" (ὐ-τοπος). Peace is counter-factual: it is an ideal that has not yet been reached and toward which one can only progress. But at the same time, peace is a pantopia, an "everywhere place" (πάν-τοπος): peace, understood as the process of reaching an ideal peace rather than the state of peace itself, is always potentially completely present.

In confronting the abstract with the concrete we hope to contribute to its realisation within the conditions of our contemporary world. And from this point of view, our question becomes: How can transcendental philosophy help us to realise peace?

Practical Details:

The conference will take place over three days at the beautiful Boğaziçi University campus overlooking the Bosphorus. Contributors from both the continental and analytic philosophical traditions are welcome, as are contributions from researchers in other disciplines. The papers should approach the question not only from an empirical point of view but at first from a conceptual perspective. We would hope that the lectures should be accessible to specialists and non-specialists alike. We will attempt to arrange short responses to all papers by graduate students.

A limited amount of free accommodation will be available on campus, and we are in the process of negotiating a special conference rate at a hotel. We will also be able to organise some free accommodation with Turkish graduate students.

Organizing committee: Sun Demerli, Kai Gregor, Zübeyde Karadağ, Sergueï Spetschinsky and Lucas Thorpe

In collaboration with the *International Society for Transcendental Philosophy*, the *Internationales Forschungsnetzwerk für Transzendentalphilosophie und Deutschen Idealismus* and the Boğaziçi University Philosophy Department.

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