

20th Annual Meeting and Dinner

Saturday, July 14, 2018

The City College of New York

160 Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10031

North Academic Center, 5th Floor, Room 5/144

Program 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

All Members Welcome

RSVP by July 10, admin@appa.edu

Program

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Registration & Light Lunch on site

Poster Session

Vasile Hategan: “Philosophical Counseling: Premises and Recognition of the Profession in Romania”

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Rick Repetti: “Meditation as Philosophical Counseling Tool”

2:45 - 4:15 p.m.

Vaughana Feary: “Philosophical Interventions with Psychiatric Patients”

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Lou Marinoff: “Doing Good and Living Well: Awakening the Inner Philosopher”

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Dinner at The Grange Bar & Eatery

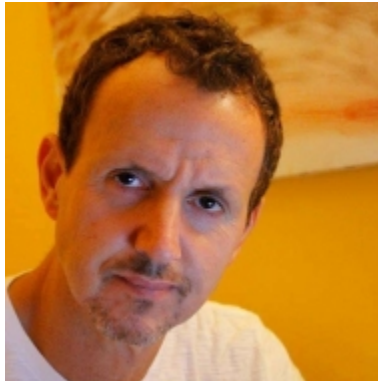


Vasile Hategan
Associate Lector, West University of Timisoara, Romania
Department of Philosophy and Sciences of Communication

Poster session: “Philosophical Counseling: Premises and Recognition of the Profession in Romania”

Starting with the appearance of philosophical counseling in Europe and then in other countries around the world, as a form of philosophy for the benefit of the people, this paper discusses Romanian concerns in the implementation of the concept of philosophical counseling. We study the Romanian premises that generated the first preoccupations with philosophical practice, starting with indigenous philosophers such as C. Noica and E. Cioran, and continuing with European premises of new philosophical practices. Finally we describe how the procedures for regulating this new profession were initiated in Romania. From examining the national regulatory requirements of a profession, we identified the model of mediation, which can be successfully followed in the process of recognizing the philosophical counseling profession, the two occupations having many similarities.

The paper will be published in a future issue of
Philosophical Practice: Journal of the APPA



Rick Repetti
Professor of Philosophy, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY
APPA-Certified Philosophical Counselor

1:00 - 2:30 pm: “Meditation as Philosophical Counseling Tool”

Harry Frankfurt (1971) argued that freedom of the will is having the sort of will one wants to have: to the extent an agent acts only on those first-order desires that accord with her second-order desires, she has freedom of the will. Buddhist meditation virtuosos, the contemplative equivalents of Olympic athletes, may be said to have freedom of the mind, or mental freedom, to the extent they have the sorts of minds or mental states they want to have. The meditation virtuoso *par excellence*, the Buddha, claimed that he is able to think or not think whatever thought he wants to think or not think, respectively, to have or not have the sort of resolve he wants to have or not have, the sort of attentional focus, emotions, etc. If this is correct, then the Buddha enjoyed freedom of the mind, the will, attention, emotion, etc. Buddhist meditation practice is designed to gradually cultivate total mental freedom. Studies of meditation virtuosos and other long-term practitioners suggest this is plausible (Goleman and Davidson 2018). If so, philosophical counseling can be significantly enhanced by incorporating this training in its toolkit. In this presentation, I will sketch some of the stronger evidence for these claims, how the model challenges all of the most powerful philosophical arguments against free will, and how it might be incorporated into philosophical practice. Time permitting, I will describe how meditation works, conduct a brief introductory meditation, and entertain questions and comments.



Vaughana Feary
Program Director, Excalibur Center for Applied Ethics
Founding Vice President, APPA

2:45 - 4:15 pm: “Philosophical Interventions with Psychiatric Patients”

This presentation will discuss part of a very complex case involving a long philosophical intervention for a pregnant psychiatric patient in crisis. I will suggest why experienced philosophical practitioners are qualified to do interventions, and what practitioners need to know if they are to work in this challenging new area of philosophical practice.

I will outline some of the theoretical and practical philosophical issues in securing adequate treatment, in protecting rights during treatment, and in arranging for a successful discharge for patients. Interventions involve working with a team of specialists (outpatient and inpatient treatment teams, patient advocate attorneys etc) and families. Some of the theoretical issues include: the concept of mental illness, paternalism and involuntary commitment (together with the role of hospital protocols and law), rights to refuse treatment, feminist issues in psychiatric care, and the use of advance directives to protect the rights of patients to autonomy and wellbeing.

The case will briefly highlight both what is wrong with a great deal of psychiatry and mental health care in the United States, and what is wrong with the allegiance of many philosophical practitioners to an outmoded anti-psychiatry movement which has prevented philosophical practice from developing a role on the front lines of mental health care.



Lou Marinoff
Professor of Philosophy and Asian Studies
The City College of New York, CUNY
Founding President, APPA

4:30 - 6:00 pm: “Doing Good and Living Well: Awakening the Inner Philosopher”

Philosophical practitioners inhabit "the edge" of two worlds: contemplation, and action. We are concerned not only with thinking well, but also with doing good and living well. Ambiguities of language and vagueness of usage in speech have produced semantic and conceptual confusions— at least, in English— about what it means "to do good" and "to do well." Philosophical practitioners try "to do good" by our helping clients "to do (i.e. to live) well." Primarily, we aspire to awaken their "inner philosopher." As will be seen, this characterization shares congruencies with the Mahayana Buddhist role of the Bodhisattva. Moreover, "the edge" that we inhabit can also be compared to the so-called "razor's edge" of Buddhism's Middle Way.

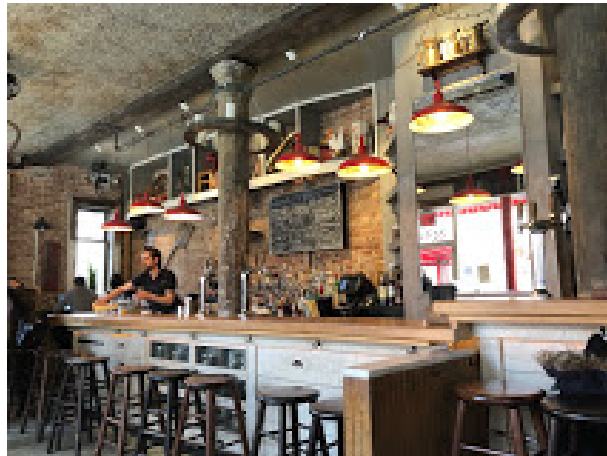
This paper is the closing keynote address at the 15th International Conference on Philosophical Practice, Mexico City, June 25-29, 2018.



The City College of New York

campus map here:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/ccny-campus-map>



**The Grange Bar & Eatery
drinks & dinner after the program**

<http://thegrangebarnyc.com/>