



Student Workshop & Networking Reception

Reconsidering John Dewey:
Education and the Current Crisis of Democracy

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

3-6 pm

followed by a Networking Reception

Location: German House, 871 United Nations Plaza

Co-hosted by: University of Cologne NY Office, Virginia Tech, and German Consulate General New York

Target Audience: University Students of all levels in the fields of Social Sciences, Political Science, Philosophy, and Education

Focus: Reconstructing the Deweyan Tradition of Democracy and Education

Methods: Readings, Group Work, Discussion, Interaction, Construction and Criticism

Welcoming remarks:

Yasemin Pamuk, Consul, Head of Department Culture and Science, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York.

Eva Bosbach, Executive Director, University of Cologne New York Office.

Group moderators:

Rene Arcilla, Professor of Philosophy of Education, New York University, U.S.A.

Jim Garrison, Professor of Philosophy of Education, Virginia Tech, U.S.A.

Judith Green, Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University, U.S.A.

Stefan Neubert, Professor of Education, University of Cologne, Germany

Naoko Saito, Professor of American Philosophy, Kyoto University, Japan

David Woods, NYU, U.S.A.



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Summary:

How can we live and practice democracy today? In this student workshop, six leading researchers in Education, Social Sciences and Philosophy from Germany, U.S. and Japan, will engage with NYC students to reflect, examine and further develop the philosophical and pedagogical approach to pluralistic, participatory, and communicative democracy and education by the US-American philosopher and educational reformer John Dewey (1859-1952). According to Dewey's theories, the goal of education is to enable students to become autonomous, informed, critical, and creative decision-makers who are valuable contributors to society and, thus, to a vibrant, communicative, pluralistic democracy. Questions of exclusion and the present crisis of democracy will be discussed as well as basic democratic values. The discussion will further focus on contemporary forms of exclusion, contrasting them with claims to inclusive and democratic communities in education as well as in society.

Schedule/Agenda:

The workshop will be opened by welcoming remarks by the Head of Department Culture and Science, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, Yasemin Pamuk, and Executive Director of the University of Cologne New York Office, Eva Bosbach.

Professors Jim Garrison (Virginia Tech) and Stefan Neubert (University of Cologne) will then give an introduction (10 minutes) to the philosophical and pedagogical approach to democracy and education of the US-American philosopher and educator John Dewey (1859-1952), followed by an examination of the democratic way of life in terms of translation as human transformation by Naoko Saito, Kyoto University and Rene Arcilla, New York University, which may require a critical-creative reappraisal of Deweyan democracy (10 minutes) followed by a discussion of deep democracy and life in global cities by Judith Green, Fordham University, and David Woods (10 minutes).

Discussion and group work (105 minutes) among the students will follow as each student will be assigned to one of several discussion groups, which will focus on questions of democratic values and democratic practices as well as processes of exclusion and the present crisis of democracy, globally. The groups will be assigned short readings from Neubert, Garrison and Saito, Arcilla, Green, and Woods provided in advance to all



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registered students. The reading and discussion will engage such basic democratic values like civility, hospitality, and listening. One focus will be on contemporary exclusive communities characterized by nationalism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, violence etc., contrasting them with claims to inclusive and democratic communities in education and learning. In this context, issues of right-wing populist political rhetoric in connection with “fake news” and “alternative facts” will also be addressed. Another focus will be on the democratic way of life in terms of translation as human transformation. Participants will have ample time to interact with each other and with the other groups.

At the end of the workshop each group will sum up their discussions and pose questions to the other groups and the workshop moderators (45 minutes). This platform will offer plenty of opportunities for the participants to contribute actively and exchange experiences, observations, understandings, questions, critical considerations, hopes, and visions with their peers as well as with the teachers.

A catered reception will follow giving students and professors time to further discuss the issues raised in a more informal setting.

