CALL FOR PAPERS

44th Annual Meeting of the
International Merleau-Ponty Circle
September 12-14, 2019 at Fordham University, New York City

AFFECT / EMOTION / FEELING

Keynote speakers:
Matthew Ratcliffe, University of York
Alia Al-Saji, McGill University

“We must reject that prejudice which makes ‘inner realities’ our of love, hate, or anger, leaving them accessible to one single witness: the person who feels them. Anger, shame, hate, and love are not psychic facts hidden at the bottom of another’s consciousness... They exist on this face or in those gestures, not hidden behind them.... [E]motion is not a psychic, internal fact but rather a variation in our relations with others and the world which is expressed in our bodily attitude.” Merleau-Ponty, “The Film and the New Psychology”

“Even our most secret affective movements... help to shape our perception of things....” Merleau-Ponty, “An Unpublished Prospectus of His Work”

“[T]here is an affective presence and extension of which objective spatiality is neither the sufficient condition, as is shown in anosognosias, nor even the necessary condition, as is shown by the phantom limb.” Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception

“What is called imagination is an emotional conduct.” Merleau-Ponty, “The Child’s Relations with Others”

“[S]peech or words carry a primary layer of signification that adheres to them and that gives the thought as a style, as an affective value, or as an existential mimicry, rather than as a conceptual statement.... We must... seek the first hints of language in... emotional gesticulation.... Just like words, passionate feelings and behaviors are invented” Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception

• What can Merleau-Ponty studies contribute to affect theory?
• What can attending to affect and emotion contribute to critical phenomenology?
• What is the role of affect in perception? In the perception of others? In the experience of one’s own body? In the experience of nature or the human world?
• How should we theorize affect and emotion in relation to language and speech?
• What can we learn about emotion from Merleau-Ponty on child development?
• What is the “institution of a feeling”? Or the “narcissism of the flesh”? Can there be true and false feelings?
Submission Guidelines

Paper submissions directly pertinent to the conference theme are especially encouraged, but papers on any area of current research in Merleau-Ponty studies will be considered for inclusion on the program. Paper submissions of no more than 3,500 words accompanied by a 200 word abstract should be submitted via email to mpcconference2019@gmail.com by midnight EST June 1st, 2019. Please place papers and abstracts together in one document that is suitable for anonymous review, and be sure to include your full name, paper title, and preferred email contact info in your message.

The conference features the annual M.C. Dillon Memorial Lecture and Award, which is an honor conferred upon the best graduate student submission. The winner will receive a monetary award and deliver an address at the conference that will be published in Chiasmi International. Eligible participants wishing to be considered for the Dillon Award should indicate this in the submission form.

Notification of paper acceptance will occur by July 15th, 2019.

Questions should be addressed to the conference director, Shiloh Whitney, at swhitney[at]fordham.edu