

Altonaer Stiftung für philosophische Grundlagenforschung

July 10, 2006

A WORKSHOP ON COMPLICITY

Invitation

The ASFPG invites you to attend a small and informal workshop focused on Scott Veitch's work on complicity. The workshop will take place at the Stiftung's premises on **6th–8th October, 2006**. The Stiftung is an independent foundation located in Hamburg, Germany with a commitment to furthering interdisciplinary work on basic conceptual issues and practical problems in the areas of logic and metaphysics, legal theory and the ethics of science and technology. The workshop is organized by the Stiftung's Centre for Legal Theory. It will support participants financially by paying travel costs (economy), accommodation for three nights and a modest per diem. Refreshments, lunches and an evening dinner will be provided by the Stiftung. Further information regarding the Stiftung is found on our website: www.asfpg.de

The Workshop

Scott Veitch's work on complicity focuses on asymmetries of responsibility and irresponsibility for harm to others. Taking irresponsibility as the clandestine counterpart of legal, moral and political responsibility it excavates conceptual and institutional lineages and practices which work on citizens to neutralize protest and still unease. It asks how legal categories and institutions are complicit in letting 'us' 'innocent' civilians off the hook of responsibility for immense and enduring acts of violence perpetrated by our governments on peoples who are elsewhere.

At one level it thematises government and citizenship, the asymmetry of that relation and a range of issues related to it: identity (political, personal, legal, historical) and community, conceptual lineages of the modern state system, sovereignty and freedom, protest and resistance. At another it engages a theme of social complexity and how that works for complicity and its denial,

through a diverse range of mechanisms which leave no one responsible for state violence. Here a question of how legal categories and institutions operate within contemporary politics signals an engaged jurisprudence and suggests scrutiny of mechanisms of disengagement in ‘normal’ curricula and pedagogic practice. At yet another level, even approaching the apocalyptic, the ‘democratization of death’ through the conduct of war in the twentieth century, opens on to a theme of an ultimate inversion of modern democracy.

Participants in the workshop are asked to engage critically and constructively with Scott’s work, having read pre-circulated material and bringing their questions, criticisms, suggestions, insights to bear on it. A session around the reading of another, relevant text is also envisaged.

If you are able to attend, your input in planning the workshop and on other reading would be very welcome. We will get back to you as things firm up with a proposed approach to and format for the workshop. A 4.00 – 6.00 pm start on Friday the 6th of October, a full working Saturday and Sunday morning with closing over a late lunch on Sunday 8th is currently envisaged.

Possible Participants

Emilios Christodoulidis

Valerie Kerruish

Tarik Kochi

Colin Perrin

Stewart Motha

Scott Veitch

Invited to attend: Stiftung Board members, Matthias Kaiser and Uwe Petersen

Valerie Kerruish

Hamburg.