

**New School for Social Research:
Graduate Student Philosophy Conference
Spring 2018**

**On Bridges and Walls:
Towards a Philosophy Without/Beyond Borders
6th & 7th of April 2018**

Discourse concerning the role of bridges and walls has become commonplace in our contemporary political scene. Xenophobic, racist, and nationalistic calls for the building of walls are opposed by calls to construct bridges by those seeking to form coalitions of solidarity and resistance. An example of this is given by the way in which colonialism/imperialism has repeatedly used 'bridges' as Trojan horses of sorts, by means of which distances were lessened and inequality worsened. Thus, this conference wishes to explore the normative consequences of the ubiquitous discourse of epistemic and geographic stratification by interrogating the way in which this metaphor is used—implicitly and explicitly—within philosophy, to the extent that the latter, as a frame of epistemological and experiential articulation, also builds its own bridges and walls.

It is with this in mind that at this year's NSSR Graduate Student Philosophy conference we wish to provide a platform for a very particular kind of 'philosophical investigation' in which a vast range of approaches concerning the significance and use of spatial metaphors within philosophical debates could take place. Such an investigation of margins, bridges, walls, localization and beyond should be undertaken in a manner that makes room for ontological, ethical, epistemological, phenomenological, political and psychoanalytic discourses. To this end, we encourage full liberty and creativity with how this topic could be approached. This is because we conceive this investigation as an open, interdisciplinary kind of quest whose aim will be to rethink the way in which we conceive of boundaries, gaps, stages and common spaces for the purpose of interrogating the tensions underpinning our current political discourse, while also showing the ways in which these affect the way in which we conceive of Philosophy.

Key Note Speakers:

Alberto Moreiras (Texas A&M)
Falguni Sheth (Emory)

Deadline:

December 20th 2017

Word Limit: 3500

Possible Topics (This list is by no means exhaustive):

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| • Walls and Bridges as Philosophical Metaphor | • Bridges |
| • Migration and (In)Justice | • Privacy, Space and the Political |
| • Decolonial Theory and the Use of Walls/Bridges | • Walls/Bridges and Human Rights |
| • The role of Bridges and Walls in the construction of Imagined communities | • Administrative Violence |
| • Walls/Bridges and Political Membership | • Philosophical Topologies/Political Topologies |
| • Walls and Solidarity | • Space and Violence |
| • Walls/Bridges and Globalization | • Localized Violence |
| • Social Epistemology and Imagined Walls | • Violence in Bodies |
| • Persuasion as an Epistemological Bridge | • Bridges/Walls and Cross-cultural Discourse |
| • Political Topologies and the Role of Walls/ | • Digital divisions and Digital Connections |
| | • Technology and Changing Spatial Relations |

Please submit complete papers by December 20th in the form of a Word attachment (.docx) to

NewSchoolOnBridgesAndWallsConf@gmail.com

Include your name, institution, and degree-program in the body of the message.