CALL FOR PAPERS

Eighth Annual Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE)
“Old World and New World Perspectives on Environmental Philosophy”
June 14-17, 2011
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Sponsored by: International Society for Environmental Ethics
Institute for Science Innovation and Society, Radboud University Nijmegen
Applied Philosophy Group, Wageningen University
Netherlands School for Research in Practical Philosophy

The intended establishment of a European Network for Environmental Ethics in 2011 is a nice occasion for ISEE to have its next annual meeting in Europe. The meeting will focus on differences between Old World and New World perspectives on a range of topics in environmental philosophy including nature, landscape, wilderness, history and many others. Our hope is to attract a broad cross-section of the environmental philosophy community from America, Europe, and other continents. We especially encourage participation by graduate students.

The conference plan includes free time for hiking/cycling and conversation. With ample time for excursions conference participants will be able to discuss issues such as the conflicts between ecological restoration and cultural landscape protection in their real life context. We will visit some demonstration projects for the conservation of cultural landscape, that show how landscapes can be improved through the use of traditional (agricultural) land use practices. In addition, we will visit ecological restoration projects along the borders of the Rhine that attempt to ‘liberate the land from past human interventions’ and create ‘new wilderness’. Environmentalists from different groups representing different views will be invited to take part in our debates.

Key note speakers:
- Marcus Hall (environmental history, University of Zurich, Switzerland), on the transatlantic history of ecological restoration
- Brian Schroeder (environmental philosophy, Rochester institute of Technology, and co-director of International Association for Environmental Philosophy), on Old World and New World perspectives in environmental philosophy

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The conference format is designed to maximize discussions: papers available beforehand on-line, 25 minutes presentations (15 minutes for the speaker, 10 minutes for the commentator), and 30 minutes for general discussion.

This call is for proposals of the following kinds:

1. THEMED SESSIONS. Proposals for 2-hour themed sessions are encouraged, including author-meets-critics sessions, sessions emphasizing socially engaged philosophic activities, (etc.) Themes might include but are not limited to: Old World and New World Perspectives on Environmental Philosophy; wilderness, cultural landscapes and history; New world and Old World conservation and restoration; local perspectives in an era of globalization; environmental cultures and slow food; the future for environmental ethics. Proposals for themed sessions should include names of participants, an outline of the theme and how the session will fit together, and a 300 word abstract for each paper.

2. GENERAL SESSION PAPERS. Papers are welcomed from all philosophical traditions, and from environmental philosophy broadly conceived (not just environmental ethics). The format for full paper presentations at the conference will be a 15 minute summary and 10 minute commentary of the paper followed by a 30 minute general discussion. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted for this category.

3. COMMENTATORS AND CHAIRS. We particularly welcome offers to give 10 minutes of summary and comments on general session papers. Commentators are asked to summarize key points of the papers and offer a few critical/constructive thoughts on them, as an upbeat for discussion. We will try to match commentators with papers in their field of interest, so please indicate what these are when offering to comment. Offers for chairing sessions are also welcomed.
DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS
Please submit abstracts (not full papers!) of 300 words by December 6, 2010. Abstracts should be prepared so that they may be blind-refereed by the conference committee. Acceptances will be announced by January 31, 2011. Full papers for the themed and general sessions must be available to be placed on the conference website by May 9th, 2011. Send abstracts, proposals, or expressions of your willingness to comment or chair via email to: Martin Drenthen <m.drenthen@science.ru.nl>, with an email subject line of ‘ISEE Conference Abstract Submission’.

VENUE
Nijmegen (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nijmegen) is the oldest city in the Netherlands; it celebrated its 2000th anniversary in 2005. It lies at the borders of the Rhine River, close to the German border. Nijmegen is a typical university town: it harbours the Radboud University and several institutes for professional education. It is world-famous for its annual four-day marches, the largest hiking event in the world (more than 40,000 hikers walk 200 km). Nijmegen is one of the greenest cities of the Netherlands, both politically (the Green Party won the latest elections) and in terms of surroundings. The conference will take place in De Holthurnse Hof, a former estate in a forest clearing, close to the city border of Nijmegen and less than 1 km from the German border. It is spacious, fitted with all modern conveniences, has a fairly good hotel, restaurant and brasserie/bar. The venue lies along the famous Seven Hills Road (Zevenheuvelenweg), and is situated in a designated Natura 2000 area; amidst a centuries-old cultural landscape with a mix of farmland and woods. The hilly terrain was formed by a glacial moraine in the last ice age and attracts many hikers from the Netherlands and elsewhere. The landscape contains many signs of history, ranging from ancient Roman remains such as aqueducts to remains of the 2nd World War: such as the large Canadian military cemetery. One of the biggest WWII battles, Operation Market Garden, took place in these surroundings.

HOUSING
We have reserved 42 rooms, each of which comfortably house one or two guests. Alternatively, there are also camping facilities and other housing options available nearby. Details on housing will be posted in due course.

TRANSPORTATION.
Nijmegen can easily be reached from Amsterdam Airport by a direct train which takes about 1.5 hours (or, alternatively, from Düsseldorf Airport (Germany) by train in less than 2 hours). Attendees travelling from European destinations are encouraged to travel by train to Nijmegen (or to the neighbouring German city of Kleve). The venue itself is easily accessible from Nijmegen train station by city bus in 20 minutes (or by bicycle in less than 30 minutes). When necessary, rental bikes and shuttle busses can be arranged.

Details about registering for the conference will be forwarded in due course.

Martin Drenthen (m.drenthen@science.ru.nl) and Jozef Keulartz (Jozef.Keulartz@wur.nl), on behalf of the conference committee.