

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Revisiting *Democracy and Education*

DEADLINE: Monday, November 3, 2014

The John Dewey Society calls for paper proposals for the Past Presidents' Panel at its annual meeting, to be held in conjunction with the American Educational Research Association meeting in Chicago, April 16-17, 2014.

Successful proposals may also be considered for publication in the special *Democracy and Education* centennial issue of *Educational Theory* in 2016.

The Society invites submissions for a special panel of papers at its 2015 annual meeting revisiting Dewey's *Democracy and Education* in preparation for the centennial of its publication in 2016. In *Democracy and Education* Dewey confronts the problem of building a multi-class multi-ethnic democracy. In the year of its publication the great American cities were troubled by class and ethnic conflict, and the world was torn apart by wars fueled by deep-seated nationalist-bred violence. Dewey conceived the concepts of both democracy and education as deeply entwined with the cessation of inter-group hostility and the building up of conditions for mutually beneficial inter-group exchange. He saw an education grounded in rich inter-cultural communication and cooperative problem-solving as the foundation of a harmonious and culturally rich democratic society. In constructing this vision of education, developed in the first seven chapters of this magisterial work, Dewey re-visited and reconstructed every commonplace of educational practice, from teaching and learning to aims and objectives, subject matter and method, discipline and interest, school organization and others throughout the rest of the book.

One hundred years after its publication, *Democracy and Education* continues to be the single most cited work in educational studies. Dewey's vision in *Democracy and Education* needs, however, to be re-examined and revitalized in today's context of economic globalization, neo-liberalism, and inequality; the spread of digital networks and communications devices; the resurgence of inter-group segregation in urban schools and neighborhoods; the uneasy integration of Islam in Western democracies; illegal youth immigration, the global crisis of youth employment and the rising private costs of higher education.

The John Dewey Society invites proposals to address *Democracy and Education* in our contemporary context. Proposals may discuss or critique *Democracy and Education* itself, or consider that book in relation to other works in the Dewey corpus, in relation to the broader field of philosophy, or in relation to any aspect of contemporary educational theory or practice. Three themes have been selected for special emphasis. It is anticipated that at least one proposal addressing each theme will be selected for the panel, so authors will need to indicate which theme their proposal addresses: These themes are:

1. **The Historical, Cultural and Philosophical Contexts of *D&E*** (e.g., *D&E* in the history of educational thought; *D&E* in the contexts US social history, the

progressive era, WWI; *D&E* in Dewey's philosophical oeuvre; *D&E* and democratic theory; The uptake of *D&E* around the world

2. **The contribution of *D&E* to school and classroom practice** (e.g., the lab school; *D&E* and progressive, experimental and alternative schools; *D&E* in mainstream school practices; *D&E* and online learning; *D&E* and teacher education
3. **The Living Ideas in *D&E*** (e.g., analyses and reconstructions of such *D&E* topics as communication, democracy, thinking, aims and objectives, subject matters and methods, interest and discipline, work and leisure, etc.)

(Note: These are intended only to provide hints about how these themes may be construed. They are not intended to prescribe specific topics for panel proposals.)

Submission

Submit all proposals (prepared per instructions below) for individual papers via email with an attachment as a Word document. All proposals should be received on or before Monday, November 3, 2014, via email to Leonard Waks (ljwaks@yahoo.com), President-Elect, John Dewey Society and Professor Emeritus, Department of Educational Leadership, Temple University, Philadelphia PA.

Any questions - contact Leonard Waks directly by email or at 267-455-5109.

Proposals accepted for presentation in this panel of the John Dewey Society will be notified by January 15, 2014.

Proposal guidelines:

Part 1 (submit *in the body of your email message*):

- (1.) Title of your paper and theme your proposal addresses;
- (2.) Your name, title, institutional affiliation (if any);
- (3.) Your address, phone, email;
- (4.) An abstract of up to 100 words;
- (5.) An indication of whether you wish your paper to be considered for the centennial issue of *Educational Theory*.

Part 2 (in a Word document with all identifying information removed for “blind” review):

- (1.) Title of your paper
- (2.) A descriptive summary of your paper (maximum length 1000 words), explaining your paper and its significance, especially in relation to the selected theme. List several references to place your contribution in the broader scholarly conversation!

Many thanks,

The John Dewey Society