

The John Dewey Society Annual Meeting: 2017
Thursday, April 27 2017 Henry B. Gonzalez Center | Room 5

Conference Theme:
Creative Democracy - The Task Before Us
in the Era of Clinton v. Trump

Founded in 1935, when American education was under attack from the right, the Society aims to keep alive [John Dewey's](#) commitment to critical and reflective intelligence in approaching pressing problems in education and culture. It is fitting, then, at the beginning of the presidency of Donald Trump, that we come together to reflect on its implications for democratic life.

What are the challenges to a vibrant and healthy democratic life? In an essay late in life, "Creative Democracy – The Task Before Us" John Dewey argued that democracy was more than a political institution; it was a way of life - as dependent upon family, friendship, the school, the economy, and other strands in the fabric of civil society as on the government.

Today, in many countries including our own, democracy is under attack. Anti-democratic leaders at home and abroad stir the pot of mistrust and hate. The Secretary of Education promises to undo our commitment to the common school. It is appropriate, therefore, to return to Dewey and consider anew how democratic life and democratic education can be reclaimed.

Pre-Conference Workshop | 8am-12pm

Session 1: Theorizing Democratic Education (Roudy Hildreth, Chair) |
8am-9:45am

This panel discussion explores how Deweyan theories of democracy and education can help us make sense of and respond to the current political and educational situation. Recent events have renewed our focus on the relationship between democracy and education. Indeed, it appears that positive connections between democracy and education are under strain. We have witnessed how social media preys on Americans' low levels of political knowledge, creating narrow channels for the flow information, and increasingly, disinformation. We have witnessed increasingly polarized political discourse and the rise of anti-democratic sentiments. We have witnessed attacks on public education. This panels gathers three outstanding scholars who will offer Deweyan interpretations of the current situation, and in his spirit, are also able speak to concerns of democratic education in practice.

Panelists:

Walter Parker, University of Washington

Paula McAvoy, University of Wisconsin Madison

Kathleen Knight Abowitz, Miami University, Ohio

(Other panelists to be announced)

BREAK

**Session 2: Teaching About Democratic Education (Amy Shuffleton, Organizer) |
10am-11:45 am**

The panel discusses approaches to teaching about “democracy and education” and works towards some common insights. While each panelist engages with John Dewey’s ideas, the workshop focuses upon democracy and education, not Dewey’s book by that title. This workshop engages with what it means *pedagogically* to treat creative democracy as the task before us in higher education. While developed against the background of Trump v. Clinton, and addressing current events, workshop concerns extend beyond the recent election cycle.

Panelists:

Sue Ellen Henry, Bucknell University

Kathy Hytten, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Amy Shuffleton, Loyola University

Sarah Stitzlein, University of Cincinnati

Kurt Stenhagen, Virginia Commonwealth University, Chair and Discussant

BREAK

Regular Annual JDS Meeting

**JDS Symposium: *Creative Democracy: Democratic Education in the Era of
Clinton v. Trump* | 12noon - 145pm**

The panelists, all leading educational thinkers, consider the lessons to be drawn from the recent election and Trump presidency for the reconstruction of democratic education.

Panelists:

Peter Levine, Tufts University

Walter Parker, University of Washington

Winston Thompson, University of New Hampshire

Diana Hess, University of Wisconsin

BREAK

School and Society Forum | 2pm-3:45pm

Communities in Schools San Antonio (CISSA) and the John Dewey Society are proud to host the seventh annual School & Society Forum. The forum is a public space embracing dialogue, interaction, and deliberation concerning school and society issues across multiple stakeholders—P-16 teachers, policymakers, administrators, scholars, parents, students, community educators, & interest groups—drawing upon John Dewey’s commitments to democratic schooling. Students, parents, and CISSA organizers will lead a panel discussion about issues facing the San Antonio community.

Kyle Greenwalt, John Vasquez, Lauren Geraghty, & Jessica Landgraf, Organizers

BREAK

JDS Dewey Lecture: Harry Boyte | 4pm-5:45pm **Citizen Politics and Democratic Change in the Age of Trump:** **Beyond the Manichean Model:**

Harry Boyte is one of today’s most prominent democratic theorists and activists. He has worked with many foundations, and non-profit educational, and citizen organizations in the United States and abroad concerned with community development, citizenship education, and civic renewal. In the 1960s, he worked for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a field secretary with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the Civil Rights Movement.

Boyte is the author of nine books on citizenship, democracy, and community organizing, and his writings have appeared in more than 100 publications including the *New York Times*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Kettering Review*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

BREAK

JDS Reception | 6pm - 7:30pm

Friday, April 28 2017 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center | Room 5

Meetings and Working Sessions I 8am-12 noon

Emerging Scholar Working Session (Melissa Bradley) | 8am-9am

Education and Action Working Group (Kathleen Knight Abowitz and Harry Boyte) |
9am-10:30am

JDS Executive Board and Directors Meeting (Leonard Wak and Peter Nelsen) |
10:30am–11:45 am

Regular Conference Sessions

Dewey and Philosophy Panel I | 12noon -1:45pm

Creative Integration and Pragmatist Optimism: Dispositions for the Task Before Us,
Barbara S. Stengel, Vanderbilt University

*Creative Democracy, Equality, and Religion: Bhimrao Ambedkar's Pragmatic
Reconstruction of Buddhism*, Scott R. Stroud, University of Texas at Austin

Mindfulness and Creative Democracy, Kyle Greenwalt and Cuong Nguyen, Michigan
State University

*The (Im)Possibilities of Realizing Dewey's Vision in the Age of Trump: Towards More
Creative Democracy*, Roudy Hildreth, University of Colorado Boulder

Chair: A.G. Rud, Washington State University

BREAK

Dewey through the Generations Panel (Jessica Heybach, Chair) | 2pm -3:30pm
Challenges for Democracy: New Developments and Tendencies

The Secularism that Divides Us: Reframing Dewey's Conception of Moral Education
Alexander T. K. Elnabli, Graduate Teaching Fellow, Fordham University

Democratic Faith, Chanhee Lee, Vincennes University

Preserving Dialogue and Democratic Ideals: John Dewey and Philosophy for Children,
Charles Royal Carlson, Sam Houston State University

Respondant: Gregory Pappas, Texas A&M University

BREAK

Dewey and Philosophy Panel II | 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Dewey's Pragmatism and Contemporary Challenges of Media and Democracy
Lance E. Mason, Indiana University Kokomo

Dear Democracy, The 2016 Presidential Election, Love Philosophy, Daniel A. Lilly,
Florida State University

Creating the Conditions for a Creative , Democracy: John Dewey and D.W. Winnicott on
Democratic Living, Jane Blanken-Webb, University of Eastern Finland

Chair: A.G. Rud, Washington State University

JDS Business Meeting | 5:20pm- 6:30pm
