

Foucault Studies

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Sven Opitz, Jyoti Puri, Alan Rosenberg & Ditte Vilstrup Holm 2012

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EDITORIAL

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We are very pleased to present *Foucault Studies 13*, which is a special issue on Foucault and Accounting, guest edited by Andrea Mennicken and Peter Miller (both from London School of Economics and Political Science, UK). It has been a great pleasure to work with our guest editors on this issue, who have brought us a collection of papers that is both timely with regard to contemporary economic conditions in which accounting practices come increasingly to the fore of social and political analysis, and novel in bringing a lesser known research field to the attention of Foucault scholars. In the article, which begins this special issue, "Accounting, Territorialization and Power," Mennicken and Miller introduce readers to the provocative and intellectually fertile dialogue that develops between social studies of accounting and Foucauldian thought. This serves as a generative point of intersection for trajectories of research originating in sociology, economics, philosophy, and historical studies. Readers are invited to consult that article for more general summation of articles appearing under the heading of a special issue on Foucault and Accounting

In addition to the articles composing this special issue, *Foucault Studies 13* includes several articles making more general contribution to Foucault scholarship. The first of these is "The Truths We Tell Ourselves: Foucault on *Parrhesia*," by Zacharia Simpson (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, USA). Simpson's article expands current scholarly interest in Foucault's later turn to Hellenistic and Ancient ethical practices following from the translation of his later lectures at the Collège de France. In particular, the recent availability of his *The Courage of the Truth* has drawn considerable critical attention to the concept of *parrhesia*, or specific practices of truth-telling, whose unique form combines ethical and political dimensions. Simpson provides a succinct discussion of this term and its place in Foucault's later development, as well as some contemporary applications of the figure of the *parrhesiast* as one possessing the courage to contradict the present state of affairs through a unique form of speech.

In another article, "Foucault's 'German Moment': Genealogy of a Disjuncture," Matthew G. Hannah (Aberystwyth University, UK) situates Foucault's 1979 lectures on the German *Ordo-liberalen* within the context of West German political issues in 1977 and 1978. These include

the Croissant affair, the TUNIX congress in West Berlin in January of 1978, as well as the disagreement with Deleuze, Guattari, and other French intellectuals over the designation by the left of the West German as “fascist.” The author shows that Foucault’s ‘German moment’ was more important, but at the same time more ambivalent in its effects on his analyses of power relations, than has been hitherto recognized.

Also in this issue, Brendan Boyle (University of North Carolina, USA) presents “Foucault Among the Classicists, Again.” In a close examination of the influential contributions by James Porter, Boyle explores how Foucault’s late work on *epimeleia heautou* has been misconstrued in recent classical scholarship. By remedying the errors of that reception, Boyle seeks to offer the Classicists a fresh perspective on Foucault’s ethics—one that is both more accurate and more productive. At the same time, he delineates the contribution Classicists might bring into Foucauldian scholarship, particularly with regard to such late lecture courses as *Hermeneutics of the Subject* and *The Courage of Truth*. By surveying these pitfalls and potentials, Boyle’s article provides the possibility for a more fruitful encounter between the Classicist and Foucauldian scholarship.

In addition to these critical articles, this issue includes a review essay by Michael C. Behrent (Appalachian State University, USA) on Foucault’s 1970-1971 seminar at the Collège de France on *The Will to Know*, as well as six book reviews covering a range of contemporary titles within the broader field of Foucault scholarship.

On the organizational side, the Editors of *Foucault Studies* would like to report some changes in the membership of our editorial group that have come about since our last issue. We are sad to say goodbye to Chloë Taylor (University of Alberta, Canada), who has served as Co-Editor of *Foucault Studies* since 2009 and contributed greatly to its recent developments. On a positive note, we look forward to working with our new Co-Editors, Patricia Clough (City University of New York, USA) and Jyoti Puri (Simmons College, USA), who has joined us here in the spring of 2012. Patricia Clough is widely known for her work at the intersection of social theory, psychoanalysis and cultural studies, and for her research on such Foucauldian inflected themes as biopower and affect theory. Jyoti Puri has brought Foucauldian perspectives to the fields of queer studies, cultural studies, and trans-national feminist sociology, with a focus on the post-colonial Indian context. We welcome both to *Foucault Studies*. In addition we have made some internal changes in the editorial group. Ditte Vilstrup Holm has assumed the responsibilities of Managing Editor, and Alan Rosenberg now serves as Associate Editor with special responsibilities, and continues to work as the Book Reviews Editor for *Foucault Studies*.

Foucault Studies is also proud to announce a new partnership with the *Foucault Circle*. *Foucault Circle* is a well-established organization whose annual meetings have grown steadily in attendance and influence for more than a decade serving as an intellectual hub for Foucault scholarship. Information about the *Foucault Circle* can be found at: <http://foucault.siu.edu/>. The next annual meeting of the *Foucault Circle* will take place in Montreal in April 2013. Please

visit the *Foucault Circle's* website over the summer for the CFP and complementary information.

In the last editorial, we announced the publication in this current issue of the unpublished interview by Michel Foucault conducted in 1978 by Colin Gordon (Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, UK) and Paul Patton (University of New South Wales, Australia). Unfortunately, due to unforeseen events, this interview will come out till the next issue (Fall 2012). Finally, we would like to thank Thomas Robinson (TD-Academics) for copyediting this issue of *Foucault Studies*.

We continue to encourage our readers to submit papers for inclusion in the various sections of the journal (articles, exchanges, 'toolbox' items, interviews, 'state of the disciplines', etc.) and to sign up to review books for the journal and/or submit proposals for review essays. We also welcome proposals for special sections or special issues of the journal.

The next issue of *Foucault Studies* (Fall 2012) will be a special issue on 'Foucault and Queer Theory' guest edited by Jana Sawicki (Williams College, Williamstown, USA) and Shannon Winnubst (Ohio State University, USA).

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