The New York University Department of Philosophy will host the fourth in its series of conferences on issues in the history of modern philosophy on November 9 and 10, 2007. Each conference in the series examines the development of a central philosophical problem from early modern philosophy to the present, exploring the evolution of formulations of the problem and of approaches to resolving it. By examining the work of philosophers of the past both in historical context and in relation to contemporary philosophical thinking, the conferences allow philosophy’s past and present to illuminate one another.

The topic of the 2007 conference is: the nature and significance of aesthetic judgments. There will be four sessions on historical figures—Hume, Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche—and a fifth session on contemporary treatments of the issue. The schedule of sessions and speakers is as follows:

Friday, November 9

2:30: Welcoming words by Stephen Schiffer, Chair of the NYU Philosophy Department

Speaker: Peter Kivy (Rutgers University)
Commentator: Paul Guyer (University of Pennsylvania)
Chair: Alison Simmons (Harvard University)

5:00-7:00: “Kant, Proust, and the Appeal of Beauty”
Speaker: Richard Moran (Harvard University)
Commentator: Rebecca Kukla (University of South Florida)
Chair: Jerry Schneewind (Johns Hopkins)

Saturday, November 10

10:00-12:00: “The Absence of Aesthetics in Hegel’s Aesthetics”
Speaker: Robert Pippin (University of Chicago)
Commentator: Angelica Nuzzo (Brooklyn College, CUNY)
Chair: Rolf-Peter Horstmann (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

2:00-4:00: “Nietzsche’s Philosophical Aestheticism”
Speaker: Sebastian Gardner (University College, London)
Commentator: Bernard Reginster (Brown University)
Chair: Tamsin Shaw (Princeton University)

4:30-6:30: Contemporary Philosophy
Speaker: Noël Carroll (Temple University), “Les Culs de Sac of Enlightenment Aesthetics”
Chair: Paul Boghossian (New York University, Director of NYIP)

Questions about the conference may be directed to: philo.modernconference@nyu.edu.

Conference Directors: Béatrice Longuenesse, John Richardson, Don Garrett