

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

COMMODIFICATION, TECHNOCULTURE, AND THE HUMAN

RETHINKING TECHNOLOGY

THIRD
WORKSHOP

IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 23 / 24, 2010

[Topic](#) - [Speakers](#) - [Schedule](#) - [Lodging](#) - [Directions](#) - [Map](#) - [Contact and Registration](#)

Workshop 2006: [Intersubjectivity, Recognition, Otherness](#) - [MSU press release](#)

Workshop 2009: [Power, Conflict, and Commitment. Rethinking the Political](#)

TOPIC

An important connection explored in the humanities concerns the degree to which technological rationality changes our lives, whether in terms of our behavior, our conceptions of who and what human animals and non-human animals are, or the goals we set for ourselves. What are some of the new ways of living brought on by these changes? Are such changes consistent with the precepts of an inclusive democracy? Or have they unacceptably commodified our social, political, and cultural relationships? Do we now live in a world where what is understood as a meaningful life is in peril because technology and commodification are all that remain? This workshop in social and political thought will be dedicated to bringing important contemporary scholarship to MSU to address these questions with keynote addresses, commentaries, and other workshop activities. It demonstrates that philosophy and the humanities are central in understanding the world we live in.

SPEAKERS and COMMENTATORS

Andrew Feenberg (Simon Fraser); Philosophy of Technology, Social-Political Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, author of *Critical Theory of Technology* (1991), *Questioning Technology* (1999), *Heidegger and Marcuse: The Catastrophe and Redemption of History* (2005)

Donna Haraway (University of California, Santa Cruz); Feminism, Science and Technology Studies; Animal Studies, author of *A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century* (1985), *Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science* (1989), *When Species Meet* (2008)

Paul Thompson (Michigan State University), Social-Political Philosophy, Ethics and Agriculture, Philosophy of Technology, Continental Philosophy, Pragmatism, author of *The Spirit of the Soil: Agriculture and Environmental Ethics* (1995), *The Agrarian Roots of Pragmatism* (2000), *Agrarian Vision: Sustainability and Environmental Ethics* (2010)

Tamra Frei (Michigan State University); Ethics, Kant, Modern Philosophy

Todd Hedrick (Michigan State University); Critical Theory, Habermas, Philosophy of Law, Social and Political Philosophy, author of *Rawls and Habermas. Reason, Pluralism, and the Claims of Political Philosophy* (forthcoming)

SCHEDULE

Friday, October 22

Arrival speakers

Saturday, October 23

9:00-9:10 Opening Remarks, Richard Peterson (chair of the philosophy department)

9:10-9:20 Opening Remarks, Christian Lotz; Kyle Whyte (MSU)

9:20-10:20 Andrew Feenberg (Simon Fraser): *The Mediation is the Message: How Technical and Economic Mediation Shapes Our World*

10:20-10:45 Comments: Todd Hedrick (MSU)

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-2:00 Lunch Break

2:00-3:00 Paul Thompson (MSU): *"There's an App for That": Commodification by Technological Means*

3:00-3:25 Comments: Tamra Frei (MSU)

3:25-3:45 Coffee break

3:45-5:30 Discussion

6:30 Reception

Sunday, October 24

9:30-10:30 Donna Haraway (University of California, Santa Cruz): *Staying with the Trouble: Xeno-ecologies of Home for Companions in the Contact Zones*

10:35-11:00 Haraway Response Session with Linda Kalof, Laurie Thorpe, Jessica Hix, Molly Tamulevich, Cameron Whitley, Jennifer Kelly, Rachel Kelly, Seven Bryant, Lissy Goralnik (all MSU), Scout Calvert (Wayne State), and Chaone Mallory (Villanova)

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:45 Discussion

Lunch/Departure

LOCATION

All sessions will be held in the International Center, room 115.

LODGING

Speakers:

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

Michigan State University
55 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48824-1022
Phone: (517) 432-4000
Reservation Line: (800) 875-5090
Webpage: <http://www.kelloggcenter.com/>

Alternative:

East Lansing Marriott® at University Place

300 M.A.C. Avenue
East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (see map)
Phone: 1-517-337-4440
Fax: 1-517-337-5001
Sales: 1-517-337-4440
Webpage: <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/LANEA>

Both hotels are in walking distance to campus.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Traverse City or Points North via I-75

Proceed south on I-75 to US-127 near Grayling. Proceed south on US-127 to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit. Follow Trowbridge Road east to Michigan State University.

From Detroit or Points East via I-96

Proceed west on I-96 to northbound US-127; follow US-127 north to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit. Follow Trowbridge Road east to Michigan State University.

From Grand Rapids or Points West via I-96

Proceed east on I-96 to eastbound I-69. Proceed east on I-69 to southbound US-127. Take US-127 south to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit. Follow Trowbridge Road east to Michigan State University.

From Flint or Points East via I-69

Proceed southwest on I-69 to southbound US-127. Take US-127 south to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit.

From Jackson or Points South via US-127

Proceed north on US-127 to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit. Follow Trowbridge Road east to Michigan State University.

FLIGHT CONNECTIONS

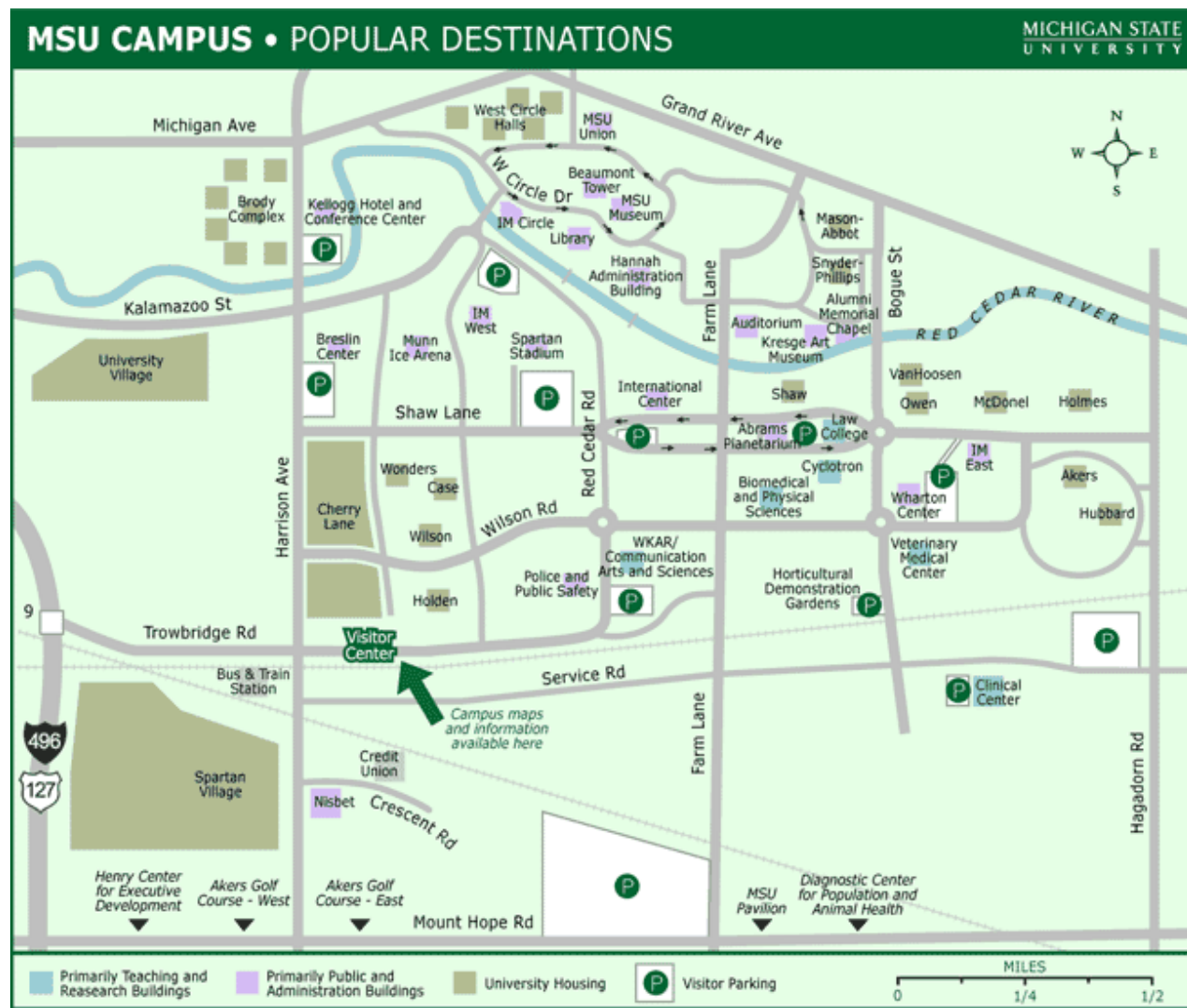
Area airports are in [Lansing](#), [Detroit](#) and [Flint](#).

East Lansing and Jackson have AMTRAK-stations.

REGIONAL MAP



CAMPUS MAP



DETAILED CAMPUS MAP



If you need more details and more maps, please click [here](#).

SPONSORS

This event has been made possible by generous support from the Philosophy Department, the College of Arts and Letters, Paul Thompson (W. K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics), the English Department, the Honors College, the Residential College for the Arts and Humanities, the Animal Studies Program, and the Center for Gender in Global Context.

CONTACT AND ORGANIZATION

Prof. Christian Lotz
Prof. Kyle Whyte
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There is no registration fee connected to this workshop, but we would much appreciate it if you could let us know know by email (lotz@msu.edu / kwhyte@msu.edu) or by phone (517.355.4490) if you are interested in participating in this event.



(c) Philosophy Department, Michigan State University

