The Wolfe Institute

The Department of Philosophy,

in cooperation with the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, the Public Philosophy Network, the Department of Philosophy and the Center for Environmental Philosophy (University of North Texas), the Center for Global Ethics (CUNY GC), the Participatory Budgeting Project, and the Students for Sustainability Today and Tomorrow (BC STAT), presents

Philosophy of the C



Image by Lebbeus Woods

December 5, 6, and 7, 2013
December 5: Special Session on Participatory Democracy, 4:15-6:15pm, Room 9206, CUNY Graduate Center

December 6: Student Center, Brooklyn College, 9am-5pm

Sharon Meagher, University of Scranton "Philosophical Streetwalking: Grounding Philosophy in Public Life"

Ron Sundstrom, University of San Francisco

"Building Equality Through Solidarity: Democratic Responses to Residential Segregation"

Steven Vogel, Denison University

"Thinking Like A Mall"

Shelley Wilcox, San Francisco State University

"Is Civic Environmentalism a Satisfactory Urban Environmental Ethic?"

December 7: Boylan Hall, Brooklyn College, 9am-8pm

Kyle Pows Whyte, Michigan State University

"Philosophizing Participation and Urban Environmental Justice: the Case of Detroit"

Nathalie Alegre, Aliance for a JUST Building (ALIGN)

"Rebuilding After Superstorm Sandy: Climate Change, Inequality and the Resilient City"

Daniel Weinstock, McGill University

"A Normative Definition of the City"

Jules Simon, University of Texas at El Paso

"Exile and the City"

Ralph Acampora, Hofstra University

"Neighboring Species: In the Hood with Other Animals"

Roger Paden, George Mason University
"Urban Parks and Open Spaces"

Throughout human history, the city has been a site for the articulation of new forms of knowledge, political community, economy and individuality with respect to the (sometimes conflicting) norms of freedom, equality, and justice. Yet, the continued urbanization of the globe poses tremendous problems, particularly in this time of ecological crisis, economic inequality and political uncertainty. Philosophy began in the city (Plato, Aristotle), and the city is a recurrent topic in the history of philosophy (Aquinas, Machiavelli), and the urban figures as a prominent site of investigation in numerous fields. Among many contemporary philosophers, however, the city as an object of study lacks prominence. Yet, trailblazing members of the philosophic community are taking the discipline in new directions, analyzing the city in a 21st century context. The aim of this conference is to build their network and engage those issues from a variety of philosophical and related perspectives (e.g. ethical, political, phenomenological, feminist, critical race theory, cultural studies, environmental and others).