

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY

### PREFACE

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*ACCESS* journal advances critical perspectives on cultural policy and practice, issues of communication and philosophy, and the politics of knowledge in local and global conditions. The application of these enquiries is through the field of education broadly conceived. The call for papers for this issue of *ACCESS* asked: What does it mean to communicate or encounter life philosophically through art, writing, language, image, text, belief, non-belief? What role may philosophy play in our understanding of ethics, identity, life, death, self and other; and how can philosophy inform our communications as we work towards an understanding of changes wrought by globalisation? What is the relationship between philosophy and quotidian experience; and can philosophy ever be a way of life in this globalised world?

The aim was to publish articles dealing with philosophical perspectives that might throw some light on the way communications are constructed, construed and understood in a contemporary global world of fast transfer and exchange where borders and boundaries are porous and local cultural and economic spheres are infused by the global. The issue does not set out to ask defining questions of philosophy; however by default philosophy as a disciplinary field is put to the test. There are new forms of spatiality and temporality in these technologised times and new challenges for communicating subjects of local and global domains. As the utility and economic aspects of contemporary life become more prevalent and deterministic perhaps it is possible that philosophy might throw light on alternative ways of knowing, living and being.

Contributing writers in this issue come from London, Melbourne, Auckland and North Carolina. The collection starts with *A Bridge not a Goal: Addressing communications and philosophy* in which I provide a context through Derrida, Foucault and Nietzsche by way of an introduction. In *Simone de Beauvoir: Philosophy as a way of life* James Marshall brings the world of philosophical text into alignment with communicating the world of experience through the works of Simone de Beauvoir. Linda Daley's *Communication as a Limit-Experience* engages with the philosophical work of Georges Bataille, and Linda Williams with Michel Serres in *Between Hermes, Gaia and Apollo 8: Michel Serres and the philosophy of science as communication*. The final two papers position their concerns within pedagogical domains of higher education: Dennis Atkinson's *Pedagogy Against the State: Some remarks upon events of learning* presents a case study in art education through the work of Alain Badiou; and Peter Horsfield in *Researching Media and Religion in a School of Communication Studies* addresses the mediation of religion in contemporary culture.

In collating these articles the aim is to render a critical method and perspective to our ways of thinking about philosophy and communications in present and future knowledge cultures. While each writer addresses questions of philosophy and communication in different ways, they collectively produce a critical pedagogy that implicitly questions how philosophy might inform our communications-to-come. Thanks are due to the contributors for their critically engaged texts and to the referees who ensure continuing high standards of scholarship in the articles selected for publication.

In welcoming new readers, contributors and subscribers to this issue of *ACCESS* journal, I also invite unsolicited manuscripts or proposals for themed issues that work through critical perspectives on knowledge and education in a range of pedagogical and philosophical fields.

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