

Proposal for Symposium 2009 Annual Conference PESGB

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Theme: Rereading R.S. Peters Today

Richard S. Peters celebrates this year his 90th birthday (b. 1919). Peters' key role in the development of contemporary *Philosophy of Education* cannot be overstated, and his influential writings traversed a diverse field, ranging from education-centric themes such as progressive education and curriculum, to the refinement of transcendental deduction and meta-ethics. Peters' two basic questions initiated new research in different directions: 1) What do you mean by 'education'? — a question of conceptual analysis; and 2) How do you know that 'education' is 'worthwhile'? — a question of justification. Friends and foes alike, all agree on his status of founding father for, at least, *British Philosophy of Education*.

Therefore, we wish to propose a Symposium on 'Rereading R.S. Peters Today'. This proposal is connected with the preparation (deadline March, 27) and editing of a special *JOPE* issue, which will be published in 2009, and as a book (Wiley, Blackwell) in 2010. The panel discussion aims to undertake a critical engagement with Peters' work with the goal of examining the ways in which his oeuvre has relevance to the contemporary scene in philosophy and education. The proposed symposium is not so much a celebration (nor a rejection!) of his work but, rather, seeks a 'fresh look' at the ways in which his writings reflect upon current concerns.

Organization: We'll invite all the contributors to the special *JPOE* issue to come to Oxford to participate in the panel (and open) discussion. Probably not all of them will attend, but at least, apart from the two of us, Michael Hand will certainly also be present in the panel to start the discussion. Depending on who is going to come, we'll concentrate on one or more of the following themes in Peters' work.

- **Aims:** Stefaan Cuypers ("free man", autonomy, moral responsibility), Michael Katz (concept of education and normativity), Bryan Warnick (emotions)
- **Curriculum:** Michael Hand (Peters & White and academic curriculum), John White (general education and the pursuit of knowledge)
- **Development:** Graham Haydon (moral), Michael Luntley (cognitive / conceptual)
- **Ethics:** Chris Martin (meta-ethics), Tristan McCowan (foundation of right to education)
- **Method:** Robin Barrow (analytical), Megan Laverty (Wittgenstein)
- **Miscellanea:** Krassimir Stojanov (critical theory), Kevin Williams (Oakeshott)
- **Teaching:** Mike Degenhardt (pedagogical / intellectual virtues), Andrea English (Self-Other)