The Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) will host the 12th biennial conference of the North American Association for Community of Inquiry (NAACI) Friday evening, June 17, through Monday afternoon, June 20, 2016 on the campus of Montclair State University. The University is located in Montclair, New Jersey, 15 miles from New York City. Information about registration, travel, and accommodations will follow.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Rather than specify a particular guiding theme, the IAPC is calling for abstract proposals for papers, posters and panel presentations from a broad range of themes and approaches. One of the concluding conference sessions will be devoted to reflecting on themes that emerged at the conference and organizing the accepted papers for submission to one or more journals or book publishers. However, proposals should articulate a clear sense of how the presenters understand “community of inquiry,” which is a term that is used across several disciplines and in venues including, but not limited to the Socratic philosophical conversation circle developed by Matthew Lipman and Ann Sharp in the Philosophy for Children program. As such, we are particularly interested in papers that explore the following themes, although our list is by no means exhaustive:

- Genealogical inquiry into the philosophical and historical origins, development and educational application of community of inquiry (CI) theory and practice
- Theoretical history of community of philosophical inquiry (CPI) as developed in the Philosophy for Children program (P4C), including the founders’ interactions with other theoretical traditions in education, e.g. Bruner, Piaget, Vygotsky, Dewey, Peirce, Mead, Buchler
- Varieties of philosophical dialogue: CPI programs across the existing spectrum. This may include live demonstrations of actual methodologies
- CI and/or CPI across the disciplines: math, science, history, the arts, etc.
- CPI in non-academic settings, such as prisons, hospitals, asylums, churches/synagogues/temples/mosques, cafes and outdoor programs
- The uses of CI and CPI in teacher education
- Doing CPI in philosophy departments: interactions between CPI and traditional academic philosophical practice and pedagogy
- Reports on research, accounts of classroom experience, presentation of videotaped instances of CI or CPI
- Community of inquiry from multiple theoretical perspectives: complexity and open systems theory, communications theory, group psychodynamics, ethology, social ecology theory, social and political philosophy, etc.

Abstracts should be approximately 750 words in length and should address all of the following that apply:

- Objectives or purposes
- Perspective(s) or theoretical framework
- Methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry
- Data sources (for empirical studies) and/or bibliographical sources (for theoretical essays)
- Results and/or substantiated conclusions or warrants for arguments
- Scientific or scholarly significance of the study or work
- Proposals for papers or panel discussions should indicate a preference for full conference audience or smaller group in a concurrent session (see below).

Please send abstracts by December 31st, 2015 to: iapc@montclair.edu, for notification by January 15th.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

In the tradition of NAACI conferences there will be no keynote addresses and authors will not read their papers, but summarize them and engage the audience in a community of inquiry about them. Full papers will be posted on the IAPC website one month prior to the conference. As we anticipate a large group this year, we ask people submitting abstracts for papers or panel discussions to indicate if they prefer presenting to the full conference audience (which diminishes the opportunity for real CI), or to present to a smaller group in a concurrent session. Joint papers are encouraged. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference, with time given on the program for 5-minute introductions.
IAPC POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, JUNE 21-22

This workshop will focus on the themes and methodologies traditionally associated with the regular, week-long seminar that has been held in Mendham, New Jersey since 1983, which provides a balance of theory and practice in the planning and facilitation of community of philosophical inquiry with children and teenagers. Participants will explore philosophical dimensions of experience together, and practice bringing out the philosophical issues in texts, in a dialogical setting; practice the facilitation of philosophical group discussion; have access to various tools for curriculum construction and assessment; and encounter community of inquiry pedagogy from both a theoretical and an applied perspective.