Editorial

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In this issue we are publishing one of our first position articles. Position articles are written by scholars who have built up a considerable volume of highly regarded work and scholarship. Their purpose is to allow respected scholars a platform upon which to make a comprehensive statement about their accumulated theories and arguments.

We seek to publish position statements in order to inspire and open up debate about current issues, and to invite considered responses from readers. These will be supplemented in future issues by responses from key intellectuals in the field. These responses will frame and contextualise the original article and, we hope, inspire valuable reflection and debate.

In this issue we are publishing a position article by Maxine Sheets-Johnstone. Sheets-Johnstone has a long and diverse career, moving from her practice as a dancer into theories of dance within dance studies. In recent years, her work has developed into a coherent scholarly stance towards key concepts of embodiment, movement, affect and vitalism.

Sheets-Johnstone's approach can be described as post-phenomenological, and as one that moves into discussions that – more controversially – make links with evolutionary psychology and the neurosciences. In this respect Sheets-Johnstone is not far from some contemporary humanities and social science scholars, who are similarly keen to develop conversations and alliances with (elements of, or tendencies within) the natural sciences.

Sheets-Johnstone invites us to consider how movement is the stuff of life, and that theorising animation or movement might be a key focus for any scholar interested in the problematic of subjectivity. A bibliography of Sheets-Johnstone's work is also included below for any reader interested in engaging with her work further, and perhaps mounting their own response to the issues she raises.

The Editors

Biographical note

Maxine Sheets-Johnstone, a native Californian born in San Francisco in 1930, received her BA in French with a minor in Comparative Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, her MA in Dance, and her PhD in Dance and Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She

has an incomplete second PhD in Evolutionary Biology from the same university.

In her first life, she was a dancer/choreographer, and professor of dance/dance scholar. During her years of teaching dance in the studio and lecture classrooms, she choreographed 25 dances, performed in 13 of these, was sole artistic-director of five concerts, including two full-length concerts of her own works, and was the organizer-director-narrator of numerous lecture demonstrations.

In her second and ongoing life, she is a philosopher whose research and writing remain grounded in the body and in animate movement. She is an independent, highly interdisciplinary scholar affiliated with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Oregon where she taught periodically as a Visiting Associate Professor in the 1990s and where she now holds an ongoing Courtesy Professor appointment in the Department. She has published more than 60 articles and reviews in humanities, science and art journals. Her book publications include *The Phenomenology of Dance*; *Illuminating Dance: Philosophical Explorations*; the 'roots' trilogy – *The Roots of Thinking*, *The Roots of Power: Animate Form and Gendered Bodies*, and *The Roots of Morality*; *Giving the Body Its Due*; *The Primacy of Movement*; and *The Corporeal Turn: An Interdisciplinary Reader*; and an Amazon Kindle ebook *Putting Movement Into Your Life: A Beyond Fitness Primer*. An expanded second edition of *The Primacy of Movement* that takes present-day cognitive science and neuroscience into account was published in June 2011.

She has lectured widely in Europe and the United Kingdom as well as in the United States, giving keynote addresses at conferences as well as invited papers and movement workshops.

She was awarded a Distinguished Fellowship at the Institute of Advanced Study at Durham University in the United Kingdom in the Spring of 2007 for her research on xenophobia, an ongoing topic of concern and a major focus in her present writings. She was awarded an Alumni Achievement Award in April 2011 by the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin where she did all of her graduate work.

Indicative Bibliography

List of books in addition to those in the reference section

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Selection of articles that might be of interest in addition to those listed in the reference section

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