

REGISTRY REPORT

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Stoicus communitas : Stoikos koinonia



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New Stoa News

YES! It's really happening. The First Annual Marcus Aurelius Conference is barely three (3) weeks away. Are you coming? We need to know. **Who:** Everyone interested in Stoic Philosophy. **What:** A conference of Stoics. **When:** April 24, 25, & 26, 2010. **Where:** San Diego, California. **Why:** To know each other better by meeting face-to-face. **How:** Get here any way you can. RSVP today! Email jjrevans@hotmail.com ASAP.

New Members

Nick Battilana (1989-) is a student in Ewing, New Jersey, USA. "I've been called Stoic before I even knew what it really meant. I've been spending the last couple years while at college researching Stoicism on my own time, and trying to apply its principles to my life."

Christopher Brennan (1976-) "I am a full-time firefighter in the suburbs of Chicago and an Instructor for the Illinois State Fire Academy. I also am a private/contract Instructor for Firefighters. I have begun advancing my 'take' on a Stoic Philosophy in the Fire Service through what I have termed 'The Fire Service Warrior' concept."

Arnold Buchanan (1977-) is a Vocational Teacher in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. He said, "I have always been a seeker of truth. I have always pondered over what the 'Good life' really entails. I stumble upon a video on Stoic Philosophy on YouTube, and I immediately consider learning more. Stoic Philosophy fits my temperament and how I want to live my life. It is a philosophy and lifestyle that will solve most of life's problems."

John M. Capunitan (1992-) is a student in Calamba City, Laguna, Philippines. He said, "I am interested to learn more about the philosophy of Stoicism. I am glad that I have found this site that teaches the philosophy to mankind. I also like to read the books of Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus."

Joe O. Casey (1959-) is a former Editor and Lecturer in Dublin, Ireland. "I have an academic background in philosophy and have lectured in ethics, among other things. I am one of the many casualties of the current economic downturn in Ireland and elsewhere. I am interested in developing a

philosophy that speaks to what Robert Louis Stevenson calls 'the Liveableness of Life' as distinct from abstract issues. Stoicism seems to be just such a philosophy. Recently I have been more and more impressed by the power of Marcus Aurelius to offer insights that can really sustain one."

Rafael Dartayet (1985-) is a Banker in Quito, Ecuador. "I have been a Stoic for about 4 years now. Stoicism has helped me, as with anyone, to live a more virtuous, happy and successful life."

Kumari De silva (1965-) is a published poet who lives in California's Los Padres National Forest. She said, "I wish to join the community at this time and reserve the right to retreat if the community is not logical and ethical."

Aldo Dinucci (1967-) "I'm professor of philosophy at Federal University of Sergipe (Brazil). I'm an admirer of Epictetus, Musonius and Marcus Aurelius. My research group (called Viva Vox) is now working on a bilingual translation of the Encheiridion (Portuguese-Greek). I would like to join this community in order to share ideas with people who have interest in stoic philosophy."

Eystein Emberland (1962-) is a Manager in Oslo, Norway, who "Stumbled over Zeno on a trip to Cyprus and began reading about Stoicism. I'm surprised it took me so long to realize I'm a Stoic. I'm glad I can now be involved in a community of like-minded people."

Kristofer Hanes (1978-) "I am a practicing Stoic currently living in Fort Worth, Texas."

Bruce Horton (1965-), a Teacher from Sittingbourne, England, said, "I have been a stoic (lower case) for virtually all my life - it is now time for me to be a Stoic."

Harry Hylander (1985-) is a Jewelry Sales Manager and a practicing Stoic in the Jackson area of Mississippi, USA. "A still mind among panic is the ultimate goal."

Paul Jahshan (1966-) is Associate Professor of American Studies in Beirut, Lebanon. "A long and uninterrupted search for 'truth' and for the best manner to practice the 'good life' has led me, after so many years, to the treasures of Stoicism. I have found more peace, more purpose, more reason, and more joy in the Stoic Way than in any other system of thought. It is time to share and enrich this fascinating experience with like-minded persons wherever they may be."

Adam Keen (1985-) is a senior at the University of Georgia, USA. "I am a fire spinner in training. I also enjoy yoga, running, kayaking, and rock climbing. I will be pursuing my masters in International Affairs in the Fall of 2010. I found Stoicism through my leisure studies class. The more I research it, the more it fascinates me. It is truly in line with my world view and many of my previously held beliefs, more than any other philosophy I have encountered."

Irisa Mackenzie (1973-) is an Executive Assistant in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. "I am a Hellenic Pagan that has been practicing for over 20 years. As I continue along my path I wish to deepen myself with the old teachings. I am also a holistic healer and meditation guide."

Michael Oliver (1951-) "I'm in Nanaimo [Canada] and a big Stoic reader. It has given a new perspective to life's struggles to me."

Steve Palmer (1955-), a Percussion Teacher in the UK, said, "In my teens I discovered Buddhism. Then the search was on. In my 50's, thirty plus years later, I am thankful to Buddhism, Ajahn Sumedho in particular, the original teacher, Douglas Harding, the poet, writer John O'Donohue, Pantheism, Lao Tzu, and others. On re-reading the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius recently, I felt a great affinity. This brings me here to meet like minds. Thank you for your clear videos and this website too."

Lucas Reller (1989-) writes from Texas, "I'm a soldier. Stoicism is the core to every thing I do."

Daniel Romanchuk (1985-) "I am PhD student in Cultural Studies in Kiev, Ukraine. I'm actively engaged in Stoicism, especially, in Stoic ethics. In my University I've a good opportunity of studying Stoicism in context of Roman culture. Besides that, I feel like practicing Stoic philosopher - I practice every day in Stoicism and type a small treatise for my friends. For this moment, I am about to write a monograph dedicated to Stoic and Christian spiritual practices. I want to be a member of the New Stoa, because I'd like to talk over the most interesting Stoic things and communicate with interesting people."

Leo Svalberg (1983-) works for a Non-profit relief organization in Linköping, Sweden. "Found Stoicism about two years ago and practice its teachings every day."

Tomáš Spevák (1988-) lives in Báčsky Petrovec, Vojvodina, Serbia. He said, "I'm just a villager, and I became interested in Stoicism few years ago. I am also interested in history and languages (mostly exotic ones and dead ones)."

Joel Taggart (1980-) is a Care Worker in Devon, UK. He said, "After exploring CBT, Buddhist and Taoist religion in attempt to find a fresher way of dealing with my anxiety disorder, a year ago I was described as very Stoic by a virtual stranger. I had no idea of it as a Philosophy but was inspired, particularly in its very grounded, simple way of explaining the ways and means to overcome adversities, be it in thought, action, or deed. As a system for turning even hardships into lessons in becoming happier I have found it's teachings a true blessing. I work and study in all sorts of Care work, and feel privileged to meet like minded souls and perhaps share, through Stoic values some of the infinite lessons life and the cosmos offer."

Michael Van der galien (1984-) is a Writer, blogger, columnist in Mantgum, Netherlands. "I am determined to live in harmony with the (godly) universe and to train myself to become a fully virtuous man; a man who does the right thing at all times, and who understands that the soul is not moved by anything coming from the outside."

Patrick Vernon (1985-) is from Midland, Michigan, and said, "Philosophy is self-knowledge. In the writings of Stoicism, of Epictetus, Seneca, Aurelius, Zeno, Socrates I see the possibility of man. I have always been ruthlessly intrinsic and a seeker of truth, about myself and the nature of the world. Reading through the pages of Stoicism I see the possibility of my character for I too am a rationalist, a lover of philosophy, a seeker of truth, a warrior. After many years of struggle of self knowledge I have discovered my true emerald color with Stoicism and I could not be more proud."

Adam Wilson (1985-) is a student in Manchester, UK, who said, "I have always felt a different way of being and living, which never quite fitted the status quo. I have upon researching discovered Stoicism. I have read some of the basics, and found that I have been a Stoic at heart for years, just never had a name for it. I'm now studying and learning all about Stoicism which furthers my resolve that I am and will be a Stoic. I am a student of life and of academia, I am studying to go to University to read Law. I look forward to joining this community and expanding my own Kosmos."

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Spotlight

on

Guillaume Andrieu: Toulouse, France



Guillaume Andrieu

I come from the proletarian social class, and although I take no pride in it, it gave me early a sense of social responsibility and solidarity. I was born in 1981 in a small town of Southern France, which has long been a miner's town isolated in the countryside. I still live in southern France, near Toulouse.

My grandfather was a face worker, working deep at the face of the mine as it is advancing. He died before I was born. I have followed a course in engineering, specialized in applied mathematics and statistics. I also have a Master's Degree in scientific journalism. I have no official educational background in programming or computer sciences, although it is now my main line of work. I learned it by myself.

I work in a small company, called Studec. I think there is no interest for others to know the name—it won't tell them anything. I can elaborate a bit to describe it though. My company's purpose originates in the development of aircraft production around Toulouse (southwest France) around 50 years ago. Aircraft are very big systems which need very precise and well formatted documentation (aircraft "user's manual" are generally very big: tens to hundreds of thousands of pages). Aircraft maintenance involves people's lives, so it's a sensible topic, and this kind of documentation has to be crystal clear. My job is then to write programs to automatize the production and verification of aircraft documentation, making sure it is error-proof.

When did you first discover Stoicism?

It happened a few years ago, while I was living in Beijing, China. Long story short, I was interested in linguistics, which led me to ontology, which led me to Aristotle's book *The Categories*. Next to it on the library's bookshelf was Hadot's introduction to Attic philosophy. I took it as a provision for a 10-hour flight and found myself very close to the Stoic's point of view as Hadot presented it. So, I read Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus.

Do you consider yourself to be a Stoic?

Not really. I am not sure of what it means today to be a Stoic, and I don't like labels anyways. I am still in an early stage of my studies in this field, and although I agree to most of the Stoic ethics as I understand it, there are still things I have not resolved yet. All I can say is I wish to go on that road for a while, because what I learn through the study of Stoicism is of great value in my daily life.

What do you see as the future of Stoicism in the world?

A massive issue is to connect with women. When I started visiting Stoic forums or groups on the Internet, I could immediately feel the huge disparity in genders. In the modern times it's hard to build world-wide community which is almost exclusively masculine.

Also, statistically speaking, it seems that Stoicism has a greater momentum when times are rough. In a society with a high level of comfort, why bother being disciplined? Unfortunately, from this point of view, the Stoic community may go on growing for a while.

In ancient Greece and Rome, Stoic ideas still had a prestige that it has lost now by sheer ignorance. So, to have a significant impact on society, the Stoic community has to advertise about itself and get organized. I still have to figure out where is the right equilibrium between what Stoic ethics allows and what evangelism requires.

What have you found about the value of Stoicism to you personally.

I am in a state where I see Stoic ideas as tools to get things done. The problem is, these ideas do not give me the direction to follow. They only allow me to get there when I already know where to go. I think that what I would need to consider myself a Stoic is a real direction to follow, a clear aim to which I could apply Stoic disciplines. "Virtue", "living according to nature", all these general principles are too vague for me, I feel they only contain good intentions but no measurable target—and as a scientist I need something measurable to evaluate my life.

Never giving in to my emotions, always accepting the outcome of events and mining the strength to overcome them and start again and again, always knowing there is the grand final way out, which I'll take soon enough, to keep me from looking for corrupt instantaneous consolations—all this will be the great engine to propel me wherever I need when I eventually find where to stir.

Thank you, Guillaume, for giving this insight into your life and place on the path of the sage.

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Thank you for reading,

Erik