



- **Because of COVID-19, SDIS March events are rescheduled for April and will meet via ZOOM or other remote means.**
- **Joining a ZOOM meeting is easy:**
 1. Simple instructions will be emailed to each SDIS member, along with an invitation to a practice meeting that includes a help session and a tutorial.
 2. We hope that members of each study group will practice together during March, to be comfortable for April meetings.
 3. If you do not have video or internet capabilities, you can still participate on a land line telephone
- **ZOOM is a useful skill to learn in these difficult times:**
 1. It mimics face-to-face contact (although video can be turned off if you have a “bad hair day” and don’t want to be seen).
 2. It handles a meeting with several people more easily than phone conference calls.
 3. It allows the sharing of photos, printed material, slides or video clips.
- **Let’s stick together** to help mitigate our feelings of loneliness and isolation. Doing so will aid us in maintaining the physical isolation that is necessary to retard viral spread and keep health care facilities from being overwhelmed.
- **The next SDIS general meeting is Sat, April 18, 1:30 pm; via Zoom**
 1. *How are Cellphones Shaping the Future of Photography?* by Kim Signoret-Paar, Award Winning Photographer (see pg. 3)
 2. ZOOM link will be emailed to SDIS members, 1 week before.



The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego independent Scholars (SDIS), a nonprofit organization founded in 1982.

The mission of SDIS is to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, both for its membership and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include: (1) monthly public lectures presented during the academic year; (2) discussion groups held in public libraries; (3) small grants awarded on a competitive basis for research projects and (4) participation in the Union-Tribune’s annual Festival of Books.

More information about SDIS and its activities is available at www.sdscholars.org. Questions: sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com

The Scholars Notebook welcomes contributions by SDIS members, including Letters to the Editor, which should be sent by the middle of each month to the Editor, Dorothy Parker, at dorothyparker@gmail.com.

Contents

SDIS Public Lecture 3

Kim Signoret-Paar
Cellphone Photography
April 18, 1:30, Webinar

Study Group Reports

- Reading Experience 4
- Inside Politics 5
- Film Group. cancelled
- Colloquy Cafe 6
- Just Lunch cancelled
- Scholars’ Supper . . . cancelled
- General Relativity 7
- Neuroscience 7

Oceanids Sounding Board. .

. cancelled

Calendar 8

RESCHEDULED: to Sat, April 18

(SDIS lectures will be ZOOM Webinars during the COVID-19 crisis. Instructions and a link will be emailed to SDIS members.)

How are Cellphones Shaping the Future of Photography?

Kim Signoret-Paar

Award-winning Photographer
and Photography Instructor

1:30pm, Saturday, April 18
Zoom Webinar

with slides and question period

Summary: Since Joseph Niépce made the first photograph in 1826, we have used a variety of cameras to create photographs. The question of whether photography is art has been extensively debated and continues to be discussed. So how do cellphone cameras fit into this discussion? How is this shaping the future of photography? Expect some tips for amateur photographers.



Please join us to learn more about both photography and ZOOM



Kim Signoret-Paar creates photographs that tell stories from fleeting moments or from structures around us. She won her first competition with a photo of a boy in a tree when she was thirteen. With a degree in journalism from the University of Iowa, she went west in 1980. Her career in California and Mexico focused on public relations, publishing, and fundraising. In 2009, Kim returned to creating art with her camera and in the summer of 2014, she won **Best of Show** at the **2014 International Exhibition of Photography at the San Diego County Fair**. In addition to showing her photography in various venues, Kim teaches iPhoneography at the UCSD Retirement Center and OASIS San Diego.

READING EXPERIENCE

10 am, 3rd Monday of month

This new SDIS study group is now focusing on our second theme, Where and When.

On Monday April 20, a ZOOM discussion will address DUBLINERS, a short story collection by James Joyce portraying Irish middle-class life in the early 20th century. Two stories, “The Sisters” and “The Dead”, will be the primary topics.

Our February discussion concerned Peter Carey’s THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG, the author’s story of Ned Kelly, the legendary outlaw and folk hero of Australia, who lived in the late 19th century.

Memoir was the theme of the first four monthly meetings of Reading Experience, allowing participants to experience and compare various expressions of that genre.

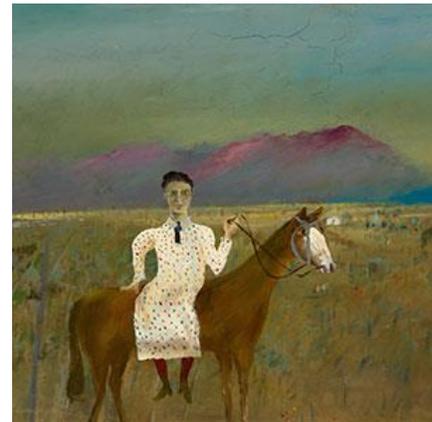
If you wish to Join Reading Experience or participate in this ZOOM meeting, contact Gerry Horwitz or sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com.

DEPICTIONS OF THE KELLY GANG

Paintings in Sidney Nolan’s “Ned Kelly Series” are in a touring exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia: 2019-2020.



“Nolan’s starkly simplified depiction of Kelly in his homemade armour has become an iconic Australian image.”
Quote from <https://nga.gov.au/nolan>.



The wearing of women’s clothing by male Irish-heritage rebels against perceived English dominance appears both in *The True Story of the Kelly Gang* by Peter Carey and the “Ned Kelly Series” by Sidney Nolan. (nga.gov.au/nolan)

INSIDE POLITICS

10 am, 1st Sat of month

Our new study group called Inside Politics held its first meeting on Saturday morning, February 1, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the North University Branch Library at 8820 Judicial Drive in San Diego. About 25 people attended. We sat in a circle and discussed some of the hot political issues of the day.

Based on some of the comments made to me at the conclusion of the class, everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to express their opinion about the political issues they read about in the newspapers and see discussed on television news. Some of the members of the class also chose to just listen to fellow participants discuss these issues, which is also just fine. In my opinion, a good time was had by all. I hope many of you will join this lively study group.

I begin every class by telling everyone that you are welcome to say anything critical about any of our politicians, but you are not allowed to say anything critical about any member of our class! I believe we can all learn a lot from our fellow SDIS members who, as you know, are extremely smart.

Inside Politics is always held on the first Saturday of every month. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Saturday April , from 10 am to noon. It will be via ZOOM if we can arrange it in time. Look for notices.

Al Korobkin

SDIS FILM GROUP

10 am, 3rd Wed of month

The film group met Wednesday, March 4 at 10 am to view *The History Boys*, a 2006 British comedy-drama about a group of grammar schoolboys who scored at the school's highest ever A-level history exams. The film tells of the school's involvement and the boys' efforts to score high enough on history entrance exams to enter Oxford or Cambridge.

In February we watched the 2019 Spanish film *Pain and Glory*. Director Pedro Almodovar's movie was another Best International Film nominee, starring Antonio Banderas in a Best Actor nominee role. Banderas plays an aging addicted film director who examines his current and past life in terms of the pain and glory he has experienced. Almodovar used experiences from his own life as part of the story, but he cagily hasn't revealed which parts are true. This is possibly Almodovar's best movie and is certainly Banderas' best acting. It is well worth viewing.

Our April film would have been the 2019 Korean film *Parasite*, which just won both Best Picture and Best International Film at the Oscars last month. Themes include wealth, social inequality and class differences. **This showing is postponed indefinitely.**

Barbara Heckler

COLLOQUY CAFE

3rd Wednesday of month

February's subject was "a good life". It was chosen last month after one member related being asked by an eleven-year-old granddaughter, "We're born, we live, and then we die..... grandma, what does it all mean?" She remembered answering by talking about living a good life.

An attempt to address the issue was to define a good life. "Do the superficialities comprise a good life?," we wondered. The superficialities were identified as such usually dreamed of factors as wealth, a palatial home, an illustrious career, travel, successful offspring, and even fame. These are not enough, in fact are not even necessary, said participants.

"A good life", it was agreed upon, is an ethical life, one that includes reaching out to and contributing to others rather than centering solely on one's own life. Sharing one's talents and largesse with others gives meaning to existence.

Other questions then arose: Is enjoying one's actions on behalf of others selfish? What about efforts to benefit others that are unknown? Must one have a "significant other" in order for one's life to be considered a good one?

And, finally, one participant pointed out the subtle difference between the good life and a good life, the former being the usual terminology for a notably prosperous one.

"Redemption" will be discussed at the next meeting, tentatively Apr. 15

Gerry Horwitz

JUST LUNCH: March 27, 2020

We'll meet on Friday, March 27 at 12 noon at Berta's Latin Cuisine, 3928 Twiggs Street in Old Town. Berta's offers traditional dishes from Spain to Mexico and Costa Rica to Chile, which is Berta's country of origin.

The restaurant has its own parking lot. You can make reservations now to bheckler@san.rr.com. I'll also send out a reservation deadline and reminder in mid-March. Barbara Heckler

**POSTPONED
INDEFINITELY**

SCHOLARS' SUPPER

6 pm, 1st Thursday of month

6:00 p.m., March 5

At Humphreys Grill in La Jolla
3299 Holiday Court, La Jolla, CA.
Meals from the menu are Dutch Treat.
(See www.humphreyslajolla.com)

Please RSVP 2 days in advance to:
parkerd1954@gmail.com

Group discussion is based on suggested topics that have particularly interested the attendees in the last month. The subject is selected each meeting by vote of those present. We try to select a question that can be addressed from the differing viewpoints of the various areas of expertise of the participants, which are ordinarily quite diverse, ranging from the humanities to natural sciences to social sciences to various professions.

Open to all SDIS members and persons considering SDIS membership.

Dave Parker

The **General Relativity Group** met on Jan. 29 and again on Feb. 19, with all in attendance. At these meetings we further discussed the solutions to the free space equations including the spherically symmetric case (about a sphere of mass) as well as the propagation of gravitational waves. Most of the group felt that they wanted a deeper understanding of the curvature tensor (the left side of Einstein's Equation) before going on to the right side of Einstein's equation, the energy tensor that "causes" the curvature. To do this would require a little more attention to the theory of Manifolds.

After a cursory review of this topic, It was remarkable to realize that almost all structures needed for General Relativity could be constructed without the need for a metric (i.e., a "distance" formula). These structures include: vector and tensor spaces at each point in space (i.e., tangent spaces), and tangent bundles (the collection of these at each point in the manifold), dual spaces (twins to the vector spaces), connections (relating the vector spaces at one point to that at another on the Manifold), parallel transport (moving vectors from one point to another on the Manifold), covariant differentiation (maintaining the vector properties of the derivative in a curved space), and even the curvature tensor itself. However, to pin down these last four uniquely, and have proper (relativistic) time as a critical parameter, does indeed require a metric.

At the next meeting we will discuss the Manifold approach more deeply to get a clearer appreciation of the fundamental quantities: connections, parallel transport, covariant differentiation and curvature.

Alvin Halpern

Neuroscience Group

1:30 p.m., 2nd Friday of month

The next meeting, via Zoom, of the Neuroscience Group is tentatively scheduled from 1:30 until 3:00 pm on Friday, April 10 . This will be an organizational and introductory gathering because the group has recruited some new members and is adventuring into a new topic.

The new focus of the group is artificial intelligence (AI), including its practical applications and cultural ramifications.

References for our group discussions will include articles in the Scientific American or other sources, but especially two recent books that present interviews reflecting the diverse viewpoints of various leaders in AI research (Ford) and philosophy or ethics (Brockman). These books are:

- 1) Ford, Martin. **Architects of Intelligence**: The truth about AI from the people building it.
- 2) Brockman, John. **Possible Minds**: Twenty-five ways of looking at AI

We encourage anyone who is curious about artificial intelligence to join our group. No specialized expertise or prior knowledge of the subject is required.

Dorothy Parker

April 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | Inside Politics 10 am 4 |
| 5 | SDIS Board 10 am 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Neuro-science 1:30 pm 10 | 11 |
| 12 | Reading Experience 10 am 13 | 14 | Colloquy Cafe 1:30 15 | 16 | 17 | Photo-graphy Lecture 1:30 pm 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |