

A WORLD OF IDEAS  
AN IDEA OF THE WORLD

20 FILMS AND DVDS ON

# PHILOSOPHY AND THE HISTORY OF IDEAS

## PHILOSOPHERS: Debates and Dialogues

Four-disc set

A Series by Fons Elders



DISC ONE

Noam Chomsky and Michel Foucault



In 1971, a Dutch initiative called the International Philosophers Project brought together the leading thinkers of the day for a series of one-on-one debates.

This four-disc set collects all four remarkable conversations, along with introductions and commentary by Dutch philosopher and writer Fons Elders.

Each of these conversations captures the intellectual and social ferment of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when dramatic social and economic

transformation seemed imminent—and philosophical questions underpinned discussions about what form the new society would take. Though many of the questions under discussion are timeless, this social and political context gives them a particular sense of urgency.

# Philosophers: Debates and Dialogues

A 4-part series by Fons Elders

"Recommended!"

—Educational Media Reviews Online



## DISC ONE (80 minutes)

### Noam Chomsky and Michel Foucault

Part one of PHILOSOPHERS: DEBATES AND DIALOGUES is the legendary 1971 debate between two very different heroes of the intellectual Left: linguist and activist Noam Chomsky, and cultural theorist and historian of ideas Michel Foucault.

Brought together to discuss their divergent views on the concept of human nature, these two heavyweights trace arguments that resonant well into 21st century politics and thought. At the time, both thinkers were not only heroes within academia, but within the burgeoning counterculture as well, making this meeting one of the most important intellectual events of the early 1970s.

Both thinkers agree on a view that the history of science does not simply consist in adding new knowledge to previous knowledge, but in examining problems from different perspectives and creating new frames of reference, but their disagreement on human nature has continued to define—implicitly and explicitly—central tensions within the Left and within contemporary philosophy.



## DISC TWO (74 minutes)

### Alfred Ayer and Arne Naess

The second debate is a lively conversation between British analytic philosopher Alfred Ayer and Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess, the father of the deep ecology movement.

It begins with both men's thoughts about skepticism. They agree that a skeptical approach is useful, but differ on its limitations. A skeptical approach, Ayer says, should be tempered with common sense or "natural belief."

Naess puts forward an approach he refers to as "total view." It is a philosophy that embraces interconnectedness, and which sees the wellbeing of all as contingent on that of each individual.

The conversation moves to a discussion of the utility of the concepts of fact and truth. Naess says that a dismissal of fact runs counter to the British empiricist tradition, while Ayer believes they are essential in order to distinguish truth from falsehood.

Shot in an intimate setting, this debate highlights the two philosophers' radically divergent approaches, Ayer reiterating his commitment to logical positivism, and Naess articulating many of the concerns that would drive the deep ecology movement.



## DISC THREE (80 minutes)

### Karl Popper and John Eccles

Philosopher of science Karl Popper and his close friend, Nobel-prize-winning neuroscientist John Eccles, discuss Popper's famous criterion of falsifiability: the idea that a statement is only scientific if it could possibly be proved false, which he had articulated against the traditional positivist view of the scientific method.

They also discuss the question of truth and facts. Popper believes in absolute truth, but that we have no ultimate means of attaining it. Nevertheless, he believes that humans should strive to get closer to this ideal. Eccles agrees, saying that all of our experience is mediated by our senses, meaning that we can never break free from our own perspectives. At the same time, Eccles argues against pure reductionism and materialism.

The conversation briefly turns to politics and society, with Popper calling for an evolutionary, rather than revolutionary approach, and expanding on his famous conception of the "open society."



## DISC FOUR (77 minutes)

### Leszek Kolakowski and Henri Lefebvre

There is talk of revolution in the conversation between Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski and Marxist sociologist and French philosopher Henri Lefebvre—perhaps the most overtly political of the debates in this collection.

Both men are former Communist Party members (though they disagree on whether Lefebvre left or was kicked out) and they examine the role of Marxism and Marx's concept of alienation in creating a new consciousness and reorganizing society. A fascinating conversation on automation and its implications ensues—one in which Lefebvre is quite prescient on the notion of the increasing urbanization of the globe, and the rise of a society in which total surveillance through computers is a very real possibility.

Total running time (4 DVDs): 311 min |  
Color | 1971 (Introductions added in 2012)  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$498



## Lotman's World

A film by Agne Nelk

**"A densely structured, informative, and often entertaining piece of popular science with a potential to impress both specialists and novices."**

—Maxim Waldstein, Slavic Review



**Best Documentary Director,  
2008 Minsk International  
Film Festival Listapad**



**Best Jewish Culture Film,  
2008 Jewish Motifs International  
Film Festival**

57 min | color | 2008

Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390 ~~now~~ \$348

Blending archival footage and imaginative animation, LOTMAN'S WORLD introduces us to the life and work of Yuri Lotman (1922-1993), a pioneer semiotician and cultural critic whose many writings in semiotics and structuralism dealt with a wide range of artistic, theoretical and historical issues, and laid the groundwork for future theorists of signs, including Roland Barthes.

Lotman's colleagues and semioticians such as Umberto Eco and Peter Torop, discuss the cultural study of signs, signifiers and meanings, languages as both textual and visual structures, and Lotman's talents as a lecturer and his brilliance as a thinker and writer.

In archival interviews, Lotman himself discusses the broader context of semiotics. Interviews with family members round out this portrait of Lotman's life as an intellectual under Stalin and a Russian émigré in Estonia.

LOTMAN'S WORLD gives detail to the life of an influential but under-recognized thinker.



## Marx Reloaded

A film by Jason Barker



MARX RELOADED examines the relevance of Karl Marx's ideas in understanding the global economic and financial crisis, with commentary by leading leftist thinkers, including Slavoj Žižek, Jacques Rancière, and Antonio Negri, as well as skeptics from the right.

Today a new generation of philosophers, artists and political activists are returning to Marx's ideas in order to try to make sense of the crisis and to consider whether a world beyond capitalism is possible. Is the severity of the ongoing recession a sign that the capitalist system's days are numbered? Could it be that communism might provide the solution to the growing economic and environmental challenges facing the planet?

Other commentators include: Norbert Bolz, Micha Brumlik, John Gray, Michael Hardt, Nina Power, Peter Sloterdijk, and Alberto Toscano.

Together they ask if the current crisis is a bug or a feature of contemporary capitalism, and whether or not the solution entails an approach more radical than liberal reform.

**"A great introduction to Marx for a new generation. Highly recommended."**

—Simon Critchley

**"I can't recommend this film highly enough for college professors who are fortunate enough to be able to introduce Marxist ideas into a sociology, political science, or history classroom."**—Louis Project, Counterpunch

52 min | color | 2011 |   
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390





## Futures Market

A film by Mercedes Álvarez

"Devilishly funny."

—Louis Project, *Counterpunch*


"A compelling meditation on dreams that doubles as an expose of how cheap those dreams have become, 'Futures Market' is a wise and fulfilling film." —*Variety*

 **Jury Special Mention,**  
**2011 Buenos Aires Festival of Independent Cinema (BAFICI)**

 **2011 Visions du Réel**  
**(Nyon, Switzerland)**

 **2012 International Film Festival Rotterdam**

110 min | color | 2011  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398

 A film essay in tableaux, **FUTURES MARKET** traces the connections between memory, public space, real estate bubbles, and the international financial crisis.

**FUTURES MARKETS** takes us inside the fluorescent-lit showrooms of real estate expos, where developers hawk shares in hotel and condo projects in places from Dubai to Miami. Outside, cars crawl forward on endless stretches of anonymous highway whose "straight lines point in the direction of promises." This is Spain, but it could be almost anywhere in the world.


Beginning with Greek lyric poet Simonides of Ceos' invention of the 'memory palace'—in which memories are arranged in an imagined physical space—the film suggests that the recent flurry of credit-fueled property development has depleted not only national treasures, but the distinctive characters of these nation's cities—and therefore, their cultural memory as well.

A modest alternative is offered with the introduction of Jesus Castro, a 92-year-old junk dealer more interested in collecting than selling. His stubborn refusal to bow to the marketplace's demand to forget makes him the hero of this film, which illustrates how little most of us choose to remember.



## The Forgotten Space

A film by Allan Sekula & Noël Burch

 The "forgotten space" of Allan Sekula and Noël Burch's essay film is the sea, the oceans through which 90% of the world's cargo now passes. At the heart of this space is the container box, which, since its invention in the 1950s, has become one of the most important mechanisms for the global spread of capitalism.

The film follows the container box along the international supply chain, from ships to barges, trains, and trucks, mapping the byzantine networks that connect producers to consumers (and more and more frequently, producing nations to consuming ones). Visiting the major ports of Rotterdam, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Guangdong province, and many places between, it connects the economic puzzle pieces that corporations and governments would prefer remain scattered.

Employing a wide range of materials and styles, from interviews to classic film clips, essayistic voiceover to observational footage, **THE FORGOTTEN SPACE** provides a panoramic portrait of the new global economy and a compelling argument about why it must change.

"Engrossing and provocative!"

—A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

"Too political for mainstream taste, obligatory for everyone else."

—Jonathan Rosenbaum,  
**Film Comment**

 **Premiere, 2010 Venice International Film Festival**

 **2010 Doclisboa (Portugal)**

 **2010 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam**

112 min | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398



## Black Sun

A film by Rüdiger Sünner

**"An intelligent, intensely focused study tracing the roots of Nazi ideology in German legend, religion, and mythology."—David Sterritt, Cineaste**

**"Instructors of sociology of religion may appreciate the union of mysticism, the occult, and political ideology. Instructors of social movements and political sociology may find compelling the development of the National Socialist ideology and a novel explanation for the rise of one of recent history's most fascinating and troubling regimes. Instructors of race and ethnicity can use the film to teach about scientific racism, the social constrictions of race, and how racial policy and programs develop."—Teaching Sociology**

90 min | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398

For more than sixty years, historians, political scientists, psychologists and others have attempted to explain the murderous ideology of National Socialism—in particular the theories of its founders Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler and Alfred Rosenberg—and their dreams of a "Thousand-Year Reich" of Aryan world domination.

BLACK SUN sheds new light on the sources of Nazi ideology by examining its roots in the world of myths, symbols and fantasies. It traces this from the writings of various mystics in the early 20th century, which located the original home of the Germanic peoples in sunken continents such as "Thule" and "Atlantis," and propagated the mythology of a superior Nordic race whose heroes fought the forces of decadence and racial impurity.

The film uses interviews, rare archival footage and contemporary scenes shot in historic locales throughout Germany to chronicle how the Nazis used these mythological foundations to develop Nazism as a political religion. It profiles some of the more eccentric members of the SS, plus cofounders of the Ancestral Heritage Society—Wolfram Sievers and Herman Wirth—who conducted anthropological and archaeological research to confirm their theories of a "master race."

While BLACK SUN documents the nationalist mystical beliefs that infused National Socialism, the film also reveals the disturbing perpetuation of these beliefs among certain cult groups in Germany today.



## Simone de Beauvoir: Two Interviews

**new** Two interviews, recorded 16 years apart, illuminate the historic role, personality and thoughts of the novelist, philosopher and political activist who paved the way for Second-Wave Feminism.

**"Premier Plan" Program** (40 min.): In this interview filmed for Radio-Canada in 1959, Beauvoir explains her philosophy, her political commitment, and her theories on atheism and free love.

**Why I am a Feminist** (50 min.): In this in-depth interview filmed in 1975 with famed French journalist Servan-Schreiber about her book *The Second Sex*, Beauvoir speaks with clarity and conviction about feminism and its future.

**"Recommended... gives life and new meaning to her philosophy, which most students will have only encountered on the page. With a newly unabridged translation of *The Second Sex* released in 2009, this accessible DVD remains relevant and will complement discussions of de Beauvoir's significant works."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

90 min | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$298

## Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir

A film by Max Cacopardo  
Interview by Madeleine Gobeil and Claude Lanzmann

In this rare documentary, Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) and Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986), two of the most influential and controversial writers and thinkers of the 20th century, discuss their work, their lives, and the role of public intellectuals in modern society. They were interviewed for this 1967 French Canadian TV program by Canadian journalist Madeleine Gobeil and *Les Temps Modernes* editor Claude Lanzmann (who later produced *Shoah*, the epic documentary on the Holocaust).

**"A very moving insight into the lives of two personalities who have certainly captivated the imagination of the public."—Yolanda Patterson, Ph.D., President, Simone de Beauvoir Society**

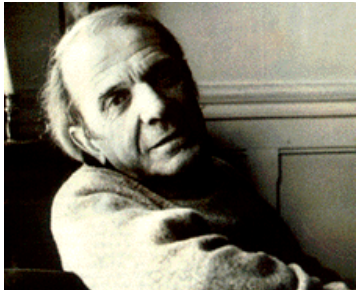


60 min | b&w | 1967  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390 **now** \$348



## Mille Gilles

A film by Ijsbrand van Veelen



"Patricia Pisters' exposition which runs throughout the film is, as one would expect from her authority, informed, clear and intellectually generous."

—Leonardo Digital Reviews

44 min | color | 1997

Sale/DVD: \$348

Gilles Deleuze, whose theories in the interconnected areas of art, literature, philosophy and psychoanalysis reverberated far beyond academia, was one of the foremost philosophers of the 20th Century.

MILLE GILLES explores some of the main areas of Deleuze's post-structural, anti-hierarchical writings. But going beyond that specific discussion, and maybe more significantly, the film also examines how Deleuze and his ideas inspire people around the world, in many different disciplines and fields of endeavor.

## Facebook's "Adorno Changed My Life"

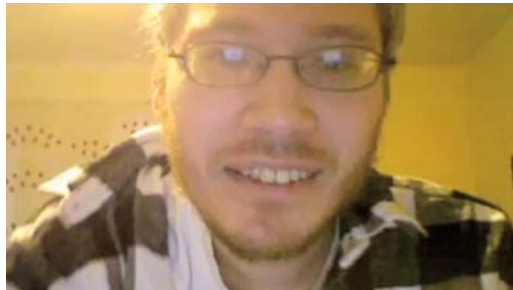
A film by Georg Boch

"Embeds the philosophical discourse in the productive modes of the subject being analyzed, namely it uses the methods of digital space to critique the ideology of digital space...an excellent example of succinct documentary storytelling."

—Anthropology Review Database

28 min | color | 2010

Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$248



Theodor Adorno was an influential member of the Frankfurt School of social theory—a German-born intellectual who fled Nazi Germany for America, and whose work anticipates and informs much post-modern theory. In this revolutionary "participatory documentary," digital filmmaker Georg Boch, one of more than 200 people that belong to a Facebook group called "Adorno Changed My Life," sets out to learn how Adorno's work has touched the group's lives

## Antonio Negri

A film by Alexandra Weltz & Andreas Pichler

Profiles the controversial life and times of university professor, philosopher, militant, prisoner, refugee, and so-called 'enemy of the state', Antonio Negri. It traces Negri's roots in the history of radical left-wing movements in Italy during the Sixties and Seventies, illustrated through archival footage of workers' strikes, factory occupations, terrorist actions, violent street confrontations, political repression, and government trials of dissidents.

Against the backdrop of scenes of recent anti-globalization protests, Negri discusses the dangers of the economic, cultural and legal transformations being wrought by the forces of globalization as well as the opportunities to resist these changes.



"Assembled with great skill and obvious passion. Crackles with unexpected twists and is braced by lucid excursions on Negri's political theories... Great!" —Cineaste

52 min | color | 2004

Sale/DVD: \$390 ~~now~~ \$348

## Derrida's Elsewhere

A film by Safaa Fathy



An exploration of the man and his ideas, DERRIDA'S ELSEWHERE investigates the parallels between the personal life and the life work of arguably the most important philosopher of the 20th Century, Jacques Derrida.

The film is woven around readings from Derrida's book *Circumfession*, evoking a number of seemingly disparate themes including hospitality, religion, sexuality and the place of the subject in philosophy. We follow Derrida around his home, office, in the classroom and on his travels as he speaks of the suffering, the challenges and the questions that have conditioned his thought since his childhood in Algeria.

"Many of the leading scholars and translators of Derrida's work were collaborators on the film, and it shows. With translations that are excellent and complete, this film would be well used in a classroom to introduce the French philosopher to students."

—French Review

"Enthralling!" —Leonardo

68 min | color | 2000

Sale/DVD: \$298

Also available in a 52-minute version.

## Judith Butler: Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind

A film by Paule Zadjermann



**"Illuminating...has much to say about feminist theory, identity, gay rights, AIDS activism, homosexuality, and Israel."—Booklist**

52 min | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390

JUDITH BUTLER: PHILOSOPHICAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND is an up-close and personal encounter with one of the world's most important and influential contemporary thinkers in fields such as continental philosophy, literary theory, feminist and queer theory, and cultural politics.

The film features interviews with Butler—including reminiscences of her formative childhood years, illustrated by family home movies, as a "problem child"—shows her in classroom sessions in Berkeley and Paris, at public speaking engagements, and in discussion with Gender Studies professor Isabell Lorey.

## Sociology is a Martial Art

A film by Pierre Carles

**"The finest documentary a social scientist could ever dream of... a vital documentary that should be part of every college or university library. It will be easily comprehensible to undergraduate students, and quite useful in various courses in social sciences."**

—International Sociology

146 min | color | 2001  
Sale/DVD: \$398



**ICARUS FILMS CLASSIC** Pierre's Bourdieu's forty books and countless articles represent probably the most brilliant and fruitful renovation and application of social science in our era.

SOCIOLOGY IS A MARTIAL ART, a documentary about Bourdieu's life, became an unexpected hit in France just prior to his death. Filmed over three years, director Pierre Carles' camera follows Bourdieu as he lectures, attends political rallies, travels, meets with his students, staff, and research team in Paris, and includes Bourdieu having a conversation with Günter Grass.



## Islam Unknown

An 8-part series by Fons Elders

ISLAM UNKNOWN is a collection of eight conversations with unconventional Muslim intellectuals, including Reza Aslan and Asma Barlas. In each episode, eclectic Dutch philosopher Fons Elders engages the thinkers in probing discussion on topics including gender, economics, sharia, secularism, colonialism, and the nature of religious authority. What emerges is a nuanced and illuminating series of contemporary perspectives on one of the world's great religions.

The discussions take place in a relaxed and informal atmosphere Elders' other interlocutors include Nasr Hamed Abu-Zayd, Abdullahi Amhed An-Na'im, Amna Nusayr, Anouar Majid, Ömer Özsoy, and Mehmet Asutay.

Elders' hope is that the conversations will contribute to a new understanding of the diversity of Islam, and to a decrease in Islamophobia among Americans and Europeans—a much-needed corrective to popular Western perceptions of Muslims

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. "[Elders's] approach with each subject is genuine, reverent, and introspective...It is certain that anyone fortunate enough to view this film will benefit from its broad insights, opinions, and shared knowledge."**

—Library Journal

8 x 26 min | color | 2010  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398



## More Films & DVDs...

### Jacques Lacan Speaks A film by Françoise Wolff



A rare filmed documentary record of a 1971 university speaking appearance

**"Offers the opportunity to see Lacan in action."**  
—The Journal of Lacanian Studies

60 min | b&w | 1971  
Sale/DVD: \$348

### Killing Time A film by Ijsbrand van Veelen



A provocative documentary that explores the nature of time; with Theoretical Physicist Julian Barbour, author of *The End of Time*.

**"Fascinating and provocative!"**  
—Educational Media Reviews Online

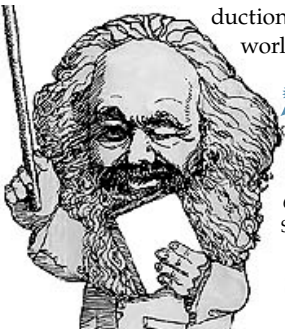
30 min | color | 2000  
Sale/DVD: \$248

### Marx for Beginners A film by Bob Godfrey

A hilarious 7 minute animated introduction to Karl Marx's worldview.

**Blue Ribbon Winner, 1983 American Film Festival**

6 min | color | 1978  
Sale/DVD: \$145



### The Moving Earth A film by Lars Becker-Larsen



Chronicles the scientific revolution throughout Renaissance Europe, and its challenge to Church authority,

**"A splendid chronicle of the scientific shift brought about through studies of planetary motion during the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century."** —Leonardo Reviews

52 min | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390 **now** \$348

### Optimum A film by Henry Colomer



An exploration into the legacies of three 19th century visionaries—Jeremy Bentham, Charles Babbage, and Francis Galton—who helped shape modern industrial society

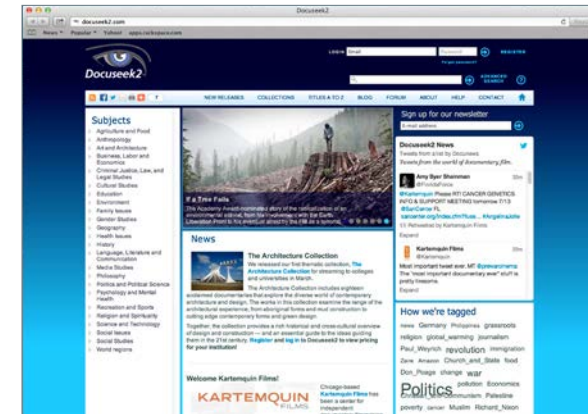
**"An absorbing and thought provoking film and recommended for very large high school collections, or college and university collections."**  
—Educational Media Reviews Online

55 min | color | 2000  
Sale/DVD: \$348

## Docuseek2

Docuseek2 is the internet site where colleges, universities, and other educational institutions can discover, access, license, stream and share amongst their students, faculty and staff, the best documentary and social issues films and videos available.

Docuseek2 provides exclusive educational streaming access to content from Bullfrog Films, Icarus Films, Kartemquin Films, and Terra Nova Films. Registered users may preview and license content online.



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Please refer to Order Numbers on all Orders.

**Sales:** DVDs are "leased for the life of the DVD."

**Previews:** DVDs may be previewed for purchase consideration by established video libraries.

**Ordering:** Submit all orders by purchase order, on official institutional letterhead, or pay in advance of shipping.



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