According to Heraclitus, all things are ordered by struggle and war (polemos). And yet, violence seems at odds with our most basic intuitions about order. Some have argued that violence is unavoidable, and even productive of what we value, locating polemos in nature, in the dialectic of history, or in the psyche. Others have held that peace is the highest goal of social and political life, not simply as the absence of violence, but as a positive principle of change. Does peace order all things?

We invite papers from a variety of disciplines and perspectives that examine violence and non-violence. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Is there violence at the core of logical argumentation, or can philosophy be non-violent? How central is violence to academic philosophy, e.g. the divide between continental and analytic schools, sexism, and racism?
- How can philosophical reflection respond to social and political challenges such as terrorism, war, domestic abuse, torture, and suicide?
- What can psychoanalysis and philosophical anthropology contribute to understanding human aggression? Is it really only in death that we rest in peace?
- How do we discern symbolic and structural violence, and what resistances do they offer to peaceful change?
- Is the struggle for recognition violent in a multicultural society? What structures or practices could reduce the tensions among cultures?
- Is justice possible without violence? What is the relationship between justice and peace?

Papers will be blind reviewed. Please limit submissions to approximately 4,000 words and attach a cover page including name, institution and contact information. For more information, please contact:

Email: philgrad@bc.edu
Mail: Attn: Graduate Conference 
Department of Philosophy 
140 Commonwealth Avenue 
Boston College 
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3806

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March 28-29, 2008
Peg Birmingham
Jeffrey Bloechl
Dennis Schmidt