

Lou Marinoff: Biography



Lou Marinoff is a Commonwealth Scholar originally from Canada is Professor and Deputy Chair of Philosophy at The City College of New York, founding President of the American Philosophical Practitioners Association (APPA), and Faculty of the World Economic Forum.

Lou has been a Fellow of the Aspen Institute, Faculty of the Omega Institute, and Faculty of the Institute for Local Government at the University of Arizona. He collaborates with numerous global organizations that contribute to building cultures of peace, prosperity and harmony including Billion Minds Foundation (New York), Horasis (Geneva), Mentor Foundation (London), Soka Gakkai International (Tokyo), and Strategic Foresight Group (Mumbai).

Lou has authored two international bestsellers: *Plato Not Prozac*, translated into 25 languages since 1999, and *Therapy for the Sane*, into 12 languages since 2003. Both of these popular books apply philosophy, Asian and Western schools alike, to the resolution of everyday problems. In 2004, *The New York Times* weekend magazine called him "the world's most successful marketer of philosophical counseling."

Lou co-founded the American Philosophical Practitioners Association in 1999, and is Editor of APPA's scholarly journal, *Philosophical Practice*. APPA trains and certifies philosophers as well as physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers and social workers to work philosophically with clients, patients, groups and organizations. Since 1999, APPA has certified hundreds of practitioners in more than 30 US States and 15 countries.

Lou's latest book, *The Middle Way*, applies virtue ethics of Aristotle, Buddha and Confucius to moderating extremes of many kinds e.g. political, religious, tribal, educational, totemic, economic. These among other forms of extremism polarize humanity, engendering wasteful conflicts and needless suffering. *The Middle Way* offers time-honored remedies while excoriating extremisms.

Lou has recently been honored to engage in a dialogue with Daisaku Ikeda, President of Soka Gakkai International. Their discourse on philosophy for humanity in the 21st century is serialized monthly in Japan. Lou's other current projects include a monthly column on practical philosophy for a woman's magazine in Argentina, and a documentary film based on *The Middle Way*.

Lou has been featured in two documentary films to date, both focused on professional sports. He is a three-time Canadian Open Table Hockey champion (1978-79-80) and is currently on the comeback trail. He won the Las Vegas Open in January 2008, and in April 2008 repeated as New York City Table Hockey Association champion. He is a legend and ambassador of the sport.