

Lou Marinoff: Biography



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

Lou has served as a Fellow of the Aspen Institute, Faculty of the World Economic Forum, Faculty of the Omega Institute, 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 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 has been serialized monthly in Japan, and will appear as a book in 2010.

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 2008 and 2009, and is three-time New York City Table Hockey Association Classic champion (2007, 08, 09). He is a legend and ambassador of the sport.