

North American Levinas Society Conference 2013

Program Draft

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA



Note that all events are open to anyone who registers for the conference. However, we do ask that you register for the banquet in advance. Please preregister for banquet by June 28th (see membership form from website or Facebook group page).

Day 1: Sunday, July 28

12:00-4:00 Registration

TBD Either (POWER CENTER BALLROOM A OR Africa Room)

12:00-1:00 Pre-Conference Gathering

1:00-1:30 Welcome Remarks: Dean James Swindal (Duquesne University), Sol Neely, NALS President (University of Alaska Southeast), Erik Garrett (Duquesne University)

1:30-4:00 Pedagogy Session: Film, *Of G-d and Men*, with discussion from Ann W. Astell (University of Notre Dame) **(AV Capable)**

Dinner on Your Own

Day 2: Monday, July 29

8:30-3:00 Registration

Session 1: (9-10:30)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Friends, Enemies, and Neighbors

Moderator: Ann Astell (University of Notre Dame)

- Rebecca Rose (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) “The Promise of Levinasian Friendship ”
- Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University) “G/hosts, Guests, Strangers, and Enemies: Levinas, Hospitality, and Responsibility as the Foundation for Interreligious Dialogue”
- Dorothy Chang (Columbia University) “Encounter with the Other in History: Ethics in Levinas, Rahner, and Gutierrez”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Peace, Conflict, Fraternity, and Atrocity

Moderator: Claire Katz (Texas A & M)

- Mark Cauchi (York University) “Agonizing Peace: Conceiving Postsecular Dialogue in Levinas (with Mouffe and Connolly)”
- Steven Innes (King’s College, London) “Toward the Restoration of Social Bonds: On the Positive Role of Shame in the Process of Resolving Intractable Conflict”
- John Meeks (American Theological Library Association) “Materiality and the remains of an Other: ‘Quatre hueres à Chatila’ with the Preface of ‘Totality and Infinity’”

Session 2: (10:45-12:15)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and Interfaith Dialogue

Moderator: Hugh Miller (Loyola University Chicago)

- Abigail Doukhan (Queens College) “Interfaith Dialogue as Traumatism: An Application of Levinas’ Discourse Ethics”
- Leila Shooshani (Loyola University Chicago) “The Ethics of Inter-Faith Dialogue”
- Andy Kelley (Bradley University) “Levinas and Brunschvicg on Religion and Ethics”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Levinas and Marion

Moderator: Brock Bahler (Duquesne University)

- William D. Melaney (American University in Cairo) “Marion and Lévinas: In the Wake of Modernity”
- Donald L. Wallenfang (Walsh University) “Face Off for Interreligious Dialogue: A *Theology* of Childhood in Jean-Luc Marion versus a *Theology* of Adulthood in Emmanuel Levinas”
- Jennifer Wang (New School for Social Research) “Levinas, Zizioulas, and Marion on Radical Alterity”

12:30-2:30

KEYNOTE 1 AND LUNCH: Dr. James Marsh (Fordham University) “Levinas's Ethic of the Absolute Other”

Moderator: Sol Neely (University of Alaska Southeast)

Session 3: (2:45-4:15)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and Aesthetics

Moderator: Andrew Ball (Lindenwood University)

- Timothy J. Golden (West Chester University of Pennsylvania) “Out of One Blood: Subjectivity and the Role of Art in Interreligious Dialogue”
- Rebecca Nicholson-Weir (East Central University) “All Literature Is to Me - Me, That Isn't as Bad as it Sounds: A Levinasian Critique of Gertrude Stein's ‘Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas’ ”
- Dara Hill (Indiana University, Bloomington) “Ethical Subjectivity in Levinas, Levi, and Delbo: Useless Suffering, Useless Violence, and Useless Knowledge”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Levinas in Dialogue with Other Philosophical Schools

Moderator: Tom Sparrow (Slippery Rock University)

- Gary Goldberg (Virginia Commonwealth University) “Implanting Levinas in the Heart of Whiteheadian Process-Relational Thought: Seeking the Panentheistic Solution to the Paradox of Reflective Pragmatism”
- Darren Ambrose (Canterbury Christ Church University) “Levinas and the Persistence of Skepticism ”
- Nathan "Eric" Dickman (Young Harris College) “Ethical Understanding: Between Subject Matter and Otherness in Interreligious Dialogue”

Session 4: (4:30-5:45)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Author Meets Readers: *Levinas and the Crisis of Humanism* (Indiana University Press)

Moderator: Michael Paradiso-Michau (North Central College)

- Jim Hatley (Salisbury University)
- Martin Kavka (Florida State University)

- Deborah Achtenberg (University of Nevada, Reno)
- Author/Respondent: Claire Katz (Texas A & M)

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B): Levinas and Ambivalence and Existenz

Moderator: Steven Innes (King’s College, London)

- Olga Kaczmarek (University of Warsaw, Poland & Penn State University)
“Redefinitions, Provocations, Pseudonyms. On the Ambivalent Use of Some Concepts Related to Religion in Levinas’s Philosophical Texts. ”
- David Leslie (Harvard University) “Communication and the Axis of Existenz: Karl Jaspers and the Problem of Alterity”
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Dinner on your own OR Pittsburgh Pirates vs St Louis Cardinals Baseball Game

Details on the baseball game to come

Day 3: Tuesday, July 30

8:30-noon Registration

Session 5: (9-10:30)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and the Comic Frame: I Just Encountered the Other and, Boy, Am I Responsible *two part panel – Q & A in the last session (**AV capable**)

Moderator: Erik Temperantia

- Jesse Sims (University of Toronto) “Insufficiently Intoxicated: Levinas, Bataille, and the Comic Impasse of the Il y a”
- Sol Neely (University of Alaska Southeast) “Neither Despondent With Demons Nor Drunk With Angels: Lessons in Anti-Idolatry and Emancipatory Laughter After the Prague Spring”
- Monica Osborne (UCLA) "Laughter and Responsibility: A Levinasian Discussion of Post-9/11 Humor"
- Brian Bergen-Aurand (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) “...And Levinas Created The Feminine — Gender, Comedy, Tragedy, and Film Function”

- Mathew Menachem Feuer (University of Waterloo) “Comic Exposure to Targeting: A Levinasian Reading of Andy Kaufmann and Phillip Roth’s Portnoy ”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - An Interreligious Dialogue with Kierkegaard and Levinas

Moderator: Michael Paradiso-Michau (North Central College)

- Drew M. Dalton (Florida Southern College) “Daemonic Resistance: Levinas against the Kierkegaardian Lure of Religious Resolution”
- David Seltzer (La Salle University) “The Temptation of Temptation and The Concept of Anxiety”
- Grant Julin (St. Francis University) “Fighting the Good Fight: A Defense of Kierkegaardian Violence”

Session 6: (10:45-12:15)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and the Comic Frame Part Deux: The Comedy Central Roast of Emmanuel Levinas Continues *two part panel – Q & A in the last session (AV capable)

Moderator: Erik Redundo

- Jesse Sims (University of Toronto) “Insufficiently Intoxicated: Levinas, Bataille, and the Comic Impasse of the Il y a”
- Sol Neely (University of Alaska Southeast) “Neither Despondent With Demons Nor Drunk With Angels: Lessons in Anti-Idolatry and Emancipatory Laughter After the Prague Spring”
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- Q & A

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Levinas in Dialogue with Atheism: An Unsayings of the Theological

Moderator: Dara Hill (Indiana University, Bloomington)

- Kevin Houser (Indiana University, Bloomington) “The Unpreachable Gospel of Esau”
- Nathan Nun (York University) “Levinas and Bloch on Atheism in Religion”

- Steven Shankman (University of Oregon)"Levinas, Vasily Grossman, and Irreligious Dialogue"

12:30-2:30

KEYNOTE 2 AND LUNCH: Dr. Roger Burggraeve (KU Leuven)

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Moderator: David Hansel (Raïssa and Emmanuel Levinas, Jerusalem, and SIREL, Paris)

*Sponsored by SIREL

Session 7: (2:45-4:15)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and a Dialogue of Love with Evil, Chaplains, and Dostoevsky (AV Capable)

Moderator: Jesse Sims (University of Toronto)

- Eric Boynton (Allegheny College) “Love and Evil”
- Jamie Beachy (Ilf School of Theology) “The Wisdom of Love in Interreligious Health Care Chaplaincy”
- David Banach (Saint Anselm College) “Levinas and Dostoevsky on the Ethics of Infinite Love”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Levinas and Dussel: A Dialogue with Latin American Liberation Theology

Moderator: Rebecca Nicholson-Weir (East Central University)

- Michael Paradiso-Michau (North Central College) “The Politics of ‘Ethics as First Philosophy’”
- Luis Diaz (Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa) “The Problem of Substitution in the Philosophies of Levinas and Dussel: A Perspective for Social Movements in Latin America”
- Andrew Ball (Lindenwood University) “From Phenomenology to Praxis: Levinas and the Liberation Theology of Enrique Dussel”

Session 8: (4:30-5:30)

(Power Center Ballroom A) –Annual Talmudic Reading

Annual Talmudic Reading by Georges Hansel

Moderator: Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University)

Duquesne Press Sponsored Banquet (5:30-6:45) in the Shepperson Suite, Power Center Ballroom (all are invited to attend)

Society Banquet (Power Center Ballroom C – 6:45-9pm)

*Need to preregister for banquet

Day 4: Wednesday, July 31

8:30-noon Registration

8:30-9:30 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

All current members are welcome to attend the Society's annual business meeting

Session 9: (9:45-11:15)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and the Political (AV Capable)

Moderator: Octavian Gabor (Methodist College)

- Urve Eslas (Tallinn University) “Political Dialogue: Not a Mission Impossible”
- Cristina Bucur (Duquesne University) “On Anti-Ideology: A Symposium With Levinas and Badiou”
- Katherine Kirby (St. Michael's College) “Relinquishing ‘religion’ for the Sake of Religion: Judgment vs. Justice”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) - Levinas and Journeys of the Self: Fate, Nostalgia, and Suicide

Moderator: Mathew Menachem Feuer (University of Waterloo)

- Ben Bouwman (McMaster University) “Levinas' Thread of Fate”
- Leswin Laubscher (Duquesne University) “Figuring Nostalgia: Odysseus, Abraham and the ways (of) home”
- Caleb Sanders (Drury University) “Dying for, Substitution, and the Suicidal-Self:”

Suffering for Useless Suffering and the Rupturing of the Conatus Essendi”

Session 10: (11:30-1:00)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) - Levinas and Cultural Difference

Moderator: Deborah Achtenberg (University of Nevada, Reno)

- Merridawn Duckler (Independent Scholar) “Common Problems of Common Language: Particularism and Universality in Emmanuel Levinas’s ‘The Pact’”
- Brock Bahler (Duquesne University) “Unsayings of Levinas’s Said Regarding his View of Culture”
- Octavian Gabor (Methodist College) “Mercy and Justice in Eastern Orthodoxy and Levinas’ Judaism”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) – Phenomenological Transcendence and Religion

Moderator: Joëlle Hansel (Raïssa and Emmanuel Levinas, Jerusalem, and SIREL, Paris)

- Jonathan Weidenbaum (Berkeley College) “Alterity, Transcendence, and the One: Levinas and the Perennial Philosophy”
- Yves Sobel (Université Paris 7 Diderot) “What Does Religion Mean for Emmanuel Levinas?”
- Hugh Miller (Loyola University Chicago) “From the Sacred to the Holy: Is ‘Lecture Talmudique’ Phenomenology?”

1:15-3:15

KEYNOTE 3 AND LUNCH: Dr. Leah Kalmanson (Drake University) “Levinas by Any Other Name: Translation, Dialogue, and the Invention of Religion in East Asia” (AV Capable)

Moderator: Drew Dalton (Florida Southern College)

Session 11: (3:30-5:00)

Panel A (Power Center Ballroom A) – Levinas in Dialogue Beyond the West (AV Capable)

Moderator: Nathan "Eric" Dickman (Young Harris College)

- Manuel A. Cruz (Belmont University) “Responsibility & Restorative Justice – Levinas &

African-Christian Ethos of Ubuntu”

- Erik Garrett (Duquesne University) “Levinas and Nishitani: Totality and Nihilism”
- Ilona Garrett (Independent Scholar) “Levinas and Daoism”

Panel B (Power Center Ballroom B) – Ethics as Communicative, Linguistic, and Tautegorical

Moderator: Brian Bergen-Aurand (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

- Ronald C. Arnett (Duquesne University) Levinas and Responsibility: Possessed otherwise than Murdoch's News of the World
- Cathy Hampton (Graduate Theological Union / UC Berkeley) “Jewish-Christian Language and Ethics as First Philosophy”
- Tyler Tritten (Armstrong Atlantic State University) “The Trace as Tautegorical: An Account of the Face in Levinas”

Session 12: (5:15 -5:45)

CLOSING TALK SPONSORED BY (AND LOCATED IN) The Simon Silverman Center for Phenomenology at Duquesne University

Joëlle Hansel (Raïssa and Emmanuel Levinas, Jerusalem, and SIREL, Paris) – “Of G-d who Comes to Mind: A Defense of Transcendence”

*At the occasion of the publication of *Of G-d who comes to mind* in Hebrew

Moderator: Jeffrey McCurry (Duquesne University)

Closing Remarks/Reception

Thanks to:

Duquesne University

McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

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Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies

Department of Psychology

Simon Silverman Center for Phenomenology

SIREL