

# North American Levinas Society Conference 2013

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 28<sup>th</sup> (see membership form from website or Facebook group page).

All events, except for Joëlle Hansel's closing talk, will be in the Power Center on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The Shepperson Suite is on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Power Center and will have the Registration Table and Book Display.

Duquesne University Press Book Display Hours will be 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.

The closing talk will be in the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center, which is on the first floor of the Gumberg Library.

## **Day 1: Sunday, July 28**

12:00-4:00 Registration

**Power Center Ballroom C (5<sup>th</sup> Floor – Power Center)**

12:00-1:00 Pre-Conference Gathering

1:00-1:30 Opening Remarks: Erik Garrett (Duquesne University), Ronald C. Arnett (Duquesne University), Sol Neely, NALS President (University of Alaska Southeast)

1:30-4:30 **Pedagogy Session:** “When We Face an A-DIEU: Levinas and the Monks of Tibhirine” Ann W. Astell (University of Notre Dame)

After the introductory talk, the film *Of G-ds and Men* will be shown and there will be a discussion led by Ann W. Astell (University of Notre Dame) **(AV Capable)**

"The film *OF GODS AND MEN* (French, with English subtitles) documents the true story of the martyrdom in 1996 in Tibhirine, Algeria, of seven Cistercian monks who were abducted and killed by terrorists (or counter-terrorists). The monks had long lived in a peaceful relationship with their Muslim neighbors, who, like them, suffered violence both from the government and from Islamicist insurgents. The Armed Islamic Group of Algeria claimed responsibility for the monks' deaths, but the identity of the actual parties involved remains disputed. The film focuses on the monks' decision to stay in the monastery, despite the increasing danger. It includes the spiritual testament of the prior of the monastery, Christian de Chergé, who had been reading the works of Emmanuel Levinas during the months leading up to his death. The last testament—a letter written in advance of his anticipated death—includes a distinctive Levinasian vocabulary." – Ann Astell

*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 W. Astell (University of Notre Dame)

- 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)"
- Stephen 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 heures 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”

***12:20-12:30 Official Welcome***  
**(Power Center Ballroom C)**

***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)  
**(Power Center Ballroom C)**

*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: Stephen Innes (King's College, London)

- 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: Inci Ozum Sayrak (Duquesne University)

- 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”

*Dinner on your own OR Pittsburgh Pirates vs St Louis Cardinals Baseball Game*

Tickets have been preordered, with directions at the registration table. We have a few extra group tickets to sit with us (first come first serve), however you can also purchase them at the gate of PNC Park, if available.

## **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 – (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”
- Brian Bergen-Aurand (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) “...And Levinas Created The Feminine — Gender, Comedy, Tragedy, and Film Function”
- Matthew 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: Brian Gilchrist (Eastern University)

- Drew M. Dalton (Florida Southern College) “Daemoniac 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 – (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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**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)  
“A Dialogue of Transcendence: A Levinasian Perspective on the Ethical Conditions of Interreligious Dialogue” (AV Capable)**

Moderator: David Hansel (Raïssa and Emmanuel Levinas Center, Jerusalem and SIREL, Paris)  
(Power Center Ballroom C)

\*Sponsored by SIREL (Société Internationale de Recherche Emmanuel Levinas)

*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)

- 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

“From Religion to Dialogue”

Moderator: Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University)

**Reception Hosted by Duquesne University Press**

**(5:30-6:45)**

**Shepperson Suite, Power Center Ballroom (all are invited to attend)**

Flute music provided by Diane Zupi and Kylee O'Donnell

**Society Banquet**

**(6:45-9:00)**

**Power Center Ballroom C**

\*Need to preregister for banquet

**Day 4: Wednesday, July 31**

8:30-noon Registration

**8:30-9:30 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

All current NALS 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)

- 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: Matthew 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”

*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 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)

**(Power Center Ballroom C)**

*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”
- 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 (Bottom Floor of the Gumberg University Library)**

Joëlle Hansel (Raïssa and Emmanuel Levinas Center, 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

*Special Thanks to:*

Duquesne University

McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

Dean James Swindal

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Susan Wadsworth-Booth

Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies

Department of Psychology

Simon Silverman Center for Phenomenology

SIREL (Société Internationale de Recherche Emmanuel Levinas)

Spiritans Community

The entire Hansel Family (George, Simone, Joelle, David, Hillel, and Gabriel)

Rita McCaffrey

Susan Carr