The Ascetic and the Ecstatic: The Limits of Pleasure
Graduate Students in Philosophy Conference
Saturday, February 23, 2019

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9:30am – 11:15am
Panel 1 – The Human Person in Relation to the Divine: Ascetic and Ecstatic Conceptions of the Self
Moderated by Michael Kramer (Duquesne University)

Gwen Daugs (Fordham University):
“Christian Ascetic and Mystic Conceptions of the Self: Distillation and Dissolution”

Mohammad Asgary (University of Toronto):
“The End of Asceticism: Asceticism in the Shi’i Philosophical and Spiritual Tradition”

Joseph Antoniello (Franciscan University of Steubenville):
“Fasting as Real Apprehension of God in John Henry Newman”

11:30am – 1:15pm
Panel 2 – The Infinite at Its Limit: Ascetic and Ecstatic Pleasures
Moderated by Thomas Szwedska (Duquesne University)

Sophie Cote (New York University):
“Epicurus between Hedonism and Asceticism”

Kefu Zhu (State University of New York at Binghamton):
“Kant on the Mathematically Sublime and the Aesthetic Infinite”

Matthew Zavislan (New School for Social Research):
“Emmanuel Levinas and the Pleasures of Excessive Responsibility”

2:45pm – 4:30pm
Panel 3 – Ascent to the Divine: Ascetic and Ecstatic Practices
Moderated by Molly Wallace (Duquesne University)

Mark Spinnenweber (Franciscan University of Steubenville):
“The Ecstatic Wilting of the Little Flower: The Death Narrative of Thérèse of Lisieux Read through the Deadly Vice Tradition”

Jessica Deal (Catholic University of America):
“The Inner Man: Divine Ecstasy as Cause of Rightly-Ordered Loves in Augustine’s Confessions”

Kristian Sheeley (University of Kentucky):
“The Necessity of Moral Virtue for Spiritual Illumination in the Cappadocian Fathers”

4:45pm – 6:15pm
Keynote Address

Karmen MacKendrick (Le Moyne College):
“Saints, Stigmata, and Strippers: A Look at Some Naked Franciscans”

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