

*North American Levinas Society
2021 Remote Conference*

SOLIDARITY AND COMMUNITY

July 26th-29th, 2021



2021 Organizing Committee

Brian Bergen-Aurand--University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne

Erik Garrett--Duquesne University, Pennsylvania

David Hansel--CNRS, Paris and SIREL, Paris and Jerusalem

Leah Kalmanson--University of North Texas

Katherine Kirby--Saint Michael's College, Vermont

Jesse Sims--OISE, Toronto

Timothy Stock--Salisbury University, Maryland

To register: <https://u-paris.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpfuCvqzWuG9SHS9eaOI1ennAwZFkAmuya>

Participation in this year's conference is **free**.

However, members often use the annual conference as an opportunity to pay membership dues.

We welcome new members, as well!

Our current membership dues are \$30 USD faculty and \$15 USD student and those in need.

We encourage all participants to join the North American Levinas Society at: <https://paypal.me/NALS2020>

Questions about the conference program: Katie Kirby at kkirby@smcvt.edu

Questions about the North American Levinas Society: Erik Garrett at garrette@duq.edu

26th July, Monday (11:00-4:00 pm EST, UTC-4)

NALS Opening Welcome

Erik Garrett, NALS President, Duquesne University, USA (11:00-11:15)

Panel 1a--Philosophical Exegesis of Levinas (11:15-12:45)

Moderator: Katherine Kirby, Saint Michael's College, USA

Andy Britton, University of Memphis, USA - "From Constitution to Fear: Levinas on Priority"

Akos Krassoy, Sofia University, Bulgaria - "Unique Sense – Levinas on Culture"

Panel 1b--The Subject in Relation (11:15-12:45)

Moderator: Timothy Stock, Salisbury University, USA

J. Reese Faust, University of Memphis, USA - "Adjudicating Alterity? Lévinas and Legal Subjectivity"

Shira Wolosky, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel - "Levinasian Discourse Ethics"

Sarah Horton, Boston College, USA - "Ethical Community and the Challenge of Friendship"

Break—Open Zoom Room (12:45-1:00)

Panel 2 – Literature, Theatre, and Community (1:00-2:30)

Moderator: Sol Neely, Heritage University, USA

Steven Shankman, University of Oregon, USA - "Literature, Scripture, Community: Levinas and Tolstoy's Shorter and Late Fiction"

Lisa S. Starks, University of South Florida, USA - "Levinas, Melodrama, and Yiddish Shakespeares"

Michael Portal, Texas A&M, USA - "Levinas, Anarchy, and the Possibility of Jewish Community"

Panel 3a – Animals, Environment and Other Others (2:30-4:00)

Moderator: Katherine Kirby, Saint Michael's College, USA

Kaleb Cohen, University of Montana, USA – "Alterity and the Environment: Levinas, Ecology, and Indigenous Perspectives"

Daniel Cook, Duquesne University, USA – "The More-Than-Human Other of Levinas's *Totality & Infinity*"

Robert Scott, University of North Georgia, USA – "Levinas and Leopold on Community, the Other, and the Grounds for Ecological Responsibility"

Panel 3b – Dimensions of Asymmetry (2:30-4:00)

Moderator: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University, USA

Bernardo Andrade, Emory University, USA - "Human Reciprocity and Divine Asymmetry"

Kaitlyn Newman, Georgia College & State University, USA - "Searching for Political Equality through Ethical Asymmetry: An Alternative Take on Levinas, Community, and the Political"

Alexander Altonji, The New School for Social Research, USA - "Varieties of Moral Asymmetry: A Conversation between Levinas and Løgstrup"

27th July, Tuesday (11:00-4:15 pm EST, UTC-4)

Book Session (11:00 – 12:30)

Moderator: Sandor Goodhart, Purdue University, USA

Annabel Herzog, University of Haifa, Israel

Levinas's Politics: Justice, Mercy, Universality

(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020)

Respondent: **Deborah Achtenberg**, University of Nevada, Reno, USA

Respondent: **Martin Shuster**, Goucher College, USA

Panel 4 – Violent and Nonviolent Resistance (12:30-1:30)

Moderator: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University, USA

Justin Pearce, University of New Mexico, USA - “‘Thou Shalt Not Kill’: Levinas and Benjamin on the Ethics of Revolutionary Violence”

Patrick Andre Mencias, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines - “Ethical Resistance as Resistance: A Possibility of Nonviolence in Emmanuel Levinas’ Ethical Responsibility”

Break—Open Zoom Room 1:30-1:45

Panel 5 – Transcendence and Substitution in Philosophy and Faith (1:45-3:15)

Moderator: Timothy Stock, Salisbury University, USA

Chungsoo J. Lee, Antiochian House of Studies, USA - “Substitution and the Symbolism of Christ: Levinas and Kant on Ethics and Religion”

Rachid Boutayeb, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar - “From the Text to the Face: Attempt at a Levinasian Reading of the Qur'an”

Méridith Laferté-Coutu, Penn State University, USA - “Levinas’ Account of the Concretization of Transcendence”

Panel 6 – Inter-Species and Inter-Generational Responsibility: Levinas, the Environment, and the Nonhuman Animal (3:15-4:15)

Moderator: Timothy Stock, Salisbury University, USA

Matthias Fritsch, Concordia University, Canada - “Natal Alienation and Future People”

Emma Sigsworth, Independent Scholar, Canada - “Animal Ethics and Levinas’s Teaching Relation”

28th July, Wednesday (11:00-4:15 pm EST, UTC-4)

Panel 7a – Technology, Place, and Humanity (11:00-12:30)

Moderator: Joëlle Hansel, SIREL and Collège International de Philosophie, Paris, France

Brian Bergen-Aurand, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, USA - “The Possibility of Developing an Ethics-Screens”

Sylvie Coirault-Neuburger, Independent Scholar, Paris, France - “Levinas: Work and Technics against the Standardization of Humankind”

Flora Bastiani, Université Toulouse, France - “Place and Non-Place: Reading of the Article ‘Heidegger, Gagarin and Us’”

Panel 7b – Feminist and Queer Perspectives on/with Levinas (11:00-12:30)

Moderator: Annabel Herzog, University of Haifa, Israel

Rebecca Rose, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia - “The Awakening of Husserlian Empathy and Levinasian Ethics”

Angelica Stathopoulos, Independent Scholar, Denmark - “To Be Loved: A Feminist Ethics of Feminine Passivity”

Pablo Alvez Artinprocess, Independent Scholar, Belgium - “Queering Levinas, or Rather Levinassing Queer? – Seeing *Totality and Infinity* as an Alternative Ethical Basis for Intersectionality and Auto-Ethnography”

Panel 8 – Levinas and the Talmud (12:30-1:30)

Moderator: Sarah Horton, Boston College, USA

Monika D. Kaminska, University of Hamburg, Germany - “Transmission of Thinking and Talmudic Study: Some Reflections on Dialogical Education in Light of the Thinking of Emmanuel Levinas”

Shmuel Wygoda, Herzog College, Israel - “Society as Community: A Reading of Levinas’ Talmudic Reading: The Pact”

Break—Open Zoom Room (1:30-1:45)

North American Levinas Society Keynote Address (1:45-3:15)

Richard Sugarman,
University of Vermont, USA

**“On Generational Responsibility in the Thought of
Emmanuel Levinas”**

Moderator: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University, USA

Panel 9 – Levinas, Derrida, and Hegel (3:15-4:15)

Moderator: Chungsoo J. Lee, Antiochian House of Studies, USA

Erin Graff Zivin, University of Southern California, USA - “Exposed: Derrida and Levinas in the Desert”

Bruce Gilbert, Bishop’s University, Canada - “The ‘Different Freedom’ of Infinite Responsibility”

29th July, Thursday (11:00-4:00 pm EST, UTC-4)

North American Levinas Society Keynote Address (11:00-12:00)

Helen Douglas,

Philosophy in Practice, Cape Town, South Africa

**“The Housekeeper’s Tale’:
International Solidarity in Apartheid South Africa”**

Moderator: Katherine Kirby, Saint Michael’s College, USA

Panel 10a – Illness and Death (12:00-1:30)

Moderator: Sarah Horton, Boston College, USA

Tina Williams, University of Bristol, England - “Levinas & Co-Breathing at the End of Life”

Charles Driker-Ohren, Stony Brook University, USA - “The Ethics of Time: From Death to Responsibility in Emmanuel Levinas’ Thought”

Alex Obrigewitsch, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK - “The Substitutional Community: Dying for the Other, Between Levinas and Blanchot”

Panel 10b – Solidarity and Social Relation (12:00-1:30)

Moderator: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University, USA

Robert Manning, Quincy University, USA - “The Return of the Irresponsible Subject and the Breakdown of Community and Solidarity”

Yves Sobel, Université Paris Diderot, France - “The Enigma of Human Solidarity and Community”

David Banach, Saint Anselm College, USA - “The Wisdom of Love: Love and Solidarity in Levinas”

Break—Open Zoom Room (1:30-1:45)

Panel 11 – Indifference, Dehumanization, and Dignity: Migration through a Levinasian Lens (1:45-2:45)

Moderator: Leah Kalmanson, University of North Texas, USA

Cynthia Coe, Central Washington University, USA - “The Dehumanization of Migrants: Levinas and Darwin on the Nature of Animality”

Katherine Kirby, Saint Michael’s College, USA - “Toward the Migrant: The Scandal of Indifference and the Possibility of Care”

Panel 12 – Levinas and Sartre (2:45-3:45)

Moderator: Erik Garrett, Duquesne University, USA

Mary Brown, Duquesne University and Purdue University, USA - “Understanding Voter Apathy and the Chance for Political Solidarity in the United States through the works of Emmanuel Levinas and Jean-Paul Sartre”

Claire Katz, Texas A&M University, USA - “Resisting Anti-Semitism: Sartre and Levinas on ‘La Question Juive’”

NALS Closing (3:45-4:00)