

Fourteenth Annual Conference of the
North American Levinas Society

July 23–25, 2019

Drake University

Des Moines, Iowa

NALS is grateful for the support of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Drake University, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, and Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Conference Program
2019 Theme: Vulnerability

All panels will be held in the upper floor of Olmsted Center, Drake University, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, July 23

Upper Gallery

11-3 Registration

Conference Room A

3-4:30 **Book session on Drew Dalton's *The Ethics of Resistance: Tyranny of the Absolute***
Moderator: Leah Kalmanson

- Drew Dalton (Dominican University)
- Respondents: Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga University) and David Banach (Saint Anselm College)

4:30-6:30 **Welcome Address and Keynote**

Welcome from Sue Mattison, Provost, Drake University

NALS President's welcome by Erik Garrett (Duquesne University)

Opening Keynote: "Vulnerability and Embodiment"
Brian Bergen-Aurand (Bellevue College)

Moderator: Erik Garrett

Wednesday, July 24

Upper Gallery

8-9 Coffee, tea, and light snacks

Conference Room A

9–10:30 **God, Goodness, and Vulnerability**

Moderator: Leah Kalmanson

- “Levinas, the God of St. Thomas Aquinas, and Vulnerability,” Cody Dolinsek (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)
- “A Vulnerable God: Existential Theism in Emmanuel Levinas,” Valerie Giovanini (European Graduate School)
- “Vulnerability and the Good that Loves Me,” Bruce Gilbert (Bishop’s University)

Conference Room B

Race and Gender

Moderator: Lenore Metrick-Chen

- “The Disavowal of Vulnerability,” Cynthia Coe (Central Washington University)
- “‘But I’m Not Racist!’: Denial, Fragility, and the Desire for Invulnerability,” Katie Kirby (Saint Michael’s College)
- “Gender and the Problem of Intersubjectivity,” Mila Rechich (Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University)

Conference Room A

10:45–12:15 **Politics and Policy**

Moderator: Drew Dalton

- “Ethics *and* Politics OR Ethics *or* Politics,” Tyler Tritten (Gonzaga College)
- “Who Can Lead Us to a More Responsible World—Levinas or Nishida?”, Dennis Stromback (Temple University)

- “Levinasian Ethics or Engaged Buddhism: Two Approaches to Vulnerable Populations in Nursing Practice,” Eric Dickman (Young Harris College)

Conference Room B

Speech and Ineffability

Moderator: Lenore Metrick-Chen

- “Vulnerability and Expressivity: On the Bareness of Speech,” Joe Larios (Emory University)
- “Levinas’s Wounded Speech,” Bernardo Andrade (Emory University)

12:15–1:30 *Lunch break (please see the restaurant guide at end of the program)*

Conference Room A

1:30–2:45 **Book session on Cynthia Coe’s *Levinas and the Trauma of Responsibility***

Moderator: Deborah Achtenberg

- Cynthia Coe (Central Washington University)
- Respondent: Diane Perpich (Clemson University)

Conference Room A

3–5 **Engaging Art**

Moderator: Hagan Maurer

- “Our Vulnerable Face, Our Precarious Voice: Two Allegories of Reading Otherwise (for Linda Bolton),” Jeremy Lowenthal (University of Iowa)

- “Levinas and Art after Auschwitz: The Work of Art as a Site of Vulnerability,” Kaitlyn Newman (Pennsylvania State University)
- “Ambiguity and Ethics in William Kentridge’s Prints: Levinas in the Details,” Lenore Metrick-Chen (Drake University)

Conference Room B

Empathy and Affectivity

Moderator: Katherine Kirby

- “Trapped in Responsibility,” Yves Sobel (Université Paris Diderot)
- “Teaching History as “Reenactment” of “Thoughts of Others,” David Seim (University of Wisconsin)
- “Suffering for the Suffering of the Other: The Hyperbolic Vulnerability,” Jorge Medina (Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla)

Thursday, July 25

Upper Gallery

8–9 Coffee, tea, and light snacks

Conference Room A

9–10:30 **Animals, Nature, and the Environment**

Moderator: Erik Garrett

- “Levinas and the Non-Human Other,” Kathy Lin (Georgetown University)
- “Distributed Faciality: Mobilizing the Call of the Face for a Nebulous Yet Vulnerable Nature,” Sarah Warren (Emory University)

- “The Face of the Teacher: Continuity and Vulnerability in a More-Than-Human World,” Joel Auerbach (McGill University)

Conference Room B

Goodness, Creation, and the Self

Moderator: Tyler Tritten

- “Creation and Vulnerability in Levinas’s Thought,” Andrew Kelley (Bradley University)
- “Original Responsibility,” Shira Wolosky (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- “Reading Transcendence in Evil: Levinas, Nemo, Job, Isaiah, Suffering, and Vulnerability,” Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University)

Conference Room A

10:45–12:15

Levinas’s Engagement with the Phenomenological Tradition

Moderator: Brian Bergen-Aurand

- “Escaping from Being: Corporality and Vulnerability in Levinas’s First Works,” Joëlle Hansel (Société Internationale de Recherche Emmanuel Levinas)
- “Transcendence, Revised: Levinas’s Heidegger in 1932 and 1949,” Jesse Sims (University of Toronto)
- “The Reception of Husserl’s *Lectures on the Phenomenology of Internal Time Consciousness* in Levinas and Gadamer,” Chris King (University of South Florida)

Conference Room B

Engaging Literature

Moderator: Hagan Maurer

- “Someone Ought to Be There: A Levinasian Reading of Graham Greene’s Fiction,” Don Adams (Florida Atlantic University)

- “Religious Belief and the Resistance to Vulnerability: Levinas and Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*,” Steven Shankman (University of Oregon)

12:15–1:30 *Lunch break*

Conference Room A

1:30–2:15 **Annual Talmudic reading by Georges Hansel**
Moderator: Sandor Goodhart

Conference Room A

2:30–3:45 **Book session on Steven Shankman’s *Turned Inside Out: Reading the Russian Novel in Prison***
Moderator: Leah Kalmanson

- Steven Shankman (University of Oregon)
- Respondent: Sol Neely (University of Alaska Southeast)

4–4:45 **Business meeting**

Parents Hall

5–7 *Reception with light snacks provided and drinks for purchase*

**Closing Keynote: “Essential Vulnerabilities Revisited”
Deborah Achtenberg (University of Nevada Reno)**

Moderator: Leah Kalmanson