

A CONVERSATION ON LEVINAS

October 23rd, 2006 at 12 PM, Room, Gladfelter 914, to be followed by a short reception at the Society of Fellows Lounge on the 10th Floor of Gladfelter. The event is free and open to the public.

The Institute for the Study of Race and Social Thought and the Center for Afro-Jewish Studies (ISRST & CAJS) have organized a conversations series for the academic year 2006–2007. In each of these conversations, a scholar from another institution visits Temple to engage fellow experts in a public dialogue in their areas of research. The scholars assembled will each introduce his work and set of critical questions on the study of Emmanuel Levinas, the famed Jewish philosopher of ethics and phenomenology, which will be responded to by the other two discussants. The rest of the time will involve audience participation in the dialogue.

Discussants and Moderator's biographical information:

Hagi Kenaan is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University. He is author of the acclaimed *Present Personal: Philosophy and the Hidden face of Language*. In addition to studies of aesthetics and the philosophies of Husserl, Heidegger, Derrida, and Levinas, Kenaan has published poetry and a children's book, *One Special Day, Philosophy*.

Aryeh Botwinick is Professor of Political Science at Temple University. He is the author of the following books: *Ethics, Politics, and Epistemology: A Study in the Unity of Hume's Thought; Skepticism and Political Participation; Power and Empowerment: A Radical Theory of Participatory Democracy* (co-authored with Peter Bachrach); *Postmodernism and Democratic Theory; Skepticism, Belief, and the Modern: Maimonides to Nietzsche; Democracy and Vision* (co-edited with William Connolly). He is currently editing the following manuscripts for publication: *The Community of the Question: Negative Theology in Jewish Thought*; and *Negative Theology and Negative Theory: Emmanuel Levinas and the Human Good*.

David Fryer is a native Philadelphian who works in phenomenology, ethics, gender theory, queer theory, Africana thought, and contemporary religious thought. He is the author of *The Intervention of the Other: Levinas and Lacan on Ethical Subjectivity*, several pieces on thinkers from Edmund Husserl to Judith Butler to Phillip Brian Harper and topics from the ethics of deconstruction to African-American queer studies. He is currently finishing a manuscript for Paradigm Publishers entitled *Thinking Queer: Essays on Race, Sex, Gender, and the Ethics of Identity*, scheduled for publication in 2007, and has begun work on two additional manuscripts, one outlining a phenomenological theory of ethical intersubjectivity and one outlining a phenomenological theory of gender identity.

Walter Isaac, moderator of this event, studies the theological anthropologies underlying the assertion of various historic Jewish communities in the African Diaspora. His academic interests rest in the areas of liberation theology, Jewish legal theory, philosophical anthropology and comparative Semitics. An honors graduate of both Bethune-Cookman College and Yale Divinity School, Walter is currently a PhD student in Temple's department of Religion and a graduate fellow for the CAJS. He is the author of Isaac, Walter. 2006. "Locating Afro-American Judaism: A Critique of White Normativity," in *A Companion to African American Studies*, edited by Lewis R. Gordon & Jane Anna Gordon, pp. 512–542.

Sponsors: ISRST, CAJS, Religious Studies, Judaic Studies, Philosophy Department, Political Theory Colloquium, and the Society of Fellows