

Vortragseinladung

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Who is the Other to me? Levinas, Assymetrical Ethics, and Social-Political Equality

In response to critics of recent French philosophy, in particular Habermas and Honneth, I consider whether social-political equality necessarily requires presupposing the moral symmetry of subjects of classical liberalism. Drawing on the works of Emmanuel Levinas (1906-1995), I argue that social-political equality is compatible with and, more radically, can only be adequately developed in relation to the moral asymmetries between self and other. Levinas re-framed questions of equality, justice, and solidarity in relation to the interruptive encounters between inherently asymmetrical subjects, which he articulated through phenomena such as the face, height, sacrifice, and substitution. It is precisely such an asymmetrical ethics and humanism proceeding from the other person that is most suitable to confront contemporary moral and social issues involving unequal situations, opportunities, and resources between pluralities of non-identical concrete individuals by calling and awakening me to my inescapable responsibility to the other—regardless of and prior to any relation of mutual exchange, expectation, negotiation, or recognition.

E. S. Nelson / A. Kapust / K. Still (eds), *Addressing Levinas* (Evanston: Northwestern UP Press, 2005).

Ort & Zeit: Montag, 2. November 2009, 18:30 Uhr s.t.

Universität Wien, Institut für Philosophie, NIG, 2. Stock, HS 2i

Workshop mit Prof. Nelson: Di, 3. November 2009, 9:00-12:00 Uhr – NIG, HS 3F

Im Workshop werden sowohl der Vortrag als auch Textpassagen von Levinas zum Thema besprochen.

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