During the last two decades, the question of "the other" and "otherness" has been intensively discussed in philosophy, sociology, psychoanalysis and Jewish studies. In this connection, three ways of looking at this field have turned out to be especially fruitful: [1] the concept of recognition (rooted in Hegel), [2] the concept of "the other" (rooted in Husserl and Buber), both of which have also been addressed by feminist social philosophy and have led to a paradigm shift in psychoanalysis and in childhood psychology and [3] the anthropological and pragmatic concept of action (rooted in Mead). In addition, the problem of whether our basic social relations are to be understood as symmetrical, asymmetrical, or as a combination of both have led to alternative concepts of justice and the socio-political framework. This First Workshop in Social and Political Thought at Michigan State University will discuss new directions of understanding what is probably one of the most fundamental concepts of human life and its social organization.

**SPEAKERS and COMMENTATORS**

**Bettina Bergo** (University of Montreal); author of *Levinas between Ethics and Politics*

**Marilyn Frye** (Michigan State University); author of *The Politics of Reality. Essays in Feminist Theory*, *Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism*
David Ingram (Loyola University, Chicago, Visiting Professor at MSU); author of *Habermas and the Dialectic of Reason, Critical Theory and Philosophy, Group Rights: Reconciling Equality and Difference*

Hans Joas (University of Chicago/Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt); author of *The Creativity of Action, G.H. Mead: A Contemporary Re-Examination of his Thought, The Genesis of Values, War and Modernity*

Richard Peterson (Michigan State University); author of *Democratic Philosophy and the Politics of Knowledge*

Robert R. Williams (University of Illinois, Chicago); author of *Hegel’s Ethics of Recognition, Recognition: Fichte and Hegel on the Other*

**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, November 17**

1:00-1:15 Opening Remarks, Richard Peterson (MSU); Christian Lotz (MSU)
1:15-2:15 Robert R. Williams (University of Illinois, Chicago) *Recognition and Friendship: Hegel and Aristotle*
2:20-2:40 Comments: Richard Peterson (MSU)
2:40-3:00 Coffee Break
3:00-4:00 Discussion
4:00-4:15 Coffee Break
4:15-5:15 Hans Joas (University of Chicago, Max-Weber Kolleg Erfurt): *Trauma and Human Dignity*
5:20-5:40 Comments: David Ingram (Loyola University Chicago)
5:40-6:00 Coffee break
6:00-7:00 Discussion

**Saturday, November 18**

9:30-10:30 Bettina Bergo (University of Montreal) *Levinas’s Project: An Interpretative Phenomenology of Sensibility and Intersubjectivity*
10:40-11:00 Comments: Marilyn Frye (MSU)
11:00-11:20 Coffee Break
11:20-12:20 Discussion
12:20-1:00 Roundtable
1:00 Departure

**LOCATION**

All sessions will be held in **South Kedzie Hall 104** (seminar room Political Science); coffee, etc. will be served in the philosophy department, South Kedzie Hall 530 (see maps below).

**LODGING**

Speakers:

**Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center**
Michigan State University
Rooms for additional participants are reserved at
East Lansing Marriott® at University Place
300 M.A.C. Avenue
East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (see map)
Phone: 1-517-337-4440
Fax: 1-517-337-5001
Sales: 1-517-337-4440
Webpage: http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/LANEA
Workshop-rate: $119

Both hotels are in walking distance to campus.

Other hotels close to campus:

Residence Inn by Marriott
1600 East Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (see map)
Phone: 1-517-332-7711

Quality Inn University
3121 E Grand River Ave
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 1-800-664-6835
(Rates $77 and up)

Towneplace Suites East Lansing
2855 Hannah Blvd
East Lansing, MI 48823 (see map)
Phone: 1-800-754-6835
(Rates $89 and up)

Howard Johnson East Lansing
1100 Trowbridge Rd
East Lansing, MI 48823 (see map)
(Rates $69 and up)

Fairfield Inn By Marriott East Lansing
2335 Woodlake Dr
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 1-800-754-6835
(Rates $80 and up)
A Super-8 motel is located close to campus, but the rooms are almost unacceptable. If you travel by car, check out [http://www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) (include Lansing in your search)

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

**From Traverse City** or Points North via I-75

**From Detroit** or Points East via I-96

**From Grand Rapids** or Points West via I-96

**From Flint** or Points East via I-69

**From Jackson** or Points South via US-127
Proceed north on US-127 to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit. Follow Trowbridge Road east to Michigan State University.
Area airports are in Lansing, Detroit and Flint.

East Lansing and Jackson have AMTRAK-stations.
If you need more details click here.

SPONSORS

This event has been made possible by generous support from the Philosophy Department, Sociology Department, Jewish Studies, Department for Religious Studies, Department of Anthropology, the College of Social Science, and Paul W. Thompson (Kellogg Chair).

CONTACT AND ORGANIZATION

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There is no registration fee connected to this workshop, but we would much appreciate it if you could let us know know by email (lotz@msu.edu / hansen@msu.edu) or by phone (517.355.4490) if you are interested in participating in this event.