

Society of Jewish Ethics 2015 Annual Meeting

January 8-11, 2015

Location: Chicago, IL

Schedule

Thursday, January 8, 2015

- 9am-9pm** **Conference Desk Open** *4th Floor*
- 5:00pm** **SJE Bioethics Group Steering Committee Meeting** *Kimball - 3rd*
- 6-6:45pm** **Jewish Bioethics Dinner** *Red Lacquer – 4th*
(Pre-registration needed for dinner, but all are welcome to attend lecture)
- 6:45 – 9pm** **Jewish Bioethics Keynote**
Topic: “Medical Business Ethics: Strategies for Managing Conflicted Interests”
Speaker: Erin Bakanas, St. Louis University

Abstract: Ever since William Osler established the first medical residency program in the late 19th Century, physician virtue was viewed as an important safeguard for patients and research participants. Virtues define how we behave when no one else is watching; accordingly, they serve as a bedrock for professional self-regulation, particularly at the level of the individual physician. However, the Institute of Medicine, Association of American Medical Colleges, and other policy groups--relying on social science data indicating that ethical decisions often result from unconscious and biased processes, particularly in the face of financial conflicts of interest--have increasingly rejected physician virtue as an important safeguard for patients. In this talk, Erin Bakanas argues that virtue is still needed to supplement regulatory solutions, like mandated disclosure, for handling conflicts of interest within medicine. Medical business ethics is the ethical engagement of the financial dimension of medical practice and research.

Drawing on virtue theory and experience in a Catholic healthcare system, Dr. Bakanas will discuss strategies that physicians can adopt to minimize the influence of self-serving biases when making “medical business ethics” decisions such as choosing which medication to prescribe, which test to order, what clinical service to provide or committing to dedicate effort to research. Specifically, Dr. Bakanas will explain humility’s role as a crowning virtue in medical business ethics--not a meek humility but, rather, a courageous willingness to recognize one's own limitations and one's need to use "compensating strategies," such as time-outs and consultation with more objective others, when making decisions in the face of conflicting interests.

Respondents: Moses Pava, Yeshiva University
David Craig, Indiana University

Convener: Michal Raucher, University of Cincinnati

Friday, January 9, 2015

7am-6pm **Conference Desk Open** *4th Floor*

7:45-8:45am **Exploratory Breakfast Meeting to Discuss the Possible Formation of an Animal Ethics Interest Group**

All are welcome. Meet at **Pi Pizzeria, Mercantile Exchange, 610 Washington Ave (3 minutes' walk from the hotel)**. For more information, contact Grace Kao: gkao@cst.edu

8:00am-7:15pm **Exhibits Open** *Exhibit Hall - 4th*

8-9:00am **SJE Board Meeting** *Marshfield - 3rd*

11am-12:30pm **Concurrent Session I** *Crystal - 3rd*

Presenter: Michal Raucher, University of Cincinnati

Title: "Reproductive Ethics among Haredi Women in Jerusalem: Steps towards Ethnographically-Informed Jewish Ethics"

Abstract: This paper suggests that ethnography contributes something lacking in Jewish ethics. An ethnographically informed ethical discourse appreciates that individuals do not apply ethical norms or religious doctrine in a strict fashion but rather that morals, ethics and the embodied process of self formation dynamically contribute to ethics. Drawing on two years of ethnographic data I collected with Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) women in Jerusalem, I argue that theirs is a reproductive ethic built on autonomy-in particular the autonomy that comes from *rejecting* rabbinic incursion into their pregnancies. Building on the work of Flyvberg (2001), Scharen and Vigen (2011) and Kleinman (1995), this paper demonstrates how ethnography can be among the methods of Jewish moral discourse.

Presenter: Deborah Barer, University of Virginia

Title: "The Case Is Not Its Outcome: Moral Reasoning, Institutional Memory and the Role of the Ethics Consult Service"

Abstract: While the role of the Ethics Consult Service (ECS) varies somewhat between institutions, its primary purpose is to help medical practitioners navigate ethical issues raised by a specific case. This paper explores how the ECS at the University of Virginia facilitates moral reasoning by preserving not only the outcome of past cases, but also by remembering the process of reasoning that surrounded them. Through a structural comparison of the case-based reasoning used by the ECS to that of Talmudic argumentation, this paper highlights the institutional role of the ECS as a living repository of moral and medical knowledge.

Convener: Aana Vigen, Loyola University Chicago

12:30-2pm **Lunch**

12:45-2pm **Student Caucus** *Red Lacquer – 4th*

(Pre-registration needed for lunch.)

Conveners: Agnes Chiu, Fuller Theological Seminary

Brett McCarty, Duke University Divinity School

12:45-2pm **Junior Faculty Caucus** *Cresthill - 3rd*

(Pre-registration needed for lunch.)

Conveners: Elise Edwards, Baylor University

Eli McCarthy, Georgetown University

12:45-2pm **Contingent Faculty Caucus** *Wilson - 3rd*

Conveners: Christine Darr, University of Iowa

Debra Erickson, Siena College

2:00-3:30pm **Concurrent Session II** *Salon 4/9 - 3rd*

Presenter: Sarah Zager, University of Chicago

Title: "'It is not in their hands': Alienating Dignity in Human Rights and Jewish Law"

Abstract: Human dignity has become a central pillar of the human rights discourse, even as it has received harsh treatment for being a flimsy philosophical concept that serves as a proxy for other political, ethical, and religious agendas. Halakhic sources provide a novel set of terms for understanding how and whether dignity might be "alienated" in the service of the broader interests of those involved. These sources not only provide insight into Jewish liturgical practice, they also may help us rethink key theoretical questions surrounding human rights guaranteed by human dignity.

Presenter: Alyssa Henning, Northwestern University

Title: "Toward a Jewish Research Ethic: Job and Compensation for Injured Research Subjects"

Abstract: This paper is part of a larger project to develop a Jewish approach to the ethics of medical research with human subjects. In this paper, I engage questions about the ethical obligations that emerge when research subjects are injured during experiments. Reading Job as the subject of an experiment designed and implemented by God and Satan and interpreting Job's ultimate rewards as compensation for his injuries, I argue that the U.S. must implement policies to compensate injured research subjects. Moreover, we must wrestle with the truth that even the most creative forms of compensation cannot make injured subjects whole again.

Convener: Rebecca Levi, University of Virginia

8:15am-6pm **Conference Desk Open** *4th Floor*

9:30-10:45am **Shabbat Morning Service** *Price Room - 5th*

Including discussion of Parashat Shemot led by Emily Filler (St. Olaf College)

11am-1:30pm **SJE Lunch Session** *Buckingham - 5th*

(Pre-registration required for the kosher vegetarian meal.)

Session is open to all.

Title: "Common Law and Common Ground: Reconceiving Covenantal Ethics in Contemporary Jewish and Christian Thought"

Panelists: Anthony Bateza, Princeton Theological Seminary

Elias Sacks, University of Colorado Boulder

Shira Billet, Princeton University

Derek Woodard-Lehman, Princeton Theological Seminary

Abstract: Luther's distinction between "law" and "gospel" divides Christian ethics from Jewish ethics. Worse, it divides Christians from Jews. This joint SJE-SCE panel takes up these problems by reconsidering the so-called third use of the law. They argue that what is needed is not only a "third use" of the law, but rather a "third way" of conceiving the law itself that does not divide it from grace and freedom. Drawing on the juridical resources of common law, the philosophical resources of pragmatism, and the theological resources of postliberalism, they outline an alternative covenantal conception of law.

Convener: Derek Woodard-Lehman, Princeton Theological Seminary

This session continues into Shabbat Lunch. **Price - 5th**

12:30-2:00pm **Women's Caucus** *Red Lacquer - 4th*

(Pre-registration needed for lunch.)

The women's caucus meeting is a time of meeting and connecting with colleagues, as well as discussing issues for women in the academy.

Conveners: Keri Day, Brite Divinity School/TCU

Kate Ott, Drew University Theological School

2:00-3:30 **Concurrent Session IV**

Presenter: Jessica Kirzane, Columbia University

Title: "The Ethics of Intermarriage in American Jewess, 1895-1899"

Abstract: The journal American Jewess, founded in 1895 and edited by Rosa Sonnenschein, contained a wide range of advice and information on current events, science, literature, and women's issues. Among the most frequently thematized topics in the magazine's fiction was the question of intermarriage. This paper examines the journal's representation of intermarriage from an ethical perspective, arguing that in these works of fiction intermarriage figures as an obstacle in the path toward righteous Jewish living. These works of fiction moralize against intermarriage using the language of race purity and submit that intermarriage is a potential failure in the domestic mission of Jewish womanhood.

Respondent: Annalise Glauz-Todrank, Wake Forest University

Convener: Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University Bloomington

3:30-4:00pm **Break** *Exhibit Hall - 4th*

4:00-5:30pm **Concurrent Session V** *Salon 2 - 3rd*

Presenter:Shaul Magid, Indiana University

Title:"Meir Kahane the Ethics of Violence"

Abstract: Meir Kahane is perhaps most well-known in America as founder of the Jewish Defense League in 1968. His advocacy of Jewish militarism became the bane of the liberal American Jewish Establishment, creating an alternative response to the threat of Anti-Semitism and putting the liberal establishment on the defensive. This essay will explore the "ethics" of Kahane's theory of violence using the anti-colonialist ideology of Frantz Fanon, Hannah Arendt, and Slavoj Zizek. I argue that Kahane indeed has an "ethics" of violence by viewing the Jews as a perpetually "colonized" people who are justified in responding violently to their colonized status.

Respondent:Martin Kavka, Florida State University

Convener:Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology

5:31pm *Havdallah* *On your own*

Sunday, January 11, 2015

7:15-8:45am **Breakfast with an Author** *Red Lacquer – 4th*
(Pre-registration is required.)

Buffet opens at 7:15; Discussion 7:45-8:45

Includes: Rashkover, Randi and Martin Kavka (eds.), Judaism, Liberalism, and Political Theology

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| 7:45-8:45am | SJE Members Meeting | <i>TBD</i> |
| | <i>Open to all SJE Members</i> | |
| 8:30-11:15am | Exhibits Open | <i>Exhibit Hall - 4th</i> |
| 8am-12:30pm | Registration Desk Open | <i>4th Floor</i> |
| 10:30-11am | Break | <i>Exhibit Hall - 4th</i> |
| 11am-12:30pm | Concurrent Session VI | <i>Monroe - 6th</i> |

Presenter: Susan Breitzer, National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Title: "Organizing the Afflicted and Bargaining with the Comfortable: Jewish Ethics and Labor"

Abstract: Jewish ethics as applied to labor relations goes all the way back to the Tanakh. Legislation regarding labor was further codified in the Talmud. Yet over the centuries following the destruction of the Temple, labor ceased to be a central focus of Jewish ethics, as communal survival became the primary focus of religious leaders. The current rabbinic emphases on Jewish ethics in the world of work, therefore, have been a relatively recent phenomenon. This paper will examine the history of the Jewish ethics and labor among American Jews, and the ideas behind the creation of Jewish religious-based worker justice movements.

Presenter: Geoffrey Claussen, Elon University

Title: "The Legacy of the Kelm School of Musar and the Ethics of Wealth and Poverty"

Abstract: This paper explores how a variety of contemporary Jews have drawn on the ideas of the virtue-focused Kelm school of the Musar movement in formulating visions of how the Jewish tradition should best respond to poverty. The paper considers Israeli ultra-Orthodox rabbis who emphasize a path of voluntary poverty and a disdain for commerce, an American rabbi and business consultant who has harnessed the ideas and practices of the Musar movement in offering a path to personal prosperity, and the development organization American Jewish World Service's efforts to use models from Kelm in its human-rights-focused anti-poverty work in India.

Convener: Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University

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| 1-2:00pm | SJE Members Meeting | <i>Price - 5th</i> |
| | <i>Open to all SJE Members</i> | |