

American Weil Society 2015 Colloquy at Lesley University (Cambridge, MA)

“Simone Weil: Religion and Rootedness”

Friday, April 24th

Session I 8:30-9:45: *Weil, Friendship, and Companionship*

- A. “Friendship in the Thought of Weil and Aristotle: Cosmic and Political Rootedness,” Andra Striowski, University of Ottawa and Lawrence E. Schmidt, University of Toronto
- B. “Toward Attentive Companionship: The Anti-Colonial Poetry and Praxis of Simone Weil and Gustavo Gutiérrez,” Benjamin Davis, University of North Dakota

Break 9:45-10:00

Session II 10:00-11:15: *New states, utopias, postmodernity*

- A. “*L’enracinement*: Modern, Postmodern, Premodern,” Dr. David A. Scott, William Meade Professor of Theology and Ethics, Retired, Virginia Theological Seminary
- B. “A Compromised Utopia: The Role of the State in Simone Weil’s *The Need for Roots*,” Scott Ritner, New School for Social Research

Lunch break 11:15-12:30

Session III 12:30-1:45: *Weil and Education*

- A. “Laic Education in the Formative Years of Weil’s Thought and Spinoza as its Source,” Noriko Sato, University of the Sacred Heart at the School of Medicine
- B. “Rooting Justice in Education,” Kazuaki Yoda, Independent Scholar

Break 1:45-2:00

Session IV 2:00-3:15: *Weil, the Material World, and Work*

- A. “*L’Enracinement*: ‘The object of my research is not the supernatural... Earthly things are the criterion of spiritual things,’” E. Jane Doering, Univ. of Notre Dame
- B. “Nobody is Working for the Weekend: Connecting Weil’s Spirituality of Work and Luther’s Concept of Vocation,” Adam Pryor, Assistant Professor of Religion & Director of the Varenhorst Center for Discovery, Reflection, and Vocation, Bethany College

3:30-5:00 Houghton Library, Harvard University, visit to view Simone Weil manuscripts in Boris Souvarine archive

6:30 Weil Society Banquet in Washburn Lounge

Saturday, April 25

Session I 9:00-10:15: *Assessing Critiques of Weil*

- A. "Marseilles, April-May 1942: Simone Weil's 'Three Sons of Noah' and Her Conversion Narrative," Benjamin Braude, Boston College
- B. "*The Need for Roots... 72 Years Later*," Bartomeu Estelrich, Boston College

Break 10:15-10:30

Session II 10:30-11:45: *Iris Murdoch and Weil*

- A. "'To Look Until One Exists No More': Iris Murdoch and Simone Weil on the Metaphysic and Ethic of Attention," Vance Morgan, Providence College
- B. "What Does It Mean to Have an Inner Life? The Language of the Nuptial Chamber and the Language of the Marketplace," Eric O. Springsted, Interim Senior Pastor, Swarthmore Presbyterian Church and Librarian, The Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ

Lunch break 11:45-1:00

Session III 1:00-2:15: *Weil and the Existentialists*

- A. "Kissing the Earth: Dostoevsky and Simone Weil on Rootedness and the Eternal in Acquiescence to Individual Suffering," David Banach, St. Anselm College
- B. "Simone Weil and Albert Camus: Finding One's Roots in a Plague-Stricken World," Robert Reed, Boston College

Break 2:15-2:30

Session IV 2:30-4:15: *Roots, Religion, and Place*

- A. "Moral Chlorophyll: Simone Weil on Roots and Attention," Jacquelyn Maxwell, University of Western Ontario
- B. "Seeing the Impersonal Leaves of a Sky-Rooted Tree: Tracing Hinduism in the Thought of Simone Weil," Mauricio Najarro, Graduate Theological Union
- C. "Does Religion Have a Place?: Weil's World-Affirming Philosophy as an Antidote to Worldliness," Ian Clausen, Valparaiso University

AWS Business meeting 4:30-5:30