

## The American Weil Society

Sophie Bourgault, President of the AWS  
School of Political Studies  
Director of Research CIRCEM  
University of Ottawa  
120 University (7062)  
Ottawa, ON Canada K1N 6N5  
sbourgau@uottawa.ca  
Phone: 562-5800 (4962)  
Web: [www.americanweilsociety.org](http://www.americanweilsociety.org)

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Dear Friends and Members of the American Weil Society,

I hope this finds you well.

First, a friendly reminder that the deadline for paper proposals for the next AWS colloquy is **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. As previously announced, the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society will be held at the University of Notre Dame on March 17-19, 2022. The colloquy is organized by Professors Ann Astell and E. Jane Doering; many sincere thanks to both for their hard work on what promises to be a fantastic event. The topic of the colloquy will be: **“Translations of Beauty: Simone Weil and Literature”**. Particularly welcome would be papers considering Weil’s use of literature, her skills in varied literary genres, her purposeful subversions of traditional meanings, her influence on other writers, etc. The theme ‘Translations of Beauty: Simone Weil and Literature’ is deliberately broad so that any aspect of Weil’s political, religious and/or ethical philosophy may be addressed under the heading. The colloquy will feature a special panel on translating Weil’s work, a roundtable dedicated to Peter Winch’s *The Just Balance*, as well as keynote speeches by Professors **Robert Chenavier** (President, Association pour l’étude de la pensée de Simone Weil), **Vincent Lloyd** (Villanova University) and **Alex Nemerov** (Stanford University).

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the conference will consist of a mixture of in-person, standard paper presentations (held on March 17-19<sup>th</sup> on the campus of the University of Notre-Dame), and of a few virtual panels held on Zoom on select Fridays *after* the conference (times TBA). Please note that paper presenters for the in-person conference will be asked to send to the local hosts a detailed two-page summary/outline of their talks by March 5<sup>th</sup>; no prior recording of the talks is necessary. There will be a conference registration fee (early bird 50\$ for regular attendees; 25\$ for students). Please note that this registration fee will cover all meals and the conference banquet. People who are unable to travel will be able to listen to keynote speeches and panels via Zoom (with a modest registration fee of 10\$ (early bird)). Detailed instructions about the registration process, a list of suggested accommodation, information about the banquet and a copy of the preliminary program will be sent out to AWS members in late January 2022.

Once again, please note that the deadline for proposals is earlier than usual: **November 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2021. Your proposals (300 words maximum) should be prepared for anonymous review and emailed to E. Jane Doering ([doering.3@nd.edu](mailto:doering.3@nd.edu)), with your paper title and all contact details in your email. Your proposal should specify whether you would like to present *in person* at the University of Notre Dame (March 17-19) or on a *virtual panel* (on select Fridays *following* the colloquy). **Please note that priority will be given to in-person presentations.** The University of Notre Dame is happy to welcome AWS members once again, to a very beautiful campus. Let's make a major effort to enjoy meeting together in person once again.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee, consisting of the hosts (Ann Astell and E. Jane Doering), the AWS President (Sophie Bourgault), and the AWS Vice President (Scott Ritner). Letters of acceptance will be sent out to participants prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We remind you that in order to present a paper, you must be an up-to-date member of the AWS.

Finally, doctoral students who wish to apply for a **Junior Weilienne Scholar Grant** should attach to their email a brief statement of interest (one that specifies the title of their PhD thesis, their academic institution and that includes a short biographical note). These grants are there to help cover travel expenses for doctoral students whose abstracts are accepted for presentation at the AWS colloquy. We are pleased to announce that this year, the AWS will be able to offer more generous Weilienne Scholar Grants to doctoral students who qualify for them (the specific amount of the grants will depend on the number of qualifying applicants).

*And now for other news:*

NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE AWS. This will be my last year as president. Dr. Scott Ritner, our current vice president, will take over as president at the University of Notre Dame colloquy, during our business meeting. Following AWS bylaws, it is my role now to ask the AWS membership **to suggest nominees for the position of Vice President.** Please send Sophie Bourgault ([sbourgau@uottawa.ca](mailto:sbourgau@uottawa.ca)) and Scott Ritner ([ritnersb@potdam.edu](mailto:ritnersb@potdam.edu)) suggestions for nominations, as soon as possible. Following the receipt of those names and after discussion with the board, the President and Vice President will contact these nominees individually to ask them if they are interested in the position. If there is more than one nominee interested in the position, there will be a vote at the business meeting. If a vote is necessary, AWS members whose dues are currently paid may vote, either in person at the meeting at which elections are held (at the University of Notre-Dame in March), or by proxy. Your vote can be sent to a member of the board no later than the day prior to the business meeting. More information on the election will be given in the next Newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENT BY THE SIMONE WEIL DENKKOLLEKTIV.

On October 18<sup>th</sup> (7-8pm), the Simone Weil denkkollektiv will be hosting an online event, with Jane Bennett and Simone Kotva, on "What Becomes of Agency in a More-Than-Human World?". **To register please contact: [simoneveil-denkkollektiv@hu-berlin.de](mailto:simoneveil-denkkollektiv@hu-berlin.de)** For more information about the denkkollektiv, see: <https://www2.hu-berlin.de/simoneveil-denkkollektiv/info/>

INTERVIEW WITH ERIC O. SPRINGSTED. A Hermitix podcast with Eric O. Springsted (“The Philosophy of Simone Weil”) can be found here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/the-philosophy-of-simone-weil-with-eric-o-springsted/id1437997652?i=1000528138299>. You can also find it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4foM9C4i36U>

NEW BOOK. Warren Heiti (Professor of philosophy and liberal studies, Vancouver Island University, Canada) recently published a book that heavily draws on Simone Weil. It is entitled *Attending. An Ethical Art* (McGill-Queens’ University Press, 2021). Please see: [https://www.mqup.ca/attending-products-9780228006138.php?page\\_id=73&](https://www.mqup.ca/attending-products-9780228006138.php?page_id=73&)

ATTENTION. And finally, a reminder to take a look at the bi-monthly e-journal dedicated to Weil (edited by Ron Collins), ATTENTION (<https://attentionsw.org>). This journal is dedicated to exploring and illuminating the life and legacy of Simone Weil. You will find, among other recent contributions, articles by Lawrence E. Schmidt and Ron Collins, an interview with J.P. Little, book reviews by David McLellan, Tomeu Estelrich, Eric O. Springsted, Kathryn Lawson and Ron Collins, as well as a poem by Stephanie Strickland.

Warm wishes,

Sophie Bourgault  
President, American Weil Society