

# Paradoxes of Authority / The Authority of Paradoxes

*The 2014 Annual Weisbourd Conference*  
Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts  
University of Chicago  
*held at*

Franke Institute for the Humanities, Joseph Regenstein Library S118

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2014



*Lunch will be served from 11.15 a.m.*



## Opening Remarks (11.45-12 p.m.)

### Imperial and Post-Imperial Authority (12–1:30 p.m.)

Chair: Sankar Muthu (Associate Professor of Political Science, and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Daragh Grant (Political Science, Society of Fellows): “The 1638 ‘Treaty of Hartford’ Reconsidered: Jurisdiction in English-Indian relations”

Lee Cabatingan (Anthropology, University of Chicago): “The Authority of Time and the Problem of the Past for the Caribbean Court of Justice”

Stephan Hammel (Historical Musicology, University of Pennsylvania): “Universal Rhythms: Amadeo Roldán and the Stakes of Latin American Musical Modernism”

### Sovereignty, Authority and the Space of Politics (1:45–3:15 p.m.)

Chair: Jennifer Pitts (Associate Professor of Political Science, and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Nina Valiquette Moreau (Political Science, Society of Fellows) “Plato on Active, Critical and Juridical Citizenship”

Daniel Nichanian (Political Science, University of Chicago) “The Paradoxical Decision: Truth and Authority in Carl Schmitt and Saint Paul”

Nicole Jerr (Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University): “Six Characters in Search of a Sovereign: Pirandello's Henry IV”

### Subjectivity and Resistance: Interventions in Critical Theory (3.30–5:00 p.m.)

Chair: Mark Loeffler (History, Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Ashleigh Campi (Political Science, University of Chicago) “Ethics of Precarity and the Problem of Authorization”

Ben Fong (Religion, Society of Fellows) “The Possibility of Resistance in the Crisis of Internalization: Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, and the Consequences of the Emergence of a New Type of Human Being”

Barbara Umrath (Philosophy, Dartmouth College) “Gendered Dialectics: Authority and Subjectivity in the Early Frankfurt School”



*Coffee Break*



### Keynote Presentation (5:30 p.m.)

J.M. BERNSTEIN (University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research)  
“Suffering - Nature - Reason: On the Moral Authority of Modernism.”

Respondent: Richard Neer (William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor of Art History,  
Cinema & Media Studies)

### Reception (7:30 p.m.)

# Paradoxes of Authority / The Authority of Paradoxes

*The 2014 Annual Weisbourd Conference*  
Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts  
University of Chicago  
*held at*

**Franke Institute for the Humanities, Joseph Regenstein Library S118**

**SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2014**



*Breakfast will be served from 9 a.m.*



## **Authorship and Origins (9:30–11:00 a.m.)**

Chair: Michèle Lowrie (Professor of Classic Languages and Literatures, and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Audrey Wasser (Comparative Literature, Society of Fellows): “‘A Word to the Wise’: Spinoza and the Authority of Reading”

David Egan (Philosophy, Society of Fellows): “The Deferral of Authority in the Openings Passages of St. Augustine’s Confessions and Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations”

Jared Holley (Politics and International Studies, Society of Fellows): “Intention or Reception? Competing sources of Authority in the Interpretation of Rousseau’s Epicureanism”

## **Paradoxes of Agency (11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.)**

Chair: James Conant (Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities, Professor of Philosophy, and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Francey Russell (Philosophy, University of Chicago) “Self-Opacity and Moral Authority”

Rafeeq Hasan (Philosophy, Society of Fellows): “The Form and Content of Choice”

Birte Loschenkohl (Philosophy, Society of Fellows): “Faith and Indecision: Kierkegaard on Agency in View of the Absurd”

Tuomo Tisala (Philosophy, University of Chicago) “How do we Author Ourselves? Reason, Motivation, and the Foucaultian Moral Subject”



*Lunch Break*



## **Negotiating Paradigms of the Social (2:30–4:00 p.m.)**

Chair: Gary Herrigel (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, and Senior Fellow, Society of Fellows)

Daniel A. Menchik (Sociology, Michigan State University): “Moving Beyond Inexorable Models of Authority”

Sarah Kurnick (Sociology/Anthropology, LeHigh University): “Contradictions, Inconsistencies, and Incongruities: The Paradoxes of Ancient Maya Political Authority”

Seth Mayer (Philosophy, Northwestern University): “Democracy and the Paradox of Social Ethos”

## **Teaching Disobedience (4:15–5:45 p.m.)**

Peter Wirzbicki (History, Society of Fellows): “Before Thoreau: Black Abolitionists, Transcendentalists and the Abolitionist ‘Higher Law’ Theory.”

Ian Desai (History, Society of Fellows): “Which Came First, the Reception or the Theory? Gandhi and Civil Disobedience in South Africa”

Elizabeth Williamson (Sociology, Society of Fellows): “(Dis)obedience, Ritual, and Movement Commitment in the 21st Century”

Andy Junker (Sociology, Society of Fellows): “Civil Disobedience in Social Movement Context”

**Reception (5:45–7:00 p.m.)**

**Conference Dinner at *Nana Organic* for Speakers and Panel Chairs (7.30 p.m.)**