ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF EXTREME FASTING IN EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADITIONS

Friday 31 May 2024
Saturday 1 June 2024

Room F-113
Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern
Institute for the Science of Religion
University of Bern

Registration via e-mail to:
sekretariat.relwi@unibe.ch

For Participation via Zoom:
https://unibe.ch.zoom.us/j/3999770225
Conference program

Friday 31 May 2024

8:30 Opening: Welcome Address by Claire Maes and Jens Schlieter

Extreme Fasting in Religious and Ascetic Contexts

9:00 – 10:00 Bernadett Bigalke
(University of Leipzig, Germany)
The Celebration and Contestation of Extreme Food Abstinence as a Form of Piety among Western Catholic Women in Early Modern and Modern Times

10:00 – 11:00 Stefan Rindlisbacher
(University of Vienna, Austria)
Fasting in Life Reform Movements (1850-1950)

11:00 – 12:00 Kanae Kawamoto
(Tokyo University, Japan)
The Changing Place of Extreme Fasting in Naikan: Revaluing Buddhist Ascetic Practice for Psychotherapeutic Benefits.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00 Monika Schrimpf
(University of Tübingen, Germany)
Extreme Asceticism: Fasting, Self-Mumification, and Marathon Monks in Japan

14:00 – 15:00 Yutaka Kawasaki
(Tokyo University, Japan)
Philosophy and Ethics of the Jain Fast unto Death (sallekhanā)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

Hunger Strikes and the Philosophy of Non-Violent Resistance

15:30 – 16:30 Nayan Shah
(University of Southern California, U.S.A.)
African American Civil Rights Hunger Strikes and the Quandaries of Mental Health and Fitness

16:30 – 17:30 Ian Miller
(Ulster University, Ireland)
The Hunger Strikes of Suffragettes: The Ethical Dilemma of Force Feeding

17:30 – 18:00 Discussion

Saturday, 1 June 2024

10:00 – 11:00 Vinay Lal
(University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.)
The Body in the Body Politic: Gandhi and the Art and Politics of Fasting

11:00 – 12:00 Valeriya Gazizova
(Heidelberg University, GSRL, Paris)
Underground Fasting Practices among Mongols in Soviet Kalmykia: Towards an Analysis of the Ethics of Resistance

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

Systematic Comparison and Transcultural Philosophical Evaluation

13:00 – 14:00 Claire Maes
(University of Tübingen, Germany)
The Jain Fast unto Death and Voluntarily Stopping of Eating and Drinking: A Systematic Comparison

14:00 – 15:00 Brianne Donaldson
(University of California, Irvine, U.S.A.)
Ethical Relativism versus Global Bioethics: or how Jainism can Contribute to End-of-life Debates

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 Jens Schlieter
(University of Bern, Switzerland)
The Ethics of Fasting to Death in Religion, Terminal Care, and Politics: Individual Decision-Making and its Effects on Communities

17:00 – 18:00 Roundtable Discussion
Extreme Fasting Practices Compared