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** by Claire Maes and Jens Schlieter

**Extreme Fasting in Religious and Ascetic Contexts**

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

10:00 – 11:00 **Stefan Rindlisbacher**
(Universities of Bern and Fribourg, Switzerland)
Fasting in Life Reform Movements (1850-1950)

11:00 – 12:00 **Kanae Kawamoto**
(Tokyo University, Japan)
From Self-Starvation to Death to Self-Salvation to Life through Extreme Fasting: The Development of Yoshimoto Naikan Therapy

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00 **Monika Schrimpf**
(University of Tübingen, Germany)
Extreme Asceticism: Fasting, Self-Mummification, 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

17:30 – 18:00 Discussion

18:30 – 19:00 **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

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 **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

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Roundtable Discussion
Extreme Fasting Practices Compared

**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

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 **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

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 Roundtable Discussion
Extreme Fasting Practices Compared