

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**Societas Ethica | Volos Academy**  
**24-27 August 2017**  
**Giving an Account of Evil | Das Böse verantworten**  
**Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Volos,**  
**Greece/Griechenland**

Conference Programme  
*Konferenzprogramm*

Philosophers and theologians have reflected upon the ‘problem of evil’ throughout history. Explanations of the very term and the origins of evil and the ways evil is expressed remain contested. This conference invites scholars of moral philosophy and theological ethics to address this complex theme both as an ethical category and in concrete contexts.

More than seven decades after World War II ended, it is impossible to ethically address evil without engaging the shadow of the Shoah, which has radically changed the understanding of the scope of intentionally-inflicted harm and violence. Today, analyses of evil mostly depart from theological explanations and turn to the humanities. Concrete studies include multiple examinations of the phenomenology of violence, and the psychology and philosophy of trauma and its ethical implications. Furthermore, they include the examination of different faces of structural violence, the impact of colonialism on racism and the rise of neocolonialism, the re-emergence and attractiveness of nationalist and authoritarian views, and modern forms of slavery, organized crime and human trafficking.

At our meeting, we want to structural a balance between conceptual analyses from within the theological and philosophical traditions on the one hand, and historical and/or contemporary presentations, grappling with how we can—and indeed must—give an account of evil in today’s world.

As we meet in Greece, it is impossible to engage the theme of evil without also grappling with the issues of human migration, economic inequality, and evolving interpretations of our European histories. Whether and how we bring these histories into conversation with present events may well determine our understanding of – and ultimately, our responses to – the evil we encounter today.

## Thursday 24 August 2017

<b>13.00 - 19.00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>19.00 - 20.00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>20.15 - 20.45</b>	<b>Welcome address and thematic introductions</b> Metropolitan Ignatios of Demetrias - Chairman of the Board of Directors of Volos Academy Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis - Director of Volos Academy Dr. Hille Haker - President of Societas Ethica
<b>20.45 - 22.00</b>	<b>Keynote Session 1 - Conference Hall "Dimitrias"</b> <b>Prof. Marcel Hénaff</b> University of California San Diego "On the Genesis of Evil in the Human Species: Homo Sapiens, Homo Loquens, Homo Crudelis"
<b>22.00</b>	<b>Shuttle to the Park hotel</b> <b>Social evening</b>

## Friday 25 August 2017

<b>7.00 - 08.00</b>	<b>Breakfast at the Hotel</b>
<b>8.30</b>	<b>Departure of Shuttle Bus</b>
<b>9.00 - 10.15</b>	<b>Short Paper Session 1-A - Conference Hall "Flamouri"</b> Mrs. Alexandra Lebedeva, <i>Department of Theology, Uppsala University</i> "Truth Commission as Facilitator of Ethical Transition" Prof. Göran Collste, <i>Centre for Applied Ethics, Linköping University</i> "Rectification for the Slave Trade"
	<b>Short Paper Session 1-B - Conference Hall "Dimitrias"</b> Dr. Hille Haker, <i>Loyola University Chicago</i> "Vulnerable Agency and the Problem of Evil" Dr. Zachary Goldberg, <i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</i> "The Many Faces of Evil"

**Short Paper Session 1-C - “Ayia” Room**

Dr. Nenad Polgar, *University of Vienna, University of Zagreb*

“Intrinsic Evil Today: Revisiting a(n) (Ir)Relevant Concept?”

Mr. Olli Pitkänen, *University of Jyväskylä, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences*

“Is Evil a Purely Moral Concept?”

**Short Paper Sessions 1-D - “Pelion” Room**

Dr. Andrea Günter,

“Ursprung oder Extrem? Gegenseitigkeit oder wirkliche Achtung?”

Dr. Deborah Casewell, *Liverpool Hope University*

“The Unreality of Evil: The Theological Return to Nothingness”

**10.15 - 10.30**

**Break**

**10.30 - 11.30**

**Keynote Session 2 - Conference Hall “Dimitrias”**

**Prof. Maureen Junker-Kenny**

**Trinity College Dublin**

“Justice and Mercy as Attributes of God in the face of human evil: Last Judgement with dual outcome, or *apokatastasis panton* (ultimate reconciliation)?”

**11.30 - 11.45**

**Break**

**11.45 - 13.00**

**Short Paper Session 2-A - “Pelion” Room**

**Invited Paper:**

Mr. Entoni Šeperić, *Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb*

“Prospects for an Ethic of Principled Moral Outrage”

Ms. Shiva Hemmati, *Malaya University*

“The Problem of Evil in Islam”

**Short Paper Session 2-B - Conference Hall “Flamouri”**

Dr. Ville Päivänsalo, *University of Helsinki*

“Health Disasters in Syria and beyond: Humanitarian and Negotiated Responses on the Outskirts of Evil”

Dr. Jeffrey Bishop, *Saint Louis University - Center for Health Care Ethics*

“Bureaucratic Proceduralism and the Problem of Evil”

### **Short Paper Session 2-C - “Almiros” Room**

Dr. Segalerba Gianlugi, *ACPC - Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth (Graz)*

“The Monster Within Us: Notes on Plato's Moral Psychology”

Mr. Elis Simson, *Koc University*

“Cain’s Sober Coldness: Levinas’ Approach to the Problem of Evil”

### **Short Paper Session 2-D - “Ayia” Room**

Kathryn Bouvet, *University of Vienna*

“Starre Identität als Ursprung des Bösen”

Gunther Barth, *University of Erlangen-Nürnberg*

“Überwindung des Bösen. Wie der Mensch antwortet, wenn er vernimmt, was nicht gut ist”

### **Short Paper Session 2-E - Conference Hall “Dimitrias”**

Dr. Kevin Jung, *Wake Forest University (USA)*

“Radical Evil and the Weakness of the Will”

Dr. Martin Stickler, *Trinity College Dublin, Irish Research Council postdoc*

“Evil as a Distortion of Communication”

**13.00 - 13.45**

**Lunch**

**14.00 - 15.30**

## **Special Panel: The Greek Situation**

*Conference Hall “Dimitrias”*

Dr. Michalis Zoumboulakis, *Professor and President of the Faculty of Economic Studies, University of Thessalia*

“The Greek Financial Crisis: An Economic Point of View”

Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis, *Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies*

“The Greek Financial Crisis: A Theological Point of View”

Rev. Meletis Meletiadis, *Pastor of the Greek Evangelical Church of Volos. Moderator of the Executive Committee of the Evangelical Church of Greece*

“Refugee Crisis and the Work of the Greek Protestant Church”

Alexandros Katsakioris, *Lawyer, NGO Arsis*

“The NGO Arsis and its Educational Work for the Unaccompanied Refugee Children”

<b>15.30 - 15.45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15.45 - 17.00</b>	<p><b>Short Paper Session 3-A - Conference Hall “Dimitrias”</b></p> <p>Dr. Pavle Mijovic, <i>Catholic Faculty of Theology - University of Sarajevo</i></p> <p>“The Refugee Crisis as an Indicator of the Institutional Deficiencies of The European Union”</p> <p>Mrs. Taina Kalliokoski and Mrs. Marianna Saartio-Itkonen, <i>(University of Helsinki)</i></p> <p>“Collective evil, evil collective?: Challenged Categories of Evil in the Finnish Contemporary Refugee Debate”</p> <p><b>Short Paper Session 3-B - Conference Hall “Flamouri”</b></p> <p>Dr. Silvija Migles, <i>Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb</i></p> <p>“Social Evil Threatens the Integral Development of the Human Person and of Human Society”</p> <p>Dr. Matthew Bagot, <i>Spring Hill College</i></p> <p>“When Persons Fail to Flourish: Christian Smith and Luigi Sturzo on the Personal and Social-Structural Roots of the Evil of War”</p> <p><b>Short Paper Session 3-C - “Pelion” Room</b></p> <p>Dr. Huub Flohr, <i>Fontys Hogeschool Theologie en Levensbeschouwing</i></p> <p>“Structures of Sin”</p> <p>Michael R. Fisher Jr., <i>Vanderbilt University</i></p> <p>“Resident Evil: The Structural Violence of Neoliberal Urban Redevelopment in the United States”</p> <p><b>Short Paper Session 3-D - “Almiros” Room</b></p> <p>Prof Ronnie Hjorth, <i>Swedish Defence University</i></p> <p>“Political Decay and Political Arcadianism”</p> <p>Ms. Urška Lampret, <i>University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Theology, Ph.D. student</i></p> <p>“The Community Revolution in Slovenia as a Crime Against Humanity”</p>

<b>17.30 - 18.30</b>	<b>Keynote Session 3 - Conference Hall "Dimitrias"</b> <b>Prof. Stelios Virvidakis</b> <b>National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b> "Evil as a Problem for Moral Philosophy"
<b>18.30 - 19.30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>20.00 - 22.00</b>	<b>General Assembly</b>
<b>22.00</b>	<b>Departure of Shuttle Bus</b>

## Saturday 26 August 2017

<b>7.00 - 8.00</b>	<b>Breakfast at the Hotel</b>
<b>8.30</b>	<b>Departure of Shuttle Bus</b>
<b>9.00 - 10.30</b>	<b>Keynote Session 4 - Conference Hall "Dimitrias"</b> <b>Prof. Antje Kapust</b> <b>Ruhr-University Bochum / Ruhrakademie</b> "Meanings of Evil: the Response of Responsibility"
<b>10.30 - 10.45</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>11.00 - 12.15</b>	<b>Short Paper Session 4-A - Conference Hall "Dimitrias"</b> Dr. Raphaela Meyer zu Hörste-Bührer, <i>Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz</i> "Die Gewalt der Ethik? Ein theologischer Versuch zur Frage nach der Ausübung und Legitimation struktureller Gewalt durch die Ethik"  Prof. Svend Anderson, <i>Aarhus University</i> "Demonic Evil in Kierkegaard, Sartre, and Løgstrup"  <b>Short Paper Session 4-B - Conference Hall "Flamouri"</b> Prof. Elena Namli, <i>Uppsala University</i> "Cosmopolitanism, Sovereignty, and Human Rights: In Defense of Critical Universalism"  Ms. Madelene Persson, <i>Uppsala University</i> "Exclusive Human Rights? The Insider/outsider Paradox"

**Short Paper Session 4-C - “Pelion” Room**

Dr. Zorica Maros, *Catholic Theological Faculty at Sarajevo*

“The Loss of Moral Control: A Socio-Theological Approach to the Evil of Violence”

Dr. Björn Freter

“An Attempt to Rehabilitate the Normative Category of Evil in Political Discourse: On the Phenomenology of Evil and its Application to Donald Trump.”

**Short Paper Session 4-D - “Ayia” Room**

Ms. Ysabel Johnston, *Saint Louis University (SLU)*

“Body Image, Identification and the Embodiments of Evil”

Dr. Ross W. Bellaby, *University of Sheffield*

“Hackers for Justice or Vigilantes with No Restraint?”

**12.30 - 13.15 Lunch**

**13.30 - 14.30 Keynote Session 5 - Conference Hall “Dimitrias”**

**Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli**, University of Ottawa  
President of “Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns”  
“Response of Sufism to the Evil of Terrorism”

**14.30 - 15.15 “The Future of Ethics” Interest Group**

**15.30 - 22.00 Excursion to Pelion Mountain and Conference Dinner**

## **Sunday 27 August 2017**

**7.00 - 7.45 Breakfast at the Hotel**

**8.00 - 10.00 Orthodox Mass (Volos)**

**10.30 - 11.45 Keynote Session 6 - Conference Hall “Dimitrias”**

**Dr. David Gushee**

**Society of Christian Ethics**

“What America’s White Evangelicals Just Did: A Christian Ethical Analysis of the Evils Involved in the Election of Donald Trump”

Response: **David Wellman**, DePaul University

**11.45 - 12.00 Farewell Note from the President**

**12.00 - 13.00 Lunch and Departure**