

Interrupting Evil

An International Conference on the Problem of Evil

May 26–27, 2006

Friday 10:00–20:00, Saturday 9:00–16:00

University of Helsinki

Main Building, Lecture hall 10

Fabianinkatu 33, Helsinki, Finland

“The problem of evil will be the fundamental question of post-war intellectual life in Europe”, Hannah Arendt wrote in 1945. Are we, then, truly able to confront, tackle and deal with the problem of evil? To think about evil, one must first pose the question concerning evil, its origin and its reality.

Is evil a positive principle or a privation of good? What is the difference between physical and moral evil? Does Immanuel Kant’s concept of radical evil offer us means to analyse the horrors of our centuries? Furthermore, what is the relationship between evil and law (not only in the purely legal, but also in a broader sense)? Transgression, excess, enjoyment, ecstasy – how are they related to law and evil? How to restrain the destructive consequences of evil impulses? What kind of a duty is the ethical, political and philosophical duty to think about evil?

These are some of the questions that the Interrupting Evil -conference will take up. The aim of the conference is to open, expand and deepen our understanding of the phenomenon of evil through this kind of questioning. Therefore the conference will bring together philosophical, juridical, ethical and psychoanalytical approaches.

Conference speakers:

Marcia Sá Cavalcante Schuback Södertörns högskola, Sweden

• Interrupting Evil and the Evil of Interruption: Revisiting the Question of Freedom •

Marc De Kesel Arteveldehogeschool, Belgium Jan Van Eyck Academy, Netherlands

• What if the Supreme Good is Radical Evil? On Lacan's Ethical Theory •

Artemy Magun European University at Saint-Petersburg, Russia

• Kant, Revolution and Evil •

Angus McDonald Staffordshire University, UK

• Good–Bad but not Evil •

Miklos Vetö Université de Poitiers, France

• The Impossibility of Evil •

Veronique Voruz University of Leicester, UK

• Transference and Power •

Ari Hirvonen University of Helsinki

• In Excess •

Jari Kauppinen University of Helsinki

• Arche–evil. Derrida's Philosophy Explained through the Concept of Evil •

Toomas Kotkas University of Helsinki

• Kalevala and the Genealogy of Evil •

Janne Porttikivi University of Helsinki

• Infinite Justice. Is there Place for the Truth in the Ethics of Psychoanalysis? •

Sami Santanen University of Helsinki

• Synthesis, Decision •

Hannu Sivenius University of Helsinki

• Jean–Jacques Rousseau on the Etiology and Genealogy of Evil •

Detailed program: <http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/law-evil>