



## 10<sup>th</sup> LEVINAS PHILOSOPHY SUMMER SEMINAR

*LPSS is an annual one-week long seminar of research and discussion*

### “Levinas as Educator”

Vilnius University, Lithuania

June 29 to July 3, 2026

Director: Prof. Richard A. Cohen (University at Buffalo, NY, USA & Vilnius University, LT)

Assistant Directors of Seminar: Prof. James McLachlan (Emeritus, Western Carolina University, NC, USA) and Assoc. Prof. Jolanta Saldukaiyte (Vilnius University, LT)

#### Topic Description:

How to teach philosophy has always been one of philosophy's central questions. In person, in some sense, but how precisely, and why? The traditional answers usually rely on distinguishing between opinion and knowledge and aligning this epistemological distinction with an ontological-metaphysical distinction between appearance and reality: truth, based in the real, can be taught. Socrates, seeking definition, interrogated his interlocutors face-to-face; Plato established an Academy and published Dialogues; Aristotle set up a Lyceum and published his lectures. Levinas calls for a fundamental reorientation of intelligibility finding its source not in knowledge and being but in moral responsibility, in ethics. Levinas, throughout his adult life was a teacher, from 1930 at a Jewish school in Paris through to the 1980s when after WWII he became Director of the same school, and for fifteen years from 1961 to 1976 he was also a French university professor. His life and thought are devoted to teaching, as an integral part of ethics. “Teaching,” Levinas wrote at the start of *Totality and Infinity* (1964) “is not reducible to maieutics; it comes from the exterior and brings me more than I contain. In its non-violent transitivity the very epiphany of the face is produced”.

By close reading and group discussion of selected texts by Levinas devoted explicitly to the question of teaching, the 2026 LPSS aims to clarify and critically appraise the nature and role of teaching in Levinas's ethics.

#### To apply:

Fifteen scholars of philosophy and/or educational sciences – professors and graduate students – will be accepted to participate in this round-table seminar.

To apply send:

- (1) A detailed résumé, curriculum vitae, or brief biography with contact information for two professional references;
- (2) An application essay which should address your interest, both academic and personal, in the subject to be studied; qualifications and experiences that equip you to do the work of the seminar and to make a contribution to a learning community.

Send these as email attachments to [Levinas.center@gmail.com](mailto:Levinas.center@gmail.com) or [Jolanta.Saldukaiyte@fsf.vu.lt](mailto:Jolanta.Saldukaiyte@fsf.vu.lt)

University teachers and graduate students in Philosophy and related Humanities as well as Pedagogy are encouraged to apply.

#### Application deadline: April 15, 2026.

All applicants will be notified no later than May 1, 2026.

There is no registration fee. The LPSS provides no financial support.

#### Sponsor:

This year seminar is a part of the research project Seminar is a part of the project „Assessment of Philosophy Teaching in High School Education“, Nr. P-EDU-23-19.

#### More information:

[The Levinas Center for Philosophical and Religious Studies at Vilnius University](#)

[Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar Series at University at Buffalo, USA](#)

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