



# *hannah arendt*

a one-day symposium

wednesday 13 march 2013  
university of york

# HANNAH ARENDT: A ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM

11:30-17:30

Wednesday 13 March 2013, University of York  
Bowland Auditorium, Berrick Saul Building

Unlike many other twentieth-century thinkers and theorists, Hannah Arendt has not enjoyed a particularly strong institutional reputation in the UK. Even in the US, where she lived, taught and worked after leaving Europe, her work is pressed into service to fit agendas and debates that do not do justice the complex wealth of her ideas. This symposium aims at changing all that. Through a series of short, sharp interventions, it will address the critical neglect that with which Arendt's legacy has been met hitherto, and start the process of restitution and engagement with her *oeuvre*, from the early dissertation on *Love and Saint Augustine*, through her "Jewish writings" on Rahel Varnhagen, right up to the monumental—and often controversial—work on totalitarianism, freedom, revolution, thinking and judgment.

## PROGRAMME

### 11:30 Welcome

**11:35 Keynote 1** Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway, University of London), 'Hannah Arendt at the Intersection of Disciplines'

**12:15 Panel 1** Patrick Hayden (University of St Andrews), 'Arendt, International Political Theory and the Spectre of Evil'  
Isabelle Hesse (University of York), 'Arendt's Jewish Writings'  
Simon Swift (University of Leeds), 'Hannah Arendt, Violence and Vitality'  
Arthur Bradley (University of Lancaster), 'Unbearable Life: Natality After Arendt'

### 13:30 Lunch

**14:00 Panel 2** Kathleen B. Jones (San Diego State University), 'Queer(ying) Hannah'  
Amber Carpenter (University of York), 'Creating the Place to Speak and Act for the Sake of the Fine'  
Michael Dillon (University of Lancaster), 'Arendt and Factual Freedom'  
Alexander Beaumont (University of York), 'Experiments with Freedom: Arendt and Left Culturalism'

### 15:15 Break

**15:30 Panel 3** Mihaela Mihai (University of York), 'Curb Your Enthusiasm: Reflective Judgment and the Inertia of Political Habitus'  
Mathias Thaler (University of Edinburgh), 'Flexible Banister? Hannah Arendt and the Pragmatist Ethos'  
Audra Mitchell (University of York), 'Worldly Security: An Arendtian Approach'  
David Luban (Georgetown University), 'The Identity Politics of Genocide: Arendt and Lemkin'

**16:45 Keynote 2** Norma Moruzzi (University of Illinois at Chicago), 'Reading Arendt in Iran/Reading Iran through Arendt: Speech, Action, and the Question of Street Politics'

### 17:30 Drinks

## SPEAKERS

**Alexander Beaumont** is a Lecturer in Film and Literature at the University of York. He has previously published on the relationship between Thatcherism, the 'cultural Left' and Channel 4, and has essays forthcoming on the representation of the British inner cities in Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion* and natality in Maggie Gee's apocalyptic fiction. He is currently working on a monograph entitled *Freedom and the City: Contemporary British Fiction and the Cultural Politics of Disenfranchisement*.

**Arthur Bradley** is Reader in Comparative Literature at Lancaster University. He is the author of four books including most recently *Originary Technicity: The Theory of Technology from Marx to Derrida* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). He is currently working on a new study of literature, religion and politics provisionally entitled *Unbearable Life*.

**Amber Carpenter** works primarily in Ancient Greek philosophy, looking especially at ethics and moral psychology, and the epistemology and metaphysics relevant to these. She also has been working recently in Indian philosophy, particularly the Buddhist philosophers, looking at the same intersection of ethics and moral psychology with epistemology and metaphysics. Amber came to the University of York in 2007, and has held teaching and research fellowships at Oxford, St. Andrews, Cornell, Melbourne, and the Einstein Forum (Berlin).

**Michael Dillon** is Emeritus Professor of Politics at the University of Lancaster, UK. He addresses the problematics of politics, security and war from the perspectives of 'continental philosophy' and, more recently, the theologico-political. His primary influences are Heidegger, Foucault and Derrida. He has published widely in political and cultural theory as well as in international relations. Among other journals, his essays have appeared in *Political Theory*; *Theory and Event*; *The South Atlantic Quarterly*; *Theory Culture and Society*; *Body and Society*; *International Political Sociology*; *Security Dialogue*; *The Review of International Studies*; *Alternatives*; *Millennium*; and *Political Geography*. His most recent book publications include, *Foucault on Politics, Security and War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, co-editor Andrew Neal), *The Liberal Way of War: Killing to Make Life Live* (Routledge, 2009, co-author Julian Reid); and *Deconstructing International Politics* (Routledge, December 2012). Currently, he is completing *Biopolitics of Security in the 21st Century: A Political Analytic of Finitude* (Routledge, forthcoming). Michael Dillon co-edits *The Journal for Cultural Research* (Routledge).

**Robert Eaglestone** is Professor of Contemporary Literature and Thought at Royal Holloway, University of London. He works on contemporary literature and literary theory, contemporary philosophy and on Holocaust and Genocide studies and has published widely in these areas. Forthcoming publications include *Contemporary Fiction* (OUP 2013) and, as editor, *Salman Rushdie* (Bloomsbury 2013) and *The Future of Trauma Theory* (Routledge 2013) He is the Series Editor of *Routledge Critical Thinkers*.

**Ziad Elmarsafy** is Reader in the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York. He has recently published *The Enlightenment Qur'an: The Politics of Translation and the Construction of Islam* (Oneworld, 2009) and *Sufism in the Contemporary Arabic Novel* (Edinburgh UP, 2012). His *Debating Orientalism*, co-edited with Anna Bernard and David Attwell, is due out later this year from Palgrave Macmillan.

**Patrick Hayden** is Professor of Political Theory and International Relations at the University of St. Andrews. His research focuses on international political theory, with emphases on human rights, global ethics, political violence, genocide studies, and contemporary social and political theory. His recent work includes *Political Evil in a Global Age: Hannah Arendt and International Theory* (Routledge, 2009), and he is currently editing *Hannah Arendt: Key Concepts* for Acumen Publishing.

**Isabelle Hesse** recently completed her PhD thesis entitled "The Outsider Inside: Ideas of Jewishness in Contemporary Jewish, Postcolonial, and Palestinian Literature" at the University of York, UK. Her research interests include postcolonial literature and theory, Israeli and Palestinian writing, and the intersection between postcolonial and Jewish studies. At the moment she is thinking about her next research project, which

engages with the representation of the Holocaust and Israel/Palestine in 21<sup>st</sup> century British and German popular culture.

**Kathleen B. Jones** is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at San Diego State University and Visiting Professor at Örebro University, Sweden. She has been active in the field of women and politics and feminist theory since 1975, publishing widely on feminism and political theory in both scholarly and popular journals, including *Compassionate Authority: Democracy and the Representation of Women* (Routledge, 1993), *Living Between Danger and Love: The Limits of Choice* (Rutgers University Press, 2000), and *The Political Interests of Gender Revisited*, with Anna Jonasdottir (Manchester University Press, 2009). Her latest book, *Diving for Pearls: A Thinking Journey with Hannah Arendt*, explores Hannah Arendt's influence in Jones' life.

**David Luban** is University Professor and Professor of Law and Philosophy at Georgetown University. In 2012-13 he is co-director of the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London, and has also directed Georgetown's Center on National Security and Law. His books include *Lawyers and Justice: An Ethical Study* (Princeton University Press, 1988), *Legal Modernism* (University of Michigan Press, 1994), *Legal Ethics and Human Dignity* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), and the forthcoming *Torture, Power, and Law* (Cambridge University Press), as well several edited anthologies on legal ethics and textbooks on international criminal law and on legal ethics.

**Mihaela Mihai** is a 50th Anniversary Lecturer in Political Theory at the University of York. She holds a doctorate in Political Theory from the University of Toronto, Canada. She works mainly in contemporary political and legal theory. She is currently working on a book manuscript examining the role of emotions within dramatic moments of political transformation. Her work was published in *Ratio Juris*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, and *Journal of Political Philosophy*.

**Audra Mitchell** is Lecturer in International Relations at the University of York, UK. She gained her PhD from Queen's University, Belfast, and previously worked at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of St. Andrews. She is author of *International Intervention in a Secular Age: Re-enchanting Humanity?* (Routledge, forthcoming 2014), *Lost in Transformation: Violent Peace and Peaceful Conflict in Northern Ireland* (Palgrave, 2011), co-editor (with Oliver P. Richmond) of *Hybrid Forms of Peace: From the Everyday to Post-liberalism* (Palgrave, 2011) and author of articles in *Review of International Studies*, *the British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Millennium*, *Alternatives*, *International Peacekeeping* and other journals.

**Norma Claire Moruzzi** is Associate Professor of Political Science, Gender and Women's Studies and History, and Director of the International Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests focus on the intersections of gender, religion, and national identity, particularly for Jewish and Muslim women. Her book *Speaking through the Mask: Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Social Identity* (Cornell University Press: 2000) won the 2002 Gradiva Award, and she has published articles on Iranian cinema; politicized veiling in France and Algeria; contemporary feminist approaches to female circumcision; and nineteenth century intersections of religious revivalism and imperial policy. Her current project is a book analyzing transformations in Iranian women's lives since the 1979 Revolution, tentatively titled *Tied Up in Tehran: Women, Social Change, and the Politics of Daily Life*.

**Simon Swift** is a Senior Lecturer in Critical and Cultural Theory at the School of English, University of Leeds. He is the author of *Romanticism, Literature and Philosophy* (Continuum, 2006) and *Hannah Arendt* (Routledge, 2008), plus articles on Arendt that have appeared in *New Formations* and *The European Journal of Social Theory*. He is currently working on William Wordsworth and philosophical anthropology.

**Mathias Thaler** is a Chancellor's Fellow in Politics at the University of Edinburgh. He currently works on political violence. His recent publications have appeared in *Analyse & Kritik*, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, and *Philosophy and Social Criticism*.