

The University of Chicago

GEORG SIMMEL: LIFE, SELF, CULTURE, SOCIETY

The Franke Institute for the Humanities

November 11-12, 2011

Sponsors: Committee on Social Thought, Department of Germanic Studies, Department of Music, Department of Philosophy, Department of Sociology, Divinity School, Division of the Humanities, Division of the Social Sciences, and Franke Institute for the Humanities

Prompted by the publication of the first full English translation of Georg Simmel's testamentary masterwork *Lebensanschauung* (translated as *The View of Life: Four Metaphysical Essays with Journal Aphorisms*) this conference examines afresh the implications of Simmel's inquiries into the nature of diverse forms—forms of life, selfhood, culture, and social interaction—and his prescient formulations regarding those domains in modernity. The diverse papers gain an exciting coherence when related to the one text in which Simmel set forth his magisterial architectonic.

Program

FRIDAY

9:30 Session 1. LIFE

Who are we and why are we here? Our Lives and Simmel's Life

Chair, Donald Levine, University of Chicago.

SIMMEL AT CHICAGO

Mario Small. Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago. Words of Welcome.

Donald Levine, University of Chicago. "Simmel and The University of Chicago"

SIMMEL IN OUR HEARTS The *Journal Aphorisms*: A Colloquy

Arthur Frank, University of Calgary. "The Soul of Simmel's Aphorisms"

John Andrews, University of Chicago. "Paradox, Transparadox, and the Individual in Simmel's Aphorisms"

Chair, Jim Conant, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago

LEBENSANSCHAUUNG AND SIMMEL'S LIFE

Daniel Silver, University of Toronto. "The Theme of 'Life' in Simmel's Life"

SIMMEL IN HISTORIC CONTEXT

Ingo Meyer, Bielefeld University. "Simmel as a Transitional Figure in German Philosophy"

11:30 Session 2. LIFE AND DEATH

Chair, Volkhard Krech, RU Bochum

Ryan Coyne, University of Chicago. "Death, Immortality, and Self in Simmel and Heidegger"

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Session 3. SELF

Chair, TBD

Hans Joas, University of Chicago/Freiburg.

Discussants, Paul Mendes-Flohr; Annette Disselkamp

Colloquy on "The Immanence of Transcendence." Joas, *The Genesis of Values* (2001), ch 4.

Fabio D'Andrea, University of Perugia. "Bildung as the Simmelian Form of Subjectivity"

2:30-4:15 Session 4. CULTURE: Music and Art

Chair, David Wellbery, Chair, Germanic Studies, University of Chicago

Austin Harrington, University of Erfurt. "Simmel and Aesthetic Theory"

Thomas Kemple, University of British Columbia. "Simmel's Moments Musicaux"

Berthold Hoeckner, University of Chicago. "Simmel and the Rationalization of Music in Film"

6:15 In Simmel's Sensibility. Musicale. Fulton Recital Hall.

TBD

SATURDAY

7:30 Optional. In Simmel's Sensibility: Nature and Japanese Art.

Early walk to the Japanese Garden on the Wooded Island in Jackson Park

9:30 Session 5. CULTURE: History and Religion

Chair, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Divinity School, University of Chicago

John Levi Martin, University of Chicago. "Aesthetics and the Logic of Historical Explanation in Simmel and Rickert"

Volkhard Krech, RU Bochum. "Simmel and the Contemporary Study of Religion"

Barry Schwartz, University of Georgia. "On Collective Memory and Simmel's Historiographic Categories: The Early Jesus Narratives"

11:15 Session 6. SOCIAL FORMS: In Simmel's Mold

Chair, TBD

Elisabeth Clemens, University of Chicago. "The Poor and the Gift: Forms of Social Welfare"

Annette Disselkamp, University of Lille. "On Secrecy and Interpersonal Knowledge"

Paola Castaño, University of Chicago. "Reparation and Reconciliation"

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Session 7. SOCIAL FORMS: Departing from Simmel

Chair, Thomas Kemple, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

Tom Smith, Rochester University. "Unconscious Emotional Forces in Social Interaction"

Woody Carter, University of Chicago. "The Cascade: a Form of Sequential Social Forms"

Terry Clark, University of Chicago. "The Urban Scene as a Social Form"

2:45 Session 8. SIMMEL AND MODERNITY

Chair, Robert Pippin, Chair, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

Elizabeth Goodstein, Emory University. "Simmel as Modernist Philosopher"

Alessandro Cavalli, University of Pavia. "Trust and Money: Does Simmel Help Us Understand the Case of the Euro?"

Donald Levine, University of Chicago. "From First to Last: Simmel as a Theorist of Sociocultural Evolution"

4:00 Closing Reflections. Tutti