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

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

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
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”
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