

## Eric R. Severson

Department of Philosophy, Seattle University  
[seversoe@seattleu.edu](mailto:seversoe@seattleu.edu); 617 842-6261

### Education

Ph.D., Boston University, 2010 (Religious Studies, dissertation title: *Levinas and Time*)  
Master of Divinity, Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2000  
Bachelor of Arts, Northwest Nazarene University, 1996

### Positions Held

Associate Teaching Professor, 2016-present  
Seattle University  
Associate Professor of Philosophy (tenured), 2004-2013  
Eastern Nazarene College  
Chair, Division of General Education, 2011-2013  
Eastern Nazarene College  
Director, Center for Responsibility and Justice, 2009-2013  
Eastern Nazarene College

### Books

*How Best to be Interrupted: Levinas, Plato, and the Irruption of the Other*  
(under contract with SUNY Press, publication expected in 2025).

*A Monster's Guide to World Philosophies* (under contract with Broadview Press, publication expected in 2026).

*Before Ethics* (Kendall Hunt, 2021).

*Levinas's Philosophy of Time: Gift, Responsibility, Diachrony, Hope* (Duquesne University Press, 2013).

*Scandalous Obligation: Rethinking Christian Responsibility* (Beacon Hill Press, 2011).

### Books: Edited Volumes

*The Psychology and Philosophy of Eugene Gendlin: Making Sense of Contemporary Experience*  
(lead editor, with co-editor Kevin Krycka, Routledge, 2023).

*Race, Rage and Resistance: Philosophy, Psychology and the Perils of Individualism* (co-edited with David Goodman and Heather MacDonald, Routledge, 2019).

*Memories and Monsters: Psychology, Trauma and Narrative* (lead editor, with co-editor David Goodman, Routledge, 2018).

*In the Wake of Trauma: Psychology and Philosophy for the Suffering Other* (lead editor, with co-editors David Goodman and Brian Becker, Duquesne University Press, 2016).

*The Ethical Turn: Otherness and Subjectivity in Contemporary Psychoanalysis* (co-edited with David Goodman, Routledge, 2016).

*Gift and Economy: Ethics, Hospitality and the Market* (contributor and sole editor, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012).

*"I More than Others": Responses to Evil and Suffering* (contributor and sole editor, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).

*The Least of These: Selected Readings in Christian History* (sole editor, Cascade Books, 2007).

## Chapters in Collections

- "The Time of Technology: Plato's Clock and Psychoanalysis" in *The Routledge International Handbook of Psychoanalysis, Subjectivity, and Technology* (Routledge, 2023).
- "The Queerness of the Holy," in *Why the Church of the Nazarene Should Be Fully LGBTQ+ Affirming* (SacraSage Press, 2023).
- "Halt! Socrates, Levinas, and the Divine Sign," *Misreading Plato* (Routledge, 2022).
- "What Lies Beneath: Shame, Time and Diachrony," *Shame, Temporality and Social Change* (Routledge, 2021).
- "Intergenerational Strains" (with David Goodman), *Race, Rage and Resistance* (Routledge, 2019).
- "Levinas on Psychology, Identity, and Caring for Others" (with David Goodman), *The Oxford Handbook of Levinas*, Michael Morgan, ed., 2019.
- "Levinas and Anarchic Trauma," *Trauma and Transcendence* (Fordham University Press, 2018).
- "Introduction: Listening to Monsters" (with David Goodman), *Memories and Monsters: Psychology, Trauma and Narrative* (Routledge, 2018).
- "The Time for Shame: Levinas and the Hope of Shamefulness," *Temporality and Shame: Perspectives from Psychoanalysis and Philosophy* (Routledge, 2017).
- "Trauma, Tragedy and Theater: A Conversation with Simon Critchley," *In the Wake of Trauma* (Duquesne University Press, 2016).
- "After Fire, Words: Levinas and the First Order of Language," *In Spirit and in Truth: Philosophical Reflections on Liturgy and Worship* (Claremont School of Theology Press, 2016).
- "The Body Obsessed: Reflections on Religious Enthusiasm," *This is My Body* (Pickwick Publishing, 2016).
- "Deconstructionism," "Emmanuel Levinas," and "Gabriel Marcel," in *The New Dictionary of Theology* (InterVarsity Press, 2016).
- "Time and Lament: Levinas and the Impossible Possibility of Therapy," *Psychology and the Other: A Dialogue at the Crossroads of an Emerging Field* (Oxford University Press, 2015).
- "The Dialect of the Other: Levinas, Psychology and the Mystery of Language," in *Psychotherapy for the Other: A Levinas Reader* (Duquesne University Press, 2015).
- "Church: The Event of the Kingdom of God," in *The Essential Church: A Wesleyan Ecclesiology* (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2014).
- "Economy, Gift and Mystery," *Gift and Economy: Ethics, Hospitality and the Market* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012).
- "The Hermeneutics of the Gift: A Dialogue," co-written with Richard Kearney, in *Gift and Economy: Ethics, Hospitality and the Market* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012).
- "Time, Hope, and Slumdogs: Suffering and *Creatio Ex Nihilo*" in *"I More than Others": Responses to Evil and Suffering* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).
- "What Becomes of Church and Christian Discipleship?" in *God Reconsidered: The Promise and Peril of Process Theology* (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2010).
- "Why the Other Matters to Us," in *Postmodern and Wesleyan* (Beacon Hill Press, 2009).
- "Infant Baptism" and "A Wesleyan Response" in *Preserving Evangelical Unity*, ed. Michael Meiring (Wipf & Stock, 2009).

## Articles

- “Blasphemy! Levinas and the End of Theodicy,” *Journal for Continental Philosophy of Religion*, no. 6, 2024, in production.
- “A Supreme Anachronism: Levinas, Time, and Anarchy,” *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 20, 2024, in production.
- “First Contact: Richard Kearney’s Deft *Touch* and First Phenomenology,” in *Research in Phenomenology*, 2024, in production.
- “Shaped by Modern Tools,” in *Viewpoints: Ethics and Transformative Technologies* (online op-ed, 2021): <https://www.seattleu.edu/ethics-and-technology/viewpoints/shaped-by-modern-tools.html>
- “Levinas and the Trauma of Responsibility,” in *Research in Phenomenology*. no. 49, 2019.
- “In Defense of Reverence: Levinas, Responsibility and Future Generations,” in *Metodo*, vol. 5, no. 2, Fall 2017.
- “Time, Evil and *Creatio Ex Nihilo*,” in *Janus Head* 14, no. 1, 2015.
- “The Missing Sequel: Levinas and Heidegger’s Unfinished Project,” in *Levinas Studies, Volume 9* (Duquesne University Press, 2014).
- “Beyond Hermeneutics: Levinas, Language and Psychology,” in *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* Vol. 33, no. 1, 2013.
- “Listening on the Day of Silence: *Khora* and Holy Saturday,” in *The Other Journal* 14, April 2009.
- “Ecology and the Religions of the World,” in *Science and Theology News*, February 2006.
- “Soul in World Religions,” in *Science and Theology News*, February 2005.
- “Absence Transformed: The Eucharistic Site of Theology,” in *The Wesleyan Theological Journal* 39, no. 2, Fall 2004.
- “Ethical Dialogue: Trinitarian Externality as a Pattern for Evangelism and Missions,” in *The Wesleyan Theological Journal* 38, no. 1, Spring 2003.

## Reviews

- Review of Jeffrey Bloechl, *Levinas on the Primacy of the Ethical: Philosophy as Prophecy* in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 20, 2024 (in production).
- Review of: Ethan Kleinberg, *Emmanuel Levinas’s Talmudic Turn: Philosophy and Jewish Thought*, in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 19, 2023.
- Review of: John Hanwell Riker, *Exploring the Life of the Soul*, in *Psychoanalysis, Self and Context*, vol. 17, February 2022.
- Review of: Annabel Herzog, *Levinas’s Politics: Justice, Mercy, Universality*, in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 18, 2021.
- Review of: Peter Atterton and Tamra Wright, eds., *Face to Face with Animals: Levinas and the Animal Question*, in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 17, 2020.
- Review of: Raoul Moati, *Levinas and the Night of Being* in *Journal for Continental Philosophy of Religion*, no. 1, 2019.
- Review of: Moshe Gold and Sandor Goodhart, eds., *Of Levinas and Shakespeare: “To See Another Thus,”* in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 16, 2018.
- Review of: Elliot R. Wolfson, *Giving Beyond the Gift: Apophasis and Overcoming Theomania*, in *Sophia*, February 2018.

- Review of: Richard Cohen, *Out of Control: Confrontations between Spinoza and Levinas*, in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 15, 2017.
- Review of: Simon Critchley, *The Problem with Levinas*, in *Cahiers d'études lévinassiennes*, no. 14, 2016.
- Review of: Neal DeRoo, *Futurity in Phenomenology: Promise and Method in Husserl, Derrida and Levinas*, in *The Other Journal*, November 2013.
- Review of: Kevin Hart and Michael Signer, *The Exorbitant: Emmanuel Levinas Between Jews and Christians*, in *Sophia*, vol. 52, no. 1, 2013.
- Review of: John Panteleimon Manoussakis, ed. *After God: Richard Kearney and the Religious Turn in Continental Philosophy*, in *Analecta Hermeneutica* 1, no. 1, 2009.
- Review of: Peter Gratton and John Panteleimon Manoussakis, eds. *Traversing the Imaginary: Richard Kearney and the Postmodern Challenge*, in *Analecta Hermeneutica* 1, no. 1, 2009.
- Review of: Richard Kearney, *Strangers, Gods and Monsters*, in *Journal of the Interdisciplinary Crossroads*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2005.
- Monthly book reviews: "Crib Notes" and "On the Shelf," in *Science and Theology News*, monthly issues from April 2005 – November 2006.
- Review of: Richard Kearney, *The God Who May Be: The Hermeneutics of Religion*, in *Journal of the Interdisciplinary Crossroads* vol. 1, no. 3, 2004.
- Review of: Richard Kearney, *On Stories*, in *Journal of the Interdisciplinary Crossroads* 1, no. 3, 2004.

#### **Papers and Presentations (representative sample)**

- "Catholicity Before, and After, Whiteness," *Wesleyan Theological Society* Annual Meeting, 2024.
- "Levinas and the Problem of Home; or, Toward a Postcolonial Levinas," *Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition* (PACT), 2023
- "On Not Wasting Black Time: Responses to Leswin Laubscher," *Psychology and the Other* Bi-Annual Meeting, 2023.
- "Time, Power, and Therapy," Invited Plenary Address, *Psychology and the Other* Bi-Annual Meeting, 2023.
- "The Implicity of Racism," Invited Address, *International Gendlin Symposium*, 2023.
- "The Ticking Clock: Rethinking the Time of Therapy with Plato and Levinas," *Psychology for the Other* Annual Meeting, 2022.
- "On Philosophical Trauma: Levinas and Plato," *American Psychological Society, Division 24*, 2022.
- "Responsibility and Burnout: Toward a Sabbatical Philosophy of Time," *Psychological Humanities and Ethics* Lecture Series (invited lecture), Boston College, 2022.
- "Time, Transcendence, and Technology: Examining Plato's Clock," *Society for Psychoanalysis & Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 2022.
- "Anti-racism and Liberation Theology" Panelist, *Embodied Liberation: The Felt Sense & Social Justice*, International Focusing Institute Conference, 2021.
- "Traces and Fragments: Levinas, Blanchot and Writing," *Psychology for the Other* Annual Meeting, 2021.
- "Language and Implicit Implication," *The New England Center for Existential Therapy Conference*, (invited lecture), 2021.

- “Against Tribalism: Reflecting with Gendlin on Place and Systemic Racism,” *International Focusing Institute* “Highlight,” (invited lecture), 2021.
- “Golem, Ethics and Technology,” *Psychological Humanities and Ethics Lecture Series* (invited keynote), 2020.
- “From the Elemental to the Maternal: Environmental Reflections on the work of Emmanuel Levinas” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2020.
- “Levinas and Food,” *Society for Existential and Phenomenological Psychology Annual Meeting*, 2020.
- “Levinas and Nourishment,” *Psychology and the Other Bi-Annual Meeting*, 2019.
- “A Plunge into the Elemental: Levinas and the Sea,” *Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition Annual Meeting*, 2019.
- “The Future as Irruption,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2019.
- “Zarathustra’s Laugh: Research in the Spirit of Nietzsche,” *Undergraduate Research Conference*, Boston College, 2019.
- “Heidegger and Hoarding,” *Society for Existential and Phenomenological Psychology Annual Meeting*, 2019.
- “Levinas, Shame and Diachrony,” *New School for Analytic Psychology Annual Public Event*, 2018.
- “How Best to Say ‘I’m Sorry’: Levinas, Diachrony and Apology,” *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2017.
- “Levinas, Derrida and Apologies,” *Boston College, Advanced Research Seminar* (Invited Paper), 2017.
- “Moonlight, and the First Order of Language,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2017.
- “Death’s Sting, Reconsidered,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2017
- “The Gollum, Technology and an Aesthetics for the Other,” *The Technological Body*, Hedreen Art Gallery, Seattle University, 2016.
- “The Time of Shame: Levinas, Shame and Temporality,” *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2016.
- “Nothing New Under the Sun? Philosophical Reflections on Ecclesiastes,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2016.
- “Transforming Transgender Perspectives,” (Invited Panelist), *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2016.
- “Before Understanding: Suffering, Psychology and the Perils of Modern Epistemology,” *Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology Annual Meeting*, 2016.
- “The Problem with Books: Between Sense and Sensibility,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2016.
- “After Fire, Words: The Origins of Language,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2015.
- “Kierkegaard and the Paradox of Identity,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2015.
- “Beyond Protagonism: Levinas, Psychology and Self-Narration,” *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2014.
- “Vanity! Kierkegaard’s *Sickness Unto Death*, Egoism and Atonement Theory,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2014.

- “A Conversation with Simon Critchley,” (Invited Keynote Panel Participant) *Psychology and the Other* Biennial Meeting, 2013.
- “Levinas between Psychology and Philosophy,” *Gordon University Lecture Series* (invited address), 2013.
- “What is Desire?” *Emmanuel Levinas Lecture Series, Lesley University* (invited address), 2013.
- “Older than Old, Newer than New: Holiness and Language,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2013.
- “Is Christian Responsibility Possible?” *The Future of Christianity: Addressing Emerging Challenges from Science, Morality and Social Justice*, (Invited Keynote speaker), 2013.
- “Babel’s Curse: Language, Levinas and Gadamer,” (Invited Panelist), *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2012.
- “Hospitality and Vigilance: Sergius the Christian Monk and the Young Prophet Muhammad,” *Interfaith Symposium* (Invited Address), Boston Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, 2012.
- “That Many-headed Monster: Wesley, Patočka and the Contested Heritage of Enthusiasm,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2012.
- “Disruption and Epiphany: Levinas at Work in Therapy,” (Invited Keynote Address), *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2011.
- “After the Eye for an Eye: Islam and Christianity on Radical Mercy,” *Interfaith Symposium* (Invited Keynote Address), 2011.
- “Synthesis Lost: Time and Narration in Hegel and Kierkegaard,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting* (Presidential Address), 2011.
- “Derrida and Levinas: Gift, Death and the Holy,” invited presentation, *Seminar on the Hermeneutics of the Gift*, Boston College, 2010.
- “Time, Lament and Testimony: Emmanuel Levinas and the Impossible Possibility of Therapy,” *Psychology for the Other Annual Meeting*, 2010.
- “Mimesis and the Scapegoat: Evaluating Girard’s Mimetic Theory,” invited panelist, *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2010.
- “Proximity and Diachrony: Levinas and the Philosophy of Time,” *Society for Phenomenology and Existentialist Philosophy Annual Meeting*, 2009.
- “The Violence of Justice,” *International Conference on Peace and Reconciliation*, 2009.
- “Responses to John Caputo’s *The Weakness of God*,” (Invited Panelist) *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2009.
- “Asylum and the Margins of Identity,” invited presentation, *Marginal Identities: Formation and Response*, Boston College, 2009.
- “Reading Medieval Jew-Christian Relations through René Girard’s Scapegoat Theory,” invited panelist at the premier of Del Case’s original opera *The Prioress’ Tale*, 2008.
- “Beyond Rights: Responsibility and Media,” invited paper, *Blasphemy, Free Expression and Journalistic Ethics*, Boston College, 2007.
- “The Church as Asylum,” co-presentation with Jeffrey Stackert, *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2006.
- “Khora and Holy Saturday,” *Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology*, 2005.

“Listening on the Day of Silence: Khora and Holy Saturday,” *Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting*, 2005.

“Ethics as First Philosophy,” *Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, 2004.

### **Awards and Appointments**

Outstanding Term Faculty Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle University, 2023  
Associate Editor, ‘Psychology and the Other’ Book Series, 2017-present, Routledge Press  
Provost Fellows for Reigniting our Strategic Directions (Seattle University), 2022-present  
Faculty Affiliate, Ethics and Transformative Technologies (Seattle University), 2021-present  
Program Chair, 2021: “Saying What We Mean: A Symposium on the Works of Eugene Gendlin”  
(hosted by Seattle University)

Dean’s Faculty Research Award (Seattle University), 2020 (support for writing *Before Ethics*)  
Affiliate Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018-present  
External Manuscript Reviewer: Fordham University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge,  
Duchesne University Press, W. W. Norton, University of Toronto, and SUNY Press  
Fellow, *Psychology and the Other Institute*, Boston, 2015-present  
English Language Editor, Annual Levinas Bibliography, *Cahiers d’études lévinassiennes*,  
2016-present

Steering Committee, *Psychology and the Other Conferences*, Cambridge, MA, 2011-2023  
Adjunct Faculty Teaching for: Boston College, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Northwest  
Nazarene University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University (Masters of Arts in  
Psychology program)

Director, Christos Fellows Program (Boston College), 2018-2020

President, Wesleyan Philosophical Society, 2010-2011

Program Chair, 2010 Annual Meeting, Wesleyan Philosophical Society: *Gift and Economy*

Eastern Nazarene College, 2005 and 2006 Teaching Excellence Award

Eastern Nazarene College, 2006 Faculty Book Award for *The Least of These*

### **Professional Affiliations**

Wesleyan Philosophical Society (charter member, past president)

Psychology and the Other Institute

Wesleyan Theological Society

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy