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To: Dr. LeBeau and Dr. Kunz

Regarding: Abstract submission for Psychology of the Other Seminar, Seattle University, November 7th – 9th, 2014.

Working Title: Echoes of Epicurus: The early Levinas

Abstract:

Little if anything has been said of Levinas' Epicureanism and the little that has been said by non-scholars demonstrates gross ignorance. However, Levinas' thinking echoes the Epicurean ancients who put ethics before all else (to the point of dying for a friend) and whose theories of pleasure and even time are remarkably similar. In the final few paragraphs of *Existence and Existents*, the early Levinas describes the "escape hatch" in being as "drawing back as it were into those interstices in being where the Epicurean gods lurked." Through an exegesis of this passage, this paper presents the early Levinas' thinking regarding the escape hatch in being, the related Epicurean ideas of the gods, pleasure, and temporality, and poses the speculative question: "Despite the absence of ethics as a topic in *Existence and Existents*, to what extent are Levinas' thoughts on time and pleasure Epicurean and in turn a fine soil for the development of ethical thought and our own ethical practice?"

Additional information: Although I just finished teaching 7 courses this semester, am working on 4 over the summer, and am presently scheduled for 6 in the fall, I am working as an adjunct and struggling to get by let alone acquire any funding for any conferences. I would very much like to attend and have family in the seattle area I might stay with, but I cannot at this time imagine affording a plane ticket. Any help you might provide, should my paper be accepted, would be most appreciated and likely necessary for me to follow through I am sorry to say.