**A Philosophical Approach to Pastoral Psychological Evaluation: Deleuze, Levinas, Ricoeur**

**Heather Macdonald, Psy.D**

***Lesley University, Division of Psychology and Applied Therapies***

[**hmacdona@lesley.edu**](mailto:hmacdona@lesley.edu)

Levinas, Deleuze and Derrida tell us that events are the unforeseeable interruptions in the order of things, tears in temporality that throw subjectivity in reverse and that such disruptions open us to the possibility of the arrival of the stranger, foreigner or other. An event in this sense appears far outside our focused intentionality and yet, when we are provoked by such a disruption the quality of our intention or attention transforms or goes beyond the immediate sense of self (Freeman, 2013). Events, Deleuze says, “cannot be explained by the situations that gave rise to them, or into which they lead. They appear for the moment, and it is that moment which matters, it is the chance we must seize,” (Deleuze & Parnet, 1995, p.176). This is a moment where the *quality of the event* allows for transcendence to become a category of immanence. The event defies repetition, the corner stone of most contemporary trauma theory, and favors a singularity that is beyond representation. In the following essay, I will explore these various conceptualizations of ‘the event’ as it may play out in the process of psychological assessment with clergy. I will suggest the event is a way to view the therapeutic encounter and to suggest that the event is a kind of incubator for relational ethics and apology.