This interfaith and interdisciplinary conference gathers together philosophers, theologians, and literary scholars. Its purpose is to study how the newly expanded Levinas corpus can help us be better readers of the Bible and literature in general.

Emmanuel Levinas as Biblical Exegete and Writer? While his reputation as philosopher and Talmudic scholar continues to soar, other interests remain unexplored. The philosopher himself puts forth these two different and quite new directions in Levinassian studies. The previously unpublished *Carnets de Captivité* (2 volumes to date, Paris: Grasset, 2009) documents his early and ongoing desire to be a writer in addition to a philosopher, especially a novelist and literary critic. He hints at a second new direction in the preface to his major treatise *Totalité et Infini*, where his interest in language takes an unexpected turn:

*It is of the very essence of language, which consists in continually undoing its phrase by...exegesis, in unsaying the said, in attempting to restate without ceremony what has already been ill understood, in the inevitable ceremonial in which the said delights...*

In short, he sees exegesis as natural to language itself, as necessary to any act of writing and understanding as to the Talmud or philosophy or, indeed, the Bible.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- **Dr. Catherine Chalier**, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Paris
- **Dr. Seán Hand**, Professor of French Studies at the University of Warwick
- **Dr. Marvin Sweeney**, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Claremont School of Theology

### PRESENTERS
- **Dr. Annette Aronowicz**, Professor of Judaic Studies at Franklin and Marshall College
- **Dr. Jeffrey Bloechl**, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Boston College
- **Dr. Martin Cohen**, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Honors Program at Boston College
- **Dr. Abigail Doukhan**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Queens College
- **Dr. Richard Kearney**, Professor of Philosophy at Boston College
- **Dr. Olga Kuminova**, Lecturer of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics at Ben-Gurion University
- **Dr. Jacob Meskin**, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Education at Hebrew College
- **Dr. Theodore Perry**, Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations at Boston College
- **Dr. Richard Sugarman**, Professor of Religion at the University of Vermont
- **Dr. Alan Udoff**, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at St. Francis College

### CONCLUDING SESSION PRESIDER
- **Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi**, Professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion

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