

# The American Weil Society

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Dear Friends and Members of the American Weil Society:

I hope this finds all of you well despite the difficult circumstances. It was with great regret that we had to cancel the AWS 2020 colloquy that was supposed to be held at Boston College last month. Nonetheless, we were very delighted to have the opportunity to see many of you on Zoom on April 24<sup>th</sup>, for a couple of panels on Weil. Two conference papers were presented: one by Soto Tsuruta (University of Tokyo) and one by Kate Lawson (Queen's University). We also had a panel on Ruthann Johansen and E. Jane Doering's new book, *When Fiction and Philosophy Meet: A Conversation with Flannery O'Connor and Simone Weil* (Mercer University Press, 2019). I wish to thank all panel participants (including Christine Evans and Ron Collins), as well as our Vice-President Scott Ritner (who organized the meeting).

Please follow this link to know more about *When Fiction and Philosophy Meet*.

<https://www.mupress.org/When-Fiction-and-Philosophy-Meet-A-Conversation-with-Flannery-OConnor-and-Simone-Weil-P1005.aspx>

I am writing today regarding three important matters:

## 1) **AWS 2021 Annual Colloquy.**

Former AWS President Tomeu Estelrich has very generously offered to be the host of the AWS annual colloquy next year at Boston College. The dates will be **April 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> 2021**. The general theme of the conference will be the same as what was planned for this year ("Simone Weil on spirituality, beauty and justice") and Prof. Elaine Scarry will still be our keynote speaker. That said, conference participants who had their abstracts accepted and who wish to present a slightly different paper (or a very different one) will be welcome to propose a new abstract to the organizing committee. We will be re-posting the 2020 call for papers - with some modifications - in the early fall in order to select a few extra papers for April 2021 (the deadline will be, exceptionally, **February 1<sup>st</sup>** this year). This revised call will include an invitation to AWS scholars who wish to reflect, along Weilian lines, on issues related to the pandemic to propose something new. Needless to say, there are several burning issues that would make for very rich and timely exchanges. Over the summer and early fall, we will also be discussing the possibility of having a few international participants present their papers at the 2021 conference virtually. More detailed information about all these matters will be sent to AWS members in due course, as soon as we have a better sense of the evolving COVID

situation. For now, as you all know, there is too much uncertainty concerning international travel, university funding, and hosting any large scholarly event on campus for the next many months to make our planning easy. Tomeu Estelrich and myself thank you in advance for your understanding and great patience with us during these unprecedented circumstances.

In October 2020, Tomeu and I will be in touch with all selected AWS 2020 conference participants to see whether they are still interested in presenting their research in April 2021 at Boston College or would rather withdraw from the program (the deadline to indicate their participation will be January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021). This will then give us a better sense of how many new abstracts we might be able to accommodate in the new 2021 conference program.

**2) Treasurer for the AWS – Election.**

We are also happy to announce that **Emily King, University of Chicago Divinity School** (whom some of you may have met at the last AWS colloquy in Barcelona, where she presented her work) has agreed to be nominated as the next Treasurer of the AWS. Thank you, Emily! This is the only nomination we have received; it is subject to a vote. *All AWS members in good standing (i.e. membership dues are paid, up to date) may vote on Emily King's election as treasurer.* **Please send your vote to me ([sbourgau@uottawa.ca](mailto:sbourgau@uottawa.ca)) or to Vice-President Scott Ritner ([scott.ritner@temple.edu](mailto:scott.ritner@temple.edu))** with “AWS Treasurer” in the email subject line **before June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you in advance for your participation.

**3) Webmaster.**

Finally, I also wish to announce that we have found **a new webmaster** for the AWS: **Kaleb Earl, University of Ottawa** (whom some of you may have met at the 38<sup>th</sup> AWS colloquy when he presented his work on Weil). Many thanks Kaleb for taking on this task (and thank you to the two other individuals who have indicated their interest in serving as webmaster in the last couple of weeks).

Last but not least, I wish to offer **my most sincere thanks to Benjamin Palmer Davis and Mauricio Najarro** for their years of service to the AWS. Ben Davis has kindly agreed to stay on a bit longer as Treasurer until our lives come back to (almost) normal and things can officially be transferred to Emily. I am most grateful.

I wish you all a restful and pleasant summer, in spite of the surreal situation and the health and financial difficulties that some of you (or your loved ones) might be going through. Stay safe.

Cordially,

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