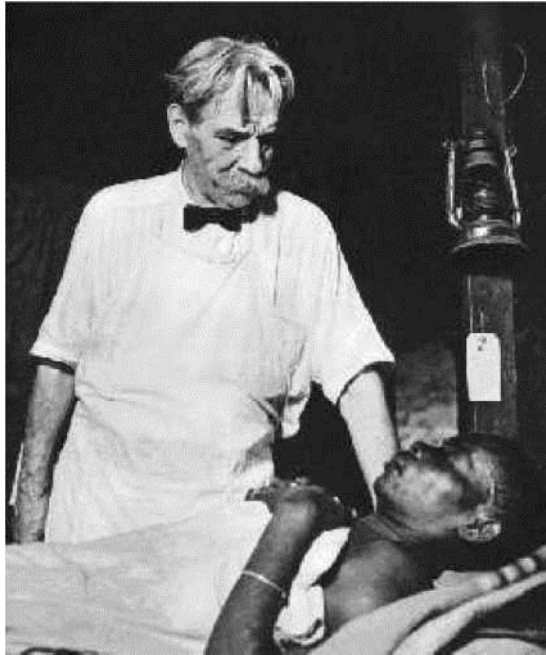


Second Albert Schweitzer International Summer School at Gunsbach (Alsace, France)

YOUR LIFE IS YOUR ARGUMENT

The motivational force of an ethical principle

Monday 2nd – Sunday 8th June 2014



Making ethics work

Of all the crises of modernity, the crisis of morality and ethics is the most profound and may be the most desperate. We have plenty of theories about good and bad, we are fully aware of the urgency of moral change, but a cold wind of tragedy has paralysed our hands. How come? Could it be that we lost a motivating source for concrete ethical engagement? Is our inability to practise what we preach the result of a lack of spiritual, motivational resources?

Life's ethical energy

The winner of the Nobel Prize Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965), last century's moral giant, sacrificed his life for his ideal. His engagement with the dispossessed in his bush hospital in Lamabarene, Africa is legendary. The 'man with the moustache' was admired for his work and inspired many. Schweitzer was not only a medical practitioner, but also a profound philosopher and an committed theologian. Many know him as a talented organ musician, as well. These days, his fame seems to be vanishing rapidly. And this is more than just a pity. Schweitzer himself strongly believed in the universality of his famous ethical vision, which he summarized in the principle: *Reverence for Life*.

Recharge your ethical batteries

Schweitzer discovered that the moral battery is - on a deeper level - charged by Life itself. Theory alone will not do the job. When contemplating the reality of men and animals, Schweitzer was struck by the simple intuition that Life itself appealed to him to engage with his fellow living creatures. Ethics is the answer of man to the tasks Life is confronting him with. But such an insight, that - according to Schweitzer - each individual has to discover for himself, will only come about through profound reflection. Studying Schweitzer's tremendous intellectual work will be of great help in this endeavour.

International Summer School on Ethical Motivation

The *Second Albert Schweitzer International Summer School* will be held in two romantic locations in the Alsace. To start, we will stay in Gunsbach village, where Schweitzer lived as a child and built his European shelter. In the second half of the week we will move to a villa in the Vosges Mountains, where one of Schweitzer's sources of inspiration, the vicar Oberlin, lived in the 18th century. Excursions and walks will make you feel at home in the Alsace region that so profoundly marked Schweitzer's personality and thinking.

Excellent scholars and specialists in Schweitzer Studies will guide you through the elaborated reflections of Schweitzer on the question of *ethical motivation*. The programme consists of a conference, study groups and excursions to places of interest in Schweitzer's biography (Kaysersberg, Strasbourg). We will focus on the issue of ethical motivation from four different perspectives: *philosophy, theology, human rights, and aesthetics*.

Schweitzer backed up his principle of *Reverence for Life* with philosophical arguments and extensive research into the history of morals and eastern – Indian and Chinese - spirituality. During the course we will critically reconstruct his arguments. In addition, Schweitzer saw in the principle an expression of Christian faith, as well. Notwithstanding his liberal radicalism – he defended that Jesus' own eschatological metaphysics are of no consequence to modern man -, Schweitzer's faith resided in a simple *yes* to the calling of Jesus. How to understand this paradox of theological deconstructivism and personal piety? How does it relate to ethical motivation? Schweitzer fed his engagement with the fruits of music. Not only did he finance his project by giving organ concerts, but music as such seemed for him a source for ethical motivation and perseverance.

The central issue of the Summer School programme is concerned with the applicability of Schweitzerian ethics. Any ethical principle that does not find concretisation is doomed to become extinct. How might we articulate Schweitzer's ethics and the issues at stake in the Human (and Animal) Rights debates? What better city than Strasbourg, host to the European Court of Human Rights, to explore this question?



*The world is in crisis. Discover how Life itself bestows it with its everlasting moral energies.
You are welcome at the Second Albert Schweitzer International Summer School in Gunsbach (France)*

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue:

Monday to Wednesday:

The Old Rectory (Schweitzer's Childhood Home)
3, rue Albert Schweitzer
F 68140 Gunsbach
FRANCE
www.schweitzer.org

Thursday to Sunday:

Le Promontoire
6, rte des Crêtes
F 67220 Urbeis (Le Climont)
FRANCE
www.climont.eu

Price per participant:

Faculty and others: 500 EURO all-in (meals in Gunsbach; entrance fees to museums; conference fees including copied texts),

Students: 350 EURO (please contact us about possible reductions)

Not included: dinners during excursions (Kayserberg / Strasbourg – estimated price: 15 EURO per meal), travel insurance

Organizing Staff

Mr. Romain Collot / Mrs. Jenny Litzelmann (Archivist and Director of the International Albert Schweitzer Museum and Archives, Gunsbach)
diffusion.gunsbach@schweitzer.org

Prof. dr. Predrag Cicovacki (Philosophy at Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA)

Prof. dr. Jan Helge Solbakk (Medical Ethics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway)

Dr. Chris Doude van Troostwijk (Philosophy and theology at Catholic Pedagogical Institute, Luxemburg)

For more information and payments:

Jenny Litzelmann (diffusion.gunsbach@schweitzer.org) or Chris Doude van Troostwijk (promontoire@orange.fr)

Application Form

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:

Academic Position:

Professional Institution:

Home Address:

Professional Address:

E-mail:

Mobile phone #: + _____ *Will your mobile phone number work in Europe? Yes / No*

Meal Preferences: No specific preferences / Preference (allergies, vegetarian...):

Accommodation: Single room only / double room if necessary / preference for a double room with ...



INTEREST IN SCHWEITZER SUMMER SCHOOL

The Summer School is open to students and other interested person of any age and from any academic discipline. Please indicate briefly your interest in Schweitzer's philosophy and ethics. Do you have any topics you would like to discuss?

Concise Programme

(with due reserve)

Monday 2nd of June: Day of Arrival AT GUNSBACH

Acquaintance, Programme, Guided visit to the Schweitzer Museum in Gunsbach

Tuesday 3rd of June : *Schweitzer's philosophical method and epistemology*

Conference: "The impossible transition from theory to ethics"

Conference: "Some methodological concepts"

Close Reading Workshop on key concepts: "Is it important to decide on the philosophical consistency of Schweitzer's philosophy?"

Wednesday 4th of June: Ethics and Aesthetics: an impossible marriage?

Conference: "Schweitzer as an author: analysis of his autobiographical style"

Conference: "Bach and Wagner: Schweitzer's Mystical Maestro's"

Conference: "Goethe's thinking as a basis for Schweitzer's doing"

Workshop music, poetry, painting: Schweitzer about aesthetics

Public organ-concert interwoven with readings by members of the group

A walk in the mountains (Petit Ballon) and festive dinner in an authentic *Ferme Auberge*



**Thursday 5th of June : *Reverence for Life and Human Rights*
STRASBOURG EXCURSION / TRANSFER TO CLIMONT**

A walk through the City (I): In the footsteps of the young Albert Schweitzer
Meeting in the *St. Guillaume or St. Thomas Church*: liberal theology in Schweitzer's Strasbourg years
Lecture: Reverence for Life and Human Rights

Visit and meeting at the *European Court of Human Rights*
Dinner in the city

**Friday 6th of June: *Reverence for Life and Human Rights*
AT CLIMONT**

Conference: "Peace Studies and Schweitzerian Ethics"
Conference: "Which place for Schweitzer in Medical Ethics?"

Workshop: Close reading and case studies
Plenary debate: "Is Reverence for Life the core of Human Rights?"
Film event: The authentic Erica Anderson Documentary

**Saturday 7th of June: *Religion, Eschatology, and Utopian Spirituality*
OBERLIN EXCURSION**

Lecture: "Is Schweitzer an Eschatological Thinker?" (Lambarene and the Kingdom of God)
Lecture: "Is Schweitzer an Inter-religious Theologian?" (Schweitzer's work on Indian and Chinese Thought)
Lecture: "Is Schweitzer a Spiritual Utopian?" (Schweitzer, Gandhi)

Departure for Waldersbach (Oberlin Museum)
Workshop in the museum
Wine tasting followed by a festive dinner

Sunday 8th of June: Day of departure