

University at Albany,  
April 17-18, 2015

# Rethinking Sovereignty

## Conference Program



**Keynote Speakers:**  
Gregg Lambert,  
Syracuse University  
Kalpana Seshadri,  
Boston College

**April 17:**  
Rockefeller Institute  
411 State Street

**April 18:**  
Downtown Campus  
135 Western  
Avenue (200 Milne)

[rethinkingsovereignty.weebly.com](http://rethinkingsovereignty.weebly.com)

## Friday

9:00 - 9:30

Coffee / Breakfast

9:30 - 9:45

### **Opening Remarks**

Randall Craig, Chair of English, University at Albany

Julie Novkov, Chair of Political Science, University at Albany

9:45 - 11:15

### **Panel 1: Sovereignty and Aesthetics**

Chair: Natalie Amiama, University at Albany

Walter Johnston, Williams College

"Achilles' Marble Heel: Anaesthetic Autonomy in Kleist's *Penthesilea*"

Craig Carson, Adelphi University

"Sovereign Spectacles: From Monarchy to Liberal Democracy"

Anjali Raza Kolb, Williams College

"A So-Called Viral Sovereignty: Global Health, International Law, and Figures of Speech"

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee

11:30 - 1:00

### **Panel 2: Human Rights**

Chair: Glyne Griffith, University at Albany

Jon Mandle, University at Albany

"State Sovereignty and Human Rights"

Kristen Hessler, University at Albany

"Maternal Mortality as a Human Rights Issue"

Kamiar Alaei, University at Albany

"A Human-Rights Based Approach to Health"

1:00 - 2:00

Lunch

2:00 - 3:30

### **Panel 3: Derrida and the Death Penalty**

Chair: Alice Long, Shanghai University

Katie Chenoweth, Princeton University

"Everybody Must Get Stoned: Calculating the Death Penalty with Derrida"

Kir Kuiken, University at Albany

"'Bidding Up' on the Question of Sovereignty: Derrida Between Kant and Benjamin"

David Wills, Brown University

"The Future Anterior of Blood"

3:30 - 4:00

Coffee

4:00 - 5:30

**Keynote Address: Gregg Lambert**, Syracuse University

"On the Principles of *Vitalpolitik*: Between 'Raw' and 'Cooked' Capitalism"

## Saturday

9:00 - 9:30

Coffee

9:30 - 9:45

**Opening**

9:45 - 11:15

**Panel 4: Unsettling the Body Politic**

Chair: Torrey Shanks, University at Albany

Asma Abbas, Bard College at Simon's Rock

"Provincializing Sovereignty; Or, Why I Must Always Look Up the Meaning of Sovereignty"

Barbara Sutton, University at Albany

"Clandestinity, Abortion, and Women as 'Bare Life'"

Fanny Söderbäck, Siena College

"Rethinking Sovereignty through Transnational Surrogacy"

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee

11:30 - 1:00

**Panel 5: Rethinking Agamben**

Chair: Richard Barney, University at Albany

Kathleen Biddick, Temple University

"Messianic Archives: Agamben among the Medieval Rabbis"

Richard Barney, University at Albany

"Bio-Economic-Politics, or, the Logic of Revolutionary Sovereignty"

Kevin Attell, Cornell University

"Sovereignty on Trial"

1:00 - 2:00

Lunch

2:00 - 3:30

**Keynote Address: Kalpana Seshadri**, Boston College

"Resituating Sovereignty: Toward a Posthuman Economics"

3:30 - 4:00

Coffee

4:00 - 5:30

**Concluding Roundtable**

Chair: Ilka Kressner, University at Albany

Kevin Attell, Cornell University

Peter Breiner, University at Albany

Gregg Lambert, Syracuse University

Morton Schoolman, University at Albany

Kalpana Seshadri, Boston College

## **Sponsors:**

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## **Conference Committee:**

Natalie Amiama, Michael Amrozowicz, Richard Barney, Glyne Griffith, Alice Hofmann, Josh Keller, Ilka Kressner, Kir Kuiken, Jon Mandle, Torrey Shanks, Charles Shepherdson & Joel Sodano