

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The First in a Series of Biennial Symposia

The Road to Responsibility in the Age of *Shoah*

The Goldner Holocaust Symposium
at FDU's Wroxton College, Oxfordshire, England

June 7–10, 1996



An international, interdisciplinary, interfaith and
intergenerational symposium on the *Shoah*



Fairleigh Dickinson
University

Goldner Holocaust Symposium

This symposium will feature a broadly conceived praxis orientation toward *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. From a base in the study of the *Shoah*, participants will develop projects to address the questions: How are we to respond in word and deed to a radically transformed world, the post-*Shoah* world in which "business as usual" no longer applies? How are we to use our learnings from the *Shoah* to face, responsibly, the genocidal potentials inherent in our own world? The symposium will thus allow scholars to apply their research findings to concrete human situations in the present.

Scholars will pursue projects that call for personal, pedagogical and/or political action, as well as for more traditional scholarly activity. For example, proceeding from a foundation in *Shoah* scholarship that calls for a renewal of ethical and spiritual concern in our everyday *praxis*, participants may wish:

a) to reflect on the broad dimensions of conflict among nations and to formulate innovative responses to specific instances of such conflict. The *Shoah* prompts us to rethink the meaning of "national interest." How can a politics of the spirit address world conflict?

b) to examine the new ethnic rivalries that promise to reconfigure the European continent. The *Shoah* alerts us to the dangers of an ethnic politics. What might constitute what some have termed a "covenantal politics" leading to authentic community? How might we envision a European community constructed on the basis of such a covenantal politics?

c) to consider creative responses to pressing domestic issues. The *Shoah* teaches us the need to speak out in the face of injustice. How might *personal* accountability be added to mere *technical* accountability in such typically bureaucratic contexts as health care reform, housing initiatives, immigration policies, etc.?

d) to explore issues surrounding teaching and learning in the contemporary classroom. Academics and others with advanced academic degrees played leading roles as perpetrators of the *Shoah*. How can our schools and, in particular, our universities be invested with fundamental concern for the dignity of the other person?

The number of attendees at this symposium will be limited to 35. There will be no formal presentations of papers. Attendees will meet in morning and afternoon "working groups," organized according to concerns manifest in their project submissions. Evening panels will summarize and expand on the proceedings of the day.

The symposium is designed to stimulate ongoing and sustained collegial work. Participants in working groups commit themselves to communicate with one another after the symposium's close. Ideally, the same

group of participants will reconvene at Wroxton in June 1998, and at two-year intervals thereafter, to extend and deepen their projects. Articles and books may result from the collegial efforts of working-group members.

Proposals

In your proposal, please describe the type of project or work you wish to pursue, including its conceptual rationale, its substantive focus and the projected path toward its realization. Explain how your proposed project will benefit from the type of symposium described in this announcement and how you anticipate contributing to the symposium's work.

Criteria for acceptance include:

- 1) Appropriateness of the project to the stated aims of the symposium.
- 2) Degree of creativity expressed in the proposed work.
- 3) Ability of the proposed work to fit with others in constituting a common theme for one of six working groups. (This last criterion honors the collaborative structure that is so vital to the workings of the symposium.)

Please limit your proposal to 600-750 words and add a biographical statement of no more than one page. The language for the conference is English. *The deadline for proposal submission is August 1, 1995.* All proposals will be evaluated by September 15, 1995.

Please submit your proposal to *each* of the co-organizers:

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After Your Proposal Is Accepted

After a proposal is accepted, a \$50 registration fee will ensure your place in the symposium. Registration fees are due within 30 days of receipt of the acceptance letter.

A generous donation from the Goldner family of Englewood, N.J., has provided for room and board at Wroxton, as well as travel between Heathrow Airport and the College. Attendees will be responsible for all other travel expenses.

Limited space is available for spouses or partners who wish to accompany symposium participants. A fee of \$280 will be charged to cover room and board expenses of each guest. Guests may travel via chartered bus to and from Heathrow Airport without charge.

Wroxton College

Wroxton College is the British campus of FDU. It is located in the Cotswold village of Wroxton, Oxfordshire, England, three miles from Banbury and 80 miles northwest of London, near Stratford. The College consists of a modernized 17th-century manor house, Wroxton Abbey, built on the foundations of a 13th-century abbey, and an adjacent Carriage House that now includes a refectory, lecture hall and pub. The Abbey, the heart of the College, boasts a great hall, a minstrels' galley, a chapel, a multiroom library and state bedchambers. In addition, it includes 45 bedrooms (each with private bath), seminar rooms, a reception area, offices and basement recreation rooms. The beauty of the mansion and its location on 56 acres of lawns, lakes and woodlands make Wroxton College an ideal site for reflection.

For Further Information

For any further information, please contact the organizers:

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