

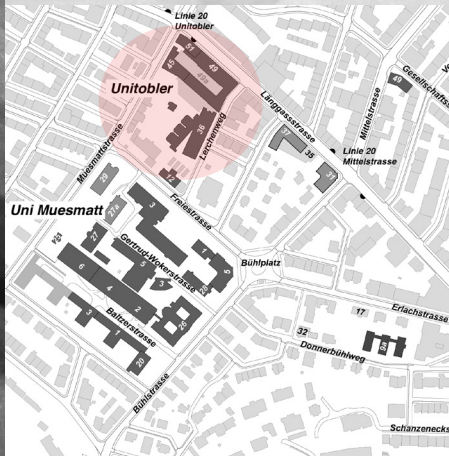
Friday 31 May 2024  
Saturday 1 June 2024

Room F-113

Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern  
Institute for the Science of Religion  
University of Bern

Registration via e-mail to:  
sekretariat.relwi@unibe.ch

For Participation via Zoom:  
<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/j/3999770225>



# ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF EXTREME FASTING IN EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADITIONS

u<sup>b</sup>

UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

EBERHARD KARLS  
UNIVERSITÄT  
TÜBINGEN



Straniak 

Hermann und Marianne Straniak Stiftung



# Conference program



**Friday 31 May 2024**

8:30 **Opening** by Claire Maes and Jens Schlieter

## **Extreme Fasting in Religious and Ascetic Contexts**

9:00 – 10:00 **Bernadett Bigalke**

(Leipzig University, Germany)

The Celebration and Contestation of Extreme Food Abstinence as a Form of Piety among Western Catholic Women in Modern Times

10:00 – 11:00 **Stefan Rindlisbacher**

(Universities of Bern and Fribourg, Switzerland)

Fasting in Life Reform Movements (1850-1950)

11:00 – 12:00 **Kanae Kawamoto**

(Tokyo University, Japan)

From Self-Starvation to Death to Self-Salvation to Life through Extreme Fasting: The Development of Yoshimoto Naikan Therapy

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00 **Monika Schrimpf**

(University of Tübingen, Germany)

Extreme Asceticism: Fasting, Self-Mummification, and Marathon Monks in Japan

14:00 – 15:00 **Yutaka Kawasaki**

(Tokyo University, Japan)

Philosophy and Ethics of the Jain Fast unto Death (sallekhanā)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

## **Hunger Strikes and the Philosophy of Non-Violent Resistance**

15:30 – 16:30 **Nayan Shah**

(University of Southern California, U.S.A.)

African American Civil Rights Hunger Strikes and the Quandaries of Mental Health and Fitness

16:30 – 17:30 **Ian Miller**

(Ulster University, Ireland)

The Hunger Strikes of Suffragettes: The Ethical Dilemma of Force Feeding

17:30 – 18:00 Discussion



**Saturday 1 June 2024**

## **Hunger Strikes and the Philosophy of Non-Violent Resistance (Continued)**

10:00 – 11:00 **Vinay Lal**

(University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.)

The Body in the Body Politic: Gandhi and the Art and Politics of Fasting

11:00 – 12:00 **Valeriya Gazizova**

(Heidelberg University, GSRL, Paris)

Underground Fasting Practices among Mongols in Soviet Kalmykia: Towards an Analysis of the Ethics of Resistance

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

## **Systematic Comparison and Transcultural Philosophical Evaluation**

13:00 – 14:00 **Claire Maes**

(University of Tübingen, Germany)

The Jain Fast unto Death and Voluntarily Stopping of Eating and Drinking: A Systematic Comparison

14:00 – 15:00 **Jens Schlieter**

(University of Bern, Switzerland)

The Ethics of Fasting to Death in Religion, Terminal Care, and Politics: Individual Decision-Making and its Effects on Communities

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00 **Roundtable Discussion**

Extreme Fasting Practices Compared