Levinas Conference 2017 Submission

Paul Johnson pwmjohnson@gmail.com

Title: Awaiting Apology: On Expectations of Patriarchal Reconciliation

Levinas tells us that apology is fortified by its openness to the Other, by a recognition that a harm that has been committed must be named and honored. Yet in patriarchal circles apology, whether given or received, becomes drawn into patterns of dominance and submission. This paper explores the defensiveness and rigidity that arise from the phenomena of waiting for these apologies.