

LEON S. PETERS ETHICS LECTURE SERIES

Spring 2010

John Lachs, *Good Enough*

February 11, 5-6 PM, Alice Peters Auditorium

Why is the “good enough” not good enough? John Lachs reflects on our desire for perfection, which he connects with the longing for God and the experience of beauty. Suggesting that the ideal of moral perfection can be inhumane, Lachs concludes that “the fact that the world could be better does not imply that we are obliged to make it better.”

John Lachs is Centennial Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of many books and articles, including most recently [The Cost of Comfort](#) (2010). He is the editor of the [Encyclopedia of American Philosophy](#). This presentation is based on his article, “Good Enough” in the [Journal of Speculative Philosophy](#) (2009).

Jacquelyn Kegley, *Are We Our Brains?* *New Ethical and Legal Challenges from Neuroscience*

March 23, 5-6 PM, Alice Peters Auditorium

New technologies in neuroscience can be used to make judgments about moral behavior and moral psychology. Jacqueline Kegley will question the ethical side of the new neuroscience. She will discuss assumptions about persons, questions about privacy and informed consent, and the proper use of science and expert judgment in law.

Jacquelyn Kegley is Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Bakersfield. She is the author of many books and articles, including [Genuine Individuals and Communities](#) most recently [Josiah Royce in Focus](#) (2010). She has written extensively on bioethics and is an expert in the field of American Philosophy.

Ovadia Ezra, *The Ethics of Selective Disobedience and Military Service in Israel*

April 6, 5-6 PM, Alice Peters Auditorium

Ovadia Ezra will reflect on the unique model of “Selective Disobedience” which has been developed in Israel for soldiers who refuse military service in the occupied territories or in military jails in which Palestinians are kept. Ezra will share his personal experience and reflect on ethical issues connected with the topic.

Ovadia Ezra is Chair of the Philosophy Department at Tel Aviv University in Israel. He was incarcerated three times in a military jail for refusing military service in the occupied territories. He is the author of several books, including [Moral Dilemmas in Real Life: Current Issues in Applied Ethics](#) (2006).

Nel Noddings, *Caring for Bullies and other Miscreants*

April 9, 3-4 PM, Education Building (ED) 140

How do we care for bullies? Drawing on her extensive research on education and the ethics of care, Nel Noddings reflects on bullying and discipline and care. She considers how caring relationships apply in the context of dealing with those who misbehave.

Nel Noddings is Lee Jacks Professor of Education Emerita at Stanford University and a founding thinker of “care ethics.” She has published many books and articles, including most recently [Critical Lessons: What our Schools Should Teach](#) (2006). Noddings’ lecture is co-sponsored by the Bonner Center for Character Education.