

Prejudices, Fantasies, and Justice

The New York Chapter of the Ernest Becker Foundation will sponsor a panel discussion at Left Forum 2014 at John Jay College in New York Sunday, June 1, 10:00am - 11:50am. The panel is titled *Prejudices, Fantasies, and Justice*.



Panelists will discuss issues related to violence in America including: gun advocacy, stand your ground laws, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, the death penalty, and the legal system. It will investigate ways in which law becomes part of the violence it is meant to manage. These and other contemporary social issues will be explored in terms of human motivation, particularly through understanding of our own and others' prejudices, fantasies, and delusions. The speakers will be drawing on the work of interdisciplinary thinker Ernest Becker, including "The Denial of Death," "Escape from Evil," and "The Birth and Death of Meaning," to shed light on these most vexing issues of the day.

Panelists



Kirby Farrell, Ph.D. is a professor in the Department of English at University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His most recent books include "Post-Traumatic Culture: Injury and Interpretation in the 90s" and "Berserk Style in American Culture," "Play Death and Heroism," "Women in the Renaissance," and "The Mysteries of Elizabeth I." He has lectured in the U.S. and abroad on literature and culture, and for the Ernest Becker Foundation on the psychology of violence and social justice.



Jeffrey L. Kirchmeier, J.D., Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law, is the author of numerous law review articles about criminal procedure, constitutional law, and the death penalty. His writings have appeared in journals, books, and practice publications. He remains active in death penalty work, and is a member (and former Chair) of the Capital Punishment Committee of the New York City Bar Association. His awards include a President's Commendation by Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice.



Jerry S. Piven, PhD, Psychologist and Author, has taught at NYU, New School University, and Case Western Reserve University. He is the editor of several books and author of several others, including *Death and Delusion: A Freudian Analysis of Mortal Terror*, *The Madness and Perversion of Yukio Mishima*, and numerous articles on psychoanalysis, religion, and history. He has recently completed *Slaughtering Death: On the Psychoanalysis of Terror, Religion, and Violence*.

Stephen James, moderator, is a member of the New York Chapter of the Ernest Becker Foundation. He is a producer of communications media in the New York area, and has spent the last 30 years writing, producing, and directing programs for local PBS, corporate video, streaming media, e-learning, Internet/intranet websites, print, and corporate meetings and events. He is currently executive producer at Creative Media Productions, a business communications company, and is a graduate of Boston College.

Left Forum

Left Forum is the largest annual gathering of the broad Left in the United States. Each year thousands of conference participants come together to discuss pressing local, nation and global issues; to better understand commonalities and differences, and alternative to current predicaments; or to share ideas to help build social and political movements to transform the world. The conference date is May 30th-June 1st .

The EBF NY Chapter's Panel at Left Forum

Prejudices Fantasies and Justice

Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 10:00am - 11:50am, Session 5 in Room 3.8

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

524 West 59th Street New York, NY, 10019

(Between 10th and 11th Avenues, entrance closer to 11th)

For more information: leftforum@leftforum.org or call 212-817-2002