James Risser & Eric Severson

My remarks explore the idea of sociality in the philosophies of Hans-Georg Gadamer and Emmanuel Levinas. My claim is that Gadamerian solidarity is a form of participation that puts my spontaneity in question, a position that is close to that of Levinas. But, with respect to a difference, I want to point out how Gadamerian solidarity, as a form of friendship, is a contemporary version of Stoic cosmopolitanism in which the welcoming of the other is not the same as the Levinasian vulnerability in the name of justice. In this difference lies the further distinction between the responsibility of response in Gadamerian solidarity and the response of responsibility in the position of Levinas.