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## Identity, Civilization and Consciousness

Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
October 15, 16 and 17, 2009

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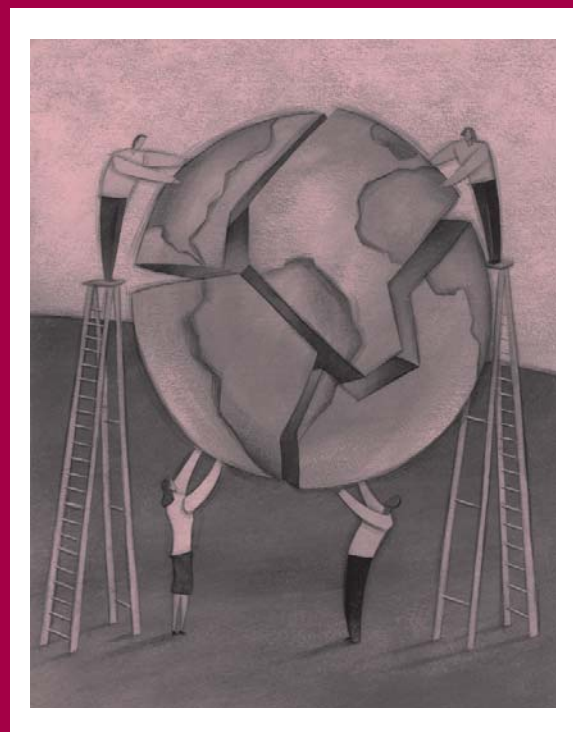


and the  
INTERNATIONAL  
JEAN GEBSER  
SOCIETY  
present

Call for Papers

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*A Conference on the Theoretical Intersections  
of Jean Gebser's Theories and Identity,  
Civilization and Consciousness*



  
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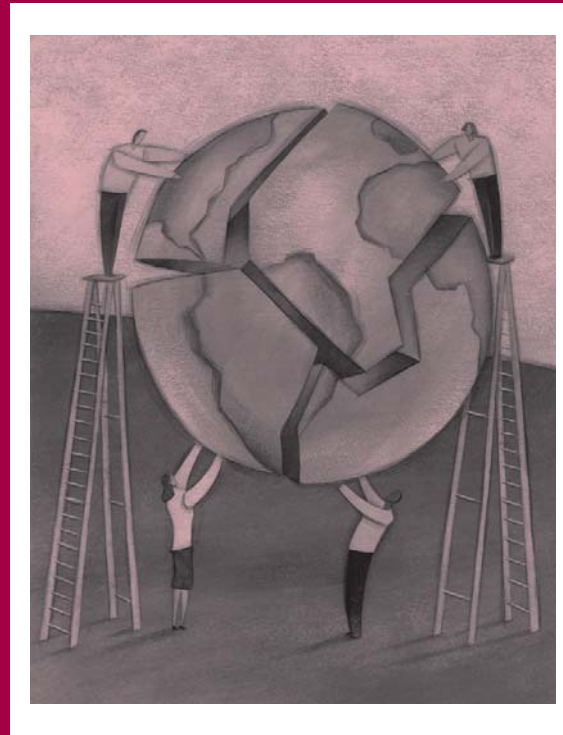
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## Keynote Speaker: Professor Bernard Neville

*School of Educational Studies  
La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia*

Awareness of identity issues marks our present moment. “Who am I?” “Who are we?” and “Who are you?” are increasingly difficult questions to answer, though they are questions of increasing salience to many. From the perspective of globalization, the world’s numerous communities are increasingly commingling. In our neighborhoods difference is omnipresent. Diversity and modernity have shown themselves to be incommensurable. What does this mean for consciousness, civilization and their futures?

Though in common discussion identity is often recognized as an inherent part of human consciousness, Jean Gebser and others have problematized this notion. Gebser describes the emergence of identity as contingent upon the unfolding or development of consciousness in cultures. Emerging from the archaic consciousness’ “perfect identity of man and universe,” today’s modern and post-modern understandings of identity are hotly debated, involving matters such as individualism, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, class, agency and ascription. Is the present moment one of liminality? Or, has a “leap” of consciousness been made; have the various structures of consciousness become transparent matters of awareness? How have consciousness changes, if any, been manifested in behavior?

It is the aim of the International Jean Gebser Society to offer a conference with the theme of identity that will allow for a forum where papers can be presented and discussed in an air of scholarship and collegiality. The Society invites submissions that address the conference theme, though we welcome papers unrelated to the theme that demonstrate a clear relevance to the works of Jean Gebser.

Scholars are invited to submit abstracts of roughly 500 words or completed papers for consideration for presentation by **June 15, 2009** to:

Dr. Philip Dalton  
Department of Speech Communication, Rhetoric and Performance Studies  
412 New Academic Building  
160 Hofstra University  
Hempstead, New York 11549-1600

Electronic submissions may be sent to [Philip.Dalton@hofstra.edu](mailto:Philip.Dalton@hofstra.edu).

For additional information, visit the conference Web site: [hofstra.edu/gebserconf](http://hofstra.edu/gebserconf)



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