Stony Brook University
The Graduate School

Doctoral Defense Announcement

Abstract
The Specter of Spinoza: The Legacy of the Pantheism Controversy in Hegel’s Thought
By
Harrison Fluss

This dissertation seeks to trace Hegel’s shifting attitudes towards Spinoza, and its significance for later interpretations of the Hegel-Spinoza relationship. In contrast to virtually all other approaches, it will be argued that Hegel’s earlier defense of Spinoza in Faith and Knowledge (1802) was superior than Hegel’s interpretation of Spinoza shaped after his break with Schelling. There is precious little in the Anglophone literature that compares and contrasts the approaches of the young and “mature” Hegel regarding Spinoza’s metaphysics. In most discussions, the young Hegel’s views on Spinoza are mentioned, but only perfunctorily, and not granted a sustained analysis. This hurts our understanding of Hegel’s relationship with Spinoza in multiple ways, but it also obscures the deeper connections between these two thinkers made clearer in Hegel’s earlier writings.

Date: December 12, 2016
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Harriman 214

Program: Philosophy
Dissertation Advisor: Allegra de Laurentiis