Being Otherwise: On Regret, Morality, and Mood

A presentation and roundtable discussion with C. Jason Throop
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Friday, March 31, 2017 | 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Rockwell Hall, James S. McGinley Conference Room

RSVP to Dr. Elizabeth Fein: feine@duq.edu
Paper will be circulated in advance

Presented by:
McAnulty College Department of Psychology

Drawing on fieldwork in Yap (Waqab), an Micronesian island located in the Western Pacific Ocean, this talk focuses upon the moral mood of regret. How is regret implicated in shaping our orientation to what Edmund Husserl termed, in the context of his phenomenological ethics, a striving toward “the best possible”? Possibilities for being are not only oriented to the future in the context of an anticipation of becoming otherwise, but may also arise in an opening up and re-inhabiting of the past to engage with the possibilities that might have been. The work presented here will foreground this particular aspect of the ethics of the “best possible” within a discussion of regretful moods as particular forms of attunement to the specific worlds we inhabit and the shifting moral currents palpably coursing through them.