

LECTURE

Tuesday,
October 27th
2015

12:15 - 13:45

Campus Biotech
Conference Room
9, chemin des Mines
Geneva

Loyalty and Contempt

Prof. Thomas Pavel

(The University of Chicago)

The paper discusses recent attempts to justify contempt as a moral attitude and alternatively as a moral emotion. By examining several literary presentations of this attitude or feeling, the paper argues that literature, being varied, nuanced, and open-ended, helps us better understand contempt and its rapport with interpersonal loyalty. It concludes by agreeing with philosophers who, following Martha Nussbaum's example, consider that literature, by presenting a wide gamut of possible attitudes and feelings, is uniquely helpful for identifying emotions and their behavioral manifestation ■

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