

The ideal ethics unmediated by institutions is yet to be realized. Such an ethics would be a set of rules for peaceful, caring, and egalitarian interaction derived from everyday experience itself. Space, along with the beings and objects "out there," is our first and most fundamental collaborator in the constitution of thinking. From the intimate spaces of our infancy, we are exposed to other spaces. Some of these other spaces are also spaces otherwise (or "heterotopias") in the sense that Michel Foucault tried to explain in a 1967 lecture. Alien yet uncannily familiar, spaces otherwise harbor the capacity to move us to work at transforming hopelessness into hope, at transforming antipathy or apathy into ethical behavior. Along the way, we will have the opportunity to explore such questions as: "What is the seat of hopelessness?"; "What is a space otherwise?"; and, in general, "Why is ethics both the most elusive concern of philosophy and the most necessary?"

Prof. Robert Harvey (State University of New York)

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*From Hopelessness to Hope:
Spaces for Ethics*

Photo by Cherry Laithang



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