Gregory Zilboorg (1890-1959) was a celebrated psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and medical historian. Born in Kiev, he was raised as an orthodox Jew, but abandoned his ancestral faith in his 20s. During the Russian Revolution, he served as secretary to the Minister of Labor in the Provisional Government. When the Bolsheviks took over, he worked as a journalist in Kiev, but fearing political persecution, fled to Holland, then to the USA in 1919. He re-qualified in medicine at Columbia University, and after being analyzed by Franz Alexander, opened up a private psychoanalytic practice. In addition to analyzing George Gershwin, Lillian Hellman and Thomas Merton (among others), Zilboorg became a prolific writer on psychiatry, psychoanalysis and religion, and in 1954, five years before his death, converted to Catholicism.

This year’s two Karl Stern Lectures offer a privileged insight into the nature of this private journey with its special twists and turns as a highly regarded psychoanalyst struggled to reconcile his profession and his faith.

Faith and Hope Lecture
2 pm | Phenomenology Center

Hope and Charity Keynote Lecture
4 pm | Phenomenology Center
Q&A and Reception to Follow

September 29, 2017
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