

Seventh International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society

Understanding Globalism, Respecting Difference

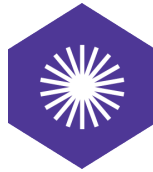
17-18 APRIL 2017 | IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON | LONDON, UK | RELIGIONINSOCIETY.COM



Seventh International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society

“Understanding Globalism, Respecting Difference”

17–18 April 2017 | Imperial College London | London, UK



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First published in 2017 in Champaign, Illinois, USA
by Common Ground Research Networks
www.cgnetworks.org

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Designed by Ebony Jackson
Cover image by Phillip Kalantzis-Cope



Dear Religion in Society Delegates,

Welcome to London and to the Seventh International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society. The Religion & Spirituality in Society Research Network—its conference, journal, and book imprint—was created to explore the relationship between religion and society and the changing nature of spirituality.

The Inaugural Religion in Society conference was held at University Center in Chicago, USA in February 2011. The conference has since been hosted at the University of British Columbia-Robson Square in Vancouver, Canada in 2012; at Arizona State University, in Tempe, USA in 2013; the Universidad Nacional Costa Rica in Heredia, Costa Rica in 2014; the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, USA in 2015; and at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., USA in 2016. Next year, we are honoured to hold the conference, once again, at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, USA.

Conferences can be ephemeral spaces. We talk, learn, get inspired, but these conversations fade with time. This Research Network supports a range of publishing modes in order to capture these conversations and formalize them as knowledge artifacts. We encourage you to submit your research to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*. We also encourage you to submit a book proposal to the Religion in Society Book Imprint.

In partnership with our Editors and Network Partners, the Religion in Society Research Network is curated by Common Ground Research Networks. Founded in 1984, Common Ground Research Networks is committed to building new kinds of research networks, innovative in their media and forward thinking in their messages. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and builds research networks which cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge, the changing role of the university—these are deeply important questions of our time which require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations. Common Ground is a meeting place for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect—differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

Thank you to everyone who has put such a phenomenal amount of work into preparing for this conference. I'd particularly like to thank my Religion in Society Research Network colleagues, including Patricija Kirvaitis, Kimberly Kendall, and McCall Macomber, who have put such a significant amount of work into this conference.

We wish you all the best for this conference, and we hope it will provide you every opportunity for dialogue with colleagues from around the corner and around the globe.

Yours sincerely,

Homer (Tony) Stavelly, PhD

Host, Common Ground Research Networks

Our Mission

Common Ground Research Networks aims to enable all people to participate in creating collaborative knowledge and to share that knowledge with the greater world. Through our academic conferences, peer-reviewed journals and books, and innovative software, we build transformative research networks and provide platforms for meaningful interactions across diverse media.

Our Message

Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations—of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground identifies some of the pivotal ideas and challenges of our time and builds research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of the humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge, the changing role of the university—these are deeply important questions of our time which require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations. Common Ground is a meeting place for these conversations, shared spaces in which differences can meet and safely connect—differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. We strive to create the places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

Our Media

Common Ground creates and supports research networks through a number of mechanisms and media. Annual conferences are held around the world to connect the global (the international delegates) with the local (academics, practitioners, and research network leaders from the host research network). Conference sessions include as many ways of speaking as possible to encourage each and every participant to engage, interact, and contribute. The journals and book imprints offer fully-refereed academic outlets for formalized knowledge, developed through innovative approaches to the processes of submission, peer review, and production. The Research Network also maintains an online presence—through presentations on our YouTube channel, quarterly email newsletters, as well as Facebook and Twitter feeds. And Common Ground's own software, **Scholar**, offers a path-breaking platform for online discussions and networking, as well as for creating, reviewing, and disseminating text and multi-media works.

Religion in Society Research Network

Exploring the role of religion and spirituality in society



This Research Network is brought together by a shared interest in the complex and subtle relationships between religion and society and the changing nature of spirituality. The research network interacts through an innovative, annual face-to-face conference, as well as year-round online relationships, a peer reviewed journal, and book imprint—exploring the affordances of the new digital media.

Conference

The conference is built upon four key features: Internationalism, Interdisciplinarity, Inclusiveness, and Interaction. Conference delegates include leaders in the field as well as emerging scholars, who travel to the conference from all corners of the globe and represent a broad range of disciplines and perspectives. A variety of presentation options and session types offer delegates multiple opportunities to engage, to discuss key issues in the field, and to build relationships with scholars from other cultures and disciplines.

Publishing

The Religion in Society Research Network enables members to publish through two media. First, research network members can enter a world of journal publication unlike the traditional academic publishing forums—a result of the responsive, non-hierarchical, and constructive nature of the peer review process. *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* provides a framework for double-blind peer review, enabling authors to publish into an academic journal of the highest standard. The second publication medium is through the book imprint, Religion in Society, publishing cutting edge books in print and electronic formats. Publication proposal and manuscript submissions are welcome.

Community

The research network offers several opportunities for ongoing communication among its members. Any member may upload video presentations based on scholarly work to the research network YouTube channel. Quarterly email newsletters contain updates on conference and publishing activities as well as broader news of interest. Join the conversations on Facebook and Twitter, or explore our new social media platform, **Scholar**.



On the sources, modes, and manifestations of religiosity

Theme 1: Religious Foundations

- Religious values and aspirations
- Sacred sources: sites, narratives, texts
- Religious philosophies and philosophies of religion
- Theological sources and resources
- World sources: religious and secular cosmologies
- Creation accounts in science and religion
- World destinies: religious and secular eschatologies
- Reason and faith: congruencies and conflicts
- Traditional, modern, and postmodern orientations to religion
- Science and religion: congruencies and conflicts on the sources of design in the natural world
- Religious counterpoints: agnosticism, atheism, materialism, and secularism
- Religious prophets: their messages and their meanings
- Religiosity: measures, forms, and levels of religious commitment
- Religion and law
- Religion and commerce
- The natural, the human, and the supernatural
- Rites and sites of passage: birth, adulthood, marriage, death
- Medical ethics and bioethics
- Anthropologies, psychologies, and sociologies of religion

On learning religious ways, spiritual ways of life, and religious institutions

Theme 2: Religious Research network and Socialization

- Religious institutional governance
- Symbolology in theory and practice
- Religious education and religion studies
- Religiously-based schools and religion in public schools
- Religion in ethnic, national, and racial identities
- Congregations and religious research network
- Media for religious messages
- Evangelism and conversion
- Ritual, rite, liturgy
- Prayer, contemplation, and meditation
- Meditation as healing and therapy
- Religious 'ways of life' and lifeworld practices
- Religious art and architecture
- Pilgrimage, tourism, and the search for spiritual meaning
- Religious leadership



On variations in religious forms and the relationships between different religions

Theme 3: Religious Commonalities and Differences

- Comparative studies of religion
- Monotheism, polytheism, and immanentist religions
- Indigenous or first nation spiritualities
- Inter-religious harmony
- Interfaith dialogue
- Religious diversity, tolerance, and understanding
- Religions in globalization
- Centrifugal and centripetal forces: difference and interdependence
- Denominationalism: tendencies to fracture and recombination
- Literal and metaphorical readings of sacred texts
- Religion, identity, and ethnicity
- Interreligious education
- The nation state and religious exceptionalism
- Religious dual belonging
- Ecumenicalism
- Interfaith dialogue and international interfaith organizations

On the relations of religion to the state and civil society

Theme 4: The Politics of Religion

- Religion in politics and the politics of religion
- Modernity and religious frameworks
- Religious freedom in secular states
- Chaplaincies and the state
- Politics, society, and religion in religiously defined states
- Religious minorities and the state
- Social agendas for religion: sustainability, justice, peace
- Religious divisions and social conflicts
- Religiously inspired violence and non-violence
- Gender, sexuality, and religion
- Women, patriarchy, and the sacred feminine
- Religion as a source of research network cohesion or research network dissonance
- Terrorism, political extremism, and religion
- Religion and human security
- Religion and global ethics
- Religion and human rights
- Religion and reconciliation
- The future of religion



Understanding Globalism, Respecting Difference

The economic, political, and social forces of globalization impact communities in varying ways. Religions, faiths, and spiritualities serve as interpretive frameworks for these forces and their impacts on communities. Religious frameworks and spiritual practices mediate between the conservation of faith-based principles and the demands of contemporary life within a global, multi-faith landscape. However, all too often, whether intentional or not, these processes of mediation also breed discourses of intolerance. This creates self-confirming cycles in the media and popular culture, pushing faith communities further into corners of misunderstanding. How can these processes be reversed? How can faith communities position themselves as leaders, nurturing new understandings of globalism where differences are respected? How might religions and spiritualities provide an impetus for action, not just within the confines of their own communities, but as shared programs of action that create global communities of tolerance, respect, and peace?



The Religion in Society Research Network sets out in its conference, journal, book imprint, and online research network, to describe, analyze, and interpret the role of religion in society. The research network's intellectual project is neutral with respect to the agendas of particular religions or explicit counterpoints to religion such as agnosticism or atheism.

Not that religion or spirituality can, in their very nature, ever be neutral subjects of discussion. In fact, religion is one of the most interest-laden of all discussions. Religion supplies meanings-in-the-world, no less. Spirituality is an ultimate source of interest. Religion provides an account of human origins, responsibilities, and destinies. It sets out to explain the nature of being. And it creates a framework for interpreting human action according principles of good and evil.

Religion's stance is not only interest-intensive. It is also transcendental. Religion strives to reach beyond the lifeworld, grasping deeper meanings that may not always be self-evident in the ordinariness of everyday experience. This much can be said of religion-in-general. As for religions-in-particular, the range is as wide as the cultural experiences of human species-being.

'First nations' or indigenous peoples practiced a broad range of immanentist religions, including variants of totemism, animism, nature worship, shamanism, and ancestor worship—perhaps, in one perspective, for as long as the one hundred thousand years or more of our existence as a species. Religion then was less a separate institutional, spatial, and temporal space than it became in subsequent moments of human history. Religious meanings were deeply and integrally layered into the material and social worlds, thus representing a belief in the pervasive immanence of spiritual powers in natural circumstances and human affairs.

From about five thousand years ago, religious modes take a radically new textual-narrative form in conjunction with parallel revolutions in agriculture, the domestication of animals, village or city dwelling, the invention of writing, and institutionalized economic class inequality. The new religions are rarely unequivocally monotheistic (monotheistic systems of deity mostly have multiple personalities and deified prophets or saints). Nor are they simply polytheistic (polytheistic systems of deity mostly have hierarchies of major and lesser deity). Their key features are the progressive solidification of religious expression into sacred texts, sanctified buildings, and the institutional formation of a class of priestly interpreters and intermediaries. The common modes of meaning of these second phase religions are even signified at times to the extent of sharing historic origins or exemplary persons and narratives.

Religious meanings take a third paradigmatic turn with the arrival of modernity. Or, more to the point, a new mode of spirituality emerges in a parallel universe of meaning alongside the persistence of the first two. For the first time in human history, modernity provides an alternative meaning system which is areligious—based on mixes of the epistemes of science, civic law, economic progress, vernacular materialism, and human reason. At the same time, atheism and agnosticism emerge as engaged counterpoints to religion.

Religion, nevertheless, powerfully persists in forms characteristic of all three of these world-historic moments of meaning-ascription. Modern, liberal reinterpretations of second phase world religions recast sacred cosmologies as metaphorical, and not incompatible with science. They perform re-readings of sacred narratives in the light of modernity's ethical aspirations such as for gender equality, human biomastery, non-violence, and material well-being for all. The shift is so profound that these modes of religiously themselves might be characterized as third phase.



Meanwhile, others insist on holding to the truths of second phase religiosity. In practice they do this by means of textual literalism, religious fundamentalism, and didactic religious education. The chasm between liberal and fundamentalist religiosity in modernity at times seems as great as that between religionists and anti-religionists. And to add an original layer to our contemporary complexity, first nation religions persist and at times thrive, while revivals of immanentist religion are found in 'new age' and other such spiritualities.

Today, the search for meaning-grounds can only be described as a scene of unprecedented pluralism. To this, we can react in several ways. We can adopt pluralism as a modern value and strive for shared meanings and harmony-in-difference on earth. Or we can regard pluralism as force undermining the integrity of religion and with it, the communal distinctiveness of specific religious ways of life—in this frame of reference pluralism is an aspect of modernity that should be resisted.



About

The Religion in Society Research Network is dedicated to the concept of independent, peer-led groups of scholars, researchers, and practitioners working together to build bodies of knowledge related to topics of critical importance to society at large. Focusing on the intersection of academia and social impact, the Religion in Society Research Network brings an interdisciplinary, international perspective to discussions of new developments in the field, including research, practice, policy, and teaching.

Membership Benefits

As a Religion in Society Research Network member you have access to a broad range of tools and resources to use in your own work:

- Digital subscription to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* for one year.
- Digital subscription to the book imprint for one year.
- One article publication per year (pending peer review).
- Participation as a reviewer in the peer review process, with the opportunity to be listed as a Reviewer.
- Subscription to the network e-newsletter, providing access to news and announcements for and from the Research Network.
- Option to add a video presentation to the research network YouTube channel.
- Free access to the **Scholar** social knowledge platform, including:
 - ◊ Personal profile and publication portfolio page.
 - ◊ Ability to interact and form communities with peers away from the clutter and commercialism of other social media.
 - ◊ Optional feeds to Facebook and Twitter.
 - ◊ Complimentary use of **Scholar** in your classes—for class interactions in its research network space, multimodal student writing in its Creator space, and managing student peer review, assessment, and sharing of published work.



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Present and Participate in the Conference

You have already begun your engagement in the research network by attending the conference, presenting your work, and interacting face-to-face with other members. We hope this experience provides a valuable source of feedback for your current work and the possible seeds for future individual and collaborative projects, as well as the start of a conversation with research network colleagues that will continue well into the future.

Publish Journal Articles or Books

We encourage you to submit an article for review and possible publication in the journal. In this way, you may share the finished outcome of your presentation with other participants and members of the research network. As a member of the research network, you will also be invited to review others' work and contribute to the development of the research network knowledge base as a Reviewer. As part of your active membership in the research network, you also have online access to the complete works (current and previous volumes) of journal and to the book imprint. We also invite you to consider submitting a proposal for the book imprint.

Engage through Social Media

There are several ways to connect and network with research network colleagues:



Email Newsletters: Published quarterly, these contain information on the conference and publishing, along with news of interest to the research network. Contribute news or links with a subject line 'Email Newsletter Suggestion' to support@religioninsociety.com.



Scholar: Common Ground's path-breaking platform that connects academic peers from around the world in a space that is modulated for serious discourse and the presentation of knowledge works.



Facebook: Comment on current news, view photos from the conference, and take advantage of special benefits for research network members at: <https://www.facebook.com/ReligionInSociety>.



Twitter: Follow the research network [@religionsociety](https://twitter.com/religionsociety) and talk about the conference with [#religionconference2017](https://twitter.com/religionconference2017).



YouTube Channel: View online presentations or contribute your own at <http://cgnetworks.org/support/uploading-your-presentation-to-youtube>.



The principal role of the Advisory Board is to drive the overall intellectual direction of the Religion in Society Research Network and to consult on our foundational themes as they evolve along with the currents of the field. Board members are invited to attend the annual conference and provide important insights on conference development, including suggestions for speakers, venues, and special themes. We also encourage board members to submit articles for publication consideration to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* as well as proposals or completed manuscripts to the Religion in Society Book Imprint.

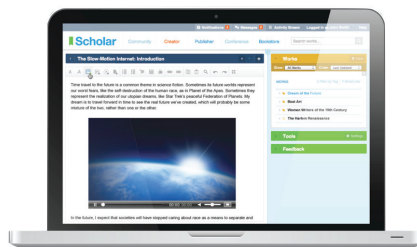
We are grateful for the continued service and support of the following world-class scholars and practitioners.

- **Desmond Cahill**, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia
- **Catherine Caufield**, Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
- **Recep Dogan**, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, Australia
- **Tracy Fessenden**, Arizona State University, Phoenix, USA
- **Corey Harris**, Alvernia University, Reading, USA
- **Mohammad Khalil**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA
- **Steve Knowles**, University of Chester, Chester, UK
- **Saša Nedeljković**, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- **Norbert Samuelson**, Arizona State University, Phoenix, USA

A Social Knowledge Platform

Create Your Academic Profile and Connect to Peers

Developed by our brilliant Common Ground software team, **Scholar** connects academic peers from around the world in a space that is modulated for serious discourse and the presentation of knowledge works.



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- Establishing a new Research Network *relevant to your field*.
- Creating *new academic work* in our innovative publishing space.
- Building a *peer review network* around your work or courses.

Scholar Quick Start Guide

1. Navigate to <http://cgscholar.com>. Select [**Sign Up**] below ‘Create an Account’.
2. Enter a “**blip**” (a very brief one-sentence description of yourself).
3. Click on the “**Find and join communities**” link located under the YOUR COMMUNITIES heading (On the left hand navigation bar).
4. Search for a research network to join or create your own.

Scholar Next Steps – Build Your Academic Profile

- **About:** Include information about yourself, including a linked CV in the top, dark blue bar.
- **Interests:** Create searchable information so others with similar interests can locate you.
- **Peers:** Invite others to connect as a peer and keep up with their work.
- **Shares:** Make your page a comprehensive portfolio of your work by adding publications in the Shares area - be these full text copies of works in cases where you have permission, or a link to a bookstore, library or publisher listing. If you choose Common Ground’s hybrid open access option, you may post the final version of your work here, available to anyone on the web if you select the ‘make my site public’ option.
- **Image:** Add a photograph of yourself to this page; hover over the avatar and click the pencil/edit icon to select.
- **Publisher:** All Common Ground research network members have free access to our peer review space for their courses. Here they can arrange for students to write multimodal essays or reports in the Creator space (including image, video, audio, dataset or any other file), manage student peer review, co-ordinate assessments, and share students’ works by publishing them to the Research network space.



A Digital Learning Platform

Use **Scholar** to Support Your Teaching

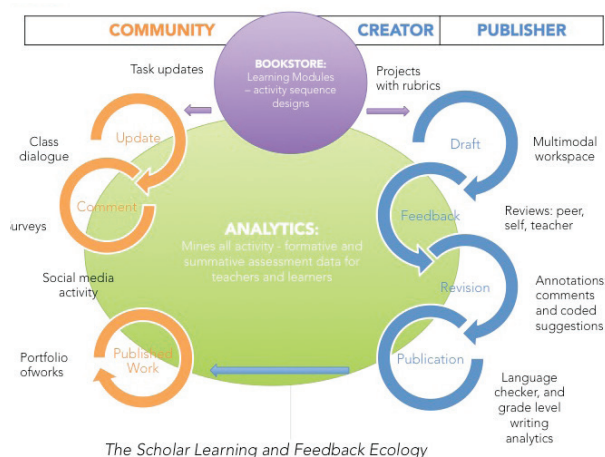
Scholar is a social knowledge platform that *transforms the patterns of interaction in learning by putting students first*, positioning them as knowledge producers instead of passive knowledge consumers. **Scholar** provides scaffolding to encourage making and sharing knowledge drawing from multiple sources rather than memorizing knowledge that has been presented to them.

Scholar also answers one of the most fundamental questions students and instructors have of their performance, “How am I doing?” Typical modes of assessment often answer this question either too late to matter or in a way that is not clear or comprehensive enough to meaningfully contribute to better performance.

A collaborative research and development project between Common Ground and the College of Education at the University of Illinois, **Scholar** contains a Research Network space, a multimedia web writing space, a formative assessment environment that facilitates peer review, and a dashboard with aggregated machine and human formative and summative writing assessment data.

The following **Scholar** features are only available to Common Ground Research Network members as part of their membership. Please email us at support@cgscholar.com if you would like the complimentary educator account that comes with participation in a Common Ground conference.

- Create projects for groups of students, involving draft, peer review, revision and publication.
- Publish student works to each student’s personal portfolio space, accessible through the web for class discussion.
- Create and distribute surveys.
- Evaluate student work using a variety of measures in the assessment dashboard.

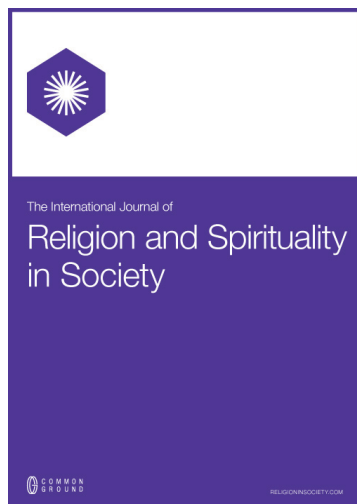


Scholar is a generation beyond learning management systems. It is what we term a *Digital Learning Platform*—it transforms learning by engaging students in powerfully horizontal “social knowledge” relationships. **For more information, visit:** <http://knowledge.cgscholar.com>.



Religion in Society Journal

*Aiming to be a definitive resource for the study of religion
and spirituality and to create an interdisciplinary
conversation on the role of religion in society and the
changing dimensions of spirituality*



About

The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society aims to create an intellectual frame of reference for the academic study of religion and spirituality, and to create an interdisciplinary conversation on the role of religion and spirituality in society. It is intended as a place for critical engagement, examination, and experimentation of ideas that connect religious philosophies to their contexts throughout history in the world, places of worship, on the streets, and in communities. The journal addresses the need for critical discussion on religious issues—specifically as they are situated in the present-day contexts of ethics, warfare, politics, anthropology, sociology, education, leadership, artistic engagement, and the dissonance or resonance between religious tradition and modern trends.

The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society is peer-reviewed, supported by rigorous processes of criterion-referenced article ranking and qualitative commentary, ensuring that only intellectual work of the greatest substance and highest significance is published.

Indexing

Academic Search Alumni Edition (EBSCO)
Academic Search Elite (EBSCO)
Academic Search Index (EBSCO)
Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)
Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)
Biography Reference Bank (EBSCO)
OmniFile Full Text Mega (EBSCO)
OmniFile Full Text Select (EBSCO)

DOI:

10.18848/2154-8633/CGP

Founded:

2011

Publication Frequency:

Quarterly (March, June, September, December)

Acceptance Rate:

31% (2016)

ISSN:

2154-8633 (Print)
2154-8641 (Online)

Community Website:

religioninsociety.com

Bookstore:

ijn.cgpublisher.com

Editor



Dr. Saša Nedeljković, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Reviewers

Articles published in *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* are peer reviewed by scholars who are active members of the Religion in Society Research Network. Reviewers may be past or present conference delegates, fellow submitters to the journal, or scholars who have volunteered to review papers (and have been screened by Common Ground's editorial team). This engagement with the Research Network, as well as Common Ground's synergistic and criterion-based evaluation system, distinguishes the peer review process from journals that have a more top-down approach to refereeing. Reviewers are assigned to papers based on their academic interests and scholarly expertise. In recognition of the valuable feedback and publication recommendations that they provide, reviewers are acknowledged as Reviewers in the volume that includes the paper(s) they reviewed. Thus, in addition to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society's* Editors and Advisory Board, the Reviewers contribute significantly to the overall editorial quality and content of the journal.



Journal Submission Process and Timeline

Below, please find step-by-step instructions on the journal article submission process:

1. Submit a conference presentation proposal.
2. Once your conference presentation proposal has been accepted, you may submit your article by clicking the “Add a Paper” button on the right side of your proposal page. You may upload your article anytime between the first and the final submission deadlines. (See dates below)
3. Once your article is received, it is verified against template and submission requirements. If your article satisfies these requirements, your identity and contact details are then removed, and the article is matched to two appropriate referees and sent for review. You can view the status of your article at any time by logging into your CGPublisher account at www.CGPublisher.com.
4. When both referee reports are uploaded, and after the referees’ identities have been removed, you will be notified by email and provided with a link to view the reports.
5. If your article has been accepted, you will be asked to accept the Publishing Agreement and submit a final copy of your article. If your paper is accepted with revisions, you will be required to submit a change note with your final submission, explaining how you revised your article in light of the referees’ comments. If your article is rejected, you may resubmit it once, with a detailed change note, for review by new referees.
6. Once we have received the final submission of your article, which was accepted or accepted with revisions, our Publishing Department will give your article a final review. This final review will verify that you have complied with the Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition), and will check any edits you have made while considering the feedback of your referees. After this review has been satisfactorily completed, your paper will be typeset and a proof will be sent to you for approval before publication.
7. Individual articles may be published “Web First” with a full citation. Full issues follow at regular, quarterly intervals. All issues are published 4 times per volume (except the annual review, which is published once per volume).

Submission Timeline

You may submit your article for publication to the journal at any time throughout the year. The rolling submission deadlines are as follows:

- Submission Round 1 – 15 January
- Submission Round 2 – 15 April
- Submission Round 3 – 15 July
- Submission Round 4 (final) – 15 October

Note: If your article is submitted after the final deadline for the volume, it will be considered for the following year’s volume. The sooner you submit, the sooner your article will begin the peer review process. Also, because we publish “Web First,” early submission means that your article may be published with a full citation as soon as it is ready, even if that is before the full issue is published.





Hybrid Open Access

All Common Ground Journals are Hybrid Open Access. Hybrid Open Access is an option increasingly offered by both university presses and well-known commercial publishers.

Hybrid Open Access means some articles are available only to subscribers, while others are made available at no charge to anyone searching the web. Authors pay an additional fee for the open access option. Authors may do this because open access is a requirement of their research-funding agency, or they may do this so non-subscribers can access their article for free.

Common Ground's open access charge is \$250 per article—a very reasonable price compared to our hybrid open access competitors and purely open access journals resourced with an author publication fee. Digital articles are normally only available through individual or institutional subscriptions or for purchase at \$5 per article. However, if you choose to make your article Open Access, this means anyone on the web may download it for free.

Paying subscribers still receive considerable benefits with access to all articles in the journal, from both current and past volumes, without any restrictions. However, making your paper available at no charge through Open Access increases its visibility, accessibility, potential readership, and citation counts. Open Access articles also generate higher citation counts.

Institutional Open Access

Common Ground is proud to announce an exciting new model of scholarly publishing called Institutional Open Access.

Institutional Open Access allows faculty and graduate students to submit articles to Common Ground journals for unrestricted open access publication. These articles will be freely and publicly available to the whole world through our hybrid open access infrastructure. With Institutional Open Access, instead of the author paying a per-article open access fee, institutions pay a set annual fee that entitles their students and faculty to publish a given number of open access articles each year.

The rights to the articles remain with the subscribing institution. Both the author and the institution can also share the final typeset version of the article in any place they wish, including institutional repositories, personal websites, and privately or publicly accessible course materials. We support the highest Sherpa/Romeo access level—Green.

For more information on how to make your article Open Access, or information on Institutional Open Access, please contact us at support@cgnetworks.org.



International Award for Excellence

The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society presents an annual International Award for Excellence for new research or thinking in the area of religion. All articles submitted for publication in 2015 in *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* are entered into consideration for this award. The review committee for the award is selected from the International Advisory Board for *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* and the annual International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society. The committee selects the winning article from the ten highest-ranked articles emerging from the review process and according to the selection criteria outlined in the reviewer guidelines.

Award Winner, Volume 5

Lisa Naas Cook, Marylhurst University, USA

For the Article

“Restoring a Rhythm of Sacred Rest in a 24/7 World: An Exploration of Technology Sabbath and Connection to the Earth Research Community”

Abstract

The practice of intentional unplugging from Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), often called a technology Sabbath, appears to be a growing trend discussed in the popular press. The relationship between technology Sabbath and feelings of connection to people and the Earth is explored through two modes of inquiry: (1) a one-month phenomenological study of ten individuals' weekly, 24-hour technology Sabbath experiences recorded in journals and interviews and (2) a review of biological, social science, and theological perspectives on a rhythm of rest. Study results suggest participants generally experience intentional unplugging as a pause for reflection on technology's role and value in their lives. Results are mixed as to how people experience feelings of connection to other people and the Earth during technology Sabbath time. Review of biological and social science literature reveals that 24-7 connectivity can disrupt the rest humans need. Theologians Richard H. Lowery, Arthur Waskow, and Norman Wirzba make the case that Sabbath spirituality—through the experience of delight and gratitude for an abundant creation, liberation from human productivity and control of the Earth, and reflective time—offers wisdom for restoring a rhythm of rest necessary for both personal and planetary well-being.



Research Network Membership and Personal Subscriptions

As part of each conference registration, all conference participants (both virtual and in-person) have a one-year digital subscription to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*. This complimentary personal subscription grants access to the current volume as well as the entire backlist. The period of complimentary access begins at the time of registration and ends one year after the close of the conference. After that time, delegates may purchase a personal subscription.

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Common Ground offers print and digital subscriptions to all of its journals. Subscriptions are available to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society* and to custom suites based on a given institution’s unique content needs. Subscription prices are based on a tiered scale that corresponds to the full-time enrollment (FTE) of the subscribing institution.

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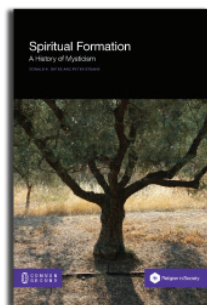
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Download the Library Recommendation form from our website to recommend that your institution subscribe to *The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society*: <http://cgnetworks.org/support/recommend-a-subscription-to-your-library>.

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*Aiming to set new standards in participatory knowledge
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Religion in Society Book Imprint

Call for Books

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- Table of contents
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Common Ground recognizes the important role of reviewers by acknowledging book reviewers as members of the Editorial Review Board for a period of at least one year. The list of members of the Editorial Review Board will be posted on our website.

If you would like to review book manuscripts, please send an email to books@cgnetworks.org with:

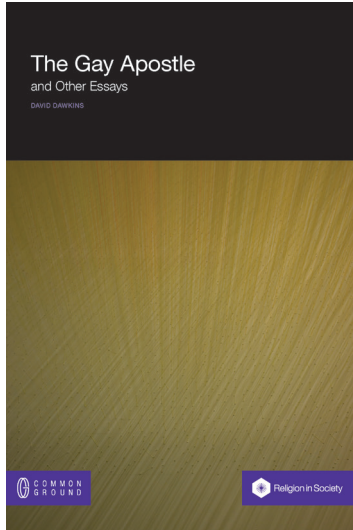
- A brief description of your professional credentials
- A list of your areas of interest and expertise
- A copy of your CV with current contact details

If we feel that you are qualified and we require refereeing for manuscripts within your purview, we will contact you.



The Gay Apostle and Other Essays

David Dawkins



ISBNs:

978-1-61229-870-2 (hbk)

978-1-61229-871-9 (pbk)

183 Pages

Research Network Website:

religioninsociety.com

Bookstore:

religioninsociety.cgpublisher.com

The Gay Apostle and Other Essays is a sociological study of Saint Paul and the controversies emanating from his teaching about homosexuality, the role of women, marriage, and divorce. The title essay contends that St. Paul was homosexual and that his conversion to Christianity resulted from a psychotic seizure due to mental stress brought on by homosexual urges that ran counter to his deeply-engrained religious faith. Paul eventually formed an affective but celibate relationship with St. Luke and sublimated his sexual desires by pouring energy into a passion for God as the missionary to the Gentiles, which conveniently took him into the safer, more tolerant, non-Judaic Roman world. Yet despite all this, he bequeathed to Christianity a homophobic outlook. Some say Paul has been misunderstood, but David Dawkins argues that his condemnatory words mean exactly what they say, though they do require explanation, and in our better-informed age Paul's opinions should be rejected. This questions the notion of the Bible as "The Word of God." Following Paul, the Church adopted a view of marriage as divinely ordained and strictly monogamist, but research in evolutionary biology and behavioural science indicates that family and marriage are variable social constructs. By medieval times, the Church had institutionalized marriage and divorce as a means of exerting socio-political influence, but one king wrested power from the Vatican by reclaiming a right established in the Magna Carta. His story, encompassing geopolitics and papal corruption and venality, also reveals how willing the Church has been to disregard its own rules.

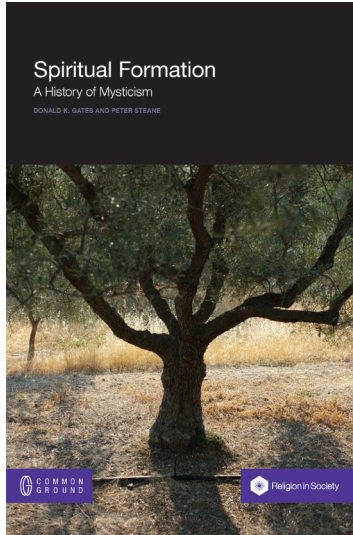
Author Bio:

David Dawkins has a diploma in theology and a doctorate in sociology. Born in a Welsh coal-mining valley, he has lived in Australia since the age of twelve. He worked in banking until he was conscripted for military service in the Australian Army. Following this, he studied theology, was ordained, worked in suburban parishes, and was appointed adjunct Anglican Chaplain at Monash University. Radical theological views led him to move out of ecclesiastic life, first to teach English to indigenous high school students in Papua New Guinea and then to an academic career in sociology at Deakin University, where he was head of the Workplace Education Program.



Spiritual Formation: A History of Mysticism

Donald Gates and Peter Steane



ISBN—978-1-61229-536-7
181 Pages

Research Network Website:
religioninsociety.com

Bookstore:
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Spiritual Formation: A History of Mysticism portrays a spiritual pilgrimage. It is a journey we take in our faith lives. Mystical experiences from the Old and New Testaments are described as are the revelations of early church leaders, from Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, to later European mystics and Saints such as John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila.

The eighteenth-century Enlightenment saw mystics, such as John and Charles Wesley, emphasize a “social holiness” evidenced in social action, such as Wilberforce’s Anti Slavery Crusade. This emphasis on practical holiness continued with William and Catherine Booth’s founding of The Salvation Army, which is typically Wesleyan in its understanding of holiness-in-action, and aligned with Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s Natural Evolutionary Theology.

The authors argue that spiritual leaders, poets, and musicians satisfy Matthew Fox’s definition of a mystic as holding a “vital belief in a transcendent reality ... as they can communicate with that reality by direct experience”. This book provides a framework for ministry, social justice action, and policy with practical disciplines for the spiritual journey.

Author Bios:

Dr. Donald Gates is a retired Salvation Army officer with fifty-four years of service. He has had appointments in education, management, ministry, and social service, including nine years in Papua New Guinea. Dr. Gates possesses degrees in economics, social science, education, and a doctoral degree in values in policy formation. He continues to research values in social and economic policy and spiritual ministry.

Dr. Peter Steane is a Catholic priest with three decades experience in education, formation, and leadership development. He is currently a professor of management at Australian Catholic University and continues to research and teach ethical leadership, strategic thinking, and organizational renewal.

Religion in Society Conference

*Curating global interdisciplinary spaces, supporting
professionally rewarding relationships*



Conference History

Founded in 2011, the International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society brings together scholars, teachers, and practitioners together to reflect on the relationships of religion and spirituality to society. The conference aims to provide a space for careful, scholarly reflection, and open dialogue.

The International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society is built upon four key features: Internationalism, Interdisciplinarity, Inclusiveness, and Interaction. Conference delegates include leaders in the field as well as emerging scholars, who travel to the conference from all corners of the globe and represent a broad range of disciplines and perspectives. A variety of presentation options and session types offer delegates multiple opportunities to engage, to discuss key issues in the field, and to build relationships with scholars from other cultures and disciplines.

Past Conferences

- 2011 - University Center, Chicago, USA
- 2012 - UBC, Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 - Arizona State University, Tempe, USA
- 2014 - Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, Heredia, Costa Rica
- 2015 - University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, USA
- 2016 - The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., USA

Plenary Speaker Highlights:

The International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society has a rich history of featuring leading and emerging voices from the field, including:

- Desmond Cahill, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia (2012)
- Wendy Doniger, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, USA (2011)
- Tracy Fessenden, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA (2013)
- Gary T. Gardner, Worldwatch Institute, Washington D.C., USA (2016)
- Laurel Kearns, Associate Professor, Drew University, Madison, USA (2016)
- Steve Knowles, University of Chester, Chester, UK (2014)
- Robert McKim, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign-Urbana, USA (2011)
- Francisco Mena, National University of Costa Rica, Heredia, Costa Rica (2014)
- Steven Pfaff, University of Washington, Seattle, USA (2015)
- Norbert M. Samuelson, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA (2013)
- Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University, Chicago, USA (2015)

Become a Partner

Common Ground Research Networks has a long history of meaningful and substantive partnerships with universities, research institutes, government bodies, and non-governmental organizations. Developing these partnerships is a pillar of our Research Network agenda. There are a number of ways you can partner with a Common Ground Research Network. Contact us at support@religioninsociety.com to become a partner.





Conference Principles and Features

The structure of the conference is based on four core principles that pervade all aspects of the Research Network:

International

This conference travels around the world to provide opportunities for delegates to see and experience different countries and locations. But more importantly, the Religion in Society conference offers a tangible and meaningful opportunity to engage with scholars from a diversity of cultures and perspectives. This year, delegates from over 30 countries are in attendance, offering a unique and unparalleled opportunity to engage directly with colleagues from all corners of the globe.

Interdisciplinary

Unlike association conferences attended by delegates with similar backgrounds and specialties, this conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and scholars from a wide range of disciplines who have a shared interest in the themes and concerns of this research network. As a result, topics are broached from a variety of perspectives, interdisciplinary methods are applauded, and mutual respect and collaboration are encouraged.

Inclusive

Anyone whose scholarly work is sound and relevant is welcome to participate in this research network and conference, regardless of discipline, culture, institution, or career path. Whether an emeritus professor, graduate student, researcher, teacher, policymaker, practitioner, or administrator, your work and your voice can contribute to the collective body of knowledge that is created and shared by this research network.

Interactive

To take full advantage of the rich diversity of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives represented at the conference, there must be ample opportunities to speak, listen, engage, and interact. A variety of session formats, from more to less structured, are offered throughout the conference to provide these opportunities.



Plenary

Plenary speakers, chosen from among the world's leading thinkers, offer formal presentations on topics of broad interest to the research network and conference delegation. One or more speakers are scheduled into a plenary session, most often the first session of the day. As a general rule, there are no questions or discussion during these sessions. Instead, plenary speakers answer questions and participate in informal, extended discussions during their Garden Conversation.



Garden Conversation

Garden Conversations are informal, unstructured sessions that allow delegates a chance to meet plenary speakers and talk with them at length about the issues arising from their presentation. When the venue and weather allow, we try to arrange for a circle of chairs to be placed outdoors.



Talking Circles

Held on the first day of the conference, Talking Circles offer an early opportunity to meet other delegates with similar interests and concerns. Delegates self-select into groups based on broad thematic areas and then engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the research network. Questions like "Who are we?", "What is our common ground?", "What are the current challenges facing society in this area?", "What challenges do we face in constructing knowledge and effecting meaningful change in this area?" may guide the conversation. When possible, a second Talking Circle is held on the final day of the conference, for the original group to reconvene and discuss changes in their perspectives and understandings as a result of the conference experience. Reports from the Talking Circles provide a framework for the delegates' final discussions during the Closing Session.



Themed Paper Presentations

Paper presentations are grouped by general themes or topics into sessions comprised of three or four presentations followed by group discussion. Each presenter in the session makes a formal twenty-minute presentation of their work; Q&A and group discussion follow after all have presented. Session Chairs introduce the speakers, keep time on the presentations, and facilitate the discussion. Each presenter's formal, written paper will be available to participants if accepted to the journal.



Colloquium

Colloquium sessions are organized by a group of colleagues who wish to present various dimensions of a project or perspectives on an issue. Four or five short formal presentations are followed by a moderator. A single article or multiple articles may be submitted to the journal based on the content of a colloquium session.



Focused Discussion

For work that is best discussed or debated, rather than reported on through a formal presentation, these sessions provide a forum for an extended “roundtable” conversation between an author and a small group of interested colleagues. Several such discussions occur simultaneously in a specified area, with each author’s table designated by a number corresponding to the title and topic listed in the program schedule. Summaries of the author’s key ideas, or points of discussion, are used to stimulate and guide the discourse. A single article, based on the scholarly work and informed by the focused discussion as appropriate, may be submitted to the journal.



Workshop/Interactive Session

Workshop sessions involve extensive interaction between presenters and participants around an idea or hands-on experience of a practice. These sessions may also take the form of a crafted panel, staged conversation, dialogue or debate—all involving substantial interaction with the audience. A single article (jointly authored, if appropriate) may be submitted to the journal based on a workshop session.



Poster Sessions

Poster sessions present preliminary results of works in progress or projects that lend themselves to visual displays and representations. These sessions allow for engagement in informal discussions about the work with interested delegates throughout the session.



Virtual Lightning Talk

Lightning talks are 5-minute “flash” video presentations. Authors present summaries or overviews of their work, describing the essential features (related to purpose, procedures, outcomes, or product). Like Paper Presentations, Lightning Talks are grouped according to topic or perspective into themed sessions. Authors are welcome to submit traditional “lecture style” videos or videos that use visual supports like PowerPoint. Final videos must be submitted at least one month prior to the conference start date. After the conference, videos are then presented on the network YouTube channel. Full papers can based in the virtual poster can also be submitted for consideration in the journal.



Virtual Poster

This format is ideal for presenting preliminary results of work in progress or for projects that lend themselves to visual displays and representations. Each poster should include a brief abstract of the purpose and procedures of the work. After acceptance, presenters are provided with a template and Virtual Posters are submitted as a PDF. Final posters must be submitted at least one month prior to the conference start date. Full papers based on the virtual poster can also be submitted for consideration in the journal.



Monday, 17 April

8:00–9:00	Conference Registration Desk Open
9:00–9:30	Conference Opening—Homer Stavelly, Host, Common Ground Research Networks
9:30–10:05	Plenary Session—David O’Brien, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA, <i>“Institutional Adjustment to Globalization to Increase Religious Tolerance: Implications from Multi-National Community Research”</i>
10:05–10:35	Garden Conversation and Coffee Break
10:35–11:20	Talking Circles
11:20–12:35	Parallel Sessions
12:35–13:35	Lunch
13:35–15:15	Parallel Sessions
15:15–15:30	Coffee Break
15:30–17:10	Parallel Sessions

Tuesday, 18 April

8:00–9:00	Conference Registration Desk Open
9:00–9:30	Daily Update
9:30–10:05	Plenary Session—Ben Schewel, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA, <i>“The Second Axial Age as a Framework for Social Change”</i>
10:05–10:35	Garden Conversation and Coffee Break
10:35–11:20	Talking Circles
11:20–13:00	Parallel Sessions
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–14:45	Parallel Sessions
14:45–15:00	Transition
15:00–16:40	Parallel Sessions
16:40–17:10	Special Event: Closing & Award Ceremony



David O'Brien

Institutional Adjustment to Globalization to Increase Religious Tolerance: Implications from Multi-National Community Research



David John O'Brien—BA Boston College, MA University of Notre Dame, and PhD Indiana University—is a professor and chair of rural sociology at the University of Missouri (USA). His research and writing cover the following topics: collective action in urban neighborhoods, inter-generational ethnic community identity and assimilation, the adaptation of rural households and communities to the pressures of globalization, and rural Russian household, community, and regional responses to the effects of the collapse of the Soviet economy. Currently, he is working with an inter-disciplinary team to identify the sources of strategies for smallholder cooperatives to compete in the liberalized post-colonial economies in eastern Africa. O'Brien's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation (USA), the National Institute of Mental Health (USA), the Ford Foundation, the Soros Foundation, SAMSHA, USDA, and USAID.

Ben Schewel

The Second Axial Age as a Framework for Social Change



Benjamin Schewel is a fellow in the Centre for Religion, Conflict, and the Public Domain at the University of Groningen and an affiliate scholar at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He is also a research and policy officer at the Bahá'í International Community's European Office. He received a PhD in philosophy from KU Leuven and has also held visiting positions at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Utrecht, and Addis Ababa. His research concentrates on questions concerning religion and the public sphere. His first book, *Seven Ways of Looking at Religion*, is currently forthcoming with Yale University Press. He is also co-editing a collection of essays, entitled *Religion and European Society*, for Wiley-Blackwell.



Renee Baribeau



Renee Danielle Baribeau, known as the Practical Shaman, is an author, speaker, entrepreneur, soul coach, and workshop leader, known and respected for her down-to-earth approach to spirituality. Baribeau is an avid lifetime learner, having completed a BA in communication and philosophy from the University of Southern Maine, attended cooking school at The New York Restaurant School in Manhattan, and has pursued academic coursework throughout her career. Four years ago, she renewed her passion for research while writing the *Winds of Spirit*. This work had roots in history, anthropology, religion, philosophy, and shamanism. With the realization that this research was developing into a body of work that had significant new religious perspective and possibilities, Baribeau deepened her phenomenological and scholarly investigation.

Marie Chabbert



Marie Chabbert is a PhD candidate at Oxford University, where she conducts interdisciplinary research on religion, community, and violence in contemporary French culture. Her thesis more precisely focuses on the work of Georges Bataille, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Gilles Deleuze, who, she argues, laid new ontological grounds for the development of an alternative articulation of secular and religious perspectives in the—sometimes aggressively—secular French intellectual environment. The key to such a project is Marie's training in politics, the anthropology of religion, and French culture, which she received at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris, the London School of Economics, and Cambridge University, respectively. In addition to these intellectual endeavours, Marie is a Core Group member of the European Interfaith Youth Network of Religions for Peace, the largest coalition of representatives from the world's religions dedicated to promoting multi-religious cooperation for peace.

Aditya Chaturvedi



Aditya Chaturvedi finished his BA (Honours) in history from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India and has won several academic awards. He is currently pursuing an MA at the School of Historical Studies at Nālandā University, Rajgir, India. He works on religious and spiritual traditions of South Asia and specializes in Bhakti texts and practices. He is a trained Hindustani classical vocalist and also plays tabla. Aditya is currently studying the practices associated with the Rāmakathā tradition(s) of northern India.

Rumeysa Nur Gurbuz



Rumeysa was born in 1991, in Ankara, Turkey and received a BA in theology, with a dissertation focused on the simulation theory of Jean Baudrillard, at Ankara University, Turkey in 2013. She completed her MA at Durham University, UK, in 2016, and focused on war-traumatized children and their spiritual well-being. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University College London, in the Division of Psychiatry. Throughout her student years, she participated in various international events and student seminars, both as a participant and an organiser. Her prior experience includes working as an editor-in-chief of Vefa Literary and Art Magazine, and as an editor of Seyyah Literary Magazine. Moreover, as a poet, her poems were published in literary magazines in Turkey (Itibar, Dergah, Yedi İklim, and others). Her main interests include spirituality, psychology, art therapy, and children's mental well-being.



Julie Rausenberger



Julie Rausenberger is a graduate student in social and cultural anthropology at the University of Leuven in Belgium. She has also studied anthropology at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Florida International University (Miami, USA) as an international exchange student. Her research focuses on sexuality, tourism, and migration issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her main research sites are located in Cuba, where she conducted extensive fieldwork for her master's thesis on volunteer tourism and jineterismo (tourist hustling). She also has a specific interest in African-derived Cuban religions and their contemporary changes in society within global dynamics. Therefore, she recently researched the dynamics between Santeria and tourism in Santiago de Cuba.

Roland Shainidze



Roland Shainidze is a PhD candidate (ABD) in humanities at York University, Toronto, Canada. He has undergraduate degrees in history and theology from Batumi State University (Georgia) and an MA in religious studies from Tbilisi State University (Georgia). He also has an MA in humanities from York University. His general fields of study lie in theories of secularization/post-secularization and globalization from a sociocultural perspective and new religious movements in North America. Roland's current focus is on cyberspace as sacred space and New Religious Groups in virtual realities, dealing with issues of identity, privacy, and authenticity. He has been a co-president of the Humanities Graduate Student Association, and, in his spare time, he is an accomplished photographer, internationally recognized for his architectural photography.

Semiha Sözeri



Semiha Sözeri is a PhD candidate at the Research Institute for Child Development and Education at the University of Amsterdam. Her PhD project investigates the relevance and quality of mosque education. It aims to understand how, and to what extent, mosque education influences the integration of children from Muslim immigrant families. She studied political science and international relations (BA with high distinction) at Boğaziçi University, Turkey, and migration, ethnic relations and multiculturalism (MSc) at Utrecht University, Netherlands. Her current research interests include sociology of education, ethnic and religious identity formation, Turkish migrants in Europe, politics of nationalism and ethnicity.

Margrét Ann Thors



Margrét Ann Thors is a writer living in Boulder, CO, where she is pursuing her PhD in education at the University of Colorado. Her research interests include faith, spiritual development, religious literacy, and transformative learning, particularly among college students. Prior to moving to Boulder, she lived in New York City and attended Columbia University not once but three times (BA Philosophy 2010, MA Higher Education 2011, and MFA Creative Writing 2014). She is at work on her first novel.

MONDAY, 17 APRIL

MONDAY, 17 APRIL	
8:00-9:00	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
9:00-9:30	CONFERENCE OPENING
9:30-10:05	PLENARY SESSION - DAVID O'BRIEN, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA, USA, "INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT TO GLOBALIZATION TO INCREASE RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE: IMPLICATIONS FROM MULTI-NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESEARCH"
10:05-10:35	GARDEN CONVERSATION AND COFFEE BREAK
10:35-11:20	TALKING CIRCLES
	Room 1: Religious Foundations Room 2: Religious Community and Socialization Room 3: Religious Commonalities and Differences Room 4: The Politics of Religion Room 5: 2017 Special Focus: "Understanding Globalism, Respecting Difference"
11:20-12:35	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	The Roles of Science Despite Futility, Faith Provides an Incentive for Creative Work Prof. Samuel E. Moskowitz, <i>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel</i> <i>Overview:</i> Within the confines of scientific knowledge regarding our universe, we must have faith that creative work is worthy of self sacrifice. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i> The Confluence of Reinforcement, Exploratory, and Adversarial Learning in Religion and Science: A Comparative Analysis Dr. Siva Mangalam, <i>Tao Systems, Inc., Hampton, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper presents a comparative analysis of the applications of the three-phase learning technique in religion and science. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i> The Evolutionary Origins of Religion: Why Human Evolution Made Religion Inevitable Dr. Ken Baskin, <i>Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence, Philadelphia, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Religion may be the human version of a survival strategy all living things must develop -- creating sensory models of reality. Given the human brain's evolution, religion became essential. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i>
Room 2	Religious Forces in France Made-in-France Jihadism: Towards an Ontology of French Youth Islamist Radicalisation Marie Chabbert, <i>Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> Since 2014, about 2,000 French youths from all backgrounds joined ISIS ranks. In this paper, I will discuss the potential role of spirituality as subjective incentive to French youth radicalisation. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i> Beyond Charlie Hebdo: Insights into France's Relationship to Religion and Spirituality Dr Chantal Crozet, <i>French Studies Intercultural Communication, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper explores France's complex relationship to religion(s) and spirituality based on a study of "Le Monde des Religions," a bimestrial magazine founded in 2003. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i>
Room 3	Religion's Significance for Youth Theological Writings on Love and Implications for the Young Dr. Fides del Castillo, <i>Theology and Religious Education Department, De La Salle University Manila, Manila, Philippines</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper explores how the implications of the encyclical Deus Caritas Est of Benedict XVI and John Paul II's Theology of the Body affect young people today. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i> Hizbullah, Religious Media and Children Sarah Hamdar, <i>Media and Communication, Goldsmiths College, London, Lebanon</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper presents an analysis of Hizbullah's magazines aimed at children. It examines the religious rhetoric, ideology and content and situates them within the Party's wider efforts at socializing children. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i> Negotiating Religion in an Arab-Jewish School Amira Bar Shalom, <i>Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School, Jerusalem, Israel</i> <i>Overview:</i> In the paper the researcher will elaborate on how Arabs and Jews, who work together in a unique school, negotiate religious and cultural content in a safe space. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i>
Room 4	Religion and the Law City of God or City of Man? Elements of a Christian Conservative Legal Worldview Dr. Jason Whitehead, <i>Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Ethnography of U.S. Christian conservatives reveals that, far from being reactionaries, they are motivated by a systematically Christian legal worldview that poses potentially promising solutions to contemporary legal problems. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i> Religious Liberty as Understood by the United States' Religious Right: From the Manhattan Declaration to the Hobby Lobby Case David Robert Huisjen, <i>Philosophy of Religion, University of Helsinki, Espoo, Finland</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper addresses the key issue of how the basic human right to freedom of religion is to be defined from a contemporary American perspective. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i> A Mechanism of Thai Patriarch Appointment Asst. Prof. Phichet Thangto, <i>Faculty of Social Sciences, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Phrapalad Raphin Duangloi, <i>Faculty of Social Sciences, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Lampong Klomkul, <i>ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> This article focused on patriarch and the principle of patriarch appointment in order to support Buddhist to have the right concept and understanding about the current controversial issue of patriarch. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i>



MONDAY, 17 APRIL

11:20-12:35	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 5	<p>Self and the Other</p> <p>Snapshots of an Iranian Shi'ite Liberation Theology Dr. Siavash Saffari, <i>Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea</i> <i>Overview:</i> Using the category of liberation theology the paper examines a politically anti-authoritarian and economically pro-poor current within modern Shi'i thought in Iran, highlighting its capacities for sociopolitical mobilization. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Hashtagging Africa: Short-Term Missions, Social Media, and the Representation of Self and Other Emily Barber, <i>University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This research uses visual content analysis to examine photographs posted to the social networking site Instagram by short-term missionaries to African countries. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Islamic Terrorism and the Problem of Theistic Ethics Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, <i>Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper argues that the Divine Command Theory of Morality, an instance of Theistic Ethics, is subject to interpretations and applications that are inconsistent with the ultimate goals of Morality. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p>
12:35-13:35	LUNCH
13:35-15:15	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	<p>Tolerance, Coexistence and Globalism</p> <p>Institutional Adjustment to Globalization to Increase Religious Tolerance: Implications from Multi-National Community Research Dr. David John O'Brien, <i>Department of Rural Sociology, Division of Applied Social Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> The author's multi-national research on household and community adaptation to major external events suggests hypotheses on what types of formal institutional adjustments will increase tolerance between religious communities. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Spirit as an Important Resource in Maintaining Peaceful Coexistence Prof. Akbar Husain, <i>Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> The six spiritual virtues, namely, self-control, patience, innate temperament, righteousness, intention, and tolerance are the human capacity to cultivate spirituality. These spiritual virtues embrace oneness with all being. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Santurismo: The Commodification of Santeria and the Touristic Value of Afro-Cuban Religions in Cuba Julie Rausenberger, <i>Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Florida International University, Leuven, Belgium</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper talks about how Afro-Cuban religions have worked their way up from a stigmatized and persecuted religious system to a widely valorized religion in the spiritual and touristic sphere. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Religious Diversity, Tolerance, and Understanding: Strategies to Restore Peace in Nigeria Mary Emilia Aboekwe, <i>Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Awka, Nigeria</i> <i>Overview:</i> Tolerance, dialogue and understanding are necessarily tools to restore peace in a country like Nigeria where there are various ethnic groups and diverse religious affiliations. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p>
Room 2	<p>Theoretical and Political Intersections</p> <p>A Critique on Marxist and Post-Marxist Theology Dr. Suman Ghosh, <i>Serampore College, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper tries to analyze how Marx gradually relates his theory of alienation to his unique theory of Religion and also to scrutinize how post-Marxist critics dealt with theological questions. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Civil Religion or Public Theology? On Modern American Presidencies Kjell Olof Urban Lejon, <i>Department of Culture and Communication, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden</i> <i>Overview:</i> Empirical evidence shows that a more accurate description of the religious dimension of modern American presidencies is public theology, not the normally used terminology of civil religion. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>The Politics of Self-Spirituality: A Canadian Case Study Galen Watts, <i>Cultural Studies Graduate Program, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> Drawing from qualitative data collected from semi-structured interviews with Canadian millennials who self-identify as "spirituality but not religious," I problematize accounts of self-spirituality, which characterize it as narcissistic and capitalistic. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Training Imams in the Netherlands: The Failure of a Post-secular Endeavor Semiha Sozeri, <i>Research Institute for Child Development and Education, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands</i> Dr. Hülya Kosar-Altinyelken, <i>Research Institute of Child Development and Education, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands</i> <i>Overview:</i> This study examines the reasons behind the failure of the imam trainings and Islamic theology programs in the Netherlands. It provides insights from stake-holders such as imams and Qur'an teachers. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p>



MONDAY, 17 APRIL

13:35-15:15	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 3	<p>Rituals and Rites</p> <p>Ritualizing the Sublime, Panoptic Visions, and the Mormon Temple Rites Dr. Michael MacKay, <i>Department of Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> I will examine Mormon temple rites and how they were created to offer mankind a sense of godliness and how the rites represent godliness in terms of epistemology. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Constructing the Sacrality of Place: A Case Study of Auroville, India Shreen Raghavan, <i>Independent Researcher, Chennai, India</i> Dr. Kala Shreen, <i>Research, Center for Creativity, Heritage and Development, Chennai, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> The article examines Auroville, India, as a case study, from the perspective of its founders, structures and experiences of its inhabitants/visitors to construct its sacrality. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Which Custom Might Be the Source of Legislation? An Islamic Perspective Hajed Alotaibi, <i>Bangor University, Bangor, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> The concept of custom in Islam might be confined where there is no text. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>The Tiantai Submissive: An Exercise in Radical Recontextualization? Zephyr Shun-Wah Chan, <i>Chilin Nunnery, Hong Kong, Hong Kong</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper explores how Tiantai Buddhism informs the identity of a BDSM practitioner, specifically that of a submissive, through a radical recontextualization of key doctrinal concepts. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p>
Room 4	<p>Healing, Health, and the Impacts of Religion</p> <p>Pilgrimage as Homemaking Dr. A. Denise Starkey, <i>Theology and Religious Studies, The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Spiritual homelessness names the aftermath of spiritual homelessness survivors of childhood violence experience. Pilgrimage as homemaking explores ways that God travels with and makes her home within us. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Preaching Risk: Pastors, Pulpits, and HIV in Swaziland Prof. Robin Root, <i>Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Qualitative research among religious leaders in Swaziland, site of the world's highest HIV rate, demonstrates the dialectics of global health policies and socio-religious realities of HIV/AIDS on the ground. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>The Usage of Vipassana as a Psychosocial Tool Prof. Yehuda Bar Shalom, <i>Humanities, The Ono Academic College, Jerusalem, Israel</i> <i>Overview:</i> In the paper an overview will be given of the different ways in which Vipassana meditation is used as a meaningful psychoeducational tool. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Sufi Rituals and Mental Health Care: Dhikr, as a Spiritual Healing Method Rumeysa Nur Gurbuz, <i>Theology Department, Durham University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> The issue of how Sufism works in the area of psychology of religion will be extended throughout the focal point of the association between the (Dhikr) and the psychological well-being. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 5	<p>Belief Systems and Tradition</p> <p>The Documented Monotheistic Religious Contemporaries of the Indus Valley Civilization Dr. Sarah Umer, <i>Institute of Visual Arts & Design, LCW, University Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper talks about the Documented Monotheistic Religious contemporaries of the Indus Valley Civilization. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p> <p>The Buddhist Community at Chinese Shrines in Thailand Dr. Katematu Duangmanee, <i>Department of Languages and Cultures School of Liberal Arts, Walailak University, Thasala, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper studies the Buddhist community at Chinese shrines in Thailand's Trang Province by investigating its administration of these shrines and analyses Buddhist festive activities taking place there. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Confucianism in Vietnam Dr. Thi Hoai Chau Nguyen, <i>Okayama University, Fukuyama, Japan</i> <i>Overview:</i> I discuss the current climate of Vietnam related to Confucianism. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Aquinas in Arabia: Considering the "God Arguments" in a Multicultural Classroom Dr. Sandra Alexander, <i>School of Arts and Sciences, American University in Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates</i> <i>Overview:</i> Looked at through the lenses of students in a multicultural classroom, this paper addresses the opportunities and challenges of discussing the "God arguments" with university students in the UAE. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p>
15:15-15:30	COFFEE BREAK



MONDAY, 17 APRIL

15:30-17:10	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	<p>Faith and Identity</p> <p>Religion and Moral Disengagement Dr. Kirk Mensch, <i>College of Business & Leadership PhD in Organizational Leadership Program, Eastern University, St. Davids, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper offers empirical analysis from a recent study conducted by the author aimed at understand a possible relationship between three different forms of religious practice and moral disengagement. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Radical Evil and Moral Faith Dr. Salome Benhur, <i>School of Humanities and Science, Mahindra Ecole Centrale, Hyderabad, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> The problem of “evil” pervades the present century. Evil is the absence of “good” or “morality.” “Moral faith” is a stance in relation to goodness and duty in human life. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Resolving Conflict and Promoting Peace Ektaa Deora, <i>Deora Wires N Machine Limited, Ahmedabad, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> Acharya Shri Nanesh’s contribution is difficult to define and yet throughout history all his decisions had a common factor which is Samta or equality. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Networked Technology and the Religious Communities: Diasporic Malayali Muslims from South India in the U.A.E Ahammed Junaid, <i>Mudra Institute of Communication, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> This study tries to understand how networked technology impacts a religious community. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 2	<p>The Feminine and the Divine</p> <p>Radha as Social Rebel: Female Sexuality in Vaisnava Padavalis of Bengal Dr. Saumitra Chakravarty, <i>Department of English, Post Graduate and Ph.D. Programs, National College, Jain University, Bangalore, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper analyzes the erotic-mystical nature of the extra-marital love of Radha and Krsna in Vaisnava poetry between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries in Bengal against the contemporary patriarchal ethics. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Game of Thrones: The Powerful Mix about Religion, Violence and Gender Míriam Díez Bosch, <i>Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain</i> Marta Roqueta Fernández, <i>SOAS, London, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> The debates over violence and controversial female characters in Game of Thrones are explored in this paper. We also identify and discuss different religions/devotions present in the HBO series. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>For Women Only: The Eternal Light Community as a Space for Women’s Spiritual Empowerment in Trinidad Charisa-marie Alexis-Francois, <i>Faculty of Humanities and Education, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper focuses on the Eternal Light Charismatic Community and its creation of a space for women’s spiritual empowerment and leadership within the Roman Catholic Church in Trinidad. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 3	<p>Secular Intersections</p> <p>Vodoun: In the Crossfire of Christian Hegemony Patrick Sylvain, <i>English, Brandeis University, Waltham, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> The 1860 Vatican Concordat the Haitian government signed, officialized Haiti as a Roman Apostolic country. By 1946, atrocious anti-superstition campaign exemplified the Catholic and Protestant churches’ zeal to persecute Vodoun. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>The Hindu World View and Modernity: Relevance of Spiritual Framework for Social Engagement Dr. Cyril Joseph Kuttyanikkal, <i>Samanvaya Theological College, Bhopal, Rishikesh, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> Secularism which swept Europe has emptied the churches in Europe. Hinduism is not much affected by secularism. However it’s framework is not capable of initiating a social reformation. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Buddha-Marketing: The Buddhist Integration to Marketing Work Janjaree Thanma, <i>Buddhist Psychology Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Bangkok, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> Buddha-Marketing aims to integrate Buddhism tightly in modern marketing. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>The Revival of Religion in the Globalized Era Dr. Ambrogino G. Awesta, <i>Faculty of Business, Finance & Law, Inholland University of Applied Sciences, The Hague, Netherlands</i> <i>Overview:</i> A globalized inter-connectivity has not led to the enhancement of tolerance, but rather to civilization collisions through the revival of religion. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p>
Room 4	<p>Politicising Faith</p> <p>Religion and Politics in Brazil: Gender and Sexuality as an Object of Dispute Prof. João Góis, <i>Graduate School of Social Work, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói, Brazil</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper explores the role played by Protestants in the shaping of public policies related to gender and sexuality in Brazil in the last decades. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>The Role of Religion in Explaining Differences in Political Trust among Canada’s Major Ethno-racial Groups Dr. Monica Mi Hee Hwang, <i>Sociology, St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper assesses ethno-racial variations in political trust, focusing on the role of religious affiliation. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Private Reasons versus Public Reasons: Religion and Politics Dr. John Ray, <i>Liberal Studies Department, Montana Tech of the University of Montana, Butte, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Examining the political thought of Kant, Habermas and Rawls, this paper investigates the consequences of substituting, as religion does, private reasons for public reasons as the basis of public policy. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p>



MONDAY, 17 APRIL

15:30-17:10	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 5	<p>Late Additions</p> <p>Christian Men Falsely Rescuing Muslim Women: How and Why Hyper-Masculine Christianity in the UK and the US Reinforces Islamophobia Dr. David von Schlichten, <i>Humanities, Seton Hill University, Greensburg, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Drawing from feminist and queer theology, I argue that Christianity in the U.K. and the U.S. reinforces a perverse chivalry that calls for Christian men to falsely rescue Muslim women. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Everyday Resistance to Violent Radicalism and Fundamentalism: Sufi Strategies in Sweden Tommy Josefsson, <i>Jönköping University, Sävsjö, Sweden</i> Marco Nilsson, <i>Jönköping University, Jönköping, Sweden</i> Prof. Klas Borell, <i>Jönköping University, Jönköping, Sweden</i> <i>Overview:</i> Using qualitative interviews with representatives of Sufi communities in Sweden, the study directs attention toward the strategies developed by European Muslims themselves in fighting violent radicalism and fundamentalism. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Gender, Race, and Ethnicity: India's Philosophical Buddhism Dr. Indira Y. Junghare, <i>Institute of Linguistics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper examines Buddhism's teachings with regard to a person's biological nature and societal ethics for the understanding of cultural conflicts and their non-violent resolutions for peaceful living. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Educational Management for Peace towards Religious Diversity in ASEAN Community Dr. Phra Rajvaramethi Inkrungkao, <i>ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Lampong Klomkul, <i>ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> Education and religions were focused on the pillar of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Five strategies of educational management were set for peace towards religious diversity in ASEAN community. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>



TUESDAY, 18 APRIL

TUESDAY, 18 APRIL	
9:00-9:30	DAILY UPDATE
9:30-10:05	PLENARY SESSION - BEN SCHEWEL, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, USA, "THE SECOND AXIAL AGE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL CHANGE"
10:05-10:35	GARDEN CONVERSATIONS AND COFFEE BREAK
10:35-11:20	TALKING CIRCLES
11:20-13:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	<p>Contemporary Challenges</p> <p>eCatholicism: Global Analysis of the Catholic Digital Communities Miriam Díez Bosch, <i>Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain</i> Alba Sabaté Gauxachs, <i>Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain</i> <i>Overview:</i> Is global Catholicism digital enough? How is it using digital tools to enhance it big community? This analysis answers these questions going over the most powerful Catholic websites globally. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>The Changing Dynamics of Yoruba Traditional Religious Festivals in the Context of a Contemporary Society Dr. Ibigbolade Aderibigbe, <i>Department of Religion, The University of Georgia, Athens, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> I discuss the sustainability of traditional Religious Festivals from the Yoruba traditional Society to a contemporary one. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Value and Behavioral Model of Consuming in Online Social Network Using Integration of Buddhist Psychology for Thai Novices Dr. Kamalas Phoowachanathipong, <i>Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Phutthachart Phaensomboon, <i>Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Lampong Klomkul, <i>ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> The purpose of this research was to study the transformation of best practice in value and behavior of Thai novices consuming in online social network by integrated Buddhist Psychology. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Authenticity, Anonymity, Identity: Toronto's Universal Oneness Spiritual Centre Roland Shainidze, <i>Department of Humanities Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> Focusing on the Toronto's Universal Oneness Spiritual Centre, this paper compares and contrasts online and offline New Age spirituality, paying particular attention to issues of social, cultural and geographical differentiation. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p>
Room 2	<p>Historical Impacts</p> <p>The History of the Grebenshchikov School in Riga in Light of the General Approach to the Education of Old Believers in Russia in the 19th and Early 20th Century Dr. Irina Sennikova, <i>General Management/Business Department, University of Business, Arts and Technology, Riga, Latvia</i> Dr. Tatjana Bartele, <i>Communications Department, University of Business, Arts and Technology, Riga, Latvia</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper is about the development of the school education of Russian Old Believers in the Baltics and the general approach towards educating children of Old Believers in Russia. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>The Transformation of Russian-Chechen Ethnic Conflict into a Part of Regional and Global Jihad Dr. Anatoly Isaenko, <i>Department of History, Appalachian State University, Boone, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> In the course of two "hot stages" of Russo-Chechen War from 1994-2009 occurred its transformation along religious building block of the conflict. Russian policy is responsible for radicalization of resistance. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>The Early American Religious Anthropocene: The Founding Fathers and the Protection of Religious Liberty, 1776-1826 Dr. William Gummerson, <i>Department of Leadership and Educational Studies Reich College of Education, Appalachian State University, Boone, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> The debates between Colonial Americans about protecting religious liberty call into question whether a "wall of separation" should be the constitutional touchstone for deciding free exercise and establishment cases. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p> <p>Beyond Performance: The Practice and Community of Śrīrāmcāritmānas Aditya Chaturvedi, <i>School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, Rajgir, India</i> Tarinee Awasthi, <i>Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper aims at studying the practices associated with the Śrīrāmcāritmānas, the community of practitioners thus inscribed, and demonstrating the limits of the post-Enlightenment paradigms and notions in this context. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 3	<p>Spirituality and the Social Agenda</p> <p>The Role of Christian Activism in Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement Prof. Shun Hing Chan, <i>Department of Religion and Philosophy, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, China</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper will examine the role of Christian activism in facilitating political participation in the Occupy Central with Love and Peace/Umbrella Movement from the perspective of social movement theories. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Rights Resound: Realizing Human Rights through the Intersection of Religion, Music, and Social Action in the Forward Together Moral Movement Justin Jalea, <i>School of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Ontario and Durham College, Toronto, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> The combined strength of religious appeals and musical expression has been a powerful tool for social change in the continuing battle for human rights in the Forward Together Moral Movement. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>The Quran and Contemporary Challenges Asad Khan, <i>Royal Mosque Zabta Ganj, New Delhi, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> My paper will be on Quranic teachings of peace, harmony and Islamic values. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p>



TUESDAY, 18 APRIL

11:20-13:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 4	<p>In Service of Faith</p> <p>Almost at Home in South Sudan: Christian Humanitarians Navigate Difference and Relationality Dr. Amy Kaler, <i>Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada</i> Dr. John Parkins, <i>Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> Religious imaginaries and moral vocabularies provide international Christian emergency relief workers in South Sudan with conceptual, strategic and emotional resources to navigate dangerous high-risk situations in the field. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Encountering the Stranger: The Evolution of Multifaith Hospital Chaplaincy in an Increasingly Diverse Society Dr. S.H. Cedar, <i>Health and Social Care, London South Bank University, London, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> I discuss the evolution of health care chaplaincy to meet the challenges and needs of a diverse population and NHS values. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Ecumenical Protestants and Social Issues in Brazil Dr. Elizete Da Silva, <i>State University of Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana, Brazil</i> <i>Overview:</i> We intend to analyze the constitution of a protestant ecumenical sector in Brazil, which was developed in the twentieth century. It was bound to the worldwide council of churches. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p> <p>Toward a New Commonality: Desire and Suffering Reconsidered Asst. Prof. James Earl, <i>School of General Education, Richmond the American International University in London, Hampton, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> All religions problematize human desire, and have a narrative about suffering. The relationship between desire and suffering provides a way of understanding our "Unity in Diversity." <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p>
Room 5	<p>Late Additions</p> <p>Exploring Native American Spirituality Dr. Lorraine Mayer, <i>Native Studies Department, Brandon University, Brandon, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> This work seeks to understand how different interpretations of "sacred" impact how we understand Religion and Native American Spirituality. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-14:45	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	<p>Focused Discussions</p> <p>Building Allies with Community Partners to Protect Foster Children's Right to Self-determination through Cultural Tolerance Marie R. Jenkins, <i>Department of Social Work, The University of Arkansas at Monticello, Monticello, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> I will focus on the best interest of the child; specifically regarding the foster care system's ability to respect/include children's spiritual belief systems without sacrificing those of the host family. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Building Intra-religious Relationships: Toward Partnership in Community Engagement Aizayah Yong, <i>Practical Theology, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This study overviews justice from various religions and identifies similarities and differences between them in order to envision cultivating interreligious relationships where diverse perspectives are deployed to co-create just communities. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p>
Room 2	<p>Focused Discussions</p> <p>Youth Ministry and Servant Leadership Gregory Anderson, <i>Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Pepperdine University, College Station, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This review provides an overview of servant leadership as identified in the literature within the context of Christian ministry and the potential implications for youth ministry. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>God in the Public University Classroom: Teaching Contested Religious Texts in a Secular Space Margret Ann Thors, <i>School of Education Curriculum & Instruction Research on Teaching and Teacher Education, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> We will engage in hands-on practice with, and reflection upon, teaching controversial religious texts in a public university setting. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 3	<p>Focused Discussions</p> <p>Seeking God: Leaving the Rhetoric Behind Renee Baribeau, <i>Community Outreach, Foundations Recovery Network, Palm Desert, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Pluralism solely based upon True and False Religious ideals, will not restore faith. People are seeking a direct experience of God, which emanating and non-dualistic forces of Nature can provide. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Leaving Plato's Cave: Understanding and Transcending Our Objectification of Others Dr. John Marcus Rector, <i>Private Practice, Salt Lake City, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Using Plato's Allegory of the Cave as an overarching metaphor, I outline a spectrum of objectification alongside a countervailing enlightenment spectrum. I also discuss factors contributing to each continuum. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p>



TUESDAY, 18 APRIL

14:00-14:45	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 4	<p>Virtual Lightning Talks</p> <p>Religious Commitment in Chinese Popular Religion in Taiwan Dr. Yi-Jung Liu, <i>Nursing Department, Fooyin University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan</i> <i>Overview:</i> By using ethnographically-based interviews with adolescents of Chinese popular religion in Taiwan, this paper attempts to provide a different view of religious commitment. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>How Science and Scripture Fuse: A Concrete, Chronological Connection between the Biblical Six "Days" of Creation and the Evolution Timelines Eloise Choice, <i>Fontana Unified School District, Yucaipa, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> What Scripture says happened on each of the six "days" of Creation parallels that which scientists have determined to have occurred during the universe's 13.7-billion-year existence and Earth's 4.7-billion-year development. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>The Toponyms of Poland's Christian Identity: The Baptism of Poland Dr. Kamila Ciepiela, <i>Institute of English Studies Department of English and General Linguistics, University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland</i> <i>Overview:</i> I discuss the analysis of toponyms in President Duda's speech on the occasion of the 1050th anniversary of the baptism of Poland which presents the identity of Christian Poland. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p>
Room 5	<p>Workshop</p> <p>Spirituality Programming: We Are All Different Together Dawit Rumicha, <i>Multicultural Programming, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, USA</i> Gabrielle Rind, <i>Multicultural Programming, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This workshop will go into depth on effective spirituality programming in a university setting and development of prudent learning outcomes for each program. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p>
14:45-15:00	TRANSITION
15:00-16:40	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 1	<p>Icons of an Era</p> <p>Snakes and Salvation in the Garden: Southern Religion, Visionary Art, and Local Community in the Work of the American Outsider Artist, Howard Finster Prof. Norman Girardot, <i>Religion Studies Department, Lehigh University, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Analysis of the famous maverick artist/preacher/visionary Howard Finster's celebrated "Paradise Garden" in the southern United States. This interpretive paper will focus on Finster's checkered impact on his local community. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Derrida and Mysticism: Hospitality and the Formation of Subject Mohsen Ghasemi, <i>Arts Languages and Cultures, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> This is a subject that tries to study the theme of "hospitality" in mysticism through a Derridean discussion. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Mistaken Politics: Church and State as Political Alternatives Gregory Hotchkiss, <i>School of Liberal Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, Berkeley College, Newark, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper examines the meaning and workability of the claim that the church is an alternative politic to the state, as asserted by theologians John Howard Yoder and Stanley Hauerwas. <i>Theme: The Politics of Religion</i></p> <p>Self-perpetuating Technologies of Religious Synthesis: The Temple of Mysterious Virtue Dr. Fabian Charles Graham, <i>Department of Religious Diversity, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany</i> <i>Overview:</i> Illustrating self-perpetuating technologies of religious synthesis as responses to societal catalysts generating societal change, Singapore's Temple of Mysterious Virtue demonstrates how Chinese temples may thrive in competitive multi-ethnic secular environments. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p>
Room 2	<p>A Focus on Buddhism</p> <p>Religious Work: Practicing Meditation and Religious Legitimation in Thai Buddhism Ri An Quek, <i>Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper focus on developing the concept of "religious work" to understand and explain the practice of Buddhist meditation as a challenge to traditional religious legitimation processes in Thailand. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>A Process of Buddhist Psychology for Encouraging Self-Sufficient Lifestyles in Community towards Sustainable Happiness Chotthiwath Chirapatputthitana, <i>Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Phramaha Suthit Oboun, <i>Faculty of Social Sciences, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> Dr. Kamalas Phooowachanathipong, <i>Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand</i> <i>Overview:</i> A process of Buddhist Psychology with six steps was developed through participatory action research encouraging self-sufficient lifestyle. Buddhist principles were applied in order to reflect a co-existence of sustainable happiness. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Universal Mind in a Practical World Dr. Jonathan Doner, <i>Vanderbilt University, Keswick, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Universal mind, despite historical links to esoteric metaphysics, can be objectively experienced through a practice called shin shin toitsu, meaning mind and body unification. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p> <p>Art, Community and Meditation: The Spiritual Path of Creativity Audrey Emery, <i>School of Art, Architecture and Design, University Of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia</i> <i>Overview:</i> The transformative power of art and spirituality is examined through the intersection of art practice and meditation, drawing on a synthesis of Buddhist and Christian spiritual meditation practices. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>



TUESDAY, 18 APRIL

15:00-16:40	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 3	<p>Historical Imprints</p> <p>The Scholar as a Model of Martyrdom in Tudor England Dr. Nick Klemens Crown, <i>University of East Anglia Norwich, Norwich, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> This is a comparative analysis of Catholic and Protestant portrayals of learned men as martyrs. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Playing Religion: Russian Jewish Apostates in Nineteenth-century Society Dr. Andrew Reed, <i>Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This article examines the ways that Russian Jewish apostates navigated otherness between the worlds of Russian Christian society and Jewish communities and shows the marginal position they occupied in each. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>Byzantine Sacred Arts as Therapeutic Way: An Aesthetic Pharmakon to the Cyberman Inti Yanes, <i>Department of Hispanic Studies, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> Cyberculture determines the oblivion of man's sacred essence creating fictional transcendences. Sacred Byzantine arts as aesthetic therapy call man to the experience of his essence in the meaning of Being. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>The Ancient Thai Northeastern Palm Leaf Scriptures: History and Knowledge Dissemination Prof. Buavaroon Srichaikul, <i>Faculty of Public Health, Nutritional Department, Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand</i> Prof. Supachai Singyabuth, <i>Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand</i> Prof. Gordon Bakker, <i>Mahasarakham University, Thailand, Hamilton, Canada</i> <i>Overview:</i> This research is an exploratory religious study aimed at investigation of Thai palm leaf scriptures with the of Thai folk medicinal and folklore housed in temples for 600 years. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p>
Room 4	<p>Implications of Religious Discourse</p> <p>Secular Versus Sacred: Religious Discourse in the Novel Snow by Orhan Pamuk Asiya Mukhtar, <i>Political Science Department, The University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan</i> Ms Qurratulaen Liaqat, <i>Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan</i> <i>Overview:</i> The paper is aimed at analyzing the conflict between sacred and secular Turkish religious discourse in the novel Snow by Orhan Pamuk. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Naturalized Gods: The Ontology of Religious Ideation Dr. Jibu Mathew George, <i>Department of Indian and World Literatures School of Literary Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India</i> <i>Overview:</i> Using Max Weber's concept Disenchantment of the World as the point of departure, this paper explores the ontological structures of what is commonly understood as belief in the supernatural. <i>Theme: Religious Foundations</i></p> <p>The Real Muslim Cannot Be a Terrorist Dr. Mustafa Erdil, <i>Charles Sturt University, Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation, Sydney, Australia</i> <i>Overview:</i> This article will focus on terrorist attacks carried out as representative of Islamic values. The article will analyse how the Quran and Sunnah explain or approach terrorism in Islamic sources. <i>Theme: Religious Community and Socialization</i></p> <p>Inclusive Religious Pluralism: A Theological Lynchpin toward Effective Interreligious Dialogue Today Dr. Marinus Iwuchukwu, <i>Theology Department, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> In our growing religious pluralistic societies, the best worldview to promote and sustain healthy interreligious dialogue in the society today is an inclusive religious pluralism mindset. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p>
Room 5	<p>Late Additions</p> <p>Phenomenological Prolegomena to Religious Pluralism Nikolaas Deketelaere, <i>Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK</i> <i>Overview:</i> I explore a phenomenology of revelation where the revealed truth is not an absolute one, in order to develop a notion of religion that sits comfortably in a multicultural society. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>Mni Wiconi, Water is Life: Standing up at Standing Rock for All our Relations Mark Wood, <i>School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper explores the spiritual theory and practice advanced by indigenous peoples and their contribution to the work of developing a post-anthropocentric anthropocene that is ecologically sustainable and socially just. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p> <p>The Integrity of the Christian Faith: An Investigation into the Emerging Spiritual and Cultural Trends of the Nigerian Church Dr. Jake Omang Otonko, <i>Department of Religious Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper seeks to investigate into the status of the Christian faith amidst the emerging spiritual and cultural trends in Nigeria. <i>Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences</i></p> <p>The Second Axial Age as a Framework for Social Change Dr. Benjamin Schewel, <i>Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA</i> <i>Overview:</i> This paper argues that the concept of a second Axial Age provides us with a productive framework in which to think about the ideal shape of our emerging global society. <i>Theme: 2017 Special Focus: Respecting Difference, Understanding Globalism</i></p>
16:40-17:10	SPECIAL EVENT: CLOSING & AWARD CEREMONY





Mary Emilia Aboekwe	Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University	Nigeria
Ibigbolade Aderibigbe	The University of Georgia	USA
Sandra Alexander	American University in Dubai	United Arab Emirates
Charisa-marie Alexis-Francois	University of the West Indies	Trinidad and Tobago
Hajed Alotaibi	Bangor University	UK
Gregory Anderson	Pepperdine University	USA
Ambrogino G. Awesta	Inholland University of Applied Sciences	Netherlands
Amira Bar Shalom	Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School	Israel
Yehuda Bar Shalom	The Ono Academic College	Israel
Emily Barber	University of Arkansas	USA
Renee Baribeau	College of the Desert	USA
Ken Baskin	Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence	USA
Salome Benhur	Mahindra Ecole Centrale	India
Dan Brantingham	United States Air Force Chaplain Corps	USA
S.H. Cedar	London South Bank University	UK
Marie Chabbert	University of Oxford	UK
Saumitra Chakravarty	National College, Bangalore	India
Shun Hing Chan	Hong Kong Baptist University	China
Zephyr Shun-Wah Chan	Independent Scholar	Hong Kong
Aditya Chaturvedi	Nalanda University	India
Chotthiwath Chirapatputthitana	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Eloise Choice	Independent Scholar	USA
Maxine Chopard	Emanuel School	Australia
Kamila Ciepiela	University of Lodz	Poland
Nick Klemens Crown	University of East Anglia Norwich	UK
Chantal Crozet	RMIT University	Australia
Elizete Da Silva	State University of Feira de Santana	Brazil
Fides del Castillo	De La Salle University Manila	Philippines
Ektaa Deora	Deora Wires N Machine Limited	India
Jonathan Doner	DP/DS	USA
Phrapalad Raphin Duangloi	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Katematu Duangmanee	Walailak University	Thailand
Miriam Díez Bosch	Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations	Spain
James Earl	Richmond the American International University in London	UK
Adebola Babatunde Ekanola	University of Ibadan	Nigeria
Audrey Emery	University Of South Australia	Australia
Mustafa Erdil	Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilisation	Australia
Jibu Mathew George	The English and Foreign Languages University	India
Mohsen Ghasemi	The University of Manchester	UK
Suman Ghosh	Serampore College	India
Norman Girardot	Lehigh University	USA
Fabian Charles Graham	Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity	Germany
William Gummerson	Appalachian State University	USA
Rumeysa Nur Gurbuz	Durham University	UK
João Góis	Universidade Federal Fluminense	Brazil



Sarah Hamdar	Goldsmiths College	Lebanon
Lisa Hansen-Tice	United States Air Force	USA
Gregory Hotchkiss	Berkeley College	USA
David Robert Huisjen	University of Helsinki	Finland
Monica Mi Hee Hwang	St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan	Canada
Anatoly Isaenko	Appalachian State University	USA
Marinus Iwuchukwu	Duquesne University	USA
Justin Jalea	Durham College	Canada
Marie R. Jenkins	The University of Arkansas at Monticello	USA
Tommy Josefsson	Jönköping University	Sweden
Ahammed Junaaid	MICA	India
Indira Y. Junghare	University of Minnesota	USA
Amy Kaler	University of Alberta	Canada
Ally Kern	Claremont School of Theology	USA
Asad Khan	Royal Mosque Zabta Gan	India
Patricija Kirvaitis	Common Ground Research Networks	USA
Lampong Klomkul	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Hülya Kosar-Altinylken	University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
Ciril Joseph Kuttiyanikkal	Samanvaya Theological College	India
Kjell Olof Urban Lejon	Linköping University	Sweden
Qurratulaen Liaqat	Forman Christian College	Pakistan
Yi-Jung Liu	Fooyin University	Taiwan
Siva Mangalam	Tao Systems	USA
Lorraine Mayer	Brandon University	Canada
Byron McCane	Florida Atlantic University	USA
Jillian Mensch	Eastern University	USA
Kirk Mensch	Eastern University	USA
Samuel E. Moskowitz	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel
David John O'Brien	University of Missouri	USA
Phramaha Suthit Oboun	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Jake Omang Otonko	Nasarawa State University	Nigeria
Sangeetha Panearselvan	The London School of Economics	UK
Phutthachat Phaensomboon	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Kamalas Phoowachanathipong	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Ri An Quek	Singapore University of Technology and Design	Singapore
Julie Rausenberger	Florida International University	Belgium
John Ray	Montana Tech of the University of Montana	USA
John Marcus Rector	Private Practice Psychologist	USA
Andrew Reed	Brigham Young University	USA
Gabrielle Rind	Florida Atlantic University	USA
Kathleen Rodgers	University of Ottawa	Canada
Robin Root	Baruch College, City University of New York	USA
Marta Roqueta Fernández	SOAS, University of London	UK
Dawit Rumicha	Florida Atlantic University	USA
Siavash Saffari	Seoul National University	South Korea



Religion in Society | List of Participants

Benjamin Schewel	University of Virginia	USA
Irina Sennikova	University of Business, Arts and Technology	Latvia
Roland Shainidze	York University	Canada
Semiha Sozeri	University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
Buavaroon Srichaikul	Maharakham University	Thailand
A. Denise Starkey	The College of St. Scholastica	USA
Homer (Tony) Staveland	Common Ground Research Networks	USA
Janjaree Thanma	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Margret Ann Thors	University of Colorado	USA
Sarah Umer	LCW, University Lahore	Pakistan
David von Schlichten	Seton Hill University	USA
Galen Watts	Queen's University	Canada
Jason Whitehead	California State University, Long Beach	USA
Mark Wood	Virginia Commonwealth University	USA
Inti Yanes	Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA.	USA
Aizaiah Yong	Claremont School of Theology	USA















Seventeenth International Conference on Knowledge, Culture, and Change in Organizations

Charles Darwin University
Darwin, Australia | **20–21 April 2017**
www.organization-studies.com/2017-conference



Ninth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses

Anglia Ruskin University
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www.on-climate.com/2017-conference



Seventh International Conference on The Constructed Environment

International Cultural Centre
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Thirteenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge & Society

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Toronto, Canada | **26–28 May 2017**
www.techandsoc.com/2017-conference



Tenth International Conference on e-Learning & Innovative Pedagogies

University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada | **27 May 2017**
www.ubi-learn.com/2017-conference



Tenth Global Studies Conference

National University of Singapore
Singapore | **8–9 June 2017**
www.onglobalization.com/2017-conference



Twelfth International Conference on The Arts in Society

Pantheon-Sorbonne University
Paris, France | **14–16 June 2017**
www.artsinsociety.com/2017-conference



Fifteenth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities

Imperial College London
London, UK | **5–7 July 2017**
www.thehumanities.com/2017-conference



Fifteenth International Conference on Books, Publishing & Libraries

Imperial College London
London, UK | **7 July 2017**
www.booksandpublishing.com/2017-conference



Eighth International Conference on Sport & Society

Imperial College London
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www.sportandsociety.com/2017-conference



Twenty-fourth International Conference on Learning

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, USA | **19–21 July 2017**
www.thelearner.com/2017-conference



Twelfth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

International Conference Center
Hiroshima, Japan | **26–28 July 2017**
www.thesocialsciences.com/2017-conference



Seventeenth International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations

University of Toronto – Chestnut Conference Centre
Toronto, Canada | **26–28 July 2017**
www.ondiversity.com/2017-conference



Tenth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum

University of Manchester
Manchester, UK | **15–17 September 2017**
www.onmuseums.com/2017-conference



Seventh International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society

University of Denver
Denver, USA | **5–6 October 2017**
www.healthandsociety.com/2017-conference



Seventh International Conference on Food Studies

Roma Tre University
Rome, Italy | **26–27 October 2017**
www.food-studies.com/2017-conference



Eighth International Conference on The Image

Venice International University
Venice, Italy | **31 Oct.–1 November 2017**
www.ontheimage.com/2017-conference



Aging & Society: Seventh Interdisciplinary Conference

University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, USA | **3–4 November 2017**
www.agingandsociety.com/2017-conference



Second International Conference on Communication & Media Studies

UBC Robson Square
Vancouver, Canada | **16–17 November 2017**
www.oncommunicationmedia.com/2017-conference



Fourteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability

The Cairns Institute,
James Cook University
Cairns, Australia | **17–19 January 2018**
www.onsustainability.com/2018-conference



Fourteenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge & Society

St John's University, Manhattan Campus
New York, USA | **1–2 March 2018**
www.techandsoc.com/2018-conference



Eleventh International Conference on e-Learning & Innovative Pedagogies

St John's University, Manhattan Campus
New York, USA | **2–3 March 2018**
www.ubi-learn.com/2018-conference



Twelfth International Conference on Design Principles & Practices

Elisava Barcelona School of Design and Engineering
Barcelona, Spain | **5–7 March 2018**
www.designprinciplesandpractices.com/2018-conference



Eighteenth International Conference on Knowledge, Culture, and Change in Organizations

University of Konstanz
Konstanz, Germany | **22–23 March 2018**
www.organization-studies.com/2018-conference



Eighth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society

University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, USA | **17–18 April 2018**
www.religioninsociety.com/2018-conference



Tenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses

University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, USA | **20–21 April 2018**
www.on-climate.com/2018-conference



Third International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies

Hotel Melia Salinas
Canary Islands, Spain | **17–18 May 2018**
www.tourismandleisurestudies.com/2018-conference



Eighth International Conference on The Constructed Environment

Wayne State University
Detroit, USA | **24–25 May 2018**
www.constructedenvironment.com/2018-conference



Twenty-fifth International Conference on Learning

University of Athens
Athens, Greece | **21–23 June 2018**
www.thelearner.com/2018-conference



Thirteenth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

University of Granada
Granada, Spain | **25–27 July 2018**
www.thesocialsciences.com/2018-conference



Eleventh Global Studies Conference

University of Granada
Granada, Spain | **29–30 July 2018**
www.onglobalization.com/2018-conference



**17–18
April 2018**

**University of California
at Berkeley
Berkeley, USA**

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