

RELIGION IN PROCESS: FLOURISHING, CONSUMPTION AND DECAY

The 2018 Meeting of the Eastern International Region
of the American Academy of Religion
at Syracuse University, April 13-15, 2018

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The EIR, the Department of Religion, and Syracuse University acknowledge the Onondaga Nation, the indigenous people on whose ancestral lands Syracuse University now stands.

Keynote Address on Friday, April 13, 7:00-8:30 in Hall of Languages 117

Kathryn Lofton (Yale Divinity School) *“Not Dark Yet: Billy, Bob, and the Rise and Fall of the American Century”*

Reception following in Goldstein Faculty and Alumni Center

The Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center with Director Phil Arnold (Syracuse University)

Dinner, tour and entertainment on Saturday, April 14, 6:30-8:30

Roundtable Plenary Panel on “Diversity and Inclusion in the Religious Studies Classroom” on Sunday, April 15, 2:00-3:15 in HL 500 after lunch and the EIR business meeting

Friday reception, Saturday dinner, and Sunday lunch included with registration fee.

For information about directions, parking, and hotels, see links on the conference website (www.eiraar.net) or ask at the registration table.

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Meeting of the Eastern International Region (EIR) of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) will take place **at Syracuse University** from 7 p.m. on April 13 through 3 p.m. on April 15, 2018. See directions and maps in registration folder or online at www.eiraar.net.

Free parking will be available throughout the conference in the Harrison and Lehman parking lots on University Avenue.

All panels of papers will take place **on the first and second floors of the east side of the Hall of Languages** on the Syracuse campus. The conference Registration Table will be open in the first-floor east-side atrium of the Hall of Languages on April 13 from 6:00-7:00, and on April 14 from 8:30-4:00.

After the keynote on April 13th, a reception will take place in **the Goldstein Faculty and Alumni Center**.

The dinner on Saturday evening (6:30-8:30), together with a tour of the Center and entertainment will take place at the **Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center**, 6680 Onondaga Lake Pkwy, Liverpool, NY.

Directions: Turn North (downhill) on University Avenue.

Turn left on Harrison Street, then follow signs right to I 81 North.

Take 81N to exit 23-24A-24B for New York 370/Park Street toward Liverpool.

Take exit 24A-24B on the left for New York 370W toward Liverpool.

Take exit 24A on the left for New York 370W/Onondaga Lake Parkway.

Slight left onto NY-370W/Onondaga Lake Parkway.

The entrance to the Center will be on the right hand side of the road.

Meet for ride sharing in Harrison and Lehman parking lots on University Avenue at 6:15.

The lunch sessions on Sunday will take place on **the fifth floor of the Hall of Languages**.

The conference registration fee includes the cost of the Friday reception, the Saturday dinner, and the Sunday lunch. Lunch on Saturday can be purchased in any one of the many restaurants along Marshall Street, two blocks from the Hall of Languages. For a list and a map, see the conference website (www.eiraar.net).

ABOUT

About the American Academy of Religion (AAR)

The American Academy of Religion is dedicated to furthering knowledge of religion and religious institutions in all their forms and manifestations. This is accomplished through Academy-wide and regional conferences and meetings, publications, programs, and membership services. The Academy has about 9,000 members who teach in some 900 colleges, universities, seminaries, and schools in North America and abroad. Within a context of free inquiry and critical examination, the Academy welcomes all disciplined reflection on religion—both from within and outside of communities of belief and practice—and seeks to enhance its broad public understanding. www.aarweb.org.

About the Eastern International Region (EIR)

The Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion meets annually in April or May. The meetings are hosted by one of the region's participating institutions in Ontario, Quebec, New York or western Pennsylvania.

About Syracuse University

Syracuse University is a private, non-profit research university in Syracuse, New York. Founded in 1875, SU now enrolls 21,267 undergraduate, professional and graduate students in thirteen schools and colleges. <http://syr.edu>. The Special Collections Research Center in SU's Bird Library has collected rare printed and archival materials about New York State history, including especially materials from the region's religious and utopian communities and about activism and social reform. <http://library.syr.edu/find/scrc/>.

About the SU Department of Religion

The Department of Religion in the College of Arts and Sciences emphasizes cultural and theoretical approaches to the study of religion, and draws attention to the relationship of religion with literature, art, history, psychology, politics and philosophy. Students are encouraged to investigate both the religious dimensions of secular culture and traditional religions as cultural phenomena. The Religion Department is staffed by sixteen faculty members and offers the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. <http://religion.syr.edu>.

About Skä•noñh – the Great Law of Peace Center

On the eastern shore of Onondaga Lake in Syracuse, New York, a living history museum is being repurposed into a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) heritage center named Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center. Skä•noñh is an Onondaga welcoming greeting meaning Peace and Wellness. The Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) has formed an educational collaborative with the Onondaga Nation, Syracuse University, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Lemoyne College, Onondaga Community College, and Empire State College to develop the Center and its programs. The Center's founding director is Phil Arnold, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion at Syracuse University. www.skanonhcenter.org.

CONFERENCE DETAILED PROGRAM

Friday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.

Registration opens in Hall of Languages (HL) in the east-side lobby on the first floor

Friday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., in HL 107

Keynote Address: “Not Dark Yet: Billy, Bob, and the Rise and Fall of the American Century” by Kathryn Lofton (Yale Divinity School)

ASL interpretation will be available

Reception following the keynote lecture **in Goldstein Faculty and Alumni Center.**

Note: Prof. Lofton’s lecture will both begin the EIR meeting and also conclude the one-day graduate student conference in the Department of Religion at Syracuse University on the theme, Flourish and Decay: Exploring Religion in Process on Friday, April 13, 2018.

(<http://religionconference.syr.edu/>).

Saturday April 14

8:30 Registration in HL 1st floor east-side lobby

8:30 Coffee, Tea and Light Breakfast in HL 102

Saturday, April 14, 9:30-11:00

Panel 1: Mediated Ecstasy in HL 101

Presider: John Borchert (Syracuse University)

“Ginsberg's Growl: Howl and Religion” by Michael E. Chaness (College of Saint Rose)

“Bergsonian Fabulation, Death, and Virtual Reality” by Jordan Brady Loewen, (Syracuse University)

“Model of Practical Mysticism through Ethnography” by Yunus J. Kumek (SUNY Buffalo)

Panel 2: Reimagining Texts in HL 105

Presider: Duygu Yeni Cenebasi (Syracuse University)

“The Elevator Goes Sideways: Reimagining Vertical Models of Theology” by Martha Elias Downey (Threshold School of Ministry)

“Strange Animal: Toward a Fully Evolutionary Understanding of the Purpose of Romans” by Aaron Ricker (McGill University)

“Slavery in Social Imagination: Tropes and Characterization of Female-Slaves in Christian Apocryphal Narratives” by Joseph E. Brito (Concordia University)

Panel 3: Soul, Self and Community in HL 205

Presider: James Watts (Syracuse University)

“Jeju Indigenous People's View of the Soul as Found in the *Neokdeurim* Ritual” by Yohan Yoo (Seoul National University)

“‘Without Knowledge of the Soul, People Cannot Achieve Happiness’: On the Valences of the Atma for Women in Hindu Traditions” by Deepali Kulkarni (Syracuse University)

“Christian Apologetic Tradition in Lijadu's Ifa” by Adrian M. Deese (Cambridge University)

11:00 Coffee Break, HL 102**Saturday, April 14, 11:15-12:15****Undergraduate Panels***Panel 4: Muslim Immigration and Religious life in HL 101*

Presider: Seth Schermerhorn (Hamilton College)

“Muslim Refugees in Utica: Perception and Reality” by Grant Kiefaber (Hamilton College)

“Islamophobia in France: The Contradiction in the Implementation of *laïcité* in the 21st Century”
by Jade Alvillar (Hamilton College)“Muslim Refugees and Christian Charities: A Case Study of Refugee Resettlement in Rome,
Italy” by Shannon Boley (Harvard Divinity School)*Panel 5: Identities in Cultural Context in HL 105*

Presider: Marcia Robinson (Syracuse University)

“Two Solitudes: Personal Transformation and the Call to Ministry” by Bryan Bondy (Saint Paul
University)

“For(a)ging Spirituality from the Left” by Sarah E. Koros (University of Pittsburgh)

“‘Better than Any Sister’—Exploring Female Sexual Identity in the Islamic Persian Cultural
Context” by Kellie-Sue Martinucci (Allegheny College)*Panel 6 cancelled.***Lunch Break 12:30-2:15 (on own)****Saturday, April 14, 2:15-3:45***Panel 7: Inter-Religious Influence and Dialogue in HL 101*

Presider: Lauren McCormick (Syracuse University)

“The Influence of the Brethren of Purity and al-Kindī upon Isaac Israeli’s ‘Philosophy’”
by Syed Zaidi (Emory University)“Islamic and Judaic Pastoral Care as a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution”
by Natalie Ghosn (University of Miami)“Christian-Jewish Dialogue as a Model of Reconciliation in Contemporary Practice”
by Lily Kim (McMaster University)*Panel 8: Theology, Philosophy, Ecology in HL 105*

Presider: Terry Reeder (Syracuse University)

“What Is Eastern Catholic Theology?” by Brian Butcher (St. Michael’s, University of Toronto)

“Climate Change and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops” by Dominic Wilkins (Syracuse
University)“Ecological Creativity: Process Philosophy and the Ethics of Cosmic Consciousness” by Jason
James Kelly (Queen’s University)*Panel 9: Memory, Survival and Politics in HL 205*

Presider: William Robert (Syracuse University)

- “From Religious Lunatic to Jamaican Hero: Representing Alexander Bedward and the Politics of Historical Memory” by Alexandra Prince (SUNY Buffalo)
- “‘Heroes of the Black World’: Race, Boxing, and Civil Religion(s) in Early America” by Arthur Remillard (Saint Francis University)
- “Confess Nothing: Controversy and Conscience in Early-Modern English Religion”
By Douglas FitzHenry Jones (SUNY Binghamton)

3:45 Coffee Break, HL 102

Saturday, April 14, 4:00-5:30

Panel 10: The Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts (SCRIPT) in HL 101

Presider: William Robert (Syracuse University)

“Pink is for Girls: Gendering Sacred Books” by Duygu Yeni Cenebasi (Syracuse University)

“Saints Lives as Performance Art” by Virginia Burrus (Syracuse University)

“Translating the ‘Epicurean’ Omar Khayyam: The Surprising Lives of the Iconic English Rendition by Edward Fitzgerald (1859)” by Rachel McDermott (Barnard College)

SCRIPT was founded in 2010 to encourage new scholarship on iconic and performative texts. The society’s goal is to foster academic discourse about the social functions of books and texts that exceed their semantic meaning and interpretation, such as their display as cultural artifacts, their ritual use in religious and political ceremonies, their performance by recitation and theater, and their depiction in art. The society sponsors programming at existing regional and international scholarly meetings and at colleges and universities. www.script-site.net.

Panel 11: Ethics, Theology and Society in HL 105

Presider: Terry Reeder (Syracuse University)

“Eschatological Ethics: Strategies for Reframing Religious Morality”
by Richard W. McCarty (Mercyhurst University)

“Decolonizing Catholic Theology? The Impact of Non-Western Voices upon *Nostra Aetate*”
by Chris Stackaruk (St. Michael’s, University of Toronto)

“American Interpretations of the Initial Catholic Social Encyclicals”
by Paul Lubieniecki (Christ the King Seminary)

Panel 12: Religion, Power and Gender in HL 205

Presider: Rebecca Moody (Syracuse University)

“Tanaka Chigaku’s Weaponization of Nichirenism, Buddhism as War Machine,” by Gerald Scott Iguchi (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)

“Identity, Religious Symbolism, and Political Resistance in Latina/o Theology” by Matthew D. Scruggs (Duquesne University)

“Let me go and consult with the member of my household’: The Role of Rabbis’ Wives in Rabbinic Literature” by Lindsay Jackson (Concordia University)

Saturday, April 14, 6:30-8:30

Dinner, tour and entertainment at the Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center with Director Phil Arnold (Syracuse University)

See page 2 above for directions.

Sunday, April 15, 9:00-10:00

Panel 13: Revaluing Pain and Sacrifice in HL 101

Presider: Danae M. Faulk (Syracuse University)

“On Sacrifice: Medium of Social Flourishing or Social Decay?” by Andrew J. Peterson
(Princeton Theological Seminary)

“Consensual Sadomasochism as Ritual: Bodies in Sacred Pain” by Morgan Oddie (Queens
University)

Panel 14: Religion and Landscape in HL 105

Presider: Philip Arnold (Syracuse University)

“The Erie Canal and the Birth of American Religion” by S. Brent Rodriguez-Plate (Hamilton
College)

“Roads and Religious Change in the Ancient World: A Case Study of the Roman Sanctuary on
the Great St. Bernard Pass” by Zehavi Husser (Biola University)

Panel 15: Iconography in HL 205

Presider: Michael Chaness (College of Saint Rose)

“Byzantine Iconography as Technology: Analysis of the Iconoclastic Controversy Through
McLuhan’s Medium and Message” by Louise St. Germain (Saint Paul University)

“Maria-Kannon: Fujian Guanyin Figures and the Marian Veneration of the Senpuku Kirishitan”
by Brandon Michael Steinke (University of Kansas)

10:00-10:15 Coffee Break, HL 102

Sunday, April 15, 10:15-11:45

Panel 16: Mediated Ritual and Religion in HL 101

Presider: Deepali Kulkarni (Syracuse University)

“The Religious and Moral Universe of Thomas the Tank Engine and Reverend W. Awdry's
Railway Series” by Robert Revington (McMaster University)

“Beyond Chrismukkah and the Life of Pi – Young Adults Practicing Multiple Religions” by
Tom Sherwood (Carlton University)

“Individualism and the Putrefaction of the Church” by Nathan Ryan Agee (Joliet Junior College)

Panel 17: Governing Bodies in HL 105

Presider: Duygu Yeni Cenebasi (Syracuse University)

“Stepping Outside of the Frame: A Historical Analysis of the Current Antiabortion Debate in the United States” by Laurel Andrew (Concordia University)

“I do; No, you don’t: Christianities against Same-Sex Marriage” by Terry Reeder (Syracuse University)

“*Casti Connubii*’s Lost Potential and a Renewal of Catholic Marriage Theology Today” by Meghan Bowen (Saint Paul’s University)

Panel 18: Religion and Cultural Critique in HL 205

Presider: Aarti Patel (Syracuse University)

“Appreciating Cultural Diversity: Beyond Binaries to Embedded Narrative, Vulnerable Agency and Transforming Gift Exchange” by Gordon Rixon (University of Toronto)

“Church-State and the Common Good” by Bertha Yetman (University of Toronto)

“Beyond the Demonic: A Retrieval of Paul Tillich's Theology of Culture in Response to Globalized Capitalism” by James Brumbaugh (Union Theological Seminary, NYC)

Sunday, April 15

12:00 Lunch in HL 500

1:00 EIR Business Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 1:30-3:00 in HL 500

Plenary Roundtable: Diversity and Inclusion in the Religious Studies Classroom

Presider: Cynthia Hogan (Ithaca College); Panelists: Verna Ehret (Mercyhurst University), Zehavi Husser (Biola University), Yunus Kumek (SUNY Buffalo), S. Brent Plate (Hamilton College), Angela Rudert (Ithaca College)

NOTE: The cost of the Friday reception, Saturday dinner at the Skä•noñh Center, and Sunday lunch will be covered by the conference registration fee.