Sixth International Conference on
Religion & Spirituality in Society

Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene – Towards a Common Cause?

22-23 MARCH 2016 | THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA | WASHINGTON D.C., USA
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COMMON GROUND

Religion in Society

Sixth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society

"Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene – Towards a Common Cause?"

The Catholic University of America | Washington D.C., USA | 22-23 March 2016

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International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society
www.religioninsociety.com

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Dear Religion in Society Conference Delegates,

Welcome to Washington, D.C. and to the Sixth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society. The Religion in Society Knowledge Community—its conference, journal, and book imprint—was created to explore the role of religion and spirituality in society.

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 Inaugural Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society was held in Chicago, USA in February 2011. The conference has since been hosted at the University of British Columbia-Robson Square in Vancouver, Canada; Arizona State University in Tempe, USA; Universidad Nacional Costa Rica in Heredia, Costa Rica; and at the University of California Berkeley in Berkeley, USA. Next year, we are honored to hold the conference at Imperial College London, 17-18 April 2017, in London, UK.

Conferences can be ephemeral spaces. We talk, learn, get inspired, but these conversations fade with time. This Knowledge Community 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 summit a book proposal to the Religion in Society Book Imprint.

In partnership with our Editors and Community Partners the Religion in Society Knowledge Community is curated by Common Ground Publishing. Founded in 1984, Common Ground Publishing is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media and forward thinking in their messages. Common Ground Publishing takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and builds knowledge communities 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 work into preparing for this conference. I'd particularly like to thank my Religion in Society Knowledge Community colleagues, including Stephanie Ebersohl and Kimberly Kendall, 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) Stavely, PhD
Host, Common Ground Publishing

Our Mission

Common Ground Publishing 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 knowledge communities 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 knowledge communities 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 knowledge communities 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 community leaders from the host community). 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 series offer fully-refereed academic outlets for formalized knowledge, developed through innovative approaches to the processes of submission, peer review, and production. The knowledge community also maintains an online presence— through presentations on our YouTube channel, monthly 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 Knowledge Community

Exploring the role of religion and spirituality in society

This knowledge community is brought together by a shared interest in the complex and subtle relationships between religion in society and the changing nature of spirituality. The community 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 Knowledge Community enables members to publish through two media. First, community 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 community offers several opportunities for ongoing communication among its members. Any member may upload video presentations based on scholarly work to the community YouTube channel. Monthly 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**.

Religion in Society | **Themes**

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

Theme 2: Religious Community and Socialization

- Religious institutional governance
- Symbology 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 community
- 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
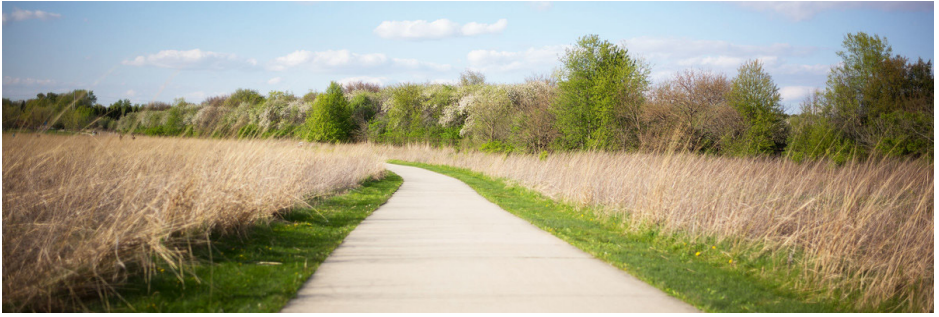- Religious leadership

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

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 community cohesion or community 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

Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

A new framework has been presented in recent years to periodize and interpret the effects of human life on the natural environment: the age of the 'anthropocene'. By this definition, we are now in an era when human activities have become a key macro-determinant of the destiny of the ecosystems of Earth. Critical analyses of this age generally have one of two orientations. One perspective looks back, re-examining the relationship of human social, economic, and technical developments on the natural environment. Another looks forward, attempting to build alternative models of human development that put ecological sustainability as a foundational principle.

The natural environment presents itself as a ground for life and a gift of life in all communities of faith and spiritual meaning. In the 'age of the anthropocene', how might faith (and explicitly non-faith) communities productively engage in these critical discussions? Looking backward: could this be an opportunity for productive dialogues between principles of science, economics, and religion? Looking forward: in what ways might faith communities and other communities of spiritual meaning set agendas for personal and community action? What principles of stewardship, compassion, or mutual obligation might they offer? How might they provide leadership on issues of the environment, ecological sustainability, and climate change? Could addressing these concerns also offer a basis for productive inter-faith dialogue, a locus for the development of unified moral voice across differing belief systems? Could the age of the anthropocene, as a focal interpretive mechanism for understanding the intersection of human action, science, and faith, become a site for joining into a 'common cause' and a place to share imaginations for the future of human development? Not only might such an agenda have implications for our relations in the natural environment, but also such considerations of the future might prompt us to address related questions of inequality, poverty, and human suffering.

The Religion in Society Knowledge Community sets out in its conference, journal, book imprint and online community, to describe, analyze, and interpret the role of religion in society. The community'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 Knowledge Community 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 Knowledge Community 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 Knowledge Community 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 an Associate Editor after reviewing three or more articles.
- Subscription to the community e-newsletter, providing access to news and announcements for and from the knowledge community.
- Option to add a video presentation to the community 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 Community space, multimodal student writing in its Creator space, and managing student peer review, assessment, and sharing of published work.

Present and Participate in the Conference

You have already begun your engagement in the community 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 community colleagues that will continue well into the future.

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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 community. As a member of the community, you will also be invited to review others' work and contribute to the development of the community knowledge base as an Associate Editor. As part of your active membership in the community, 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 community colleagues:

Email Newsletters: Published monthly, these contain information on the conference and publishing, along with news of interest to the community. 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 community members at: https://www.facebook.com /ReligionInSociety.

Twitter: Follow the community @religionsociety and talk about the conference with #ICRSS16.

YouTube Channel: View online presentations or contribute your own at http:// commongroundpublishing.com/support/uploading-your-presentation-to-youtube.

Religion in Society | **Advisory Board**

The principal role of the Advisory Board is to drive the overall intellectual direction of the Religion in Society Knowledge Community 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.
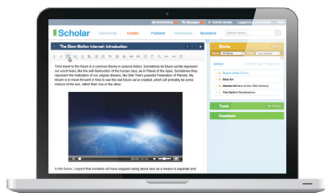
We are grateful for the continued service and support of the following world-class scholars and practitioners.

Scholar

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.

Utilize Your Free Scholar Membership Today through

- Building your *academic profile* and list of published works.
- Joining a community with a *thematic or disciplinary focus*.
- Establishing a new knowledge community *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 community 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 community 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 Community space.

Scholar

A Digital Learning Platform
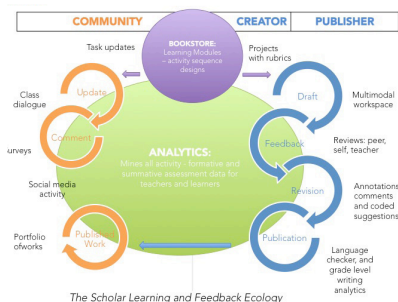Use **Scholar** to Support Your Teaching

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 knowledge community 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 Knowledge Community 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.

The Scholar Learning and Feedback Ecology

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.**
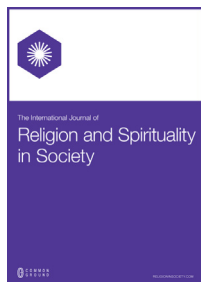
Religion in Society Journal

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.

Editor

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

Associate Editors

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 Knowledge Community. 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 knowledge community, 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 Associate Editors 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 Associate Editors 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@commongroundpublishing.com.

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 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

Community 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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Religion in Society Book Imprint

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Spiritual Formation: A History of Mysticism

Donald Gates and Peter Steane

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.
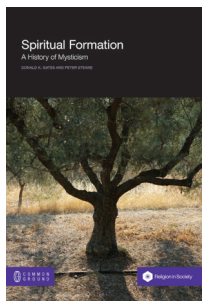
The eighteenth-century Enlightenment saw mystics, such as John and Charles Wesley, emphasize a "social holiness" evidenced in social action, such as Wilberforce's Anti Slavery Crusade. This emphasis on practical holiness continued with William and Catherine Booth's founding of The Salvation Army, which 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.

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Community Website:
religioninsociety.com

Bookstore:
religioninsociety.
cgpublisher.com

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

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)
- 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)

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Common Ground Publishing 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 Knowledge Community agenda. There are a number of ways you can partner with a Common Ground Knowledge Community. 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 knowledge community:

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 28 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 community. 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 community 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 community.

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 community 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 community. 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 commentary and/or group discussion. 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.

Special Event
Conference Welcome Reception

On Tuesday, 22 March, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m., the Religion in Society Conference and Common Ground Publishing will host a welcome reception at the conference venue, in the Gallery, after the last sessions of the day. Join delegates and plenaries for drinks, light hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to converse!

Tuesday, 22 March

8:00–9:00	Conference Registration Desk Open
9:00–9:30	Conference Opening—Homer Stavely, Host, Common Ground Publishing, USA,
9:30–10:05	Plenary Session—Gary Gardner, Worldwatch Institute, Washington D.C., USA *Building Sustainable Economies: Religions' Contributions*
10:05–10:35	Garden Conversation Featuring Gary Gardner and Coffee Break
10:35–11:20	Talking Circles
11:20–11:30	Transition Break
11:30–12:45	Parallel Sessions
12:45–13:40	Lunch
13:40–15:20	Parallel Sessions
15:20–15:35	Coffee Break
15:35–17:15	Parallel Sessions
17:15–18:15	Welcome Reception

Wednesday, 23 March

8:30–9:00	Conference Registration Desk Open
9:00–9:15	Daily Update
9:15–9:50	Plenary Session—Laurel Kearns, Drew University, Madison, USA *The Future Calls Us—How Will We Get There? Religious Responses to the Anthropocene*
9:50–10:20	Garden Conversation Featuring Laurel Kearns and Coffee Break
10:20–10:30	Transition Break
10:30–12:10	Parallel Sessions
12:10–13:10	Lunch
13:10–14:50	Parallel Sessions
14:50–15:05	Coffee Break
15:05–16:45	Parallel Sessions
16:45–17:15	Special Event—Closing and Award Ceremony

Gary T. Gardner
Building Sustainable Economies: Religions' Contributions

Gary T. Gardner is Director of Publications at the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental research organization based in Washington, DC. He has written on a broad range of sustainability issues, from cropland loss and water scarcity to malnutrition and bicycle use. Gary contributes regularly to Institute publications, including *State of the World* and *Vital Signs*. He is the author of the 2006 book *Inspiring Progress: Religions' Contributions to Sustainable Development*. In addition to his research and writing, Gary has done interviews in both English and Spanish with international media outlets including the BBC, Voice of America, National Public Radio, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Before joining Worldwatch in 1994, Gary was project manager of the Soviet Nonproliferation Project, a research and training program run by the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. There, he authored *Nuclear Nonproliferation: A Primer*, which is also published in Spanish and Russian. He has also developed training materials for the World Bank and for the Millennium Institute in Arlington, Virginia. Gary holds master's degrees in politics from Brandeis University and in public administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. He earned his bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University in California.

Laurel Kearns
The Future Calls Us—How Will We Get There? Religious Responses to the Anthropocene

Laurel Kearns is Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion and Environmental Studies at Drew Theological School and the Graduate Division of Religion. She received her MA and PhD in the Sociology of Religion from Emory University, and has researched, published, and given talks around the globe on religion and environmentalism for over 20 years. In addition to helping found the Green Seminary Initiative, now hosted at Drew, she has been a board member of Green Faith and a recipient of their Honoree award, and served on the American Academy of Religion sustainability task force. She currently serves on the Sustainability Committee of Drew University, the Religion and Ecology group of the AAR, and the editorial board of Worldviews: Global Religions, Cultural and Ecology. A list of her publications, in addition to *EcoSpirit*, co-edited with Catherine Keller, can be found on her website. She has contributed chapters to volumes such as *The New Evangelical Social Engagement*, the *Oxford Handbook on Climate Change and Society*, the *Blackwell companion to Modern Theology*, and their *Companion to Religion and Social Justice*, *Religion in Environmental and Climate Change*, *God's Earth is Sacred*, *Love God, Heal the Earth*, *Earth and Word*, the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* and *The Spirit of Sustainability*, as well as many others.

Özgecan Atasoy

Özgecan Atasoy has recently gained her MPhil degree from University of Cambridge, as a member of Fitzwilliam College. Her MPhil dissertation, examining the sustainability strategies of the Turkish Jewish Community, was granted a high-pass degree and chosen as the first dissertation of the virtual library of the Turkish Jewish Community. She is currently enrolled in the MA program of Koç University, İstanbul, in Comparative Studies in History and Society. Additionally, she is currently working as a long-term intern in UNHCR, İstanbul, working with Syrian and non-Syrian refugees of Turkey. Atasoy has published several opinion pieces on contemporary Turkish politics and minorities of Middle East.

Annabelle Fung

Annabella Fung is a recipient of numerous scholarships, awards, and research grants. She is a musician, psychotherapist, and language teacher. Annabella completed postgraduate studies in psychology, music, and languages. Currently, she is receiving the Australian Postgraduate Award to pursue a PhD with Publication, while taking up a research-teaching assistantship at the faculty. Annabella's research targets diverse academic journals; she is an interdisciplinary applied researcher focusing on ethnography, phenomenology, narrative inquiry, and the philosophical and psychological aspects of teaching and learning.

Louise Gramstrup

Louise Gramstrup is completing her PhD in Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh, UK. She has a MA (Honours) in Religious Studies from the University of Edinburgh (2012) and a MSt in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford (2013). Additionally, she is an Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. Her doctoral thesis focuses on processes of sameness and difference taking place in the American women's interfaith book group, Daughters of Abraham. It shows how engagement in this interreligious encounter influences understanding of religious self and others. Her key research interests include interreligious and intercultural relations, the Abrahamic religions, gender, and ethnography.

Michael Jones

Michael Jones was raised in Ferguson, Missouri, and he graduated from Saint Louis University in 2010 with three bachelor degrees in African American Studies, Sociology, and Theological Studies and in 2012 with a master's degree in Higher Education Administration. Before relocating to Jackson, Mississippi, in this past August, Michael spent the last three years working at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville as a retention specialist for underrepresented student populations. Michael is currently enrolled at Reformed Theological Seminary pursing his Master of Divinity while also completing his PhD in Education Administration. His research focuses on at-risk African American students' perceptions of spirituality within an educational setting.

Rey Wong Junfu

Wong Junfu is a master's student in the English Department of Peking University, planning to read for a DPhil/PhD degree in Comparative Religion (Daoism, Buddhism, and Christianity). He is presently working on a book tentatively entitled *Cultural Discourses on Northern Wei Daoist Stelae*, which will be published by Hong Kong University Cultural Studies Series Press later this year. He has also been working on a Chinese translation of Gavin Flood's *The Truth Within: A History of Inwardness in Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism*. His research interests include Daoist Visual Culture, Religious Phenomenology, and Religion and Philosophy.

Joyce Konigsburg

Joyce Ann Konigsburg is a PhD Candidate in Systematic Theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA where she teaches World Religions courses. Her academic interests include interreligious dialogue/ pluralism, theological anthropology, science and religion, and philosophy of religions. The title for her dissertation is *Improved Interreligious Dialogue: Relational Ontology Models of Creator/Creature and Quantum Entanglement*. Joyce is a founding Fellow of the New York City think tank Sinai and Synapses, which encourages productive science–religion interaction.

Easten Law

Easten Law is a PhD student in Theological and Religious Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. His current research interests focus on religious plurality, public theology, and civil society in the context of contemporary China. Previously, Easten taught intercultural relations and communication at American University's School of International Service in Washington, DC, and at Anhui Normal University's School of Foreign Studies in Anhui, China. He earned his MDiv from Wesley Theological Seminary, DC, and an MA in Intercultural Studies from Wheaton College, IL.

Carly Mcilvaine-York

Carly Mcilvaine-York has been a professional singer and music director for churches for over twenty years. She earned her bachelor's in music from American University in Washington, DC, and a master's in liturgical music from the Catholic University of America. Carly was later awarded a full scholarship from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to earn a second master's in voice performance and pedagogy. She has recently earned a third graduate degree in Education Leadership, Management, & Policy from Seton University, and she is currently working to earn a doctorate degree in Education. Presently, Carly teaches music and directs a children's chorus at the United Nations International School in New York City. Carly is also a professional Catholic Cantor at several churches within the Diocese of Trenton in New Jersey.

Cecille Medina-Maldonado

Cecille is a master's student at Loyola University Chicago and will graduate in May 2017. She is interested in pursuing a PhD in comparative theology, with an emphasis on Catholicism and Mormonism. Cecille has varied interests within and outside comparative theology, including feminist theology, ecological theology, and Latino/a theology. Her insatiable curiosity has led to other research interests, including theological anthropology, sacramental theology, and soteriology. Cecille holds a BS in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she also earned three minors in business, Spanish, and Arabic studies.

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9:00-9:30	Conference Opening - Homer Stavely, Host, Common Ground Publishing, USA
9:30-10:05	Plenary Session: Gary Gardner, Worldwatch Institute, Washington DC, USA; "Building Sustainable Economies: Religions' Contributions"
10:05-10:35	Garden Conversation Featuring Gary Gardner and Coffee Break
10:35-11:20	Talking Circle
Room 1	Talking Circle: Religious Foundations
Room 2	Talking Circle: Religious Community and Socialization & Commonalities and Differences
Room 3	Talking Circle: Politics of Religion
Room 4	Talking Circle: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?
11:20-11:30	Transition Break
11:30-12:45	Parallel Sessions
Room 1	**Faith and Identity**
	Christianity: Its Practice, Evolution, and Impact on Irish Identity
	Dr. Timothy White, *Department of Political Science, Xavier University, Cincinnati, USA*
	Overview: This paper explores the historic relationship between Catholic and national identity in the Irish context beginning with the conversion of the island in the 6th century through recent secularization.
	Theme: Politics of Religion
	Enhancing Prisoner Reentry and Desistance: Evidence Based Practices in Identity Transformation
	Dr. Malcolm L. Rigsby, *Department of Sociology, Human Services and Criminal Justice, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, USA*
	Overview: Many who experience pro-social religious transformation in prison are released only to return to crime and ultimately recidivate. Prisoner narratives suggest the need for "helpers."
	Theme: Politics of Religion
Room 2	**Issues in Buddhism**
	A Synthesis of Research on the Advancement of Buddhist Research in ASEAN Communities
	Dr. Phra Rajvaramethi Inkrungkao, *ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wang Noi, Thailand*
	Dr. Lampong Klomkul, *ASEAN Studies Center, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wang Noi, Thailand*
	Overview: Meta-ethnography was used for this research synthesis and synthesized 24 research reports in Buddhism which conducted in the project of ASEAN Studies Center at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand.
	Theme: Religious Community and Socialization
	The Political Hierachy of Thai Theravāda Buddhism
	Phra Tikumporn Rodkhunmuang, *International Buddhist Studies College, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Thailand*
	Overview: The hierarchy in Thai Budhism against the core teaching of the Lord Buddha is the most important issue in Sangha system.
	Theme: Politics of Religion
	The Study of Buddhist Self-Immolation beyond Religious Tradition and Political Context: The Necessity of "Proto-getical" Analysis
	Easten G. Law, *Theology Department, Georgetown University, Washington, USA*
	Overview: This paper reviews past scholarship on Buddhist self-immolation using Delores William's three-fold methodology of interpretation, highlighting "proto-gesis" as an important method of cultural analysis beyond religious tradition and/or political context
	Theme: Politics of Religion
Room 3	**Fates of Humankind**
	Towards a New and Universal Solidarity in the Age of the Anthropocene: Pope Francis's Laudato Si' Encyclical
	Dr. Emoke Korzenszky, *Faculty of Theology, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary*
	Overview: New global perspectives and political ethics emerge from the social teaching of the Catholic Church as expressed in Pope Francis's Laudato Si' encyclical.
	Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?
	The Quranic Concept of Anthropocene
	Dr. Mirza Sultan Ahmad, *Comparative Religion, Nusrat Jahan College, Chenab Nagar, Pakistan*
	Overview: Quran has mentioned changes in all four geospheres during anthropocene era i.e. in lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. Only man made changes in biosphere have been condemned.
	Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Tuesday, 22 March

11:30-12:45	Parallel Sessions
Room 4	Ethics, Education, and Religion

Jesus Saves the Broccoli: How Mormon Monism Can Shape Environmentalism
Cecille M. Medina-Maldonado, *Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, USA*
Overview: This paper explores the Mormon understanding of monism and how it can contribute to an environmental ethic, without compromising traditional Christian metaphysical dualism.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Educating Mormons: An Holistic View of an International Religious Educational System
Barbara Morgan, *Religious Education, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA*
Dr. Casey Paul Griffiths, *Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA*
Overview: Approximately 700,000 Mormon youth and young adults attend weekly religious classes annually. This paper will give a holistic view of Mormon education including its history, curriculum, training, teaching, mission, impact.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

The Prophetic Dynamic in Africa and Its Social Impact: Needing a Paradigm Shift?
Dr. Jake Omang Otonko, *Department of Religious Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria*
Overview: This paper raises the question whether the present prophetic dynamics in Africa need a paradigm shift or not to fit in well with the prophetic paradigm in the Bible.
Theme: Religious Foundations

12:45-13:40	Lunch

13:40-15:20	Parallel Sessions
Room 1	Shared Foundations

Allegory and Numerology in Apocalyptic Endgames
Dr. James Doan, *Dept. of Literature and Modern Languages College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Nova Southeastern Univ. (NSU), Ft. Lauderdale, USA*
Overview: This paper examines eschatological use of allegory and numerology, drawing on Judeo-Christian, Islamic and other traditions, to shed light on contemporary geopolitics in the Middle East and the West.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Terebinth, Testament, and Transgression: A Fresh Look at the Ancient Akedah
Dr. Dorothy Abram, *Department of Social Sciences, Johnson & Wales University, Providence, USA*
Overview: Examining Jewish, Christian, and Islamic sources and considering the Canaanite context in which Abraham constructs his new religion, a new interpretation of the Akedah covenant between God and Abraham emerges.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom: Two Opposite Truths in the Secular-Reformist Muslim Narrative
Dr. Azmi Mohamad, *Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies Institute of Policy Studies, University of Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam*
Overview: This paper analyzes the construction of a conflict between God's prerogative and human freedom in Islam by secular-reformist Muslim scholars, and proposes a more sensible way of approaching the issue
Theme: Religious Foundations

Believing in God: The Logic of Atheism, the Reality of God, and the Lives of Believers
Brandon Yarbrough, *Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, USA*
Overview: To "believe in God," in a religious sense, is not to think "there is a God" or "God exists," but to allow pictures of God to guide one's life.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Room 2	Political Boundaries

The Emergent Demos and Shifting Boundaries: Why a Democratic Social Imaginary Cannot be Normatively Secular
Dr. Daniel Miller, *Department of Humanities, Landmark College, Putney, USA*
Overview: The unforeseeable identities of political subjects constitutive of the "people" (demos) are such that the possibility of constitutively religious subjects within the demos cannot be foreclosed without sacrificing democracy itself.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Teaching about the First Amendment Free Exercise Clause through Supreme Court Simulations
Dr. Terri Susan Fine, *Department of Political Science, University of Central Florida, Orlando, USA*
Overview: This paper will focus on a religious free exercise U.S. Supreme Court simulation that will include strategies for incentivizing students to take on the appropriate role play and deliberation aspects.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Room 3	Faith and Contemporary Life

A Serious Call to Christian-Atheist Dialogue
Dr. Peter A. Huff, *Department of Theology, University of Mary, Bismarck, USA*
Overview: In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of Time magazine's controversial "Is God Dead?" cover story (1966), this paper argues for Christian-atheist engagement as the next great stage of interfaith dialogue.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Tuesday, 22 March

13:40-15:20	Parallel Sessions
Room 4	Late Additions

Exploring Spirituality among First Year African American Students Experiencing Academic Probation
Michael F. Jones, *Saint Louis University, Jackson, USA*
Overview: This paper describes first year African American students' perceptions of spirituality while experiencing academic probation. In addition it expands the possibilities of faith communities integrating into academic interventions among students.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Religion of Veda for Human Welfare
Prof. Prabhakar Calyam, *Veda Adhyayana Kendra/WAVES-India, Columbia, USA*
Overview: This paper discusses how the Vedas that are ancient and a knowledge-oriented compilation of mantras can help in the fusion of philosophy (wisdom) and religion (practice) for human welfare.
Theme: Religious Foundations

The Relationship between Self-Compassion and Religion
Dr. Nuran Korkmaz, *Concealing Psychology Department, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA*
Overview: Self-compassion has many positive effects on psychological well-being, yet little research has investigated religious–related construct The aim of this study was to examine relationship between self-compassion and religiosity(Muslims and Christianity).
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

15:20-15:35	Coffee Break
15:35-17:15	Parallel Sessions
Room 1	The Self, the Heart, the Every Day

Kierkegaard and the Anthropocene Age: What We Still Can Learn from the Lilies of the Field and the Birds of the Air
Dr. Stephen Leach, *Department of History and Philosophy, University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, USA*
Overview: Kierkegaard's lessons from Jesus' parables of the lilies and the birds can help us build a deeper ethics of nature-relationships, through practice in the virtues of silence, obedience, and joy.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

The Heart Dwells in Emptiness: On the Relation between Zacharias' "Heart" and Hongzhi's "Empty Field"
Dr. Jonathan Doner, *Independent, Keswick, USA*
Overview: A synthetic perspective relates the Judeo-Christian concept of the "heart", especially as discussed by Archimandrite Zacharias, and the Buddhist notion of the "empty field" emphasized by Master Hongzhi.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Ignatian Pedagogy and a Doorway to the Other: Radical Reflection in the Anthropocene
Chris Francovich, *Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies, Gonzaga University, Spokane, USA*
Overview: This paper presents a phenomenological interpretation/exploration of Ignatian pedagogy and the possibilities of finding common ground with the "other" while honoring the incommensurability of perspectives that keeps us distinct.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Room 2	Religion, Modernity, and the Law

Working Within the Immanent Frame: How Christian Conservative Legal Claims Reinforce Secularism
Dr. Jason Whitehead, *Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, USA*
Overview: I examine whether the legal arguments of Christian conservative groups resist modern secularism through appeals to transcendent, higher-law, authority inadvertently reinforce secularism by relying on immanent, positivist logic.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Balancing Law and Belief: The Dichotomy of the Earthly and the Ethereal
Juliet Chevalier-Watts, *Te Piringa - Faculty of Law, The University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand*
Overview: This is a critical review of balancing the needs of religion with the needs of charity law in contemporary society, where both law and religion are of fundamental importance.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Essential Resources of Saudi Criminal Law: Elaborating and Evaluating the Types of Hadith
Hajed Alotaibi, *School of Philosophy and Religion, Bangor University, Bangor, UK*
Overview: Sunnah is the second resource after Quran. Its proof-value depends on its types. Although, one Hadith might be decisive, its meaning may, sometimes, be speculative according to the context.
Theme: Religious Foundations

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

15:35-17:15	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 3	Religious Impacts

The Impact of Religious or Spiritual Conversion: Commonalities and Differences among the Faiths
Dr. Glenn Andrew Williams, *Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, School of Health and Community Studies, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK*
Dr. Leonie O'Dwyer, *Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, UK*
Overview: This paper discusses the findings from an online, worldwide survey of people who have converted to a different religious or spiritual tradition from that of their upbringing.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

The Impact of Hindu Religion and Culture on the Khojas Branch of Ismailis
Assist. Prof. Cemil Kutluturk, *MESAAS, Columbia University, New York, USA*
Overview: The purpose of the paper is to address the impact of Hinduism on the Khoja branch of Ismaili that used to eclectic tradition of Islam to comprehend the Indian ethos.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Unity, Diversity, and Hegemony: Contemporary Theological Challenges Confronting Interreligious Dialogue
Joyce Ann Konigsburg, *Theology Department, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA*
Overview: This paper critically evaluates global contemporary challenges that religious plurality and hegemony introduce into interfaith encounters and suggests a relational approach to improve interreligious dialogue.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

What Makes Us Generous? A Comparative Analysis of Four Religions in the India Context
Rashmi Ranjan Behera, *Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India*
Prof. Priyadarshi Patnaik, *Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India*
Prof. Suhita Chopra Chatterjee, *Dept. Of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur, India*
Naraya Chandra Nayak, *Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Kharagpur, Khragpur, India*
Overview: The paper attempts to compare generosity practices and philosophies across four religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism) in order to identify motivators, commonalities and differences of all giving traditions.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Room 4	Foundations, Faith, and the Church

Singularity: The Death of Religion and the Resurrection of Faith
Rev. Kenneth Howard, *Local Parish of the Episcopal Church USA, The Episcopal Church USA, Germantown, USA*
Overview: Today's faith-based communities and organizations are facing escalating uncertainty and exponential change. Those that make the right choices will emerge more lean, vision-driven, experimental, discerning, context-sensitive, collaborative, nimble, and self-correcting.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Speaking for God: The Mission and Influence of Prophets
Dr. Lloyd Newell, *College of Religious Education, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA*
Overview: Ideas about prophets vary widely among faith traditions. But however they are understood, their impact on believers—and nonbelievers—is undeniable. What is it that makes a prophet so influential?
Theme: Religious Foundations

The Continuing Bonds between the Living and the Dead: A Comparison between the Funeral Rites of Daoism and Those of Protestantism
Prof. Simon S. M. Kwan, *Department of Cultural and Religious Studies (Divinity School of Chung Chi College), The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, Hong Kong*
Overview: This is a comparison between the funeral rites of two religions with special reference to the continuing bonds between the living and the dead in the bereavement process.
Theme: Religious Foundations

The Acts of God in Nature: Human Suffering and Its Religious Significance
Prof. Stephen Alan Strehle, *Depatment of Philosophy and Religion, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, USA*
Overview: The paper presents the religious response to catastrophes and suffering in the world. It speaks of the modern secular perspective, which rejects divine complicity and looks for non-metaphysical solutions.
Theme: Religious Foundations

17:15-18:15	WELCOME RECEPTION

Wednesday, 23 March

8:30-9:00	Conference Registration Desk Open
9:00-9:15	Daily Update - Homer Stavely, Host, Common Ground Publishing, USA
9:15-9:50	Plenary Session: Laurel Kearns, Drew University, Madison, USA; "The Future Calls Us - How Will We Get There? Religious Responses to the Anthropocene"
9:50-10:20	Garden Conversation Featuring Laurel Kearns and Coffee Break
10:20-10:30	Transition Break
10:30-12:10	Parallel Sessions
Room 1	Stewardship, Social Movements, and Faith

Room 1 — Stewardship, Social Movements, and Faith

A Theological Argument for Water as a Human Right: The Andean Pachamama Mother Earth Encounter with Catholic Social Thought
Dr. Terence McGoldrick, *Theology Department, Providence College, Providence, USA*
Overview: The Bolivian bishops have written the world's most extensive statement of its kind on the sacred right to water. I analyzes the Bolivian theological perspective in its social context.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

How Do Minority Communities Adopt New Sustainability Strategies? The Case Study of Turkish Jewish Community
Ozgecan Atasoy, *Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey*
Overview: This paper answers how minority groups adopt new sustainability strategies with a focus on Turkish-Jewish Community.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Growing Seeds of Hope: The Potential for Catholic Environmental Stewardship to Foster Interdenominational Collaboration and Evangelical Intrigue
Mr. John J. Allen, *Academy of the Holy Cross, Falls Church, USA*
Overview: This paper explores the theoretical and practical application of Catholic stewardship of environment for future religious growth and inter-religious dialogue.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Cutting Off or Eating from the Tree: Religious Ethics of Artificial Selection for the Anthropocene
Calvyn Clarence du Toit, *Department of Christian Dogmatics and Ethics Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, New York, USA*
Overview: Responding to the Anthropocene, religious and secular theologies emphasize humanity's unity with nature. However, the Anthropocene's mass artificial selection leaves these theologies dissonant with the radical responsibility this epoch demands.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Room 2 — Socialization Aspects of Religion

An Interculturation of PCP II Concept of Discipleship in Community: Using Filipino Cultural Values of Bayanihan as a Tool
Asst. Prof. Basas Allan, *University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines*
Overview: This study explores the interculturation of the PCP II concept of Discipleship in Community using the Filipino cultural value of bayanihan as a tool.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Empowering the Filipino Christian Family
Concepcion Corotan, *Institute of Religion, Universoty of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines*
Overview: The study focuses on the empowerment of the Filipino Christian through formation and education with the purpose of transforming and enabling them to face the challenges in the modern world.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Religion in the Gulag
Dr. Leonard Latkovski, *History Department, Hood College, Frederick, USA*
Scott Mauer, *Latgale Research Institute, Frederick, USA*
Overview: Using the personal accounts of the prisoners this study examines how religion helped them survive the harsh conditions.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Rediscovering the Value of Initiation Rites: The African Perspective
Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Chinedu Anagwo, *Sacred Liturgy Department, Catholic Institute of West Africa, Port Harcourt, Nigeria*
Overview: This paper addresses the rediscovery of the initiation rites. The research has realized that initiation rites of the African Traditional Religion also contain the gospel values for evangelization.
Theme: Religious Foundations

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

10:30-12:10	PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room 3	Religion in Conflict

Embattled Majority: Religion and Its Despisers in America
Dr. Jason Bivins, *Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA*
Overview: This paper explores the tropes of victimization in post-1960s American politics, focused on the mutual dependence between claims that religion is unfairly victimized and those denouncing it as politically illegitimate.
Theme: Politics of Religion

West African Insurgents and Religious Conflicts: Causes and Crimes
Ehosa Peter Ogbeni, *Bolton Law School, University of Bolton, Manchester, UK*
Overview: Religious conflict has no lasting sign of decline in the West African region; the conflict has brought its economies to the brink of collapse, creating humanitarian casualties and concerns.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Boko Haram: History, Ideology and Goal
Jude Aguwa, *Humanities, School Liberal Art, Mercy College, Brewster, USA*
Overview: This paper examines some theories of origin of the Islamist Boko Haram, its jihadist agenda as well as its goal to establish a caliphate in Northern Nigeria.
Theme: Politics of Religion

The Definition of Jihad in Islam and Fethullah Gülen's Approach
Dr. Mustafa Erdil, *Faculty of Theology, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia*
Overview: I discuss the definition of Jihad in Islam and how Gulen interprets this issue.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Room 4	Quality of Life and Spirituality

Religious Involvement and Quality of Life in Patients with Schizophrenia in Latin-America
Dr. Alejandra Caqueo-Urízar, *Departamento de Filosofía y Psicología, Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica, Chile*
Dr. Laurent Boyer, *Public Health, Chronic Diseases and Quality of Life - Research Unit, Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France*
Dr. Stephen E. Gilman, *Health Behavior Branch, Division of Intramural Population Health Research, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, Rockville, USA*
Dr. David Williams, *Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, Harvard University, Boston, USA*
Overview: The aim of the study was to explore the relationship between religious involvement (RI) and quality of life (QoL) in patients with schizophrenia from three countries in Latin America.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Music in Religion, Religion in Music: Christian Faith and Confucian Filial Piety in the Lifeworld Practices of Two Musician-Educators
Annabella Fung, *Faculty of Education, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia*
Overview: This phenomenological study examined the relationships between faith community and socialisation. It investigated two musician-educators' lifeworld practices as educational leaders, focusing on the interplay between religion, music, stewardship and identity.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

The Soul, Addiction, and Sin Taxes
Dr. Corey Harris, *Department of the Humanities, Alvernia University, Reading, USA*
Overview: I discuss Thomas Aquinas' understanding of the passions and affections of the soul as they relate to addiction.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Spiritual Experiences during Peak Performance in the Life World Practice of Ballet: A Qualitative Study
Lynda Flower, *Studies in Religion, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia*
Overview: I discuss the subjective nature of spiritual lived experiences (religious and secular) during peak performance in life world practice of ballet and the meaning people make of them.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

12:10-13:10	LUNCH

13:10-14:50	PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room 1	Posters and Focused Discussions

Radical Islamic Social Movements in Latin America: Al-Qaeda Infiltrates Brazil
Dr. Gordon Knowles, *College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hawaii Pacific Univesity, Honolulu, USA*
Overview: This article presents a human terrain analysis of the Islamic radicalization occurring in Latin America and the infiltration of the Al-Qaeda terrorist network into the country of Brazil.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

13:10-14:50	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 2	Youth and Communities of Religion

The Music of Taizé: Its Effects on Young People
Lauren Ella Kylberg, *Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, USA*
Overview: This paper will address the importance of the community of Taizé and its music through a survey of young people and comparisons to popular music.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Young People's Perceptions of Their Religiosity and Agency in a Finnish Context
Dr. Elina Juntunen, *Theology and Social Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*
Anna Elisabet Juntunen, *University of Helsinki, Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*
Overview: In our research we examine Finnish young people's attitudes towards religion and their agency in local churches.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Religion, Routines and Delinquency: How Does Religiosity Affect Delinquent Behavior
Dr. Spencer Li, *Department of Sociology Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau, Taipa, Macao Special Administrative Region of China*
Overview: Through the analysis of data from a nationally representative survey of youths, this study assesses the influences of social processes that mediate the relationship between religiosity and delinquency.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Catholic Youth in the Media Age
Mary Emilia Aboekwe, *Department of Religion and Society, Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Awka, Nigeria*
Overview: This paper examines the influence of media on young people, and how this affects their religious lives.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Room 3	Workshops

Breathe In and Sing Out: Using Song to Enhance Corporate and Personal Spiritual Practice
Carly Mcilvaine-York, *United Nations International School, New York, USA*
Overview: The workshop teaches singing techniques that can be incorporated into a variety of religious practices. The singing techniques of several experts in the field of spiritual singing will be presented.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Room 4	Identity, Politics, and the Church

Social Vulnerability and Social Identity: Public Religion in Central and Eastern Europe
Prof. Dr. Andras Mate-Toth, *Department for the Study on Religions, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary*
Overview: I discuss the post-genocide area as a key factor for appropriate interpretation of social identity of the region Central and Eastern Europe.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Latino Evangelicals and the Evolution of Evangelical Electorate
Dr. Richard Haesly, *Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach, USA*
Dr. Liesl Haas, *Department of Political Science, California St University, Long Beach, USA*
Overview: The rise of Latinos in the American Evangelical Christian community may challenge this community's three-decade, unquestioning support for the Republican Party and change the dynamics of American party politics.
Theme: Politics of Religion

Schism in the Religious Right: The Evolving Religious Debate on Immigration in the United States
Dr. Liesl Haas, *Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach, USA*
Dr. Richard Haesly, *Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach, USA*
Overview: Rising ethnic and theological diversity within the Evangelical Christian community has the potential to alter radically the political debate surrounding immigration reform and electoral politics in the United States.
Theme: Politics of Religion

14:50-15:05	COFFEE BREAK

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

15:05-16:45	PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room 1 | **The Roles of Women in Religion**

A New Sufi Religious Practice in Wallo, North Eastern Ethiopia
Semira Mohammed, *College of Humanities, Language studies, Journalism and Communication Department of Amharic Language, Literature and Folklore, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
Overview: The present study focuses on what is traditionally called Turusina Muslims Monastery as well as its center on Were'elu, Feredel Shrine which is being administrated by woman.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Researching an American Women's Interfaith Book Group: Straddling Sameness and Difference Towards Interreligious Understanding
Louise Koelner Gramstrup, *School of Divinity, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK*
Overview: Can we learn to understand the religious other without having to pretend we are all the same? Daughters of Abraham, an American women's interfaith book group, provides an answer.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Catholic to the Bone: The Bioarchaeological Imprint of Marian Devotion
Frank E. Bayham, *Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico, Chico, USA*
Lisa N. Bright, *Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, USA*
Brenna K. Blanchard, *USA*
Overview: Two female skeletons from a historic cemetery in San Jose, CA revealed osteoarthritis of the carpometacarpal joints. We link this pathology to the mechanics of the rosary and Marian devotion.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Women's Spiritual Pilgrimage and Travel Writing in the Anthropocene Age: An Inner Sense of Spiritual Mystery through a Connection to the Earth and the Natural World
Dr. Diane Cousins, *Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Newcastle, Sydney, Australia*
Overview: Much present-day women's spiritual, pilgrimage and travel writing explores an inner sense of spiritual "mystery" through a powerful-feeling connection to the earth and the natural world.
Theme: 2016 Special Focus: Religion in the Age of the Anthropocene: Towards a Common Cause?

Room 2 | **Religion and the Common Good**

Not Religious, Not Spiritual, but Committed to the Common Good: Early Findings from "Middle Class in Middle America"
Dr. Meg Wilkes Karraker, *Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, USA*
Overview: This paper presents findings regarding religious identification and religiosity from a study of individuals living in a middle class neighborhood in a large city in the upper Midwestern United States.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Diversity for Peace: India's Cultural Spirituality
Dr. Indira Y. Junghare, *Institute of Linguistics, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, USA*
Overview: The paper analyzes India's socio-cultural spirituality for attaining peace in the context of diversity of life.
Theme: Religious Foundations

An Eco-Theological Reading of John 9:1-17: Implications for Nigeria's Environmental Sustainability
Dr. Effiong Joseph Udo, *Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria*
Overview: An eco-theological reading of the healing narrative in John 9 highlights the interconnectedness of human and nonhuman resource. This is significant for a deepened human appreciation of the earth resource.
Theme: Religious Foundations

Pity for Stones? The New Confucian Ecological Turn and the Global Ethic Project
Dr. Jonathan Keir, *Global Ethic Institute, University of Tübingen, Global Ethic Foundation, Tübingen, Germany*
Overview: This paper explores the compatibility of New Confucian "deep ecology" with the principles of Hans Küng's Global Ethic Project.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Room 3 | **Structures and Places of Faith**

Orthodox Architecture and the Natural Environment: An Alternative Future
Dr. Nicholas Denysenko, *Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, Department of Theological Studies, Los Angeles, USA*
Overview: A paper examining the relationship between American Orthodox architecture and the environment, and proposing a constructive approach to simplified liturgy rooted in asceticism.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

Architectural Patterns on the Daoist Steles of Northern Wei from the Field Museum of Natural History
Junfu Wong, *English Department, Peking University of P.R.China, Beijing, China*
Overview: This is a study of Architectural Patterns on the Daoist Steles of Northern Wei Dynasty, referring to the collection in the Field Museum of Natural History.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

The Changing Dimensions of Liturgical Architecture in the Philippines: The Emergence of Chapels in Shopping Malls of Metro CBDs
Archt. Marie Stephanie Gilles, *SNG Design Enterprise, United Architects of the Philippines Emergency Architects, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines*
Overview: This study illustrates the shifting dimensions of liturgical architecture in the Philippine metropolis, from the Spanish-influenced churches in plazas to the emerging chapels in commercial buildings as nodes of worship.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

15:05-16:45	PARALLEL SESSIONS
Room 4	Diversity, Identity, and Religion

The Misperceptions of Christianity Caused by Colonialism: Missionaries and Residential Schools
Tanner Morrison, *Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada*
Overview: Blaise Pascal once said that the mark of genius is the ability to hold two opposite ideas in the mind at the same time.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Rumi's Role in Religious Education Today
Dr. Fariba Enteshari, *Rumi Educational Center, Santa Barbara, USA*
Overview: Rumi's master-epic, Mathnawi is a diverse spiritual text filled with verses of scriptures known in the 13th century that aids learners today to expand their spiritual and religious identity.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Psychological Well-being of Muslim Middle Eastern Women
Dr. Sanaz Rezaei, *Counseling and Human Sciences, Mercer University, USA*
Dr. Theresa Reese, *Counseling and Human Sciences, Mercer University, Atlanta, USA*
Overview: This paper will explore the complex relationship between Islamic faith and psychological well-being of Muslim Middle-Eastern women living in the United States.
Theme: Religious Community and Socialization

"This Unclean Thing": Black Protestants and the Catholic Church, 1860-1915
Dr. Heather Parker, *Social Sciences Department, Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, USA*
Overview: Catholic clergy sought converts among post-emancipation African Americans. African American clergymen were determined to ensure that their flocks did not place themselves under the influence of the "heretical" Catholic Church.
Theme: Religious Commonalities and Differences

Room 5	Late Additions
16:45-17:15	SPECIAL EVENT: CLOSING AND AWARD CEREMONY - HOMER STAVELY, HOST, COMMON GROUND PUBLISHING, USA

Mary Emilia	Aboekwe	Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus, Anambra State	Nigeria
Dorothy	Abram	Johnson & Wales University	USA
Tanka Prasad	Acharya	Sitaram Shaskrit Higher Secondary School	Nepal
Jude	Aguwa	Mercy College	USA
Mirza Sultan	Ahmad	Nusrat Jahan College	Pakistan
John J.	Allen	Central Catholic High School	USA
Hajed	Alotaibi	Bangor University	UK
Emmanuel Chinedu	Anagwo	Catholic Institute of West Africa, Port Harcourt	Nigeria
Ozgecan	Atasoy	Koc University	Turkey
Allan	Basas	University of Santo Tomas	Philippines
Frank E.	Bayham	California State University, Chico	USA
Rashmi Ranjan	Behera	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	India
Jason	Bivins	North Carolina State University	USA
Prabhakar	Calyam	Veda Adhyayana Kendra/WAVES-India	USA
Alejandra	Caqueo-Urízar	Universidad de Tarapacá	Chile
Juliet	Chevalier-Watts	The University of Waikato	New Zealand
Concepcion	Corotan	University of Santo Tomas	Philippines
Diane	Cousins	The University of Newcastle	Australia
Chris	Crews	New School for Social Research	USA
Nicholas	Denysenko	Department of Theological Studies	USA
James	Doan	Nova Southeastern University	USA
Recep	Dogan	Charles Sturt University	Australia
Jonathan	Doner	DP/DS	USA
Calvyn Clarence	du Toit	University of Pretoria	USA
Kat	Eghdamian	University College London	UK
Fariba	Enteshari	Rumi Educational Center	USA
Mustafa	Erdil	Study of Islam and Muslim-Catholic Relations Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID)	Australia
Anthony	Ezeogamba	Anambra State University	Nigeria
Anat	Feldman	Achva Academic College	Israel
Terri Susan	Fine	University of Central Florida	USA
Lynda	Flower	University of Queensland	Australia
Chris	Francovich	Gonzaga University	USA
Annabella	Fung	Monash University	Australia
Davina	Gabriela		USA
Marie Stephanie	Gilles	University of the Philippines, School of Urban & Regional Planning	Philippines
Louise Koelner	Gramstrup	The University of Edinburgh	UK
Liesl	Haas	California State University, Long Beach	USA
Richard	Haesly	California State University, Long Beach	USA
Corey	Harris	Alvernia University	USA
August	Higgins	The Oblate School of Theology	USA
Kenneth	Howard	The Episcopal Church	USA
Peter A.	Huff	University of Mary	USA
Muhammad Sarwar	Hussain	University of Management and Technology, Lahore	Pakistan
Theodora	Issa	Curtin University	Australia

Isa	Jahangir	The Islamic College	UK
Michael F.	Jones	Saint Louis University; Reformed Theological Seminary	USA
Indira Y.	Junghare	University of Minnesota	USA
Anna Elisabet	Juntunen	University of Helsinki	Finland
Elina	Juntunen	University of Helsinki	Finland
Meg Wilkes	Karraker	University of St. Thomas	USA
Jonathan	Keir	Global Ethic Foundation	Germany
Lampong	Klomkul	Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University	Thailand
Gordon	Knowles	University of Hawaii	USA
Joyce Ann	Konigsburg	Duquesne University	USA
Emoke	Korzenszky	Pazmany Peter Catholic University	Hungary
Cemil	Kutluturk	Columbia University	USA
Simon S. M.	Kwan	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Lauren Ella	Kylberg	Stephen F. Austin State University	USA
Easten G.	Law	Georgetown University	USA
Anthony	Le Duc	Assumption University of Thailand	Thailand
Stephen	Leach	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	USA
Spencer	Li	University of Macau	Macao Special Administrative Region of China
Andras	Mate-Toth	University of Szeged	Hungary
Scott	Mauer	Latgale Research Institute	USA
Terence	McGoldrick	Providence College	USA
Carly	Mcilvaine-York	Seton Hall University	USA
Cecille M.	Medina-Maldonado	Loyola University Chicago	USA
Zainab	Mesgartehrani	Islamic Azad University	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Daniel	Miller	Landmark College	USA
Azmi	Mohamad	University of Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam
Semira	Mohammed	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
Barbara	Morgan	Brigham Young University	USA
Tanner	Morrison	Wilfrid Laurier University	Canada
Hossein	Naeim Abadi	Hadith University of Qom	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Lloyd	Newell	Brigham Young University	USA
Philomina Uyovwirume	Ofuafo	University of Lagos, Lagos	Nigeria
Ehosa Peter	Ogbeni	University of Bolton	UK
Elizabeth	Okunrounmu	Drexel University	USA
Ayodele	Omojuwa	University of Lagos	Nigeria
Rotimi Williams	Omotoye	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	Nigeria
Jake Omang	Otonko	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	Nigeria
Heather	Parker	Saint Leo University	USA
Luis Javier	Pentón Herrera	Concordia University Chicago	USA
Rupert	Phillips	City University of New York	USA
Theresa	Reese	Mercer University	USA
Sanaz	Rezaei	Mercer University	USA
Malcolm L.	Rigsby	Henderson State University	USA
Tikumporn	Rodkhunmuang	Mahachulalongkornrajavidayalaya University	Thailand

Muazu	Shehu	Gombe State University	Nigeria
Jastaran	Singh	Punjabi University, Patiala	India
Phillip T.	Stephens	Freelance Writer and Researcher	USA
Stephen Alan	Strehle	Christopher Newport University	USA
Asebe Amenu	Tufa	Addis Ababa university, Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Effiong Joseph	Udo	University of Uyo	Nigeria
Abubakar Sadiq	Usman		Nigeria
Timothy	White	Xavier University	USA
Jason	Whitehead	California State University, Long Beach	USA
Glenn Andrew	Williams	Leeds Beckett University	UK
Junfu	Wong	Peking University of P.R. China	China
Brandon	Yarbrough	Claremont Graduate University	USA

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Tucson, USA | **2–4 April 2016**

www.constructedenvironment.com/2016-conference

Sixteenth International Conference on Knowledge, Culture & Change in Organizations

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Honolulu, USA | **19–20 April 2016**

www.organization-studies.com/2016-conference

Eighth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses

VNU University of Science (HUS) and

Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU)

Hanoi, Vietnam | **21-22 April 2016**

www.on-climate.com/2016-conference

Inaugural International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Honolulu, USA | **22-23 April 2016**

www.tourismandleisurestudies.com/2016-conference

Seventh International Conference on Sport & Society

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Honolulu, USA | **2-3 June 2016**

www.sportandsociety.com/2016-conference

Fourteenth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities

University of Illinois at Chicago

Chicago, USA | **8-10 June 2016**

www.thehumanities.com/2016-conference

Ninth Global Studies Conference

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, USA | **30 June-1 July 2016**

www.onglobalization.com/2016-conference

Twenty-third International Conference on Learning

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, Canada | **13-15 July 2016**

www.thelearner.com/2016-conference

Sixteenth International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations

The University of Granada

Granada, Spain | **27-29 July 2016**

www.ondiversity.com/2016-conference

Eleventh International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Imperial College London

London, UK | **2-4 August 2016**

www.thesocialsciences.com/2016-conference

Eleventh International Conference on the Arts in Society

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, USA | **10-12 August 2016**

www.artsinsociety.com/2016-conference

Sixth International Conference on the Image

Art and Design Academy,

Liverpool John Moores University

Liverpool, UK | **1-2 September 2016**

www.ontheimage.com/2016-conference

Inaugural Communication & Media Studies Conference

University Center Chicago

Chicago, USA | **15-16 September, 2016**

www.oncommunicationmedia.com/2016-conference

Ninth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Cincinnati, USA | **16-19 September 2016**

www.onmuseums.com/2016-conference

Aging & Society: Sixth Interdisciplinary Conference

Linköping University

Linköping, Sweden | **6-7 October 2016**

www.agingandsociety.com/2016-conference

Sixth International Conference on Food Studies

University of California at Berkeley

Berkeley, USA | **12-13 October 2016**

www.food-studies.com/2016-conference

Sixth International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society

Catholic University of America

Washington D.C., USA | **20-21 October 2016**

www.healthandsociety.com/2016-conference

Spaces & Flows: Seventh International Conference on Urban & ExtraUrban Studies

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, USA | **10-11 November 2016**

www.spacesandflows.com/2016-conference

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

Greater Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | **19-21 January 2017**

www.onsustainability.com/2017-conference

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

Seventh International Conference on the Constructed Environment

International Cultural Centre

Krakow, Poland | **25-26 May 2017**

www.constructedenvironment.com/2017-conference

Thirteenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge & Society

University of Toronto

Toronto, Canada | **26–28 May 2017**

www.techandsoc.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

Call for Papers

Seventh International Conference on
Religion & Spirituality in Society

Returning Member Registration

We are pleased to offer a Returning Member Registration Discount to delegates who have attended the Religion in Society Conference in the past. Returning community members receive a discount off the full conference registration rate. Registration includes:

- Attendance and participation at all conference sessions and presentations, including plenary addresses and parallel sessions.
- Lunch and coffee breaks on the days of the conference.
- Attendance at Welcome Reception and Book Launches (when included in conference events).
- Citation and Summary of work in printed conference program, and complete abstract included in the online Post-Conference materials.
- Membership in the **Religion in Society Knowledge Community**.

Proposal & Registration Dates

Proposal Deadlines

Advanced Proposal Deadline	17 June 2016
Early Proposal Deadline	17 September 2016
Regular Proposal Deadline	17 January 2017
Late Proposal Deadline	17 March 2017

Registration Deadlines

Advanced Registration Deadline	17 July 2016
Early Registration Deadline	17 October 2016
Regular Registration Deadline	17 April 2017