



"History, Present and Future Channel"
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Schedule for Fifth Annual Religions in Conversation Conference¹

Religion and Popular Culture:
Navigating the Sacred and Profane in American Popular Culture

Albrecht Auditorium (Stauffer Hall) and Board of Trustees Room (Harper Hall)
Claremont Graduate University
Friday, February 24, 2012

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration/Check-In: Albrecht Auditorium

9:00 am – 9:20 am

Welcome: Albrecht Auditorium

Tammi Schneider (Dean, School of Religion), Saad Michael Saad (Chair, Board of Visitors),
and Donald Westbrook (Chair, Organizing Committee)

Session 1: Social Media / Religion Beyond the Boundaries

9:30 am – 10:45 am

Session 1a: Albrecht Auditorium

Dr. Gina Messina-Dysert, Visiting Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University
"Women Blogging Theology"

Kerri Blumenthal, Ph.D. student, University of Florida, Gainesville
"Fostering Interfaith Solidarity and Humanitarianism through Social Media"

Woo Kang, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"Manipulating the Image: Request Communicative Action for Social Reconciliation"

9:30 am – 10:45 am

¹ This schedule is a reliable guide but subject to change.

Session 1b: Harper Hall Board Room

Alfredo García Mora, Ph.D. student, Princeton University
“Lived Religion on the Skin: Identity, Faith, and Tattoos”

Magi Madsen-Hernandez, M.A. student, Claremont Graduate University
“Nat20 - Epic Gestures: Religious Meaning Making in the Fantasy Role Playing Game World”

Patrick Emmett, Ph.D. candidate, University of California, Riverside
“The Twelve Step Recovery Model as Ethical Discourse and Cultural Critique”

Session 2: Mormonism and Popular Culture / Spiritual and Religious Transplants

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Session 2a: Albrecht Auditorium

Dr. Angela Aleiss, Visiting Assistant Professor, UCLA Center for the Study of Religion
“The Religion of *Twilight*: Mormons, Vampires, and Angels”

Michael W. McGowan, Ph.D. candidate, Claremont Graduate University
“Arnold's Dilemma: Broadway's *Book of Mormon* and the Challenge of Change”

Doe Daughtrey, Ph.D. candidate, Arizona State University
“Altared Faiths: Displaying a Hybrid Spirituality”

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Session 2b: Harper Hall Board Room

Adam Pave, Ph.D student, Claremont Graduate University
“Yoga: Exercise or Religious Statement?”

Fr. Daniel Wafik Habib, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
“Celebrating Coptic New Year: Old Customs in Egypt and New Meaning in America”

Dr. Jenny Rose, Associate Professor, Claremont Graduate University
“Parsis in New England: Some Material and Intellectual Encounters between early Americans and Zoroastrians”

Lunch

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

Lunch Break (outside Albrecht Auditorium (Harper Hall))

Session 3: Zombies, Vampires, and Exorcisms / Religion and American Music

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Session 3a: Albrecht Auditorium

Blake Horridge, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"The Value of Human Life When Dealing with Zombies"

Jeremiah Bowden, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"True Blood and True Terror: Depictions of Religious Violence in Popular Media"

Fabrizio D'Ambrosio, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"Exorcising Ambiguity? Metaphysical Confusion, Authority, and Saving Knowledge in a Popular Catholic Demonology of the Seventies"

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

Session 3b: Harper Hall Board Room

Kile Jones, Ph.D. student, Claremont Lincoln University
"Bob Dylan: An American Tragedian"

Ian W. Fowles, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"Stryper: Rock and Roll Evangelists"

Amanda Pumphrey, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"The Problem of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way": A Process of Becoming within Queer Identities"

Session 4: Cartoons, Comics, Superheroes, and Material Religion / Islam and Popular Culture

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 4a: Albrecht Auditorium

Cori Knight, Ph.D. student, University of California, Riverside
"Intractable: Analyzing the Cartoon World of Jack T. Chick"

Jacob Rennaker, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"Glorious Tights: Power in Clothing from Babylon to Batman"

Nicholaus Pumphrey, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
"Re"imagining" Samson: Depictions of Samson and Superman"

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 4b: Harper Hall Board Room

Dr. Mark Eaton, Professor of English, Azusa Pacific University
"Among the Believers: Mohin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and Zoe Heller's *The Believers*"

Richard Hankins, Ph.D candidate, Claremont Graduate University
“Giving Islam the Hollywood Treatment: Using Prime-Time Television to Challenge the ‘Otherness’ of American Muslims”

Ozgur Koca, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
“An Islamic Expression of Popular Religiosity: Meet The World’s First Muslim Superheroes, “The 99””

Session 5: Methodological Questions and Lived Religion / Judaism, Commercialism, and Separatism

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Session 5a: Albrecht Auditorium

Dr. John Lyden, Visiting Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Grand View University
“What are We Studying When We Study “Religion and Popular Culture”?”

Dr. Fatin Morris Guirguis, English Faculty, Winter Haven Campus, Polk State College
“Oral Traditions and Dynamics of Survival Among US Copts”

Dr. Dorothea Kahena Viale, Lecturer, Cal-Poly Pomona
“Identity Without Revelation: Embodied Knowledge as an Alternative to Revealed Text”

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Session 5b: Harper Hall Board Room

Brett A. Krutzsch, Ph.D. student, Temple University
“Representations of Gay Orthodox Jews in Popular Culture”

Gavrielle Blank, Ph.D. student, Claremont Graduate University
“Red Carpet Spirituality: The Use of “Kabbalah” by Today’s Rich and Famous”

Nathan Fredrickson, Ph.D. student, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Cult v. Pop Culture: Jehovah’s Witnesses’ Doctrine of Separation from the World”

6:00 pm – 7:45 pm

Dinner Break (Hampton Room, Scripps College; invitation only)

8:00 pm –

Keynote Address: Albrecht Auditorium

“Creating a Pluralistic Religious Culture: The Role of Popular New Religions”

J. Gordon Melton, Distinguished Professor of American Religious History, Baylor University and Director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion, Santa Barbara, CA