

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Religion in Conversation Conference

The Undiscovered Country: Exploring New Territories of  
Religion and Struggle

**Featuring Keynote Speaker Phil Zuckerman**

*If the Religions of the World share a common purpose, it could be argued that this purpose is that of providing – whether through sacred text, ritual, or myth-making – expressions to what is most meaningful or of ultimate relevance.*

*This year's Conference seeks to explore the meaning, representation, and instantiations of struggle as articulated across diverse disciplinary lines of inquiry.*

*Sponsored by graduate students in the School of Humanities in Religion at Claremont Graduate University, the Conference is free and open to the public.*

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**8:30 – 9:00 am**

**Registration and Check-In**  
Burkle Lobby (Ground Floor)

**9:00 - 10:15 am**

**Session 1:** *Assimilation and Autonomy in Mormonism, Islam, and Catholicism*  
Room: Burkle 16

Presenters:

Taylor Kerby (Claremont Graduate University): “Running into a Great Wall’: Joseph Smith and the Politics of Memory”

Colleen Bromberger (Claremont Graduate University): “The Struggle for a ‘Blue-and-Yellow’ Identity: An Examination of Sweden’s ‘Open’ Policies and Muslim Migrants in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries”

James Berry (Fuller Theological Seminary): “Reinterpreting Martyrdom: American Catholic Martyr Narratives as Response to Soviet Persecution”

**10:30 – 11:45 am**

**Session 2:** *Subjectivity and Language*  
Room: Burkle 16

Presenters:

Brandon Yarbrough (Claremont Graduate University): “The Peril of Logical Inversion and the Promise of Contemplation: Reflections on D.Z. Phillips' Conception of Philosophy”

Michael Kemp (Claremont Graduate University): “I Feel Your Pain; but Does God?”

Sean Butler (Claremont Graduate University): “Idealism and Spinoza's God”

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**                      **Lunch** (provided to all registered Conference attendees)  
Burkle Lobby and Courtyard

**1:00 - 2:15 pm**                      **Session 3: *Utopia: Religion and Secularism***  
Room: Burkle 16

Panel Facilitator:  
Andrew Bridges (Claremont Graduate University)

**2:30 - 3:45 pm**                      **Session 4: *Women and Patriarchy in Religion***  
Room: Burkle 16

Presenters:  
Nayawiyyah Muhammad (Claremont Graduate University): “The Women’s Mosque of America: An Ethnography of Impacts, Responses and Reactions”

Jungja (Joy) Yu (Claremont Graduate University): “Women’s Ordination in Korean Churches”

Melissa Ortiz Berry (Claremont Graduate University): “Suffering Submission as an Ascetic Impulse: Evangelical Women in the Twentieth Century”

**4:00 - 5:15 pm**                      **Session 5: *Student Association for the Secular Study of Religion (SASSOR) Panel Discussion: Popular Documentaries and Responsibility in the Face of Suffering***  
Room: Burkle 16

Panelists:  
Colleen Bromberger (Claremont Graduate University)

Taylor Kerby (Claremont Graduate University)

Troy Mikanovich (Claremont Graduate University)

Randall Powell (Claremont Graduate University)

Sarah Tomerlin (Claremont Graduate University)

**5:30 - 6:15 pm**

**Session 6: *Keynote Address***  
Room: Harper Board Room

Speaker: Phil Zuckerman (Prof. Religion, Claremont Graduate University): “Trying Times: How Secular People Cope with Life's Sufferings”

**6:15 - 8:00 pm**

**Dinner** (complimentary to all registered conference attendees)  
**Response and Discussion**