



Philosophical Insights from New Religious Movements & Alternative Spiritualities

Friday July 24

All sessions except the evening keynote will be held in the Hole Academic building, room 342

**Conference sessions will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person
[Note that Edmonton is in the Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) time zone]
Use this GoogleMeet link to access the sessions:
<https://meet.google.com/ovp-vkvo-sqm>**

9:20 Welcome / Opening remarks from Dr. Jason Daniels (Dean of Arts) and Dr. Carla Craveiro Salvado (Associate Vice President, Research & Innovation & Dean of Graduate Studies)

9:30-10:15 First Presentation: Chris Goto-Jones (University of Victoria) "Tulpamancy, Flowers in the Sky, and the (Imaginary) Nature of Reality"

10:15-11:00 Second Presentation: Tyler McNabb (VinUniversity) "Is Sokka Gakkai a Genuine Buddhist Tradition?"

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Third Presentation: Zoe Stein (Purdue University) "Rethinking Spirituality and Flourishing: A Narrow-Lens Approach to Alternative Spiritualities"

12:00-12:45 Fourth Presentation: Neal Judisch (University of Oklahoma) "From Dissonance to Disillusion: How New Religious Movements Illuminate Assent & Apostasy"

12:45-2:00 Lunch in Alan Huehn Lounge (Third Floor, Hole Academic)

2:00-2:45 Fifth Presentation: Steven Dillon (Holy Apostles College & Seminary): "Open-Field Polytheism: Neither One Nor Many"

2:45-3:30 Sixth Presentation: Hans Van Eyghen (Tilburg University) "Meaning Through Invocation"

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-4:30 Seventh Presentation: Rufus Chen (Institute of Lutheran Theology) “Doctrinal Displacement and the Conceptual Boundaries of New Religious Movements”

4:30-5:15 Eighth Presentation: Rowen Zamora (Trinity Western University) “What is ‘New’ in the New Religious Movement? A Four Part Typology”

5:30 - 7:00 Dinner in Alan Huehn Lounge (Third Floor, Hole Academic)

7:00-8:00 Keynote Lecture / Ninth Presentation in Hole Academic building, room 017: Mina Yazdani (Eastern Kentucky University): “Non-Violence and Consultation in Bahá'u'lláh's Approach to Social Change”
Followed by a public reception with refreshments in the Alan Huehn Lounge

Saturday July 25

All sessions will be held in the Hole Academic building, room 342

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9:30-10:15 First Presentation: Taylor Grey-Miller (Brigham Young University) “Spiritual Creation and the Problem of Animal Suffering”

10:15-11:00 Second Presentation: Thomas Oberle (St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta) “Pantheism and the Problem of Evil”

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15–12:00 Third Presentation: Steven Muir (Concordia University of Edmonton) “Agency and Affiliation in Traditional Witchcraft”

12:00-12:45 Fourth Presentation: Camden Roy (Rice University) “Interpretation as Innovation: Novelty in Theosophical Esoteric Christian Movements”

12:45-2:00 Lunch in Alan Huehn Lounge (Third Floor, Hole Academic)

Special introduction to block of Bahá’í lectures by Vahid Rashidi, Secretary of the The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Edmonton

2:00-2:45 Fifth Presentation: Alan Smith (Independent Scholar) “Holding Sorrow and Joy: Toward a More Integrated Response to the World”

2:45-3:30 Sixth Presentation: Christopher Buck (Independent Scholar) “The Phenomenology of Revelation in the Bahá’í Faith: How ‘New’ are its Distinctive Precepts?”

3:30-4:15 Seventh Presentation: Navid Pourmokhtari (Athabasca University) “The Promise of World Peace: A Bahá’í Philosophical Sketch”

Very brief closing remarks by Travis Dumsday

SPECIAL BONUS EVENT: A conversation with Mina Yazdani on the history of the Bahá’í faith, 6:30 in Hole Academic room 342

If you plan to attend the conference in person, please email Travis Dumsday for registration:

travis.dumsday@concordia.ab.ca

This conference is being organized with the generous financial assistance of the following: the Global Philosophy of Religion Project 2 (in turn supported by the John Templeton Foundation and the Centre for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Birmingham); Athabasca University; Concordia University of Edmonton (with supplementary funding from CUE’s Research Cluster in Christian Philosophy & Theology); and the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Edmonton.