

Society for the Anthropology of Religion
2015 Meeting
San Diego, CA

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, April 16, 2015

6:00-8:00pm Terrace Garden
Reception

Friday, April 17, 2015

2:45-4:30pm

Presidential Panel: James Laidlaw, Michael Lambek, Adeline Masquelier, and Cheryl Mattingly

4:45-6:00pm Presidio Ballroom

Presidential Lecture: Joel Robbins

Saturday, April 18, 2015

3:30-5:00pm Presidio Ballroom

Rapport Lecture: Webb Keane

5:00-6:00pm California Room

Board Meeting

6:00-8:00pm Terrace Garden

Reception

Full Schedule

Thursday Evening, April 16, 2015

6:00-8:00

Terrace Room

Reception

Friday Morning, April 17, 2015

8:00-9:45

Balboa Room

Religion, Morality, and Community Development

Chair: Frederick P. Lampe (Northern Arizona University)

- Frederick Lampe (Northern Arizona University): "My Husband's Brother's Sister": Kinship Networks, Community, and Development in East Africa
- Kate McClellan (Mississippi State University): "Communities Like Us": Islam and the Development of Multispecies Morals in Jordan
- Rachel Schneider (Rice University): White Progressive Christianity and Transformation Ethics in South Africa
- Lucinda Carspecken (Indiana University): Reverence Among Contrarians: Community and Eclecticism at a North American Festival Site

8:00-9:45

Club Room

Negotiating Religious and Other Boundaries

Chair: Anand Vivek Taneja (Vanderbilt University)

- Yi Liu (Shanghai University): Pastor Hsi's Legacy: An Indigenous Christian Community in North China
- Anand Vivek Taneja (Vanderbilt University): The Role of Islam in the Ethical Life of Hindus: Some Reflections on the Dargah of Firoz Shah Kotla
- Christina Cappy (University of Wisconsin, Madison): Enacting Morality in Morning Assemblies: Inside South African Schools
- Adam Dunstan (SUNY, Buffalo): The Environmental Concerns are the Cultural Concerns: Sacred Space and Science in Navajo Environmentalism
- Amber Lee Silva (McGill University): What Counts: Moral and Ortho in American Old Believers' Projections of Judgment

8:00-9:45

Poolview Room

Ethics of Difference: Moral Discourses, Regulations, and Boundary Marking

Chair: Aminta Arrington (John Brown University)

- Aminta Arrington (John Brown University): Fixing the Boundaries and Redrawing the Purity Map
- Robert Priest (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School): The Rhetoric of Filth in Moral Discourse
- Yasmin Cho (Duke University): The Ethics of Gustatory Taste: Ethnicity, Class, and Tibetan Buddhist Practices in Post-Mao China
- Masi Majithia (University of Washington): The Memoirs of a Brahmachari: How the Identity of a Brahmachari Can Give Him Political Legitimacy
- Pratap Kumar (University of KwaZulu Natal): Convenience Kavadi: Is There a Right Way to Observe Kavadi Ritual? A South African Perspective

8:00-9:45

Presidio Ballroom

Morality of Movement: Migration, Pilgrimage, Diaspora, and Return (1)

Chair: Suma Ikeuchi (Emory University)

- Donna Young (University of Toronto): A Chapel, A Synagogue, A Mosque: Journeying through the Holy Land with the Sisters of Zion
- Devaka Premawardhana (Colorado College): Egress and Regress: Religious Mobility in Northern Mozambique
- Valentina Napolitano (University of Toronto): On the Return and the Criollo Pope
- Suma Ikeuchi (Emory University): Temporal Return of Migrant Pilgrims: Japanese-Brazilian Pentecostal Converts in the Land of Their Ancestors

10:00-11:45

Club Room

Moral Self-Fashioning (1)

Chair: Stephen Glazier (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

- Stephen D. Glazier (University of Nebraska, Lincoln): Affect, Morality, and the Self: The Pre-Discursive in Afro-Caribbean Religions
- Charles Farhadian (Westmont College): The Christ Event and the Immanent Turn in the Anthropology of Christianity
- William Dawley (University of California, San Diego): Peer Group Ethics and the Remaking of Masculinity: How Peer Groups in the Evangelical and Support Group Movements Help Transform Male Gender Identity in Urbanizing Costa Rica
- Hector Guazon (University of the Philippines/Saint Louis University): Moral Subjectivity in an Unstable Place
- Hanna Kim (Adelphi University): Broken Houses and Too Much Local Brew: Immoral and Moral Ingredients in the Making of the Moral Self

10:00-11:45

Balboa Room

The Labors of Morality: Working toward the Moral Good and Work as Moral Good

Chairs: Aaron Greer (Pacific University) and Rupa Pillai (University of Oregon)

- Rachel M. Scott (University of Tennessee): Lottery Luck and Ethical Rewards: Gambling as Religious Practice in Thailand

- Shari Jacobson (Susquehanna University): When Work Doesn't Pay: The Protestant Ethic in Post-Industrial America
- Caroline Block (Johns Hopkins University): The Call to Service and the Politics of Denomination in American Orthodox Women's Talmud Study
- Aaron Greer (Pacific University): Discipline and Party: The Hindu Ethic and the Spirit of Neo-Liberal Capitalism in Trinidad
- Rupa Pillai (University of Oregon): Cultivating Intention: The Ethics of Guyanese Yoga in New York City

10:00-11:45

Poolview Room

Translating Religion/Religion as Translation: Interpretation, Recitation, & Performance

Chair: Lora L. Kile (Arizona State University)

- Lora L. Kile (Arizona State University): Juxtaposition of Morality: Sahagún's Interpretation of the México Tlacaxipehualiztli Ritualization
- Pankaj Jain (University of North Texas): "Dharma and Science Are Complementary": Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization's Experiments with Himalayan Communities
- Saliha Chatoos (University of Toronto): Performing Evil: The Language of American Evangelical Hell Houses
- Ingrid E. Lilly (Pacific School of Religion): Constructing a Moral Voice from a Spirit-Possessed, Refugee Body: Babylonian Medical Cosmology in the Hebrew Prophet Ezekiel

10:00-11:45

Presidio Ballroom

Politics of Discernment in Christian Practice

Chairs: Fred Klaitz (SUNY, Buffalo) and James S. Bielo (Miami University)

- Jessica Hardin (Pacific University): Discerning the Sick Body: Embodied Evidence and Critical Christianity in Samoa
- Rebecca Bartel (University of Toronto): Feeling the Spirit Move: Affect and Embodied Discernment
- Fred Klaitz (SUNY, Buffalo): Insult and Insecurity: Discerning the Good Life in Two American Pentecostal Congregations
- James S. Bielo (Miami University): Discernment and Professional Activity: Notes from a Creationist Design Studio
- Courtney Handman (Reed College): Discernment and Difference: Bibles, Land Claims, and Epistemic Categories of the Person in Papua New Guinea
- Rob Blunt (Lafayette College): "The Oath is Our Leader": Sovereignty, Language, and Ritual Supplementation in Colonial Kenya
- *Discussant:* Eric Hoenes del Pinal (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

11:45 – 1:00

Lunch

Friday Afternoon, April 17, 2015

1:00-2:30

Poolview Room

Pentecostalism through the Lens of Politics, Sexuality, and Competition

Chair: Joshua Brahinsky (University of California, Santa Cruz)

- Jason Price (University of California, Berkeley): The Deliverance of Jacob K.
- Priscilla Garcia (University of California, San Diego): Pentecostal Politics, Democracy, and Morality in Brazil
- Data D. Barata (California State University, Sacramento): Christianity's Moral Dilemmas in a Hybrid Neoliberal Context: Relational Analysis of Struggle for Religious Equality in Ethiopia
- Joshua Brahinsky (University of California, Santa Cruz): Pentecostal Mobilization, or the Lack of an Ethics of Ritual, Event, Resistance, and Agency?

1:00-2:30

Presidio Ballroom

Gender, Religion, and Conservative Culture: How Patriarchal Structures Enable and Constraint Religious & Ethical Agency

Chair: Mayfair Yang (University of California, Santa Barbara)

- Anubha Sood (Southern Methodist University): Mental Ailments and Divine Treatment: Religious Healing among Women in North India
- Thomas J. Csordas (University of California, San Diego): Catholic Exorcism: Agency and Patriarchy
- Sophie Bjork-James (Vanderbilt University): Doing Gender/Doing Religion: U.S. Evangelicalism, the Family, and the Art of Submission
- Mayfair Yang (University of California, Santa Barbara): Of Mothers and Goddesses: Religiosity and Women's Agency in Wenzhou, China

1:00-2:30

Balboa Room

Questioning Moral Authority: Contemporary Spirits in the U.S. and Beyond

Chair: Misty L. Bastian (Franklin & Marshall College)

- Timothy R. Landry (University of Arkansas): Fragile Spirits of the Sacred Forest: Protecting *Vodún* through Secrecy in Benin
- Michele Hanks (Case Western Reserve University): Between Electricity and Spirit: Paranormal Investigating and the Production of Doubt
- Stephanie Boothby (University of Florida): The Ethics of Paranormal Investigation: How Morality and Meaning are Formed in the Face of the Supernatural
- Misty L. Bastian (Franklin & Marshall College): Dead Time: Temporal Regimes of Working Class American Paranormal Researchers

1:00-2:30

Club Room

Sacred Histories and Reimagining Religious Ethics in South Asian Ritual

Performance

Chair: Claire Robison (University of California, Santa Barbara)

- Claire Robison (University of California, Santa Barbara): Performing Ethical Practice through Alterity: Dramas and the Sacred Histories of a Hindu Community in Mumbai
- Joel Gruber (University of San Diego): Performing the Sacred Past into Existence: Ritual Enactment of Tibetan Buddhist Sainly Biographies
- Elizabeth Weighler (University of California, Santa Barbara): Sikhs in the Trenches: Performing Historical Consciousness and Remaking Identities through the Great War
- Lauren Smyth (University of California, Santa Barbara): Coffee under the Monastery: Authenticity, Religious Heritage, and “Beautifying” Ladakh
- *Discussant:* Rico Monge (University of San Diego)

2:45-4:30

Presidio Ballroom

Presidential Panel

James Laidlaw (University of Cambridge), Adeline Masquelier (Tulane University), Michael Lambek (University of Toronto) and Cheryl Mattingly (University of Southern California)

4:45-6:00

Presidio Ballroom

Presidential Lecture

Joel Robbins (University of Cambridge): What is the Matter with Transcendence? On the Place of Religion in the New Anthropology of Ethics

Saturday Morning, April 18, 2015

8:00-9:45

Balboa Room

The Mediumistic Trial: Testing and Contesting Mediumism between Science, Religion, and Morality (1)

Chair: Ehler Voss (University of Siegen/Stanford University)

- Graham M. Jones (Massachusetts Institute of Technology): Jugglery without a License: Magic, Mediumism, and the Law
- Janny Li (University of California, Irvine): A Case of Quasi-Certainty: William James and the Making of the Subliminal Mind
- Oliver Müller (Burg Giebichenstein-University of Fine Arts Halle): Higher Beings Comanded: Paint the Fall of Icarus! The Presumed Absence of Mediumistic Art in the Former German Democratic Republic
- Michael Kinsella (University of California, Santa Barbara): Is the Truth Out There? “Paranormal” Experiences, Other Worlds, and the Politics of Ontology

8:00-9:45

Poolview Room

Alterity, (In)tolerance, and Ethics

Chair: Jodie Ann Vann (Arizona State University)

- Jodie Ann Vann (Arizona State University) : The Ethics of Alterity: Transgression as Moral Practice at Phoenix Pagan Pride
- Amy Flynn-Curran (National University of Ireland, Maynooth): The Campaign Was a Spiritual Low-Point: Proposition 8's Lasting Impact on a Mormon Community in the San Francisco Bay Area
- Nur Amali Ibrahim (Indiana University): Homophobic Muslims
- David Strohl (Colby College): What is Moral Obligation? Religious Authority, Conscience, and Tolerance in an Indian Muslim Community
- Patrick McKearney (University of Cambridge): The Ethics of Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of Ethics: Transforming People with Learning Disabilities from Curse to Blessing

8:00-9:45

Club Room

Spiritual Therapies, Religious Doubt, & Ethical Critiques: Encounters between Religion and Healing

Chair: Ayala Fader (Fordham University)

- Dusty Hoesly (University of California, Santa Barbara): Healings, Weddings, and the Legal Limits of Ethical Practice
- Karen Fjelstad (San Jose State University): From Observation to Participation: The Making of a Non-Traditional Spirit Medium
- Ayala Fader (Fordham University): Treating Religious Doubt: Jewish Religious Therapists and Double Lifers
- Henrique Fernandes Antunes (University of São Paulo): Healing as Culture: An Ethnography of the Healing Rituals of a Brazilian Ayahuasca Religion

8:00-9:45

Presidio Ballroom

Moral Moods, Affects, and Ethics

Chairs: China Chertz (University of Virginia) and Jarrett Zigon (University of Amsterdam)

- C. Jason Throop (University of California, Los Angeles): Mournful Moods: On Morality, Attunement, and Loss
- China Schertz (University of Virginia): Enduring the Awkward Embrace
- Cathy Wanner (Pennsylvania State University): Mourning the Maidan
- Charles Stewart (University College London) and Joshua Burraway (University College London): Finessing Finitude: De-Historification and Religion at Moments of Crisis
- Jarrett Zigon (University of Amsterdam): Ethics of Dwelling, Politics of World-Building, Attunement

10:00-11:45

Club Room

The Morality of Mortality: Perspectives on Death in Sub-Saharan Africa

Chair: Dianna Bell (Vanderbilt University)

- Dianna Bell (Vanderbilt University): Muslim Merit-Making in Posthumous Sacrifices in Mali, West Africa
- Rosa de Jorio (University of North Florida) and Amadou Beidy Sow (Indiana University): Disputes around Mortuary Practices and Grave Sites in Post-Conflict Mali
- Joseph Hellweg (Florida State University): Death as Moral Discourse: Dance, Song, Sacrifice, and Text in the Making of Dozo Funerals
- Jesse Miller (Florida State University): Generation, Reproduction, and Societal Harmony in Case Studies of African Death Ritual Through Sound
- *Discussant:* Adeline Masquelier (Tulane University)

10:00-11:45

Poolview Room

The Mediumistic Trial: Testing and Contesting Mediumism between Science, Religion, and Morality (2)

Chair: J. Brent Crosson (New York University)

- Ehler Voss (University of Siegen/Stanford University): California Dreamin': The Invention of Neoshamanism as a Mediumistic Trial of the 20th Century
- Adam Klin-Oron (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute): Cultivating the Wild Vision: Past and Present Channelers Making Meaning
- J. Brent Crosson (New York University): Experiments with Power: The Scientific and Legal Trials of Religion in the Caribbean
- Deana Weibel (Grand Valley State University): Communitas, Morality, Sorrow, and Truth: Supernatural Means of Ascertaining Unorthodox Histories of Religiously Significant Sites

10:00-11:45

Balboa Room

The Relational Morality of Religious Healing Etiologies

Chair: Kimberly Marshall (University of Oklahoma)

- Kimberly Marshall (University of Oklahoma): "Blocking up the Healing": Navajo Neo-Pentecostal Moral Etiology
- Justine Buck Quijada (Wesleyan University): Porous Shamanic Selves: The Morality of Kinship
- Amanda Lucia (University of California, Riverside): From Healing to Sex Scandal: Understanding the Haptic Logics of Guru Intimacy
- Nalika Gajaweera (University of Southern California): Mindful Togetherness
- *Discussant:* Thomas J. Csordas (University of California, San Diego)

10:00-11:45

Presidio Ballroom

Religion and Moral Sentiments

Chair: Nofit Itzhak (University of California, San Diego)

- Tanya Lührman (Stanford University): A Comparative Phenomenology of Good and Evil
- Nofit Itzhak (University of California, San Diego): On Love, Compassion, and Making Ethical Relationships in Christian Humanitarianism
- Tyler Zoanni (New York University): Some Ambivalent Conceptions: Feelings of Difference in Evangelical Disability Ministries
- Anna Corwin (Stanford University): Sentiments of Suffering: Moral Sentiment in a Catholic Convent
- Julia Cassaniti (Washington State University): Moral Emotions, Religious Traditions, and the Variably Transcendental Self
- Austin Gillett (Brigham Young University) and Jacob Hickman (Brigham Young University): Tradition, Agency, and Emotion in Hmong Moral Discourse
- *Discussant:* Michael Lambek (University of Toronto)

11:45-1:30

Lunch

Saturday Afternoon, April 18, 2015

1:30-3:15

Presidio Ballroom

Author Meets Critics: Michael Banner (University of Cambridge)

- Michael Banner: "Ethics of Everyday Life: Moral Theology, Social Anthropology, and the Imagination of the Human"
- *Discussants:* Thomas J. Csordas (University of California, San Diego), Lesley Sharp (Barnard College), Richard Madsen (University of California, San Diego), John Evens (University of California, San Diego), Derrick Lemons (University of Georgia)

1:30-3:15

Club Room

Intersubjectivity, Dynamism, and Negotiation: Existential and Phenomenological Approaches to Ritualization

Chairs: Marc Roscoe Loustau (Harvard University) and Kate Yanina DeConinck (Harvard University)

- Marc Roscoe Loustau (Harvard University): The Absent Presence and Present Absence of Moral Doubt in Transylvanian Catholic Lifeworlds
- Michael Agnew (McMaster University): "Our Lady Did This for Me": Ex-votos and the Moral Contours of Caregiving at Lourdes
- Kate Yanina DeConinck (Harvard University): The Ethics of the Intersubjective at the 9/11 Tribute Center: Ritualized Storytelling in the Wake of Mass Trauma
- Katherine Dugan (Northwestern University): "Dynamically Orthodox" Catholics: Mass and Technologies of Catholic Group Formation

- *Discussant:* C. Jason Throop (University of California, Los Angeles)

1:30-3:15

Balboa View Room

The Morality of Millenarianism: Agency, Ethics, Diachronicity, and Other Underplayed Concepts

Chairs: Jacob R. Hickman (Brigham Young University) and Joseph Webster (Queen's University Belfast)

- Simon Coleman (University of Toronto): What Does Pentecostal Heritage Look Like? From Linearity to Incommensurability in Moralizing the Millennial
- Janet Hoskins (University of Southern California): Left-Eyed Morality and the Postcolonial Age: Caodai Theories of the Period Before the World Ends
- Jacob R. Hickman (Brigham Young University): The Fifth Pillar of World Religions: Moral Agency over Time in Hmong Millenarianism
- Joseph Webster (Queen's University Belfast): Eschatological Agency: Moral Freedom and Prophecy Fulfillment on Land and at Sea
- Hossein Mirrazi (University of Cambridge): Pilgrimage to Jamkaran: Messianic Representations, Identity Construction, and Apocalyptic Aspirations/Expectations
- *Discussant:* Joel Robbins (University of Cambridge)

1:30-3:15

Poolview Room

In Bad Faith: Trolling as Religious Praxis

Chair: Eric Hoenes del Pinal (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

- Jessica Johnson (University of Washington): Trolling on Mission to Save a "Pussified Nation"
- Eric Hoenes del Pinal (University of North Carolina, Charlotte): Trolling for Souls: Street Preachers on American College Campuses
- Jessica Mason (University of Wisconsin, Madison): Believer, Activist, Provocateur? The Counterprotester's Challenge
- Joseph Blankholm (Columbia University): The Sincerely Held Beliefs of Nonbelievers
- *Discussant:* Jon Bialecki (University of Edinburgh)

3:30-5:00

Presidio Ballroom

Rappaport Lecture

Webb Keane (University of Michigan): Religion and the Making of Morality Systems

5:00-6:00

California Room

Board Meeting

6:00-8:00

Terrace Garden

Reception

Sunday Morning, April 19, 2015

8:00-9:45

Poolview Room

Ritual, Sacrifice, & Suffering

Chair: Asher Brum (University of Campinas)

- Asher Brum (University of Campinas): Opus Dei: Suffering Rituals and Secular Moral Critique
- Emilie Parent (University of Montreal): Sundance in Quebec: Ethic of Blood and Suffering in an Indigenous Ritual
- Thomas B. Ellis (Appalachian State University): Disgusting Ritual and the Potentiation of the Human Immune System
- Sravana Borkatoky Varma (Rice University): Blood Ties: The Tiwa Tribe and Sakta Tantra

8:00-9:45

Presidio Ballroom

The Christian Nation as Ethical Framework: On Moral Authority, Christianity, and the State

Chair: Naomi Haynes (University of Edinburgh)

- Girish Daswani (University of Toronto): Is Ghana under a Curse? Debating the Nation's Past and Future in a Christian Present
- Naomi Haynes (University of Edinburgh): A Self-Proclaimed Christian Nation and a Pastor's Bid for President
- Jon Bialecki (University of Edinburgh): Nations without States and States without Nations: Christian Nationalism and Christian Withdrawal in Southern California
- Courtney Handman (Reed College): The Irreducible Materiality of "Unity": Christian-Israelite Critiques in Papua New Guinea Politics
- Julia Klimova (University of California, San Diego): How Dead is the Monster: Revisiting the Ethics of Church/State Relations in Russia through *Leviathan*, the Movie
- Jacqueline Ryle (University of the South Pacific): Blurred Visions: Christian State and Secular State Ideals in Fiji
- *Discussant:* Simon Coleman (University of Toronto)

8:00-9:45

Balboa Room

Roundtable: Theologically-Engaged Anthropology: A Consideration of Productive Theological Collaborative Partners

Chair: Derrick Lemons (University of Georgia)

Participants: Derrick Lemons (University of Georgia), Brian Howell (Wheaton College), Don Seeman (Emory University), Michael Banner (University of Cambridge)

8:00-9:45

Club Room

Morality and Movement: Migration, Pilgrimage, Diaspora and Return (2)

Chair: Stephen Selka (Indiana University)

- Stephen Selka (Indiana University): Mapping the Moral in African Diaspora Tourism in Brazil
- Sarah Bakker Kellogg (San Francisco State University): "Someday We Will be Like the Jews": Music and Moral Identity in the Syriac Christian Diaspora
- Jennifer Sime (San Diego Mesa College): Rituals of National Catholicism: The Resurrection of St. James and Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Jens Kreinath (Wichita State University): Implications and Applications of the Actor-Network Theory: Bruno Latour and the Infrastructure of Shared Pilgrimage Sites in Hatay, Turkey

10:00-11:45

Poolview Room

Ritual/Anti-ritual

Chair: Kaori Hatsumi (Kalamazoo College)

- Kaori Hatsumi (Kalamazoo College): Halleluiah People: The Catholic Easter Rite, Evil, and the Religious Sensibility of Tamil Fishers in Shri Lanka
- Megan A. Moore (Georgia State University): Lessons in Church Math: Brand Theology, Emotional Economy, and Rejecting Ritual in a Multisite Metro Atlanta Megachurch
- Yang Shen (Boston University): Rethinking "Traditions": Reading Classics as Ritual

10:00-11:45

Balboa Room

Hindu Moralities

Chair: Jennifer Ortegren (Emory University)

- Antoinette E. DeNapoli (University of Wyoming): "Change Is the Rule of Nature and the Nature of Dharm": Experimental Hinduism and Emerging Moral Ecologies in the Practices of Hindu Renouncers in North India
- Kalpesh Bhatt (University of Toronto): Nityapuja, a Hindu Devotional Ritual: Mechanics of Moral Formation through Theological Construction of the Self
- Jennifer D. Ortegren (Emory University): Ritualizing Middle Class Morality: Karva Chauth and a New Hindu *Dharma* of Neighbors

10:00-11:45

Club Room

Moral Self-Fashioning (2)

Chair: Nicole Reissour (Cornell University)

- Seema Golestaneh (Connecticut College): Dissolutions of the Self: Ethics and Aesthetics in Iranian Sufi Rituals
- Nicole Reissour (Cornell University): Indexing Morality: Voice, Self, and Divine Guidance in *Mabebasan* Literary Performance

- Monirith Ly (Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia): Buddhist Moral Meaning-Making through Community Service Learning
- Guadalupe Barúa (University of Buenos Aires): Ethics, Misfortune, and the Quest for Bliss among “Fallen” Wichí