



RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLAGES
SAR BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2023



VICTORIA, B.C.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

UVic Wifi for conference guests: Network: UVic | Username: sarguest | Password: sarcom2023

Friday 12 May (Morning)

9:00 -10:15	MAC D110 Philosophies of Religion and Alternative Ontologies Chair: Don Seeman (Emory U) • Brinton Ahlin (U of Chicago): Shrines as Metabolic Systems: Theorizing Islam and Communism in Post-Soviet Central Asia. • Archna (U of Tsukuba): An Anthropological Study of a Shinto Shrine: Focusing on Hybridity of Human and Non-human Actors. • Aaron Eldridge (U of Toronto): The Limits of Religious Difference: On Potential versus Actual Infinity. • Don Seeman (Emory U): The Anthropology of Real Absence: Everyday Transcendence in Habad Hasidism.		MAC D111 Literacy, Textuality, and Education Chair: Chlomo Guzman-Carmeli (Bar-Ilan U) • Bryon Maxey (U of Toronto): Manuscriptural Roots? (Re)opening ‘the Book’ and Tracing Transatlantic African Spiritual Kinship. • Seth Palmer (Christopher Newport U): Teaching, Learning, and Researching Occult Cosmology from Virginia to Madagascar. • Jamie Glisson (U of Edinburgh): The religious experience: entangling the secular and the sacred through Lutheran ritual in Norwegian folk high school education. • Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli (Bar-Ilan U): The ‘Lived Reading’ of Tehilim (psalms): Materiality and textuality in contemporary lived-Judaism experience.	
10:15 -10:30	Coffee break			
10:30 -11:45	MAC D103 Music, Dance, and Ritual in the Construction of Community and Identity Chair: Pablo Herrera Veitia (U of Toronto Scarborough) • Rex Hamilton (U of the Pacific): An “unavoidable” assemblage?: religious music in the (secular) community chorus. • Fred Klaitz (State U of New York at Buffalo): Singing as Caring among African American Pentecostal Believers. • Alexandra Berger (Syracuse U): Dance and Religion/Dance as Religion in North Indian Kathak. • Pablo Herrera Veitia (U of Toronto Scarborough): Afro-Cuban Assemblages: Lucumí Òriṣà/Ifá worship and an Afro-Cuban Rap Music Practice.	MAC D110 Gendered Displays of Religiosity Chair: Deepa Das Acevedo (U of Alabama) • David Kloos (KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies): Women Islamic Celebrity Preachers and the Conundrums of Public Intimacy • Deepa Das Acevedo (U of Alabama): The Battle for Sabarimala: Fluidity & Flux in the Debate Over Women’s Entry. • Krista Van Vleet (Bowdoin College): Miracles, Media, and Gender Violence: Reflections on Mama Adelita, a Bolivian Popular Saint. • Keping Wu (Duke Kunshan U) and Weller, Robert (Boston U): Spirit Mediums in China’s Urbanization: Female Authority and Anti-heroic Agency.	MAC D114 Other Christians and Other-than Christians: Performances, Controversies, and Disputes Organized by Alana Sa Leitão (U of Toronto) • Alana Sa Leitao (U of Toronto): Jesus Christ Queen of Heaven? How a Scottish play enhanced the dispute over Christianity in the Brazilian public sphere. • Michael Edwards (U of Cambridge): Jesus and the revolution: Christian solidarity from the Burmese Highlands to the American Heartland. • Valeria Vergani (Stanford U): Christian Ritualism Reboot: Secular Nation-Building, Interfaith Vestments, and Corporeal Assemblages of the Liberal American Imagination. • Kyle Byron (U of Toronto): San Francisco, Sodom, and Gomorrah: Christian Performance in a Burning City.	MAC D115 Graduate Student Workshop: Religion & Environment (Invitation only) Organized by Mayfair Yang (UC Santa Barbara) Invited Participants: Caity Bolton & Brent Horning
11:45 -13:15	Box Lunch (Lobby of MacLaurin A Wing)			

Friday 12 May (Afternoon)

13:30 -14:45	<p>MAC D103</p> <p>Religion in and Through Media</p> <p>Chair: Arwa Hussain (Concordia U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elliot Montpellier (U of Pennsylvania): Surveilling Saas-Bahu : Family Dramas, Spiritual Entertainment, and Digital Disposessions. • Xiao Han (U of Quebec): Mapping out Chinese virtual sangha in French Canada in Times of the COVID-19. • Susie Triffitt (U of Cambridge): Born again on TikTok: Private conversions online during the COVID-19 lockdowns. • Arwa Hussain (Concordia U): Religious Identity Online: Young Dawoodi Bohra Women's Self-representation and Agency on Blogs and Social Media. 	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>Religion and Indigenous Cultures</p> <p>Chair: Clint Westman (U of Saskatchewan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristin Norget (McGill U): Managing Indigeneity in the Global Roman Catholic Church: the problem of 'culture' at the periphery. • Clint Westman (U of Saskatchewan): How to Praise the Lord in Cree: Religious Language in Cree Pentecostalism. • Pattnaik Ananya (Indian Institute of Technology): Between the forest goddess and Bharat Mata (Mother India): Indigenous religiosity and religious nationalism in India. • Daniel Cooper (CSU San Marcos): The Constitution of the Alleluia Church. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: A Force of Liberal Discipline</p> <p>Organized by C. William Campbell (U of Victoria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant: Jon Bialecki • C. William Campbell (U of Victoria): Revelatory Liberalism: Sports, Zion, and Cryptocurrency. • David Knowlton (Utah Valley U): Mormons, Mega-Mines, and Latin America. • Jason Palmer (UC Irvine): Learning Liberalism: The Self of Peruvian Mormon Self-Reliance. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Mentorship Session: Writing for the Public (Open to all)</p> <p>Organized by Sophie Bjork James (Vanderbilt U)</p> <p>This mentorship session covers strategies for writing op-eds and other public writing about religion. We will cover reasons to or not to engage in public writing as well as resources available for scholars wanting to engage in public writing.</p>
14:45 -15:00	Coffee break			
15:00 -16:15	<p>MAC D103</p> <p>Religion as Food and Drug Consumption and Provision</p> <p>Chair: Tiphaine Calcoen (Université Bordeaux Montaigne)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Dugan (U of Pennsylvania): Devotional Resilience: Weathering Precarity with Islamic Tradition at a Halal Restaurant. • Jan Jensen (U of Cambridge): Serving the city: Christian outreach in the Faroe Islands. • Elsa Immer (McMaster U): Feeding the Living and the Dead: What the "Irreligious" Tells Us About Religion. • Tiphaine Calcoen (Université Bordeaux Montaigne): Opium is the religion of the masses: entheogenic drugs and psychedelic religion during the American Sixties. 	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>Political Theology and Nationalism</p> <p>Chair: Sam Shuman (Davidson College)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Meador (U of Michigan): Managing Lama Affairs at the Court of the Outer Provinces: Imperial Religion in Qing Inner Asia. • Sam Shuman (Davidson College): Of Mice & Hasidic Men: Reb Shaye as Populist Patron Saint. • Dong Ju Kim (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology): Representing Secular Charisma in Contemporary Politics: Comparing Cases from US, Europe, and Korea. • Subhajit Pal (State U of New York at Albany): Unholy Liaison: Tourism, Religion and Settler Colonialism in Indian Occupied Kashmir. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>Colonial Legacies and Postcolonial Religious Formations</p> <p>Chair: George Bayuga (U of Colorado)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyung Hyo Chun (Ewha Womans U): Making and Selling National Saints: The Commodification of Postcolonial Sentiments in South Korea. • George Bayuga (U of Colorado): Between Decoloniality and Nationalism: Indeterminacy and Representing the Voices of Chinese Catholic Nuns. • Marie-Sophie Banville (U of Victoria): A Settler Penance: The Sacred Return of Liberal Law. • Brent Horning (UC Santa Cruz): The Colonization of Durga Puja: Examining Hindu Celebration and Exclusion in West Bengal, India. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Religious Entanglements with Place & Technology</p> <p>Chair: Ellen Badone, (McMaster U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Badone, (McMaster U): MaId, Mental Illness and Religion in Canadian Society. • Ilaria Vecchi (Independent): Death, VR, and digitalisation of the relationship with the dead. • Xiaobo Yuan (Whitman College): Coding for Christ: Missionaries, Hackers, and the "Back to Jerusalem" Movement. • Aaron Michka (U of Notre Dame): Sacred Reversals: Boundaries, Place, and Piety in a majority-Christian Upper Egyptian Town.

Saturday 13 May (Morning)

9:00 -10:15	<p>MAC D103</p> <p>Muslim Care, Care of Muslims: Cosmologies, Intimacies, and Solidarities.</p> <p>Organized by Sadaf Ahmed and Ashwak Hauter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadaf Ahmed (U of Toronto): "I don't think they should see it": animal slaughter, children, and care in third generation Muslim Canada. • Ashwak Hauter (UC Santa Cruz): Prescriptive Practices: Clinical Trials of Prophetic Medicine. • Ariane Bendard-Provencher (McMaster U): The Limits of Solidarity: Feminism and Religion in Québec. • Dilyana Mincheva (McMaster U): Deeyah Khan's Radical Care: Vulnerability and Border Inside Global, Mediatized Intersectional Feminism. 	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>New Forms of Religiosity through Commerce and Tourism</p> <p>Chair: Micah Morton (Northern Illinois U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haolun Sun (McGill U): Floating Buddhism on the Stock Market: The IPOs of State-Owned Tourism Companies at Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains in China through the Lens of the Double Movement. • Micah Morton (Northern Illinois U): Coffee for the Ancestors: Ancestral resurgences and reworked ritual economies in Akha Worlds of the Upper Mekong Region. • Eileen Slesman Calderon (U of Washington): The Body of Christ and the Hand of the Market. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>The Spaces and Places of Religious Life</p> <p>Chair: Hillel Athias-Robles (Fairfield U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Hulse (Northwestern U): Graffiti in Cathedrals: On Religious Practice and Marking One's Presence. • Steven Hu (Independent): Assembling the City through Church Planting: Christian Place-Making and Urbanism in Contemporary Shanghai. • Hillel Athias-Robles (Fairfield U): Africana religious presences and their subversion of public space. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Mentorship Session Grant Writing (Open to all)</p> <p>Organized by Courtney Handman (U of Texas)</p> <p>This mentorship session will go over some of the main pitfalls to avoid and the most important elements to include in preparing a grant application. We will primarily discuss the Wenner-Gren application, although the discussion will be relevant to almost any dissertation research grant.</p>
10:15 -10:30	Coffee break			
10:30 -11:45	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>Religious Imaginaries of Whiteness: Cultural Christianity and Race in North America and Africa</p> <p>Organized by Jennifer Long (MacEwan U) and Sophie Bjork-James (Vanderbilt U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Long (MacEwan U): Exploring whiteness as a facet of cultural and Evangelical Christianity in Alberta, Canada. • Douglas Bafford (College of the Holy Cross): Refiguring Racial Sin in a Post-Apartheid Future: The Religious & Extra-Christian Rhetoric of Race among Conservative Evangelicals in South Africa. • Sophie Bjork-James (Vanderbilt U): Racism & anti-racism in white evangelicalism in the US. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>The Environmental Possibilities of Religious Life and Practice</p> <p>Chair: Mayfair Yang (UC Santa Barbara)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Émile Duchesne (Université de Montréal): Human-Animal Assemblages in Innu Hunting & Cosmology. • Mayfair Yang (UC Santa Barbara): No Nature, No Culture: Chinese Buddhist Vegetarianism, Compassion for Sentient Beings, and Transmigration. • Caitlyn Bolton (Boston College): The Lives and Afterlives of Donor Funds: "Sustainability" as Neoliberal Development or Islamic Interdependence in Zanzibar, Tanzania. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Medical and Mental Health in Religious Practice</p> <p>Chair: Basit Iqbal (McMaster U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilal Nadeem (Stanford U): Between Piety and the Everyday: Islam, Faith and Reason during a Public Health Emergency. • Maddi Tolmie (Mount Royal U): Religion in a Time of Crisis: An Ethnographic Account of Wiccan Religious Experience During a Global Pandemic. • Basit Iqbal (McMaster U): The Body in Pain: Notes Toward an Islamist Critique of Representation. • Elham Mireshghi (U of Chicago): Medical Fatwas and Islamic Governmentality. 	<p>MAC D115</p> <p>Graduate Student Workshop: NGOs & Humanitarianism (Invitation only)</p> <p>Organized by Britt Halvorson Invited participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eileen Slesman • Sara Loo • Hannah Howard
11:45 -12:00	Coffee break			

Saturday 13 May (Afternoon)

12:00 -13:15	RAPPAPORT LECTURE - Irfan Ahmad (Ibn Haldun University) - <i>Drinking Secularism</i> MAC A144 - David Lam Auditorium				
13:15 -14:45	Box Lunch (Lobby of MacLaurin A Wing)				
14:45 - 16:15	MAC D103 The Religious-Secular Continuum and Hybridity Chair: Joseph Blankholm (UC Santa Barbara) • Joseph Blankholm (UC Santa Barbara): The Secular Discursive Tradition: Grasping an Elusive Presence. • Hannah Howard (Boston U): "Religious belief has no place here": Blurring the Boundaries between the Secular and Religious in a Greek Orthodox Charity. • Kalpesh Bhatt (U of Mary Washington): "PSM100" in India: Blurring the Boundaries between the Secular, the Spiritual, and the Religious. • Clayton Van Woerkom (Brigham Young U): "Of Course We're French!:" Assemblages of Islamic Piety and French Republicanism in a Muslim Community's Quest for Pious Personhood. • Parnia Vafaeikia (U of Toronto): The Limits of the Modern Islamic State: Toward the Reconfiguration of the Secular Mahdi.	MAC D110 Religion, Economy, and Modernity Chair: Richard Fox (U of Victoria) • Garrett Cook (Baylor U): Neoliberal Reorganization of Indigenous Maya Religion. • Richard Fox (U of Victoria): Changing Conceptions of Religion, Family and Collective Labor in Contemporary Bali. • Carla Jones (U of Colorado Boulder): Style on Trial: The Gendered Aesthetics of Appearance, Corruption, and Piety in Indonesia. • Harini Kumar (Princeton U): Religious Assemblages at Nagore: Faith, Tradition, and Commerce. • Damian Lanahan-Kalish (UC Santa Barbara): The Magical Marketplace: An Ethnography of Los Angeles' Magical Supply Stores.	MAC D111 Mentorship Session: Navigating the Academic Job Market (Open to all) Organized by Rachel Brown (U of Victoria) "Brace yourself: Navigating a declining academic job market." In this mentoring session Dr. Rachel Brown will explore some strategies for navigating the ever-changing, declining and often confusing academic job market	MAC D114 Contemporary Ritual Assemblages: Explorations in Liminality, Laterality, Praxis, and the Implicit Organized by Nicola Mooney (U. of the Fraser Valley) & Pauline McKenzie Aucoin (U. of Ottawa) • Nicola Mooney (U of the Fraser Valley) and Rebecca Wissink (U of Calgary): Heroines of Their Own Journeys: Gendered Liminality and Women's Solo Travel as Ritual Assemblage. • Shayne Dahl (U of Lethbridge): Are Waterfalls Time Loops? Beyond Laterality in Japanese Mountain Asceticism. • David Geary (U of British Columbia): Yogi Mike under the Bodhi Tree: India, Travel and Buddhist Ritual Praxis. • Gillian McCann (Nipissing U): "Safety, Stability and Soul": Aesthetics and the Materiality of the Home in Generation Z. • Pauline McKenzie Aucoin (U of Ottawa): Carnival, Covid-19 Anti-Vaxxers, and the Masq: The Truckers' Convoy, Ottawa 2022.	MAC D115 Graduate Student Workshop: Postcolonial, Decolonial, & Anti-Colonial Approaches (Invitation only) Organized by Angie Heo Invited participants: • Hawkins Lewis • James Meador • Ariane Bedard-Provencher
16:15 -16:30	Coffee break				
16:30 - 17:45	HUNG LECTURE - Lucinda Ramberg (Cornell University) - <i>Assembling and Disassembling Religion: Dalit Conversion and Sexual Modernity</i> MAC A144 David Lam Auditorium				

Sunday 14 May (Morning)

9:00 -10:30	<p>MAC D103</p> <p>Roundtable: Navigating Between Concepts and Lived Practices of Religion: Perspectives and Strategies from Teacher-Researchers</p> <p>Organized by Andrew Wender (U of Victoria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Bramadat (U of Victoria) • Rachel Brown (U of Victoria) • Christopher Douglas (U of Victoria) • Andrew Wender (U of Victoria) 	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>Gender in Religious Orthodoxy, Patriarchy, and Feminist Lines of Flight</p> <p>Chair: Celia Rothenberg (McMaster U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingie Hovland (U of Georgia): The Thrown-Together Voice-Space of a Protestant Woman Speaking in July 1911. • Hannah Mayne (U of Toronto): Can you change it? Gendered ritual and Jewish Orthodoxy. • Celia Rothenberg (McMaster U): Women only!: Films by and for women only. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>Constructing and Performing Identity</p> <p>Chair: Randeep Hothi (U of Michigan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholas Lackenby (University College London): Our faith: Orthodox Christianity and the morality of Serbian peoplehood. • Randeep Hothi (U of Michigan): Racio-Religious Repair: Discursive Capture and the Modern Sikh Subject. • Hamza Woodson (Williams College): A Pilgrim's Solemn Rite: Theoretical Discourses on Indigeneity, Environment, and Pilgrimage within The Moroccan Jewish Diaspora. • Isobel-Marie Johnston (Arizona State U): Who is immersed? Jewish Identity p\Politics at the Mikvah. • Mahtab Sirdani (Harvard U): Names as Seeds of Hope: Muslim Iranian Migrants and Their Coping Strategies in North America. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Minority Religions, Interfaith Encounters, and Religious-Secular Hybridity</p> <p>Chair: Erfan Saidi Moqadam (Wayne State U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ankana Das (Indian Institute of Technology): Religion as is 'Lived' in the Sundarban: Interfaith Dialogue and Syncretism. • Nicholas William Howe Bukowski (U of Toronto): "Arsenal for life, Jesus forever": formations of soccer in a Metro Vancouver Nigerian Pentecostal Church. • Erfan Saidi Moqadam (Wayne State U): Depart from Orthodox Religious Traditions: Negotiating Islam among Iranian Americans in the U.S. South. • Nalika Gajaweera (U of Southern California): The Trouble with Sacred Refuge: The Institutional Whiteness of Insight Meditation in the United States. • Aleksandra Sechko (Independent): Renewing religious landscape: Moscow Buddhism as a Converted Religious Phenomenon in a Global City.
10:30 -10:45	Coffee break			

Sunday 14 May (Afternoon)

10:45 -12:15	<p>MAC D103</p> <p>Migration, Displacement, and Border-Crossing</p> <p>Chair: Paige Thombs (U of Victoria)</p> <p>Katherine Zubko (U of Northern Carolina Asheville): Migrating Gestures: Embodying Immigrant Experiences of Displacement and Harm in Bharatanatyam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huzeyfe Kiran (The Chinese U of Hong Kong): Borders Under God's Hands: The Lives of the Exiled Gülen Movement Affiliates in Athens. • Lawrence Ramirez (UC Riverside): Pilgrimages to Spain: Transformative Practices in Sacred and Secular Travel. • Paige Thombs (U of Victoria): Religious Lawyers in the Secular Practice of Law • Edward Escalon, Jr. (U of Toronto): Deconstructing Abroad: Short-Term Mission Trips as a Way Out of Evangelicalism. 	<p>MAC D110</p> <p>Christian Religious Assemblages</p> <p>Chair: J. Derrick Lemons (U of Georgia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Victor (McGill U): The sin of certainty: theorizing epistemic virtue at a Post-fundamentalist Church in Nashville. • Eugenijus Liutkevičius (Vilnius U): Abandoning religious tradition: The political engagement of Ukrainian Baptists. • Leah Mernaugh (U of Victoria): Body, Soul, Spirit? Embodied Assemblages of Evangelical Christianity and Modern Postural Yoga. • J. Derrick Lemons (U of Georgia): From rupture to repair: President Trump's evangelical advisors' effort to repair a "stolen" election. 	<p>MAC D111</p> <p>Roundtable "Vision Quest: An Exploration of Indigenous and Scientific Perspectives"</p> <p>Organized by Nina Kruglikova and Daniel G. Cooper (CSU San Marcos)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel G. Cooper (CSU San Marcos): Akawaio and Alleluia Dreaming. • Ashwin Swamy (Arkana Spiritual Center): Shipibo Shamanism, Ancient Sound Healing, and Indigenous Ecology. • Christopher Scarpelli Flanagan (Willamette U): Bison Inspired: History, Science, Spirituality and Culture. • Maria Volkova (Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences): Technological Messiah: The Environmental Imagination of Buryat Shamanism. • Maria Tysiachniouk (U of Eastern Finland) Indigenous and Scientific Perspectives in Sustainable Forest Management. 	<p>MAC D114</p> <p>Religion and Kinship: New Directions in the Study of Relatedness.</p> <p>Organized by Candace Lukasik (Mississippi State U) and Nermeen Mouftah (Butler U)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candace Lukasik (Mississippi State U): U.S. Empire & the Idea of Global Christian Kinship. • Todne Thomas (Harvard U): Matrilocality as Method and Hallows: Black Church Arson in Knoxville, Tennessee. • Rose Wellman (U of Michigan): Pious Action, Kin Work, and the Aftermath of Imperial Violence in Arab Detroit. • Clayton Goodgame (Princeton U): The Divine Economy: Sacred Kinship & Economic Anthropology. • Nermeen Mouftah (Butler U): To Guard the Muslim Orphan: Care, Filiation, and Relatedness in Morocco. 	<p>MAC D115</p> <p>Graduate Student Workshop: Anthropology & Theology (Invitation only)</p> <p>Organized by Basit Iqbal (McMaster U)</p> <p>Invited participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randeep Hothi • Alexandra Świdorski • Parnia Vafaieikia • Susie Triffitt
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Conference Organisers:



University of Victoria

Anthropology



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Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives

We gratefully acknowledge the following units at the University of Victoria for their generous support of the 2023 SAR Biennial:

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