

# Mountains and Sacred Landscapes

## 2017

The New School, NYC

Co-organized by

The International Society for the Study of Religion,  
Nature and Culture

&

India China Institute, The New School

# Acknowledgements

This conference is co-sponsored by the India China Institute (ICI) and the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC). We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their help in making the 2017 Mountains and Sacred Landscapes conference possible.

## Individuals

Kaartikeya Bajpai, Amanda Baugh, Evan Berry, Ipsita Chatterjea, Chris Crews, Mary Doctor, Mark Fitzpatrick, Anna Gade, Gaurav Gupta-Casale, Ashok Gurung, Grace Hou, Marina Kaneti, Brian Kase, Mark Larrimore, Yandong Li, Hongmo Liu, Ye Liu, Amanda Nichols, Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Mark Peterson, Sarah Pike, Monise Silva, Bron Taylor, Ker Thao, Kristina Tiedje, Toby Volkman, Daniel Whittaker, and Rafi Youatt.

## Conference Organizations

- International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC)
- India China Institute (ICI), The New School
- Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS), American University
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

## Partner Institutions

- The New School
- Henry Luce Foundation
- Rubin Museum of Art

This conference was made possible thanks to a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

The logo for the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC) consists of the letters "ISSRNC" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.The logo for the India China Institute (ICI) features the text "THE NEW SCHOOL" in a small, black, sans-serif font above a horizontal line, followed by "INDIA CHINA INSTITUTE" in a larger, bold, red, sans-serif font.The logo for the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) features the letters "ICIMOD" in a green, sans-serif font with a blue wave-like graphic underneath.The logo for The New School features the text "THE NEW SCHOOL" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with horizontal lines above and below.The logo for The Rubin Museum of Art features the text "THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART" in a red, sans-serif font.

# Table of Contents

4	<b>ISSRNC President’s Welcome</b>
5	<b>ICI Director’s Welcome</b>
6	<b>Conference Committees</b>
7	<b>ISSRNC Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 – Bron Taylor</b>
8	<b>Featured Speakers Bios</b>
9	<b>Conference Schedule (Thursday)</b>
10	<b>Conference Schedule (Friday)</b>
15	<b>ISSRNC Working Group Session</b>
19	<b>Conference Schedule (Saturday)</b>
24	<b>Conference Schedule (Sunday)</b>
29	<b>About ICI &amp; The New School</b>
30	<b>About ICIMOD</b>
31	<b>ISSRNC Board of Directors</b>
32	<b>ISSRNC Mission and Prospects</b>
33	<b>ISSRNC Working Groups</b>
34	<b>Conferences 2006 – 2017</b>
35	<b>ISSRNC Awards and Committees</b>
36	<b>Space for Prayer, Reflection, Meditation &amp; Stretch and Breathe</b>
37	<b>Social Media Desk and Wi-Fi</b>
39	<b>Local NYC Attractions</b>
40	<b>Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (JSRNC)</b>
41	<b>All Gender Restroom Map</b>
42	<b>Caregiver Support Map</b>
43	<b>New School Campus Map &amp; Building Key</b>

# ISSRNC President's Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture's conference on "Mountains and Sacred Landscapes," co-sponsored by the New School's India China Institute. Eleven years ago, we held our first conference in Gainesville, Florida and we are pleased to be here in New York to continue the work of building our field internationally. As the Society moves into its second decade, issues concerning religion, nature, and culture are on our minds and in the news more than ever. I very much look forward to hearing about your ideas and research projects over the next few days, as we all engage in what I hope will be lively discussions and debates in this vibrant urban setting.

After a series of conversations among scholars interested in exploring the relationships between people, their religious beliefs and practices, environments, and cultures, the ISSRNC officially came into existence in 2006. The Society has been very active since its inauguration, publishing a quarterly journal and sponsoring or co-sponsoring international conferences on an almost annual basis. The journal and conferences have provided rich venues for discussing cutting-edge research in the interdisciplinary fields that contribute to new understandings of religion, nature, and culture. I invite you to let me know your ideas about how the society might better serve you now and in the future.

As current President of the ISSRNC, I want to take this opportunity to thank The New School and its India China Institute, especially ICI's director, Ashok Gurung. We are also grateful to additional sponsors listed elsewhere in this program. Thanks, too, to the conference organizing committee: Evan Berry, Chris Crews, Amanda Nichols, Mark Peterson, Bron Taylor and Kristina Tiedje. They have put countless hours over the past year into organizing this event. Also, to the board of the ISSRNC, many of whom have also contributed significant time and energy to assist with this conference and with our previous conferences in Florida, California, Italy, Australia, the Netherlands, and Mexico.

On behalf of the Board for the ISSRNC, I extend my thanks to all of you for taking time to add your contributions to our ongoing critical scholarly conversations.

Sincerely,



Sarah M. Pike

President, ISSRNC

Professor of Comparative Religion

California State University, Chico

# ICI Director's Welcome

On behalf of the India China Institute (ICI) at The New School, I would like to welcome all of you to the Mountains and Sacred Landscapes conference. We are very excited to partner with the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC) to host and co-sponsor this year's Mountains and Sacred Landscapes Conference at The New School. I am delighted that the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University (CLALS) have also joined us as partners. Along with all of you, I look forward to several days of intellectually stimulating conversations.

I would like to share with you some of the context in which the India China Institute has engaged in the study of mountains and sacred landscapes. The idea for this joint conference emerged out of a three-year initiative designed and led by the India China Institute (ICI) at The New School known as Sacred Landscapes and Sustainable Futures in the Himalaya. Over the course of three years, between 2014 and 2016, a team of scholars and experts affiliated with ICI have been engaged in pilgrimages and field trips in and around the Kailash/Tise/Kang Rinpoche region of India, Nepal, and Tibet. We spent many weeks hiking through the Himalayas at an average elevation of over 3,800 meters (12,500 feet). Encounters with the natural landscape, pilgrims of various faiths, and travelers drawn to the rugged beauty and serenity of the region shaped our understanding of this unique environment as a shared sacred space. From the very start of designing this study in 2013, we were drawn to the significance of multiple and often overlapping meanings and imaginaries of this shared sacred mountain, both for people who inhabit the region as well as those who come from outside. The various presentations throughout the conference, as well as the ICI Plenary Session, will highlight reflections and findings from our work.

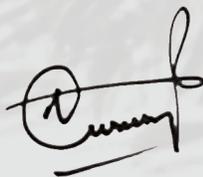
Over the course of working on the Sacred Landscapes and Sustainable Futures in the Himalaya project, a series of conversations and meetings in New York with Bron Taylor led to the idea of a jointly-sponsored conference between ICI and the ISSRNC around the broad theme of mountains and sacred landscapes. This conference therefore provides a very unique platform to share work emerging from the Sacred Himalaya Initiative with like-minded scholars interested in the study of religion, nature and culture.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their collaborative partnership and generous contributions. In addition to contributions from The New School, primary support for the project came from the Henry Luce Foundation and additional support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

As many of you know, although the idea of collaboration always sounds great, the actual work of making it operational requires immense patience, creativity, and attention to fluid details. Here, I want to acknowledge Chris Crews' work who, along with Sarah Pike, Bron Taylor, Amanda Nichols, Evan Berry, Mark Peterson, and Kristina Tiedje shouldered the primary responsibility of designing and making this conference a possibility. In addition, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Grace Hou, who is ICI's Office Manager, as well as the amazing ICI student team for their crucial role in convening this international conference.

I hope everyone attending the conference will have a great experience here at The New School. Incidentally, the New School considers the city of New York to be part of the New School campus, and vice versa, and we hope you will have a chance to enjoy both the university and the city overall. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our conference team members.

Ashok Gurung  
Senior Director



India China Institute, The New School

# Conference Committees

## **ISSRNC Organizing Committee**

Evan Berry, American University

Chris Crews, The New School

Amanda Nichols, University of Florida

Mark Peterson, University of Wisconsin Colleges

Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

Bron Taylor, University of Florida

Kristina Tiedje, Université Lumière Lyon 2

## **ICI Planning Committee**

Chris Crews, The New School

Grace Hou, The New School

Ashok Gurung, The New School

Mark Larrimore, The New School

Rafi Youatt, The New School

India China Institute staff and volunteers

## **Program Committee**

Chris Crews, The New School

Anna Gade, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Amanda Nichols, University of Florida

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Mark Peterson, University of Wisconsin Colleges

Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

## **Awards Committee**

Amanda Baugh, California State University, Northridge

Mark Peterson, University of Wisconsin Colleges

Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

Kristina Tiedje, Université Lumière Lyon 2

## **Website and Graphic Design**

Chris Crews, The New School

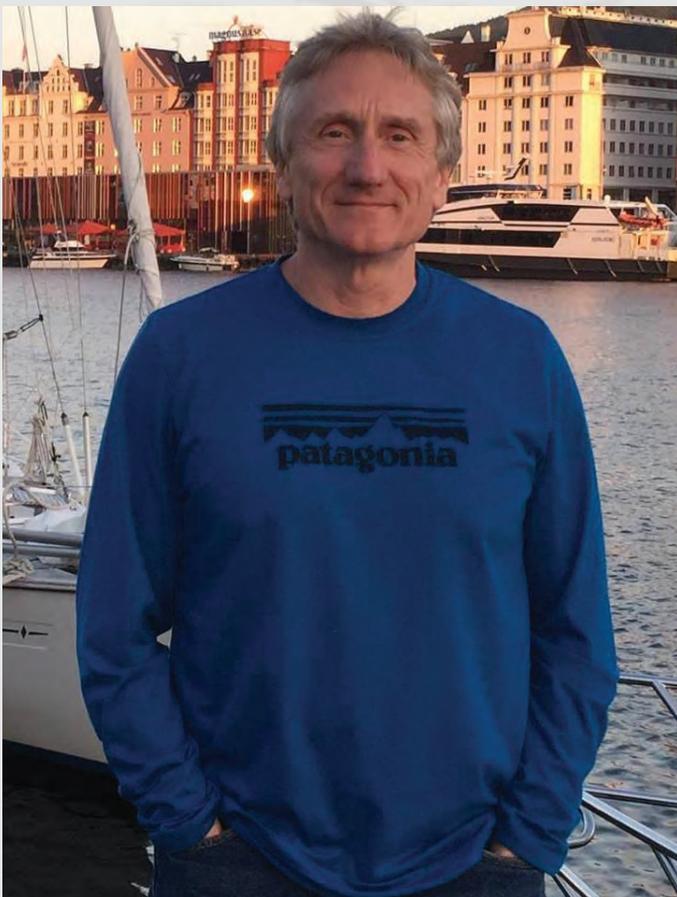
# ISSRNC Lifetime Achievement Award 2017

## *Professor Bron Taylor*

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture is pleased to announce that Bron Taylor, Professor of Religion and Nature at the University of Florida, has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors scholars who have made outstanding contributions to the study of religion, nature and culture, and whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks to scholars and the public.

Taylor, who founded the ISSRNC in 2007, has been a central figure in the articulation and construction of religion and nature as a field of study. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Ethics from the University of Southern

California (1988) and began his teaching career at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. While there, he led a faculty initiative to develop an Environmental Studies program and served as its director from 1993-2000. In 2002 Taylor assumed the Samuel S. Hill Ethics Chair at the University of Florida, where he was recruited to anchor the world's first graduate program focusing on religion and nature. In 2011 he was selected as a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany. Taylor is the editor of the award winning, multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (2005) and has authored or edited five books including the landmark *Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future* (2010). In 2007 Taylor founded, and has since edited, the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*.



Taylor's long-term research trajectory has centered on grassroots environmentalism and on the role of the affective, spiritual and ethical dimensions of human experience on environmental mobilization. In *Dark Green Religion* he analyzed the emergence, impact, and prospects of "green religions" around the world. Most recently, he has co-authored a comprehensive research review of the role of religion in environmental behavior.

Taylor's research, publications, presentations, initiatives, and courses can be found online: [www.brontaylor.com](http://www.brontaylor.com).

# Featured Guests and Speakers

**Ed Bernbaum** Ph.D., is an author, lecturer, and scholar of comparative religion and mythology whose work focuses on the relationship between culture and the environment. His book *Sacred Mountains of the World* won the Commonwealth Club of California's gold medal for best work of nonfiction and was the basis for an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History. He is also the author of *The Way to Shambhala*, a study of Tibetan myths and legends of hidden valleys and their symbolism. He has conducted seminars and lectured widely on mountains, leadership, culture, and the environment for organizations and audiences such as the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Geographic Society, the Wharton School, and the American Museum of Natural History. As Director of the Sacred Mountains Program at The Mountain Institute, Edwin Bernbaum initiated and directed projects to develop interpretive materials with National Parks such as Mount Rainier, Yosemite, and Hawai'i Volcanoes based on the cultural and spiritual significance of different features of mountain environments in American and other cultures around the world. He also started a project that used the cultural values of sacred sites in Central Asia as a basis for developing conservation programs and sustainable livelihoods in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. More recently, he has worked with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on a project to nominate Mount Kailas in Tibet, the most sacred mountain in the world for over a billion people, along with ancient pilgrimage routes leading to it from India and Nepal as a trans-boundary UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Greg Gajete** is a Native American educator whose work is dedicated to honoring the foundations of indigenous knowledge in education. Dr. Cajete is a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico. He has served as a New Mexico Humanities scholar in ethnobotany of Northern New Mexico and as a member of the New Mexico Arts Commission. He worked at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico for 21 years. While at the Institute, he served as Dean of the Center for Research and Cultural Exchange, Chair of Native American Studies and Professor of ethnoscience. He organized and directed the First and Second Annual National Native American Very Special Arts Festival held in Santa Fe, NM in 1991 and Albuquerque, NM in 1992. Currently, he is Director of Native American Studies and Associate Professor in the Division of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS) in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Cajete earned his BA from New Mexico Highlands University in Biology and Sociology and his MA from the University of New Mexico in Adult and Secondary Education. He holds a PhD from the International College – Los Angeles New Philosophy Program in Social Science Education with an emphasis on Native American Studies. Dr. Cajete is the author of five books: *Look to the Mountain: An Ecology of Indigenous Education*, (Kivaki Press, 1994); *Ignite the Sparkle: An Indigenous Science Education Curriculum Model*, (Kivaki Press, 1999); *A People's Ecology: Explorations in Sustainable Living* (Clear Light Publishers, 1999); *Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence* (Clear Light Publishers, 2000); and *Spirit of the Game: Indigenous Wellsprings* (Kivaki Press, 2005).

# Featured Guests and Speakers

**Karenna Gore** is an attorney, advocate, writer and educator. She currently serves as the founding director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, a leading platform for engaging the world's faith and wisdom traditions in solutions to the ecological crisis. Her past experience includes work in the legal center of Sanctuary for Families, which serves victims of domestic violence and trafficking and as Director of Community Affairs for the Association to Benefit Children (ABC), which provides early childhood education and other services for families living in poverty in New York City. She worked on the editorial staff of *Slate* magazine and is the author of *Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America* (2006). Karenna is a graduate of Harvard College, Columbia Law School and Union Theological Seminary. She is the eldest child of Al and Tipper Gore and lives in New York City with her three children. Follow Karenna on twitter @KarennaGore.

**Steve Paulson** is the Executive Producer and one of the founders of *To the Best of Our Knowledge* produced by Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR). He has been a contributing writer for *Salon* and has written for *Slate*, *Huffington Post* and other publications. His radio reports have also been broadcast on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. His book, *Atoms and Eden: Conversations on Religion and Science*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2010.

**David Rothenberg** ECM recording artist David Rothenberg has performed and recorded on clarinet with Pauline Oliveros, Peter Gabriel, Ray Phiri, Suzanne Vega, Scanner, Glen Velez, Elliot Sharp, Markus Reuter, and the Karnataka College of Percussion. Most of his work has an environmental theme and involves the sounds of nature, live and in the studio. He has sixteen CDs out under his own name, including "On the Cliffs of the Heart," named one of the top ten releases of 1995 by *Jazziz* magazine and "One Dark Night I Left My Silent House," a duet album with pianist Marilyn Crispell, called "une petite miracle" by *Le Monde* and named by *The Village Voice* one of the ten best CDs of 2010. Rothenberg is the author of *Why Birds Sing*, book and CD, published in seven languages and the subject of a BBC television documentary. He is also the author of numerous other books on music, art, and nature, including *Thousand Mile Song*, about making music with whales, *Survival of the Beautiful*, about aesthetics in evolution, and *Always the Mountains*. His book and CD *Bug Music*, featuring the sounds of the entomological world, has been featured on PBS News Hour and in the *New Yorker*. His latest recordings are *Cicada Dream Band*, *Cool Spring* and *Berlin Bülbül*. Rothenberg is distinguished professor of philosophy and music at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Follow David on Twitter @whybirdssing.

# Conference Schedule

## Thursday, April 20

2:00 – 8:00 – **Registration** (University Center Lobby)

### *Official Opening of the “Mountains and Sacred Landscapes” Conference*

5:45 – 6:00 – **Welcoming Remarks** (U 100 Tishman Auditorium – University Center)

**David Van Zandt**, President – The New School

**Ashok Gurung**, Senior Director – India China Institute

**Sarah Pike**, President – International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture

**Toby Volkman**, Director of Policy Initiatives and Secretary – Henry Luce Foundation

6:00 – 7:15 – **Opening Keynote Lecture by Karena Gore** (U 100 Tishman Auditorium – University Center)

**Title: “Reverence for Life: Biocultural Heritage as Resistance and Restoration”**

**Evan Berry**, Presiding

7:15 – 7:30 – **Conference Updates and Announcements** (U 100 Tishman Auditorium – University Center)

7:30 – 9:30 – **Opening Reception and Social** (U L102 – Starr Foundation Hall)

# Conference Schedule

## Friday, April 21

8:00 – 8:30 – **Coffee and Tea** (U L103 Event Café – lower level of University Center)

8:00 – 10:00 – **Registration** (University Center Lobby)

8:30 – 10:00 – **Concurrent Sessions 1**

**Panel A** (B 500 - Wollman Hall)

### **Pilgrimage and Pluralism**

- **Jenny Butler**, “Croagh Patrick Mountain as a Site of Cultural Hybridity and Religious Syncretism”
- **Nour Farra Haddad**, “Mount Hermon (Jabal El Sheikh) in Lebanon: A Sacred Biblical Mountain – Pilgrimages and Rituals”
- **John Schelhas & Sarah Hitchner**, “The Sacred Landscape of the Sierra Nevadas of California: A Social Map of the John Muir Trail as a Modern Pilgrimage”
- **Juan Campo**, “Sacred Mountains in the Landscapes of Modern Mass Pilgrimages: Between Preservation and Eradication”
- **Michael Northcott**, Presiding

**Panel B** (U L 105 – University Center)

### **Religious Practices and Environmental Management**

- **Ashwini Pethe**, “Appropriating the Sacred: Safeguarding Environment Through Religious and Cultural Practices in Kullu Valley”
- **Gerrit Lange**, “Western Himalayan Nāgas as Guardians for Water Resources”
- **Sarah Robinson-Bertoni**, “Lands Sacralized by Sustainable Agriculture, Words Sacralized by Climate Justice: From Local Landscapes to Global Religious Leadership in Human and Ecological Community Sustainability among Catholics and Muslims”
- **David Krantz**, “Shmita Revival: The Reconsideration and Expansion of Sacred Land”
- **Todd LeVasseur**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## Panel C (N 101 – Kellen Auditorium)

### Shaking Up the Sacred: Religion, Geology, and Risk in the Eastern Himalaya

- **Michael Hamburger**, “A Singularity in Nepali life: The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake”
- **Mabel Gergan**, “‘Geological Surprises’ and Angry Deities in the Unruly Himalayan Frontier”
- **Kalzang Bhutia**, “Alternative Histories of the Future: Buddhist Ritual Cosmologies in Earthquake Response and Mitigation in the Eastern Himalayas”
- **Amy Holmes –Tagchungdarpa**, Discussant

## Panel D (U L102 – University Center)

### New Religious Landscapes of Europe and the Americas

- **Kimberly Kirner**, “The Spirits of Place: The Sacred in Nature and at Home Among Contemporary Pagans”
- **Agita Misane**, “Innovation and Sacrality: The Typology of Newly Created Sacred Sites in the Baltic States”
- **Francesca Ciancimino Howell**, “Materiality of Place: Finding Sacredness and Resilience through Bonds with Place”
- **Alexander Grandjean**, “Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Experimenting with Nature and Power Places in Eco-Spiritual Networks and Movements in French-speaking Switzerland” \*\*Co-author Irene Becci (not presenting)
- **Sarah Pike**, Presiding

## Panel E (A 712 – Orozco Room)

### Learning from Indigenous Traditions to Create Ecological Cultures

- **Jason Brown**, “Decolonizing Personal Spiritual Ecologies”
- **Derek Simon**, “Border-Crossings and Ritual Fasting: Decolonizing Indigenous-Settler Research with Liminal Dilemmas”
- **Kristin Pomykala**, “Coyote, Black Snake, and Other Stories that Matter: Indigenous and New Materialist Worlding Beyond the Anthropocene”
- **Elaine Nogueira-Godsey**, Presiding

**10:00 – 10:30 – Coffee Break** (U L103 Event Café – lower level of University Center)

# Conference Schedule

## 10:30 – 12:00 – Concurrent Sessions 2

### **Panel A** (A 510 – Klein Conference Room)

#### **Himalayas and Representations of the Sacred**

- **Kishor Dere**, “Hindu Religious Conceptualizations of the Himalayas”
- **Chiron Olivier**, “Diverse landscapes and manifestations of the sacred in the Beyül Demojong of Sikkim”
- **Sangmu Thendup**, “Mountains and Sacred Landscapes in Sikkimese Buddhism: A Discourse on Religious Environmentalism”
- **Rashmi Attri**, “The Mighty, Mythical, and Sacred Himalayas in Kalidas’ Poetry”
- **Ashok Gurung**, Presiding

### **Panel B** (U L105 – University Center)

#### **Landscape and Place: Hidden and Revealed**

- **Seth Auster-Rosen**, “The Celestial Place of Lapchi Mountain: Mimesis, Appropriation, and Purity”
- **Judy Jibb**, “Giving Voice to Akiko: Do the Chaudière Falls Serve as a Sacred Site in Contemporary Northeastern Canada?”
- **Ian Baker**, “Hidden Lands in Himalayan Myth and History”
- **Robert Boschman**, “Descending with Bruno: Touching the Cretaceous in Alberta’s Badlands”
- **Kristina Tiedje**, Presiding

### **Panel C** (N 101 – Kellen Auditorium)

#### **Scriptural Perspectives from the Summit: Qur’an and the Bible**

- **Eric Wagner**, “Mountain – Man: A Correspondence of Biblical Proportion...Or at Least of Biblical Imagery”
- **Drew Nagy**, “The Pedagogy of Creation in the Israelite Wisdom Tradition”
- **İbrahim Özdemir**, “The Mountain Symbolism in Early Islamic Thought”
- **Dylan Shaul**, “Sacred Time and Sacred Space in Judaism and Christianity: Heschel, Hegel, and Derrida”
- **Sarah Pike**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## **Panel D** (U L102 – University Center)

### **Catastrophe and Mountain Landscapes**

- **Najiyah Martiam**, “Contesting Interpretations of the Volcanic Eruption of Mt. Merapi”
- **Megan MacDonie**, “Explosive Encounters: Volcanic Landscapes and Cultural Exchange in Colonial Guatemala”
- **Volker Gottowik**, “After the Explosion: Mount Rinjani and its Social Perception on Lombok, Indonesia”
- **Michael Hamburger**, Discussant

## **Panel E** (A 712 – Orozco Room)

### **Roundtable Discussion - Epistemology on a Himalayan Scale: Local Ecological Knowledge, Sacred Landscapes, and Animate Beings**

**Georgina Drew**

**Steven Goodman**

**Emily Yeh**

**Pasang Y. Sherpa**

**Elizabeth Allison and Lindsay Skog**, Presiding

## **12:00 – 1:15 – Group Lunch and ISSRNC Members' Meetings (B 500 – Wollman Hall)**

Boxed lunches will be provided for those who ordered a box lunch add-on with registration

# Conference Schedule - Working Groups

## 1:15 – 2:45 – Concurrent Sessions 3 - ISSRNC Working Groups Panels

### **Panel A** (A 510 – Klein Conference Room)

**Title:** Ritual, Commemoration, and Sacred Landscapes

**Abstract:** This roundtable will be an interactive conversation between participants in the Norway based project “Reassembling Democracy: Ritual as Cultural Resource” and ISSRNC’s Ritual, Religion and Nature working group. The session will include short presentations and slides of images from our case studies to generate discussion among the participants and audience. The session juxtaposes cases involving the commemoration on landscapes of human events—memorialization of massacres—with cases in which the landscape itself is being commemorated. Our conversation will be informed by new ontologies developed in the social sciences in the past two decades, and especially by theorists who are revising and revisiting animism and materialism. We will explore how these theoretical approaches might deepen our understanding of the meanings of ritual practices and other performative acts that are shaped by and shape landscapes, and these practices’ social effectiveness when the social is expanded to include things and beings beyond the human.

**Presiding:** Sarah Pike

**Panel Organizer:** Sarah Pike [spike@csuchico.edu](mailto:spike@csuchico.edu)

#### **Speakers:**

**Kristina Tiedje**

**Jone Salomonsen**

**Adrian Ivakhiv**

**Morny Joy**

### **Panel B** (U L105 – University Center)

**Title:** Ecofeminism and Beyond: Revisiting the Intersection between Gender, Religion, and Nature

**Abstract:** The aim of this roundtable is to create a platform for debate and discussion within the International Society for the Study of Religion Nature and Culture (ISSRNC) on the intersection between gender, religion and nature, and to establish this as a ‘working group’ within the ISSRNC. In the inaugural issue of the society’s journal, in 2007, Tavis Page wrote that ‘Ecofeminism should not be used to stand in for gender analysis in the field of religion and ecology tout court’ (2007: 301), but that it has appeared to have ‘cornered the market’. Our aim is to pick up this discussion again in light of recent attempts to reassert the contemporary relevance of ecofeminism, including defending it from charges of elitism and essentialism, which have done much to taint its reputation (Philips and Rumens 2016).

**Presiding:** Amanda Nichols

#### **Panel Organizers and speakers:**

**Elaine Nogueira-Godsey** [egodsey@mtso.edu](mailto:egodsey@mtso.edu)

**Emma Tomalin** [e.tomalin@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.tomalin@leeds.ac.uk)

# Conference Schedule - Working Groups

## **Panel C** (N 101 – Kellen Auditorium)

**Title:** Critical Theories for a Changing Planet: A Panel Discussion

**Abstract:** With some exceptions, critical theories have been largely overlooked or dismissed by conversations taking place in environmental ethics and religion and ecology/nature. Partly, this is due to the perception on the part of ecologically minded scholars that critical theory focuses almost solely on linguistics and humanity, a “humanism” that is largely critiqued from ecological circles. Partly, the dismissal is due to an ethical imperative on the part of environmentalists: we simply don’t have time to get lost in theory and argue about words when species are dying and the planet is rapidly changing. This panel brings the critical theories of nature and the critical theories of religious studies together in a discussion to ask why such theories should matter for religious and ethical issues surrounding the degradation of the planet and the lives therein.

**Presiding:** Çagdas Dedeoglu

**Panel Organizer:** Whitney Bauman [wbauman@fu.edu](mailto:wbauman@fu.edu)

### **Speakers:**

**Whitney Bauman**, “Queer Theory, Evolution, and Transgressive Planetary Ethics”

**Amanda Baugh**, “Faith, Race, and Nature after Laudato Si”

**Carol Wayne White**, “The Wonders of Materialist Textuality: Critical Theory, Religious Naturalism, and The Question of Humanity”

**James Miller**, “The Daoist Body and the Subjectivity of Nature”

**Kocku von Stuckrad**, “The Way of the Mountain: New Materialism and the Provincialization of the Human”

## **Panel D** (U L102 – University Center)

**Title:** Reimagining Mountains and Sacred Landscapes: The Place of Myth, Art, and Narrative in Contemporary Ecological Issues

**Abstract:** This panel reimagines mountains as sacred landscapes through myth, art, and contemporary narratives centered on ecological and aesthetic issues. Two examples of transfigured mountains are explored through mythic/sacred telling and rational-historical/empirical speech using the writings of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Emmanuel Levinas, and Giambattista Vico. Another example is drawn from Cézanne’s Mont Sainte-Victoire paintings also explored via Merleau-Ponty wherein the geological mountain itself already constitutes a sacred aesthetic site. Finally, Burnaby Mountain, just outside Vancouver, B.C. frames two theological understandings for ‘nature’ and ‘culture’ and the implications for the current fight over the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline. Here a ‘post-colonial’ theology of Nature that seeks to reconcile these two sacred narratives is brought forth.

**Presiding:** John Calderazzo

**Panel Organizer:** Kip Redick [kredick@cnu.edu](mailto:kredick@cnu.edu)

### **Speakers:**

**Kip Redick**, “Transfigured Mountains, Mythic/Sacred Telling, and Constituting the Wild”

**Joe Balay**, “Merleau-Ponty, Cézanne, and the Sacred Aesthetics of Mont Sainte-Victoire”

**Matthew Humphrey**, “The land doesn’t belong to us – we belong to this land!” Conflicting Sacred Narratives, Indigenous Resistance, and the fight for Burnaby Mountain”

**Discussant:** Mark Peterson

# Conference Schedule - Working Groups

## **Panel E** (A 712 – Orozco Room)

**Title:** Teaching Through Tipping Points: Education, Extinction, and Eudaimonia

**Abstract:** This panel interrogates the ways we teach religion and nature within the context of cultural collapse, or other equally disruptive tipping points. As scholars of religion, nature, and society, how do we expose our students (undergraduate and/or graduate) to the guiding research questions and literatures of our interdisciplinary field within the context of rapidly approaching planetary tipping points? What does it mean to discuss Lynn White, Jr.'s thesis that an elective affinity between increasingly invasive agricultural technologies and Christian dominion themes promote anthropocentrism when we have recently experienced the hottest July (2016) in the history of our keeping records of global temperatures? Does part of grappling with religion-nature-culture interactions also include tactics of resistance and activism? Is there any such thing as “neutral” readings we might assign, given our planetary reality? Are there discussions we are required to have, given our circumstances where we can assume a possible increase of planetary temperatures of 4 C? We will raise such questions in hopes of generating a critical, honest discussion about our roles as teachers and mentors in this critical period of time in the history of the human animal. We will also spend time looking at the mission statement of conference participant's respective institutions, seeing how the mission allows for, or doesn't allow for, thinking about teaching as a form of activism, and what this might look like for all involved.

**Presiding:** Rob Boschman

**Speakers:** Todd LeVassuer, Luke Shirley, Lisa Sideris, Richard Carp

**Discussant:** Greg Cajete

**2:45 – 3:00 – Break**

**3:00 – 5:00 – India China Institute Plenary Session** (A 106 – Johnson Kaplan Auditorium)

**Fieldwork Reflections on the Sacred Landscapes of Kailash/Kang Rinpoche/Tise**

**Shekhar Pathak**

**Rafi Youatt**

**Mark Larrimore**

**Emily Yeh**

**Sreshta Rit Premnath**

**Pasang Y. Sherpa**

**Rajan Kotru**

**Ashok Gurung & Chris Crews, Presiding**

**5:00 – 5:30 – Break**

# Conference Schedule

**5:30 – 7:00 – Plenary Session with Steve Paulson (U L 102 Starr Foundation Hall)**

**Title: “Ways of Knowing”**

**In Conversation with:**

**Greg Cajete**

**David Rothenberg**

**Georgina Drew**

**James Miller**

**Sarah Pike, Presiding**

**7:00 – 9:00 – Banquet and Award Ceremony (I 202 – Theresa Lang Community Center)**

Banquet attendance is limited to those who requested an add-on banquet meal with registration and invited guests.

**Welcome Remarks**

**Sarah Pike, Presiding**

**ISSRNC Website Preview**

**Chris Crews**

**Graduate Student Paper Award:** Recognizes the Best Student Conference Paper

**Lily Zeng, Recipient**

**Nivedita Nath, Honorable Mention**

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Recognizes outstanding contributions to the study of religion, nature and culture. The award goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks, not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public and to multiple disciplines as well.

**Bron Taylor, Recipient**

**Mark Peterson, Presiding**

# Conference Schedule

## Saturday, April 22

8:00 – 8:30 – Coffee and Tea (M 104 – Bark Room)

8:30 – 10:00 – Concurrent Sessions 4

Panel A (A 510 - Klein Conference Room)

**Literary Landscapes of Pilgrimage and Power**

- **Michael Northcott**, “The Romantics, the English Lake District, and the Sacredness of High Land: Mountains as Hierophanic Places in the Emergence of the First Environmental Protest Organisations in History”
- **David Pike**, “Haunted Mountains, Bunkers, and the Afterlives of Cold-War Infrastructure”
- **Devin Zuber**, “The Trouble with (Indian) Wilderness: Mountains, Religion, and Law in Native American Literature”
- **Steve Paulson**, Discussant

Panel B (A 404 – Johnson/Kaplan Lecture Hall)

**Ritualization and Nature**

- **Rune Flikke**, “Mountains and Atmosphere in Zulu Zionist Ritual Practice”
- **Rajani Maharjan**, “The Decline of Ritual Practices in Response to Pollution in the Vishnumati River, Kathmandu, Nepal”
- **Akiti Glory Alamu**, “As the Cloud Gets Thicker: An Appraisal of Mountain Prayer Spirituality in Contemporary Nigerian Christian Milieu”
- **Marlene Erschbamer**, “Sacred Landscape and the Creation of a Pilgrimage Site: The Gurudongmar Lake in North Sikkim, India”
- **John Calderazzo**, “Qoylluur Riti in a Time of Climate Change”
- **Jenny Butler**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## Panel C (N 101 – Kellen Auditorium)

### **Extracting, Profaning, and Renegotiating the Meaning of Sacredness**

- **Amanda Nichols**, “Homegrown Resistance: Commodity Fetishism, Eco-Terrorism, and Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia”
- **Austin Hagwood**, “Spirit of the Sepik: Logging and Ethnobotany in Papua New Guinea”
- **Depesh Subba**, “Socio Economic and Environmental Implications of Pharmaceutical Companies in Sikkim”
- **Joseph Witt**, “Sacred Mountains and the ‘Vocabulary of Protest’ of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Appalachian Environmental Movements”
- **Evan Berry**, Presiding

## Panel D (D 1003 – Wolff Conference Room)

### **Conservation: Management and Values**

- **Luke Shirley & Todd LeVasseur**, “The Capability for Sustainability in Sacred Lands: The View from Ladakh”
- **Carey Clouse**, “The Himalayan Ice Stupa: Religious Marker and Water Cache in Ladakh”
- **Mary Louise Stone**, “The Spirituality of Earth’s Largest High Mountain Lake: Titicaca in the Andes”
- **Jeffrey Keefer**, “Reframing Perspectives of Mountains and Sacred Landscapes in an Age of Climate Change: Exploring Neopagan Leadership as Stewards of Nature”
- **Elaine Nogueira-Godsey**, Presiding

## Panel E (A 712 – Orozco Room)

### **We Now Speak for Ourselves: Religious Aesthetics for Creating Ceremonial Space, Chanting, Singing, and Dancing in Defense of Our Sacred Landscapes**

- **Inés Talamantez**, “A Methodology of Trust: Apache Oral Traditions and Sacred Knowledge”
- **Alesha Claveria**, “Speaking and Creating Sacred Landscapes on The Native North American Stage: Protection and Ceremony in Performance”
- **Margaret McMurtrey**, “Saving Sacred Space Through Singing Grace”
- **Delores Mondragón**, “Warrior rematriation and Ritual Practices in the Preservation of Sacred Land and Native Peoples”
- **Felicia Lopez**, “When the Lord of the Dawn was Seen from the Mountain: Tlahuizcalpanteuctli Among Precontact Nahua of Mexico”
- **Inés Talamantez**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

**10:00 – 10:30 – Coffee Break** (M 104 – Bark Room)

**10:30 – 11:45 – Keynote Lecture by Greg Cajete** (A 404 – Johnson/Kaplan Lecture Hall)

**Title: “Look to the Mountain – Thinking the Highest Thought”**

**Emma Tomalin**, Presiding

**11:45 – 1:00 – Lunch and JSRNC Members Meeting** (closed) (M 104 – Bark Room)

Boxed lunches will be provided for those who ordered a box lunch add-on with registration.

**1:00 – 2:30 – Concurrent Sessions 5**

**Panel A** (A 510 – Klein Conference Room)

## **Consecrating and Conserving Landscapes**

- **Lily Zeng**, “Problematizing Ideas of “Purity” and “Timelessness” in the Conservation Narratives of Sacred Groves”
- **Heather Hyealim Lim**, “Landscapes of the Visible and the Invisible: Discussion of Two Case Studies in Cultural Landscape and Indigenous Metaphysics”
- **Chandrakant Salunkhe**, “Sacred Groves from the Sahyadri Mountain Ranges, India: Repositories of Nature, Culture, and Religion for Sustainable Future in Anthropocene”
- **Mary Evelyn Tucker**, Discussant

**Panel B** (A 404 – Johnson/Kaplan Lecture Hall)

## **Cases in Development: Indigenous Activism and Protecting the Sacred**

- **Noel Salmond**, “Akikodjiwan: Ottawa’s Chaudiere Falls as a Sacred Site”
- **Adam Dunstan**, “The Struggle for Cultural Survival at the San Francisco Peaks”
- **Elizabeth Steyn**, “A Grizzly Affair: The Ktunaxa Nation’s Struggle to Safeguard their Sacred Mountain Qat’muk”
- **John Grim**, Discussant

# Conference Schedule

## **Panel C** (N 101 – Kellen Auditorium)

### **Politics of Conservation and Tourism in Sacred Landscapes**

- **Xiaoqing Liu**, “New Nomads in a Modern Economy: How Tourism Development Influence People’s Mobility and Livelihood in Darchen”
- **Gesangqimee**, “Tourism in Tibet”
- **Anil Chitrakar**, “Second Opinion on Nominating the Kailash Sacred Landscape as a World Heritage Site”
- **Georgina Drew**, “A Double Challenge: Aiming for Equity and Ontological Inclusion in Conservation”
- **Rafi Youatt**, “Rethinking Mountains in Global Politics”
- **Ashok Gurung**, Presiding

## **Panel D** (D 1103 – Wolff Conference Room)

### **Ecological Concerns in Conversation with Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts**

- **Annika Schlitte**, “Philosophy, Art, and Landscape: Robert Smithson and the Experience of Place”
- **Alan Marshall**, “Sacred Mountains in Ecotopia 2121”
- **Jurij Dobravec**, “Deepness of Fairy Tales for Alpine Environmentalism in the Anthropocene”
- **Tracy Stilerman**, “Writing Blue Lake: The Tibetan Buddhist Perspective”
- **Adrian Ivakhiv**, Presiding

## **Panel E** (A 712 – Orozco Room)

### **Mountains as Sacred Sources for Social Activism**

- **Subhadra Mitra Channa**, “Gods, Dams, and the Enemy Across: Negotiating the Sacred Environment on the Himalayan Borders”
- **Annapurna Devi Pandey**, “Save Niyamagiri and Save Our Life: People’s Movement for their Survival”
- **Chinmayee Satpathy**, “Nabakalebara of Sri Jagannath: A Ritual Basis for Environmental Activism in Odisha, India”
- **Sasikumar Balasundaram**, “Changing Economic and Religious Landscapes in the Up-country of Sri Lanka”
- **Ann Kingsolver**, “Dead or alive? Competing Logics of Mountain Landscapes in Appalachia”
- **P. P. Karan**, Discussant
- **Kalzang Bhutia**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

**2:30 – 3:00 – Break**

**3:00 – 5:00 – Sacred Landscapes in the Himalayas - Rubin Museum of Art Roundtable and Tour**

(Rubin Museum of Art – 150 W. 17th St., between 6th & 7th Ave.)

This roundtable focuses on interpretations of sacred mountains and their associations with sacred places represented in the art of diverse cultures in and around Himalayan regions. Highlighting our multifaceted relationships with mountains and sacred landscapes found in the artistic expressions from India, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Nepal and the US, we invite the audience to engage in the discussion with the participants and then explore various representations of Sacred Landscapes and Sacred Spaces in our galleries.

The roundtable will feature talks by Rubin Museum curators Jorrit Britschgi, Karl Debreczeny, Elena Pakhoutova, Beth Citron and Soundwalk Collective members.

**5:30 – 6:45 – Keynote Lecture by Ed Bernbaum** (U L102 – Starr Foundation Hall)

**Title: “Sacred Mountains: The Heights of Inspiration”**

**Ashok Gurung**, Presiding

**6:45 – 7:45 – Book Launch** (U L104 – University Center)

\*\* Book Release Event: James Miller, Georgina Drew, Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, Sanjay Chaturvedi, Dong Shikui (ICI Fellows). Miller’s new book is *China’s Green Religion: Daoism and the Quest for a Sustainable Future* (Columbia University Press, 2017). Drew’s new book is *River Dialogues: Hindu Faith and the Political Ecology of Dams on the Sacred Ganga* (University of Arizona Press, 2017). Bandyopadhyay, Chaturvedi and Dong's new book is *Environmental Sustainability from the Himalayas to the Oceans: Struggles and Innovations in China and India* (Springer, 2017). ICI will also be highlighting two additional folk storybooks that have emerged from the Sacred Himalaya Initiative and are being published later this year, *Shared Sacred Landscapes, Stories from Mount Kailash, Tise & Kang Rinpoche* (Vajra Books, 2017) and *Mortal Gods, Stories from the Kailash Region* (Safu Publications, 2017).

**7:45 – 9:00 – Reception** (U L102 – Starr Foundation Hall and Event Cafe)

**With Music by David Rothenberg**

**Title: The Way of Pure Sound**

**9:00 – 9:30 – Working Group Meetings** (U L104 – University Center)

\*\*Open introductory meetings for the ISSRNC working groups.

# Conference Schedule

## Sunday, April 23

**8:00 – 8:30 – Coffee and Tea** (6 E 16th – Vera List Center Lobby)

**8:30 – 10:00 – Concurrent Sessions 6**

**Panel A** (D 1101 – Classroom)

### **Land Tenure and Heritage Sites**

- **Marina Kaneti & Mariana Prandini Assis**, “The Sacred Clause: State Politics and the Protectors of Sacred Landscapes in the Americas”
- **Fausto Sarmiento & Larry M. Frolich**, “Sacred Imbakucha: Negotiating Biocultural Heritage Conservation”
- **Rick Stepp**, “Tea Fetishization and Socioecological Change in the Mountains of Southern Yunnan”
- **Amélia Frazão-Moreira**, “Sacred Landscapes and Nature Conservation in Africa: The Case of Nalu Sacred Forests”
- **Joe Witt**, Presiding

**Panel B** (D 1103 – Wolff Conference Room)

### **Mountains and Oceans: Himalayan Policy Discussion with ICI Fellows**

**Jayanta Bandyopadhyay**

**Sanjay Chaturvedi**

**Dong Shikui**

**Nidhi Srinivas**

**Rajan Kotru**, Presiding

**Panel C** (D 1102 – Classroom)

### **Mountains, Myths, and Madness: The Demise of Indigenous Landscapes**

**Yuria Celidwen**, “Mountain-heart: Myths of the Jaguar and the Mind of Humankind”

**Rosélis Remor de Souza Mazurek**, “Culturally meaningful landscapes among the Oiapoque Indigenous People of northeastern Amazonia, Brazil”

**Sea Gabriel**, “True North: Local landscapes connect people with ‘All Our Relations’”

**Abraham Khan**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## Panel D (D 1106 – Classroom)

### Political Ecology: Nation, State, and Boundaries

- **Çagdas Dedeoglu**, “Political Ecological Outcomes of Religiosity in Turkey”
- **Ha An Nguyen Thi**, “The Constructing Process of Hung Vuong Worship: The Desinicization Movements of the Vietnamese”
- **Nivedita Nath**, “Sacred space as the practice of ecological ethics: Moving beyond colonial and caste hegemony in the Western Himalayas”
- **Titash Choudhury**, “Energy Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Arunachal Pradesh”
- **Brendan Galipeau**, “Buddhist Environmental Ethics and Protecting the Sacred: Balancing Commodity Economies, Ethnic Representation, and Ecological Health at Khawa Karpo in Shangri-La, China”
- **Evan Berry**, Presiding

## Panel E (D 1009 – Classroom)

### Digital Experiences of the Sacred: Sights, Sounds, Stories and Archives

- **Kevin Burbriski**, “Kailash Yatra - A Photographer’s Journal”
- **Nitin Sawhney**, “Walking through Sacred Landscapes: Encountering Soundscapes in Kailash”
- **Ben Norskov & Mohini Dutta**, “Quest for Kailash”
- **Chris Crews**, “Sacred Landscape Mapping and Digital Storytelling in the Himalayas”
- **Mark Larrimore**, Presiding

**10:00 – 10:30 – Coffee Break (6 E 16th – Vera List Center Lobby)**

**10:30 – 12:00 – Concurrent Sessions 7**

## Panel A (D 1101 – Classroom)

### War, Violence, and Memory

- **Cecil Marshall**, “The Sacred Canopy of the Princeton Battlefield”
- **Salma Samaha**, “Cemeteries and Memorials as Witness of the Landscape Challenges in the Lebanese Chouf Mountain”
- **Caroline Ormrod**, “Sacred Space as a Human Construct: Blood Swept Lands, Seas of Red, and the Tower of London: Contested Sacred Space or Renewal of a Historical Landmark?”
- **Boris Petrovic**, “The Anthropological Basis of the Notion of the Sacred in the Archetypal Image of a Sacred Mountain”
- **Muhammed Abubakar Yinusa**, “The Beauty and the Beast: Herdsmen’s Attacks on Mountain Prayer Warriors: Implications for Religious Harmony in Ilorin, Nigeria”
- **Ryan Thompson**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## Panel B (D 1103 – Wolff Conference Room)

### Climate Change, Religious Movement, and the Sacred

- **Karine Gange**, “Father White Glacier”: Climate Change, Patron Deity and Ritual Revival in the Indian Himalayas”
- **Karim-Aly Kassam**, “Ecological Time, Climate Change and the Sacred”
- **Evan Berry**, Discussant
- **Robert Albro**, Presiding

## Panel C (D 1102 – Classroom)

### Environmental Science and the Sacred

- **Morika Hensley**, “Through the Looking Glass: An Autecology of *Panthera Uncia* in Ladakh”
- **Hande Ozkan**, “The Color of the Sacred: Verdure and the Faith in Science”
- **Achyut Tiwari**, “Forest Productivity Decline in the Semi-arid Region of Trans-Himalaya in Central Nepal”
- **Whitney Bauman**, Presiding

## Panel D (D 1106 – Classroom)

### Eco-tourism and Redefining Sacredness

- **Isabela Frederico**, “The Spirituality Dimension in Tourism in a Brazilian Protected Area”
- **Meta Ginting**, “Finding the Sacredness of Ubud: Sacred Spaces and Modernity in Dialogue”
- **Lukasz Fajfer**, “Tourists are the Biggest Threat: The Impact of Tourism on the Monastic Community and the Ecosystem on Holy Mount Athos”
- **Judy Jibb**, “Kumik in a Skyscraper: Is the Algonquin Lodge at Terrasses de la Chaudière in Hull, Québec a Sacred Space?”
- **Amanda Nichols**, Presiding

## Panel E (D 1009 – Classroom)

### Micro-Histories and Divinities in Changing Landscapes

- **Sagar Lama**, “The Legacy of Local Deities and Contemporary Livelihood Strategies in Hepka Valley, Nepal”
- **Himani Upadhyaya**, “The Citizen-Pilgrim and the Porter: A Historical Approach to the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra”
- **Tshewang Lama**, “Divine Power and State Power among the Northwestern Border Communities in Nepal”
- **Mukta S. Lama**, “Borderlines, Religious Practices and Identity Questions: Nepal-India-Tibet/China Triangle in Humla and Darchula”
- **Pasang Y. Sherpa**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

12:00 – 12:15 – Break

12:15 – 1:45 – Concurrent Session 8

**Panel A** (D 1101 – Classroom)

## **Ecological Philosophy and Criticism in Euro-American Tradition**

- **Christopher C. W. Johnson**, “Writing in the Margins: Place, Landscape, and Ecosophy in the Literature of Jim Harrison”
- **Sean Driscoll**, “Mountain Faces: Climbing, Environmental Philosophy, and the Sacred”
- **Caleb Murray**, Camus’ Sacred Mountain: Alienation, (In)action, and the Absurd Response to Climate Change”
- **Mark Cladis**, “Shiprock, the Sacred, and Environmental Justice: The Ancient Echo between People and Place”
- **Mark Peterson**, Presiding

**Panel B** (D 1103 – Wolff Conference Room)

## **Mediating the Sacred through Natural and Built Environments in High Asia: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable Discussion**

Sara Shneiderman

Jean Michaud

Pasang Y. Sherpa

Mabel Gergan, Presiding

**Panel C** (D 1102 – Classroom)

## **Myth and Mountain-Making**

- **Elsbeth Whitney**, “The Slough of Despond: Medieval Wetlands, the Phlegmatic, and Spiritual Despair”
- **Stewart Weaver**, “The Science of the Sacred: Geology and Mythology and the Making of the Himalayan Orogeny”
- **Joseph Wilson**, “Mountains in Proto-Athabaskan Religion and Culture”
- **Lisa Sideris**, Discussant
- **Kocku von Stuckrad**, Presiding

# Conference Schedule

## Panel D (D 1009 – Classroom)

### The Politics of Development and Disputed Landscapes

- **Ye Liu**, “Road Construction in Tibet: The Making of a Political Landscape”
- **Flore Lafaye de Micheaux**, “Mesology or How to Make Sense of Environment/Development Disputes at the Sacred Headwaters of the Ganges”
- **Robert Beazley**, “Paving Paradise: Mechanization and the Changing Landscape of Traditional Mountain Pilgrimage in Asia”
- **Kathleen Van Vlack**, “Pilgrimage in A Contested Sacred Mountain Landscape – A Case Study in Conflict Between Culture, Heritage Management, and Development in Native North America”
- **Emma Tomalin**, Presiding

- End of Conference -

# About ICI

The India China Institute (ICI) is based at The New School, a university in the New York City. Established in 2005, ICI supports research, teaching and discussion on India, China and the United States, with special focus on making comparisons and understanding interactions between the three countries as well as their joint impact on the rest of the world. For over a decade, ICI has been the hub of an international network of scholars, leaders, and opinion-makers working to promote academic and public understandings of India and China. Through fellowships, courses, public events, publications, and collaboration with a wide range of institutions around the world, ICI promotes academic and public understanding of issues of contemporary relevance.

This conference is part of ICI's Sacred Landscapes and Sustainable Futures in the Himalaya Initiative, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, The New School and ICIMOD. For three years (2014-2017), ICI worked with a team of scholars, policy makers and artists from India, China, Nepal and the United States to study relationships between religion and ecology, sacred landscapes, pilgrimage routes and ecological, economic and cultural sustainability and resilience in the Himalayas. Learn more at [www.indiachinainstitute.org](http://www.indiachinainstitute.org).



## About The New School

Imagine a place where scholars, artists, and designers find the support they need to challenge convention and fearlessly create positive change in the world. Imagine an intellectual and creative haven that never has — and never will — settle for the status quo.

The New School is a progressive urban university where the walls between disciplines are dissolved, so that journalists can collaborate with designers, architects with social researchers, media specialists with activists, poets with musicians.

In 1919, a few great minds imagined a school that would rethink the purpose of higher learning. The New School is an amalgamation of a world-famous design school, a premier liberal arts college, a renowned performing arts school, a legendary social research school, and other advanced degree programs, created to challenge and support freethinkers who want to change the world.

No matter what your age or stage of life, you can find more to learn at The New School. With over 135 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, our university offers a more creatively inspired, rigorously relevant education than any other. Our university's urban academic centers in New York City and Paris offer almost 10,000 students the chance to expand their knowledge and view of the world. We invite you to learn more about our one-of-a-kind university. Learn more at [www.newschool.edu](http://www.newschool.edu).



# About ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, located in Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD aims to influence policy and practices to meet environmental and livelihood challenges emerging in the HKH region in the light of fast changing climate and existing non-climatic issues. To do this we bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from the region and around the globe to generate and share knowledge, support evidence-based decision making, and encourage regional collaboration. ICIMOD delivers impact through its six Regional Programmes of Adaptation to Change, Transboundary Landscapes, River Basins, Cryosphere and Atmosphere, Mountain Environment Regional Information System, and Himalayan University Consortium. The regional programmes are supported by the four Thematic Areas of Livelihoods, Ecosystem Services, Water and Air, and Geospatial Solutions and underpinned by Knowledge Management and Communication. ICIMOD seeks to reduce poverty and vulnerability and improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men, now and for the future.

Within its Transboundary Landscapes Programme, Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) is a flagship transboundary collaborative initiative between China, India, and Nepal that has evolved through a participatory, iterative process among various local and national research and development institutions within these countries. The Kailash Sacred Landscape represents a diverse, multi-cultural, and fragile landscape. The programme aims to achieve long-term conservation of ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity while encouraging sustainable development, enhancing the resilience of communities in the landscape, and safeguarding and adding value to the existing cultural linkages between local populations across boundaries. We recognize the increasing importance of applied trans-disciplinary research in the Kailash Sacred Landscape with a focus on the significant opportunities to deepen knowledge and influence policy that is informed by the applied learning gained from interplay of ecology, and social and cultural aspects in creating sustainable futures. For this we generate new methodologies, field-based ethnographic research on issues of everyday religion and culture, sacred landscapes, sustainable development and climate change adaptation by Himalayan communities within the KSL. Through our partners we cement long term inter-disciplinary, research collaboration that generate new understandings in real-time pilots within the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and KSL in particular. This in turn contributes to strengthen the long-term concepts of conservation and sustainable futures within the landscape. We calibrate and validate our knowledge through strategic institutions, scholars, experts, partners and events by using state of the art information and communication media that sets the momentum for bringing attention to conservation and development opportunities in the Himalayas and beyond. To learn more about ICIMOD visit [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org).



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# ISSRNC Mission & Prospects

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC) is an international and interdisciplinary community of scholars, founded in 2006, who are engaged in critical inquiry into the relationships among human beings, their diverse cultures and environments, and their religious beliefs and practices. The ISSRNC facilitates scholarly collaboration and research and disseminates research findings through workshops, lectures, conferences and its affiliated, peer reviewed, Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, which has been published quarterly since 2007. In the coming years, the society intends to increase its influence through a sophisticated social media strategy including the dissemination of research through online video productions.

The ISSRNC was organized and is governed through democratic processes. Our Board of Directors cordially invites all individuals interested in the scholarly investigation of religion, nature, and culture to join and to participate in ISSRNC activities. Members not only enjoy a growing number of benefits, including the Society's journal; they also increase the profile and strength of this important and growing scholarly field and help create further opportunities for religion and nature scholars.

After its inception in 2006 the society grew steadily, reaching 215 members by the end of 2008. Although annual membership declined after that due to the global economic crisis, society numbers are approaching our previous high point.

We urge conference participants and current members to strengthen the ISSRNC by renewing their memberships, donating to the society when possible, submitting their scholarly work for consideration by the reviewers and editors of the JSRNC, and in other creative ways by offering talents that could advance the mission of the society.

The ISSRNC is recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) charitable/educational organization.

# ISSRNC's Working Groups

The Working Groups are an ongoing project to provide greater opportunities for community and scholarly engagement—to continue all those “conference conversations” you started during or between sessions. The new website includes forums for each group to nourish and help germinate the ideas that develop from those conversations.

The current groups emerged organically out of a trial run at last year's conference in Gainesville. As new interests arise or, if you and a number of your colleagues have something you'd like to work on together, new groups can easily be added. One result is an opportunity for scholarship and interaction across disciplines that a campus department does not always afford. Another result is the opportunity to showcase your working group's scholarship at future ISSRNC conferences—we have plans to set aside special times for working groups to present panel discussions of their work. Finally, these groups can be a great opportunity for younger scholars to interact with their senior colleagues. Plus, of course, fun.

The current constellation of groups includes:

- Ecology and Critical Theory Group
- Teaching Methodologies and Pedagogies in the field of Religion & Ecology Group
- Ecology and Gender Group
- Ecology and Philosophy Group
- Ritual, Religion and Nature Group

One of the greatest strengths of the ISSRNC is the opportunity to be inspired by colleagues outside your own discipline area—to discover the sparks that our interdisciplinary interactions create. We hope these working groups can inspire, and add fire to, your research and writing.

This year's panels will present their current projects on Friday from 1:15 - 2:45 in Concurrent Session 3. There will also be meetings for each of the Working Groups on Saturday evening following the reception. See the schedule for full details.

To learn more about these Working Groups and how to get involved, visit the Working Groups page on the ISSRNC website: [www.issrnc.org/working-groups/](http://www.issrnc.org/working-groups/).

# Conferences 2006 – 2017

## 2006 **Exploring Religion, Nature and Culture**

In collaboration and with the support of University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

## 2008 **Re-enchantment of Nature Across Disciplines: Critical Intersections of Science, Ethics and Metaphysics**

In collaboration and with the support of CIGA-UNAM, Morelia, and with Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Mexico

## 2009 **Religion, Nature and Progress**

In collaboration and with the support of University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

## 2010 **Living on the Edge**

In collaboration and with the support of the University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

## 2011 **Religion, Nature and Art**

Co-sponsored with the Ethnological Museum of the Vatican Museums, Vatican City State

## 2012 **Nature and the Popular Imagination**

In collaboration and with the support of Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, USA

## 2016 **Religion, Science and the Future**

In collaboration and with the support of University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

## 2017 **Mountains and Sacred Landscapes**

Co-sponsored by the India China Institute, The New School, New York City, USA

# Awards and Committees

## Lifetime Achievement Award

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture's Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the study of religion, nature, and culture goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks, not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public and to multiple disciplines. The contribution can be any medium (e.g., books, films, TV public speaking), as long as it is based on scholarship about religion and nature.

## Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

### **Evan Berry**

Associate Professor of Philosophy & Religion,

Co-Director, Ethics, Peace, & Global Affairs MA Program, American University

### **Mark Peterson**

Professor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin Colleges

### **Sarah Pike**

Professor of Comparative Religion, California State University, Chico

### **Kristina Tiedje**

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Université Lumière Lyon 2

## Student Paper Award Committee

### **Amanda Baugh – Awards Committee Chair**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, California State University, Northridge

### **Lucas Johnston**

Associate Professor of Religion & Environmental Studies, Wake Forest University

### **Robin Globus-Veldman**

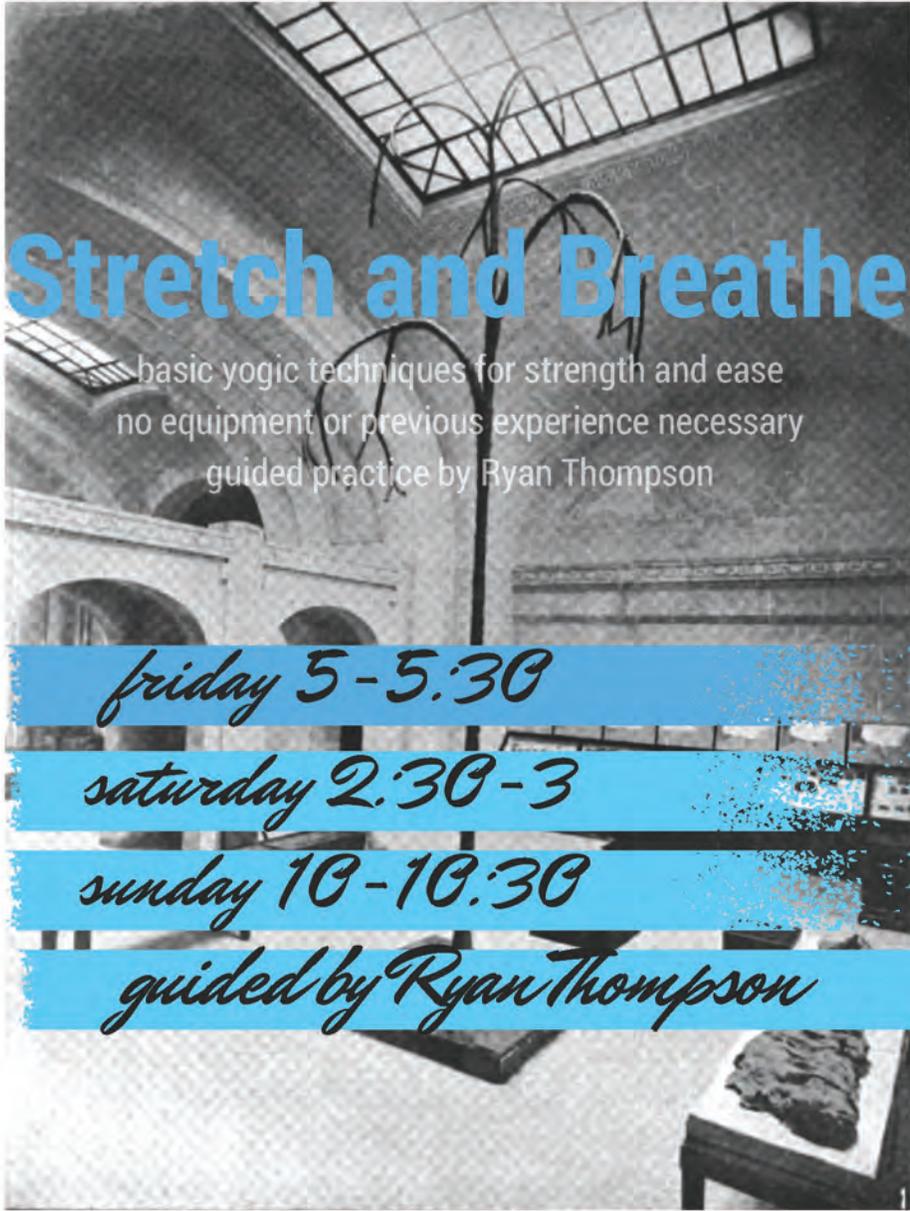
Assistant Professor of Religion, Iowa State University

# Space for Prayer & Reflection & Yoga

The space is located on University Center, 63 Fifth Avenue, room L206, on the lower level. Entry is limited to New School community members, and a New School ID is required for entry. Please let one of the conference organizers know if you would like to use this space, and arrangements can be made for access with a New School conference organizer.

Members of the community are free to pray, reflect, or meditate in any way they wish: however, they must do it quietly, with cell phones turned off and shoes removed. Studying, hanging out, and napping are not permitted, nor is the use of fire, candles, incense, or recording devices. In addition, mats, pillow, and furniture must remain in the room, while food and beverages must be kept out. All visitors are expected to exercise respect and tolerance for others' beliefs, cultures, and traditions.

The space is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except when the university is closed.



**Stretch and Breathe**

basic yogic techniques for strength and ease  
no equipment or previous experience necessary  
guided practice by Ryan Thompson

*friday 5-5:30*

*saturday 2:30-3*

*sunday 10-10:30*

*guided by Ryan Thompson*

Please note the Stretch and Breath sessions do not take place in the UC meditation room. This is a separate event.

# Social Media

## Social Media for #MTNSL2017

- We encourage you to follow @ISSRNC and @india\_china.
- The @ISSRNC account will retweet a selection of posts about the conference found on #MTNSL2017.
- For those who want to disclose their Twitter ID, please write your twitter handle in the lower left corner of your name badge during registration.
- Where known, the twitter ID's of the featured speakers are listed with their biographies online.
- **Before tweeting a presenter's ideas, secure permission from the presenter and inquire if they have an "@."** Check in with the presenter to make sure you heard them correctly.

## Social Media Assistance

The Wi-fi bandwidth and staff permitting the ISSRNC will assist attendees who want to set up or optimize Twitter and Academia.edu accounts and connect you to the ISSRNC's outlets.

## For Academia.edu

- For those setting up new accounts you will need: your professional affiliation, to have identified 4-5 research interests and if possible 2 PDF's of articles you wish to upload. A picture is optional.
- For those optimizing accounts we will be able to suggest ways of organizing your page and optimizing the tagging of your papers.

## For Twitter @ISSRNC and @india\_china

- Signing up for Twitter, on site, requires a North American cell phone.
- For those optimizing accounts we will be able to suggest ways to use Twitter to support your research.

# How to Access The New School Wi-Fi

**Connect To: ‘newschool-guest’** allows campus guests and visitors access to the wireless network while on campus for web, email, and other communications needs. It is an unencrypted wireless network.

Access is granted in seven-day increments using your email address as your username and a system-generated password. In general, any device that natively supports 802.11 WiFi networking and has a web browser application will work with the Guest Network. **‘newschool-guest’** is available throughout the academic campus.

## Getting Started

To connect to the **‘newschool-guest’** wireless network:

- iPhone or an iPad
  - Go to Settings > Wi-Fi. Under “Choose a Network...” select **‘newschool-guest.’**
- Android phone or tablet
  - Android 2.1 or higher: Go to Settings > Wireless and Networks > WiFi Settings.
  - Select **‘newschool-guest.’**

**You should now see that you are connected.**

- Next, open your device’s web browser and visit a web site (any web site will do). You will be redirected to the New School Guest Wireless Network Authentication page.
- Enter your name, phone number, and email address.  
**Note:** You must include the country code with your mobile number. For North American phone numbers, the country code is ‘1.’
- Click on the link to read the terms of use, and then check the box to accept them.
- Click the “Register” button.
- You will receive a message via both email and SMS text message (to the email address and phone number you provided) with your password.
- Use the email address you registered with as your username and enter the password that was sent to you to log in.
- Once you’ve signed in on a device, that device will be able to use **‘newschool-guest’** without your having to re-enter your username and password for the next seven days. If you have more than one device (e.g, a phone and a laptop), you may use the same username and password with each device.

## Help

IT Central, 72 Fifth Avenue, Lower Level

212-229-5300 xHELP (4357)

email – [ITCentral@newschool.edu](mailto:ITCentral@newschool.edu) website – [ITcentral.newschool.edu](http://ITcentral.newschool.edu)

# Local NYC Attractions

## American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History is a New York icon. Packed with exhibitions representing people and animals throughout the ages, the museum also has a planetarium and an IMAX theater, as well as special visiting exhibitions and plenty of places to eat and shop. The dinosaur wing is a must-see, and if you have time, lie down under the life-size model of a blue whale in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life.

## Brooklyn Bridge

Stretching across the East River, the iconic Brooklyn Bridge opened up back in 1883 to carry traffic (nonautomotive at the time) between Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. One of the most recognizable parts of the New York City skyline, the bridge has been featured in movies and on television shows, and is a real piece of New York City history. A stroll across the elevated pedestrian walkway provides a true New York City experience. The Manhattan-side entrance is at Park Row and Centre Street, across from City Hall Park, east of City Hall; over on the Brooklyn side, enter at Cadman Plaza East or where Boerum Place meets Tillary St.

## High Line

The High Line is one of the City's most popular and distinctive parks. Built on a once-abandoned elevated rail line, the green space offers unparalleled views of Manhattan's far west side. With places to sit and people-watch, patches of grass, seasonal blooms and fascinating architectural features throughout, it's a great place to relax, and makes for an envy-inducing photo backdrop.

## New York Botanical Gardens

The New York Botanical Garden, neighbor to the Bronx Zoo, is a wonderland for everything that grows. Featuring more than a million plants on 250 acres, the Botanical Garden is a place for study and research as well as enchantment and exploration. Take a seasonal walk to see what's in bloom. Or explore the historic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, home to *A World of Plants*, which showcases the wonders of the Garden's living collections in lush tropical rain forests, cactus-filled deserts, curated displays of palms from around the world, aquatic and carnivorous plants, and much more.

## New York Hall of Science

Explore New York Hall of Science, New York City's only hands-on science center, catering to families, groups and event planners. Discover more than 450 interactive exhibits including Rocket Park Mini Golf, the award-winning 60,000 square-foot Science Playground, Design Lab—an innovative hands-on space that helps young visitors gain a greater understanding of the design and engineering process—and much more. NYSCI is easily accessible, just blocks from the 7 train with on-site parking also available.

## Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty is perhaps New York City's most familiar landmark and the easiest one to overlook since it's only accessible by boat. This historic monument has welcomed so many generations of hopeful Americans to our shores. The American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island contains more than 25 million Port of New York passenger arrival records and 900 ship pictures circa 1892–1924.

## Wall Street

Centered at Wall and Broad Streets, the Financial District is Manhattan's original neighborhood—here, historic sites and high finance sit side by side on narrow streets that hark back to Peter Stuyvesant and the City's days as a Dutch outpost. Among its attractions are Trinity Church, the New York Stock Exchange and the Charging Bull sculpture, as well as Federal Hall, the first capitol of the United States of America and also where George Washington took his oath as the nation's first president.

For more ideas visit the 'What to Do in NYC' page on *TimeOut*: [www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do](http://www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do).

# Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture

10 years...

over 200 articles...

and 2.5 million words

Written by prominent and up-and-coming scholars, deploying diverse lenses and methodologies from the sciences and humanities, illuminating the complex relationships between human beings, their religious perceptions and practices, and other earthly organisms, through the long process of biocultural evolution since the emergence of *Homo sapiens sapiens*...

Much ground covered, many seas crossed, yet much left to explore.

*The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*: your place for critical, interdisciplinary inquiry where religion, nature, and culture entwine and collide.

## Distinguished authors include:

Eugene Anderson  
William Sims Bainbridge  
William Balée  
David Barnhill  
Marc Bekoff  
Susan Blackmore  
J. Baird Callicott  
Donald A. Crosby  
Robert S. Corrington  
Ellen F. Davis  
Terrence Deacon  
Celia Deane-Drummond  
Frederick Ferré  
Richard Foltz  
Ursula Goodenough  
Roger Gottlieb

John Grimm  
David Grumett  
Stuart Guthrie  
David Haberman  
Graham Harvey  
Ronald Hutton  
Adrian Ivakhiv  
Lucas F. Johnston  
Alice Beck Kehoe  
Stephen R. Kellert  
Gerald Larson  
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J. Richard Stepp  
Lisa Sideris  
Leslie E. Sponsel  
Sverker Sörlin  
Bron Taylor  
Sarah McFarland Taylor  
Kristina Tiedje  
Mary Evelyn Tucker  
Kocku von Stuckrad  
Donald Worster  
Robin Wright  
Michael York



# ALL GENDER RESTROOM MAP

- A Johnson/Kaplan Hall**  
 66 W 12th St  
 Floors 1, 4 & 6
- B Eugene Lang College**  
 65 W 11th St  
 Floor 3
- C Parsons East**  
 25 E 13th St  
 Floor 5
- D List Center**  
 6 E 16th St  
 Floors 1, 6, 8, 10-12
- E Parsons East**  
 25 E 13th St  
 Floor 5
- F Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- G 80 Fifth Avenue**  
 80 Fifth Ave  
 Floor 3
- H Fanton Hall/Welcome Center**  
 72 Fifth Ave  
 Floor 1
- I Arnhold Hall**  
 55 W 13th St  
 Coming Fall 2015
- J Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- K 113 University Place**  
 113 Univ Pl  
 Floor 6
- L Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- M Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- N Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- O Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- P Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- Q Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- R Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- S Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- T Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- U University Center**  
 63 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 1, 7 (3, 5 - Fall 2015)
- V Johnson Design Center**  
 2 W 13th St & 66 Fifth Ave  
 Floors 3-12
- W 71 Fifth Avenue**  
 71 Fifth Ave  
 Floor 9

**LEGEND**

- ADA Accessible
- Single or Multi Occupant
- Access to Toilets & Urinals

UPDATED AUGUST 2015

# THE NEW SCHOOL



## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT MAP

- A** Johnson/Kaplan Hall  
66 W 12th St  
Floor 1 - Changing Table
- B** Eugene Lang College  
65 W 11th St  
Floor 3 - Changing Table
- C**
- D** List Center  
6 E 16th St  
Floor LL - Lactation Booth  
Floor 1 - Changing Table
- E** Parsons East  
25 E 13th St
- F**
- G** 80 Fifth Avenue  
80 Fifth Ave
- H** Fanton Hall/Welcome Center  
72 Fifth Ave  
Floor 1 - Changing Table
- I** Arnhold Hall  
55 W 13th St  
Floor 2 - Changing Table
- J**
- K** 113 University Place  
113 Univ Pl
- L**
- M**
- N**
- O**
- P**
- Q**
- R**
- S**
- T**
- U** University Center  
63 Fifth Ave  
Floor L1 - Lactation Booth  
Floor 1 - Changing Table  
Floor 3 - Changing Table
- V**
- W** 71 Fifth Avenue  
71 Fifth Ave
- X**
- Y**
- Z**

UPDATED OCTOBER 2015

# The New School Campus Map & Building Key



- (A) Johnson/Kaplan Building (between 5th and 6th Ave. on 12th St.) - Rooms A 404, 406, 510, 712
- (B) Lang Annex Building (between 5th and 6th Ave. on 11th St.) - Room B 500
- (D) Vera List Center (between 5th Ave and Union Sq. W. on 16th St.) - Rooms Lobby, D 1009, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1106
- (I) Arnold Hall (between 5th and 6th Ave. on 12th St.)- Room I 202
- (M/N) Sheila Johnson Design Center (13th and 5th Ave., SW corner) - Rooms N 101, M104
- (U) University Center (13th and 5th Ave., NE corner) - Rooms \*Lobby Registration\*, U 100, U L102, L104, Event Cafe



Talung Valley, Nepal | Photo Credit: Chris Crews