

Religion and Environment: Relations and Relationality 2021

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

conference hosted virtually by

Arizona State University's
Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

February 18-28, 2021

Acknowledgements

This conference is co-sponsored and hosted virtually by Arizona State University's Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC). We would like to thank the following ASU institutes and departments for their help in making the 2021 virtual conference possible:

- The Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory (GFL)
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)
- Environmental Humanities Initiative (EHI)
- Institute for Humanities Research (IHR)
- School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies (SHPRS)

 **Julie Ann Wrigley
Global Futures Laboratory™**
Arizona State University

The Environmental Humanities Initiative
A unit of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

 **School of Historical, Philosophical
and Religious Studies**
Arizona State University

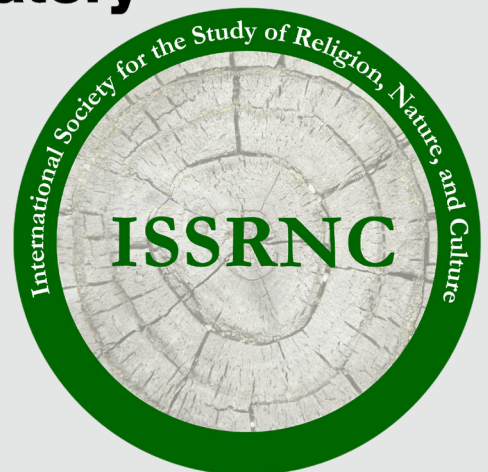


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ISSRNC President's Welcome

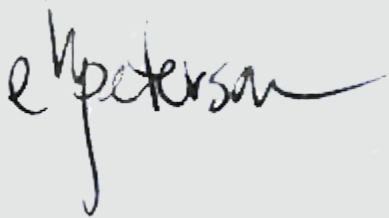
It is a pleasure to welcome you to the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture's conference on "Religion and Environment: Relations and Relationality" hosted virtually by our partners at Arizona State University's Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Lab and cosponsored by ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Environmental Humanities Initiative, Institute for Humanities Research, and the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies.

A year of planning by the ISSRNC and ASU members on program committee have brought us together, here in the aethyr of the internet, to continue cultivating and nourishing the connections that make our field exciting, effervescent, and energizing. More than ever we owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the program committee who, as covid-19 spread across the planet, had to switch from organizing a face-to-face conference to this virtual modality. In addition to working out the best scaffolding to accommodate the panel sessions this year, the committee has also recreated online versions of the coffee breaks and receptions, those times normally set aside for the networking and cross-pollination and so essential to the effervescence (and fun!) of our usual conferences. These ideas, required by the pandemic this year, also recommend opportunities for new ways to lower our Society's environmental footprint. We hope you'll take advantage of the potential for conversation provided by these new and, for now, experimental features.

I go back, again and again, to Plato's description of philosophy as "conversation with your friends" and how much our ongoing conversations into the relationships between religion, nature, and culture have produced friendships as well as scholarly insight. That conversation continues beyond our conferences through the Society Journal, listserv, and website working groups.

Many thousand thanks to all of you for sharing your work and for your contributions to the continued growth of our Society. Enjoy the conference!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark C.E. Peterson, ISSRNC President

Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

ASU Welcome



Dear Delegates,

On behalf of Arizona State University, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture's 2021 'Religion and Environment: Relations and Relationality Conference.'

The pandemic has forced us to think more intently about biodiversity loss and increasing threats to social and environmental health while events in the same year have radically reinforced the continuing urgency of achieving racial and economic justice. As Director of the Environmental Humanities Initiative at ASU, it has been an honor to collaborate on conference planning, and I thank the ISSRNC organizing and program committees for making these urgent topics central to the program. My thanks, too, to the ISSRNC Board of Directors for giving ASU the distinct honor of hosting this inspiring conference.

At ASU, we are proud of the breadth, depth and excellence of our scholarship and research in the environmental humanities and of collaborations with our colleagues across the disciplines. Many of these collaborations are facilitated by the College of Global Futures and we are very grateful that Peter Schlosser, Vice Provost of Global Futures and Director of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, so generously stepped up to sponsor this conference. With this support, and in collaboration with the ISSRNC, we have sought to create what University of California, Santa Barbara, Professor Ken Hiltner calls a "nearly carbon neutral (NCN) conference" that will allow each attendee to cultivate the same kinds of discussions and networking opportunities afforded by face-to-face conferences. We could not have done any of this without Global Futures and we sincerely thank them for their support.

I also thank my academic and administrative colleagues at ASU. The Institute for Humanities Research (IHR), the Black Ecologies Initiative, and the College of Global Futures are generously co-sponsoring the first keynote speaker, Tiffany King, who will open the conference with the 2021 ASU Distinguished Environmental Humanities Initiative Lecture. We are very grateful for the IHR's incredibly professional administrative assistance. Joe Carter, at Live Stream Success, has made the mysteries of Zoom and YouTube navigable and working with my colleague Evan Berry has been the greatest of pleasures.

I hope you enjoy the ISSRNC's first NCN Conference and welcome to ASU!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joni Adamson'.

Joni Adamson, President's Professor of Environmental Humanities

Department of English

Director, Environmental Humanities Initiative &

Distinguished Sustainability Scholar,

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

Arizona State University

Conference Committees

Organizing Committee

Joni Adamson, Arizona State University

Amanda Baugh, California State University, Northridge

Evan Berry, Arizona State university

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Mark Peterson, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee CGS

Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

J. T. Roane, Arizona State University

Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, The Ohio State University

Lisa Sideris, Indiana University-Bloomington

Tod Swanson, Arizona State University

Robin Veldman, Texas A&M University

Website and Graphic Design

Chris Crews, California State University, Chico

Featured Speakers



Tiffany King is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Georgia State University. Her research is situated at intersections of slavery and indigenous genocide in the Americas. King's book *The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies* (Duke University Press, 2019) argues that scholarly traditions within Black Studies that examine Indigenous genocide alongside slavery in the Americas have forged ethical and generative engagements with Native Studies—and Native thought—that continue to reinvent the political imaginaries of abolition and decolonization. King is also co-editor of an anthology titled *Otherwise Worlds: Against Settler Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism* (Duke University Press 2020).



Thom van Dooren is Associate Professor and Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry and the Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney, and Professor II in the Oslo School of Environmental Humanities, University of Oslo. His research and writing focus on some of the many philosophical, ethical, cultural, and political issues that arise in the context of species extinctions and human entanglements with threatened species and places. He is the author of *Flight Ways: Life and Loss at the Edge of Extinction* (2014), *The Wake of Crows: Living and Dying in Shared Worlds* (2019), and co-editor of *Extinction Studies: Stories of Time, Death, and Generations* (2017), all published by Columbia University Press. His current major research project focuses on extinction in Oceania and includes both field philosophical work and a series of public environmental humanities collaborations that are working to

produce a multimedia living archive of extinction stories from around the region. Van Dooren was founding co-editor of the journal *Environmental Humanities* (Duke University Press). He has held visiting positions at the University of California at Santa Cruz, USA (2005, 2010) the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory in Stockholm (2014), the Department of Anthropology at MIT (2018), the Centre for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2018), and has been a Humboldt Research Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center, Munich (2014-16, intermittent). www.thomvandooren.org

Conference Schedule Overview

**Event times listed are for U.S. Mountain time (MST, GMT-7) where Arizona State University is located. You can [convert times here](#).*

ALL WEEK, February 18-28

Ongoing asynchronous Q&A for all sessions moderated by session organizers.

Thursday, February 18

Welcome Video posted online.

Opening plenary talks posted online—asynchronous Q&A will run throughout the conference until February 28th.

Panels (pre-recorded) posted online—asynchronous Q&A will run throughout the conference until February 28th.

4:00-5:30 pm MT: Plenary Address (synchronous session) by Tiffany King, followed by synchronous Q&A.

Saturday, February 20

11:30 am-12:30 pm MT: ISSRNC members meeting

12:30-1:30 pm MT: JSRNC business meeting (all are welcome)

1:45-3:45 pm MT: (synchronous session) Native Responses to the Extinction of Animals.

4-5:00 pm MT: (synchronous session) Networking session for graduate students.

5:30-7:00 pm MT: Screening of pre-recorded Plenary Address by Thom van Dooren, followed by synchronous Q&A.

Sunday, February 21

1-3:00 pm MT (synchronous session) Author Roundtable on Pandemic, Ecology Theology: Perspectives on Covid-19.

Thursday, February 25

5-6:30 pm MT: Why Read the “Classics”? Exploring the Ambiguous Legacies and Contested Futures of Cornerstone Figures in the American Environmental Tradition (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Friday, February 26

4-4:45 pm MT: Migration, Relationality, and Food: Ecologies of Labor and Human movement (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch panel beforehand.)

5-6:30 pm MT: Book Panel on Alda Balthrop-Lewis’s Thoreau’s Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice, and Political Aestheticism (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

6:45 pm MT: Reception (all participants are invited, BYOB).

Conference Schedule Overview

Saturday, February 27

8-9:00 am MT: Informal networking: bring your own coffee.

9-9:45 am MT: Case Studies in Buddhism (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand)

10-10:45 am MT: Author Meets Critics: Darren Dochuk's Anointed with Oil (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

11 am-12:30 pm MT: Complicating Kinship in the Study of Religion & Nature (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

12:45-2:00 pm MT: Bring your own lunch informal networking.

2:00-2:45 pm MT: Ecotheology Down Under (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

4-5:30 pm MT (synchronous session) Roundtable on Careers Beyond the Academy.

Sunday, February 28

9-10:00 am MT: Informal networking: bring your own coffee.

10-10:45 am MT: Tending to All (Academic and Political) Relations During (Socio-Ecological) Collapse (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

11-11:45 am MT: American Evangelicalism and the Environment: Confronting the Past, Present, and Future (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

12-12:45 pm MT: Keywords in Religion, Nature, and Culture: A Lightning Round Discussion (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

1-2:00 pm MT: Bring your own lunch informal networking.

2-3:30 pm MT: Vital Ice: Perceiving Past, Present, and Future in melting Ice-scapes (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

3:45 pm MT: Closing social event.

Conference Schedule

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ALL WEEK, February 18-28

Ongoing asynchronous Q&A for all sessions moderated by session organizers.

Thursday, February 18

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Panels (pre-recorded) posted online—asynchronous Q&A will run throughout the conference until February 28th.

4:00-5:30 pm: Plenary Address (synchronous session), followed by synchronous Q&A.

Tiffany King – “Losing Faith in Work(s): Black and Indigenous Relations of Doing and Being With”

King is the 2021 Environmental Humanities Initiative Distinguished Lecturer, and this lecture is cosponsored by Arizona State University’s Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Environmental Humanities Initiative, Institute for Humanities Research, and Black Ecologies Initiative. The lecture comes from King’s forthcoming book project *Red and Black Alchemies of Flesh: Conjuring Decolonial and Abolitionist Presents*.

Moderated by Joni Adamson

Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 20

11:30 am-12:30 pm MT: ISSRNC members meeting

12:30-1 pm MT: JSRNC meet and greet (all are welcome)

1-1:30 pm MT: JSRNC editors meeting (closed)

1:45-3:45 pm MT: (synchronous session) Native Responses to the Extinction of Animals

Abstract: This session presents Native cultural responses to the local extinction of animal populations. At the same time it serves to introduce an ASU Institute for Humanities Research funded project: “The Amazonian Social Relation to Nature: A Variable Pathway Digital Resource.” Traditionally the presence of animals was attributed to their affinity to a human community that treated these animals with respect. Thus care was taken to maintain their presence by heightening social relations to animals through song and empathetic speech. Hunting, and fishing depended on these cultural arts for eliciting an empathetic animal response. Over the last 50 years the world has lost 65% of its animal population. This session presents responses to the departure of the animals by Laura Tohe, Navajo Nation Poet Laureate and several members of the Amazonian Kichwa and Andwa nations. For the native communities this collapse is not just the loss of a resource but represents a breakdown in interspecies social relations upon which life has depended for centuries. For this reason Native responses have included laments and songs directed to the animals and not only proposals for replacing a resource. Our panel presents some of these reflections and laments.

Tod Swanson, Chair

Tod Swanson, “Introduction to “The Amazonian Social Relation to Nature: A Variable Pathway Digital Resource”

Laura Tohe, Navaho Nation, “Japanese Garden”

Pedro Andi, Quijos Kichwa Nation, “On the Disappearance of Pacas: A Salt Lick Closed by the Master of Animals”

Elodia Dagua, Andwa Nation, “The Master of Animals Slams the Door”

Delicia Dagua, Andwa Nation, “On the Departure of the Peccaries” and “Singing with the Toucan’s Orphans”

Belgica Dagua, Andwa Nation, “On the Disappearance of the Animals”

Luisa Cadena, Andwa Nation, “The return of the animals and the dead”

Janis Nuckolls, “Bringing grammar to life: speaking and moving in Quichua-authentic ways”

Elizabeth Swanson-Andi, Quijos Kichwa Nation, “On the Importance of Preserving our Elders’ Responses to the Animals”

4-5:00 pm MT: (synchronous session) Networking session for graduate students.

Abstract: This roundtable session features a conversation with Georgina Drew and Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, who will discuss the importance of and offer strategies for current graduate students on networking through social media and in conferences. Breakout rooms will be used to facilitate opportunities for more questions.

Moderated by Georgina Drew and Elaine Nogueira-Godsey

Conference Schedule

5:30-7 pm MT: Screening of pre-recorded Plenary Address, followed by synchronous Q&A.

Thom van Dooren, “In Search of Lost Snails: Storying Unknown Extinctions”

Abstract: The Hawaiian Islands were once home to one of the most diverse assemblages of terrestrial snails found anywhere on earth, 754 described species. Today, however, the majority of these species are extinct and most of those that remain are headed swiftly in the same direction. But this is just the crisis that we know about. Here, and all over the world, a diversity of species—many of them invertebrates—are being lost while they still remain entirely unknown to science. In fact, for every described species that blinks out—perhaps not even with any fanfare, simply recognized as a species, and therefore as an extinction, even if only by a handful of people—roughly another five extinctions likely take place entirely unknown to us. This article focuses on the particular case of Hawai‘i’s snails and the efforts of taxonomists to catalogue them as a way into this broader unknown extinction crisis. Snails have particular lessons to offer in understanding and responding to this situation. This article seeks to draw out those lessons, thinking through some of the challenges for storytelling in summoning up these unseen others and opening up a space for ethical encounters with living and dead beings that must remain beyond the edges of our knowledge.

Moderated by Evan Berry

Sunday, February 21

1-3:00 pm MT (synchronous session) Author Roundtable on *Pandemic, Ecology Theology: Perspectives on Covid-19*

Abstract: This author roundtable is on the new book *Pandemic, Ecology and Theology: Perspectives on COVID-19* (ed. Alexander J.B. Hampton, Routledge, 2020). The pandemic has demonstrated human creativity, and the resilience of the oft neglected presence of nature. Equally, it has exposed deep social inequities and structural deficiencies about the way we organize our civilization and our knowledge. The contributors, though differing in their diagnoses and recommendations, share the belief that this moment, with its transformative possibility, not be forfeit. Equally, they share the conviction that the chief ground of any such reorientation ineluctably involves our collective engagement with both ecology and theology.

Derek A. Michaud, “The Multidimensional Unity of Life, Theology, Ecology, and COVID-19”

Sean J. McGrath, “Eschatology in a Time of Crisis”

Willemien Otten, “The Recovery of Nature’s Religious Role in the Context of the Pandemic”

Lisa Sideris, “Listening to the Pandemic: Decentering Humans through Silence and Sound”

Alexander Hampton, “Ecology and the Unbuffered Self: Identity, Agency, and Authority in a Time of Pandemic”

Conference Schedule

Thursday, February 25

5-6:30 pm MT: Why Read the “Classics”? Exploring the Ambiguous Legacies and Contested Futures of Cornerstone Figures in the American Environmental Tradition (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: This roundtable will consist of authors whose papers are set to be published in the forthcoming special issue of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, “Ambiguous Legacies, Contested Futures: Reassessing Cornerstone Figures in the American Environmental Tradition.” In this special issue, authors critically examine how questions about social justice and equity complicate the American environmental tradition’s most crucial thinkers—from Emerson to Fuller, Muir to Carson, Thoreau to Abbey—and the relevance these figures might have for the religion/nature/culture nexus going forward. Crucially, rather than read a precis of their pre-published manuscript, participants in this roundtable instead will speak to how the figure they examine in their manuscript informs their answer to the question: What is the significance of cornerstone American environmental thinkers for us today?

Rebecca Kneale Gould, Moderator

Michael Putnam, “The Redemption of Matter: Margaret Fuller’s Fluid Ethics”

Russell Powell, “John Muir, Sacred Value, and Environmental Justice: Moral Intuition’s Promise and Peril”

Whitney Bauman and Amanda Nichols, “The Watery Depths of American Environmentalism: Marjory

Emily Dumler-Winckler, “The Virtues of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s Anthropology: From Foil to Fertile Soil for Ecological and Social Justice”

Caleb Murray, “Dash me with amorous wet, I can repay you’: Relational Ethics, Queer Ecology, and Walt Whitman’s Poetics of Trans-human Kinship”

Christy Call, “Edward Abbey’s Ambiguity in the Anthropocene”

Conference Schedule

Friday, February 26

4-4:45 pm MT: Migration, Relationality, and Food: Ecologies of Labor and Human movement (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch panel beforehand.)

Abstract: Building on the conference call to engage the intersection of environmental issues with the religious dimensions of migration and asylum, the three papers gathered here raise a set of overlapping questions related to human movement, food systems, relationality, and bodily and environmental health. The presenters draw upon both ethnographic and theological methods to approach these questions on multiple scales: from a micro-level exploration of the meal practices asylum seekers engage in as they organize, survive and resist the realities immigration detention, to the religious dimensions of food production and farm labor, to the broader themes that interlace human trafficking and environmental degradation. Taken together, the papers ask us to reflect upon the mutually constitutive nature of personhood and environment as they play out in situations of displacement, confinement, and labor exploitation.

Yvonne Zimmerman, “To Hear the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor: Human Trafficking and the Environmental Crisis”

abby mohaupt, “Eating and Working Through Our Faith”

Leah Sarat, “Where the Institution Becomes Flesh: Fasting, Feasting, and Resistance in a For-Profit Immigrant Detention Center”

5-6:30 pm MT: Book Panel on Alda Balthrop-Lewis’s Thoreau’s Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice, and Political Aestheticism (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: This panel gathers leading scholars of religion and literature (Rebecca Kneale Gould, Middlebury College), religion and ecology (Whitney Bauman, Florida International University; Courtney O’Dell-Chaib, Parish Episcopal School), religion and race (Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Methodist Theological School in Ohio), and religious naturalism (Carol White, Bucknell University) to discuss the contributions of Alda Balthrop-Lewis’ (Australian Catholic University) new book, *Thoreau’s Religion: Walden Woods, Social Justice, and Political Asceticism* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Russell Powell (Boston College) will moderate.

Alda Balthrop-Lewis, Author

Rebecca Kneale Gould, Discussant

Whitney Bauman, Discussant

Courtney O’Dell-Chaib, Discussant

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Discussant

Carol White, Discussant

Russell Powell, Moderator

6:45 pm MT: Reception (all participants are invited, BYOB).

Moderated by Mark Peterson

Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 27

8-9:00 am MT: Morning mingle - bring your own coffee.

Moderated by Evan Berry

9-9:45 am MT: Case Studies in Buddhism (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand)

Dan Smyer Yü, Moderator

Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia, “The Forest as a Garden to the Forest as a Supermarket: The Vagaries of the Biography of Uncle Chilly”

Kira Cooper, “Mindfulness and the Coronavirus Pandemic: A Catalyst for Sustainability Transformations?”

10-10:45 am MT: Author Meets Critics: Darren Dochuk’s Anointed with Oil (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract:: Though religious energy ethics has a long history of scholarship, the proposed panel discusses one of the first major academic publications on social histories of religion and energy, Darren Dochuk’s *Anointed With Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America*. This will be structured as an “author meets critics” session, with responses to Dochuk’s monograph from four scholars each representing different disciplinary and methodological perspectives. Dochuk will then have an opportunity to respond, offering synoptic remarks to his ‘critics’. In addition to their shared focus on *Anointed With Oil*, these responses will be linked by the underlying question, “what are religion’s relationships to hydrocarbon energy?” This positions the session in direct relationship to the conference theme of “Relations and Relationality” and develops linkages between religious studies and cutting edge scholarship in the energy humanities.

Darren Dochuk, Author

Terra Schwerin Rowe, Discussant

Evan Berry, Discussant

Tina Asmussen, Discussant

Brent Crosson, Discussant

Conference Schedule

11 am-12:30 pm MT: Complicating Kinship in the Study of Religion & Nature (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: Although the term Animism has problematic roots in the study of religion, it is now widely use by religionists and scholars alike to refer to “perceptions that natural entities, forces, and nonhuman life-forms have one or more of the following: a soul or vital life-force or spirit, personhood (an affective life and personal intentions), and consciousness, often but not always including special spiritual intelligence or powers. . . Animism generally enjoins respect if not reverence for and veneration of such intelligences and forces and promotes a felt kinship with them.” These kinship feelings “are often accompanied by ethical mores specifying the sorts of relationships that human beings should have, or avoid having, with nature’s diverse forces and beings” (Taylor, *Dark Green Religion*, 15).

While there has been increasing scholarly attention to such perceptions and their diverse forms, and from a growing number of disciplines, there is much left to critically examine and discuss. The purpose of this session is to show that such perceptions and related practices are far more common and diverse than is usually recognized while also raising new questions and ethical conundrums that arise both from such phenomena, scholarly analyses of them, and various lacunae in the study of them. The titles and abstracts for the presentations that follow this overview illuminate some of the phenomena to be examined and the ethical claims to be advanced and discussed. It would be tautologically to repeat them here. But they do reveal the richness of the proposed session.

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, “Curanderos Kinship with Sentient Ancestor Mountains in Northern Peru: Combining the Senses with Local Science”

Kyle Powys Whyte, “Kinship and Consent”

Robin Wright, “Covid 19 and the Yoopinai: Predatory Relations with Enemy Spirits”

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, “Beyond Leopold: Toward a Transformational Land Ethic”

Sarah McFarland Taylor, “‘God’s Original Prescription for Social Distancing’: A Media Analysis of Christian Forest Therapy’s Knotty Adaptations of Japanese Shinrin-Yoku to the North American Cultural Context”

Lisa Maria Madera, “The Empathy of Birds: Lessons from Pacha Mama in the Face of Despair”

Gretel Van Wieren, “Children, Nature, and Kinship in the Pandemic”

Bron Taylor, “Kinship through the Senses, Arts & Sciences. . . and conserving the best of what’s left of Earth’s Biocultural Diversity”

Jace Weaver, Respondent

12:45-2:00 pm MT: Bring your own lunch informal networking.

Bring your lunch and join us to talk about all things religion, nature and culture in small breakout groups. This is a chance to reconnect with colleagues and/or get to know new folks in the religion and nature/ecology orbit.

Moderated by Lisa Sideris

Conference Schedule

2:00-2:45 pm MT: Ecotheology Down Under (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: Christian theological reflection on human relationships with the non-human are deeply contextual. Such discourse is dependent upon land/seascape, climate, culture, which in turn shapes how biblical texts are written and embodied. The climate crisis brings a sense of urgency to these conversations in the southern hemisphere. Bushfires have always shaped the Australian landscape, but the climate crisis has resulted in catastrophic bushfires which demonstrate a break in the relationship of humans and country under colonisation. The people of Pasifika have had a close cultural relationship with the ocean, which now in the form of sea level rise threatens those relationships.

This session explores this contextuality in southern hemisphere theological discourse with scholars from Australia and Pasifika. It examines ideas of relationality to climate change related disasters, traditional cultures, and their understanding of climate change and typical texts, and ways of thinking about Sabbath as working with and relating to the non-human.

Mick Pope, “Sabbath rest for the land: Mutual obligation and the agency of creation”

Di Rayson, “Fire in the Hills: The Australian Black Summer of Bushfires, Ritual, and Relationality”

Clive Pearson, “All at sea with the Bible”

Maina Talia, “Sabbath and Tuvalu Indigenous Knowledge (Muna o te Fale)”

Mick Pope, Chair

4-5:30 pm MT (synchronous session) Roundtable on Careers Beyond the Academy

Abstract: This roundtable session features a panel of speakers who have applied their studies in religion, nature, and culture to careers in nonprofits, creative writing, and international research. Panelists will discuss their paths from graduate school to their current work and offer advice for current graduate students who are considering alt-academic career paths. The remaining 45 minutes of the session will be open to questions and discussion.

Moderated by Kelsey Ryan-Simkins



Hayley Glaholt

Hayley earned her Ph.D. in Religion, Ethics, and Public Life from Northwestern University in 2014. Dr. Glaholt is an Accredited Family Mediator and she serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Ontario). She is also Certified Ethnic and Religious Conflict Mediator through the International Centre for Ethno-Religious Mediation (ICERM). In addition to working in family mediation, Dr. Glaholt is the co-founder and Executive Director of Link Coalition Toronto, a non-profit dedicated to educating the public about the links among domestic violence, child abuse, animal abuse, and elder abuse. She lives and works in Toronto.

(continued on page 18)

Conference Schedule

4-5:30 pm MT (synchronous session) Roundtable on Careers Beyond the Academy (*continued from page 17*)



Gavin Van Horn

Gavin Van Horn is the Creative Director and Executive Editor for the [Center for Humans and Nature](#). His writing is an entangled, ongoing conversation between humans, our nonhuman kin, and the animate landscape. He is the author of *The Way of Coyote: Shared Journeys in the Urban Wilds*, and co-editor of *Wildness: Relations of People and Place* and *City Creatures: Animal Encounters in the Chicago Wilderness*. Gavin edits and writes for the [City Creatures Blog](#) and has published works of creative nonfiction and poetry in *Emergence*, *Orion*, *The Learned Pig*, *Undark*, *Sky Island Journal*, *Belt Magazine*, *The Red Wheelbarrow Review*, *Everyone Quarterly*, and *Zoomorphic*, among others.



Olivia Wilkinson

Dr Wilkinson is the Director of Research for the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI), an international collaboration on evidence for faith actors' roles in the humanitarian and development sectors. She directs JLI's research work, collaborating with partners from UN agencies and governments, such as UNICEF and UNHCR, to faith-based organizations and NGOs, including Islamic Relief and World Vision, and in collaboration with universities such as the University of Leeds and University College London. Dr Wilkinson is a sociologist, working at the intersection of sociology of religion and humanitarian/development studies. She published her book, "Secular and Religious Dynamics in Humanitarian Response" with Routledge in early 2020, which unpicks how secularity is one of many privileges and biases in the humanitarian system that makes aid irrelevant and inappropriate. She co-edited a new volume also with Routledge called "International Development and Local Faith Actors: Ideological and Cultural Encounters," which was recently released. She has a PhD and Master's in humanitarian action from Trinity College Dublin and Université catholique de Louvain respectively. Her PhD research focused on the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and she has since conducted collaborative research work around the world, most recently with local faith actors in South Sudan. Her undergraduate degree in Theology and Religious Studies is from the University of Cambridge.

Conference Schedule

Sunday, February 28

9-10:00 am MT: Morning mingle - bring your own coffee.

Moderated by Norah Elmagraby

10-10:45 am MT: Tending to All (Academic and Political) Relations During (Socio-Ecological) Collapse (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: How do ongoing social-ecological reorganizations and looming collapse impact relationality between disciplines in the Academy, and between the Academy and larger social-ecological world? This panel will address the conference theme of relationality through the context of changing climates, ecologies, educations, policies, social structures, and norms. We examine relationality and collapse through the adaptive cycle of resilience, looking specifically at the moments of shifting from Exploitation to Conservation, into Release and Reorganization. What does relationality mean given this inevitable reorganization trajectory upon which we tread? Each panelist will discuss where they think we (a global bio-ecological community, an Academy, and a field of scholarship) are within the adaptive cycle, and address the need for deeper relational integration within the Academy across disciplines; and between the Academy and society (and thus ecologies of place) at large.

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Todd LeVasseur, Chair

Richard Carp, Discussant

Garrett Boudinot, Discussant

Greg Cajete, Discussant

Conference Schedule

11-11:45 am MT: American Evangelicalism and the Environment: Confronting the Past, Present, and Future (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: This interdisciplinary paper session includes research on evangelicalism and the environment that examines or re-examines what we know about its past, present and future. Surprisingly little historical work has looked beyond stereotypes of evangelical environmental apathy to present a nuanced picture of how evangelicals' response to the environmental crisis has changed over time. At the same time, ethnographic work is only now beginning to provide a more textured analysis of why lay evangelicals in America tend to reject climate science. Even less is known about what role Christian nationalism plays in how Americans--evangelical or otherwise--regard the environmental crisis. In terms of its future, the evangelical tradition is both declining in size and also becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. Is evangelicalism in the process of becoming more "green," or green in a different way, as these demographic changes take place? From our different disciplinary perspectives--history, anthropology, religious studies, and human dimensions of natural resources--we envision and invite an interdisciplinary audience of scholars interested in the intersection of evangelicalism, politics, and the environment in the US and beyond to discuss the past, present and future of American evangelicalism.

Neall Pogue, "From Nature Stewardship to Anti Environmentalism: How Two Evangelical Organizations Supported then Rejected Environmental Protection, 1990-1994"

Susannah Crockford, "Locating Religion in Conservative Christians' Rejection of Climate Science"

Robin Veldman, "Incivil Religion: The Environmental Politics of Christian Nationalism"

Benjamin Lowe, "Generational Shifts in Climate and Environmental Attitudes and Engagement among American Evangelicals"

12-12:45 pm MT: Keywords in Religion, Nature, and Culture: A Lightning Round Discussion (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: This lightning round discussion brings together an interdisciplinary panel of eight scholars of religion, nature, and culture, in order to discuss the keywords and concepts that have shaped our field. Drawing from particular episodes in their research, each scholar will briefly reflect on the ways their own scholarship has formed (or re-formed or transformed) their scholarly understandings of "environmentalism" and the kinds of things that are integral or peripheral to discussions of religion, nature, and culture. The goal of this session is to set out provocative ideas that will generate a lively discussion with the audience.

Amanda Baugh, Chair and discussant

Sarah Pike, Discussant

Elonda Clay, Discussant

Michael Pasquier, Discussant

Eric Hoenes del Pinal, Discussant

Dana Lloyd, Discussant

Jane Caputi, Discussant

Laurel Kearns, Respondent

1-2:00 pm MT: Bring your own lunch informal networking.

Bring your lunch and join us to talk about all things religion, nature and culture in small breakout groups. This is a chance to reconnect with colleagues and/or get to know new folks in the religion and nature/ecology orbit.

Moderated by Robin Veldman

Conference Schedule

2-3:30 pm MT: Vital Ice: Perceiving Past, Present, and Future in melting Ice-scapes (LIVE conversation with presenters. Please watch session beforehand.)

Abstract: With this panel, we propose to think of ice bodies as a vital entity, or assemblage of interdependent relations. Glaciers and other ice bodies are sometimes considered as a nonhuman force, physical and symbolic ‘vibrant matter’ (as per Jane Bennett), or a web of relations whose emerging agency acts on humans. The vitality of ice bodies is also seen in their personhood, and with their recession, persons or entities vanish, along with their stories, histories, and knowledge. Ice masses can also be parts of assemblages that bring together different forms of life - human, nonhuman, and divine - which are linked by principles of reciprocity. Vitality is also a central element in how ice is known. These diverse perspectives and relationships with ice often hold up a mirror to the cascading loss of other vibrancies. The papers presented draw from a diverse array of work done in Iceland, the Alps, the Andes, and the Himalayas to document how people understand, and are responding to, the loss of glacial mass. Through seven pre-recorded lectures and a post-presentation discussion, the double panel will examine the cultural, environmental, religious, and spiritual implications of the vital ice that is being lost around the world.

Karine Gagné, “Beyond the (Geo)politics of Climate Knowledge: Sensorial Engagement, Materiality, and the Himalayan Cryosphere”

Arjun Sharma, “Whose glacier is it anyway? The perils of locality in promoting artificial glaciers as a climate change solution in the Indian Himalaya”

Austin Lord, “Ice, Disaster, and Vitality: Morphologies of Uncertainty in the Langtang Valley”

Mattias Borg Rasmussen, “Grappling with Change: Signification and Climate in the Andes”

Julianne Yip, “Can ice die?: Approaching ‘vitality’ from the perspective of sea ice”

Elizabeth Allison, “Life Without Ice: Glacier Extinction, Extinction of Experience”

3:45 pm MT: Closing social event.

Moderated by Evan Berry

About Conference Partners



The *Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory* at Arizona State University represents the urgent belief that we can and must make a meaningful contribution to ensuring a habitable planet and a future in which well-being is attainable. The Global Futures Laboratory is the world's first laboratory dedicated to the health of the planet and its inhabitants. It is built upon the deep expertise of ASU and leveraging an extensive network of partners, including ASU's Environmental Humanities Initiative, for an ongoing and wide-ranging exchange across all knowledge domains to address the complex social, economic and scientific challenges spawned by the current and future threats from environmental degradation. This platform positions a new world headquarters for an international array of scientists, scholars and innovators and lays the foundation to anticipate and respond to existing and emerging challenges and use innovation to purposefully shape and inform our future. For more information visit globalfutures.asu.edu.

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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 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.

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/.

Conferences 2006-2021

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

2019 **Religion/Water/Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes**

Co-sponsored by the Study of Religion Department, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland

2021 **Religion and Environment: Relations and Relationality**

Co-sponsored and hosted virtually by Arizona State University's Global Futures Lab

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over 200 articles...

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

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Social Media for #ISSRNC2021

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The @ISSRNC account will retweet a selection of posts about the conference found on #ISSRNC2021.

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.

