

Thursday, February 2nd

1:00–6:00pm – Conference Registration and Check In (Old Main, 3rd Floor Lobby)

4:00–6:00pm – Sylvester Johnson Keynote (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

6:00–7:00pm – “River Dialogues” Experiential Art Exhibition (Old Main Lawn)

Friday, February 3rd

8:00–11:00am – Conference Registration and Check In (Old Main, 3rd Floor Lobby)

Concurrent Session 1: 8:30am–10:30am

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Panel: Multispecies and Human-Technological Relationships: Redefining the Human on a Changing Planet

This panel addresses the idea of the human as it is intertwined with issues of anthropogenic exploitation and degradation of the planet and complicated by relationships with non-humans, including animals and machines. An ecologically informed concern with multispecies relationships and human-technological kinship helps us (re)define what it means to be human. Drawing on insights from literature, philosophy, and contemporary activist and religious communities, this panel reflects on the human condition in a time of planetary change. We explore recent developments in technology and in the fields of transhumanism, Afrofuturism, and critical animal and vegan studies with the aim of bringing to the fore the ethical, political, and religious implications of the relationality of the human, the machine, the nonhuman animal, and the environment.

- ◆ **Amber Lowe**–Indiana University, Bloomington
“Apprehending the (Afro)Future: Religion and Time in Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower”
- ◆ **Andrea Jain**–Indiana University, Indianapolis
“The Tillation of Meat and ‘Faking’ It: Black Veganism, Technology, and Multispecies Resistance on a Changing Planet”
- ◆ **Jacob Boss**–Indiana University, Bloomington
“Gods of Blood and Salt: Dante’s Transhumanism Revisited”
- ◆ **Michael Hemenway**–Case Western Reserve University
“Inter-facing the Other: Disrupting Domesticating Dispositions Through Encounters with Machines”
- ◆ **Timothy Beal**–Case Western Reserve University
“Gods, Monsters, and Machines: Artificial Stupidity in the Anthropocene”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

What Kind of Thought Is Gaia?

In historical scholarship about the Gaia Hypothesis, it is common for historians to acknowledge that Gaia was taken up by religious people or was encumbered by the problem of its association with religion. However, it is difficult to find detailed historical scholarship about the relationship between Gaia and the concepts religion names, like accounts of wholeness, narrative, and relationships between theory and practice. We gather this panel to begin asking: In the context of its association with something we are trying to evoke when we evoke religion, what kind of thought is Gaia? What can

“religion” or “religious” as a way of describing some features of Gaia’s reception or conceptual orientation teach us about religion? These questions have consequences not only for the historiography of the Gaia Hypothesis, but for the ways we understand the work done by biological accounts of self and nature, life and organism.

Chairs: Alison Renna and Sebastian Dutreuil

- ◆ **Sebastian Dutreuil**–Aix-Marseille Université, France
“Gaia vs Earth System Science: Which is the Most Secular? Some Perspectives from History and Philosophy of Science”
- ◆ **Timothy Howels**–Oxford University, UK
“Theological Retrievals: Understanding Gaia in Light of Concepts of Contingency and Necessity”
- ◆ **Caitlin Kossman**–Yale University
“Gaia as Myth and Politics”
- ◆ **Alison Renna**–Yale University
“Gaia’s Cybernetic Spirit”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Seeing Climate Technology in Traditional Ecological Knowledges (TEK): Unearthing Technologies in Woman-led Cases of Jewish Beekeepers, Indigenous Restaurateurs, and Catholic Farmers

Scholarly and food movements affirm Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as ancient systems retooled for contemporary application toward ecological conservation and restoration, a technological assertion. This panel represents North American case studies of women leaders in Jewish Canadian, Indigenous American, and Catholic American work with sustainable food. Each case study examines TEK tech, religious identity, agricultural sustainability, gender and leadership in material practice. Citing women leaders in religious sustainable agriculture, these presentations represent varying North American perspectives on technological pasts and futures shaped by TEK as social-material knowledge systems, valuing current invocations of “ancient” technologies for grounded life renewal. From Jewish bee-keeping to Catholic cosmo-centric emplacement to Indigenous restaurateurship, these leaders represent their contemporary practices as ancient traditions for practical edibility in life-affirming, climate-positive steps, which as TEK technologies can be reframed as technological solutions to restore land, livings beings, and meaningful encounter in material life.

- ◆ **Adrienne Krone**–Allegheny College
“Save the Bees! Pollinator Repopulation, Beekeeping Technologies, and Gender at Shores Jewish Environmental Programs”
- ◆ **Sarah Robinson**–Independent Scholar
“Old Tech, New Tech, Indigenous TEK, Future TEK: Restoring Food-Land Technologies in Traditional Ecological Knowledges (TEK) from an Indigenous Restaurant and a Catholic Farm”

Panel D (Online Session)

Animism and Creaturely Agency

- ◆ **Isaiah Ellis**–University of Toronto
“A Critique of Mycological Reason: Thinking with Fungi in the Ruins of Late Capitalism”
- ◆ **Carrie Dohe**–Bees for Peace
“Bees for Peace: Educating and Engaging People About Native Bees”
- ◆ **Mick Pope**–Whitley College
“Biblical Animism and the Holiness Code”

10:00 – 10:30am-----Coffee Break-----

Concurrent Session 2: 10:30am–12:00pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Apocalyptic Imaginaries: Faith, Fantasy, and Futurity in the End-Times (Hybrid session)

This panel examines the rhetoric and paradoxes of extinction and apocalypse. The Anthropocene has forced a religious-like reckoning with a number of paradoxes. How should humans understand our position, as both the origin and the destination of a cataclysm of our own creation? We offer three perspectives: Lisa Sideris (UC Santa Barbara, lsideris@ucsb.edu) critically examines de-extinction technologies and the redemptive language employed to allay apocalyptic anxieties. For George Church and like-minded de-extinctionists, the extinction crisis presents an excellent extractivist opportunity. Stefan Skrimshire (U. Leeds, UK, S.Skrimshire@leeds.ac.uk) challenges the whiggish triumphalism of technology to “preserve” — in some sort of genetic jam — a slice of humanity in various arks, seedbanks, and nuclear repositories. Evander Price (Indiana University, pricecrh@iu.edu) addresses survivalism, the individual impulse for self-preservation which, conversely, creates the need for self-preservation and, collectively, predestines apocalypse. Sarah Pike (California State, Chico, spike@csuchico.edu) will provide a response.

- ◆ **Lisa Sideris**—University of California, Santa Barbara
“Toil and Trouble: Religion and Extractivism in De-Extinction Technologies”
- ◆ **Stefan Skrimshire**—School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science, University of Leeds, UK
“Perishable Goods: An Apocalyptic Critique of Deep Future Technologies of Preservation, Storage and Burial”
- ◆ **Evander Price**—Center for Religion and the Human, Indiana University
“Prospecting Apocalypse: Survivalists, Doomsday Preppers, and Faith of the Technophiles”
- ◆ **Respondent: Sarah Pike**—California State University, Chico

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Representing Nature in an Age of Social Media

- ◆ **Victoria Machado**—Rollins College
“A World Wide Web of Water: Social Media’s Impact on the Local Environmental Movement”
- ◆ **Theodore Camara**—Northeastern Seminary
“In TikTok We Trust: The Double-Edged Sword of Social Media in the Battle Against Climate Misinformation within American Christianity”
- ◆ **Mitchel Hickman**—University of California, Santa Barbara
“Playing Deliberately: What Video Games Have to Teach us About Self and World”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Mapping Sustainable Cities: Seeking Common Ground Between Theology and Science for Just Transitions

This interdisciplinary panel presents a developing inquiry seeking to understand what areas of intersection exist between theology and the science for just transitions in Los Angeles. After three decades of development, the new field of sustainability science, largely-oriented toward cities, may under closer examination prove wholly inadequate to deal with the issues it was initially designed to address. Built largely upon modernist value assumptions, its entire range of outlooks has failed to account for the character virtues needed to realize sustainable approaches for the future, which are better found working within the different religious traditions' theologies and ethical outlooks. Therefore we seek to understand what part character virtues play in the process, and how religion/theology factors in. This panel presents the intellectual contours of an ongoing project, utilizing network theory to discern networks of dialogue, understanding, and information exchange about what is needed for a just transition to greater sustainability.

Discussants:

- ◆ **Jason Sexton**—University of California, Los Angeles, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- ◆ **Stephanie Pincetl**—University of California, Los Angeles, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- ◆ **Alesia Montgomery**—University of California, Los Angeles, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

Panel D (Online Session)

The Cambridge Companion to Christianity and the Environment Round Table Discussion

The 'Cambridge Companion to Christianity and the Environment' is a newly published textbook that has assembled the work of a range of international scholars on the subject from a diversity of fields. The textbook seeks to create a comprehensive companion to the complex relationship between Christianity and the environment that moves beyond disciplinary boundaries. On the occasion of the book's publication this panel proposes a round table to consider the volume. Four contributors will offer brief discussions of some of the central chapters of the text. A respondent, will lead a discussion with the contributors, discussing their individual contributions, as well as the contents, themes, wider aims of the volume, and the challenges of creating a textbook on such a broad topic. Significant time will be allowed for audience questions and discussions with the authors.

- ◆ **Jacob Sherman**—California Institute of Integral Studies
"The Book of Nature Tradition"
- ◆ **Jame Schaefer**—Marquette University
"Venerating Earth: Three Sacramental Perspectives"
- ◆ **Charles Taliaferro**—St. Olaf College
"Human and Nonhuman Animals from Secular and Sacred Perspectives"
- ◆ **Alexander J. B. Hampton**—University of Toronto
"Nature and Aesthetics: Methexis, Mimēsis and Poiēsis"
- ◆ **Chair and Respondent: Robin Globus Veldman**—Texas A&M University

12:00 – 1:00pm -----Lunch-----

Concurrent Session 3: 1:00pm–2:30pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Panel: Decolonizing for the Planetary Community

Sylvia Wynter has argued that the idea of human and subsequently what the “humanities” are, grew out of a colonial context. The Human was made in the image of the European, western, white (and straight and wealthy) male. All other humans are classified as more or less “like animals” or more or less “civilized” according to how well they match the ideal human. This hegemonic regime is closely tied to the system of patriarchy against which feminists, womanists, queer theorists, and many others have been arguing for years. This session brings together 5 different scholars to discuss decolonial theory, religion, and nature.

- ◆ **Whitney A. Bauman**–Florida International University
“Planetary Thinking in a Post-Human World”
- ◆ **Jay Johnson**–University of Sydney
“Prosaic Shamanism: Sensory Ecology and ‘Everyday Ethics’”
- ◆ **Lisa Stenmark**–San Jose State University
“Decolonizing ‘Planetary Thinking’”
- ◆ **Carol Wayne White**–Bucknell University
“Gods, Monsters, and Machines: Artificial Stupidity in the Anthropocene”
- ◆ **Discussant: Kocku von Stukraad**–University of Groningen
“Postcolonial Thinking and Human Regimes of Exploitation: Toward a Biocentric Postcolonial Ethics”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Place-Based Nature Spiritualities

- ◆ **Chris Dunn**–Colorado School of Mines
“Poetics as an Antidote to the Technocratic Management of Wild Nature”
- ◆ **Katherine Usik**–University of Florida
“Spirits as Eco-Defenders: The Role of Spirits in Western and Northern Europe’s Environmental Development”
- ◆ **Margaux Crider Robinson**–University of Kentucky
“‘The entire creation is within them’: Gender, Ecology, and Lived Religion”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Religion and Nature in Popular Culture

- ◆ **Lucas Johnston**–Wake Forest University
“Spiritualizing Flow: Technologies of High Performance and Transcendence”
- ◆ **Avalon Jade Theisen**–Arizona State University
“Avatar, Mining, and Religion”

Panel D (Online Session)

Coming to Your Senses: When Religion & Perception Goes Online

In this virtual presentation Beatrice Marovich (an academic working at the intersection of theology, philosophy, and the environmental humanities) and Krista Dragomer (a sound and visual artist, based in New York City) will think together about their experimental co-taught virtual course called “Coming to Your Senses”. Dragomer will describe how her sound and visual art (as well as her online courses) play with sensation and perception. And Marovich will reflect on how this teaching experience challenged her to rethink her own, primarily text-based and in-person, pedagogical approach. Together Marovich and Dragomer will also explore how this course model might serve as a method of engaging scholars, and students, across disciplines to think about religion and spirituality, and the way that they actively shape our engagement with our physical environments—even when our conversations have to take root and blossom within a virtual setting.

- ◆ **Beatrice Marovich**—Hanover College
- ◆ **Krista Dragomer**—Independent Artist

Concurrent Session 4: 2:30pm–4:00pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Right-Wing Religion, Politics, and the Environment in the US

Scholarship on religion and nature has focused relatively little on the intersection of right-wing political movements, religiosity, and environmentalism(s). The radicalization of the right, which has become increasingly apparent over the last two election cycles in the United States, calls for increased attention to this contested terrain. What are the relationships between right-wing movements and contemporary environmental movements? In what ways does religious discourse contribute to anti-environmental sentiment and activism on the far right? How have right-wing politics infused religious spaces and shaped their engagement with environmental issues? What do these efforts portend in a warming world? Our papers advance scholarship at the nexus of religion, nature and culture by investigating how religion and environmental politics intersect on the contemporary right.

- ◆ **Chair: Sarah McFarland Taylor**
- ◆ **Chris Crews**—Denison University
“The Far-Right's Culture War on the Environment”
- ◆ **Matthew Hartman**—Graduate Theological Union
“The Nature of Anti-Immigration Rhetoric: Religious Identity, Right-Wing Politics, and the History of American Environmentalism”
- ◆ **Bernard Zaleha**—Monterey Peninsula College
“Intense Apocalypticism, Collective Narcissism, and Hellfire Extremism within the Calvary Chapel Movement: A Review of New Data Revealing Strong Barriers to Climate Change Concern”
- ◆ **Robin Globus Veldman**—Texas A&M University
“Global Warming and Other Religions: Authenticity Discourse on the Political Right”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Nature Spirituality Across Cultures

- ◆ **Bron Taylor**—University of Florida
“Exhibitionism: Animism, Kinship, and Conservation at Science and Art Museums around the World”
- ◆ **Yael Dansac**—Free University of Brussels
“Claiming Ancient Wisdom through Geobiology: Occultism, Alternative Knowledge, and Spiritual Aspects of an Emergent Practice in European Megalithic Sites”
- ◆ **Mariangela Carpinteri**—University of California, Santa Barbara
“Shintō Spiritual Technology: The Case of Ōharae”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Religious Conceptions of Nature, Science, and Technology

- ◆ **Mai Lootah**—Rice University
“Cosmic Chaos and Transformation in Scientific Qu'rānic Exegeses”
- ◆ **Tanhum Yoreh**—University of Toronto
“Shades of Green: Environmental Action in Places of Worship”
- ◆ **Anna Lisa Beck**—Université libre de Bruxelles
“Technology, Control, and Violence: The Cost of Ritual Propriety in Ancient Chinese Philosophy”

4:00—4:30pm-----BREAK-----

4:30—5:30pm: Iris Book Award and Discussion (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

5:30—6:30pm: “River Dialogues” Experiential Art Exhibition (Old Main Lawn)

6:30---7:00pm-----BREAK-----

7:00—9:00pm: Reception

Saturday, February 4th

Concurrent Session 5: 8:30am–10:30am

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Religious Rhetorics of Resource Extraction

This panel brings together three papers that use religious studies methodologies to elucidate the discourses and practices that animate fossil fuel extractivism in North America. These papers aim to disrupt, on the one hand, scholarship that isolates religion from broader currents of economic and ecological activity, and, on the other hand, scholarship on energy and extractivism that overlooks religious and/or spiritual knowledges. Resource extraction is always already religious in that it depends on specific understandings of “nature” and “human.” Examining the religious rhetoric(s) of resource extraction brings into clearer view how coloniality and environmental injustices are rationalized, how societies imagine and pursue their energy futures, and how burgeoning religious nationalisms and novel forms of socio-political domination are linked to energy extractivism.

- ◆ **Evan Berry**–Arizona State University
“Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral? Political Ontologies of Fossil Fuel Extractivism”
- ◆ **Judith Brunton**–Harvard University Weatherhead Center
“Oil’s Energy: Theorizing Energy Epistemologies with Industrial Religion and Civil Religion in Calgary”
- ◆ **Amanda M. Nichols**–University of California, Santa Barbara
“@I_sodope, #Memes, and Religion: Nuclear Technology for a Carbon Neutral Future?”
- ◆ **Respondent: Joseph Witt**–University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Ecocriticism: Reflections on Limits and Transgression

- ◆ **Ryan Darr**–Yale University
“Extinction and De-Extinction on a Human-Dominated Planet: Ethical Reflections on Recent Literature”
- ◆ **Emily Theus**–Yale University
“Peripheral Visions of Ecological Crisis: Refusal and Revelation in Jeff VanderMeer’s ‘Hummingbird Salamander’ and Rumaan Alam’s ‘Leave the World Behind’”
- ◆ **Wendy Wiseman**–University of California, Santa Barbara
“In Defense of Prometheus: Reverence for Geocosmic Limits in Aeschylus’ Prometheus Bound”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Negotiating Science and the Secular

- ◆ **Dominic Wilkins**–Syracuse University
“How Are Geographers Engaging Religion, Nature, and Culture?”
- ◆ **Shakir Stephen**–University of California, Santa Barbara
“Translating for a Better Future: Strategies and Perspectives of Professional Scientific Christian Organizations”
- ◆ **Adelaide Mandeville**–Harvard University
“Changes in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of Weather Control in the Twentieth-Century U.S.”

10:00 – 10:30am-----Coffee Break-----

Plenary Session: 10:30am–12:00pm (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

DON'T PANIC: An ISSRNC Goers' Guide to Geo-Orientations, Earth Escape Narratives, Space Colonization, TikTok Starseeds, and Elon Musk Devotional Digital Fandoms

This session provides a “sneak preview” of Routledge’s forthcoming (2023) volume on Religion and Outer Space. Volume contributors and co-editors will examine the complex entanglements of religion and outer space in and through a variety of approaches and analytical lenses as they explore dimensions of religion as it relates to space exploration, adaptations of religion to space, space marketing, Elon Musk devotional digital fandoms, new online/TikTok space religion communities, apocalyptic/post-apocalyptic visions of earth, possible extraterrestrial human futures, and the implications for the health and wellbeing of our own planet. Come get a taste of what’s to come in this exciting new volume!

- ◆ **Eric Michael Mazur**–Virginia Wesleyan University
“Strangers in a Really Strange Land: Jews, Geo-Orientations, and the Yenevelt of Outer Space”
- ◆ **Sarah McFarland Taylor**–Northwestern University
“The Wrong Way Home: St. Elon’s Digital Cult of Personality, Messianic Mediations of Mars, and the Musketeer Meme Militia”
- ◆ **Catherine Newell**–University of Miami
“After Us: Contrasting Scientific and Religious Visions of an Earth Without People”
- ◆ **Benjamin E. Zeller**–Lake Forest College
“To Infinity, but Not Beyond? Unicult’s (Trans)Humanist New Religion”

12:00 – 1:00pm -----Lunch-----

Concurrent Session 6: 1:00pm–2:30pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Interplanetary Initiative Roundtable

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Imagining the Future On and Beyond Earth

- ◆ **Daniel Capper**–University of Southern Mississippi
“Buddhism, Moon Mining, and Multipurpose Lunar Land Reserves”
- ◆ **Nathan Jowers**–Georgetown University
“Beyond the Dust from Which We Came: Theological Reflections on Dying in Space”
- ◆ **Brett Esaki**–University of Arizona
“Grace Lee Boggs’s Post-Industrial New Age”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Land and Food Practices in an Age of Technology

- ◆ **Harrison Rosenberg**–University of Florida
“Gardening as Nature Spirituality: Dark Green Religion and Direct Connections to the Earth”
- ◆ **Adrienne Krone**–Allegheny College
“Scientists, Cells, and Rabbis: The Co-Constitutive Nature of Religion and Technology in the Development of Cultured Meat”
- ◆ **Sr. Damien Marie Savino**–Aquinas College
“The Ecological and Spiritual Benefits of Small-Scale Rewilding: A Franciscan Case Study”

Concurrent Session 7: 2:30pm–4:00pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Panel: Art Beyond the Data Point: Techgnosis and the Anthropocene

This session features three short position papers from interdisciplinary scholars that establish critical perspectives on the intersection between art, technology, and spirituality in our moment of planetary emergency (often problematized as the “Anthropocene”). The three papers are complemented by a concluding dialogue with two contemporary artists whose praxes have utilized various kinds of future-oriented technologies (film, VR and augmented reality) to foster viewer/participant experiences which have been discussed by some critics as both evocative of categories of religious or spiritual experience (states of wonder, awe), as well as carrying environmental import. While diverse in their methodologies, the panelists (and artists) share in a concern to work against a kind of false dichotomy that has sometimes underwritten conversations about environmental art and ecospirituality: that good “green” art undoes the techne of technology, and that the space of the virtual is somehow impoverished or adjacent to the plenitude of the phenomenological world.

- ◆ **Emily Pothast**–Graduate Theological Union
“Living Portals: Culture Work, Technology, and Black Environmental Imaginaries”
- ◆ **Sara-Duana Meyer**–Independent Researcher and Curator

“Futuring Like Trees: Forest-Imagining as Climate-Crisis Technology & Art”

- ◆ **Christer Lundahl**—Artist, Sweden

“Technologies of the Invisible: On Unknown Clouds and the Geo-affect of Rock and Water”

- ◆ **Nathalia Bell**—Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley

“Zigarettes: The Technology (and Spirituality) of Smoking”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Collapse, Catastrophe, and Disaster

- ◆ **Kyle Kaplan**—University of California, Santa Barbara

“Ontological Ambiguity & Climate Catastrophe: Tiantai Experiments Concerning the Environmental Crisis”

- ◆ **Brady McCartney**—University of Florida

“Latter-day Saints and Natural Disaster Preparedness: A Technological Response to Climate Change”

- ◆ **Bron Taylor**—University of Florida

“Novel Apocalypticisms: Science, Religion, and the Collapse of Socioecological Systems”

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Ethical and Spiritual Reflections on Nature and AI

- ◆ **Tory Field**—Center for Earth Ethics, Union Theological Seminary

“Look Up: Spiritual Dimensions of our Capacity to Sense the Sky in a Screen-Addicted Culture”

- ◆ **Joyce Ann Konigsburg**—DePaul University

“AI Nudging: An Ethical Tug-of-War over Climate Change”

- ◆ **Jessica Beaudette**—Arizona State University

“Projections of Consciousness: Artificial Intelligence as the Voice of Nature”

4:00—4:30-----**Break**-----

4:30—6:30pm: Mary Jane Rubenstein Keynote (Carson Center Ballroom)

6:30---7:00-----**Break**-----

7:00pm–9:00pm: Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, February 5th

Concurrent Session 8: 8:30am–10:30am

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

Panel: Judaism in the Anthropocene: New Research in Jewish-Environmental Thought and Action

As the oldest Abrahamic faith, Judaism is prominent among world faiths, but with only about six million Jews in the United States and about 15 million worldwide, research into its environmental aspects remains nascent, with a small but growing number of scholars delving into the intersection of Judaism and ecology. This session presents new research on both Jewish-environmental organizations as well as new environmental perspectives on millennia-old texts.

- ◆ **David Krantz**–Arizona State University
“A History and Typology of the Jewish-Environmental Movement in the United States”
- ◆ **Ellen Bernstein**–Independent Scholar
“Towards a Holy Ecology: A Meditation on the Song of Songs”
- ◆ **Ariel Mayse**–Stanford University
“As a Deep River Rises: Rights, Obligations, and Jewish Environmental Thinking”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Publicly Engaged Scholarship: Climate Insecurity, Socio-Political Unrest, and the Future of Academic Research

Ongoing debates about the effects of anthropogenic climate change on individuals and communities has prompted scholars to think critically about the benefits, risks, and complications of engaged research. Building on an ongoing project on Publicly Engaged Scholarship, this alternative format session seeks to bring discussants and participants into deeper conversation about this question and asks whether, and if so to what extent, growing socio-political unrest and climate insecurity inform the ways that scholars (can) do publicly engaged research.

- ◆ **Judith Ellen Brunton**–Harvard University Weatherhead Center
- ◆ **Chris Crews**–Denison University
- ◆ **Victoria Machado**–Rollins College
- ◆ **Jeremy Sorgen**–University of California, Berkeley
- ◆ **Joseph Witt**–University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- ◆ **Moderator: Amanda M. Nichols**–University of California, Santa Barbara

Panel C (Old Main, Tooker Boardroom)

Not a Moment to Waste: Religions Address the Discarded in Daily Life

This session will touch on a variety of religious conceptions of waste—bodily and more broadly. Studying the practices, orienting stories, and rituals surrounding the who/what/when/where/how of specific material discard in various religious traditions provides insight as to how these traditions begin with the end in mind (or don't).

- ◆ **Sharon Moran**—SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
“World without End: Religion and Waste”
- ◆ **Elizabeth Allison**—California Institute of Integral Studies
“Wasting Shangri-La? The Contradictions of Consumption Colonialism in Himalayan Bhutan”
- ◆ **Sarah Nahar**—SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
“When the Earth Goes to Shit”

Panel D (Online Session)

End Times and Post/Transhuman Imaginings

- ◆ **Jessica Lombard**—The Chinese University of Hong Kong
“Eschatological Religions and the Transhumanist Grand Narrative: Links and Interrelations”
- ◆ **Jurji Dobraveck**—NOEMIS Institute - JARINA Bohinj
“The Fisherman and His Wife: From Eco-apocalypse and Eco-anxiety to Cyclical Coexistence”

10:00 – 10:30-----Coffee Break-----

Concurrent Session 9: 10:30am–12:00pm

Panel A (Old Main, Carson Center Ballroom)

A Transhuman Panelfesto

This is a manifesto in the form of a panel; a panelfesto. It is a challenge to publishing trends in transhumanism that pushes for engagement with the grassroots including psychedelics, body modification, and death positivity in fields dominated by themes of immortality and perfection. The panelists are all involved with the Human Augmentation Research Network (HARN), whose mission since 2018 is to build community around a religious studies approach to researching transhumanism that was decidedly uninvolved in Christian apologetics, as much of the work to date has been. Our subjects of study are the grinders, a grassroots group of cyborg punks (Jacob), immortalists and radical life extensionists (Jeremy), psychedelic scientists and psychonauts (Sharday), and Jewish transhumanism (Elisha). Our research programmes have led us to think about religion as our informants and interlocutors trouble the religious-secular divide; nature as they cyberize and hybridize their bodies with transhuman technology and psychedelics; and culture as they rebel against and reinforce the intersecting imperatives to thrive and find meaning while navigating the economic and legal restriction of the tools they rely on to foster their life worlds. All our panelists engage how their research subjects defy the religion and science dichotomy. Indeed, transhumanists' impatience with trying to divide religion and secularity show us some alternative ways of approaching the way we work with this binary as a discipline that is anxious to distinguish its critical work on religion from theology's work of religion.

- ◆ **Jacob Boss**—Indiana University
“Transhumanism is for Punks”

- ◆ **Jeremy Cohen**–McMaster University
“I am a Death Positive Transhumanist”
- ◆ **Sharday Mosurinjohn**–Queen’s University, Canada
“Morphological Freedom isn't free without Cognitive Liberation”
- ◆ **E. S. Breton**–Indiana University
“Reframing Transhumanism: A New Jewish Perspective on Future Possibilities”

Panel B (Old Main, Basha Family Library)

Technology and Human Becoming

- ◆ **Christine Chou**–Fu Jen Catholic University
“A Kierkegaardian Ironic Re-imagination of Post/Human Myths in The Concept of Anxiety and Tomorrow’s Eve”
- ◆ **Libby O’Neil**–Yale University
“Systems, Cybernetics, and Catholic Mysticism: The Case of Ludwig von Bertalanffy and Nicholas of Cusa”
- ◆ **Braden Molhoek**–Graduate Theological Union
“Beyond Biological Autonomy: Rolling Blackouts, Brainjacking, and the Threat of Planned Obsolescence”

Panel C (Online Session)

Rewilding’s Radical Roots and Uncertain Future

This panel considers rewilding as neologism, strategy, and body of techniques for ecological and spiritual restoration around which religious ecologies and lifeways, ancient and futurist, pattern themselves in the immediacy of the present. Following the passing of wilderness activist, rewilding advocate, and Earth First! co-founder Dave Foreman, tensions and contradictions inherent to rewilding will need to be illuminated and integrated if rewilding is to have the commensurate role in addressing the scale and depth of damage proponents claim. Exploring such themes, this panel considers why contemporary variations of rewilding have often been considered “not wild enough,” rewilding’s close relationship to right-wing appropriations of anti-modern discourse, unconscious healing potentials of wildness and techniques, rewilding as an adaptive trans-species technology, and as a strategic approach adopted by “extremists” and international bodies alike, in the context of the 2030 deadline the U.N. has set as “humanity’s last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change.”

- ◆ **Matt Switzer**–California Institute of Integral Studies
“Rewilding’s Radical Roots and Uncertain Future”
- ◆ **Michael Lynn Wellman**–California Institute of Integra
“An Ecology of Rewilding: Weaving Resistance, Reskilling, and Remembering”
- ◆ **Sarah Pike**–California State University, Chico
“Rewilding Technologies and the Ritualization of Loss and Redemption”
- ◆ **Discussant:** Chantal Noa Forbes–Randolph-Macon College
“Post-Humanist Futures of Becoming Earth: Ontological-Fluidity, a Transspecies Rewilding”

1:00—4:00pm: ----- Field Trip-----