

Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR) Biennial Conference UC Santa Barbara, June 21-23, 2025

*Conference Theme:
Religiosities, Ecologies, and Environmentalisms
in the Age of the Anthropocene*



SAR is grateful for our Collaborators:

American Anthropological Association (Amaris Morningstar, Chris Martinez)
International Society for Study of Religion, Nature, & Culture (Lisa Sideris, Amanda Nichols)
UCSB Conference & Hospitality Services (Lauren Weiner, Eriko MacDonald)

SAR warmly thanks our Generous Co-sponsors:

UCSB Bren School for Environmental Sciences and Management
UCSB Department of Religious Studies
UCSB Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life
UCSB Department of East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies
UCSB Center for Taiwan Studies
UCSB Department of Anthropology

Thanks to the SAR Biennial Conference Committee Members:

Amira Mittermaier (U of Toronto)
Michael Edwards (U of Sydney)
Neena Mahadev (Duke University)
Mayfair Yang (UC Santa Barbara)

Heartfelt Thanks to the UC Santa Barbara Student Volunteer Assistance Team:

Miriam Hamburger (Relig. Studies)
Susie Wu (East Asian Studies)
Krisharyanto Umbu Deta (Relig. Studies)
Yuan Liang (East Asian Studies)
Spencer Ning Zheng (Ph.D. student in Relig. Studies from Renmin University, Beijing)

SAR is Proud to Announce the Recipients of Our Student/Junior Scholar Conference Travel Grants:

Shahana Munazir (U of Wisconsin, Madison)

Marcelo de Medeiros Reis Filho ()

Muhammat Sabar Prihatin (Indonesia)

Smytta Yadav (U of Sussex)

Isobel-Marie Johnston

Jamie Glisson (U of Edinburgh)

Elazar Ben-Lulu (Ariel University, Israel)

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**2025 Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Keynote Lecture
By Prof. Ana Mariella Bacigalupo**



Presented by SAR, In collaboration with the *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, & Culture*, and the *UCSB Walter H Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life*

Professor Bacigalupo earned her Ph.D. in anthropology from UCLA and is internationally recognized for her groundbreaking research at the intersection of Indigenous cosmologies, decolonial politics, and the more-than-human world. Her work explores the deep interconnections between spirits, shamans, sentient landscapes, and the undead—challenging Western assumptions about life, time, memory, gender, and the very boundaries of the human. Drawing from critical race and feminist theory, queer theory, new materialism, and studies of indigeneity in the Colonial Anthropocene, Professor Bacigalupo shows how shamanic discourses and practices offer powerful tools for resisting colonial and neocolonial structures. She reveals how Indigenous shamans—mediating across worlds and temporalities—act as public intellectuals and cultural critics. Their engagements with spirits and sacred landscapes not only confront the legacies of colonialism, but also inspire visions of social and environmental justice.

Professor Bacigalupo has conducted long-term fieldwork in Chile and Peru and has shaped scholarly conversations around the globe. She is the author of *Thunder Shaman: Making History with Mapuche Spirits in Patagonia*, *Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power and Healing Among the Chilean Mapuche*, and several other influential books and edited volumes. Her publications—over sixty peer-reviewed articles and book chapters—continue to influence scholars in anthropology, Indigenous studies, and the environmental humanities.

2025 SAR Biennial Conference Program

Saturday June 21

12:00 – 1:20 pm SAR Conference Registration – get Conference ID tags
U-Cen Mezzanine level, inside front entrance

1:20 – 1:50 pm Welcoming Remarks – Mayfair Yang, President of SAR
U-Cen Mezzanine level, inside front entrance

2:00 – 3:30 pm

1) *Embodied Liminalities: Animals and Ecology in Ancient Mesoamerican Belief*

SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level

Kathryn Hudson (Eckerd College) -- Locating Liminality: Biodiversity, Ecology, and the Contextualization of Embodiment

Carmen Self (Eckerd College) -- Cervid Changelings: Deer as Embodiments of Liminality and Transformation in Ancient Maya Spirituality

Colleen Hall (Eckerd College) -- Across a Serpentine Bridge: Connection, Transportation, and Liminality in Mesoamerican Spirituality

Syndle Davidson (Eckerd College) -- Divine Metamorphoses: Itzpapalotl, Liminality, and Change in Ancient Mexico

Chynarose Perez (Eckerd College) -- Monstrous Meanings: Cryptozoological Hybridity and Liminality in Mesoamerican Cosmologies

Karen Duncan (Eckerd College) -- Writing in Between: The Graphic Liminalities of Animal Figures in Maya Spiritual Texts

2) *Creator and Created: Exploring the Interplay Between Believers and their God/s in a Fragile World* -- State Street Room, Lower level

Amira Mittermaier (U of Toronto) -- Allah in Apocalyptic Times

Katinka A Schyberg (U of Copenhagen) -- “Love thy Nature: an ethnography of eco-theological efforts within the Danish Church.”

Tilak Parekh (U of Cambridge) -- Mandirs: Vehicles for Environmental Action

Viota Clark-Gould (U of Cambridge) -- ‘*She’lo asani isha*’ - Masculine Perfection in Ultra-Orthodox Judaism: a Created Purpose

Susie Triffit (U of Cambridge) -- “Every time we do wrestling church, it's always: who will we baptise today?": Finding hope through epistemological reorientation in Bradford

Meghan Rose Donnelly (U of Manchester) -- A Human is a Mystery: Theologizing the Other in an Indonesian Catholic Convent (**Zoom**)

3) *Expressions and Formations of Gender in Religious Practices Flying A Studios, Mezzanine*

Asma Ul Hosna (U of Saskatchewan) – Navigating Religious Boundaries: A Comprehensive Study of Reproductive Decision-Making Among First Generation Immigrant Women in Saskatoon

Maximilian Conrad (UT-Austin) – Muscles, Men, and the Mother of God: Hypermasculinity and Right-Wing Politics in American Orthodox Conversion

Mahtab Mahmoudi (U of Chicago) – Mothering the Nation: Women’s Participation in Shi’i Seminaries in Post- Revolutionary Iran

Shahana Munazir (U of Wisconsin) – Divine Temporalities: Islamic Ethics of Destiny and Patient Mobility Among Muslim Women in Urban India

Rachelle Scott (U of Tennessee) – Beautiful Buddhist Bodies: Beauty & Religious Piety in Contemporary Asia **(Zoom)**

4) *Indigenous Religiosities in Capitalist Extractivism and State Developmentalism*
SB Harbor Room, Lower Level

Ala Uddin (U of Chittagong) – Climate Change and the Spirits of the Land: The Role of Animistic Beliefs in Environmental Conservation among Bangladesh’s Indigenous Communities

Hector Guazon (U of the Philippines - Diliman) – Becoming Ecologies of Support: The “Papatayan” and the Indigenous People of Maligcong, The Philippines

Daniel Cooper (College of Marin) – Amokokupal and the Alleluia Penumbra: A Spiritual Geography of an Indigenous Christian Landscape

Krisharyanto Umbu Deta (UC Santa Barbara) – Marapu Indigenous Economy: Ritual Agriculture in between Modern Disenchantment and Religious Ecology

Dailen Culver (SOAS) -- Worshipping the Spirit of Cacao: "Ceremonial" Cacao and New Age Environmentalism **(Zoom)**

3:30 – 3:50 pm Coffee Break

3:50 -- 5:20 pm Saturday June 21

1) *Roundtable: The Buddhism of Anthropology: Theories and Theologies*
SB Harbor Room, Lower Level

Michael Edwards (U of Sydney)

Felicity Aulino (U of Massachusetts)

Nalika Gajaweera (UC Irvine)

Hannah Gould (U of Melbourne) **(Zoom)**

2) *Roundtable: Citation Revisited* -- **SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level**

Ingie Hovland (U of Georgia)

Britt Halvorson (Colby College)

Elizabeth Perez (UC Santa Barbara)

Fadeke Castor (Northeastern U)

3) *The Mediatization of Religious Cultures* -- **Flying A Studios, Mezzanine**

Jacques Parker (UC Santa Barbara) – Affective Phantasmal Experiences: Affect and Senses in Watcher’s “Ghost Files” and the Ghost Hunting Experience

Muhammad Osama Imran (U of Minnesota) -- Between the Grave and the Cloud: Islamic Breathing Ritual Performed via Zoom

Rodney Sappington (Instit. For Advanced Consciousness) – Exploring AI-Driven Empathy and Self-Transcendence

4) *New Directions in the Anthropology of Mormonism* -- **State Street Room, Lower level**

Erin Stiles (U of Nevada Reno) – Waiting to be Born: Visits from Prescient Spirit Children in Utah Mormonism

Adam Dunstan (Kenai Peninsula College) – Of Temples, Forests, and Hills: Or, an Ethnography of Latter-Day Saint Sacred Landscapes

Sujej Vega (Arizona State U) – *Fotos y Recuerdos*: Intimate Futures in Personal Collected Pasts

Jason Palmer (R.I.S.E. Academy) – There is No End to Race: Peruvian Mormon Lineage and Skin Theologies in Utah

Jacob Hickman (Brigham Young University) – Panel Discussant

Sunday June 22

8:00 – 8:30 am **Conference Registration – U-Cen Mezzanine, inside the entrance**

8:30 – 10:00 am

1) *Homes for the Dead* -- **SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level**

Ruth Toulson (Maryland Instit. College of Art) -- Tethering the Dead in the Singaporean Funeral Parlor: Ritual Actions for Uncertain States

Huwy-min Lucia Liu (George Mason U) -- Humans, Spirits, and Affect at Three Sites of Bodily Disposal in Urban Shanghai

Leilah Vevaina (Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong) -- Building Diaspora Settlements Through Zoroastrian Necrofinance

Sally Wang (Harvard Divinity School) -- Death-scape Remade in Post-Pandemic China

Andrew Kipnis (Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong) -- Yin and Yang Residences in Hong Kong
(Zoom)

2) *The End(s) of Capitalism? Religion and the Emergence of “Ethical Economics”?*

Flying A Studios, Mezzanine

Sam Victor (McGill Univ.) -- Between Market Rate and Social Impact: Negotiating Value in a Montreal Church’s Moral Bazaar

Hillary Kael (McGill Univ.) -- In the Capital of Closed Churches: Heritage Buildings as Social Entrepreneurship in Quebec

Esra Tunc (San Diego State U) -- A Café for The Community: Muslim Economies and Relationalities in Inner Cities

Matteo Benussi (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) -- The Blessed Share: Axial Religion and Moral Chrematistics

Rebecca Bartel (San Diego State U) -- Economies of Peace and the Forensic Accounting of Reparations in Colombia’s Process of Restorative Justice

Daromir Rudnyckij (U of Victoria) -- Discussant

3) *The Ontological Turn and Cosmology* -- **State Street Room, Lower level**

Joe Blankholm (UC Santa Barbara) -- The Discourse of Metaphysical Spirituality: Dispositions, Beliefs, Practices, and Institutions

Sriram Balasubramanian -- On the Transitoriness of Satori and the Recollecting Agency Manifestation – The Identity Paradox in a Reflexive Modus

David Shorter (UCLA) -- Caretaking Relations “From the Ground Up”: Turning from Ontology to Post-Human Inquiry

Hanini Rajesh (Delhi University) -- Divinity, Dissent and Dissolution: Situating the Iconoclastic Sant Tradition in Contemporary Delhi

Mieke Goeninck (Catholic U of Leuven, Belgium) -- Reforming the Self, Unveiling the World: Introducing the Ontological Turn in an Anthropology of Islamic Piety **(Zoom)**

4) *Anthropological Research on Buddhism and Ecological Conservation Intersecting Spiritual Practice and Environmental Sustainability* -- **SB Harbor Room, Lower Level**

Chao YU (Buddhist Yong-he Palace, Beijing) and Dedong WEI (Renmin Univ.) -- The Eco-incense Offering Initiative at the Buddhist Yong-he Palace in Beijing

Danfeng LIU (Renmin Univ.) -- Anthropological Research on the Eco-practices of Tibetan Buddhism

Yeon-ju Bae (Ferris State U) -- Scales of Buddhist Interrelatedness: Local Politics of Agriculture and Argumentation in a South Korean Village

Dedong WEI (Renmin Univ.) and Mengning ZHANG (Renmin Univ.) -- Re-Greening the Silk Road: Engaged Buddhist Afforestation in the Hexi Corridor of Northwest China

Xian'an SHI (Union Theological Seminary NYC) – Rituals of Buddhist Animal Care

10:10 – 11:40 am Sunday June 22

1) *Environmentality and the Elemental Media of Religious Life: Sensations, Sovereignties, Theologies* -- **SB Harbor Room, Lower Level**

Timothy Cooper (U of Cambridge) -- Eating earth, Bleeding soil, and the hair in the clay: On a *ghaybi* approach to Environmental Media

Michael Edwards (U of Sydney) -- Solid states: American Buddhism, Burmese revolution and the media of solidarity

Patrick Eisenlohr (U of Goettingen) -- Sonic environmentality and transoceanic connections in Mauritian devotional vocal recitations

Clayton Goodgame (Yale U) -- Liquid Religion: Water, Oil, & Spirits of Eastern Mediterranean

Valentina Napolitano (U of Toronto) -- Soil and Fetal Life

Raffaella Taylor-Seymour (Columbia U) -- Spirits, Ghosts and God in Zimbabwe's Landscapes

2) *Political Theology, Sovereignty, and Nation-State (1)* -- **SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level**

Josefina Valdes Lanas (UC Berkeley) – The Tyranny of Immanence: Flexibility and Authoritarianism in Everyday Sacrifices of a Catholic Elite in Chile

Derrick Lemons (U of Georgia) – President Trump's Faith Advisory Team's Influence on National Politics

Douglas Bafford (Harvard U) – American Evangelicals on Apartheid: Anti-Politics and Eschatology in the Ministry of Billy Graham

Sam Shuman (U of Virginia) – Flight from Empire: Sanctuary and Sovereignty in a Hasidic Royal Court

3) *Pilgrimage, Religious Spatiality and Movement* -- **State Street Room, Lower level**

Kunal Joshi (Johns Hopkins U) – Between Myth and Memory: North Indian Pilgrimage as Discursive Space

Chunxia Yuan (Southwest Minorities Univ.) – Daoist Temple and Rural Society: An Anthropological Investigation of Religion in the Celebration of the Birth of Emperor Zhenwu at Yuntai Temple in Sichuan

Ariel Hernandez (German Institute for Global & Area Studies), Eduardo Valencia (GIGAS), and Richard Hecht (UC Santa Barbara) – Mapping Sacred Geographies: Religion, Power, and the Epistemologies of Cartography

Paul Melas (UCLA) – Mount Athos and its World: Monastic Withdrawal in Contemporary Greece

Sara Williams (Fairfield University) – Making the Ethical Self Abroad: Journeys to the Margins as Genre of Religious Travel

Augusta Thomson (New York University) -- All Stones Lead to Santiago: Ruination and Remediation at the Cruz de Ferro

4) *Religion, Ethnicity, and Diaspora* -- **Flying A Studios, Mezzanine**

Smytta Yadav (U of Sussex) – Hindu Diaspora, Religious Pluralism, and the Limits of Secularism in Contemporary America

Gabriela Olmos Rosas (U Alaska Fairbanks) – Out of Many, One: The Ritual Cycle of Ethnic Negotiations in an Alaskan Catholic Parish

Muhammad Shahzad (Bahauddin Zakariya U, Pakistan) – Religious Mobility as a “Win-Win” Situation: Pakistani Muslim Migrants in South Korea

Judith Pajo (Pace University) – Crossing Lines in Interfaith Work: Cultural Transgression and Forgiveness in Practice

Nicholas W. Bukowski (U of Toronto) – “Manchester United Lives in My Heart, Jesus Does Too”: Sporting and Religious Geographies at a Nigerian Pentecostal Church (**Zoom**)

11:40 am – 12:40 pm Sunday June 22 -- Lunch (*Carrillo Dining Commons*)

12:40 – 2:10 pm

1) *Sacred Afterlives: Unsettling Transformations of Waste and Value*

-- State Street Room, Lower level

Britt Halvorson (Colby College) – Co-Chair

James Bielo (Northwestern U) – Co-Chair

Rachel Schwaller (U of Kansas) -- “The Land is our Practice of Religion”: (Re-)Creating Sacred Items & Spaces Through 2nd-Hand use by the Unhoused in Lawrence, Kansas

Claire Rostov (Duke U) -- Enchanting the Home: Rituals of Disposal

Alanna Cooper (Case Western Reserve) -- Holocaust Torah Scrolls Between the Living & Dead

Alanna Cant (Reading U) -- Wasted Spaces and Objects Locked Away: Restraining the Sacred in the Borderlands of Religion and Heritage

2) *Examining Religio-Environmental Ritual Practices -- SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level*

John Baker (Moorpark College) – Climate Change, Liminality, & Agency: Creating Rituals for Climate Anxiety

Xian'ai SHI (Union Theological Seminary) – Mutual Responsiveness of Heaven and Humanity: Chinese Rain-Praying Rituals in the Han Dynasty

Eugenia Rainey (Harvard Divinity School) – Osayin and Plastic Bags: How Plant-based Santeria is Undercut by Consumerism

Abigail Beckham (U of Connecticut) – Praying Through Risks: Hurricane Prayers and their Implications for Climate Change Adaptations

Katherine Hayslip (Syracuse U) – Humanity and Nature: Relationship Through Ritual

Jorge Legoas (Queens University) – Indigenous Knowledges and Weather Forecasting for Andean Agriculture

3) *Can Religious Cultures Promote Environmental Justice in the Postcolonial World?*

Flying A Studios, Mezzanine

Sarah Nahar (Syracuse U & SUNY College of Environ Science) – Religious Moral Suasion and Material Support for the Environmental Justice Movement

Ahmed Zakarya Mitiche (Columbia U) – Malek Bennabi, Geontopower, and the Spiritual Critique of Colonial Modernity: the Soul and Nuclear Colonialism in the Algerian Sahara

Amin El-Yousfi (U of Cambridge) – Islamic Knowledge and Existential Risks in the Anthropocene: Ethical and Ontological Perspectives

Lisa Ng (UC Berkeley) – Urban Beatification as Care: Spaces of Hope and Community Safety in Asian American Oakland, California

Mayuti Patankar (Indep. Scholar) -- Beyond Nature: The Dual Politics of Environmentalism and Social Boundaries in Gond Religious Traditions

4) *Political Theology, Sovereignty, and Nation-State (2) -- SB Harbor Room, Lower Level*

Hannah Howard (Boston U) – Up in Smoke: Wildfires and the Loss of Religious Sites as National Heritage in Greece

Ariane Kovac (Ruhr University, Germany) – No Hard Feelings? The Role of Emotions in Evangelical Identity-Building

Dominic Martin (Oxford U) – Old Believers on the Eve of Destruction: From Patchy to Total Emptiness in the Russian Far East

Noel Um-Lo (Columbia U) – Divine Selection: The Sacred and Secular Politics of Korean Unification Migrant Youth (**Zoom**)

Erfan Saidi Moqadam (Wayne State U) – Beyond Power and Authority: The Anthropology of American Islam (**Zoom**)

2:10 – 2:30 pm Sunday June 22 -- Coffee Break

2:30 – 4:00 pm

1) *Roundtable: Religious Responses to Climate Catastrophe: Anthropological Perspectives*

-- SB Harbor Room, Lower Level

Yogesh Chandrani (Colorado College) (**Chair and co-organizer**)

Sarah Hautzinger (Colorado College) (co-organizers)

Perry Maddox (Johns Hopkins University)

Mareike Winchell (London School of Economics)

Sophie Bjork-James (Vanderbilt U)

Jean-Baptist Quillien & Veronica Bayiha ñwa Quillien (Lesley U; The Language Attitude Institute) (**Zoom**)

2) *Religious Articulations of Life and Death: Medical Anthropology and Rituals of the Body*

-- State Street Room, Lower level (Chair, Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara)

Mary Keller (U of Wyoming) – Shamans and Morally-Efficacious Nature Beings: Exemplaries that Indigenize Medical Anthropology

Sanaullah Khan (U of Akron) – Sweet Pills and Moral Reform: Complementary Medicine, Islam and Medical and Religious Ethics

Bethany Hedden-Clayton (Wayne State U) – Reclaiming the Body for Christ through Christian Yoga Practice

John Napora (U of South Florida) -- Trance, Religion, And Honor in Morocco

Kevin Grane (U of Denver) – “Nones” and Near-Death Experiences: A Critical Insight (**Zoom**)

Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara (U of Sao Paulo-Medical Faculty) – Discussant

Sidney Greenfield (U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) -- Discussant

3) *Religious Expenditures in Capitalist Economy and Infrastructures: Counter-cultural or Complementary Force? Flying A Studios, Mezzanine (Chair, Ning Zheng)*

Jamie Glisson (U of Edinburgh) – Fueling Faith: Environmental Values, Religious Ecologies, and Oil Extraction in the North Sea

Susan Brownell (U of Missouri) – Mayfair Yang’s Concept of “Ritual Economy”: Bridging the Divide Between Concepts of Rituals, Secular Performances, and Sports Mega-Events

Mayumi Okabe (Chukyo U) – Uncertain Management? An Ethnography of the Governance of Thai Buddhist Temples Outside Thailand

Ning Zheng (Renmin U) – Struggle over Virtual Paper-Money Offerings: Ritual Traditions, Environment, and State Administration in Quanzhou, China

Calvin Tiessen (ADA U) – Hosting and Guesting in the Anthropocosmos: Bridging Spiritual and Physical Ecologies with Frameworks of Hospitality

4) *SAR Workshop #1: Engaging with Popular Media & Publishing in Newspapers/ Magazines SB Mission Room, Mezzanine* — Prof. Hannah H. Gould (U of Melbourne) (Zoom**)**

4:00 – 5:30 pm

1) *Religion, Ecology, and Multispecies Studies -- Flying A Studios, Mezzanine (Chair, Susie Wu)*

Pi-chen Liu (*Academia Sinica*, Taiwan) – Multispecies Entanglement in the *mibhbah* (eliminating epidemic ritual) of the Pangcah/Ami Indigenous in Taiwan

Susie Wu (UC Santa Barbara) – Feline Temples: Toward a Post-Humanistic Buddhism in Contemporary China

Yin-Chu Lu (Harvard U) – Compassionate Ecologies: Tzu Chi’s Vegetarian Ethics and Environmental Advocacy in the Anthropocene

Chantal Noa Forbes (California Institute of Integral Studies) – (S)animism and Becoming Tracker: an Eco-Metaphysics of Place

Nguyễn Huy Hoàng (Fulbright University Vietnam) -- MƠ MƠ MÀNG MÀNG: An encounter with thought, otherness, and the figure of Cá Ông in Quy Nhơn, Việt Nam

2) ***Elementary Forms of Religious Life: Icons, Mythology, Land, Dance, and Theology***
-- **SB Harbor Room, Lower Level**

Melanie Lawson (Nebraska Wesleyan U) – The Many Faces of Jesus: Ur Messiah?

Emma Hanlon (UC Santa Barbara) -- Experiments in Healing the Metabolic Rift: “Humanure,” Hauntings and the Commodification of Rural Life

Aaron Michka (U of Notre Dame) – The Theological Organism: Cybernetics, the Natural World, and Other Frameworks for Understanding Theology in Motion

Margaret Brady (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) -- The Sacred Body of the World: Living Material Reverence in Tenrikyo Practice at a European Religious Center

Durlav Rayamajhi (Tribhuvan University, Nepal) – Myriads of Myths: Creating and Sustaining the Structure of Power – An Ethnographic Study of a Hindu Hill Temple in Nepal (**Zoom**)

3) ***SAR Workshop #2: Navigating Grants and the Job Market*** — **SB Mission Room, Mezzanine level**; Prof. Angie Heo (Univ. of Chicago) and Prof. Joe Blankholm (UC Santa Barbara)

Monday June 23

8:30 – 10:00 am

1) ***Exploring Environmental Ontologies, Cosmologies, and Ethics (1)*** -- **Flying A Studios, Mezzanine**

Yuan Liang (UC Santa Barbara) – Living Tea: Rethinking Tea’s Role in Nature-Culture Assemblages

Mohit Srivastava (84) – Religious Cosmologies Beyond the Human and its Discontents from the Central Himalayas

Thomas Csordas (UC San Diego) -- Religion and Climate Change: Navajo and Catholic Perspectives

Nformi Ngenge (U of Bamenda) – Navigating the Anthropocene: Religiosity and Environmentalism in Cameroon

Elazar Ben-Lulu (Ariel Univ.) – Eco-Jewish Theology and Liturgy: Ethnographic Analysis of Rituals and Texts for Environmentalism in Reform Judaism in Israel and the U.S. (**Zoom**)

2) ***What can Religious Rituals Do?*** -- **State Street Room, Lower level**

Isobel-Marie Johnston (Indep. Scholar) – Boundaries: Unattended Rhetorics and Ritual Potentials in Ecology and Environmentalism

Yaning Zhou (Renmin U) – Textualization of Oral-Inherited Daoist Ritual: an Anthropological View on Daoist Priest Ren

Jan Jensen (U of Cambridge) – “We have Prayed Enough:” Practical Christianity and Ethics of Engagement in the Farce Islands

Genn Ruan (UC Riverside) – DIY the Rituals: Performativity in Thien Hau Temple, Los Angeles

Chantal Croteau (U of Michigan, Ann Arbor) – Setting the Table for Hungry Ghosts: Kinship and Risk in the Tenth Month Ceremony in Thailand

3) ***SAR Workshop #3: Navigating Academic Publishing*** — **SB Mission Room, Mezzanine**

Prof. Daromir Rudnyckyj (U of Victoria, B.C.) and Hillary Kaell (McGill Univ., editor of [Contemporary Anthropology of Religion](#) Book Series with Palgrave Macmillan Press)

10:10 – 11:40 am Monday June 23

1) **Exploring Environmental Ontologies, Cosmologies, and Ethics (2)**

State Street Room, Lower level

Yuan Zhang (U of Oxford) – Cosmic Uncertainties: Fengshui, Ontological Flexibility, and Environmental Ethics in Rural Shanxi, China

Raisa Parnell (UCLA) – Osun River Pollution and the Ifa/Orisa Perspective on Nature in Nigeria

Muhammat Sabar Prihatin (Indonesia International Islamic U) – *Wasatiyyah* within Eco-Islam in Indonesia: A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Stewardship between *NU* and *Muhammadiyah*

Valeria Vergani (Stanford U) – Prophetic Anthropocene: Dakota Environmental Cosmologies and Indigenous/Settler Coalition-Building in the U.S. **(Zoom)**

2) **Time and Again: The Anthropology of Religious Temporalities and Change**

Flying A Studios, Mezzanine

Hannah Mayne (U Toronto) Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Activism & Notions of Temporal Moral Decline
Myungli Lee (U of Chicago) – Turkish Muslim Perspectives on “Today” and “This World” Amid Global and Local Crises

Darnian Lanahan-Kalish (UNC Greensboro) – Urban Witchcraft: Contemporary Paganism Beyond “Nature Religion”

Carolina Ivanescu (U of Amsterdam) – Cycles of Destruction and Renewal: Ecological and Spiritual Imaginaries of Hawaii **(Zoom)**

3) **Finding Religious Inspiration in Art, Music, and Soundscapes SB Harbor Room, Lower Level**

Eugenijus Liutkevicius (Vytautas Magnus U, Lithuania) God Through Noise in Post-Soviet Churches

Carlos Chacon Preciado (Stanford U) – Against the “Religious Roots of Our Ecological Crisis:” Gaudi’s Chthonic Modernist Architecture and Joan Maragall’s Biocentric Theology

Nimachia Howe (Blackfeet Community College) – Plains Art: Axions of Ecological Responsibility

Marcelo de Medeiros Reis Filho (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Políticos) – “Clap for Jesus:” Sounds and Interactions in Worship Services in the Santa Marta Favela in Rio de Janeiro

Sourav Saha (Ctr for the Study of Developing Societies) – Impure Hearts and Invisible Purifiers: A Story of Sacred Vibration, Tuning & Environmental Purification in India **(Zoom)**

11:40 – 1:00 pm **Lunch (*De La Guerra Dining Commons*)**

1:00 – 2:30 pm **Plenary Session: Sacred Geographies: How Religious Cultures Shape Multispecies Interactions** (co-sponsored by SAR and ISSRNC)

Prof. Yiren Lin, (Taipei National University of the Arts) **Eco-Spirituality in Taiwan: An Indigenous Perspective.**

Prof. Greg Johnson (Director, Walter Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, & Public Life, UC Santa Barbara) **Sacred Geographies, Institutional Entanglements, and the Ironies of Empire on Mauna Kea & Beyond.**

Prof. Lisa Sideris (President, International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture ISSRNC) **Terminal Wings: Endangered Butterflies at Los Angeles International Airport.**

Prof. Mayfair Yang (President, Society for the Anthropology of Religion SAR) **The Sacralization of Trees: Qi (Primary Breath) and Oxygen in Nepal and China**

2:30 – 3:00 pm **Monday June 23 -- Coffee Break**

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Keynote Lecture (co-sponsored by SAR, UCSB Capps Center, and ISSRNC)

Prof. Ana Mariella Bacigalupo, Anthropology, SUNY Buffalo.
Climate Crises and Postapocalyptic Futures: Visionary Landscapes in Northern Peru

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Conference Reception & Drinks – **Manzanita Village Commons lawn**
(co-sponsored by SAR and ISSRNC)