

# Lifetime Achievement Award

## Catherine L. Albanese

The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture is pleased to announce Catherine L. Albanese as the recipient of the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes distinguished scholars, writers, and leaders in the field whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public and across disciplines.



Professor Albanese is renowned for her pioneering scholarship on metaphysical and nature-based religious traditions in the United States. Over the course of her career, she has broadened our understanding of American religion beyond traditional denominational lines, revealing a rich and dynamic religious landscape shaped by currents often left on the margins—until her work brought them to the center.

Professor Albanese's body of work exemplifies the mission of the ISSRNC. Her scholarship has consistently spoken across disciplines and beyond academia, reaching public audiences with relevance, eloquence, and depth. Her book, *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age* (1990), remains a landmark study of the enduring power of nature-centered spirituality in American history.

In addition to her many publications, including the widely used textbook *America: Religions and Religion* (1981), now in its fifth edition, Professor Albanese has received numerous accolades. These include a Guggenheim Fellowship, her election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and her leadership as president of the American Academy of Religion in 1994. Her methodological innovations—particularly her move away from consensus models of religious history toward more interactive and pluralistic frameworks—have opened new avenues for generations of scholars. She has redefined what it means to study religion in America, and in doing so, she has helped reframe American religious life.