

**This is a provisional version of the 2026 ISSRNC Conference Schedule.
Please note that this schedule is still subject to change.**

Saturday, 10 October

3:00pm – Conference Check In Opens

Make sure to stop by to check in and pick up your conference name badge.

4:00 – 4:30pm | ISSRNC Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks

ISSRNC President's Opening Remarks

Lucas Johnston (Wake Forest University)

Welcome Remarks from our Partners at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Office of the Rector

Department of Humanities

Daniele Brombal, Director of the Environmental Humanities Master of Arts

Valentina Ciciliot, Associate Professor of History and Christianity

4:30 – 6:00pm | Opening Keynote Address

Kate Rigby (University of Cologne)

“Changing Course: Rivers, Religion, and Ecological Conversion”

Presiding: ISSRNC President-Elect Whitney Bauman, (Florida International University)

6:00 – 7:30pm | Opening Reception

Open reception for all registered ISSRNC participants. Pre-registration for event required.

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Sunday, 11 October | ISSRNC Plenary Sessions

8:00 – 10:30 | Conference Check In

If you did not check in on Saturday, make sure to stop by and pick up your conference name badge.

8:30 – 10:00am | Plenary 1

Facing Destruction: Religion and Nature as Witness to the End of Worlds

Whitney Bauman (Florida International University)
“Thinking without Progress”

Richard Bohannon (Metro State University)
“Vision without Resolution”

Kevin O’Brein (Pacific Lutheran University)
“Teaching without Morals”

Respondent: Laurel Kearns (Drew University)

10:00 – 10:30am | Break

10:30am – 12:00pm | Plenary 2

The ‘Human’ in Flux: Culture, Authority, and Meaning in the Age of AI

Anna Ballatore (Università della Svizzera Italiana)

William Connelly (Catholic University of Paris)

Jessica Lombard (Côte d’Azur University)

Octavian Machidon (University of Ljubljana)

Sarah Polak (Oxford University / Czech Technical University)

Evan Sandsmark (University of Vienna)

Moderating: Jeremy Sorgen (Northeastern University, Mills College)

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12:00 – 1:30pm | Lunch

1:30 – 2:15pm | JSRNC and ISSRNC Working Group Interest Meetings

2:30 – 4:00pm | Plenary 3

Islands of Decolonial Love

Mary Keller (University of Wyoming)

Yianna Liatsos (University of Limerick)

Carol Wayne White (Bucknell University)

4:00 – 4:30pm | Break

4:30 – 6:00 | Plenary 4

Hybrid Cosmologies and the Religious Landscape of Repair in Africa

Agnieszka Kedzierska Manzon (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes)

“Rivers of Spirits, Gardens of Ancestors. Ecological challenges and resilience in South Africa”

Adeline Masquelier (Tulane University)

“Trouble in the Borderlands of History: Foregrounding the Place of Spirits in Ecological Narratives”

Michael Shirungu (University of Namibia)

“Medicine of Our Ancestors, Knowledge in Motion: San Healing and Relational Ecologies in Namibia”

Rosalind Hackett (University of Tennessee)

Respondent

Moderating: Elaine Nogueira-Godsey (Drew University), ISSRNC Member at Large

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Monday, 12 October

9:00am – 2:00pm | Conference Field Trips [Optional] / Free Morning

Option 1 | [Lazzaretto Nuovo](#)

Option 2 | [Biennale Arte Exhibition](#) **[SOLD OUT]**

Option 3 | [Casa dei Tre Oci Museum](#)

Advance sign-up required [space is limited] | Deadline to register 25 September.

*****NOTE*****

The ISSRNC keynote event and the conference banquet will take place on San Servolo.

The ISSRNC has chartered a boat to take participants from San Polo to San Servolo. The boat will leave promptly at 4:00pm from [Zattere Incurabili](#). Please plan to arrive at the dock by 3:45 pm to allow plenty of time for everyone to board. There is only one chartered boat, so if you miss it, you will need to find your own transportation to San Servolo.

3:45 pm | Meet at Zattere Incurabili for Chartered Boat to San Servolo

4:30 – 6:30pm | Keynote Lecture and Documentary Short Film Screening

Allison Carruth (Princeton University)

Barron Bixler, Executive Producer (Princeton University)

Presiding: Amanda M. Nichols (Generational Radiation Impact Project), ISSRNC Treasurer

6:30 – 8:00pm – ISSRNC Banquet and Awards Ceremony

******Please note that the ISSRNC Conference banquet is only available for those who registered in advance.***

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Members who did not register for the banquet are responsible for their return travel to San Polo after the keynote event. For those members who did pre-register for the banquet the ISSRNC has arranged for travel back to Zattere Incurabili at the conclusion of the banquet.

For those planning to depart before the banquet, vaporettos can transport you back to San Marco (drop off at San Zaccaria). Please note that the vaporettos run only once per hour (6:40, 7:40, etc.) with the last boat departing San Servolo at 10:40pm. Water taxis and other transportation options are available.

Opening Remarks

Presiding: Lucas Johnston, ISSRNC President

Graduate Student Paper Award

Presiding: Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, ISSRNC Member at Large

Lifetime Achievement Award

Presiding: Whitney Bauman, ISSRNC President-Elect
Amy Whitehead, ISSRNC Member at Large

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Tuesday, 13 October

8:30 – 10:00 – Concurrent Session 1

Session A | Of Species and Spirits: Fieldwork Methods for Studying Religion, Spirituality, and Multispecies Relations

Ana Mariella Bacigalupo (SUNY Buffalo)

Mayanthi Fernando (UC Santa Cruz)

Eric Hoenes del Pinal (UNC Charlotte)

Hillary Kaell (McGill University)

Carlota McAllister (York University)

Martin Miller (McGill University)

Session B | Politics, Religion, and Nature

Marion Grau (MF Specialized University of Theology, Religion, and Society)
“Steps to A Political Spirituality of Climate Action”

Christophe Monnot (University of Strasbourg)
“Religion and Ecology: A Subpolitical Alliance?”

Margaux Crider Robinson (University of Kentucky)
“The Politics of Population: Malthus Meets the Modern Childfree American”

Noel Salmond (Carleton University)
“Mark Carney, Values and the Fluidity of Values 2021–2026”

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Session C | Religion, Spirituality, and Waterscapes

Elizabeth Allison (California Institute of Integral Studies)

“Limnology and Liminality: High Elevation Lakes and Wetlands as Monitors and Mediators of Environmental Relations”

Marita Furehaug (University of Oslo)

“Bodies of Water and Waste through the lens of Trans-corporeality in Egypt”

Gerrit Lange (Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum) +

Pankhuri Bhatt (University of Graz)

“Foundational Myths and Fluid Metaphors: Western Quests for the Sources of Mother Ganga in the 21st century”

Bron Taylor (University of Florida)

“The Sea and the Sublime”

10:00 – 10:30 | Break

10:30 – 12:00 - Concurrent Session 2

Session A | Fluid Animisms (Roundtable Panel)

Yael Dansac (Université libre de Bruxelles)

Graham Harvey (Open University)

Julia Itel (University of Fribourg)

Rune Rassmussen (Independent Scholar)

Amy Whitehead (Massey University)

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Session B | Questioning Epistemic Assumptions

Camille Liederman (University of Fribourg)

“Fixed and Fluid Stars: Astrology, Water Crises, and Cosmologies of Climate Instability”

Mark Schunemann (University of Exeter)

“Sacraments in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: A Comparative Ethnography”

Jason Sexton (University of California, Los Angeles)

“Eugenic Legacies in Environmental Sciences and Religion: Preliminary Findings from the Faith, Flourishing, and the Environment Project in Los Angeles”

Thounaojam Somokanta (Independent Scholar)

“Wetland Grabbing in the Global South: Transforming Meetei–Loktak Relations, Manipur”

Session C | Traditions in Motion: Religion, Ecology, and Environmental Practice

Flavia Cecchini (Ca' Foscari University)

“Practice Oriented Ecotheology: The African Earthkeeping Movement in Zimbabwe”

Ba Dieu Linh Nguyen (Ca' Foscari University)

“Eco-Cosmological Syncretism in Buddhist and Christian Literature: A Comparative Analysis”

Marco Odinotte (University of Padua)

“Born under the Sign of the Times: Anti-New Age Discourse and the Shaping of Catholic Environmentalism in the United States (1988-2004)”

Michele Rigodanzo (University of Piemonte Orientale)

“Religion and the Monitoring of Unequal Access to a Healthy Environment: The United Church of Christ's Reports on Toxic Exposure (1987–2020)”

Moderator: Valentina Ciciliot (Ca' Foscari University)

12:00 – 1:30 – Lunch

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1:30 – 3:00 – Concurrent Session 3

Session A | Rhetorical Genealogies of the Nuclear Age: Foundational Logics and Nebulous Socio-Ecological Futures (Roundtable Panel)

Florian Eblenkamp (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons)

Jacques Linder (College of the Holy Cross)

Amanda M. Nichols (Generational Radiation Impact Project)

Ben Schmidt (Rachel Carson Center)

Session B | Literature, Religion, and Nature

Patrick Curry (Independent Scholar)

“Wonder and Nature: A Perspective from Tolkien”

Ryan Darr (Yale Divinity School)

“Dystopian Hope on the Water”

Jurij Dobravec (Independent Scholar)

“Contemplation of Natural Order in Lo cunto de li cunti (1634–1636) by Giambattista Basile”

Amy Erickson (Iliff School of Theology)

“When the Land Keeps Time: Multispecies Temporality and Nonhuman Agency in Priestly Literature”

Session C | Mythologies and Cultural Memory

Ben Crosby (Brigham Young University)

“Rhetorical Haunts: Persuasion, Sacred Space, and the Case of Eleusis”

Bhumshik Gyal (Rice University)

“Nature as Gnosis: Exploring the Concept of Nature within Tibetan Buddhist Worldviews”

Karsten Schulz (University of Groningen)

“The Role of Myth in Societal Transformations Toward Sustainability”

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Joseph A. P. Wilson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
“Volcanism and Dene Ethnogenesis: Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Insights”

3:00 – 3:15 | Break

3:15 – 4:45 – Concurrent Session 4

Session A | Interdisciplinary Approaches to Animals and Religions

Philippe G  n  quand (Universit   de Montr  al)
“Liminal Creatures, Ontological Divides: Human Exceptionalism in Medieval Learned Culture”

Anne L  tourneau (Universit   de Montr  al)
“Donkeying or Divinizing?: Biblical Jennies and their Prophetic Embodiment in the Light of Multispecies Ethnography”

Denise Lombardi (  cole Pratique des Hautes   tudes)
“Totemic Animals and Mediumship: Reconfigurations of Human / Non-Human Relations in Neo-Shamanic Seminars in Europe”

G  raldine Mossi  re (Universit   de Montr  al)
“Reconnecting to (One’s Own-) Nature through Consultations with Horses: An Ethnographic Study of Neo-shamanism”

Organized and moderated by: Anne L  tourneau and G  raldine Mossi  re

Session B | The Political Ecology of Relational Ontologies

Andi Alfian (Syracuse University)
“Following Crocodiles”: Multispecies Memory and the Exclusion of Indigenous Religious Traditions in Sulawesi, Indonesia”

Virgile Delmas (Universit   de Lausanne)
“Navigating Ontologies: The Transformation of Lakota Ceremonies in Europe”

Lea Matthaei (University of Oslo)
“The Fosen Case in Norway: Green Colonialism, Legal Non-Implementation and S  mi Relational Epistemologies”

Katherine Usik (University of Florida)
“Transatlantic Traditions: Exploring Historical Animism in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Southern Appalachia”

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Session C | Fluid Foundations and Lived Relationships

Mina Cinar (Koç University's Research Center)

“From Venice to Amsterdam: Hydrocolonialism and the Dissemination of Protestant Eco-Apocalyptic Ideas in the Seventeenth-Century Mediterranean”

Rita Mancini (Ca' Foscari University)

“What Happens to the Environment When Social Change and Religious Institutionalisation Coincide? The Case of the Northeastern Himalaya”

Megnaa Mehtta (University College London)

“The Banglascapes of Venice: From Delta to the Lagoon”

Mark Peterson (University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee)

“Eroding Foundations: In Venice and Environmental Ethics”

4:45 – 5:00 | Break

5:00 – 6:30 – Concurrent Session 5

Session A | Troubling (Stable) Foundations: Engaging Liquefaction through Decolonial Lenses

Nina Hoel (University of Oslo / University of Cape Town)

“Liquefying Foundations”

Juan Martinez Benavides (Drew University)

“Liquefying Religion/Ideology through Land Agency and Unlikely Alliances in Postwar El Salvador.”

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey (Drew University)

“Liquefying Western Assumptions: Embodied Spiritualities and the Defense of Cuerpo-Territorio”

Sarah Pike (California State University, Chico)

“Ritualizing Reparations and Decolonization in California’s Prescribed Fire Movement”

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Session B | Historic and Contemporary Ecotheological Resources

Piercamillo Falivene (Italian School of Religious Studies)

"Neoliberal Paradigms and Ecological Crisis: The Orthodox Response of Bartholomew I"

Alfredo Gabrielli (Independent Scholar)

""The Patriarch Bartholomew I and the Theological Foundation of Ecology as the Attempt to Resist to Contemporary Fluidity"

Jakub Kolacek (Charles University)

"Islamic Environmentalism and Islamism: Investigating Intertwined Historical Trajectories"

Laura Wickström (Polin Institute, Åbo Akademi University)

"Four Contemporary Voices of Eco-Islam on Climate Change"

Session C | Intersubjectivity and the Ontological Turn

Marco Fiorletta (Universität Wien)

"From Ground to Flow: Hölderlin, Language, and the Ontological Turn"

Miriam Hamburger (University of California, Santa Barbara)

"Time and Indigenous knowledges in the Ontological Turn"

Matthäus Leidenfrost (Freie Universität Berlin)

"Becoming Prey: Subjectivity Transformed through Animal Encounters"

Michael York (Independent Scholar)

"The Theological Foundation Question: Are Gods, Elves, Fairies & AI Agents Skyhooks or Cranes?"

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Wednesday, 14 October

9:00 – 10:30 – Concurrent Session 6

Session A | Mediating Fluid Worlds

Arya Adityan (Florida State University)

“Tidal Mediations: Water, Paddanas, and Bhūtakola on India’s South-West Coast”

Elizabeth Cecil (Florida State University)

“The Return of the Eaglewood Goddess”

Kim Fromkin (Florida State University)

“Sewer Lines and Sacred Histories: Rethinking the Water Systems of Wakulla Springs”

Balakrishnan Raghavan (University of California, Santa Cruz)

“Worlding With Hers: The Hill, Tank, Turmeric, and the Fragrance of Sound in Karnataka's Jogappa Rituals”

Session B | Religion, Spirituality, and Waterscapes

Claudio Carvalhaes (Union Theological Seminary in New York)

“Tamanduateí River - New Fluidities for New Foundations”

Claartje Ille (University of Basel)

“Still Waters Run Deep: Protestant Reactions to the ‘Schweizerhalle Disaster’ and the Ecological Disaster along the Rhine (1986)”

Victoria Machado (Rollins College)

“Painting New Perspectives: How Artists are Ushering in New Materialism with Florida’s Water”

Elia Maggang (Universitas Kristen Artha Wacana)

“Inter-contextuality as Fluid Foundation for Eco-Spirituality: A Christian Perspective from Indonesian Indigenous Archipelagic Everydayness”

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Session C | Plants, Animals, and New Materialisms

Carrie Dohe (University of Cologne)

“From Foundations to Fluidity: Relational Theology and the Reconfiguration of Human-Animal Worlds”

Mark Larrimore (The New School)

“Arboreal Flux: How the Accelerating Flows of Forests Can Ground Us in a Time of Climate Weirding”

Mario Orospe Hernando (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)

“From Living Matter to Raw Material: Theology, Economy, and the Secularization of Nature”

Mio Takahashi (Université libre de Bruxelles)

“Ethnobotanical Landscapes: Reframing the Visible and Invisible Relationships between Plants and People in the Religious Culture in Japan”

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00am – 12:30pm - Concurrent Session 7

Session A | The Anthropocene and the Future

kai glenney (Boston University)

“How to Stay Fluid: Eco-Accompaniment Ethic as Resistance”

Julius Malin (University of Basel)

“Praying for the River: Religious Ritual and Ecological Grief in Appalachia’s Pipeline Conflict”

Natalia Valdivieso Kastner (University of Bristol)

“A Greener Faith: Evangelising Nature in the Anthropocene”

Wendy Wiseman (University of California, Santa Barbara)

“Post-Anthropocene Sea of Marmara: The Mother of God, Jellyfish, and Ambivalent Iconophilia”

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Session B | Community and Activism

Matt Hartman (Independent Scholar)

“Religion and Climate Communication Building Community Solidarity in Southern California”

Alba Siguero Lizano (Complutense University of Madrid)

“Between System and Healing: How Holistic Visions of the Planet Travel Between Science, Spirituality, and Climate Activism”

Joe Witt (University of Tennessee)

“Rebuilding on Unstable Foundations: Memory, Affect and Place in Appalachian Just Transition Movements”

Annie Delville (Independent Scholar)

“Praying the Earth: Faith, Land, and Ecological Life in a French Rural Community”

Session C | Restoring Overlooked Histories and Constructing Hopeful Futures

Giovanni Franceschini (Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia)

“The Franciscanization of the Umbrian Landscape between Medievalism and Ecological Imagination (1900–2015)”

Julia Ite (University of Fribourg) and **Yael Dansac** (Université libre de Bruxelles)

“Ecospirituality as Soft Ecology: Non-Militant Forms of Environmental Engagement in Francophone Europe”

Kimberly Kirner (California State University, Northridge)

“Developing Place-Based Knowledge and Psychosocial Support for Environmental Action through the Relational Religion of Druidry”

Lienna Rowlett (International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture)

“Connecting Climate and Religion: (Re)Introducing the Hybrid Interactive Model of Socio-Economic Metabolism”

12:30 – 2:00 – Lunch

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2:00 – 3:30pm – Concurrent Session 8

Session A | On The Myth of Sustainable Cities: Critical Engagement with Stephanie Pincetl (Roundtable Panel)

Ernst Conradie (University of the Western Cape)

Marion Grau (MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society)

Bron Taylor (University of Florida)

Respondent: Stephanie Pincetl (University of California, Los Angeles)

Moderator: Jason Sexton (University of California, Los Angeles)

Session B | Methods and Reflections on the Field

Evan Berry (Arizona State University)

“Theoretical Foundations and Disciplinary Fluidity in the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture”

Natasha Chawla (University of Oxford)

“Rethink and Refeel: The Knowledge-Action Gap at Twenty”

Tanhum Yoreh (University of Toronto)

“New Approaches to Measuring Environmental Action in Faith Communities”

Cristina Dragomir (New York University)

“Network-Spiritual Environmentalism: Reconfiguring Foundations and Fluidity in Global Soil Governance”

Session C | Embodied Worlds: Ritual, Relation, and the More-than-Human

Matthew Elia (Saint Louis University)

“‘A Terrible Rawness of Nerves’: Why Environmental Ethics Must Move from the Difficulty of Philosophy to the Difficulty of Reality”

Nour Farra Haddad (Lebanese University)

“Water as a Vector of Inter-religious Dialogue since Antiquity: Baraka, pilgrimages and Devotional Practices”

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Francesca Ciancimino Howell (Naropa University)

"Finding Kin and Coping in an Era of Climate Anxiety: Animism, Community and the Arts"

Sarah McFarland Taylor (Northwestern University)

"Viewing Life Between the Ears: An Equine Cosmology of Resistance and Resilience in the AI Age"

4:00 – 5:30pm – ISSRNC Plenary and Conference Closing Remarks

Adaptive Scholarship and the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture

Whitney Bauman (Florida International University)

Nikki Hoskins (Harvard Divinity School)

Laurel Kearns (Drew University)

Victoria Machado (Rollins College)

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey (Drew University)

Moderating: Kim Carfore (University of San Francisco) and **Joe Wiebe** (University of Alberta)

5:30 – 6:30pm – Full Membership Business Meeting (Optional)

Each year our conference ends with a Business Meeting where we invite ideas for future collaborations, meeting venues, events, and anything else you wish to raise. We hope to see you there.