The 21st Annual Religion Graduate Student Symposium
at Florida State University

Crisis & Calamity
The Aesthetics of Apocalypse, Immorality, and Conspiracy

February 9-10, 2024

With a Keynote Lecture:
Conspiracy, Atrocity, & ‘Ritual’
by Dr. David Frankfurter, Boston University

And a roundtable discussion of “Teaching in Contentious Classrooms”
with Dr. Frankfurter, Dr. Michael Muhammad Knight (UCF) and Dr.
Tracie Mahaffey (FSU)
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 9

Block 1
12:00–2:15 pm

Panel: The Making of Identity
SSB 201

Respondent: Dr. Shulamit Shinnar, Florida State University
Moderator: Jesse Lee, Florida State University

“Diseased History: Religious Engagement in History During Cholera
Epidemics”
David Reed Hall, Florida State University

“Posthumanism: Response to the Anthropocentric Crisis”
Kaitlynn Balmer, Florida State University

“Orthodox Christians of the Circumcision?”
Alexander Miguel, Florida State University

“Maternal Bodies and Conspiracy of Representation: Misogyny, Motherhood
and Mothering in Early Christian Texts”
Florence Egbeyale, Florida State University

Panel: Religion, Violence, and Abuse
SSB 208

Respondent: Dr. Michael McVicar, Florida State University
Moderator: Dr. Martin Kavka, Florida State University

“A Study on Hate Crimes in U.S. Gateway Cities: Analyzing Incidents
Motivated by Race and Religion”
Fadime Apaydin, University of California, Riverside
“The Convergence of Transhumanist Ideals and National Identity: A Study of Liberland”
Summer Boucher, Florida State University

Block 2
2:30–4:45 pm

Panel: Knowledge and Power
SSB 201

Respondent: Dr. Rosemary Kellison, Florida State University
Moderator: Ethan Butler, Florida State University

Enabling Constraints For the Time Being: On the Exploitation of Policing Infrastructures as an ‘Extension of Leisure’ in Dawoud Bey’s Three Women at the Parade, from Harlem (1977 - 1978)
Hassan Henderson-Lott, Rice University

Power's Open Secret
Patrick Dunn, Ohio State University

Foucault’s Aesthetics of Existence: A New Way of Being
Gregory Han, Rice University

The Crisis of Lust in American Conservative Evangelical Sexuality
Rebekah Mui Pei Ern, Virginia Tech

“Let Not the Egyptians Say”: A Pragmatist Political Theology of Reputation in the Hebrew Bible
Jennifer Greenberg, Brown University

Panel: Meta-Theory, Method, and the Production of Knowledge
SSB 208

Respondent: Dr. Sonia Hazard, Florida State University
Moderator: Devin Burns, Florida State University
“Rawlsian Religion in a Climate of Crisis: Political Liberalism’s Answer to Apocalypse”
Rebekah J. Gordon, Florida State University

“Laugh During Wartime: Hubristic Laughter in Josephus’ Jewish War”
Tommy Woodward, Florida State University

“Post-Truth, Post-Fact, and the American Far-Right”
Spencer Kunz, Florida State University

“Political Demonology: Notes Toward a New Kind of Political Inquiry”
Michael T. Froid, Syracuse University

Keynote Address and Opening Remarks
5:00–6:30 pm
SSB 201/203

Opening Remarks and Leo F. Sandon Award Announcement
Emily Olsen, Florida State University

“Conspiracy, Atrocity, & ‘Ritual’”
Dr. David Frankfurter, Boston University

David Frankfurter holds the William Goodwin Aurelio Chair of the Appreciation of Scripture at Boston University. His academic interests involve theoretical issues like the place of magic in religion, the relationship of religion and violence, the nature of Christianization, and the representation of evil in culture. He teaches courses on Western religions, comparative religions, Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, and the documents of early Christianity, including extra-canonical sources, magical texts, and saints’ lives.

Dinner Reception
6:30pm–8:30pm
SSB 208/218
Saturday, February 10

Breakfast and Coffee
9:00–9:30 am
SSB 219

Block 3
9:30–11:45 am

Panel: Ecology and Eschatology
SSB 201

Respondent: Dr. Martin Kavka, Florida State University
Moderator: Joshua Carpenter, Florida State University

“Aviral Godāvari. Where Religion and River Revival Meet”
Amee Parikh, Florida State University

“Wiccan Apocalypticism”
Humberto Perez, Florida State University

“When Drinking Water, Consider The Source”
Marah Litchford, Florida State University

Panel: Self-Narration: Ideology and Secrecy
SSB 208

Respondent: Dr. Andrew Durdin, Florida State University
Moderator: Tommy Woodward, Florida State University

“Confrontation or Reconciliation? Two Reactions to the Roman Empire in the
Acts of Paul and the Acts of Peter”
Jerry Kou, Florida State University

“Ibrahim George Kheiralla and Early American Baha’i Identity”
Alana Dickey, Florida State University
“Interspirituality and the “Death” of Religion”
   Cooper Sims-West, Naropa University

“(Re-)Building Multicultural Identity in the Face of Calamity: The Story of Elephantine Jews”
   Jordan Barr, Florida State University

Block 4
12:00pm–2:15pm

Panel: Space, Symbology, and Sensing Religion
SSB 208/218

Respondent: Dr. Michael Muhammad Knight, University of Central Florida
Moderator: Will Livingston, Florida State University

“Somebody Hears You: Surveillance and Horror in Vienna Teng’s "Hymn of Acxiom!"”
   Joshua Carpenter & Zachary Lloyd, Florida State University

“Between Urbanity and Religiosity: Exploring the Symbolism of Mosques in Lagos, Nigeria”
   Ridwan Balogun, Florida State University

   Blake Garland-Tirado, Indiana University

“Gods Bound and Bathed: The Manipulation of Cult Images as a Ritual Response to Disaster in the Greco-Roman World”
   Dane Scott, Boston University
Panel: Religion and Race in 20\textsuperscript{th} Century America
SSB 201/203

Respondent: Dr. John Corrigan, \textit{Florida State University}
Moderator: Humberto Perez, \textit{Florida State University}

“Rev. Henry Mitchell, Broken Promises, and Religio-Political Organizing”
Sam McLoughlin, \textit{Stanford University}

“An Examination of Overlooked Church Records of Three Virginian
Redemptorist Black Catholic Churches”
Philip Chivily, \textit{Florida State University}

“From Preaching to Afro-pessimism: The Black Secularism of James Baldwin”
Chloe Griffin, \textit{University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill}

Lunch
2:15–3:00pm
SSB 219
“Teaching in Contentious Classrooms”
A Roundtable Discussion

3:00–5:15pm
SSB 201/203

Moderator: Dr. Aline Kalbian, Florida State University

Panelists:

Dr. David Frankfurter, Boston University
David Frankfurter holds the William Goodwin Aurelio Chair of the Appreciation of Scripture at Boston University. His academic interests involve theoretical issues like the place of magic in religion, the relationship of religion and violence, the nature of Christianization, and the representation of evil in culture. He teaches courses on Western religions, comparative religions, Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, and the documents of early Christianity, including extra-canonical sources, magical texts, and saints’ lives.

Dr. Michael Muhammad Knight, University of Central Florida
Dr. Knight is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at UCF. His 2004 novel The Taqwacores, centering on a group of punk-rock Muslims, launched a cultural movement among young Muslims and led to the development of an actual Taqwacore genre of Islamic punk music. He published several other novels, books, and journalistic articles about American Islam before expanding his repertoire to include academic work as well. At UCF, he teaches courses such as World Religions; Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad; and Religion and Medicine.

Dr. Tracie Mahaffey, Florida State University
Dr. Mahaffey is a Senior Associate Teaching Faculty and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Philosophy at FSU. She is interested in the philosophy of action, specifically issues of autonomy and informed consent, teaching courses such as bioethics and the ethics of consent.
Thank you to all of the hard-working FSU Religion Graduate Student Volunteers who made this possible.

A Special Thank You:
Laurel McKinley
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HERo
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FSU Congress of Graduate Students
FSU Department of Religion
FSU Student Government Association

Co-Directors:
Emily Olsen, Scott Bursey, and Ashley Douglas

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Casey Aldridge (Treasurer)
Tommy Woodward, Kaitlynn Balmer, and Rebekah Gordon (Facilities)
Scott Bursey and Rebekah Gordon (Hospitality)
Scott Bursey, Ashley Douglas, and Philip Chivily (Publicity)
Dr. Andrew Durdin (Advisor)
Jon Bridges and Susan Stetson (Administrator)