

Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion

&

Iowa Interfaith Conferences

Friday-Sunday, April 12-14, 2024

Meredith Hall, Drake University

Des Moines, IA

<https://www.umwaar-sbl.org/>

<https://comparisonproject.wp.drake.edu/2024-iowa-interfaith-conference/>

Schedule & Program of Events

Friday

Arrive 3:00 pm

3:00 Annual Business Meeting

3:30 Cheese & Chocolate Opening Reception (w/ Publishers Open)

Hosted by the Upper Midwest AAR

Meredith South Lobby

First Session

4:00-5:15 pm

Panel #1: Roundtable for the Interreligious Studies Unit

Meredith 238

“Subverting and Expanding Philosophy of Religion”

Tim Knepper, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Jed Forman, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa

Gereon Kopf, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Moderator: *Cody Dolinsek*, Drake University, Des Moines, IA

Panel #2: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality Unit

Meredith 235

- “All Are Welcome”? Queer Identity in the Christian Sacrament of Holy Communion”

Kristina Hill, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

- “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Anthropology: Biblical Recourse in Contemporary Catholic Social Teaching”

Evan Marsolek, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Presider: Maeve Callan, Simpson College, Indianola, IA

First Site Visits

5:30-9:00 pm

5:30 Leave for Interfaith Visits

6:00–6:45 Interfaith Visit to Hindu Temple and Cultural Center

33916 155th Lane, Madrid, IA 50156

7:00–8:30 Interfaith Visit to Islamic and Education Center: Bosniak (dinner)

17630 Bosniak Lane, Granger, IA 50109

9:00 Desserts etc. @ Drake Diner

Sponsored by TAK (Theta Alpha Kappa, the Undergraduate Honor Society of Religious Studies and Theology)

1111 25th St, Des Moines, IA 50311

Saturday

Arrive 7:45 am

7:45-8:15 Continental Breakfast

Meredith South Lobby

Second Session

8:15-9:30 am

Panel #3: Ethics Unit

Meredith 238

- “Utilizing Narrative Patterns to Support Student Learning in Introductory Scripture Courses”

Karl Kuhn, Lakeland University, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

- “A Liberating Theology of Reproductive Justice”

Thia Cooper, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota

Presider: *David Scott*, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Denison, Iowa

Panel #4: Historical Perspectives on Religion and Philosophy Unit

Meredith 235

- “Demolition of Churches Notwithstanding: Christianity’s Boom in Twenty-First Century China”
Elena Vishnevskaya, Central College, Pella, Iowa
- “Civil Religion & Religious Nationalism as Ideal Types”
Ryan T. O’Leary, University of Wisconsin-Steven’s Point
- “Weeping for Dido: Augustine’s Divorce and His Account of Philosophy and Theology”
Jennifer Hockenbery, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

Presider: *Timothy Knepper*, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Panel #5: Student Panel

Meredith 234

- “Ezekiel 40-48: A Vision of Heaven”
William Flug, Central College, Pella, Iowa
- “Police and Politics, With A God In Between Them”
Catalina Samaniego, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa
- “Medicine of Traditional Lacrosse: Ojibwe Religion, Holistic Wellbeing, and Transcendent Sport”
Lachen Reid, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota

Presider: *Terry Kleven*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

Coffee Break

9:30-10:00 am

Meredith South Lobby

AAR Plenary Address

10:00-11:15 am

Prof. Douglas Kries

“Religions and Their Communities: Is Philosophy Friend or Foe”

Meredith 101

Lunch & Film

11:15 am - 1:00 pm

11:15-11:45 Lunch

11:45-1:00 Film Screening & Discussion

Interfaith Stories from Drake Interfaith Camps and Interfaith Panel

Varsity Theater

1207 25th Street, Des Moines, IA

Third Session

1:00-2:15 pm

Panel #6: Asian Studies and Buddhism Units

Meredith 238

- “Is there a "traditionalist" engaged Buddhism?”
Donna Lynn Brown, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- “The Phenomenon of Church Closing in Indonesia: The GKI Yasmin Case and Its Implications for Interreligious Relations”
Hans A. Harmakaputra, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- “Devotional Matter: Objects in Memory and Imagination within Hindu Practice”
Iva Patel, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Presider: *Gereon Kopf*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Panel #7: Student Panel

Meredith 234

- “The Luminary of the Rhein: Hildegard of Bingen’s Unapologetic Insistence on the Female Experience of God
Anna R. Venenga, Central College, Pella, Iowa
- “Embracing Pluralism: The Biblical Responsibility of Interfaith Work in Inspiring Social Justice and Peace”
Gabrielle Janssen, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- “Do I Wake or Sleep?” –Queer Spiritual Care and Remembrance During the AIDS Crisis”
Marshall Laidlaw, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Presider: *Elena Vishnevskaya*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

Interfaith Plenary Address

2:30-3:25 pm

Sarah McCammon

National Political Correspondent for NPR

“Making Sense of Religious Pluralism As an E(x)vangelical”

Meredith 101

Coffee Break

3:25-3:45 pm

Fourth Session

3:45-5:00 pm

Panel #8: Biblical Studies

Meredith 238

- “A ‘Theology of Work’: Paul, James, Genesis, and 1 Clement”
Paul A. Hartog, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa
- ““The Meaning of Desire (תשוקה): An Integrative Approach to Genesis 3:16; 4:7; and Song of Songs 7:10[11]”
Timothy Little, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa
- “Targum Onqelos on Gen. 5: The ‘Image’ in Adam, the Ages of the Sethites, and Enoch’s Mortality”
Terence Kleven, Central College, Pella, Iowa

Presider: *Susan Myers*, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Panel #9: Religion, Theology, and the Arts

Meredith 235

- “The Garden—A Refuge: Theatre, Religion, and Eco-Consciousness”
Cia Sautter, St. Kate, St. Scholastica, and Artistic Director at Storydance Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota
- “Ekphrasis/Ekstasis: the Art Subject in Julian's Revelation”
Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus, St. Paul, Minnesota

Presider: *Samuel Kessler*, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Panel #10: Student Panel: Buddhist Studies

Meredith 234

- “Meditation as an Inter-Religious Practice”
Dickyi Lhamo, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- “Reaching the Other Shore: Ven. Cheng Yen’s Meeting with Three Catholic Sisters as Encountering Nirmāṇakāya”
Duong Truong, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- Practitioner Movement and Sense Experiences in the Boudhanath Stupa’s Form”
Madeleine Tevonian, Lawrence University, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Presider: *Donna Lynn Brown*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Fifth Session

5:00-6:15 pm

(Note: Participation in this event conflicts with Laotian site visit.)

Panel #11: Roundtable for the Religion and Science Unit

Meredith 238

Discussion of *Faith and Reason in the Reformations*, ed. Terence J. Kleven,
Proceedings of a conference on the Five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant
Reformation, 2017, sponsored by the Lilly Fellows Program and held at Central College,
Pella, Iowa.

Jennifer Hockenbery, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

Mark Mattes, Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa

Douglas Kries, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington

Scott Culpepper, Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa

Terence Kleven, Central College, Pella, Iowa

Presiders: *Robert Porwoll*, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota, and

Terence Kleven, Central College, Pella, Iowa

Second Site Visits

5:30-8:30 pm

5:30 Leave for Interfaith Visits

5:45–6:45 Wat Lao Buddhavath

1804 E Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50320

7:00-8:30 Hindu Cultural and Educational Center (dinner)

1940 E. Army Post Rd, Des Moines

Sunday

9:45 Leave for Interfaith Visits

10:00–12:00 St Mary Coptic Orthodox Church

954 Cummins Pkwy, Des Moines, IA 50312

**12:15-1:30 Iowa Sikh Association (lunch)
1115 Walnut St, West Des Moines, IA 50265**