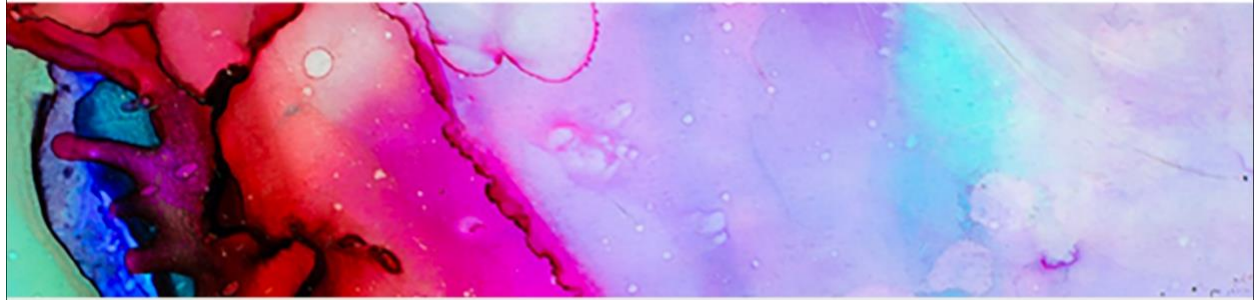


Indiana University  
**UNDERGRADUATE RELIGIOUS STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
presents



# SPRING SYMPOSIUM



**MAR 26-27, 2021 | ZOOM**



**DEPARTMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**Friday, March 26**

[Zoom link](#)

Passcode: 03262021

All times are Eastern Time Zone

**2:00pm: Opening Remarks**

Professor Patrick Michelson

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies of Religious Studies, Indiana University

**2:05-3:45pm: Panel 1**

**Mysticism and the Otherworldly: Exploring Judaism, Buddhism, and Christianity through the Supernatural**

Thomas Merton, Simone Weil, and the Mysticism of Social Action

Anders Nilsson, Utah State University

“Adorning the Bride: The Zoharic Origins of Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot”

Jesse Noily, Oberlin College

“Buddhist Epistemology”

Nevin Decoster, Indiana University

“The Functionality of an Eminent Monk in the Early Medieval Buddhist World:

The Changes of the Image of Kim Musang in Korea, China and Tibet”

Chen Wu, Indiana University

**4:00-5:45pm: Panel 2**

**Religion in the World: Bridging the Gap Between the Sacred and the Profane**

“American Religion and Political Epistemology: The Issue of Fake News”

Hannah Kunzman, Stanford University

“Examining Methods of Translating Religious Studies Research Concepts to the General Public through Scripted Television”

Amelia Spalter, Brown University

“The Disaster That Never Happened”

Jeremiah Saxton, Indiana University

“Catching Jinn, Sounding Conspiracy: Affect, Resonance, and Alternative Realities in Abderraouf Ben Halima’s Online Ruqya”

Stuart Sones, Indiana University

**6:30pm: Keynote**

“Unimaginable Loss: Ritualizing Environmental Grief and Mourning”

Professor Lisa Sideris, Indiana University

**Saturday, March 27**

[Zoom link](#)

Passcode: 03272001

**9:15-10:30am: Panel 3**

**Religion, the Body, and Beauty: Embracing the Physical as Pathway to the Divine**

“The Crisis of Mortal Beauty—Beauty and the Gods”

Ara Gargiulo, Indiana University

“Step by Step: Contra Dance and Great Awakening Christianity in America”

Lucy Kidwell, Indiana University

“Liturgical Dance, Performativity, and the Body”

Molly Wells, Vanderbilt University

**10:45am-12:25pm: Panel 4**

**Religious Imperatives: Witchcraft, Judaism, and Black Theology**

“Witchcraft as Liberation: Examining the Oracle of Los Angeles’ Petition”

Cynthia Torres, University of North Carolina

“What Happens in the Pulpit? Exploring the Consequences of Privileging the Black Theological Imperative in the Church and Academia”

Tatayana Richardson, Duke University

“Sphere of Power: Jewish Women’s Authority in Traditionally Female Spaces”

Paige Plucker, Georgetown University

“Becoming Brujas: Relations, Care, and Transgression in Women’s Use of Colonial Mexican Witchcraft”

Mariana Nájera, Rice University

**Concluding Remarks**

Lucy Kidwell, URSA President