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

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