

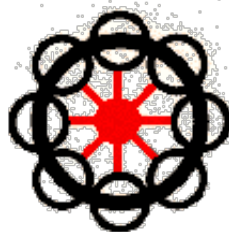
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AASR The Australian Association for the Study of Religions



Programme - AASR/RLA Conference 2005

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*Australian Association for the Study of Religions AND
Religion, Literature and the Arts Society/Studies in Religion,
University of Sydney*



Friday 30 September - Sunday 2 October 2005

Venue: John Woolley Building A20, The University of Sydney, NSW
2006

Australia Telephone: + 61 2 9351 2367

Friday 30 September 2005

18.00 - 18.30 **Registration** and drinks Woolley
Common Room With music by
Richard Cartwright and his sitar

18.30 - 19.10 **Book Launch** *Islam in the
Modern World* Woolley Common
Room.

Author Mehmet Ozalp. Book to be
launched by Rev. Bill Crews,
President Exodus Foundation

19.10 - 20.30 **Welcome, and Opening
Address** - Woolley N 395

[Ian Howard, College of Fine Arts,
UNSW](#)

20.30 - 21.00 Close of sessions

Saturday 1 October 2005

8.30 - 9.00 **Registration**

9.00 - 10.30 **Parallel Paper Sessions 1:**

1. Room: To be announced

Buddhism 1

Chair: To be announced

Dr Judith Snodgrass, 'From Eastern Buddhism to Zen: D T Suzuki's Journey to the West'

Dr Geoff Wilson, 'Linguistics in the Future of Studies in Religion: Buddhism and Semiotics'

Dr Brendon Stewart 'Use your imagination, Buddhism is a good idea'

2. Room: To be announced

Education

Chair: To be announced

Con Apokis, 'Education and Secularisation Theory: A New Deal'

Peta Goldberg, 'Critical Religious Literacy: A challenge for senior secondary religion studies'

Patricia Blundell, 'What role can education play in promoting inter-faith dialogue?'

3. Room: to be announced

Christianity 1

Chair: To be announced

Jennifer Anne Herrick, 'The Trinity is a matter of five notions or properties, four relations, three persons, two processions, one substance'

or nature, and no understanding'

Doug McNaught, 'Getting back to First Principles'

Graham English, 'Sectarianism within the local Church: Catholics fighting Catholics about true religion in Australian'.

4. Room: to be announced

Mysticism

Chair: To be announced

Milad Milani, 'Mystical experience and a critique of pure reason in the [spiritual] epistemology of Suhrawardi and Rumi'

Marianne Batenburg, 'Who Is a Mystic? In Search of a Contemporary Definition'

10.30 - 11.00

Morning Tea Woolley Common Room

11.00-13.00

Plenaries Room N 395

- 11.00-11.45 Dr Julia Howell
- 12.00-12.45 Dr Heather Foster

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch and Women's Caucus Meeting; Launch of *2004*

Religion, Literature and the Arts Conference Proceedings, Carole M. Cusack, Frances Di Lauro and Christopher H. Hartney (eds.) *The Buddha of Suburbia*

14.00 - 15.30

Parallel Paper Sessions 2:

1.Room: to be announced

Buddhism 2

Chair: To be announced

Drasko Mitrikeski, 'Approaches and Methods in Buddhist Studies'

Andrew McGarrity, 'Using Skillful-Means Skillfully:'

Buddhist Upaya,
Methodology and the Limits
of Tradition'

Olivia M. F. Rawlings-Way,
The Soteriological and
Methodological Shifts of
Engaged Buddhism -
Renewing the Dharma and
Reinventing Buddhist
Studies'

2. Room: to be announced

Philosophy and Religion

Chair: to be announced

Angus Brook, 'The Question
of the Meaning of Religion'

John Healy, 'Expectations
and Deflations: Thinking
About Arendt and Levinas in
Relation to a Spiritual
Community'

Philip A. Quadrio, 'Geist and
Method: An Examination of
the Methodology of a
Religious Reformer'

3. Room: to be announced

Christianity 2

Chair: to be announced

Elisha McIntyre, 'Hillsong
Music As An Extension Of
Religious Experience'

David Collis, 'Run to
Paradise: The Megachurch
Reinvention of Christianity in
an Age of Corporate
Capitalism'

Philip Johnson and Simeon
Payne, 'Emerging Church
and Consumerist
Spiritualities: Silhouettes of
the Late Capitalist Self?'

4. Room: to be announced

Australian Religion

Chair: to be announced

Rod Pattenden, 'Artists do the Big Picture: Arts Practice as Cultural and Religious Renewal'

Vassilios Adrahtas, 'From Hierophanic Hermeneutics to Dadirri and Vice Versa: Towards A Methodological Reinvention of Studies in Indigenous Australian Religions'

Kathie Barnes, 'What was Chris Brennan doing all day in the Public Library?'

15.30 - 16.00

Afternoon Tea

16.00 - 17.30

Parallel Paper Sessions 3

1. Room: to be announced

Buddhism 3

Chair: to be announced

Peter Oldmeadow,
"Ontological difference" and
the two truths

Mark Allon, 'The Senior
Buddhist Manuscripts: a
collection of ancient
Gandhara birch bark scrolls'

Adjunct Professor Adrian
Snodgrass, 'Symbolic
Concordances at Muroji,
Japan'

2. Room: to be announced

Imagined Worlds: Missionary Representations of Asian Religions

Chair: to be announced

Geoffrey A. Oddie,
'Hinduism' in the British
Protestant Missionary
Imagination: Debates on the
Dominant Model, 1850-1900'

Will Sweetman, 'The
darkening of the light of

nature: monotheism,
polytheism and pantheism in
the editions of Ziegenbalg's
*Genealogie der
malabarischen Gotter* (1713,
1791, 1867, 1869)'

Benjamin Perry, 'The
Religious Condition of the
Chinese People'

3. Room: to be announced

**The Body and Secret
Traditions**

Chair: to be announced

Andrew Wearing,
'Manichaeism in the
21st Century'

David Pecotic, 'Absent
Bodies in the Study of
Religion'

Robert Williams,
'Embodiment as a Multi-
Dimensional Paradigm in the
Evolution of the Study of
Religion and Religious
Experience'

4. Room: to be announced

Christianity 3

Chair: to be announced

Dr Douglas Golding, 'A
comparative content analysis
of the reporting of religion in
the Courier Mail and the
Sunday Mail in the years
1954 and 2004'

Shelley Wickham,
'Rockchopping with the Little
Pebble: Mainstream, Fringe
and Criminal'

Paul Wink, 'The Need for a
Holistic Approach to
Research on Religion: The
case study of Religion,
Authoritarianism, and
Prejudice'

18.30 - 19.30

Book Launch at Gleebooks,
Glebe Point Road, Glebe.

Adam Possamai, *Religion and Popular Culture: A Hyper-Real Testament*.

Popular Culture can amuse, entertain, instruct, and relax people, but what if it provides inspiration for religion? Jediism from the *Star Wars* series and *Matrixism* from the Matrix trilogy are but two examples of new religious groups that have been greatly inspired by popular culture to (re)create a religious message. These are hyper-real religions, that is a simulacrum of a religion partly created out of popular culture which provides inspiration for believers/consumers.

On the other hand, religious fundamentalist groups tend, at times, to resist this synergy between popular culture and religion, and at other times, re-appropriate popular culture to promote their own religion.

To explore these new phenomena, this book views itself as the 'hyper-real testament' of these new religious phenomena by addressing the theories, among many others, of Baudrillard, Jameson and Lipovetsky, and by exploring the use of fictions such as those from *Harry Potter*, *Star Trek*, *Buff* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Adam Possamai is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Western Sydney and President of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions.

The event is sponsored by the Social Justice Social Change Research Center from the University of Western Sydney.

from 19.30

Conference Dinner (Venue TBA, Glebe Point Road)

The AASR Essay Prize will be presented by Kath McPhillips at the dinner.

Sunday 2 October 2005

8.30 - 9.00

Registration

9.00 - 10.30

Parallel Paper Sessions 4

1.Room: to be announced

Religion and Conflict

Chair: to be announced

Wendy Sargent, 'Peace building: Moving beyond the bounds of instrumental rationality'

Rebecca Frost, 'The Secular Sacred and Identity-Politics: Un-working the "Loss" of the Sublime'

Paulus Ryanto, 'Denken' in the Later Heidegger

2.Room: to be announced

Art and Literature

Chair: to be announced

Jamie Scott, 'Representing Diaspora in New Canadian Literatures'

Frances Di Lauro, 'The Voice of Subversion in Literature and Art'

John Cohen, 'Northrop Frye at the Cinema'

3.Room: to be announced

Paganism 1

Chair: to be announced

Danielle Kirby, 'The Mapping of Abstracted Worlds: Spatial Relations in the Otherkin virtual community'

Marian Dalton, 'Chaos, Controversy and Ecstasy: the Euphoria Festival and its Impact on Australian Neopaganism'

Glenys Livingstone, 'Re-inventing Religion of the Triple Spiral: A "PaGaian" Cosmology'

4. Room: to be announced

Buddhism 4

Chair: Drasko Mitrikeski

Inaugural Meeting of the Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies

10.30 - 11.00

Morning Tea

11.00 - 13.00

Plenaries Room N 395

- 11.00 - 11.45 Dr Carole Cusack
- 12.00 - 12.45 Dr Adam Possamai

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch and AASR AGM

14.00 - 15.30

Parallel Paper Sessions 5

1.Room: to be announced

Methodology

Chair: to be announced

Julian Droogan, 'Exhuming the Spiritual from the Material: on looking for an archaeology of religion'

Christopher Hartney, 'Methodology and Issues of Paternity: Voltaire'

Mark John Crees, 'The Religious 'a-Dieu': Postmodern Religious Theory and the Repositioning of Religion in the Third Millennium'

2.Room: to be announced

Paganism 2

Chair: to be announced

Lauren Bernauer, 'Julius Evola and the Modern Germanic Heathens'

Leon Wild, 'The Raven Banner at the Battle of Clontarf, the context of an Old Norse mythic icon'

Helen Farley, 'Viewing Culture and Religion through the lens of Tarot'

3.Room: to be announced

New Religious Movements

Chair: to be announced

Matthew Etherden, 'The Study of Religion in mainstream Australian society'

Celia Genn, 'Transitions in Modern Sufism: the murshid-mureed (master-disciple) relationship in the Inayati Sufi Movement'

4.Room: to be announced

Christianity 4

Chair: to be announced

Mike Mawson, 'Natural Human Rights and the Problem of Nature'

Julie Washington, 'Modern Christianity and the Experience of Extreme Pain'

Sarah Penicka, 'Men Of Faith: Stravinsky, Maritain

and the ideal Christian
artifex'

15.30- 16.00 **Afternoon Tea**

16.00 – 18.00 **Parallel Paper Sessions 6**

1.Room: to be announced

**A Radical Departure from
Prevailing Methodological
Approaches to the Study and
Teaching of Religion**

Chair: to be announced

Ian Fry, 'Epistemology and
Religion: An Inclusive
Approach to the Study of
Religion Based on
Acknowledgement of the
Integrity of History'

Shanthikumar Hettiarachchi,
'Postcolonial Criticism: An
Approach to De-colonising
the Study of Religion'

Andrew Wicking, 'Foucault
and Religion: The Imperative
Of Foucault's Concept of
'Biopower' for Analysing
Religion And Social Power'

Ruwan Palapathwala,
Methodological Imperatives
for Reinventing Studies in
Religion in the Third
Millennium: A Re-
examination of Andragogy &
Unconditioning in the
Kalama Sutta

2.Room: to be announced

Buddhism 5

Chair: to be announced

Glenys Eddy, 'Fieldwork and
the Reflexive Stance:
Managing the Relationship
between Methodological
Agnosticism and One's Own

Academic and Religious
Standpoints'

Peter Friedlander,
'Buddhism, Politics and
Globalization'

Edward Crangle, 'Peculiar
Meditative Praxis in
Contemporary Theravada
Buddhism'

Dh. Ratnavyuha (Sydney
Buddhist Centre), 'Principles
of Meditation: Contemporary
Teaching of Fundamental
Principles'

3. Room: to be announced

**Feminine Subjectivity and
Religion: Sexual Difference
and Ethics in the Third
Millennium**

Chair: Kath McPhillips (UWS)

Jay Johnston, 'Subjects of
Desire: Sexual Difference
and Radical Intersubjectivity'

Ajasta Vargas, 'Exploring the
Divine in Irigaray'

Kath McPhillips, 'Speaking
from the Body - Censorship
and Subjectivity'

4. Room: to be announced

**Mind, Body, Hermeneutics and
Enlightenment**

Chair: to be announced

Kameshwar Prasad Singh
and Ashok Oraon, 'A Brief
Study of Buddhist Attitude of
Mind'

William James Hoverd,
'Proving Theory? Implicit
Religion and Perceptions of
the Western Body'

Paul Martin, 'The

Hermeneutics of Ineffability'

Chris Jones, 'An Individual
Baha'I Perspective on
Spiritual Aspects of Cultural
Diversity and Sustainable
Development. Towards a
Second Enlightenment'

18.00

Close of Conference Woolley
Common Room

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