



**Sacred Texts and Human Contexts
6th International Symposium on
MYSTICAL TRADITIONS:
APPROACHES TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE**

Where: Casa Tra Noi, Rome, Italy

When: June 7-10, 2020 (includes visit to Assisi)

Presented by Nazareth College's Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue and the IIIT Chair for Interfaith Studies

Co-sponsored by The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI: Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica) in Rome, Italy

Supported by Department of Religious Studies, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York and Religious Studies of Nazareth College

Schedule:

SUNDAY, June 7, 2020

3:30-5:00 p.m. **Registration and Reception, Casa Tra Noi, Rome,**
5:00 p.m. **Opening and Welcoming Remarks, Nazareth College & PISAI**

5:30 p.m. **Guest Speaker (Auditorium)**
Dr. Donna Orsuto - From the Mystical Experience of Francis of Assisi in the Canticum of the
Creatures to the Mystical Reflections of Pope Francis in Laudato Si'
MODERATOR:

7 p.m. Dinner and Free time

MONDAY, June 8, 2020

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Hotel is included in the room reservation

9-10:30 a.m. **SESSION 1**

Panel One: Mysticism: Unity, Monism, Annihilation (Auditorium)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Hussam S. Timani - The Concept of al-Fana' in Ibn 'Arabi's and Eckhart's Thoughts

Dr. Steven Kepnes - The One in Western Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism

Dr. Bradley Malkovsky - The Reception of Hindu Non-Duality Teaching and Experience in
Recent Catholic Theology

Panel Two: Mysticism and Healing the Earth (Conference Room 1)

MODERATOR: Dr. Matthew Temple

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Elizabeth Adams-Eilers - Bonaventura and the Ikhwān al Ṣafā': Tracing Mystical Pathways
toward Union with God and Healing the Earth

Dr. Sandra Sterling Epstein - Environmental Sustainability: Jewish Mystical Teachings and
Practicality

Dr. Bahar Davary - Eco-Mysticism of a Persian Poet: Sohrab Sepehri

Panel Three: Mysticism, Pluralism, and Peaceful Coexistence (Conference Room 2)

MODERATOR: Dr. Mustafa Gokcek, Niagara University

PRESENTERS:

Marinus Chijioke Iwuchukwu - Models for Ideal and effective Interreligious Dialogue in
Mystical Religious Societies

Ulrike Wiethaus, Ph.D. – Mysticism: A Remedy for Religious Violence?

Bogdan G. Bucur - The Place of Imagination in Orthodox Spirituality: Insights from the Three
Methods of Prayer

10-10:30 a.m. **Break and Refreshments**

10:30-12 p.m. **SESSION TWO**

Panel One: Mysticism and Interfaith Dialogue in South Asia (Auditorium)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Annapurna Devi Pandey - Spiritual Economy and a Revival of Mystic Traditions in India: An Empirical Analysis

Dr. Heidi Pauwels - The role of Mysticism in interreligious meetings: the case of Hindu-Muslim meetings in performance

Dr. Nilofar Ahmed - Mystical Mainstream or Religious Heterodox? Examining the Muslim Tradition of Sufism in South Asia and beyond

Panel Two: Mysticism and the Role of Women (Conference Room 1)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Rabbi Dr. Analia Bortz - Reclaiming the Female Understanding of the Abrahamic Faiths through the Mystical Figure of Ketura, Abraham's 3rd Wife

Dr. Maryam Shahmoradi - Interreligious Peacebuilding between Female Catholic and Muslim Peacebuilders: Exploring Four Levels of Educational Dialogue

Dr. Terri Ofori - African American Women's Spirituality as Resistance

Panel Three: Mysticism, Monism and Religious Pluralism (Conference Room 2)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. John M. Thompson - Peacefully "fighting" the Dark Side: Lessons from Buddha and Jesus

Dr. George Heyman - Ali al-Khawwas and Pope Francis: The Mystical Union with the Created World

Dr. Thomas Cattoi - Towards an interreligious lectio divina: allegorical approaches to Scriptural hermeneutics in early Christianity and Tibetan Buddhism

12:05-1 p.m. Guest Speaker (Auditorium)

MODERATOR: Dr. Dianne Oliver

Presenter: Dr. Jeffrey S. Lidke - Looking Eastward for the Kingdom: Comparative Reflections on the Potential of Mystical Practice for Neutralizing Global Conflicts

1:00PM Lunch Break

2-3:30 p.m. SESSION THREE

Panel One: Jewish Mysticism, Kabbalah Tradition and Reconciliation (Auditorium)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Saundra Sterling Epstein - Jewish Teachings About Mystical Unity and Discord

Dr. Eyal Regev - Sectarian Mysticism in Qumran: Beyond Resistance in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Andrii Krawchuk - Hasidic Prayer and the Project to Redeem the World: Insights for Reconciliation and Peace in the Land of the Baal Shem Tov

Panel Two: Spirituality and Peaceful Coexistence (Conference Room 1)

MODERATOR: **Dr. Dianne Oliver**, Dean, College of Arts and Science, Nazareth College

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Shalahudin Kafrawi, Mystical Vision for Peaceful Co-existence in Ibn 'Arabi and Ahmad Sirhindi

Dr. Feryal Salem - Philosophy and Mysticism in the Spiritual Ethics of Aḍḍ al-dīn al-Ījī

Dr. Zeki Saritoprak - “Forgive Others and God will Forgive You:” Islamic Mysticism and Prophetic Forgiveness as a Model of Peaceful Coexistence

Panel Three: Mysticism, and Sacred Sources across Traditions (Conference Room 2)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Fatih Harpci - The Spirit from God: Jesus Christ as a Muslim Sufi and Friend of God (Waliyyullah)

Brendan Case - A Pauline Reading of Qur'an 5:48: Nicholas of Cusa's Theology of Religious Diversity

John Quilter - Therapy and the Abstract Sacred: an Exploration of Cupitt's engagement of Christianity with Madhyamika Buddhism with a view to our Contemporary Spiritual Predicament

3:30 p.m. Break and Refreshments

4-5:30 p.m. SESSION FOUR

Panel One: Mysticism and Peace Making (Auditorium)

MODERATOR: Andrii Krawchuk, University of Sudbury

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Charles Upton - “Can mysticism bring world peace?”

Dr. Haava K  k Arslan - Developing a Sacred Mystical Based Ontological and Epistemological Framework for Peace Studies

Dr. Paul Hedges - Identity, Prejudice, and Mysticism: Exploring Sustainable Narratives of Peace Across Religious Borders

Panel Two : Sufism and the Role of Islamic Scholars (Conference Room 1)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Abdullah Al Lheedan - The Spiritual Crises and Peaceful Coexistence: The Role of Islamic Scholars

Dr.. Martin Awaana Wullobayi - Mystical Marriage in the Thought of Mahmud Muhammad Taha

Dr. Hamidullah Marazi - Mysticism as a remedy to violence in light of the spiritual legacy of Sufis of Indian Subcontinent!

Panel Three: Mysticism, Art and conflicts

MODERATOR: Richard Salter, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Ori Z. Soltes - Mysticism, Visual Art. and Repairing the World in a Strife-ridden Secular Age

Dr. Yaakov Ariel - Peace, Body and Soul: The Spiritual Agenda of the Beat Writers

Dr. Susie Paulik Babka - The Art of Traversing a Wall: Meeting Art, and Mysticism in Religious Conflict

5:45-6:30 p.m. Guest Speakers Auditorium

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Kabir Helminski - Higher Consciousness and a World at War

Camille Adams Helminski - “Gurcu Hatun and Lady Jacoba de Settesoli, Shining Suns of Spirit”

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Free time

TUESDAY, June 9, 2020

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast in the Hotel is included in the room reservation

8:30-10 a.m.

SESSION FIVE

Panel One: Sufism: Purifying the heart from prejudices and Hate (Auditorium)

MODERATOR: Shalahudin Kafrawi, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Barbara B. Pemberton, Ph.D. - Polishing the Mirror of the Heart: Sufi Poetic Reflections as Interfaith Inspiration for Peace

Dr. Saiyida Zakiya-Hasna Islam, Ph.D. - Beyond Separations: Mystic Minds Merging Across Time and Space

Dr. Moreteza Rezazadeh and Hamed Shivapoor - A Typology of Mystical Commentaries of the Quran in the Muslim World: Case Study of Ta'wilat Najmiyyah

Panel Two: Mysticism: A Comparative Approaches to Peaceful Co-existence (CR 1)

MODERATOR: Thomas Donlin- Smith, Nazareth College

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Theodora J.M. van Gaal - Migration and the Mystical-theological Tradition

Dr. Jason Okrzynski - Benedictine Evangelicalism: Human Flourishing, Peacemaking, and Protestant Pedagogy Today

Panel Three: Mysticism and Comparative Approaches to Peaceful Coexistence (CR 2)

MODERATOR: Fr. Dr. Jason Welle

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Gastón Espinosa - Cultivating Spiritual Intelligence and Mystical Experiences as Resources in Peaceful Coexistence

Imam Yahya Pallavicini - Shaykh Ahmad ibn Idris legacy in Europe: Intellectual Jihad and Eschatological Politics

Dr. Nawaraj Chaulagain - A Mystical Quest for Unity: Approaching Ātman and Brahman in the Upanishads

10-10:15 a.m.

Break and Refreshment

10:15-11:45 a.m.

SESSION SIX

Panel One: Mysticism and Mystics; Comparative Approaches to Peaceful Coexistence (Aud)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Fr. Dr. Jason Welle - Spiritual Poverty in Two Medieval Traditions: Francis of Assisi and Fakhr al-Din al-Farisi

Fr. Dr. George Heyman - Ibn' Arabī and Judah Halevi: They Mystical Love for God in the Created World

Christopher Key Chapple - Haribhadra and Religious Pluralism: A Model for Peaceful Coexistence

Panel Two: Mysticism: The Role of Folklore and Poetry in Peaceful Coexistence (CR 2)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Rabbi Dr. Michael Zedek - Folklore and Mystical Stories: A Window to the Soul

Dr. Mulayka Laura Enriello - The Sober Mysticism and Spiritual Poverty in St. Dominic of Guzman (d. 1221 CE) and in Jalal al-Din al Suyuti (d. 1505 CE) - an Interreligious Insight
Allison Risewick and Asma Mohammadi-Beneath the Veil: The Influence of Rumi's poetry in the Twenty-First Century

Panel Three: Sufism: Regional Case Studies for Peaceful Coexistence (Conference Room 3)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Suraiya-The Role of Sufism in Modern world, A case study of Aceh, Indonesia

Dr. Abdoul Aziz Gaye - The Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order Approach to Peaceful Coexistence

Dr. Julianne Hazen - Peace through Love and Self-Knowledge in Sufism

12:30-1:15 p.m. Speaker (Auditorium)

MODERATOR:

PRESENTER: **Dr. Leonard Swidler** of Temple University, Philadelphia

Topic: Everyday Mysticism and the 21st Century

1:15-2:30 p.m. Lunch Break

2:30 p.m. SPECIAL SESSION (Auditorium)

Guest Speaker to be announced

4 p.m. Closing session, next conference and thanks

5 p.m. Conference ends and Free time

WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2020 Visit to Assisi: Historical Sight

7 a.m. Leaving the Hotel

9 p.m. Back to the Hotel

Have a Safe Return