



**Sacred Texts and Human Contexts  
6th International Symposium on  
MYSTICAL TRADITIONS:  
APPROACHES TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE  
Where: Virtual  
When: May 24-25, 2021**

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

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

**MONDAY, May 24, 2021**

---

**OPENING SESSION                      9:00-9:45 a.m.**

**Sacred Texts Conferences: An Academic view: Dr. Dianne Oliver**, Dean College of Arts and Sciences, Nazareth College

**Conference Opening Remarks: Dr. Elizabeth Paul**, President Nazareth College

**Conference Update: Dr. Jason Welle** of PISAI, Rome, Italy  
**Muhammad Shafiq**, Nazareth College

---

**Mysticism: Comparative Approaches to Peaceful Co-existence (10:00-11:30 a.m. Session 1, Panel 1)**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Thomas Donlin-Smith**, Nazareth College

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

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

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

**Mysticism and Comparative Approaches to Peaceful Coexistence (10-11:30 a.m. Session 1, Panel 2)**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Christopher Clohessy**, PISAI Institute, Rome, Italy

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

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

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

---

**Mysticism and the Role of Women (12-1:30 p.m. Session 2, Panel 1)**

**MODERATOR: Dr. Dianne Oliver**, Nazareth College

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

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

**Dr. Jason Welle** - Servants in Many Senses: Women in Early Sūfism"

## **Mysticism and Pluralism (12-1:30 p.m. Session 2, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Etin Anwer**, Robert and William-Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

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

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

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

---

## **Mysticism, Global Conflicts and Peaceful Coexistence (2:30-4 p.m. Session 3, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR: **David Hill**, Member of Conference Committee, Hickey Center & IIIT Chair

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

**Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Saeed Siddiqi** - Fusion of the Observation of Natural Phenomena and the Understanding of the holy Texts in the Cognitive Processing of Human Mind: Demystification of a mystical tradition in Islam and its potential impact on global cooperation and peaceful coexistence

**Dr. Marinus Chijioke Iwuchukwu** - Models for Ideal and Effective Interreligious Dialogue in Mystical Religious Societies

## **Jewish Mysticism and Reconciliation (2:30-4 p.m. Session 3, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Michael Dobkowski**, Hobart and William -Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York

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

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

---

## **Mysticism and Sacred Sources across Traditions (4:30-6 p.m. Session 4, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Andrea K. Talentino**, Provost & Vice President Academic, Nazareth College

**Rev. Dr. 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

**Dr. Nanako Sakai** - Mysticism and Animals in Shintoism

## **Sufism and purifying the heart from prejudices and hate (4:30-6 p.m. Session 4, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Ahmed Alwani**, Vice-President, IIIT

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

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

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

## **TUESDAY, May 25, 2021**

---

### **Mysticism and Peace Making (9-10:30 a.m. Session 5, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Michael D. Calabria**, OFM, St. Bonaventure University

**Dr. June-Ann Greeley** - Abu Hamid al-Ghazali's On the Duties of Brotherhood as a Modern Guide for Peaceful Coexistence

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

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

### **Sufism: Regional Case Studies for Peaceful Coexistence (9-10:30 a.m. Session 5, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Shalahudin Kafrawi**, Hobart & William-Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

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

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

**Professor Mohammad Abul Klam Azad** - Religions and Mystical Traditions to Promote Coexistence: A Study on Bangladesh

---

### **Mysticism: Unity, Monism, Annihilation (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Session 6, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR:

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

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

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

### **Sufism and Peaceful Coexistence (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Session 6, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Mustafa Gokcek**, Niagara University

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

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

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

---

### **Mysticism: The Role of Folklore and Poetry in Peaceful Coexistence (2-3:30 p.m. Session 7, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Nancy M. Rourke**, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY

**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

**Dr. Tatjana Myoko v. Prittwitz** - The Zen arts – a mystical entry point to a world of oneness

### **Mysticism, Art, and Conflicts (2-3:30 p.m. Session 7, Panel 2)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Richard Salter**, Hobart & William-Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

**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

---

### **Mystical Traditions and Environment (4-5:30 p.m. Session 8, Panel 1)**

MODERATOR: **Dr. Denise Yarbrough**, University of Rochester

**Dr. Elizabeth Adams-Eilers** - On Bonaventure's *Mind's Road to God* and *The Rasā'il* of the Ikhwān al Ṣafā': Tracing Mystical Pathways toward Union with God and Healing the Earth

**Dr. Saundra Sterling Epstein** - Environmental Sustainability: Jewish Mystical Teachings and PraSEcticality

**Dr. Etin Anwar** - Embracing unity: the making of ecological self and its mystical foundation

---

**5:30-6:15 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS**