

Nazareth College's  
Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue  
&  
the IIT Chair for Islamic & Interfaith Studies  
present:

# Sacred Texts & Human Contexts 7th International Symposium



## INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION: THE SELF & THE OTHER IN SACRED TEXTS & HUMAN CONTEXTS

Cosponsored by  
Hobart and William-Smith Colleges,  
Religious Studies, Geneva, NY

## **MONDAY May 22, 2023**

2:00–4:00p           **REGISTRATION & RECEPTION**  
Otto A. Shults Community Center, Forum

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4:00–8:00p           **OPENING SESSION**  
Opening Remarks:  
Elizabeth Paul, PhD, President Nazareth College

**Conference Update:**  
Muhammad Shafiq, PhD, Hickey Center & IIIT Chair, Nazareth College  
Thomas Donlin-Smith, PhD, Religious Studies, Nazareth College

5:00–5:30p           **BREAK & REFRESHMENT**

5:30–8:00p           **DINNER & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Moderator:**  
Guest Keynote Speaker: John O. Voll, PhD, Georgetown University  
*“Other-izing” and “Self-izing”: Interreligious Relations in 21st Century  
Global Life*

## **TUESDAY May 23, 2023**

7:30–8:45a           **BREAKFAST**  
Otto A. Shults Community Center, Forum

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9:00–10:30a         **SESSION 1, PANEL 1**  
**Inclusion or Exclusion: Comparative Approaches**  
MODERATOR: Dr. Thomas Donlin-Smith, Nazareth College

**PRESENTERS:**  
Ori Z. Soltes, PhD, Georgetown University  
*From Exodus to Hizmet: Redefining Other and Self in Thought and Action*

Hans A. Harmakaputra, PhD, Augustana University  
*Encountering God’s Grace in Islam: A Christian Reading of the Forty  
Hadith of Nawawī*

Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, ThD, University of Helsinki  
*Resources for Interfaith Dialogue from a New Paradigm in Christian  
Ecumenical Studies: A Case-Study between Two Monotheistic Faiths*

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**SESSION 1, PANEL 2, 9:00-10:30 am**  
**Inclusion or Exclusion: Muslim Approaches**  
MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Ghada Ghazal, PhD student, Hamad Bin Khalifa University  
*The Religious Other in the Qur'an and Muslim Practice*

Hussam S. Timani, PhD, Christopher Newport University  
*Al-Wala' wa al-Bara': The Other in Islamic Thought*

Rashid Shaz, PhD, Aligarh University  
*The Quran as a Pluralist Manifesto: Forging a Faith Fraternity across the  
Spectrum*

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**SESSION 1, PANEL 3, 9:00-10:30 am**  
**Inclusion or Exclusion: Christian Contemporary Approaches**  
MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

José David Padilla, PhD, Barry University  
*Searching for Belonging: A Social Rhetorical Reading on Migration in the  
Bible*

Yan Liu, PhD candidate, Drew University  
*The Sovereignty Narratives of the Russian Orthodox Church: a Perspective  
of the Russia-Ukraine War*

Isabella Novsima, PhD candidate, Drew University  
*How to read "People with Profound Intellectual Disability" in the Biblical  
Text?*

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10:30–11:00a **BREAK & REFRESHMENTS**

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11:00–12:30p

**SESSION 2 PANEL 1**

**Exclusive or Inclusive: Jewish and Christian Theologies**

MODERATOR: George Eisen, PhD

**PRESENTERS:**

Fr. Dr. Norbert Lis, ThD, Anglicum University and Hartmann Institute  
*A Comparative Study of Christian and Jewish Theological Anthropologies in the Context of the Three Transcendentals: Beauty, Goodness, Truth as the Basis for Understanding Human Dignity for Interreligious Dialogue*

Saundra Sterling Epstein, EdD, University of Pennsylvania  
*A Framework for Inclusion and Exclusion in Jewish Law and Practice*

Daniel Maoz, PhD, Martin Luther University College  
*Exclusion, Racism, and Xenophobia: Academic Analysis and Jewish Emic Reflection*

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**SESSION 2, PANEL 2**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Buddhist perspective**

MODERATOR: Mustafa Gokcek, PhD, Niagara University

**PRESENTERS:**

Bishal Karna, PhD, Nazareth College  
*The Dynamics of Self, Other, and No-Self in Self-Compassion: An Analysis of Buddhist and Psychological Teachings*

John M. Thompson, PhD, Christopher Newport University  
*Does EVERYONE get to ride the “Great Vehicle”? – Exclusive Inclusivism in the Lotus Sūtra*

Oliver Ash, MDiv, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
*Title of Proposal: Inclusivity and Apophatic Non-Duality in the Theologia Mystica of Pseudo-Dionysius*

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**SESSION 2, PANEL 3**

**Exclusive or Inclusive: Indigenous Approaches**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS: Sara Varhus, PhD (tentative)**

Christian van Gorder, PhD, Baylor University

Fariba Darabimanesh, PhD, Tehran Iran, Independent Scholar

*Anahita, the Ancient Persian Mother Goddess and Modern Expressions of the Divine Feminine*

Annapurna Devi Pandey, PhD, UC Santa Cruz

*Indigenous Sacred Knowledge in Response to their Exclusion in the hands of the State and Corporate World*

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12:30–2:00p

**LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Moderator:**

**Keynote Guest Speaker: Diana Eck, PhD, Harvard University**

Beyond Inclusion or Exclusion: The Case for a Pluralist Ethic

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2:00–3:30p

**SESSION 3, PANEL 1**

**Inclusive or Exclusive in Christian Theologies**

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

**PRESENTERS:**

Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D, Lutheran School of Theology

*Anti-Ethnocentrism in the Book of Acts 10-11*

Mark King, PhD, Fordham University

*A Unique Revelation of Self and Other: Jesus the Christ Read From a Contemplative-Mystical Perspective for a Pluralistic, Postmodern World and Identity*

John W. Fadden, PhD, St. John Fisher University

*Legitimizing the Other's Wisdom for Common Cause: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Palm Sunday Sermon on Mohandas K. Gandhi*

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**SESSION 3, PANEL 2**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Issues**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Saundra Sterling Epstein, EdD, University of Pennsylvania

*At the Intersection of Halacha/Jewish Law and Homosexuality*

Terry Hawley Reeder, PhD, The College of Wooster

*"I do"; "No you don't": Arguing against Biblical Exclusion of LGBTQIA+ Persons*

*Rev Jason Okrzynski, PhD , Senior Pastor, IL*  
*Inclusive Evangelicalism? Ontology, race and Justification in Protestant Thought*

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**SESSION 3, PANEL 3**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Indian and Chinese Religious Approaches**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Mathew A. Foust, PhD, Appalachian State University

*Confucian Exclusivism: Nationalism and Speciesism in the Analects?*

Christopher Key Chapple, PhD, Loyola Marymount University

*Jain Yoga: A Way of Inclusion and Distinctions*

A. Faizur Rahman, MA, University of Madras

*Inclusivity or Exclusivity in the Sacred Texts of Hinduism*

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3:30–4:00p

**BREAK & REFRESHMENTS**

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4:00–5:30p

**SESSION 4, PANEL 1**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Mystical Approaches**

MODERATOR: Etin Anwar, PhD, Hobart and William-Smith Colleges

**PRESENTERS:**

Tatjana Myoko v. Prittwitz, PhD, Bard College

*Being One in the Midst of Otherness*

June-Ann Greeley, PhD, Sacred Heart University

*All Lovers are Welcome: Rumi and the Theology of Hospitality in Fihī ma fihī*

Nurasiah, PhD, Islamic National University, Indonesia

*Compassion and Inclusion in Ibn Arabi*

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**SESSION 4, PANEL 2**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Approaches**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Shalahudin Kafrawi, PhD, ThHobart and William Smith Colleges

*The Hateful Rhetoric of the Other and the Peaceful Co-existence in American and Muslim Contexts*

Muneer Kuttiyani Muhammed, PhD, International Islamic University  
*Revisiting the Madinah Pact: Toward Rebuilding an Ideal Inclusive Society*

Yaakov Ariel, PhD, UNC, Chapel Hill  
*Inclusion and Exclusion: Allen Ginsberg and the Changing Nature of Individual identities and Spiritual Choices in America*

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**SESSION 4, PANEL 3**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Regional Approaches**

MODERATOR: Thomas Donlin-Smith, PhD, Nazareth

**PRESENTERS:**

Dian Nafiatul Awaliyah, PhD, CEO Annisa, Indonesia  
*Critics about Exclusivism of Some Religious Communities in Indonesia*

Mohammed Mujib, Ph.D. candidate, University of Ghana  
*Perceptions of Islam and Muslims among Christians at the Islamic University College*

Martin Awaana Wullobayi, PhD, Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi ed' Islamistica, Rome  
*Inclusion and Exclusion of Religious Groups in National Identity Discourse: The Approach of the Republican Brothers of Sudan*

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6:00–8:00p

**DINNER & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**WEDNESDAY May 24, 2023**

7:30–8:45a

**BREAKFAST**

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9:00–10:30a

**SESSION 5, PANEL 1**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: The Qur'anic Narrative**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Shalahuddin Kafrawi, PhD, Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
*The Dialectic of Expansion and Contraction of Muslim Identity in the Qur'an*

Mustafa Gokcek, PhD, Niagara University  
*Inclusivity through Rahman, The Most Gracious*

Ahmet Celik, PhD candidate, Syracuse University  
*Multiple Political Discourse in the Islamic Tradition*

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**SESSION 5, PANEL 2**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Approaches**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Abdoul Aziz Gaye, PhD, Nazareth College  
*The Principle of Loyalty to Muslims and Disavowal of non-Muslims  
theorized by Ibn Taymiyya and executed by Wahhabism and Al-Qaeda*

Luke Grote, PhD, Drew University  
*Eliminative Belonging: The Group, Identity, and the Fundamental  
Mechanisms of Exclusion Imam*

Ali Siddiqui, Muslim Institute for Education and Religion, CA  
*Racism and Xenophobia in Islam*

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**SESSION 5, PANEL 3**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Approaches**

MODERATOR:

**PRESENTERS:**

Saiyida Zakiya Hasna Islam, PhD, Temple University  
*Exclusivity and Inclusivity: The Two Arcs of a Circle*

Abdul Majid Khan, PhD, Aligarh Muslim University  
*Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in the light of Qur'anic Verses*

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10:30–11:00a **BREAK & REFRESHMENTS**

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11:00–12:30p

**SESSION 6, PANEL 1**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Contemporary Approaches to Sacred Texts**



MODERATOR: David Hill, PhD, Conference Committee Member

**PRESENTERS:**

M. Ashraf Adeel, PhD, Kutztown University

*Inclusivity and Exclusivity: Why Religions Countenance Both*

Muhammad Akhtar Saeed Siddiqi, PhD, University of Karachi

*The Believer in Transcendental Postulates and the Issues of Temporal Identity in Early Islam; Whether or Not a Transcendent Inclusive and Open Approach is Possible in Present Islam?*

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**SESSION 6, PANEL 2,**

**Inclusive or Exclusive: Peaceful coexistence**

MODERATOR: Mustafa Gokcek, PhD, Niagara University

**PRESENTERS:**

Fatih Harpci, PhD, Carthage College

*Respect and Responsibility for the Sacred: Revered Values and Traditions of the Other*

Jason Okrzynski, PhD, United Protestant Church, Grayslake

*Experiencing God's Radical Welcome: Divine Transcendence, Human Knowing, and Inclusivity*

Hamidullah Marazi, PhD, Islamic University, Awantipora Pulwama, Kashmir

*Interfaith Dialogue as an Antidote to Exclusivism and Prelude to Toleration*

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12:30–2:00p

**LUNCH & CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Muhammad Shafiq, PhD, Hickey Center & IIIT Chair, Nazareth College

Thomas Donlin-Smith, PhD, Religious Studies, Nazareth College

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