

# RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

## First-Day Conference Schedule ● November 17, 2021

### Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Seattle, Washington

All times Pacific Standard | **Highlighted** panels offered simultaneously onsite and virtually

#### OPENING ACTIVITIES

8:00am-8:00pm. Continuous Registration  
*Registration and membership are processed at [www.relcomm.org](http://www.relcomm.org)*  
*Registration is required for access to conference sessions*  
*No additional cost is required beyond membership*

8:00-8:30am Conference Opening

#### PANEL SESSION 1 ● 8:40 to 9:55 am

Session 1A **Transforming Religion, Renewing Faith: Addressing the Pandemic's Impact and the Shift Toward the Digitalization of Religion**

Chair: Jamie A. Ward, Eastern Michigan University

Presenters:

Abdulaziz Mohammad Shahin Altawil, Syracuse University

Regina Luttrell, Syracuse University

Christopher J. McCollough, Columbus State University

Carolyn Mae Kim, Biola University

Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

Gregory Brandon Knight, William Carey University

Session 1B **Religious Confession and Identity in Post-modern Society**

Chair: Samuel McPeck, South Louisiana Community College

*Spiritual Mothers: Disarticulating Women from Mothers in 21st Century Evangelicalism*, Sarah Kornfield, Hope College

*Finding a Pl(ace) in the Kingdom of God: Allonormativity and Asexual Mormon Identity Negotiation*, Ben Brandley, Arizona State University

*Space Theory Based on the Communication Studies and Three Forces of Hui Identity in China*, Xiangyu Hai, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

*Christian Prosperity and the Magic World-View: Positive Confession and Occultism in the Modern World*, Michael Souders, James Madison University

Session 1C **Emerging Scholarship in Religious Communication**

Chair: Lakelyn Taylor, University of Central Florida

Respondent: N. Benton Parish, Texas A&M University

*"The Spirt of the Lord is Upon Me": A Close Reading Marvel's Luke Cage's Theology with James Cone*, DiArron Morrison, University of Memphis

*Losing Lutheranism, Finding Myself: An Autoethnography of Religious Dissolution*, Jo Hewitt, Texas Tech University

## HALLWAY CONVERSATIONS • 9:55 to 10:30 am

*Hallway  
Conversations*

**ROOM A (to be determined at event)**

**ROOM B (to be determined at event)**

**ROOM C (to be determined at event)**

**ROOM D (to be determined at event)**

## PANEL SESSION 2 • 10:30 to 11:45 am

Session 2A

### **Some Thoughts on the Question of Dialogue for Transformation and Renewal in Religious Communication**

Chair: Anthony M. Wachs, Duquesne University

Presenters:

Daniel S. Brown, Independent Scholar

Blake Faulkner, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Eric Grabowsky, Dickinson State University

Karen L. Lollar, Metropolitan State University of Denver

N. Benton Parish, Texas A&M University

Joy E. A. Qualls, Biola University

Molly Stoltz, Frostburg State University

James W. Vining, Governors State University

Annalee R. Ward, University of Dubuque

Joel S. Ward, Geneva College

Session 2B

### **Art, Culture, and Religious Discourse**

Chair: Andrew J. Harris, Cedarville University

*Invert Your Narratology: Christopher Nolan's Tenet as Messianic Narrative Parody*,  
Jesse Welch, Wheaton College

*What is Disability to a God? Sacred Art and an Ethics of Care*, Alex Holguin, University  
of Pittsburgh

*"And If You Must, Use Words": Indirect Religious Communication in The Master & the  
Musician*, John Hatch, Eastern University

*How the Bee Lost Its Sting: Christian Satire and the Corruption of Politics*, Zachary Sheldon,  
Texas A&M University

Session 2C

### **Religious Rhetoric beyond the Religious Establishment**

Chair: Cecil V. Kramer, Liberty University

*Enlightenment Rhetoric Reconsidered: The Discursive Transcendence of David Hume's  
"Of Eloquence,"* Alexander Morales, University of Georgia

*Recovering the Rhetorical Insight of David Walker for a Season of Racial Unrest*, Philip Lindia,  
Wheaton College

*American Samaritans: James Buchanan and the Oligarchic Conquest of Liberal Democracy*,  
Luke Winslow, Baylor University

Session 2D

**Religion and Rhetorical Resistance: Religious Appeals in Partisan Discourses**

Chair: Lauren Lemley, Abilene Christian University

Respondent: Thomas A. Salek, Concordia University, Chicago

*Transcendence as Resistance: Classical Theism as a Rhetorical Grounding of Resistance to State Power for the Social Good*, James W. Vining, Governors State University

*Coalitional Leadership in Reverend William Barber's "When Silence is Not an Option,"* Joshua Miller, Texas State University

*Protecting the Virgin Bride: John MacArthur and the Rhetoric of Sacred Space*, Taylor Katz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

*"As a Nation and People of Faith:" Democratic Theistnormative Appeals to Christian Nationalism*, Kristina M. Lee, Colorado State University

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING • 12:00 to 1:00 pm**

**PANEL SESSION 3 • 1:10 to 2:25 pm**

Session 3A

**Transformational Teaching: Engaging Strategies to Stimulate Difficult Conversations, Recognize Transformative Outcomes of the Pandemic, and Cultivate Hope for Students and Faculty**

Chair: Renee J. Bourdeaux, Northwest University

Presenters:

Renee J. Bourdeaux, Northwest University

Michael Boling, Northwest University

Marie Mallory, Liberty University

Cecil V. Kramer, Liberty University

Amy Duchsherer, University of Mary

Session 3B

**Religious Communication Amid Pandemics**

Chair: James W. Vining, Governors State University

*Student Perception of Social Support at a Christian Campus during COVID-19*, Nia Johnson, Ashley George, Betsy Emmons, and Dannie Waller, Samford University

*"There Is No Pandemic": Evangelical Rhetorical Response to Pandemic Restrictions on Worship*, Taylor Katz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Session 3C

**Sacramental Fiction of Robert Hugh Benson: Rhetoric of Theology, Spirituality, and Revelation**

Chair and Respondent: Ryan Marr, Mercy College of Health Sciences

*Robert Hugh Benson's Fiction and Catholic Agnosticism*, Nicholas Babich, University of Notre Dame

*Theological Ghost Stories: Faith Seeking Understanding in R. H. Benson's A Mirror of Shallot*, Gavin F. Hurley, Ave Maria University

*Rhetoric of Revelation: Apocalyptic Rhetoric in R.H. Benson's Lord of the World and Dawn of All*, Anthony M. Wachs, Duquesne University

*The Medium and the Fright: A Reflection on Communication Occasioned by a Reading of R. H. Benson's The Necromancers*, Justin N. Bonanno, Ave Maria University

Session 3D

**Transforming Religion and Identity: Critical Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Sexuality**

Chair: Christine Gardner, Gordon College

Presenters:

Kellie A. Brownlee, University of Colorado, Boulder

Ben Brandley, Arizona State University

Micki Burdick, University of Iowa

Elaine S. Schnabel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Faryha Salim, University of Colorado Boulder

**INTEREST GROUPS • 2:30 to 3:00 p m**

A

**Performance Studies**

Chair: Joy E. A. Qualls, Biola University

B

**Media Studies**

Chair: Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

C

**Rhetorical Studies**

Chair: James W. Vining, Governors State University

D

**Interpersonal and Organizational Communication**

Chair: Renee J. Bourdeaux, Northwest University

**PANEL SESSION 4 • 3:10 to 4:25 p m**

Session 4A

**Religious Communication Association Scholarship Awards Panel**

Chair: Anthony M. Wachs, Duquesne University

Article of the Year, *Theistnormativity and the Negation of American Atheists*, Kristina M. Lee, Colorado State University

Dissertation of the Year, *Communication in the Ruins: Walker Percy and the Art of Symbolic Mediation*, Justin Bonanno, Ave Maria University

Book of the Year, *No Future in this Country: The Prophetic Pessimism of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner*, Andre Johnson, University of Memphis

Session 4B

**The Rhetoric of Religious Leadership**

Chair: Andrew J. Harris, Cedarville University

*The Means of Revival: Charles Grandison Finney's Rhetorical Theory*, Eric Miller, Bloomsburg University

*Toward a Model of Homiletical Prayer: A Close Reading of Jonathan Falwell's Easter Sunday Prayers through the Lens of Indirect Communication*, John Dunkle, Regent University

*Voddie Baucham and the Gnostics Who Have No Love: Boundary Work and a Rhetorical Exposé of Social Justice within Evangelicalism*, Gregory Knight, William Carey University

Session 4C

**The Metaphysics of Rhetoric: Renewing and Transforming Minds with Transcendence**

Chair and Respondent: Kenneth R. Chase, Wheaton College

*Metaphysical Rhetoric Through the Ages: From the Nature of Reality to Linguistic Diversity*, Eric Milman, Texas Tech University

*Transcendence Embodied: The Metaphysical Perspective of Rhetoric in Institutions and Technology*, Cassandra Elisabeth Hayes, Texas Tech University

*Metaphysics: The Transcendence of Faith*, Julie Grandjean, Texas Tech University

*Rhetoric as the Technê for Divine Logos: Metaphysics, Techne, and Rhetoric in Plato, Aristotle, and Augustine*, Mark A. Gring, Texas Tech University

## **AWARDS BANQUET • 5:30 to 8:00 pm**

5:00pm	Dinner Served
5:30-6:00pm	Awards Program
6:00-7:00pm	RCA Scholar of the Year Keynote Address
7:00-8:00pm	Post-Conference Mingle