

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
First-Day Conference Schedule ● November 20, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- 8:00am-8:00pm Continuous Registration
- 8:30-9:00am Conference Opening (includes continental breakfast service)

PANEL SESSION 1 ● 9:00 to 10:15 am

- Session 1A
Azalea Room
- Rhetoric of the Christian Left: Religious Communication for the Greater Regard**
Chair: Jim Vining, Governors State University
Respondent: Bethany Mannon, Appalachian State University
- Material Rhetorics of the Episcopal Church*, Elaine Schnabel, Weber State University
- Feminine Metaphors: Sarah Bessey's Enthusiastically Feminine Rhetorical Style for Christians on the Left*, Sarah Kornfield, Hope College
- Cornel West: A Progressive Christian Voice for the 20th and 21st Centuries, and the Relevance of Prophetic Pragmatism in Religious Rhetoric*, Theon Hill, Wheaton College
- Repenting Toward a Greater Love: William Barber's Use of Public Repentance in His Pride Month Sermon*, Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar
- Resignifying Discipleship: Sr. Joan Chittister's Pathways of Dissent, "Anti"cedents, and Arguments for Women's Priestly Ordination*, Christopher Oldenburg, Illinois College
- Session 1B
St Charles Room
- Current Lesser Regard Issues That Negatively Impact the Church from Working in Unity to Accomplish the Greater Regard: Church Ministry**
Chair: Cecil Kramer, Jr., Liberty University
Co-Chair: John R. Katsion, Northwest Missouri State University
- A Shallow Ocean? Seeker Sensitive Worship*, Chris Underation, Gordon College
- The "Go Home" Controversy: Beth Moore, John MacArthur, and Pastoring in Regards to Gender*, Gregory Knight, William Carey University
- Claims of the KJV Only Adherents: High Regard or Idolatry?* Cecil Kramer, Liberty University
- Sermonic Apologia: An Ideological Criticism of Public Opinion and Pastoral Responsibility in Alistair Begg's Sermon, "Compassion vs. Condemnation,"* John Dunkle, Liberty University
- Session 1C
Canal Room
- The Chronicles of Narnia: Communication with Greater Regard**
Chair: Jeffrey Miller, University of Memphis
- Explaining the Popularity of "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe,"* Steven Beebe, Texas State University
- Entering the Jovial World: A Pedagogy of Narnian Laughter*, Terry Lindvall, Virginia Wesleyan University

The Lion's Roar: Lewis, Blake, Lacan, and the Tapestry of Meaning, Vasupradha Srikrishna, Madras Christian College

Session 1D
Bourbon Room

Research-in-Progress Workshop

Chair: Andrea Terry, Sacramento State University

Ontological Disobedience and Decolonization: A Path into an Ontological Turn for Communication Studies, Naaman Wood, St. Paul College

Joel Osteen Pastors America, Reginald Bell Jr., Monmouth College

God, Send Me to City Hall: A Rhetorical Analysis of the Tyre Nichols Religious Rhetoric by Pastor-Scholar-Activist Rev. Andre E. Johnson, PhD, Christopher A. House, Ithaca College

Evangelicals for Israel: The Study of Rhetorical Influences on Evangelical Israel-Related Ideologies, Abigail Schroeder, Liberty University

Using Communication Climate Theory and Muted Group Theory in Analyzing "Holy Sexuality Week" (HSW), Amelia Little, Abilene Christian University

PANEL SESSION 2 • 10:30 to 11:45 am

Session 2A
Azalea Room

Vice President's Roundtable: Black Feminist Voices for Greater Cultural Regard in Religious and Other Spaces

Chair: Annette D. Madlock, Independent Scholar

Presenters:

Kami J. Anderson, Independent Scholar

Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis

Kimberly P. Johnson, Tennessee State University

Natonya Blackmon Listach, University of Memphis

Session 2B
St Charles Room

The Intersection of Culture, Politics, and Religion: Regarding the Disregarded Description

Chair: L. Ripley Smith, Bethel University

The Long Shadow of William Jennings Bryan's Foreign Policy Rhetoric: The Political "Prince of Peace" and the Imago Dei, Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Regard for Missions: A Movement Stage Analysis of the SVM (Student Volunteer Movement) with Emphasis on the Rhetoric and Strategies Used by Three Prominent Leaders: Robert Wilder, A.T. Pierson and John Mott, and Its Eventual Decline into Disregard, Cecil Kramer, Liberty University

Piety in Plato's Euthyphro: A Virtue at the Intersection of Politics and Religion, David Gore, University of Minnesota Duluth

Session 2C
Canal Room

RCA 2024 Scholarship Awards Panel I

Chair: Theon Hill, Wheaton College

Dissertation of the Year: *New and Improved: Protestant Revivalism and the Origins of Modern American Advertising*, Arthur J. Bamford, University of Colorado, Boulder

JCR Article of the Year: *The Iron Lady's Capitalist Christianity: Margaret Thatcher's Rhetorical Theology*, Leland G. Spencer, University of South Carolina, and Timothy S. Forest, University of Cincinnati

Article of the Year: *From Cuneiform to Comic: Redrawing Sarah in R. Crumb's The Book of Genesis Illustrated*, Kerith M. Woodyard, Northern Illinois University

Session 2D
Bourbon Room

Research-in-Progress Workshop

Chair: To Be Announced

Do You Condemn Hamas? How Linguistic Terrorism Attempts to Conscript Potential Resistance, E. Michelle Ledder, Metropolitan AME Church, Washington DC

Pivotal Moments and Spiritual Practices: Exploring the Communication of Belonging in Christian Faith, Dorothy Andreas, Abilene Christian University; Jodeyah Mills, Abilene Christian University

Rhetorical Analysis of Carlton Pearson's Universalist Rhetoric and Persuasion, Carl Frederick Hill, University of Memphis

Homos or Bros? Rembrandt, Male Friendship, and the Constitutive Character of David and Jonathan in Portrait Art, Jodeyah Mills, Abilene Christian University

The [Prophetic] Fire Next Time: The Dialectic of Belonging and Exile in James Baldwin's The Fire Next Time, Thomas Fuerst, Memphis Theological Seminary

The Horizon Zero Dawn Series: Is a Secular Escape from Religion Impossible? Kevin Schut, Trinity Western University

Prayer is Not Quarantined: The Communicative Construction of Hope in an Online Interfaith Prayer Group during COVID-19, Maggie Vail, University of South Florida

BUSINESS MEETING | BOX LUNCH • 12:00 to 1:15 pm

PANEL SESSION 3 • 1:30 to 2:45 pm

Session 3A
Azalea Room

Regarding the Disregarded: Religious Communities and Thinkers, Franz Fanon's "The Damned of the Earth," and Engagement with Injustice

Chair: Kellie Carstensen, University of Memphis

The Rhetorical Power of Pain: Analyzing James Baldwin's "The Uses of the Blues," Theon Hill, Wheaton College

Women's Advice Ministries: The Rhetoric of Equivalence, Sarah Kornfield, Hope College

Regarding Friendship in Place-based Development for Colleges and Universities, Craig Mattson, Calvin University

The Natural World as "the Damned of the Earth": Decolonizing Clifford Christians' Account of Human Dignity and the Persistent Problem of Anthropocentrism, Naaman Wood, Saint Paul College

Session 3B
St Charles Room

Communicating Leadership through Greater Regard for Religious Communication: Four Case Studies

Chair: Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

New England Elijah: The Prophetic Rise of Senator Bernie Sanders, Randall Fowler, Abilene Christian University

Nicholas of Cusa on Leading with Blurred Vision, Michael Kearney, Duquesne University

Howard Thurman: Model of Religious Communication Leadership, Leah Nelson, Duquesne University

Fr. Vincent Donovan: Model of Spiritan Leadership, Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

Session 3C
Canal Room

To Include or Not to Include, Is It Really a Question? On Discussing The (Dis)Placement of Inclusion in Religious Discourses

Chair: Lakelyn E. Taylor, University of Vermont

Care, Concern, and Community in the Preaching Classroom, Michelle Shaw, Belmont University

The National Prayer Breakfast 2016-2023: Presidential Rhetorics of Religious Inclusion and Exclusion, Andrea Terry, California State University, Sacramento

Mollifying Mormon Women: A Critical Assessment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Instagram Posts about Women and the Priesthood, Nance Heise, Texas A&M University

Neuroqueer Rhetorical Theology: Advocating for Liberation, Not Cures, Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar

Reaching Beyond Religious Fundamentalism: Towards an Inclusive Gospel, Lionnell Smith, San Francisco State University

Session 3D
Bourbon Room

Research-in-Progress Workshop

Chair: Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

BIPOC Feminism and Spiritual Expression, Annette D. Madlock, Independent Scholar

I Am That I May Be: A Creative Theological Take on Black Mental Health, Madison "Mocha" Hunter, University of Memphis

Analysis of Kamala Harris's DNC Speech, Jackie Lyde, Duquesne University

Evangelical Covenant Church Women in Leadership, Monica Reeves, Kansas State University

Disenfranchised Grief and the Loss of Children, Janie Dowdy Dandridge, University of Memphis

PANEL SESSION 4 • 3:00 to 4:15 pm

Session 4A
Azalea Room

President's Roundtable: Religion and Politics—A Reflection on the Election

Chair: Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

Presenters:

Jeff Miller, University of Memphis

Cassandra Gould, Eden Theological Seminary

Joshua Miller, Independent Scholar

Amariah McIntosh, Phillips Chapel CME Church

Andrea Terry, Sacramento State University

Thomas Fuerst, Memphis Theological Seminary

Session 4B
St Charles Room

Nonverbal Communication, Culture, and Worship

Chair: Breanna Prater, University of Missouri-Columbia

"Ring by Spring": Nonverbal Immediacy Cues and Motivations of Christian Romantic Relationships, Amanda Fischer, Biola University

God, Is That You? Imagined Interactions and Christian and Jewish Prayer, R. Ryan Beaty, University of Oklahoma

Should I Raise My Hands? Students Navigating the Worship Culture of a Christian University, Ehud Lee, Biola University

Session 4C
Canal Room

RCA 2024 Scholarship Awards Panel II

Chair: Theon Hill, Wheaton College

Edited Volume of the Year: *God Talk: The Problem of Divine-Human Communication*, Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

Book Chapter of the Year: *Toward a Theory of Divine Communication? Prospects and Problems*, Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

Book of the Year: *Persuasions of God: Inventing the Rhetoric of Rene Girard*, Paul Lynch, Saint Louis University

PANEL SESSION 5 • 4:30 to 5:45 pm

Session 5A
Azalea Room

Top Student Papers Panel

Chair: Leela Mogadam, Texas Christian University

Top Student Paper: *“Obviously I Wouldn’t Be a Pastor”: Baptist Women Leaders’ Nested Identity Construction, Performance, and Reconciliation*, Breanna Prater, University of Missouri-Columbia

“On Earth and in Heaven”: Studying Identity Tensions in Underrepresented Church Workers, Autumn Buzzetta, Colorado State University

As Above, So Below: A Rhetorical Theory of Sacrality, David Dockery, Texas A&M University

Discursive Struggles Reflected in the Communication of Conservative Christian Parents and Their Adult Children with Differing Religious Beliefs and Values, Braedon Worman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Session 5B
St Charles Room

Persuasions of God: The Inventions of Theorhetic

Chair: Christian Lundberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Theorhetic in Persuasions of God: Ignatian Spirituality, Jesuit Political Theology, and Post-Heideggerian Rhetoric, Steven Mailloux, Loyola Marymount University

A Response to Paul Lynch’s Persuasions of God: Inventing the Rhetoric of René Girard: Arguing with God in the Christian Tradition, David Frank, University of Oregon

A Response to Plato and to Contemporary Calls for Theorhetic: Using Rhetorical Field Methods in Encounters with and Articulations of the Divine, Meghan Dunn, St. John’s University

Desiring the Holy: The Future of Theorhetics, Paul Lynch, Saint Louis University

Session 5C
Canal Room

The Rhetoric of Faith

Chair: Cecil Kramer, Jr., Liberty University

A Common Framework for Interfaith Dialogue, L. Ripley Smith, Bethel University

Communicating about Faith with Greater Regard: A Christian Communication Higher Education Faith Integration Model Considering the Rhetorical Situation, Julie Borkin, Taylor University

Decentered Preaching: A Proposal for Preaching in White Churches, Jeffrey Miller, University of Memphis

Embracing Imperfection: Henri Nouwen’s Threefold Journey of Spirituality and Communication Practice, Andri Kosasih, Duquesne University

Session 5D
Bourbon Room

Presidential Citation Award: A Conversation with Frank A. Thomas

Chair: Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

Honoree: Frank A. Thomas, Christian Theological Seminary

AWARDS BANQUET • 6:00 to 8:00 pm

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| 6:00pm | Dinner Served |
| 6:30-7:00pm | RCA Scholarship Awards Program |
| 7:00-7:30pm | RCA Scholar of the Year Keynote Address
<i>The God Problem 2.0: Restarting the Conversation</i>
Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria |
| 7:30-8:00pm | Post Conference Mingle |