RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
First Day Conference • November 18, 2020
All times are Eastern (Indianapolis) Time
All meetings are synchronous, live, in real-time

OPENING ACTIVITIES
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Continuous Registration
Registration and membership are processed at www.relcomm.org
Registration is required for access to conference sessions; no additional cost is required beyond membership

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Brief Welcome Message

8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Conference Opening

PANEL SESSION 1 • 8:40 a.m.-9:55 a.m.

Session 1A: Evangelism at the Crossroads
Chair: Anthony M. Wachs, Duquesne University

A Deliberate and Prudent Invitation to a Friend: Media Encounters as Invitational Rhetoric
Author: John Jasso, Ave Maria University

New Evangelisms: Evolving Papal Rhetoric Concerning Evangelization
Author: Anthony M. Wachs, Duquesne University

Evangelism in Postmodernity: Rhetorical Praxis in Religious Discourse
Author: Kelly Myer, Duquesne University

Session 1B Women Actualizing Rhetorical Power in the Community
Chair: Kathleen Edelmayer, Madonna University

Communicable: Reversing the effects of virulent anti-vax propaganda that disrupts healthcare norms in New York’s isolated Orthodox Jewish enclaves
Authors: Susan Sarapin, Troy University, and Pamela Morris, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus

Sisters of Life: Communicating Healing to Post-Abortive Women
Authors: Alicia Mucha, Regent University, and Flora Khoo, Regent University

The Sacredness of Black Life: Ritual Structure, Intersectionality, and the Image of God
Authors: Helane Androne, Miami University and Leland Spencer, Miami University, Hamilton

Expressions of Keen Standpoint Feminism in the Work of Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz
Author: Paola Albarran, West Texas A&M University

Session 1C Spiritual Technologies, Spiritual Contemplation
Chair: Joshua Hill, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Accommodating Inspiration: Discernment and Imitation within the Ignatian Rhetorical Tradition  
Author: Gavin Hurley, University of Rhode Island

In the Space Between Us: Lessons from an Imperfect Contemplative Conversation  
Author: Kathleen Clark, University of Akron

Font of All Blessing: Examining Subject Formation through Spiritual Technologies of the Self at the Crossroads  
Author: Elaine Schnabel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

BREAK • 9:55 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Real-time BOAF*  
ROOM A Health and safety protocols in higher education during a pandemic. A moderated conversation to share contact information and highlight a few best practices.

“Hallway Conversations”  
ROOM B What can we do about assessment? A moderated conversation about classroom and departmental assessments during a pandemic.

ROOM C What not to do in the pandemic classroom. A moderated conversation about sometimes-humorous, sometimes-heart-breaking things we’re tried in class during the pandemic.

PANEL SESSION 2 • 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Session 2A  
At the Crossroads of Religious Communication: Some Thoughts on Truth Claims  
Chair: Joel S. Ward, Geneva College

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  
Nancy B. Parish, Texas A&M University  
Joy E.A. Qualls, Biola University  
Brent C. Sleasman, Winebrenner Theological Seminary  
Molly Stoltz, Frostburg State University  
James W. Vining, Governors State University  
Annalee R. Ward, University of Dubuque

Session 2B  
Faith Communities Employing Web-Based Technologies  
Chair: James Vining, Governors State University

When Freedom Leads to a Fork in the Road: ISIS, the Internet and Storytelling  
Author: Chris Underation, Hampton University

Bringing New Evangelicalism Online: Fundamentalist Rhetoric in the Internet Age  
Author: Taylor Katz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Online Tithe-Giving and Church Attendance as Social Cognition: A Quantitative Analysis  
Author: Abram Book, Indiana State University

Session 2C  
Emerging Scholarship in Religious Communication
Chair: Leland Spencer, Miami University

Donatist or Augustine? Contemporary Christian Media as an Analogy of the Efficacy of the Sacraments
Author: Robert McBain, Oral Roberts University

Scripture, Sermons, and Servants: Understanding Power Through Discourse Within Catholicism
Author: Tyler Sorg, University of Missouri

The Visual Paradoxes of the Hidden Immigrant on the Christian Missionary Field
Author: Emma Van Veldhuizen, Cedarville University

BREAK • 9:55 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Real-time BOAF* Room 1 Performance Studies Interest
Room 2 Rhetorical Studies Interest
“Lunch Chatter” Room 3 Interpersonal and Organizational Communication Interest
Room 4 Media Studies Interest

12:20 P.M.-1:35 P.M. • RCA ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION

PANEL SESSION 3 1:35 p.m.-2:50 p.m.

Session 3A Crossroads Have Consequences
Chair: Darlene R. Graves, Liberty University
Respondent: Thomas J. Carmody, Vanguard University of Southern California

Performances
Crossroads of Choice: One Decision Leads to Another and Another . . .
Performer: Jacqueline Glenny, University of Northwestern, St. Paul

Millennial Dating at the Crossroads: Chastity or Affection?
Performer: Fernanda De La O, Azusa Pacific University

Journalism at the Crossroads: A Founding Father’s View on Fake News
Performer: Rhonda D. Herb, University of Phoenix

The Founding of a Nation: Abigail Adams’ Choices and Consequences
Performer: Alison English, Vanguard University of Southern California

Jesus: Are His Choices Human or Humanly Divine?
Marcia S. Berry, Azusa Pacific University

Session 3B Home: Finding the Crossroads of Religion, Communication, Region, and Community
Chair: Camille Lewis, Furman University

Sacred Silences in the American South
Author: Elizabeth Clayborn, University of Georgia

Surviving Adolescent Culture Shock on the Christian Mission Field
Author: Evilynn Pinnow, Cedarville University
**Session 3C**

### When Religion Harms

**Chair:** Joshua Morrison, University of Minnesota

**Myth and Identity: The Case of Heaven’s Gate**  
**Author:** Cameron Berger, University of Kansas

**Suffer the little children: A critical autoethnography of private Christian schooling**  
**Authors:** Natalie Craig, University of Arkansas, Monticello and Adam Key, University of Arkansas, Monticello

**Loving Oppression: Focus on the Family’s Moral Economy and the Radical Right**  
**Author:** Joshua Morrison, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

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### BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES • 2:50 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Mini-agenda**  
- Election Results Announced  
- Attendance update  
- Future RCA Meetings

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### PANEL SESSION 4 • 3:00 P.M.-4:15 P.M.

#### Session 4A  

**Locating Religion in Contemporary Culture**  
**Chair:** Mark A. E. Williams, California State University, Sacramento

**Discourse and the Divine: A Rhetorical Definition of Religion**  
**Author:** David Dockery, Wake Forest

**Images of an Idealized Past: Jesus, Son of Gaud, at the Holy Land Experience**  
**Author:** Michelle Hershberger, West Virginia University

**Existentially-Sensitive Apologetics: The Head-and-Heart Communication Philosophy of Ravi Zacharias**  
**Author:** Jonathan Beutel, Regent University

#### Session 4B  

**Understanding Human Differences**  
**Chair:** Andrew Harris, Cedarville University

**Studying Pentecostal Christians with a Co-Cultural Lens**  
**Authors:** Marco Ramirez, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Dalton Cook, University of Central Arkansas, and Holly Hines, University of Central Arkansas

**Taking Advantage of Forgiveness: How Christians Talk about Conflict**  
**Author:** Autumn Neal, Biola University
C. S. Lewis and Gender Expressions on How Women and Man of Faith Communicate in the work of Mere Christianity
Author: Paola Albarran, West Texas A&M University

Session 4C
Voices from Faithful Individuals
Chair: Cecil Kramer, Liberty University

Ruth Bell Graham: “It’s My Turn” and the Rise of Evangelical Feminism in America
Author: Holly Thomson, Regent University

“He Being Dead Yet Speaketh”: Reuben A. “Uncle Bud” Robinson and the Importance of Narrative Preaching in the Age of Secondary Orality
Author: Abram Book, Indiana State University

The Historical Jerry Falwell: A Look at the Communication of One of America’s Most Prominent Religious Media Personalities
Author: John Dunkle, Regent University

Session 4D
Religious Media: Mass Communication at the Crossroads of Meaning
Chair: Renee Bourdeaux, Northwest University

Audience in Historical Jesus Research: the Cases of Wright and Crossan
Author: Arthur Walzer, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

A rift within evangelical Christianity: A rhetorical analysis of the Christianity Today editorial calling for Donald Trump's impeachment.
Author: Mal Jason, University of Jamestown

Bringing New Evangelicalism Online: Fundamentalist Rhetoric in the Internet Age
Author: Taylor Katz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR LECTURE • 4:30 P.M.-5:45 P.M.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARDS PROGRAM • 5:45 P.M.-6:15 P.M.
Mini-agenda
Announcements and Updates
Final Announcements
Introduction to Awards Program

RCA AWARDS PROGRAM • 6:15 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

BREAK • 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Real-time BOAF*
Room 1 Performance Studies Interest
Room 2 Rhetorical Studies Interest

“Hanging Out in the Lobby”
Room 3 Interpersonal and Organizational Communication Interest
Room 4 Media Studies Interest

* “Birds of A Feather” Groups feature informal, moderated, common-interest conversations.