

**RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual Conference Schedule ● November 13, 2019**  
**Sheraton Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland**

**OPENING ACTIVITIES**

8:00am-4:00pm      Onsite Registration  
8:30-9:30am        Continental Breakfast  
Lock Raven Gallery  
9:00-9:30am        Conference Opening  
Lock Raven Room

**PANEL SESSION 1 ● 9:40 to 10:55 am**

Session 1A  
Severn I

**Catholic Rhetorical Action and Response to Crisis**

Chair: Kenneth Chase, Wheaton College

*Journey into the Unknown: The Catholic Church's Broken Covenant and its Path to Healing*, Christopher Bondi, Duquesne University

*Framing Pope Francis: An Exploratory Study of The New York Times, USA Today, and The Wall Street Journal*, Fred Jenga, University of Texas, Austin

*Mea Maxima Culpa: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Image Repair following the Sexual Abuse Scandal of 2018*, Kathryn Schneider, Virginia Tech

Session 1B  
Camden I

**Some Plights and Parameters of Survival for Contemporary Religious Communication**

Chair: Joel S. Ward, Geneva College

*Groupthink and Serial Arguments: A Case Study of Religion*, Michael Eaves, Valdosta State University

*Assessing the Communicative Dangers of Postmodernism for Catholicism*, Eric Grabowsky, Dickinson State University

*Reconciling or Dividing? How Christian Media is Changing the Feminist Movement among Evangelicals*, Courtney Lujan, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

*Mother Angelica and EWTN: The Survival and Flourishing of the World's Largest Religious Media Empire*, Nancy B. Parish, Texas A&M University

*A Catholic Diocese Communicates to Survive*, Molly Stoltz, Frostburg State University

Session 1C  
Camden II

**Mass Culture and the Unmooring of Transcendent Anchors: The Fragmentation of Sacred Tradition**

Chair: M. Kelly Carr, University of West Florida

Presenters:

Adam M. Blood, University of West Florida

Ronald E. Lee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Aysel Morin, East Carolina University

Nicole Tara Allen, Utah State University

Respondent:  
Raymond L. Blanton, University of the Incarnate Word

Session 1D  
Severn II & III

**Religious Communication Association Scholarship Awards Panel**

Chair: Daniel Brown, Grove City College

**Article of the Year:** *A New Kind of Church: The Religious Media Conglomerate as a "Denomination,"* Mark Ward Sr., University of Houston-Victoria

**Dissertation of the Year:** *This Great Prayerful Tradition: American Presidents Preaching Public Theology at the National Prayer Breakfast,* Cathy Rosenholtz, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Book of the Year:** *The Rhetoric of Pope Francis: Critical Mercy and Conversion for the Twenty-first Century,* Christopher J. Oldenburg, Illinois College

**PANEL SESSION 2 • 11:10am to 12:25pm**

Session 2A  
Camden I

**Presidential Religious Rhetoric: Historical, Fictional, and Reality Television**

Chair: Denise Edwards-Neff, Azusa Pacific University

*Constitution, Bible, Spiritualism, Ideographs: Shifting Foundations in Victoria Woodhull's Presidential Campaign Rhetoric,* Steven Gaines, University of Memphis

*Minimizing the Past and Supporting the Vessel: Evangelical Pastors' Third-Party Support for Trump During the Stormy Daniels Scandal,* Scott Smith, Christopher Newport University; Sean Connable, Christopher Newport University

*An Ideological Analysis of "Two Cathedrals," the Season Two Finale of The West Wing,* Chloe Mayhew, Regent University

Session 2B  
Severn II & III

**"For You Have the Words (Bodies? Habits? Communities?) of Life": Mining James K. A. Smith's Christian Philosophy for Hermeneutics and Rhetorical Theory**

Chair: Joshua David Hill, Pennsylvania College of Tech

Presenters:

David Impellizzeri, Regent University

Ken Chase, Wheaton College

Raymond Blanton, University of the Incarnate Word

Trey Guinn, University of the Incarnate Word

Joshua David Hill, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Respondent: Calvin L. Troup, Geneva College

Session 2C  
Severn I

**Women's Transformative Voices in the Catholic Faith**

Chair: Ronald C. Arnett, Duquesne University

Presenters:

Christina L. McDowell Marinchak, University of Alaska, Anchorage

Nancy B. Parish, Texas A&M University

Ronald C. Arnett, Duquesne University

Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

Kati E. Sudnick, Duquesne University

Session 2D  
Camden II

**Religious Activism and the Rhetoric of Survival**

Chair: John Pauley, Eastern University

*A Revolution of Faith Through Inspiring Empathy and Action: Dorothy Day's Theological Contribution to Invitational Rhetoric*, Megan Westhoff, Pittsburg State University

*Storytelling, Science, and Religion: Promoting Reflection and Conversation about Societal Issues*, Rae Ostman, Arizona State University; Michael Zirulnik, The Varsity Project; Jenny McCullough Cosgrove, Arizona State University

*The Radical Spiritual Motherhood of Amina Wadud: Black Woman Muslim Scholar Speaking Truth to Patriarchy*, JoAnna Boudreaux, University of Memphis

**BUSINESS MEETING and LUNCH ● 12:35 to 2:15 pm**

Lock Raven Room **Religious Communication Association Annual Business Meeting**

Lock Raven Gallery/  
Lock Raven Room **Lunch Provided to All Conference Registrants**

**PANEL SESSION 3 ● 2:30 to 3:45 pm**

Session 3A  
Camden II

**Mormon Rhetoric of Survival**

Chair: Nancy Parish, Texas A&M University

*American Compass: The Narrative Paths of Discovery, Survival, and Prophecy in the Early Mormon Imaginary*, Margaret Zulick, Wake Forest University

*How Mormon Queers Survive: Interpersonal and Identity Differences in Active and Inactive LGBTQ Mormons*, Ben Brandley, University of New Mexico

*The Unifying and Survival Rhetoric of Brigham Young (1801-1877): Second President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Richard Armstrong, Wichita State University

Session 3B  
Severn I

**A Womanist Ethic of Liberation and Social Justice in the Current Political Climate from Academics to Organizational Leadership**

Chair: Annette Madlock Gatison, Liberty University

Presenters:

Kami J. Anderson, Kennesaw State University

Regina Clarke, University of Memphis

Kimberly P. Johnson, Tennessee State University

Ayo Morton, University of Memphis

Natonya Listach, University of Memphis/Middle Tennessee State University

Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis

Respondents:

Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

Annette Madlock Gatison, Liberty University

Session 3C  
Severn II & III

**Worship, Contemplation, and Instructional Communication**

Chair: Analee Ward, University of Dubuque

*Coming Alongside, Being Present to the Presence: An Exemplar of a Contemplative Christian Conversation*, Kathleen Clark, University of Akron; Amelia J. Stratton-Smith, Independent Researcher

*Fractal Processions as a Key to Religious Worship: Ancient Eyes, Present Seers*, Mark A. E. Williams, California State University Sacramento; Hannah Edwards, Independent Scholar

*Instructional Communication in the Religious Classroom: An Examination of Youth Minister Perceptions*, Lakelyn Taylor, University of Central Florida; Deanna Sellnow, University of Central Florida

Session 3D  
Camden I

**The Survival of the Discipline: Emerging Scholars and the Future of Religious Communication Scholarship**

Chair: Cecil Kramer, Liberty University

*The Rhetorical Influence of the Puritans: Linking Puritan Religious Rhetoric and Praxis to Contemporary Christians*, Jennifer Smith, Biola University

*Toward a Theory of Instinctive Religious Relational Trust: How Public Display of Religiosity Affects Perceived Credibility by Religious Affiliation*, George Kueppers, George Mason University

*Surviving the Present (and the Future) through the Past: A Call for a Return to Durkheim and Weber in the Sociology of Religion*, Malcolm Jason, North Dakota State University

**PANEL SESSION 4 • 4:00 to 5:15 pm**

Session 4A  
Camden II

**In the Beginning Was the Word: Understanding the Intersection of Rhetoric Race and Religion**

Chair: Andre E. Johnson, University of Memphis

Co-Chair: Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis

Presenters:

Kimberly P. Johnson, Tennessee State University

Christopher House, Ithaca College

Dianna Watkins-Dickerson, University of Memphis

Daniel White Hodge, North Park University

Janae Pitts-Murdock, Christian Theological Seminary

Earle Fisher, Memphis Theological Seminary

Melva Sampson, Wake Forest University

Michelle E. Shaw, Northwestern University

Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University

Algernon Williams, Independent Scholar

Kyle Brooks, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Session 4B  
Severn II & III

**Evangelical Survival Rhetoric**

Chair: Renee Bourdeaux, Northwest University

*Desiring God and Christian Hedonism: Awakening an Immanent Joy*, Gregory Knight, University of Southern Mississippi

*Surviving Secularization: Comparing Contemporary Evangelical Communication Strategies with the Communication Methods of Christ*, Curt Wanner, Toccoa Falls College

*The Survival of Women's Voices in the Churches of Christ: Silena Holman vs. David Lipscomb*, Meredith Martin, Midland College

Session 4C  
Camden I

**Contemporary Issues in Religious Communication Scholarship**

Chair: Steven Gaines, University of Memphis

*@Pontifex: Pope Francis as a Communication Bridge Builder*, Robbyn Taylor, Regent University

*Modernity within the Context of the Mean World Syndrome of Witchcraft*, Uchenna Onuzulike, Bowie State University

*Measuring Physicians' Religious Competence in Clinical Health Communication Context: Female Muslim Immigrant Patients' Expectations*, Rukhsana Ahmed, University at Albany, SUNY; Yuping Mao, California State University Long Beach

Session 4D  
Severn I

**Religious Rhetoric and Identity: Messages, Metaphors, and a Post-Christian World**

Chair: Teresa Morales, Wayne State College

*You are My Opponent, You are the Keeper of my Identity: Messages of Ubuntu as Identity in Desmond Tutu's Rhetoric*, Varaidzo Nyamandi, Regent University

*The Language of Truth: An Exploration of Metaphors in The Abolition of Man*, Luke Dye, Texas State University

*Keeping Our Distance? Assessing Fred Craddock's "Distance" in a Post-Christian World*, Andrew Phillips, Regent University

**AWARDS BANQUET • 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Lock Raven Gallery

**Buffet Style Dinner Service**

Lock Raven Room

**Religious Communication Association Annual Awards Banquet**

RCA Scholar of the Year Keynote Address: Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College

*The Monotheistic Triangle: What Recent Scholarship Demonstrates about the Interdependence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*