**Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion**

**&**

**Iowa Interfaith Conferences**

**Friday-Sunday, April 12-14, 2024**

Meredith Hall, Drake University

Des Moines, IA

<https://www.umwaar-sbl.org/>

<https://comparisonproject.wp.drake.edu/2024-iowa-interfaith-conference/>

***Schedule & Program of Events***

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# **Friday**

# **Arrive 3:00 pm**

**3:00 Annual Business Meeting**

**3:30 Cheese & Chocolate Opening Reception (w/ Publishers Open)**

Hosted by the Upper Midwest AAR

**Meredith South Lobby**

**First Session**

**4:00-5:15 pm**

**Panel #1: Roundtable for the Interreligious Studies Unit**

**Meredith 238**

**“Subverting and Expanding Philosophy of Religion”**

*Tim Knepper*, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

 *Jed Forman*, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa

 *Gereon Kopf*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Moderator: *Cody Dolinsek*, Drake University, Des Moines, IA

**Panel #2: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality Unit**

**Meredith 235**

* “All Are Welcome”? Queer Identity in the Christian Sacrament of Holy Communion”

*Kristina Hill*, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

* “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Anthropology: Biblical Recourse in Contemporary Catholic Social Teaching”

*Evan Marsolek*, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Presider: Maeve Callan, Simpson College, Indianola, IA

**First Site Visits**

**5:30-9:00 pm**

**5:30 Leave for Interfaith Visits**

**6:00–6:45 Interfaith Visit to Hindu Temple and Cultural Center**

**33916 155th Lane, Madrid, IA 50156**

**7:00–8:30 Interfaith Visit to Islamic and Education Center: Bosniak (dinner)**

**17630 Bosniak Lane, Granger, IA 50109**

**9:00 Desserts etc. @ Drake Diner**

Sponsored by TAK (Theta Alpha Kappa, the Undergraduate Honor Society of Religious Studies and Theology)

**1111 25th St, Des Moines, IA 50311**

**Saturday**

**Arrive 7:45 am**

**7:45-8:15 Continental Breakfast**

**Meredith South Lobby**

**Second Session**

**8:15-9:30 am**

**Panel #3: Ethics Unit**

**Meredith 238**

* “Utilizing Narrative Patterns to Support Student Learning in Introductory Scripture Courses”

*Karl Kuhn*, Lakeland University, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

* “A Liberating Theology of Reproductive Justice”

*Thia Cooper*, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota

 Presider: *David Scott*, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Denison, Iowa

**Panel #4: Historical Perspectives on Religion and Philosophy Unit**

**Meredith 235**

* “Demolition of Churches Notwithstanding: Christianity’s Boom in Twenty-First Century China”

*Elena Vishnevskaya*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

* “Civil Religion & Religious Nationalism as Ideal Types”

*Ryan T. O’Leary*, University of Wisconsin-Steven’s Point

* “Weeping for Dido: Augustine’s Divorce and His Account of Philosophy and Theology”

*Jennifer Hockenbery*, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

Presider: *Timothy Knepper*, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

**Panel #5: Student Panel**

**Meredith 234**

* “Ezekiel 40-48: A Vision of Heaven”

*William Flug*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

* “Police and Politics, With A God In Between Them”

*Catalina Samaniego*, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

* “Medicine of Traditional Lacrosse: Ojibwe Religion, Holistic Wellbeing, and Transcendent Sport”

*Lachen Reid*, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota

 Presider: *Terry Kleven*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

**Coffee Break**

**9:30-10:00 am**

**Meredith South Lobby**

**AAR Plenary Address**

**10:00-11:15 am**

**Prof. Douglas Kries**

“Religions and Their Communities: Is Philosophy Friend or Foe”

**Meredith 101**

**Lunch & Film**

**11:15 am - 1:00 pm**

**11:15-11:45 Lunch**

**11:45-1:00 Film Screening & Discussion**

Interfaith Stories from Drake Interfaith Camps and Interfaith Panel

**Varsity Theater**

**1207 25th Street, Des Moines, IA**

**Third Session**

## **1:00-2:15 pm**

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## **Panel #6: Asian Studies and Buddhism Units**

**Meredith 238**

## “Is there a "traditionalist" engaged Buddhism?”

## *Donna Lynn Brown*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

##  “The Phenomenon of Church Closing in Indonesia: The GKI Yasmin Case and Its Implications for Interreligious Relations”

## *Hans A. Harmakaputra*, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

## “Devotional Matter: Objects in Memory and Imagination within Hindu Practice”

## *Iva Patel*, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Presider: *Gereon Kopf*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

## **Panel #7: Student Panel**

**Meredith 234**

## **“**The Luminary of the Rhein: Hildegard of Bingen’s Unapologetic Insistence on the Female Experience of God

## *Anna R. Venenga*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

##  “Embracing Pluralism: The Biblical Responsibility of Interfaith Work in Inspiring Social Justice and Peace”

*Gabrielle Janssen*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

* “Do I Wake or Sleep?” –Queer Spiritual Care and Remembrance During the AIDS Crisis”

## *Marshall Laidlaw*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

## Presider: *Elena Vishnevskaya*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

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## **Interfaith Plenary Address**

**2:30-3:25 pm**

## **Sarah McCammon**

## National Political Correspondent for NPR

## “Making Sense of Religious Pluralism As an E(x)vangelical”

## **Meredith 101**

## **Coffee Break**

##  **3:25-3:45 pm**

**Fourth Session**

## **3:45-5:00 pm**

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## **Panel #8: Biblical Studies**

## **Meredith 238**

## “A ‘Theology of Work’: Paul, James, Genesis, and 1 Clement”

## *Paul A. Hartog*, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa

##  ““The Meaning of Desire (**תשוקה**): An Integrative Approach to Genesis 3:16; 4:7; and Song of Songs 7:10[11]”

## *Timothy Little*, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, Iowa

* “Targum Onqelos on Gen. 5: The ‘Image’ in Adam, the Ages of the Sethites, and Enoch’s Mortality”

*Terence Kleven*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

##  Presider: *Susan Myers*, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

##

## **Panel #9: Religion, Theology, and the Arts**

## **Meredith 235**

## “The Garden—A Refuge: Theatre, Religion, and Eco-Consciousness”

## *Cia Sautter*, St. Kate, St. Scholastica, and Artistic Director at Storydance Theatre, St. Paul, Minnesota

##  “Ekphrasis/Ekstasis: the Art Subject in Julian's Revelation”

## *Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus*, St. Paul, Minnesota

 Presider: Samuel Kessler, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

**Panel #10: Student Panel: Buddhist Studies**

## **Meredith 234**

* “Meditation as an Inter-Religious Practice”

*Dickyi Lhamo*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

* “Reaching the Other Shore: Ven. Cheng Yen’s Meeting with Three Catholic Sisters as Encountering Nirmāṇakāya”

*Duong Truong*, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

* Practitioner Movement and Sense Experiences in the Boudhanath Stupa’s Form”

*Madeleine Tevonian*, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin

Presider: *Donna Lynn Brown*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

##

## **Fifth Session**

## **5:00-6:15 pm**

*(Note: Participation in this event conflicts with Laotian site visit.)*

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## **Panel #11: Roundtable for the Religion and Science Unit**

## **Meredith 238**

## **Discussion of *Faith and Reason in the Reformations*, ed. Terence J. Kleven**, Proceedings of a conference on the Five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, 2017, sponsored by the Lilly Fellows Program and held at Central College, Pella, Iowa.

## *Jennifer Hockenbery*, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

## *Mark Mattes*, Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa

## *Douglas Kries*, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington

## *Scott Culpepper*, Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa

## *Terence Kleven*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

## Presiders: *Robert Porwoll*, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota, and *Terence Kleven*, Central College, Pella, Iowa

##

## **Second Site Visits**

**5:30-8:30 pm**

## **5:30 Leave for Interfaith Visits**

##

## **5:45–6:45 Wat Lao Buddhavath**

**1804 E Park Ave, Des Moines, IA 50320**

**7:00-8:30 Hindu Cultural and Educational Center (dinner)**

**1940 E. Army Post Rd, Des Moines**

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##  **Sunday**

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## **9:45 Leave for Interfaith Visits**

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## **10:00–12:00 St Mary Coptic Orthodox Church**

## **954 Cummins Pkwy, Des Moines, IA 50312**

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**12:15-1:30 Iowa Sikh Association (lunch)**

**1115 Walnut St, West Des Moines, IA 50265**

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