

2016 SOCIETY FOR BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



NOVEMBER 18-19, 2016
CONVENTION CENTER, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

PANEL I: IS SPIRITUALITY INTRINSICALLY COMMUNAL? SPIRITUALITY AND REVOLUTIONARY LOVE

Friday - 4:00 PM-6:30 PM

Hilton Palacio del Rio-La Vista A (Conference Center - 22nd
Level)

Spiritual practices have been an important part of both Buddhism and Christianity since their inception. In the 21st century United States context, many people have a strong interest in spirituality—including many who are not a part of any organized religion. Today, the categories of “spirituality” and “spiritual practices” have been expanded significantly, and in many cases left to the interpretation of the individual. In such an environment, it is helpful to interrogate the concept of spiritual practice from both Christian and Buddhist perspectives, asking specifically to what degree spirituality is or should be inherently communal vs. individual in orientation. Responses to that question also will consider the relationship of spirituality to revolutionary love as it bears on the communal vs. individual dimensions of spiritual development and embodiment in the world.

Presiding:

Alice Keefe, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

Panelists:

Elizabeth Monson, Harvard University

Daijaku Judith Kinst, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Graduate Theological Union

Charlotte Radler, Loyola Marymount University

Kristin Johnston Largen, Gettysburg Seminary

Responding:

John Makransky, Boston College

**PANEL II: HONORING JIM FREDERICKS, PIONEER IN
BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

Saturday - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Hilton Palacio del Rio-La Condesa (Mezzanine Level)

Jim Fredericks has had extraordinary influence in the fields of Buddhist-Christian Studies and Comparative Theology. This panel examines Fredericks' influence in a number of different venues, and celebrates his pioneering work. His friendship with Masao Abe and many other Buddhists has influenced his views on the importance of interreligious friendship. This led to his critique of the theology of religions and his own approach to comparative theology, as well as understanding interreligious dialogue as solidarity. His book, *Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and Non-Christian Religions* (Paulist Press, 2001) won the Frederick J. Streng Book Award in 2002.

Presiding:

Michelle Voss Roberts, Wake Forest University

Panelists:

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University

Hugh Nicholson, Loyola University, Chicago

Karen Enriquez, Xavier University

Ruben L. F. Habito, Southern Methodist University

Responding:

James Fredericks, Loyola Marymount University

The SBCS business meeting begins at 11:30 am in Hilton Palacio del Rio-La Condesa (Mezzanine Level) immediately after this Panel.

RELATED PANELS (AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION/SOCIETY FOR BIBLICAL LITERATURE MEETINGS)

Friday - 2:00 PM-3:15 PM

Convention Center-006D (River Level)

The journal for [Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology](#) features the following panels on dynamics of change and transformation within the fields of interreligious studies and intercultural theology.

Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Seminary of the Southwest
Torah and the Engaged Commentator: Transformations in
Theology and Practice

Jagbir Jhutti-Johal, University of Birmingham
Lived Religion in Sikh Studies: Interfaith Marriages

André van der Braak, VU University, Amsterdam
Buddhist-Christian Belonging and the Nature of Religious
Belonging

Pim Valkenberg, Catholic University of America
How Has My Engagement with the Religion of Islam – or Rather,
with Muslims and Muslim Theologies – Influenced My
Interpretation of My Own Catholic Tradition?

COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN RELIGION SECTION AND CONTEMPLATIVE STUDIES GROUP

**THEME: REFLECTIONS ON LOUIS KOMJATHY'S (ED.)
CONTEMPLATIVE LITERATURE (SUNY PRESS, 2015)**

Sunday - 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Grand Hyatt-Texas E (4th Level)

In recent years, the emerging field of Contemplative Studies has achieved a new level of maturity. One manifestation of this development is the appearance of Louis Komjathy's edited volume titled *Contemplative Literature: A Comparative Sourcebook on Meditation and Contemplative Prayer* (SUNY Press, 2015), an anthology unprecedented in its scope, depth, and sophistication. After two extensive chapters by Komjathy situating the field, the text uses an array of experts to survey and contextualize a wide variety of classical and modern expressions of contemplative literature, including discussions of both theory and practice. While there is much to praise, one might also ask which traditions, approaches, and critical analyses have been left out or not done justice? How does this book relate to studies in comparative mysticism or in modern science? How might it be used in the classroom? The panelists represent, and will respond from, a variety of traditions and theoretical perspectives, including comparative religious studies, comparative theology, critical subjectivity, and interreligious dialogue. After their brief presentations, there will be questions from and discussion with the audience.

Presiding:

Andrew O. Fort, Texas Christian University

Panelists:

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University

Ruben L. F. Habito, Southern Methodist University

Anne C. Klein, Rice University

Jeffrey J. Kripal, Rice University

Responding:

Louis Komjathy, University of San Diego