ETHNOGRAPHIES OF GOD

PRESENTATIONS
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
FILM SCREENINGS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ROBERT ORSI
(NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY)

VICTORIA COLLEGE CHAPEL

OCTOBER 2, 4-6 PM

OCTOBER 3-4, 2019
MULTIFAITH CENTER
MAIN ACTIVITY HALL
569 SPADINA AVE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
AMIRA.MITTERMAIER@UTORONTO.CA OR OMRI.ELISHA@QC.CUNY.EDU
WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER, 2019

4-6:00 PM Keynote lecture

ROBERT ORSI
(Northwestern University)

"A Metric of Divine Presence"

Victoria College Chapel
91 Charles St W

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER, 2019

9-9:30 am Introductory remarks by co-organizers AMIRA MITTERMAIER and OMRI ELISHA

9:30-11 am Panel I: Divine and Human Agency
9:30 MAYANTHI FERNANDO (UC-Santa Cruz), "Agency, Entanglement, and the Problem of God"
9:50 JOUD ALKORANI (University of Toronto), "'Just as Muddled as I am': Istikhara and the Slippage between Human and Divine"
10:10 HANNAH MAYNE (University of Toronto), "Demand and Supply: God and Ultra-orthodox Women’s Prayer in Jerusalem"
10:30 Discussant: NAOMI SEIDMAN (University of Toronto)
10:45 Q&A

11-11:30 am Coffee break

11:30-1 pm Panel II: Knowing/Not-Knowing God
11:30 VLAD NAUMESCU (Central European University), "When Mysteries are Good Messengers: Modes of Knowing in Orthodox Christianity"
11:50 EMILIO SPADOLA (Colgate University), “Tasting the Secret”
12:10 USMON BORON (University of Toronto), "Of Words and the Unseen: Secularism, Religion, and a Kyrgyz Epic"
12:30 Discussant: SECIL DAGTAS (University of Waterloo)
12:45 Q&A

1-2:00 pm Lunch break
2-3:30 pm  Panel III: Presence/Absence/Multiplicity
2:00  BRIAN HOWELL (Wheaton College), “Performing Icons: Evangelical Theater Games and a Phenomenology of God”
2:20  AMIRA MITTERMAIER (University of Toronto), “Behold, I am Near: Studying Divine Presence in Egypt”
2:40  MICHAEL LAMBEK (University of Toronto), “Singularity, Generality, and Multiplicity: Provisional Thoughts on Polytheism”
3:00  Discussant: SIMON COLEMAN (University of Toronto)
3:15  Q&A

3:30- 4 pm  Coffee break

4-6:00 pm  Roundtable discussion
"God Across the Disciplines"

RUTH MARSHALL, Political Science (University of Toronto)
ROBERT ORSI, History (Northwestern University)
SCOTT SCHIEMAN, Sociology (University of Toronto)
DARREN DIAS, Theology (St. Michael's College, University of Toronto)

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10-11:30 am  Panel IV: God and Worldly Affairs
10:00  AYALA FADER (Fordham University), “Religious (Frum) Therapy: God and Psychology”
10:20  FRED KLAITS (SUNY-Buffalo), “How Does God Care?: ‘Going Through’ as Ethical Formation in African American Pentecostalism”
10:40  ANDREAS BANDAK (University of Copenhagen), “Marked by the Divine: The Case of Stigmatic Myrna Akhras”
11:00  Discussant: VALENTINA NAPOLITANO (University of Toronto)
11:15  Q&A

12-1:30 pm  Lunch break
1:30-3 pm  Panel V: Placing/Displacing God in Ethnography
1:30  CHINA SCHERZ (University of Virginia), “Ontological Violations and the Limits of Anthropology”
1:50  YASMIN MOLL (University of Michigan), "Can There Be a Godly Ethnography?: Islamic Anthropology and the Ethnographic Stance”
2:10  OMRI ELISHA (Queens College/CUNY Graduate Center), “Metaphors of Divinity: Finding 'God' in Contemporary Western Astrology”
2:30  Discussant: PAMELA KLASSEN (University of Toronto)
2:45  Q&A

3-3:30 pm  Coffee break

3:30-5 pm  Film screening and discussion

"God in Ethnographic Film"

3:30  CHRISTIAN SUHR (Aarhus University), “Light Upon Light”
4:15  VLAD NAUMESCU (Central European University), "Bread of Life"

5-6:00 pm  Closing reflections and discussion

With the support of:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Multifaith Centre, University of Toronto
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