

CREOR NEWSLETTER 2019

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF CREOR IN 2019 New Council for Research on Religion in Montreal

CREOR NEWSLETTER FALL 2019

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The launch of the new Council for Research on Religion in September 2019 was a big success with several lectures, colloquia and forthcoming publications, and more than 40 new members. This shows that there is a lot of interest and willingness to cooperate among faculty and graduate students at the four

Montreal universities and their Departments of Theology and Religious Studies, whether at Concordia University, McGill University, Université de Montréal or UQAM. In this Newsletter, Edition 1, Volume 1, we will present some of the highlights of the Fall term and a preview of what is coming next year. If you have ideas yourself or know of new initiatives or potential members, let us know.

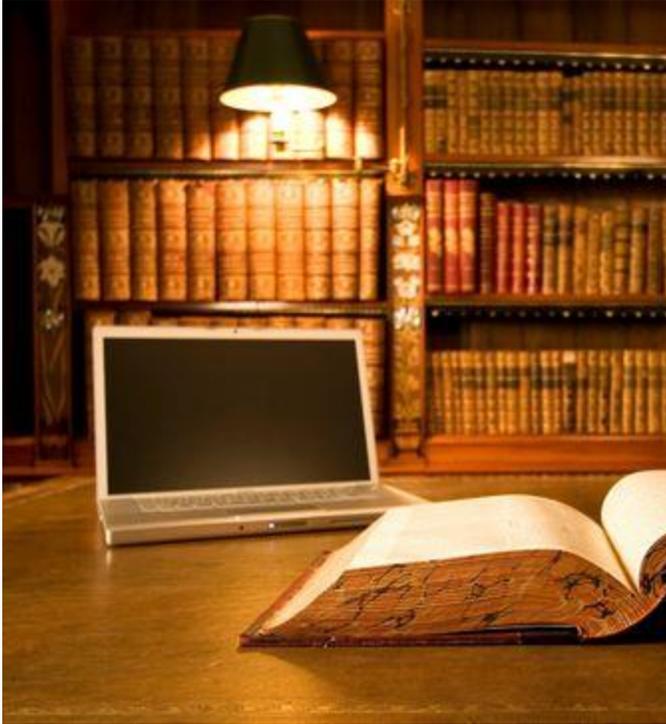
FEATURE EVENT

CREOR Colloquium on “Religion and Climate Change” in September 2019 part of the efforts of students and faculty of McGill University to reduce university’s carbon footprint.

Principal Suzanne Fortier on December 5th 2019: “Dear members of the McGill community,

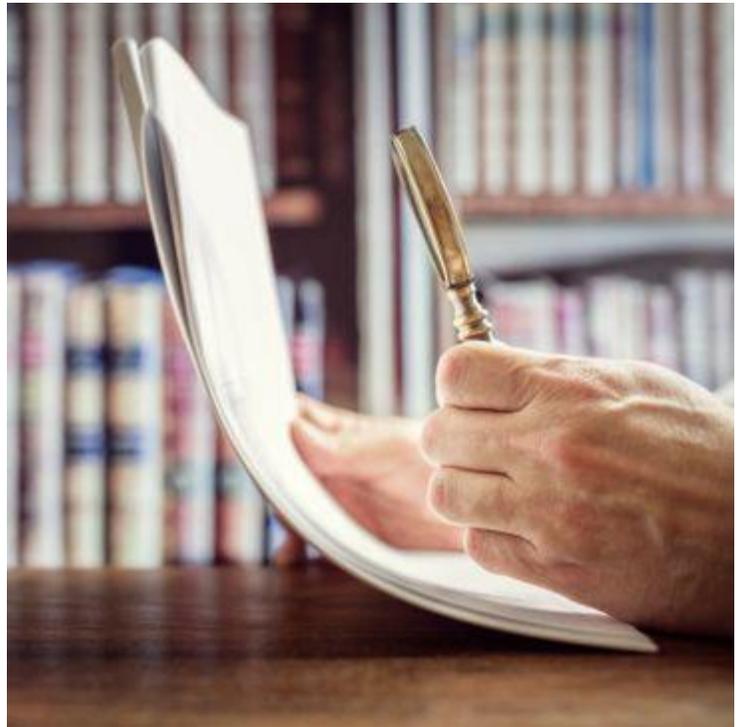
We are sharing with you the University’s decision to decrease the overall carbon-intensity of its investment portfolio, following the Board of Governors’ approval of all the recommendations proposed by the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) today.”

WHAT IS CREOR-M?



The Council for Research on Religion (CREOR-M) is Montreal's first academic research council in the field of Religious Studies. The Council is an inter-disciplinary and inter-university entity drawing on the expertise and research interests present in the city of Montreal. It consists of members from the disciplines of Religious Studies and other disciplines within Arts, as well as from Education, Law and Medicine, and other disciplines, such as Management and Music. CREOR-M is based in Montreal and collaborates with researchers from other Montreal institutions and from universities and colleges around the world.

COOPERATION ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES



CREOR-M includes individual scholars, research units and research teams covering Buddhism, Christianity, East Asian Religions, Humanism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and new Religious Movements, as well as the Comparative Study of Religion and Inter-faith Studies. Research projects may be in the hands of one or more scholars from any of the Montreal based universities, faculties, departments, units, and Councils.

Religions in Antiquity

MONTREAL BIBLICAL COLLOQUIUM

WOMEN IN ANTIQUITY

CONTEXTICON

A COMMUNICATION HUB



In the past few years, the relevance of religion has been growing rapidly, not only in politics and in the media, but also in the academic world. The reason seems to be clear: religion, previously thought to be in retreat, is now entering every realm of our daily lives. The interaction between religion and society - often peaceful, sometimes violent - can hardly be overlooked. CREOR plans to be a communication hub linking individual researchers and research units together by sharing information about research, events and collaboration.

Religion and Diversity in Canada and Quebec

PLURALISM

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

PROBLEM OR SOLUTION?

Religion, Violence and Human Rights

SINGLING OUT ONE RELIGION?

IS RELIGION VIOLENT?

VULNERABLE YOUTH

Spirituality in Youth and Women

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE LESS RELIGIOUS?

ARE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN DIFFERENT?

HOW WOULD RELIGION LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

Religions in Asia

BUDDHA AND THE OTHER

THE OTHER IN SOUTH ASIAN TRADITIONS

COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON RELIGION

LECTURES, COLLOQUIA AND PUBLICATIONS

Fall 2019

09/05/2019

LECTURE BY PROF. GIOVANNI GELLERA

"James Dundas (1620-1679) on Natural law, Religious tolerance, and the Hobbesian Human Nature"

Giovanni Gellera currently works as a postdoc in the project Tolerance, Intolerance and Discrimination regarding Religion (2016-2020), PI Prof Christian Maurer, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and based at the philosophy department, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He was awarded the PhD by the University of Glasgow in 2012 for a thesis entitled Natural Philosophy in the Graduation Theses of the Scottish Universities in the first half of the seventeenth century, supervised by Prof Alexander Broadie.

09/20/2019

COLLOQUIUM ON "RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE"



In this Colloquium on September 20th 2019 in the Birks building several McGill scholars discuss the many intersections between religion and climate change and how handed-over traditions from ancient times and from east and west can inform us how to better respond to the effects of present-day climate change. This includes not only catastrophic influences to the natural world in which we live, but also encompasses changes to our lives, our hopes and fears (increased anxiety, depression, doomsday feelings) as well as changes in society and politics (from new literary and movie genres, to discussions about divesting, immigration politics, inter-national relations etc.). With Professors Stephanie Posthumus, Darin Barney, Gregory Mikkelson, David Goodin and others.

10/29/2019

MONTREAL BIBLICAL COLLOQUIUM:

BIBLICAL MODELS OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE

Concordia University

[See <https://montrealbiblicalcolloquium.weebly.com/about.html>]

PARTICIPATION IN

10-11/2019

THE SEYMOUR DAVID STEINMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

McGill University

[See <https://steinmanmemoriallectures.weebly.com/>)]

11/1-3/2019

PARTICIPATION IN THE COLLOQUIUM

“THEOLOGY AFTER CHRISTENDOM”

Reflections on the Writings of Prof. Douglas Hall

Engaging and building upon Douglas John Hall’s conText ual theology, the colloquium will explore constructive possibilities for Christian theology and the church as we face the end of Christendom. Many ‘signs of the times’ point to the necessity for a radically altered Christian witness, with theological moorings that are rooted in solid foundations of biblical and theological interpretation, sensitive to the immense damage inflicted by Christian colonialism. At the same time therefore they will have to be sufficiently profound to uncover the spiritual malaise of our era, and capable of engaging in dialogue and action with other faiths and systems of meaning that are also committed to the future of global stability and human civilization.

In his conText ual theology, Douglas Hall reconstructs and offers profound resources from the past to inspire re-newed understandings of theology and life upon which the church might base its hope for a future beyond Christendom. It is a decolonizing conText ual theology a theology of the cross, which can engage a global society facing global issues of survival., and offers a paradigm complex enough to speak of the unspeakable horrors of the holocaust and the residential school system in language still meaningful to today’s globalized world.

12/06/2019

PARTICIPATION IN THE COLLOQUIUM

THE "OTHER" IN SOUTH ASIAN TRADITIONS,
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

« L'autre » dans les traditions d'Asie du Sud: autres divins, autres religieux, autres culturels

The "Other" in South Asian Traditions: Divine Others, Religious Others, Cultural Others

Congratulations to Prof. Diana Dimitrova and her team for a successful colloquium with sessions on:

Autres divins et religieux/ Divine and Religious Others

Autres religieux et culturels/ Religious and Cultural

Présentations d'étudiants/ Student presentations

MEMBERSHIP LIST

MIKAËL BAUER

Assistant Professor, Japanese Religions (Buddhism), School of Religious Studies, McGill University

EMIDIO CAMPI

Professor Emeritus Church History, Swiss Institute of Reformation Studies, Faculty of Theology,
University of Zurich

CARLA CANULLO

Associate Professor of Theoretical Philosophy, Department of Humanities, Università di Macerata

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Adjunct, School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University

KATAYOON DALIR

Independent scholar, Law, Ethics, and Religion

DIANA DIMITROVA

Professor of Hinduism and South Asian Religions, Faculté des arts et des sciences - Institut d'études
religieuses, Université de Montréal

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Concordia University

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Adjunct, McGill University, School of Religious Studies and School of Environment

DOUGLAS HEDLEY

Professor of Philosophy of Religion, University of Cambridge

CHIARA LETIZIA

Professor, Département de sciences des religions, Université du Québec à Montréal

LUCILLE MARR

Adjunct Professor and Chaplain, McGill University, School of Religious Studies and Presbyterian College

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Professor of Biblical Studies; Director of the Council for Research on Religion, McGill University, School of Religious Studies

SUSAN JEAN PALMER

Lecturer Religions and Culture, Concordia University and School of Religious Studies, McGill University

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Assistant Professor, New Testament Studies, The University of Nottingham
Early Judaism, Historical Jesus, Early Christianity, Women and Gender Studies

AARON RICKER

Course Lecturer, School of Religious Studies, McGill University

ARVIND SHARMA

Birks Professor of Comparative Religion, McGill School of Religious Studies

THOMAS R. SHULTZ

Professor Department of Psychology, McGill University

GEORGE CARRAS

Senior Research Professor in classical studies and religion, Dept of Classics, Washington and Lee University, Commonwealth of Virginia USA

JOHN SIMONS

Revered Canon, former Principal of the Diocesan Theological College

MICHAEL VAN DUSSEN

Associate Professor of English, Department of English, McGill University

FRED TAPPENDEN

Principal and Dean, and Professor of Theology, St. Stephen's College, University of Alberta

JÉRÔME GOSSELIN-TAPP

Professor of Philosophy, University of Ottawa

HELEN CAZES

Professor of French and Medieval Studies, University of Victoria

CEZAR ENIA

Independent scholar in Philosophy of Religion

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Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Université Laval

CORY ANDREW LABRECQUE

Associate Professor of Biomedical ethics at the Université Laval

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Graduate Student in Biblical Studies, McGill University

KEVIN DUPONT

Graduate Student in Islamic Studies, Tufts University

HADI FAKHOURY

Graduate Student, McGill University

MASOUMEH KHORRAMIPOUR

Graduate Student, McGill University

SHAUN RETALLICK

Graduate Student, McGill University

AMANDA ROSINI

Graduate Student in Biblical Studies, McGill University

LAUREN STEINMAN

Graduate Student, McGill University

RAHCHEL KELLEHER

Graduate Student in Ethics, Religion and Gender, McGill University

Journal of the Council for Research on Religion (CREOR E-Journal)

Montreal, in December 2019

Dear Readers:

The Council for Research on Religion (CREOR) is pleased to announce the first edition of its E-Journal called “Journal of the Council for Research on Religion” (see <https://creor-ejournal.library.mcgill.ca>). The first issue deals with “Religion and Violence” and goes back to a Conference at McGill and Concordia University in 2018 (see further below). There are several more issues planned and we hope to publish the E-Journal on a semi-annual basis. If you have an idea for an issue, please, let us know.

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Gerbern S. Oegema

(Director of CREOR)



CREOR EJOURNAL

CREOR EJOURNAL VOL. 1 "RELIGION & VIOLENCE"

Religion and Violence: Sources, History, and the Contemporary World Deadline: March 11th, 2019

Description of volume:

The Montreal Council for Research on Religion (CREOR) has invited contributions to the first edition of the CREOR e-journal, which is dedicated to the theme of Religion and Violence. Scholars have submitted papers that reflect on the following questions and themes: How has the understanding of the relationship between violence and religion changed over time? How does methodology shape the scholarship on religion and violence? Is religious violence different than secular/non-religious violence? By drawing attention to religious violence how has political discourse overlooked the religious victims of religious or secular violence? Is there a place for discussions of religious conceptions of non-violence in the scholarship on religion and violence? How can policy makers use scriptural sources to promote peace and social cohesion?

CREOR EJOURNAL VOL. 2 "THE REFORMATION AND THE WORLD RELIGIONS"

Description of volume:

The colloquium on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation focused on the rich, many sided and often conflict laden relations between the Reformation and the world's religions. Papers addressed a selection of topics involving central aspects of the relationship between the history of the Reformation with Judaism, Islam, and the Asian religions, as well as with the Indigenous people and the inter-religious dialogue. A central question in all papers was what we can learn from the past to make our present and future better, especially in the context of inter-religious contacts in Quebec and Canada and in light of the growing influence of religion and globalization.

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Gerbern S. Oegema: Introduction: The Reformation and the World Religions
Emidio Campi: Commemorating the Quincentenary of the Reformation
Torrance Kirby: Paul's Cross and the Culture of Persuasion in the English Reformation
Gerbern S. Oegema: The Reformation and Judaism: Between Philo-Semitism and Anti-Semitism
Glenn Chestnut: The Reformation and Islam: Karl Barth in Conversation with Tariq Ramadan and Ali Gomaa
Patricia G. Kirkpatrick: The Reformation and the Issue of Gender
Lucille Marr: Incorporating Indigenous and Women's Voices in Canadian Church History
Maurice Boutin: "DON'T CHAT , BUT TRY: Joseph C. McLelland's Legacy"

CREOR EJOURNAL VOL. 4: "RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

In this issue several McGill scholars discuss the many intersections between religion and climate change and how handed-over traditions from ancient times and from east and west can inform us how to better respond to the effects of present-day climate change. This includes not only catastrophic influences to the natural world in which we live, but also encompasses changes to our lives, our hopes and fears (increased anxiety, depression, doomsday feelings) as well as changes in society and politics (from new literary and movie genres, to discussions about divesting, immigration politics, inter-national relations etc.). With Professors Stephanie Posthumus, Darin Barney, Gregory Mikkelson, David Goodin and others.

CREOR EJOURNAL VOL. 4 "MYTH, MAGIC & MEDICINE"

Coming soon.

OUTLOOK FOR 2020

CREOR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Publications (forthcoming):

Jennifer Guyver, André Gagné, Gerbern S. Oegema (eds.), *Religion and Violence in Western Traditions: Selected Studies*, Abingdon: Routledge 2020

Amanda Rosini et al. (eds.), *CREOR E-Journal, Vol. 1 Religion and Violence*, Montreal: McGill University 2019

Gerbern S. Oegema et al. (eds.), *CREOR E-Journal, Vol. 2: The Reformation and the World Religions*, Montreal: McGill University 2020

David Goodin; Gerbern S. Oegema (eds.), *CREOR E-Journal, Vol. 3: Religion and Climate Change*, Montreal: McGill University 2020

CREOR E-Journal Call for Papers

Call for Papers for the Journal of the Council for Research on Religion Issue on

“Religion and Climate Change”

On September 20th, 2019, CREOR-M held a colloquium to discuss the power and potentiality of religion to inform effective responses to the climate change crises impacting our shared biosphere. Invited presenters included Darin Barney, David K. Goodin, Gregory Mikkelson, Stephanie Posthumus, Gerbern S. Oegema, and others.

Pursuant to that event, CREOR-M is now inviting article proposals of between 500 and 750 words to present a basic outline of your potential contribution. If selected, final articles should aim for 6000 to 8000 words, though exceptions may be permitted in certain cases.

We are looking for interdisciplinary articles that discuss the many intersections between religion and climate change and how handed-over traditions from ancient times and from east and west can inform us how to better respond to the effects of present-day climate change. This includes not only catastrophic influences to the natural world in which we live, but also encompasses changes to our lives, our hopes and fears (increased anxiety, depression, doomsday feelings) as well as changes in society and politics (from new literary and movie genres, to discussions about divesting, immigration politics, inter-national relations etc.).

Article Proposal Deadline: March 1st 2020

Submit to: david.goodin@mcgill.ca
Gerbern.oegema@mcgill.ca

Colloquia

Female Deities and Modern Heroines: Between Text, Social Setting and Present-Day Relevance

Colloquium, April 22-23, 2020

Abstract:

Every religion has texts about female deities, which often in one way or another relate to social realities in the past, mostly in a patriarchal societal setting, but also sometimes revealing more matriarchal societal structures. Historians of religion sensitive of gender-specific approaches often find that the texts themselves and their later transmissions reveal struggles between male and female groups within a society, a dynamic that can also change over time. And thus, on the one hand a study of the conception and transmission of female deities themselves can reveal aspects of the societies in which they have originated, as well as in later historical settings, in which they were re-interpreted, even until today. On the other hand, there is also the reception of these deities in later times up to our own days. Relevant for today may, therefore, also be how present-day heroines could have some of their roots in some ancient deities, the social dynamics behind these ancient concepts as well as their later reception history. A comparison between popular culture heroines and ancient deities may thus yield new insights in both ancient religions and present-day culture.

Event description:

This 2-day colloquium will include a public lecture, several scholarly presentations and extensive graduate participation. During the event participants will discuss whether the above formulated questions and observations hold true across the world religions. Papers will be presented by leading scholars in the fields of Biblical Studies, world religions, Theology, Political Science, Communication Studies and modern religious movements.

The colloquium is meant to promote inter-disciplinary research on religious traditions, gender, the interaction between religion and society, and present-day relevance, both in teaching and in research.

Among the confirmed speakers are Profs. Susan Palmer (Concordia University), Tracy Pintchman (Loyola University of Chicago), Shayna Sheinfeld (University of Sheffield), Diana Dimitrova (Université de Montréal), Travis Smith (Concordia University), Lucille Marr (Presbyterian College) and Vanessa Sasson (Marianapolis College).