

Indiana University  
**UNDERGRADUATE RELIGIOUS STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
presents

# SPRING SYMPOSIUM



**MAR 25-26, 2022**



**DEPARTMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**All times are Eastern Time Zone**

**Friday, March 25**

**Friday's in-person events take place at IU's Center for Religion and the Human  
1211 Atwater Ave**

**3:00pm: Opening Remarks**

Patrick Lally Michelson

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies of Religious Studies, Indiana University

**3:00-4:15pm: Panel 1**

*Deaf God: Deaf Perspectives in Christianity*

Ellis Azcona, Indiana University

*Finding Meaning in the Necessity of Crisis*

Sage Kern, Indiana University

*My Dear Friend Death*

Madyson Lorch, Indiana University

**4:30-5:45pm: Panel 2**

*Being a Scholar in Crisis: A Survey of Jacob Burckhardt's and Max Weber's Definition and Solution for the Crisis in Their Time*

Chen Wu, Indiana University

*Should Humans Play God? Catholic Concerns about CRISPR Center Around Creator-Human Relationship*

Arika Akin, Indiana University

*In the Hands of the Subaltern: Feminist Philosophy of Religion in John Steinbeck's East of Eden*

Noah Baum, Brown University

**6:00pm: Keynote Address**

*Becoming Beholden: Medieval Biblical Literature and the Challenge of Witness*

Shannon Gayk

Associate Professor of English, Indiana University

**Dinner to follow the Keynote Address**

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**Saturday, March 26**

**Saturday's virtual events take place via Zoom**

**For zoom link and passcode, please contact [plmichel@indiana.edu](mailto:plmichel@indiana.edu).**

**9:00-10:15am: Panel 3**

*Mythmaking and the NOI: Writing Their Own Story*  
JoyceLyn Bentley, Elon University

*Jewish Identity and Wall Street: Challenging and Legitimizing Capitalist Systems*  
Hallie Milstein, Elon University

*Of Yarbs and Märchen—Form, Function, and Material in Ozark Folklore*  
Connor Barron, Columbia University

**10:30-11:45am: Panel 4**

*The Monarchy and the Jews: A Contentious Experience in Iberian Christendom (1438-1492)*  
Madison Grace McNeece, Baylor University

*Buddhist Nationalism and Islamophobia Define and Fuel Discrimination Against Muslims in Myanmar*  
Victoria Stewart, Vanderbilt University

*Combating Collective Consciousness of Black Religion: How the American Police State Attempted to Stifle Black Unification under Christianity and Islam*  
Abena Appiah-Ofori, University of Virginia

**Lunch Break**

**12:45-2:00pm: Panel 5**

*The Contested Countryside: Saints, Demons, and Peasants in Carolingian Christianity*  
Jack Corp, Drury University

*Have the Money Influxes Towards Angkor Wat Affected the Cambodian Buddhist Practices, Monastic Life and Educational System?*  
Nicole Ralsgard Taube, University of Virginia

*Images: It's More Than What Meets the Eyes*  
Harper Leigh, Baylor University

**Concluding Remarks**

Daniel Theus, URSA President