

Indiana University  
**UNDERGRADUATE RELIGIOUS STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
presents



**MARCH 28-29, 2025**



**DEPARTMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

**Friday, March 28**

**All times are Eastern Time Zone and take place at IU's Geology 2029**

611 N Walnut Grove St, Bloomington, IN 47405

**3:00pm: Opening Remarks**

Sonia Velázquez

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

Jaime Weaver and Eli Brown, URSA Co-Presidents

**3:05pm: Introduction of New Perspectives on Cultural/Religious Practices**

“Neuroscience and Spiritual Experiences”

Luca Kim, Indiana University

“Short-Term Missions: Buying an Experience, Selling a God”

Darcy Taylor, University of Virginia

Respondent: Ellen Loucks, Indiana University

**3:50pm: Break**

**4:00pm: Religion and History I**

“Reading Mariology as a Way Forward for Jewish-Catholic Dialogue”

Lauren Metters, University of Virginia

“Negotiating Faith in a Godless State: The Survival of the Armenian Church under the Soviet Regime”

Susanna Kharatyan, University of Virginia

Respondent: Alina Williams, Indiana University

**4:50pm: Break**

**5:00pm: Keynote Address**

“Dead Monks Don't Die: War, Veneration, and the Afterlife in Orthodox Russia”

Patrick Michelson, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Indiana University

Dinner to follow the Keynote Address

**Saturday, March 29**

**All times are Eastern Time Zone**

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/85004556199>

**10:00am: Opening Remarks**

Jaime Weaver and Eli Brown, URSA Co-Presidents

**10:05am: Religion and History II**

“Notes Towards an Apophatic Trans Ontology”

Milan Capoor, Brown University

“Love and Hate: Derrida and Kierkegaard Hiding in the Bushes with a Ram”

William Loughridge, Brown University

“Autophagic Oil: The Early History of Crude Oil, Corpses and the Divine”

Tarini Tipnis, Brown University

Respondent: Moriah Reichert, Indiana University

**11:15am: Break**

**11:20am: Religion and Medicine/Care Practices**

“Healing Beyond Science: A Religious Perspective on Liver Transplantation for Alcoholic Patients with Liver Disease”

David Ferrando, Georgetown University

“Do Not Forget the Spirit: Exploring Pastoral Care Pedagogies in Medical Education”

Audrey Zhou, Northwestern University

“Returning to the Roots: Using Indigenous Knowledge to Inform Restorative Practices”

Leah Carroll, University of Virginia

Respondent: Sweta Dutta, Indiana University

**12:30pm: Closing Remarks**

Jaime Weaver and Eli Brown, URSA Co-Presidents