



International Association for Spiritual Care

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SPIRITUAL CARE (IASC)
ANNUAL CONFERENCE JULY 8-10, 2018
AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW YORK, NY (USA)**

Conference Workshops

Monday 11:15 am -12:30 pm

Room 205: Race, Culture, and Complex Religious Bonds: Resolving Legacies of Conflict

Duane R. Bidwell

Professor of Practical Theology,
Spiritual Care, and Counseling;
Senior Staff Clinician and Supervisor,
The Clinebell Institute for Pastoral
Counseling and Psychotherapy,
Claremont School of Theology



Workshop Description: Spiritually fluid people—those who maintain bonds to more than one religion at the same time—are more likely to inherit than choose multiplicity. Yet professionals tend to ignore or minimize the racial, ethnic, and cultural dimensions of complex religious bonds. This workshop engages the experiences of four spiritually people to explore complex religious bonds as a postcolonial strategy for resisting cultural oppression and resolving conflicted identities, relationships, and histories. It demonstrates that belonging and relationship are more important than belief and logic in understanding and assessing complex religious bonds. Therefore, effective care with spiritually fluid people requires that care providers (a) consider “spirituality” alongside race, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic status in assessment and intervention and (b) practice personal

“intersectional religious reflexivity” to strengthen therapeutic relationships and compassionate engagement.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Describe complex religious bonds as an inheritance from family and culture,
- Articulate religious multiplicity’s role in reclaiming and/or maintaining racial-ethnic and cultural identities, relationships, and histories,
- Consider religion in intersectional analysis for spiritual assessment and intervention, and
- Identify at least one racial-ethnic or cultural influence on their own religious bonds as a step toward personal, intersectional religious reflexivity.

Presenter Biography: **Duane R. Bidwell**, Ph.D., is professor of practical theology, spiritual care, and counseling at Claremont School of Theology in California and senior staff clinician and supervisor at The Clinebell Institute for Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Duane also practices Theravada Buddhism. His book *When One Religion Isn’t Enough: Hinjews, Buddhist-Christians, and Other Spiritually Fluid People* will be published in November by Beacon Press. Duane promotes a *comparative theological paradigm* for pastoral theology, engaging religious traditions beyond Christianity as authoritative sources for the theory and practice of spiritual care. He serves on the board of the Taos Institute, an educational organization that promotes social constructionist theory and practice, where he coordinates the new Diploma in Social Construction and Professional Practice and serves on the Ph.D. faculty. Former editor of *The Journal of Pastoral Theology*, Duane authored *Empowering Couples: A Narrative Approach to Spiritual Care* (Fortress, 2013) and *Short-term Spiritual Guidance* (Fortress, 2004), edited *Spirituality, Social Construction and Relational Practices: Essays and Reflections* (WorldShare, 2016), and co-edited *The Formation of Pastoral Counselors: Opportunities and Challenges* (Routledge, 2006). Duane and his family live in Claremont, CA, where he volunteers as a fire lookout, makes pottery, enjoys improv, and watches his son play soccer.



Room 205A: Spiritual Care of Social Welfare in a Multi-cultural Tradition, and the Care of Souls in the Multi-religious Society of Japan

**Dr. Nobuo Okamoto and
Dr. Toshiyuki Kubotera**
Kurashiki - Okayama, and
Ageo - Saitama, Japan



Workshop Description: In this workshop, we will look at the historical circumstances of spiritual care in Japan, which characterize multiculturalism, and we will clarify the characteristics of spiritual care of

social welfare in Japan, which is a multicultural tradition and multi-religious background. As a result, it is desirable to develop and utilize a practical model of spiritual care focusing on the spirituality experienced in daily life under culture and customs. We would like to discuss the diversity of spiritual care in multi-cultural-religious society.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Understand the history of spiritual care in Japan.
- Find spiritual care of "Daily life" in culture and custom
- Know diversity of spiritual care in multi-religious society
- Know difference of religious care and spiritual care in Japan

Presenter Biographies: **Dr. Nobuo Okamoto** is Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Faculty of Health and Welfare, Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare in Kurashiki, Okayama, Japan. He is a Certified Social Worker, Care Worker, and Nursing Care Manager.

Dr. Toshiyuki Kubotera is a Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Human Welfare, Seigakuin University, Ageo, Saitama, Japan, and Vice President of the Japan Society of Spiritual Care. He also serves as Vice President of the Society for Interfaith Chaplaincy in Japan, the Director of the Japanese Society for Clinical Thanatology, and a Councilor for the Japan Hospice Foundation. He is the author of *Introduction to Spiritual Care*, *Textbook of Spiritual Care*, *Spiritual Care*, *Outlook of Spiritual Care*, and *Spiritual Care Studies*, as well as over 80 articles and translations, and is a frequent lecturer in universities, seminaries, and churches. He earned his MDiv from Candler School of Theology/Emory University, Atlanta, his ThM from Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA, and his PhD from Osaka University, Japan.



Room 207: Fundamentalism as Toxic Spirituality: A Spiritual Health/Care View

Dr. Daniel Schipani

Professor of Pastoral Care &
Counseling
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical
Seminary, Elkhart, IN



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Workshop Description: This workshop focuses on religious fundamentalism within the larger category of “unhealthy spirituality”. It includes case studies, analysis of common features of religious fundamentalism in light of a proposed model of spirituality, and invites further insight on ways to assess and engage toxic spirituality in spiritual care settings.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Identify key issues of fundamentalism present in three religious traditions
- Test the claim that religious fundamentalism always fosters spiritual toxicity
- Visualize further research on ways to assess and engage fundamentalist toxic spirituality in spiritual care settings

Presenter Biography: **Daniel S. Schipani**, was born and raised in Argentina. He holds a Doctor of Psychology degree from Universidad Católica Argentina (Buenos Aires), and a PhD in Practical Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ). He is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. An ordained minister in the Mennonite Church USA, he has also served as a psychotherapist and pastoral counselor (volunteer) at a local community health center for economically vulnerable care receivers, especially immigrants from Latin America. His academic work includes clinical supervision of students in chaplaincy, and pastoral and spiritual counseling.

Professor Schipani’s research and teaching interests include formation and transformation processes and intercultural and interfaith pastoral care and counseling. He is the author or editor of over twenty-five books on pastoral counseling, education, and practical and pastoral theology. His texts include *The Way of Wisdom in Pastoral Counseling*; with Leah Dawn Bueckert, *Spiritual Caregiving in the Hospital: Windows to Chaplaincy Ministry*, and *Interfaith Spiritual Care: Understandings and Practices*; *Multifaith Views in Spiritual Care*; *Manual de Psicología P: Fundamentos y Principios de Acompañamiento*. He is also a visiting professor in various academic institutions and lectures widely in North America, Latin America and Europe. He is a member of several professional and academic organizations.

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**Room 305: Living in Exile: A Life of Spiritual Conflict**

**Rabbi Mychal B. Springer**

Director, Center for Pastoral Education  
The Jewish Theological Seminary, New  
York



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**Workshop Description:** This interactive workshop will explore themes of exile and spirituality through religious and personal narratives. IASC's international gathering provides us with a unique opportunity to examine narratives of longing for a sacred center, with an awareness that the multiple narratives of those of us in the room are likely to overlap and conflict on certain levels even as they echo one another on other levels. We will create space for hearing one another as we discuss themes of exile - ancient, contemporary and existential.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Demonstrate awareness of some core texts concerning exile in the Jewish tradition
- Articulate an understanding of dynamics of exile in multi-faith spiritual care
- Hold multiple narratives of exile in productive tension
- Reflect on religions in conflict through the lens of exile

**Presenter Biography: Rabbi Mychal B. Springer** founded the [Center for Pastoral Education](#) at JTS in 2009, establishing relationships with hospices, Jewish social service agencies, and—most recently—prisons and reentry facilities, allowing students to learn the art of pastoral care as they serve marginalized populations. The first Conservative rabbi to be certified as a supervisor by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), Mychal received her BA in Judaic Studies and Religious Studies from Yale College *magna cum laude*. Mychal is a certified Jewish chaplain in Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.



Room 214 ("Stewart Room"): **Religious Trauma in the Experience of Queer Persons**

**Brooke Petersen**

Adjunct Professor,  
McCormick Theological Seminary  
and The Lutheran School of  
Theology at Chicago



**Workshop Description:** This workshop applies psychological trauma theory to understandings of the particular experience of queer persons in the church. Narratives of queer people --people who grew up in conservative religious environments, left those communities due to their sexuality and later returned to progressive religious communities -- form the basis of this workshop. Our goal is to expand upon traditional views of trauma by exploring the psychological, spiritual and ritual dimensions of estrangement from and return to faith. Scholarship in religious abuse often focuses on an abusive individual in a religious community while scholarship in the area of religious trauma limits the recovery from religious trauma to the exit from religious communities. This workshop will offer a corrective to this overly limited view. This workshop will explore how accepting religious communities were integral for queer persons in the establishment of safety, the



remembrance of their trauma, and the reconnection with their community. We will examine the potential for post-traumatic growth in the return to accepting faith communities and recommendations for congregations seeking to be places of welcome for those who have experienced religious trauma.

### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Expand on traditional views of trauma to include religious trauma
- Understand the conditions necessary for religious trauma to manifest in the experience of queer person
- Recognize the potential for recovery from religious trauma within progressive communities

**Presenter Biography: Rev. Dr. Brooke Petersen** is a clinical pastoral theologian with research interests in trauma as well as the intersection of psychological theory, mental health and pastoral theology. She graduated with her MDiv from the Lutheran School of Theology in 2006, going on to serve Irving Park Lutheran Church in Chicago for 6 years. In 2017 she finished her PhD in Pastoral Theology, Personality and Culture at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her dissertation, entitled "Religious Estrangement and Return in the Experience of Queer Persons," made a case for religious trauma as a frame to understand the experience of many queer persons in the church, and for ways that progressive communities might draw on trauma theory in their ministry. She is a licensed professional counselor in Illinois and her clinical work included placements at Access Community Health and the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy where she worked with clients facing a variety of mental health issues. She teaches as an adjunct faculty person at both McCormick Theological Seminary and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, including classes focusing on Mental Illness and Pastoral Theology, Ritual through the Life Cycle, and advanced Pastoral Care. She currently also serves as the interim pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square in Chicago.



## **Monday 4:00-5:15 pm**

### **Room 205: Spiritual Care and Spiritual Conflicts: Spiritual Autobiography, Flexible Spirituality, and Multiple Belonging**

**Dr. Wim Smeets,**  
Radboud University,  
Nijmegen, Netherlands.



**Workshop Description:** The theoretical background of our contribution consists of three elements: the development in spiritual care, a narrative approach in care and counselling and the social and personal dimension of conflict. The sociocultural processes of secularisation, deinstitutionalisation and individualisation has also become visible in healthcare institutions, affecting both clients, staff

and chaplains themselves. We need ‘models of praxis’ to develop the spiritual competence. In this workshop we will focus on spiritual biography. In social constructionism, for example in psychology, the distinction between inward and outside is ‘dismantled.’ The person nowadays is seen as a ‘dialogical self’ that incorporates different voices. Dealing with religious conflicts we combine a social and personal scope. In the biography the client conducts an internal dialog, where social and personal elements go together. Contemplative listening from the spiritual caregiver gives a non-evaluative space for dealing with personal and social spiritual dynamics, moral issues and conflicts. During the workshop we will invite the participants to tell each other elements of the own biography and to practice counselling with spiritual dynamics and conflicts.

**Presenter Biography:** Dr. Wim Smeets is head of the Spiritual Care Department, senior CPE supervisor, and researcher, Centre of Expertise on Spiritual Care of the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands.



**Room 205A: Relational Psychoanalysis and Dissociation in the Socio-Cultural Context of a Hindu Village in Nepal – Pathways of Illness and Healing**

**Alfred Pach, Ph.D., MPH,** Public Health Consultant; Spiritual Director, RENEW International, Plainfield, New Jersey



**Workshop Description:** This workshop will explore narrative descriptions of the distressful interpersonal and affective experiences of a dissociative disorder that largely affects women in a Hindu village in Nepal, known as *chhopuwa* (i.e. “to be covered”). The disorder is expressed as spirit possession or conversion symptoms of fainting. Narratives of cases of *chhopuwa* describe how human experience is structured and situated within social and inter-subjective connections with others. The breakdown in the communicative recognition and affirmation of oneself in key self-other relations are shown to lead to threatening experiences and disruptions in one’s social connections and sense of self. The goal of this study is to gain insights into the experiences, situations and socio-cultural contexts that can lead to dissociative experiences, as an adaptive response to painful, incompatible psychosocial experience. Restoring the mutuality of relational and communicative dynamics is also explored as the key to repairing one’s social relations, and subsequent emotional stability and psychic functioning.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify self-other communicative forms as the building blocks of social connection, feeling states and social identity;
- Appreciate the influence of cultural concepts and social relations, especially related to gender and power, on the development of subject positions and affective experience;
- Consider how ‘deep listening’ and mutual responsiveness can create a ‘third’ locus of inter-subjectivity that can be understood as a symbolic connection of I-Thou relations, the presence of the third “seat” of the Spirit in spiritual direction and as a confirmation of human agency and dignity;
- Reflect on how mutual confirmation and recognition of vulnerability and distress in communicative relations and ritual articulations can be a pathway to healing.

**Presenter Biography:** **Alfred Pach**, Ph.D., MPH, is a graduate (MDiv) of Union Theological Seminary and medical anthropologist. He is a spiritual director and works in pastoral care with RENEW International. He was a senior scientist at the International Vaccine Institute, where he conducted research on community perceptions and communication related to infectious diseases and vaccines in countries throughout Asia and Africa. He has also conducted research on network and relational aspects of HIV/AIDS risk and transmission at the University of Chicago and internationally with UNAIDS, Save the Children and Family Health International/USAID. He is currently studying relationships between culture, psychological experience, and ritual transformation and healing in Nepal.



## Room 207: **Recognizing and Addressing the Religious/Spiritual Needs of Transgender Patients in the Hospital Setting**

**Rabbi Jo Hirschmann**, BCC,  
ACPE Director, Department of  
Spiritual Care and Education, Mount  
Sinai Beth Israel; ACPE Certified  
Educator, Center for Spirituality and  
Health, Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai

**Barbara Warren**, PsyD  
Director of LGBT Programs and  
Policies, Mount Sinai Health System



**Workshop Description:** In 2016, the Mount Sinai Health System in New York City launched the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery (CTMS), an interdisciplinary service that provides comprehensive transition-related care to transgender (TG) and gender-nonconforming (GNC) patients. This workshop presents **best practices and lessons learned** from the spiritual care aspects of this work. We will also present a series of **interactive training videos** we developed to train chaplains to recognize, assess, and meet the needs of transgender patients in the general hospital population. This work is particularly important because some religious communities and leaders regard TG and GNC people as sinful, pathological, and/or criminal. For many TG and GNC people,



this is a painful form of exclusion and mistreatment. Despite this, our work within the Mount Sinai Health System demonstrates that TG and GNC patients frequently welcome chaplain visits and benefit from spiritual care oriented towards renewing religious connections, seeking new forms of meaning, and describing and fostering resilience.

### **Learning outcomes:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Describe how religious and spiritual beliefs, practices, and communities can be both damaging and supportive to TG and GNC patients.
- Describe the legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements/ practices that foster healthcare environments that meet the needs of TG and GNC patients.
- Become familiar with chaplaincy interventions that can appropriately meet the religious, spiritual, emotional, and existential needs of TG and GNC patients.

### **Presenter Biographies:**

**Rabbi Jo Hirschmann** Rabbi Jo Hirschmann, BCC, ACPE is a board certified chaplain with Neshama: the Association of Jewish Chaplains and an ACPE Certified Educator. A chaplain who has worked in hospice and psychiatric settings, she currently works within the Mount Sinai Health System, where she serves as the Director of Spiritual Care and Education at Mount Sinai Beth Israel and as a pastoral educator for the Center for Spirituality and Health. Under the auspices of Mount Sinai Health System's Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery, she coordinates the delivery of spiritual care to gender affirmation patients. She is a co-author of *Maps and Meaning: Levitical Models of Contemporary Care*, published by Fortress Press, as well as articles about chaplaincy practice.

**Barbara E. Warren**, PsyD, is Director for LGBT Programs and Policies in the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Mount Sinai Health System, where she leads Mount Sinai's implementation of LGBT culturally and clinically competent health care across the Health System. She holds an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she is teaching and developing curricula to address best practices in serving diverse patient populations. Dr. Warren previously served as Distinguished Lecturer and Director for the Center for LGBT Social Science and Public Policy at Hunter College, City University of New York. For 21 years, she was senior management at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York City, led the Center's behavioral health programs, co-founded the Center's then ground breaking Gender Identity Project and was responsible for the Center's health policy and government relations initiatives. Dr. Warren has served as an advisor to local, state and national government and policy organizations including chairing the Multi-Cultural Advisory Council to the NYS Commissioner of Mental Health, on the LGBT Task Force at Health Care for All New Yorkers, a Board Member for the NYS Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Advisory Board and a Board Member of the National Coalition for LGBT Health. She holds a doctorate in counseling psychology and has 40 years of experience in the development of substance use, mental health and public health programs in healthcare and community settings.



**(Workshops continued next page...)**

## Room 303: A Repressed Cultural Conflict Leading to Murder: A Case Study

Chaplain Frank Stüfen, Director of Prison Chaplaincy Studies at University of Bern; Prison Chaplain at maximum security Prison Pöschwies, Zürich, Switzerland



**Workshop Description:** After a man killed his wife he was charged for murder and sentenced to 18 years in prison. He came to Switzerland as a refugee and became later a Swiss citizen. He was a well respected member of Swiss society and one of the leading persons for the group of people from his former home country, living in Switzerland at this time. His story seemed to be an example of successful assimilation. Then, with only very few hints, he killed his wife. He couldn't understand why he did this. In pastoral counselling meeting with me as chaplain a deeply repressed cultural conflict was identified.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Understand one way how cultural conflict can emerge
- See that inner pressure of assimilation can lead to repression of the culture one was born in
- Understand how in maximum security prisons chaplaincy has specific tools to help people change
- Learn how long-term relationships in prison chaplaincy can affect inmates' core values (trust; various kind of relationships; shame; unconditional acceptance...)

**Presenter Biography:** Frank Stüfen (1963) is a Pastor of Swiss Reformed Church and worked 17 years in parishes and since 2001 he works mainly as Prison Chaplain in different Swiss Prisons. For the last nine years he worked in the largest maximum security prison in Switzerland. He was for seven year Managing Chaplain for all Prison Chaplains in Canton of Zürich. Since 2015 he acts as Director of Prison Chaplaincy Studies at the University of Berne. His PhD thesis is about „Freedom in Prisons: Sanctification as Liberation in Prison Chaplaincy.” He is also involved in developing an intercultural understanding of prison chaplaincy. The International Prison Chaplains Association worldwide named him in 2015 as one of four NGO Representatives at the UN in Geneva, Vienna and New York. He is married to a German Pastor and very proud of his three (step-) daughters.



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## Room 305: Secularity as a Challenge in Funeral Pastoral Care

**Dr. Christine Tind Johannessen-Henry**, Associate Professor,  
Centre for Education and  
Research, Church of Denmark, &  
Dept. of Theology, Aarhus  
University, Aarhus, Denmark



### Workshop Description:

The Danish society is known as highly secular with a very low church attendance. However, 84 percentage of the population choose to bury their dead in the Danish Lutheran National Church. As such Christianity is not absent, but in its individualized forms it often shows in quite unorthodox and 'lopsided' ways. Experiences of death and loss involves multiple ideas, feelings, fantasies, dreams, different cosmologies, social and material relations, which are entangled in various small parts of religious and Christian beliefs. This condition raises the question how two such different 'repertoires' of confessional and everyday religion may interact in pastoral care. On the basis of findings from ethnographical fieldwork, the paper will explore, how funeral pastoral care conversations may benefit from theories of mentalization, multiplicity and metaphors unfolding both verbal and bodily expressions of faith, hope and community within secular convictions and settings.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Gain knowledge about how secularity may be met in funeral pastoral care.
- Gain knowledge about mentalization may be used as a tool in pastoral care.
- Gain knowledge about how everyday metaphors, bodily actions and use of objects within secular views of life may unfold as doctrinal images in funeral pastoral care.

**Presenter Biography:** Dr.Christine Tind Johannessen-Henry is Associate Professor, Centre for Education and Research, Church of Denmark, & Dept. of Theology, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. Her primary fields of research and methods are *Empirical theology (lived religion)*: religion and health, science and theology, psycho-social research (coping), pastoral care, health anthropology, theological image theory; *Constructivist theory (theoretical and analytical methods)*: reconstructive and process theology, social constructivist and postmodern structuralistic theories; and *Empirical methods (qualitative and quantitative)*: in-depth interviews, focus group interviews, participant observation, questionnaire and questionnaire development, epidemiology. Previous positions include a postdoctoral position in the Department of Systematic Theology at the University of Copenhagen, and a research fellowship with the Unit of Survivorship, Danish Cancer Society Research Center.

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## Room 214 ("Stewart Room"): All Faith Spiritual Care in the Face of Religious Conflicts

**Chaplain Hana Levine**, Spiritual Care Provider, Schwartz Center for Health and Spirit, Jerusalem; Freelance associate SCP-C Elah with the Center for Coping with Loss; and Martial Arts Therapist, Kids Kicking Cancer Israel.



### **Workshop Description:**

In this workshop we will examine various effects of religious conflict on the efficacy of our All Faith Spiritual Care provision. Heightening our awareness of religious conflict may serve us in our work: to this end participants will enjoy exercises of movement, music and text study.

### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to...

- Increase awareness of personal boundaries and internal conflicts
- Assess how these boundaries serve in all faith spiritual care work
- Increase their "toolbox" of spiritual care exercises

**Presenter Biography: Hana Levine**, SCP-C, holds an MA from the Schechter Institute, Jerusalem (Jewish Studies, Talmud and Spiritual Accompaniment). She serves on the staff of the Schwartz Center for Health and Spirit Spiritual Care Provider; at Elah – Center for Coping with Loss as a Freelance associate SCP-C; and with Kids Kicking Cancer Israel as a Martial Arts Therapist. She is a member of Livui Ruchani Israel, and NAJC Neshama: the Association of Jewish Chaplains Worldwide.



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