



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)**

“Religious Conflicts: External and Internal”

*Co-sponsored by the Theology/Spiritual Care, Psychology, and Medicine Faculties of the
University of Bern, Switzerland and the
Psychology & Religion Program at Union Theological Seminary, New York*

For more program details see <https://ia-sc.org/>

CEU's: Lectures and workshops are eligible as self-report CEU's, Methodology #1, Association of Professional Chaplains/Board of Chaplaincy Certification, www.bcci.professionalchaplains.org.

***Book display** provided by *Book Culture* New York, available throughout the conference

PLENARY SPEAKERS

SUNDAY EVENING (FREE PUBLIC EVENT)

Dr. Pamela Cooper-White

“Old and Dirty Gods:

Religion, Antisemitism, and the Origins of Psychoanalysis”

This lecture, based on the new book of the same title, will examine the historical roots of psychoanalysis in the margins of 20th century Viennese society, in which religious conflict and oppression, particularly in the form of racial antisemitism, can be seen as underlying the insights of psychoanalysis at its origins – with its emphasis on uncovering what lies beneath the surface of the dominant culture, i.e., sex and aggression. The lecture will conclude with implications for the discipline of pastoral and spiritual care.



Dr. Pamela Cooper-White is the Christiane Brooks Johnson Professor of Psychology and Religion at Union Theological Seminary, New York, and was the 2013-14 Fulbright-Freud Scholar of Psychoanalysis in Vienna. She is the author of 7 books including *Shared Wisdom: Use of the Self in Pastoral Care & Counseling*; *The Cry of Tamar: Violence against Women and the Church's Response*; and most recently, *Old & Dirty Gods: Religion, Antisemitism, and the Origins of Psychoanalysis*. She has published over 70 articles and chapters, and has lectured frequently across the U.S., Europe, and Israel. She serves on the Board of IASC; the Steering Committee of the Psychology, Culture & Religion Program Unit of the American Academy of Religion; and the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pastoral Theology*. Dr. Cooper-White holds Ph.D.s from Harvard (historical musicology), and the Institute for Clinical Social Work, Chicago (psychoanalytic practice and research). Dr. Cooper-White is an ordained Episcopal priest. She will be in Vienna next May-June to do a comparative study of Freud's Moses and Schonberg's Moses, on a sabbatical research grant from the Schönberg Center, Wien.



Dr. Jessica Lampe **“Internal Religious and Spiritual Struggles”**

This lecture will present our new empirical research project on religious and spiritual struggles at the University of Bern. This project will help to reveal the psychological mechanisms underlying religious conflicts manifested through internal religious/spiritual struggles. It will shed new light on recent findings on individual and social challenges in the realm of religion and can be applied to different societal discourses.



Dr. Jessica Lampe is a post-doctoral researcher in the division of Pastoral Care, Psychology of Religion, and Religious Education at the Institute of Practical Theology, University of Bern in Switzerland. She has a BA in Psychology, a MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare, and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences on the topic of positive emotions and emotional contagion. Her habilitation project is within the University of Berne Interfaculty Research Cooperation on religious conflicts and coping strategies on the topic of "Religious coping styles among people dealing with internal religious and spiritual struggles." She was honored as one of Forbes Magazine's "30 under 30" (pioneers under the age of 30) from Germany, Austria and Switzerland in the research category - confirmation of her research's social relevance.

Monday morning (by registration only)

Dr. Emmanuel Yartekwei Larney

**“Breathing Again:
Confronting Toxic Spirituality within and across Religion”**

History attests to the fact that every religion has the potential to do good as well as harm. This lecture explores ways of being religious that may be harmful, and how healthy spirituality may be promoted across religious traditions.



The Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Y. Larney is the L. Bevel Jones III Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care, and Counseling at Candler School of Theology. He teaches pastoral theology, care, and counseling at Candler, as well as in the Person, Community, and Religious Life program in Emory's Graduate Division of Religion. Larney came to Candler in 2004, and previously taught pastoral and practical theology at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Larney's research examines pastoral and spiritual care theories and practices operating in African, European and American cultures. An internationally acclaimed scholar, Larney is recognized as a pioneer in the development of an intercultural approach to pastoral care and counseling, which argues for and models respectful engagement across racial, gender, class, cultural and religious boundaries. His 1997 book, *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* (Jessica Kingsley, 2nd ed., 2003), now in its second edition, is internationally used as a textbook in pastoral care.

Monday afternoon (by registration only)

John J. Thatamanil

"Does Multiple Religious Belonging Necessarily Entail Internal Conflict?"

This paper will seek to explore the contested question of multiple religious belonging and compare it with another kind of multiplicity that is left largely un-interrogated: one's participation in one's religious tradition and one's all-encompassing participation in neoliberal modes of capitalist life. Why is it questionable to be Buddhist-Christian but not a capitalist-Christian?



John J. Thatamanil teaches a wide variety of courses in the areas of comparative theology, theologies of religious diversity, Hindu-Christian dialogue, the theology of Paul Tillich, theory of religion, and process theology. He is committed to the work of comparative theology—theology that learns from and with a variety of traditions. He is the author of *The Immanent Divine: God, Creation, and the Human Predicament*, an exercise in constructive comparative theology; *An East-West Conversation*, providing the foundation for a nondualist Christian theology worked out through a conversation between Paul Tillich and Sankara (Hindu Advaita Vedanta tradition). Works in progress include 2 books: *The Promise of Religious Diversity: Constructive Theology After Religion* and *Theology without Borders: Religious Diversity and Theological Method*. He also co-edits the Fordham book series “Comparative Theology: Thinking across Traditions.” Dr. Thatamanil is a past-president of the North American Paul Tillich Society (NAPTS) and the founding Chair of the American Academy of Religion’s Theological Education Committee.

Tuesday morning (by registration only)

Dr. Sarah Sayeed

**“Centering a Marginalized Identity:
Muslim Women's Leadership Challenges and Successes”**

This talk will explore the impact of patriarchy and anti-Muslim bias on expressions and negotiations of religious identity (internal and external) among Muslim women in the United States



Sarah Sayeed works as Senior Advisor in the Community Affairs Unit of the Mayor's Office of New York City. She previously worked for seven years at the Interfaith Center of New York, most recently as the Director of Community Partnerships. In this capacity, she designed and executed the Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreats for Social Justice, a biannual conference that brings together New York's diverse grassroots religious leaders with secular and city agencies. Between 2010 and 2015, she also worked to bring together Catholic and Muslim social service providers in dialogue and joint action. Sarah has been involved for nearly two decades with Women in Islam, Inc., a social justice and human rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of women through knowledge and practice of Islam. She speaks regularly on Islam, Muslim women, civic engagement and interfaith relations. Sarah holds a B.A. in Sociology and Near East Studies from Princeton University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Communication from the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a certificate in Reconciliation Leadership through the Institute for Global Leadership and recently participated in the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute (AMCLI) Fellows program.



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Dr. Anthony Bossis

“Psilocybin-Generated Mystical Experience Research: Implications for End-of-Life Psycho-Spiritual Distress”

This presentation will review findings and implications from FDA-approved research using psilocybin (the psychoactive compound found in specific mushrooms). The NYU School of Medicine clinical trial published in 2016 demonstrated the efficacy of a single psilocybin-generated mystical experience in helping individuals with cancer find meaning, existential and spiritual well-being, and a greater acceptance of the dying process, while markedly reducing anxiety, depression, and existential distress - landmark scientific findings never before demonstrated in medicine or psychiatry. Subjective features of a mystical experience include unity, sacredness, transcendence, ineffability, and a greater connection to deeply felt positive emotions including that of love. This research offers a novel therapeutic approach to promote meaning and openness to the mystery of death, and has implications for the enhanced study of religion and consciousness.



Anthony P. Bossis, Ph.D. is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine, and was director of palliative care research, co-principal investigator, and a session guide for the 2016 psilocybin cancer-anxiety clinical trial. He is also lead investigator for a clinical trial evaluating the impact of psilocybin-generated mystical experience upon religious leaders. Dr. Bossis is a clinical supervisor of psychotherapy training and the co-founder and former co-director of the Palliative Care Service at Bellevue Hospital. He has a long-standing interest in comparative religion, consciousness research, contemporary psychoanalytic-existential psychotherapy, and the interface of psychology and spirituality. He maintains a private psychotherapy practice in NYC.

