

# **The 2014 CESNUR International Conference**

## **The Vitality of New Religions: Thinking Globally, Existing Locally**

*The 2014 CESNUR Conference*

*co-organized by:*

*Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR)*

*International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR)*

*Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University*

**Waco, Texas, 4-7 June 2014**

**The George W. Truett Theological Seminary - Baylor University**

[The Truett Seminary is located on the northeast corner of the Baylor campus at 1100 South 3rd Street, Waco. All events of June 5, 6, and 7 (*but not those of June 4*) will take place there.]



# PROGRAM

**Wednesday June 4, 2014**

*Hilton Hotel, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco*

**6 p.m. - 7 p.m. / Registration**

**7 p.m. / Opening Reception**

*The Uniquely Texan Religions of the Lone Star State*

A presentation by J. Gordon MELTON (Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, Baylor University, Waco) and Timothy MILLER (University of Kansas)

## **Thursday June 5, 2014**

*The George W. Truett Theological Seminary, 1100 South 3rd Street, Waco*

**9.30 a.m. - 1.15 p.m. / Session 1 – Plenary – Paul Powell Chapel**

### **Thinking Globally, Existing Locally**

*Welcome by Academic Authorities*

Presiding and Introducing: Massimo INTROVIGNE

*Christianity and the Future of Religion in China*

Rodney STARK (Distinguished Professor of Social Sciences, Baylor University, Waco)

*Here, There or Everywhere? Who Cares, and How?*

Eileen BARKER (London School of Economics)

*Religion behind Bars... Maximum Security Seminaries*

Byron JOHNSON (Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco)

### **11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. / Coffee Break / Piper Great Hall**

*How Much Does Gender Matters? Women in New Religious Movements: The Case of Lithuania*

Milda ALISAUSKIENE (University of Vilnius)

*The Siege of the Branch Davidians at Mount Carmel Center According to the FBI*

Catherine WESSINGER (Loyola University, New Orleans)

*The FLDS in the Wake of the 2008 Texas State Raid*

Stuart WRIGHT (Lamar University, Beaumont: paper prepared in cooperation with James T. Richardson)

*1.15 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. / Lunch / Piper Great Hall*

*2.30 p.m. - 7.15 p.m. / Parallel Sessions*

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Session 2 / Truett Room 113**

**Islam and Movements in/from Islamic Countries**

Chair: James BEVERLEY

*Female Empowerment among Muslim Women in Polygamist Marriages*

Jennifer Lara FAGEN and Stuart A. WRIGHT (Lamar University, Beaumont)-

*Looking at Common Denominators in Judaism, Christianity and Islam for Promoting Peace in 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Farooq HASSAN (Georgetown University, Washington D.C.)

*Harun Yahya's Religious Message between Local Decline and Global Success: What Is Islamic in "Islamic Creationism"?* - **Truett Room 115**

Stefano BIGLIARDI (Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Santa Fe, Mexico City)

**2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / Session 3 / Truett Room 114**

**Global Tourists, Local Devotees**

Chair: Milda ALISAUSKIENE

*A Schematic for Assessing the Attribution of Charisma in Followers of New Religious Movements*

Susan M. SETTA (Northeastern University, Boston)

*Posthumous Charisma: The Architectural Routinization of Weber's Paradigm*

Daniel TOWER (University of Sydney)

*"But Harry Potter Isn't Real!": Studying Snapeism and Fiction-Based Religions*

Zoe ALDERTON (University of Sydney)

*Rate and Review: Online Responses to NRM Sites by Tourists*

Alex NORMAN (University of Sydney)

*The New Global Strategy of an Old Local Church: Church Planting in the Maronite Diaspora*

Mouna GHOSSAIN-ZAITER (University of Bordeaux 3)

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Session 4 / Truett Room 115**

**Health and Vitality in Western Alternative Spiritualities from 1875 to the Present**

Chair: Alain BOUCHARD

*Health and Vitality among Jehovah's Witnesses*

George D. CHRYSSIDES (University of Birmingham)

*Faith or Healing: Addressing Three Assumptions about Christian Science*

Madelon MAUPIN (Christian Science)

*Chiropractic and the Business Cultures of Alternative Spirituality*

Holly FOLK (Western Washington University)

**4.30 p.m. - 4.45 p.m. / Coffee Break/ Piper Great Hall**

**4.45 p.m. - 7.15 p.m. / Session 5 / Paul Powell Chapel**

**Global Movements from the East**

Chair: Liselotte FRISK

*The Impact of Social Change on Religious Tradition: The Anthio Central Church in Taiwan*

Chi-Rong CHEN (Aletheia University, Taiwan)

*A Study on the Converted Cause of Shin-Cheon-Ji Devotees*

Jungeun LEE (Seoul National University)

*Globalism and Locality of New Korean Religions. Global Ethics and Social Participation of Cheondogyo and Won-Buddhism as New Korean Religions*

Kwangsoo PARK (Wonkwang Univeristy, Iksan)

*The Hidden New Salvation and the Other Existence: A Comparative Study of Korean New Religious Movements*

Gang-Hyen HAN (International Academy of Neo-Humans Culture, Bucheon City)

*Fulfillment Concept: the Founding Thought of Daesoonjinrihoe in Korea*

David W. KIM (Centre for Religious Studies, Seoul National University)

*A Comparative Research on the Integration of Three Traditional Religions in East Asian New Religions, Focused on Daesoonjinrihoe in Korea and Ikuandao in China*

Gyungwon LEE (Daejin University, Pocheon City)

*The Viewpoints of Church History and the Concept of New Religion in Korea*

Chongsuh KIM (Seoul National University)

**\*Dinner on your own\***

**Friday June 6, 2014**

*The George W. Truett Theological Seminary, 1100 South 3rd Street, Waco*

**9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. / Session 6 – Plenary – Paul Powell  
Chapel**

**Global Esotericism**

Chair: James T. RICHARDSON

*My Pilgrimage to Esotericism. Why Western Esotericism is Pertinent  
to the Academic Curriculum*

Jeffrey KRIPAL (J. Newton Rayzor Professor of Philosophy and  
Religious Studies, and head of the Gnosticism, Esotericism, and  
Mysticism Program, Rice University, Houston)

*Energy Healers: Who They Are and What They Do*

Jeff LEVIN (Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Population  
Health, Baylor University, Waco)

*Literary Modernism and the Rise of Esoteric Fiction*

Mark MORRISSON (Penn State University)

***11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. / Coffee Break/ Great Hall***



**11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. / Session 7 – Plenary / Paul Powell  
Chapel**

**A Tale of Twelve Tribes**

Chair: Timothy MILLER

*The German Raid on the Twelve Tribes and its Aftermath*  
Susan J. PALMER (Concordia University, Montreal)

*Twelve Tribes: Parenting and Discipline of Children, Doctrine and Practice*

Liselotte FRISK (Dalarna University, Falun)

*The Reuben Tribe in the Southwest of France*

Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD (University of Bordeaux 3)

Respondents: Jean SWANTKO WISEMAN, Holger ROEHRIS,  
Edward “Isaac” DAWSON, Charles E. WISEMAN

***1 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. / Lunch/ Piper Great Hall***

***2.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Parallel Sessions***

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Session 8 / Truett Room 113**

**Globalized Esotericism**

Chair: PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI

*Art in the Spiritual World: Lamberto Caffarelli and Antroposophy*  
Michele OLZI (University of Milan)

*The Return of Baal (to the Holy Land): Canaanite Reconstructionism  
Among Contemporary Israeli Pagans - A Double-edged Sword*  
Shai FERARO (Tel Aviv University)

*Blood, Sweat, and Urine: The Scent of Feminine Fluids in Anton  
Szandor Lavey’s “The Satanic Witch”*  
Cimminnee HOLT (Concordia University, Montreal)

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Session 9 / Truett Room 114**

**L'innovation religieuse et ses problèmes (Session in French)**

Chair: Bernadette RIGAL-CELLARD

*L'Évangile selon le Billboard : musique, innovations religieuses et globalisation*

Alain BOUCHARD (Université Laval)

*Guérir par la prière : pratique religieuse ou médicale ? L'ambiguïté non résolue du statut juridique de la Science Chrétienne aux États-Unis*

Nawal ISSAOUI (Université de Bordeaux 3)

*Le problème de la marginalisation des artistes engagés dans le mouvement théosophique : Reginald Machell (1854-1927) et Charmion von Weigand (1896-1983) aux États-Unis et Florence Fuller (1867-1947) en Australie*

Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR, Torino)

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. / Session 10 / Truett Room 115**

**Global/Local Controversies and the Law**

Chair: Stuart WRIGHT

*Religious Freedom in the West: Is the Glass Half Full and Getting Fuller?*

James T. RICHARDSON (University of Nevada, Reno)

*Update on Religious Freedom in Japan Regarding the Unification Church*

Dan FEFERMAN (International Coalition for Religious Freedom, Washington DC)

*Between Fringe Catholic and the Catholic Fringe: The Australian (False?) Pope Little Pebble (aka William Kamm) and the Order of St Charbel*

Christopher HARTNEY (University of Sydney)

**4 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. / Coffee Break/ Great Hall**

**4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. / Session 11/ Truett Room 113**

**Case Studies**

Chair: Holly FOLK

*American Christian Zionism: John Hagee and His Co-religionists' Case*

Katia BATUT (University of Bordeaux 3)

*Affect and Spirit: The Pre-Discursive in Afro-Caribbean New Religions*

Stephen D. GLAZIER (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

*Soto Zen in Peru, Present and Future*

Germain McKENZIE-GONZALEZ (Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.)

*From the Mountain to the Web: Spiritual Tourist Sites of the Ascended Masters*

Madeline DUNTLEY (Bowling Green State University)

*The Challenge of New Religious Movements in Africa (A Comparative Study of the New Testament and Mormonism's Social Actions)*

Amarachi Nnachi UKOMA (Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki)

**4.30 p.m. - 6 p.m. / Session 12/ Truett Room 114**

**A Global/Local Look at the Church of Scientology**

Chair: Massimo INTROVIGNE

*From American to World Religion: L. Ron Hubbard and Scientology's Roots in the American West*

Donald A. WESTBROOK (Claremont Graduate University)

*Texas Showdown: The Battles between Mark Rathbun and Scientology*

James A. BEVERLEY (Tyndale Seminary, Toronto)

*Religious Privilege in the Scientology Discourse of Mark Rathbun*

Don JOLLY (Master's Student, New York University)

*Government Raids on Scientology in Nine Countries: Origins and Aftermaths*

Susan J. PALMER (Concordia University, Montreal)

**7.30 p.m. / Banquet / Hilton Hotel, 113 South University  
Parks Drive, Waco**

Presiding: J. Gordon MELTON

*Where Have All the Cultists Gone... Long Time Passing?*

Philip JENKINS (Distinguished Professor of History, Baylor University, Waco)

Entertainment will be provided by: The Dick Gimble Band

## **Saturday June 7, 2014**

*The George W. Truett Theological Seminary, 1100 South 3rd Street, Waco*

**9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. / Session 13 – Plenary / Paul Powell  
Chapel**

**Old New Religions: Once in Trouble, Always in Trouble?**

Chair: Eileen BARKER

*An Old/New Questions: Mormonism and Freemasonry*

Michael HOMER (Utah State Historical Society) unveils his new book *Joseph's Temples: The Dynamic Relationship between Freemasonry and Mormonism* (Utah State University Press)

*Jehovah's Witnesses in Court in Europe: Trailblazing for Religious Freedom*

James T. RICHARDSON (University of Nevada, Reno)

*American Unbelief (Atheism, Humanism, Freethought) as a New Religious Movement*

J. Gordon MELTON (Baylor University, Waco)

***11 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. / Coffee Break/ Great Hall***

**11.15 a.m. - 1 p.m. / Session 14 – Plenary / Paul Powell  
Chapel**

**New Religious Movements and Modern Visual Arts: An  
Important Part of the Future of Our Field of Studies**

Chair: J. Gordon MELTON

*Abstract Art in Its Spiritual and Scientific Context*

Linda DALRYMPLE HENDERSON (David Bruton, Jr. Centennial  
Professor in Art History and Regents' Outstanding Teaching  
Professor, The University of Texas at Austin)

*Zöllner's Knot: Jean Delville (1867-1953), Theosophy, and the  
Fourth Dimension*

Massimo INTROVIGNE (CESNUR, Torino)

*The Art of Damanhur: Exploring Oberto Airaudi's "Selfic Paintings"*  
PierLuigi ZOCCATELLI (CESNUR, Torino)

## *1 p.m. / Field Trip*

We will tour the Homestead Heritage community just north of Waco. This is a contemporary neo-Mennonite community of some 1500 residents. There are two options for registrants, to be indicated in the registration form:

– *Group A*: This group will eat lunch at Homestead Heritage and then spend the afternoon at the community, tour their worship facilities, the large community where they make a variety of cloth, wood, and food products (for sale), and their operating nineteenth-century flour mill. They will also have a unique opportunity for a dialogue with the community leadership on both their community life and the new theological construct that informs it. Homestead has been located near Waco for over two decades and now has more than a thousand people affiliated with it, mostly full-time residents.

– *Group B*: This group will eat lunch at Homestead Heritage, have a quick tour of its main facilities, and then depart for a visit to Mt. Carmel, the site formerly inhabited by the Branch Davidians and the site of the tragic events in 1993. Catherine Wessinger will be on hand to provide commentary, and several of the survivors from the 1993 fire will be present during the conference.

All registered participants will receive one book descriptive of the community, included in the conference fee, and Group A attendees will receive a second book representative of their thought, also included in the conference fee.

## **Travelling**

Waco, Texas is located halfway between Dallas and Austin, Texas, along Interstate Highway 35. Air flights to Waco are only from Dallas on American Airlines, but there are six flights daily and the hotels have free shuttles to and from the airport that is just outside of town. All the major airlines service Dallas. One can also rent a car in Dallas and drive (about 90 miles).

Weather: Waco should have an afternoon temperature around 25-30°C which will drop to 15-20°C in the evening.

Sites: While in Waco, visitors may wish to visit the Dr. Pepper Museum (Dr. Pepper was originated in Waco and made his beverage there for many years), the Texas Ranger Museum adjacent to the Baylor campus, and the newly opened Mammoth Site, where a number of mammoth bones were recently discovered.

### **NEXT YEAR IN ESTONIA!!!!**

**Save the date, June 18-20 2015 for the CESNUR  
conference in  
Tallin, Estonia**

**Theme: RELIGIOUS INNOVATION AND  
RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY**



## NOTES

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