**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION**

**AASR**

**2019 CONFERENCE**

***Religion and Violence***

The 2019 AASR conference was held from December 5-6 at the city campus of the University of Newcastle, co-hosted by the AASR and the University of Newcastle's Centre for the Study of Violence and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. A series of pre-conference workshops will be held on 4 December.

## *CONFERENCE THEME*

We invite scholarly reflections on the complex and diverse relations between religion and violence, incorporating counter discourses of peace and social justice.

The relationship between religion and violence continues to be contentious and marked by significant changes in global and domestic politics including humanitarian crises, displaced peoples particularly asylum seekers, the rise and fall of extremist religious movements, the status of hate speech, the role of social media and the ongoing threat of religious terrorism.

These major upheavals, particularly the claims to religious authority and legitimacy through violent means, have led to a growth in collective anxiety threatening global and local security.  Religious violence can be direct and institutional; aimed against individuals or groups; administered by the state or by non-state actors; material and symbolic.

A counterpoint is provided by religiously-motivated peace and social justice movements, including those for welcoming religiously-diverse refugees and migrants, interfaith initiatives and movements for gender and sexuality equality and animal rights. For example, values of religious diversity, social solidarity and pluralism have been notable in responding to recent expressions of violence including the events in Christchurch in March 2019 and provide notable moments of hope in moving towards religious diversity as a global value.

## *Keynote Speakers*

* Professor Naomi Goldenberg, Ottawa University (visiting scholar at UoN Nov-Dec 2019)
* Professor Morny Joy, Calgary University, will deliver the 20th Penny Magee Memorial Lecture
* Professor Norm Habel, Flinders University, will deliver the Charles Strong Lecture

## *CONFERENCE PROGRAM*

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| **Wednesday 4 December – Pre-conference workshops** | | | |
|  |  | **Room** | **Chair** |
| 10 – 12.30 | Masterclass: Critical Religion & Research  Prof Naomi Goldenberg | X-301 | Kath McPhillips |
| 2 – 5 | HDR Symposium – AASR Postgrads | X-301 | Tara Smith |
| 9 – 5 | The Australian Church & the Australian Settlement  Prof Marion Maddox | X-402 | Marion Maddox |
| 5.30 – 7 | Special Panel on Youth, Meaning and Spirituality  Youth Studies Conference and AASR Joint Panel | X-502 | Kath McPhillips & David Farrugia |

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| **Thursday 5 December** | | | | |
|  |  | **Session title** | **Chair** | **Room** |
| 8 – 8.30 | Registration |  |  | X-101 |
| 8.30 – 9 | Conference Welcome  Acknowledgement of Country | Welcome from Prof Philip Dwyer, CSOV  Ms Jessica Deburr, FEDUA | Kath McPhillips | X-101 |
| 9 – 10 | Keynote Lecture: Naomi Goldenberg | Reflections on *Deuteronomy 20: 16-18*: Understanding “Religion” as both Solution and License for Violence | Kath McPhillips | X-101 |
| 10 – 10.30 | Morning Tea |  |  | **X-502** |
| 10.30 – 12 | Concurrent Session 1 | 1. New Religions & Violence 2. Institutional Religious Violence 3. Online Religion & Violence 4. Political Spaces & Religious Discourse | Douglas Pratt  Ruth Powell  Zoe Alderton  Chris Hartney | X-201  X-202  X-204  X-207 |
| 12 – 1 | Lunch | Women’s Caucus Meeting | Anna Halafoff | X-502 |
| 1 – 2.30 | Concurrent Session 2 | 1. Publishing Roundtable 2. Rene Girard: Religion & Violence 3. Intimate Partner Violence & Faith Communities 4. Culture, Religion & Violence | Cristina Rocha  Di Rayson  Angela Coco  Tracy McEwan | X-201  X-202  X-204  X-207 |
| 2.30 – 3 | Afternoon Tea |  |  | **X-502** |
| 3 – 4.30 | Concurrent Session 3 | 1. Religious Utopianism and Violence 2. Imagine There is No Religion 3. Christchurch & Terrorism 4. Literature & Religious Violence | Gary Bouma  Kath McPhillips  Carole Cusack  Enqi Weng | X-201  X-202  X-204  X-207 |
| 4.30 – 5.30 | Penny Magee Memorial Lecture – Prof Morny Joy | Vulnerability, Violence, Precarity and their Contemporary Modifications | Chair:  Anna Halafoff | X-101 |
| 7.00 | Conference Dinner | Customs House |  |  |

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| **Friday 6 December** | | | | |
|  |  | **Session title** | **Chair** | **Room** |
| 9 – 10 | Charles Strong Lecture –  Norm Habel | The *Terra Australis* Statement of the Heart  *(Principles for Promoting Peace with Earth)* | Marion Maddox | X-205 |
| 10 – 10.30 | Morning Tea |  |  | **X-502** |
| 10.30 – 12.00 | Concurrent Session 4 | 1. Historical Perspectives 2. Islam: From Extremism to Peace 3. Gender & Harm in Christianity 4. The Politics of Othering & Belonging | Rosemary Hancock  Douglas Pratt  Ruth Powell  Kath McPhillips | X-201  X-202  X-204  X-207 |
| 12.00 – 100 | Lunch | Centre for Excellence Meeting | Marion Maddox | X-502 |
| 1.00 – 2.30 | Concurrent Session 5 | 1. Appropriating Religious Discourse 2. Morality & Religious Violence 3. Politics in New Religious Movements 4. Media & Digital Hate | Emma Quilty  Nafi Ghafournia  Cristina Rocha  Tara Smith | X-201  X-202  X-204  X-207 |
| 2:30 – 3 | Afternoon Tea |  |  | **X-502** |
| 3 – 4.30 | AASR AGM | All Welcome |  | X-202 |
| 4.30 | Conference Close |  |  |  |