




2019 INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
**RELIGION & FILM**

Saint Mary's University 





# WELCOME TO OUR CAMPUS!



Dear ICRF attendees,

Saint Mary's University is pleased to welcome you, the attendees of the International Conference on Religion & Film and the Journal of Film and Religion, to Halifax. Our University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and is one of the

oldest universities in Canada. We consider sponsoring this conference as a continuation of our mission of furthering scholarly excellence in innovative fields. We are pleased to partner with the ICRF in promoting the study of religion and film, as opportunities for storytelling and engagement on religion are necessary in our turbulent times. I hope that the coming days afford you some time to explore our campus and city.

On Behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Saint Mary's University, I wish you a successful conference.

Dr. Margaret Y. MacDonald  
Dean of Arts, Saint Mary's University

# WELCOME TO HALIFAX!



## *Greetings* from the Mayor



Halifax is situated on the ancestral grounds of the Mi'kmaq in the district of Mi'kma'ki. As Mayor of Halifax and on behalf of Regional Council it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings and a special welcome to all attending the 2019 *International Conference on Religion and Film*.

Halifax is the place to be with its dynamic and intriguing mix of heritage and culture. A marquee destination embracing a diversity of people, communities, shops, restaurants and nightlife, our city will present you with a truly original experience.

Our culturally rich and historic port city has been entertaining guests for over 265 years and we take pride in our reputation as one of the world's most hospitable and welcoming destinations.

I want to acknowledge, with gratitude, The Journal of Religion and Film and Saint Mary's University and for hosting ICRF 2019 here in Halifax.

I wish you much success and trust your visit will be a truly memorable experience.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Savage".

Mike Savage

## 2019 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGION & FILM

### Complete Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

#### WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 9:00 am to 10:30 am

#### MORNING SESSION ONE (SOBEY 260)

- "Keeping it Reel: Muslims Changing Images of Muslims in Film and Television"  
**Amir Hussain**, *Loyola Marymount University*, U.S. A.
- "Following the Route of the Muslim Djinn: From Arab Folklore to American Theaters"  
**Rubina Ramji**, *Cape Breton University*, Nova Scotia
- "Discovering the Truth with Cinema"  
**Serife Goktas**, *Oskudar University*, Turkey

#### MORNING SESSION ONE (SOBEY 265)

- "'The Devil Wears Prada' and So Does 'The Witch': Female Bodies as 'Evil' in Horror"  
**Natasha Wright**, *St. Mary's University*, Nova Scotia
- "Jurassic Constructions: What Dinosaurs in Film Can Teach Us About Religion"  
**Jason WM Ellsworth**, *Dalhousie University*, Nova Scotia
- "Unveiling Bird Box: Thinking About Genres of Apocalypse and Contemporary Culture"  
**Brenton Dickieson**, *University of Chester*, United Kingdom

### *BREAK*

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

#### MORNING SESSION TWO (SOBEY 260)

- "Indigenous Films as Medicine"  
**Ken Derry**, *University of Toronto*, Canada



- “Wear the Turban, Pray to God, Beat up the Bad Guys: Religion, Masculinity and Superheroes in ‘Super Singh’”  
**Harshita Yalamarty**, *York University*, Canada
- “Hindu Normativity and South Asian American Masculinities in Diasporic Cinema.”  
**Sailaja Krishnamurti and Saira Chibber**, *St. Mary’s University*, Halifax, Nova Scotia

#### **MORNING SESSION TWO (SOBEY 265)**

- “Framing Masculinity in Evangelical Film”  
**Adam Stewart**, *Crandall University*, New Brunswick
- “Worthy of Love: The Omission of Biblical Quotations in Disney’s ‘A Wrinkle in Time’.”  
**Diana Abermethy**, *Huntingdon College*, U.S.A.
- “A Heady Brew of Christian Science, Salvation Army, and the Social Gospel”  
**Zachary Ingle**, *University of Kansas*, U.S.A.

### *Lunch*

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION ONE (SOBEY 260)**

- “Religion and Verisimilitude in Film”  
**Thomas Curran**, *University of King’s College*, Nova Scotia
- “A More Plausible Jesus: The Many Faces of Authenticity in the ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ Phenomenon”  
**Johan Roeland and Miranda van Holland**, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
- “Christian Box Office: Why Did Fox Fail, Sony Succeed?”  
**Andrew Quickie**, *Regent University*, U.S.A.

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION ONE (SOBEY 265)**

- “Sacred Death: Legitimizing Sacrifice in American War Films”  
**John Lyden**, *Grand View University*, U.S.A.
- “A God of Violence and Nonviolence?: Imagining ‘Hacksaw Ridge’ and ‘The Birth of a Nation’ (2016) in a Shared Cinematic Universe”  
**Dan Brockway**, *Fuller Theological Seminary*, U.S.A.

- “Got to Hate Fences: Authority and Spiritual Anarchy in ‘Lonely are the Brave’ (1962)”  
**Kelly MacPhail**, *University of Minnesota, Duluth, U.S.A.* (Video Recorded Presentation)

Friday, June 14, 2019, 9:00 am to 10:30 am

#### **MORNING SESSION ONE (SOBEY 260)**

- “Locating the Muslim Woman’s Identity in Shyam Benegal’s Cinema”  
**Monisa Qadri**, *Islamic University of Science and Technology, India*  
(Video Recorded Presentation)
- “Jodha Akbar: A Case of Interfaith Marriage, Bollywood, and ‘Otherness’”  
**Zainub Beg**, *St. Mary’s University, Nova Scotia*
- “Constructing a New Identity of Bengali Muslims in ‘Zulfiqar’, ‘Rajkahini’, and ‘Kabir’”  
**Nadira Khatun**, *Xavier University, India*

#### **MORNING SESSION ONE (SOBEY 265)**

- “No Promised Land: Immigrant Realities in Independent Film”  
**Jeanette Reedy Solano**, *California State University Fullerton, U.S.A.*
- “Indigenous Resistance and Popular Cinema: ‘Rhymes for Young Ghouls’ and ‘Maliglutit’”  
**Darrell Varga**, *Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Nova Scotia*
- “Knowledge Belongs to All. You Do Not Understand That—You Are Just a White Man”  
**Rebecca Makas**, *Villanova University, U.S.A.*

## ***BREAK***

Friday, June 14, 2019, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

#### **MORNING SESSION TWO (SOBEY 260)**

- “Temporal Density: Buddhist Perspectives on Temporality and Film”  
**Lina Verchery**, *Harvard University, U.S. A.*
- “Song of the Other: Kan Ichikawa’s ‘Biruma no Tategato’ (‘The Burmese Harp’)”  
**James H. Thrall**, *Knox University, U.S.A.*

## MORNING SESSION TWO (SOBEY 265)

- "After Post-Jewish: Memory, Meditation, and American Identity in The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"  
**Michele Byers**, *St. Mary's University*, Nova Scotia
- "What Is Going On In 'Room 104'? : Mormons and Shifting Mainstream Perceptions"  
**Chris Miller**, *University of Waterloo*, Canada
- "Posthuman Creation in the Films of Alex Garland"  
**Syed Adnan Hussain**, *St. Mary's University*, Nova Scotia

*LUNCH*