

2018 International Conference on Religion & Film at the University of Toronto

Welcome to the University of Toronto. We hope that you enjoy your time here, and that you find the conference rewarding. We wish to acknowledge that the land on which the University of Toronto operates is Indigenous land. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Day 1: Friday, May 4

Session 1

TIME	BL205 President: Christina Pasqua, University of Toronto	BL313 President: Mourad Laabdi, University of Toronto	BL325 President: Nigel Fernando, University of Toronto
9.00–9.30	Fantastic Reality and Realistic Fantasy: <i>The Witch</i> and the Experience of Bewitchment Michael Ostling Arizona State University	Muslim Movie Stars: The Celebrity Politics of Islam in Public Kristian Petersen University of Nebraska Omaha	Everywhere and Nowhere: Process Theology in Terrence Malick's <i>The Tree of Life</i> Sean Steele York University
9.30–10.00	Job's Wife: A Reading of <i>The Witch</i> Syed Adnan Hussain St. Mary's University	The Stuff of Life: Water, Women's Bodies, and Quotidian Islam in <i>Ragad</i> Rebecca Moody Syracuse University	Sontag's Secularist Cinema: Marking a Shift in Film Studies Mark Cauchi York University
10.00–10.30	"I Am That Very Witch": On Not Surviving Patriarchy in <i>The Witch</i> Laurel Zwissler Central Michigan University	Faith After Trauma: Subjectivities and Institutions Against the Catastrophe of Sexual Abuse in the Films <i>Calvary</i> and <i>El Club</i> Samuel Lagunas Cerda	

Break: 10.30–11.00

Session 2

TIME	BL205 President: Ken Derry, University of Toronto	BL313 President: Suzanne van Geuns, University of Toronto	BL325 President: Lauren Zwissler, Central Michigan University
11.00–11.30	Eternal Now: Recent Time Loop Movies and the Sanctity of the Moment John Lyden Grand View University	<i>A Mormon Maid</i> Forgotten Elisabeth Weagel	Into the Labyrinth: Errol Morris Brett David Potter Toronto School of Theology
11.30–12.00	<i>Noah</i> : A Journey into the Heart of God Lindsey Macumber & Magi Abdul-Masci St. Mary's University	Blessed Be the Fruit: Mediated Adaptations of Margaret Atwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Rachel Wagner Ithaca College	Guilt and Forgiveness in <i>Frantz</i> : Religious Motifs as Filmic Means Stefanie Knauss Villanova University

Lunch: 12.00–2.00

We encourage you to explore the neighbourhoods surrounding the University of Toronto to find a wonderful lunch for yourself.

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Session 3

TIME	BL205 President: Kristian Petersen, University of Nebraska Omaha	BL313 President: Tamara Cohen, University of Toronto	BL325 President: Stefanie Knauss, Villanova University
2.00–2.30	Spiritual Visions and Recovered Identities: A Postcolonial Reading of Motherhood, Mobile Bodies, and Salvation Narratives in <i>Lion</i> Suzanne Schier-Happell Otterbein University	Postcolonial Islam and the Secular Transposition of the Sufi Imaginary in <i>My Son the Fanatic</i> Jamie Scott York University	Disney and Self-Spirituality: A Match Made in Hollywood Heaven Galen Watts Queen's University
2.30–3.00	Imagining Decolonization: The Critique of Religion in the Films of Ousmane Sembene Danielle Widmann Abraham Ursinus College	Gods, Heroes, and Prophets: Reading Masculinity in Selected Hollywood Religio-Mythological Films Jyoti Mishra Indian Institute of Technology Madras	The Question of Justice and Mercy in <i>Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri</i> Grace Chiou Gordon College

Break: 3.00–3.30

Screening: 3.30–6.00 (BL205)

Please join us for a screening of Richie Mehta's award-winning film *Amal* followed by a Q+A with the director

Day 2: Saturday, May 5

Session 4

TIME	BL205 President: William Blizek, University of Nebraska Omaha	BL313 President: Kristian Petersen, University of Nebraska Omaha	BL325 President: Michael Ostling, Arizona State University
9.00–9.30	<i>The Shape of Water</i> and the Monstrous Classroom Jennifer Harris University of Toronto	Re-Locating Religion in Bollywood Movies of the 2000s: An Analysis of Critiquing and Criticizing "Religion" in <i>Oh My God: OMG!</i> and <i>Dharm</i> Venu Mehta University of Florida	Religious Motifs in Some Recent Polish Films Mariola Marczak University of Warmia and Mazury
9.30–10.00	Myth and Monstrosity: Teaching Indigenous Films Ken Derry University of Toronto	"Love-Jihad" and Bollywood: Constructing Muslims as "Other" Nadira Khatun Xavier University Bhubaneswar	Re-forming Film as Parable: Toward a Ricoeurian Parabolic Hermeneutic Joel Mayward University of St Andrews
10.00–10.30		Medieval Muslims and Crusaders in Modern Arabic Cinema: Youssef Chahine's <i>Al-Nāṣir Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn</i> and the Politics of Arab Nationalism During the Age of Nasser Fadi Ragheb University of Toronto	"Plus One": The West African Trickster as a Figure of Religious Satire Adwoa Opoku-Agyemang University of Toronto

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Break: 10.30–11.00

Session 5

TIME	BL205 President: Kyle Derkson, University of Toronto	BL313 President: Jairan Gahan, University of Toronto	BL325 President: Annie Heckman, University of Toronto
11.00–11.30	Picturing Jesus: The Place of Jesus Films in the Visual Canon of Jesus Christ Megan Wines Loyola University Chicago	Religion in Sub-Saharan African Cinemas of the 2000s Adzhoa Sika Oulia Makkonen University of Helsinki	The Faith of the Californian Ideology in <i>Mad Men</i> and the Documentaries of Adam Curtis Anders Bergstrom University of Waterloo
11.30–12.00	Neo-gnosticism at the Movies Michael Kaler University of Toronto	Ask the Beasts of the Southern Wild: Exploring Human Identity as Beast, Being, and Beholder in <i>Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love</i> and <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i> Stephanie Cherpak Clary	Thematic Power of Deception: An Experimentally Intertextual Reading of 1 Samuel 14, <i>Rogue One: A Star Wars Story</i> , and <i>Star Wars: The Last Jedi</i> Diana Abernethy Duke University
12.00–12.30	"Do You Want to See a Miracle?" Alice Rohrwacher's <i>Corpo Celeste</i> (<i>Heavenly Body</i> , 2011) Silvia Angeli University of Westminster	Visual Grandeur, Imagined Glory: Identity Politics and Hindu Nationalism in <i>Bajirao Mastani</i> Bajjayanti Roy Goethe University	Religion and Popular Culture: Exorcism in Film and Practice in the United States William Chavez University of California Santa Barbara

The 2018 International Conference on Religion & Film is sponsored by the *Journal of Religion & Film*, the University of Toronto's Department for the Study of Religion, and the University of Toronto Mississauga's Department of Historical Studies.