



FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Media, Religion and Nationalism

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday JANUARY 10, 2024

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| <p>Evening Session, 7-8:30pm</p> <p>Chancellor’s Hall</p> <p>Center for Academic Success and Engagement (CASE) Building</p> <p>1725 Euclid Ave, Boulder, CO 80309</p> | <p>Opening Reception</p> <p>Greeting & Welcome from Nabil Echchaibi, Director of the Center for Media, Religion, & Culture</p> |
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Thursday JANUARY 11, 2024

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| <p>9:00am – 10:30am</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 150</p> | <p>Opening Plenary with Philip Gorski <i>“The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy”</i></p> <p>Session Chair: Nabil Echchaibi</p> <p>Greeting & Welcome from Lori Bergen, Dean of the College of Media, Communication and Information</p> |
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| Session/Time | Panel | Paper | Researcher & Affiliation |
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| <p>#1: 10:45am – 12:15pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 135</p> | <p>Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy</p> <p>Session Chair: Rick Stevens</p> | <p>Digital Sovereignty: The White Christian Nationalism of Gab CEO Andrew Torba</p> | <p>Corrina Laughlin, Loyola Marymount</p> |
| | | <p>WWG1WGAll: Examining the Toxic Fandom of QAnon and White Christian Nationalism</p> | <p>Heidi Ippolito, University of Denver</p> |
| | | <p>The Influence of White Supremacy Culture in a Presbyterian Church</p> | <p>Amanda Mullennix, University of Colorado Boulder</p> |

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| | | Contemporary Nazi Swastikas in the US: Antisemitism, White Christian Nationalism, and Jewish Identity | Carolyn Aronis, Colorado State University |
| #2: 10:45am – 12:15pm Eaton Humanities 145 | Nationalism, Media, and Religious Minorities Session Chair: Art Bamford | Digital Media and Political Prophecy in Sri Lankan Buddhist Nationalism | Justin Henry, University of South Florida |
| | | Religious Publicity and Theopolitics in Millennial Sri Lanka | Neena Mahadev, Yale-NUS College, Singapore |
| | | Pope, Government and Islam: Religions in Italy 2023 | Gianmarco Mancinelli, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris |
| | | Negotiating Democracy and Religion: Everyday Political Engagement of the Indian Union Muslim League in Kerala | Shihabudeen Palliyalil, University of Kerala, India |
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| 12:15 – 1:45 pm | | LUNCH | |
| #4: 2:00pm – 3:30pm Eaton Humanities 135 | Nationalism and Affect Session Chair: Ted Striphas | Triggers and Tropes: The Affective Manufacturing of Online Islamophobia | Mona Abdel-Fadil, Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies |
| | | Conspiratorial Populist Imaginaries and Structures of Feeling in Social Media | Katja Valaskivi and Johanna Sumiala, University of Helsinki, Finland |
| | | Televised Intimacies: The Discursive Mediation of Affect and India's Yoga Day | Laboni Batthacharya, University of Southern California |
| | | Gods in the Machine: Faith-Based Techno-Religious Intersections in India | Feeza Vasudeva, University of Helsinki, Finland |
| #5: 2:00pm – 3:30pm Eaton Humanities 145 | How US Military Surveillance Technologies Capture and Represent UFO Phenomena Session Chair: Christopher White | "Military Surveillance, Gun-Camera Videos and Mediating the Uncanny UAP/UFO" | Christopher White, Vassar College |
| | | "UFOs, Simulacra and Bi-Directional Mimicry" | Hussein Agrama, University of Chicago |
| | | "Military Witnesses, Internet Algorithms and Authoritative UFO Lore" | D.W. Pasulka, University of North Carolina Wilmington |

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| <p>4:00pm – 5:30pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 150</p> | <p>Plenary Session with Raka Shome “Cleansing the Nation: Contemporary Hindu Nationalism, the Clean India Campaign, and the Mediated Politics of Gender”</p> <p>Session Chair: Samira Rajabi</p> |
| <p>Evening Reception 6-7:30 pm</p> <p>Chancellor’s Hall</p> <p>Center for Academic Success and Engagement (CASE) Building</p> <p>1725 Euclid Ave, Boulder, CO 80309</p> | <p>Evening Reception in honor of Conference Plenary</p> <p>Speakers: Philip Gorski Raka Shome Ramesh Srinivasan Reiland Rabaka</p> |

Friday JANUARY 12, 2024

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| <p>9:00am – 10:30am</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 150</p> | <p>Plenary Session with Ramesh Srinivasan “From Incarceration to Lived Relations: How Technology Can Support Planetary Lives”</p> <p>Session Chair: Nathan Schneider</p> |
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| <p>#6: 10:45am-12:15pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 135</p> | <p>Media, Religion, and Nationalism: Russia, Ukraine, and the Balkans</p> <p>Session Chair: Deborah Whitehead</p> | <p>Media and Religion in the Balkans</p> | <p>Zala Volcic and Mark Andrejevic, Monash University</p> |
| | | <p>From Nation Branding to Branded War: Media, Marketization, and the Russia-Ukraine War</p> | <p>Nadia Kaneva and Olena Fomenko, University of Denver</p> |
| | | <p>Neoliberal Hegemony or Authoritarian Multipolarity?: Critique of Alexander Dugin's Imperial Nationalism as Framework for Global Ethnopluralism</p> | <p>Dustin Byrd, University of Olivet</p> |
| | | <p>Ethno-Religious Nationalism, Media Framing, and Conflict in 2023 Kosovo Local Elections</p> | <p>Roberto Sergio Folena, Giovanni Boccia Artieri, and Elisabetta Zurovac, University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy</p> |

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| <p>#7: 10:45am-12:15pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 145</p> | <p>Evangelical Christian Nationalism in North America</p> <p>Session Chair: Matau Setshase</p> | <p>Performing Politics: Chinese American Christian Political Activism since 2016</p> <p>San Francisco, Sodom and Gomorrah: US and Canadian Christian Nationalisms in a Burning City</p> <p>Airwaves, Agendas, and America: Christian Conservative Nation-Making in Free Florida</p> | <p>Steven Hu, Midland School</p> <p>Kyle Byron, University of Toronto</p> <p>LaRisa Anderson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill</p> |
| <p>#8 10:45am – 12:15pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 160</p> | <p>Protecting the Fire on the Mountain: Contested Nationalisms in the Global South</p> <p>Panel Chair: Rachel van der Merwe</p> | <p>Sanctioning States, Sanctioning Speech: The Woman, Life, Freedom Movement and the Challenges of Transnational Feminism</p> <p>More than a haircut: Contesting the nation through embodied protest</p> <p>Constitutional Rights to Colonial Water: How conflicting ontologies of water shape the South African national imaginary</p> <p>Life beyond Resistance: Survival, Freedom, and the Beyond in Colombia's Ecclesial Base Communities</p> | <p>Azita Ranjbar, University of Colorado</p> <p>Samira Rajabi, University of Colorado Boulder</p> <p>Rachel Lara van der Merwe, University of Gröningen</p> <p>Héctor A. Acero Ferrer, Institute of Christian Studies</p> |
| <p>12:15pm – 1:45pm</p> | | <p>LUNCH</p> | |
| <p>12:15pm-1:15pm</p> <p>Eaton Humanities 150</p> | <p>“A Superior Guide to Performing the Academic Self”</p> <p>Performance by Mona Abdel-Fadil</p> <p>In the satirical performance “A Superiour Guide to Performing an Academic Self,” Mona Abdel-Fadil, a British-born Egyptian-Norwegian writer, academic, and comedy performer, asks (and answers) the pertinent question: <i>what does it really takes to become a successful academic and gain tenure?</i> Based on her (informal) ethnography of the academy, she shares her deep insights about the many unspoken rules and secrets of the academy.</p> | | |
| <p>#9: 2:00pm-3:30pm</p> | <p>The Mediatic Sources of</p> | <p>Reflections on Religious Populism in (Trans)National Media Spheres</p> | <p>Johanna Sumiala, University of Helsinki, Finland</p> |

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| Eaton Humanities 135 | Religious Nationalism | Imagining Belonging and Exclusion in the Age of Als | Katja Valaskivi and Anton Berg, University of Helsinki, Finland |
| | Session Chair: Stewart Hoover | “God Gave Me this Platform”: How Alt-Tech and White Christian Nationalism Are Fueling Digital Fascism | Corrina Laughlin, Loyola Marymount University |
| | | Protestantism, Media, and Affective Infrastructure of Religious Nationalism | Stewart Hoover, University of Colorado Boulder |
| #10: 2:00pm-3:30pm Eaton Humanities 145 | Majoritarian Nationalism in India | Farmers, Separatists, Terrorists: Farmers' Protests in India and the Role of Media in Manufacturing Majoritarian Nationalism | Anilesh Kumar, Hong Kong Baptist University |
| | Session Chair: Nabil Echchaibi | The Other Dress | Musthafa Mubashir, REVA University Bangalore, India |
| | | Nationalisms in Contention: Hindu Nationalism and Boro Religious Assertion in India's Northeast | Roshni Brahma, Indian Institute of Technology, India |
| | | How Hindutva Functions as a Nationalist/Populist Tool and Erases Dissident Discourses from Twitter | Ifat Gazia, University of Massachusetts Amherst |
| #11: 2:00pm-3:30pm Eaton Humanities 160 | Decolonization and Practices of Resistance | Starfire Lights Up Winter: Media and Religious Nationalism in Decolonizing NZ | Ann Hardy, University of Waikato, New Zealand |
| | Session Chair: Nandi Pointer | Dismantling the Teetering Tendencies of Contemporary Schooling | Jillian Kneeland, University of Colorado Boulder |
| | | Redefining Nationalism? Saul Msane's Nationalistic Ideals as a Lay Preacher in Natives' Home Missionary Society, 1893-1895 | Thapelo Mokoatsi, University of Johannesburg, South Africa |
| | | Nigeria's #ChurchToo Movement: An Analysis of the Media Coverage of Clergy-Perpetrated Sexual Abuse Cases in Pentecostal Churches | Bridget Alichie, University of Alberta, Canada |
| #12: 3:45pm-5:15pm | | Modesty and Moderation: Fashioning a National Face | Carla Jones, University of Colorado Boulder |

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| Eaton Humanities 135 | Nationalism and Gender | Through Feminine Piety in Indonesia | |
| | Session Chair: Talia Aygun | Images That Provoke: Satirizing Indonesia's "Islam of the Archipelago" | James Hoesterey, Emory University |
| | | Capitalizing on Gender Ambivalence | Rachel Rinaldo, University of Colorado Boulder |
| #13: 3:45pm-5:15pm Eaton Humanities 145 | Cosmopolitanism and Transnationalism | Media, nationalism, and transnational religion in Wild Wild Country | Scout Wood, University of Colorado Boulder |
| | Session Chair: Nabil Echchaibi | The Political Thought of Sayyid Qutb: Theorizing Intolerance | Mohammad Rezwanul Haque Masud, University of Colorado Boulder |
| | | From Revelation to Religious Nationalism? Performing Travel with Rick Steves' Europe | Anne Taylor, Yale University |
| | | Broadcasting Cosmopolitanism: Radio Pakistan and the Arabic Iqbal | John Willis, University of Colorado Boulder |
| #14: 3:45pm-5:15pm Eaton Humanities 160 | Nationalism and Apocalypse | Souvenirs of the Apocalypse | Rachel Wagner, Ithaca College, New York |
| | Session Chair: Antoinette Kendrick | PragerU's The Religion of Green | Sarah McFarland Taylor, Northwestern University |
| | | The Apocalypse in Evangelical Christian Media | Hanna McElduff, University of Colorado Boulder |

Saturday JANUARY 13, 2024

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| 9:00 am – 10:30 am Eaton Humanities 150 | <p>Plenary Session with Reiland Rabaka</p> <p>“The Black Church of Today...[is] the Sole Surviving Social Institution of the African Fatherland”: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Discourse on, and Critique of, Religion”</p> <p>Session Chair: Stewart Hoover</p> |
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| #15: 10:45am-12:15pm Eaton Humanities 135 | Middle East Media Representations of Israel's War in Gaza Session Chair: Karim Mattar | Framing Catastrophe: Examining Al Jazeera English and BBC's Coverage of the 2023 Israel-Gaza Conflict | Kareem El Damanhoury and Faisal Saleh, University of Denver |
| | | Jordanian Royal Family's Responses to Gaza in Their Social Media Accounts | Andrea Stanton, University of Denver |
| | | Egypt's Approach to Hamas and How the State-Sponsored Media Outlets in Egypt Have Changed Dramatically After This War | Ahmed Abdrabou, University of Denver |
| #16: 10:45am-12:15pm Eaton Humanities 145 | Digital Infrastructures, Secularism, and Nationalism Session Chair: Stephanie Abdalla | Protocols against Nationalisms | Nathan Schneider, University of Colorado Boulder |
| | | The Making of Malaysia Madani Techno-Daie | Nur Kareelawati Abd Karim, Universiti of Sains Islam Malaysia |
| | | The Political of the Minority: Between Religious Nationalism vs. Secular Nationalism | Shantanu Mehra, York University, Canada |
| | | God, Shah and Prosperity: Iran's Contemporary Islamic Ultra-Nationalism vs. anti-Islamic Ethno-Nationalism through Popular Media | Kamyab Ghorbanpour and Patrick Prax, Uppsala University |
| 12:15pm – 1:45pm | LUNCH | | |
| 2:00pm – 3:00pm Eaton Humanities 150 | Closing Plenary with Conference Organizers Nabil Echchaibi, Deborah Whitehead, Stewart Hoover, Nathan Schneider, Samira Rajabi | | |

3:30pm-5:30pm

Eaton Humanities 160

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP:

Coping with Racism through Improvised Comedy: A Workshop with Mona Abdel-Fadil

Welcome to a unique workshop which fuses a solution focused counselling approach with improvised comedy. The goal of the workshop is to help participants cope with racist encounters and build resilience, through targeted comic relief. The workshop will be interactive so be prepared to immerse yourself in improvised theatre.

What you can expect:

- A safe space where you can both share experiences and give one another emotional support
- An introduction to improvised comedy as a coping method and a means of diffusing tension (comic relief)
- Practice your ability to both listen to and understand multiple perspectives
- Loads of laughter and silliness

The workshop will be tailored to the size of the group and the participants' own experiences with racism.

Mona Abdel-Fadil is a British-born Egyptian-Norwegian diversity trainer, counsellor, researcher, improviser, teacher, satirist, and comedy performer. Mona is currently developing applied impro workshops and tools that help participants cope with racism, trauma, and exclusion through humour and improvised comedy. She is a Senior Researcher at *The Norwegian Centre for Holocaust and Minority Studies*. She is also one of the curators of the contemporary and research-based exhibition, [In/Visible: Everyday Racism in Norway](#).