

# **Ngā Wāhi Tapu/Sacred Place: Continuity and Change**

**NZASR/AASR Conference 29-30 November 2018**

**University of Auckland**

**Thursday 29 November**

**8:00-9:00 am Registration, Reipae (Waipapa Marae Dining Room)**

**Plenary I**

**9:00-10:30 Pōwhiri & NZASR Keynote Address (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Convenor: Mark R. Mullins, President NZASR, University of Auckland

Wā-hi Tapu: New Ways of Knowing

Hirini Kaa, University of Auckland

[h.kaa@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:h.kaa@auckland.ac.nz)

**10:30-11:00 Morning Tea, Reipae Dining Room**

**11:00-12:30 Parallel Sessions 1**

**Panel 1 Beyond Theodicy: Theorising Religious Responses to Disasters (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Stephen Noakes, University of Auckland

Faith Humanitarian Responses Following Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu

Alice Banfield, Deakin University

[alice\\_banfield@hotmail.com](mailto:alice_banfield@hotmail.com)

Understanding Disasters: Managing and Accommodating Different Worldviews in Humanitarian Response

Matthew Clarke, Deakin University

[mclarke@deakin.edu.au](mailto:mclarke@deakin.edu.au)

Religion and Disaster Relief: Contours of a Potential Field

Philip Fountain, Victoria University of Wellington

[philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:philip.fountain@vuw.ac.nz)

Christianity and Climate Change Adaption: Sea-Level Rise and

Ritualising Village Relocation in Fiji

Thomas White, University of Otago

[tomwhitesmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:tomwhitesmailbox@gmail.com)

**Panel 2 Explaining the Growth and Diffusion of Religions (Reipae Dining Room)**

Session Chair: John H. Shaver, University of Otago

Christianity Spread Faster in Small, Politically Structured Societies

Quentin D. Atkinson, Oliver Sheehan and Joseph Bulbulia, University of Auckland,

Joseph Watts and Russell D. Gray, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History,

[q.atkinson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:q.atkinson@auckland.ac.nz)

‘An Unstoppable Force for Good’: How Neoliberal Governance Facilitated the Growth of Australian Suburban-based Megachurches  
Mairead Shanahan, Macquarie University  
[maireadshanahan87@gmail.com](mailto:maireadshanahan87@gmail.com)

Religious Urbanism in Singapore: Competition, Commercialism and Compromise in the Search for Space  
Orlando Woods, Singapore Management University  
[orlandowoods@smu.edu.sg](mailto:orlandowoods@smu.edu.sg)

### **Panel 3 Buddhism in Aotearoa, Australia, and Canada (Room 253-101)**

Session Chair: Melissa Wei-Tsing Inouye, University of Auckland

Placing Buddhism in Aotearoa  
Sally McAra, University of Auckland  
[sallymcara@gmail.com](mailto:sallymcara@gmail.com)

Buddhist Buildings in Australia: Sacred Connections and Contestations  
Anna Halafoff, John Powers and Ruth Fitzpatrick, Deakin University  
[anna.halafoff@deakin.edu.au](mailto:anna.halafoff@deakin.edu.au)

Global Planting of Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains  
Yoshiko Ashiwa and David L. Wank, Hitotsubashi University  
[ashiwayoshiko@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ashiwayoshiko@yahoo.co.jp); [davidwank@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwank@yahoo.com)

### **12:30-1:30 Lunch, Reipae Dining Room**

**(Note: the AASR Women’s Caucus will be meeting during the lunch break)**

### **1:30-3:00 Parallel Sessions 2**

### **Panel 4 Religious, Cultural, and Ethnic Diversity in Australia (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Paul Hedges, Nanyang Technological University

Religious Diversity and Social Cohesion: A Consideration of Basics  
Gary D. Bouma, Monash University  
[gary.bouma@monash.edu](mailto:gary.bouma@monash.edu)

Imagining Asian Australia: Religion and National Symbolism at the Time of Federation  
Marion Maddox, Macquarie University  
[marion.maddox@gmail.com](mailto:marion.maddox@gmail.com)

Facets of Diversity in Australia: An Empirical Examination of Attitudes to and Contact across Ethnic and Religious Difference  
Miriam Pepper and Ruth Powell, NCLS Research and Charles Stuart University  
[mpepper@ncls.org.au](mailto:mpepper@ncls.org.au); [rpowell@ncls.org.au](mailto:rpowell@ncls.org.au)

Ethnic Diversity: Transforming Catholic Communities and Culture in Australia  
Tracy McEwan and Kathleen McPhillips, University of Newcastle  
[tracy.mcewan@uon.edu.au](mailto:tracy.mcewan@uon.edu.au); [kathleen.mcphillips@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:kathleen.mcphillips@newcastle.edu.au)

## **Panel 5 Buddhist Studies (Reipae Dining Room)**

Session Chair: Will Sweetman, University of Otago

Comparative Study of the Pussadeva's and Paramanuchit's Paṭhamasambodhi Manuscripts

Akbordin Rattana, University of Otago

[akbordin.rattana@postgrad.otago.ac.nz](mailto:akbordin.rattana@postgrad.otago.ac.nz)

Time, Narrative and Meaning in The Gaṇḍavyūha Sūtra: A Theological Recovery

Douglas Osto, Massey University

[d.osto@massey.ac.nz](mailto:d.osto@massey.ac.nz)

The Buddhist Psychology of Fabricated Identity against the

Narrative of "Religious Fundamentalism"

Jnanalok Shraman, Government City College, Chittagong

[tapano11@yahoo.com](mailto:tapano11@yahoo.com)

## **Panel 6 Gender, Sexuality, and Religion (Room 253-101)**

Session Chair: Rosemary Hancock, University of Notre Dame Australia

'Sticks and Stones': Anti-trans Discourses and Conservative Christianity

Caroline Blyth, University of Auckland

[c.blyth@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.blyth@auckland.ac.nz)

"Let Him Romance You": Rape Culture and Gender Violence in Evangelical Christian Self-Help Literature

Emily Colgan, Trinity Theological College

[ecolgan@trinitycollege.ac.nz](mailto:ecolgan@trinitycollege.ac.nz)

Contested Embodiment in Anti-Abortion Prayer Vigil Activism: Regulating Women's Bodies

Sarah-Jane Page, Aston University

[s.page1@aston.ac.uk](mailto:s.page1@aston.ac.uk)

A Jew, Transgender Day of Remembrance and the Inclusion and Exclusion of Sacred Space

Hannah Rossiter, University of Auckland

[hannah.rossiter@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:hannah.rossiter@auckland.ac.nz)

**3:00-3:30 Afternoon Tea, Reipae Dining Room**

**3:30-5:00 Parallel Sessions 3**

## **Panel 7 Historical and Ethnographic Studies of Religion in India (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Christine Dureau, University of Auckland

The Caste Question in Eighteenth-Century Protestant Missions

Will Sweetman, University of Otago

[will.sweetman@otago.ac.nz](mailto:will.sweetman@otago.ac.nz)

From Madness to Sacredness: Making of Koyappappa as a Saint in Kerala

P. C. Saidalavi, Australian National University

[saidalavipc19@gmail.com](mailto:saidalavipc19@gmail.com)

‘Lourdes of the East’: Anglo-Indian Pilgrimage to Indian Marian Shrines  
Robyn Andrews, Massey University  
Brent H. Otto, University of California, Berkeley  
[r.andrews@massey.ac.nz](mailto:r.andrews@massey.ac.nz); [botto@berkeley.edu](mailto:botto@berkeley.edu)

Cultural Immersion Trips: Finding Sacred Places and Spaces in India  
Paul Robertson, University of Auckland  
[probo14@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:probo14@auckland.ac.nz)

### **Panel 8 Studies in the Middle East and Islam (Reipae Dining Room)**

Session Chair: Douglas Pratt, University of Auckland

The Construction of an Iranian Lineage for Manichaeism  
Iain Gardner, University of Sydney  
[iain.gardner@sydney.edu.au](mailto:iain.gardner@sydney.edu.au)

Palestine as an Islamic Holy Land  
Christopher van der Krogt, Massey University  
[C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.J.vanderKrogt@massey.ac.nz)

The Sanctity of the Mosque: Continuity and Change  
Mehrnosh Lajevardi Fatemi, Western Sydney University  
[m.lajevardifatemi@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:m.lajevardifatemi@westernsydney.edu.au)

Faith and Social Exclusion: A Divisive Source or a Reconciliatory Force?  
Mortaza Shams, University of Waikato Islamic Studies Group and the Anglican  
Action Centre for Social Justice  
[mortaza\\_shams@yahoo.com](mailto:mortaza_shams@yahoo.com)

### **Panel 9 The Politics of Religion in Asia-Pacific (Room 253-101)**

Session Chair: Geoffrey Troughton, Victoria University

Unsanctioned Religion in an Atheist State: Falun Dafa as Alternative Morality  
Stephen Noakes, University of Auckland  
[s.noakes@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.noakes@auckland.ac.nz)

Religious Opposition to Constitutional Revision in Japan  
Mark Mullins, University of Auckland  
[m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.mullins@auckland.ac.nz)

Conronymic Secularism and the Christian State sedition cases in Fiji  
Thomas White, University of Otago  
[tomwhitesmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:tomwhitesmailbox@gmail.com)

The Problem of Religious Freedom: An Analysis of Australian Government Inquiries into Religious  
Freedom  
Elenie Poulos, Macquarie University  
[elenie.poulos@hdr.mq.edu.au](mailto:elenie.poulos@hdr.mq.edu.au)

## **Plenary II**

**5:15-6:30 Penny Magee Memorial Lecture (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

**Convenor:** Anna Halafoff, Deakin University

Rewilding Religion: An Aesthetics of Religion Approach

Jay Johnston, University of Sydney

[jay.johnston@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jay.johnston@sydney.edu.au)

## **Friday 30 November**

**8:30-10:00 Parallel Sessions 4**

### **Panel 10 Ritual in Sacred and Secular Space (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Caroline Blyth, University of Auckland

Sacred Renovations: The True Jesus Church Houses

Melissa Wei-Tsing Inouye, University of Auckland

[m.inouye@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.inouye@auckland.ac.nz)

“This is Israel in Brazil”: Using Materiality to Create a Spiritual Epicentre in The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God

Kathleen Openshaw, Western Sydney University

[k.openshaw@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:k.openshaw@westernsydney.edu.au)

The Sydney Jewish Museum as a Fluctuating Sacred Space

Breann Fallon, Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Sydney

[bfallon@sjm.com.au](mailto:bfallon@sjm.com.au)

Without God

Brodie Quinn, University of Auckland

[bqui016@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:bqui016@aucklanduni.ac.nz)

### **Panel 11 Religious Diversity and Interfaith Activity (Reipae Dining Room)**

Session Chair: Gary D. Bouma, Monash University

Affirming Diversity: Plurality and Pluralism in the Context of Religious Materiality

Douglas Pratt, University of Auckland

[d.pratt@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.pratt@auckland.ac.nz)

The Secular Realm as Interfaith Space

Paul Hedges, Nanyang Technological University

[ispmhedges@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:ispmhedges@ntu.edu.sg)

The Dynamics of Religious Faith and Community Organizing:

A Case Study of the Sydney Alliance

Rosemary Hancock, University of Notre Dame Australia

[rosemary.hancock@nd.edu.au](mailto:rosemary.hancock@nd.edu.au)

The Capacity to Hope: Interfaith Efforts for Creating Peace and a “Good” World

Sarah Haggar, University of Auckland

[shga757@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:shga757@aucklanduni.ac.nz)

## **Panel 12 Christianity in Asia-Pacific (Room 253-101)**

Session Chair: Mark Mullins, University of Auckland

The Dynamics of Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Catholic Practice: From Amis' Colonial Experience to Urban Migration

Kuriko Okada, Sophia University  
[okada.gemma.kuriko@gmail.com](mailto:okada.gemma.kuriko@gmail.com)

Migrant Filipinos and the Roman Catholic Church in Japan

Takefumi Terada, Sophia University  
[tterada@tka.att.ne.jp](mailto:tterada@tka.att.ne.jp)

An Un/Holy Place: Denominational Conflict and Converted Landscape on Simbo, Western Solomon Islands

Christine Dureau, University of Auckland  
[christinedureau@gmail.com](mailto:christinedureau@gmail.com)

**10:00-10:30 Morning Tea, Reipae Dining Room**

**10:30-12:00 Parallel Sessions 5**

## **Panel 13 Scientific Studies of Religion (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Nicholas Thompson, University of Auckland

Science and Religion: Beyond Ethnocentrism

Gregory W. Dawes, University of Otago  
[gregory.dawes@otago.ac.nz](mailto:gregory.dawes@otago.ac.nz)

Measuring Religion in the Field: A Comparison of Self-Report, Firsthand Observations, and Third-Party Judgements in a Rural Fijian Village

John H. Shaver, University of Otago  
[john.shaver@otago.ac.nz](mailto:john.shaver@otago.ac.nz)

The Evolution of Major World Religions is Marked by Increases in Speciation Rate

Anastasia Ejova, Remco Bouckaert, Quentin D. Atkinson and Joseph Bulbulia, University of Auckland

Simon J. Greenhill, Joseph Watts and Russell D. Gray, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

Jakub Cigán, Silvie Kotherová, Jan Krátký, Radek Kundt and Eva Kundtová Klocová, Masaryk University  
[anastasia.ejova@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:anastasia.ejova@auckland.ac.nz)

Religious Change is Simpson's Paradox: A National Scale Longitudinal Investigation of Religious Change

Joseph Bulbulia, University of Auckland  
[joseph.bulbulia@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.bulbulia@gmail.com)

#### **Panel 14 AASR Roundtable (Reipae Dining Room)**

Challenges for the Study of Religion in Australia: The Next Decade, and Beyond?

Convenors: Cristina Rocha and Adam Possamai, Western Sydney University, Marion Maddox, Macquarie University

Panelists: Gary Bouma (Monash University), Marion Maddox (Macquarie University), Ruth Powell (NCLS Research), Adam Possamai (WSU), Cristina Rocha (WSU), Josh Roose (ACU), Paul Babie (Adelaide University)

Discussant: Anna Halafoff (Deakin University)

#### **12:00-1:00 Lunch (Reipae Dining Room)**

**Note: AGMs for both Associations will be meeting during the lunch break.**

#### **1:00-2:30 Parallel Sessions 6**

#### **Panel 15 Historical and Sociological Studies of Christianity (Tāne-nui-a-Rangi)**

Session Chair: Paul Babie, Adelaide University

Revisiting the Reliability of Apostate Narratives

Nicholas Thompson, University of Auckland  
[nj.thompson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:nj.thompson@auckland.ac.nz)

Applying Social Network Analysis to Historical Sources: The

Case of Charles Strong and the Australian Church

Patricia Curthoys, Macquarie University  
[curthoys@tpg.com.au](mailto:curthoys@tpg.com.au)

Silence, Secrecy and Power: Understanding the Royal

Commission Findings into the Failure of Religious

Organisations to Protect Children

Kathleen McPhillips, University of Newcastle  
[kathleen.mcphillips@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:kathleen.mcphillips@newcastle.edu.au)

The Branding of the Devil: A Sociology of Exorcism

Adam Possamai, Western Sydney University  
[a.possamai@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:a.possamai@westernsydney.edu.au)

#### **Panel 16 Media and Public Recognition of Religion (Room 253-101)**

Session Chair: Philip Fountain, Victoria University of Wellington

Representing Ringatū: Images of the Ringatū Faith in Public Culture

Ann Hardy, University of Waikato  
[a.hardy@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:a.hardy@waikato.ac.nz)

Dao Mau: From Oppression to Recognition

Binh Thi Thuy Tran, University of Auckland  
[tbin787@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:tbin787@aucklanduni.ac.nz)

Religion and Media in Independent Ukraine: Churches, Politics and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

Denys Shestopalets, Monash University  
[denys.shestopalets@monash.edu](mailto:denys.shestopalets@monash.edu)

**2:30-3:00 Afternoon Tea (Reipae Dining Room)**

**Venue change to Maclaurin Chapel**

18 Princes Street (Building 107)

The University of Auckland

**Plenary III**

**3:00-4:20** AASR Presidential Address

Convenor: Dr Kathleen McPhillips, Vice-President, Australian Association for the Study of Religion, University of Newcastle

Old and New Sacred Places and Objects: Materiality and Global Spiritual Networks

Cristina Rocha, Western Sydney University

[c.rocha@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:c.rocha@westernsydney.edu.au)

**Plenary IV**

**4:30-6:00 NZASR Roundtable**

The Longitudinal Study of Virtue and Religion

Convenor: Joseph Bulbulia, University of Auckland

Panelists: Chris G. Sibley, University of Auckland, Anastasia Ejova, University of Auckland, John Shaver, University of Otago, Samantha Stronge, University of Auckland, Geoffrey Troughton, Victoria University, Daryl Van Tongeren, Hope College, Chris K. Deak, Victoria University

**6:00-7:00 Reception**

**7:30 Conference Dinner (Wine Chambers, 33 Shortland Street)**