



Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience (SOPHERE)

Second Regional Conference

October 10-12, 2019

**Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, Indiana, USA**

Conference Program



Religious Experience and Description

The Society for the Phenomenology
Of Religious Experience (SOPHERE)

Second Regional Conference

October 10-12, 2019

Hosted by the
Departments of Philosophy, Psychology and Theology
Christopher Center for Information Resources
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN USA



Scientific Committee for the Conference

Jason Alvis (University of Vienna)
Michael Barber (Saint Louis University)
Neal DeRoo (The King's University, Canada)
Olga Louchakova-Schwartz (University of California, Davis)
Martin Nitsche (Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences)
Kristóf Oltvai (The University of Chicago)

DAY 1 Morning, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:00 Opening of the venue, Registration

8:45–9:00 Opening of the Conference
Christopher Center Community Room

Welcome Addresses by
Jon Kilpinen (Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Valparaiso University)
Olga Louchakova-Schwartz (Founding President, Society for Phenomenology of Religious Experience)
Jim Nelson (Co-Director of the Conference)

9:00—10:30 Keynote Address with Discussion
Christopher Center Community Room
Chair: Aaron Preston

Is there Such a Thing as Religious Experience?
Eine Rückfrage nach dem Ursprung der Spiritualität
Bruce Ellis Benson (University of St. Andrews)

10:30—10:45 Coffee Break

DAY 1 Morning, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 (continued)

10:45—11:30 Presidential Address

Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

Chair: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz

Religious Experience and Descriptive Models of Transitive-Topological Phenomenology

Martin Nitsche, Vice-President of SOPHERE

(Institute of Philosophy, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

11:45—1:00 LUNCH RECESS

DAY 1 Afternoon, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:45—1:30 Plenary Session 1

Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

Chair: Martin Schwartz

Some quasi-mystical moments within transcendental phenomenology

Jim Hart (Indiana University)

1:30—2:15 Plenary Session 2

Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

Distinguishing four levels of the phenomenological analysis of religion

Neal DeRoo (The King's University)

2:15—2:30 Coffee Break

2:30—4:00 Breakout Session 1, Track A: Methodologies (1), ASB 231

Chair: Peter Costello

2:30 pm: *How is a phenomenological description of the religious experience possible?*

Veronica Cibotaru (University Paris-Sorbonne / Bergische University Wuppertal)

3:00 pm: *Nietzsche's genealogical method and religious experience*

Matt Clemons (Stony Brook University)

3:30 pm: *The fruits of the unseen:*

A Jamesian critique of explanatory reductionism in accounts of religious experience

Walter Scott Stepanenko (John Carroll University)

DAY 1 Afternoon, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 (continued)

2:30—4:00 Breakout Session 1, Track B: Tradition and Hermeneutics, ASB 237

Chair: Martin Nitsche

2:30 pm: *Ao-Naga religious experience and ethics: A phenomenological inquiry*
Longchar Karilemla (Phule Pune University, India)

3:00 pm: *Going up? Metaphors of direction and identity in religious phenomenology and Buddhism*
Gordon Bermant (University of Pennsylvania)

3:30 pm: *Gemstones as religious symbols: Revealing religious experience*
Agnese Marianna Mikelsone (University of Latvia)

2:30—4:00 Breakout Session 1, Track C: Description and Truth, ASB 236

Chair: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz

2:30 pm: *Religious experience and the principle of scrutiny*
Alex R Gillham. (St. Bonaventure University)

3:00 pm: *The normativity of the spiritual experience*
Drew Chastain (Loyola University—New Orleans)

3:30 pm: *Reduction, tribunal, and teleology; or, How to avoid despotism in philosophy of religion*
Scott Ferguson (University of Chicago)

4:00—4:15 Coffee Break

4:15—5:45 Breakout Session 2, Track A: Methodologies (2), ASB 231

Chair: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz

4:15 pm: *On receiving unexpected gifts: Reflections on first-hand accounts of spiritual experiences*
Steen Halling (Seattle University)

4:45 pm: *On the conditions of religious conversion*
Douglas Zimmerman (University of South Florida)

5:15 pm: *The nature of religious experience: The role of a naturalized phenomenology*
Donald Borrett (University of Toronto)

4:15—5:45 Breakout Session 2, Track B: Existential Aspects of Phenomenology, ASB 237

Chair: Neal DeRoo

4:15 pm: *Senseless pain in the phenomenology of religious experience*
Emil Salim (Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Reformed, Indonesia)

4:45 pm: *Religious experience as the hermeneutics of desire*
Bruno Cassara (Fordham University)

5:15 pm: *Pilgrimage of Hajj: The transformation of laws in "following" Islam*
Hessam Dehghani (Boston College)

DAY 1 Afternoon, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 (continued)

4:15—5:45 Breakout Session 2, Track C: Description and Applications, ASB 236

Chair: Jim Nelson

4:15 pm: *Global missions, church-planting, and spiritual development: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of a theologically conservative evangelical pastor*
Tanner Morrison (Wilfrid Laurier University)

4:45 pm: *The phenomenological constitution of the Holy: Charles Taylor, Espen Dahl and the gospels*
Bill Powers (Independent Scholar)

5:15 pm: *Fighting infertility in Islam: Religious experience and reproductive health issues of Muslim spouses*
Monika Zaviš (Comenius University, Bratislava) [Remote Presentation]

6:00—7:00 CONFERENCE RECEPTION
Christopher Center Community Room

DAY 2 Morning, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30—10:00 Keynote Address

Christopher Center Community Room

Chair: Kristóf Oltavi

Phenomenological insights for an urban theology of nature
Lea Schweitz (Former director, Zygon Center for Religion and Science)

10:00—10:15 Coffee Break

10:15—11:00 Plenary Session 1

Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

Chair: Neal DeRoo

Does the object of religious experience make any difference to the experience itself?
Schutz and Scheler on the noetic and noematic dimensions of religious experience
Michael Barber (Saint Louis University)

11:00—11:45 Plenary Session 2

Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

Comparing religious and pathological religious experience for the benefit of a phenomenological psycho(patho)logy and philosophy of religion
Patricia Feise-Mahnkopp (Alanus University)

11:45—1:00 LUNCH RECESS

DAY 2 Afternoon, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

1:00—2:30 Breakout Session 1, Track A: The Holy, after Husserl, ASB 231
Chair: Martin Schwartz

1:00 pm: *"I am That": Predicative judgement following the Vedantic reduction*
Olga Louchakova-Schwartz (University of California, Davis)

1:30 pm: *Approaches of the indescribable in Advaita*
Patrick Laude (Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in Qatar)

2:00 pm: *From The Syntax of Time to a phenomenology of the spheres*
Randy Dible (New School for Social Research)

1:00—2:00 Breakout Session 1, Track B: Philosophy, Theology and Metaphysics, ASB 237
Chair: Neal DeRoo

1:00 pm: *Experiences of God, time & environment:
Seasoning Serres, Nicholas & Eckhart with Heidegger, Hopkins & Derrida*
Virgil Brower (Charles University, Prague)

1:30 pm: *Dallas Willard and the phenomenology of religious experience*
Aaron Preston (Valparaiso University)

1:00—2:30 Breakout Session 1, Track C: Descriptive Psychology, ASB 236
Chair: Jim Nelson

1:00 pm: *Religion beyond the brain: Liberating the cognitive science of religion from its canon*
Ryan R. Lemasters (Western Michigan University)

1:30: *The timeless interaction of object and flesh:
The study of zanjeer in understanding religious experience*
Sevgi Demiroglu (Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar) [Remote Presentation]

2:00 pm: *The backlash of Maurice Blondel upon phenomenology:
Towards a metaphysics of the bond and a phenomenology of force in religious experience*
William L. Connelly (Catholic University of Paris) [Remote Presentation]

2:30—2:45 Coffee Break

2:45—4:15 Breakout Session 2, Track A: Development and Transformation, ASB 231
Chair: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz

2:45 pm: *A phenomenology of change in religion and psychotherapy*
Paul Whittemore (Pepperdine University)

3:15 pm: *Profound transformation wrought by transcendental encounters*
Kelly Wadsworth (Alki UCC Church and Seattle University)

3:45 pm: *Toward a phenomenological psychology of adolescent religious experience*
William Stanford (University of Georgia) and Griffin Klemick (University of Toronto)

DAY 2 Afternoon, FRIDAY, October 11 (continued)

2:45—4:15 Breakout Session 2, Track B: Scripture, Liturgy and Contemplation, ASB 237

Chair: Neal DeRoo

2:45 pm: *The phenomenology of Scripture and the Word of God*
Steven Nemes (Fuller Theological Seminary)

3:15 pm: *The eucharist in Marion and in the liturgy*
Chungsoo J. Lee (Loyola University Chicago)

3:45 pm: *Utilizing Michel Henry's radical phenomenology
to analyze the Hesychastic meditative experience*
Sally Stocksdales (Towson University)

2:45—4:15 Breakout Session 2, Track C: Art and Religious Experience, ASB 236

Chair: Martin Nitsche

2:45 pm: *Heidegger on art and religious experience*
Xiaochen Zhao (Columbia University)

3:15 pm: *On the musical description of religious experience:
Understanding the temporal structure of transcendence through
Augustine's analysis of Deus, creator omnium in Confessions and De musica*
Jessica Wiskus (Duquesne University)

3:45 pm: *Text, Sound or Image?*
Where should phenomenological description of religious experience begin?
Discussion, chairs Peter Costello, Martin Schwartz

6:30—8:30 CONFERENCE DINNER

Don Quijote Restaurante, 119 Lincolnway, Valparaiso, Indiana

DAY 3 Morning, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:30—10:00 Keynote Address with Discussion

Christopher Center Community Room

Chair: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz

Imagining the source—Jesus as a phenomenon of self-forgetfulness
Peter Costello (Providence College)

10:00—10:15 Coffee Break

DAY 3 Morning, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 (continued)

10:15—11:00 Plenary Session 1
Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205
 Chair: Michael Barber

Zoroaster: Visionary religious experience crafted into poetic structures
 Martin Schwartz (University of California, Berkeley)

11:00—11:45 Plenary Session 2
Christopher Center Lecture Hall Room 205

*Conscientious objectivity:
 Intellectual freedom and the problem of description in the early Luther's critique of metaphysics*
 Kristóf Oltvai (University of Chicago Divinity School)

11:45—1:00 LUNCH RECESS

1:00—2:30 Breakout Session 1, Track A: Theology, Texts and Experience (1), ASB 231
 Chair: Richard Stith

1:00 pm: *"Let me know your ways:" Givenness and revelation in the book of Exodus*
 Michaela Podolny (University of Chicago)

1:30 pm: *Satan's fall: Intentionality, temporality, and impatience*
 Thomas Ryba (Purdue University)

2:00 pm: *Phenomenological description and textual hermeneutics*
 Discussion, chair Neal DeRoo

1:00—2:30 Breakout Session 1, Track B: Theology, Texts and Experience (2), ASB 237
 Chair: Jim Nelson

1:00 pm: *Heidegger on reading St. Paul: Phenomenology and the use of religious descriptions*
 Jonathan O'Rourke (National University of Ireland, Galway)

1:40 pm: *Ontological argument reconsidered as a religious thought experiment*
 C Peter Hertogh (Free University Brussels) [Remote Presentation]

1:00—2:40 Breakout Session 1, Track C: Phenomenology and Faith, ASB 236
 Chair: Aaron Preston

1:00 pm: *Religious experience and faith:
 How religious experience can bridge the gap between faith and belief*
 Liz Jackson (Australian National University)

1:35 pm: *Kierkegaard: The true nature of God and faith*
 Siobhan Doyle (University College, Dublin) [Remote Presentation]

2:10 pm: *Being and time-less faith: Juxtaposing Heideggerian anxiety and religious experience*
 Jonathan Lyonhart (University of Cambridge Divinity School) [Remote Presentation]

2:45—3:00 CONFERENCE CLOSING CEREMONY