



New Directions in Comparative Theology, Interreligious Dialogue,
Theology of Religions and Missiology

Boston College
March 20-21 2014

Thursday, March 20: Boston College Alumni House, Newton Campus

2:00 pm **Registration**

3:00 pm **Session I: Comparative Theology and Methodological Approaches**

“Suhrawardī and Henry of Ghent on Illumination and the Role of the Theologian”

Michael VanZandt Collins, *Boston College*

“Becoming Better than Before: A Comparative Study of Matteo Ricci and Mengzi on the Question of Human Potential”

Stephanie Wong, *Georgetown University*

“Processing Experiences within an Academic Framework: A Challenge for Interreligious Education”

Elena Dini, *Hartford Seminary*

“Cain and Abel in Rabbanic and Evangelical Exegesis: An Experiment in Comparative Theology”

Andrew Massena, *Boston College*

4:45 pm **Session II: Hermeneutics of Inter-religious Dialogue**

“Planted, Watered, and Given Growth: A Proposal for a Cultivation Metaphor in Missiology as a Catalyst for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Missionary Practice”

Isaac Arten, *Duke Divinity School*

“Knowing Thy Self: The Importance of Religious Social Location in Comparative Theology”

Kathleen Mroz, *Boston College*

“Interreligious Dialogue as Liberative, Sacramental Covenanting”

Todd Johansen, *Duquesne University*

“A New Way Forward in Islamic-Christian Interreligious Conversation: The Merciful (Islamic) and the Gracious (Christian) God”

Axel Marc Takács, *Harvard Divinity School*

6:30 pm **Open Space Discussion and Informal Dinner**

For information or to register, contact Tim Carey, careytf@bc.edu: \$30 Registration Fee

For more information on the Jesuit Advisory Committee on Interreligious Dialogue, see:

<http://www.creighton.edu/groups/sjdialogue/background/index.php>

Friday, March 21: 5th Floor Conference Room, McGuinn Hall, Chestnut Hill Campus

10:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

10:30 am **Session I: Pedagogy and Comparative Theology**

“Comparative Theology in Pedagogy and Practice: Envisioning A Dalit Comparative Theology”
Joshua Samuel, *Union Theological Seminary*

“*Praeparatio* or Prolepsis? Reframing the Relationship between Christianity and African Traditional Religions in Light of Pannenberg’s Theology of the History of Religions”
Dan Brockway, *Fuller Theological Seminary*

“Feminist Theologies as Common Good”
Nicole Reibe, *Boston College*

12:00 pm **Session II: Scriptural Reasoning**

Led by Andrew Massena and Bethany Slater. Open to all, this session will include an introduction to and an actual practice of scriptural reasoning.

1:30 pm **Lunch**

3:00 pm **Informational Session on *Dilatato Corde***

Dilatato Corde is the international, multi-lingual journal on the dialogue of religious experience.
Dr. Fabrice Blée, *St. Paul University*

3:30 pm **Session III: Philosophy of Religious Discourse**

“What Are We Talking about When We Talk about Scripture in the Classroom”
Kimberly Bauser, *Boston College*

“Modes of Interfaith Engagement: Encountering Particularities Through Constructive Conversation with the Self and Others”
Kalpesh Bhatt, *University of Toronto*

“A Pedagogy of Surrender: *The Śrīmad Rahasyatrayasāra* and *Rāmāyana* as Metanarratives for Hindu Studies”
Patrick Tiernan, *Boston College*

5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

5:15 pm **Keynote Speaker**

“From Host to Body”: A Benedictine Approach to Teaching Comparative Theology
Dr. Bede Bidlack, *St. Anselm College*

6:15 pm **Dinner**

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