



HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

Program for the Evolution of Spirituality
2024 Conference Schedule
April 24-27, 2024

Alternative Spiritualities of Celebration, Resistance, and Accountability: Engaging Our Colonial and Decolonial Contexts

Schedule Notes:

All presentations will have Zoom accessibility. Clicking on the room name will take you to the corresponding zoom room and abstracts will be similarly linked.

Each session will be held in Harvard Divinity School's Swartz Hall (45 Francis Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts).

Wednesday (April 24, 2024)

| Date | Time (EDT) | Location (Zoom in Link) | Presentation Type | Full Name(s) | Title |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| 4/24/2024 | 2:00pm - 2:30pm | Sperry Room | | | Opening Reflections |
| 4/24/2024 | 2:30pm - 3:30pm | Sperry Room | Performance | Delores (Lola) Mondragón, Deborah J. Guerrero, Carolyn Hartness, Sinai Soriano | Contemporary Revitalization of Indigenous Spiritualities in Prisons, Treatment Centers, and Veteran Retreats: Using Drumming and Storytelling as Forms of Witnessing the Violence Away |
| 4/24/2024 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Sperry Room - Plenary 2 | Paper Session | Sanskriti Chattopadhyay | Being a Devotee: Image to Decolonial Decentralisation |
| 4/24/2024 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Sperry Room - Plenary 2 | Paper Session | Yinuo Norah Chen | Detaching from the Western Lens: Decolonizing Tantric Sex |
| 4/24/2024 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Sperry Room - Plenary 2 | Paper Session | Patricia Tillman | All Glories to the Assembled Devotees: Spiritual Names and Cultural Appropriation in Yoga and Devotional Culture in the West |
| 4/24/2024 | 4:00pm - 6:00pm | Sperry Room - Plenary 2 | Paper Session | Jagannath Adhikari | Recreating spiritual practices in new locations among migrants – The case of Pokhara, Nepal and Perth, Australia. |
| 4/24/2024 | 6:15pm - 7:15pm | Sperry Room - Plenary 3 | Performance | Kythe Maryam Heller | Vision Lab Collective (Works 2018-2023) |
| Wednesday Supper (7:15pm - 8:15 pm) | | | | | |

Thursday (April 25, 2024)

| Date | Time (EDT) | Location (Zoom in Link) | Presentation Type | Full Name(s) | Title |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room East | Paper Session | Philip Goldberg | Light and Shadow in the Transmission of Indigenous Indian Spirituality to the West |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room East | Paper Session | Jac O'Keeffe | Exploring the Influence of Colonialism on Ethics and Accountability in Alternative Spiritual Teaching and Proposing a New System of Accountability |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room East | Paper Session | Snehapriya Rao | Why the Guru Came to the West: Rethinking the Transnational Guru from an Indigenous Perspective |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room West | Paper Session | Adetola Elizabeth Umoh | Sacredness and ancestral connection to Africa; Osun Osogbo Grove & its festival in Nigeria |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room West | Paper Session | Deogratias Fikiri | Decolonizing Religions in Africa: The Profound Role of African Spirituality of Ubuntu |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | James Room West | Paper Session | Umoh Samuel Uwem | African Tailor Made and Shembe Movement in South Africa |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Mathieu Colin | Hail Resistance: Spiritual Resistance to Christian Hegemony Within The Satanic Temple |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Rune Hjarnø Rasmussen | Policing Whiteness through Pagan Studies |
| 4/25/2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Rayner Jae Liu | Sacred Trickster, Sacred Rage: The Role of Eris in Decolonial Resistance and Celebration |
| 4/25/2024 | 11:00am - 12:00pm | James Room East | Workshop | Christopher Freimuth | Decolonizing Garden Design: A Workshop on Ecological and Spiritual Resistance |
| 4/25/2024 | 11:00am - 12:00pm | James Room West | Workshop | Sudarshan Sundar, Judy Rodgers, Rita Cleary | Inner decolonization for a better world - Experimentation with the Brahma Kumaris philosophy for a return to self-sovereignty, dignity, and solidarity |

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 4/25/2024 | 11:00am - 12:00pm | Sperry Room | Workshop | Shir Lovett-Graff, Francesca Rubinson | Storytelling As Tool for Dismantling Embedded Theologies: Wrestling with Zionism |
| 4/25/2024 | 11:00am - 12:30pm | HDS Garden (Meet at Garvin Room) | Workshop | Tamara Litke | Place-Based Learning: Decolonizing Ecology: Native Plants and Settler Action |
| Thursday Lunch (12:00pm - 1:30 pm) | | | | | |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session, Artistic Display | Susan Farist Butler | Eco-Restoration and Regeneration as Decolonization |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session, Artistic Display | José Sherwood González | Reimagining the Codex Tezcatlipoca (Fejérváry-Mayer): A Transdisciplinary Approach to Decolonizing Mesoamerican Cultural Heritage |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session, Artistic Display | Jayita Sengupta | Exploring Spirituality as an Academic, Painter and Seeker |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Samir Ravi | Slippery Relationality, Queer Buddhisms, and Liberatory Praxis |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Amber L. Voiles | The Benefits of Surrogate Interviewers in Research with Indigenous Peoples: Fostering Cultural Appreciation |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Maria Fernanda Gebara, Nani Kateyuve Yawanawá and Isku Kuá Yawanawá | What is medicine? Integrating indigenous with scientific ontologies in ayahuasca research |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:00pm - 3:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | tayla shanaye | DISRUPTION, RECLAMATION AND DELIGHT: A CRITICAL ORGANIC AUTOETHNOGRAPHY OF A BLACK MOTHER'S CHILDBIRTH AS LIBERATORY TRANSPERSONAL CONSCIOUSNESS |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Jessica Beaudette | Mindful Conservation: Contemplative Discourses in Conservation Science |
| 4/25/2024 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Jenellen Good | Spirituality, Degrowth and the Earth |

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| Date | Time (EDT) | Location (Zoom in Link) | Presentation Type | Full Name(s) | Title |
|-----------|------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 4/25/2024 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Russell C. Powell | Pantheism's Violent Depths: Spinoza, Pragmatism, and Authoritarianism in Dark Green Religion |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | James Room East | Workshop | Sarah Kariko | Wisdom of Webs Workshop |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm* | American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Meet at Garvin Room) | Workshop | Kimberly A Knight | Rewilding Spirituality |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Laura Cohen | Diasporic Mysticism, Psychology, & Tarot: A Path to Decolonizing Intuitive Development |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Denise Lombardi | Native fascination and neo-shamanism in Europe |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Melissa MacDonald | Praying in the cracks: postactivist animism and the (r)evolving worship of the Unknown |
| 4/25/2024 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Maheswar Ghimire | Animism and Ecological Restoration (Century Old Tradition of Indigenous Community) |
| 4/25/2024 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm | James Room West | Performance | Reginald Hubbard | Pure Sound to Ground - An Exploration of Sonic Spiritual Practice |
| 4/25/2024 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Sperry Room | Performance | Ricky Ray | Cultivating Kinship: The Art of Becoming an Ecosystem |

Friday (April 26, 2024)

| Date | Time (EDT) | Location (Zoom in Link) | Presentation Type | Full Name(s) | Title |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 4/26/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | Garvin Room | Workshop | Rituparna Das | The Coiled Snake: The Goddess of the East and the Satan of the West A Workshop on Jungian Psychoanalysis and Kundalini Yoga |
| 4/26/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | James Room East | Workshop | Alberto Quifuta Pereira, Naohito Miura | Glorifying God in Angola and Japan: Decoloniality in Igreja Mundial do Messias through Prayer, Song, and Breath |
| 4/26/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | James Room West | Performance | Reksi Adiwiguna, Napol Riel, Ahmad Syahrul, Lacahya, Barrbalion Victoria Hanzael | Keloid Reflections |
| 4/26/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Dilsa Deniz | Conference Title: Unveiling and decolonizing Monotheaism: Rediscovering the One-Goddess Era |
| 4/26/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Mary Louise Stone | The Andean Mother Pachamama: A Mothering Community Paradigm |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session | Ara Gargiulo | "Of Fairies, Fairy Doctors, and Witches: Witch trials in Spanish Sicily" |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session | Chelsea Irys Rendlen | A New Approach to a Traditional Girls' Summer Camp at YWCA VT Camp Hochelaga: Embracing Spirituality while Centering Anti-Racism and Women's+ Empowerment |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room East | Paper Session | Laura Rademaker | 'A relationship with the land that western culture knows nothing of': sacred claims of First Nations Australia, 1960-1990 |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Ikechukwu Anthony Kanu | COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Ijeoma Iruka Forchu | Ala, the Eagle and the Kite: Narratives of Ecological Justice in Igbo Songs |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | James Room West | Paper Session | Pesach Chananiah | Pathways of Teshuvah: Repentance, Return, and Reconciliation Across Time and Place |

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|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Dr Camilla Mørk Røstvik | Hag Mountain: A History of the Absence of Witch Memorials in Kristiansand, Norway (or, why Kristiansand is not Salem) |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Matilde Carbajo | The making of the mainstream and the alternative: the colonial dimensions of spirituality during the Spanish colonisation of Tàno' Lâguas yan Gàni (the Mariana Islands) |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Taimaya Ragui | Decolonizing Spirituality of the Nagas in Northeast India |
| 4/26/2024 | 10:30am - 12:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Carolyn Soliven Tejado | Eco-theology, Spirituality, and Eco-farming of Spirit-filled Religion in the Philippines |
| Friday Lunch (12:00pm - 1:30 pm) | | | | | |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Rituparna Das | Revival of the Ancient Vedic Practices in India: The Old 'Oriental' Wine in a New 'Occidental' Bottle |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Sivakumar Venugopal | The Contemporary revitalization of Indigenous Spiritualities |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Urvashi Mohinani, Premchand Hombal | Embodied Spirituality in Bharatanatyam: Unveiling the Symbiotic Relationship between Physicality and the Divine in Classical Indian Dance |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:30pm - 2:30pm | James Room East | Workshop | Jemarc Axinto | Recovering from ReActivism in The Spiritual Playground |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:30pm - 2:30pm | James Room West | Workshop | Alka Arora | The Politics of the Intimate in Alternative Spiritual Communities |
| 4/26/2024 | 1:30pm - 2:30pm | Garvin Room | Workshop | Eduardo Viezca, Hector Zaragoza Valentin, Manuel Dominguez | Decolonial Journeys: Queer Chicano therapists alchemizing suffering |

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|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 4/26/2024 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | James Room East | Workshop | Kimberly J. Davis | Soulistic Healing: (Re)membering Black Women's Bodies |
| 4/26/2024 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | James Room West | Workshop | James Mixon | The Elephant: Conservation, Spirituality and Peacebuilding in Laikipia, Kenya |
| 4/26/2024 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Simon Magus | Rider Haggard and the Imperial Occult: Christian Egyptosophy, Romanticism, and Theosophy |
| 4/26/2024 | 3:00pm - 4:00pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Mateusz Kucab | 'In the name of the Bee'. Emily Dickinson and Earth Spiritualities |
| 4/26/2024 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm | James Room East | Workshop | Auds H Jenkins (she/her), Deung Myoung Sunim | The Collective Voice: Chanting for Liberation |
| 4/26/2024 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm | James Room West | Workshop | Tanya Rodriguez | Decolonization, A guidebook to settlers living on stolen land |
| 4/26/2024 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Ruhail Andrabi | The Political Life Of Dead Bodies, Divine Sovereignty, and Indian Empire: The Question of Islam in Kashmir. |
| 4/26/2024 | 4:30pm - 5:30pm | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Ummel Khair Fatima | Sufi Traditions and Spiritual Resistance: Mapping South Asian Muslim Alternative Spiritualities |
| 4/26/2024 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm | James Room West | Performance | Bart Everson, George Cawley | Decolonizing the Mind Through Gaian Song |
| 4/26/2024 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Sperry Room | Performance | Rev. Gail Seavey Azura the Bard | "Robin Hood takes the Sheriff of Nottingham Deep into Sherwood Forest: a journey in story and song." Rev. Gail Seavey and Benjamin Seavey aka Azura the Bard. |

Saturday (April 27, 2024)

| Date | Time (EDT) | Location (Zoom in Link) | Presentation Type | Full Name(s) | Title |
|-----------|-------------------|--|---------------------|---|---|
| 4/27/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | James Room West | Workshop | Suzy Balliett, Kathleen McGoey, Momo Freehill | Title: "Beyond Colonial Entanglements: Embracing Daoist Philosophy & Qigong for Liberating the Mind" |
| 4/27/2024 | 9:00am - 10:00am | HDS Garden (Meet at Sperry Room) | Workshop | Lisa Jane Davis | The Botanical Mind: A Workshop in Animism, Art, and Resisting Anthropocentrism |
| 4/27/2024 | 10:00am - 12:00pm | James Room East | Workshop | Daniela Luna, Juan Pablo Sánchez King, Anna Mirgazizova, Diego Durazzo Cejudo, Sarai Cortés, Robert Hartz | Revisiting Mexico's Ancient Spiritual Traditions: A Path to Inspire Modern Life and Overcome Colonialism and Patriarchy |
| 4/27/2024 | 10:30am - 11:30am | James Room West | Workshop | Bhai Baldeep Singh, Francesca Cassio, Nirinjan Khalsa-Baker | Voicing Sikh spiritual sovereignty in musical practices and indigenous knowledges |
| 4/27/2024 | 10:30am - 11:30am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Dionne A. Mohammed | Indigenous Intergenerational Trauma and Stories of Healing Through Jesus - Decolonizing The Gospel of Christ |
| 4/27/2024 | 10:30am - 11:30am | Sperry Room | Paper Session | Ryan Smith | Confronting White Supremacy in Nordic Spirituality |
| 4/27/2024 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm | Sperry Room | Performance | Eve Woldemikael | Who Broke the Sun Child's Heart? A lyric, musical essay |
| 4/27/2024 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm | Sperry Room | Closing Reflections | | |