East Carolina University Specific Sessions & Sessions with ECU Faculty and Students

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 8

5:15–7:15 PM  SESSION I

ECU Faculty Panel I    Bate 1032
Theme: Religion and the Public Square
Eileen M. Angelini, East Carolina University, presiding

Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
Lessons from AIDS and Ebola in the Atlantic World

Mary Nyangweso, East Carolina University
When the Private is Public: Exploring the intersection between Religion, Sexuality and the Public Sphere in Africa and the African Diaspora

Laura Grillo, Georgetown University
The Incivility of “Civil Society” in Africa: Untimely Tropes and Spiritual Weapons in the Global Postcolony

7:30–9:00 PM - AAR/SBL (SECSOR) Plenary Session
Main Student Center 249
Dr. Mary Nyangweso, East Carolina University Religious Studies Program Director, presiding
Welcome & Comments from ECU Religious Studies Program: Dr. Mary Nyangweso
Welcome & Comments from ECU Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences: Dean William Downs,
Introduction of Plenary Speaker: Dr. Calvin Mercer, East Carolina University
Plenary Address: Rev. Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner, H. Parker Sharp Chair in Theology and Ethics, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Are Scholars of Religion Posthumanists or Transhumanists?

9:00–10:30 PM - Conference Reception
Main Student Center 253 and Gallery

SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00 – Morning SESSION

ECU Africa Panel: Power, Religion, and Taxonomy: Decolonization and Tropes of Subhumanity in Africa and the Caribbean
Bate 1032
Theme: African & African Diaspora Religions, Part I
Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University, presiding

Nicolas Médevielle, East Carolina University
Africa for Princely Consumption: Imaging—and Imagining—the Continent on 16th-Century French Maps

Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
Mapping Myths of Terror: Africom, Instability, and Cosmography in West Africa

Mary Nyangweso, East Carolina University
Rites of Passage as Loci of Public Health Discourses in Africa

Responses from Presenters; Response from Laura Grillo

SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:00 – Morning SESSION

ASOR Member-Sponsored: Archaeology & the Ancient World II

1021
Theme: Open Session
Greg Linton, Johnson University, presiding

Emily Edwards, East Carolina University
Skeletal Indicators of Metabolic Disease as Evidence for Childhood Malnutrition in a Population at Tell Hesban during the Ottoman Period

Laura B. Mazow, East Carolina University, and
Diane Strathy, Independent Researcher
Travelling on the highway to the Fuller’s Field: Integrating text and archaeology to reconstruct wool processing technologies

SBL: New Testament II

Theme: Book Review of Stephen D. Moore, Gospel Jesuses and Other Nonhumans: Biblical Criticism Post-poststructuralism
Ira Brent Driggers, Lutheran Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, presiding

Reviewers: Eric Thurman, University of the South
Kathy Barrett Dawson, East Carolina University
Christy Cobb, Wingate University
Response: Stephen D. Moore

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION II

11:00 AM - NOON

Calvin Mercer, East Carolina University, presenting Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Humanity
This session on "Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Humanity" is directed at college and high school students in attendance and designed to give them an example of the kinds of things religious studies scholars investigate. It is not a peer-reviewed research presentation. The general public is invited.

SATURDAY 1:00PM -3:00 pm

SESSION III

ECU Faculty Panel II

Theme: Religion and the Public Square II
Lisa Ellison, East Carolina University, presiding

Lee A. Johnson, East Carolina University
Use and Abuse of Religion in American Politics

Eileen M. Angelini, Whichard Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, East Carolina University
Why the Lessons of the Holocaust and the WWII Occupation of France Remain Relevant
John Collins, East Carolina University
*Why Do So Few People Believe in an Evil God?*

**SATURDAY SESSION IV**

**ECU Africa & Africa Disapora Panel: Power, Religion, and Taxonomy: Decolonization and Tropes of Subhumanity in Africa and the Caribbean**

Bate 1031
Theme: *African & African Diaspora Religions, Part II*
Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University, presiding

Zoë Walker, Florida State University
*Witchdoctoring Modernity: Decolonization, Health, and Religion in Equatorial Guinea*

Jesse Miller, Florida State University
*Shedding the Colonial Coil: The Practicality and Productivity of Mossi Funerals in Burkina Faso*

Cristina Carter, Florida State University
*Re-Embodying the Nation: Violence, Popularity, and the Maria Lionza Movement in Venezuela*

Responses from Presenters
Response from Timothy Rainey II, Emory University

**SATURDAY SESSION V**

**Greenville, North Carolina Interfaith Panel**

Bate 1032
Theme: *The Impact of Interfaith Work in Greenville and Pitt County, NC*
Rev. Ann Harrington, Free Spirit Inclusive Catholic Community, priest and pastor, presiding
Panelists:
Samar Badwan, Islamic Center & Mosque, spokesperson and board member
Rev. Rod Debs, Unitarian Universalist Pastor, retired
Lynn Caverly, Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina, former director
Rev. Dr. Rodney Coles, Sr., Interfaith Clergy Standing for the Community, and Churches Outreach Network, President and CEO
Chris Pernell, Partners in Health and Wholeness, North Carolina Council of Churches

**SATURDAY SESSION VI**

**Roundtable Workshop Session**

Bate 1032
Theme: *The Future of the Religious Studies Discipline*
Derek Maher, East Carolina University, presiding
After examining some past history and current trends, the audience will be invited to participate in a brainstorming exercise for steering the discipline in a productive direction.

**ECU Faculty Panel III**

Theme: *Throwing Pearls to Swine: Race, Religion, and the Crisis of Corporate Hog Production in Eastern North Carolina*
TBD, East Carolina University, presiding

Elsie Herring, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, & Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
*A Visual Introduction to the Crisis: Excerpts from Film Documentaries*
Elsie Herring, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
*A Problem in My Backyard: The Hazardous Consequences of Living Near Confined Hog Operations*

Bob Edwards, East Carolina University, and Lisa Sawyer, East Carolina University
*Resisting Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in North Carolina in the Aftermath of Hurricane Florence*

Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
*A Religious Reckoning: Capitalism as Cosmology and as Apocalypse, through the Lens of Social Theory*

**7:30–8:30 PM**
Bate 1010

**Student Workshop**
Theme: *Careers and Graduate School in Religious Studies*
John Stowe, East Carolina University, presiding

**8:30-10:00 PM**
Bate Lobby

**Student Reception**

**SUNDAY 9:00-11AM**

**SECSOR: Undergraduate Research IV**
Bate 1022
Rizwan Zamir, Davidson College, presiding

Amanda Wood, College of Charleston, Matthew Cressler, advisor
*Racial and Religious: Both Sides of the Rohingya Muslim Crisis*

Benjamin Law, East Carolina University, Joseph Hellweg, advisor
*The Religious Rhetoric of Boko Haram and its Effect on the Conflict in Nigeria*

Brianna Elder, Elon University, Ariela Marcus-Sells, advisor
*(Mis)Translating Christianity in Africa*

Bailey Freeburn, Wingate University, Christy Cobb, advisor
*Redefining Patronage: Wealthy Women and Christianity*

**MONDAY 7pm (following a Reception)**
March 11, 2019

Introduction: Calvin Mercer
Dr. Ron Cole-Turner, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
*More or Less Human? Will Technology Enhance Us or Destroy Us?*

“Technology makes our lives easier and more convenient. Whether it is smartphones, performance-enhancing drugs, and how gene edited babies, technology is remaking us. But at what cost? Is it making us healthier and smarter and longer-living than ever? Or will it rob us of the very things that make us human?

Join us as we explore what to be human in a technological age. What vision of humanity guides us as we make our way into the unknown future?