

Call for Papers  
"Legitimate Religion"



North American Undergraduate Conference  
in Religion and Philosophy

The North American Undergraduate Conference in Religion and Philosophy is organized by [Westminster College, PA](#) and [St. Francis University, PA](#) with the support of [the North American Association for the Study of Religion](#) and the [Heinz Lecture Series](#) at Westminster.

Undergraduate papers from any discipline on any subject in Religious Studies and Philosophy are sought for an undergraduate conference to take place at Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA from March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. Public events and discussions, including "faculty consultations" in which the faculty members who accompany their students can share their specific expertise, will take place on Sunday morning. Student presentations will take place on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Although papers on any subject will be considered, those that focus on the conference theme of "**The Legitimacy of Religious Traditions**" will be given priority: what make any particular tradition "legitimate?" How can we encourage an open, rational and, productive discussion of religious traditions that may or may not be considered legitimate? How can we encourage dialogue about and in what terms can we most appropriately discuss this highly charged question?



Mark Oppenheimer

Subject to the discretion of a panel of judges cash prizes of \$250 each will be awarded to the best paper in Religion, in Philosophy, and in a special "wildcard" category. "Non-traditional" presentations that deviate from the traditional format of a standard academic paper are encouraged. Traditional papers of approximately 2,000 words in length, requiring no more than 20 minutes to read, are sought, as well as such "non-traditional" presentations.

**Featured speakers:**

**Mark Oppenheimer**, Yale lecturer and leading writer and speaker on contemporary religion, is a frequent contributor to *Slate*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times Magazine* and is a regular columnist for *The New York Times*. He is also the author of two cutting-edge studies of religion and popular culture: *Knocking on Heaven's Door* describes how the tumult of the 1960s affected Protestants, Catholics, and Jews in America, and *Thirteen and a Day* tells the story of Oppenheimer's cross-country trip in search of unique bar and bat mitzvahs, from rural Louisiana to Alaska.



Rosemary Hicks

**Rosemary Hicks**, is an instructor and PhD candidate at Columbia. She has an M.A. in Theology from Graduate Theological Union, and an M.Phil. in Religion from Columbia. She specializes in Islam in North America and in mysticism, pluralism, and religious liberalism. She has focused on women's religious movements and debates over feminism. Her current research charts twentieth-century academic and inter-religious endeavors involving Islam and highlights changes in how Americans conceptualize Islam and Islamic mysticism.

Undergraduate students wishing to present at the conference should send abstracts of c. 150 words by January 18<sup>th</sup> and complete papers by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. All such submissions should be addressed to: [Bryan Rennie](#) ([brennie@westminster.edu](mailto:brennie@westminster.edu)). Please include your full name, paper title, institution, e-mail, phone number, and the name and contact information of your major professor.

Co-organizers: [Bryan Rennie](#), [Art Remillard](#) ([aremillard@francis.edu](mailto:aremillard@francis.edu)), [David Goldberg](#) ([goldbedw@westminster.edu](mailto:goldbedw@westminster.edu))



CERIS

In association with CERIS (Consortium for Educational Resources in Islamic Studies) [www.cerisnet.org](http://www.cerisnet.org)