IARPT 2027 CFP

Dates: July 5th–8th, 2027

Location: Berlin, Germany (Katholische Akademie)

Title: Pragmatisms and Religious Naturalisms in Decolonial Dialogue

This conference seeks to engage both philosophical pragmatisms and religious naturalisms in conversation with contemporary decolonial critique, with special attention to post-secular and decolonial accounts of religion and/as world-making. The legacies of empire, pluralism, and secular reason have deeply marked philosophical inquiry, shaping the boundaries of knowledge, identity, and method across European and American intellectual life. Pragmatisms and religious naturalisms, with their commitments to lived experience, pluralism, and democratic transformation, offer distinct but overlapping resources and challenges for creative encounter with decoloniality.

We invite proposals that explore how philosophical pragmatisms and religious naturalisms—historically and conceptually intertwined, and each shaped within contexts of coloniality and Euro-American exceptionalism—might be exercised by decolonial thought. How might these traditions register critiques of the cognitive empire and epistemologies centered in Euro-American universalisms?

We also welcome inquiries that explore possibilities for collaboration and dialogue between pragmatisms, religious naturalisms, and decolonial thought. These traditions possess both shared and unique resources for challenging reductionist and extractivism notions of nature, the human, and religion, offering alternatives that move beyond secular, capitalist logics. How might their shared sympathies, as well as their critical differences, enable new approaches to resisting, unsettling, or reconfiguring assumptions foundational to colonial and postcolonial discourses? In what ways can pragmatisms and religious naturalisms help articulate new forms of responsibility, alternative world-making, and critical pluralism attuned to the knowledge productions of the Global South, and to religious imaginaries that exceed secular frameworks?

Participants are encouraged to engage with archipelagic thinking, island studies, and broader reflections on how the "American" in the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought itself is to be reimagined—together with religion, nature, and the human—in dialogue with decolonial scholarship.

Paper proposals of approx. 500 words should be submitted by **February 1, 2027** by email to co-organizers Lisa Landoe Hedrick (landoe@uchicago.edu) and Gary Slater (garyslater@gmail.com). Proposals should include a title and short (approx. 150-word) author bio.

Relevant Scholarship (selections)

M. Jacqui Alexander. 2006. *Pedagogies of Crossing: Meditations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, and the Sacred*

***An Yountae**. 2024. *The Coloniality of the Secular: Race, Religion, and Poetics of World-Making*

***Ana Honnacker.** 2015. *Post-secular Liberalism: Perspectives on Religion and the Public Sphere Following William James.*
_____. 2018. *Pragmatic Humanism Revisited: Essays on Making the World a Home*

***Mitsutoshi Horii**. 2018. *The Category of 'Religion' in Contemporary Japan*
_____. 2021. *'Religion' and 'Secular' Categories in Sociology: Decolonizing the Modern Myth* (2021)

N. Fadeke Castor. 2018. *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*

Dipesh Chakrabarty. 2000. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*
_____. 2024. *One Planet, Many Worlds*

David Chidester. 2014. *Empire of Religion: Imperialism and Comparative Religion*

Yuderkys Espinosa-Miñoso, María Lugones, and Nelson Maldonado-Torres (eds.). 2022. *Decolonial Feminism in Abya Yala: Caribbean, Meso, and South American Contributions and Challenges*

Édouard Glissant. 1990. *Poetics of Relation.*

Tomoko Masuzawa. 2005. *The Invention of World Religions: Or, How European Universalism Was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism*

Walter Mignolo. 2005. *The Idea of Latin America*
_____ and Catherine Walsh. 2018. *On Decoloniality: Concept, Analytics, Praxis*

Tyler Roberts. 2013. *Encountering Religion: Responsibility and Criticism after Theory*

Boaventura de Sousa Santos. 2018. *The End of the Cognitive Empire: The Coming of Age of Epistemologies of the South*

***Chris Tirres**. 2014. *The Aesthetics and Ethics of Faith: A Dialogue between Liberationist and Pragmatic Thought*
_____. 2025. *Liberating Spiritualities: Reimagining Faith in the Américas*

Sylvia Wynter. 2015. *On Being Human as Praxis*

*Conference speakers