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for the Study of Religion and Public Life
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From the Director's Desk...

Vote Your Values

The evening of September 14th I attended a gathering at St Mary & St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Edmonton. I had dropped in a year ago and expressed my concern for the Coptic community in Egypt. A number of the faithful had been killed and churches destroyed. The invitation to "Vote Your Values" came from this Edmonton community to hear The Honourable Jason Kenny and The Honourable Tim Uppal "why the Conservative government with the leadership of our Prime Minister Stephen Harper best represents and defends Christian values".

I have long admired Minister Kenny's acumen and energy. He has a fine Catholic education (and more), cares deeply for the religious voice in the public square and for Canadian civil society and was central to establishing the Office of Religious Freedom. Now he is Minister of Defence charged with the protection of Canada and deciding where to deploy Canadian forces. And this following the decade in which the international community has played its role in the disintegration of many Arab counties, Islam is reeling over who will define the faith, and millions of people have been displaced and are on the run seeking refuge from civil war. Tens of thousands have been killed. Minister Kenny has a grip on this. He knows the facts and speaks eloquently to the fear and concern that is uppermost in the minds of Copts whose family and friends are in Egypt.

I spent several hours after this event pondering what my Coptic friends heard and what they were intended to hear and what Christian values were cultivated, what Christian virtues nurtured. Did any remember that Jesus was a refugee, his family fleeing in the face of state terror? Herod, as the narrative tells us, required the killing of all boy children in Palestine who were one year old or less. It was their ancestors in Egypt who worshipped various gods who gave them refuge. Tradition says they lived there for several years before it was safe to return to Nazareth. Did any remember the instruction to Moses, the Egyptian prince, to place a mark of blood on the doorpost, bake bread immediately (without leaven) and prepare in the early morning to take flight into the desert seeking its refugee in the hope that in forty years their children would enter a promised land of freedom? That morning the Egyptians woke up to find their boy children slain.

Continued on page 2

Director's Desk continued from page 1

And then there is the period of exile to the very place Iraq (Babylon) that now lay so deeply wounded. Did any remember the first days of the war with Iraq when the allied forces bombed Ur in Iraq, the birthplace of Abraham? Hard not to ponder the many refugee stories that are at the heart of the Bible and were central to how Jesus came to understand our capacity to respond to enemies when we are freed of fear. He taught that "perfect love casts out fear" and those who have glimpsed his gospel have many and varied ways of responding to not pass on the terror or live in the grip of fear. Rather he calls us to pull life from the jaws of death.

And, there is a story very close to home for Copts. Did any remember the President of Egypt Anwar Sadat and the courageous Coptic bishop who stood beside him on that fateful day, the 6th of October 1981, when they along with others were assassinated on a dais reviewing the troops in commemoration of an earlier war with Israel. And then, there was Sadat's singular act of going to Israel and speaking a word of peace in the Knesset on the 20th of November 1977.

Vote your values. I would hope so. But what are they? And, what are the Christian virtues we are called to nurture when we invoke the name of the Rabbi from Nazareth and nurture them in the face of fear and the organized inadequacy of history?

—David J. Goa



Photo by Rebecca Warren

FR JOHN CHRYSSAVGIS

*Three Perspectives on the Sacred:
Healing Wisdom from the Desert, the Mountains, and the Cosmos*

Augustana Distinguished Lectures by a leading theologian and environmentalist.

Copies can be ordered through the Augustana Bookstore by calling 780-679-1139

Spirit of the Land Progress Continues

Spirit of the Land (SOL) is an ongoing community-based education initiative sponsored by the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, and based at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus in Camrose. The project arose organically following a 2012 conference on hydraulic fracturing, called "Responsibility for the Land".

Responsibility for the Land was widely praised for successfully bringing together a diversity of perspectives to discuss a controversial topic in a constructive, respectful and positive manner. Following the event, conference organizers recognized a greater need to address the underlying spiritual and cultural roots of our ecological disconnect, of which fracking is one symptom. Thus students and professors together began to develop a contemplative community education program in 2013, under the name "Spirit of the Land".

Spirit of the Land aims to foster the collective community spirit needed to address local and global environmental challenges. Towards this aim, SOL invites community members to participate alongside undergraduate students to study, share experiences and discuss solutions.

At the heart of Spirit of the Land lies an attention to our inner lives, understanding that outer environmental degradation reflects a lack of sensitive ecological attunement (recognition of our interdependence with nature) and the will to respond (empathy and compassion). Participants build a firm foundation for ecological stewardship through a range of contemplative exercises and practices that

affirm the common hopes of all spiritual traditions: understanding, peace, compassion for all living things and service to community.

Spirit of the Land has now evolved into an annual course and conference that attracts hundreds of participants from across Canada and internationally. The course and conference continues uniquely to integrate university classroom studies into the community and natural world in a contemplative and participatory manner.

With each year growing in attendance and popularity, many people from Alberta look forward to this event. Over these past years, the conference has played a key role in strengthening the University's connection to our greater Alberta community; this year people from as far away as Australia will be coming to participate.

Our conference this year is Making Peace with the Land on 13 November in the evening with Dr Norman Wirzba from Duke Divinity School speaking on Rootlessness and being Rooted, and all day Saturday, 14 November, starting in the morning with Dr James Makokis, MD, describing indigenous understandings of healing. Saturday afternoon focuses on "transitions" from conventional ways of living and making a living to ones that live more lightly on the earth. Our minister of the environment and the premier have been invited to participate, but it is too early for them to be able to confirm their availability, in spite of their interest in the conference.

For Spirit of the Land to be sustained and grow, it will need support beyond the volunteers who

have until now delivered programming, co-ordinated events and fundraised to bring inspiring speakers while keeping events financially accessible to students and community members. A sustained co-ordinator position would help focus energies and allow Spirit of the Land to build programs and relations beyond the annual conference.

Research into good models of connecting the university to partners on the land will be necessary. We have received very generous “seed money” to find ways to develop the Spirit of the Land project. And we will be looking for other grants and donations to secure and expand the work.

There are limitless ways we might bloom – from urban garden projects, to sprouting, canning and baking classes– the time is ripe to re-connect to the land and its gifts. Partnerships with local farmers such as Grass Roots Family Farm and Sunrise Farm might encourage more youth to return to rural Alberta in sustainable ways. As Augustana continues to expand its community service learning programs, we could begin to train a new generation of earth caretakers and transform what it means to be in university.

As Spirit of the Land develops, we will be able to bring hands-on contemplative earth education to children of all ages, encouraging a deeper appreciation of the interdependence of health, community, land, and spirit.

—Dittmar Mündel

Augustana Distinguished Lectures 2015

Eating Our Way to Peace

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Thursday, 12 November, 10:50 am–12:05 pm

Epp Conference Room (2-004)
Augustana Campus, Camrose

Table Manners

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Thursday, 12 November, 7:00–8:30 pm
Library 2-102

Augustana Campus, Camrose

Eating Our Way to Peace

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 10:00 am
Room N109, The King's University
9125 – 50 Street NW, Edmonton

Agrarian Human Nature

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 3:00–4:00 pm
Epp Conference Room (2-004)

Augustana Campus, Camrose

Becoming Rooted in the Land

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 7:00 pm
Keynote open to all conference attendees and also open to the public for a \$10 fee.
See <spiritoftheland.ca> for tickets.

Chapel, Faith & Life Centre
Augustana Campus, Camrose

Norman Wirzba Named Augustana Distinguished Lecturer

The Ronning Centre is pleased to bring Norman Wirzba to campus this November for a series of lectures (see calendar on pages 17–19 for information and details). The Augustana Distinguished Lectures are made possible by the Hendrickson Memorial Endowment Fund.

Norman Wirzba pursues research and teaching interests at the intersections of theology, philosophy, ecology, and agrarian and environmental studies. He lectures frequently in Canada and the United States.

His work focuses on understanding and promoting practices that can equip both rural and urban church communities to be more faithful and responsible members of creation. Current research is centered on a recovery of the doctrine of creation and a restatement of humanity in terms of its creaturely life.

Professor Wirzba has published *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age* and *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*. His most recent books are *From Nature to Creation: A Christian Vision for Understanding and Loving Our World*, *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, and (with Fred Bahnson) *Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation*. He also has edited several books, including *The Essential Agrarian Reader: The Future of Culture, Community, and the Land* and *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*.

Professor Wirzba serves as general editor for the book series *Culture of the Land: A Series in the New Agrarianism*, published by the University Press of Kentucky, and is co-founder and executive committee member of the Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology.



Honouring Animal Life in Performance Art

“WHAT REMAINS”

My 3000 sq.ft. exhibition, **FOUND WANTING: A Multimedia Installation Regarding Grief and Gratitude** (2010 at The Penticton Art Gallery, and 2011 at The Reach Gallery in Abbotsford, BC), contains hundreds of found and donated animal bones. Over a five-year period they were collected, cleaned, and prepared for exhibition. The care of these bones was in fact the essence of the artwork, which meant to honour each fragment, and recognize, among other things, that in our relationship to animals, there is never a feast without a sacrifice.

The entire process to date has been documented by Kate Bradford (online: <<http://katebradford.net>>), videographer and former award-winning CBC editor. The plan is now to dismantle the exhibition and complete the documentary. In this way, what is an expensive show to re-launch will have an ongoing voice.

Disposing of the bones in a respectful manner, as a last phase of the exhibition, is essential. The proposal for this application is therefore to do a performance/event and installation where the bones would be recycled/repurposed. The performance element would be a public event on an outdoor site in the Edmonton area. The loose bones from the FOUND WANTING exhibition will be burned into ash for a phosphorus fertilizer and into bone black pigment. The bones for the pigment will be burned in an open pit fire and the bones for the bone ash in the furnace that was part of the original exhibition.

The UN has declared 2015 “International Year of Soils”, and so it is appropriate to do this in 2015, putting the (majority of the) bone ash back into the soil in Alberta from where most of the bones originally came. I have chosen the date of 22–23 September, which in 2015 is the



The cantina from the “Found Wanting” exhibit.

Jewish Yom Kippur (or Day of Atonement for personal and national sins), traditionally a time when animal sacrifices were made. This work that is about sacrifice at so many levels, would reflect a parallel act of “repentance” for the mis-handling of both wild and domestic animals, and the waste that is the consequence of our mis-managed consumerist culture.

WHAT REMAINS would happen in several phases. At the centre would be the public event where people could witness the burning. Preparation, the event itself, and the packaging of the ash and pigment and clean up afterward would all be documented. However, there would also be remnants of the FOUND WANTING exhibition shown in a local gallery/venue in Edmonton (yet to be determined), and a public art talk panel in that space. The public attending would be given small bags of ash or pigment and the rest will be distributed on line.

Symeon Lane (<<http://symeonlane.com>>), a computer technologist and contemporary iconographer whom I mentored for his MFA, is developing an atlas of local colour for different regions in Canada, and would lead the production



of making the bone black. He will also create a website where artists interested in using it in work that deals with similar issues of sustainability and animal/human relations could join ‘a second life’ – a kind of resurrection - of the bones. They will be sent, on request, a bag of pigment or ash to use in their work, the results of which would later be posted on the site. The visual conversation about the issues will continue and, in a way, we can all “practice resurrection”, as Wendell Berry says in his “Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front”:

:

*Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.*

*Listen to carrion – put your ear close,
and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.
Expect the end of the world. . . .*

*Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts. . . .
Practice resurrection.*

David Goa, Director of the Chester Ronning Centre, Anja Sleczkowska, independent curator and founding director/curator at Public Foundation for Art and Life, and Daniel Van Heyst, head of the art department at King’s

University, have expressed interest in helping to find venues for this project to take place. We express gratitude to the Rathnavelu Fund for these Year of the Soil events

David Goa, former curator of the Royal Alberta Museum and an expert on relics and sacrifice in world religions, was a member of the discussion panel for FOUND WANTING and would again be part of a panel discussion for **WHAT REMAINS**.

At both the outdoor event and the gallery art talk, international musicians who composed music for FOUND WANTING (Jean Pierre Rudolph from France, Torsten Harder from Germany, Jason Carter from Britain and France, and Jeanine Noyes from Toronto), are hoping to participate if funds allow. Ron Reed, Director of the Pacific Theatre in Vancouver who with actors from the theatre collaborated with me to create the sound track at the Catina bar, a main element in the exhibition, would also attend and do a reading.) In this way the work will close with celebration in the way it opened and allow all of the participants and audience to have a rich and memorable experience.

For myself, this project is a way to recycle the extensive materials of FOUND WANTING currently in storage, and to continue its life through video and through the work of others using the bone black and ash. It will also demonstrate sustainability, not only as metaphor, but as action, and bring some resolution to the lament it voiced. It will provide an opportunity for all those involved to not only participate in an action of hoped for reconciliation but celebrate through **WHAT REMAINS**, the shared expression of gratitude for the life each bone fragment represents. It will give my five years of making the work, and the two years of exhibiting, a greater value and give me a sense of completion so I can go on the new work unburdened by ‘all the bones in my closet’ I have responsibly taken care of.

— Betty Spackman, MFA

Iconographer with a Passion for Local Colour

Symeon van Donkelaar knows a little bit about seizing opportunities as they arise, and about the delights of following your curiosity to see where it leads. Up through his university years, he had never taken an art course. In fact, his interaction with artists began by helping then-teacher Betty Spackman with her computer. But it was the silence and cycle of monastery visits that introduced Symeon to the world of iconmaking and art.

During one such visit, Father Nathaniel was painting and applying gesso to a large medalion. He noted Symeon's tall frame and long arms, handed over a palette knife and said, "just do something." After Symeon spent time reaching across to smooth out the gesso, Symeon handed the knife back, and Fr Nathaniel said "You need to learn to paint icons." And that unusual calling began years of study and apprenticeship into the art of iconography.

Symeon's icon work is unique because of his use of local colours, and he has explored many parts of the country and made pigments from soils, minerals, plants, and bones extracted from each place. "Colours are great teachers for an artist," van Donkelaar explains. "Colours have taught me how to paint . . . and taught me to see."

The practice of finding colours from the natural world goes back to the earliest traces of humanity's existence in cave paintings, but it was an article in an old geology magazine that led Symeon to journey to Hell's Gate on the Mattawa River to see if he could discover how a special kind of ocher was mined. After a grueling trek to reach the cave, he stood in front and said "now what?" Through the years, he has discovered many ways to extract colour from natural objects, including forms of grinding and firing. "It's not really purification," Symeon explains, "more of a fulfillment process." Using paints drawn from a local place has



helped Symeon "listen to and voice the earth" in his work, and he is delighted to share his discoveries with his own children, with groups of students of all ages, and in public presentations in galleries. He believes that in addition to his icons serving as "portals into heaven," they may help connect people to the earth. "Science isn't going to fix environmental issues," he explains. "Our problem is that people no longer love the places they live. The things you love, you take care of." And through his creative play in natural landscapes, Symeon gives people a way to interact with and enjoy the earth in new ways that he hopes will plan seeds for a lifetime.

"The same landscape which is inspiring in general, I bring into the studio and paint with. . . . Taking that same leaf, that same bit of mud, soil, and such, and using it to depict Christ and his saints—for me this is a small echo, a little reflection of what the incarnation is."

Symeon van Donkelaar will collaborate with artist Betty Spackman on a bone-burning project (see page 6), and will speak at the Ronning House (4606 – 49 Street, Camrose) on 23 September from 12:00-1:30 pm. A light lunch will be served.

—Rebecca Warren

International Fellows Initiative Now a Reality

A long-envisioned plan of the Chester Ronning Centre has become a substantial reality with the official appointment in 2015 of two dozen International Fellows.

An impressive group of scholars have consented to support the Centre's work through accepting the post of International Fellow. The names and positions of our Fellows appear on the four following pages.

The Fellows initiative was originally announced some time ago, in our Fall 2012 Newsletter, which proposed "the establishment of Senior Fellowships to support the work of a select body of scholars and public intellectuals able to engage constructively and profoundly with the challenges posed to and by religion in the life of the world today."

Giving vital to the Fellows Initiative

The article in the Newsletter appealed for charitable giving to funding this program. It is due to the generosity of the public, both locally and internationally, that in just two years we have been able to launch the program.

Reporting the progress of the program, the Winter 2015 Newsletter could point supporters to the website link <https://www.augustana.alberta.ca/research/centres/ronningcentre/fellows/>, and profile four individuals who had indicated a willingness to serve as Fellows.

How have the International Fellows been selected?

The Ronning Centre International Fellows are all public intellectuals who have been selected for their grounding in the perspectives of one or all of the spheres of interest to the CRC: academic, religious, and/or civil.

They have the ability to address broad audiences, utilizing congenial ways of engaging with a range of attitudes and angles. As skilled communicators, they will exhibit ways of engaging hospitably with strongly held beliefs associated with local, national, and global develop-

ments that touch the core of our convictions. They have the capacity to speak a healing and illuminating word in the midst of virulent public conversation.

What is the role of the International Fellows?

Unlike typical research centres based in academic institutions, the Chester Ronning Centre's goals call for active and constant communication with the public at large and especially the media. As CRC Director David Goa puts it, "we may not change minds, but we seek to change hearts".

The Ronning International Fellows are willing and able to respond to journalists seeking the context of breaking news of events at the intersection of religions and public life. The CRC will strongly encourage journalists to consult with our International Fellows to obtain additional in-depth knowledge and understanding as they require it.

By enabling everyone freely to benefit from the understandings that emerge from their years of study and research, our International Fellows can give back to the civil spheres which support their activities.

Agreement is not expected – congeniality is

In the environment fostered by the CRC, participants maintain their own perspectives and commitments – yet display the capacity, in response to the challenges presented by the material under discussion, to walk away making comments such as "I get what that means to them now," "I never thought about it that way before," "I see where they are coming from," "I understand my own community better."

So our Fellows may continue to be in disagreement with each other on what to do about deeply divisive issues, but the enlarged appreciation and breadth of insight that they are able to offer us will nevertheless help us to deal with the difficult and demanding issues related to religion and public life in Canada and elsewhere in richer and more sensitive ways.

The Chester Ronning Centre



Mustafa Abu Sway

*Integral Chair, Study of Imam Al-Ghazali's Work
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International Fellows, 2015

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The Chester Ronning Centre



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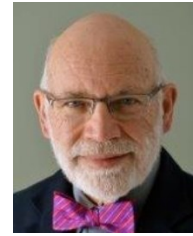
Ron Nikkel

*President Emeritus
Prison Fellowship International, Washington, District of Columbia, USA*

International Fellows, 2015

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John von Heyking

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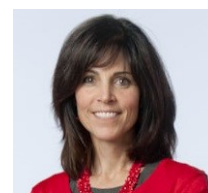
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Ronning Centre Press Room Offers Ready Access to CRC Resources

For more than ten years now the Ronning Centre has been hard at work developing a site where a broad spectrum of leaders in public life, international journalists and others who shape public awareness, understanding, and opinion both within and outside the academic world may share ideas.

At the left of the home page on our website, by opening the tab “Press Room: CRC Topics” there is now access to a decade of audio and video materials that cover a range of issues from a variety of perspectives. Here you will find top-tier presenters speaking on anything from atheism to evangelicals, blasphemy to free speech, democracy, and spiritual life. We acknowledge the careful work of student Autumn MacDonald on the Press Room.

The topics covered by the materials on the site are conveniently listed; visitors to the Press Room can at once locate what they are interested in just by clicking on the relevant topic or topics.

If you're an educator, listening to one of the presentations makes a great focus for discussion within your classroom, as well as in professional retreats or study groups.

A Special Asset for Journalists

The Press Room is designed especially to assist journalists writing about current issues in the relationship between religion and public life.

When religion and public life intersect journalists typically contact strongly committed representatives on opposing sides of the debate. The issue is all too easily framed in a binary and oppositional way. The first step toward dealing responsibly with such complex and controversial issues must be to establish and disseminate an accurate understanding of what the issues are and what they imply, taking account of a plurality of perspectives.

Here our team of CRC International Fellows can actively intervene by preparing briefing papers for posting on the Press Room site.

CRC Briefing Papers Planned

A CRC briefing paper is envisaged as a *short* document presenting a synopsis of the current situation, its background, key considerations, and some succinct comments. These papers will be suitable for circulation by radio, print, and electronic media. They will be accessible on the Press Room site; in addition, they will appear on the CRC home page under the heading News of Our Fellows, and be posted on the Fellow's own page in the International Fellows section of the CRC website under Related Materials.

Ronning Centre Briefing Papers will distil key issues, ideas and sensibilities, civil and/or religious, that enlarge our understanding of a current news story. The purpose of these papers is to assist the voices of responsible public intellectuals to be heard through the news media and so give shape to current discussions.

It is expected that the first CRC Briefing Papers will soon be prepared and made available on the website and will be sent to the media and journalists shortly after news stories break.

Enlarging our understanding

Journalists and others with particular concerns in public and religious communities are also welcome to make direct contact through the Press Room with our International Fellows. Such access provides exceptional opportunities for everyone to broaden their comprehension of the live issues that give rise to current news stories.

David Goa, Director of the Chester Ronning Centre, comments: “We are delighted with the launch of the Press Room, which promises to promote the endeavour of our International Fellows to enlarge our understanding of demanding issues and substantially improve public discourse.”

—Nicholas Wickenden and Catherine Caufield

Introducing Dr Catherine Caufield***New Appointment Strengthens the Chester Ronning Centre's International Activities***

An exceptional range of talents and interests is brought to the Chester Ronning Centre by the newest recruit to its staff.

For twenty-three years Dr Catherine Caufield's research has been directed to integrating her two special fields of knowledge: nursing and religious studies. This research has taken her from the highlands of Guatemala to do ethnographic exploration with Indigenous midwives, to the Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas and work with liberation theologians, to Mexico City to study literature with Jewish and non-Jewish writers, and back home to Aboriginal and Christian communities in Alberta.

Common themes of polysemic expression of religious experience and ways in which plural discourses co-exist within and between religions emerge from and characterize her ongoing work.

As an Associate Director of the Centre, Dr Caufield's brief will be to co-ordinate the work of the Centre's eminent International Fellows. Announcing her appointment, Centre Director David Goa said "We are remarkably fortunate to have been able to recruit such a talented and distinguished individual to our staff. She will give a new impetus to the Centre's work with its International Fellows in many countries."

She is no stranger to the Alberta scene, having held an Assistant Professorship at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where she served in the Faculty of Nursing and the Faculty of Arts in their Religious Studies Program and Latin American Studies Programs. She co-ordinated all sections of the "Introduction to World Religions" course as



well as the International Research Capacity-Building Program for Nurses to Study the Drug Phenomenon in the Americas, a program hosted by the Faculty of Nursing and funded by the Organization of American States.

Previously, she worked as Director of Education at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital in Ontario.

Catherine Caufield received a BSc in Nursing, with distinction, from the University of Ottawa in 1989, an MA in Religious Studies, with distinction, from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1995, and earned her PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Toronto in 2000. She has received a number of awards, including a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto and a Foreign Government Award with the Government of Mexico. She is fluent in English, Spanish, and French.

Her first book, *Hermeneutical Approaches to Religious Discourse in Mexican Narrative* (New York, Bern, &c.: Peter Lang, 2003), investigates a selection of Mexican fictional narrative through the application of hermeneutic literary theory. Its emphasis is on conscious, self-reflexive interpretation, being aware of

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what elements in the text one is selecting to base one's interpretation on, and knowing, on a meta-narrative level, what the task of interpretation is.

Her second monograph, *Shmiot Fugue: Jewish-Mexican Voices in Contemporary Mexican Literature*, is now in the peer-review process for publication with a major university press.

She is currently collecting data for a third book, tentatively titled *Miyomahcihowin: Plains Cree and Oblate Stories of Trauma Recovery and Reconciliation*. This project explores aspects of the complicated situation, involving government, churches, and Aboriginal communities, surrounding the residential schools in Canada. The fraught and sometimes abusive interactions between the Canadian authorities and Aboriginal groups constitute a focus for this study, which traces the relationships between religion, trauma, and healing.

She has also published numerous articles in refereed journals. A listing of her published work can be found online at: http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Catherine_Caufield.

She serves as Editor of the international journal *Religious Studies and Theology*. She is on the executive of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, and is President of the Board of the Edmonton Children's Choir.

Available now

DAVID J. GOA

The Christian Responsibility to Muslims

OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE
CHESTER RONNING CENTRE
III

These firsthand vignettes of the author's experience of Christian-Muslim relations in Canada are a timely contribution as refugees reach our country.

Copies can be ordered
through the Augustana
Bookstore by calling
780-679-1139

Calendar of Coming Events - Fall 2015

For up-to-date information where details are not complete, please check the Ronning Centre website or call 780 679 1146

Philosophers' Café Series Edmonton

A Pot-pourri of Ideas

All Sessions Saturdays 1-3:30 p.m.
at Steeps, The Urban Tea House
11116 - 82nd (Whyte) Avenue
Edmonton

3 Oct The Challenges That Aboriginal
Therapies Pose for Western
(Allopathic) Medicine (Animateur: Earle
Waugh)

17 Oct Poverty and Doing Something
About It (Animateurs: Gloria Chalmers and
Jeff Bisanz)

31 Oct Hardliners of the World, Unite
to Kill a Deal! Iran after the Nuclear
Deal (Animateur: Mojtaba Mahdavi)

14 Nov Iconoclasm, the Destruction of
Memory, and Why the Past Ought to Be
Present (Animateur: David Goa)

28 Nov From Fractured Conversation
to
the New Economy (Animateurs: Rajan
Rathnavalu and Hans Asfeldt)

12 Dec Transforming Health in the Face
of Demographic Change and Resource
Scarcity (Animateur: Carl Amrhein)

SEPTEMBER

Politics & Planning in Cities of Conflict: The Case of Jerusalem

A Ronning Centre Lecture with Distinguished

Visiting Fellow Moshe Amirav

Friday, 11 September, 11:00 am

Room L116, The King's University
9125 – 50 Street NW, Edmonton

The Role of Jerusalem: Religious Perspectives

A Ronning Centre Lecture with Distinguished

Visiting Fellow Moshe Amirav

Friday, 11 September, 2:00 pm

Epp Conference Room (2-004)
Augustana Campus, Camrose

Buried. Alive.

"International Year of the Soil" Event

Conversations in the Agora with Artist

Betty Spackman

Wednesday, 16 September, 12:00–1:30 pm

Ronning House, 4606 – 49 Street, Camrose

A light lunch will be served.

Soil and Spirit

"International Year of the Soil" Event

Conversations in the Agora with Artist

Symeon van Donkelaar

Wednesday, 23 September, 12:00–1:30 pm

Ronning House, 4606 – 49 Street, Camrose

A light lunch will be served.

The Unfinished Project of the Arab Spring: Why "Middle East Exceptionalism" Is Still Wrong

An International Conference

(The Ronning Centre is one of the sponsors.)

25–27 September

University of Alberta, Edmonton

For schedule and conference information, see:

⟨upasconference.wordpress.com⟩

Calendar of Coming Events - Fall 2015

For up-to-date information where details are not complete, please check the Ronning Centre website or call 780 679 1146

OCTOBER

The Challenge That Aboriginal Therapies Pose for Western (Allopathic) Medicine

A Philosophers' Café animated by Earle Waugh

Saturday, 3 October, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

Poverty and Doing Something About It

A Philosophers' Café animated by Gloria Chalmers and Jeff Bisanz

Saturday, 17 October, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

Hardliners of the World, Unite to Kill a Deal! Iran after the Nuclear Deal

A Philosophers' Café animated by Mojtaba Mahdavi, University of Alberta Political Science

Saturday, 31 October, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

NOVEMBER

Remembering Palmyra: A Reflection on the Cult of Sacrifice and Human Memory

Conversations in the Agora with David Goa

Wednesday, 4 November, 12:00–1:30pm

Ronning House, 4606 – 49 Street, Camrose

A light lunch will be served.

Eating Our Way to Peace

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Thursday, 12 November, 10:50 am–12:05 pm

Epp Conference Room (2-004)

Augustana Campus, Camrose

Table Manners

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Thursday, 12 November, 7:00–8:30 pm

Library 2-102

Augustana Campus, Camrose

Eating Our Way to Peace

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 10:00 am

Room N109, The King's University
9125 – 50 Street NW, Edmonton

Agrarian Human Nature

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 3:00–4:00 pm

Epp Conference Room (2-004)
Augustana Campus, Camrose

Making Peace with the Land

A Ronning Centre Conference made possible by The Friends of Spirit of the Land

13–14 November

For information see:

⟨spiritoftheland.ca⟩

Becoming Rooted in the Land

The Augustana Distinguished Lecture with Norman Wirzba

Friday, 13 November, 7:00 pm

Keynote open to all conference attendees and also open to the public for a \$10 fee.

See ⟨spiritoftheland.ca⟩ for tickets.

Chapel, Faith & Life Centre
Augustana Campus, Camrose

Calendar of Coming Events - Fall 2015

For up-to-date information where details are not complete, please check the Ronning Centre website or call 780 679 1146

Iconoclasm, the Destruction of Memory, and Why the Past Ought to Be Present

A Philosophers' Café animated by David Goa

Saturday, 14 November, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

An Open Conversation on the Papal Encyclical Laudato Si'

A Ronning Centre Conversation animated by David Goa

Thursday, 19 November, 7:00–9:00 pm

St Francis Xavier

5010 48A Ave Camrose

Pluralism and Public Religion:

A Partnership with Turkey

Conversations in the Agora with David Goa

Wednesday, 25 November, 12:00–1:30pm

Ronning House, 4606 – 49 Street, Camrose

A light lunch will be served.

From Fractured Conversation to the New Economy

A Philosophers' Café animated by Rajan Rathnavalu and Hans Asfeldt

Saturday, 28 November, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

DECEMBER

Hardliners of the World: Unite to Kill a Deal! Iran after the Nuclear Deal

Conversations in the Agora with Mojtaba Mahdavi

Wednesday, 2 December, 12:00–1:30pm

Ronning House, 4606 – 49 Street, Camrose

A light lunch will be served.

Transforming Healthcare in in an Age of Demographic Transition and Fiscal Restraint

A Philosophers' Café animated by Carl Amrhein

Saturday, 12 December, 1:00–3:30 pm

Steeps, 11116 – 82 Ave, Edmonton

*For the latest information and updates,
see the Ronning Centre website:*

augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning

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We have endeavoured to make this list as accurate as possible.

Please accept our apologies if your name has been omitted or misspelled and please let us know so we may correct our records.



THE CHESTER RONNING CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND PUBLIC

University of Alberta, Augustana Campus | 4901 46 Ave Camrose AB T4V 2R3 | 780.679.1558

www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning

OUR PURPOSE is to cultivate a deep understanding of issues and themes at the intersection of religion, faith and public life and to do so in the public sphere and in religious spheres.

OUR MISSION is to nurture a hospitable context that brings forward the finest thinking of women and men of faith and the depth and texture of their traditions in conversation with public intellectuals and various secular ideologies on the nature and shape of public life in our age of pluralism.

OUR GOALS are to focus the work of scholars on issues and themes where religion, faith and public life intersect and to nurture the public conversation as well as religious understanding of these issues and themes through:

- interdisciplinary research and publications shaping a new community of scholars and public intellectuals;
- thoughtful and ethical reflections which draw on religious sources associated with human rights, our care for the life of the world and our understanding of difference;
- expanding and communicating an understanding of the vital role of religious perspectives and their complex sources as they are brought to bear on public discourse in our communities;
- deepening the understanding within religious communities of the fragile and complex nature of the public sphere in a pluralistic society.



With your gift to the *Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life*, you become an honoured member of the **Friends of the Chester Ronning Centre**, connecting you to information and updates about the centre.

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- ☐ Ronning Centre Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment
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THE CHESTER RONNING CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE focuses its work on a set of issues and themes that demand our attention whether or not we are religious. We invite you to become a *Friend of the Centre* and join the table of hospitality that brings depth and texture to the discussion of vital questions on points where religion, faith and public life intersect.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gifts to the Ronning Centre have direct impact on the depth and breadth of the program we are able to offer each year. Gifts pledged over time help to stabilize our funding and plan into the future by providing us with the security we need to engage speakers, support research and publications and to expand our reach into the communities we seek to inform.

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Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

BUILDING TOWARD THE FUTURE

The Ronning Centre Distinguished Visiting Fellows Endowment provides the Centre with a nimble way of bringing creative thinking on current issues and themes into its work. The fellowships will attract scholars as well as public intellectuals to contribute thoughtfully and constructively to the discussion of the complex themes. James and Sonja Hendrickson in a challenge to our community, continue their pledge to match gifts to this endowment.

"It is our hope that others will value the work of the Centre and join us in this effort so the endowment can grow to its full potential." — James & Sonja Hendrickson

The Ronning Centre Student Internships provide opportunities for Augustana students to work directly with Centre staff on research projects and program development, expanding their knowledge and understanding while developing the sensitive skill set needed by the next generation of scholars and public intellectuals to engage in the many demanding issues of religion and public life in restorative ways.

The Ronning Centre Annual Fund and Friends publications enhance the ongoing work of the Centre making it possible for many to learn and contribute to the understanding of religious perspectives on public life and public understanding of religious perspectives.

To find out how you can be a part of this visionary endowment and for information on matching funding please contact:

Bonita Anderson
Director of Development
University of Alberta
Augustana Campus
1-800-590-9992 ext. 1183
or 780-679-1183
bonita.anderson@ualberta.ca



Photo of Chester Ronning with a young Queen Elizabeth, courtesy of the Noel and Wendy Cassidy Collection.

Celebrating the launch of recent publications



See pages 2 and 16 for information about the publications and how to order them.