

Society for Values in Higher Education

Views and Values



Executive Director's Corner

Hard to believe that we're only a couple of months away from our annual summer meeting!

For the first time in many years, we're heading all the way out to the West Coast and will be hosted by the University of Washington. The university and Seattle have so much to offer, and the program is impressive. As usual, the Morning Group Seminars form the heart and soul of our gathering. We have the usual group of popular offerings as well as a couple of new ones. The opportunity to take the time for an extended conversation across four days is a real treat. These are compelling and invigorating experiences.

But there is much more to look forward to at the meeting in Seattle. We have two prominent plenary speakers, Sophia Pandya (California State University Long Beach) and Philip Gorski (Yale University). Both will be addressing the theme of the conference, Freedom, Power, and Personal Identity in American Pluralism. We'll also have several scholars presenting their work on the theme during afternoon Working Groups and we'll be facilitating another National Issues Forum discussion on Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome, What Should We Do?. And, of course, there will be plenty of time for socializing with old friends and making new ones.

As usual, we're leaving Friday evening free of programming so attendees can enjoy the city. We have a group heading to the Seattle Mariners baseball game that night, and still have a couple of tickets left. If you'd like to join us, just contact me (bain-selbo@svhe.org).

If you have not registered for the meeting yet, what are you waiting for?!? Don't forget, the early bird deadline is June 1. See you in Seattle!



Freedom, Power, and Personal Identity in American Pluralism
94th Annual Fellows Meeting
July 18-22, 2018
University of Washington - Seattle
[Register Now!](#)

Mary Jo Small Fellows

It was a competitive year for the Mary Jo Small Fellows program! Please welcome the following Scholars and new SVHE members.

Roxana Cazan is an Assistant Professor of English at Saint Francis University in Pennsylvania. She specializes in Comparative Ethnic and Post-Colonial Studies, and Creative Writing.

Forrest Deacon is completing his PhD in Politics with a concentration in Political Theory at the New School for Social Research in New York.

Christina Romero-Ivanova is an acting Assistant Professor of Education at Indiana University Kokomo. Her research interests include Narrative Inquiry/Stories, Digital Storytelling, and Women's Silencing, among others.

Joshua Mugg is a permanent lecturer at Indiana University Kokomo. He received his PhD in Philosophy from York University specializing in Philosophy of the Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, and Philosophy of Religion.

Rosemary Roper is an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and Associate Director of the MSU-Sparrow Family Medicine Residency Program. She is also a Family Physician.

Mary Jo Small Scholars

We also have 3 Mary Jo Small Scholars. The new MJS Scholars program is for MJS Fellows who haven't attended a meeting since their Fellowship year. The MJS Scholars are invited to return to a meeting and agree to contribute to the Society in some way, through participating in projects, leading a group at the FM, and writing for Forum, among others.

This year's MJS Scholars include:

Anne Blankeship (MJS 2015) is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at North Dakota State University.

Olivia Pethel (MJS 2017) is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Saint Francis University in Pennsylvania, specializing in Adult Development and Aging.

Katherine Jo (MJS 2016) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Education Policy at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Help us grow this program and Society membership by clicking [here](#) to donate to this program! Simply enter "Mary Jo Small" in the designated box and your contribution will go to this great project!

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Auction!

The wonderful Laura Bain-Selbo has agreed to organize the Auction again this year after a resounding success last year! Thanks to the generosity of Cathy Bao Bean and Bennett Bean, we will once again have the Pottery Lottery, with a prize of one of Bennetts's famous pieces. Can you offer up a vacation home for a weekend or a week? Let Laura know so she can start sharing the information and putting together a slide show. Vacation places make great live auction items!

Bring items to donate, money to spend, and an extra bag for your haul.

Contact Laura at lbainselbo@gmail.com



National Issues Forum

Coming to America: Who Should We Welcome, What should We Do?

National Issues Forums (NIF) is a nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored public forums for the consideration of public policy issues. It is rooted in the simple notion that people need to come together to reason and talk—to deliberate about common problems. These forums, organized by a variety of organizations, groups, and individuals, offer citizens the opportunity to join together to deliberate, to make choices with others about ways to approach difficult issues and to work toward creating reasoned public judgment. At our meeting this summer, we will consider the issue of immigration which affects virtually every American, directly or indirectly, often in deeply personal ways. This forum materials are designed to help people deliberate together about how we should approach the issue. The three options presented reflect different ways of understanding what is at stake and force us to think about what matters most to us when we face difficult problems that involve all of us and that do not have perfect solutions. More information is available [here](#).

About Seattle - Books to Read, Movies to Watch

Sleepless in the Seattle - Split between Seattle and Baltimore, this romantic comedy features Seattle's floating homes located in Lake Union along with other famous landmarks.

It Happened at the Worlds Fair - Elvis sings, dances, and romances at the 1962 World's Fair where the object of his affections tells him to "go back up the Space Needle and jump off!"

Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford is the story of half-Chinese Ernest Young, a charity student, who is raffled off at Seattle's 1909 World's Fair. The winning ticket belongs to the madam of a high-class brothel. Ernest becomes the new houseboy and befriends Maisie, the madam's daughter, and a bold scullery maid named Fahn. Fifty years later, in the shadow of Seattle's second World's Fair, Ernest struggles to help his ailing wife while trying to keep family secrets hidden from their grown-up daughters. The novel features parts of Seattle history long lost.

Skid Road: An Informal Portrait of Seattle by Murray Morgan is a popular look at local history that is as entertaining as it is informative.

Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing Over Place by Coll Thrush restores often marginalized indigenous people of Seattle to their to their complex central role in the area's past.

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FM 2018

Plenary Speakers

Wednesday, July 18, 2018 7:00pm

Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle

Sophia Pandya

“The War Took us Backwards: Women’s Activism in Yemen post Arab Spring”

Sophia Pandya, Professor of Religious Studies at California State University, Long Beach, examines the potential and consequences of women activism in Yemen, during the Arab Spring and subsequent (ongoing) war. In 2011, for the first time, thousands of Yemeni women took to the streets, voices raised and fists in the air, in order to overthrow the Saleh regime, increase women’s political participation, and limit the power of religious conservatives. Indeed, women activists framed their gendered demands as part of a larger call for access to health care, education, employment, power sharing, and the safeguarding of individual human rights. For a period, Yemen’s Arab Spring created profound optimism that barriers could be raised for women’s engagement at every level of society, including government. Since then, many Yemeni gender activists have expressed deep disappointment with the outcome of their efforts; any gains made have been threatened by the brutal war, rising religious conservatism, and patriarchal attempts to “reorder” the social fabric. This talk sheds light on the “disorder” and “reordering” of gender roles during political conflict, exploring under which conditions women’s activism in Yemen might lead to lasting change.

Dr. Sophia Pandya is a Professor of Religious Studies at California State University Long Beach with a focus on women, religion and globalization. She is the author of the book Muslim Women and Islamic Resurgence: Religion, Education and Identity Politics in Bahrain, and was the co-editor of The Gulen Hizmet Movement and Its Transnational Activities: Case Studies of Altruistic Activism in Contemporary Islam.



Thursday, July 19, 2018 7:00pm

Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle

Philip S. Gorski

“In Search of our Better Angels: A Brief History of American Civil Religion”

Our present polarization has many causes. One is the long-running battle between those who believe that the United States was founded as a secular democracy and those who believe it was established as a Christian nation. In his talk, Philip Gorski, Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at Yale University, argues that our founding tradition was a synthesis of both sacred and secular sources. He traces the history of this civil religious tradition from Puritan times through to the present day, reflects on how it might help heal our political divisions and concludes with some immodest proposals for repairing our torn social fabric.

Philip S. Gorski is a Professor of Sociology and the Co-Director of Yale’s Center for Comparative Research. His empirical work focuses on topics such as state-formation, nationalism, revolution, economic development and secularization with particular attention to the interaction of religion and politics. He is the author of American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present and The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Growth of State Power in Early Modern Europe



FM 2018

Morning Seminars

Celebrating the Search

Celebrating the Search explores the many areas in the spiritual life that fascinate and baffle us and searches to find new ways to talk about spiritual growth. Already committed to share this year are David Dornan who will talk about the spirituality of mountain climbing, Ellen Maher who will share some lessons she’s learned in retirement, and Trudy Cunningham who hopes to share on behalf of Carol. They are still looking for a couple of people willing to present. Though the group has been meeting for years, all are welcome! Contact [Sandy](#) at the office if you would like to share.

**Carol Ochs, convener of this group, is sad to share that she will not be able to join us in Seattle. This will be the first meeting she has not been able to attend in over 30 years. She asked that I share that she will miss everyone.*

Historical Fiction

The Historical Fiction Morning Group will discuss four novels this summer. Janet Edwards will lead off with a discussion of Anthony Trollope’s *Can You Forgive Her?* Tom Stockdale will then moderate a discussion of George Saunders’ *Lincoln in the Bardo*, considered by many critics to be one of the best books of 2017. David Dornan will lead a discussion of Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*, a central work in the Native American canon, and we will conclude the group with discussion of Wendell Berry’s *Hannah Coulter* facilitated by Joel Cunningham.

Convener: Mary Papke - papke@utk.edu.

Exploring Seattle

Interested in visiting some of Seattle’s attractions? This group will meet and head into the city via light rail to landmarks such as the Space Needle and Pike’s Place Market. Let us know if you have any suggestions for what you’d like to see. Participants will be responsible for their own costs.

Convener: Jeremiah Howard – society@svhe.org



FM 2018

Pop Culture

The Pop Culture Morning Seminar examines the values that are presented, and received, through every imaginable form of popular culture, from broadcast television to video games, from pot boilers to heavy metal.

This year, in keeping with the conference theme, we are addressing freedom, power and personal identity as depicted, and as created, by pop culture. Please note – this group's participants will prepare a 10-minute presentation for the Sunday session.

- 1) Eric Ecklund (associate professor, Saint Francis University) will be leading the group in exploring Ada Palmer's debut 2016 science fiction novel *Too Like the Lightning*. Professor Palmer (University of Chicago) introduces the reader to a richly detailed future (set in 2454) in which changes in concepts of political affiliation, nation/state loyalties, religion, and gender identity create an apparently peaceful utopian world teetering on the brink of dystopian dissolution.
- 2) Melissa Houghton (executive director, Women in Film and Video) will guide the group in a discussion of gender and objectification in film and television.
- 3) The group will do a field trip to the Museum of Pop Culture, to dive into some of Marvel's most beloved characters – like Spider-Man, Black Panther, and Doctor Strange - and their connection to and impact on issues of gender, race and mental illness.
- 4) Each participant will prepare a 10-minute presentation on the general theme as reflected in their pop culture of choice.

Preparation - Attendees are asked to:

- 1) Read *Too Like Lightening* (and encouraged to read the second and third books in the soon-to-be four book Terra Ignota series) and come ready to discuss the implications of this future society to our own turbulent present. Attendees may want to visit [Professor Palmer's site](#) and this [interview](#) for a deeper background on its exceptionally gifted author.
- 2) Gender homework is TBD
- 3) Watch and read
 - a. Black Panther (2018 film) and [http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/T'Challa_\(Earth-616\)](http://marvel.wikia.com/wiki/T'Challa_(Earth-616))
 - b. Doctor Strange (2016 film) and [http://marvel.com/universe/Doctor_Strange_\(Stephen_Strange\)](http://marvel.com/universe/Doctor_Strange_(Stephen_Strange))
- 4) Present 10 minutes on an example, in the pop culture genre of your choice, where a plurality of identities actuality strengthens or reinforces collective/national identities.

Convener: Judy Meschel - meschelja@aol.com

Theorizing Culture

This year the group will be exploring the deeper philosophical and historical dimensions of the concept of personal identity. We will focus on chapters from Gerald Izenberg's *Identity: The Necessity of a Modern Idea* and Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons*. Izenberg traces the historical development of contemporary concepts of personal identity. He argues that while these concepts are not simply given as facts that we discover through introspection, they do have an objective foundation in our lives as social beings. Parfit argues that many of our passionately held beliefs about identity are false and that they distort our ethical judgments and our self-understanding. Participants should get the Parfit book on their own, but electronic copies of select chapters from Izenberg will be provided to all participants.

Conveners: Allen Dunn - ardunn@utk.edu and Eric Bain-Selbo - ebainsel@iu.edu.

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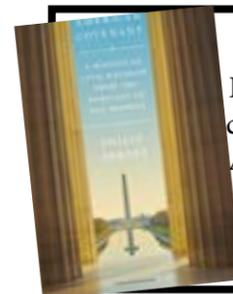
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Vital Center

Discussions will center on the role of civil religion in fostering civility in public discourse. The group will be considering arguments put forth by Philip Gorski in his book *American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present*.

Conveners: John Wilsey - johndwilsey@gmail.com and David Stewart - david.stewart@csulb.edu

**Values Driven Teaching Workshop**

Interested in exploring teaching methods grounded in fundamental values that drive your teaching? Want to receive honest feedback from your peers on your teaching strategies without the pressure of career evaluation? Excited about sharing teaching ideas with an interdisciplinary group of higher education instructors from institutions across the country? Need an excuse to justify conference travel? Participants in the Value-Driven Teaching Workshop will engage with practical pedagogical skills based on the fundamental values that drive their teaching, including:

- Values-Driven Pedagogy: Participants will discover the values that inform their teaching and how to capitalize on those values in their teaching
- Practical Pedagogical Skills: Participants will learn, share, and evaluate ready-to-use pedagogical techniques
- Teaching Practice: Participants will have the opportunity to practice a particular teaching skill in a low stakes, collegial setting
- Presentation Opportunity: Participants will share ideas, expertise, and experiences
- Peer Feedback: Participants will receive feedback on their teaching from supportive peers in a low pressure, interdisciplinary setting
- Certificate of Completion: Participants will receive a certificate certifying their successful completion of the workshop
- Free book: Participants will receive a complimentary copy of the book *Small Teaching* by James Lang

Convener: Melanie Howard - melanie.howard@fresno.edu

Please note Melanie's email address was incorrectly listed as @valpo.edu in the print versions of the registration packet.

**Writing Memory, Writing Life: The Crafting of Bio-Poetry**

Historical, subversive, surreal, postcard, polaroid, embodied: bio-poetry or the poetry of identity can be deceptive, tough, and magically accessible. We all wonder who we are or who we were at different moments of our lives, in order to understand where we are going or what we can produce. Instead of trying to pin down this elusive form, we will examine several manifestations of it in order to expand our notion of what is possible in a bio-poem. We will play with appearance, discover potential source materials, and generate our own poems that bridge the ordinary and the extraordinary.

Convener: Roxana Cazan - rcazan@francis.edu

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FM 2018

And the rest...

Working Groups-

Groups composed of respondents to our Call for Papers will meet in the afternoon on Thursday and Friday. These groups provide scholars with an opportunity to present their work in a supportive, collaborative setting. All are welcome to come, listen, and respond to the work of these members who have a particular interest in our theme.

Interest Groups

The FM will have the usual afternoon interest group offerings. The Womens Group, Poetry Circle, and LGBTQI+ will all meet during the meeting. Howard Carter will also lead two Qigong sessions. There is always room for more interest groups! Contact the office if you'd like to start one!

Please note, Carol Ochs who usually leads God Wretsliing is unable to attend this year.

Please let Sandy know if you ar interested in substituting for Carol this year so the group can continue.

Socials

As always there will be ample opportunities to socialize! This year we will have an opening event, including dinner, to kick-off the conference and, for the first time, dinner will be served at the Auction!

Children's Program

Once again we're making plans to get the kids to experience some of what makes the FM location unique. This year, they can expect to visit the Space Needle and Pioneer Square and maybe get out on one of the many bodies of water surrounding Seattle. As always, good walking shoes, sunscreen, and swimsuits are needed.

**Board of Directors**

We'd like to congratulate new Board members, Art Small, Edward Carson, Eric Ecklund, and returning member, Julie Phillips. They will begin their terms on July 22. A huge thanks to outgoing Board members, Margie Jones, Amy Berger, and Sylvia McTague for their service to the Board and the Society.

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