

## **2025 Corcoran Chair Conference**

### **Responding to Crisis: Reparative Reasoning in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

How do Abrahamic traditions respond to societal and religious crises? Conference sessions will examine such issues as climate change, sexual abuse, and dangerous technologies. Participants will raise such questions as: What religious groups lead efforts to address such crises? What assumptions and beliefs guide them? What skills and methods do they bring to this work? And what processes of investigation, reasoning, reflection, and testing can assess this work?

#### Corcoran Conference Panelists

Lisa Sowle Cahill (Boston College)

Boyd Taylor Coolman (Boston College)

Nauman Faizi (LUMS, The Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Kevin L. Hughes (Villanova University)

Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (Boston College)

Ruth Langer (Boston College)

Seyd Zainuddin Moulvi (University of Virginia)

Paul Murray (Durham University)

Peter Ochs (Boston College / University of Virginia)

Stephen Pope (Boston College)

Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)

Randi Rashkover (William & Mary)

Matthew Tapie (Saint Leo University)

Jason Welle (Boston College)

Laurie Zoloth (The University of Chicago)

**Sunday, April 6, 2025  
1:00 - 6:00 PM  
Murray Room, Yawkey Center**

- 1:00 PM      Welcome  
                Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (Boston College)
- 1:10 PM      Opening Remarks  
                Peter Ochs (Boston College / University of Virginia)

**Session 1:  
The Crisis of Techne Beyond the Limits of Human Control and Human Knowing**

Chair: Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (Boston College)

- 1:15 PM      Laurie Zoloth (The University of Chicago)  
                The Crisis of Techne and the End of the World
- 1:45 PM      Lisa Sowle Cahill (Boston College)  
                Crises, Contexts, and Convictions: Getting from Impasse to Hope
- 2:15 PM      Peter Ochs (Boston College / University of Virginia)  
                Response: Finite and Non-finite Problems, Finite and Non-finite Reasonings
- 2:30 PM      Discussion
- 3:00 PM      *Break*

**Session 2:  
The Problem of Abuse and Violence and the Question of Catholic Theological Repair**

Chair: Randi Rashkover (William & Mary)

- 3:30 PM AM   Paul D. Murray (Durham University)  
                A Pragmatist Take on Catholic Theological Repair in the Light of the Abuse Crisis
- 4:00 PM      Matthew Tapie (Saint Leo University)  
                The Mortara Family's Interpretation of Thomas Aquinas's Defense of Jewish Parental Rights
- 4:30 PM      Stephen Pope (Boston College)  
                Response
- 4:45 PM      Discussion
- 5:15 PM      *Reception – All are invited.*
- 6:00 PM      *Dinner for conference presenters, session chairs, and special guests.*

**Monday, April 7, 2025**  
**9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**  
**Murray Room, Yawkey Center**

9:00 AM      *Coffee*

**Session 3**  
**Narratives of Destruction and Signs of Repair:**  
**The Legacy of Colonialism and the Crisis of Climate Change in South Asia**

Chair: Jason Welle (Boston College)

9:30 AM      Zain Moulvi (University of Virginia)  
Theologizing Destruction: Hope in the Times of Ecocide

10:00 AM      Nauman Faizi (LUMS, The Lahore University of Management Sciences)  
Making Sense of Colonial Modernity: Scripturalist Reform in South Asia

10:30 AM      Randi Rashkover (William & Mary)  
Response: Crises and Institutional Settings: Examining the Contexts of Hope and Repair

10:45 AM      Discussion

11:15 AM      *Break*

11:30 AM      *Lunch - All are welcome.*

**Session 4**  
**Premodern Paradigms of Repair:**  
**Theology and Poetics in Response to Crisis**

Chair: Ruth Langer (Boston College)

12:30 PM      Kevin L. Hughes (Villanova University)  
Scripture's Superabundance and the Repair of Scholastic Reasoning

1:00 PM      Boyd Taylor Coolman (Boston College)  
Response to Kevin L. Hughes

1:15 PM      Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)  
Poetry as Repair: Crises of Interpretation in Persian Literary Traditions

1:45 PM      Discussion

2:15 PM      Closing Remarks  
Peter Ochs

## **Panelist Biographies**

### **Lisa Sowle Cahill (Boston College)**

Lisa Sowle Cahill is the J. Donald Monan Professor in the Department of Theology at Boston College. She previously served as president of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Society of Christian Ethics. Her research interests include method in theological ethics, bioethics, social ethics, common good and globalization, and Catholic social teaching.

### **Boyd Taylor Coolman (Boston College)**

An historical theologian of medieval Catholic theology, Boyd Taylor Coolman's research interests lie in the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, with a focus on the Victorine and early Franciscan traditions, on the emergence of scholastic theology, and on medieval mystical theologies.

### **Nauman Faizi (LUMS, The Lahore University of Management Sciences)**

Nauman Faizi is an Associate Professor of Religion at LUMS University, Pakistan. His research interests include philosophy of religion, hermeneutics, semiotics, and modern Islamic thought. He is the author of *God, Science, and Self*, a book that offers an epistemological analysis of modernist Islamic thought by examining Muhammad Iqbal's *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*. He is currently working on early 20th century South Asian Muslim Modernist thought as a site that takes the world as severely broken and in need of urgent repair.

### **Kevin L. Hughes (Villanova University)**

Kevin L. Hughes is Professor of Historical Theology and Spirituality at Villanova University. His research interests are in medieval theology and spirituality, mystical theology, and contemplative practice. He is the author of *Church History: Faith Handed On* and *Constructing Antichrist: Paul, Biblical Commentary, and the Development of Doctrine in the Early Middle Ages*.

### **Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (Boston College)**

Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski is the Kraft Family Professor and Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning. He is a scholar of Jewish-Christian relations and comparative theology and the author of *The More Torah, The More Life: A Christian Commentary on Mishnah Avot* and *Christian Memories of the Maccabean Martyrs*. His research interests include Jewish-Christian relations ancient and modern, comparative theology, the intersection of anti-Judaism and racism, and Anglican theologies of religion.

### **Ruth Langer (Boston College)**

Ruth Langer is Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department at Boston College and Associate Director of its Center for Christian-Jewish Learning. She received her Ph.D. in Jewish Liturgy and her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. Her scholarship addresses two primary areas: the development of Jewish liturgy and ritual from antiquity to today; and Christian-Jewish relations. She is the author of *Cursing the Christians?: A History of the Birkat HaMinim, To Worship God Properly: Tensions between Liturgical Custom and Halakhah in Judaism*, and *Jewish Liturgy: A Guide to Research*.

### **Zain Moulvi (University of Virginia)**

Zain Moulvi is a doctoral candidate in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia and Director at the Alternative Law Collective (ALC), a Pakistan based firm specializing in environmental law and climate advocacy. His firm assists climate affected communities struggling for a just energy transition in Pakistan. His advocacy brings together resources from indigenous knowledge traditions, folk poetry, and theological texts to address climate injustices in multireligious settings. His doctoral research focuses on the exegetical and political works of South Asian Muslim thinkers attempting to negotiate the relationship between colonial modernity and Islamic legal and philosophical traditions.

### **Paul D. Murray (Durham University)**

Paul D. Murray is Professor of Systematic Theology within the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, where he was also the founding-Director of the Centre for Catholic Studies (2007-2024). He is the initiator of Receptive Ecumenism. From 2011-2018 he was a member of the Anglican–Roman Catholic International Commission and continues to serve as a Consultor to the Commission. He has also served as a Consultor to the former Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. His current monograph projects are: *Healing the Wounds of the Church: The Theology and Practice of Receptive Ecumenism*; and *Catholicism Transfigured: Conceiving Change in the Church*. In January 2024 he was installed as a non-residentiary Ecumenical Canon of Durham Cathedral.

### **Peter Ochs (Boston College / University of Virginia)**

Peter Ochs is the Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia and the 2024-2025 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations at Boston College. He completed his PhD at Yale University and his MA in Jewish Thought at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His research focuses include Jewish philosophy and theology, Comparative Jewish-Christian-Muslim studies, and Abrahamic “Scriptural Reasoning.” Among his recent books are *Religion Without Violence: The Practice and Philosophy of Scriptural Reasoning*; and *Reparative Reasoning: Lessons from the Works of Hasdai Crescas, David Halivni, and Scriptural Reasoning* .

### **Stephen Pope (Boston College)**

Stephen J. Pope is a Professor of Theological Ethics at Boston College, where he teaches courses on the virtues, justice, peace, and reconciliation. He received his BA in philosophy from Gonzaga University and his MA and Ph.D. in theological ethics from the University of Chicago. His publications include *Human Evolution and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), and *A Step Along the Way: Models of Christian Service* (Orbis, 2015). He is currently working on a book project entitled, *God’s Love and Ours: A Christian Ethic of Forgiveness*. He has volunteered for over fifteen years for the Catholic chaplain’s office in a medium security prison in Massachusetts and has been working on post-conflict reconciliation projects with Jesuit Refugee Service in northern Uganda and elsewhere.

### **Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)**

As a Fulbright scholar, Ilma Qureshi earned her Master’s degree in 2017 and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Her research

broadly encompasses Islamic intellectual history, Sufism, Qur'anic exegesis, and South Asian literary traditions, with a particular focus on the pre-modern Persianate world.

### **Randi Rashkover (William & Mary)**

Randi Rashkover is the Gumenick Professor of Judaic Studies, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Judaic Studies at William & Mary. She is the author of three monographs: *Revelation and Theopolitics: Barth, Rosenzweig and the Politics of Praise* (2005), *Freedom and Law: A Jewish-Christian Apologetics* (2011) and *Nature and Norm: Judaism, Christianity and the Theopolitical Problem* (2020). She is also the editor of several edited volumes including, *Judaism, Liberalism and Political Theology* (2015) and *Signs of Salvation: A Festschrift in Honor of Peter Ochs* (2021). Dr. Rashkover is the senior editor of the *Journal of Textual Reasoning* and sits on the editorial board of the journal of *Modern Theology* and the *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*.

### **Matthew Tapie (Saint Leo University)**

Matthew Tapie is Associate Professor of Theology, and Director of the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida. His teaching and research interests are in the thought of Thomas Aquinas, Judaism and Christian theology, and Catholic-Jewish relations. He is the author of *Aquinas on Israel and the Church* and the co-editor of *Reading Scripture as a Political Act: Essays on the Theopolitical Interpretation of the Bible* and *The Business of War: Theological and Ethical Reflections on the Military-Industrial Complex*. He is Series Editor of the Judaism and Catholic Theology series with The Catholic University of America Press. In 2016, he was appointed to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust.

### **Jason Welle (Boston College)**

Jason Welle is Assistant Professor of Comparative Theology at Boston College. He holds a Ph.D. from Georgetown University and previously taught and served as Director of Studies at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Rome. His research interests focus on Muslim-Christian relations, particularly in the medieval period, on Islamic mysticism, and on the Franciscan intellectual tradition. He is the author of *Companionship and Virtue in Classical Sufism: The Contribution of al-Sulamī* (I.B. Tauris, 2024).

### **Laurie Zoloth (The University of Chicago)**

Laurie Zoloth holds the Margaret E. Burton Chair of Religion and Ethics at the University of Chicago, where she has served as Dean of the Divinity School and Senior Advisor to the Provost on Social Ethics. She has a distinguished career as a bioethicist and scholar of Jewish ethics, writing or editing 10 books, and over 350 articles. She was both President of the American Academy of Religion and President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. She is one of the founding members of the Society for Scriptural Reasoning. Her most recent books are *Second Texts and Second Opinions: Essays toward a Jewish Bioethics* and *Ethics for the Coming Storm: Climate Change and Jewish Thought*, both from Oxford University Press, and *May We Make the World?: Gene Drives, Malaria, and the Future of Nature*, from MIT.

## **The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College**

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning is devoted to the multifaceted development and implementation of new relationships between Christians and Jews that are based, not merely on toleration, but on full respect and mutual enrichment. The building of new, positive relationships between Christians and Jews requires sustained collaborative research. Under the Center's auspices, scholars and thinkers representing diverse Christian and Jewish perspectives engage in intense and ongoing study of all aspects of our related yet distinct traditions of faith and culture.

[www.bc.edu/cjlearning](http://www.bc.edu/cjlearning)

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