

Challenging Narratives

Implicit Religion US Conference Programme

28-29th May 2026, Online - CST

Welcome to the USA Implicit Religion Conference. You are welcome and wanted here. The purpose of this conference is to provide a space for students, early career scholars, independent scholars, and marginalised scholars to focus on their work and move it forward. The workshops provide opportunities for training in areas of scholarly work often not covered within graduate school training.

Note: All times below reference North America, Central Standard Time (CST) UTC-5

Thursday 28th May 2026

10:00 AM

THE CONFERENCE OPENS

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MORNING SESSION

10:10 - 10:30 AM

WELCOME

Francis Stewart she/her

Director of the Edward Bailey Centre

Introductions, an overview of Implicit Religion and the intentions and the goals of the U.S. Conference

THE IMPLICIT RELIGION US 2026 KEYNOTE LECTURE

“Implicit Religion and the Narrative Politics of Inclusion.”

10:30 – 11:30 AM

MS. MARWA ABDALLA she/her

Ph.D Candidate & Jacobs Fellow
Department of Communication
University of California, San Diego, U.S.A.

This lecture considers intersectional invisibility experienced in Black Muslim communities and will explore how seemingly progressive and inclusive representations of racialized religious groups often rely on the same stereotypes they seek to disrupt for their very coherence and legibility. It delineates the term “Muslim recuperation” to describe narrative and aesthetic choices and other rhetorical strategies that distance individuals and groups from what gets imagined to be “Islam” as a way of deeming them tolerable to liberal, secular audiences. The lecture will critique these strategies for the way they construct and narrow the terms of inclusion and reinforce negative stereotypes about Islam writ large.

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Chair: Francis Stewart she/her

12:00 – 1:30 PM

MID-DAY BREAK

Thursday 28 May 2025

1:30 – 5:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

PANEL ONE

1:30– 3:00 PM

Chair: **George González** he/him

1:30 – 2:00 PM

Octavio Carrasco he/him

"After Liberation: Moral Injury and the Dachau Reprisals."

2:00 – 2:30 PM

Marceline Parker they/them

"Transness, Deadnames, and the Publick Universal Friend: An Attempt at Preventing Further Gender Violence Against the Friend and Other Genderfuckeries in the Field of History."

2:30 – 3:00 PM

David Dault he/him

"Challenging Narratives: Carrier Bags, Queer Temporalities, and the Politics of Failure."

3:00 – 3:15 PM

BREAK

WORKSHOP

3:15 AM – 4:45 PM

Ipsita Chatterjea she/her

SORAAAD at Implicit Religion

"Manage the Narratives that Intersect with Your Research."

4:45 – 5:00 PM

CONVERSATION AND NETWORKING

Friday 29 May 2025

10:00 AM

THE CONFERENCE OPENS

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM

MORNING SESSIONS

PANEL TWO

10:15 – 11:15 AM

Chair: **Ipsita Chatterjea** she/her

10:15 – 10:45 AM

Simran Sidhu she/her

“Healing, Testimony, and Authority in a Pentecostal Church in Punjab.”

10:45 – 11:15 PM

Amanda Furiasse she/her

“Digital Devotions: Implicit Religion and the Ethics of AI Romance.”

11:15 – 11:30 PM

BREAK

WORKSHOP

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

David Feltmate he/him

Editor in Chief, [Journal of Religion and Popular Culture](#).

“Journal Publication: Demystifying the Process.”

12:30 – 2:00 PM

MID-DAY BREAK

Friday 29 May 2025

2:00 – 4:15 PM

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

PANEL THREE

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Chair: **Octavio Carrasco** he/him

2:00 – 2:30 PM

“**Sarah Obenauer** she/her
“The Three Rs of Care: Chronic Illness and
Implicit Religion in Central Appalachia.”

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Francis Stewart she/her
“Challenging Disability Narratives: Implicit Religion
DIY Punk & Healthcare Outcomes.”

3:00 – 3:15 PM

BREAK

CRITICAL CONVERSATION

3:15 – 4:00 PM

George González he/him
Francis Stewart she/her
“Doing Research in Challenging Times.”

4:00 – 4:15 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Francis Stewart she/her
Publication opportunities;
Implicit Religion US 2027

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING AND CONTRIBUTING TO
THE 2026 IMPLICIT RELIGION US CONFERENCE.