

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
INTERNATIONAL SERMON STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
2024

Conference Theme: “Interfaith Engagement and the Sermon”

Location: Brigham Young University, Provo Utah

Dates: 12-14 September 2024

Submission deadline: 1 February 2024

Interfaith efforts have grown in significance and influence within religious communities worldwide, yet not always in smooth or productive ways. One century ago, in 1924, the British Sociological Society and the London School of Oriental Studies co-hosted a “Conference on Some Living Religions within the Empire” which served as a precursor to the founding of the World Congress of Faiths (1936). The 1924 event was also recognized as a first opportunity for many in Britain to hear and learn directly from non-Christian religious leaders speaking about their faith traditions. The events of the Second World War further encouraged religious communities and leaders to consider how sermons and teachings contributed to an environment of deep religious antagonism. Further, the post-Holocaust realization led to a rethinking of how homilies and sermons can serve as a healing balm to interreligious conflicts. Over the course of the past 75 years, the terms “interfaith” and “interreligious” became markers of commitments to build bridges and cooperative organizations that foster and facilitate dialogue and conversations. Not all traditions have embraced the telos of interfaith efforts, nor have they equally encouraged leaders and lay members to participate in them. This conference seeks to understand how themes related to interfaith principles and projects emerged in sermonic texts, homiletic literature, and other public speeches given by religious leaders or in interreligious settings.

Paper proposals are invited that focus on sermons and homiletic literature that develop themes within the broad category of interfaith engagement. Others may seek to analyze the emergence of interfaith themes and projects in the post-Holocaust world or related to moments of interreligious strife and war in other areas and periods. Topics may examine sermons given within interreligious contexts as well as those that seek to strengthen interreligious community conversations and build upon common values. Some attention may be given to how individuals and institutions encouraged or discouraged participation among adherents. We welcome proposals that address any faith, focused on any time period, and from all areas of the world, but specifically encourage proposals that examine non-Abrahamic traditions.

Please provide the following information in the proposal:

Title of proposed presentation, paper abstract (250-350 words), institutional affiliation, contact information (postal address, email, phone number), and current C.V.

Please submit all proposals to Andrew Reed: andrew_reed@byu.edu

Conference convenors:

Andy Reed, Associate Professor, Brigham Young University

Rachel Cope, Associate Professor, Brigham Young University

To learn more about previous International Sermon Studies Association Conferences, visit [here](#).