

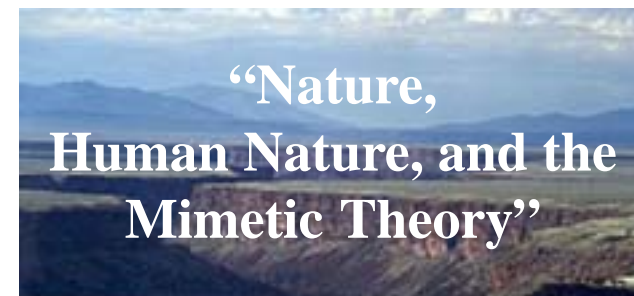


Tour Opportunity

During the week prior to the conference, there will be opportunities to experience the unique natural and cultural setting of Northern New Mexico. Participants will have a low-budget opportunity to visit Taos Pueblo, Chaco Canyon, and Santa Fe. On the morning of Friday, June 4th, there will be an opportunity to tour other attractions in the area, such as the Santuario de Chimayó, The home of Georgia O'Keeffe, and the working ranchlands of Ghost Ranch.



The Colloquium on
Violence and Religion
Annual Conference
June 2-5, 2004



How is human “nature” related to the “natural” world according to the mimetic theory? Can the mimetic theory contribute to the study and appreciation of religions for which nature is the manifestation of the sacred?

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One Education and Retreat Center in Two Locations

The annual conference of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion will be held June 2-5, 2004 at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, a study and conference center of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Featured Speakers

René Girard and Michel Serres

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René Girard, Discoverer/Developer of the Mimetic Theory, studied in Paris at the École des Chartres, an institution for the training of archivists and historians, where he specialized in medieval history. In 1947 he went to Indiana University on a year's fellowship and eventually made almost his entire career in the United States. He completed a PhD in history at Indiana University in 1950 but also began to teach literature, the field in which he would first make his reputation. He taught at Duke University and at Bryn Mawr before becoming a professor at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. In 1971 he went to the State University of New York at Buffalo for five years, returned to Johns Hopkins, and then finished his academic career at Stanford University where he taught between 1981 and his retirement in 1995.

Girard continues to lecture and write and still offers a seminar at Stanford, where he and his wife Martha make their home.

Girard is the author several books, including: *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel: Self and Other in Literature* (Yvonne Freccero, Trans.; Johns Hopkins 1965).

Violence and the Sacred (Patrick Gregory, Trans.; Johns Hopkins 1979)

Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World with Jean-Michel Oughourlian. (Michael Metteer and Stephen Bann, Trans.; Stanford University Press, 1987).

I See Satan Fall Like Lightning. (James Williams Trans.; Orbis, 2001).



Michel Serres, cited as one of the fifty key thinkers of the 20th century (Lethke, 1994), has written extensively on the relationship between human culture and the natural world. His writings include *Rome: The Book of Foundations*, where he documents the sacrificial violence lying at the foundation of Rome, and *The Parasite*, where he examines the French notion of "parasite" (both hanger-on or sponger and static) as the "third" or undesirable other that is to be eliminated... Especially relevant to the theme of COV&R 2004 is his essay on *The Natural Contract* (tr. E. MacArthur and W. Paulson; University of Michigan, 2000). Here is part of the statement about it on the back cover of the English translation: "World history is often referred to as the story of human conflict. That history, according to Serres, must now include the violence humans perpetrate upon the earth and the violence Earth poses to human life in response... Serres sees humanity as a spacecraft that with the help of science and technology has cast off from familiar moorings. Instead we find a network of relations both stranger and stronger than any we have ever known, binding us to one another and to the world. The philosopher's harrowing and joyous task, Serres tells us, that of comprehending and experiencing the bonds of violence and love that unites us in a spacewalk to Mother Earth."

Charles Selengut

Dr. Charles Selengut is professor of Sociology and of Religious Studies at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He is the author of many scholarly studies on the rise of Fundamentalism and New Religious Movements in the Middle East, that foresaw, early on, the advent and intensity of the current strife in Israel and around the globe. Among his latest works are, a monograph on the religious roots of the Muslim/Israeli conflict, and his books, *Jewish Identity in the Post Modern Age* and *The Jewish – Muslim Encounter*, based on an international conference he organized in Europe, which brought scholars from divergent branches of these faiths, face to face. Dr. Selengut was the recipient of an NEH Fellowship at Harvard University and is currently conducting research for a study on apocalyptic Messianism in Israel and the US.

Gregory Cajete

Associate Professor of Education at the University of New Mexico, and a member of the Tewa Santa Clara Pueblo, is the author of *Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence* (Clear Light 1999) and editor of *A People's Ecology: Explorations in Sustainable Living* (1999).

Tito Naranjo

a former professor at New Mexico Highlands University, now teaches Native American studies at The University of New Mexico at Taos. He is the author of the children's story *Day With a Pueblo*.