

Group 3
The God Conference and God as the Parent of Humankind
 Convener: Frank Kaufmann

Group 3				
Name	Hour 1 Theme/Title	Hour 2 Theme/Title	Hour 3 Theme/Title	Hour 4 Theme/Title
	The history of True Parents' impact on Theology and Religious Studies	Theology related to the concept of God as Parent(s)	Theology related to "Pacific Rim Culture"	God and Theology in the Tech Age
Speaker 1	Frank Kaufmann "How Reverend Moon, redefined the religious world 1977 - 1998"	Shrivatsa Goswami "God as Parents, The Hindu Pantheon, and the Teaching of Sun Myung Moon"	Cheryl Lau "World Theology and the Emergence of the Pacific Rim Culture"	Professor Shin Ahn: "New Spirituality and Social Responsibility of Religion in the Cyber Context"
Speaker 2	Charles Selengut: "The Unification Church and its Impact on World Religious Dialogue and Reconciliation."	Professor Jason Wasden : "The Theology of a Member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Regarding our Heavenly Parents"	Donna Ferrantello Romanticism's Oriental Renaissance/Precursors to synthesizing an East-West Theology	Professor Hanoch Ben Pazi of Israel True Dialogue in an Era of Synthetic Conversation: Religious Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence
Commentator (s)				
Moderator				

Global Academic Symposium, February 2 - 7, 2020
Section 3 (God Conference), Hour 1 (The history of True Parents' impact on
Theology and Religious Studies)

This session is dedicated to scholarly reflection on the impact of Reverend Moon's life, teachings, and works, and the impact of Reverend and Mrs. Moon together on two parts of the religious landscape of our time: 1. Theology and religious scholarship, and 2. Global, interreligious relations (including the voluminous religious scholarship arising from this work).

There are at least three ways Reverend Moon and his couple impacted theology and religious scholarship.

1. One comes from their towering investment into the religious academy itself, and their boundless support and encouragement for believing scholars to research and write confidently in the face of the seismic onslaught of relativism in academy.
2. The second way Reverend Moon and the Moons, impacted theology and religious scholarship comes from the interreligious cross-fertilization among scholars of all religions and all nations arising from their courageous and sacrificial patronage.
3. The third way Reverend Moon, and the Moons impacted theology and religious scholarship derives from the raw intellectual and spiritual force of his teachings that are lived forward through his couple, and his community.

In addition to impacting the theological academy, Reverend Moon, and his couple further impacted the global reality of religion, by force of the massive and relentless investment in interfaith and interreligious activity for decades without cease, overwhelmingly at the cost of developing his own community of faith.

Scholars in this session will offer reflections seeking to capture some aspect of the impact and transformation of religion in our time resulting from the work, life, and teachings of Reverend Moon and his couple.

Frank Kaufmann
Section Convener

Global Academic Symposium, February 2 - 7, 2020
Section 3 (God Conference), Hour 2 (Theology related to the concept of God as
Parent(s))

Inquiry into the nature of God is a vital and pressing responsibility not only for scholars, and religious and spiritual leaders, but in fact for all people as a necessary part of living fully and in truth.

Inquiry into the nature of God is the quintessence of theology, once understood accurately to be “the queen of the sciences.”

Unification theology and Unification life is rooted in, in fact begins and ends with the affirmation that the eternal God of all is Parent(s). But Unification believers are not unique, nor alone in seeking to grasp ever more fully the reality and implications of this assertion.

This session provides the occasion for scholars from major, world religious traditions to expound on related truths at the foundations of their own lives and faiths.

Frank Kaufmann
Section Convener

Global Academic Symposium, February 2 - 7, 2020
Section 3 (God Conference), Hour 3 (Theology related to “Pacific Rim Culture”)

A key element found constantly and consistently throughout Reverend Moon’s teaching concerns God’s Providence and the “Pacific Rim.”

Reverend and Mrs. Moon invested faithfully applying this teaching as they realized East West harmony in miraculous ways by implementing *Divine Principle* principles of restoration and of creation in efforts to create a happy future for all on a global scale.

The view that world culture will flourish in the Pacific Rim derived in part from Reverend Moon’s account of the trajectory of civilization moving Westward from the Tigris Euphrates valley, ultimately through “the providential nation of” America, toward the Pacific Rim.

The importance of God’s Providence for the Pacific Rim was so central to Reverend Moon’s understanding, that he spent the final years of his life in Western United States in his single-minded effort to guide America toward its responsibility to help define an emerging, balanced and ideal culture in the Pacific Rim.

Frank Kaufmann
Section Convener

Global Academic Symposium, February 2 - 7, 2020
Section 3 (God Conference), Hour 4 (God and Theology in the Tech Age)

Concerns behind organizing this session reflect worry over the decline of religion among people worldwide, impacted by rapid technological advance.

The rapid advance of technology (high speed transmission of knowledge and information, social media, AI, Robotics, and more) has redefined human experience in far reaching and fundamental ways.

Religions traditionally bear the all important task to help conscientious people realize goodness both personally and socially. With the aid of revealed and inherited wisdom, we, as individuals and collectively, stand a better chance to be good people and develop good societies. Religions help us recognize sacred origins and options in our desires, our designs, and our behavior.

Unfortunately existing religions, so desperately needed to speak impactfully to people of today, originated in utterly different times. Our capacities are different, our fears are different, our communities are different, and so much more. Even though our human experience differs radically from that of our predecessors, our need to be nurtured and pushed into moral, ethical, and devotional strength remains now, perhaps more urgently than ever.

This session invites forward thinking scholars to anticipate and recommend steps to address the crisis of religious decline in a time of increasing and intensifying human power and potential as a result of technological advances.

Frank Kaufmann
Section Convener