



Collegium

Scholarship Serving Unitarian Universalism

Collegium 2017 General Call for Papers:

“Religion, Technology, and the State: Reformations & Transformations”



Collegium is pleased to announce its 2017 conference on the theme of “Religion, Technology, and the State: Reformations & Transformations.”

At this annual gathering, we will explore the impact of invention and innovation on religion and state policy through the lenses of religious studies, ethics, theology, and history. In 2017, the year of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s *Ninety-five Theses* and the year of the inauguration of Donald Trump, this theme provides an opportunity for creative, scholarly reflection on both the historic and present interactions between politics and theology, technology and spirituality, and God and national security.

Joining us as this year’s Distinguished Scholar will be the esteemed American religious historian, [Dr. Sylvester Johnson](#), Associate Professor of African American Studies and Religious Studies at Northwestern University. He will present on the topics of “Spirit, Matter, and Machines: Religion and Humanity in a Technological Age” and “Religion and National Security.”

For the conference, we are seeking both individual scholarly papers as well as group panels of interactive discussion or interrelated papers that engage this theme in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- The relationship between politics and religion and the way in which religion and the state have shaped one another at various historical moments
- The role of technological advances and innovations in transforming religious landscapes
- Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism and its interactions with colonialism, conquest, and imperialism
- As in past years, we welcome any papers or projects that engage your particular interest broadly related to the Unitarian Universalist movement and tradition.

We also welcome alternatives to these standard formats – for example: presentations such as music or art, or other creative work.

Presenters should submit a proposal online at uucollegium.org/apply by May 15, 2017. The proposal should include an abstract of 300-500 words and provide an overview of the presentation’s content. It should also include one or two sentences of biographical information about the presenter(s). Notification of whether or not a proposal has been accepted will be given by June 15, 2017. Upon acceptance, participants will receive information on uploading their abstract and information to the [Collegium website](#). For questions, please contact the Program Chairs, Dana Stivers and Natalie Malter, uucollegium@gmail.com.

The [2017 Collegium](#) will be held at the [Cenacle Retreat Center](#) in Chicago, IL from Thursday, Oct. 19-21, 2017. Registration and information can be found at uucollegium.org.

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