



HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

Program for the Evolution of Spirituality

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Harvard Conference Explores Spiritual Practices Emerging in Response to Climate Change, Disruption of Ecosystems

Cambridge, Massachusetts: With the painful realities of climate change, mass extinction, biodiversity loss, and the disruption of local and global ecosystems being felt by communities across the globe, earth-based spiritual traditions and innovative spiritual practices are emerging in response to these impacts. On April 27-30 2022, scholars from across the world will take part in the conference [“Ecological Spiritualities,”](#) hosted by Harvard Divinity School’s Program for the Evolution of Spirituality. The conference will feature presentations and workshops by scholars from a variety of theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary perspectives, as well as participation from spiritual leaders, environmental activists, farmers, and others whose work places them at the intersection of spirituality and ecology. Discussion topics include: interspecies interdependence, textual analysis, Indigenous cosmologies, spiritual appropriation, race and environmentalism, issues in contemporary paganism, the secret history of the deep ecology movement, and indigenous response to modern ecological crisis.

“The program’s inaugural conference is bringing together many scholars from diverse fields and traditions,” says Dan McKanan, the director of the Program for the Evolution of Spirituality and Ralph Waldo Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Senior Lecturer in Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. “The purpose of the broad range of methodological approaches, religious traditions, and geographical regions is to create space for open discussions and a fruitful opportunity for deep learning among scholars, spiritual leaders, and others who care about the intersection of spirituality and ecology.”

You can learn more about the conference and presentations by visiting the [event website](#). Registration will be open soon. You can learn more about the Program for the Evolution of Spirituality by visiting [the program website](#).

About the Program for the Evolution of Spirituality

Launched in 2019, the Program for the Evolution of Spirituality supports the scholarly study of emerging spiritual movements, marginalized spiritualities, and the innovative edges of established religious traditions. It also prepares students for ministry in these movements. Through conferences, field experiences, course offerings, and public lectures, the program expands HDS’s expertise in topics such as spirituality among the millennial generation, ecological spirituality, and the ethics of power in spiritual communities. The program is directed by [Dan McKanan](#), Ralph Waldo Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Senior Lecturer in Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. Keep updated on the program and its events by signing up for its newsletter.