

God and Smog: The Challenge of Preserving Our Planet

Event Images

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Scholars and Religious Leaders Confront the Issues

October 10, 2018

9 am - 5 pm

It is evident to scientists and university communities that the Earth's environment is in peril. What is less clear is how humanity ought to respond to this peril—a response that requires rigorous consideration of ourselves, our world, and how we might best live in relation to it. Among the most potent forces in shaping human behavior are the phenomena we collectively call “religion.” Both internationally and in our own region especially, religion deeply affects and is affected by our attitudes and behavior toward the environment.

This inaugural conference provided a public forum for the exploration of religion and the environment, with the hope that students, faculty, and the broader community could emerge with a deeper urgency for environmental concerns and the ability to think through possible solutions in cooperation with allies in unexpected areas. This one-day symposium considered the environment in relation to the perspectives and actions of five religious traditions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Mormonism, and Native American traditions. The morning panel consisted of scholars who study the interaction of religion and the environment, while the afternoon panel engaged religious leaders who speak from the perspectives of their respective traditions.