

Dear ACS friends

Three opportunities that could be of your interest:

Religion and Gender: Identity, Conflict, and Power

8 to 10 November 2012

Monterey, California, United States

Website: <http://centre4conflictstudies.org/religionandgender/>

Contact name: Quinn Van Valer-Campbell

The conference will highlight the complex relationships between religion and gender in a global context focusing on identity, conflict, and human agency in the shaping of both constructs in society.

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The Importance of Being Playful

26 to 27 May 2012

Berkeley, California, United States

Website: <http://minervaberkeley.org/conference-2012/>

Contact name: Phillip Prager

This interdisciplinary conference aims to highlight the importance of play as a fundamental expression of humanity, chart its ontological significance and stake out the role of play in the 21st century.

Organized by: Minerva Foundation Berkeley

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Ahimsa (Nonviolence) and Sustainable Happiness

2 to 4 November 2012

Pomona, United States

Website: http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference/conference_2012_CallForProposals.shtml

Contact name: Professor Tara Sethia

CONFERENCE GOALS

Historically, all wisdom traditions have articulated some vision of a happy life, and have suggested ways of attaining it. Ahimsa, with varying degrees of emphasis, has been often recognized both as a vital aspect of happy life and also as a pathway to happiness. However, today the trajectories of discourse on happiness and ahimsa have become quite divergent. Happiness receives attention primarily from scholars in positive psychology, and lately also from some in sociology and economics. Ahimsa attracts attention mostly from those interested

in political or social action and conflict resolution, along with some scholars in religion and philosophy. By bringing together the discourses on happiness with those on ahimsa, this conference aims to explore from multiple perspectives the synergy, reciprocity and unity between ahimsa and happiness.

We call attention to ahimsa as more than a mere avoidance of violence, and emphasize its positive facets such as caring, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, gratitude, mindfulness, reverence for life, and trust that make ahimsa a constructive and creative force. Similarly, we call for a focus on sustainable happiness - forms of happiness that endure and are life-enriching rather than fleeting and ephemeral. Thus, relevant variations of the sustainable happiness theme include (but are not limited to) liberation from fear and negative emotions; pursuit of well-being, joy and flow; desire for flourishing and self-actualization; a sense of meaning and purpose in life.

We invite proposals from all disciplines that illuminate multi-faceted relationships between positive aspects of ahimsa (e.g. compassion, love, mindfulness) and forms of happiness that endure and are life-enriching.

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. The Ahimsa-Happiness (A-H) relationship. Systematic expositions of how ahimsa promotes happiness; how happiness becomes conducive to ahimsa. In what ways and to what degree ahimsa and happiness are synergistic, and where they become isomorphic.
2. The levels specific relationships. The A-H relationships at one of more of the following levels: intrapersonal, interpersonal, community or societal. Also, at the economy and national levels, for example, the Gross National Happiness paradigm.
3. The domain specific dynamics. A-H relationship in the context of domains such as business, nonprofits, healthcare, and schools.
4. Broader implications. How ahimsa related values may influence consumption and other life-style choices, and in turn how that affects happiness. How ahimsa and happiness relate to the concerns of social justice and equality, animal welfare, and ecological responsibility.

5. Educational significance. Curricular innovations, both in college education and in K-12 classrooms for understanding of ahimsa-happiness interactions and interdependencies to create a culture of peace and happiness.

6. Future Scholarship. What are the more promising avenues for new scholarship on A-H relationship, particularly empirical work. How can we see a better integration of research on ahimsa and research on happiness.

Contributions should clearly show how they advance theoretical understanding or inform more effective practices. Preferably, theoretical-conceptual papers should bring out practical implications; and practice oriented papers should provide the intellectual underpinnings of the ideas presented. In particular, we encourage contributors to assume the role of bridge-builders: experts in happiness should explore the relevance of ahimsa in their work, and experts in ahimsa may examine its relevance for sustainable happiness.

Submissions should have intellectual rigor and or based on empirical research without being too technical or jargon-ridden. The audience in the conference will be very diverse: college faculty and students, K-12 educators, business executives and other professionals, and members of the larger community.

SUBMISSION AND SUPPORT

Please submit via email a 500-word abstract (in Word) and a two-page CV or professional profile no later than May 18, 2012. Proposals will be peer reviewed as they come in, and notification of acceptance will be made by June 18, 2012.

Authors of accepted submissions (one author per submission, in case of multiple authors) will receive complimentary conference registration, including all conference meals. Out of town participants will also receive accommodation for two nights.

Full-length versions of accepted proposals will be invited for inclusion in the conference proceedings to be brought out in 2013.

FOR SUBMISSION OR ENQUIRIES:

tsethia@csupomona.edu

Conference updates and Speaker details will be posted periodically at the following Web address:

http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference/conference_2012_CallForProposals.shtml

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"leap and the net will appear"