

Draft Program
2024 Communal Studies Conference
Ephrata Cloister

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference Tour-Woodmont, Father Divine Mansion, Gladwyne, PA
Meet at lobby of Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

Thursday, October 3, 2024

8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference Tour-Young Center, Elizabethtown, and Lititz, PA
Meet at lobby of Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

9:00 a.m. CSA Board Meeting
Hampton Inn Meeting Room
(On US 322, 1½ miles from Ephrata Cloister)

3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration
Ephrata Cloister

6:00 p.m. Dinner
Reamstown Fire Company, West Church St., Reamstown, PA

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

Friday, October 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. Registration
Ephrata Cloister Visitor Center

8:30 a.m. Session A-1: Health, Mental Health, and Aging in Community
1. Claudia Roesch: “A response to Malthusianism? Birth Control and Population Planning within Owenite Communal Schemes”
2. Zach Rubin: “Military Veterans and Intentional Communities”
3. Boaz Feldman (remote presenter): “Nervous System Approaches for Resilient Community Living”

Session A-2: 19th Century Utopians

1. Mitchell Jones: “Enchanted Motor Power: A New Materialist Approach to John Murray Spear’s Electric God, 1830-1872”
2. David Entin: “Northampton Association of Education and Industry”
3. Jeremy Genovese: “The Earth for All: Intentional Communities and the Georgist Model”

- 10:00 a.m. Break
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 10:30 a.m. [plenary] Session B
Deborah Altus and Tim Miller: “Game Show: Test your Communal Studies Knowledge!”
- 12:00 noon Lunch
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 1:30 p.m. Session C-1: Problematic Sexuality in Modern Communities
 1. Dan McKanan: “Sexual Misconduct at L’Arche: A Challenge to Communal Studies Scholars”
 2. Nicholas Chiaia: “Unification and Fragmentation of Community: a 50 year look back”
 3. Stephanie Carpenter: “Cult Followings: A Consideration of Streaming Docu-series about Lifestyle “Cults”
- Session C-2: Western Shaker History
 1. Carol Medicott: “The Complicated Legacy of Shaker Pioneer Issachar Bates”
 2. Christian Goodwillie: “Alpha and Omega: Richard McNemar’s Evaluation of the Shaker West”
 3. Tommy Hines: “Benjamin Seth Youngs: An Easterner in the Shaker West”
- 3:00 p.m. Break
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 3:30 p.m. Session D-1: Defining Community
 1. Greg Brown: “Developmental Communalists”
 2. Tom Kendig: “Could A Leprosy Colony Be Considered A Communal Group”
- Session D-2: Ephrata
 1. Anca Wilkening: 2023 Research Fellowship Presentation-- “Sinful Relations and Salvific Unions: Sexual Ethics, Erotics, and Intimacies in the Early Ephrata Cloister”
 2. Jeff Bach: “Climbing into the Bridal Bed of Sophia and Christ: Conrad Beissel’s Altered Concepts of Sexual Identity at Colonial Ephrata”

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Auction
American Legion, 300 Cocalico St., Ephrata

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

Saturday, October 5, 2024

8:00 a.m. Registration
Ephrata Cloister Visitor Center

8:30 a.m. [plenary] Session E: Revisiting classic books about 19th Century Communalism
1. Carl Guarneri: “*Backwoods Utopias* at 75: Arthur Bestor's Scholarship and Its Legacy”
2. Larry Foster: “*Religion and Sexuality: An Author’s Retrospective Reflections on his Book after its more than Four Decades in Print.*”
3. Michael Barkun: *The Burned-over District* at 75: Whitney Cross’s Analysis and Its Problems

10:00 a.m. Break
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

10:30 a.m. Session F-1: Pietist Sexuality and Community
1. Sarah Buffington: “Celibacy and Children in the Harmony Society”
2. Cheryl Coulthard: “Sexuality and Harmony: Ideals in Tension in the Rappite Community”

Session F-2: 20th C Sexuality and Community
1. Tom Cimarusti: “Let This Be a Day of Rejoicing: The Solar and Lunar Festivals of the Koreshan Unity”
2. Etta Madden “Murder in a Galápagos Utopia: A Review of Abbott Kahler's *Eden Undone* (2024)”
3. Brian Carroll: “Revisiting the Virgin Law: Celibacy, Sex, and Relationships at the House of David 1903-1978”

12:00 noon Lunch
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

1:30 p.m. Session G-1: Material Culture and Community
1. Kathleen Fernandez: “Die Heller Signalstern: The Significance of The Zoar Star”
2. Thomas Guiler: “The Oneida Community Mansion House: A Lab for Learning”
3. John Murphy: “Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues: Hudson Valley Art and Utopia”

Session G-2: Shaker Sexuality and Community

1. Ryan Obert: “The Shakers: From Celibacy to Women Empowerment”
2. Mary Ann Haagen: “Counting the Cost: Shaker Celibacy”
3. Richard (Rick) Marshall: “Shakers Celibacy: A Cover for Sexual Scandal?”

3:00 p.m.

Break
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

3:30 p.m.

Session H-1: LDS Sexuality and Community

1. Marti Bradley Evans: “What’s Sex Got to Do With It? The Demographics of Mormon Polygamy”
2. Stephen Fleming: “Jane Lead and American Communalism from Ephrata to Mormonism”
3. T. Ashton Reynolds: “Monogamy to Royal Polygamy: The Evolution of Marriage Practices among the Strangite Mormons”

Session H-2: Sexuality and Modern Communalism

1. Sanja Nilsson: “For the Love of Tirsa: The Importance of Sexual Experimentation in the Breakup of the Knutby Filadelfia Congregation”
2. Johannes Zinzendorf: “Community Within Community or, How did people like you end up in a place like this?”

6:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet and Annual Business Meeting
American Legion, 300 Cocalico St., Ephrata

9:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

8/8/24