

Web-streamed Education Opportunities  
Trinity Graduate School  
Fall 2009

**Foundations of Cultural Engagement**

Sept 10-11 12.30pm-4.30pm, Sept 12 8.00am-12.00; Oct 22-23 12.30pm-4.30pm, Oct 24 8.00am-12.00

This course introduces the student to pivotal Christian doctrines as a framework within which to evaluate the working intellectual assumptions of contemporary culture. In addition to investigating several models for Christian engagement with culture, the course encourages the positive formation of a Christian worldview as a foundation for creative interaction with contemporary thought and cultures.

**New Religious Movements**

Mondays 6.00pm-10.00pm CST (first class meets Aug 26 then Monday evenings until Oct 12)

A historical and sociological survey of the origin and growth of new religious movements with particular attention given to Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Modern Paganism and New Age. Special attention is given to comparing and contrasting new religious movements with the historic Christian faith.

**Introduction to Human Rights**

Wednesdays, 6.30pm-9.30pm PST

This is an introductory course surveying the concepts, terminology, and history of human rights. The theological and historical origins of the international legal instruments and institutions involved in international human rights will be explored.

**Rights of Women, Children and Families**

Tuesdays, 6.30pm-9.30pm PST

This course is a survey of the international instruments intended to protect women, children, and families. Issues to be addressed include pertinent international instruments and principles of international law relating to gender-based discrimination; children's rights to privacy, education, and information; pornography; slavery; child soldiers; and the implications of religious liberties on the family. The course includes an introduction to comparative religions and worldviews as they pertain to women, children, and families.

Contact **TGS Admissions** at [tgsadm@tiu.edu](mailto:tgsadm@tiu.edu) for more information about registering as a visiting student



**Culture: it's where you live.**

understand. engage. transform.

Culture is the framework that determines an individual's beliefs, behaviors, and practices. At Trinity Graduate School you will learn how to understand the culture in the context of Christianity in order to communicate clearly and ethically. With new course offerings such as New Religious Movements and Post-Christendom Spiritualities, you will be equipped with the tools you need to understand, engage, and transform your culture through Christ.

Webstreamed courses require  
Computer, Internet access,  
webcam and microphone

Trinity Graduate School | Engaging Culture

For more information on these courses or conference information,  
contact Dr. Michael T. Cooper at

[mcooper@tiu.edu](mailto:mcooper@tiu.edu)

or call

877.880.8974

[www.tiu.edu/engage](http://www.tiu.edu/engage)



## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Michael T. Cooper

Welcome to volume four, number one. This volume marks the beginning of my second year as editor of *Sacred Tribes Journal*. The 2008 year was marked not simply by two fine issues of the journal, but also with the beginning of *Sacred Tribes Journal's Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*. Along with several current entries, we are pleased to include with this volume one addition to the encyclopedia by Anne C. Harper.

The year was also marked by a significant conference on post-Christian spiritualities with participants from around the world both physically present in Deerfield, Illinois and virtually present via live-web-streamed video where participants from England, Holland, Denmark, Germany and Australia were able to view the plenary sessions. These sessions are still available on the *Sacred Tribes Journal* website on we hope they will be a benefit to both the academic and lay communities.

Speaking of the website, when the journal re-launched in January 2008 we did not know how much Internet traffic we would see. After a year of being online we can report that the journal had over 4,400 unique visitors who came to the site on more than 8,400 visits. The visitors viewed a total of 46,470 pages from January to December 2008. We are hopeful that the journal will continue to be of benefit to those searching for academic articles on new religions.

Volume four, number one includes three articles, one book review and one entry to the encyclopedia. The articles comprise a particular Christian approach to the study of new religions. First, the issue begins with a theoretical essay that sets the stage for the purpose of *Sacred Tribes Journal* and addresses an approach to research that is clearly set in an evangelical tradition. Despite the stigma of proselytism often associated with evangelicals, this approach highlights the importance of respect for other religions as well as academic integrity.

John Morehead has contributed a fine article of the alternative cultural event of Burning Man. Morehead is the director of the Western Institute of Intercultural Studies and co-editor of *Sacred Tribe Journal*. Building from his master's thesis which he took from Salt Lake Theological Seminary in 2006, Morehead introduces us to the festival and provides an example of how an evangelical can look objectively at a culture and provide a sophisticated analysis that is academically sound.

Ole Skjerbaek Madsen's contribution takes the analysis of a spiritual movement further and demonstrates that while evangelicals can be sympathetic to different spiritualities, what Madsen calls neo-spiritualities, they can also offer critiques of these spiritualities. Madsen has his theological degree from The University of Copenhagen combined with a special study and thesis on Coptic Eucharistic prayers. He has been a parish pastor in the Danish Lutheran Church from 1975-1999. Since 2000 he is a mission pastor and project manager in the mission organization, Areopagos. He has started a bridge building work between Church and new spiritualities under the title *In the Master's Light*.

Please note that *Sacred Tribes Journal* does accept unsolicited articles of high academic quality in the area of new religious movements and spiritualities. After reading our contributor's guidelines, you can send such manuscripts to me at [mcooper@sacredtribesjournal.org](mailto:mcooper@sacredtribesjournal.org). *Sacred Tribes Journal* is currently soliciting articles for an upcoming volume focused on the academic conversation between evangelicals and Mormons. If interested in contributing to this volume please contact John Morehead at [johnwmorehead@msn.com](mailto:johnwmorehead@msn.com).

We hope you enjoy the latest volume of *Sacred Tribes Journal*. If you have comments about the articles or other content on [www.sacredtribesjournal.org](http://www.sacredtribesjournal.org) please feel free to contact me.