

SPRING 2025, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>

UF RELIGION

# NEWSLETTER



## NEWS

- **Anna Peterson** has been named the next coordinator of UF's BA in Sustainability Studies and the director of the Center for Adaptation, Innovation, Resilience, Ethics, and Science (CAIRES), beginning in **August 2025**.
- **Michael Schuster** successfully defended his dissertation, "Salafism in Motion: Religion, Politics, and Space in Tunisia," on March 31, 2025. Dr. Ostebo chaired his PhD committee, and members were **Ali Mian, Anna Peterson, Benjamin Soares, and Leo Villalon**. **Congratulations, Dr. Schuster!**

## EVENTS

- On **April 14**, the Ethics in the Public Sphere initiative will hold a panel discussion on "Climate Science and Ethics in the Public Sphere," with Dr. **Todd LeVasseur** (College of Charleston) and Dr. **Sadie Hundemer** (IFAS/AEC), with a response from UF student **Natalie Triana '25**, moderated by Dr. **Nia Morales** (WEC).
- On **April 1**, EPSI held a film premiere and data walk based on research conducted by Dr. **Anna Peterson** and **Aayushi Patel '25**, on the topic of student perspectives on higher education legislation.
- The Ethics in the Public Sphere Initiative (EPSI), coordinated by **Anna Peterson** and **April Hines** (UF Libraries), held an ethics café on **March 10**, in which students discussed the significance of the Western canon at UF and beyond.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Professor **Bron Taylor** gave the keynote presentation, "Religion and Climate (in)Action: Assessing the Obstacles and Prospects for Effective Mobilization in Response to the Climate Emergency," at a conference on Global Religion and the Climate Crisis, hosted online by the Universität Hamburg, Germany and De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines, *September and October 2024*.
- Professor **Bron Taylor** gave a presentation titled "The Eruption, Implosion, and Future of Radical Environmentalism" for the Religion and Ecology Group at the American Academy of Religion meeting in San Diego, *November 2024*.
- Professor **Bron Taylor's** "Dark Green Museums," invited plenary presentation, "Tradition and the Quest for Spirituality conference, Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas, Lithuania, *23 January 2025*.
- **Anna Peterson** participated in a panel on "Conservation Narratives" at the UF Public Interest and Environmental Law conference on *February 21, 2025*.
- On Wednesday, *March 5, 2025*, Dr. **Amanda M. Nichols** presented emerging research on the disproportionate impacts of nuclear weapons during the 3rd Meeting of States Parties (MSP3) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations in New York City.
- **Anna Peterson** gave an invited talk on "Urban Animals and Wild Nature" at the College of Charleston Department of Philosophy on *March 17, 2025*.
- **Terje Ostebo** gave a presentation "God's Wrath in the Era of the Digidemic: Religious Interpretations of Covid-19 in Ethiopia" at the Department of Culture, Religion, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oslo, *March 18, 2025*.
- **Yaniv Feller** presented "From the University to the Showcase, and Back" at "Translating Academic Research to Public Knowledge," a conference hosted by the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem on *March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025*.
- **Vasudha Narayanan** has been invited to give the [India Studies Lecture 2025 at the University of Illinois, Champaign/ Urbana](#). Her talk, on *April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025*, is entitled "Tamil Culture: 'More sweet than celestial nectar, more precious than one's breath.'"
- **Terje Ostebo** will give a guest lecture "Religion in Africa" at Department of Culture, Religion, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oslo, *April 10, 2025*.
- **Anna Peterson** will present a paper on "Teaching Environmental Ethics and the Values-Practices Gap," together with UF undergraduate Natalie Triana, at the International Society of Environmental Ethics sessions at 2025 Pacific meeting of the American Philosophical Society in San Francisco on *April 19, 2025*.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Terje Ostebo** published the report [Maintaining Control through Lawlessness: The Security and Human Rights Situation in Oromia, Ethiopia](#), commissioned by the Norwegian Organization for Asylum Seekers, *January 2025*.
- **Terje Ostebo** published the op-ed: "[Human Rights Under Siege: How security forces in Oromia fuel terror, fear to control residents through lawlessness](#)" in Addis Standard, *January 29, 2025*.
- Professor **Bron Taylor**'s Italian translation of *Dark Green Religion*, is in production and will be published *later this year* as *Religione Verde Scura - Spiritualità della Natura e il Futuro del Pianeta*, tr. Giovanna Parmigiani (Brescia, Italy: Morcelliana, 2025). It includes Taylor's retrospective on this influential work, "*Religione Verde Scura: Una retrospettiva per l'edizione Italiana*."
- Professor **Bron Taylor** published in the journal he founded in 2007 an article that provides a history of the journal and of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, which he also founded here at UF in 2006 with a major conference:
  - "*The future and foundation of the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 19 (1): 1-10.
- Professor **Bron Taylor** wrote an introduction about the controversy of anthropologist A.L. Kroeber in:
  - "*Introduction to a commentary by Herbert S. Lewis*," *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 19 (1): 128-131.