

CALL FOR PAPERS

A fascination with the “otherworldly” pervades the religious imaginaries of nearly all societies and cultures whether it be via the allure of saints, superheroes, transcendent deities, ghosts, or magic spells. The continuing appeal of such beings and events is a testimony to how notions of the miraculous and the paranormal inform our place in the cosmic order. The prevalence of supernatural phenomena in religious discourse speaks to a preoccupation with an order of existence beyond the observable universe which invokes imagery that appears to transcend the laws of nature. This interdisciplinary conference is focused on representations of magic, miracles, and the supernatural in a variety of religious traditions throughout the course of history. We encourage paper submissions that address the weird and anomalous aspects of religion, ranging from marvels to paranormal encounters to spirit possession, and mystical experiences.

MAGIC, MIRACLES, AND THE PARANORMAL IN RELIGIOUS IMAGINARIES

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Theorizing the paranormal in religion
- The role of divination or prophecy in religion
 - Demonology and angelology
- Lives of the Saints, martyrologies, and miracle narratives
- Sorcery, witchcraft, and wizardry in heresiological discourse
 - Religious phenomena such as stigmata, visions, trances, presences, magic spells, and possessions
- The dialogue between SETI and religion
 - Superheroes and theology

April 9-10, 2016

**The University of Texas
at Austin**

Keynote Speakers

Paul Mirecki,

University of Kansas

Kelly Hayes,

Indiana University-

Purdue University

Indianapolis

**Submission Deadline -
January 6, 2016**

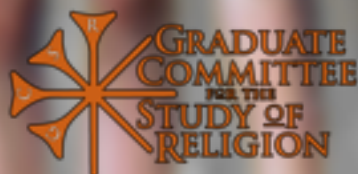
Papers must include:
paper title, name,
department and
institutional affiliation,
250-300 word abstract,
1-2 page CV,
and any potential A/V needs.
submit to:

utgradconf@gmail.com

**Applicant Notification -
January 25, 2016**

Presentation time:
20 minute maximum

This conference is organized jointly by graduate students in Religious Studies and the Hebrew Bible/Ancient Near East program through the Graduate Committee for the Study of Religion at the University of Texas at Austin.



www.utgradconf.wix.com/magicmiracparanormal