**RASNET ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**2024**

**Zoom Seminars**

**Unit 1 TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024 4.30-6.45pm**

**AOS 1.1: The Nature and Purpose of Religion, Past and Present**

**Extension of the Presentation in 2022, looking at a different selection of religions.**

* answers to questions about the origins of life and existence offered by religion
* the role that religion can have in shaping and giving meaning to particular needs of individuals and communities

**Presenter:**

**Dr Amanda Burritt**

Honorary Research Fellow, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne

**Unit 3 MONDAY 4 MARCH 2024 4.30-6.45pm**

**AOS 3.2: Expression of a particular religious tradition’s beliefs about Death and the Afterlife through the other Aspects of religion**

* how these various expressions are connected
* how these beliefs and their expressions are intended by the religious tradition to support adherents in the search for meaning

**Presenters:**

**Judaism-Rabbi Shamir Caplan**

An Orthodox rabbi who received his training at YESHIVA UNIVERSITY in New York, Shamir works as chaplain, Talmud program coordinator, and interfaith co-director at Mount Scopus College. He also serves as rabbi of Beit Aharon on Mayfield Street, a Modern Orthodox congregation.

**Christianity-Fr Elio Capra**

Reverend Dr Elio Capra SDB is a lecturer at Catholic Theological College and is a member of the Department of Systematic Theology and the Department of Pastoral and General Studies.

**Islam-** **Sheikh Saeed Bulhan**

An Islamic scholar, Imam and Resident Scholar at the Australian Islamic Centre.

Active participant in interfaith dialogue across Melbourne.

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**Unit 2 WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024 4.30-6.45pm**

**AOS 2.3: Ethical Issues in Pluralist Society – Artificial Intelligence**

* why the issue is regarded as an ethical issue
* the ethical perspectives and moral judgments presented in the arguments by the participating religious and non-religious individuals, groups and traditions
* the ethical authorities, norms, values and ideas on which the various ethical perspectives and moral judgments rest
* the ethical decision-making methods involved in the debate process, and their strengths and weaknesses

**Presenter:**

**Professor Sam Baron**

Professor of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University.

Previously, Senior Research Fellow, Australian Research Council, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Australia.

**Unit 4 THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024 4.30-6.45pm**

**AOS 4.1: Overview of the nature of challenges to a selected religious tradition.**

**One example of a significant challenge - theology or ethics or continued existence**

* when and where the challenge occurred or is occurring
* the sources of the challenge
* the aspects of religion involved
* the significance of the selected challenge to the religious tradition
* the stance and the supporting responses, taken by the religious tradition to the challenge

**Presenters:**

**Judaism-Rabbi Fred Morgan**

Emeritus Rabbi Temple Beth Israel, St Kilda; Fellow at Faculty of Theology and Philosophy, ACU; Hon. President of the Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria)

**Challenge: The messiah Dilemma in Judaism**

**Christianity-Associate Professor Joanna Cruickshank**

Faculty of Arts and Education in School of Humanities and Social Sciences Deakin University Geelong

**Challenge: Slavery and Christianity**

**Islam-Professor Fethi Mansouri**

Director, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation

**Challenge: Social acceptance/integration facing Muslim diasporas in countries like Australia**