



# Department of Religious Studies

## Research on Religion Colloquium

### Hindu Metaphysics and the Perennial Philosophy - Connections in the works of René Guénon and Shankara's Advaita Vedanta

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Day/Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Location: AH175 (Anderson Hall)

Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.



Shankara was an 8th-century Indian spiritual teacher who offered a radical non-dual interpretation of reality. Shankara's method and teachings were associated with Advaita Vedanta, a philosophic tradition originating from Upanishadic texts. Over centuries, Shankara's Vedanta spread through intellectual spheres, making its philosophy subject to debate and interpretation. The Traditionalists were 20th-century thinkers who played an essential role in introducing Eastern spirituality to Western audiences and were influenced by Shankara. René Guénon pioneered the movement. Guénon's interpretation of reality argued an all-pervading unitive metaphysic principle that shares notable similarities with Shankara's Advaita Vedanta. Considering their similarities, to what extent did René Guénon embrace Shankara's Advaita Vedanta, and what was his attitude toward Shankara's method of realizing the innermost Self?

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