

Research in Religious Studies Conference May 5 - 6, 2018 (Anderson Hall, U of L)



UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE



The late K'iche' shaman, Xuan Chuc Chan, prays over a ceremonial fire at the site of a powerful spiritual being (an Earth Lord) in 2002 in Guatemala. His primary goal was to free Dr. MacKenzie's 1990 Toyota 4Runner from the clutches of customs officials.

Showcasing student research into religious expression

Conference Info

Meet and Greet - Friday, May 4, 2018 (6:30 p.m.) -
Prof. James Linville's home

Registration: \$25.00
Banquet: \$35.00

All sessions (Anderson Hall)

May 5, 2018

8:00 a.m. (Registration/Continental Breakfast)
9:00 a.m. (Sessions begin)
5:30 p.m. (Anderson Hall - AH100)

May 6, 2018

9:00 a.m. (Sessions begin)

Registration Deadline: **April 20, 2018**

Please check the following website for conference details:
<http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/religious-studies/research-religious-studies-conference-0>

Conference Contact Info:

rsresearch.conf@uleth.ca

Prof. James Linville
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Bev Garnett, Admin Assistant
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Banquet Keynote Speaker: Prof. Jamie MacKenzie
Anthropology Department
University of Lethbridge

Shaman, Christian, Bureaucrat, Cop: Religion and Secrecy in Guatemala

This talk examines some of the ways indigenous (K'iche' Maya) Guatemalans have marshalled religious resources to help them confront some of the absurdities and incomprehensibility of modern bureaucracy. While there is no love lost between indigenous shamans and Evangelical Christians, there are some elective affinities in the way their respective ritual practices aim to humanize particular relations which are otherwise depersonalized, especially in bureaucratic encounters. In both contexts, religion is evoked in otherwise profane encounters with the state (a jealous and capricious keeper of secret bureaucratic knowledge), in an attempt to secure pragmatic positive results by drawing on parallel sets of secret spiritual knowledge. Given the endemic corruption and general ineffectiveness of many Guatemalan institutions, shamans and Christians entertain the possibility that a more responsive social order can be realized (if only temporarily) in religious terms.