

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS™

Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture By

Evan Berry

Spiritual Hybrids: Nature, Religion, and Modernization in Theoretical Perspective



Although scholars of religion and modernity generally agree that the modern age presents problems for religious traditions, there are substantial disagreements about how such challenges affect religious communities at the local scale. This presentation draws on Bruno Latour's notion of culture/nature hybrids, as it relates to the writings of The Mountaineers, a sister organization to the Sierra Club.

The effort of early 20th century "nature enthusiasts" to hybridize Protestant theology with classical mythology, and Romanticism with civil religiosity, represents a moment of fluid religious discourse, neither wholly secular nor wholly sacred. Theorizing this space, along the margins of tradition, provides a valuable descriptive tool for scholars interested in the relationship between religion and nature in a world characterized by the 'problems' of modernization: globalization, rationalization, privatization, etc.

Evan Berry grew up in Santa Fe and Seattle, which explains his interest in nature-oriented spiritualities. He has a bachelor's degree in Religion from Colorado College, where he also minored in Asian Pacific Studies. His graduate studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara employed quantitative, ethnographic, and archival methodologies to explore the relationships between environmentalism and religion in modern western culture. Now at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, he teaches Environmental Ethics, Comparative Religious Ethics, Religious Approaches to Death, and Environmental Fiction: Apocalypse and Utopia.

Monday, December 3 at 4:00pm in ENV 125

This lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or

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