



**6th Annual Mid-Year Conference on
Religion and Spirituality
Feb. 29 and March 1, 2008
Pre-Conference Feb. 28, 2008**

***University of Amsterdam Professor Dr. Jacob A. Belzen
Joins List of Conference Invited Speakers Including
Dr. Merle Jordan, C. Michael Cloninger, Lee Kirkpatrick,
Wesley Brun, James Jones, Annette Mahoney, Raymond Paloutzian***

COLUMIBA— Each year world-renowned invited guests speak at the Mid-Year Conference on Religion and Spirituality. This year more than 200 attendees will be offered special presentations by the following speakers:

Dr. Jacob Belzen, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands;
Dr. Merle Jordan, Emeritus Professor of Pastoral Psychology at Boston University
School of Theology, MA;
Dr. C. Michael Cloninger, University of Washington Medical Center, MO;
Dr. Lee Kirkpatrick, The College of William and Mary, VA;
Dr. Wesley Brun, United Methodist Clergy;
Dr. James W. Jones, Rutgers University, NJ;
Dr. Annette Mahoney, Bowling Green State University, OH;
Dr. Raymond Paloutzian, Westmont College, CA.

Loyola College in Maryland's Department of Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care will co-host the sixth annual Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality with Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) of the American Psychology Association on February 28, 29 and March 1, 2008. The event will take place at Loyola's Columbia Graduate Center and provide a unique forum for professionals to discuss the latest research findings in the areas of psychology and spirituality.

The conference agenda will include presentations by scholars including:

Dr. Jacob A. Belzen - *Research on Spirituality: Lessons from the Psychology of Religion*. After presenting some thoughts on the conceptualization of spirituality, and reflecting on the type of psychology required to do research on spirituality, this session will point out some hidden agenda's in the psychologies of religion and spirituality. Focusing on and keeping in mind the specificity of spiritual conduct, the session will discuss a number of practical aspects of empirical research on spirituality.

Dr. Jacob A. Belzen earned doctorates in social sciences (U of Utrecht, Netherlands), history (Free University Amsterdam, Netherlands), philosophy (U. of Leuven, Belgium) and sciences of religion (Abo Akademi, Turku, Finland). Currently, he is a professor of psychology at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Amsterdam, where his prime duties include research and teaching in the field of psychology of religion.

He has a long standing interest in cultural psychology, an interdisciplinary field within which he is especially interested in the historical nature of the human being. Next to work in theoretical psychology, a major part of his many publications have been founded on extensive empirical research on psychohistorical, esp. psychobiographical studies and in the history of psychology.

He has been active in many national and international organizations and in publication media in the history of the human sciences and in the psychology of religion. Besides being a member of the board of a number of professional organizations, he acted for some decades as Secretary-General of the European Association for the Psychology of Religion; he founded and is past president of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion.

He is Editor-in-chief of the *International Series in the Psychology of Religion*, and is serving on the editorial board of a number of psychology journals. He authored and edited some 35 books and well over 200 articles, mostly in peer reviewed media. He received several international awards and distinctions. In 2001, Dr. Belzen was elected Fellow with the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Wesley Brun, United Methodist Clergy; Wesley ("Wes") Brun, B.D., D.Min. has been an ordained United Methodist clergy person for forty-five years. He served ten years in parishes, and for the last thirty-five years as a pastoral counselor. He is a "Fellow" in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He was Associate Director and Director of Clinical Services at the Pastoral Counseling Center at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois, and then for the last twenty years, he has been the founding Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He retired in 2006. His current research involves adding a "developmental" dimension to the categories he proposes in the Schema.

Dr. C. Michael Cloninger, University of Washington Medical Center, MO; will present *The Role Of Self-Transcendence in Well-Being*. His current position is a professor of psychiatry, genetics and psychology at Wallace Renard Professor, Professor, Genetics and Director, Center for Psychobiology of Personality.

Specialty Areas of expertise are Psychological Testing and Psychology. And areas of Clinical interest are general psychology, personality testing. Research Interests: Genetic epidemiology, genetics of alcohol abuse, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder.

His medical education includes a B.A.: Philosophy, Psychology, Anthropology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1966 and a Medical Degree: Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, 1970. He has a Fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, 1969.

Dr. James W. Jones, Rutgers University, NJ; James W. Jones, Psy.D., Ph.D., Th.D., has earned doctorates in both Religious Studies and Clinical Psychology, as well as an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala in Sweden. He is a distinguished professor of Religion and adjunct professor of Clinical Psychology at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, a lecturer in Psychiatry and Religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and a visiting professor at the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

He is also a senior research fellow at the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College in New York. He is the author of eleven books and over twenty professional papers and book chapters. He also maintains a private practice as a clinical psychologist. His forthcoming book, *Blood That Cries From the Earth: The Psychological Roots of Religious Terrorism*, will be published in the spring, 2008, by Oxford University Press. Dr. Jones has been invited to lecture in Europe and the United States on the psychological roots of religious terrorism.

Dr. Lee Kirkpatrick, The College of William and Mary, VA;) is currently Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Society and has served on the Executive Committees of the American Psychological Association's Division 36 and the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. He has been the recipient of an award for *Exemplary Paper in Humility Theology* from the John Templeton Foundation (1996), an Erskine Fellowship from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand (2000), and the William James Award from APA Division 36 (2007).

Dr. Kirkpatrick is the author of *Attachment, Evolution, and the Psychology of Religion* (Guilford, 2005), as well as more than 75 published articles and book chapters on a diverse range of topics in social and personality psychology, evolutionary psychology, and the psychology of religion.

Dr. Merle Jordan, Emeritus Professor of Pastoral Psychology at Boston University School of Theology, MA; will present *All Psychology is Clinical Theology*, Merle Jordan, Th.D., Dr. Jordan is Emeritus Professor of Pastoral Psychology at Boston University School of Theology. He is a pastoral psychotherapist who holds a doctoral degree in pastoral counseling from Claremont School of Theology. His professional interests are particularly focused on the integration of spirituality and psychology.

He has served as the Executive Director of the Danielsen Center for Pastoral Counseling at Boston University as well as the Interim Dean of the School of Theology for three years. He taught pastoral care and counseling at the Divinity School of Silliman University in the Philippines before coming to Boston University in 1969. He is a Diplomate in the American Association of Pastoral Counseling and a Clinical Member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. His publications include:

“Taking on the Gods – The Task of the Pastoral Counselor”, (1986), Nashville: Abingdon Press
“Reclaiming Your Story – Family History and Spiritual Growth, (1999), Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press
“Addiction and Spirituality” – A Multidisciplinary Approach, (1999), St. Louis: Chalice Press
(Co-Edited with Oliver Morgan)

Dr. Annette Mahoney, Bowling Green State University, OH; Annette Mahoney, Ph.D. is a Professor at Bowling Green State University. She was an undergraduate at Rice University, earning dual degrees in Religious Studies and Psychology in 1984. She obtained a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Houston in 1992.

She has published observational and survey-based research on links between marriage, parenting and child adjustment. Since 1995, she has co-directed the Spirituality and Psychology Research Team (S. P. i. R. i. T.) at BGSU.

Her current research focuses on the positive and negative roles that religion and spirituality play for individuals and families. In collaboration with Drs. Kenneth I. Pargament and Al DeMaris, she is the PI on a longitudinal study on the spiritual dimensions of family life during the transition to parenthood, a project generously funded by the Templeton Foundation.

Dr. Raymond Paloutzian, Westmont College, CA. received his Ph.D. in 1972 from Claremont Graduate School and has been a professor of experimental and social psychology at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California since 1981.

He has been a visiting professor teaching psychology of religion at Stanford University and is a past president of APA Division 36. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (through divisions on general, teaching, social issues, international psychology, and psychology of religion), the American Psychological Society, and the Western Psychological Association. His book *Invitation to the Psychology of Religion*, 2nd ed., (Allyn & Bacon, 1996) is forthcoming in its 3rd edition.

He co-edited with Crystal Park the *Handbook of the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* (Guilford, 2005). Dr. Paloutzian is editor of *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* and is Guest Professor, Faculty of Psychology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

Contact: Brenda Helsing

410-617-7614

bhelsing@loyola.edu