

Past Bechtel Lectures: 2002-Present

- 2002 Stanley Hauerwas, "Bonhoeffer, Yoder and Political Ethics"
- 2003 Rudy Wiebe, "Possessing Land"
- 2004 Nancy Heisey, "Life and Witness Within the Global Mennonite World Conference Community"
- 2005 Fernando Enns, "Mennonites: A Peace Church in Conversation"
- 2006 James Urry, "Time and Memory: Secular and Sacred Aspects of the World of the Russian Mennonites and their Descendants"
- 2007 Sandra Birdsell, "The Confession of a Reluctant Mennonite"
- 2008 Alfred Neufeld, "The Mennonite Experience in Paraguay, 1927-2007"
- 2009 Ched Myers and Elaine Enns, "Ambassadors in Chains: Evangelizing the Powers" and "Women Clothed with the Sun: Facing the Beast"
- 2010 Ernie Hamm, "Science and Mennonites in the Dutch Enlightenment"
- 2011 Roger Epp, "We Are All Treaty People"
- 2012 John D. Roth, "Blest Be the Ties That Bind: In Search of the Global Anabaptist Church"
- 2013 Chris Marshall, "Violence, Victimhood, and Recovery: Insights from the Parables of Jesus"
- 2014 Steven Nolt, "Writing the Amish into North American History" and Royden Loewen, "Writing Low German Mennonites into a History of Canada"
- 2015 Jeff Gundy, "Poetry, the Sleeping King, and Creative Doubt" and "Somewhere Near Defiance"
- 2016 Janneken Smucker, "Abstract Art or Country Craft: The Quilts of the Amish" and "Unexpected Intersections: Amish, Mennonite, and Hmong Textiles and the Question of Authenticity"
- 2017 Kenneth Nafziger, "Melting Boundaries of Our Being: Explorations in Singing Together" and "Hymn Singing in Fair Weather and Ill... and for pleasure"
- 2018 David Weaver-Zercher, "Bloody Theatre, Bloodless Theatre: Representing Mennonites, Past and Present"
- 2019 Irma Fast Dueck, "Take me to the Waters: Baptism, Commitment, and the Church"



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TAKE ME TO THE WATERS

BAPTISM, COMMITMENT, AND THE CHURCH

2019 BECHTEL LECTURES

IN ANABAPTIST-MENNONITE STUDIES

IRMA FAST DUECK | FEB 7, 8, AND 9, 2019 | CONRAD GREBEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies were established in 2000 through the generosity of Lester Bechtel. As a devoted churchman with an active interest in Mennonite history, Lester's dream was to make the academic world of research and study accessible to a broader constituency and to build bridges of understanding between the academy and the church. This lecture series provides a forum through which the core meaning and values of the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith and heritage might be communicated to a diverse audience and be kept relevant and connected to the rapidly changing world of our day.

The Bechtel Lectures provide the opportunity for representatives of a variety of disciplines and professions to explore topics that reflect the breadth and depth of Mennonite history, identity, faith and culture. The Conrad Grebel University College Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies is pleased to host this annual event.

A video of this year's lectures will be posted online at: grebel.ca/bechtel



February 7, 8, and 9, 2019

TAKE ME TO THE WATERS

BAPTISM, COMMITMENT, AND THE CHURCH



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Irma Fast Dueck was born and grew up in Winnipeg. She was a university chaplain and a pastor before beginning her teaching career. She received her ThD from Victoria University at the University of Toronto, her MDiv from the University of Winnipeg, and her BA from the University of Waterloo.

Fast Dueck's teaching and research interests frequently lead her to themes connected to the practices

of the church and the theology purveyed/conveyed by those practices. In the past few years she has given more sustained focus on the rituals of the church such as worship and baptism and on themes related to power. More recently, Fast Dueck's commitment to peacemaking has led her to participate in a number of reconciliation endeavours, including Muslim-Christian dialogue (sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee). She also continues to be involved with Mennonite-Catholic dialogue groups around Winnipeg.

Thursday, February 7, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Public Lecture: "Like a Fish in Water: Reclaiming Baptism in an Anabaptist Church"

Baptism is one of the earliest Christian practices, marking the believer as Christian and initiating them into the community. For the early Anabaptists, the ritual was a political act, many times resulting in martyrdom. This lecture will explore contemporary Anabaptist baptism in light of challenges that question the conditions and necessity of baptism. Baptism is not simply an event in time, but it carries within it the contours of the Christian life and fuels the Anabaptist imagination for peace and justice. **Reception to follow.**

Friday, February 8, 2019 | 7:30 PM

Panel: "Taking the Plunge: Young Adults and the Church"

The experience of young adults and the decline in church attendance has been of special interest in this past decade. This evening we will engage the wisdom of young adults' encounters with the church, with the aim of better understanding what it means to be the church together.

Panelists: Yeabsra Agonfer, 4th year Religious Studies student, UWaterloo
Colin Friesen, Master of Theological Studies student, Grebel
Emily Hunsberger, children's programmer, Kitchener Public Library
Jonathan Klassen, 4th year Arts student, UWaterloo
Maria Klassen, high school student, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate

Moderator: Dr. Irma Fast Dueck

Saturday, February 9, 2019 | 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Anabaptist Learning Workshop: "Shacking Up: Sex, Love, and Church Commitment"

Is there a difference between "shacking up" and making a long-term commitment? In the context of church, some people choose baptism, some people pursue membership without baptism, and others choose to participate without needing to make any commitments. In this interactive workshop we will learn together about the meaning of commitment through the lenses of Christian baptism and co-habitation.