

Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre

"TMTc helps form theological leadership for the church by providing and supporting graduate theological education, particularly at the doctoral level, from a Mennonite perspective in an ecumenical context."

IN TORONTO:

- Graduate courses and student advising
- Ecumenical conversations (e.g., Mennonite-Catholic dialogue)
- Special lectures and panels
- Scholars' Forum (for local and visiting students and faculty to present research and receive feedback)
- A. James Reimer Award (an annual doctoral scholarship)

AND ACROSS NORTH AMERICA:

- Graduate student conferences
- Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network
- AAR/SBL academic forums
- Muslim-Christian dialogue
- Conferences and consultations
- Sabbatical residence for visiting faculty

Founded in 1990, TMTc is now administered by Conrad Grebel University College on behalf of a bi-national Mennonite constituency represented by an Advisory Council. TMTc does not admit students, nor grant degrees, but they may register as Associate Members (see website for details). Graduates may also be TMTc Associates. Students who are Associates are normally registered at one of the local graduate institutions, primarily the Toronto School of Theology, an ecumenical consortium at the University of Toronto, as well as graduate degree institutions in the region extending to Hamilton, Waterloo and the rest of the Greater Toronto Area.

To make a donation to TMTc, please make cheques payable to *Conrad Grebel University College*, specifying 'TMTc' in the memo line. Interested donors from the US may contact TMTc's Director.



TMTc Staff:

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Director*



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*Jonathan Seiling,
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Advisory Council:

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Canadian Mennonite University
Eastern Mennonite University
Mennonite Church Canada
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
Mennonite Education Agency
(Mennonite Church USA)

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TMTc NOW

*Power and Practices:
Engaging the Work of
John Howard Yoder*

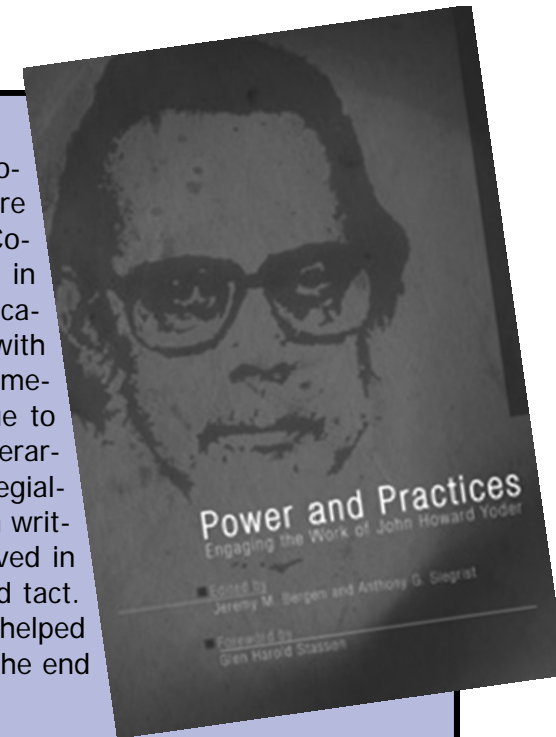
Edited by
Jeremy Bergen and
Anthony Siegrist

New Book Release:

**Selected essays from
conference hosted by
TMTc**

On Co-Editing by Anthony Siegrist

The advice of many mentors to doctoral students is to not take part in projects that do not advance the production of their dissertations. As I'm sure every doctoral student knows, there are many ways to violate this rule. Co-editing a book is one. Even though the essays chosen to be included in *Power and Practices* were of high quality, readying the material for publication was a lot of work. Reading and re-reading essays, communicating with authors and negotiating matters of style with the publisher were all time-consuming tasks. Equally as challenging—and I assume this is not unique to people who study the work of Yoder—was negotiating the egos and hierarchies that books and ideas inevitably engage. For all the idealism and collegiality that exists in the academy, there could always be more. Obviously both writing and editing necessitate a thick skin and I've learned that being involved in the editorial process, especially as a doctoral student, takes judgment and tact. Working with someone as careful and timely as Jeremy Bergen certainly helped keep the project from ballooning out of control at several stages, and in the end seeing in print the work of many very able collaborators is pleasing.



TMTc Overview 2009-2010: The Old and the New

The past year has been one of connecting people through old forums and new initiatives. TMTc 'Associate Membership' is a new means to identify those who both shape and participate in the activities of TMTc. This registration process collects data about Associates to identify common interests that could shape local activities in the future. The Associate Directory, plus the creation of a *Facebook* page, enable Associates to connect more easily outside of TMTc events. Associate membership came with a discounted rate on the *Conrad Grebel Review*, to which some Associates are contributing articles and book reviews. On April 30th these will be discussed at a 'Book Review Colloquium'. The monthly 'Scholars Forum' facilitates research discussions as in the past. A new 'Women's Group' now meets on a regular basis for women associating with TMTc to engage each other's work and support one another. On May 8th TMTc will host two sessions at the TST conference on ecumenism in Toronto. The TMTc community continues in these and other informal ways to connect people who share ideas and research, which, as in the past, produces such results as conference papers and publications that reflect both broader perspectives on issues in the church and academy, and the particular pursuits of Associates. Stay tuned for the announcement of the next Mennonite Grad Student Conference!

Note from the Director By Jim Pankratz

TMTC represents a unique opportunity for Mennonites to interact with the many global conversations about theology, identity, and spirituality. The brief reports in this newsletter provide a glimpse of the scope of these conversations—new perspectives on the writings of John Howard Yoder, reflections on Mennonites and ecumenism, and the continuing conversation between Mennonites and Shi'ah Muslims.

Alongside these conversations are the relationships that TMTC students develop with each other, the academic skills they hone through their own graduate programs of study, and the growing contribution they make to the academy and the church.

The international TMTC Advisory Council will meet in Toronto on May 7-8, 2010 at the time of the TST 40th anniversary celebrations. The Council will interact with TMTC students, assess the present program, plan for the future, and celebrate the 20th anniversary of TMTC.

Special thanks to Jonathan Seiling for his initiatives as TMTC Coordinator this year. Jonathan was an active member of the TMTC community for many years and has a large vision and strong passion for the collegial and scholarly potential of TMTC.

Now Available from Pandora Press:

On Spirituality: Essays from

Shi'ah-Muslim Mennonite-Christian Dialogue III
M. Darrol Bryant, Susan Kennel Harrison, A. James Reimer, eds.

This is a collection of papers presented at the third Dialogue Conference, in May 2007, as well as new essays on "A View from Outside" and reflections on the "Dialogue of Life." Both Shi'ites and Mennonites agree that spirituality is not separate from theology and practice. It presents Mennonite perspectives on the interaction of praxis-theology-Spirit, and Iranian Shi'ah Muslim understandings of spirituality, theology, religious and social life.

Scrolling Down to Toronto...

The Dead Sea Scrolls have ended their visit to Toronto, but not before TMTC hosted two events: For Conrad Grebel Alumni there was a lecture by Derek Suderman on October 16. On November 21, Tim Reimer also led a tour of the exhibit for Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church from Kitchener.



New Book (soon to be released) *Christians and War*

A. James Reimer has recently submitted the manuscript of a book to Fortress Press. The title of the book is *Christians and War: A Brief History of the Church's Teachings and Practices*. It has thirteen chapters plus an introduction and a conclusion, totalling about 140 pages. It begins with a chapter of definitions and assumptions, identifying three basic approaches of the Christian to war: Holy War (or Crusade), Just War, and Pacifism, briefly mentioning a fourth non-church type: Raison d'Etat (by reason of state). The book follows these types through church history: Old Testament, New Testament, Early Church, Constantinian period, Middle Ages, Magisterial Reformation, Radical Reformation, Enlightenment, Twentieth Century (Age of Realism and Age of Nuclear Pacifism), Post-modernity (Terror and the War on Terror), and ends with Reimer's own proposal in a chapter entitled "Policing, Human Security, and Responsibility to Protect." In the conclusion Reimer considers some theological issues central to war and peace, such as the doctrine of the Trinity. It is anticipated that the book will be used as a classroom text.

(photo on left) On March 27, War Resister, Jeremy Hinzman, whose refugee claim is currently on appeal, spoke at TMTC about his journey through the military to become a conscientious objector.



Photo above from the first meeting of the 'Mennonite-Catholic Dialogue on Violence' (on war and abortion). Although not formally a part of the Bridgefolk movement, this 3-part series has brought together faculty, doctoral students and others, both Catholics and Mennonites, from diverse backgrounds for discussions that aim to foster a deeper understanding of each other's positions on violence. The event was initiated by Susan Kennel Harrison (see 'Associate Update from Minnesota' about below).

Associate Update from Minnesota

Susan Kennel Harrison, scholar-in-residence for winter 2010 semester at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Minnesota, is working on her thesis which explores the contributions John Howard Yoder's theology can make to the 'Theologies of Religions' and interreligious dialogue. As an extension of her participation on the Bridgefolk board she and Dr. Margaret O'gara, Ecumenist and professor at TST, are co-leading a three-part Catholic-Mennonite dialogue about violence, hosted by TMTC. The first meeting explored the *Called to be Peacemakers* international document, while the second meeting focussed on Catholic and Mennonite teachings on war and peace. The third session will address the topic of abortion. In May 2009 Susan joined other Mennonite scholars at a dialogue on Peace and Justice in Qom, Iran where she presented a paper on Mennonite experiences of Peace and Justice. Earlier in 2009 her paper on "Interfaith friendship: a Bridge to Peace" was published in *Windows to World's Religions: Selected Proceedings of the Global Congress on the World's Religions After September 11*, edited by Arvind Sharma. (Susan was co-editor of 'On Spirituality'. See bottom of page 2)

Upcoming Events

Book Review Colloquium

April 30
12:00-3:00

TMTC Associates will discuss book reviews they are preparing for publication in the *Conrad Grebel Review*. They will be joined by CGR book review editor, Arthur Boers, who is R.J. Bernardo Family Chair of Leadership at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto.

TMTC Sessions at the 40th Anniversary Conference of TST

'Ecumenism and the
Challenge of Pluralism:
An Interdisciplinary
Dialogue'

May 7-8, 2010

On May 8, TMTC will host two sessions, featuring papers on bonnets and burqas, lay participation in preaching, and Mennonites and ecumenism.

For more information on the events and to register, see: <http://www.adsa.ca/events/conference>