

**EIGHTEENTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN IDEAS ON ULTIMATE REALITY AND  
MEANING, TORONTO. AUGUST 5 – 8, 2015.**

The International Society for the Study of Human Ideas on Ultimate Reality and Meaning announces its Seventeenth Biennial meeting for Wednesday, 7:30 p.m, August 5 – Saturday, 1:00 pm, August 8, 2015 at University College, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON Canada.

The Society extends its invitation to professors teaching at universities and experts involved in research in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to attend the meeting and to participate by presenting papers, commenting on papers, presiding at research sessions as well as organizing and participating in general symposia.

The objective of the meeting is to further research initiated through the journal *Ultimate Reality and Meaning* as well as to facilitate interdisciplinary discourse with respect to the fundamental questions animating all of human thought.

***Research Sessions:***

Particular topics dealing with how different individuals, people, and systems from the beginning of history until the present contribute to a better and deeper understanding of the ultimate reality and meaning of human existence will be discussed in *Research Sessions*.

***General Symposia:***

General topics dealing with how Art, Politics, Economics, Science, Philosophy and Religion affect one's efforts to find meaning in his/her world will be discussed in *General Symposia*.

***Deadlines:***

Deadline for a Proposal along with a 100 word abstract is January 31, 2015. Deadline for submitting the full text for Research Sessions: June 15, 2015.

***Registration Fee:***

Registration Fee Including Opening Reception and Closing Banquet: Can \$150 + GST tax (Can \$7.50). Reduced Rate for Early Registration (before the start of the conference): Can \$100 + GST tax (Can \$5.00).

***Academic Format and URAM Content:***

Contributors are requested to follow URAM's guidelines for content and format. These are provided in section [1. \*Ultimate Reality and Meaning\*](#) on the URAM "home page" on the world wide web, the URL address for which is: [www.scranton.edu/faculty/uram](http://www.scranton.edu/faculty/uram) or on the inside back page of the journal.

***Communications:***

Proposals [to be refereed](#) should be sent [by mail or email](#) to:

David J. Leigh, English Dept, Seattle University, 901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98122 USA;  
email: [dleigh@seattleu.edu](mailto:dleigh@seattleu.edu); phone: 206-296-5414.

***Travel and Subsistence Expenses:***

It is expected that all registrants pay their own expenses and seek to obtain funds from their Institutions, if this is necessary.

Lodging and meals at reasonable prices are available at several University of Toronto colleges near Regis College and at nearby hotels. For additional information, see *Suggestions for Accommodation during the Conference below.*

Papers relevant to URAM research will be published in forthcoming issues of the journal *Ultimate Reality and Meaning-Interdisciplinary Studies in the Philosophy of Understanding*, University of Toronto Press.

***Subscriptions and remittances should be sent to:***

Dana Dollery, University of Toronto Press, Journals Division, Subscriptions Dept.,  
5201 Dufferin Street, North York, ON M3H 5T8 CANADA Tele (416) 667-7810;  
Fax 667-7803 - toll free in North America (800) 221-9985 e-mail to:  
[journals@utpress.utoronto.ca](mailto:journals@utpress.utoronto.ca)

A free sample copy of the journal is available upon request.

Institutional subscriptions: Canada \$60.00 plus GST; Other Countries: \$60.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling.

Individual subscriptions: Canada \$35.00 plus GST; Other Countries \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling.

***Suggestions for Accommodations during the Conference:***

Delta Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. West, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z4 CANADA.

Contact Person: Ms. Michelle Leroux

Telephone (800) 243-5732, (416) 595-1975; Fax (416) 585-4375

URL – [www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/ontario/delta-chelsea](http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/ontario/delta-chelsea)

Rates as of 2010: Twins \$144.00; Kings, Queens: \$144.00; Deluxe: \$165.00. Parking available \$27 per night plus taxes.

Comfort Inn Downtown, 15 Charles St. East, Toronto, ON M4Y 1S1 CANADA.

Contact Person: Ms. Neha Sinha

Telephone (416) 924-1222 x 2001; Fax (416) 927-1369

URL – <http://www.nhgi.com> and <http://www.choicehotels.ca/cn228>

Rates as of 2010: Twins \$129.00 - \$149.00 (two double beds - two people);

Kings: \$139.00 - \$179.00 (for two people); Executive: \$193.00 (for two). Taxes (5% GST 5%; PST 8%; Hotel Tax 14%) extra; an extra person can be included for an additional \$10.

Limited paid parking available \$19 per night plus taxes.

For other hotels near University College consult the following URL

[http://www.hotelsanddeals.com/toronto-near/loretto\\_college.html](http://www.hotelsanddeals.com/toronto-near/loretto_college.html)

St. Michael's College, 81 St. Mary Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1J4 Telephone (416) 926-7296; Fax (416) 926-2300. Rates as of 2010: double \$35 per night plus taxes; single \$44.50 per night plus taxes; meal plan available, 10% deposit for reservations. Contact: [sumhousing.stmikes@utoronto.ca](mailto:sumhousing.stmikes@utoronto.ca)

Loretto College, 70 St. Mary Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1J3 Telephone (416) 925-2833; Fax (416) 925-2977. Rates as of 2010: double \$72.00 per night plus taxes; single \$39.00 per night plus taxes; meal plan available, 10% deposit for reservations. Contact: Loretto Summer Coordinator, Phone (416) 925-2833, [lorettosummer@gmail.com](mailto:lorettosummer@gmail.com)

Victoria College, 73 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON M5S 1K7 Telephone (416) 585-4524; Fax (416) 585-4530. Rates as of 2010: double \$70.50 per night plus taxes; single \$49.50 per night plus taxes; rates include breakfast. Contact: [accom.victoria@utoronto.ca](mailto:accom.victoria@utoronto.ca)

## **STATEMENT OF VISION AND PURPOSE**

The Conference is open to those professors and experts from all parts of the world who have an interest in interdisciplinary research on our effort to find meaning in our world. It is interested in studies dealing with those facts, things, ideas, axioms, persons and values which people throughout history have considered ultimate (i.e., that to which the human mind reduces and relates everything and that which one does not reduce and relate to anything else) or as horizons (i.e., world views in the light of which humans understand whatever they understand) or as supreme value (i.e., for which someone would sacrifice everything and which one would not lose for anything). It covers humanity's entire history, from the earliest pre-literate groupings to contemporary society. Beliefs, world views and conceptualizations of an ultimate reality and meaning of human existence will be identified during the conference and analyzed through the culture they represent and the period from which they were taken. The analytical and critical description of all that the human mind ever thought about the ultimate reality and meaning of human existence is expected to initiate systematic and structural studies of the most universal dynamics that have driven human consciousness from its dawn until the present day.

## **NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **I. BEFORE THE CONFERENCE**

By March of 2015 participants will have received the list of research papers submitted for presentation at the sixteenth biennial meeting of U.R.A.M. Each participant is then asked to check six of the essays which he/she would like to read before the meeting and to referee during the meeting. Presentations, which one would like to chair should be marked with a "C". No one will be required to act as referee or chairperson for more than three lectures. The Meeting Committee will honor preferences to the extent possible. It should be understood that a person might be assigned to a topic with which he/she is not familiar in order to promote interdisciplinary dialogue.

By early June of 2015 participants will be informed about the referees for their presentations. At that time each participant is kindly asked to mail one copy of

his/her paper to each of the referees, and one to the Institute. Chairpersons may read papers before the meeting but are not required to do so. Presenters, referees and chairpersons are encouraged to correspond with each other in order to become friends before they meet each other in Toronto or to renew existing friendships already established. Such friendship is one of the many benefits of our meetings, and is often commented on in conference evaluation forms. A printed program indicating the time and place of the presentation will be available at the meeting and its contents will be available prior to it on this URAM "home page" ([www.scranton.edu/faculty/uram](http://www.scranton.edu/faculty/uram)).

## **II. DURING THE CONFERENCE**

One may wish to take a taxi from Toronto's Pearson International Airport (at more than Can \$30.00) to the conference site at University College in the middle of the University of Toronto campus. Another way to travel into Toronto is by the Airporter Bus service which takes one to the Islington subway station. From there the subway would take one east to the Bay Street station, within walking distance of the site of the conference. A third option would be to travel by car.

The site of the Conference is near the Gardiner Expressway (from the west via Highways 401, 427 or the Queen Elizabeth Way; from the east via the 401 and the Don Valley Parkway) and exit off the Gardiner on Yonge Street North up to 100 Wellesley St. W. at Queen's Park Crescent E. for the conference site on the east end of the University of Toronto campus. One can reach the Comfort Hotel Downtown at 15 Charles St. East (between Yonge and Church St., east of Regis College), or St. Michael's College at 81 St. Mary Street (west of Bay St.).

For each session the assigned room at University College is reserved for 70 minutes: 25 minutes for a presentation, 10 minutes for each referee and 5 minutes for the speaker to respond. During the last 20 minutes the audience shall have a chance to address any member of the panel. Each questioner is asked to limit his/her intervention to 3-4 minutes. There is a 10 minute break between the various presentations of the Congress.

### **The Task of the Chairperson:**

The chairperson is responsible for keeping time and for facilitation of communications.

### **The Task of the Referee:**

The task of the referee is to help the work of the editorial board of the URAM journal. He/she should be guided by three sets of questions:

1. Question of relevance: i.e., do the research and paper deal with the idea of ultimate reality and meaning and promote the stated aims of the URAM project?
2. Question of Completeness, i.e., is the essay of outstanding scholarship and is the idea of URAM being presented adequately explained, or can it be further developed?
3. Question of ultimate context or basic horizon, i.e., general questions of collaborative interdisciplinary discussions bringing to the surface underlying issues regarding approach, methodology, heuristic structures, basic analogies, and fundamental assumptions. In a word, the referee is asked to bring the discussion to the level of radical reflection on ultimates.

Relevant comments by referees may be published in the journal.

If presenters need to be provided with AV equipment they should contact the URAM President in good time.

**If you are interested in attending this conference, kindly send your name, address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address to:**

**Editor of the URAM Journal: David J. Leigh, English Dept, Seattle University, 901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98122 USA; [dleigh@seattleu.edu](mailto:dleigh@seattleu.edu) Please use the following form:**

**Dear Colleague:**

**I will attend the meeting August 5-8, 2015, and my name, title, postal address, email address, telephone numbers, and fax numbers are as follows:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** \_\_\_\_\_

**will present a paper for a Research Session with the title:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**and his/her/its Concept of Ultimate Reality and Meaning.**

**I am interested in commenting on papers related to (can list several)**

**I am willing to chair presentations of paper(s) dealing with**

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**I am interested in a General Symposium on**

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