

Workshops Related to Creation Care at Mennonite World Conference 2015, Harrisburg, PA

E/S/F Language / Translations E=English / S=Spanish / F=French

A12 Location of Presentation A=Building / 12=Area or Room

Wednesday, July 22

Early Afternoon 13:30 – 15:00

The Loss of Turtle Island (until 17:00)

E/S A16

Erica Littlewolf, Karin Kaufman Wall, and Sue Eagle

The Loss of Turtle Island allows participants to interactively explore the historic relationship between Europeans, specifically Mennonites in the United States, and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we call the United States of America. Blankets will represent the land, and the workshop participants will represent the First Peoples - the distinct cultures and nations which live on the lands to this day. Participants step onto the blankets and are taken back in time, guided through the history of contact between Indigenous Peoples and Europeans, with the assistance of a facilitator and narrator.

Erica Littlewolf is program administrator of the Indigenous Vision Center, a program of Mennonite Central Committee Central States, and is affiliated with White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church, Busby, Montana, USA. Karin Kaufman Wall is the Peace and Justice Education staff person for MCC Central States and a member of New Creation Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas. Sue Eagle is the Indigenous Neighbours program coordinator for MCC Canada and is affiliated with Black Creek United Mennonite Church, Black Creek, British Columbia.

Watershed Discipleship: Understanding Each Other's Environmental Challenges E/S A15

Jennifer Halteman Schrock

This workshop provides opportunity for people to meet others from around the world and learn about their ecological setting and the challenges they face. Presenters will summarize "watershed discipleship," a response to the global ecological crisis that grounds church work and witness in the watersheds we inhabit. Participants will then form small groups for discussion; each group will focus on a different question such as, "What forms of environmental damage are you aware of within your community?" Come prepared to talk about your watershed, or alternately, the area within twenty-five miles (forty km) of your congregation.

Jennifer Halteman Schrock is a member of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, MCUSA, Goshen, Indiana. She works with Mennonite Creation Care Network and is the author of an adult curriculum entitled, "Every Creature Singing: Embracing the Good News for Planet Earth."

Wednesday, July 22 Late Afternoon 15:30 – 17:00

Slow Violence and the Gospel of Peace

E/S A15

Jennifer Halteman Schrock

While Mennonites have a rich heritage as people of peace, we have not always connected the dots between our peace convictions and the shalom that God intends for all of creation. One of the most critical forms of violence we face today is violence against the land. What are the questions a peace people should be asking at this juncture in history? This workshop will pose six questions, from the theological to day-to-day practical, and then invite attendees to break into groups to discuss what pursuing these questions might look like in different contexts.

Thursday, July 23 Early Afternoon 13:30 – 15:00

People of the Land: Mennonites and the Doctrine of Discovery

E/S A16

Sarah Augustine, Ewuare Osayande, Erica Littlewolf, and Anita Amstutz

We will explore our history as "people of the land" settling areas in North America inhabited by Indigenous communities, the original peoples of the land. We will look at theological understandings that have shaped our relationship to the land and relationships with Indigenous Peoples, and explore opportunities for congregations and the broader church to join with Indigenous Peoples to mutually seek environmental justice.

Sarah Augustine is consultant, Mennonite Central Committee Central States and co-director of the Suriname Indigenous Health Fund. Ewuare Osayande is anti-oppression coordinator, MCC US. Erica Littlewolf is coordinator of the Indigenous Vision Center, MCC Central States. Anita Amstutz is pastor at Albuquerque Mennonite Church and committee member of the Doctrine of Discovery roundtable

Thursday, July 23 Late Afternoon

15:30 – 17:00

Earthy Surprises: Applying an Ecological Lens to Biblical Texts E A10

Jennifer Halteman Schrock

This workshop introduces a Bible study method that highlights the presence of creation in biblical texts. The method is part of Mennonite Creation Care Network's "Every Creature Singing" adult curriculum. Participants will be invited to apply what the curriculum calls "Ecological Lens Questions" to selected texts. The ecological lens questions were inspired by the work of Old Testament scholar Norman Habel in "The Earth Bible Series" and "The Season of Creation."

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Friday, July 24

Early Afternoon

13:30 – 15:00

Liturgy and the Transformation of Creation and Community

E G3

Juerg Braeker

Worship and celebrating the liturgy can be understood as a public transformational act with political and ecological connotations, a reconstruction of community and restoration of creation. Essential to such an understanding is a broadened view of symbolic representation, including body, remembrance and action. Starting from Alexander Schmemmann's view of the world as sacrament, the workshop will look at the manifold relations between the liturgy and the world in which it is celebrated, as well as search for forms of liturgy that enhance such a transformational understanding of liturgy.

Juerg Braeker is general secretary of the Swiss Mennonite Conference and member of the Bern Mennonite congregation, and has a doctorate in theology. His research in systematic theology concentrated on the ecclesiology of the American-orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann, looking at missiological, sociological and ecological aspects. His dissertation has been published as "Kirche, Welt, Mission. Alexander Schmemmann – eine ökumenisch relevante Ekklesiologie" (2013)

The Effects of Climate Change on Human Health: Where do Justice, Missions, and Discipleship Fit?

E A19 *Lyubov Slashcheva*

Anabaptists have a strong history of stewardship and creation care, whether as farmers or urban-dwellers aiming for simplicity. As the modern world faces realities of climate change and a myriad of related human health challenges, the Anabaptist community ought to engage in dialogue on how our faith, Scripture, and commitment to authentic discipleship informs our response to both climate change and its resultant adverse affects on human health. This workshop will encompass a brief presentation from a variety of voices (environmentalists, scholars, theologians, politicians, agrarians) and will encourage discussion on justice/missions/discipleship implications in an Anabaptist perspective.

Lyubov Slashcheva is a dental student who has great interest in public health in missions abroad and in her local community. She is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University and is active in her local church at First Mennonite, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

Friday, July 24 Lunchtime Creation Care Meet-Up

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Join Janie Beck Kreider, Jennifer Schrock and others with interests in creation care. We'll hear what different people are working on and exchange ideas. Meeting place to be announced. Email mccn@goshen.edu if you want to be included.

Friday, July 24

Late Afternoon

15:30 – 17:00

Seven Points on Earth: A Global History of Mennonites and the Land **E A9**

John Eicher, Hans Peter Fast, Danang Kristiawan Royden Loewen, and Belinda Ncube

The "Seven Points on Earth" project is a comparative history of "Mennonites and the Environment" in seven Mennonite communities: Java, Bulawayo, Siberia, Iowa, Manitoba, Friesland, Santa Cruz (Bolivia). This workshop reviews the project and hears five of the seven young scholars present their preliminary findings from their field research. Each considers the way an Anabaptist faith is imagined and practiced with regard to land stewardship and growing food products. Participants are invited to respond to the questions: how have we experienced God in relationship to land? and, how are Mennonites a global people from the "ground" up?

Paper presenters are Danang Kristiawan, associate pastor, GITJ, Jepara, Indonesia; Belinda Ncube, church worker, Brethren in Christ, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Hans Peter Fast, geographer, Nondenominational Church,

Amsterdam, The Netherlands; John Eicher, MCUSA, PhD student at University of Iowa, USA; Royden Loewen, chair in Mennonite studies, University of Winnipeg, MC Canada.

Saturday, July 25

Late Afternoon

15:30 – 17:00

Roundtable on Global Mining Justice, Mining Resistance and Resource Extraction **E/S A19**

Peter and Meg Lumsdaine, and guests

MWC sisters and brothers from mining-impacted communities and countries are invited to actively participate in this roundtable discussion on how Mennonites and others can work in solidarity to help defend life-supporting human communities and God's creation from intensifying worldwide industrial mining and other forms of destructive resource extraction. MCC's Mining Justice Campaign is one approach, as are organizations of persecuted and predominantly Christian indigenous people - such as REMA in Mexico, KAMP in the Philippines and M4 in Central America - that are nonviolently resisting militarized corporate mining of their land.

Meg Lumsdaine, pastor of Evergreen Mennonite Church, has served as an ordained pastor for over sixteen years, and has participated in delegations to El Salvador, Cuba, Mexico, Jordan, and occupied Iraq. Peter Lumsdaine has preached, taught and lectured at Mennonite churches and conference assemblies in western North America, and has delivered many lectures on global justice and robotic weapons for university and community audiences. He worked for over fifteen years on the staff or board of nonprofit NGOs, work which has taken him to the war zones of Mexico, the Philippines, occupied Iraq, Korea, Jordan, Japan, and Guatemala. He served a two-year prison sentence for nonviolently disabling a US Air Force satellite. Meg and Peter were invited participants at the MCC-sponsored 2014 Doctrine of Discovery roundtable on indigenous land rights. They live with their two young children in the Pacific Northwest, USA.