

2019 CORCORAN CONFERENCE IN CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

*Merciful God, Punitive God: Interdisciplinary Reflections on  
Scriptural Warrants in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*

Boston College

April 7-8

Jack M

*This year, too, for thr* ~~9/21/19~~ *—not least important—as a model for human imitation.*

(Boston College)

**“Hidden in Plain Sight: Changing Perceptions of the Dome of the Rock”**

Recalling that  
know, Jack Miles opens the conference by introducing art historian Berger who  
namely, the Dome of the Rock  
in Jerusalem, focusing on its place in the history of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim  
art. *The Crescent on the Temple: The Dome of the Rock as Image of the  
Ancient Jewish Sanctuary* (Brill, 2012) does tell a story full of surprises!

**5:00-5:45 pm**

**Keynote Address**

**Patrick J. Ryan, S.J. (Fordham University)**

**“Neither Moloch nor the Velveteen Rabbit”**

As McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham, Patrick Ryan, whose  
doctorate from Harvard is in Islamic Studies, lectures twice a year on a topic of  
common Jewish-Christian-Muslim interest, always publishing the lecture with both  
a Jewish and a Muslim response. One quite recent such lecture was on imitation as a  
religious duty, differently inflected, of course, in the three traditions. As published,

As keynote speaker, he will further develop this theme,  
addressing the darker side of the divine character as well: the wrath of God as  
situated within the justice of God and otherwise within the related antinomies of the  
divine character (male/female, absent/present, creator/destroyer, etc.).

**6:00-6:30 pm**

**Reception – all are invited**

**6:30 pm**

**Dinner for presenters and invited guests**

**April 8 (Murray Room, Yawkey Center)**

**9:00-10:15 am**

**First Morning Session**

**Reuven Firestone (Hebrew Union College)**

**“Savagery and the Sacred:**

**The Rhetoric of Terror and Its Consequences in the Scriptural Monotheisms”**

Firestone, as Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam, Hebrew Union College and Jewish Institute of Religion, continues here the triplicate theme struck on the previous day: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. In his remarks, the emphasis is on the common ground between the three religions, but with the nuance and informed detail typical of his work. Given that the conference announcement specifically references the understood will of God as repeatedly a trigger for religious warfare, it matters that Firestone has a deep background in his work as the author both of *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* and of *Holy War in Judaism*.

**Respondent: Katherine McAuliffe (Boston College)**

McAuliffe is the co-recipient of a major Templeton Foundation research grant



3:00-4:15 pm

Second Afternoon Session

M. Cathleen Kaveny (Boston College)

**“*Prophecy Without Contempt and the Current American Moment*”**

Kaveny, professor of theology and law at Boston College, is the author of a major new work, *Prophecy Without Contempt* (Harvard University Press, 2018), a work that may become particularly timely if by early April Robert Mueller has delivered his long awaited report about Russian interference in the 2016 American presidential election. The thesis of her book is, broadly, that public discourse must have a place for righteous and passionate indignation in the spirit of the classical Israelite prophets, but that to *condemn* must never be to *contemn* and never is when the condemnation comes from God. The book is thus simultaneously about righteous anger and about its restraint.

**Respondent: ~~Shelagh Miskay~~ (Brandeis University)**

As the author of *Rav Kook: Mystic* ~~OTJ~~: