



ANDRÉ

LACOCQUE

Interreligious Lecture & Schaalman Award

**“Constructing Ethno-religious
Identities: How Latinx Jews
Assimilate in the United States”**

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Guest Lecturer:

Dr. Laura Limonic

Associate Professor of Sociology
The College of Old Westbury
of the State University of New York

GUEST LECTURER:

Dr. Laura Limonic



Laura Limonic is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of Old Westbury of the State University of New York. Her research is in the area of contemporary immigration to the United States and the integration trajectories of ethnic and ethno-religious groups. Her recent book, *Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States* explores issues of ethnicity, race, class and religious community building among Latino Jewish immigrants

in Boston, New York, Miami and Southern California. Laura's current work examines the rise of Chabad in Latin America as an avenue for Jewish identity construction and communal life among Jews in Latin America and abroad. Her work has been supported by the Berman Foundation, the Association for Jewish Studies and the Templeton Trust.

Laura received her PhD in Sociology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2014. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies from Brandeis University and a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University. In addition to academic research, Laura has an extensive background in public policy research and advocacy.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contemporary Jewish Immigrants | Latino Immigrants | First Generation to College Students | Immigration Policy

EDUCATION

The Graduate Center at the City University of New York
Ph.D. Sociology, 2014

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
Master of International Affairs, 2003

Brandeis University
Bachelor of Arts, Latin American Studies, 1997

PROGRAM

Welcome.....	Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd
Words of Gathering.....	Dr. Heesung Hwang
Tribute to Dr. André LaCocque.....	Dr. Bo Myung Seo and Rev. Craig Mousin
Faculty Announcements.....	Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva and Dr. Kameelah Mu'Min Rashad
Introduction.....	Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres
André LaCocque Interreligious Lecture.....	Dr. Laura Limonic
Response.....	Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva and Munir A. Shaikh
Open Q&A.....	moderated by Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva
Schaalman Award Presentation.....	Rev. Lisa Zook and Leo Wolters Tejera
Striving for Our Future.....	Chad Schwickerath
Closing Reflection.....	Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres

Chicago Theological Seminary is committed, in a global context of religious conflicts and a society structured by Christian privilege, to joyous embrace of religious diversity, expanding our ground-breaking work in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies to advance understanding and collaboration among the rich multiplicity of spiritual traditions and lifescapes.

SCHAALMAN AWARD

Presented to: Leo Wolters Tejera



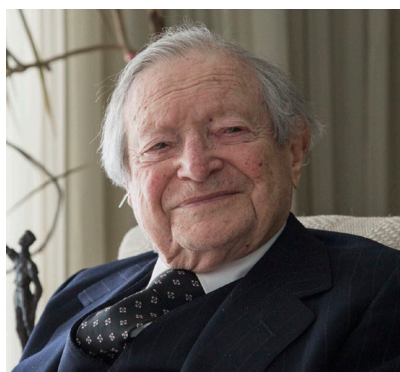
Chicago Theological Seminary is excited to announce the awarding of the Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Leadership Award to Leo Wolters Tejera. The award is presented by the InterReligious Institute at CTS.

Leo, a second-year Master of Religious Studies major with a concentration in

Interreligious Studies, currently lives in the town of Olean, a small rural town in southwest New York. Their project proposes an interfaith/interideological lawn sign campaign in their town that would play on current community awareness of intersectionality. They will purchase and distribute 300-500 lawn signs bearing the words, "There is no them, only us," to local community members, businesses, and organizations that agree to participate. In tandem with this, Leo will launch an op-ed campaign in Olean's local and regional newspapers; this campaign will contain writings from each sector that was maligned by a local pastor/principal that reflect the central theme.

Leo receives \$500 honorarium, as well as a \$500 micro-grant to get their project started.

The Schaalman Award is named for Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman, who was born in 1916 in Munich, Germany. In 1935, he managed to evade the advance of the Nazis and the Holocaust by enrolling in Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, from which he was ordained in 1941. In 1956, Schaalman was named Senior Rabbi of Emanuel Congregation of Chicago, a position he held for more than thirty years, after which he remained Rabbi Emeritus until his death.



Rabbi Schaalman is widely known for his interreligious activism. He advocated for constructive dialogue, believing that interreligious friendships could improve and heal the world. He developed a strong friendship with Dr. André LaCocque, for whom the LaCocque Lecture is named. Dr. LaCocque introduced Rabbi Schaalman to CTS, and he became a frequent lecturer, instructor, and beloved friend to the institution.

HISTORY OF THE LACOCQUE LECTURE

The André LaCocque Lecture (previously the IRI Spring Lecture) showcases the diversity faith can take on in the human experience. It is named in honor of André LaCocque, the longtime CTS professor and stalwart supporter of interreligious work, who passed away in January 2022. Presented each spring, the LaCocque Lecture aims to provide a forum for underrepresented religious minorities to make their voices heard.



André LaCocque was born in Liège, Belgium. He earned a PhD in Jewish Literature in 1957 and a ThD in Old Testament in 1961, both from the University of Strasbourg, France. He taught at the Faculté Protestante Universitaire de Bruxelles in Brussels, Belgium, from 1957 to 1968. He joined CTS in 1966 as Professor of Hebrew Bible.

Dr. LaCocque quickly formed a bond with Dr. Otto Betz, Chair of New Testament Studies, who inspired him to create a center for interreligious studies—advancing interfaith understanding. The Center of Jewish-Christian Studies (CJCS) was intended to be a research center for doctoral candidates, as well as a hub for public conferences. Later, Dr. LaCocque expanded the CJCS to include Islamic scholars and lectures, and organized the first national conference on women and Islam headlined by Muslim scholars. This reimagined Center for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies (JCIS) was one of the first centers dedicated to interreligious understanding among the Abrahamic traditions in the country. Its work continues today in the form of the CTS InterReligious Institute (IRI), which has expanded to include interreligious work among all spiritual lifescapes.



At Dr. LaCocque's recommendation, CTS hired Rabbi Herman E. Schaalan to teach Jewish Studies—a decision that ultimately facilitated our endowed chair in Jewish Studies. The two remained close friends throughout their lives, and they co-taught many courses together. Dr. LaCocque retired in 1996, but he remained active at CTS and beyond for many years

afterwards.

Dr. LaCocque was a prolific author, writing more than ten books on Biblical topics such as the Book of Ruth, the Book of Daniel, and the early Book of Genesis. With French philosopher Paul Ricœur, he wrote *Thinking Biblically: Exegetical and Hermeneutical Studies*, which won the prestigious University of Chicago Gordon J. Laing Prize in 1999.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 21** Victor Obenhaus Lecture – *IN-PERSON*
“Considering an Islamic Pastoral Theology of Consultation (shura)” with Leenah Safi
1:15pm
- March 23** Wednesday Gathering – *VIRTUAL*
Book Discussion: “If God is Love, Don’t Be a Jerk” with author John Pavlovitz
12:00pm
- March 30** Wednesday Gathering – *VIRTUAL*
Abolitionism and Criminal Justice Reform
with Rev. Avalon Gaston
12:00pm
- April 6** Wednesday Gathering – *VIRTUAL*
Victor Obenhaus Lecture
with Dr. Danielle Buhuro
12:00pm
- April 13** Wednesday Gathering – *VIRTUAL*
Convocation
featuring Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder
12:00pm
- April 13** Castañeda-Jennings Lecture – *VIRTUAL*
“Ghosts, Music: Black Gospel, the Fear of Queerness, and HIV/AIDS 1980-2005”
with Ashon Crawley
6:30pm
- April 24** Chicago Interfaith Trolley Tour and
Iftar Dinner – *IN-PERSON*
4:00pm

To register for these events, visit ctschicago.edu/events. All virtual events are held on Zoom.

Please note: Wednesday Gatherings do not require registration and are held each Wednesday at noon at bit.ly/wednesday-gatherings.