

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Apocalypse Revisited: Japan, Hiroshima, and the Place of Mimesis**

International Christian University, Tokyo, 5-8 July 2012

### **First International Conference of the Japan Girard Association and the Annual International Conference the Colloquium on Violence & Religion (COV&R)**

#### **Plenary Speakers**

**Norio Akasaka, (Gakushuen) Eric Gans (UCLA), Somaly Mam (Somaly Mam Foundation), Jean-Pierre Dupuy (Stanford), Shoiciro Iwakiri (International Christian U.) Richard Schenk, O.P. (President, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)**

COV&R, the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, is dedicated to the exploration, criticism, and development of René Girard's mimetic model of the relationship between violence and religion in the genesis and maintenance of culture. As Girard's most recent work has focused on escalating conflict and "total war," it is significant that COV&R's next conference takes place in Japan, the only nation to experience the devastation of an atomic weapon. This is also COV&R's first conference outside a Western venue, which highlights the question of the universality of Girard's model outside the direct influence of the Western intellectual or Judeo-Christian traditions. We invite interested parties to share in reflecting on the topics of crisis and place, as well as topics related to Hiroshima, apocalypse, catastrophe, utopian ideals, and the application of Girard's model, especially (but not only) within a Japanese context.

We welcome papers that use mimetic theory to deepen our understanding of:

- Different instantiations of crisis and their impact, interpretation, or cultural significance (war, natural disaster, man-made catastrophe, social or economic crisis)
- The application of mimetic theory to Japan (ancient, premodern, modern,

or postmodern) and its art, media, social developments, or sacred traditions

- Nuclear war, nuclear proliferation (particularly in Asia), and conflict resolution
- Utopian ideals, their roots, and their consequences
- Any paper on subjects related to Girard's thought, the development of mimetic theory, or critical challenges to it

### **Submission of Proposals, Panels, and Seminar Topics**

Papers for concurrent or parallel session are for 20 minute presentations followed by a brief discussion period. Panels are for 90 minutes. In addition to paper proposals, the Organizers of this conference welcome proposals for seminars on specific topics of interest to the Colloquium. Such proposals should include a designated seminar leader to coordinate the discussion, a description of the topic to be discussed, and a reading list. Accepted seminar proposals will be posted on the Conference webpage. Seminar participants in the Conference should sign up in advance for the given seminar, they will read the assigned essay(s), and they will be requested to write a short reflection (150 words) in response to the reading(s) as a preparation for the discussion.

Papers can be given in either Japanese or English. All papers accepted for the conference will be considered for publication along with the plenary papers in a bilingual volume."

Proposals for papers, panels, sessions, and seminars are due **March 16, 2012**. They should include contact information, a title, and an abstract (300 word limit), sent to Jeremiah Alberg via e-mail at [jlalberg@gmail.com](mailto:jlalberg@gmail.com) or mailed to him at ICU, 3-10-2 Osawa, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-8585 JAPAN.

*The conference will be held in conjunction with GASC: that is, panels and plenary sessions will be held concurrently with those constituting the 2012 annual meeting of the Generative*

*Anthropology Society.*

**Raymund Schwager, S.J., Memorial Essay Contest**

To honor the memory of Raymund SCHWAGER, SJ († 2004), the Colloquium on Violence and Religion is offering an award of \$1,500.00 shared by up to three persons for the three best papers given by graduate students at the COV&R 2012 meeting at the International Christian University. Students presenting papers at the conference are invited to apply for the Raymund Schwager Memorial Award by sending a letter to that effect and the full text of their paper (in English, maximum length: 10 pages) in an e-mail attachment to Jeremiah Alberg, organizer of COV&R 2012 and chair of the three-person COV&R 2012 Awards Committee at [jlalberg@gmail.com](mailto:jlalberg@gmail.com). Due date for submission is the closing date of the conference registration, **June 1**. Winners will be announced in the conference program. Prize-winning essays should reflect an engagement with mimetic theory; they will be presented in a plenary session and be considered for publication in *Contagion*.