

COMPASSION

MUTUAL CARE IN TROUBLED TIMES



A MULTI-FAITH, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE FOR SCHOLARS & ACTIVISTS

VST | INTER-RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
PROGRAM



MAY 27–29, 2025

ONLINE & IN-PERSON

CONFERENCE THEME

Compassion can bridge social divisions, uplift people in distress, inspire collective action, and create resilient communities. It is the ability to recognize, empathize with, and respond to others. For many spiritual communities, compassion is both a core practice and an essential idea. Spiritual traditions say compassion affirms the connectedness of all being, grounds an imperative to care, or is an essential divine trait.

What should the spirituality and practice of compassion look like in our time?

Along with scholarly presentations, activists will be featured on creating compassionate cities; Ubuntu, an African philosophy and practice of interconnectedness; compassionate outreach by spiritual communities; and spiritual practices to develop compassion.

KEYNOTE LECTURE

RADICAL INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP: EMPATHY
IN ACTION

DR. TERRI E. GIVENS

Professor of Political Science, UBC
Author of *Radical Empathy: Finding
a Path to Bridging Racial Divides*

Tuesday May 27, 7 - 8:30PM

Epiphany Chapel and Online

Free and open to the public



REGISTER
FOR THE KEYNOTE

REGISTRATION

Registration fee: Students \$90 / General \$190
Financial aid is available, contact nhayward@vst.edu for details.

Register at vst.edu/ir-conference.

A Zoom link will be provided for online participants.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Conference Director Rabbi Dr.
Laura Duhan-Kaplan, ldkaplan@vst.edu
or Conference Administrator Dr. Nicola E.
Hayward, nhayward@vst.edu.



REGISTER!