



SYMPOSIUM
CALL FOR PAPERS

CULTURE &
ITS DISCONTENTS:
FROM SELFIES TO COMMUNITY

HILTON PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, USA, 28 - 29 JULY 2023

Suggested Themes:

At the center of postmodern culture is a paradox: What Christopher Lasch analyzed as *The Culture of Narcissism* (1979) that celebrates an individual's unbounded subjectivity, found an unlikely ally in what Mark Milke calls *The Victim Cult* (2021) that focuses on past grievances while forsaking the future. Both Hitler and Stalin thought of themselves as "victims." Their paranoia stoked fascist and communist totalitarian dictatorships punctuated by Nazi concentration camps and the Soviet Gulag chronicled by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn. In post-World War II U.S., racial, ethnic and gender preferences had unintended consequences. Beneficiaries who succeeded due to talent and effort would have done so without preferences, while those less-prepared often faced higher education's revolving door. As contributors to *A Dubious Expediency* (2021) conclude, such preferences damage higher education, lowering standards, resulting in demands for further leveling, and silencing of independent voices via political correctness. But the major deleterious consequence of preferences is the retribalization of American society and resulting identity politics which now divide the Republic along ancient tribal, non-negotiable, lines. John McWhorter claims in *Woke Racism* (2021) that the "Elect"--self-styled gurus who demand uncompromising racial consciousness of victimhood from blacks and whites alike--propagate a new "religion" that has betrayed black America. The question arises: Can individuals and groups in 21st-century America find common ground, renewing the culture and civil society as the precondition for community and a more perfect Union?

JIS 2023

JIS Symposium 2023 endeavors to bring together scholars from a wide range of disciplines and denominations for an exciting international conference which takes both scholarship and faith seriously. **JIS Symposium 2023: Culture & Its Discontents** is co-sponsored by IIR-ICSA-JIS in the City of the Roses--the world-famous Tournament of Roses--in sunny Southern California, with many cultural & sightseeing opportunities. All conference participants must pre-register. Abstracts (250 words) due: March 1, 2023: c/o Dr. O. Gruenwald, JIS Editor, 1065 Pine Bluff Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107, USA, per e-mail (no attachments) to: info@jis3.org. Include: Paper Title, First & Last Name, faculty or student, institution, mailing address, telephone & e-mail. Fully-developed papers will be considered for publication in the refereed *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies XXXVI 2024*. Web: <https://www.jis3.org/symposium2023>.

CULTURE & ITS DISCONTENTS

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE:

Check-In: Friday, July 28, 3:00 - 6:00 PM, Hilton Pasadena. **Reception:** Friday, July 28, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Coffee Corner. **Main Conference Program:** Saturday, July 29, 8:45 AM - 6:00 PM: Monterey Room. **Keynote:** Saturday, July 29: Monterey Room. **Format:** Multidisciplinary panels and papers. Participants are encouraged to attend the entire conference to enhance dialogue, synergy, and synthesis, as well as fellowship. Presenting a paper is not a prerequisite for participation. Indicate if you prefer to serve as discussant. Family members enjoy the reduced student registration rate. **Audio-Visual Equipment:** Bring laptop or flash drive if desired for PowerPoint presentation. **Cultural / Ecclesial / Sightseeing:** Before or after the conference. Optional Field Trips: Huntington Library & Gardens, Norton Simon Museum, JPL.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS:

Lodging: We recommend that conference participants make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. **Hilton Pasadena Reservations:** 1-800-445-8667 or 626-577-1000. Cultural/sightseeing/travel/accommodations: **Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau:** www.visitpasadena.com; 1-800-307-7977. Bring an alarm clock and a sweater or jacket for cooler mornings and evenings. **Ground Transportation:** Hilton Pasadena (168 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101) may be reached from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) via shuttles, e.g., Prime Time Shuttle (shared ride: \$35): 1-800-733-8267, or rent-a-car (ca. 45-minute drive).

JIS SYMPOSIUM 2023 REGISTRATION FORM:

First and Last Name (Please Print) _____

Institution/Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

REGISTRATION FEE *:

By March 15, 2023:	After March 15, 2023:	After May 1, 2023:	Totals:
____ Regular: \$100	____ Regular: \$125	____ Regular: \$150	\$ _____
____ Student: \$ 75	____ Student: \$100	____ Student: \$100	\$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION: \$ _____

* **Registration fee** includes complimentary copy of *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*

Money Order/Travelers Check in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank, payable to: **ICSA**.
Mail Form & Payment to: Dr. O. Gruenwald, 1065 Pine Bluff Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107, USA.
For Credit Card: Use PayPal Cart on **JIS** Web: <https://www.jis3.org/symposium2023>