



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERFAITH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNICATION

You are invited to participate in a one-day arts-based interfaith workshop for young adults from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, communities.

Monday, February 23rd – 9:30 a.m. – 17:00 p.m.

Free with lunch and snacks provided (all vegetarian, with Kosher options available) and transportation reimbursement.

Location (TBD) at Concordia University

You are invited to be a part of a one- day arts based interfaith workshop with the goal to increase dialogue and exchange among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, young adults. The participants will include men and women ages 18-26, three from each religious community. Whereas interfaith dialogue has mostly involved verbal communication, there is growing evidence that an especially effective way to build trust and mutual understanding is by engaging in emotionally meaningful joint activities and creative projects. To that aim in this workshop participants will have an opportunity to work together through the use of art, drama, writing, and music. As a starting point for exploring commonalities and differences the workshop will focus on the shared ancestry of Abraham/Ibrahim and narratives from the sacred texts around Hagar/Hajar, Sarah, Isaac/Ishaq, and Ishmael/Ismail. The focus will be on exploring how the themes from these narratives relate to personal faith, practice, and relationships with other faiths. The goal of the workshop is to offer an arts based and creative framework for discovering

commonalities and negotiating differences in a respectful and peaceful way. The workshop will be filmed by noted Quebec cinematographer Martin Duckworth and the final format will be a documentary film that could potentially be an educational tool to help with interfaith communication and dialogue. The film will be screened publically for educational purposes.

The workshop will include men and women. There will be one facilitator from each faith, and they will all be sensitive to religious commitments and observance.

By participating in this study you could gain more understanding about the two other religious communities and have an opportunity for interfaith communication. You will have an opportunity to participate in arts based activities that can promote expression and give a sense of meaning making in regards to your own religious tradition and other religious traditions. You could potentially bring some of the interfaith dialogue and new understandings back to your own communities and help promote future interfaith communication and dialogue.

The project is under the direction of Yehudit Silverman, Professor in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies, Concordia University, along with several collaborators who are professors from Concordia University, Perwaiz Hayat, Islamic Studies, Naftali Cohn, Judaic Studies, Paul Allen, Theology, Guylaine Vaillancourt, Music Therapy, and PhD students Eliza Tasbihi, Islamic Studies, and Jessica Bleuer, Multicultural Studies, and Dawson College Religion professor, Boustan Hirji. The project is funded by a Concordia University Seed Funding Grant.

If you participate you will be asked to engage in the following:

- 1) a one hour pre-workshop interview that will be filmed to learn more about your background and what unique qualities you bring to the workshop, and your involvement, knowledge, attitudes, and experience with members of the other two faith communities.
- 2) a one day art-based interfaith workshop that will be filmed with the focus on interfaith dialogue and the sacred narratives of Abraham/Ibrahim, Hagar/Hajar, Sarah, Isaac/Ishaq, and Ishmael/Ismail. You will be asked to work with these narratives through the mediums of art, drama, writing, and music.

3) a one hour post-workshop interview where you will be asked about your experience of the workshop and if the workshop altered your knowledge, attitude or understanding about the other two faith communities.

In total, participating in this study will take two hours of individual interviews and a full day interfaith workshop.

The participants will be recruited from University religious organizations, interfaith dialogue groups, and religious community centers. The participants, all active members of their religious communities, will represent a spectrum of religious observance. Eligibility will be based on a willingness to engage in interfaith dialogue, interest in other faith's perspectives, and a curiosity and interest in working collaboratively with arts based activities.

If you are interested and/or would like more information please contact:

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