

WORLD RELIGIONS

FINDING COMMON GROUND

A Conversation with Rabbi Reuven Firestone, Amir Hussain, and Pim Valkenberg,
moderated by USC Dean of Religious Life Varun Soni



*USC Sidney Harman Academy
for Polymathic Study*

This event is cosponsored by the USC Caruso Catholic Center and the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at USC.

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Doheny Memorial Library
Friends Lecture Hall, Room 240

To RSVP, visit usc.edu/esvp and enter the code:
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MUCH IS MADE THESE DAYS about the differences between us. But Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious traditions and ideology have evolved from a common source and share many ideas and core beliefs. Is it possible for global citizens to come together and live in community and peace? Can we celebrate that which unifies us across faiths and accept, even embrace, that which gives us our uniqueness? To open our fall 2016 Polymathic Program, Dean Varun Soni will lead a discussion with three internationally renowned religious scholars—Reuven Firestone, Pim Valkenberg, and Amir Hussain—on issues that have historically divided us—race, faith, and violence—with a genuine desire to promote a deeper understanding of ourselves and others.



AMIR HUSSAIN, a Canadian Muslim, is Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, where he teaches courses on Islam and world religions. An expert in the subject of contemporary Muslim societies in North America, Amir is the author or editor of numerous books and scholarly articles. He is currently finishing a volume on how American Muslims have woven themselves into the fabric of American life, titled *Islam and the Building of America*.



WILHELMUS (PIM) VALKENBERG was born in the Netherlands where he studied both theology and religious studies. His field of specialization is Christian-Muslim dialogue in the context of Abrahamic partnership. He is also interested in Christology, hermeneutics, comparative theology, mysticism, and the study of the Quran. He is Professor of Religion and Culture in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. His books in the field of interreligious dialogue include *The Polemical Dialogue; Christology and Dialogue; and Sharing Lights on the Way to God: Muslim-Christian Dialogue and Theology in the Context of Abrahamic Partnership*.



RABBI REUVEN FIRESTONE received his PhD in Arabic and Islamic studies from New York University. He serves as the Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and on the faculty of the School of Religion and the Middle East Studies Center at USC. Firestone's books include *An Introduction to Islam for Jews; Muslims in Dialogue: A Practical Handbook; and Who are the Real Chosen People: The Meaning of Chosenness in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. He also coedited *Learned Ignorance: An Investigation into Humility in Interreligious Dialogue between Christians, Muslims and Jews*.

