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# NOT EVEN PAST



## IHS Book Roundtable: The New Faces of Neoliberal Christianity in Latin America

By [Virginia Garrard](#)



**IHS PRESENTS**

"The New Faces of Neoliberal Christianity in Latin America"

With Panelists: Paola Canova, Jennifer Scheper Hughes, and Karina Kosicki Bellotti

A book roundtable on Professor Virginia Garrard's new book - *New Faces of God in Latin America: Emerging Forms of Vernacular Christianity*

Jan. 27, 2022  
5-6:30 pm CDT  
Online on Zoom  
To register visit:  
<https://bit.ly/3xhSi90>



Institute for Historical Studies – Thursday, January 27, 2022

### Notes from the Director

In *New Faces of God in Latin America: Emerging Forms of Vernacular Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2020), Professor Virginia Garrard poses two questions: What are the "New Faces of God" in

previous ones?

Professor Garrard identifies various decentralized, bottom-up religious movements that, unlike previous movements, are controlled by local ministries whose ethnicity and backgrounds reflect that of the majority of the population: Indian, Black, Women. These movements reflect the actual racial, ethnic composition of local societies much better than did traditional forms of colonial Christian religion, usually in the hands of European, Creole elites or USA missionaries.

In one sense these movements are deeply anticolonial.

Studies of these new forms of religion in Africa and Asia cast these movements as peculiarly rooted in the “Global South.”

Like previous manifestations of grass-roots, democratic theological experimentation and decentralization in the US, these spiritual movements rely on individual interpretations of the Old Testament and Pentecostal, demonological interpretations of the Act of the Apostles. These movements seek self-help and material success. They also seek to cut ties between individuals and traditional forms of communal, theological, or bureaucratic authority. These vernaculars movements are fast growing. They now represent a quarter of the population of Latin American.

Inspired by Garrard’s new book, our panelists will explore the connections between these new religious movements and globalization-neoliberalism. They will probe whether the rise and global spread of these forms of right-wing-conservative-cum-anticolonial Christianity represent a challenge to prevailing theories of colonialism, modernity, and secularization.



## Featured Discussants:

### **Dr. Paola Canova**

Associate Professor of Anthropology and  
Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS)  
The University of Texas at Austin

### **Dr. Virginia Garrard**

Professor, Department of History, and  
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Religious Studies, and Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American  
Studies (LLILAS)  
The University of Texas at Austin

### **Dr. Jennifer Scheper Hughes**

Professor, Department of History  
University of California, Riverside

### **Dr. Karina Kosicki Bellotti**

Professor, Department of History  
Federal University of Paraná (Brazil)

**Moderated by:**



**Dr. Jorge Canizares-Esguerra**

Alice Drysdale Sheffield Professor of History; and  
Director, Institute of Historical Studies  
The University of Texas at Austin

**Introductions by:****Ashley N. Garcia**

Graduate Research Assistant, Institute of Historical Studies; and  
Doctoral Candidate, Department of History  
The University of Texas at Austin

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