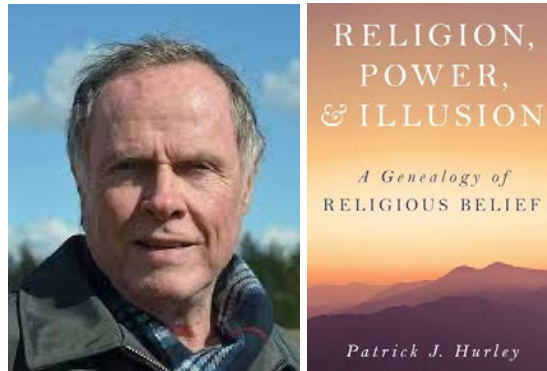


Ethics Center Lecture

Are Religious Beliefs Illusions?



Patrick J. Hurley
University of San Diego

March 20, 5:00-6:00 pm
ED170

Patrick Hurley will provide the genealogy of religion explained in his new book, *Religion, Power, and Illusion*. Hurley argues that priests create gods while claiming to be able to bargain with those gods for the benefit of the community. Members of the community are persuaded that good things are the result of this priestly bargaining. The community then rewards the priests by granting them power, control, wealth, and social status. Modern priests have built upon and reenacted the activity of priests in earlier times, thus producing today's Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Patrick J. Hurley is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Diego. He is the author of widely-used textbook, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, now in its 14th edition. His talk is based on his new book, *Religion, Power, and Illusion: A Genealogy of Religious Belief* (Prometheus Books, 2023).



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