



Minns Lectureship Proposal Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal to the Minns Lectureship Committee.

To be considered for a lectureship, submit a proposal and a writing sample in Word or PDF format to the Minns Lectureship Committee, using the form provided at www.minnslectures.org/. The deadline for submissions is August 31 for a proposal to be considered for the following spring series. However, the committee welcomes proposals at any time and will consider them for future years. General inquiries can be directed to programdirector@minnslectures.org.

All proposals must include the following:

- Proposal (2000 words maximum)
- Curriculum vitae
- Writing sample

The proposal must include the following sections:

- Introduction and overview
- Context and rationale
- Research description
- Individual lecture abstracts (250 words each)

The introduction and overview should describe the topic and the core question(s) the lecturer will address in the series.

The context and rationale should discuss why this topic is of import in relation to the current and future state of religious liberalism. A successful proposal will also address why the Minns Lectureship Series is the appropriate venue for addressing this topic. The context and rationale should make it clear how the lecture series will contribute to or productively challenge scholarly and public understanding of liberal religion.

Questions to consider in writing the context and rationale *may* include:

- What current social, religious, or political trends make this topic interesting to liberal religious communities?
- What contribution will the lectures make to contemporary scholarly and public views about liberal religion?
- What new information will the lectures offer that will change liberal religious communities' current views about this topic?

- How will your lectures help religious liberals address emerging 21st century political, religious, and social challenges?
- How will your lectures challenge regnant or recover valuable but neglected aspects of liberal religious communities' ethical practice and commitments?
- How will your lectures help us gain new insight into theological topics of perennial interest to religious liberals: including the nature of religious experience, the relationship between immanence and transcendence, and artistic evocations of the ineffable?
- If your lecture series is historical, how will the lectures reinterpret or cast new light on events, ideas, individuals, or communities of special interest for religious liberals?
- What will the lecture series contribute to existing bodies of literature on this topic within religious liberalism?

The individual lecture abstracts should describe each presentation's distinctive content as well as the central claim concerning this content. In addition, the individual lecture abstracts should clearly state how each presentation will develop the overall question, problem, or topic addressed in the whole series.

Proposals should include a bibliography (one page) and demonstrate the lecturer's knowledge of recent publications and research on this topic (either scholarly or general interest).

If the lecturer(s) will write the lectures based on future research, please give a timeline for the completion of this research. The committee wishes to promote original, previously unpublished work. However, the Minns Lectureship Committee will fund research only in special cases.

The writing sample should demonstrate the lecturer's ability to effectively address an educated lay audience of Unitarian Universalists. The writing sample can be a published work of scholarship or public commentary (publications appearing in both traditional and online venues are welcome). The writing sample should indicate an appropriate knowledge of and engagement with scholarly research on the proposed topic.