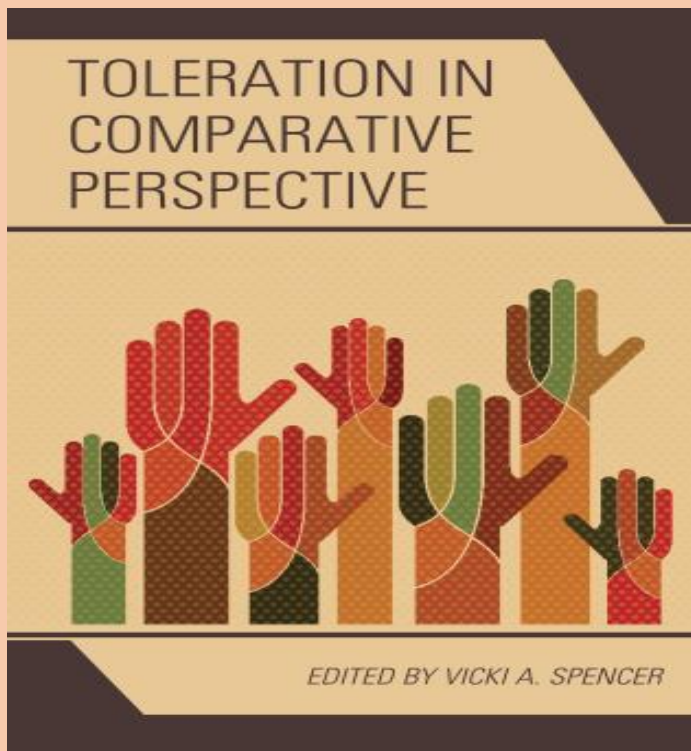


Conversation-Seminar with Vicki Spencer: *Toleration in Comparative Perspective* ~After Christchurch~



Discussants include:

- ❖ **Vicki A Spencer*** (Otago University, New Zealand)
- ❖ **Purushottama Bilimoria** (Moderator) (GTU & UC Berkeley)
- ❖ **Christopher Ocker** (GTU, Berkeley, Chair Historical and Cultural Studies)
- ❖ **Alexander von Rospatt** (UC Berkeley)
- ❖ **Aaron Grizzell** (GTU & Nor Cal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation)
- ❖ **Munis Faruqui** (UC Berkeley)
- ❖ **Dan Blanton** (UC Berkeley)

When: April 16th, 5-7pm

Where: 3335 Dwinelle, UC Berkeley

Co-sponsors: PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY, BERKELEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, INSTITUTE FOR SOUTH ASIA STUDIES, CENTER FOR DHARMA STUDIES (GTU)

The idea that toleration is a uniquely modern Western concept based on liberal foundations has been increasingly challenged in recent times. The authors in *Toleration in Comparative Perspective* test the veracity of this assumption by examining approaches to cultural and religious diversity in various intellectual traditions in Asia and the West.

Toleration in modern Western thought is understood as principled non-interference in the practices and beliefs of others that one disapproves of or, at least, dislikes. While this concept is not always easily translated into other traditions, the seminar will illuminate various intersections between Western and non-Western traditions by exploring points of commonality and difference.

What appears to emerge is a family of resemblances in approaches to religious and cultural diversity which bear a remarkable similarity to the Western concept, while others provide models for positive engagement with diversity in both Asia and the West.

*Assoc. Professor of Political Theory at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She works on cultural and religious diversity with reference to the Enlightenment and contemporary Western thought. She is Editor and contributing author of *Toleration in Comparative Perspective* (NY: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017). She has also authored *Herder's Political Thought* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012).