

# Religion, Faith, and Practical Non-Cognitivism

Thursday, October 5, 2023

4 - 6 p.m.

Birks Heritage Chapel  
3520 University Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2A7

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There is an on-going debate over the question how belief-like faith is. There are a variety of different ways to make the case that faith is a non-cognitive attitude - that it does not involve (or, at least, does not necessarily involve) propositional belief. In this paper, I develop a practice-based case for non-cognitivism about religious faith. I argue that a non-cognitivist understanding of religious faith is supported and informed by considering the place of faith in the practice of certain organized religions. I develop this argument by drawing in particular on the case of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which emphasizes practical goodness over doctrinal or theoretical correctness. Certain core practices of this form of religious life - practices like covenant-making and repentance - are sustained by a kind of faith that operates in contexts that are hostile to rational belief.

**Discussion by Professor Philip Buckley**

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