



University  
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# Animist Imaginaries and Environmental Activism

Timothy Stacey

Thursday, June 17

12:00-1:00 p.m. PDT

Meeting URL: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/89147884948?pwd=U2s-raHZGNHRPMnNLaVQ2R3h1M0YyZz09>

Scholars increasingly suggest that for Westerners, getting serious about the environment will require shedding their Abrahamic past and re-animating or rediscovering the animism in their imaginaries. But what if the process of creating rigid boundaries between West and East, North and South, Abrahamic and animist itself reinforces the walls that have to be crossed by those seeking to connect with the environment? Drawing on ethnographic work with nonindigenous British Columbians engaged in environmental activism, I will suggest that a willingness to play with imaginaries provides a crucial first step in the journey towards an animist imaginary.

**Timothy Stacey** is a Lecturer in Religion and Politics at Leiden University. He explores the role of myths, rituals, magic and traditions in mobilising people in diverse settings.

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/csrs/>