



University
of Victoria



Towards a New History of Modern Poetry and Religion

Graham Jensen

Thursday, November 28

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

This lecture explores how unorthodox and increasingly private forms of religion transformed Canadian society and culture in the twentieth century. More specifically, it examines how the American philosopher and psychologist William James's notion of "personal religion" serves as a productive entry point into discussions of literary as well as religious innovation. Advanced in James's influential *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902), this idea not only encapsulated the religious concerns of James's own age, but also directly inspired the kinds of anti-institutional religious sentiments that would come to dominate postwar poetry.

Graham Jensen is a postdoctoral fellow in English at UVic, and Principal Investigator of the Canadian Modernist Magazines Project (modernistmags.ca). The author of *Unorthodox Modernisms: Varieties of Personal Religion in Twentieth-Century Canadian Poetry*, his work focuses on modernist literature and religion.

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