The Religion of Humans for the First 95% of Their History

Jordan Paper

Thursday, February 14
5:00-6:00 p.m.
David Strong Building, Room C122

Homo Sapiens evolved between 300,000 and 200,000 years ago, and we have mentally and physically remained essentially the same ever since. Around 10,000 years ago, horticulture developed in a number of places around the globe and this led to a revolution in religion along with society: Familism. From the standpoint of religio-ecology (a variation of cultural-ecology), the religion of the preceding foraging cultures should be approximately the same everywhere and at all times. So what was the religion for at least the first 190,000 years of our past? This presentation will explore the means for accessing and understanding the earliest human theology and resulting praxis, and the speculative findings from this study.

Jordan Paper is Professor Emeritus at York University (Toronto). He has written books on religion in China, Native North American religions, female spirituality, Chinese Judaism, mysticism, and polytheistic theology, all from comparative perspectives. He is currently researching religion and society in the eras before and after the horticultural revolution.

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