

Porosity and Boundedness:

How the way we think about thinking changes our sensory experience of gods and spirits.

Part of the **Emory Forum** for the **Ethnographic Study of Religion 2020**



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the **Watkins University Professor** at Stanford University. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and many other publications. She is the author of *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God*.

This talk makes the argument that the way people think about their minds shapes the way they come to know God. I do this by looking at the kinds of people who have more vivid spiritual experiences (they are more likely to get absorbed in their inner worlds), the way prayers train attention to inner experience, and above all at the way that different cultures invite people to think differently about inner life. I see a paradox: the more a culture imagines an inner world as separate from an outer world, the less vividly they experience gods and spirits.

Thursday | Feb. 27 | 12-1:30 pm

Rita Anne Rollins - Center for Ethics Room 162

Light lunch provided

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