



Building Bridges in the City of Light: Dialogue and Mutual Engagements among Jews, Christian, Muslims and Atheists

by **David Wellman**
(DePaul University, Chicago, USA)

This presentation aims to shed new light on the challenges and opportunities for building bridges across boundaries of religious, racial and ethnic difference in modern Paris, and potentially other cities as well. For so doing it will explore the ways in which the ecological crisis can provide a contextual framework for understanding the pressures of migration, the rise of nationalism, and the history of religiously identified violence, discrimination, cooperation and peace-building in Paris and what they can teach us about similar cases across the European Union, also examining grass-roots efforts for building bridges among Jews, Christians, Muslims and Atheists in the City of Light. In so doing it examines how the histories of these four traditions have prepared their adherents to constructively engage the Other, as well as number of relevant and innovative practices related to it.



David Joseph Wellman is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at DePaul University, Chicago (USA). He holds a Ph.D. (Union Theological Seminary); M.A. (Columbia University) and B.A (Lewis and Clark College). Specialist in peace, justice, religion and conflict studies. In addition, he is also Board member of Societas Ethica.

Wellman's work focuses on the relationship between religion and diplomacy, ecological ethics and inter-religious engagement. He is the author of *Sustainable Diplomacy: Ecology, Religion and Ethics in Muslim-Christian Relations* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) and *Sustainable Communities* (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2001). Wellman's writing on diplomacy was used as the basis for two international conferences, whose outcome was the collaborative volume *Sustainable Diplomacies* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). Wellman is in addition a long-time club musician.



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Place: Antia Residence

To confirm attendance:
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