

The Fire and the Rose are One:

Eroticism and Ritual as Agents of Change in
American Contemplative Christianity

Thursday October 19, 11:30-1:00 ANSO 134



How often is eroticism linked with Christianity in contemporary North America? Drawing from five years of ethnographic fieldwork with American monks and a network of non-monastic contemplative Christians, this paper discusses the roles of Bridal Mysticism, ritual, and pluralism in contesting long-established doctrines of religious institutions, while also exploring practitioners' deliberate cultivation of *communitas* as an agent of perceptual and social change.

with Dr. Paula Pryce