



Birmingham, Alabama



April 21–22, 2017

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS: EARTH, SELF, GOD

CLAYTON CROCKETT, SUSAN (ELLI) ELLIOTT

Changing Perceptions of Earth

Features of the natural world—like the sun—were once seen as deities or emanations of a deity. With the birth of a mathematical universe in the 17th century, this supernatural world collapsed. Nevertheless, religion, philosophy, and a natural relationship to the earth continue to have meaning. How do shifting spiritual and secular outlooks affect the human relationship to the earth today, particularly in light of environmental crises, resource depletion, and climate change? (Elliott and Crockett)

◆ Friday, 7:30–9 pm



Clayton Crockett (Ph.D., Syracuse University) is Professor and Director of Religious Studies at the University of Central Arkansas. He is the author of a number of books, including *Radical Political Theology: Religion and Politics after Liberalism* (2011) and *Religion, Politics, and the Earth: The New Materialism* (with Jeffrey W. Robbins, 2012).



Susan (Elli) Elliott (Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago) is a writer, workshop leader, and environmental activist based in Red Lodge, Montana. She is the author of *Cutting Too Close for Comfort: Paul's Letter to the Galatians in its Anatolian Cultic Context* (2003/2008) and *Family Empires: The Roman Family Empire and Early Christian Responses* (forthcoming, Polebridge).

All Events at

Edgewood Presbyterian Church
850 Oxmoor Road
Homewood, AL 35209

Registration Fees

All Sessions

Pre-registration (by Apr 7, 2017)	\$60
Registration (after Apr 7, 2017)	\$75
Additional Family Member	\$50

Single Sessions

Friday Evening, 7:30–9 PM	\$20
Saturday Morning, 9:30 AM–NOON	\$30
Saturday Afternoon, 1:30–4 PM	\$30

Ancient and Modern Self

Christianity was born at a pivot-point in history when social relationships were being profoundly reordered to make the Roman Empire one household under one Father, the divine emperor. In this context, as Christians and others struggled to redefine their concept of self, some of their strategies preserved an imperial structure of relationships. What does this mean for Christian ideas of the self in our time? (Elliott)

◆ Saturday, 9:30–10:30 am

A Postmodern Self

The postmodern understanding of the self is a response to new facts about the human brain, new connections to other animals, and profound relations to machines. Postmodernism reveals, on the one hand, our interconnectedness to machines and other species, and on the other, the uncertain and potentially negative impact of human activity on the planet. What kind of self does this imply, and what sorts of responsibilities result? (Crockett)

◆ Saturday, 11 am–noon

The God Question

What is God's value for humanity and its future? Crockett suggests conceiving of God not as a being but as *being itself*, that is, as energy that possesses spiritual as well as material implications. Elliott suggests setting the basic Christian narrative aside in favor of place-based thinking to open new possibilities for human connectivity to the web of life and even the divine.

◆ Saturday, 1:30–2:30 pm

Open Forum

Elliott and Crockett will facilitate group questions and discussion.

◆ Saturday, 3–4 pm

Sponsors

Southern Progressive Alliance for Exploring Religion (SPAFER)
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Contact

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Additional Family Members	\$50	_____	_____

SINGLE SESSIONS

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