



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

The Impact of Laughter and Humor in History and Today's Digitized World

“Creativity, Humor, and Play”

Friday, April 8, 2016 – Morning Session (9:00 to 10:30 a.m.)

Moderator



David Bentley Hart is a Templeton Fellow in residence at the NDIAS for the 2015-2016 academic year. His most recent appointment is as the visiting Danforth chair of St. Louis University; he has also held positions at The University of Virginia, Duke University, and Providence College. His specialties are philosophical theology, systematics, patristics, classical and continental philosophy, and Asian religion. His most recent work has concerned the genealogy of classical and Christian metaphysics, ontology, the metaphysics of the soul, and the philosophy of mind. Hart's principal scholarly books are *The Beauty of the Infinite* (2003); *The Doors of the Sea* (2005); *In the Aftermath* (2007); *Atheist Delusions* (2009); and *The Experience of God* (2013). He has also published a popular history of Christianity (2007), a volume of short stories, and over 150 articles in such

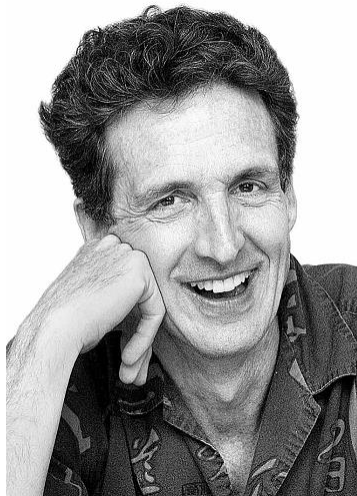
scholarly journals as *Modern Theology*, *The Scottish Journal of Theology*, and *Pro Ecclesia*, as well as in such trade publications as *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *First Things*, and *Commonweal*. He has served as an endowed fellow of the Center for Theological Inquiry in Princeton. In 2011, he was awarded the Michael Ramsey Prize of the Church of England.

Presenters

D. Fox Harrell is Associate Professor of Digital Media in the Comparative Media Studies Program and in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His research focuses on the relationship between imaginative cognition and computation. He founded and directs the MIT Imagination, Computation, and Expression Laboratory (ICE Lab) to develop new forms of computational narrative, gaming, social media, and related digital media based in computer science, cognitive science, and digital media arts. Professor Harrell has worked as an interactive television producer and as a game designer. He is the author of



Phantasmal Media: An Approach to Imagination, Computation, and Expression (2013) and more than 70 articles and book chapters. Professor Harrell's research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and collaboration with the Qatar Computing Research Institute. Professor Harrell has received a number of prestigious awards, including an NSF CAREER Award (2010), a Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University (2014-2015), and a Lenore Annenberg and Wallis Annenberg Fellowship in Communication (2014-2015).



John Morreall is Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary. An internationally recognized expert on the philosophy of humor and on its benefits, Professor Morreall is the author of *Taking Laughter Seriously* (1983), *The Philosophy of Laughter and Humor* (1987), *Humor Works* (1997), *Comedy, Tragedy, and Religion* (1999), *Comic Relief: A Comprehensive Philosophy of Humor* (2009), *Laughing All the Way* (2016), and more than 70 articles and book chapters on humor. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Asahi Shimbun*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *Forbes*, and *The Economist*. He has taught courses on humor since 1983 and, in 2000, an international conference was held in Amsterdam based on his book *Humor Works*. Since 1988 he has served on the editorial board of *Humor: The International Journal of Humor Research* and he currently serves as Honorary President of the International Association for the Philosophy of Humor. In 2004 and 2005 he was elected President of the International Society for Humor Studies.