

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES COLLOQUIUM EXAMINES THE QUESTION OF EVIL

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Faculty members from different disciplines considered the question of evil at the fall Interdisciplinary Studies Colloquium. Dr. Jerry Dolan, Professor of Philosophy, moderated the panel presentations. The presentations included:

- “It’s Not Fair: Images of God and the Problem of Evil” by Associate Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Ann Riggs
- “The Economic Impact of the Belief in Evil in the United States” by Assistant Professor of Business Dr. Karen Spohn
- “Building Better Barrels” by retired Professor of Nursing Dr. Grace Sullivan
- “The Depiction of Evil in Art and Film” by Associate Professor of Art Cliff Davis.

The panel explored topics raging from the Lisbon earthquake and the Holocaust to September 11, the Challenger explosion, and the depiction of evil in George Romero’s zombie movies. Ann Riggs pointed out that in the 20th and 21st centuries, there is no vocabulary to address evil – it has been relegated to the religious sphere. Karen Spohn asked audience to consider how their beliefs in evil effected daily decisions and how those decisions could influence the economy.

Grace Sullivan explored evil from a rational technological approach, considering how bureaucracy can lead to greater emphasis on doing a thing right than on doing the right thing. Cliff Davis presented works of art depicting three possible definitions of evil: natural, human nature, and supernatural. ■

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