

## Using Religious Cultural Competence in Biology Education



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***Friday, May 27th, 2022, 10:00 – 11:00 AM***

***Zoom link: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/94237413284>***

A roundtable discussion with Dr. Barnes will take place immediately following (11-11:30)

**Abstract:** In this seminar we will discuss how instructors teaching evolution can reduce tension between a student's religious identity and evolution. Evolution is a foundational component of biology education, yet it remains controversial among many college students who perceive a conflict between evolution and their religious beliefs. Further, this perceived conflict between religion and evolution can disproportionately effect people of color and women who tend to be more religious than white men. Biology instructors may struggle with addressing this perceived conflict between religion and evolution when teaching evolution because the majority of evolution instructors do not share the religious beliefs or backgrounds of their students; approximately 65% of college biology students identify as religious while only 25% of biologists identify as religious. Despite decades of evolution education research in the United States that illustrates how to reduce conflict between religion and evolution, we have found that many biology instructors are still uncomfortable addressing religious beliefs when teaching evolution. To highlight a need for cultural competence among biology instructors teaching evolution to religious students I will present an instructional framework called Religious Cultural Competence in Evolution Education (ReCCEE) that includes evidence-based practices to reduce students' perceived conflict between religion and evolution and create more inclusive evolution education for religious students. I will discuss studies illustrating the efficacy of this framework and end with a study illustrating the need for religious cultural competence in COVID19 education.

Hosted by: Katie Petrie ([kpetrie@ucsd.edu](mailto:kpetrie@ucsd.edu))