



Spring 3-29-2004

## Media Advisory

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### Recommended Citation

Wetherille, Erin, "Media Advisory" (2004). *News and Events*. 5814.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5814>

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March 29, 2004

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## *Media Advisory*

**Event:** *Student-Faculty Colloquium on Religion* to present: "The Powers of Professor X: Some Reflections on the Forbidden Knowledge of Religious Studies," preceded by the Student Research Symposium

**Date:** April 9 (Friday)

**Time:** 4:00 p.m., Student Research Symposium  
5:00 p.m., Religion Colloquium

**Location:** Beckman Auditorium, The Ames Library  
1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington

**Admission:** Free, open to the public

**Background:** Guest speaker Jeffrey J. Kripal, a Lynette S. Autry associate professor of religious studies at Rice University, Texas, got his Ph.D from the University of Chicago. He has published many research works concerning religion, including "Kali's Child: The Mystical and the Erotic in the Life and Teachings of Ramakrishna," which won the American Academy of Religion History of Religions Prize, and "Roads of Excess: Palaces of Wisdom." Senior religion majors at Illinois Wesleyan read the latter in this year's senior seminar course.

Kripal was chosen to speak by the Religion Department because of his impressive background in religious studies. As the speech's title reflects, he will address the comic and movie "X-Men," as well as touch on the powers that religion instructors have and the ethics of studying religion in relationship to world events.

**Program:** This final colloquium on religion for the 2003-04 school year will begin after the senior religion majors present the conclusions of their research projects. Research topics were chosen by each student and range from Tibetan Buddhism, eucharistic traditions in early Christian communities, and the spiritualist movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to social memory and the war in Iraq.

Students participants will include art and religion major Kalley Powell from Bloomington, religion major Matthew Perschnick from Bloomington, psychology and religion major Erin Ernst from Lemont, religion and Russian studies major Roslyn Kauffman from Danvers, religion and anthropology major Mari Holsen from Moline, theater and religion major Jeremy Schaefer from Buffalo Grove, and religion major Nicole Jo Wiedman from Effingham.

**Contact:** For more information, contact Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Religion and Humanities and Chair of Religion Brian Hatcher at (309) 556-3160.