Friday, February 6
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Welcome Plenary - Teatro
Candace West, SSRC
Courtney Bender, NDSP Advisory Committee Chair

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Prayer Machines – Library
The Point of Contact: Radio Prayers and the Apparatus of Belief
Anderson Blanton, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen

Pray Pray Revolution: The Re-Invention of Islamic Rites by Engineers
Leor Halevi, Vanderbilt University

A Prayer Machine by Any Other Name
John Modern, Franklin and Marshall College

Discussant: Fabio Rambelli, UC Santa Barbara
Moderator: Charles Hirschkind, UC Berkeley

Prayer and Embodiment – Salone
Prayer as an Embodied Cognitive Activity
Mark Aveyard, American University of Sharjah

Prayer and the Extraordinary Action of Beings Without Bodies
Tom Csordas, UC San Diego

Existential Chabad: Contemplative Prayer and Everyday Transcendence
Don Seeman, Emory University

Discussant: Kevin Ladd, Indiana University South Bend
Moderator: Courtney Bender

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Covering Prayer- Teatro
A Roundtable Moderated By: Sam Freedman, Columbia University and The New York Times

Peter Manseau, Freelance Journalist
Emma-Kate Symons, Freelance Journalist
Christine Wicker, Freelance Journalist

Introduction: Diane Winston, University of Southern
Prayer and the Political I - Salone
An Ethnography of Religious Labor in an Indian Muslim Community
Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, Rutgers University

The Politics of Prayer Books: Delegated Intercession, Names, and Community Boundaries in the Russian Orthodox Church
Sonja Luehrmann, Simon Fraser University

Prayers as Life Affirming Practices: Dalit Christianity in Kerala
Sanal Mohan, Mahatma Gandhi University

Prayers of Purification Among Muslim Women in France
Fareen Parvez, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Discussant: Matthew Engelke, London School of Economics
Moderator: Peter van der Veer, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.  Prayer Expo
Teatro

1:45 p.m.  And All God’s People Said… Film Screening
Savitri Medhatul, Filmmaker
Salone

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Prayer Lab – Teatro
A Roundtable Moderated By: Paul Bloom, Yale University
Shira Gabriel, SUNY Buffalo
Charles Hirschkind, UC Berkeley
Tanya Luhrmann, Stanford University

Introduction: Hazel Markus, Stanford University
Why Prayer?
A Conference on New Directions in the Study of Prayer
New York, NY | February 6 & 7, 2015
Italian Academy, Columbia University

Saturday, February 7
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Prayer and the Political 2 - Library
Moving Heaven and Earth: Prayer as Political Praxis in Global Pentecostalism
Ruth Marshall, University of Toronto

The Politics of Aggressive Prayer: Evangelical Spiritual Warefare and Haitian Vodou
Elizabeth McAlister, Wesleyan University

The Muslim Response to the Pentecostal Surge in Nigeria
Ebenezer Obadare, University of Kansas

Discussant: Matthew Engelke, London School of Economics
Moderator: Peter van der Veer, Max Planck Institute, Göttingen

Theoretical Expansions and Relationships - Salone
What Counts as Prayer?
Fenella Cannell, London School of Economics

As Prayer So Goes Religion
Sam Gill, University of Colorado, Boulder

Landscapes of Prayer: Islam, the Environment and Java
Anna Gade, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Discussant: Marion Katz, New York University and Institute for Advanced Study
Moderator: Courtney Bender, Columbia University

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Why Prayer? Plenary - Teatro
A Roundtable Moderated by Robert Wright, Journalist and Author
Ebenezer Obadare, University of Kansas
Robert Orsi, Northwestern University
Rebekah Richert, UC Riverside
Stephen Teiser, Princeton University

Introduction: Birgit Meyer, Utrecht University

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

New Frames of Prayer and Sociality - Salone
Praying Between the Lines: The Prayer Practices of American Nones
Elizabeth Drescher, Santa Clara University

Prayer and Prosocial Behavior
Jeremy Ginges, New School for Social Research

The Intimacy of Secrecy: Contact and Concealment in Korean Group Prayer
Nicholas Harkness, Harvard University

Discussant: Kevin Ladd, Indiana University South Bend
Moderator: Hazel Markus, Stanford University

Honoring the Sensorium in Individual and Collective Prayer: Case Studies from Eastern Orthodox Christianity – Library

Listening and the Sacramental Life: Degrees of Mediation in Orthodox Christianity
Jeffers Engelhardt, Amherst College

Materality and the Efficiency of Prayer
Jeanne Kormina, Higher School of Economics St. Petersburg
and Daria Dubovka, European University at St. Petersburg

Attending to God in Prayer: The Changing Rhythms of Orthodox Worship
Vlad Naumescu, Central European University

Prayer as Discipline of Charisma
Simion Pop, Central European University

Discussant: Birgit Meyer, Utrecht University
Moderator: Sonja Luehrmann, Simon Fraser University

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Old Questions, New Answers Plenary – Teatro

Courtney Bender, Columbia University
Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Columbia University
Kathryn Lofton, Yale University