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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Expert on Religion and Violence to Speak at Cal Poly June 5

SAN LUIS OBISPO – UC Santa Barbara Professor Mark Juergensmeyer, one of the nation’s foremost experts on the relationship between religion and violence, will present a lecture and discussion at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, in the east wing of Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly.

Is religion at the heart of the problem of global violence, or is the rise in religious violence a sign of violent people using religion to advance various social, political and economic agendas? Those are some of the questions Juergensmeyer will explore in his talk, “The Global Rise of Religious Violence.”

Drawing on numerous interviews with terrorists across the globe and his work on conflict resolution, Juergensmeyer will pose and begin to answer the question of how we might address the problem of religiously motivated terrorism.

Juergensmeyer is director of UCSB’s Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies and professor of sociology and religious studies. He is an expert on religious violence, conflict resolution and South Asian religion and politics.

His widely read “Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence” was listed by the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times as one of the best nonfiction books of the year. It is based on interviews with violent religious activists, including individuals convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, leaders of Hamas, and abortion clinic bombers in the United States.

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, he has been a frequent commentator in the news media, including CNN, NBC, CBS, BBC, NPR, Fox News, ABC’s “Politically Incorrect,” and CNBC’s the “Dennis Miller Show.”

His presentation is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Religious Studies Program, the student Cal Poly Theisms club, the Philosophy Department and the College of Liberal Arts. For more information, contact Professor Stephen R. Lloyd-Moffett, Cal Poly Religious Studies Program, at 756-2475 or slloydmo@calpoly.edu.

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