



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

January 2008

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## 2008 CALL FOR PAPERS

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

*Religious Studies News* is the newspaper of record for the field especially designed to serve the professional needs of persons involved in teaching and scholarship in religion (broadly construed to include religious studies, theology, and sacred texts). Published quarterly by the American Academy of Religion, *RSN* is received by some 11,000 scholars and by libraries at colleges and universities across North America and abroad. *Religious Studies News* communicates the important events of the field and related areas. It provides a forum for members and others to examine critical issues in education, pedagogy (especially through the biannual *Spotlight on Teaching*), theological education (through the annual *Spotlight on Theological Education*), research, publishing, and the public understanding of religion. It also publishes news about the services and programs of the AAR and other organizations, including employment services and registration information for the AAR Annual Meeting.

For writing and advertising guidelines, please see [www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.asp).

In the Next Issue of  
*Spotlight on Theological Education:*  
Teaching Critical Thinking and Praxis

# 2008

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Subscriptions for individuals and institutions are available. See [www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn](http://www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn) for more information.

Deadlines for submissions:

January	October 15
March	December 15
May	February 15
October	June 15

**Advertising**  
For information on advertising, please see [www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn](http://www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn).

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# 2008 Member Calendar

Dates are subject to change. Check [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org) for the latest information.

## January

*Religious Studies News* January issue, including the Annual Meeting Call for Papers, results of the officer elections, and the 2007 Annual Report.

**January 1.** Annual term of membership begins for the 11,000 members of the AAR, the largest and most inclusive association of religion scholars in the world.

**January 10.** Excellence in Teaching award nominations due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Teaching\\_Awards/](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Teaching_Awards/).

**January 25.** Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award nominations due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Marty\\_Award/](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Marty_Award/).

**January 26.** Nominations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/committee.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/committee.asp)).

## February

**February 1.** Nominations due for Best First Book in the History of Religions award. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Book\\_Awards/rules-firstbook.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Book_Awards/rules-firstbook.asp).

**February 1–2.** Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 1–2.** International Connections Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 1–2.** Theological Education Steering Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 2–3.** Academic Relations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 8–9.** Public Understanding of Religion Committee meeting, Boston, MA.

**February 8–9.** Status of Women in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 9–10.** Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 9–10.** Status of LGBT Persons in the Profession Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 9–10.** Graduate Student Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 15.** Submissions for the May 2008 issue of *Religious Studies News* due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/).

**February 15.** Job Placement Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 16.** Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**February 25.** 2008 Annual Meeting proposals due to program unit chairs.

**February 29–March 1.** Religion in the Schools Task Force meeting, Cambridge, MA.

(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/committee.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/committee.asp)).

## March

*Religious Studies News* March issue.

*Spotlight on Theological Education.*

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* March issue. For more information on AAR publications, see [www.aarweb.org/Publications/](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/) or go directly to the *JAAR* home page hosted by Oxford University Press, <http://jaar.oxford-journals.org/>.

**March 4.** Humanities Advocacy Day, an event organized by the National Humanities Alliance and co-sponsored by the AAR and more than 20 organizations to promote support for the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, see [www.nhalliance.org](http://www.nhalliance.org).

**March 7–9.** Southeast regional meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**March 14–16.** Southwest regional meeting, Dallas, TX.

**March 15.** Publications Committee meeting, New York, NY.

**March 20.** Nominations due for Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion book awards. For details, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Book\\_Awards/rules-excellence.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Book_Awards/rules-excellence.asp).

**March 27–28.** Mid-Atlantic regional meeting, New Brunswick, NJ.

**March 28–29.** Rocky Mountains–Great Plains regional meeting, Denver, CO.

**March 28–29.** Upper Midwest regional meeting, St. Paul, MN.

**March 29–30.** Governance Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**March 29–31.** Western regional meeting, Pasadena, CA.

(For more information on regional meetings, see [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp)).

## April

Annual Meeting registration materials mailed.

**April 1.** Notification of acceptance of Annual Meeting paper proposals by program unit chairs.

**April 4–5.** Midwest regional meeting, River Forest, IL.

**April 11.** Regionally Elected Directors meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**April 11.** Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**April 12–13.** Spring Board of Directors meeting, Atlanta, GA.

**April 21.** Annual Meeting registration and housing opens for 2008 Annual Meeting.

**April 21.** Registration for the Employment Information Services Center opens.

**April 25–26.** History of Religions Jury meeting, Atlanta, GA.

(For more information on regional meetings, see [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp)).

## May

*Religious Studies News* May issue.

*Spotlight on Teaching* Spring issue.

**May 1.** Nominations (including self-nominations) for committee appointments requested.

**May 1.** Annual Meeting Additional Meeting requests due for priority consideration.

**May 2–4.** Pacific Northwest regional meeting, Newberg, OR.

**May 15.** Change of address due for priority receipt of the Annual Meeting *Program Planner*. *Program Planners* will be mailed to members in late May.

(For more Annual Meeting information, see [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/)).

## June

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* June issue.

**June 15.** Membership renewal deadline for 2008 Annual Meeting participants.

**June 15.** Submission deadline for the October issue of *Religious Studies News*. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/).

## July

Annual Meeting program goes online.

**July 1.** New fiscal year begins.

**July 31.** Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

## August

**August 1.** Research Grant applications due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Grants/](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Grants/).

**August 1.** Regional development grant applications due to regionally elected directors.

**August 15.** Membership renewal period for 2009 begins.

## September

*Spotlight on Teaching* Fall issue.

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* September issue.

**September 5.** Program Committee meeting, New Haven, CT.

**September 6.** Executive Committee meeting, New Haven, CT.

**September 22–October 20.** AAR officer election period. Candidate profiles will be published in the September *RSN*.

## October

*Religious Studies News* October issue.

**October 15.** Submissions for the January 2009 issue of *Religious Studies News* due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/).

**October 30.** Regionally Elected Directors meeting, Chicago, IL.

**October 30.** Executive Committee meeting, Chicago, IL.

**October 31.** Fall Board of Directors meeting, Chicago, IL.

**October 31.** Chairs Workshop at the Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

**TBD.** EIS preregistration closes.

## November

**November 1.** Research Grant Awards announced.

**November 1–3.** Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. The AAR Annual Meeting, the world's largest gathering of scholars of religion, anticipates some 5,000 registrants, 200 publishers, and 125 hiring departments.

**November 14.** New program unit proposals due.

**TBA.** Annual Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting. See the *Program Planner* for day and time.

## December

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* December issue.

**December 12–13.** Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.


**December 15.** Submissions for the March 2009 issue of *Religious Studies News* due. For more information, see [www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSNI/).

**December 31.** Membership renewal for 2009 due. Renew online at [www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues/](http://www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues/).

## And keep in mind throughout the year...

Regional organizations have various deadlines throughout the fall for the Calls for Papers. See [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp).

***In the Field.*** News of events and opportunities for scholars of religion. *In the Field* is a members-only publication that accepts brief announcements, including calls for papers, grant news, conference announcements, and other opportunities appropriate for scholars of religion. Submit text online at [www.aarweb.org/Publications/In\\_the\\_Field/submit1.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/In_the_Field/submit1.asp).

***Openings: Employment Opportunities for Scholars of Religion.*** *Openings* is a members-only publication listing job announcements in areas of interest to members. Issues are available online from the first through the last day of the month. Submit announcements online, and review policies and pricing, at [www.aarweb.org/Publications/Openings/submitad1.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/Openings/submitad1.asp). 



## General Information

### Meeting Location

The 2008 AAR Annual Meeting and Book Exhibit will be held at the Chicago Hilton Towers Hotel and Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, IL, November 1–3.

Future Annual Meeting locations include:  
2009 – Montréal, QC, November 7–10  
2010 – Atlanta, GA, October 30–November 2  
2011 – San Francisco, CA, November 18–21  
2012 – Atlanta, GA, November 2–5

### Registration and Housing

You must be registered for the meeting in order to secure a room in an Annual Meeting hotel at our specially negotiated hotel rates (which are often half the published room rate for the property). When you receive your preregistration information by mail in April (or online), carefully review and follow the instructions in order to secure your housing. Although registration may be completed without submitting your housing request, you are encouraged to submit both together.

**Annual Meeting Registration and Housing opens April 21!**

### Questions about the Call

The work of the program unit is coordinated by the chair(s) and a steering committee who design the sessions and make the decisions about which proposals will eventually be on the program. Each proposal is carefully refereed, usually in an anonymous procedure (i.e., without the name of the proposer being provided to the referees). All proposals, abstracts, and completed participant information (as well as any questions you may have) should be sent to the individual(s) named in this Call; this occurs automatically in the online system (OP3).

Please inquire with the appropriate unit chair about the amount of time granted for your presentation, and by what date the respondent (if any) must receive your completed paper.

### Questions about the Annual Meeting

Concerns of a general nature may be sent to the AAR executive office to the attention of the Director of Meetings and Marketing, 825 Houston Mill Road NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329, USA; W: 404-727-3049; F: 404-727-7959; [annualmeeting@aarweb.org](mailto:annualmeeting@aarweb.org).

### Additional Meetings

Organizations, persons, or program units wishing to plan receptions and other meetings before, during, or after the Annual Meeting should go online to [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org) after January 15, 2008. This website will have information regarding guidelines, necessary forms, and costs to request Additional Meeting space at the Annual Meeting and/or how to announce your event in the Annual Meeting *Program Planner*.

Questions should be directed to Experient, Inc., at 314-997-1500 after January 15, 2008. Written requests can be sent to Experient, Inc., 4 Cityplace Drive, Suite 480, St. Louis, MO 63141-7062, or [aar@experient-inc.com](mailto:aar@experient-inc.com).

The deadline for priority scheduling of Additional Meeting requests is May 1, 2008. Requests after that date will be accommodated as space allows.

## 2008 Calendar of Deadlines

### February 25, 2008

Deadline for proposals, participant forms, and abstracts to be received by program unit chairs.

### April 1, 2008

Notification of acceptance (or not) of proposals by program unit chairs. All program participants must renew/establish 2008 AAR memberships in order to participate on the program.

### April 1, 2008

Program unit chairs submit session request information (*Program Planner* copy, abstracts, participant forms) to AAR executive office online.

### April 21, 2008

Annual Meeting and hotel registration opens. Forms available online and in the April mailing.

### May 1, 2008

Deadline for submission of Additional Meeting request forms. Forms are available online at [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org) beginning January 15.

### June 15, 2008

Deadline for participants to renew their AAR membership and be preregistered for the meeting. **Names of participants not registered will be removed from the *Program Planner*.**

### July 1, 2008

Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

### November 1–3, 2008

AAR Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Complete Call for Papers Guidelines available online at [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/Call\\_for\\_Papers/](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/Call_for_Papers/)

## Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

**Step 1:** Find a topic in the call that interests you. Determine which type of proposal you wish to submit.

- **Individual paper proposal** — a paper written by you that you will present in response to a theme within a unit's call.
- **Individual panel proposal** — a unit has placed a call for scholars willing to speak (not present a paper) about a certain theme and you wish to participate (this is rare).
- **Prearranged papers session proposal** — a proposal for a complete session of different papers on a theme, complete with a presider, paper presentations, and respondent.
- **Prearranged panel session proposal** — a proposal of a complete session, including a presider, list of panelists, and a respondent; all of whom will speak on a common theme.

**Step 2:** Write your proposal and 150-word abstract. You have 1,000 words to make the case for your proposal. Prearranged papers sessions require a separate 1,000-word proposal for each paper in the session. The abstract will be listed in the online *Program Planner*.

**Step 3:** Submit your proposal via the method request by the program unit no later than **February 25, 2008**. A participant form is required for any proposal submitted outside of the online system. Carefully note any audiovisual you require before you submit your proposal.

- **OP3** — Go to [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org) and submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract via the Online Paper/Panel Proposal (OP3) system. **N.B:** Do not place your name or other identifying remarks in the proposal field or abstract field in OP3; this may endanger the anonymous review process of the unit. Your identification is sent automatically with the proposal.
- **E-mail** — Send your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract within the BODY of ONE single e-mail to the contacts listed in the unit's call (usually the chairs). Include the "Participant Form for E-mail Submission" available at [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org).
- **E-mail with attachments** — Submit your 1,000-word proposal, 150-word abstract, and participant form as Microsoft Word attachments via one single e-mail and send it to the contacts listed in the unit's call.
- For other submission formats, please visit [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/Call\\_for\\_Papers/](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/Call_for_Papers/).

**Step 4:** Notification of your proposal's acceptance status for the Annual Meeting program will be sent by April 1, 2008.

### Participation Requirements at the Annual Meeting:

- Membership is not required to submit a proposal in response to the Call for Papers. However, all participants accepted to the program must be current (2008) AAR members and registered for the Annual Meeting by June 15, 2008.
- Participants may appear no more than two times in any capacity (e.g., paper presenter, panelist, presider, or respondent). The only exception is business meeting presiders.
- A person can have only one role in a session. You cannot preside and present a paper in the same session.
- People can submit no more than two proposals in response to the Call for Papers. This includes submitting the same proposal to two separate units or two different proposals to two different units.

### Wildcard Sessions

Wildcard sessions are intended to be experimental, creative, or exploratory sessions that address an area of interest that does not naturally fall within the purview of an existing program unit. These sessions, in the third year of a three-year experiment, offer members direct access to the Annual Meeting program outside of the normal program unit structure.

Guidelines for Wildcards:


- All wildcard sessions are 90 minutes in length and will be scheduled for Sunday afternoon at the Annual Meeting.
- Wildcard sessions are accepted through OP3 only.

- Wildcard sessions must use one of the prearranged session proposal formats (papers or panel).
- Make sure the wildcard session does not cover an area already covered by an existing program unit. If a proposal fits within an established program unit's mission, the proposal will be forwarded to that unit.
- The Program Committee evaluates all wildcard proposals. Notification of program acceptance will be announced by April 1, 2008.

### 90-Minute Sessions

The Sunday afternoon schedule for the Annual Meeting program consists of three 90-minute sessions, scheduled for 1:00–2:30 PM, 3:00–4:30 PM, and 5:00–6:30 PM. The AAR encourages creative and innovative proposals for these sessions. Some possibilities include: restricting a panel to two 30-minute papers followed by discussion; posting papers in advance to focus on discussion rather than presentation; topical panel discussions; discussion of a book or film; panel on teaching in the field; or workshop-style sessions. The 90-minute format is perfect for hosting specialized conversations on an aspect of the field or "teaching" a topic to the audience.

### Audiovisual Requests

The AAR recognizes the importance of using digital equipment during presentations. A limited number of meeting rooms are supplied with LCD projectors for connecting to a personal laptop. A small number of rooms include computers and Internet connections. AAR encourages participants to bring or share a personal or departmental laptop to run any PowerPoint, CD, or DVD presentation. Analog equipment such as overhead projectors, slide projectors, etc., are available to rent at the participant's cost. All AV requests must be received at the time of the proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. 

# SECTIONS

## Arts, Literature, and Religion Section

Eric Ziolkowski, Lafayette College, [ziolkowe@lafayette.edu](mailto:ziolkowe@lafayette.edu). Diane Apostolos-Cappadona, Georgetown University, [apostold@georgetown.edu](mailto:apostold@georgetown.edu).

The Arts, Literature, and Religion Section invites proposals for papers and sessions on the following topics: art, literature, and music of South and Southeast Asia; images of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection; Satan in art, literature, and music; literature of John Milton, including influence on other artists and poets, marking the 400th anniversary of his birth; Kierkegaard's reading of literature and the arts, and literary and artistic readings of Kierkegaard (joint session with Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group); art as spiritual or contemplative practice; religious aesthetics; religion and ecology in art, literature, and music; the role of religion in the work of James Elkins; religious architecture in Chicago; Regina Schwartz's *When God Left the World*; legacy of Nathan A. Scott Jr.; literature of Chicago (e.g., *When Christ Came to Chicago, The Devil in the White City*); literary legacies of Saul Bellow and Norman Mailer; American regionalism in art and literature; and teaching theology and religious studies in, with, and through the arts and literature. Please send proposals to both program units when responding to a joint call for papers.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Buddhism Section

Janet Gyatso, Harvard University, [jgyatso@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:jgyatso@hds.harvard.edu). Charles Hallisey, University of Wisconsin, Madison, [challisey@wisc.edu](mailto:challisey@wisc.edu).

In response to the AAR's international focus on South Asia for 2008, the Buddhism Section solicits fully formed panels as well as individual paper proposals that address the role of South Asian persons, practices, and institutions in Buddhism and/or Buddhist studies. Panels and individual papers on other topics are also invited. Proposals are especially sought that would make creative use of the special 90-minute sessions now available at the Annual Meeting. Proposals are also sought for sessions to review the significance and impact of a major book or figure in the field of Buddhist studies. Topics suggested in this year's business meeting of the section included: communities of practice and discourse formation; food in Buddhism; Burma now; Buddhist literary genres; Buddhist imaginings of other religions; theodicy, text, and law; restorations of Buddhist sites; critical engagements with Buddhist texts; Buddhism and racialization; preservation and restoration of Buddhist sites; and translation in the history of Buddhism.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Christian Systematic Theology Section

Gerard Loughlin, Durham University, [gerard.loughlin@dur.ac.uk](mailto:gerard.loughlin@dur.ac.uk). Joy McDougall, Emory University, [jamcdou@emory.edu](mailto:jamcdou@emory.edu).

General Theme: Christian Doctrine and Judaism. We invite constructive proposals (not merely descriptive or historical) on a wide range of approaches exploring the relationship between Christian doctrine and Judaism. We seek proposals for individual papers, entire sessions, or panels (e.g., on books, thinkers, or topics that relate to our general theme). Suggested topics include: Jewish and Christian construals of God and G-d; the relationship between the Jewish and Christian Scriptures, e.g., differing interpretations of Isaiah's "suffering servant"; grace and covenant; Jesus as Messiah and/or the "messianic" in Western thought and culture; Jewish readings of the Christian Paul (e.g., Jacob Taubes) and Christian readings of the Jewish Paul; the church and Israel; election and "chosenness"; the Shoah as crisis for Jewish and Christian thought; and the relationships between Sophia, Shekinah, Ruach, and Holy Spirit. We also invite proposals on these or other topics for a co-sponsored session with the Scriptural Reasoning Group. These latter proposals should indicate the specific texts that will be addressed. Proposals from South Asian scholars, or scholars working on South Asian theology on this theme, are especially welcome. For planning purposes our general theme for 2009 will be "creation and destruction."

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Comparative Studies in Religion Section

Tracy Pintchman, Loyola University, [tpintch@luc.edu](mailto:tpintch@luc.edu). Selva J. Raj, Albion College, [sraj@albion.edu](mailto:sraj@albion.edu).

We seek proposals that provide occasion for comparative inquiry, engaging two or more religious traditions around a common topic and reflecting critically on the conceptual tools employed in the inquiry. While we accept individual paper proposals, we strongly encourage group proposals in the form of thematic paper sessions (maximum four presenters, a presider, and a respondent) or panel sessions (maximum six presenters). We reserve the right to add individuals to any group proposal. Themes proposed for the 2008 meeting, with organizers identified in parentheses, are below. Please contact the listed organizers if you wish to take part in any of the proposed sessions. Additional proposals for comparative panels and sessions are welcome: 1) Problematizing the language of religious violence (Jacob Kinnard, [jkinnard@iliff.edu](mailto:jkinnard@iliff.edu)); 2) Comparative folklore (Corinne Dempsey, [Corinne.Dempsey@uwsp.edu](mailto:Corinne.Dempsey@uwsp.edu)); 3) Globalization and religion (Selva Raj, [sraj@albion.edu](mailto:sraj@albion.edu)); 4) Religious processions (Anne Bullock, [abullo2@learnlink.emory.edu](mailto:abullo2@learnlink.emory.edu)); 5) Religion and law (Jim Lewis, [j-lewis@bethel.edu](mailto:j-lewis@bethel.edu)); 6) Childbirth and the conception of the fetus (Liz Wilson, [wilsone@muohio.edu](mailto:wilsone@muohio.edu)); 7) Visual images and

Sections are the most inclusive type of program unit, aimed at reflecting the major areas of academic interest of the members of the Academy and at addressing the continuing agenda of the various subfields within the study of religion. Attendance at sessions of sections (as well as any of the other program units) is open to all persons registered for the Annual Meeting.

religious imagination (George Pati, [george.pati@valpo.edu](mailto:george.pati@valpo.edu)); 8) New religious movements and science (Mark Macwilliams, [mmacwilliams@stlawu.edu](mailto:mmacwilliams@stlawu.edu)); 9) Dreams/visions in comparative perspective (Robert Campy, [campy@usc.edu](mailto:campy@usc.edu)); and 10) Clifford Geertz's contributions to the study of religion (Tracy Pintchman, [tpintch@luc.edu](mailto:tpintch@luc.edu)).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Ethics Section

Jane Hicks, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, [jhicks@crcds.edu](mailto:jhicks@crcds.edu). Miguel A. De La Torre, Iliff School of Theology, [mdelatorre@iliff.edu](mailto:mdelatorre@iliff.edu).

The Ethics Section invites proposals providing ethical analyses from all religious traditions and diverse ethical methodologies in response to the following themes: 1) Ethics and the Vote 2008: electoral "dirty tricks," voter responsibility, race and gender in the conduct of elections, campaign governance, etc.; 2) Political Action and Religious Ethics in South Asia: emerging patterns of interaction and political practice within and among traditions such as Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam; 3) Celebrating the Work of Emilie Townes: Womanist Contributions to Christian and Social Ethics (co-sponsored with the Womanist Group); 4) The Politics of Immigration in Middle America: scapegoating, electoral manipulation, economic dislocation, intergroup tensions, responses by religious communities, etc.; 5) Post-Genomics: reproductive technologies, human genetic manipulation, commercially available access to one's genome, medical applications, etc.; 6) Religion and Business Ethics: the role of religion in forming ethics in business, religious, and ethnic marketing, business ethics of religious organizations, corporate responsibility across cultures and religions; and 7) Papers of particular excellence on other topics and panel proposals are also invited. All proposals should identify the methodology used and contribution of the argument to current academic conversations. Online submissions only. Proposals for co-sponsored sessions should be sent to both sponsoring program units.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## History of Christianity Section

Martha L. Finch, Missouri State University, [marthafinch@missouristate.edu](mailto:marthafinch@missouristate.edu). Nathan Rein, Ursinus College, [nrein@ursinus.edu](mailto:nrein@ursinus.edu).

The History of Christianity Section seeks to present innovative and engaging research in the history, culture, and development of Christianity from its origins to the present, both local and global, while at the same time promoting interdisciplinary dialogue among the fields of religious studies, history, ritual studies, art history,

anthropology, and historical theology. We seek proposals for individual papers or entire panels on the following topics: Christians and Christianity in South Asia; Christianity and the emergence of modern science; and practices of seeing in the history of Christianity. We will consider proposals on other topics as well. Papers should be conceived for an effective 15-minute presentation. We also solicit innovative proposals for participation in a workshop-style, interactive session on Designing and Teaching the History of Christianity Course: Practical Challenges, for which panelists should be prepared to present 10-minute rationales for their courses and submit materials such as syllabi ahead of time. All proposals must be submitted online via OP3 and will be evaluated in anonymous peer review by the section steering committee.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## North American Religions Section

Kathleen Flake, Vanderbilt Divinity School, [kathleen.flake@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kathleen.flake@vanderbilt.edu). Philip Goff, Indiana University and Purdue University, Indianapolis, [pgoff@iupui.edu](mailto:pgoff@iupui.edu).

The North American Religions Section seeks to advance the study of religions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico by promoting innovative scholarship across disciplinary and national boundaries. This year we especially seek proposals related to: Immigration and migration (especially the Great Migration); Catholicism; the World's Parliament of Religion (particularly regarding South Asian religions); newer religious movements; the religious dimensions of class and ethnicity; and the relation of religion to violence. Also, we invite papers on the role of religion in the 2008 U.S. presidential election. In recognition of the locale of our next meeting, the section welcomes proposals on these topics as they relate to the greater Chicago region. As always, we seek proposals that consider the relation between history and ethnography in the study of North American religions or offer critical reflections on keywords in the study of American religion. To spur interactive sessions, we seek proposals for round tables, debates, visual and musical performances, workshops, and other appropriate formats, as well as more traditional presentations. To that end, where complete panels are proposed, please note that we may accept only portions of the proposal and add to the panel independently submitted proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:





## Philosophy of Religion Section

Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles, [jprabhu@calstatela.edu](mailto:jprabhu@calstatela.edu). Ludger Viefhues, Yale University, [ludger.viefhues@yale.edu](mailto:ludger.viefhues@yale.edu).

This section invites proposals on the following topics/books: 1) Martha Nussbaum, *The Clash Within*; 2) John Clayton, *Religions, Reasons and Gods*; 3) Mark C. Taylor, *After God*; 4) Human rights and global solidarity; 5) Thomist and neo-Thomist responses to the nature/grace distinction; 6) Challenges to religion from evolutionary biology; 7) The work of Jean-Luc Nancy; and 8) Approaches to classical problems like normativity (do we need it?), ineffability (what can we say about it?), tragedy, and suffering.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Religion and Politics Section

Barbara A. McGraw, Saint Mary's College of California, [bmcgraw9@mac.com](mailto:bmcgraw9@mac.com). Andrew R. Murphy, Valparaiso University, [andrew.murphy@valpo.edu](mailto:andrew.murphy@valpo.edu).

In addition to receiving proposals on topics generally in the purview of this unit (which encompasses both domestic and international issues), this year we also are interested in: 1) U.S. religion(s) and the 2008 election(s); 2) Political theologies and religious pluralism; 3) New and creative directions in U.S. church-state relations on cutting-edge issues (such as religion and the military; religion and government oversight of faith-based social services; conscientious objection and healthcare providers, among other topics); and 4) Multifaith perspectives and globalization, generally, including as specific suggestions interfaith and multi-faith organizing in a global context as a way of addressing social conflict (a possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Social Conflict, and Peace Group), and liberalism and global human rights.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Religion and the Social Sciences Section

Douglas A. Hicks, University of Richmond, [dhicks@richmond.edu](mailto:dhicks@richmond.edu). Carol B. Duncan, Wilfrid Laurier University, [cduncan@whu.ca](mailto:cduncan@whu.ca).

The Religion and the Social Sciences Section especially invites proposals in relation to the following themes: interreligious cooperation and social activism; youth spiritualities; the Great Migration; and religion, culture, and politics in South Asia. We also welcome other paper or panel proposals that fit with the section's purpose: to support scholarship at the intersection of the social sciences (including psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and cultural studies) and religious or theological studies. Topics may include the study of religious and theological questions through specific social scientific disciplines, or comparative assessments of current issues by humanities-based and social scientific methods. In order to be accepted, a paper or panel proposal must carefully state its author's methodology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Religion in South Asia Section

John E. Cort, Denison University, [cort@denison.edu](mailto:cort@denison.edu). Robin Rinehart, Lafayette College, [rinharr@lafayette.edu](mailto:rinharr@lafayette.edu).

We invite proposals for fully developed paper or panel sessions on any aspect of religion(s) in South Asia — textual, ethnographic, visual, historical, philosophical, pedagogical, comparative, etc. We also consider individual paper proposals, but strongly encourage everyone to submit complete paper or panel sessions whenever possible. Interdisciplinary approaches, multiradition perspectives, and creative formats are encouraged. Specific topics suggested by Religion in South Asia Section members include: God as child (Eliza Kent); karma and rebirth; modern interpretations (Kay Jordan); image and text — wild men and boogymen (Lorilai Bernacki); caste, Dalits, and Christianity (Selva Raj); globalization and religion in South Asia (Selva Raj); the Swaminarayan movement (Jack Hawley); yoga and women (Chris Chapple); South Asian religions in Chicago; religious buildings: changing uses and competing claims; satire, humor, and character in South Asian religions/visual culture; prosperity and the transformation of sacred space; South Asian religions through their art and architecture; reading novels religiously; and curatorial studies, preservation, and religion in South Asia. In addition, please consult the Religion in South Asia Section's website, [www.montclair.edu/RISA](http://www.montclair.edu/RISA), and list serve, RISA-L, for a continually evolving list of additional paper and panel session ideas.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Study of Islam Section

Nelly Van Doorn-Harder, Valparaiso University, [Nelly.VanDoorn-Harder@valpo.edu](mailto:Nelly.VanDoorn-Harder@valpo.edu). Omid Safi, University of North Carolina, [omid@email.unc.edu](mailto:omid@email.unc.edu).

The Study of Islam Section encourages paper proposals in all areas of Islamic studies. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication, as well as innovative examination of Islamic practices and texts. As always, we welcome submissions dealing with the Qur'an, Islamic law, philosophy, jurisprudence, Sufism, rituals, gender and sexuality constructions, engagement with modernity, teaching Islam, interfaith, and other areas of general interest. Furthermore we encourage proposals dealing with Shi'ism within and across these areas. In addition, we also invite panels on the following particular themes: theory and method in the study of Islam; gender theories in the study of Islam; environmental and bioethical issues; and intersections of scholarship and community involvement and activism. In commemoration of Rumi's 800th birthday anniversary we also solicit proposals representing the diversity of scholarship about the poet (for example, contemporary images of Rumi, his interpretation of the Qur'an). Since the AAR 2008 focus will be on South Asia and the Annual Meeting will take place in Chicago, topics related to South Asian Islam (for example, artistic expressions, relations with other parts of the Muslim world, and South Asian communities in the United States), and proposals on the Chicago Muslim community are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Study of Judaism Section

Aryeh Cohen, American Jewish University, [aryeh@ajula.edu](mailto:aryeh@ajula.edu). Martin Kavka, Florida State University, [mkavuka@fsu.edu](mailto:mkavuka@fsu.edu).

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) Pedagogy (either in the context of an introductory class to Judaism or the Judaism segment of a "world religions" class); 2) Judaism in the history of "History of Religions"; 3) Literary approaches to the study of Judaism; 4) Prophecy; 5) Purity; 6) The issue of authenticity in classical Jewish texts; 7) Modern interpretations of premodern Judaisms, and their discontents; 8) Jews in/and new religious movements; and 9) Judaism and science, wisdom, or other forms of "secular" knowledge. As always, the Study of Judaism Section at the AAR aims to present panels that showcase a wide array of methodological and historical subfields in the study of Judaism. And so we encourage the submission of papers and panels on topics other than those listed above; we especially encourage the submission of papers/panels that broaden the horizons of these subfields, as well as the submission of panels that treat a single topic from a variety of methodological approaches and/or historical periods.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Teaching Religion Section

Fran Grace, University of Redlands, [fran\\_grace@redlands.edu](mailto:fran_grace@redlands.edu). Joseph Favazza, Stonehill College, [jfavazza@stonehill.edu](mailto:jfavazza@stonehill.edu).

The Teaching Religion Section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. We invite proposals that join innovative teaching practice with the scholarship of teaching and learning, and model engaged teaching, in these areas: 1) Teaching the religions of South Asia; 2) Implications for teaching from the *Spirituality in Higher Education* report by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute (2005); 3) Metaphors for teaching: what metaphor best captures you as a teacher, how do you embody it, and how might it inform the practice of teaching?; 4) Religious literacy: what should students know and how do we know when they know it?; 5) Teaching that creates "high-intensity dissonance" (Kiely, 2006) to shift the parameters of student thinking; and 6) For a possible co-sponsored panel with the Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group, the challenges and opportunities of teaching Holocaust and/or genocide courses across religious studies disciplines. We also will co-sponsor a panel with the Death, Dying and Beyond Consultation to celebrate the publication of *Teaching Death and Dying*. Finally, we invite proposals on a range of teaching topics (e.g., teaching during an election year; teaching Eastern Orthodox Christianity; teaching outside the classroom) for a luncheon session to be co-sponsored with the Wabash Center.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Theology and Religious Reflection Section

Kwok Pui Lan, Episcopal Divinity School, [Pkwok@eds.edu](mailto:Pkwok@eds.edu). Joerg Rieger, Southern Methodist University, [jrieger@mail.smu.edu](mailto:jrieger@mail.smu.edu).

The Theology and Religious Reflection Section invites papers and panels related to the following themes: 1) Theological reflection on resistance to empire; 2) Theology as a cultural production and its relation to economics (economics as examined from ecological, neoliberal, Marxist, and other perspectives); 3) Religion, sustainability, and relation between different species; 4) Theological construction and interreligious conversations on transnationalism, fundamentalism, immigration, and diaspora; and 5) Tribal, Dalit, and indigenous theology and religion from South Asia. We encourage new formats and innovative ways to present information that allow conversations among presenters and participants. Additionally, the Theology and Religious Reflection Section welcomes proposals that address the intersections of theological and religious reflection with philosophical and political issues, and with questions of literary, cultural, and critical theory.

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SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Women and Religion Section

Lauri Zoloth, Northwestern University, [lzoloth@northwestern.edu](mailto:lzoloth@northwestern.edu). Michelene Pesantubbee, University of Iowa, [michelene-pesantubbee@uiowa.edu](mailto:michelene-pesantubbee@uiowa.edu).

The Women and Religion Section invites papers and panels from a variety of religious traditions and of methodologies that explore women's experiences in the following topics: 1) Women and scholarship (e.g., what drives women's scholarship? what is an appropriate discussion for scholarship in women's lives?); 2) The future of Pentecostalism and global Christianity (Christianity in the twenty-first century will be mostly in the global south and more likely to be Pentecostal. What does that mean for women?); 3) The relationship between women, faith, and reform in the city of Chicago (e.g., urban renewal, immigration, neighborhoods, and women's leadership in faith communities, etc.); 4) Women and politics: the 2008 election; 5) South Asia (e.g., studies on intersectionality of religion/Islam, women, regional politics, and local community issues will be especially welcome); and 6) Women in world religions (e.g., what categories of comparison are appropriate? Studies that reassess the following categories will be especially welcome: rituals, interreligious dialogue, and collaborative work among women across religious traditions in NGOs).

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## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= OP3

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

# GROUPS

## African Religions Group

Laura S. Grillo, Pacifica Graduate Institute, [lgrillo@pacific.edu](mailto:lgrillo@pacific.edu). Tapiwa Mucherera, Asbury Theological Seminary, [tapiwa\\_mucherera@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:tapiwa_mucherera@asburyseminary.edu).

The African Religions Group encourages critical inquiry about religions originating in Africa as well as those practiced there. Proposals should go beyond description, analyzing conceptual tools and methods employed. We invite individual papers and panels on: 1) Religion and media technologies: tensions between online/offline religion; 2) Crisis in education and the advance of faith-based universities; 3) Sharia law and politics in Africa; 4) The Darfur crisis; 5) Myth and Gender; 6) Co-sponsored session with the Anthropology of Religion Group: Independent Church Movements (ICMs) in Africa and the African Diaspora: how do they compare, and what approaches promote fruitful interdisciplinary research?; and 7) In honor of the AAR's special focus on South Asia, the Presence of India in Africa (co-sponsored with the Hinduism Group): distinctive forms of Hinduism in Africa (especially countries with significant Indian populations), and possible mutual influences between African traditions and Hinduism on the continent, e.g., inclusive "pantheons" or religious iconography.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Afro-American Religious History Group

Anthea Butler, University of Rochester, [anthea.butler@rochester.edu](mailto:anthea.butler@rochester.edu). Julius Bailey, University of Redlands, [Julius\\_Bailey@redlands.edu](mailto:Julius_Bailey@redlands.edu).

The Afro-American Religious History Group invites proposals for sessions or individual papers considering the following themes: urbanism and religion; reconsidering the "black metropolis" and the importance of Chicago in the religious and cultural imagination; civil rights and religion in the north; music and religion in the urban context; and for potential joint sessions with the Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group, exploring Gandhian and Southeast Asian Religious Influences on African Americans and, with the Mormon Studies Consultation, African-American Mormon History and Experience.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Anthropology of Religion Group

J. Shawn Landres, Synagogue 3000 and UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, [shawn@landres.com](mailto:shawn@landres.com). Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College, [norrisr@merrimack.edu](mailto:norrisr@merrimack.edu).

Groups are established to encourage the exploration of an emergent area of study or methodology, to cultivate the relation between the study of religion and a cognate discipline, or to pursue a long-range and broad research project. More focused than sections and less restricted in participation than seminars, groups are expected to experiment with the format of sessions at the Annual Meeting.

We invite proposals from across anthropology and religion, focusing this year on the following themes: 1) Risk and Religion: ethnography of dangerous people or groups, risk in fieldwork, other aspects of anthropology and danger; 2) Dilemmas of the Practicing Scholar: how has participant observation affected our own observance and participation in religious life?; 3) Independent Church Movements (ICMs) in Africa and the African Diaspora, co-sponsored with the African Religions Group: how are ICMs in Africa and its diaspora similar, different, or both, and what approaches might scholars employ to promote fruitful interdisciplinary research on this topic?; and 4) For the 2008 area focus on South Asia, we seek proposals related to minority religions and religious minorities (i.e., other than solely on Hinduism/Islam). We encourage submissions on other topics as well, from scholars using anthropological theory and methods — not only ethnography — to study diverse traditions, regions, and eras.

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## Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group

Nami Kim, Spelman College, [nkim@spelman.edu](mailto:nkim@spelman.edu). Khyati Joshi, Fairleigh Dickinson University, [Khyati\\_joshi@alum.emory.edu](mailto:Khyati_joshi@alum.emory.edu).

We invite and welcome individual paper and panel proposals that address: 1) The diverse Asian North American religious experiences/traditions, e.g., Muslim, Hmong, and Buddhism; 2) A panel review of a documentary of API communities and their religious practices; 3) Issues of religious xenophobia in the North American context; 4) Proposals addressing issues emerging from critical engagement with queer theory from API perspective, especially from the site in which queer theory, postcolonial, transnational, and feminist theories intersect; 5) Proposals examining various religious practices and religious identities as constructed within Asian North American communities; 6) Panels exploring issues of religious privilege; 7) With AAR focus on South Asia, proposals engaged with works of postcolonial, feminist, political, and religious scholars from South Asia; and 8) Any other critical aspects of Asian North American religion/s, culture, and society.

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## Augustine and Augustinianisms Group

Robert P. Kennedy, St. Francis Xavier University, [rkennedy@stfx.ca](mailto:rkennedy@stfx.ca). Kim Paffenroth, Iona College, [kimpaffenroth@msn.com](mailto:kimpaffenroth@msn.com).

Papers are invited on the theme of Augustine and the Secular. Recent books by Peter Iver Kaufman and Robert

Markus have reopened the question of the appropriation of Augustine's political thought in modern democracies. There has also been attention to Augustine's views on the place of "pagan" thought in Christian education. We welcome papers on these and other related issues, including papers that address a broader understanding of secularity; for example, in Augustine's treatment of time or his spirituality.

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## Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group

Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University, [f.f.segovia@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:f.f.segovia@vanderbilt.edu). Valerie Bridgeman Davis, Memphis Theological Seminary, [vbridgemandavis@memphissemnary.edu](mailto:vbridgemandavis@memphissemnary.edu).

We are sponsoring an open session on the Bible and the Arts. Proposals are sought on the reception of the Bible, its invocations and applications, in the arts within the context of racial, ethnic, and indigenous communities in the United States. A second session will focus on reception of the Bible in Latino/a American Religious and Theological Studies. This session is by invitation only.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group

Jon Berquist, Westminster John Knox Press, [jberquist@aol.com](mailto:jberquist@aol.com). Anne Joh, Phillips Theological Seminary, [anne.joh@ptstulsa.edu](mailto:anne.joh@ptstulsa.edu).

The Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group deals with biblical texts and theological ideas in fresh combinations suited to the postmodern context. For 2008, we are most interested in proposals dealing with the following topics: law in Leviticus; law in Paul; food and eucharist; and sacrifice.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Bioethics and Religion Group

Swasti Bhattacharyya, Buena Vista University, [bhattacharyya@bvu.edu](mailto:bhattacharyya@bvu.edu). Aline Kalbian, Florida State University, [akalbian@mailier.fsu.edu](mailto:akalbian@mailier.fsu.edu).

The Bioethics and Religion Group invites papers that explore and examine bioethical issues from a variety of religious perspectives. We encourage diverse methodological, textual, historical, and social approaches, as well as cross-cultural, class, and gender analysis. A second session, co-sponsored with the Childhood Studies Consultation, will focus on pediatric ethics and religious and ethical under-

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standings of children, ethics, and modern medicine. This session will combine invited panelists and submitted papers.

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## Black Theology Group

Stephen G. Ray, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, [sray@ltsu.edu](mailto:sray@ltsu.edu). Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, [S.Floyd-Thomas@tcu.edu](mailto:S.Floyd-Thomas@tcu.edu).

The Black Theology Group seeks panel and paper submissions that: 1) Explore black theological thought that troubles notions and dismantles myths about the religious and social commitments of Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King Jr.; 2) Interrogate the intersections of black religious thought and public policy (e.g., healthcare, war, global economy, and public discourse); and 3) For a joint session co-sponsored with the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Culture and Men's Studies in Religion Groups, address the topic Gendered Conversations: Between Black Females and Males. These papers should deal with the following questions: how do we think of ourselves as "women" and "men" in the social context of ongoing sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, and heterosexism? how do black women and men hold a credible conversation on masculinity and womanhood with each other?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group

Lisa Dahill, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, [ldahill@trinitylutheranseminary.edu](mailto:ldahill@trinitylutheranseminary.edu). Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg College, [hale@augsburg.edu](mailto:hale@augsburg.edu).

Bonhoeffer's work and life were informed by his time in America (in 1930–31, 1939). We invite papers that examine this formative period for Bonhoeffer — and the ways it shaped his later choices — and that consider not only his time in New York, but his travels across the continent, connections with Koinonia Farms (for example), and his important friendships. His concern with "Protestantism without Reformation" may be of particular interest, especially in the ways that it resonates with contemporary issues and the political climate, in correlation with the U.S. federal elections. Thus, we also welcome papers that put Bonhoeffer in conversation with issues such as ecology (global climate change), war (Iraq), and racism. Additionally, we are pleased to announce a joint session with the Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation and invite papers that look at both Bonhoeffer and King. This session anticipates a forthcoming new volume on the two.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group

Roger Jackson, Carleton College, [rjackson@carleton.edu](mailto:rjackson@carleton.edu). John J. Makransky, Boston College, [makransk@bc.edu](mailto:makransk@bc.edu).

The Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group explores how the modern academic study of Buddhism may inform

Buddhist understandings today, and how Buddhist understandings may help address contemporary problems in philosophy, religion, and society. We invite paper or panel proposals on the following: 1) New Buddhist reflections on religious diversity: either inter-religious (Buddhist and non-Buddhist) or intrareligious (among different Buddhist traditions); 2) Comparative theology in Buddhist form: how specific aspects of a non-Buddhist religion may shine new light on Buddhist self-understanding; 3) Buddhist academic scholars as resources for Buddhist communities: intellectual and cultural issues raised by particular examples; and 4) Buddhist perspectives on a contemporary intellectual or social issue.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Buddhist Philosophy Group

John D. Dunne, Emory University, [jdunne@emory.edu](mailto:jdunne@emory.edu). A. Charles Muller, Toyo Gakuen University, [acmuller@ji.em-net.ne.jp](mailto:acmuller@ji.em-net.ne.jp).

The Buddhist Philosophy Group, while accepting individual paper proposals, seeks mainly to sponsor tightly integrated group presentations. Topics might center on a specific philosophical problem, but they might also address metatheoretical issues such as methodology. Panels may likewise focus on a recent publication central to the field or a classical text of particular importance. Panels or sessions that use a diversity of methods to address a thematic issue within a regional focus are also encouraged. Potential topics raised by group members include: contemplative practice and philosophy; reflexive awareness; Buddhism and pragmatism; analogy and example in Buddhist philosophy; tantra and philosophy; Buddhist ethics; Yogācāra, phenomenology, and cognitive psychology; Jonathan C. Gold's *The Dharma's Gatekeepers*; Anne Klein's *Unbounded Wholeness*; and, are propositions, truth, and justification Buddhist philosophical categories?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Chinese Religions Group

James Robson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, [robsonj@umich.edu](mailto:robsonj@umich.edu). Daniel B. Stevenson, University of Kansas, [dbsteve@ku.edu](mailto:dbsteve@ku.edu).

We invite proposals related to all aspects of religious thought and practice in China and Chinese diaspora communities. For 2008 we welcome proposals in the following areas: transnational connections in Chinese religions, past and present; religious education and organized ordination in contemporary China; how tourism has impacted local religion in contemporary China; transformations of Daoism during the Han Period (second-century BCE and second-century CE); scripture and commentary in Chinese religions, including attention to textual production and transmission, interpretive practice, and protocols of competency; the conceptual and performative conceits of the religious "master"; women and religious authority; new archaeological discoveries (manuscripts and/or material culture) and their implications for understanding Chinese religion in the pre-Han period.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Christian Spirituality Group

Arthur G. Holder, Graduate Theological Union, [aholder@gtu.edu](mailto:aholder@gtu.edu). Wendy Wright, Creighton University, [wmwright@creighton.edu](mailto:wmwright@creighton.edu).

We welcome proposals that explore the relationship between the academic study of Christian spirituality and its practice, as well as proposals that employ multidisciplinary perspectives. We particularly invite proposals on the following themes: 1) Eros and Christian spirituality; 2) The recovery of the monastic spirit in Christianity: old and "new" monasticism; 3) The spirituality of the Christian missionary encounter (especially in South Asia); 4) Christian pilgrimage in cross-cultural perspective; and 5) For a co-sponsored session with the Reformed Theology and History Group: Christian spiritual practices in the Reformed traditions, such as Scripture reading, expository preaching, pastoral prayer, public confession, Holy Communion and baptism, as well as mass social movements such as abolition and suffrage, and (in the nineteenth century) missionary societies for clergy and laity.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Comparative Religious Ethics Group

Aaron Stalnaker, Indiana University, [astalnaker@indiana.edu](mailto:astalnaker@indiana.edu).

We encourage submissions, both integrated sessions and individual proposals, that explicitly compare positions or themes from diverse religious thinkers or groups, and which also investigate broader methodological questions. This year we especially invite papers that analyze moral ethnography as a form of comparative religious ethics, for example in recent works on South Asian religions. We also solicit proposals on other topics, such as intersections between comparative ethics and political theory; moral outrage, zeal, and religious extremism in comparative perspective; the relations between comparative religious ethics, philosophical ethics, comparative theology, and interreligious dialogue, especially with regard to normativity, presuppositions, and scholarly stance; and linguistic issues in comparison, including semantics, metaphor, and translation.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Comparative Studies in Hinduisms and Judaisms Group

Kathryn McClymond, Georgia State University, [kmcclymond@gsu.edu](mailto:kmcclymond@gsu.edu). Yudit Greenberg, Rollins College, [ygreenberg@rollins.edu](mailto:ygreenberg@rollins.edu).

This group seeks to bring together scholars of Hinduism and Judaism to generate responsible and insightful comparative conversation with the intention of developing alternatives to the Christian-based paradigms that have tended to dominate the academic study of religion. Paper proposals on any theme will be considered for acceptance, but for the 2008 sessions we particularly invite papers on the following topics: Indo-Judaic studies; looking ahead; sacred objects; pilgrimage; and revisiting mysticism: is mysti-

cism a useful way to characterize Hinduism and Kabbalah? Proposals for individual papers as well as full panels are encouraged. Presenters need not have expertise in both Hindu and Jewish traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Comparative Theology Group

Deepak Sarma, Case Western Reserve University, [deepak.sarma@case.edu](mailto:deepak.sarma@case.edu). Kurt Anders Richardson, McMaster University, [kar@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kar@mcmaster.ca).

The Comparative Theology Group is concurrently theological, interreligious, and comparative. The group seeks proposals that combine specific, interreligious, comparative study with methodological reflection. Full, multiperson proposals are preferred. Suggested topics include: sabda pramana (verbal testimony) from multiple religious perspectives; the critical study of religions and comparative theology; European discourse on comparative theology; learning theologically from the religious "other"; power relations in comparative theological discourse; multiple religious belonging; comparative theology and the theology of religions; "comparative theology" in traditions other than Christianity; debating truth claims; time, religious narratives, and comparative theology; Barth and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism; theological questions, such as suffering, identity and conversion, religious education, etc. Online submission through the OP3 system only. Thematic paper sessions: abstract and paper proposals; panel proposal: abstract and names.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Confucian Traditions Group

Keith Knapp, Citadel, [keith.knapp@citadel.edu](mailto:keith.knapp@citadel.edu). Michael Puett, Harvard University, [puett@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:puett@fas.harvard.edu).

We invite proposals concerning any aspect of Confucianism. Topics of particular interest this coming year are: empirical approaches (sociological or anthropological) to the study of Confucianism; the meaning of the word Ru; mass-market Confucianism; ritual theory in East Asia; the impact of text critical studies on Confucian practice; Confucian devotionalism across East Asia; and the effects of modern conceptions of Confucianism on our view of past Confucianism. In possible collaboration with the Daoist Studies

(continued on next page)

## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= OP3

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

Group, we would also like to solicit papers for a panel entitled “Western (Mis)conceptions of Confucianism and Daoism.” We also encourage applicants to propose panels in the new 90-minute format, which can take the form of a symposium on a particular text, pedagogy, or a specific author.



Wendy Griffin, California State  
University, Long Beach,  
*wgriffin@csulb.edu*.

Traditional models see the historical movement from polytheism to monotheism as progress, as a natural, linear evolution. Today, however, we find groups looking to their cultural heritages to recapture ancient polytheistic traditions, to reconstruct these to fit modern circumstances, and to create or discover new polytheistic spiritualities that address contemporary life. Thus Pagan Studies opens dialogue with Eastern and Afro-Latin diaspora traditions. We invite papers that explore the issue of the Polytheistic Challenge. In addition, we encourage both papers and alternate forms of presentation exploring Halloween/Samhain/Day of the Dead (e.g., ancestors, fear of death, popular culture's cooption of Pagan practices, etc.). We also welcome papers on other themes dealing with contemporary pagan studies.



Kocku von Stuckrad, University of  
Amsterdam, *c.k.m.vonstuckrad@uva.nl*.

The Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group offers a forum for critical/theoretical work in conversation with specific cases of religious practices/beliefs/institutions and/or the scholarly study of these. This year's themes: 1) The implications of intellectuals serving as willing and unwilling accomplices of power: the invasion of Iraq and the embedded scholar of religion; 2) Religion and the science wars (issues resonant with Alan Sokal and the "Social Text" Affair, Meera Nanda's *Prophets Facing Backward*, and/or Edward Slingerland's *What Science Offers the Humanities*); 3) Emerging themes/approaches in the study of religion in Europe (e.g., immigration, pluralism, and politics; cross-border religion and imagined communities; hybridity and inculturation; transnationalism); and 4) Religion and class (e.g., Sean McCloud's *Divine Hierarchies*, or other critical/theoretical perspectives on this issue). We welcome individual submissions on any topic, not limited to those mentioned above; we are also very receptive to submissions for full sessions on any appropriate topic, ideally with three papers.



Tisa Wenger, Arizona State University,  
*tisa.wenger@asu.edu*. Richard King,  
Vanderbilt University,  
*richard.king@vanderbilt.edu*.

The Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group seeks papers concerned with historical inquiry into the construction of the category of “religion” in various social and cultural contexts, and their relationship to the academic study of religion. We strive for sessions that represent diverse cultural/geographic locations. This year we especially encourage proposals on the following themes: 1) Visual culture/material culture and the emergence of the category of religion; 2) The role of world

expositions in the cultural production of religion; 3) Global antecedents: narrating the prehistory of the comparative study of religions (especially but not exclusively in relation to the South Asian emphasis of AAR 2008); and 4) The deployment of the category of religion in election campaign discourses.



Louis Komjathy, Pacific Lutheran University, [komjathy@plu.edu](mailto:komjathy@plu.edu). Jonathan Herman, Georgia State University, [jherman2@gsu.edu](mailto:jherman2@gsu.edu).

The Daoist Studies Group invites panel and/or paper proposals on the following topics: Daoist sacred sites; translating Daoist texts; and Western (mis)conceptions of Confucianism and Daoism (co-sponsored with the Confucian Traditions Group). We also invite complete panel proposals dedicated to discussion of a recent important book in Daoist Studies (e.g., Schipper and Verellen's *The Taoist Canon*). Proposals on other topics may also be considered. Please submit panel and paper proposals via the OP3 system no later than February 25, 2008. If you have any questions or additional suggestions, please contact the co-chairs at the above E-mail addresses.



## AAR

**The session organizer or chair must fill out this form in its entirety.**

Names and institutions will appear in the *Program Planner* as indicated below (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). If you are not affiliated with an institution, list city, state, or province.

(PLEASE PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INK).

## Session Organizer Contact Information

Name			
Institution			
Mailing Address			
City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country
Office Phone	Home Phone	E-mail	

1. PROPOSED THEME OF SESSION:
2. PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal:
- 2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal, if any. Please place a number in the order of your preference, if any, of program unit acceptance:
- 3b. OTHER PROGRAM UNITS in which above participants may participate or to which they are also sending submissions, if any (list participant name and program unit):
- (Completed participant form(s) must accompany each submission).
4. AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS for the entire session (note number needed):
- \_\_\_\_ Computer: ☐ Windows ☐ Macintosh ☐ Internet
- \_\_\_\_ LCD Projector w/Screen
- 

Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. The executive office makes every attempt to honor the AV requests of our members. Unusual requests should be cleared, through the appropriate program unit chair, with the executive office to confirm the availability of the equipment or set-up of space.

3. PLANNED PARTICIPANTS for this session, in order of appearance:
- Presider: \_\_\_\_\_
- Panelists: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_
5. SCHEDULING NEEDS due to religious observance, if any:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: No individual may participate on the program more than two times.

**Also available at**

**[www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual meeting/Current meeting](http://www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual%20meeting/Current%20meeting) for download**



Eastern Orthodox Studies Group

Paul Gavriluk, University of St. Thomas, [plgavriluk@stthomas.edu](mailto:plgavriluk@stthomas.edu). Eve Tibbs, Fuller Theological Seminary, [etibbs@roadrunner.com](mailto:etibbs@roadrunner.com).

The Eastern Orthodox Studies Group invites papers on the following three topics: 1) Origen and Origenisms, reflecting new research on all aspects of the life and work of Origen of Alexandria and his historical influence in patristic and later theology; 2) The perception of the “West” in Eastern Orthodoxy, including such questions as the problematic character of the “West” as a category; the “West” as “the

other,” “West,” “Western,” and “Latin” used as theological foils; and the evaluations of Western theological thought by Florovsky, Yannaras, and other modern Orthodox thinkers; and 3) The spiritual senses in Eastern Christianity and other religious traditions. We welcome papers on all aspects of the phenomenon of spiritual perception and/or inner senses. This session will be held jointly with the Mysticism Group.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Ecclesiological Investigations Group

Michael A. Fahey, Boston College, [michael.fahey@marquette.edu](mailto:michael.fahey@marquette.edu). Gerard Mannion, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, [ges.mannion@gmail.com](mailto:ges.mannion@gmail.com).

Consensus Statements on the Church: What Remains Divisive? — A session exploring bilateral and multilateral documents that attempt to discern where churches dwell in common and to identify remaining causes of division. Historical, methodological, conceptual, and comparative treatments are invited. Particularly welcome are constructive explorations of ways to offset churches’ nonreception of

consensus statements and of obstacles (theological and otherwise) to reception, as are specific treatments of key concepts (e.g., adiaphora, “hierarchy of truths”). Twenty-first Century Church — A general call to explore contemporary reality and future prospects for the church in general and ecclesiology in particular. Papers of broad thematic focus (e.g., on postmodernity) or more specific treatments (e.g., contemporary covenantal ecclesiology, varieties of liberation ecclesiology), ethnographic studies of developments at grass roots/regional level or more comparative and systematic surveys, and projections of where ecclesiology is presently “at” and in what directions it is likely to/should develop are all welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Evangelical Theology Group

Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ashland Theological Seminary, [wcorbin@ashland.edu](mailto:wcorbin@ashland.edu). John R. Franke, Biblical Theological Seminary, [jffranke@biblical.edu](mailto:jffranke@biblical.edu).

We invite proposals for: 1) Common ground between Christianity and Islam in “A Common Word between Us and You” ([www.acommonword.com](http://www.acommonword.com)) and a Christian Response, “Loving God and Neighbor Together” ([www.yale.edu/faith/about-commonword.htm](http://www.yale.edu/faith/about-commonword.htm)); proposals are invited which demonstrate constructive theological engagement with the documents; implications for interreligious dialogue, especially for evangelicals; opportunities and challenges to evangelical identity, practices and mission; and contributions to social ethical concerns in common between religious traditions; 2) LeRon Shults’s *Reforming the Doctrine of God*, constructive interaction with his theological method, sources, content, and implications for reforming evangelical doctrines of God; and 3) Pending confirmation, a joint session with Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation. We invite proposals that utilize postcolonial interpretations of biblical texts on such issues as globalization, economic justice, racial, class and gender constructions, social order, nationhood, and political power which constructively engages social ethical issues, populist uses of biblical texts, and religious rhetoric in public discourse.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



PARTICIPANT FORM 2008 (INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS)



Each presenter, panelist, respondent, and presider must fill out a form in its entirety.

It is very important that the participant fill out this form. Name and institution will appear in the *Program Book* as indicated below (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). If you are not affiliated with an institution, list city, state, or province.

(PLEASE PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INK.)

Name			
Institution			
Mailing Address			
City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country
Office Phone	Home Phone	E-mail	

1. TITLE OF YOUR PROPOSAL (if presenting a paper):

4. AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS (note number needed) :

\_\_\_ Computer: ☐ Windows ☐ Macintosh ☐ Internet  
\_\_\_ LCD Projector w/Screen

2. PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal:

Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. The executive office makes every attempt to honor the AV requests of our members. Unusual requests should be cleared, through the appropriate program unit chair, with the executive office to confirm the availability of the equipment or setup of space.

2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal, if any. Please place a number in the order of your preference, if any, of program unit acceptance:

5. SCHEDULING NEEDS due to religious observance, if any:


(Completed participant form(s) must accompany each submission.)

3. YOUR ROLE in this session:

- ☐ Presiding
- ☐ Presenting (titled paper)
- ☐ Responding
- ☐ Panelist (untitled presentation)
- ☐ Presiding at a Business Meeting

NOTE: No individual may participate in the program more than two times.

Also available at [www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual\\_meeting/Current\\_meeting](http://www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual_meeting/Current_meeting) for download

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

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## Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group

M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University, [mghamner@syr.edu](mailto:mghamner@syr.edu). Kathleen Roberts Skerrett, Grinnell College, [skerrett@grinnell.edu](mailto:skerrett@grinnell.edu).

Paper and panel proposals are invited that critically, practically, and constructively engage feminist theory and religious reflection. Preference is given to proposals with substantial feminist theoretical argument and with attention to cross-cultural perspectives, especially but not only the 2008 theme of South Asian studies. We solicit both papers and panels particularly on the following topics: 1) Feminisms/womanisms take on liberalism, e.g., issues of consent/choice in sexual ethics, in reproductive rights, in public/political life (such as political agency, electoral procedures, etc.); 2) Feminists theorizing ritual as a significant site for imagining/performing trans\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., transformation, transgression, transgender, transnational, transcultural, etc.); 3) Feminist theoretical engagements with violence and its aftermath: defining hurt, harm, and suffering; and 4) Neither radical nor right: feminists negotiating "the middle" way in different religious contexts. Our group will explore the possibility of a co-sponsored session with the Religion and Sexuality Consultation regarding the first two topics.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group

Peter Savastano, Seton Hall University, [p.savastano@comcast.net](mailto:p.savastano@comcast.net). Paul J. Gorrell, Stockton, NJ, [pauljgorrell@aol.com](mailto:pauljgorrell@aol.com).

The Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group seeks to deepen and expand its work at several critical intersections and welcomes both paper and panel proposals on any of these broad areas of interdisciplinary concern: 1) The construction of maleness and masculinity (we are planning a joint session with the Men's Studies in Religion Group on this topic, as well as a discussion of how our two groups overlap and/or diverge in our work); 2) Economics/global capitalism (neocolonial exportation of and financial reliance on sexual and gender difference); and 3) Evolutionary biology/human sciences (religious contributions to and contestations of scientific discourse on gender, sex, and sexuality). In each of these areas we also wish to explore the construction of racial/ethnic and/or religious "others" and how these relate to the constructions of gay men as sexual/gender "others." We also welcome paper and panel proposals on topics not listed here and from all religious traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Hinduism Group

Vijaya Nagarajan, University of San Francisco, [nagarajan@usfca.edu](mailto:nagarajan@usfca.edu). Timothy Lubin, Washington and Lee University, [lubint@wlu.edu](mailto:lubint@wlu.edu).

We invite panel proposals for the 2008 meeting on any aspect of Hinduism in any part of the world that cover a wide variety of topics. Interdisciplinary and comparative pro-

posals are also welcome. Proposals must be made through the online system. Complete session proposals are highly encouraged though individual paper proposals may also be accepted. Please look closely at our mission statement to get a broad sense of our goals and objectives. Suggested topics are: 1) Media and Hinduism: news, TV, and Internet (Arti Dhand); 2) Films and Hinduism (Diana Dimitrova); 3) Hinduism and arts in Cambodia (Vasudha Narayanan); 4) On-line Pujas (Phyllis Herman); 5) Sects and separatism in Hinduism (Dean Accardi); 6) Psychoanalysis and Hinduism (Al Collins and Travis Chilcott); 7) New temple constructions and globalizing Hinduisms (Jack Hawley); 8) Hindu temples in India and America (Diana Eck); 9) Diaspora Hinduisms in Africa (co-sponsored with the African Religions Group); 10) Hindu approaches to health and healing (co-sponsored with Religions, Medicine, and Healing Group); and 11) Women and caste in Hinduism (Ramdas Lamb).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Indigenous Religious Traditions Group

Jualynne E. Dodson, Michigan State University, [dodsonj2@msu.edu](mailto:dodsonj2@msu.edu).

The Indigenous Religious Traditions Group calls for papers related to Intentionality, Freedom, and Agency: Toward Philosophy of Religion in Indigenous Contexts. We will receive papers that engage any combination of these conceptual issues and encourage submission of proposals that are theoretical and research grounded. Our group will also receive paper proposals that probe the idea of the sacred. In this instance, the critical question is whether the sacred is a viable conceptual classification for the study of indigenous religious traditions. In each category of paper submissions, we are wanting to expand theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of indigenous religious traditions and to enhance our thinking about philosophy of religion as related to indigenous contexts.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Islamic Mysticism Group

Carl Ernst, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, [cernst@email.unc.edu](mailto:cernst@email.unc.edu).

The Islamic Mysticism Group solicits paper and panel proposals engaging diverse topics and regions for the 2008 Annual Meeting. Special attention will be given to the following topics: social and doctrinal configurations of South Asian Sufism; the use of rhythm and music in Sufism; Sufism and Western esoteric traditions; traditions of embodiment in Sufism (ritual, healing, gender, etc.); Sufism and law; and neo-Platonism and Islamic mysticism. Prearranged panel proposals reflecting diversity in gender and ethnicity are encouraged. Proposals dealing with Islamic mysticism in South Asia are especially welcome in view of the AAR regional emphasis in 2008.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Checklists

### Individual Proposals

- ☐ Proposal being sent via proper method
- ☐ Current membership for 2008
- ☐ Completed Participant Form (not necessary in OP3)
- ☐ Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)
- ☐ Abstract, in an electronic format (150 words or fewer)

### Prearranged Paper/Panel Session Proposals

- ☐ Proposal being sent via proper method
- ☐ Current 2008 memberships for all participants including presider
- ☐ Completed Prearranged Session Participant Form listing all participants including presider (not necessary in OP3)
- ☐ Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)
- ☐ For paper sessions: individual abstracts for all participants
- ☐ For panel session: single abstract for the entire session

## Japanese Religions Group

Paula K. Arai, Louisiana State University, [parai@lsu.edu](mailto:parai@lsu.edu). James L. Ford, Wake Forest University, [fordj@wfu.edu](mailto:fordj@wfu.edu).

We invite panel and individual proposals related to all aspects of Japanese religious practice and thought, both historical and contemporary. For 2008 we welcome proposals relating to the following topics: 1) Healing and divination in Japanese religion; 2) Religion and education in Japan; 3) Religion in Japanese television (serials, popular media, news coverage, etc.); 4) Meaning of "cult" in the post-Aum culture; 5) Buddhist philosophy in Japan; 6) Women and gender in Japanese religions; and 7) Esoteric thought and practice. Proposals that include explicit reflection on the relevance of Japanese religiosity to human religiosity and the study of religion more broadly are preferred. Creative formats (film, organized discussion, "workshop," etc.) are encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group

Andrew J. Burgess, University of New Mexico, [aburgess@unm.edu](mailto:aburgess@unm.edu). Marilyn Piety, Drexel University, [mgpiety@drexel.edu](mailto:mgpiety@drexel.edu).

The Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group invites paper proposals for a session about Kierkegaard's attack on established Christianity and about his point of view regarding the relation of the individual to religion and culture in his final accounting on church, society, and the Christian life. In addition, the group invites paper proposals for a joint session with the Arts, Literature, and Religion Section regarding Kierkegaard's reading of literature and the arts, and literary and artistic readings of Kierkegaard. For a second joint session with the Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation on Kierkegaard, Violence, and the Sacred: Interpreting the Near Sacrifice of Abraham's Son.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Korean Religions Group

Jin Y. Park, American University, [jypark@american.edu](mailto:jypark@american.edu). Timothy S. Lee, Brite Divinity School, [timsanglee@aol.com](mailto:timsanglee@aol.com).

The Korean Religions Group invites paper proposals on the theme of religion and violence both in traditional and modern contexts. The variations of the topic include but are not limited to religion and militarism; religion and torture; post-Korean War and religions; religion and student movement in Korea; religion and authoritarianism; religion and military dictatorship; and religious militia. Interreligious dialogue or religion and science can also be subfields of the theme. Korean Religions Group also invites a panel proposal for a book review session on recent publications in Korean religions, a panel on a focused group discussion on Korean religions, or a panel on educating Korean religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group

Carmen Marie Nanko-Fernandez, Catholic Theological Union, [cnanko@ctu.edu](mailto:cnanko@ctu.edu). Benjamin Valentin, Andover Newton Theological School, [bvalentin@ants.edu](mailto:bvalentin@ants.edu).

The Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group invites papers and panel proposals for the following two themes: 1) Blessed Rage or Sacred Resistance: Exploring the Intersections of Religion and Activism: this session will consist of papers recruited via this call and by way of invitation. Proposals are welcome that address manifestations of social activism in relationship to their religious dimensions, particularly as they impact U.S. Latino/a communities; and 2) Days of the Dead, Ways of the Living: Reflections on Religion and Death in Lo Cotidiano: this session explores the manifold ways in which U.S. Latino/as and Latin Americans observe, ritualize, and make meaning of death. Proposals are desired that critically engage cultural and religious practices surrounding death and dying, including but not limited to: observances of the days of the dead; memorializations of the dead,



e.g., through art, music, popular culture, street murals, altarcitos, grave site decoration, homegrown/local rituals, online, etc.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Law, Religion, and Culture Group

Robert Yelle, University of Memphis, [ryelle@umemphis.edu](mailto:ryelle@umemphis.edu). Greg Johnson, University of Colorado, Boulder, [greg.johnson@colorado.edu](mailto:greg.johnson@colorado.edu).

We invite paper and panel proposals, including author-meets-readers panels, on any aspect of the cultural, historical, critical, and comparative study of the intersections of law and religion, including legal categories in religious traditions, the treatment of religion within legal traditions, human rights, and freedom of religion and belief. This year we especially welcome submissions on the following themes: trials as a method of social control; the definition of "law" and "religion" in premodern contexts; and the role of legal categories in the study of religion. Together with the Religion and Colonialism Consultation, we encourage proposals on the interaction of law and religion in colonial and postcolonial contexts, including the effect of colonialism on indigenous systems of law and religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Lesbian-Feminist Issues and Religion Group

Julie J. Kilmer, Olivet College, [jkilmer@olivetcollege.edu](mailto:jkilmer@olivetcollege.edu). Elizabeth A. Say, California State University, Northridge, [elizabeth.say@csun.edu](mailto:elizabeth.say@csun.edu).

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) Recent developments in diverse spheres — from politics and legislation to reproductive technologies — have opened new opportunities for imagining and constructing queer families. We solicit explorations of religious responses, both positive and negative, to notions of queer families and parenthood within diverse countries and cultures; 2) Queer possibilities in the post-Bush era; 3) Women aging subversively: how can lesbian and/or queer scholarship inform, challenge, and critique our understanding of aging bodies?; and 4) Papers that seek to raise consciousness and disrupt discourses, exploring heterosexism as the fundamental oppression underneath homophobia, misogyny, and racism. The call is for papers that analyze the connections among forms of oppression. Individual paper proposals are welcome; complete panels on any of the above topics are particularly encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Men's Studies in Religion Group

Robert A. Atkins Jr., Grace United Methodist Church, [BobAtkins@alumni.northwestern.edu](mailto:BobAtkins@alumni.northwestern.edu). Garth Kasimu Baker-Fletcher, Texas College, [gletcher@texascoll.edu](mailto:gletcher@texascoll.edu).

The Men's Studies in Religion Group invites paper submissions on: 1) The relationship between religion, politics, and masculinity especially as they may connect to the presidential election; 2) Papers that address the methodological foundations for an analysis of Men's Studies in Religion as a subdiscipline; 3) Gendered Conversations: Between Black Females and Males: how do we think of ourselves as "women" and "men" in the social context of ongoing sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, and heterosexism? how do black women and men hold a credible conversation on masculinity and womanhood with each other? (co-sponsored with Womanist Approaches to the Study of Religion and Black Theology Groups); and 4) Papers for a joint session with the Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group, specifically focused on the "who's afraid of gay theology" discussion in the Fall 2007 issue of *Theology and Sexuality*.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Mysticism Group

June McDaniel, College of Charleston, [mcdanielj@cofc.edu](mailto:mcdanielj@cofc.edu). Laura Weed, College of St. Rose, [weedl@strose.edu](mailto:weedl@strose.edu).

We focus on the comparative, philosophical, theoretical, cross-cultural, and transnational nature of mysticism, religious experience, and spiritual practice. Creative, imaginative, and scholarly proposals with a clear methodology are invited on: 1) Mystical love poetry; 2) The spiritual senses in Eastern Christianity and other religious traditions (proposals wel-

come on all aspects of the phenomenon of spiritual perception and/or the senses, e.g., *sensus divinitus*, "eyes of the mind/heart"), to be co-sponsored with the Eastern Orthodox Studies Group; 3) Stages of mystical development; 4) Mysticism and neuroscience/consciousness studies; and 5) Techniques of induction of mystical states (trance, drugs, etc).

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## Native Traditions in the Americas Group

Kenneth Mello, University of Vermont, [kenneth.mello@uvm.edu](mailto:kenneth.mello@uvm.edu). Mary C. Churchill, Sonoma State University, [marychurchill@gmail.com](mailto:marychurchill@gmail.com).

We invite individual papers and group proposals on any aspect of Native Traditions in the Americas. We encourage proposals in the following areas: 1) Sovereignty and the environment, particularly in the Great Lakes region; 2) Religion and negotiations in the Old Northwest; 3) Pontiac and Tecumseh in the upper Midwest; 4) Urban Natives, termination, and relocation (Chicago as a center); 5) Removal and erasure; 6) African Americans and Natives; and 7) Chief Illiniwek, mascots, spirituality, and representations. We also seek submissions for a joint session with the Animals and Religion Consultation on Native American spirituality and animals. Proposals must be submitted electronically, preferably via OP3, but may be submitted via e-mail attachments to both co-chairs if necessary.

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## New Religious Movements Group

Douglas E. Cowan, University of Waterloo, [decowan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:decowan@uwaterloo.ca).

We seek papers examining South Asian and Indian new religious movements, either in their original and/or their diasporic or immigrant contexts. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals from a variety of methodological and theoretical standpoints: sociological, anthropological, historical, literary and artistic, or psychological. For a joint session with the Study of Judaism Section, we are seeking papers discussing new religious movements in the Jewish context, movements such as Kabbalah. Please note that new religious movements are not limited to those groups traditionally regarded as "cults," but also include revitalization movements within established traditions, the transplantation of traditions between social contexts, and the sectarian emergence of challenges to dominant traditions. As always, we also welcome papers on any aspect of new religions study. For further information about the New Religious Movements Group, please contact the chair.

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## Teaching College Introductory Religion Courses - Regional Workshops

### Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion



Funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and located at Wabash College

- Register for a half-day, pre-conference workshop at a regional meeting of the AAR, SBL and other guilds
- Focused attention on course design & pedagogical strategies, faculty & student learning goals, assignments, assessment
- Hands-on, interactive, collaborative work on your own syllabus
- Based on research by Barbara Walvoord, *Teaching and Learning in College Introductory Religion Courses* (Blackwell, 2008)
- Led by faculty participants in the study
- No fee; lunch provided; advance registration required
- Participants will receive a free copy of Dr. Walvoord's book
- Participants are eligible to apply for a non-competitive \$2000 Introductory Course Departmental Grant to host a workshop at their school or region

### Workshop Dates and Locations

Southeast Regional Meeting - AAR, SBL, ASOR	Atlanta, GA - March 7-9, 2008
SW Commission on Religious Studies Meeting AAR, SBL, ASOR, ASSR	Dallas, TX - March 14-16, 2008
Upper-Midwest Regional Meeting - AAR & SBL	St. Paul, MN - March 28-29, 2008
Midwest Regional Meeting - AAR	Chicago, IL - April 4-5, 2008
Pacific NW Regional Meeting - AAR, SBL, ASOR	Newberg, OR - May 2-4, 2008
New England Conference at Holy Cross - AAR	TBA
AAR Annual Meeting, 2008	Chicago, IL - November 1-4, 2008
SBL National Meeting, 2008	Boston, MA - Nov. 22-25, 2008

Registration at each location is limited. See the Wabash Center Website for additional details.

[www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu)

## Nineteenth-Century Theology Group

Lori K. Pearson, Carleton College, [lpearson@carleton.edu](mailto:lpearson@carleton.edu).

The Nineteenth-Century Theology Group invites papers on the following topics: 1) Creation and design in nineteenth-century theology: theological treatments of teleology, evolution, Darwinism, and related topics in the work of American, European, and other thinkers during the long nineteenth century. This session is dedicated to the memory of Daniel W. Hardy. Organizer: Hans Schwarz, [hans.schwarz@theologie.uni-regensburg.de](mailto:hans.schwarz@theologie.uni-regensburg.de); 2) Theology and war in the nineteenth century: explorations of theological reflection in the long nineteenth century on war in general and/or specific wars from the French Revolution to WWI. Proposals on European and non-European thinkers or topics are welcome. Organizers: Aimee Burant Chor, [aaburant@uchicago.edu](mailto:aaburant@uchicago.edu), and Russell Kleckley, [kleckley@augsbury.edu](mailto:kleckley@augsbury.edu); and 3) Joint session with Société Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy: responses to James C. Livingston's *Religious Thought in the Victorian Age: Challenges and Reconceptions*. Papers may respond to Livingston's book or compare it to other works in the field. Organizers: Garrett Green, [garrett.green@conncoll.edu](mailto:garrett.green@conncoll.edu), and Charles J. T. Talar, [talarc@stthom.edu](mailto:talarc@stthom.edu).

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## Platonism and Neoplatonism Group

Willemien Otten, University of Chicago Divinity School, [wotten@uchicago.edu](mailto:wotten@uchicago.edu). Gregory Shaw, Stonehill College, [gshaw@stonehill.edu](mailto:gshaw@stonehill.edu).

The Platonism/Neoplatonism Group invites papers on the following two topics: 1) The role of myth in Platonic/Pythagorean traditions. We invite papers to explore how myth has functioned within Platonic communities; to examine how myth has shaped the trajectories of Platonic thought and self-expression, allowing it to cross the borders of philosophy, literature, magic, and religion; and 2) Diverse traditions and receptions of Platonic/Neoplatonic thought. Although rooted in Neoplatonism, certain traditions and receptions have been widely divergent; we wish to explore these differences and to ask if some expressions may still be considered Neoplatonic, and if not, on what grounds. Papers for both sessions will be made electronically available prior to the meeting. They will be presented in short (15-minute) presentations to allow for sustained discussion.

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## Practical Theology Group

James Nieman, Hartford Seminary, [jnieman@hartsem.edu](mailto:jnieman@hartsem.edu). Dale P. Andrews, Boston University School of Theology, [andrews@bu.edu](mailto:andrews@bu.edu).

The Practical Theology Group engages practical theology and religious practice, reflects critically on religious tradition and practice, and explores issues in particular subdisciplines of practical theology and ministry. In particular, we invite papers and panel proposals on

the following topics: 1) The use of power in arenas of practical theology, such as mentoring, confessing, pastoral care, teaching, preaching, and spiritual direction; 2) Practical theological reflection on aspects of the 2008 presidential election, such as development of political platforms, religious guidance of voters, and voter participation/nonparticipation; and 3) Theologies of the laity. Preference will be shown to proposals that demonstrate practical theological methods and examine the theologies embedded in practices. We encourage proposals that respect diverse beliefs, moral claims, and political commitments. Proposals submitted through OP3 only.

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## Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Princeton University, [esglaude@princeton.edu](mailto:esglaude@princeton.edu).

We invite proposals on: 1) Roberto Unger's *The Self Awakened: Pragmatism Unbound* and its relevance for the study of religion; 2) In light of the 2008 meeting site of Chicago, any topic related to the Chicago School pragmatists and empiricists (Mead, Dewey, etc.); and 3) For a possible joint session with the Study of Judaism Section on pragmatism and Judaism. We also welcome proposals on topics relevant to pragmatism and empiricism as well as panel proposals.

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## Psychology, Culture, and Religion Group

Kathleen Bishop, Drew University, [Kbish87@aol.com](mailto:Kbish87@aol.com). Pamela Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, [pcooper@ltsps.edu](mailto:pcooper@ltsps.edu).

Proposals are invited on: self psychological perspectives on religion; after September 11: psychological and religious reflections on terror and anxiety; and psychologies and/of race. Psychology, Culture, and Religion Group also welcomes proposals on other themes dealing with psychology, culture, and religion. (Note: Psychology, Culture, and Religion is the Group formerly known as Person, Culture, and Religion). For more info: visit the Psychology, Culture, and Religion Group website [www.pcr-aar.org/](http://www.pcr-aar.org/).

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## Qur'an Group

Gordon D. Newby, Emory University, [gdnnewby@emory.edu](mailto:gdnnewby@emory.edu). Frederick M. Denny, University of Colorado, Boulder, [frederick.denny@colorado.edu](mailto:frederick.denny@colorado.edu).

We welcome proposals related to the academic study of the Qur'an. Topics include: analysis of Qur'anic text; history of interpretation of the Qur'an; the recitation/performance aspects of the Qur'an; artistic aspects of the Qur'an; the relationship of the Qur'an to other scriptures and traditions; form criticism of the Qur'an; and the historical/textual milieu in which the Qur'an has been received. We especial-

ly welcome proposals that have a pedagogical focus, designed to educate members of the AAR on incorporating material about the Qur'an into their existing courses. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication and self-awareness, as well as innovative examination of Islamic societies and texts. All prearranged sessions should consider the gender and seniority diversity of participants; respondents are essential. Innovative, interactive formats and multimedia presentations are welcome.

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## Reformed Theology and History Group

Kang-Yup Na, Westminster College, [nak@westminster.edu](mailto:nak@westminster.edu). Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, [ksonderegger@vts.edu](mailto:ksonderegger@vts.edu).

The Reformed Theology and History Group, in co-sponsorship with the Christian Spirituality Group, welcomes papers on Christian spiritual practices in the Reformed traditions, such as Scripture reading, expository preaching, pastoral prayer, public confession, Holy Communion and baptism, as well as mass social movements such as abolition and suffrage, and (in the nineteenth century) missionary societies for clergy and laity. Confessions and the Reformed Tradition: The Reformed churches have been societies born of confession. John Leith lists 17 confessions prior to 1650 alone (*Creeds of the Churches*), from Zwingli's confessions, to Westminster, Belgic and Dort, to Barmen, and now, the Belhar confession. Reformed churches have sought to set forth their doctrine in public, corporate, and varying witnesses to the Word. Why has confession been so central to the Reformed tradition? What social, material, and theological forces are at work in the Reformed practice of confession? The Reformed Theology and History Group invites papers that explore this rich historical and theological phenomenon.

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## Religion and Disability Studies Group

Deborah Creamer, Iliff School of Theology, [dcream@iliff.edu](mailto:dcream@iliff.edu). Kerry H. Wynn, Southeast Missouri State University, [kwynn@semo.edu](mailto:kwynn@semo.edu).

The Religion and Disability Studies Group invites papers on the following topics: 1) The Other Casualties of War: Much attention has been given to the role of religion in violence and terrorism and in the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Attention has been given to the role of medical advances in saving the lives of wounded soldiers and decreasing the death toll. Much less attention has been given to the reality that a reduction in loss of life is accompanied by an increase in the number of veterans who return home with disabilities. We invite paper proposals that address the relationship between war, disability, and religion. Topics need not be limited to the current actions in Afghanistan and Iraq; 2) We invite proposals for a joint session with the Religions, Medicine, and Healing Group

## Member ID Number

You can find your membership ID number on any of the official paperwork that comes from the AAR. The top line of the address label has your ID number. It is a single letter followed by five (5) numbers (e.g., Z12345).

If you are a 2007 or 2008 member, the label on this Call for Papers has your ID number on it. If it is not there, please go to [www.aarweb.org/membership](http://www.aarweb.org/membership) and you can request to have your ID number E-mailed to you immediately.

for papers relating to the intersection of healing, wellness, and disability; and 3) Finally, we invite paper proposals on any topic related to intersections of religion and disability.

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## Religion and Ecology Group

David Barnhill, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, [barnhill@uwosh.edu](mailto:barnhill@uwosh.edu). John Grim, Yale University, [john.grim@yale.edu](mailto:john.grim@yale.edu).

The Religion and Ecology Group invites proposals exploring sustainable human-Earth relations involving religion, culture, biodiversity, and environment. We encourage thematically coherent panels and individual papers related to the following themes: ritual and ecology (joint panel with Ritual Studies Group); women, religion, and ecology (joint panel with Women and Religion Section); sustainable urban communities; animals and animism; sustainable campuses and the greening of the curriculum; international dimensions of religion and ecology; religion, ecology, and the 2008 elections; religious dimensions of eco-restoration; geography, bioregionalism, and place; religious conflicts and the environment; sustainable agriculture and humane food; gender issues in religion and ecology; a knowledge and naming in religion and ecology; self-critique of the field of religion and ecology; and re-viewing "shapers" of the field of religion and ecology. Proposals with reference to the Chicago area are encouraged. Visit Religion and Ecology's AAR website, [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Program\\_Units/PUCS/Website/main.asp?PU Num=AARPU051](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Program_Units/PUCS/Website/main.asp?PU Num=AARPU051), and [www.religionandecology.org](http://www.religionandecology.org) for more details and information for organizing sessions.

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## Religion and Popular Culture Group

Richard J. Callahan Jr., University of Missouri, Columbia, [callahanrj@missouri.edu](mailto:callahanrj@missouri.edu). Lisle Dalton, Hartwick College, [DaltonL@Hartwick.edu](mailto:DaltonL@Hartwick.edu).

The Religion and Popular Culture Group invites both organized sessions and individual paper proposals that explore the intersections of religion and popular culture. This year we especially encourage presentations that examine the workings of religion in the following contexts: South Asian popular culture; theorizing religion and popular culture; children; Chicago; emotions; virtual worlds; and open call for any other topics dealing with religion and popular culture. We also invite proposals for a joint session with Contemporary Pagan Studies on Halloween/Samhain/Day of the Dead. Our unit strongly encourages alternative, interactive, and creative formats for panels and session presentations. Accompanying multimedia, audiovisual, and other supplements are also strongly encouraged.

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## Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group

Jorge Aquino, University of San Francisco, [jaaquino@usfca.edu](mailto:jaaquino@usfca.edu). Jennifer Hughes, University of California, Riverside, [jhughes@ucr.edu](mailto:jhughes@ucr.edu).

The Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group invites proposals on: 1) Subversive Saints: religious and secular saints as instruments of social critique and/or examining how popular movements voice their identities through saintly cults from Juan Soldado to Bob Marley; 2) Asian-Latin American Religious Transculturations: how migration between Asia and Latin America is transforming both Eastern and Western religious practices; the practice of Asian religions in Latin America and among U.S. Latinos; 3) Religion and politics under New Left presidencies in South America (Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, Lula da Silva in Brazil, and Evo Morales in Bolivia, etc.); and 4) Spirits of Social Change: Rethinking 1968: how might antihegemonic movements in Tlatelolco, the United States, Prague, and Paris inform today's struggles against globalization.

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## Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

John Lyden, Dana College, [jlyden@dana.edu](mailto:jlyden@dana.edu).

We seek proposals that reflect on the study of religion, film, and visual culture in relation to: 1) Methodological issues, including critical theory, semiotics, and the study of sound/music; 2) Pedagogical issues; 3) Spectatorship, fandom, and the material culture of films; 4) Commercial vs. "native" cinema; 5) Video games and films; 6) Ritual aspects of film, and the filming of rituals; 7) Documentary films about religion, and hermeneutical issues arising from the relation of filmmakers to subjects filmed, as well as the use of such films to teach about religion; and 8) Non-Christian religion and film, and non-Western (Global) Christianity and film; especially

films related to South Asian religion, in accordance with this year's international focus. We also welcome panel proposals on topics or recent books in the field, as well as co-sponsorship with other units.

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## Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group

Laura S. Levitt, Temple University, [llevitt@temple.edu](mailto:llevitt@temple.edu). Katharina von Kellenbach, St. Mary's College of Maryland, [kvonkellenbach@smcm.edu](mailto:kvonkellenbach@smcm.edu).

We invite individual papers and/or complete panel proposals, from any methodological perspective, on the following topics: 1) The rhetorical uses of the Holocaust in public protests (against genocide, abortion, political inaction, Darfur massacres, etc.) by religiously affiliated individuals and organizations; 2) The moral complexities of military interventions in genocide (how can "we" prevent, resist, stop genocidal campaigns, and who are the "we" in these enactments?); and 3) For a possible co-sponsored session with the Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section, on the pedagogical challenges and opportunities of teaching Holocaust and/or genocide courses in different institutional contexts (seminaries, religion departments, private colleges, large research universities) and/or disciplines (history, theology, ethics, philosophy, political science, literature, media studies, feminist, and critical theory). We are especially interested in innovative presentation formats and alternative panel proposals that feature comparative, constructive, critical, case study, and/or reflective approaches.

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## Religion, Media, and Culture Group

Gordon Lynch, University of London, [g.lynch@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:g.lynch@bbk.ac.uk). Sean McCloud, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, [spmcclo@email.uncc.edu](mailto:spmcclo@email.uncc.edu).

The Religion, Media, and Culture Group welcomes individual and panel proposals that explore the intersections between religion, media, and different forms of cultural production and consumption. For 2008, we are particularly interested in proposals that relate to: 1) The role of media in the formation of transnational religious networks and the role that such media play in shaping migrants' sense of identity, community, space, and time (co-sponsored session with the Religion and Migration Consultation); 2) Religion in/and virtual worlds (co-sponsored session with the Religion and Popular Culture Group); 3) Religion in/and comics, manga, and graphic novels; 4) The gendered use of media technologies in religious practice; and 5) The rise of new forms of segmented or niche religious news, entertainment, and lifestyle media.

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## Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University, [linda.barnes@bmc.org](mailto:linda.barnes@bmc.org). Suzanne J. Crawford, Pacific Lutheran University, [suzanne.crawford@plu.edu](mailto:suzanne.crawford@plu.edu).

The Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group invites proposals for papers addressing religious worldviews, beliefs, and/or practices, and understandings of medicine/healing traditions, in relation to topics involving intergenerational relations, life stages, and healing. We also invite proposals for joint sessions with the Religion in South Asia Section (for papers relating to approaches to health, wellness, sickness, and healing within South Asian traditions), and with the Religion and Disability Studies Group (for papers relating to the intersection of healing, wellness, and disability). We particularly welcome theoretical inquiry. Minority and women scholars are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals should be submitted through the Online Paper Proposal System.

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## Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group

Jon Pahl, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, [jpahl@ltsps.edu](mailto:jpahl@ltsps.edu). Marla J. Selvidge, University of Central Missouri, [selvidge@ucmo.edu](mailto:selvidge@ucmo.edu).

We encourage the use of multimedia and/or PowerPoint presentations. We invite papers and panel proposals on all topics related to religion, social conflict, and peace, but will be especially interested in the following topics: 1) Nonviolence and peacemaking within Islam (e.g., the Gulen movement); 2) Civil rights, race, religion, and Chicago; 3) Socially engaged Buddhism; 4) Economic influence of faith-based lobbying on local communities; and 5) Pedagogies of religious peacemaking (e.g., peace institutes, peace studies programs; infusing peacemaking across religious studies curricula). Other topics we invite include: arts and peacemaking; ecology, war, and peace; implementing religious critiques of globalization on the grassroots; youth mobilizing for peacemaking; American imperialism, democracy and religion; and multifaith perspectives and globalization, including interfaith organizing in global contexts as a way of addressing social conflict. We are willing to work with other groups to co-sponsor a session. Please contact the co-chairs.

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## Ritual Studies Group

Scott Haldeman, Chicago Theological Seminary, [shaldeman@cts-chicago.edu](mailto:shaldeman@cts-chicago.edu). Ute Huesken, University of Oslo, [ute.huesken@ikos.uio.no](mailto:ute.huesken@ikos.uio.no).

Proposals welcomed on: thinking Grimes (a critical engagement with the work of Ron Grimes, on the occasion of his retirement from Wilfrid Laurier); ritual and ecology for a co-sponsored panel with the Religion and Ecology Group; transgendered performances/performativity (for possible co-sponsored session with Queer Theory Consultation); ritual and politics

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(as we meet on the weekend of the U.S. presidential election); rites in virtual and media spaces (e.g., Internet, film, etc.); rites with/for animals, pets (i.e., issues around other-than-human participation in rites); and rites in South Asia. Proposals for full panels on other timely issues in ritual studies are also welcome. All proposals should, in addition to interpreting a particular event or tradition, contribute to the extension of theory and method in the study of ritual.

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## Roman Catholic Studies Group

Vincent J. Miller, Georgetown University, [millerv@georgetown.edu](mailto:millerv@georgetown.edu). Daniel Speed Thompson, Saint Mary's University, [dthompson1@stmarytx.edu](mailto:dthompson1@stmarytx.edu).

The group welcomes proposals for papers or sessions on any topic concerning theological, historical, and cultural studies of Catholicism. Session proposals may be edited. Particular interests include: urban and suburban Catholicism; parish life and parish boundaries, particularly in the Midwest and Chicago; the legacy of the following watershed events of 1968: the Medellín conference and the advent of Latin American liberation theology, the appearance of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, and the death of Thomas Merton; historical and generational periodization of Catholicism; violence and the Catholic tradition (possibly offered with North American Religions Section); Catholicism, immigration, and Mexican-American experience; Catholicism in the public sphere, particularly in reference to U.S. electoral politics; and possible sessions on sociologist Melissa Wilde's *Vatican II*.

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## Sacred Space in Asia Group

Steven Heine, Florida International University, [heines@fiu.edu](mailto:heines@fiu.edu). Pamela D. Winfield, Meredith College, [winfield@meredith.edu](mailto:winfield@meredith.edu).

In keeping with the geographical focus on South Asia in 2008, the Sacred Space in Asia Group solicits papers from a wide variety of historical and methodological perspectives especially on the following topics: sites contested between religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam); Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India; sacred spaces associated with the disembodied goddess; and the influence of South Asian sacred spaces on neighboring regions such as Southeast Asia. In addition, we welcome proposals on other topics, including but

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not limited to sacred groves and gardens, graveyards, virtually sacred websites, and caves/grottoes. Full panel proposals, innovative programming ideas (e.g., film, audio, interactive media), and individual papers on other topics related to sacred space in Asia are welcome. Collaborations with other AAR units are especially encouraged. Initial inquiries may be addressed to panel co-chairs.

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## Schleiermacher Group

Brent Sockness, Stanford University, [sockness@stanford.edu](mailto:sockness@stanford.edu).

This year's session will consist of a panel of invited German scholars reflecting on recent trends in Schleiermacher scholarship in Europe. How has our understanding of Schleiermacher as theologian, philosopher, and humanist changed as a result of the Schleiermacher Critical Edition and the renaissance in Schleiermacher studies since roughly the late 1960s? What sort of concerns, approaches, and theoretical paradigms are framing German scholarship on Schleiermacher? How might they compare to those of North American scholarship? Panelists will be asked to assess the state of scholarship in various regions of Schleiermacher's oeuvre. This session will be an encore to an international conference on "Schleiermacher, the Study of Religion, and the Future of Theology," organized by the chairs of the AAR Schleiermacher Group and the German Schleiermacher-Gesellschaft, sponsored by Stanford University and the University of Chicago Divinity School, and held in Swift Hall, Oct. 29–31, 2007. For more information contact [sockness@stanford.edu](mailto:sockness@stanford.edu).

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## E-mail Notifications

Remember to include an E-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use E-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification about your acceptance/rejection onto the program.

## Science, Technology, and Religion Group

Lisa Stenmark, San Jose State University, [lstenmark@earthlink.net](mailto:lstenmark@earthlink.net). James Haag, Graduate Theological Union, [jameshaag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jameshaag@sbcglobal.net).

The Science, Technology, and Religion Group is seeking panel and paper proposals that engage the natural sciences from religious perspectives and consider the import of developments in science and technology for religion. We encourage submissions in the following areas especially: 1) Reflections on physical and biological sciences and religious understandings of evil; 2) The impact that an emphasis on technological development, material prosperity, problem solving, and/or disillusionment with such prosperity have had on religious aptitude and spirituality; and 3) Dennet, Dawkins, and "the New Atheists," along with general explorations of the relationship between science, theology, and atheism.

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## Scriptural Reasoning Group

Randi Rashkover, George Mason University, [rrashkov@gmu.edu](mailto:rrashkov@gmu.edu). Scott Bader-Saye, University of Scranton, [badersayes2@scranton.edu](mailto:badersayes2@scranton.edu).

The Scriptural Reasoning Group gathers Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinkers for the study of scriptural texts that speak to themes of contemporary importance. Papers should examine brief scriptural passages (drawing on both textual scholarship and reception history) and suggest how they address contemporary readers' concerns. Participants will be asked to circulate drafts in advance and revise their papers in conversation with each other. At least one session will include text study in small groups. We invite paper or panel proposals in the following areas: figural reading in Christian, Jewish, and Islamic biblical reasoning; the work of the late Daniel Hardy; and encounters between Christian doctrine and Judaism textually analyzed for a co-sponsored session with Christian Systematic Theology. Suggested topics include law and gospel; shekhinah and holy spirit; and/or Jewish readings of the Christian Paul or Christian readings of the Jewish Paul. Other creative proposals engaging the three textual traditions are welcome.

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## Tantric Studies Group

Paul Muller-Ortega, University of Rochester, [plml@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:plml@mail.rochester.edu). Glen A. Hayes, Bloomfield College, [Glen\\_Hayes@bloomfield.edu](mailto:Glen_Hayes@bloomfield.edu).

The Tantric Studies Group invites papers and preformed panels dealing with recent research in Tantric studies, including but not limited to the following topics: 1) Reading Tantric imagery; 2) The categories of "Yoga" and "Tantra"; 3) Tantra and magical powers: Siddhis as metaphors and actualities; (2 and 3 possibly co-sponsored with the Yoga Consultation); 4) Tantra and law: legal proscription and transgression; 5) Tantric ethics; 6) Initiation and authorization in Tantra; 7) Public faces

of Tantra; 8) Tantra in (and as) virtual worlds; 9) Reading Tantric texts in contemporary contexts; 10) Tantra and popular science; and 11) "Real" Tantrikas: ethnography, history. The Tantric Studies Group supports the collaboration of scholars in Tantric studies across the traditional boundaries of research based on geographic regions, specific traditions, and academic disciplines.

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## Theology and Continental Philosophy Group

Ellen T. Armour, Vanderbilt Divinity School, [ellen.t.armour@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ellen.t.armour@vanderbilt.edu). Bruce Ellis Benson, Wheaton College, [bruce.ellis.benson@wheaton.edu](mailto:bruce.ellis.benson@wheaton.edu).

We invite paper or panel proposals that bring continental philosophy to bear on the following topics: 1) The opposition between theology and religious studies; 2) Feminist scholarship from/for minority and diasporic contexts; 3) Neighbor love; 4) The work of Eric Santner; 5) Theology and materialism (including but not limited to the category of "nature," responses to new atheisms); 6) Religious import in emergent (in the United States) voices in continental thought (e.g., Pierre Hadot, Quentin Meillassoux); and 7) Other issues of interest.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group

Kurtis Schaeffer, University of Virginia, [ks6bb@virginia.edu](mailto:ks6bb@virginia.edu). Frances Garrett, University of Toronto, [frances.garrett@utoronto.ca](mailto:frances.garrett@utoronto.ca).

The Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group promotes conversation between different approaches to the study of Tibetan and Himalayan religions. For 2008, we invite papers on mythic images of Tibet in South Asia; Tibetan pilgrimage to South Asia; connections between Southeast Asia and Tibet; Islam in Tibet; or religion in Bhutan. In light of the 2008 Annual Meeting's international focus we are particularly interested in papers that focus on South Asia. We also seek papers for panels that may be co-sponsored with the Buddhist Philosophy Group, the Buddhism Section, or other groups or sections as relevant.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Tillich: Issues in Theology, Religion, and Culture Group

Rachel Sophia Baard (Villanova University), 250 East Wynnewood RD, Apt. A-17, Wynnewood, PA 19096, USA; [rachel.baard@villanova.edu](mailto:rachel.baard@villanova.edu). Russell Manning, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge CB3 9BS, UK; [rrm24@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rrm24@cam.ac.uk).

Possible themes for proposals: 1) Writers influenced by/using Tillich (Langdon Gilkey, Bellah, Cone, Mary Daly, others); 2) Why evangelicals could/should engage Tillich (final revelation, missionary theory, New Being's Pauline provenance, etc.);

3) How the recently published German texts by the pre-1933 Tillich clarify the American Tillich; 4) Tillich, Buber, Levinas; 5) Phenomenology (e.g., Jean Luc Marion: love, idolatry, being/beyond being); 6) Current psychoanalytic theory and models of healing (Lacan, Kristeva, etc.); 7) Theo-politics/political theology (conversations with Agamben, Laclau, Taubes, Vattimo, Zizek, others); 8) Black theology (e.g., on method); and 9) Further discussion of J. Z. Smith's 1990 and 2006 thesis that Tillich is the unacknowledged theoretician of the AAR's entire enterprise (ultimate concern, quasi-religions, etc.; mini-bibliography upon request). Other Tillich-related proposals will be seriously considered. We usually find a place for strong papers; themes for sessions determined by the merit of proposals received; winning student paper receives \$300 Annual Tillich Prize.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Wesleyan Studies Group

Sarah Lancaster, Methodist Theological School, Ohio, [slancaster@mtso.edu](mailto:slancaster@mtso.edu). Rex Matthews, Emory University, [rex.matthews@emory.edu](mailto:rex.matthews@emory.edu).

The Wesleyan Studies Group is open to any proposals providing historical or constructive engagement with the Wesleys or Wesleyan/Methodist traditions. This year we particularly encourage papers in these areas: 1) Wesleyans and sexuality: paper topics could include Wesley's intimacy with women, erotic language in accounts of religious experience, the relationship between sexuality and spirituality, or denominational understandings of sexuality; and 2) For a joint session with the Open and Relational Theologies Consultation, the Wesleyan Studies Group seeks paper proposals focused on issues of atonement theory; preference will be given to papers offering fresh interpretations of classic theories of atonement or innovative atonement theories arising from Wesleyan, open, or relational perspectives. Please direct all atonement theory session queries to Thomas Jay Oord at [tjoord@nnu.edu](mailto:tjoord@nnu.edu).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Western Esotericism Group

Allison P. Coudert, University of California, Davis, [apcoudert@ucdavis.edu](mailto:apcoudert@ucdavis.edu). Wouter Hanegraaff, University of Amsterdam, [w.j.hanegraaff@uva.nl](mailto:w.j.hanegraaff@uva.nl).

The Western Esotericism Group invites paper proposals from various disciplinary perspectives dealing with Western esoteric currents and their cultural ramifications. The theme of preference for 2008 is Esotericism and the Visual Imagination. Western esoteric movements, currents, and ideas are frequently depicted in visual images and constructions (in painting, sculpture, literature, architecture, film, etc.). These images are often rooted in past traditions while at the same time reflecting current cultural preoccupations. Which forms do these images/imaginings take on, and what reasons may account for their use and significance? Proposals will be welcome that address the topic

(continued on next page)



(continued from page 14)

either from a theoretical point of view or by studying specific historical cases from earliest times to the present. The Western Esotericism Group is also co-sponsoring a panel with the Islamic Mysticism Group. Papers dealing with the influence of Islam and particularly Sufism on Western Esotericism are therefore welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group

Evelyn Parker, Southern Methodist University, [eparker@smu.edu](mailto:eparker@smu.edu). Linda Thomas, Lutheran School of Theology, [ltomas@lstc.edu](mailto:ltomas@lstc.edu).

The Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group invites critically developed paper and panel proposals:

- 1) Celebrating the Work of Emilie

Townes: Womanist Contributions to Christian and Social Ethics (co-sponsor, Ethics Section); 2) Gendered Conversations: Between Black Females and Males: how do we think of ourselves as "women" and "men" in the social context of ongoing sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, and heterosexism? how do Black women and men hold a credible conversation on masculinity and womanhood with each other? (co-sponsor, Black Theology Group and Men's Studies in Religion Group); 3) Womanist/Feminist Sexual Ethics: overcoming the legacy of slavery in the lives of women and girls; religious/spiritual methods of resistance to oppression; celebration of 200 years since the end of the slave trade; 4) Spirituality of youth from a Womanist perspective; and 5) Womanist scholarship and culture. Send proposals for co-sponsored sessions to all sponsors.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## World Christianity Group

Dale T. Irvin, New York Theological Seminary, [dirvin@att.net](mailto:dirvin@att.net). Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, [pcp5@georgetown.edu](mailto:pcp5@georgetown.edu).

The World Christianity Group seeks to explore intercultural, interconfessional, and interreligious dynamics of Christianity as a world religion, bringing into conversation scholars in the disciplines of history, mission studies, theology, sociology of religion, and religious studies. For 2008 the group welcomes proposals on: 1) Globalization, empire and world Christianity, with attention to the interplay between or among social, political, economic, cultural, and religious forces; 2) Methodologies in world Christianity, especially as they pertain to questions of contextuality and intercontextuality; and 3) Hybridity as a theme in world Christianity: what are its promises, what are its problems?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Membership Current?

You must be a current AAR member in order to participate on the program. You must also be registered for the 2008 meeting. Persons who do not meet the membership and registration requirements by June 15, 2008, will be removed from the program. To renew your membership, use the form on page 19 or go online to [www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org). Annual Meeting registration opens April 21.

# SEMINARS

### ★ New Program Unit ★

## Comparative Philosophy and Religion Seminar

Morny Joy, University of Calgary, [mjoy@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mjoy@ucalgary.ca). Vincent Shen, University of Toronto, [vincent.shen@utoronto.ca](mailto:vincent.shen@utoronto.ca).

The theme is Comparative Philosophy and Religion, Beyond Incorporation: Alternative approaches to non-Western philosophical systems, categories, and ideas. Seminar members are invited to submit proposals relating to the theme. Suggested topics are rethinking Western philosophical/religious categories in the light of ones from non-Western philosophical/religious traditions, and revisiting definitions and descriptions where non-Western categories have been assimilated or made to conform to Western ones. All accepted papers will be circulated previous to the conference. Papers will not be read at the conference.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### ★ New Program Unit ★

## Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar

Benjamin Zeller, Brevard College, [zellerbe@brevard.edu](mailto:zellerbe@brevard.edu).

The seminar brings together a diverse group of scholars to collaborate in our analyses of how, what, and why religious individuals and groups in the United States and Canada eat. In addition to stimulating our shared research agenda, we aim to create an anthology appropriate for a wide academic audience of scholars interested in the study of religion in America, religion and food, and the embeddedness of religion within society. The seminar focuses on creating an internally cohesive project that incorporates our diverse research topics but shares a set of common themes and questions. Scholars interested in joining the seminar are encouraged to contact the chair, Benjamin Zeller, [zellerbe@brevard.edu](mailto:zellerbe@brevard.edu). Auditors are welcome to attend the session at the Annual Meeting.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### ★ New Program Unit ★

## Religion in the American West Seminar

James B. Bennett, Santa Clara University, [jbbennett@scu.edu](mailto:jbbennett@scu.edu). Quincy D. Newell, University of Wyoming, [qdnewell@uwyo.edu](mailto:qdnewell@uwyo.edu).

The Religion in the American West Seminar is a community of scholars focusing on the understanding, researching, and teaching issues related to the role of religion in the American West. Contact the chairs for more information.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Seminars are highly specific projects driven by a collaborative research agenda leading toward publication. They are expected to eventuate in publication(s). They are strictly limited in duration (five years) and membership (20). Members agree to continue the work of the seminar between Annual Meetings through correspondence, exchange of papers and bibliographies, and on listservs, etc. The single session at the Annual Meeting is devoted to consideration of previously distributed papers and to foster collaborations in a public setting that allows auditors to gain insight into the project, the process, and the people involved. While no new papers are presented at the session, auditors are welcome to attend.

## Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Seminar

Tao Jiang, Rutgers University, [tjiang@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:tjiang@rci.rutgers.edu). Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, Lancaster University, [c.ram-prasad@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:c.ram-prasad@lancaster.ac.uk).

This panel seeks contemporary scholarly perspectives on the many distinct if overlapping conceptions of the body in Indian and Chinese thought and practice which can inform the theoretical resources for the study of the body available today. In particular, we would like to approach these issues through the lens of "medicine," recognizing that the anthropology of medical traditions offers a sharp disciplinary focus on the body in philosophy and religion. Possible topics are: 1) Knowledge systems and knowledge of the body in treatment; 2) Possession, its bodily manifestations and social implications; 3) Disciplining the body: practices of purification and cultivation and their purposes; 4) The body in relation to vegetable and animal medical products; and 5) The body-mind relationship in the medical and/or meditative contexts. We are also open to other suggestions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## The AAR solicits nominations for the Ray L. Hart Service Award.

This award is given to persons whose dedication and service have made significant contributions to the AAR's mission of fostering excellence in the field of religion.

For more information, please see [www.aarweb.org/awards/hart.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/awards/hart.asp).

## 90-MINUTE SESSIONS

Sunday afternoons will be scheduled with three 90-minute time slots to allow for more intense scholarly explorations on a topic. See page three for more information.

# CONSULTATIONS

## Animals and Religion Consultation

Paul Waldau, Tufts University, [paul.waldau@tufts.edu](mailto:paul.waldau@tufts.edu). Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University, [hoboster@southwestern.edu](mailto:hoboster@southwestern.edu).

Papers and panels considering: 1) Pedagogy, bringing animal studies into the religion classroom, course design, observation pedagogy; 2) Animals in Asian religious traditions; 3) Food, vegetarianism, animals as sacrifice, farming; 4) Presence and absence, relevance of experience with other animals, who has the authority to speak on behalf of or about animals; 5) Animals as divinities/divine; 6) Animals and Native traditions in the Americas (for a joint session with that program unit), particularly focused on animals as divinities; 7) Animals and eco-sustainability practices; 8) Methodological and disciplinary diversity of animals and religion studies; 9) Working with ethologists and evolutionary biologists; and 10) Animals in spirituality and theology, addressing any religious tradition.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation

David Gushee, Mercer University, [gushee\\_dp@mercer.edu](mailto:gushee_dp@mercer.edu).

The last decade has seen an upsurge in scholarly treatment of the moral teachings of Jesus, especially but not exclusively in the field of Christian ethics. Works by Allen Verhey, Obery Hendricks, William Spohn, Dallas Willard, Glen Stassen and David Gushee, Daniel Harrington and James Keenan, Lee Camp, and Amy Jill Levine are among those that signal the trend. The Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation invites papers on the moral teachings of Jesus, on one or more of the recent works reflecting the turn toward the study of Jesus, or on the significance of the broader trend. Papers should highlight one text from the Gospels as a primary example.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Buddhism in the West Consultation

Jeff Wilson, University of Waterloo, [jewilson@renison.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jewilson@renison.uwaterloo.ca).

The Buddhism in the West Consultation seeks proposals for individual presentations and paper sessions. We invite submissions on the following topics as they relate to Buddhism in the West: Buddhism and the rhetoric of science; transnational interactions; “pick-and-choose” Buddhist pragmatism; Buddhist eclecticism; issues of authority; revisiting the 1893 World’s Columbian Exhibition and the World’s Parliament of Religions; conflict between Buddhist groups; and open call. In keeping with the 2008 AAR special focus on South Asia, proposals that relate to South Asian Buddhism in the West

(or Western exchanges with South Asia) will be given particular attention.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation

Marcia Bunge, Valparaiso University, [marcia.bunge@valpo.edu](mailto:marcia.bunge@valpo.edu). Karen-Marie Yust, Union Theological Seminary, [kmyust@union-psce.edu](mailto:kmyust@union-psce.edu).

The Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation invites proposals for two sessions in 2008: 1) For the first session, we welcome proposals on a wide variety of topics reflecting current research in the area of childhood studies and religion, e.g., methodologies for studying children and religion; new horizons for research in the field; emerging questions and issues shaping the discipline; and children and childhood in world religions; and 2) The second session will focus on pediatric ethics and religious and ethical understandings of children, ethics, and modern medicine (co-sponsored with the Bioethics and Religion Group). This session will combine invited panelists and submitted papers.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Christianity and Academia Consultation

David S. Cunningham, Hope College, [cunningham@hope.edu](mailto:cunningham@hope.edu).

This consultation explores issues at the intersection of Christian theology and higher education. Papers are invited on such topics as: the (declining?) role of denominations in church-related institutions; issues surrounding institutionally sponsored worship and worship spaces; the challenges for non-Christian faculty at church-related institutions, and the converse; fundamentalism(s) on campus; the postmodern student (visual culture, personal spiritualities, “incredulity toward metanarratives”); the perception of theology among other academic disciplines; the formative role of external funding sources; and the idea of a “theology of administration.” We also invite responses to Beaty and Henry, eds., *The Schooled Heart: Moral Formation in American Higher Education*, for a possible session on this book. We prefer papers that move beyond mere description and that endeavor to analyze issues from a theological perspective.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



✱ *New Program Unit* ✱

## Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation

Edward Slingerland, University of British Columbia, [edward.slingerland@ubc.ca](mailto:edward.slingerland@ubc.ca). Ann Taves, University of California, Santa Barbara, [taves@religion.ucsb.edu](mailto:taves@religion.ucsb.edu).

The group offers a forum for bringing together cognitive scientists and scholars of religion

to explore applications of cognitive science to religious phenomena from a variety of methodological standpoints. Themes include: 1) The role that cognitive science plays in providing scientific grounding for the study of religion; 2) Cognitive approaches to religious phenomena that might create grounds for a scientific phenomenology of religion; 3) The role of historical and ethnographic data in falsifying theories of religion; 4) Folk dualism in a cross-cultural and historical perspective; 5) The application of literature on extended mind to the study of religion; and 6) Submissions from researchers who have a project design that they would like to precirculate for discussion by a panel of discussants and the general audience.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Contemporary Islam Consultation

Anna Bigelow, North Carolina State University, [anna\\_bigelow@ncsu.edu](mailto:anna_bigelow@ncsu.edu). Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University, [amir.hussain@lmu.edu](mailto:amir.hussain@lmu.edu).

The Contemporary Islam Consultation invites proposals on all topics relating to Islam and Muslim societies for the past two centuries, especially on the following themes: 1) Theological education of Muslim religious leaders in North America; 2) Islam in colonial and postcolonial societies; 3) Pedagogy of Islam: for non-specialists and how to treat the “hard questions” in class presentations and public lectures; 4) Youth cultures: the many ways in which Muslim youth are appropriating American pop culture and influencing it; 5) Chicago and Islam: history, centers, communities; and 6) South Asian Islam in the contemporary world.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Coptic Christianity Consultation

Lois Farag, Luther Seminary, [lfarag@luthersem.edu](mailto:lfarag@luthersem.edu).

Martyrdom: the Coptic Christianity Consultation invites interdisciplinary proposals on the theme of martyrdom. The session will investigate martyrdom in its plurality of expressions, especially as it relates to topics such as suffering, death, asceticism, and the role of confessors and martyrs. Discussions may include comparative perspectives related to different methodologies and media. Proposals could also address Coptic martyrdom in comparative studies with various language groupings. We encourage presenters to investigate the topic of martyrdom through the centuries, including the modern era. Theology: we welcome papers on the theme of Coptic theology. Proposals could be on theological themes in Greek, Coptic, Arabic, or other language groupings. Proposals may include comparative studies and different methodologies. Innovative research work is welcomed.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Consultations are exploratory opportunities to test the degree and breadth of interest among members of the Academy in areas and topics of academic interest not currently included in the concerns of existing sections, groups, or seminars.

## Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation

Christopher M. Moreman, St. Francis Xavier University, [cmoreman@gmail.com](mailto:cmoreman@gmail.com). Kathleen Garces-Foley, Marymount University, Kathleen. [Garces-Foley@marymount.edu](mailto:Garces-Foley@marymount.edu).

The Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation invites proposals addressing all aspects of dying, death, and the dead, from any theoretical or methodological approach. Our theme for the 2008 meeting is the Commodification of Death. This theme should be considered broadly, and might include papers examining rituals of death and dying, including such issues as the green burial movement, but we encourage submissions relating to other aspects of the commodification and commercialization of death as well. Further, as always, all proposals are encouraged even if they do not fall squarely within the parameters of the themes above. Please include in your proposal a description of your presentation style, as it is our hope to have dynamic, engaging presentations paired with conversation among audience and presenters.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Liberal Theologies Consultation

Christine Helmer, Northwestern University, [c-helmer@northwestern.edu](mailto:c-helmer@northwestern.edu). M. Sani Umar, Northwestern University, [m-umar@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-umar@northwestern.edu).

Papers are welcome that address the nature and use of concepts implemented in the study of liberalism in global religions (Islam, Judaism, Christianity, among others). Especially welcome are papers addressing the way “liberal” is identified in the study of a religious tradition, the history and/or implications of such a method of identification, or constructive proposals for developing concepts or theories furthering the analysis of “liberal” in the study of a particular religion. Of interest are papers that work through the implications of terms and theories for the comparison of religious traditions. Papers are also invited that connect liberalism in religion to human rights; they can include historical, theological, political, legal, and religious dimensions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:





## \* New Program Unit \*

### Liberation Theologies Consultation

Thia Cooper, Gustavus Adolphus College, [thiacoper@yahoo.com](mailto:thiacoper@yahoo.com).

This consultation asks “What does liberation theology mean in and for the twenty-first century?” We encourage submissions on the following topics: cross-over dialogue — between contexts and between disciplines; and reflection on the implications of liberationist discourse for the transformation of theology as a whole — methodologically and theologically. In this vein, we will invite a panel of liberationists to engage their particular contexts (economics, politics, sex, gender, ethnicity, race, environment, etc.) with the two themes in this forum.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## \* New Program Unit \*

### Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Consultation

Deanna Thompson, Hamline University, [dtompson@hamline.edu](mailto:dtompson@hamline.edu). Hans Hillerbrand, Duke University, [hjh@duke.edu](mailto:hjh@duke.edu).

The Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Consultation seek proposals of papers on two topics: assessments of Martin Luther, and global Lutheran traditions and “empire.” The former topic welcomes contributions on topics that relate Martin Luther to issues, individuals, etc., of early modern Europe, while the latter invites proposals that relate the Lutheran tradition to social or political issues in the contemporary world. Proposals should be submitted to either of the two co-conveners.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Mormon Studies Consultation

James M. McLachlan, Western Carolina University, [jmclachla@email.wcu.edu](mailto:jmclachla@email.wcu.edu). Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University, [gru2@byu.edu](mailto:gru2@byu.edu).

Proposals are solicited on the following topics: 1) Mormonism, politics, and the media. What has Mitt Romney’s presidential candidacy demonstrated about religious pluralism and the public sphere and about media coverage of religion generally? What has been the Mormon reaction, both institutional and individual, to the heightened media attention surrounding the campaign?; 2) The past 30 years’ experience worldwide of Latter-day Saints of African ancestry. 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of the official establishment of the Mormon Church in sub-Saharan Africa and its rescission of restrictions placed upon church members of African ancestry; 3) Analysis of the “Mormon” Jesus using various lenses from formal theology to popular culture; and 4) Global Mormonism(s), with particular interest in Latin America.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## \* New Program Unit \*

### Music and Religion Consultation

Theodore Trost, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, [mbulseth@utk.edu](mailto:mbulseth@utk.edu). Philip Stoltzfus, University of St. Thomas, [stoltzfus@stthomas.edu](mailto:stoltzfus@stthomas.edu).

We invite papers on the religious and theological dimensions of music. In particular, we seek proposals that bring theoretical, methodological, or philosophical approaches to the study of musical phenomena, in relation to one or more of the following themes: 1) Music as an expression of myth, ritual, or religious experience; 2) Religious or theological themes in popular music; 3) Theologies of music (using historical, systematic, constructive, or liberationist materials); 4) The role of music in theologies of art or “theological aesthetics;” 5) World music as it relates to world religions, especially those of South Asia; and 6) Musical traditions of Chicago (blues, gospel, jazz). This year we are looking for proposals focusing on musical improvisation.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### North American Hinduism Consultation

Chad Bauman, Butler University, [cbau-man@butler.edu](mailto:cbau-man@butler.edu). Lola Williamson, Millsaps College, [willill@millsaps.edu](mailto:willill@millsaps.edu).

We invite paper or panel proposals on any aspect of Hinduism in North America. Individual paper proposals will be considered, but fully formed paper or panel sessions will be given preference. Diverse methodologies are welcome and interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged. Specific topics suggested by consultation members (with contact person’s name and E-mail address in parentheses) are: representing and misrepresenting North American Hinduisms (Tanisha Ramachandran, [ramacht@wfu.edu](mailto:ramacht@wfu.edu)); historical approaches to Hinduism in North America (J. Gordon Melton, [jgordon@linkline.com](mailto:jgordon@linkline.com)); and fashioning and refashioning the sacred in/as North American landscape (Corinne Dempsey, [Corinne.Dempsey@uwsp.edu](mailto:Corinne.Dempsey@uwsp.edu)).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Open and Relational Theologies Consultation

Thomas Jay Oord, Northwest Nazarene University, [tjoord@nnu.edu](mailto:tjoord@nnu.edu).

Open and relational theologies often engage questions about the person, role, and significance of Jesus the Christ. For our stand-alone session, we invite papers that explore Christology from an open and relational perspective. Papers may address Jesus’s relation to God, incarnation, miracles and message, role as prophet-priest-king, ministry, engagement with political forces, etc. For a joint session with the Wesleyan Studies Group, we invite papers that specifically address issues of atonement. Preference will be given to papers with fresh interpretations of classic theories of atonement or innovative atonement theories arising from Wesleyan, open, or relational perspectives. Potential presenters should identify for which session they would like their proposals considered.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Consultation

James K. A. Smith, Calvin College, [jka-smith@calvin.edu](mailto:jka-smith@calvin.edu). Amos Yong, Regent University, [ayong@regent.edu](mailto:ayong@regent.edu).

We invite proposals for individual papers or fully developed panels on the following themes: 1) Pentecostalism, politics, and social engagement; 2) Pentecostalism in the urban north, with particular attention to Chicago and the Midwest; 3) Prosperity or holistic theology in the global Pentecostal and charismatic renewal movements; 4) Pentecostal and charismatic churches as well as Pentecostal and charismatic ecclesiologies, from the storefront to the megachurch in America and the global south; and 5) Constructive Afro-pentecostal or black Pentecostal theology and its interface with black liberation theologies. Papers/panels should feature new methods and theoretical approaches to the scholarly examination of Pentecostal and charismatic movements past and present. The consultation welcomes both descriptive (historical, social scientific) and constructive (theological) approaches.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion Consultation

Melissa M. Wilcox, Whitman College, [wilcoxmm@whitman.edu](mailto:wilcoxmm@whitman.edu). Claudia Schippert, University of Central Florida, [cschippe@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:cschippe@mail.ucf.edu).

The Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion Consultation welcomes proposals for individual papers or panels on all topics related to queer theory and LGBT studies in religion, in particular those focused on bisexual and/or transgender studies and on religions other than Christianity. We are especially interested this year in proposals in the following areas: intersections of religion, sexuality, class, and capitalism; transgender/ed performance and performativity (for a possible co-sponsored session with the Ritual Studies Group); sexuality and gender in film and television, U.S. or international; “What difference does queer make?”: applying queer theory to research, teaching, and conference presentation style (innovative presentation formats encouraged); and queer issues and religion in sport.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Religion and Cities Consultation

Katie Day, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, [kday@lts.edu](mailto:kday@lts.edu). Lawrence Mamiya, Vassar College, [mamiya@vassar.edu](mailto:mamiya@vassar.edu).

The Religion and Cities Consultation seeks papers that explore religion as a factor in urban dynamics. How does faith function in the changing cultures, economies, and political dynamics of city life? In what ways is it a factor in the definition of urban space? Does the diversity of coexisting religious traditions build social solidarity or exacerbate balkanization of city space? This year, the consultation invites papers with particular focus on urban centers in the United States, including but not limited to

contemporary Chicago. Likewise, papers that address the urban school of sociology known as the “Chicago School” and the place of religion within it (or lack thereof) would be particularly welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



### Religion and Colonialism Consultation

Caleb Elfenbein, University of California, Santa Barbara, [che@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:che@umail.ucsb.edu). Mark Elmore, University of California, Davis, [mkelmore@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mkelmore@ucdavis.edu).

Recent years have seen the publication of a number of important works in the study of religion that have sought to problematize the category of religion as an historical and cultural universal. What material, social, and ideological conditions have made it possible to denaturalize the category of religion (and with it the study of religions)? How does this denaturalization relate to anticolonial narratives that have long articulated the provincial character of the concept of religion? What enables us to see the contingency of “religion” at this point in history in a way that was not nearly so obvious before? Additionally, with the Law, Religion, and Culture Group, we encourage proposals treating these questions with particular reference to law in colonial and postcolonial settings.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## \* New Program Unit \*

### Religion and Humanism Consultation

W. David Hall, Centre College, [wddavid.hall@centre.edu](mailto:wddavid.hall@centre.edu). Glenn Whitehouse, Florida Gulf Coast University, [gwhiteho@fgcu.edu](mailto:gwhiteho@fgcu.edu).

Paper proposals are sought on the topic: critiques of humanism and neohumanist responses. Papers will address critiques of Enlightenment humanism, including postcolonial and postmodern critiques, and “neohumanisms,” a term encompassing those recent reformulations of humanist themes that attempt to respond to such critiques (including humanisms of the other, theological humanism, etc., and encompassing thinkers such as Todorov, Said, Ferry, Levinas, Taylor, and others). Papers that can relate the two sides of this debate, and papers that can tie the debate to current discussions in the study of religion, are especially sought.



## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= OP3

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

## Religion and Migration Consultation

Marie Marquardt, Agnes Scott College, [mmarquardt@agnesscott.edu](mailto:mmarquardt@agnesscott.edu). Jennifer B. Saunders, Denison University, [saundersj@denison.edu](mailto:saundersj@denison.edu).

The Religion and Migration Consultation seeks to explore the religious contours of a world inhabited by persons on the move. We aim to bring into conversation scholars examining internal and international migrations from theological, ethical, historical, and social scientific perspectives. For 2008, we are open to various themes, but we encourage submissions that focus around migration, religion, and the dynamics of encounter. Papers may examine the encounter between generations of migrants, between migrants and native-born citizens of their destination, or between migrants and those who remain in their place of origin. We also seek submissions that explore the role of media in the formation of transnational religious networks, and the role such media play in shaping migrants' sense of identity, community, space, and time.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Religion and Sexuality Consultation

Marie Griffith, Princeton University, [griffith@princeton.edu](mailto:griffith@princeton.edu). Catherine Roach, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, [croach@nc.ua.edu](mailto:croach@nc.ua.edu).

We invite proposals on religion and sexuality, broadly conceptualized and focused on questions of why and how sex matters for particular religious figures, communities, or traditions. Topics may be historical or contemporary, and we especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches, interest in gender (broadly defined), transnational topics (or topics that may foster discussions beyond U.S. borders), and methodological creativity. This year we particularly encourage submissions pertaining to: Islam, globalization, circumcision, ritual, adolescence/coming of age, censorship, science, fundamentalism, and rhetorics of sexual liberation. Paper and full session proposals in other areas are also encouraged, as ours is an intentionally capacious rubric. We welcome innovative program formats that allow for in-depth discussion, and hope to foster cross-cultural approaches.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



✧ *New Program Unit* ✧

## Religion Education in Public Schools: International Perspectives Consultation

Bruce Grelle, California State University, Chico, [bgrelle@csuchico.edu](mailto:bgrelle@csuchico.edu). Tim Jensen, University of Nebraska, Omaha, [tjensen@gpcom.net](mailto:tjensen@gpcom.net).

We seek papers on the following topics: the manner in which religion education teachers are trained in disparate national settings; special interest in the relationship between religious studies/theology faculties and education faculties in the professional preparation of religion education teachers; alternative definitions of and approaches to religion as an academic subject matter in state schools; critical analysis of the way state schools conceptualize and address religious diversity in school curricula and poli-

cies; and the theoretical, pedagogical, and political linkages between religion education and citizenship education in diverse national settings.



## Religion in Europe Consultation

Robert E. Alvis, Saint Meinrad School of Theology, [ralvis@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:ralvis@saintmeinrad.edu). Andrii Krawchuk, University of Sudbury, [akrawchuk@sympatico.ca](mailto:akrawchuk@sympatico.ca).

The Religion in Europe Consultation is devoted to the interdisciplinary study of religion and the social, cultural, and political evolution of Europe. We welcome papers on any religion in any historical period, and we encourage submissions from a wide variety of disciplines. This year we especially seek proposals related to the following themes: 1) Migration of religious groups in and out of Europe and the dynamics of identity/integration; 2) Religion, values, and educational policy; 3) Secularization and the secular character of contemporary society/culture; 4) The impact of the natural environment in European religious thought/practice; 5) Assessing Philip Jenkins's *God's Continent*; and 6) Religion in European cinema. We welcome proposals that do not correspond to these themes, as well as proposals for complete sessions on European topics.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



✧ *New Program Unit* ✧

## Religion in Southeast Asia Consultation

SorChing Low, Muhlenberg College, [sorching@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:sorching@muhlenberg.edu). Jason Carbine, Whittier College, [jcarbine@whittier.edu](mailto:jcarbine@whittier.edu).

We are calling for papers that address the local and translocal ways in which "religion" has been construed and constructed in Southeast Asia. We seek papers that critically engage Southeast Asian categories of religion, and are especially interested in papers that do so in relation to topics such as ritual, art, politics, cultural hybridization, and shifting religious identities. Papers that address religion in any Southeast Asian cultural setting (e.g., Thailand, Burma, Laos, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines) will be welcome.



## Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change Consultation

Joe Pettit, Morgan State University, [morgan-prof@yahoo.com](mailto:morgan-prof@yahoo.com). Melissa Rogers, Wake Forest University, [rogersm@wfu.edu](mailto:rogersm@wfu.edu).

We seek paper and panel proposals that promote interdisciplinary research and analysis between religious studies and fields such as public policy, sociology, political science, and economics. This year, we are especially interested in proposals that consider the role of the "prophetic" in political discourse; the participation of evangelical Christians in public policy debates; and the wider consequences on individuals, neighborhoods, communities, and governments of the so-called "prison industrial complex."

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



## Rethinking the Field Consultation

Bradley L. Herling, Marymount Manhattan College, [bherling@mmm.edu](mailto:bherling@mmm.edu).

The Rethinking the Field Consultation invites proposals (especially from graduate students) for panels and papers that examine the contours of established and emerging subfields within the study of religion. Past sessions have investigated philosophy of religion, religion and literature, religion and the arts, religion and ecology, and liberal theology. This year we wish to solicit panels on the study of specific religious traditions (Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, etc.), sociology or anthropology of religion, or religion and science, though all proposals are welcome. The consultation is committed to innovative and interactive forms of programming; we privilege panel proposals that justify the choice of the selected discipline, already include a core group of participants, and outline a plan for the panel that varies from the standard paper-response format.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



✧ *New Program Unit* ✧

## Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Pre-Modern Christianity

Carly Daniel-Hughes, Concordia University, [cdanielh@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cdanielh@alcor.concordia.ca). Benjamin Dunning, Fordham University, [dunning@fordham.edu](mailto:dunning@fordham.edu).

This new consultation seeks to bring together scholars working in various periods of premodern Christianity to examine shifting ideas and practices related to sex, gender, and sexuality prior to the Reformation. The steering committee invites proposals that explore these issues in the history of Christianity from the movement's inception up through and including the Middle Ages. We welcome papers that focus on particular thinkers, texts, or themes as well as methodologically oriented papers that consider the theoretical challenges of historical study in relation to conceptions and deployments of sex, gender, and sexuality.



✧ *New Program Unit* ✧

## Sikh Studies Consultation

Michael Hawley, Mount Royal College, [mhawley@mtroyal.ca](mailto:mhawley@mtroyal.ca). Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Colby College, [nksingh@colby.edu](mailto:nksingh@colby.edu).

The Sikh Studies Consultation invites papers focusing on any aspect of Sikh tradition and welcomes contributions from a broad range of theoretical and methodological approaches (e.g., history, postcolonial theory, anthropology, sociology, performance theory, popular culture, philosophy, literary criticism, gender studies, etc.). Papers on Sikh diaspora, music, and the media are especially welcome.



## Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Consultation

Jeanne Halgren Kilde, University of Minnesota, [jkilde@umn.edu](mailto:jkilde@umn.edu). Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College, [primiano@cabrini.edu](mailto:primiano@cabrini.edu).

This consultation seeks paper proposals from scholars of diverse traditions, religions, and time periods, who explore the function of religious space and/or place as a constitutive component of religious systems. We seek papers that employ theoretically or methodologically innovative approaches to understanding the relationships between space and religious meaning. We are particularly interested in papers that deal with the materiality of religious space and built environments or with the physical experience of such. We encourage submissions that take a comparative approach across traditions or time periods, or that can be paired with other submissions to suggest enlightening comparisons or disjunctures in content, method, or theory.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



✧ *New Program Unit* ✧

## Theology and the Political Consultation

Corey D. B. Walker, Brown University, [cdbwalker@brown.edu](mailto:cdbwalker@brown.edu).

The consultation provides a forum for religious scholars and theologians to reflect on different forms of "the political" and draw out their significance for the task of theology. We invite paper proposals that address the theme The Politics of Theology, The Theology of Politics. We are interested in papers that engage the epistemic, social, cultural, and economic politics that in/form the discourse of theology as well as the "theology" that underwrites historic and contemporary forms of politics and political discourses. The question we seek to answer is "How and in what ways do contemporary forms of political theology support, undermine, and/or transform the justifications and practice of war?" We are particularly interested in proposals that approach this year's theme from an interdisciplinary and international perspective.



## Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation

Johnny B. Hill, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, [jhill@lpts.edu](mailto:jhill@lpts.edu).

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, as he led protests in support of black sanitation workers. King recognized the interrelatedness of militarism, imperialism, and poverty. He was becoming aware of the economic and political forces that considered it necessary to suppress social movements domestically to advance empire in world affairs. Here, we invite papers that treat the relationship between the assassination of King, surrounding events related to the Vietnam War, and King's precipitous critique of America as Empire in global perspective. We also solicit papers that bring King's thought and the historical situations leading to his assassination into conversation with contemporary issues concerning the 2008 presidential election, economic globalization, and the war in Iraq.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:





## \* New Program Unit \*

### Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Consultation

Shannon Craigo-Snell, Yale University, [shannon.craigo-snell@yale.edu](mailto:shannon.craigo-snell@yale.edu).

This consultation offers a forum for developing transformative strategies for integrating activism and scholarship in academic institutions. The consultation has two main goals: to develop models of transformational pedagogy that assist educators to combine social analysis, social action, and academic vocations of teaching, administration, and research; and to learn in conversation with activist communities, allowing our understandings of religious traditions, culture, and knowledge itself to be shaped by such engagement. We welcome presentations that focus on religion, scholarship, and activism in various geographical, cultural, or methodological locales. Specifically, we invite proposals for mini-classes that demonstrate par-

ticular teaching strategies, panel proposals that engage religiously affiliated activism in Chicago, and papers that explore recent trends in "educational" tourism centered on poverty, ecology, or service.



## \* New Program Unit \*

### Transhumanism and Religion Consultation

Calvin Mercer, East Carolina University, [mercerc@ecu.edu](mailto:mercerc@ecu.edu).

The Transhumanism and Religion Consultation welcomes papers on any aspect of transhumanism and religion. We particularly welcome papers that identify and critically evaluate the implicit religious beliefs underlying key transhumanist claims and assumptions. For example, what are the operative notions of anthropology, soteriology, and eschatology that are at play in the transhu-

manist quest for enhancement, including extreme longevity? Also, rather than depending on biotechnology, some transhumanists place greater confidence in nanotechnology, robotics, and information technology to achieve virtual immortality and create a superior posthuman species. We welcome critical and constructive assessments of this envisioned future.



### Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation

Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, [cchapple@lmu.edu](mailto:cchapple@lmu.edu).  
Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Northwestern University, [s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu).

The Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation seeks paper and session proposals on the topic of yoga in theory and practice from a variety of perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, history of religions, philosophy, theology,

and cultural studies. Submissions should be made through OP3. Suggested topics for 2008 include: 1) Translating Yoga Texts; 2) Women and Yoga; 3) Yogic Powers (with the Mysticism Group); 4) Living Yoga Masters; 5) Yoga and Tantra (with the Tantric Studies Group); 6) Sri Aurobindo on Yoga; and 7) Siddha Yoga.

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\$60,000 – \$74,999	115	92	92	69
\$50,000 – \$59,999	95	76	76	57
\$40,000 – \$49,999	80	64	64	48
\$30,000 – \$39,999	60	48	48	36
\$20,000 – \$29,999	45	36	36	27
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Under \$15,000 and non-U.S. ④	15	12	12	9
Student ①	\$30			

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## THE AAR PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGION COMMITTEE INVITES NOMINATIONS AND SELF-NOMINATIONS FOR THE MARTIN E. MARTY AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGION.

The award is intended to bring greater recognition to scholars whose relevance and eloquence speak not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. Nominees for this award do not have to be AAR members. For nomination details, see [www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Marty\\_Award](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Marty_Award), or mail the name of the nominee, his or her affiliation, and any supporting information by January 25, 2008, to Marty Award, AAR  
825 Houston Mill Road NE,  
Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329.

## Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2008?

You can check on your status at [www.aarweb.org/members/my\\_account](http://www.aarweb.org/members/my_account).

Save time and paper by joining online at [www.aarweb.org/members/dues/](http://www.aarweb.org/members/dues/).

Also, you can either send in the form at right or download one from the AAR website at [www.aarweb.org/members/dues/](http://www.aarweb.org/members/dues/).

Be a part of the AAR's efforts to foster excellence in religion through:

- Annual and Regional Meetings
- Research Grants
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- Scholarly Book Series
- Advancing the Public Understanding of Religion

## Election Results

**President:** Emilie Townes

**President-Elect:** Mark Juergensmeyer

**Vice President:** Ann Taves

**Secretary:** Michel Desjardins

**Student Director:** Nichole Phillips

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce the results of the elections for 2008. A total of 1,584 votes were cast. [RSN](#)

## AAR Elects a New Treasurer

**A**T THE ANNUAL Business Meeting in San Diego the membership unanimously approved a change in the AAR's bylaws. In keeping with current best practices for non-profit organizations, the change formally separated the Academy's Treasurer's duties from those of its Executive Director. In light of this change, the AAR's Board of Directors has elected a new Treasurer, David Thibodeau.

David earned his BA and MBA from Emory University and spent most of his career working for SunTrust Bank in Nashville, where he was in charge of retail banking. Now enjoying retirement in Nashville, Tennessee, David remains active on several local boards. The Housing Fund, whose sole purpose is to assist low-to-moderate-income households in becoming homeowners, has been a particular interest

of his since its formation over 13 years ago. In addition, David serves on the board of Citizens Bank, the oldest continuously operating African-American bank in the United States.

David has served for the past year as an outside advisor to the AAR's Finance Committee. In his expanded role as AAR's Treasurer, he brings to us outstanding skill and experience in finance, budgeting, financial planning, and strategic thinking. Please join the Board and Executive Staff in welcoming David to the American Academy of Religion. [RSN](#)



## New Director of Development

**M**ARGARET JENKINS joined the American Academy of Religion in October 2007 as the Director of Development. Margaret is responsible for the identification, cultivation, and solicitation of funding prospects for the programs and initiatives of the AAR. Prior to working with the AAR, Margaret was part of the development team for EARTH University Foundation for six years. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, EARTH University Foundation is the support organization for EARTH University in Costa Rica, a private, international nonprofit university dedicated to educating leaders in the agricultural sciences and conservation of natural resources. Margaret served as the Director of

Development Services and was responsible for prospect management, donor relations, and the annual fund program. In addition, she coordinated donor visits to campus and oversaw the development database. Preceding her work with EARTH, Margaret worked in retail marketing with the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, and in state government relations for a trade association in Washington, D.C. Margaret earned a BBA in finance from the University of Georgia. [RSN](#)



## The AAR invites nominations for the Religion and the Arts Award

**T**HE AWARD in Religion and the Arts is presented annually to an artist, performer, critic, curator, or scholar who has made a recent significant contribution to the understanding of the relations among the arts and religions, both for the Academy and for a broader public.

Nominations are accepted from AAR members, though nominees need not be AAR members. Nominations must include a supporting letter (no more than 1,000 words), and any relevant supporting materials (images, DVDs, books, catalogs, etc.). Please, no self-nominations. To be considered for the 2008 award, nominations must be made by March 30, 2008, and sent to Brent Plate, Dept. of Religion, Box 298100, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129, USA. Electronic submissions can be sent to: [b.plate@tcu.edu](mailto:b.plate@tcu.edu). [RSN](#)

## New Online Magazine: ReligionDispatches

Gary Laderman, Emory University

**A**CCORDING TO RECENT studies, only half of American adults can name even one of the four Gospels while ten percent believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. A 2007 study by Media Matters for America revealed that television news features conservative religious voices nearly four times as often as it features those of progressives.

In recent years the importance of religion and the role it plays in public life have become more obvious and increasingly significant. However, as the statistics above indicate, the public understanding of religion remains shallow and often one-sided.

*ReligionDispatches.org* is a new online magazine to help correct this situation. It will be edited by Gary Laderman, Emory University, and Linell Cady, Arizona State University, and will launch in early 2008. With funding from the Ford Foundation, this publication will provide

a platform for expert, critical exploration of religion in the contemporary world for a general readership.

The lack of a complex and nuanced understanding of religions and their myriad roles can be seen on a variety of levels. Within the national arena it is demonstrated by the almost total identification in the public imagination of religion and conservative Christian political perspectives. As a result, progressive views about religion are all too often labeled as nonreligious or antireligious and dismissed as not being sufficiently legitimate to merit consideration. Within the global context, religious voices and movements are often identified as forms of fundamentalism, dangers to the modern secular West. When associated with Islam, for example, we are left with highly misleading and destructive pictures of the "clash of civilizations."

Conservative groups have been especially effective in shaping public perceptions of religion.

Through well-organized and -funded institutional structures, including think tanks, foundations, and news organizations, these conservative, often Christian-based groups have dictated the terms of the public debate on religion. Unfortunately, media that utilize the resources of the field most directly concerned with religion are few and less effective.

*ReligionDispatches* is a web-based effort to raise the level of national debate about religion and values in relation to domestic and international affairs. This will involve bringing a wider spectrum of perspectives into the conversation, including especially those racial, ethnic, and religious voices that have been marginalized in most media to date; increasing attention to genuinely progressive expressions of religion and values; and recognizing how religious forces in the world today are significant for global as much as national reasons.

The goal of *ReligionDispatches* is to inform public debate by analyzing and critically engaging the role of religion and values on the most vital issues of our time. It seeks to produce more effective and progressive public policies on a broad range of issues, from the national to the global. It aims to foster thoughtful, informed, and engaged reflection on religion that is too often missing from the public debate. Now more than ever it is vitally important to gain greater understanding and critical purchase on the power and politics of religion in the twenty-first century.

In its opening years, *ReligionDispatches* will focus special attention on a range of urgent matters, including the relationship between religion and violence; new realities associated with religious pluralism; issues tied to democracy, religion, and immigration; and explorations of religion, HIV/AIDS, and sexuality.

We have also begun to establish partnerships with universities across the country and a number of like-minded organizations such as People for the American Way and the Center for American Progress, and have secured professionals from a wide spectrum of fields to serve on our Advisory Council.

Evan Derkacz has been hired as the managing editor, and will soon be joined by a fulltime assistant, both working out of a San Francisco office. Derkacz formerly worked as a journalist and editor at *AlterNet.com*, and brings extensive experience with web-based media.

The magazine will feature regular contributors, including Jeff Sharlet, a nationally recognized essayist on religion who writes regularly for *Harper's* and *Rolling Stone*. It will also include a regular "Dispatches from" column, a rotating series of essays by writers commenting from inside the workplace, at the borderlands, and on international issues, among other topics. "Religion 101" will feature a short summary of a key word in the news that changes daily and is part of an expanding archive. In addition, *ReligionDispatches* will carry op-eds, news stories, interviews, book excerpts and reviews, public lectures, serialized investigative stories, and an array of blogs.

We invite members of the American Academy of Religion to consider submitting work for this new publication. The nature and length of the pieces can vary, from 500-word op-eds, to longer essays ranging from 750 to 3,000 words in length. We seek to publish work from scholars who want to translate their own research and views on religion and public life into an accessible format that can inform and engage the general public. Please send your inquiries to Evan Derkacz at [evan@religiondispatches.org](mailto:evan@religiondispatches.org). [RSN](#)

In the Next Spotlight on Teaching:

Signifying (on) Scriptures:  
Reorienting Teaching and Research

Guest Editor: Vincent L. Wimbush



# Signs, Sighs & Significance

PENTECOSTAL & WESLEYAN  
EXPLORATIONS OF  
SCIENCE & RELIGION

March 13-15, 2008  
Duke University  
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Thomas Jay Oord & Amos Yong, Meeting Co-Chairs



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## PETER J. PARIS

### MY BOOK

A collaborative effort by myself and fellow scholars John W. Cook, James Hudnut-Beumler, Lawrence Mamiya, Leonora Tisdale, and Judith Weisenfeld, *The History of the Riverside Church in the City of New York* offers a critical history of this unique institution on Manhattan's Upper West Side. It considers its cultural impact on New York City and beyond, its outstanding preachers, and its architecture, and assesses the shifting fortunes of religious progressivism in the twentieth century. For seven decades the church has served as the premier model of Protestant liberalism in the United States. Its history represents the movement from white Protestant pre-eminence to a multiracial and multiethnic church that has been at the vanguard of social justice advocacy, liberation theologies, gay and lesbian ministries, peace studies, ethnic and racial dialogue, and Jewish-Christian relations.

### MY BOOK SERIES

I am currently the general editor for the NYU Press book series *Religion, Race, and Ethnicity*. This series advances our understanding of religion as a determinative dynamic in the lives of different racial and ethnic communities. It addresses such questions as how the categories of religion, race, and ethnicity have intersected historically, influenced social movements, impacted historical processes, informed the development of group identity, and acted as a hegemonic impetus for social functions. Recent books in the series include: *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanism in Religion and Society* edited by Stacey Floyd-Thomas; *Righteous Content: Black Women's Perspectives of Church and Faith* by Daphne C. Wiggins; *Creole Religions of the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo* by Margarite Fernández Olmos and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert; and *God in Chinatown: Religion and Survival in New York's Evolving Immigrant Community* by Kenneth J. Guest.

### MY STORY

I am Princeton Theological Seminary's Elmer G. Homrighausen Professor of Christian Social Ethics and Liaison with the Princeton University African American Studies Program. My courses cover various subjects in African American social ethics, Aristotle's ethics and politics, and the theology and ethics of Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr. I am the past president of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the American Academy of Religion, and the Society of Christian Ethics. I am also a member of the board of trustees of New York Theological Seminary and the Princeton Young Achievers, an after-school program for children of low-income families. In addition to *The History of Riverside Church in the City of New York*, I have published *The Spirituality of African Peoples: The Search for a Common Moral Discourse* (Augsburg/Fortress) and recently completed directing a four-year Pan-African Seminar on Religion and Poverty which met annually in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Jamaica and the United States. I have lectured widely in various countries in Africa, Brazil, Canada and the United States.

### MY PUBLISHER

NYU Press



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# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

## A Message from the President



Dear AAR Members and Friends,

Of the many challenges the Academy faces, the most obvious concern is the Annual Meeting. The big yes-or-no question

about meeting independently has now splintered into a number of more specific questions about our future meetings. How should those meetings be run? When? In cooperation with whom? What can we do to keep the cost of hotel rooms under control? What can be done to accommodate our book exhibitors? If we are going to meet simultaneously with the SBL in some years, just how often is that going to be? If issues concerning dates and hotel rates push us back in the direction of the weekend before Thanksgiving, then what should we do, given that the SBL has decided to stay with the traditional date?

When I took office, no one really knew how AAR members felt about these various considerations, so it was not clear how much weight the Board should give to each consideration when making decisions about the future. To remedy this, we decided last spring to conduct a survey of our members — a survey, not a referendum, because the issues are too complicated to be reduced to a single question. The Board will always have to make decisions on behalf of the membership. Our hope is that the most important of those decisions will take the concerns of our members more fully into account.

With this hope in mind, I have also appointed a task force on governance, which I will co-chair with Emilie Townes. The idea is to determine how the Board might best fulfill its role of representing AAR members when making decisions on their behalf. We will consider proposing changes in the structure of the Board itself. I am much less concerned about where we come down on this or that particular question than I am about how democratically the AAR behaves. We on the Board need to earn our entitlement to represent our members. That means doing a bet-

ter job of communicating with our members as well as looking closely at how the Board is structured.

There are many other issues that demand the Academy's attention, but I have space here to highlight only two, both of which have led to the appointment of task forces. First, we need to ask what our responsibilities are in the area of environmental impact. How might the AAR best conduct its meetings and its day-to-day business so as to promote the value of sustaining our human and natural environment into the future? And how can we address sustainability questions in the curricula of religion departments, seminaries, and divinity schools? I have asked Sarah McFarland Taylor to chair a task force charged with answering such questions.

Second, we need to ask how we might best address the myriad difficulties that our student members face when they enter the job market. How can we safeguard them from the mistreatment all too many of them complain about? How should our graduate programs address the evident mismatch between the production of PhD's in some areas of religious studies and the availability of jobs in

those areas? What is the best way for graduate programs to make public their job-placement records? I have asked Deanna A. Thompson to chair a task force charged with answering these and related questions.

In closing, let me thank everyone who gives their time and energy to make the AAR what it is: the members of the committees, program units, editorial boards, and juries that attend to the organization's business; all the members who contribute to the success of our regional and international meetings; and the members of our staff in Atlanta who provide us with so much help and leadership. I want to offer a special thank you to Jack Fitzmier, our new Executive Director, who has stepped into this pivotal role at a crucial moment in the organization's history and done much to inspire confidence and heal wounds.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Stout  
President

## A Message from the Executive Director



Dear AAR Colleagues and Friends,

This has been an exciting year for the American Academy of Religion. In addition to hosting our largest meeting to date, some 11,000

conferees in Washington, D.C., we set new membership records, began new program initiatives, received new grants and awards, and have completed plans for our upcoming meetings in Chicago (2008), Montreal (2009), and Atlanta (2010).

In addition to these accomplishments, the Executive Office has taken a number of initiatives that will prove helpful as we move forward. Allow me to share two of them here. First, we have begun a process whereby we will update our Centennial Strategic Plan. Some of the goals of the Plan have now been met; others will soon be accomplished. Working with the AAR Board and planning consultants, the Executive Staff will present the updated Strategic Plan by the spring of 2008. It will work on a three to five year planning horizon and will include implementation strategies, action plans, and timetables. As one participant put it, "the future of the AAR can be seen in its plans." I look forward to sharing those plans with you in the coming months.

Second, after considerable reflection and conversation, we have decided to make some

changes in our Executive Staff. While these have not been radical in nature, they will make real differences in the way we do our work. From my perspective, the changes are best thought of as a series of re-alignments that best position the Executive Staff to pursue our goals and objectives. New emphases will be on Membership Development, Marketing, and Fundraising. Our Executive Staff is strong and I believe these shifts will enhance its strengths and position us for continued growth.

The growth of our guild over the last ten years is remarkable, and our Academy has kept pace. This growth enables enlarged conversations about the importance of religion. Thoughtful people are learning what many of us have already discovered: Religion is not merely one aspect of our cultures, it is one of the most important aspects of our cultures. In an age of religious interest, fervor, dissent, and even violence, our Academy is very well positioned to contribute to the public understanding of religion.

In 2009 our Academy will reach a remarkable milestone — the 100th anniversary of its founding. It is exciting indeed to anticipate entering our second century of "fostering excellence in the study of religion." The future of the American Academy of Religion is bright, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Jack Fitzmier  
Executive Director and Treasurer

## About Us

### 2007 Board of Directors

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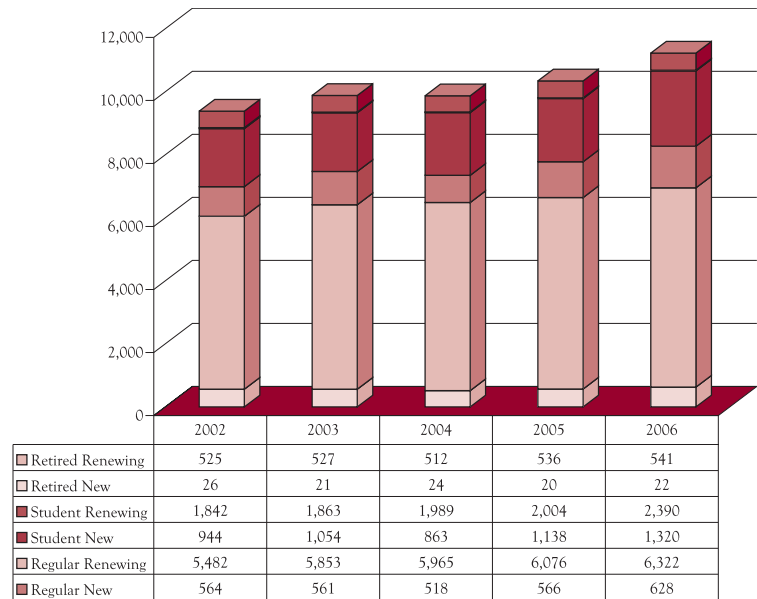
Deanna A. Thompson, Hamline University

# Growth of the AAR

## Membership Trends

Our membership has grown steadily over the last five years, with 2006 membership approximately 20% higher than 2002 membership. In 2006, membership reached another landmark by surpassing the 11,000-member mark, as it did in 2005 when membership exceeded the 10,000-member mark. During this five-year period, we gained 8,269 new members. Students accounted for 64% of this new member growth.

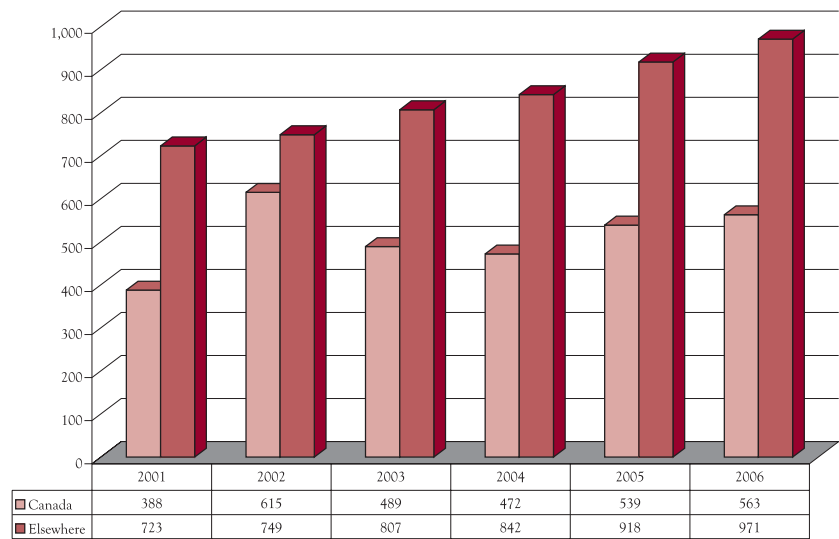
AAR Membership Trends, 1996–2006



## International Connections

In an effort to enhance the awareness of the international context for the study of religion, the AAR reaches out to scholars and teachers from around the globe. These efforts have been fruitful, as international membership has increased 38% from 2001 to 2006. The international focus of our Annual Meeting — China in 2007 and South Asia in 2008 — as well as other international partnerships, will continue to expand our global scope. [RSN](#)

Growth of International Membership, 2000–2006



# Grants and Awards

## Research Grant Awards 2007–2008

Since 1992 the AAR has awarded over \$500,000 to members for individual and collaborative research projects. The winners of the 2007–2008 grants are:

### Collaborative

Adele Reinhartz, University of Ottawa  
*Heart (Transplant) and Soul: How Movies Mediate Meaning*

Collaborator: Sam Shemie, University of Ottawa

### Individual

Julius Bailey, University of Redlands  
*Making a Homeland: Race, Religion, and the Meaning of Africa in the Nineteenth-Century African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Jennifer Eichman, Seton Hall University  
*Buddhist-Inspired Contemporary Art: Zhu Ming and His Network*

William P. Harman, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga  
*Suicide Bombers Become Goddesses: Women, Apotheosis, and Sacrificial Violence in South Asia*

Steven Heine, Florida International University  
*Sacred High City, Sacred Low City: A Tale of Religious Sites in Two Tokyo Neighborhoods*

Jennifer G. Jesse, Truman State University  
*There's a Methodism to His Madness: William Blake as a Religious Moderate*

Greg Johnson, University of Colorado at Boulder  
*Religion in the Moment: Contemporary Lives of Indigenous Traditions*

Frank J. Korom, Boston University  
*From Guru to Shaykh: Bawa Muhaiyyaddeen and the Making of a Transnational Sufi "Family"*

Leela Prasad, Duke University  
*Annotating Pastimes: Oral Narrative and Religion in Colonial India*

Miranda Eberle Shaw, University of Richmond  
*Buddhist Goddesses of Tibet and Nepal: Final Phase of Fieldwork*

Kerry Martin Skora, Hiram College  
*Recollecting Minling Thrichen Rinpoche's Vision: The History and Contemporary Lived Experience of a Seventeenth-Century Mindrolling Monastery and Its Holy Landscape in Central Bhutan*

Manuel A. Vasquez, University of Florida  
*Performing Identities and Spaces among Brazilian and Congolese Immigrants in London and Atlanta: The Case of Two Transnational Religious Networks* [RSN](#)

## Excellence in Teaching Award



This year's winner was Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. [RSN](#)



## Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award

This year's winner was Robert N. Bellah, Elliot Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley. [RSN](#)

## Religion and the Arts Award



A new award for the Academy is the Religion and the Arts Award, given to an individual who has made a significant achievement in the field of Religion and the Arts. The AAR thanks S. Brent Plate, Texas Christian University, chair of the Religion and Arts Award Jury, and jury members for their contributions. This year the inaugural award goes to Bill Viola of Long Beach, California. [RSN](#)



## Book Awards

The American Academy of Religion offers Awards for Excellence to recognize new scholarly publications that make significant contributions to the study of religion. These awards honor works of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity, and importance — books that have a decisive effect on how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted.

### Awards for Excellence



#### Analytical–Descriptive

David Frankfurter, University of New Hampshire  
*Evil Incarnate: Rumors of Demonic Conspiracy and Satanic Abuse in History*  
Princeton University Press, 2006



#### Constructive–Reflective

John D. Caputo, Syracuse University  
*The Weakness of God: A Theology of the Event*  
Indiana University Press, 2006



John Clayton (deceased), Boston University  
Compiled by Anne Blackburn and Thomas Carroll  
*Religions, Reasons, and Gods: Essays in Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion*  
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Studies in Religious Traditions, 2006



#### Historical

Catherine Albanese, University of California, Santa Barbara  
*A Republic of Mind and Spirit: A Cultural History of American Metaphysical Religion*  
Yale University Press, 2006



Caroline Walker Bynum, Institute for Advanced Study  
*Wonderful Blood: Theology and Practice in Late Medieval Northern Germany and Beyond*  
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006



#### Textual

Kristofer Schipper, Library of the Western Belvedere, and Franciscus Verellen, École Française d'Extrême-Orient, editors  
*The Taoist Canon: A Historical Companion to the Daozang*  
University of Chicago Press, 2004



#### Best First Book in the History of Religions

Leela Prasad, Duke University  
*Poetics of Conduct: Oral Narrative and Moral Being in a South Indian Town*  
Columbia University Press, 2006

## Media Awards

Annually the AAR honors the best in-depth reporting on topics related to religion. There are three contests. We offer our congratulations to this year's winners.

### News Outlets with more than 100,000

#### Circulation

- First Place** Jennifer Green, *Ottawa Citizen*  
**Second Place** Jennifer Garza, *The Sacramento Bee*  
**Third Place** Omar Sacirbey, Freelancer, Boston, Massachusetts

### News Outlets under 100,000 Circulation

- First Place** Jason Byassee, *The Christian Century*  
**Second Place** G. Jeffrey MacDonald, *The Christian Science Monitor*  
**Third Place** Adam Parker, *The Post and Courier*, Charleston, South Carolina

### Opinion Writing

- First Place** Robert Sibley, *Ottawa Citizen*  
**Second Place** Asra Q. Nomani, Freelancer, Morgantown, West Virginia  
**Third Place** Kevin Eigelbach, *The Cincinnati Post*

## New Programs

### Sustainability Initiatives

In Spring 2007, the Board of Directors approved a Sustainability Task Force to establish sustainable practices as the standard for the Academy and its meetings, and to influence members to include sustainability-themed issues in undergraduate and graduate curricula. The task force has several goals:

- To craft a Sustainability Statement to be posted prominently upon Board approval.
- To produce summer and regional workshops on Sustainability and Teaching Religion/Theology.
- To explore grant/endowment possibilities for establishing sustainability into the curriculum, purchasing technologies, allowing for greener meetings, and supporting workshops and other initiatives.
- To craft a resolution to support the Education for Sustainable Future, drafted by the Disciplinary Associations for Sustainability.
- For AAR offices to model greening in its building and move to carbon neutral in operations and conferences, including asking conference vendors to use green operations.

The task force convened at the Annual Meeting in San Diego. All subsequent meetings of the group, except for at each Annual Meeting, will be virtual, as the task force explores ways to meet with limited impact on the environment. Also at the Annual Meeting, the Theological Education Steering Committee, the Academic Relations Committee, and the Society of Biblical Literature offered a Special Topics Forum on the Greening of Theological Education. The Academic Relations Committee has decided to use a summer workshop in 2009 to examine sustainability issues, which will be planned along with the task force. This practical workshop will train participants

to infuse curriculum in textbooks and courses, educate them about greening their buildings and campuses, and create future leaders for AAR regional and campus-wide workshops.

### The Religion Major and Liberal Education Funded by Teagle Foundation Grant

With the rapid growth of the major in religion, with the unique place it occupies in the modern academy, and with significant changes in the national and global context in which Americans view religion, there is a need for the field to reassess the relationship between the goals of the concentration and those of liberal education. A grant from the Teagle Foundation is allowing us to promote a dialogue that will help shape the religious and cultural literacy of the next generation of Americans.

There is perhaps no academic field more centrally involved in addressing essential learning outcomes involving not only intellectual and practical skills, but also the areas of personal and social responsibility, than the field of religion. There also are few academic fields that are more diverse, with undergraduate programs of religion variously situated in liberal arts colleges, religiously affiliated colleges, research universities, and theological schools.

A working group to guide the process was formed and met in Spring 2007. Their goal was to determine not merely what outcomes teachers seek for their students, but what outcomes are civically and professionally required if our students are to be equipped to deal with a diverse and changing world. Ten seed grants of \$500 each were given to member institutions to encourage a structured dialogue about the religion major in the local context. Each depart-

ment will hold a series of meetings among faculty, administrators, and stakeholders in their local context and will produce a written report on the state of its major and recommendations for revisions. In October, a special Focus section of Religious Studies News was dedicated to the topic, and in November at the Annual Meeting, the working group sponsored a Leadership workshop, which provided an opportunity for dozens of departmental chairs/leaders to take new ideas about the role of the major back to their home institutions. Additionally, a special wildcard session on the Religion Major and Liberal Education was offered.

The working group will reconvene in Atlanta to finalize a White Paper on the major that will then be distributed to the full membership of the AAR.

# New Programs

## Governance Task Force

The Governance Task Force, with Jeffrey L. Stout, AAR President, and Emilie M. Townes, AAR President-Elect as co-chairs, is studying the adequacy of the current AAR By-laws and governance practices and will make recommendations to the Board concerning how the AAR and its regions might organize and govern themselves so as to best serve their members.

The objective of the task force is to achieve the ideal balance among the following values: representation of the membership as a whole, representation and protection of women and minorities within the profession, representation of the regions, the expertise required to fulfill the fiduciary responsibilities of the Board, the ability of the Board to conduct its business efficiently, and the need to give members of the AAR ample opportunity to influence and contest important decisions made by the AAR Board and executive office staff.

## Job Placement Task Force

At their Spring 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the creation of a new task force that will focus on job placement. Deanna Thompson of Hamline University will serve as chair. The charge of the new task force is as follows: In consultation with the relevant standing committees, this task force is charged: 1) To review the full experience of the placement process for candidates and to recommend improvements in EIS and other aspects of the process; 2) To review current graduate program reporting on graduates and to create guidelines for best practices regarding public disclosure of placement records; 3) To create a list of recommendations for how graduate programs in religion can realign their curricula to respond to current (and future) job placement realities; and 4) To investigate how the AAR might best assist people being trained in religious studies to prepare for and find jobs outside of religion and theology departments, seminaries, and divinity schools.

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# Continuing Programs

## Undergraduate Survey

We are in the midst of an ongoing research project — the Survey of Undergraduate Religion and Theology Programs — that will have enormous import for our field. This follow-up study to one we conducted five years ago is allowing us to identify changes in the field and gives us vital data in making a case for our field on our campuses. Preliminary results indicate healthy growth in enrollments, majors, courses, and faculty.

The online questionnaire made it easy to capture critically needed data on the academic study of religion at the undergraduate level. By conducting the survey online, we were able to tabulate entries accurately as they were typed in, substantially limiting errors introduced by recoding answers given on a paper questionnaire. Data about the curriculum, faculty, and enrollments in undergraduate departments and programs in religion at fully accredited colleges and universities in the United States and Canada were collected.

## Theological Programs Initiative

The Theological Programs Initiative is directed by the Theological Education Steering Committee. Its charge is to meet the scholarly and professional needs of theological educators by creating programs and services that bring theological studies into the wider conversation of the Academy and enrich the work of theological educators. The initiative's goals are:

- To advance the scholarly body of knowledge (research, scholarship, and publication) in theological studies and theological education.
- To advance the professional development (retention/promotion/tenure and service) of our members in theological education and theological studies.
- To provide a forum for dialogue (by means of programming, participation, and scholarly communication) among theology education faculty, especially between and among biblical/historical/systematic theology and practical theology.
- Create a variety of low-cost initiatives, programs, and services that can be easily implemented.
- Create a variety of high-value initiatives, programs, and services requiring external funding.

One of the first public efforts of the initiative was the publication of *Spotlight on Theological Education* in March. The committee also offered a Special Topics Forum on Teaching the Introductory Theology Course in Theological Schools at the Annual Meeting. The committee is also planning summer seminars dealing with theologies of religious pluralism/comparative theology.

## The Job Market in Religion

The AAR administers the Employment Information Services (EIS) for the field, providing opportunities for communication between employing institutions and candidates through *Openings* and the EIS Center at the Annual Meeting. *Openings* appears monthly, offering the most comprehensive listing available of faculty and administrative positions for religion scholars. Held each year at the Annual

Meeting, the EIS Center serves hundreds of interested scholars and employers by centralizing information about position announcements and candidate qualifications and providing interview space.

A total of 747 candidates registered for the 2006 EIS Center, far surpassing the previous year's 513. Although job position registrations rose 18 percent from the previous year to 175, there were still more than four candidates for each position. Explanations for the candidate surge include the convenient location of Washington, D.C., increased publicity of EIS, and an easier registration process. Still, it is unlikely that those factors alone explain the 46 percent increase.

## Annual Meeting Chairs Workshop

The Academic Relations Committee and the Status of Racial & Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee co-sponsored a daylong workshop, "Best Practices: Diversifying Your Faculty — Honest Conversations," during the Annual Meeting in San Diego. The workshop dealt with issues of recruiting majors and recruiting and retaining faculty of color, and featured several breakout sessions. Miguel A. De La Torre, Iliff School of Theology, led the workshop, and participants were given a newly published copy of the *AAR Career Guide for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession*, which can be seen at [www.aarweb.org/Publications/Online\\_Publications/REM\\_Career\\_Guide](http://www.aarweb.org/Publications/Online_Publications/REM_Career_Guide).

## Religionsource

*Religionsource*, funded in part by the Lilly Endowment Inc. and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is the AAR's free referral service for journalists. During the year, *Religionsource* responded to more than 1,500 queries from some 200 media outlets throughout North America and abroad, including ABC, Associated Press, BBC, Beliefnet, CBS, CNN, Fox, *Le Monde*, *Los Angeles Times*, PBS, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, NPR, *Ottawa Citizen*, Religion News Service, Reuters, *Slate*, *Time*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*.

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

As in previous years, the AAR conducted several educational sessions for agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The November 2006 Annual Meeting sessions ranged from religion in American prisons to religious fundamentalism and violence. A special forum on militant religious rhetoric was also held at FBI headquarters. More FBI sessions were offered during the Annual Meeting in November 2007.

## Directors of Prison Chaplaincy Programs

In November 2006, for the third straight year, officials from prison chaplaincy programs from across the country participated in several AAR sessions on topics related to the religious beliefs and practices of inmates. The AAR also responded to individual requests from participants for referrals to scholars with specific areas of expertise. Sessions at the November 2007 Annual Meeting were also offered.

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our loyal and generous contributors.

The Academy expresses our gratitude to the foundations that have supported our work during the last several years. Special appreciation goes to the boards and executive staffs of the following.

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The following list reflects individual donations received from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Please notify the AAR office of any incorrect listings, as we strive for accuracy in our records. [RSN](#)

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