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.

2009 CALL FOR PAPERS

Annual Meeting Call for Papers
- General Information ......................................................... 3
- Deadlines ........................................................................... 3
- Guidelines for Submitting Proposals ................................. 3
- Submission Methods ......................................................... 3
- Sections ............................................................................ 4
- Groups ............................................................................. 6
- Seminars .......................................................................... 13
- Consultations .................................................................. 13
- Participant Forms ............................................................ 16, 17

History of Religion in Québec ............................................ 20
JAAR Call for Papers .......................................................... 21
Briefs .................................................................................. 21
Election Results ................................................................. 22
Membership Form ............................................................... 23

In the Next Issue of Spotlight on Theological Education:
Theological Illiteracy and Its Effect on the Enterprise of Theological Education
2009 Member Calendar

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

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 5. Nominations due for Best First Book in the History of Religions award. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Programs/Book_Awards/Book_Awards/rules-firstbook.asp.

January 10. Excellence in Teaching award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Programs/Book_Awards/Teaching_Awards.

January 30. Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Programs/Marty_Award.

January 30. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Academic Relations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Governance Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Graduate Student Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. International Connections Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Job Placement Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Nominations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Public Understanding of Religion Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Religion in the Schools Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Status of LGBTQ Persons in the Professional Task Force meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Status of Women in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31–February 1. Theological Education Steering Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at www.aarweb.org/Meetings/ committee.asp.

February
February 15. Submissions for the May 2009 issue of Religious Studies News due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN.

March

March 1. 2009 Annual Meeting proposals due to program unit chairs. Additional Meeting requests may be submitted for the Annual Meeting.

March 6–7. Rocky Mountains–Great Plains regional meeting, Denver, CO.

March 7–8. Southwest regional meeting, Irving, TX.

March 11. Humanities Advocacy Day; an event organized by the National Humanities Alliance and cosponsored by the AAR and more than twenty organizations to promote support for the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, see www.nhalliance.org.

March 13–15. Southeast regional meeting, Chapel Hill, NC.


March 21–23. Western regional meeting, Santa Clara, CA.

March 26–27. Mid-Atlantic regional meeting, Baltimore, MD.

March 27–28. Upper Midwest regional meeting, St. Paul, MN.

(More information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp).

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

April 3–4. Midwest regional meeting, River Forest, IL.

April 3. Regionally Elected Directors meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

April 3. Executive Committee meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

April 4–5. Spring Board of Directors meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

April 20. Employer preregistration for Annual Meeting Job Center opens.

April 24–26. Pacific Northwest regional meeting, Tacoma, WA.

(More information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/Meetings/regions.asp).

May
Religious Studies News May issue, including Annual Meeting registration materials and Spotlight on Theological Education.

May 1. Nominations (including self-nominations) for committee appointments and elected positions requested.

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

May 1–2. History of Religions Jury meeting, Atlanta, GA.

May 1–2. Eastern International regional meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

May 1–2. Regional development grant applications due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN.

May 1. Election of new Regionally Elected Directors meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

May 3. Executive Committee meeting, Santa Barbara, CA.

May 5. Board of Directors meeting, Santa Barbara, CA.

May 7. Steering Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

May 11. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

May 12. Spring Meeting of Directors meeting, Atlanta, GA.

May 15. Research grant applications due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Programs/Grants.

May 17. Regionally development grant applications due to regionally elected directors.

May 18. Membership renewal period for 2010 begins.

May 19. Annual Meeting registration deadline.

May 21. Notices of acceptance for the 11,000 members of the AAR, the largest and most inclusive association of religion scholars in the world.

July
July 1. 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.

August 1. Region development grant applications due to regionally elected directors.

August 15. Membership renewal period for 2010 begins.

September

TBD. Program Committee meeting, Santa Barbara, CA.

TBD. Executive Committee meeting, Santa Barbara, CA.

September 29. Finance Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

September 28–October 28. AAR officer election period. Candidate profiles will be published in the October RSN.

October
Religious Studies News October issue.

Spotlight on Teaching Fall issue.

October 1. Deadline for Additional Meetings inclusion into the Annual Meeting Program Book.

October 12. Annual Meeting Job Center pre-registration closes.

October 15. Submissions for the January 2010 issue of Religious Studies News due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN.

October 15. Regional development grant awards announced.

November
November 1. Research grant awards announced.

November 5. Regionally Elected Directors meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

November 5. Executive Committee meeting, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

November 6. Fall Board of Directors meeting, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.

November 6. Leadership Workshop at the Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

November 7. Annual Meeting registration and housing opens for 2010 meeting.

November 7–10. Annual Meeting, Montréal, Quebec, Canada. The AAR Annual Meeting, the world’s largest gathering of scholars of religion, anticipates some 5,500 registrants, 200 publishers, and 125 hiring departments.

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

November 20. New program unit proposals due.

December

TBA. Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

December 15. Submissions for the March 2010 issue of Religious Studies News due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN.

Questions about the Call

The work of the program unit is coordinated by the chair(s) and a meeting committee who design the sessions and make decisions about which proposals will eventually be on the program. Each proposal is carefully reviewed, 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 the 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 response (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, 825 Houston Mill Road NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329, USA; Phone: 404-727-3049, Fax: 404-727-7959; 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 after March 1, 2009. 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 Aislinn Jones on or after March 1, 2009. Written requests can be sent to Houston Mill Road NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329, USA, or ajones@aarweb.org.

The deadline for priority scheduling of Additional Meeting requests is May 1, 2009. Requests after that date will be accommodated as space allows.

2009 Calendar of Deadlines

March 1, 2009
Deadline for proposals, participant forms, and abstracts to be received by program unit chairs.

April 1, 2009
Notification of acceptance (or not) of proposals by program unit chairs. All program participants must renew/establish 2009 AAR memberships in order to participate on the program.

April 1, 2009
Program unit chairs submit session request information (Program Planner copy; abstracts, and participant forms) to the AAR executive office online.

May 1, 2009
Deadline for priority submission of Additional Meeting request forms. Forms are available online at www.aarweb.org beginning March 1.

June 15, 2009
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 Book.

July 1, 2009
Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

November 7–10, 2009
AAR Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Complete Call for Papers

Guidelines are available online at 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 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).
- **Preamurred papers session proposal** — a proposal for a complete session of different papers on a theme, complete with a presider, paper presentations, and respondent.
- **Preamurred paper 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. Preamurred paper sessions require a separate 1,000-word proposal for each paper in the session. The abstract will be listed in the online Program Book.

Step 3: Submit your proposal via the method requested by the program unit no later than March 1, 2009. A participant form is required for any proposal submitted outside of the online system.

Carefully note any audiovisual equipment you require before you submit your proposal.

Step 4: Notification of your proposal’s acceptance status for the Annual Meeting program will be sent by April 1, 2009.

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 (2009) AAR members and registered for the Annual Meeting by June 15, 2009.
- **Participants** may appear no more than two times in any capacity (e.g., paper presenter, panelist, presider, or respondent). The only exception is a business meeting presider.
- **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 different units.

Wildcard Sessions

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

Guidelines for wildcards:

- All wildcard sessions are ninety 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, 2009.

Ninety-Minute Sessions

The Sunday afternoon schedule for the Annual Meeting program consists of three ninety-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 thirty-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; a panel on teaching in the field; or workshop-style sessions. The ninety-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, which 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 the participants’ cost. All AV requests must be received at the time of the proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated.

General Information

Meeting Location

The 2009 AAR Annual Meeting and Book Exhibit will be held at the Palais des Congrès in Montréal, Québec, November 7–10.

Future Annual Meeting locations include:

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 the March RSN (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 is open now at www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/registration.asp.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Submission Methods

(Specific Guidelines)

OP3 Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract via the Online Paper/Panel Proposal (OP3) system. Please go online to www.aarweb.org for full submission instructions. Separate participant forms are not required with OP3, as your participant information is integrated in the online form. NB: Do not place your name or other identifying remarks in the body of the proposal field or abstract field in OP3; this may endanger the anonymous review process of the unit and acceptance of your proposal may be jeopardized.

E-mail Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract within the BODY of ONE single e-mail to the contracts listed in the unit’s call (usually the chairs). Locate the online “Participant Form for E-mail Submission” at www.aarweb.org/annual_meeting for your participant form or use the forms on pages 16–17 of this RSN. Be sure you use the exact same title on the “Participant Form for E-mail Submission” as you do on the e-mailed proposal. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

E-mail w/Attachments Submit your 1,000-word proposal, 150-word abstract, and participant form as attachments in one single e-mail. Please locate the “Participant Form for E-mail Attachment Submission” at www.aarweb.org/annual_meeting for your participant form or use the forms on pages 16–17. Be sure you use the exact same title on the “Participant Form for E-mail Submission” as you do on the attached proposal you e-mailed. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

January 2009 RSN • 3
ed by Section members, include: 1) The “state of the play” of translations of and/or scholarship about the Lotus Sutra; 2) Buddhism in Quebec; 3) The Mahayanasutras: Sutra; 4) Buddhist ritual; 5) Buddhist modernism; 6) Contemporary Buddhism in China; 7) Diaspora Buddhism; 8) Reading Buddhist poetry; 9) The use of art in doing Buddhist history; 10) Transmigration of Buddhist ideas across cultures; 11) Ethics of war and violence in Buddhism; 12) Buddhism and internationalization; and 13) Reflections on pioneers in Buddhist studies. Proposals are especially solicited for sessions that review the significance and impact of a major recent work or figure in the field of Buddhist studies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Christian Systematic Theology Section
Gerard Loughlin, Durham University, gerard.loughlin@dur.ac.uk, Joy McDougall, Emory University, jmc dougl@emory.edu.

The general theme for this Section is “creation and destruction.” We invite constructive proposals (not merely descriptive or historical) that explore the themes of beginning and ending, and making and unmaking in relation to the Christian doctrines of creation and eschatology. We seek proposals for individual papers or panels (e.g., on books, thinkers, or topics that relate to the general theme). Suggested topics include: 1) Creatio ex nihilo; 2) Creationism and evolution; 3) Realized eschatology (e.g., heaven or hell on earth); 4) Thomist gloriae Dei; 5) Natural law and the laws of nature; 6) The Spirit and the grieving of creation; 7) Judgment and the end of all things; and 8) Paradisal and apocalyptic imagination. We also invite proposals on these or other topics for possible cosponsored sessions with the Arts, Literature, and Religion Section and the Pentecostal–Charismatic Movements Consultation. Proposals from or on French-speaking theologians and thinkers are especially welcome, but all presentations in English must be in English. For planning purposes, our general theme for 2010 will be “revelation and interpretation.”

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

History of Christianity Section
Martha L. Finch, Missouri State University, martha.finch@missouri.edu. Nathan Baruch Rein, Ursinus College, nrein@ursinus.edu.

We seek to present and engage innovative 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. For more information, please visit http://HDR.HCN.foxhommem.com. We seek proposals for individual papers or entire panels on the following topics: Christianity in the Francophone world; 500 years of interna- tional Calvinism; postcolonial historiography of Christianity; and rituals of Christian initiation. To mark the centennial of the AAR, we also solicit papers and panels on the topic “Interpreting the History of Christianity, 1999–2009.” We will consider proposals on other topics as well. Papers should be con- ceived for an effective fifteen-minute presentation.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

North American Religions Section
Rudy Busto, University of California, Santa Barbara, ru’d@religion.ucsb.edu. Kathleen Flake, Vanderbilt University, kathleen.flake@vanderbilt.edu.

This Section seeks to advance the study of religions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico by promoting innovative scholar- ship across disciplinary and national boundaries. In recognition of the locale of our meetings, the Section welcomes proposals on cultural heterogeneity, state-sponsored multiculturalism, and national identity in North American religion. This includes a desire for proposals addressing the religions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis; the black diaspora to and from Canada; Quebec’s “Quiet Revolution”; and French, Ukrainian, and recent immigrant Catholic communities or Islamic traditions in Canada. More generally, we welcome proposals related to global economies of religion; religion and same-sex marriage; religious liberalism and its critics; and nationalism and religious normativity. We prefer proposals that explore the various methods for studying North American religious re- lationships; repackage the relationship between “lived religion” and institutions; or offer critical reflections on key words in the study of religion. We ask authors of all submissions to strive for formats other than the traditional reading of papers. Where complete panels are proposed, please note that we may be able to accommodate only portions of the proposal.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Philosophy of Religion Section
Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles, jprabhu@calstatela.edu. Ludder Vriehe, Yale University, ludder.vriehe@yale.edu.

This Section invites proposals on the following topics/books: 1) Embodiment in cross-cultural perspective; 2) Bridging the analytic/continental divide in the philosophy of religion; 3) Martin Taylor’s After God; 4) Liturgy and philosophy; 5) Relational epistemologies and religion; 6) Leszek Kolakowski’s philosophy of religion; 7) Nonduality; 8) Philosophies of the secular; and 9) Concepts of nature.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

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.

Edward A. Klein, Irving Layton, and Anne Carson; Atwood and of the Montreal poets, e.g., M. A. Klein, Irving Layton, and Anne Carson; 5) The exploration of the religious in contem- porary art; 6) Mythology and spirituality in Pre-Raphaelite art and literature (in coordina- tion with the Waterhouse exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts — see www.mmfa.qc.ca/en/expositions/exposition_129.html); 7) The literature of Eudora Welty, including her influence on artists, writers, and feminist critics, marking the centen- nial of her birth; 7) Denys Arcand’s Jesus of Montréal on the occasion of its vèncement (cosponsored with the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group); and 8) Creation and destruction in art and literature (cosponsored with the Christian Systematic Theology Section). We especially welcome proposals from academics who are also creative writers, practicing artists, and critics, in order to foster a rich dialogue between art and challenges faced by scholar-practitioners.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religious Studies News

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

Buddhism Section
Janet Gyauo, Harvard University, jgyauo@hsb.harvard.edu. Charles Hallisey, Harvard University, ch hallise@hsb.harvard.edu.

This Section invites proposals for panels and individual papers in all areas of the study of Buddhism. Proposals are especially solicited that will make creative use of the ninety-minute sessions in formats other than paper or panel presentations, including guided group readings or close textual discussion. In recognition of the theme of the AAR’s centenary year, this Section solicits proposals on academic communities concerned with the study of Buddhism from international perspectives. Other topics of special interest, as suggest-
Religion and Politics Section
Andrew Murphy, Rutgers University, arnump@polisci.rutgers.edu. Susan B. Thistlethwaite, Chicago Theological Seminary, sthistle@ctsechicago.org.
In addition to receiving proposals on top- ics generally relevant to the purview of the Section (which encompasses both domestic and global interconnections of religion and politics, in practice and theory), this year we especially welcome proposals that address the following: 1) The politics of religion in Canada or Canada–U.S. com- parisons (e.g., policies regarding indige- nous peoples, multiculturalism, religion in the public sphere, and/or citizenship); 2) The adequacy of traditional categories (liberal, conservative, secular, progressive, nation, and/or populism) in explaining and analyzing religious and political phe- nomena in the contemporary world; 3) Religion, pluralism, and democracy in theory and practice; and 4) Explorations of religion, media, and public opinion in the United States or abroad with lessons for the study of religion and politics, per- haps with an emphasis on elections and polling. We are also happy to receive pro- posals on religion and politics in Québec more specifically — including papers on “The Quiet Revolution Forty Years Later” or on Canada’s Racelessness and Racialization commission — for inclusion in special ses- sions cosponsored with the Montreal Venue Committee.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in South Asia Section
John E. Cort, Denison University, cort@ denison.edu. Robin Rinehart, Lafayette College, rinehref@lafayette.edu.
This Section gives strong preference to paper sessions (not panel sessions). Proposals for paper sessions should include specific titles and proposals for each paper included in the session. We give preference to proposals for entire sessions over individual papers, and accept few individual paper proposals. The following topics for sessions have been sugges- ted by Session members (if interested in presenting a paper on one of these topics, e-mail the contact person directly): 1) Inter- religious conflict in South Asia — Chad Bauman (chaudba@butler.edu); 2) South Asian religions and Hollywood — Frank Koorn (koren@bu.edu); 3) Darwin and South Asian religions — Tom Ellis (telli@ appstate.edu); 4) Games and contests in reli- gious education — Whitney Kelling (m.kelling@men.edu); 5) The gift in South Asian religions — Leena Taneja (l.taneja@oten.no); 6) Environmental justice in South Asia — Whitley Donaldson (whitelyf@ saf.nl); 7) Recent translations of the Bhagavad Gita — Tom Foonfoehl (tfoonfoehl@ mercyhurst.edu); 8) Adornment in South Asian religions — Janet Guinn (contact@gwu- gc@gmail.com); 9) Proselytization and conversion — Cassie Adcock (adcock@seattleuw. edu); 10) Status of women in twentieth- twenty- first centuries — Kay Jordan (kjordan@ natfnd.com); 11) Cultural transformation of Hinduism (e.g., Hinduism in Cambodia) — Nancy Martin (martinr@columbia.edu); 12) Multilingualism/Multiculturalism — Jack Hawley (jdh3@columbia.edu); 13) prayer — Phyllis Herman (phyllis.k.herman@ com); 14) Religious educational projects — Michele Verna (mverna2000@columbia.edu); 15) Spirit possession and magic — Deepak Shikhlada (deepak.shikhlada@ claremontmckenna.edu); and 16) Double, faith, and belief in South Asian religions — David Lawrence and David L. Lawrence (dlr@wisc.edu).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Study of Islam Section
Omid Safi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, omidi@email.unc.edu. Ahim T. Karamustafa, Washington University, St. Louis, akaramus@wustl.edu.
We encourage paper proposals in all areas of Islamic studies. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophis- tication, engagement with existing scholar- ship, along with innovative examination of Islamic practices and texts. As always, we wel- come submissions dealing with the Qur’an and the Sunna, Islamic law, philosophy, theol- ogy, mysticism, ritual, gender and sexuality, modernity and globalization, teaching Islam, religious pluralism, and other areas of general interest. Furthermore, we encourage proposals dealing with Shi‘ism within and across these areas. This year, we also invite panels on the following particular themes: Theory and method in the study of Islam with a special focus on the insider/outsider debate; religious pluralism, with particular attention to plural- ism among Shia; the study of Islam in North America; and literary, visual, and material cul- tures of Muslims.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Study of Judaism Section
Aryeh Cohen, American Jewish University, atyoby@ajuda.edu. Shaul Magid, Indiana University, Bloomington, smagid@indiana.edu.
We invite proposals on the following top- ics: 1) Advancing in scientific research on the impact on the study and/or philosophy of Judaism; 2) The function of critical theo- ries and methods in the study of Judaism; 3) The relationship between Biblical stud- ies and Jewish studies; 4) Memory, history, and identity in Judaism; 5) Ritual theory and practice; 6) Teaching introduction to Judaism courses; 7) Secularism/the secular and Judaism; and 8) Yiddish and/or Yiddishism and the study of Judaism. We also invite proposals for a joint session with the Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group on Kirkegaard and Judaism. As always, this Section 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 sub- mission 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
Joseph Favazza, Stonehill College, jfavazza@stonehill.edu. Carolyn Medine, University of Georgia, medine@uga.edu.
This Section critically examines pedagogo- cal theory and practice. We invite propos- als that join innovative teaching practice with the scholarship of teaching and learn- ing. Preference will be given to proposed presentation formats that model engaged, innovative, and experimental teaching and learning. Identify which of the following themes your proposal aims to address: 1) Queer pedagogy in/and religious studies (for a possible cosponsored session with the Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion Consultation, so submit propos- als to both units); 2) Creating a virtual religious studies classroom — best prac- tices for teaching online; 3) From T. A. to teacher — how I made (or plan to make) the transition; 4) Thinking global, teaching local — globalization in and beyond the religious studies classrooms; 5) Teaching as ritual practice — ritualizing practices that create us and sustain us before, dur- ing, and after class; and 6) Bilingual and multicultural teaching contexts. Please submit your proposal by January 20th.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Women and Religion Section
Michellele Pesantubbee, University of Iowa, micheille.pesantubbee@uiowa.edu. Rosetta Ross, Howard University, rovess@howard.edu.
This Section invites individual and group papers and panel proposals from a variety of religious and cultural traditions that explore women’s and girls’ experiences in local and global contexts. The Section is particularly interested in proposals that are related to one of the following themes: 1) Globalization and gender, including issues of girls’ religious experiences, reli- gious constructions of girlhood or gendered religious education, and the sociopolitical rights of girls; 2) Evolution of Women’s lives in cospon- sored session with Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation); 2) United Nations’ declarations on rights of women, such as the elimination of discrimination against women (1967) or elimination of violence against women (1993); 3) Resexualizing of society in media and culture; 4) Multicultural- ism, family law, and faith-based mediatization of tea example, Sharia tribunals in Ontario or the Ontario Arbitration Act, or religion, human rights, and First Nation women in Canada; 5) Canadian women’s religious experience; and 6) Women’s par- ticipation in the World’s Parliament of Religions of 1893 or the impact of the participation of women. This Session also seeks proposals that reflect critical awareness of the effects of globalization on women and religion and that facilitate dialogue across disciplines and/or race or ethnicity and/or religious traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

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

CALL FOR PAPERS
Religion and the Social Sciences Section
Carol B. Duncan, Wilfrid Laurier University, carollduncan@wlu.ca. Douglas A. Hicks, University of Richmond, dhicks@richmond.edu. This Section especially invites proposals in relation to the following themes: 1) Religion, politics, and identity across the Canada–United States border; 2) Avoiding discipli- nary amnesia: Recovering underappreci- ated circa-twentieth-century social scientists of religion; and 3) Youth engagement in social and political movements: Compar- ative perspectives. Other paper or panel proposals are welcome that fit with the Section’s purpose — to support scholar- ship at the intersection of the social sci- ences (including psychology, sociology, political sciences, economics, and cultural studies) and religious or theological stud- ies. Topics may include the study of reli- gious and theological questions through specific social scientific methodologies, the contested relationships between religion and theological approaches to the work of social scientific disciplines, and comparative assessments of current issues by humanities-based and social scientific methods. In order to be accepted for presentation, a paper or panel proposal must explicitly state its author’s methodology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Theology and Religious Reflection Section
Susan Abraham, Harvard University, saabraham@hbs.harvard.edu. Maaya Rivera, Pacific School of Religion, mrivera@psr.edu. We invite papers and panels related to the following topics: 1) Living on the mar- gins of empire; 2) Dissent, tradition, and modernity; 3) Rereading Marx for theology- and religious reflection; 4) Rethinking identity and politics; 5) Cosmopolitanism and/or postcolonial nationalism — postcolonial and/or decol- onizing perspectives. We encourage new formats and innovative ways to present information that allow for dynamic conversations among presenters and participants. Additionally, the Section welcomes pro- posals that address the intersections of theological and religious reflection with philosophical and political issues, and with questions of literary, cultural, and critical theory.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

January 2009 RSN • 5

African Religions Group
Laura S. Grillo, Pacifica Graduate Institute, lgrillo@pacificag.edu, Tapei Mucherera, Asbury Theological Seminary, tapeiw_mucherera@asburyseminary.edu.
This Group encourages critical inquiry about religions originating in Africa as well as all those practiced there. Proposals should go beyond description, analyzing conceptual tools and methods employed. This year we invite individual papers or panel proposals on the following themes:
1) The convergence of multiple “African diasporas” in North America — new immigration, refugees, and the resulting reconfiguration of African-derived religions, e.g., Haitian Vodou in Quebec (this is to be a jointly sponsored session with the Afro-American Religious History Group as well as the Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group); 2) Civil war, violence, and reconciliation — what lessons are to be learned from Africa?; 3) The disaffiliation of African — what lessons are to be learned from African diasporas” in North America — new immigration, refugees, and the resulting reconfiguration of African-derived religions, e.g., Haitian Vodou in Quebec (this is to be a jointly sponsored session with the Afro-American Religious History Group as well as the Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group); 2) Civil war, violence, and reconciliation — what lessons are to be learned from Africa?; 3) The disaffiliation of African

Anthropology of Religion Group
Shawn Landres, Jumpstart/Project on Emergent Religious and Social Entrepreneurship, shawn@landres.com; Margarita M. W. Suarez, Meredith College, suarezm@meredith.edu. We invite proposals from across anthropology and religion. Given our location in Montreal and the meeting-wide focus on globalization, we are especially interested in proposals on comparisons of Canadian and United States approaches to the study of pluralism, cultural heterogeneity, state-sponsored multiculturalism, and national identity; and histories and explorations of Francophone and Anglophone traditions in social anthropology and anthropological theory. We also invite proposals reconsidering evolutionary theories of religion and family resemblance theory, particularly those that might reference the 100th anniversaries of Maier’s “Religion of Van Gennep’s Les Rites de Passage, as well as the 150th anniversary of Darwin’s Origin of Species and the 250th anniversary of the British Museum, all of which coincide with the AAR’s own centenary. We encourage submissions on other topics from scholars using anthropological theory and methods — not only ethnography — to study diverse traditions, regions, and eras.

Asian North American Religion, Religion, Culture, and Society Group
Nami Kim, Spelman College, nikim@spelman.edu; Su Yan Pak, Union Theological Seminary, spak@united.edu. We invite and welcome individual paper and panel proposals that address the diverse Asian-North American religious experiences/traditions in Quebec; 2) Issues of metropolitan hybridity in Asian-North American religious communities focusing on the cities; 3) Panels exploring the globalization and transnational character of Asian religions in North America; 4) Proposals that theorize practices of dissent desires at the intersection of race, sexuality, religion, gender, and Asian-American subjectivity; 5) Issues around bi/multilingualism in Asian-North American communities and Francophone Quebec; 6) Issues around migration in Canada with respect to Asian-North American religious communities; and 7) Other critical aspects of Asian-North American religion/s, culture, and society.

Augustine and Augustinianisms Group
Phillip Cary, Eastern University, pcary@eastern.edu; Ken Kloss, Regis University, kkglass@regis.edu. We invite papers on the topic of “Imagination and Truth.” Steemming from his Platonic heritage, Augustine’s attitude toward imagination is paradoxical. While he generally viewed imagination in great suspicion, he was also a richly evocative rhetorician and showed a keen interest in dreams and visions. This session is intended to further the conversation on the meanings of imagination and truth, along with their interrelationship, from a wide variety of disciplinary approaches (literary, historical, theological, psychological, philosophical, etc.).

Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group
Valete Bridgeman, Memorial Theological Seminary, vbridgeman@mempressinuminary.edu; Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University, fsegovia@vanderbilt.edu. This Group plans on holding two sessions. The first session is an invitation-only panel reviewing Their Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism (SBL, 2009). The second session will focus on the Bible in racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in Canada. In this session, proposals should address how the Bible has been appropriated in Canadian society through biblical translations, education, culture, art, government, ethics, or any discipline in which the Bible has been transported into racial/ethnic and indigenous communities. Special consideration will be given to proposals from Canadians or expatriates of Canada.

Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group
Jon L. Berquist, Westminster John Knox Press, jerquists@gmail.com; Anne Joh, Phillips Theological Seminary, anneh@ptstulsa.edu. This Group deals with biblical texts and theological ideas in fresh combinations suited to the postmodern context, looking for innovative relations of theory, theology, and scriptural texts. For 2009, we are most interested in proposals dealing with the topics of trauma and the cross, global citizenship, ecologies, and urbanities.

Bonehoffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group
Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg College, blude@augsburg.edu; Jennifer McBride, Emory University, jmb decides@emory.edu. In honor of the valuable work of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works English Edition, we invite papers exploring themes in the newest volumes, 10 and 12. Attention to Bonhoeffer's Christology in relation to questions salient to global economic realities, including unemployment and poverty, peace and justice, and national identities (and idolatries) is encouraged. Please consider the ways the meeting location informs the proposal, particularly Canadian efforts to establish a First Nations Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We also invite projects examining Bonhoeffer as a Lutheran thinker, comparing Bonhoeffer with Luther and/or trends in global Lutheranism. Papers might take a constructive turn and consider Bonhoeffer in conversation with feminism, womanism, or mujerismo theology. Finally, in conjunction with the Religion and Humanities Consultation, papers addressing the history of Christian humanism, with specific reference to John D. Caputo’s Confessions of a Christian Humanist (Fortress, 2006), are sought.

Bioethics and Religion Group
Aline Kallbian, Florida State University, akallbian@miler.fsu.edu; Swasti Bhattacharaya, Buena Vista University, bhattacharyay@bvu.edu. We invite papers on a broad range of topics related to bioethics and religion, with special attention to issues of global justice. We encourage diverse methodological, textual, historical, religious, and social approaches, as well as cross-cultural, class, and gender analysis. A second session, cosponsored with the Religion and Ecology Group, will focus on global justice through the lenses of ecology and bioethics (i.e., food and health, GMOs and health, hospitals and landfills, environmental racism and health, the use of antimicrobial products, etc.).

Black Theology Group
Stephen G. Ray Jr., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, stephen ray@garrett.edu, Monica A. Coleman, Claremont Graduate University, mcoleman@cg.edu. This Group invites papers and panel proposals that address the significance of black theology for twenty-first century religious thought, praxis, and community activism. Of specific interest are presentations that: 1) Celebrate and critically reflect on the corpus of James Cone’s work on the fortieth anniversary of his Black Theology and Black Power; 2) Focus on black theology across borders and the new opportunities for engagement with domestic and foreign policy; and 3) Contribute to a joint session with the Religion and Cities Consultation around issues related to black theology, black religion, and the challenge of poverty in North America’s urban centers.

Humanist Christian Theology Group
Ruth Elkins, Des Moines University, renkeins@dmu.edu; Tim Miller, Pacific Lutheran Seminary, timmy@pacific.edu. This Group is 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.

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.
Buddhist Critical/Constructive Reflection Group
Roger Jackson, Carleton College, rjackson@carleton.edu; John Makransky, Boston College, makransky@bc.edu.
This Group explores how the modern academic study of Buddhism may inform Buddhist understanding today, and how Buddhist thought or practice may help address contemporary problems in society, philosophy, and religion. We invite paper proposals on: 1) Drawing on modern academic findings to inform Buddhist understandings today — what findings from modern study of Buddhist traditions (historical, cultural, social, philosophical, etc.) can be offered to Buddhist traditions today to inform their understandings, practices, or institutions in beneficial ways? 2) Buddhist chaplains and their training — what is Buddhist chaplaincy, and what training best prepares the chaplain for this emergent profession? What is an appropriate curriculum for programs that train Buddhist chaplains in a Western setting? What kind of theological training is needed in doctrine, ethics, homiletics, ritual, contemplation, and pastoral skills? How are standards established, and by whom? How are Buddhist chaplains best prepared for interfaith pastoral settings?
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Chinese Religions Group
James Robson, Harvard University, jrobson@fas.harvard.edu; Mark Halperin, University of California, Davis, mhalperin@ucdavis.edu.
We invite proposals related to all aspects of religious thought and practice in China and Chinese diaspora communities. We welcome proposals in the following areas: 1) Transnational connections in Chinese religions, past and present; 2) Chinese religions in Canada; 3) Religious education and/or organized ordination in contemporary China; 4) Chinese religious cultures of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms; 5) Religious cul- tural websites related to Chinese religions on the Internet; 6) Christianity in China; 7) Religion in literature; 8) The revival of popular religious practices and local commu- nal religious practices in post-Mao China; 9) Documentaries on Chinese religions; 10) Buddhist monks and ancestral cults; 11) North American appropriations of feng shui, Vajra, and afghani, etc.; and 12) New archaeological discoveries (manuscripts and/or material culture) and their implications for understanding Chinese religion.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Christian Spirituality Group
Wendy Wright, Creighton University, somergil@creighton.edu; Elizabeth Liebert, San Francisco Theological Seminary, elieber@sftheo.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 especially invite proposals on the following topics: 1) What S’spirit” — uses of the term “spirituality”; 2) Spiritualities of Christian missionary encounter in Canada; 3) Christian spiritual practices of healing; 4) For a cospon- sored session with the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, responses to vio- lence: resources from the Christian spiritu- al traditions (examples might include Girardian mimetic theory, nonviolent the- otry, trauma theory, interior disciplines, and ritual practices); and 5) There will also be a prearranged paper session on emerging questions in the academic disci- pline of Christian Spirituality.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Religious Ethics Group
Jonathan Schofer, Harvard University, jschofer@hks.harvard.edu; Aaron Stalnaker, Indiana University, astalnake@indiana.edu.
We encourage submissions of integrated sessions or individual proposals that explicitly compare positions or themes from diverse religious thinkers or groups, and that also investigate broader methodological questions in religious ethics and related fields. This year we especially invite papers that analyze and compare different styles or modes of moral discourse (such as storytelling, poetry, legal reasoning based on precedent, egosystems, and public exhortation), and explore the implica- tions of such differences. We also solicit prop- osals on other topics, such as different forms and structures of moral authority and the pedagogy by which such authority is trans- mitted and reconstructed; comparative ethics in the context of globalization; comparative ethics and contemporary political and ethical problems; and moral outrage and religious extremism in comparative perspective.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Studies in Hinduism and Judaisms Group
Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College, ygreenberg@rollins.edu; Karen Pechulis, Drew University, kpechulis@du.edu.
This Group is interested in individual papers and panel proposals on the following topics: 1) Caring and crossings, with a focus on rit- uals for infants, such as brit milah and mun- dam; 2) Mentoring spirits, with a focus on demons, ghouls, and dybbuks, and their inter- action with humankind, e.g., possession and apotropaic rites; 3) Monotheism and monism, locating such ideas within the dis- courses of modernity and postmodernity; 4) Patterns of sexuality, charity, and marriage, with a focus on practice and significance — could involve the study of how these topics pertain to women and enhance/foreclose their access to spiritual authority; 5) Diasporas, travel, interaction, with a focus on Montréal; 6) Pilgrims, with a focus on place, practice, and imaginary.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Theology Group
Kurt Anders Richardson, McMaster University, kar@macmster.ca; Michelle Vos Roberts, Rhodes College, robertsm@rhodes.edu.
We invite paper and panel proposals for three sessions, one regular and two cosponsored. The first session will focus on the following topics: 1) Critical thinking in comparative theology; 2) Comparative theology — Clonney on Set Veganism; 3) Theologies of divine attributes; 4) Paul Knitter’s Buddhist—Christian Project; 5) Hindu— Buddhist comparative theologies; 6) Comparative theology old and new; and 7) New constructive ideas in comparative the- ology. The second session, cosponsored with Contemporary Islam Group, will focus on Muslim and “other” theologies of religious pluralism. The third session, cosponsored with the Buddhist Critical/Constructive Reflection Group, will focus on Buddhist and “other” theologies of religious pluralism.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Confucian Traditions Group
Keith N. Knapp, The Citadel, knapp@citadel.edu; Thomas A. Wilson, Hamilton College, twilson@hamilton.edu.
We invite proposals concerning any aspect of Confucianism from any geographical area. Topics of particular interest this coming year are Confucianism in North America; Confucian moral epistemology, Mou Tseng- san and Confucianism; Confucian rituals; Confucian temples as sacred and secular spaces; and problems and benefits of Confucianism as a religion; relations between the Three Religions in Greater East Asia; and daily life at Confucian academies both in the past and present. We also encourage appli- cants to propose panels in the new ninety- minute format, which can take the form of a minipanel, or a symposium on a particular text, author, or pedagogy.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Contemporary Islam Group
Anna Bigelow, North Carolina State University, anna_bigelow@ncsu.edu; Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University, amir.hussain@lmu.edu.
This Group invites submissions on all subjects relating to Islam in the contem- porary world. We are particularly interest- ed in papers relevant to the following top- ics: anthropologies of religious pluralism, Islam and ecology; Islam in Southeast Asia; the work and influence of Wilfred Cantwell Smith in the context of AAR’s centennial anniversary focus on past presidents; the scholarship of Tariq Ramadan and Talal Asad pertaining to modernity and secular- ity; Islam in the Francophone world; methodological approaches to and/or new trajectories in Islamic studies; insider- outsider issues in the study of Islam; reli- gious personhood and morality in Islam; and Muslim masculinities.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Contemporary Pagan Studies Group
Wendy Griffin, California State University, Long Beach, wgriffin@calstate.edu.
This Group invites proposals that address the issue of ideology, namely, examining the roles that material objects have played in religious life — including the inventiveness that people and/or cultures have used in their attempts to create images of and for worship. For a second session, we request papers that investigate the influence of literature, especially science fiction/fantasy, on contemporary paganism. Papers that stress mutually interde- pendent relations are also welcome. In addi- tion, a joint session of the Indigenous Religious Traditions Group and this Group will consider proposals that explore common or shared per- spectives in sacred practices. Each tradition has a heritage of employing tangible material in activities of reverence, ritual, worship, etc. We invite papers that help us understand where, how, and if the overlaps are truly shared per- spectives.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group
Jens Kreinath, Wichita State University, jens.kreinath@wichita.edu; Jørn Marcoben Bukky, Bowdoin College, jbuchley@boudouno.edu.
(continued on next page)
Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group
Richard King, Vanderbilt University, richard.king@vanderbilt.edu; Tisa Wenger, Arizona State University, tisa.wenger@asu.edu.

This 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) The legal frameworks and government policies that construct “religion,” for a session to be cosponsored with the Law, Religion, and Culture Group; 2) Anglophone and Francophone concepts of religion, inside and outside the academy; and 3) An “author meets critic” panel on Timothy Fitzgerald’s Civility and Barbarity, and/or other books relevant to the cultural history of the study of religion.

Eastern Orthodox Studies Group
Paul Garleryuk, University of Saint Thomas, pgarleryuk@huskyrec.ome.edu; Eve Tibbs, Fuller Theological Seminary, etibbs@roadrunner.com.

We invite papers on the following three topics: 1) Dionysius the Areopagite, reflecting new research on all aspects of the thought and work of this sixth-century pseudoepigraphic author and his influence upon biblical interpretation, spirituality, and theology; 2) The Contemporary Orthodox Church and the state, addressing such questions as the relationship between the Orthodox Church and the state in the post-Communist world, Orthodox attitudes toward liberal democracy, or religious nationalism in postmodern Orthodoxy; and 3) Any aspect of the encounter between Eastern Orthodoxy and Reformed Protestants. Questions may include the following: 1) What did Reformed Protestants learn from Greek Orthodox theologians in the sixteenth century? 2) How have Reformed liturgies been shaped by Orthodoxy? 3) How have Orthodox theologians regarded the “Calvinists” who preached and taught in traditionally Orthodox areas?; and 4) What do Orthodox theologians, liturgists, and missiologists mean by “Calvin” or “Reformation”? How did it anticipate, inform, challenge, or enrich various evangelical theologies of culture? How does it contribute to the ongoing conversation about the nature of Orthodoxy?

Ecclesiological Investigations Group
Michael A. Fahey, Boston College, michael.fahey@marquette.edu; Gerard Mannion, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, ge.mannion@gmail.com.

This Group invites proposals on the church in post-Christian Society — what particular challenges face the churches situated in or near predominantly Christian, but now secular and pluralist, societies (e.g., in terms of mission, identity, and social outreach, response to secular critics, and/or particular challenges of postmodernity)? What are the “vestiges” of Christian heritage that persist (in both positive and negative terms)? Papers are especially welcome which address the Canadian context — particularly that of Québec. A second session focuses on the Sociology of Church — perspectives on Canadian’s ecclesiologies. We invite paper exploring the development and fundamental legacy of Calvin’s perspectives on (and relationship with) the church (e.g., papers exploring the later development, “denominational variations,” ecumenical discussions/responses to, and wider critique of Calvin’s ecclesiologies). Papers may also focus on particular aspects, such as Calvin’s ecclesiological method, understanding of ministry, the “sacramental” principle, the “invisible church,” etc. Submissions on the use of Calvin’s ecclesiologies by later and modern/contemporary ecclesiologists are especially welcome.

Evangelical Theology Group
Wyndy Corbin Reuchling, Ashland Theological Seminary, wcorbin@ashland.edu; Candy Gunther Brown, Indiana University, brown@indiana.edu.

This Group welcomes individual paper proposals or complete panel proposals that expand the categories of evangelical into non-Western settings, critiques related to evangelical theology, history, and culture. We are especially interested in proposals in the following three areas: 1) A single session with the theme: Issues in Theology, Religion, and Culture Group, Tillich’s theology of culture and evangelical theology (e.g., to what extent does it anticipate, inform, challenge, or enrich various evangelical theologies of culture?); 2) The contexts, causes, and experiences of religious persecution, martyrdom, violence, and the persecuted church as well as violence and persecution enacted by Christians against coreligionists or members of other religious groups — in global perspective and strategies for response; and 3) Historical, theological, and/or sociocultural perspectives on Canadian, Francophone, and United States evangelicalism, and relationships among North American evangelicals.

Gay Men’s Issues in Religion Group
Paul J. Gorrell, Stockton, NJ, p الجورلي@aol.com; Peter Savastano, Seton Hall University, p.savastano@comcast.net.

This Group invites proposals on the following topics: 1) Theological responses to issues in religion and spirituality; We invite discussion on the evolution of the academic work of gay scholars of religion and reflection on our place in the academy. This topic includes investigation of the expression of spirituality through sexual activity; 2) Marriage, civil unions, and political programs/propogate. This session will explore the ways the marriage debate has impacted political progress for LGBTQ communities. We invite dialogue on the California Prop 8 battle, the controversies related to the voting patterns of minority groups, and the involvement of the Knights of Columbus and the Mormon religion; as well as the fifteenth anniversary of John Boswell’s Same Sex Unions in Premodern Europe; and 3) Varieties of voyeurism. This session will explore the practice of voyeurism within religious traditions and the interest in voyeurism within gay sexuality, including focus on stripping, exhibitionism, consumerism, pornography, and cyber sexuality; and 4) The work of James Allison.

Hinduism Group
Vijaya Nagarajan, University of San Francisco, nagarajan@usfca.edu; Timothy Lubin, Washington and Lee University, lubin@wlu.edu.

We invite proposals on themes pertinent to understanding Hindu thought, practice, and culture in any of its forms and periods. Topics proposed at the business meeting or after are as follows: 1) Doubt and belief (David Lawrence, david.lawrence@und.nodak.edu); 2) Sanskriti as a “magical” language (James Hartzell, hartzell@csc.cinnitoba.ca); 3) Bhakti, yoga, and state power (James Hartzell, hartzell@columbia.edu); 4) On the Hinduism Group at the AAR’s centenary (Mary Magee, m.magee@lbyed.ed); 5) Plants in Hinduism (Laura Bonner, lpatton@cc.umanitoba.ca); 6) Hindu approaches to wellness and healing; and 7) Recent work on Hindu–Muslim interactions. Proposals on other topics, including interdisciplinary and comparative themes, are also welcome. Complete session proposals are highly encouraged, but individual paper proposals may also be accepted.

Indigenous Religious Traditions Group
Jace Weaver, University of Georgia, jace@uga.edu.

This Group continues to be interested in the utility or difficulties of Western conceptual categories — sacred, cosmology, possession, and others. We are also interested in the conceptualization of “indigenous,” including the invention/production of new indigenous religions. We invite paper submissions that engage the idea of ‘encounters’ between indigenous cultural
communities and groups of/from Western civilization, between indigenous communities and other non-Western cultures. In these broad perspectives, we will receive research-based papers focused on cultural and religious exchanges between encountering groups. Special preference will be given to papers that highlight exchanges that have occurred in Canada. In a joint session with the Contemplative Pagan Studies Group, we invite abstracts on tangible and intangible performance in the performance of ritual or worship. This proposed joint session seeks to explore perspectives on whether contemporary paganism and indigenous religious traditions could or should share a mutual discourse.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Islamic Mysticism Group
Vincent J. Cornell, Emory University, vjcornell@emory.edu. Carl W. Ernst, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, cercarl@email.unc.edu.

We solicit paper and panel proposals engaging diverse topics and regions. Special attention will be given to the following topics: Teaching Islamic mysticism; new theoretical and/or methodological approaches to the study of Islamic mysticism; musical rituals of Sufism; Sufism and aesthetics; non-Sufi forms of Islamic mysticism; Sufism in America; and Islamic mysticism and theories of knowledge and truth. Prearranged panel proposals reflecting diversity in gender and ethnicity are encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Japanese Religious Group
James L. Ford, Wake Forest University, fordj@wfu.edu.

We invite panel and individual proposals related to all aspects of Japanese religious practice and thought, both historical and contemporary. We welcome proposals relating to, but not confined by, the following topics: 1) Globalization of Japanese religions (JR); 2) Life courses and biographies in JR; 3) Material culture of JR (talismans, relics, musical instruments, utensils, etc.); 4) Heresy and polemical encounters in JR; 5) Innovation and activism in contemporary JR; and 6) Women as religion specialists in JR. 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 (films, organized discussion, “workshop”, etc.) are encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group
Andrew Burgess, University of New Mexico, alburges@unm.edu. Marilyn Pietry, Drew University, marilynpietry@drew.edu.

This Group invites proposals for three sessions: 1) A session on authorial intention and points of view in Kierkegaard’s authorship. Proposals for this session may focus on any or all of the following: the unity, tension, pseudonymity, and/or the rhetoric of the authorship; and/or its relation to poststructuralism and/or postmodernism; the account provided by Kierkegaard of his authorship in *The Point of View for My Work as an Author*; 2) A joint session with the Study of Judaism Section on Kierkegaard and Judaism; and 3) A joint session with the Scriptural/Contextual Ethics Consortium, violence, and the sacred: Christian, Jewish, Muslim interpretations of the near sacrifice of Abraham’s son.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Korean Religions Group
Jin Y. Park, American University, jpark@american.edu. Timothy S. Lee, Bere Divinity School, timslngle@and.com.

We invite paper proposals on the themes of sacred space, sacred time, and sacredness in Korean religions. Variations of the topic include the concept of time in different Korean religions; religious meaning of place in Korean religions; religion, art, and revolution, eschatology, and utopia in Korean religions. Also welcome are proposals on Korean religions and fiction or globalization, and a panel proposal for a book review session on recent publications in Korean religions. Additionally, we invite papers for a potential joint panel with the Daoist Studies Group on all aspects of Korean Daoism. Especially welcome are those proposals that focus on the state of Daoist studies in Korea; Korean adaptations and uses of Chinese Daoist scriptural traditions; the popularization of Daoist ideals and practices in medieval and modern literature; modern revivals of Daoist gymnastics and rituals; and the relations between Daoism and the state in the Koryo and Choson periods.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group
Carmen Marie Nanko-Fernandez, Catholic Theological Union, cnanko@ctu.edu. Benjamin Valentin, Andover Newton Theological School, bvalentin@ants.edu.

This Group welcomes proposals on the topic of religion and transnationalism. This session will explore issues related to migratory patterns, displacement and refugeeism, border, diasporic and indigeneous experiences, and the growing phenomenon of multilocal families with particular attention to Latino/as and Latin Americans. Our presence in Canada also invites reflection on transnationalism in conversation with First Nations people. We welcome papers that address these topics, as well as political violence and forced migrations, in relation to/convosation with the performance of American religious thought and practice from varied methodological and ideological perspectives, i.e., historical, sociological, theological, philosophical, psychologcial, feminist-theoretical, etc. A second session will focus on taking “La Lucha” to heart — reflections on the work and legacy of Ada María Isasi-Díaz. This invited panel session explores trajectories explicitly articulated by and implicit within the corpus of scholarship developed by *mujerista* theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz. Attention will be given to the transgenerational potential of significant themes conveyed by Isasi-Díaz in her fruitful career.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Law, Religion, and Culture Group
Greg Johnson, University of Colorado, Boulder, greg.johnson@colorado.edu.

We invite paper and panel proposals, including author-meets-reader panels, on any aspect of the cultural, historical, critical, and comparative study of the interconnections of law and religion, including legal categories in religious traditions, the treatment of religion within legal traditions, and human rights and freedom of religion and belief. This year, we especially welcome submissions on the following themes: property law and religion (conceived broadly in historical and theoretical perspective); law and religion in Canada (Québec in particular); the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding the Doctrine of Discovery, with specific reference to First Nations peoples; and the intersection of law, family, and the politics of sexuality. Together with the Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group, we encourage proposals on the legal frameworks and government policies that construct “religion.”

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Lesbian-Feminist Issues and Religion Group
Yvonne Zimmerman, Methodist Theological School, Ohio, yzimmemas@mtn.net.

This Group invites papers and complete panels that explore theoretical, methodological, religious, and/or practical dimensions of the following themes: 1) The transformation of “family” in the age of queer children; 2) What difference does lesbian make? The “ queer” displacement of lesbian identity; 3) For a possible joint session with the Music and Religion Consultation, the role of music in resistance movements — including, but not necessarily limited to, LGBTQI identity and rights movements; 4) The Michigan Woman's Music Festival and lesbian/feminist history; and 5) For a joint session with the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group, the “loves other women sexually” definition of womanism. We seek work that explores the effects of heterosexism in African-American communities. Proposals can also include representations of religious voices in the African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex communities as well as heterosexual scholars studying LGBTQI issues in the African-American community.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Men’s Studies in Religion Group
Robert A. Atkins, Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville, IL, bobatkne@luludan.northwestern.edu, Garth Kasimu Baker-Fletcher, Texas College, gbakerflecher@texascollege.edu.

This year’s theme focuses on “Beyond essentializing masculinity: What is the global context and content of various masculinities?” We are seeking constructive examples of masculinities from multiple social locations and religious traditions with critical analysis. Alternatively, we seek examples of masculinities constructed in contested and crisis situations with a critical reading of cultural change (for example, constructions or altered definitions of masculinity in the context of a pandemic like HIV/AIDS in South Africa). We are seeking examples of a reimagining of multiple masculinities in religious thought and practice beyond feminist critique and heteronormative. We seek also to provide a forum to continue the conversation, begun in 2008, on interrogating Muslim masculinities. Finally, we seek examples of what it means to “come out” as heterosexual, how our self-positioning of heterosexual scholars in men’s studies in religion influences perception and analysis.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

Mysticism Group
Thomas Cartor, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, cartor@jstfth.edu. Laura Weed, College of Saint Rose, weed@strose.edu.

We welcome proposals for the following topics: 1) Cognitive science of altered, meditative, or mystical experiences (possibly cosponsored with the Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation); 2) Communal/shared mystical states; 3) Mysticism and nature; 4) The mystical, the imaginal, and the liminal; 5) Mysticism and possession trance — in tantra and beyond (possibly cosponsored with the Tantric Studies Group); and 6) Mysticism of dreams and visions. Our Group is primarily thematic rather than methodological, so we can explore the uses of a wide number of methodologies, including psychology, philosophy, sociology or history of religion, hermeneutics and textual analysis, biological analysis, feminist studies, film studies, mysticism and science, art criticism, postmodern theory, cultural studies, and anthropology of consciousness.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

(continued on next page)
Native Traditions in the Americas Group
Kenneth Mello, University of Vermont, kenneth.mello@uvm.edu. Mary C. Churchill, Sonoma State University, marychurch@sonoma.edu.
We invite individual papers and group proposals on any aspect of Native Traditions in the Americas (North, Central, and South America). We especially encourage proposals in the following areas: 1) First Nations — indigenous peoples in Canada, especially, in but not limited to, Quebec; 2) The United States—Canadian border and its implications for indigenous peoples; 3) Indigenous self-determination, especially in relation to Nunavut; 4) Rites of encounter, colonization, and resistance in New France and other instances of conquest (for a potential cosponsored session with the Ritual Studies Group); 5) Indigenous peace-making; and 6) Indigenous conceptions of spiritual power.

New Religious Movements Group
Douglas E. Cowan, University of Waterloo, decowar@uwaterloo.ca.
This Group seeks papers examining the material, visual, and festival cultures of new religious movements. We are especially interested in panels that examine these phenomena as part of the everyday meaning-making process of new religious adherents and the ongoing quest for new religious legitimation. We will also be scheduling an extra session on new religions in Quebec and would particularly welcome papers on Catholic charismatic groups and esoteric NRMs. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals from a variety of methodological and theoretical standpoint. Please note that new religious movements are not limited to the 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 dominant traditions. As always, we also welcome papers on any aspect of new religious study. For further information about this Group, please contact the chair.

Nineteenth-Century Theology Group
Lori K. Pearson, Carleton College, lppearson@carleton.edu.
We invite papers on the theology and culture of war, focusing on explorations of theological reflection in the long nineteenth century on war in general and/or specific wars from the French Revolution to WWI, including the American Civil War. What was the theological reflection in the defense or critique of war in general and of particular wars? What consequences, intended and unintended, did theological views exert on the conduct of war? (contact Russell Kleckley, rkleckley@augsburg.edu). A second session will focus on J. S. Mill and the utility of religion — explorations of religious issues in Mill’s writings (especially the Three Essays on Religion), as well as responses to Mill and utilitarianism by nineteenth century theologians and/or religious thinkers. Such figures might include F. D. Maurice, A. P. Stanley, Benjamin Jowett, J. C. Hare, Charles Kingsley, the Tractarians, Newman, or Mill’s respondents abroad. The influence on Mill of Comte’s views on religion might also be examined (contact Todd Gooch, Todd.Gooch@ku.edu).

Platonism and Neoplatonism Group
John Peter Kenney, Saint Michael’s College, jkenney@smcvt.edu. Douglas Hedley, University of Cambridge, ndh26@cam.ac.uk.
This Group invites proposals on the role of phantasia (imagination) in the Neoplatonic tradition, which is ambiguous. In one perspective both as aesthetic, the reflection of sen- sate experience, and as the organ by which the soul receives and illuminates by the gods. In a later aspect, phantasia becomes criti- cally important for understanding the aichma, the subtle body of the soul in later Neoplatonism. We invite papers to address questions relating to the phantasia and the role of aesthetics in later Platonism. A second session will focus on the role of sacrifice among later Platonists, which is complex. It may be perceived as an anti-Christian move — concomitant with Christian ideas — or as the continuation of ancient tradition. Whether sacrifice appears in the context of humanist theology or Christo-logistical teaching, it reflects soteriological tensions that both Neoplatonists and Christians were attempting to resolve. We invite papers to address the sig- nificance of sacrifice in later Platonism in its historical, philosophical, and religious context.

Practical Theology Group
Dale P. Andrews, Boston University, andrews@bu.edu. Thomas Beaudoin, Fordham University, thebeaudoin@fordham.edu.
This 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 par- ticular, we invite papers and panel propos- als on the following topics: 1) Addressing the challenges of practical theology and religious practices in light of white privile- gement, white supremacy, or critical race theo- ry; 2) Fostering change in the theological culture of congregations in relation to social justice and liberation theology; and 3) Exploring the contemporary land- scape for women in pastoral or religious leadership. Preference will be shown to proposals that demonstrate practical theolog- ical methods and examine the theologies embodied in practices. We encourage proposals that respect diverse beliefs, moral claims, and political commitments.

Religious Studies News

Religion and Disability Studies Group
Deborah Creamer, Iliff School of Theology, dcream@iliff.edu.
We invite proposals on the following themes: 1) Spirituality and disability — we invite papers that explore the spirituality of people with disabilities, as well as papers that reflect more generally on intersections of spirituality and disability theory; 2) Disability and leadership — recognizing that people with disabilities are not only found in the congregation, but behind a student desk, or in the audience of an AAR session, we invite papers that explore the roles and experiences of people with disabilities in leadership positions, such as clergy, profes- sors, and scholars; 3) Different disabilities — we invite papers that highlight religion in a wider range of disability experiences, including mental illness, cognitive difference, and hidden disabilities; 4) For a joint session with the Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group, we invite proposals responding to McRuer and Berube’ s critique today? We mark the quincentennial of John Calvin’s birth, this Group invites papers on Calvin and Calvinism in North America. Topics might include the reception of Calvin in North American communities; scholarly examination of Calvin’s significance for North American thought; or popular representations of Calvin and Calvinism. We particularly wel- come papers on Calvin and Calvinism in Canada. Also, since the sixteenth century, Orthodox and Reformed churches have spoken to and about one another, sometimes with suspicion and sometimes with apprecia- tion. This Group, cosponsored with the Orthodox Studies Group, invites papers on any aspect of this encounter between our two traditions. For instance, what did Reformed Protestants learn from Orthodox theologians in the sixteenth centu- ry? How have Reformed liturgies been shaped by Orthodoxy? How have Orthodox Christians regarded “Calvinists” who preached and taught in traditionally Orthodox areas? What themes are emerging in contemporary Reformed—Orthodox dia- logue today?

Qur’an Group
Frederick M. Denny, University of Colorado, Boulder, frederick.denny@colorado.edu. Gordon D. Newby, Emory University, gnewby@emory.edu.
We welcome proposals related to the aca- demic study of the Qur’an. Topics include: analysis of Qur’ anic text; history of interpretation of the Qur’an; the recita- tion/performative aspects of the Qur’an; artistic aspects of the Qur’an; the relationship of the Qur’an to other scriptures and religious traditions; the subjectivity of the Qur’an; and the historical/textual milieu in which the Qur’an has been received. We especially welcome proposals that have a pedagog- ical 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 exami- nation of Islamic societies and texts. All prearranged sessions should consider the gender and minority diversity of partici- pants; respondents are essential. Inno- vative, interactive formats and multimedia presentations are welcome.

Quarantine Group
Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Princeton University, eglaude@princeton.edu.
We invite proposals on the following top- ics: 1) In recent years, pragmatism has influenced a number of different public conversations. One of particular interest is that of public theology. We call for papers addressing the subject of the relevance of pragmatism to public theology; 2) We witnessed in this past election cycle how gender continues to animate much of American life. What does pragmatism have to say about the issue of gender? We call for papers addressing the subject of gender and pragmatism; 3) Papers related to the intersection of pragmatism, relig- ion, and literature; and 4) International engagements with pragmatism (e.g., pragmatism and neo-Confucianism). We also welcome proposals on topics relevant to pragmatism and empiricism as well as panel proposals.

Reformed Theology and History Group
Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, ksondereg@vt.edu. Kang-Yup Na, Westminster College, na@westminster.edu.

RSN
Religion and Ecology Group

David A. Barnhill, University of Wisconsin, Oskosh, barnhillu@uwosh.edu.
A. Whitney Sanford, University of Florida, awsanford@uf.edu.

This Group invites proposals exploring sustainability and human-earth ethics, especially those involving religion, culture, biodiversity, and environment. We encourage thematically coherent panels and individual papers. One session will be cosponsored with the Bioethics and Religion Group, will focus on global justice through the lenses of ecology and bioethics. Other topics include: 1) Ecological Hinduism, Yoga, and Jainism in North America (potentially cosponsored with the North American Hinduism Consultation); 2) Religion, ecology, and globalization (colonialism, imperialism, populism, pronatalism, political holism, food); 3) Sustainability (problems, tensions, and uncertainties; green buildings, green burials); 4) Religion, ecology, and science (including Darwin); 5) Environmental values and practice (including scholarship and activism, reformation, or radical change); 6) Human dimensions (mourning, guilt, affectivity, spiritual affinity, satiation and sufficiency, ecological ruin and trope, ethnobiology [Inuit]; listening to Earth, cosm sufficiency, ecological ruin and triage, ethical green buildings, green burials); 4) Religion, ecology, and globalization (colonialism, cosmopolitism, religion, ecology, and popular culture (e.g., science fiction). Visit the Religion and Ecology Group's AAR website at www.aar web.org/Meeting/Annual/AnnualProgram Units/PUCS/Website/main.asp?PUNum=AA2009PUDS01 for more information.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion and Popular Culture Group

Richard J. Callahan Jr., University of Missouri, callahanr@missouri.edu; Lisle Dalton, Hartwick College, daltonl@hartwick.edu.

We invite 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 focused in the following areas: 1) Popular culture as a vehicle for the construction of community identity; 2) The body — living, dead, undead, material, immaterial, lived, seen, adorned, produced, consumed, etc.; 3) “Greening” as an aesthetic, ethical, and/or prophetic category; 4) Obama — race, politics, religion, pop culture; 5) Representations and imaginations of religion in science fiction media; and 6) Open call for any other topics dealing with religion and popular culture. We also invite proposals for a potential session on the supernatural and the demonic in popular culture, cosponsored with the Western Esotericism Group. Our Group strongly encourages alternative, interactive, and creative formats for panels and session presentations. Accompanying multimedia, audiovisual, and other supplements are also strongly encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

John Lyden, Dana College, jhlyd@dana.edu; Rachel Wagner, Ithaca College, rwagner@ithaca.edu.

We seek proposals (papers or panels) that reflect on the study of religion, film, and visual culture in relation to: 1) Methodological issues, especially in global or transnational contexts; 2) Teaching, including film theory; and world cinema perspectives; 3) Films and theory related to borders, immigration, migration, integration, interculturality, and globalization; 4) How the process of marketing, production, and distribution impacts what we study them; and 5) Consideration of Jesús de Montréal (1989) in relation to issues of intertextuality and interculturality, especially in North America; and 6) Religious expressions by Québec artists and filmmakers. We will also consider individual or panel proposals on other topics.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group

Katharina von Kellenbach, Saint Mary's College, kvenkel@smcm.edu; Laura S. Levitt, Temple University, levitt@temple.edu.

We invite individual papers and complete panel/session proposals from any methodological perspective on the following topics, as well as on other topics: 1) Critical and/or theological reflections on the Feminine Face of God in Auschwitz in conversation with the author, Melissa Raphael, who will be in attendance at the session; 2) Papers that address new readings of biblical texts or engagements with liturgical practice in light of Holocaust and genocide; and 3) In possible cosponsorship with the Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group, we are looking for papers that examine the commodification and evocation of the Nazi assault on gay men in contemporary political, identity, and medical discourses.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group

Jorge A. Aquino, University of San Francisco, jorge_aquinor@bgsu.edu; Jennifer Hughes, University of California, Riverside, j Hughes@ucr.edu.

This Group encourages submissions on all areas of Latin American religion and theology. In particular, we seek proposals for papers or panels on: 1) Religion in the Francophone African diaspora, including Canada (possible joint session with the Afro-American Religious History Group and African Religious Groups); 2) Religion in Cuba after fifty years of revolution, including mainline and evangelical Christianity, Afro-descended religions, and the question of religious freedom (possible joint session with Latin/o American Culture, and Subgroup); 3) Life religions in Latin America, rethinking cultural expressions such as the cargo, the fiesta, and the santo; 4) Theology and social sin — violence, torture, and/or trafficking in drugs and bodies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Media, and Culture Group

Gordon Lynch, University of London, g.lynh@bbk.ac.uk; Sean McCloud, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, scmak@unc.edu.

This Group welcomes paper and panel proposals that offer historical, social, and cultural analysis of intersections of religion and media. We are interested in any submissions that represent an innovative contribution to theoretical or empirical work in this field. We particularly welcome proposals in the area of Western esotericism (possible joint panel with the Western Esotericism Group); ritual and/or media (possible joint panel with the Ritual Studies Group); the mediation of religion; religious America/secular Europe — media perspectives; religion and virtual selves; religion, the media, and the United States's presidential election; a retrospective; and Jews, Judaism, and media.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University, barnesl@bu.edu; Suzanne Crawford-O'Brien, Pacific Lutheran University, suzanne.crawford-op@plu.edu.

We invite proposals for papers addressing religious worldviews, beliefs and/or practices, and understandings of medicine/healing traditions, in relation to all topics, but including the healing of indigenous peoples, knowledges, and cultures from the impacts of colonialism; the meaning, appropriation, or commodification of healing traditions; hybridization and intercultural healing traditions; emotional healing; and theoretical inquiry into the intersection of religion and healing. Because of the 2009 focus on religions in North America, we encourage proposals that address such issues in relation to this focus. We also particularly welcome proposals for joint sessions with the Native Traditions in the Americas Group and with the African Religions Group. Minority and women scholars are encouraged to submit proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group

Jon Pahl, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Taplin, jpb@ltst.edu; Marla J. Selvidge, University of Central Missouri, selvidge@ucmo.edu.

This Group invites proposals in the following areas: peace-making and theories; religion and patriotism or national identity; hypermasculinity, females (or gender ideology), and the military; strategies in the development of pacific-nationalism; children's agency and exploitation in war and peace, addressing such issues as child soldiering, children's peace initiatives, child refugees, and legislation (for a cosponsored session with Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation); religion, justice, and prisons; and religion, peace, and violence in Québec. We encourage the use of PowerPoint presentations.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Ritual Studies Group

W. Scott Haldeman, Chicago Theological Seminary, whaldeman@ctsechicago.edu; Ute Huelsen, University of Oslo, ute.huelsen@us.no.

We solicit proposals relating to: 1) Rites of enclosure and consecration in New France and other situations of conquest (potential cosponsorship with the Native Traditions in the Americas Group); 2) Currents of research on funerary practices in the light of classical studies and new methodologies (potential cosponsorship with the Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation); 3) Rites in (or related to) Denys Arcand's film, Jesus of Montréal; 4) Filming rites or rites on film or other instances of the mediation of ritual (potential cosponsorship with the Religion, Media, and Culture Group); 5) Ritual and performance faceted of the circus and circus culture (historical or contemporary); 6) Ritual and children; and 7) Rereading Náven — Bateson on ritual and play. We also encourage proposals related to the 2009 AAR theme of the globalization of the study of religion. Successful proposals will indicate that the paper or panel will advance rather than simply apply ritual theory.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Roman Catholic Studies Group

Daniel Speed Thompson, Saint Mary's University, dthompson1@smu.edu.

This 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: 1) The concept of Catholic intellectual tradition and Catholic higher education — genealogy, identity, and problems; 2) Catholicism in Canada's history, especially in relations with Rome, church/state relationships, comparisons with the United States, North American, or Latin American Catholicism, etc.; 3) Analyses of Benedict XVI's upcoming encyclical Caritas in Veritate on social issues; 4) Studies commemorating the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin (1509-2009); 5) Rituals, traditions and associated rituals in Latin America, or Roman Catholic Modernism; 5) Catholic liturgical programs and comparative analyses of historical, educational, philosophical, curricula, etc.; and 6) Lay ecclesial ministries as ecclesiological and social category and related studies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

(continued on next page)
Sacred Space in Asia Group

Steven Heine, Florida International University, stevenhe@fiu.edu. Pamela D. Winfield, Elon University, prwinfield@elon.edu.

We solicit individual paper or full panel proposals in the following areas: digital/electronic space; visualized space (in meditation, tantric practice); miniature/microcosmic space; theme parks; gardens; revivals of desecrated spaces; museums as sacred space or the museumification of sacred spaces; spaces between the sacred and profane; and judgment. We welcome proposals on other topics as well and encourage complete panel proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Schleiermacher Group

Andrew Dole, Amherst College, adole@amherst.edu.

The theme for this Group will be focusing on new work on Schleiermacher. The intent of this “open” call is to encourage proposals that may not fall under a specifically delimited theme, particularly those that create new or nontraditional research trajectories. We welcome proposals that have to do not only with traditional topics within Schleiermacher’s theology of religious communion, ethics, metaphysics, hermeneutics, pedagogy, theology, etc.; with the historical context or reception of Schleiermacher’s work; or with points of connection or divergence between Schleiermacher and contemporary work in the area of religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Science, Technology, and Religion Group

James Haag, Suffolk University, jhaag@suffolk.edu.

This Group is accepting paper and panel proposals that engage the natural sciences from academic disciplines. These topics are recommended, but other proposals related to sacred space in Asia are also welcomed.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Scriptural Reasoning Group

Randi Rashokove, George Mason University, rrashko@gmu.edu, Scott Bader-Saye, University of Scranton, sbaderseye@uscranton.edu.

This Group gathers Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scholars 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 comparative literatures; family relations (with a possible cosponsorship with the Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation); visualized space (in meditation, tantric practice); exile/space; and judgment. We welcome proposals on other topics as well and encourage complete panel proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Tantan Studies Group

Glen A. Hayes, Bloomsfield College, glen.hayes@bloomsfield.edu, Paul Muller-Ortega, University of Rochester, pmullor@rochester.edu.

This Group invites papers and panel presentations dealing with recent research in tantric studies, including but not limited to the following topics: 1) “Overlapping” traditions — Hindu and Buddhist traditions; 2) “Carnival and transformation” tantras; 3) Militaristic imagery and metaphors in Hindu and Buddhist traditions; 4) “Tantra” and “tantrika” as imagined “other” within Hinduism; 5) Who speaks for tantra? Insiders and outsiders; 6) Cognitive science and the study of tantra (with the Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation); 7) Sacred space and the body in tantra (with the Sacred Space in Asia Group); 8) Mysticism and possession trance in tantra (with the Mysticism Group); and 9) Reading tantric images/tantras as visual culture. The Group supports the collaboration of scholars in tantric studies across the traditional boundaries of research based on geographic regions, specific traditions, and academic disciplines.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Theology and Continental Philosophy Group

Ellen T. Armour, Vanderbilt University, ellen.t.armour@vanderbilt.edu, Bruce Ellis Benson, Wheaton College, bruce.ellis@wheaton.edu.

We invite proposals for papers or panels on the topic of how myths resources in continental philosophy propel new thinking in the following: 1) The disappearance/reappearance of nature in new philosophies/theologies; 2) Creation or creativity; 3) Flesh; 4) Hospitality, sovereignty, and border crossings; 5) The emerging boundaries between theology, philosophy, spiritual practice, materialism, and cognitive science; 6) The work of Charles Taylor or Gilles Deleuze/Felix Guattari. We welcome proposals on other topics of interest where theology and continental philosophy intersect.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group

Frances Garrett, University of Toronto, francis.garrett@utoronto.ca, Andrew H. Quintman, Princeton University, quistman@princeton.edu.

This Group promotes conversations between different approaches to the study of Tibetan and Himalayan religions. For 2009, we are particularly interested in papers on Tibetan/Himalayan religions in North America; heretical or marginalized religious groups or practices; modern/contemporary Tibetan/Himalayan scholastics/pilgrimage; Tibetan/Himalayan religions across Eurasia; or translating Tibetan Buddhism. We are always interested in papers or panels that may be cosponsored with other groups or sections of the AAR.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Tillich: Issues in Theology, Religion, and Culture Group

Rachel Sophia Baard, Villanova University, rsbaard@villanova.edu, Russell Sel Manning, University of Cambridge, rsm24@cam.ac.uk.

This Group invites proposals on the following themes: 1) Tillich’s systematic theology — failures and successes; 2) Tillich and the new atheism; 3) Theologies of the boundary; 4) The God beyond the God of theists; 5) Tillich and world religions; 6) Augustine and Tillich — a dialogue (potential cosponsored session); and 7) Theology of culture — Tillich and Evangelical theology (potential cosponsored session). Other Tillich-related proposals will be seriously considered. We usually find a place for strong papers; themes for sessions are determined by the merit of the proposals received. Unless otherwise requested, proposals not scheduled are automatically passed on to the North American Paul Tillich Society for possible inclusion in their Annual Meeting. A winning student paper receives the $300 Annual Tillich Prize.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Wesleyan Studies Group

Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, Houghton College, kristinac.lacelle-peterson@houghton.edu, Rex D. Mathews, Emory University, vmmathews@emory.edu.

This Group will host two sessions. This first session will focus on Methodism and Wesleyan traditions in Canada. The foundation of Methodism in Canada is usually dated to 1766, when Laurence Coughlin, one of Wesley’s traveling preachers, immigrated from Ireland to Newfoundland. The history of Wesleyan/Methodist traditions in Canada since that time, including the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925, is rich, complex, and variegated. Proposals are invited for this session on any aspect of Wesleyan/Methodist history, theology, spirituality, or life in Canada. Attention to the experiences of women and/or of persons of ethnic minority heritage is particularly encouraged. The second session will focus on Francis Asbury and Early American Methodism; focusing on reviews and discussion of John H. Wigger’s American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists (Oxford University Press, forthcoming in 2009). Panels are to be determined.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Western Esotericism Group

Allison P. Coudert, University of California, Davis, aepcoudert@ucdavis.edu, Cathy N. Gutierrez, Sweet Briar College, cgutierrez@sb.cc.

We invite proposals focusing on topics of science and Western esotericism. A persistent theme, particularly in alchemical, pantheistic, and other similar works on Renaissance to the present, is a longing for a universal science that would provide a holistic understanding of the varied dimensions of human experience. Proposals will be welcome that address the topic of esotericism and Western science either from a theoretical point of view or by studying specific historical cases from earliest times to the present. Submissions are also invited for a session cosponsored with the Religion, Media, and Culture Group on the commodification of the esoteric, which will address the way various media, both in the past and present, promote the commodification and consumption of esoteric knowledge. Thirdly, submissions are invited for a session on the supernatural and the demonic in popular culture, cosponsored with the Religion and Popular Culture Group.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group

Evelyn L. Parker, Southern Methodist University, eparker@smu.edu, Linda E. Thomas, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, lthomas@lsc.edu.

This Group invites critically developed paper and panel proposals: 1) That address the “loves other women sexually” definition of womanism and explores the effects of heterosexism in African-American communities. These papers can also include representations of religious voices in the African-American Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex communities, as well as heterosexual scholars studying LGBTQI issues in the African-American community (cosponsored with the Lesbian-Feminist Issues and Religion Group); 2) Issues regarding movement to various parts of the diaspora and spiritualities, mysticism, and activism; 3) A womanist spirituality of embodiment, religious, and theological notions, including a Black Womanist spirituality of embodiment, representation, media, and popular culture; and 4) African-American women in the military, spirituality, religion, race, and politics.

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.

Buddhism in the West Consultation
Jeff Wilson, University of Waterloo, jeffwilson@religion.uwaterloo.ca.
We seek proposals for individual presentations and paper sessions. We invite submissions on the following topics as they relate to Buddhism in the West: Buddhism in Francophone Canada; gender; new categories in the religious imagination; indigenous traditions and animals; animals in the religious imagination, particularly in literature; and problematic aspects of the domesticated and wild animal categories.

Religion in the American West Seminar
James B. Bennett, Santa Clara University, jbbennett@scu.edu, Quincy D. Newell, University of Wyoming, qnewell@uwyo.edu.
This Seminar invites proposals for article-length papers to be precirculated for discussion at the Annual Meeting. Papers should address either religion in the transnational West or comparative studies of religion in frontier or borderland regions. All papers should engage the broader questions of the Seminar: How do religion and region affect one another in the American West? How should an understanding of religion in the American West affect our conceptions of American religious history and/or of religion in general? We also invite instructors to submit syllabi of classes about religion in the American West, or containing a component on the topic, for a discussion about teaching. Please submit syllabi by e-mail attachment to seminar cochairs.

Religious in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Seminar
Chakravarti Ram-Prasad, Lancaster University, c.ram-prasad@lancaster.ac.uk, Tao Jiang, Rutgers University, tjiang@rci.rutgers.edu.
An exploration of key debates between Buddhists and their interlocutors in Indian and Chinese contexts would help us not only to see some of the major continuities and changes in Buddhism’s movement across Asia, but also help us compare and contrast the way intellectual engagement over questions of supreme import were structured and articulated in classical India and China. In order to bring focus to such an exploration, we would like to look closely at two specific topics: 1) The question of human nature and identity in the debate over the metaphysical self (atman) in India, and human nature (wrenn) in China; and 2) The tension between ritualized and ethicized norms of conduct (with Vedic exegetes in India and Confucians/ Taoists in China).

Religions of the Americas Seminar
Benjamin E. Zeller, Brevard College, zellerbe@brevard.edu.
We invite papers and panels considering as liminal figures, “real” animals, and “symbolic” animals; healing and animals; globalization and differences in categorization of animals; food, vegetarianism, and incorporation of animals and religion by the Hamane Society of the United States, particularly the impact of food choices on global warming and its connection to animals; intersections between critical theory, continental philosophy, religion, and animal studies; animals, place, and space in the religious imagination; indigenes' work on religion and food focuses on the questions of how religious food practices and shape embodied personal identity interact with sociocultural boundaries, affect or explain religious-cultural contexts, and illuminate theoretical issues in the study of religion and food. The Seminar will accept twenty proposals, five of which will be shared each year over the next four years of the Seminar’s work. Please note in your submission if your paper will be ready for this year's Annual Meeting. Previously published materials are not acceptable.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar
Benjamin E. Zeller, Brevard College, zellerbe@brevard.edu.
We aim to bring together diverse scholars with a shared interest in the topic of food, eating, and religion in North America. The seminar welcomes proposals from scholars whose work on religion and food focuses on the questions of how religious food practices and shape embodied personal identity interact with sociocultural boundaries, affect or explain religious-cultural contexts, and illuminate theoretical issues in the study of religion and food. The Seminar will accept twenty proposals, five of which will be shared each year over the next four years of the seminar’s work. Please note in your submission if your paper will be ready for this year’s Annual Meeting. Previously published materials are not acceptable.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

World Christianity Group
Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, pc5@georgetown.edu, Dale T. Irvin, New York Theological Seminary, dirvin@sttnet.net.
We seek 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 2009, the Group welcomes proposals on: 1) Approaches toward understanding the diverse diasporan experiences of Christianity in North America, with attention to the transnational dimensions of these experiences and to the interaction among various diasporan experiences in the North American context; 2) The rhetoric of “reverse missions” and the implications for understanding the globalizing of Christianity in North America; and 3) Historiographical, methodological, or other issues related to understanding global Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity (joint session proposed with the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Consultation).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

animals and eating, and religion in North America. The seminar welcomes proposals from scholars whose work on religion and food focuses on the questions of how religious food practices and shape embodied personal identity interact with sociocultural boundaries, affect or explain religious-cultural contexts, and illuminate theoretical issues in the study of religion and food. The Seminar will accept twenty proposals, five of which will be shared each year over the next four years of the seminar’s work. Please note in your submission if your paper will be ready for this year’s Annual Meeting. Previously published materials are not acceptable.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Animals and Religion Consultation
Aaron Gross, University of California, Santa Barbara, aarongross@ucsb.edu. Dave Aftandilian, Texas Christian University, daf@cambridge.com.
We invite papers and panels considering animals as liminal figures, “real” animals, and “symbolic” animals; healing and animals; globalization and differences in categorization of animals; food, vegetarianism, and incorporation of animals and religion by the Hamane Society of the United States, particularly the impact of food choices on global warming and its connection to animals; intersections between critical theory, continental philosophy, religion, and animal studies; animals, place, and space in the religious imagination; indigenous traditions and animals; animals in the religious imagination, particularly in literature; and problematic aspects of the domesticated and wild animal categories.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

SEMINARS

Comparative Philosophy and Religion Seminar
Morny Joy, University of Calgary, mjoy@ucalgary.ca.
The theme is comparative philosophy and religion beyond incorporation — alternative approaches to non-Western philosophical systems, categories, and ideas. Suggested themes and topics include retheologizing Western philosophical/religious traditions and categories in the light of those from non-Western traditions, and rethinking definitions and descriptions where non-Western categories have been assimilated or made to conform to Western ones. First preference is given to papers submitted by members of the Seminar. All accepted papers will be circulated prior to the conference. Papers will not be read at the conference.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar
Benjamin E. Zeller, Brevard College, zellerbe@brevard.edu.
We aim to bring together diverse scholars with a shared interest in the topic of food, eating, and religion in North America. The seminar welcomes proposals from scholars whose work on religion and food focuses on the questions of how religious food practices and shape embodied personal identity interact with sociocultural boundaries, affect or explain religious-cultural contexts, and illuminate theoretical issues in the study of religion and food. The Seminar will accept twenty proposals, five of which will be shared each year over the next four years of the seminar’s work. Please note in your submission if your paper will be ready for this year’s Annual Meeting. Previously published materials are not acceptable.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

World Christianity Group
Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, pc5@georgetown.edu, Dale T. Irvin, New York Theological Seminary, dirvin@sttnet.net.
We seek 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 2009, the Group welcomes proposals on: 1) Approaches toward understanding the diverse diasporan experiences of Christianity in North America, with attention to the transnational dimensions of these experiences and to the interaction among various diasporan experiences in the North American context; 2) The rhetoric of “reverse missions” and the implications for understanding the globalizing of Christianity in North America; and 3) Historiographical, methodological, or other issues related to understanding global Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity (joint session proposed with the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Consultation).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

CONSULTATIONS

Animals and Religion Consultation
Aaron Gross, University of California, Santa Barbara, aarongross@ucsb.edu. Dave Aftandilian, Texas Christian University, daf@cambridge.com.
We invite papers and panels considering animals as liminal figures, “real” animals, and “symbolic” animals; healing and animals; globalization and differences in categorization of animals; food, vegetarianism, and incorporation of animals and religion by the Hamane Society of the United States, particularly the impact of food choices on global warming and its connection to animals; intersections between critical theory, continental philosophy, religion, and animal studies; animals, place, and space in the religious imagination; indigenous traditions and animals; animals in the religious imagination, particularly in literature; and problematic aspects of the domesticated and wild animal categories.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

* New Program Unit *

Body and Religion Consultation
Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College, mnorris@merrimack.edu, Richard Carp, Appalachian State University, carp@ appstate.edu.
This new Consultation aims to provide a forum for multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary conversations on issues of body and religion. We invite proposals presenting diverse methodologies and understandings of body, as well as traditional and alternative presentation styles. This year we are focusing especially on: 1) What is body?; 2) Sensuous scholarship — embodied approaches to the study of religion; and 3) Religious understandings of bodily development, modification, and transformation. We also encourage submissions on other aspects of body and religion from scholars in any area of religious studies or theology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

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.

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.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Seminars are highly specific projects driven by a collaborative research agenda leading toward publication. They are expected to eventually in publication(s). They are strictly limited in duration (five years) and membership (twenty). 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.
Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation
Edward Slingerland, University of British Columbia, edward.slingerland@ubc.ca. Ann Taves, University of California, Santa Barbara, ann.taves@religion.ucsb.edu.
We welcome proposals for individual papers or sessions on any aspect of the cognitive science of religion. We would like at least one of our two regular sessions to appeal to a broad audience. We would also like sessions that report on research that tests extant theories in CSR (these can be scheduled either as a regular session or in a pre-conferenc forum published in our e-mail list). Topics of particular interest include cognitive science as it relates to ritual; the evolution of religion; studying altered, meditative, or mystical experiences; music and bodily movement; religious identity; ethics; or technology and the transhuman. Proposals that are appropriate for cosponsorship with the Mysticism Group, Tantric Studies Group, African Religions Group, or the Psychology, Culture, and Religion Group are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: [Submit via Submit Station]

Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation
Christopher M. Moreman, California State University, East Bay, christopher.moreman@csueastbay.edu. Kathleen Garey Foley, Marymount University, kathleen.garey-foley@marymount.edu.
We seek papers for a session on funeral research and another session on martyrdom. For the first session, we welcome provocative proposals to participate in a panel examining the academic study of funeral practices since the 1960s and where this field of study is heading in the twenty-first century. For the second theme on martyrdom, we are especially interested in papers dealing with martyrdom in the context of Québec (or New France) given this meeting’s location. As always, all proposals are encouraged, even if they do not fall squarely within the parameters of these two themes.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: [Submit via Submit Station]

Jain Studies Consultation
Christoph Emmrich, University of Toronto, christoph.emmrich@utoronto.ca. Anne Monius, Harvard University, amonius@fas.harvard.edu.
This new Consultation invites both thematic panel and individual paper proposals on any aspect of Jainism, whether in South Asia or the global diaspora. In this first year of the Consultation, we particularly welcome proposals that address methodological and theoretical issues in the study of Jainism, reflections on the state of the field of Jain studies, and directions for future work. Topics might include, but are certainly not limited to: 1) The relationship of regional studies of Jain thought and practice to the tradition as a whole; 2) Ways in which textual work, field work, or visual studies might be put in productive conversation; 3) Colonial and postcolonial representations of “Jainism”; and 4) The place of Jain studies in the larger fields of South Asian religions and religious studies more generally.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: [Submit via Submit Station]

Latina/o Critical and Comparative Studies Consultation
Luis Leon, University of Denver, luis.louw@edu.edu. Laura Perez, University of California, Berkeley, lpeerez@ucdavis.berkeley.edu.
This is a new Consultation fostering interdisciplinary and theoretically innovative analysis of Latina/o religiousities and spiritualities in the Americas. Our goal is to explore theories and methods outside of the traditional areas of religious studies that will enrich our understanding of institutionalized religion, soil spirituality within a global context, drawing from fresh perspectives, including postcolonialism, ethnic studies, gender and queer theory, and cultural studies. We encourage work on all areas of American religions, particularly the Indigenous and African diasporic. We are also interested in mapping the hybrid religious practices characteristic of postmodern and transnational realities, e.g., Latina/o Muslims, Buddhists, Jewish Native Americans, and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) spiritualities. We invite submissions for the following two panels: 1) Queer and DIY spiritualities; and 2) Globalization and the borders, especially the United States/Canada border.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: [Submit via Submit Station]
CALL FOR PAPERS

KEY TO SYMBOLS:
- = Surface mail
- = OP3
- = E-mail with attachment
- = E-mail with attachment (continued on next page)

In order to create public awareness about Sikh Religion in the world, the Sikh Missionary Center has published, “SIKH RELIGION” (Revised 2005) and also “Pearls of Sikhism,” (May 2008), which have been sent to various libraries.

The books give the History and Fundamentals of Sikhism.

A complimentary copy will be sent to AAR Members if you provide your address.

Please send your address for a free copy to:
Email: sikhmissionary@yahoo.com

Our Multiple Language website is at:
http://www.sikhmissionary.net

SIKH RELIGION

God is One but One

Sikh Missionary Center
P.O. Box 62521
Phoenix, Arizona 85082 USA

January 2009 RSN • 15
Religious Studies News

disabilities. We are also interested in topics related to the globalization of religion in North America, and queer religions in Canada — particularly Québec.

S U B M I S S I O N S  A C C E P T E D  V I A :  

Religion and Cities Consultation
Katie Day, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, kday@ltsp.edu, Omar McRoberts, University of Chicago, omcrob@uchicago.edu.

We invite papers that address the changing and multivalent role of religion in the urban ecology. Religious identities and meanings are continually being constructed and reconstructed with shifts in demographics, economics, political structures, and cultures. Communities of faith are also significant agents in shaping social realities in cities. Religious, geographical, and sacred/secular boundaries are blurring, yet religion remains a resilient presence in cities. Papers are welcome across disciplines, including social sciences, theology, history, and architecture. Also of interest are presentations which contribute to a joint session with the Black Theology Group around issues related to black theology, the black church, and the challenge of poverty in America’s urban centers.

S U B M I S S I O N S  A C C E P T E D  V I A :  

Religion and Migration Consultation
Jennifer B. Saunders, Delaware, OH, jbsaund1@yahoo.com, Marie Friedmann Marquardt, Agnes Scott College, martrmarquardt@comcast.net.

We seek submissions that explore gender in the process of migration, that examine the role of religion for the second generation, and that focus in particular on gendered and/or generational dynamics of power within religious contexts. In addition to ethnographic case studies, we welcome submissions that contribute toward theorizing religion and migration using a social scientific approach, and that develop theologies of migration. We also seek submissions on migration and the construction of religious landscapes — from the ways that migrant religious performances alter public space to the reconfiguration of sacred sites or places of worship. Finally, as part of the 2009 focus on Québec, we welcome submissions on historic and contemporary migrations to and from the region.

S U B M I S S I O N S  A C C E P T E D  V I A :  

Religion and Sexuality Consultation
Catherine Roach, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, crouch@utcn.edu, R. Marie Griffith, Princeton University, griffith3@princeton.edu.

We invite proposals on religion and sexuality, broadly conceptualized, but focused on questions of why and how sex matters to religious persons, communities, or traditions. Topics may be historical or contemporary, and we especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches, interest in gender (broadly defined), and strong attention to theoretical and methodological issues. A multiplicity of topics and practices will be considered, examples of which may include polygamous relationships and complex marriage; debates over “free love” and celibacy; LGBT communities; prostitution and other forms of sex work; sex mysticism; censorship; pornography; erotica; sexual abuse scandals; or other current controversies in religion and sexuality. We welcome innovative program formats that allow for in-depth discussion, such as a roundtable panel on the state of research in the area of religion and sexuality or cross-cultural approaches to the topic.

S U B M I S S I O N S  A C C E P T E D  V I A :  

PARTICIPANT FORM 2009
(PREARRANGED SESSION)

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 Post Code Country

1. PROPOSED THEME OF SESSION:

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

2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNITS to which above participants may participate or to which they are also sending submissions, if any (list participant name and program unit):

3. PLANNED PARTICIPANTS for this session, in order of appearance:

Presider:

Panelists:

Respondent:

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:

LCD Projector w/Screen (Participant is responsible for supplying personal laptop).

Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests will not be accommodated. The AAR 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.

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 for download
Religion Education in Public Schools: International Perspectives Consultation
Bruce Grellie, California State University, Chico, bgrellie@csuchico.edu. Tim Jensen, University of Southern Denmark, tjensen@ifpr.sdu.dk.

This Consultation invites proposals on the following themes: 1) Religion education, dialogue, and conflict — we seek papers that respond to the REDCo project involving universities from eight European countries and funded by the European Commission; 2) Religion education and the promotion of freedom of religion and belief — we seek papers exploring the intersection of religion education and human rights; 3) Religion education and citizenship education — we seek papers that address theoretical, pedagogical, and political linkages between religion education and citizenship education in diverse international settings; 4) The education of religion education teachers — we seek papers that analyze and critique the manner in which religion education teachers are trained in disparate national settings, with a special interest in the relationship between religious studies/theology faculties and education faculties in the professional preparation of religion education teachers; and 5) An open call.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in Europe Consultation
Robert E. Alvis, Saint Meinrad School of Theology, sadvis@stmeinrad.edu. Andris Krawchuk, University of Sudbury, akrawchuk@sympatico.ca.

We are devoted to the analysis of religion in Europe or related to Europe. We welcome papers on any religion in any historical period, and encourage interdisciplinary, interreligious, and comparative approaches. This year, we especially seek proposals related to the following themes: 1) The meaning, identity, and limits of “Europe”; 2) The relationship between religion and law in European history; 3) Continuity and change in theological/ethical thought; 4) Contacts and exchanges between Europe, the Americas, and/or Africa; and 5) European disintegration twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. We welcome proposals that do not correspond to these themes, as well as proposals for complete sessions on European topics. Accepted proposals will be considered for publication in the Journal of Religion in Europe.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in Europe and the Mediterranean World, 500–1650 C.E. Consultation
Martha Newman, University of Texas, Austin, newman@mail.utexas.edu. Constance M. Furey, Indiana University, cfurey@indiana.edu.

The topic of this new Consultation is Monasteries, Madrasahs, and Metivats — centers of religious learning in Medieval Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. We seek to bring together scholars working on related topics in premodern Judaism, Islam, and Christianity in Europe and the Mediterranean world. For our inaugural session, the steering committee invites proposals that explore medieval Christian, Jewish, and Muslim institutions of learning (including, but not restricted to, questions of funding, topics of study, the student/teacher relationship, and their roles in the formation of “orthodoxy” in each institution), as well as the forms of knowledge they encourage (e.g., scholastic, mystical, and contemplative thought). Although the proposed papers need not be explicitly comparative, we especially encourage submissions that will elicit discussions of comparison and influence.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in Southeast Asia Consultation
Jason Carbine, Whittier College, jcarbine@whittier.edu. Son-Ching Low, Muhlenberg College, swong.lw@ muhlenberg.edu.

The theme for this year’s session is Southeast Asian religion — local and global identities. We invite individual paper and panel submissions that address the following questions: To what degree are Southeast Asian religious cultures defined by global identities? Or, do local religious identities dominate religious thinking and practice? We welcome submissions that explore these questions in light of such topics as the relation of media to religion; the development of religious movements across borders; the interactions between religious communities; the growth of new, personalized, and global models of contemplative practice that relocate religious identity; and, the interplay of authority and power among ordinary people and elites, both national and transnational. We will also consider complete panel submissions on other topics concerning Southeast Asian religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Memory, and History Consultation
Anne Murphy, University of British Columbia, anne.murphy@ubc.ca. Christian Lee Noverede, University of Washington, noverede@uw.edu. David Reinharz, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, reinharz@uw.edu.

(continued on next page)

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail
= OP3
= E-mail
= E-mail with attachment

January 2009 RSN • 17
Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Premodern Christianity Consultation
Carly Daniel-Hughes, Concordia University, cdanielhughes@gmail.com, Benjamin Byth, Fordham University, bbyth@fordham.edu.
We invite proposals that explore shifting conceptions and/or practices of sex, gender, and sexuality in Christianity prior to the Reformation. Papers that consider theoretical approaches to this nexus of issues are also encouraged. This year, we especially welcome papers that examine the use of scripture in relation to these topics. How did premodern Christians engage the hermeneutical tensions and possibilities entailed in the biblical text around sexual practice and embodiment? In what ways did scripture function as a tool for premodern people to articulate sexual difference and its implications?
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Consultation
Jeeanne Halgren Kilde, University of Minnesota, jkilde@umn.edu, Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College, primiano@cabrini.edu.
We seek paper proposals from scholars of diverse traditions and time periods, who explore space or place as constitutive components 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 the structures of power embedded in religious spaces or in the social formations mapped onto religious spaces; and the construction, sacralization, or use of religious spaces or landscapes by migrant or diasporic groups. Other topics appropriate to our purpose statement will be considered. We encourage submissions that take a comparative approach across traditions or time periods or that can be paired with others to suggest enlightening comparisons or disjunctures in content, method, or theory.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Theology and the Political Consultation
Hent de Vries, Johns Hopkins University, hentdevries@jhu.edu, Casey D. B. Walker, Brown University, calwaller@brown.edu.
This Consultation provides a forum for religious studies scholars, philosophers, and theologians to critically reflect on different conceptions of the “political” and draw out the theoretical and practical significance for the tasks of theology. We invite paper proposals that address the theme of aesthetics, ethics, and the politics of theology. We are particularly interested in papers that critically examine the cultural, historical, and philosophical aspects of discourses of aesthetics and ethics as related to historic and contemporary elaborations of political theology and religious theory. We strongly encourage paper proposals that approach this year’s theme from an interdisciplinary and international perspective.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Consultation
Shannon Craigo-Snell, Yale University, shannon.craigo-snell@yale.edu.
This Consultation offers a forum for developing transformative strategies for integrating spirituality and pedagogy. It includes learning in conversation with activist communities, and allowing our understandings of religious traditions, culture, and theology itself to be shaped by such engagement. We welcome presentations that focus on religion, scholarship, and activism in various geographical, cultural, and methodological localities. Specifically, we invite proposals that address engaged ways of teaching global/localization in a North American context; the ethics of educational immersion trips and of service learning, in particular those regarding issues of accountability towards the community visited and students’ continued accountability; and the biblical, theological basis for practices of hospitality for transformation. Nontraditional forms of presentation are encouraged, including teaching sessions and activist speaking engagements.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religious Conversions Consultation
Linda Mercadante, Methodist Theological School, Ohio, lmercadante@mtso.edu. Alex Hwang, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a hwang@lpts.edu.
This Consultation invites proposals on religious conversions, broadly construed, from a variety of methodological paradigms. We aim to study the full spectrum of issues related to religious conversions, in any historical or geographic context, inclusive of different forms of religious belief and practice. Investigations into the causes, consequences, and implications of religious conversions are welcome. We seek disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Submissions may be for integrated panel sessions or individual papers.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Scriptural/Contextual Ethics Consultation
David P. Gushee, Mercer University, gushee_dp@mercer.edu; Amy Laura Hall, Duke University, alhall@div.duke.edu.
Convening with the enemy? This Consultation requests paper proposals that attend closely to scriptural text and context on enemies, conflict, reconciliation, and risk. Our interests are both historical and normative. Therefore, we seek papers that move either from scripture to contemporary ethics, or from ethics to scriptural interpretation. A preferred panel will represent multiple disciplines and scripturally oriented faiths, such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Papers must speak directly to a particular scriptural text and emerge from a particular faith tradition, rather than being general or comparative. For a convened session with the Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group, we welcome submissions on Kierkegaard, violence, and the sacred — Muslim, Jewish, and Christian interpretations of the near sacrifice of Abrahamic son.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Sociology of Religion Consultation
Titus Hjelm, University College London, tj_hjelm@ucl.ac.uk.
We provide a forum for the micro-, meso-, and macro-analysis of religious phenomena through quantitative or qualitative sociological methods and sociological theory. The themes are: 1) Religion and Veblen’s Theory of the Leisure Class — does “conspecific consumption” clarify religious practice and organization? 2) Macro understandings of spirituality — how do survey and polling questions operationalize spirituality? 3) How do we measure the impact of religious groups and networks in the public mobilization on the defense of marriage acts, California’s Proposition 8, and the legal rights of GLBTQs globally; what are the discourses of mobilization? and 4) Canada — the state of the nation and its religious practices, individual submissions on these topics or submissions for full sessions (3–4 papers) on either these topics or aspects of a single material theme with mixed methods and/or scale falling within our program mandate are encouraged.
SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Women of Color in Teaching, and Activism Consultation
Katie Cannon, Union Theological Seminary, kcannon@union.edu, Andrea Smith, University of Michigan, anarbor, mangosteen366@gmail.com.
We invite individual papers and group proposals on any aspect of women of color scholarship, teaching, and activism. We especially encourage proposals in the following areas: 1) Tensions and solidarities between US women of color and...
international women (such as between Asian-American women and Asian women globally); 2) Intersections of racism, sexism, and Christian supremacy; 3) Women of color in Canada, especially Québec; 4) Reconceptualizing our disciplines from the intersections of race, gender, class, and sexuality; 5) Moving from part into whole — research, teaching, and activism beyond fragmented identities; and 6) Beyond multiculturalism and identity politics — unexpected allies, unexpected opponents.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation
Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, cchapple@lmu.edu
Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Northwestern University, s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu.

This 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 and theology, and cultural studies. Suggested topics for 2009 include: 1) Yoga in Abhidharma and Mahāyāna literature; 2) Women and yoga; 3) Jaina yoga; 4) Yoga in non-Asian traditions; 5) Anti-yoga movements; 6) Yoga in literary contexts; 7) Taoist yoga; and 8) Yoga biographies and autobiographies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Yogācāra Studies Consultation
Charles Muller, University of Tokyo, acmuller@acs.or.jp; Dan Lusthaus, Yogacara Association, Yogacare_asoc@ btopenmail.com.

This Consultation seeks group or individual proposals on: 1) Yogācāra theories of consciousness; 2) Yogācāra structure of causation; 3) Yogācāra and other religious systems; 4) Yogācāra and modern cognitive theory; 5) Yogācāra and theories of signs; 6) Revivals of Yogācāra in modern East Asia; 7) Yogācāra and phenomenology; 8) Yogācāra and genetic theory; 9) Yogācāra and theories of logic; 10) Defilement/purity as the source of the mind; 11) The meaning and function of seeds (bīja) in the Store Consciousness; 12) The problem of the existence of the external world; and 13) The three natures of cognition.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Keep in mind throughout the year...

The Association of Religion Data Archives
www.theARDA.com
Authoritative Information Made Accessible

Educators...Explore Our New Learning Center:
Downloadable Exercises
Glossary of Religion
Compare Yourself Survey
Community Profile

Other ARDA Resources:
National Profiles
Membership Reports and Maps
QuickStats & QuickLists
American Denominations
Data Archive

Checklists

Individual Proposals
☑ Proposal being sent via proper method
☑ Current membership for 2009
☑ Completed Participant Form (not necessary in OP3)
☑ Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)
☑ Abstract, in electronic format (150 words or fewer)

Prearranged Paper/Panel Session Proposals
☑ Proposal being sent via proper method
☑ Current 2009 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

Online at www.aarweb.org/Publications/In_the_Field/submit1.asp
Job Postings: A members-only publication, Job Postings lists 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
**Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts**

**Promises and Contradictions**

Edited by

Mary R. Sweeney
Stephen D. Brownfield

Published by

KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY

1725 Krieger Drive, Malabar, Florida 32950

(321) 724-9542 • Fax: (321) 951-3671

www.krieger-publishing.com

**Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts**

explores the dynamics, prin-

ciples, contradictions and tensions of teaching within theological con-

texts. It offers practical suggestions on modeling pastoral leadership,

building trust with learners, negoti-

ating the dynamics of team-teaching, questioning received truth, teaching

through discussions, working with
diversities, and building a culture of

reflective teaching.

To place your order or request a complimentary examination copy call

1-800-724-0025

or e-mail us at: info@krieger-publishing.com

ISBN 1-57524-248-2 $48.25

**History of Religion in Québec**

Solange Lefebvre, Université de Montréal

From the perspective of comparativ-

e research, the history of Québec

presents many fascinating aspects: It

is a laboratory for the study of a web of

relations connecting Roman Catholicism and ethnicity; Protestantism; colonialism and postcolonial-

ism; statehood and nationalism; and religious
diversity. It also presents many paradoxes:

Christian faith lived as a deep and sometimes extreme mysticism as well as through a

staunch commitment to social involvement;

passionate liberalism coupled with a highly

structured conservative/ultramontanism stance;

high-profile performance on the global reli-

gious scene (religious orders, influential bish-

ops, motivated lay movements) in sharp con-

trast to a spectacular drop in religious practice

after the 1970s. Québec is also considered an

exception in North America because of its

limited pluralism. Most people in Québec speak

French and are Roman Catholics of French

ancestry — all factors that set this area apart

from the rest of North America, whereas its

strong Catholic majority makes it more like

France, Spain, Ireland, Poland, or Italy. Its his-

tory has, until recently, been guided by a sense of

a collective identity deeply rooted in faith-

fulness to God as expressed in the tenets and

practices of Catholicism. In Québec, we do

find other well-established groups such as

Irish-Catholics, Anglicans, and various

Protestant congregations, as well as a sizeable

Jewish community that traces its presence back

to the nineteenth century.

But, of course, French Catholics did not move

onto the American religious scene without

a struggle. Wherever they went, they

ran into Catholic aboriginal peoples, a variety of

societies large and small. From the

very beginning, the French sought to convert

the ‘Indians’ to Roman Catholics. However,

historical studies remind us that the

First Nations did not insist on spiritual exclu-

sion. So, today, the province’s population also

includes a number of indigenous societies

which, though mostly Christian, still maintain

some loyalty to traditional spirituality.

For a time during the seventeenth century, the

Roman Catholic Diocese of Québec covered

all of North America and ministered to a
great variety of cultural groups. That is why,

throughout the United States and Canada,
one finds so many traces of French culture,

notably reflected in city names such as

Detroit and New Orleans. French colonists

arrived in the “New World,” hoping to establish New

France, and French religious orders would try
to create a Christian utopia. However, the

French church in America was strong and

varied. Some historians see in this growth of

religious forces the triumph of ecclesiastic elites over those

upholding the liberal revolution. Others interpret

this religious revival as an attempt to respond to the deep crisis that plagued Lower

Canada (the name originally given to the

province of Québec, as distinguished from Upper

Canada, or modern Ontario, its neighbor-

ing province) at the time. These crises loomed on all fronts: economic, political,
demographic, cultural, and religious. It is also

during this period that Roman Catholicism and

French Canadian identity fused to encompass every dimension of life.

As in the majority of Western countries, the

Cultural Revolution of the 1950s and 1960s

arose in Québec as an outcome of the post-

World War II era of prosperity and its baby

boom. Let me mention, however, that Québec
again distinguishes itself from other Western
nations in the size of its baby boom and the rapidity with which its institutions and values

are secularized. In this respect, the so-called Quiet Revolution was,

after all, quite brutal. One must see this race to secularize in the context of a mindset that

assumes almost mythical proportions in Québec — the ideology of “making up for lost

time.” This ideology drove Québec to emerge from the self-fueling ashes of its loyalty to

Christianity with phenomenal rapidity, put-

ting on the mantle of modernity with a

remarkable flourish. Although the weight of religious tradition had strongly marked its

values and social life for generations, the peo-

ple of Québec, quite independently of their religious views, had, for some decades, already

been constructing new models with regard to

industry and scientific progress.

Owing to immigration and globalization, the

hitherto airtight barrier between Anglo-

Protestants and Roman Catholics has recently

shifted. The Greater Montréal region includes

one of the largest Jewish communities in

North America, with its own public services,
hospitals, and schools, as well as its own well-
documented history. Finally, religion is

presently a dominant identity-forming factor

in Montréal’s pockets of new immigrants, be

they Christians of varied origins (particularly from the Middle East and the South), Asians

from an Oriental religious background, or

Muslims.

The Canadian and Quebec charters of rights

(1982, 1975) changed the dynamic regarding religious minorities and majorities, individuals,

and religious groups. Consequently, two com-
misions were set since the 1970s, one on reli-
gious education, and the other on reasonable accommodation of other religions in rela-

tion. These debates are quite revealing of the

situation of religion in the province, and may

allow us some insight into the relationship of

Québec to religion in general and to particular

religions, within the debate on multiculti-

uralism. In both cases, an “open secularity” was

proposed. The first commission advocated

the withdrawal of the privileges given until then

only to the Catholic and Protestant communi-

ties. It based its arguments on the respect of fundamental human rights, which demand

the recognition of equality among all citizens and of freedom of conscience and of reli-

gion. The principles examined during the second

commission arrived at similar conclusions.

Within such a fascinating and rich context, research on the history of religion in Québec has

flourished in many directions and in many disciplines. It has shifted from the history of

the Church to the social history of religion and now covers a broad range of topics, methods,

and theoretical references: geography, class,

age and generation, popular religion, mis-

sions, mystical, religious communities, Catholic movements, religious heritage and education, sacred art, and so on.

The Annual Meeting of the AAR to be held in

Montréal in November 2009 will provide

numerous possibilities for attendees to learn

more about the unique and dynamic religious history of Québec in a workshop dedicated to

the subject. Please refer to the 2009 Programs

Planner and Program Book for more informa-
tion about this event.
John Templeton Foundation recently awarded a 2008 National Humanities Medal

President George W. Bush recently awarded a prestigious National Humanities Medal for 2008 to the John Templeton Foundation in recognition for "opening new frontiers in the pursuit of answers to mankind’s oldest questions. The Templeton Foundation has been the catalyst of groundbreaking work in scientific, religious, and philosophical exploration of the deepest concerns of the humanities and the human race.” The National Humanities Medal, first awarded in 1989 as the Charles Frankel Prize, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens’ engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans’ access to important resources in the humanities. The Humanities Medal is the most prestigious award in the humanities. Over the last decade, including 2008 recipients, the National Humanities Medal has been awarded to only 107 individuals and 9 organizations. Medal recipients do not compete for this award but are specially selected by the President for their lifelong achievements in their diverse areas of expertise.

Wabash College Receives $8.1 Million Grant to Extend Wabash Center's Work

Wabash College has received an $8.1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that will continue the work of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion through June 30, 2012. Founded in 1996, the Wabash Center hosts workshops and conferences, makes institutional and individual grants, provides trained consultants for religion and theology faculty, and provides print and Web resources to encourage excellence in teaching and learning. While the 2009-2012 grant will fund many ongoing programs, the Wabash Center will also launch a number of new initiatives related to its mission.

William C. Placher, Wabash College, Passes Away

Wabash College’s LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, William C. Placher, has died at the age of sixty. "Bill was one of the most influential and revered professors at Wabash,” said College President Patrick White. A graduate of Wabash in 1970, Placher earned his master’s degree from Yale University in 1974 and completed his PhD in 1975, also at Yale. Placher was in his thirty-fourth year of teaching at Wabash College. He was the author of thirteen books and numerous essays, articles, and reviews. Placher was awarded the AAR Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002.

JAAR Call for Papers

The Return of Religion after “Religion”: Consequences for Theology and Religious Studies

Talk about the return of religion continues to be omnipresent in public conversation and within a variety of academic fields. Along with this talk about religion’s return has come a new attention to theology. Indeed, the centrality of theology is evident in the work of scholars who are not themselves theologians (the work of Agamben, Badiou, and Zizek on political theology; Eric Santner’s notion of psychotheology; the attention to theology in recent American political philosophy in William Connolly’s Why I Am Not a Secularist and Jeffrey Stout’s Democracy and Tradition). However, public talk about the return of religion is taking place at precisely the same time as we see within the academic study of religion a sharp genealogical critique of the category “religion” from both theologians (Milbank) and scholars of religion (Asad, Balangadurah, Dubuissorn, King, and Masuzawa). The category is now under fire as essentialist, provincialistic, and imbedded in colonial projects and the like.

What are we to make of this juxtaposition? How are we to think about the prominence of public discourse about religion precisely when the category is under fire within the academic study of religion? JAAR invites proposals for a special issue that critically examines the return of religion after “religion” and its consequences for both theology and religious studies. What is the meaning of the “return of religion” for theology and religious studies more broadly? How might genealogical interrogations of the category “religion” by theologians and religious studies scholars reconfigure both fields? How do we think these two questions together? How will the growing prominence of religious voices in the public space reshape our ideas about theological reflection and the work of religious studies more broadly? What obligations fall to theologians and religious studies scholars in an era in which religion is an integral and contested aspect of public discourse? How do both scholarly communities take up this nexus of issues in a context marked by robust religious diversity?

Deadline for submission is Monday, June 1, 2009. Please submit papers to: Journal of the American Academy of Religion Department of Religious Studies PO Box 400126 University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA 22904-4126 Please direct queries to jaar@virginia.edu

Religion and Reasons: Justification, Argument, and Cultural Difference

Are religious reasons similar to or fundamentally different from scientific and scholarly reasons? The JAAR invites papers that explore the features of reason, justification, and legitimation in religious contexts. Religions provide many kinds of reasons for belief and action. Much attention, for example, has been given to the forms of reasoning embedded in cultural forms labeled as “magic” and “divination,” and similar issues arise for a host of other practices, including textual exegetes.

Do particular examples of religious reasoning bring fundamental problems for understanding across cultures or conceptual schemes? How are reasons, whether religious or scientific, implicated in contestations for influence or power? Does consideration of religious reasoning challenge contemporary academic understandings of what counts as reason or rationality? Topics may include but are limited to:

- The roles of extraordinary states (such as mysticism, shamanism, possession, and paranormal phenomena) in discovering and legitimating both knowledge and norms for practice;
- The persuasive dimensions of performative practices, including dance and theater;
- The philosophical grounds for argumentation, rhetoric, and cross-cultural interpretation; and
- The complexities in accounts of Western, scientific, or scholarly reasoning that are contrasted with religious reasoning. We particularly encourage papers that offer both specific case studies and theoretical reflections.

Deadline for submission is Monday, August 5, 2009. Please submit papers to:
Journal of the American Academy of Religion Department of Religious Studies PO Box 400126 University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA 22904-4126 Please direct queries to jaar@virginia.edu.
Election Results

President: Mark Juergensmeyer
President-Elect: Ann Taves
Vice President: Kwok Pui Lan

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce the results of the election for 2009. A total of 1,948 votes were cast.

New Director of Technology Services

STEPHEN ELEY joined the AAR in August 2008, bringing with him twelve years of experience in information technology consulting. He has worked as a senior consultant at the North Highland Company, a project supervisor in the international finance group at UPS, and a developer at several growing start-ups. His strengths are enterprise integration, Web-based analysis and development, and bridging the communications gap between technologists and experts in other fields.

As Director of Technology, Eley looks forward to the challenge of expanding the AAR’s capabilities on the Web. His mission statement for technology within the American Academy of Religion is “to provide tools and presentations that will make members, staff, and the public feel good about their interaction with the AAR.”

Eley has lived in the Atlanta area since matriculating at Georgia Tech in 1992. He is married with one child.

GLOBAL DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY

A Resource for the Worldwide Church
Edited by William A. Dyrness, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Juan Francisco Martinez and Simon Chan

Inspired by the shift of the center of Christianity from the West to the Global South, this dictionary features over 100 international contributors—including Jurgen Moltmann, Ellen Chuary, Emmanuel Katongole, Nancy Murphey and Robert Schreiter—who span the global spectrum of theological perspectives.

“A sound basis for thinking about coming changes in the shape of the Christian world.”
—Philip Jenkins, Pennsylvania State University

“All those interested in the future of theology and the church will find this work to be an indispensable resource.”
—John R. Franke, Biblical Seminary

“Unlike most dictionaries, it should be read cover to cover, and more than once.”
—Dana L. Robert, Boston University School of Theology

996 pages, cloth, 978-0-8308-2454-0, $50.00

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

AAR offers three membership categories including professional, student, and retired.

Membership in the American Academy of Religion is based on a calendar year, from January 1 to December 31. Dues are determined by annual income. The rates can be found on a current membership form or as you join/renew online. Those living outside the United States must pay a $10 international mailing fee.

Discounts are offered to those who are current students, retired, hold current membership in the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), or make less than a specified amount and live outside the United States. There are three convenient ways to join or renew your membership:

1. ONLINE (www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues)
2. MEMBERSHIP FORM (Download a form from: www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues)
3. PHONE (Call the office at 404-727-3049 on Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm)

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AAR PUBLICATIONS

Institutions may subscribe to JAAR and/or RSN.

For JAAR, see Oxford University Press at www.oxfordebooks.org/journals/subscribe_purchaseprice_ﬁle.html.

Contact OUP in North America at 1-800-852-7323 or elsewhere at +44 (0) 1865 353907.

For RSN, see American Academy of Religion at www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN or contact 404-727-3059.

Redefining Theology for a Worldwide Church

AAR
We Value Our Members, Join Us!

With more than 11,000 members, the American Academy of Religion (AAR) is the world’s largest organization serving teachers, scholars, and other professionals in the field of religion. AAR members are affiliated with institutions of higher education, and are also media and publishing professionals, clergy, independent scholars, high school teachers, and non-profit community workers. The professional diversity of the AAR’s membership reflects the substantial and growing role religion plays in the lives of individuals and communities as well as social, political, and economic events worldwide.

Membership in the AAR provides you with a spectrum of opportunities to both enrich your professional life and contribute to the field.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

AAR offers three membership categories including professional, student, and retired.

Membership in the American Academy of Religion is based on a calendar year, from January 1 to December 31. Dues are determined by annual income. The rates can be found on a current membership form or as you join/renew online. Those living outside the United States must pay a $10 international mailing fee.

Discounts are offered to those who are current students, retired, hold current membership in the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), or make less than a specified amount and live outside the United States. There are three convenient ways to join or renew your membership:

1. ONLINE (www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues)
2. MEMBERSHIP FORM (Download a form from: www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues)
3. PHONE (Call the office at 404-727-3049 on Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm)

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AAR PUBLICATIONS

Institutions may subscribe to JAAR and/or RSN.

For JAAR, see Oxford University Press at www.oxfordebooks.org/journals/subscribe_purchaseprice_ﬁle.html.

Contact OUP in North America at 1-800-852-7323 or elsewhere at +44 (0) 1865 353907.

For RSN, see American Academy of Religion at www.aarweb.org/Publications/RSN or contact 404-727-3059.
The AAR invites nominations for the Religion and the Arts Award

The 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 2009 award, nominations must be made by February 28, 2009, and sent to Brent Plate, Dept. of Religious Studies, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 13323, USA. Electronic submissions can be sent to: splat@hamilton.edu.

Join Online Today!
www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues/
MEMBERSHIP FORM
2009 Calendar Year

Contact Information: Enter Contact Information, Complete All Sections to Avoid Errors.

- Dr., Prof. Name:
- Ms., Mrs.
- Other:
- Mailing Address:
- City: ___________ State/Province: ___________ Postal Code: ___________
- Country: ___________ Office Phone: ___________ Home Phone: ___________
- Cell Phone: ___________ E-mail: ___________

Privacy Preferences: Members-only database online: 
- Omit All (only name/inst. printed)
- Omit address
- Omit home #
- Omit office #
- Omit E-mail

Membership List: AAR retains the membership list (excluding e-mail) to respected publishers and exhibitors under strict guidelines. Exclude me from this list.

Choose Your Membership Status

- Renewal
- Member ID # ___________
- Joining as a new member

Choose Your Membership Category

- Professional
- Student
- Retired

Choose Dues Rate and Applicable Discount. Please Follow Directions Below to Avoid Errors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Income</th>
<th>Professional</th>
<th>Professional w/SBL Discount</th>
<th>Retired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$210,000</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$1156</td>
<td>$156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$105,000 - $119,000</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $104,000</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $50,000</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$108</td>
<td>$108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000 - $40,000</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$92</td>
<td>$92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 - $30,000</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dues based on annual income
- Flat fee of $80
- Dues based on annual income minus 20% discount

** You must attach a copy of your current student ID card the first time you join. Student membership can be renewed for up to 10 years.

Choose Method of Payment

Payment must be in full and in U.S. dollars from a U.S. or Canadian bank.
- VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express
- Check or Money Order (payable to American Academy of Religion)
- Scholarly Book Series
- Research Grants
- Employment Information Services
- Advancing the Public Understanding of Religion

Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2009?

You can check on your status at www.aarweb.org/members/my_account. If you have renewed, save time and paper by joining online at www.aarweb.org/members/dues.

Also, you can either send in the form at left or download one from the AAR website at 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
- Employment Information Services
- Scholarly Book Series
- Advancing the Public Understanding of Religion
Upcoming conference from Social Research:

THE RELIGIOUS—SECULAR DIVIDE:
THE U.S. CASE
March 5 and 6, 2009
at The New School in New York City

Noah Feldman, George Kateb, Richard J. Bernstein, and José Casanova
on religious, political, philosophical origins of the secular

David Martin, Peter van der Veer, William E. Connolly, and Daniel C. Dennett
on religious selves and secular selves

Keynote Address: CHARLES TAYLOR on the polysemy of the secular

John T. Noonan, Jr., Winnifred Sullivan, James A. Morone
on religion, politics, and the democratic state

David L. Chappell, Susan F. Harding, Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, and James Davison Hunter
on moral crusades then and now

Sheila Davaney, Mark Lilla, Michael W. McConnell, and Charles Taylor
on the future of religion and the future of secularism

Tickets: $50, $12/session (student and alumni discounts are available)
Contact: socres@newschool.edu or 212-229-5776 x3121