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### **In the Public Interest**

The Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion sponsors this column in order to deepen scholarly understanding of the role of religion in public life and to encourage engagement between religion scholars and the public. The Committee encourages proposals from AAR members interested in writing an article for the column, which may include comment on religion and the media, public policy, or law, or on other topics related to religion and public life. If interested, please e-mail Steve Herrick at [sherrick@aar.org](mailto:sherrick@aar.org). This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it with a paragraph summarizing your proposed topic and approach.

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### **Beyond Academe**

In an effort to explore the full range of career opportunities for those trained in religious studies, Religious Studies News, in conjunction with the AAR's Job Placement Task Force, has initiated a new, regularly appearing column exploring religious studies careers outside of academia. In coming issues, columns will share first-person accounts of possibilities and challenges for scholars of religion beyond faculty roles. If you have pursued such a career path and would like to share your story, or if you know of someone who has done so, please contact the chair of the Job Placement Task Force, Tim Renick, at [trerrick@aar.org](mailto:trerrick@aar.org). This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

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### **Not for Women Only**

Welcome to a new column sponsored by the AAR's Status of Women in the Profession Committee. This column will examine the political and professional issues that affect women — but not just women — in the academy. It will be published in the March and October issues of *RSN*.

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### **Research Briefing**

Since 1992, the AAR has awarded individual and collaborative grants to our members to support important aspects of research, including travel to archives and libraries, research assistance, field work, and released time. The Research Briefing column highlights research undertaken with assistance from our grant program. For more information about the program, visit the [AAR website](http://www.aar.org) .

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### [From the Student Desk](#)

This column is a forum for student members of the AAR to share practical and professional advice, commiserate about the trials and tribulations of the graduate student life, and reflect on the personal and existential questions it raises. From the Student Desk is always seeking submissions of approximately 900 words; a wide variety of themes is encouraged. To submit an essay or to ask a question, e-mail Carl Hughes at [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .