

Friday, November 22, 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Jenna Supp-Montgomerie, Auburn Media and University of North Carolina, Ann M. Burlein, Hofstra University, and Kathleen Foody, College of Charleston, Presiding

The 2013 Religion and Media Workshop will survey the mutually constitutive relationships between religion, publics, and the art of persuasion. The Religion and Media Workshop, one of the most popular sessions at the AAR annually, is a daylong seminar designed to foster collaborative conversation at the cutting-edge of the study of religion, media, and culture. We invite you to join us for a master class on the productive power and possible pitfalls of persuasion.

This year's workshop will explore the practices and histories of persuasion in the constitution of religious publics. We will pay particular attention to concerns within the academy over religion's persuasive power and the push to police the boundaries of the secular study of religion.

The workshop will not be structured as a traditional paper session, but rather as a participatory master class in publics, persuasion, and religion. Three to five readings will be circulated to participants before the event. Because of the nature of this collaborative workshop, it is essential that all participants commit to studying the readings ahead of time and prepare to participate in seminar-style conversation.

In the morning, the workshop participants will draw out key terms from the readings and identify a series of questions to organize the day. After lunch, journalists and media professionals will discuss the negotiation between persuasion and representation in their own practices of media production. Scholars in the field will then lead a conversation considering the relationship between persuasion, rhetoric, and the constitution of publics in Sikh traditions and American Evangelical communities. Finally, scholars will participate in a moderated question-and-answer session examining religious studies and its anxious relationship to persuasion and the secular study of religion. Participants will return to our organizing questions at the end of the day and collectively assess the practice of persuasion in the study of religion.

The master class will be led by:

- Laila al-Arian, producer for *Fault Lines*, a current affairs program at Al-Jazeera English
- Jason Bivins, North Carolina State University
- Tracy Fessenden, Arizona State University
- Christian Lundberg, University of North Carolina
- Arvind Mandair, University of Michigan
- Lisa Webster, coeditor of *Religion Dispatches*

The cost for the workshop is \$60, which includes a 24-hour on-site dinner and a 24-hour on-site registration.