

# 2007 Program Highlights (San Diego)

November 1-3, 2008  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

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## Plenary and Presidential Addresses



**A17-132**

**Saturday - 11:45 am-12:45 pm**



### Plenary Address

Theme: *The Covenant with Black America*

From his celebrated conversations with world figures, to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, as a broadcaster, author, advocate, and philanthropist, Tavis Smiley continues to be an outstanding voice for change. Smiley hosts the late night television talk show, *Tavis Smiley* on PBS, and radio show, *The Tavis Smiley Show* on Public Radio International, making him the first American ever to simultaneously host signature talk shows on both public television and public radio. He also created the Tavis Smiley Foundation, whose mission is to enlighten, encourage and empower black youth, as well as Tavis Smiley Presents, a subsidiary of The Smiley Group, Inc., that brings ideas and people together through symposiums, seminars, forums, and town hall meetings. In

addition, he has authored ten books, and he made publishing history when the book he edited, *The Covenant with Black America*, reached #1 on the New York Times bestseller list.



## **A17-404**

**Saturday - 7:45 pm-9:00 pm**



### **Plenary Address**

Theme: *Presidential Plenary and Awards Ceremony: The Folly of Secularism*

Jeffrey Stout is the author of *The Flight from Authority*, *Ethics after Babel*, and *Democracy and Tradition*, as well as co-editor of *Grammar and Grace: Reformulations of Aquinas and Wittgenstein*. He is now working on a sequel to *Democracy and Tradition*, tentatively titled *Walking in Our Sleep*. Stout's interests include theories of religion, religious and philosophical ethics, philosophy of religion, social criticism, political thought, modern theology, and film. He is a contributing editor of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*.



## **A18-226**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**



### **Plenary Address**

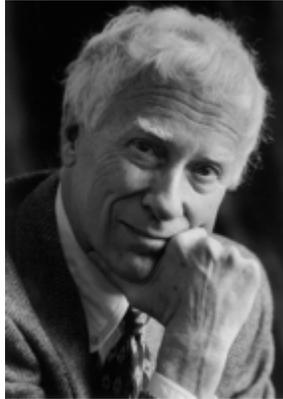
Theme: *Islamic Feminism*

Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow for US Foreign Policy and Director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program at the Council on Foreign Relations, will be interviewed by Zayn Kassam, Pomona College. Coleman's forthcoming book, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet: Islamic Feminism in the Middle East*, examines the role of women in bringing reform to the Muslim world—specifically in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—and in determining whether these societies can transition to functioning democracies with modern economies. She holds a D.Phil. in international relations from Oxford University and was an adjunct professor at American University. Dr. Kassam is the author of *Introduction to the World's Major Religions: Islam*, and she has published several articles, lectured widely, and is working on a book on gender issues in the Muslim world. Nelly Van Doorn-Harder, Valparaiso University, will preside. The program includes substantial time for questions from the audience.



## A18-402

Sunday - 7:15 pm-8:15 pm



### Plenary Address

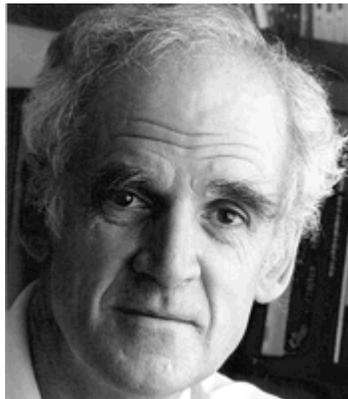
Theme: *How Social Justice Got to Me, and Why It Never Left*

Nicholas Wolterstorff received his B.A. from Calvin College in 1953 and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard University in 1956. Before taking up his current position as Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology at Yale, he taught for thirty years at his alma mater, Calvin College. After concentrating on metaphysics at the beginning of his career, he spent a good many years working primarily on aesthetics and philosophy of art. In more recent years, he has been concentrating on epistemology, philosophy of religion, and political philosophy. In the fall of 1993 he gave the Wilde Lectures at Oxford University, and in the spring of 1995 he gave the Gifford Lectures at St. Andrews University. He has been president of the American Philosophical Association (Central Division) and of the Society of Christian Philosophers.



## A18-403

Sunday - 8:15 pm-9:15 pm



### Plenary Address

Theme: *Religious Mobilizations*

Charles Taylor, Northwestern University and McGill University, is the 2007 Templeton Prize winner for his long-standing efforts to examine the role of spiritual thinking in modern society. His work is a standard in philosophy, theology, and the social sciences, and provides a map of the central issues of debate in the historical development of the understanding of the self and the relations between the religious and the secular. Taylor argues against the idea that the rational movement that began in the Enlightenment renders morality and spirituality as anachronisms. Problems such as violence and bigotry can only be solved by considering their secular and spiritual dimensions, and wholly depending on secularized viewpoints leads to fragmented, faulty results. Taylor insists that a narrow, reductive sociological approach wrongly denies the full account of how and why humans strive for meaning. Taylor's latest book, *A Secular Age*, was published by Harvard University Press.



## A19-300

Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm



### Plenary Address

Theme: *Making Sense by Comprehending Sensibility: A View of Chinese Religions*

Mu-chou Poo was born and educated in Taiwan, received a B.A. in History from National Taiwan University in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Egyptology from The Johns Hopkins University in 1984. He is a Research Fellow at the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, and adjunct professor at the Graduate Institute of Religion, National Cheng-chih University, Taipei. He has taught as visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, Columbia University, Grinnell College, and Hong Kong Chinese University. His research interests include society and religion in ancient Egypt and China. His recent research takes a comparative approach to ancient history and religion. He has published both in Chinese and English. Major English publications include *Wine and Wine Offering in the Religion of Ancient Egypt* (Kegan Paul International, 1995); *In Search of Personal Welfare: A View of Ancient Chinese Religion* (State University of New York Press, 1998); *Enemies of Civilization: Attitudes toward Foreigners in Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China* (State University of New York Press, 2005).



## A19-400

Monday - 7:15 pm-8:45 pm



### Plenary Address

Theme: *Welcoming the Stranger: Why Immigrants Are More Than a Luxury*

Ernesto J. Cortés, Jr. serves as Southwest regional director of the Chicago-based Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), and he has worked to organize communities in the poor neighborhoods of Texas and throughout the Southwest. In 1974, Cortes moved to San Antonio, his native city, where he founded the Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), the well-known and highly effective church-based grassroots organization. Possessed of a deep respect for the dignity of the people he seeks to help, he adheres to what he calls the "iron rule" of community activism: Never do for others what they can do for themselves. Rather than seek to impose an outsider's view of what a community needs, he helps citizens to

organize into trusting relationships and to develop the tools they need to exercise power on their own behalf. Ernesto Cortés has successfully translated his passion for justice into helping the politically disenfranchised of all races and faiths discover their political strength.

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## Pre-Conference Workshops



### **A16-100**

**Friday - 9:00 am-4:30 pm**

#### **Chairs Workshop: Best Practices: Diversifying Your Faculty – Honest Conversations**

Sponsored by the Academic Relations Committee and the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee

The workshop will deal with issues on how to diversify the academic institution, specifically the student body and the administration. Based on the *Career Guide for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession*, the program will be an honest and open discussion on good practices to follow along with pitfalls to avoid. Plenary, panels, and interactive break-out sessions will be featured. Featured speakers include Sharon Watson Fluker, Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Edwin Aponte, and Fumitaka Matsuoka. Breakout sessions will be led by Edwin Aponte, Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Akintude Akinade, and Miguel A. De La Torre.



### **A16-101**

**Friday - 9:00 am-4:30 pm**

#### **Leadership Workshop: The Religion Major and Liberal Education**

Amid changing global and academic contexts, what is the nature and role of the religion major? What are its goals, and how do they relate to the goals of a liberal education? How do we know if we are succeeding in meeting these goals? The workshop will bring together a distinguished group of experts to lead a day-long and interactive discussion of the religion major. Through plenaries, panels, and breakout sections, participants will explore and share challenges, best practices, success stories, and failures. The workshop is part of an eighteen-month-long joint AAR/Teagle Foundation project to study the religion major.

Preliminary Agenda:

Introduction: Why Religious Studies?

Establishing the Religious Studies Major: Stories from the Trenches (interactive session)

Religious Studies Across the Curriculum: The Interdisciplinary Nature of the Major (panel discussion)

Lunch

The Major in Different Institutional Contexts/Different Models for the Major (interactive session)

What has worked? What has not? (panel discussion followed by a break-out session)

Summary: What Have We Learned (as a Discipline and Today)?

The workshop will be of benefit to a range of participants: faculty, administrators, and graduate students. The goal is to bring a diverse group of AAR members together in an lively and open discussion about what it means to major in religion, what our field contributes (and should contribute) to the education of our students, and how we can be better at what we do.



## **A16-104**

**Friday - 10:00 am-6:00 pm**

### **Religion and Media Workshop: Religion and New Media -- Old Tools or New Trajectories?**

From stone tablets to scrolls, printing presses to the Internet, artists, journalists, and believers of all stripes have used the advanced technology of their age. However, the question arises as to whether these new media are merely tools, or actually arbiters of religious change itself. This day-long workshop begins with questions such as: How is the representation of religion effected in new media incarnations, from the Internet to gaming? How is new media changing traditional journalism, and what are the effects on religion reporting? Could new media even be changing religion itself, in terms of what it means to those who practice it--or even how it is practiced? These are some of the issues covered in presentations by Jeff Sharlet (writer/editor of *The Revealer*, *Harpers*, *Rolling Stone*; Eddo Stern (Game Designer; Tracy Fullerton (Game Designer, USC); Ryan Bolger (co-author, *Emerging Churches*); and Heidi Campbell (author, *When Religion Meets New Media*).



## **A16-105**

**Friday - 12:00 pm-3:00 pm**

## **Women's Caucus Workshop**

Sponsored by the Women's Caucus

Includes three mini-sessions on Strategies for Women in the Profession, Women and Online Teaching, and Women in the Classroom.



### **A16-400**

**Friday - 7:00 pm-9:00 pm**

#### **EIS Center Orientation**

Sponsored by the EIS Advisory Committee

The EIS Center orientation will feature a short presentation which will include an overview of the center, an explanation of how to best utilize the center, and a question and answer session. After the presentation, the center will be open for use, with the exception of the Interview Hall. Employers will be able to review candidate credentials, leave messages for registered candidates, and make reservations for booth space. Candidates will be able to pick up their copy of the Annual Meetings Special Edition of *Openings*, and leave messages for employers. The center will also accepting onsite registrations at this time. Employers and candidates are encouraged to participate in orientation but are not required to attend.

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## **Special Topics Forums**



### **A17-100**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

#### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *What's My Job? Academic Citizenship and the Well-being of Schools, Departments, and Programs*

Sponsored by the Academic Relations Committee

Professors' jobs are often described as "three-legged stools," supported by scholarship, teaching, and "service." This session reframes "service" as "citizenship" and what it means to be a good citizen of the academy. Topics will include understanding and effectively engaging in shared governance, collaboration and collegiality, and representing the Academy in/to the public. As a special focus, we will ask about the impacts of the growing percentage of part-

time and temporary faculty members in our institutions (e.g., how does this affect the citizenship requirements of the shrinking tenure-line faculty, what citizenship responsibilities accompany part-time and temporary faculty work, what responsibilities do tenure line faculty have toward part-time and temporary faculty as fellow citizens of our institutions?).



## **A17-101**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Studies of World Religions in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan*

Sponsored by the International Connections Committee

Visiting scholars participating in the China Focus will speak about the state of the field in China in the study of various religious traditions, including Chinese religious traditions, Christianity, and Islam. The participants will include Archie Lee, Weichi Zhou, Yen-zen Tsai, and Mu-chou Poo. Kwok Pui Lan and Jin Hee Han will moderate the session.



## **A17-133**

**Saturday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *ATLA Career Alternatives Luncheon: Focus on Religion and Journalism*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee and American Theological Library Association

Students in religion and theology often find creative and rewarding career alternatives to the life of a professor. This year, our ongoing Career Alternatives series focuses on the intersection of religion and the media: what career opportunities exist for people interested in both religion and communicating ideas about religion using the expanding varieties of news media? Come listen to talented and experienced writers about their lives in religion and journalism.

AAR student members interested in attending must RSVP online ASAP (first-come, first-served basis) at [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/RSVP/ATLA/](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/RSVP/ATLA/). Online registration deadline is noon on Wednesday, November 15.



## **A17-200**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Introduction to the AAR*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee

The American Academy of Religion sponsors a broad umbrella of programs, affiliations, and sub-groups: the Theological Programs Initiative, mentoring programs for women and ethnic minorities, the Graduate Student Committee and Student Liaison Group, a multitude of associated regional meetings, the Employment Information Service, and various publishing enterprises, to name just a few. If you're confused by the AAR's alphabet soup (TPI, REM, SWP, GSC, SLG, EIS, and more) or if you've ever wondered what else the AAR does besides the annual meeting, come hear about the wide range of programs and opportunities for service offered to all AAR members.



**A17-201**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Sustainable Theological Education*

Sponsored by the AAR Academic Relations Committee, AAR Theological Education Steering Committee, and SBL

As the declining health of the earth reaches a critical point, religious people from a wide variety of traditions are beginning to respond. It has been forty years since Lynn White issued what many saw as a wake up call. Institutions of theological education should be providing vigorous, visionary leadership on this issue, but are they? Six of the prophetic voices that have encouraged both churches and seminaries to address the worsening ecological crisis have been asked to reflect on the significant role of theological education in leading the faith community to respond. What leadership can seminaries provide through scholarship, academic programs, community life, building and grounds, and institutional practices? What unique opportunities and challenges does theological education face in meeting the environmental challenge? Ample time will be allowed for discussion. See [www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org) for more on this session and what some schools are already doing.



**A17-300**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

## **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Interdisciplinary, Theoretical, and Ideological Implications of the AAR and SBL Split*

Sponsored by AAR Program Committee, AAR Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group, and SBL

This session examines the theoretical, ideological and interdisciplinary implications of the decision to discontinue joint meetings of the AAR and SBL. The four panelists reflect on the origin and history of the decades-long relation between these two important professional associations and implications of the upcoming shift in that relationship. This involves discussing the historical development of Religious and Biblical Studies as academic fields and of parallels and contrasts in their methodological and theoretical allegiances.



**A17-301**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

## **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Race and Environmental Justice*

Sponsored by the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee

This panel will explore the intersections between race and environmental justice. While the field of environmental ethics often raises themes of sustainable community, and nature/animal quality of life, religious and theological perspectives on how racism contributes to environmental injustice are not often addressed. Panelists will discuss theo-ethical perspectives on environmental racism by providing an overview of current discourse in the field, and discuss intersections between environmental racism, economic injustice and globalization. Methodologies from eco-feminist and eco-womanist perspectives will uncover parallel oppressions faced by women around the globe and endured by the earth. These perspectives as well as a critical Buddhist ethical response will offer new constructive models of earth-care that can be applied to resist environmental racism.



**A18-100**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

## **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Fifty Years of Women in the AAR and SBL: The Battles of Yesterday and*

*the Challenges of Tomorrow*

Sponsored by the AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee and the SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

Panelists Rebecca Alpert, Rita Nakashima Brock, Katie Cannon, Liz Clark, Kwok Pui Lan, Carolyn Osiek, Rosemary Radford Reuther, and emilie townes reflect on the successes of the past and the hopes for and challenges of the future. This Special Topics Forum is co-sponsored by the AAR Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession and the SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession.



## **A18-101**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Teaching the Introductory Theology Course in Theological Schools*

Sponsored by the Theological Education Steering Committee

What makes for a good Introduction to Theology course in the context of a theological school? Four theologians in different types of theological schools will share how they structure their courses -- syllabus and all -- and why they do it that way, what their goals are for the course, what pedagogical methods they have found most effective, what resources they have found useful, and how they assess whether the course achieves its goals.



## **A18-132**

**Sunday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Wabash Center and AAR Student Teacher Luncheon*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

The Wabash Center and AAR Graduate Student Committee cordially invites AAR and SBL graduate student members to this lunch gathering with experienced faculty mentors to share in a conversation about teaching. Attendance is limited to 75 students who RSVP. Interested students should read the [program description](#) to check eligibility before signing up.



## **A18-200**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *The Marty Forum: Robert N. Bellah*

Sponsored by the Public Understanding of Religion Committee

The recipient of the 2007 Martin Marty Award for contributions to the public understanding of religion is Robert N. Bellah, Elliott Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Bellah has authored or co-authored numerous influential books and articles in the sociology of religion, including *Beyond Belief*, *The Broken Covenant*, *The New Religious Consciousness*, *Varieties of Civil Religion and Uncivil Religion*, *Habits of the Heart* and *The Good Society*. The Marty Forum provides an informal setting in which Dr. Bellah will talk about his work with Professor of American Religion Randall Balmer and will engage in discussion with the audience.



## **A18-229**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *AAR Excellence in Teaching Forum: Stacey Floyd-Thomas, 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner*

Sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Committee

Join us for a conversation about teaching with Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Brite Divinity School, winner of the 2007 AAR Excellence in Teaching Award. Floyd-Thomas will post some of her teaching materials at [http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Teaching\\_Awards/](http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Teaching_Awards/) a few weeks before the Annual Meeting and will also be available for on-line exchanges during the time leading up to the Annual Meeting and for two weeks after the meeting.



## **A18-277**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *How to Propose a New AAR Program Unit*

Join the chair of the Program Committee and the AAR Annual Meeting Program Director for an informal chat about upcoming Annual Meeting initiatives as well as the guidelines and policies for proposing a new Annual Meeting program unit.



## **A18-300**

**Sunday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *The Tenure Book(s): How to Strategize Your Publications to Increase Your Chances of Tenure and Promotion*

Sponsored by AAR, SBL, and *Publishers Weekly*

In the good old days, tenure was a given if you pumped out a few well-received articles. Now, the expectation is sometimes for junior scholars to write two books and several articles, all of which need to make an impact in their field and be timed appropriately to help their tenure bids. As the bar is raised ever higher, how can junior faculty strategize their publications to further the goal of tenure? In this session, scholars from three different types of institutions will speak to the tenure expectations in their schools, while two editors from university presses will discuss the changing demands for the scholarly book in the marketplace. Questions addressed will include the following: How have scholarly expectations changed about the number and nature of pre-tenure publications? Do I need to publish a second book, and what does the second book have to be? How is it possible to publish two highly academic books when many prestigious university presses are seeking to acquire commercially appealing books over limited-audience scholarly monographs? How should I time my tenure book (or books) for maximum impact? How much is a revered university press imprimatur worth in getting tenure? Does an edited anthology count toward tenure? As always for the *Publishers Weekly* session, forty-five minutes will be allotted for audience questions.



## **A18-302**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *A Conversation with Bill Viola, 2007 AAR Religion and the Arts Award Winner*

Sponsored by the AAR Religion and the Arts Award Jury

Bill Viola is considered a pioneer in the medium of video art and is internationally recognized as one of today's leading artists. He has been

instrumental in the establishment of video as a vital form of contemporary art, and in so doing has helped to greatly expand its scope in terms of technology, content, and historical reach. Viola uses video to explore the phenomena of sense perception as an avenue to self-knowledge. His works focus on universal human experiences—birth, death, the unfolding of consciousness—and have roots in both Eastern and Western art as well as spiritual traditions, including Zen Buddhism, Islamic Sufism, and Christian mysticism. Using the inner language of subjective thoughts and collective memories, his videos communicate to a wide audience, allowing viewers to experience the work directly, and in their own personal way. In 1980, Viola lived in Japan for a year and a half on a Japan/U.S. cultural exchange fellowship where he studied Buddhism with Zen Master Daien. Viola has recorded mirages in the Sahara desert, studied animal consciousness at the San Diego Zoo, made a photographic study of Native American rock art sites, traveled for five months in the American Southwest recording nocturnal desert landscapes with special cameras, and most recently went to Dharamsala, India to record a prayer blessing with the Dalai Lama.



## **A18-303**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Roundtable on The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*

Sponsored by the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

Published in 2005, *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* offers a rich and wide-ranging study of the relationships between humans, their religions, and their natural environments. This roundtable discussion provides an opportunity for various critical reflections on the aims of the Encyclopedia, the material and methodological advances it offers, and the challenges it faces and/or uncovers for future scholarship.



## **A19-100**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Daoist Studies in China*

Sponsored by the International Connections Committee

Leading Chinese and non-Chinese scholars will consider the state of Daoist studies within China and abroad today.



## **A19-101**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Teaching with, against, and to Faith*

Sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Committee

This panel will discuss the impact of faith issues in the religion classroom, in both religious studies and theological settings. The panelists will give short presentations on the question: how does your own, your students', your community's and your institution's religious commitments or lack of thereof influence your teaching? Panelists will also articulate a specific strategy that they employ in dealing with faith issues.



## **A19-201**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Religion and Education in Europe: The REDCo Research Project*

Sponsored by the Religion in the Schools Task Force

The European Union commissioned a three-year study (2006-2009) of the impact of teaching about religion in the schools across Europe to assess whether learning about religion in specific national contexts promotes dialogue and/or conflict. The study targets students between the ages of 14-16 in eight European countries and focuses on 1) students own perceptions of the role of religion in promoting conflict and/or dialogue and 2) an analysis of observed teaching practices in both dialogue and conflict situations. Wolfram Weisse from the University of Hamburg is the project leader and the following eight European countries are involved: Estonia, Russia, Norway, Germany, The Netherlands, France, England and Spain. Professor Weisse will give an overview of the project and highlight the main results from the first year of the study. Diane L. Moore (Harvard Divinity School) and a scholar of religion and education from the southern hemisphere will serve as respondents.



## **A19-202**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Going Public on Religion: Paradise or Pitfall?*

Sponsored by the Public Understanding of Religion Committee

Panelists will discuss their experiences with the news media and mainstream publishing in order to further our collective reflection on our role as scholars of religion. What does it mean for us to participate in broader public debates about the role of religion in current events and public life? As religious studies scholars are increasingly asked to reach broader audiences, are sought by the mainstream media and trade presses, what is lost and what gained? Or, as we learn to talk in sound bites, what perils or pitfalls await us? These are some of the questions that panelists will address in this Special Topics Forum.



**A19-301**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *How to Publish Your Book: Advice from Oxford University Press and from the Editors of the AAR Book Series and JAAR*

Sponsored by the Publications Committee

Founded on the premise that scholars know best what books are needed in the fields of religion and theology, the AAR publishing program with Oxford University Press produces quality scholarship for religion scholars and their students. OUP is a premier international publisher, and the AAR has published hundreds of titles, many of which have become essential tools in the development of our field and in the training of new scholars. AAR/OUP books are published in five series: Academy Series; Religion, Culture, and History Series; Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series; Teaching Religious Studies Series; and Texts and Translations Series. The *JAAR* editor will also discuss essay-publishing. This panel provides the opportunity to hear from experienced OUP and AAR editors and ask any and all questions you might have about publishing in the AAR/OUP Series. There will also be an opportunity to speak individually with an editor.

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## Section Highlights



**A17-105**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**History of Christianity Section and North American Religions Section**

Theme: *War and Religion in North America*



**A17-204**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Arts, Literature, and Religion Section**

Theme: *Images and Narratives of Violence*



**A17-205**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Buddhism Section**

Theme: *Chinese Scholarship on the Dunhuang Manuscripts: New Perspectives on Buddhism*



**A17-302**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Arts, Literature, and Religion Section and Christian Systematic Theology Section**

Theme: *Spectacles of Crucifixion*



**A17-306**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Religion in South Asia Section**

Theme: *Embodying Bhakti: Devotional Bodies, Fertile Bodies, and Bodies of Desire*



**A18-107**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Religion and the Social Sciences Section**

Theme: *Lived Religion in America Revisited: Current Cases and Theoretical Developments*



## **A18-259**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

### **Study of Islam Section**

Theme: A Book of Signs Over Time: *Conversations about the Qur'an with Bruce Lawrence*



## **A19-105**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Ethics Section and Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group**

Theme: *Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment*



## **A19-106**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Philosophy of Religion Section**

Theme: *Author Meets Critics: David Kyuman Kim, Melancholic Freedom: Agency and the Spirit of Politics*



## **A19-110**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Theology and Religious Reflection Section and Women and Religion Section**

Theme: *America, Amerikkka: Elect Nation and Imperial Violence*



## **A19-204**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Comparative Studies in Religion Section**

Theme: *"Turning Back" to Conversion: Identity, Space, and Power in Religious Transformation*



## **A19-303**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section**

Theme: *Teaching Art, Ecology, and Mindfulness: Creative Intersections*



**A19-308**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Study of Judaism Section and SBL Biblical Law Section and SBL Women in the Biblical World Section**

Theme: *Looking for Hope: Feminist and Historical Studies in Memory of Tikva Frymer-Kensky*



**A19-309**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Theology and Religious Reflection Section**

Theme: *Critical Responses to Empire and the Christian Tradition: New Readings of Classical Theologians*, Kwok Pui Lan, Don Compier, Joerg Rieger, eds. (Fortress Press, 2007)



**A20-105**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**History of Christianity Section**

Theme: *Teaching with Texts in the History of Christianity: Textbooks and General Histories for a Changing Field*

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**Arts Series**



**A18-404**

**Sunday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *Golden States of Grace: Prayers of the Disinherited***

How do those on the margins of society find faith, sanctuary and community? Through *Golden States of Grace: Prayers of the Disinherited*, a photo-documentary and traveling exhibit hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as "a veritable United Nations of spirituality," social documentarian Rick Nahmias sums up three years of work documenting eleven different marginalized groups, across

eight faith traditions. From the elderly to the executable, sex workers to refugees of genocide, the rural poor to recovering addicts, *Golden States of Grace*, artfully looks at religion from the bottom up, smashing stereotypes and asking questions about who "belongs" in our society and houses of worship. Nahmias will present a multi-media program created exclusively for this event, combining images, audio and music from the project, as well as insight into how the body of work came together logistically and creatively. There will be a Q&A following the presentation. For more info please visit: [goldenstatesofgrace.com](http://goldenstatesofgrace.com).



## **A18-405**

**Sunday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

### **Arts Series/Films: Chinese Dancers**

Join us for an exciting evening featuring a Los Angeles Chinese folk dance troupe. Dancers will perform and information in the dances and their religious connotations will be available.

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## **Films**



## **A16-401**

**Friday - 7:30 pm-9:00 pm**

### **Arts Series/Films: *Jesus Camp***

Sponsored by the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

This documentary film provides a window into life at the Pentecostal youth camp "Kids on Fire" and by extension also portrays some of the most controversial religious and political aspirations of evangelical Christians in America today. Discussing the making of the film, the directors have expressed their affection for the people they filmed; however, the barrage of heated commentary surrounding the film has raised questions about the objectivity of the filmmakers in their selection and presentation of material. The film therefore provides a window not only into a segment of conservative Christianity but also into the challenges of religious documentary filmmaking. Directed by Rachel Grady and Heidi Ewing, 2006



## **A16-402**

**Friday - 7:30 pm-9:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *King of Masks***

Sponsored by the Women and Religion Section, Confucian Traditions Group, and Daoist Studies Consultation

This touching and provocative film, set in a remote part of China during the 1930s, tells the story of an elderly street performer who makes a marginal living by plying a unique craft which has passed from father to son for generations. Mindful that he has failed his familial duties by having no male heir, the old man reluctantly visits a harrowing black market, where he adopts/purchases a young boy to carry on the family name, as well as the ancient family art of silk masks. However, the boy is hiding a secret, one which challenges the old man's most deeply ingrained beliefs. *King of Masks* offers an intriguing glimpse into Chinese family values, gender relations, and the sometimes dysfunctional legacy of Confucian ethics. In Mandarin Chinese, with English subtitles. Directed by Tian-Ming Wu, 1996.



**A17-405**

**Saturday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *The Revenge of Han Xin: A Daoist Mystery***

Sponsored by the Chinese Religions Group

*The Revenge of Han Xin: A Daoist Mystery* documents a sacrificial ceremony as it is performed today in central Hunan province. It is based on a local epic of Han Xin's revenge against the first emperor of the Han Dynasty, Gaozu. Han Xin had been a loyal general who aided Gaozu's rise to power, but the emperor grew jealous of his popularity and had him assassinated for plotting against the throne. The tradition says that upon his death, the sky turned black and his spirit was swept up into the beyond. Han Xin's apotheosis became one of the great Daoist mysteries of the Hunan region. Directed by Patrice Fava, 2005.



**A17-406**

**Saturday - 9:00 pm-10:30 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *Magnolia***

Sponsored by the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

*Magnolia's* moving portrayal of 24 hours in San Fernando suburbia is an unlikely theological gem. Through narrating the converging lives of a dying television producer, his mourning trophy wife and estranged celebrity son, a quiz show presenter and his crack-addicted daughter, a boy genius struggling without his father's love and a maudlin ex-boy genius with love to give, *Magnolia* draws out

biblically epic themes of sin, regret, hope, reconciliation and redemption. With its denouement of divine intervention, the film asks questions about the significance of our choices and calls attention to the ways we participate in stories over which we have no control. Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, 1999.



## **A18-406**

**Sunday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *Water***

Sponsored by the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

*Water* (2005) is the third in the elemental trilogy (the first two being *Fire* and *Earth*) directed by Deepa Mehta. Based in 1938 India, *Water* tells the story of the second-class status of widows in Hindu society, delving into the notions of oppression, cultural norms and Hindu practices. A widow in India during this time period was offered three choices: to throw herself upon her husband's funeral pyre; to marry her husband's brother; or, to live the rest of her life in isolation and seclusion. Within the subtext of *Water* and its portrayal of ancient religious practices, the movie brings forward issues of family economy, greed and the role women play within and on the fringes of society. Although the practice of enclosing widows away from society is no longer condoned, widespread protests in 2000 shut down filming of *Water* in India. After a delay of three years, *Water* was finally completed in Sri Lanka. The problems, including death threats, that Deepa Mehta encountered in the making of this film illustrates that these themes still have the power to provoke fear and anger today. In explaining the significance of water, Deepa Mehta stated: "Water can flow or water can be stagnant. I set the film in the 1930s but the people in the film live their lives as it was prescribed by a religious text more than 2,000 years old. Even today, people follow these texts, which is one reason why there continue to be millions of widows. To me, that is a kind of stagnant water. I think traditions shouldn't be that rigid. They should flow like the replenishing kind of water." Directed by Deepa Mehta, 2005.



## **A19-401**

**Monday - 8:30 pm-11:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *Renewal***

Sponsored by the Religion and Ecology Group

The *Renewal* Multi-media Project will include the first documentary to provide an in-depth look at America's emerging religious-environmental movement. Centered on the actions of people of faith who are working to care for the earth

and reverse the damage that humans have done to the environment, the story is both surprising and inspiring. Surprising, for the common vision being discovered in two seemingly separate realms – ecology and religion. Inspiring, for its vivid accounts of personal transformation. The two-hour documentary will present dynamic profiles of people acting out of deep, religious conviction to reduce environmental degradation and build more sustainable communities. The Producers are Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller.



**A19-402**

**Monday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *The Mormons***

Sponsored by the Mormon Studies Consultation

On April 30 and May 1, 2007, *American Experience* and *Frontline* aired *The Mormons*, what PBS called “a four-hour exploration into the richness, the complexities, and the controversies of the Mormons' story as told through interviews with members of the church, leading writers and historians, and supporters and critics of the Mormon faith.” The film examines both Mormon theology and the lived religion of the Latter-day Saints. It probes the Mormon experience with polygamy, analyzes its missionary program, and engages its emphasis on temples. It confronts tragedies like the 1857 Mountain Meadows massacre as well as highlights the church’s extensive humanitarian initiatives today. Given the breadth and depth of its coverage it is hardly surprising that the documentary has generated a wide-ranging response. This screening of various segments from the documentary will be interspersed with conversation among producer Helen Whitney, scholars on Mormonism and film, and the audience. Directed by Helen Whitney, 2007.

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## Tours



**A17-130**

**Saturday - 9:30 am-1:00 pm**

**San Diego Zoo Tour**

Sponsored by the Science, Technology, and Religion Group

The San Diego Zoo is a world-famous destination with more than 4,000 animals and 800 species in residence. The tour offers a great mini-introduction to the zoo’s mammal, bird, and plant collections. It includes a 90-minute private bus tour and one off-exhibit area. The tour is led by a zoo guide and is appropriate

for ages 3 and up. Tour fee includes zoo ticket, transportation, and special behind-the-scenes access to the zoo.



## **A17-131**

**Saturday - 10:30 am-1:00 pm**

### **San Diego Chinese Historical Museum Walking Tour**

Sponsored by the Chinese Religions Group

The San Diego Chinese Historical Museum is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to collect, preserve, and share the Chinese-American experience and Chinese history, culture, and art to educate the community and visitors. The museum was founded in 1996 by the San Diego Chinese Historical Society. Since opening, the museum has presented more than thirty-nine exhibits highlighting the rich tradition of Chinese culture and history in San Diego and the world. The museum also features a library on Chinese culture and a tranquil garden with a koi pond.



## **A18-301**

**Sunday - 4:45 pm-8:00 pm**

### **Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at San Diego Natural History Museum**

The San Diego Natural History Museum's exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the largest, longest, and most comprehensive ever assembled in any country. Spanning two floors and 12,000 square feet, twenty-seven Dead Sea Scrolls—ten exhibited for the first time—will be on display. The six-month exhibition brings together materials never before shown together: Dead Sea Scrolls from Israel and Jordan reunited for the first time in 60 years, ancient Hebrew codices from the Russian National Library, medieval manuscripts from the British National Library, and modern interpretations of the texts. Tracing the scrolls and their meaning through time, the exhibition connects the ancient world to the modern world. The tour fee includes exhibit ticket, transportation, and a special informational booklet. The exhibit is self-directed and generally takes 90 minutes. Tickets for the tour will be at appointed times between 4:30 pm and 8:30 pm due to exhibit occupancy limitations. You will be contacted to choose an appointment time after your tour reservation form is received.



## **A19-200**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm**

### **Sacred and Religious Sites of San Diego Bus Tour**

This bus tour will visit a diverse selection of historically and architecturally significant religious sites in the San Diego area, including: Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of the string of California missions founded by Junipero Serra (1769); the campus of Katherine Tingley's Point Loma Theosophical Society (1896), now part of Point Loma Nazarene University; St. George Serbian Orthodox Church; and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral (1951).

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### Wildcard Sessions



**A17-202**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Religious Implications of Extreme Longevity Wildcard**

Theme: *Radical Life Extension: Implications for Eschatological Visions of the Religions*



**A17-230**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**The Religion Major and Liberal Education Wildcard**

Theme: *The Religion Major and Liberal Education*



**A18-201**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Restorative Justice and the U. S. Penal System*



**A18-203**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Islamicate Apocalypse: Textual, Historical, and Methodological Considerations*



**A18-225**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**The Holy Child: Traditions of the Infant and Child Jesus Wildcard**

Theme: *The Holy Child: Traditions of the Infant and Child Jesus*



**A18-250**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *The Place of the Practitioner in the Academy*



**A18-251**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Theological Readings of Economics*



**A18-305**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Horizons in Religious Studies: Theorizing Hip-Hop*



**A18-306**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Liberation Theologies at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century:  
Between Sex, Gender, Class, and Race*



**A18-307**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

Theme: *Martin Luther and the Lutheran Theological Tradition: Current Issues*



### **A18-308**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

#### **Religions in Southeast Asia Wildcard**

Theme: *Southeast Asia: Transforming Religion and Religious Identities*



### **A18-329**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

#### **Wildcard Session**

Theme: *The Holy Child Jesus and Charism: Foundations and Evolution of a Contemporary Tradition*



### **A19-302**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

#### **Is Humanism a Dead Topic in the Study of Religion? Wildcard**

Theme: *Is Humanism a Dead Topic in the Study of Religion?*



### **A19-328**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

#### **Religion, Theology, and Music Wildcard**

Theme: *Religious and Theological Reflection upon Musical Meaning*

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### **Sessions on Professional Practices & Institutional Location**



### **A16-100**

**Friday - 9:00 am-4:30 pm**

#### **Chairs Workshop: Best Practices: Diversifying Your Faculty – Honest Conversations**



### **A16-101**

**Friday - 9:00 am-4:30 pm**

**Leadership Workshop: The Religion Major and Liberal Education**



**A16-105**

**Friday - 12:00 pm-3:00 pm**

**Women's Caucus Workshop**



**A17-100**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *What's My Job? Academic Citizenship and the Well-being of Schools, Departments, and Programs*



**A17-102**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section**

Theme: *What Happens When a Body Teaches a Body?*



**A17-133**

**Saturday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *ATLA Career Alternatives Luncheon: Focus on Religion and Journalism*



**A17-201**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Sustainable Theological Education*



**A17-227**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Mormon Studies Consultation**

Theme: *Teaching Mormon Studies: Theory, Topics, and Texts*



**A17-230**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**The Religion Major and Liberal Education Wildcard**

Theme: *The Religion Major and Liberal Education*



**A18-101**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Teaching the Introductory Theology Course in Theological Schools*



**A18-131**

**Sunday - 11:30 am-1:00 pm**

**Women's Caucus and Status of Women in the Profession Committee  
Mentoring Lunch**



**A18-132**

**Sunday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Wabash Center and AAR Student Teacher Luncheon*



**A18-205**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section**

Theme: *Mentoring Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies: A Panel Discussion*



**A18-213**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group and Womanist  
Approaches to Religion and Society Group**

Theme: *Pedagogy and Power: Teaching toward Transformation in*

*Feminist/Womanist Theory and Theology*



**A18-229**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

*Theme: AAR Excellence in Teaching Forum: Stacey Floyd-Thomas, 2007  
Excellence in Teaching Award Winner*



**A18-250**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Wildcard Session**

*Theme: The Place of the Practitioner in the Academy*



**A18-277**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

*Theme: How to Propose a New AAR Program Unit*



**A18-300**

**Sunday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

*Theme: The Tenure Book(s): How to Strategize Your Publications to Increase  
Your Chances of Tenure and Promotion*



**A19-101**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Special Topics Forum**

*Theme: Teaching with, against, and to Faith*



**A19-102**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section and Buddhist  
Critical-Constructive Reflection Group**

Theme: *Contemplative Studies: Something Old and Something New in the  
Academy*



**A19-203**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section and SBL Academic  
Teaching of Biblical Studies Section**

Theme: *Teaching Reflectively in Theological Contexts: Promises and  
Contradictions*



**A19-301**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *How to Publish Your Book: Advice from Oxford University Press and  
from the Editors of the AAR Book Series and JAAR*



**A19-303**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section**

Theme: *Teaching Art, Ecology, and Mindfulness: Creative Intersections*



**A19-307**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Study of Islam Section**

Theme: *Teaching Religion as an Academic Discipline in Indonesia*



**A19-327**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Christianity and Academia Consultation**

Theme: *Contested Issues in Christian Higher Education: Academic Freedom,*

*Denominational Identity, and the Culture of Business*



**A20-100**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section**

Theme: *Uncomfortable Places, Transformative Spaces: Teachers and Students Learning Together*



**A20-105**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**History of Christianity Section**

Theme: *Teaching with Texts in the History of Christianity: Textbooks and General Histories for a Changing Field*



**A20-117**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Japanese Religions Group**

Theme: *Screening and Streaming Japanese Religions: Integrating Visual Media into the Classroom*

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**Sessions with a Focus on Chinese Scholars and Scholarship**



**A16-402**

**Friday - 7:30 pm-9:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *King of Masks***



**A17-101**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Studies of World Religions in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan*

**A17-113****Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am****Buddhist Philosophy Group***Theme: Dignāga in China***A17-125****Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am****Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Seminar***Theme: Rituals in Indian and Chinese Cultures***A17-131****Saturday - 10:30 am-1:00 pm****San Diego Chinese Historical Museum Walking Tour****A17-205****Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm****Buddhism Section***Theme: Chinese Scholarship on the Dunhuang Manuscripts: New Perspectives on Buddhism***A17-212****Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm****Confucian Traditions Group***Theme: The Power of "Religion" in China***A17-309****Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm****Chinese Religions Group***Theme: Self-Representation/Misrepresentation: Muslims in the Chinese Cultural Context*



**A17-326**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Daoist Studies Consultation**

Theme: *Performing Harmony: Interpreting Daoist Ritual*



**A17-405**

**Saturday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: *The Revenge of Han Xin: A Daoist Mystery***



**A18-114**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Chinese Religions Group**

Theme: *Regional Religion, Local Society, and Ritual Practice: A Consideration of Patrice Fava's film The Revenge of Han Xin: A Daoist Mystery*



**A18-124**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group**

Theme: *Tibetan Religion in China: Past and Present*



**A18-211**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Comparative Religious Ethics Group and Confucian Traditions Group**

Theme: *The Problem of Evil in Neo-Confucianism*



**A18-212**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group and Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation**

Theme: *China's "Isms": Studies in the Production of Difference and Unity*



## **A18-264**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Chinese Religions Group**

Theme: *Electronic Resources for the Study of Chinese Religions: Reflections on Current and Future Impact and Directions*



## **A18-271**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Sacred Space in Asia Group**

Theme: *Decoding Dunhuang: Material Culture and Religious Worlds along the Silk Route*



## **A18-325**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Reformed Theology and History Group**

Theme: *The Reformed Presence in China: New Perspectives on Mission*



## **A18-328**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**World Christianity Group**

Theme: *Christianity in Chinese Society*



## **A18-405**

**Sunday - 8:30 pm-10:00 pm**

**Arts Series/Films: Chinese Dancers**



## **A19-100**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Daoist Studies in China*



## **A19-103**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Buddhism Section and Chinese Religions Group**

Theme: *Establishing "Authority" and "Legitimacy" in Twentieth-century Chinese Buddhism: Modernity in the Reinvention of Tradition*



## **A19-214**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Confucian Traditions Group**

Theme: *Confucianism: What Is at Stake in It as a Religion*



## **A19-225**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group and Daoist Studies Consultation**

Theme: *Daoism, Medicine, and Healing*



## **A19-227**

**Monday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Sacred Space in Asia Group**

Theme: *Sacred Space in China: Past and Present*



## **A19-300**

**Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**



### **Plenary Address**

Theme: *Making Sense by Comprehending Sensibility: A View of Chinese Religions*



## **A20-104**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Comparative Studies in Religion Section**

Theme: *New Perspectives on Chinese Religions*



## **A20-115**

**Tuesday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Anthropology of Religion Group**

Theme: *Tibetan Lived Religion?*

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## **Books Under Discussion**



## **A17-106**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Philosophy of Religion Section**

Theme: *G.W.F. Hegel: 200 Years after The Phenomenology of Spirit*



## **A17-115**

**Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

### **Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group**

Theme: *Discussion of Saba Mahmood's The Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*



## **A17-305**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

### **North American Religions Section**

Theme: *Author Meets Critics: Catherine L. Albanese's A Republic of Mind and Spirit*



**A17-311**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Comparative Religious Ethics Group**

Theme: *What Does It Mean to Do Comparative Religious Ethics? A Panel Discussion on Aaron Stalnaker's Overcoming Our Evil: Human Nature and Spiritual Exercises in Xunzi and Augustine*



**A17-321**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Schleiermacher Group**

Theme: *Prolegomena to the Glaubenslehre: The Last of a Four-Year Reinvestigation of Schleiermacher's Magnum Opus*



**A17-330**

**Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation**

Theme: *Review Session on Yoga: India's Philosophy of Meditation, Edited by Gerald J. Larson and Ram Shankar Bhattacharya*



**A18-107**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Religion and the Social Sciences Section**

Theme: *Lived Religion in America Revisited: Current Cases and Theoretical Developments*



**A18-121**

**Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Roman Catholic Studies Group**

Theme: *Stephen Schloesser's Jazz Age Catholicism: Author Meets Critics*



**A18-218**

**Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm**

**Practical Theology Group and Reformed Theology and History Group**

Theme: *Constructing Narratives of Redemption: Theological Dialogues with David Kelsey's Imagining Redemption*



**A18-259**

**Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm**

**Study of Islam Section**

Theme: *A Book of Signs Over Time: Conversations about the Qur'an with Bruce Lawrence*



**A18-303**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Roundtable on The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*



**A18-316**

**Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm**

**Afro-American Religious History Group and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group**

Theme: *Book Discussion: African American Folk Healing, by Stephanie Mitchem*



**A19-106**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Philosophy of Religion Section**

Theme: *Author Meets Critics: David Kyuman Kim, Melancholic Freedom: Agency and the Spirit of Politics*



**A19-110**

**Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am**

**Theology and Religious Reflection Section and Women and Religion Section**

Theme: *America, Amerikka: Elect Nation and Imperial Violence*

**A19-112**

Monday - 9:00 am-11:30 am

**Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group and SBL Reading, Theory and the Bible Section**

Theme: *After After Theory?*

**A19-309**

Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm

**Theology and Religious Reflection Section**

Theme: *Critical Responses to Empire and the Christian Tradition: New Readings of Classical Theologians*, Kwok Pui Lan, Don Compier, Joerg Rieger, eds. (Fortress Press, 2007)

**A19-313**

Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm

**Comparative Studies in Hinduisms and Judaisms Group and Comparative Theology Group**

Theme: *The Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions (ABC-CLIO, 2007): A Panel Discussion*

**A19-314**

Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm

**Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group**

Theme: *Critical Evaluations of Thomas Tweed's Crossing and Dwelling: A Theory of Religion*

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**Receptions****A17-4**

Saturday - 7:45 am-8:45 am

## **International Members' Breakfast**

All AAR international attendees are invited to an information session and continental breakfast hosted by the AAR's International Connections Committee.



### **A17-400**

**Saturday - 5:00 pm-7:00 pm**

#### ***Journal of the American Academy of Religion* Editorial Board Meeting and Reception**

Meeting of the *JAAR* Editorial Board (5:00 pm-6:00 pm) followed immediately by a reception in honor of the Board and *JAAR* authors in 2007 (6:00 pm-7:00 pm).



### **A17-402**

**Saturday - 5:45 pm-7:00 pm**

#### **Friends of the Academy Reception**

Individuals whose generosity allows us to continue many of our special programs are invited to a reception hosted by the AAR Board of Directors.



### **A17-403**

**Saturday - 6:30 pm-7:45 pm**

#### **AAR Racial and Ethnic Minority Members' Reception**

The Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee invites interested persons to a reception celebrating the contributions of racial and ethnic minority scholars in the Academy.



### **A17-407**

**Saturday - 9:00 pm-11:00 pm**

#### **Women's Reception**

Sponsored by the AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee, the SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, and the Women's Caucus.

The Women's Caucus and Claremont Graduate University School of Religion welcome all friends to join us in honoring Rosemary Radford Ruether and the panelists from the session on Ruether's most recent book, *America, Amerikkka: Elect Nation and Imperial Violence*.



## **A17-408**

**Saturday - 9:00 pm-11:00 pm**

### **AAR Members' Reception**

AAR members are invited to join one another at the AAR Members' Reception for jazz music and collegiality. Don't forget the free drink ticket mailed with your name badge!



## **A17-409**

**Saturday - 9:30 pm-11:00 pm**

### **Student Members' Reception**

AAR and SBL student members are invited to drop by for conversation with fellow students. Snacks will be provided. Don't forget your free drink ticket!



## **A17-412**

**Saturday - 9:00 pm-11:00 pm**

### **Religion and the Arts Award Inaugural Reception**

A special reception celebrating the inaugural AAR Award in Religion and the Arts. During this reception, there will be a tribute to Jane Dillenberger, honoring her many contributions as a teacher, author, curator, and advocate of religion and art.



## **A18-1**

**Sunday - 7:30 am-8:45 am**

### **AAR New Members' Continental Breakfast**

New (first-time) AAR members in 2007 are cordially invited to a continental breakfast with members of the Board of Directors.



## **A18-131**

**Sunday - 11:30 am-1:00 pm**

### **Women's Caucus and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentoring Lunch**

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee and the Women's Caucus

invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a brown bag lunch with more than thirty womanist and feminist mid-career and senior AAR and SBL scholars. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued.



## **A18-400**

**Sunday - 5:45 pm-6:45 pm**

### **AAR Sterling Circle Reception**

All members who have been with the AAR continuously for at least twenty-five years are part of our Sterling Circle. In honor of your long-term support, John R. Fitzmier, executive director, and Jeffrey Stout, AAR president, invite you to celebrate at an open house.



## **A19-1**

**Monday - 7:15 am-8:45 am**

### **AAR Program Unit Chairs' Breakfast**

Program unit chairs are invited to a continental breakfast, which features a brief meeting on upcoming program initiatives.



## **A19-403**

**Monday - 9:00 pm-11:00 pm**

### **AAR Program Unit Chair and Steering Committee Members' Reception**

Program unit chairs and steering committee members are invited to a reception in their honor hosted by the Program Committee.

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## **Especially for Students**



## **A17-6**

**Saturday - 7:30 am-9:00 am**

### **Student Liaison Group Annual Business Meeting**

Student Liaison Group members will gather to discuss business.



## **A17-133**

**Saturday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *ATLA Career Alternatives Luncheon: Focus on Religion and Journalism*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee and American Theological Library Association

Students in religion and theology often find creative and rewarding career alternatives to the life of a professor. This year, our ongoing Career Alternatives series focuses on the intersection of religion and the media: what career opportunities exist for people interested in both religion and communicating ideas about religion using the expanding varieties of news media? Come listen to talented and experienced writers about their lives in religion and journalism.

AAR student members interested in attending must RSVP online ASAP (first-come, first-served basis) at [www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/RSVP/ATLA/](http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/RSVP/ATLA/). Online registration deadline is noon on Wednesday, November 15.



## **A17-200**

**Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm**

### **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Introduction to the AAR*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee

The American Academy of Religion sponsors a broad umbrella of programs, affiliations, and sub-groups: the Theological Programs Initiative, mentoring programs for women and ethnic minorities, the Graduate Student Committee and Student Liaison Group, a multitude of associated regional meetings, the Employment Information Service, and various publishing enterprises, to name just a few. If you're confused by the AAR's alphabet soup (TPI, REM, SWP, GSC, SLG, EIS, and more) or if you've ever wondered what else the AAR does besides the annual meeting, come hear about the wide range of programs and opportunities for service offered to all AAR members.



## **A17-409**

**Saturday - 9:30 pm-11:00 pm**

## **Student Members' Reception**

AAR and SBL student members are invited to drop by for conversation with fellow students. Snacks will be provided. Don't forget your free drink ticket!



**A18-132**

**Sunday - 11:45 am-1:00 pm**

## **Special Topics Forum**

Theme: *Wabash Center and AAR Student Teacher Luncheon*

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

The Wabash Center and AAR Graduate Student Committee cordially invites AAR and SBL graduate student members to this lunch gathering with experienced faculty mentors to share in a conversation about teaching. Attendance is limited to 75 students who RSVP. Interested students should read the [program description](#) to check eligibility before signing up.