

Workshops

RELIGION AND MEDIA

Persuasion's Power: How Religion Makes its Publics Friday, November 22, 11:00 am–6:00 pm

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 day-long 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 Religion and Media 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 traditional paper sessions 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 doing the readings ahead of time and prepare to participate in seminar-style conversation.

RETHINKING ISLAMIC STUDIES

Teaching Islamic Studies: Key Topics and Best Practices Friday, November 22, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

For 2013, the Rethinking Islamic Studies workshop will explore best practices for teaching undergraduates foundational topics in Islamic Studies: the Qur'an, gender, American Islam, and visual/literary culture.

Our focus will be pedagogical, exploring the practical aspects involved in enhancing student learning and critical thinking regarding essential topics in the study of Islam. How can students best grasp the complexity of multiple engagements with the Qur'anic text – as scripture, as literary inspiration, as performance? In teaching gender, what conceptual tools do students need to understand the profound variety of gendered lives? How can we facilitate students' exploration of contested conversations about gender inequality across cultures in without reifying stereotypes of "oppressed Muslim women"? What historical and ethnographic material provokes students to develop an interpretive frame to understand American Islam as simultaneously Islamic and distinctly American? What are effective ways to introduce students to the visual and literary cultures of Islam that can build their analysis of the role that creative expression and aesthetics plays in the ongoing social formation of Islam?

The format will consist of presentations by experienced instructors combined with interactive small group discussion. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for reflection on effective teaching and student-centered learning. The workshop is intended both for graduate students and professors of Islamic studies, as well as scholars from other fields in religious studies who are looking to incorporate more Islam material in their courses.

RELIGION AND ECOLOGY

Mapping the Field of Religion and Ecology: Theories, Methods, and Future Directions Friday, November 22, 1:45 pm–5:00 pm

The Religion and Ecology Group invites you to take part in a pre-AAR colloquium to survey and map the theoretical and methodological diversities within the field of religion and ecology. This research area is now robust with multiple avenues of research and activities, including many traditions, voices, theories, approaches, discourses, methodologies, and emphases. It is our goal to collectively discuss and assess where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going. This colloquium is envisioned as a participatory event designed both for those who have long contributed to this groundbreaking work as well as those who are new to such scholarly conversations.

The goals of this session are as follows:

1. To map the intellectual terrain covered by scholars and activists, including those who initiated such scholarly conversations as well as those who are active in the present and diverse shaping of the field.
2. To analyze and identify the common theories and methodologies employed by scholars across the interdisciplinary and multi-religious landscape of the field of religion and ecology to date.
3. To articulate and explore pertinent questions, theories and methodologies, lacunae, and trajectories that may guide the development of the field in the twenty-first century.

It is our intent that in mapping the terrain, hearing from those who have contributed to the maturation of the field, and suggesting signposts which point the way forward, that we can foster a more timely, focused, and fruitful scholarly conversation for future study in the field. We hope that you will join this conversation, bringing your own expertise and energy.

Workshops (cont.)

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Teaching Theology in a Global and Transnational World

Friday, November 22, 1:45 pm–5:00 pm

Theological educators are called upon to educate leaders of faith communities who are prepared to lead in a globalized world. Although there has been a growing body of literature on global theology and the construction of theological doctrines from an intercultural or global perspective, theology is still largely taught in the same old way, which privileges the European and Euro-American traditions. This workshop aims to equip theological educators to teach in a way that always remembers that we no longer teach merely in and to a national context alone but that we live in a global and transnational world.

Some of the questions we will explore include: What are the possible “sources” for a global theology? How can we teach theology bearing in mind the cultural diversity within the long tradition of Christian thought? Whose voices are missing, and how do we pay attention to the power dynamics of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the classroom?

What are the successful pedagogies and best practices to promote students’ global consciousness and prepare them as global citizens? Where today are connections being made by Christians and people of faith from multiple settings that might have potential for raising (new) theological questions? How can we approach the task of teaching theology in a global context from the perspective of comparative theology? How shall we situate global theological voices in pedagogy and across the curriculum? The first panel will uncover key issues concerning challenges of teaching theology in a global and transnational world. The second panel will offer pedagogical tools and approaches, with examples drawn from the classroom and beyond. There will be ample opportunities for collaborative reflection, sharing pedagogical resources, and building collegial networks of support.

STUDY OF RELIGION AS AN ANALYTICAL DISCIPLINE

Methodologies and the Analytical Study of Religion

Friday, November 22, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

For 2013, SORAAAD will focus on the selection, design, and implementation of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, as well as responsible ways to use quantitative and qualitative research generated by other scholars outside of the study of religion.

SORAAAD’s *Methodologies and the Analytical Study of Religion* will be of particular interest for graduate students and established scholars who already enact social science and critical humanities research methodologies, who want to implement newer or different methodologies, or who need to integrate existing social science and critical humanities research outside of religion (Sociology, Anthropology, Cognitive Science, Critical and Social Theories) into their research design, data acquisition, and analysis.

The full program with speakers and readings will be posted here: <https://sites.google.com/site/religiondisciplineworkshop/>

Registration is Free

To Register, please place “SORAAAD - 2013 - Registration” in the subject line of an email to CTDR.Group@gmail.com.

In the body of the email, please place your full name, institutional affiliation and some indication of academic status (graduate student, adjunct instructor, independent scholar, professor, etc.)

The SORAAAD workshop is co-sponsored by:

AAR’s Critical Theories and Discourses on Religion Group, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Group, and the Sociology of Religion Group and

SBL’s Ideological Criticisms of the Bible Group, the Bible and Cultural Studies Section, and Metacriticism of Biblical Scholarship Consultation.





Workshop Reservation Form

No.	Workshop	Day/Time	Cost
_____	Religion and Media <i>Persuasion's Power: How Religion Makes its Publics</i>	Friday, November 22 11:00 am–6:00 pm	\$60
_____	Rethinking Islamic Studies <i>Teaching Islamic Studies: Key Topics and Best Practices</i>	Friday, November 22 1:00 pm–5:00 pm	\$30
_____	Religion and Ecology <i>Mapping the Field of Religion and Ecology: Theories, Methods, and Future Discussions</i>	Friday, November 22 1:45 pm–5:00 pm	\$30
_____	Theological Education <i>Teaching Theology in a Global and Transnational World</i>	Friday, November 22 1:45 pm–5:00 pm	\$30

Name _____

Email _____

AAR Member ID _____

Payment Method: Check (payable to “AAR”) Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Number _____

Expiration Date (mo/yr) _____ CCID# _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Workshops fill up quickly and are first-come, first serve!

Return the form with payment by November 1, 2013 to AAR Registration and Housing, 825 Houston Mill Rd. NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329, fax to +1-404-935-5321, email reg@aarweb.org, or register online while completing the registration process at http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/registration.asp.