



Fostering Excellence
In the Study of Religion

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Colleagues:

Greetings from the Luce Center in Atlanta ! We are making plans for our Annual Meeting in Montréal, which is now only nine weeks away. This month's *e-Bulletin* contains news about that event, as well as other items. There are quite a few important deadlines on the horizon, including nominations for leadership positions in the AAR , a call for papers, and participation in Cohort Two of our AAR/Luce Summer Seminar Program on Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theology.

See you in Montréal in November!

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Fitzmier".

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

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ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Preregistration Deadline

September 15 is the deadline for preregistration. After September 15, Annual Meeting registration rates increase to the Regular Registration rate. Hotels are still available with the specially discounted hotel room rates. Registration and housing is available [online](#).

If you have already registered, Annual Meeting name badge materials

will be mailed to you in early September.

Visas

Annual Meeting participants who are Mexican citizens now require a visa in order to enter Canada . For more information, please see www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp.

Getting Around In Montréal

Navigating the Annual Meeting may seem a little more challenging this year in Montréal, since the headquarters hotels are about a kilometer away from the Palais des Congrès, where Registration, the Exhibit Hall, Job Center , and the majority of sessions will be located.

Shuttles

To facilitate easy movement between locations, the AAR will be running three complimentary shuttle buses in a loop stopping at the La Centre Sheraton, the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, and the Palais des Congrès. Buses will depart every 15 minutes on the following schedule:

Friday, November 6	8:00 AM–10:00 PM
Saturday, November 7	6:30 AM–12:00 AM
Sunday, November 8	6:30 AM–12:00 AM
Monday, November 9	6:30 AM–8:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10	6:45 AM–1:00 PM

Métro

In addition, Annual Meeting attendees may want to use Montréal's Métro system. Fares are CAN\$2.75 each way, but a three-day tourist pass with unlimited rides is only CAN\$17.00. The Palais des Congrès is located adjacent to the Place-d'Armes station, making it accessible from locations throughout the city. From La Centre Sheraton it is a short walk to the Bonaventure station, and from the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, it is a short walk to the Square-Victoria station. More information about the Métro, including maps, fares, and hours of operation, can be found at <http://www.stcum.qc.ca/English/metro/a-mapmet.htm>.

Underground City

Finally, Montréal's underground city provides an easy way to get between destinations without having to brave the cold November weather. The Underground City is directly under the heart of the city. Constantly growing, the "city" — which links many major buildings and multilevel shopping malls in the area — is a shopper's paradise in any season. You'll be amazed by its brightly lit, scrupulously clean passageways, linking thousands of boutiques, major hotels, restaurants, universities, dozens of office buildings, and attractions. Every day more than 500,000 people connect through here on their way to work, shop, dine, or spend a night — or day — on the town. Safe and sheltered from the elements, the Underground City offers a huge range of goods and services as well as a handy way to get from place to place without weather or traffic problems. For a map of the

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underground, see
<http://www.stm.info/English/info/southern2008.pdf>.

Accessibility

Please note that the Métro and the Underground City are NOT accessible in many locations for persons with disabilities. One bus on the AAR 's shuttle route will be accessible. In the case that shuttle service is not adequate to meet an attendee's physical needs in navigating official Annual Meeting locations, AAR will reimburse the attendee the cost of making alternative arrangements (i.e., a private taxi). To receive the reimbursement, please submit all taxi receipts with a letter detailing the nature of your physical disability and the Annual Meeting locations that were inaccessible no later than **December 31, 2009**. Only travel between official Annual Meeting locations (i.e., hotels and convention center) will be covered. In addition, a block of hotel rooms has been set aside at the Hotel InterContinental for those with disabilities. Please contact the Annual Meeting team (annualmeeting@aarweb.org) if you have any questions.

Cell Phones in Canada

Some cell phones or calling plans may not allow your phone to work in Canada . Please check with your carrier. Even if your phone will work, another consideration you may have is the cell phone bills that you may face when you return home. International roaming charges can cost USD\$0.29-0.69 per minute, depending on your carrier. And if you have a "smartphone" like an iphone or Blackberry that is constantly checking for new e-mail, you will be charged for every minute that your phone is on. Please check with your cell phone carrier about international plans that may help you avoid these costly surprises. Below are some links to help:

[AT&T](#)

[Sprint/Nextel](#)

[T-Mobile](#)

[Verizon](#)

AAR/FTE Nurturing the Next Generation of Scholars Workshop

The AAR and The Fund for Theological Education will cohost a workshop for students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups who are considering the pursuit of a PhD or ThD in religion, theology, or biblical studies at the 2009 Annual Meeting. In addition to receiving information about the field of religious studies from scholars in the guild, participants will also gain insight into the doctoral application process. Faculty nominations and student applications will be required to attend this workshop. The online application can be accessed now through the "Workshops and Conferences" section of the FTE Nurturing the Next Generation of Scholars website at www.thefund.org/nextgen. The deadline to apply is **September 21, 2009**. For additional information, contact doctoralinfo@thefund.org.

Tenth Anniversary of the AAR Excellence in Teaching Award

Celebrated With Annual Meeting Special Topics Forum

The AAR Teaching and Learning Committee invites you to register for “A Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the AAR Excellence in Teaching Award: A Participatory Workshop” with Excellence in Teaching Award recipients on Saturday, November 7, from 9:00 AM–12:45 PM. The workshop will include a discussion of teaching strategies by past award recipients as well as round-table working groups facilitated by the awardees. Workshop participants are expected to bring an example of a critical incident in teaching, a syllabus, and an example of a first assignment. Advanced registration is required. To reserve a space, contact Tina Pippin at tpippin@agnesscott.edu. *Special note:* There was a typo in Tina Pippin’s e-mail address in the August *E-bulletin*. If you attempted to contact Tina using that address, please contact her again at the e-mail address above. We apologize for the oversight and any inconvenience this may cause.

Women’s Mentoring Lunch

Registration for the Women’s Mentoring Lunch is now open! The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Task Force, and the Women’s Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued. The lunch costs \$10 per person; sorry, no refunds. Registration is limited to one hundred people. Register online at www.aarweb.org/Jump/WomensMentoring.

Annual Meeting Job Center 2009

Registration for the Annual Meeting Job Center closes October 12. The Job Center is an efficient way for employers and candidates to communicate and participate in job interviews. Those who register by the deadline will receive full benefits. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/jump/jobcenter.

Additional Meetings

Institutions, departments, organizations, or persons who wish to hold a meeting during the Annual Meeting are invited to make an [Additional Meeting Request](#). The Additional Meeting information will be listed in the online *Program Book* and the printed *Annual Meeting Program Book* available onsite in Montréal.

Help to Green our Annual Meeting Travel

The AAR is making it easy for members to purchase Renewable Energy Credits when traveling to the Annual Meeting. By simply clicking a box on the online registration page, members can choose to give \$15 to NativeEnergy. The AAR’s Sustainability Task Force selected NativeEnergy because of its commitment to reducing

greenhouse gases while supporting its sustainability projects. NativeEnergy helps you to assist Native American, farmer-owned, community-based renewable energy projects that create social, economic, and environmental benefits. These projects will displace electricity from fossil fuels and reduce other greenhouse gas emissions on your behalf, making up for the CO2 emissions you can't avoid. We encourage you to make this inexpensive commitment to helping make our meetings more environmentally friendly. The AAR will collect the funds and purchase the offsets immediately before the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Program Book

Check out the [Online Annual Meeting Program Book](#)! The print *Program Book* will be included in the tote bag at the Annual Meeting, available in the registration area of the Palais des Congrès in Montréal.

Other Annual Meeting Announcements

[Child care registration](#) for the Annual Meeting is now open! KiddieCorp child care is a service subsidized by the AAR for members with families attending the Annual Meeting.

Need a roommate? See who else is looking to share on the AAR [Roommate Finder](#). Or you can [Look Who's Coming](#) to the Meeting to see if your friends and colleagues are attending.

Check the [Annual Meeting pages](#) frequently to see news about AAR programming, Additional Meetings, things to do in Montréal, and much more!

Notice to Members Traveling from the Washington D.C. Area

In exploring cost effective ways of traveling to the Annual Meeting in Montréal, the Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD), in cooperation with the Biblical Institute for Social Change, Inc. (BISC), is coordinating the charter of a 50-passenger luxury motor coach. The coach will depart from HUSD, located at 1400 Shepherd Street NE , Washington , D.C., at 7:00 AM, Friday, November 6, and will discharge passengers at the InterContinental Montréal Hotel, 360 St-Antoine Street West, Montréal. Immediately following the close of the conference, the coach will depart from the InterContinental Montréal Hotel at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, November 10, to return to HUSD.

The nominal cost for accommodations is a mere USD\$225 (versus USD\$425+, the cheapest rate that flights cost from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area). Reserved seats, requiring a USD\$100 deposit, are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deposit is required by **September 21, 2009**, and the balance is due by Thursday, October 15. Limited free parking is available at the Divinity School and will be offered to the first 25 people to reserve a seat on the luxury coach.

Please contact Reverend Gravely-Currie at sgravely-currie@howard.edu for a registration form. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Biblical Institute for Social Change and mailed with a completed registration form to:

Rev. Shirley A. Gravely-Currie
Howard University School of Divinity/BISC
1400 Shepherd Street NE, Room 295
Washington , DC 20017

During this period of fiscal constraint and limited travel budgets, we invite you to join us on this cost-saving venture that will forge interinstitutional camaraderie. For additional information or questions, you may contact Reverend Gravely-Currie, Director of Development, at sgravely-currie@howard.edu or 202-806-0758. Time is of the essence. Reserve your seat today.

The bus is equipped with multiple video monitors, PA system, VCR/DVD player, climate control system, high back reclining seats, overhead reading lamps, overhead storage compartments, tinted tour windows, and is lavatory equipped.

2010 Atlanta Annual Meeting Registration and Housing

Super Saver Registration will open for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, during the dates of the 2009 meeting. If you register online on the AAR website between November 6, 2009, and March 31, 2010, you will receive a special discount on the 2010 Annual Meeting registration price and have a first shot at the hotels. Super Saver Registration will open Friday, November 6 at 9:00 AM. Register from any Internet location anywhere in the world to enjoy the savings. Computers will be available onsite in Montréal at the AAR booth and the Cyber Café in the Exhibit Hall for you to register for the 2010 meeting. You must be a 2010 AAR member to register for the 2010 meeting — so [renew your AAR membership](#) today!

RENEW FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010 TODAY!

Current members who renew by October 15, 2009, will be entered in a drawing to receive complimentary housing at one of the headquarters hotels at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta , Georgia . Renew your membership at www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues.

AAR ELECTIONS

Later this month, you will receive notice of the electronic ballot for the 2009 AAR elections. The Vice President and Student Director positions are to be filled during this election. You can view the candidates' bios and statements once the elections open on September 28, 2009. The successful candidates will take office at the conclusion of the 2009 Annual Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to influence the governance of the AAR , so please cast your vote for the

candidates when elections are open September 28–October 28, 2009.

AAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The Teaching and Learning Committee seeks nominations for the 2010 AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominations of winners of campus awards, or any other awards, are encouraged. Procedures for the nomination process are outlined on the AAR website at www.aarweb.org/programs/awards/teaching_awards.

CALL FOR AAR SERIES BOOK EDITOR

The Publications Committee seeks a book editor for the Teaching Religious Studies series, which is published in cooperation with Oxford University Press.

Further information on books published in this series can be found [here](#).

AAR series editors help set editorial policy, acquire manuscripts, and work with Oxford University Press in seeing manuscripts through to publication. Further information on the entire Oxford/AAR book series can be found [here](#).

The required finalist interviews for the position will take place at the Publications Committee meeting, on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Montréal, Canada. Further information on the Publications Committee can be found [here](#).

The new editor will assume office on January 1, 2010, for a five-year (renewable once) term, and is expected to attend the two meetings of the Publications Committee: on the Saturday morning of the Annual Meeting and at the offices of Oxford University Press, in New York City, usually in mid-March.

This is a volunteer position. All applicants must be members of the American Academy of Religion. Please e-mail inquiries, nominations (self-nominations are also encouraged), and applications (a letter describing interests and qualifications, plus a current curriculum vita) by Word or PDF attachment to Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Publications Committee Chair, at cduggan@shawu.edu. The application deadline has been extended to **October 1, 2009**.

JAAR EDITOR SEARCH

Professor Charles Mathewes will complete his term as Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* at the end of 2010. The Academy is initiating a search for his successor. Professor Frank Clooner, longtime AAR board member, is Chair of the search. A link to the Editor's job description and directions for making nominations and applications is [online](#). The application deadline is **September 25, 2009**.

JAAR CALL FOR PAPERS

The AAR at 100: A Centennial Reflection

The American Academy of Religion has been in existence for one hundred years. How has our understanding of religion changed in that time, and what can the past teach us about the future? We invite considerations of the implications of the trajectory of the AAR over the past one hundred years for future scholarship in the study of religion.

We are particularly interested in papers which address changes in the field of religious studies over the last twenty-five (or even one hundred) years. Possible topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The effect of the rise of academic interest in religion outside of religious studies;
- The resurgence of religion in the world and its implications for understanding the religions;
- The increasing internationalization of the field;
- New subfields that have emerged in the last twenty-five years;
- The increasing interdisciplinary nature of scholarship;
- Islam's influence on the study of religion, or, the study of religion and its influence on Islam;
- The continual shift of the academic study of religion from theological schools to colleges/universities;
- The influence of social science methodologies (especially anthropology) on the study of religion;
- The flourishing of the science and religion dialogue, especially the nascent field of the cognitive neuroscience of religion; and
- The effect of philanthropic institutions on the study of religion.

JAAR invites proposals for a focus issue that explores what the AAR's past can teach us about what will be, or should be, its future. Deadline for submission is December 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.

SUMMER SEMINARS ON THEOLOGIES OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY: COHORT TWO

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce the formation of Cohort Two of our Luce Summer Seminars.

These week-long seminars will provide training to theological education faculty who are often preparing students for future religious leadership and ministry. The Theological Education Steering Committee invites applications from theological educators interested in pursuing the following question. The seminars will help address the question of religious diversity as a question of faith, that is to say, as a properly theological question: What is the meaning of my neighbor's faith for mine? While we expect that the bulk of applicants will come from seminaries and divinity schools, we also welcome theological educators who teach in theology and religious studies departments.

The seminars are designed for those relatively new to the theologies of religious pluralism and comparative theology, allowing them to learn from scholars and advance their understanding. The result of the summer seminars will be to increase the number of theological educators who can teach in the areas of theologies of religious pluralism and comparative theology in a variety of institutions in which theological education takes place. All accepted applicants will be awarded a cash stipend of \$1,000, plus the grant will cover most of their expenses incurred in their participation in the seminars.

Cohort Two will meet June 13–20, 2010, at Union Theological Seminary, New York City; then on October 29, 2010, at the Annual Meeting, Atlanta; and, finally May 29–June 5, 2011, in Chicago.

The application deadline for Cohort Two is January 15, 2010. All accepted applicants will be notified by late February 2010. Further information on the seminars can be found [here](#).