



Fostering Excellence
In the Study of Religion

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Colleagues:

Greetings from the Luce Center in Atlanta! We have returned from our Annual Meeting in Montréal and are now turning our sights to our 2010 conference and upcoming initiatives. This month's e-Bulletin contains news about that event, as well as other important items.

If you or a colleague is actively involved in the larger work of the Academy, feel free to submit nominations for the varied AAR awards: Excellence in Teaching Award, Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award, Religion and the Arts Award, and several book awards.

Also, please be sure to renew your 2010 membership if you have not already done so.

We on the executive staff wish all of you a happy and joyous holiday season!

Sincerely yours

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

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

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ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

2009 Montréal Annual Meeting

We are pleased to report that our Annual Meeting in Montréal, Québec, was a resounding success! Total registration for the meeting was 4,754. This was a decline of about 20 percent from registration in Chicago, largely attributable to the economic downturn. However,

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those that did come to Montréal were very pleasantly surprised by the beautiful weather, wonderful hospitality, and of course the excellent quality of sessions that made up the AAR's kickoff to its Centennial year!

Receipt for Annual Meeting Housing and Registration

If you need a receipt for your Annual Meeting Housing and Registration, you must contact the Experient Housing and Registration Bureau at:

Experient Housing and Registration Bureau
E-mail: aarreg@experient-inc.com
Phone: 1-800-575-7185 (U.S. and Canada)
+1-330-425-9330 (outside the U.S. and Canada)
Fax: 1-330-963-0319

Video Recordings of Montréal Sessions

All of the plenary sessions, and many of the other large sessions in Montréal, were captured on video. This includes Tariq Ramadan's plenary address, Mark Juergensmeyer's presidential address, James Cone's Marty Forum discussion with Cornel West, and Thomas Altizer and Slavoj Žižek's wildcard session on the death of God. We haven't yet received the DVDs, but we plan to make these video recordings available to AAR members. Please watch in future E-Bulletins for further information.

Super Saver Registration and Housing for the 2010 Annual Meeting

Register early to receive a discount on your 2010 registration and have first crack at Annual Meeting housing! You can register online for the Super Saver discount until March 31, 2010. You must be a renewed 2010 AAR member to register for the 2010 meeting at the discounted member price. To register, [click here](#).

DONATE TO THE CENTENNIAL FUND

As you think about your end-of-year charitable giving, please consider a gift to the AAR Centennial Fund. To learn more about the Centennial Fund, make a one-time gift, or set up recurring giving, please visit www.aarweb.org/donate. Every gift is critical in helping to secure the future of the AAR.

WHAT ONLINE NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION DO YOU WANT?

Your ten quick answers now will help guide what the AAR provides you next fall. Many of your colleagues participated in this survey while at the 2009 Annual Meeting. If you did not, please add your voice by **November 30, 2009** at <http://www.aarweb.org/caret>. Web-

Contact Us

825 Houston Mill Rd. NE
Ste. 300
Atlanta, GA 30329-4205

Tel: 404-727-3049
Fax: 404-727-7959

www.aarweb.org

based software for networking and collaboration holds enormous promise for enhancing members' scholarly productivity. But only if the AAR provides the features likely to be most useful. Please tell us what would work best for you!

IN MEMORIAM: CLAUDE WELCH AND EDITH WYSCHOGROD

Two former AAR presidents died in recent months: [Claude Welch](#), who presided in 1970; and [Edith Wyschogrod](#), who presided in 1993. Welch was also a former president and professor emeritus of historical theology at Graduate Theological Union; and Wyschogrod was a professor emerita of religious studies at Rice University. The next edition of *Religious Studies News*, which comes out in March, will include obituaries.

LUCE SUMMER SEMINAR ON COMPARATIVE THEOLOGY

The AAR will once again deliver a Summer Seminar on Theologies of Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theology to theological educators. These seminars will help faculty participants to formulate a working answer to the properly theological question, "What significance does my neighbor's faith and tradition have for my own?" The next cohort will be composed of 20-25 participants and 8 instructors and will gather for a week-long event summer 2010, then a one day event the following fall at the 2011 Annual Meeting, followed by another week-long event the next summer. The application deadline is **January 15, 2010**. For more information about this seminar, visit http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Summer_Seminars.

AAR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The Committee on Teaching and Learning seeks nominations for the 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. The deadline for nominations is **January 11, 2010**.

MARTIN E. MARTY PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGION AWARD

To nominate someone for the AAR's Martin E. Marty Award, which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion by those whose work speaks to the public as well as to scholars, please visit http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Marty_Award. The deadline for nominations is **January 25, 2010**.

RELIGION AND THE ARTS AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for the Religion and the Arts award, which is presented annually to an artist, performer, critic, curator, or scholar who has made a recent significant contribution to the understanding of the relations among the arts and religions, both for the Academy and for a broader public. Nominees need not be AAR members. Please, no self nominations. To be considered for the 2010 award, nominations must be made by **February 1, 2010**. For submission requirements and more information, visit http://www.aarweb.org/programs/awards/arts_award.

BOOK AWARDS

In order to give recognition to new scholarly publications that make significant contributions to the study of religion, the AAR offers Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion. These awards honor works of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity and importance; books that affect decisively how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted. Awards for Excellence are given in four categories. In addition, there is a prize for the Best First Book in the History of Religions, comprising a wholly separate competition. For eligibility requirements and awards processes, visit http://www.aarweb.org/Programs/Awards/Book_Awards.

IAHR CONFERENCE ON "RELIGION: A HUMAN PHENOMENON"

"Religion: A Human Phenomenon" is the overarching theme for the Twentieth World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), which will be held at the University of Toronto from August 15-21, 2010. Normally persons attending the IAHR World Congress must be members of a national member association or society of the IAHR. For 2010, AAR members will be offered the courtesy of participating in this Congress without having to pay an IAHR membership fee (conference registration fees still apply). Any members of AAR who might be interested in this Congress are welcome to submit proposals to read papers and/or organize panels in order to share their research and scholarship.

The call for papers, as well as detailed information about the Congress venue, sponsors, and academic program can be found [here](#). Deadline for submission of paper/panel proposal is **April 30, 2010** (deadline for discounted early registration is January 31, 2010).

2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please take a minute to renew your AAR membership for 2010. Renewing by the end of the year will ensure that you continue to have access to all member benefits including access to AAR member-only webpages, *JAAR*, and the *2010 Annual Meeting Program Planner*. In an effort to be sustainable, we encourage you to renew online. If you prefer to receive a renewal notice via mail, please send an e-mail to

membership@aarweb.org. Renew your membership for calendar year 2010 now at www.aarweb.org/Members/Dues.

MEMBERSHIP RECEIPT

If you need a membership receipt, you do not need to contact the AAR office. Members can generate a receipt for their membership dues on the AAR website. Login to the AAR website at www.aarweb.org using your last name and membership ID number. Click on the “Members” tab, and then the “My AAR” tab. Click the “Your Renewal History” link and then select the year of renewal. Voila!