



Fostering Excellence
In the Study of Religion

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Friends:

Greetings from the Luce Center in Atlanta! This month's E-bulletin contains a number of items: news about the Annual Meeting in Atlanta; an update regarding the ACLS case against the U.S. government concerning Professor Tariq Ramadan; draft guidelines for teaching about religion in grades K–12; and other important items.

With every good wish in this winter season, I offer you my thanks for your participation in the work of our Academy.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jack Fitzmier'.

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

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ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Call for Papers Now Available!

The 2010 Call for Papers is now online. Proposals may be submitted through the [Online Paper/Panel Proposal \(OP3\) system](#). Please note and use the appropriate method of submission each program unit prefers. The deadline for all proposal submissions is March 1, 2010, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Registration and Housing

Registration and Housing for the 2010 Annual Meeting are now open.

Account Information

Name: [business]
Member ID: [aar_id]

[Log In](#)

You must be registered to secure housing. "Super Saver" registration rates are in effect until March 31, 2010. Check your mailbox for the AAR Registration and Housing brochure containing all the details, and [click here](#) to register and book housing online.

Annual Meeting Job Center

Annual Meeting Job Center preregistration is currently open for candidates. Employer preregistration will open April 19.

Preregistration will close for both candidates and employers on October 11. Register early to receive full benefits. For more information, see <http://www.aarweb.org/jump/jobcenter>.

Cosponsor an International Scholar from Australia/Oceania

Cosponsoring an international scholar allows your university to select a scholar to visit your university before or after the Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA (October 30–November 1, 2010) and receive public thanks in *Religious Studies News*.

This is rewarding for you and your institution, as it is an inexpensive way to get an international scholar to your campus. The fee is \$500, which includes AAR staff support in arranging the visit. In addition, the sponsoring school is responsible for all costs associated with bringing the scholar to your campus, including the incremental cost of the flight resulting from the planned visit at your institution.

Cosponsoring a scholar requires extensive planning between you, the AAR, and the visiting scholar, so the sooner this is set up the better. You will be given the contact information of the scholar in order to plan her/his visit with you. Also, plans will be made on a first come, first serve basis: If several institutions select the same scholar, priority is given to the one who makes the first request.

Invited scholars include Frank Brennan (Australian Catholic University), Douglas Ezzy (University of Tasmania), Mike Grimshaw (University of Canterbury), Roger Maaka (Eastern Institute of Technology), Marion Maddox (Macquarie University), Aileen Moreton-Robinson (Queensland University of Technology), Paul Morris (Victoria University of Wellington), Lynda Newland (University of South Pacific), Philip Taylor (Australian National University), Jenny Te Paa (College of St. John the Evangelist), and Toni Tidswell (University of Otago).

The deadline for requesting a scholar to visit your institution is March 31, 2010. Please contact Jessica at jdavenport@aarweb.org or 404-727-4707 for additional information or to check the availability of a specific scholar.

Contact Us

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UPDATE ON THE CASE OF PROFESSOR TARIQ RAMADAN

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently issued orders that appear to end the exclusion from the United States of Professor Tariq Ramadan, on whose behalf the AAR has long been involved in a lawsuit. The

AAR joined in the ACLU-filed lawsuit against the United States government because of its denial of visas to Ramadan, a prominent scholar of Islam. More information is available [on the AAR website](#).

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION IN GRADES K–12

The AAR Religion in the Schools Task Force seeks AAR members' feedback on [draft guidelines](#) it has developed for teaching about religion in K–12 public schools. (A draft of only the first half was published in the October 2009 issue of *Religious Studies News*.) Providing public school teachers with such guidelines is important because religion is embedded in their social studies and English curriculum standards, and some elective courses are offered on religion explicitly. However, there are no content and skill guidelines for teaching about religion that have been constructed by scholars of the field — as there are for teaching about other subjects in the public schools. Lacking guidance for how to teach about religion, many teachers tend either not to do it well or to avoid the topic altogether. The deadline for feedback is February 28, 2010.

RELIGION AND THE ARTS AWARD NOMINATIONS

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 28, 2010. For submission requirements and more information, please [click here](#).

RECENT AAR APPOINTMENTS

Amir Hussain, professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University, has been appointed to a five-year term (2011–2015) as Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. The AAR thanks Charles Mathewes for his work, whose term as Editor continues until December, and thanks as well the members of the JAAR Editor Selection Committee — Francis X. Clooney, S. J. (Chair), Kimberly Rae Connor, Rosalind I. J. Hackett, John Kelsay, and Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan. For the full announcement, [click here](#).

Mary McGee, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Alfred University, has been appointed to a four-year term (2010–2013) as AAR Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. The ACLS is a federation of about seventy scholarly organizations in the humanities and social sciences.

An AAR Information Technology Task Force has been appointed, whose members are Donna Bowman (co-Chair), associate professor of religious studies, University of Central Arkansas; Mark

Juergensmeyer (co-Chair), professor of sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara; David Cunningham, professor of religion, Hope College; Elonda Clay, graduate student, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago; Steve Eley (co-staff liaison), AAR Director of Technology; and Steve Herrick (co-staff liaison) AAR Director of External Relations.

AAR ON FACEBOOK

Become an AAR fan on Facebook! Keep up with the latest AAR news and connect with other AAR members through [AAR's Facebook page](#).

AAR's Status of Women in the Profession Committee introduces its [official Facebook page](#). How can SWP best help you? Become a fan and join the discussion.