



Fostering Excellence In the Study of Religion

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Friends:

Greetings from the Luce Center in Atlanta! I hope the end of the academic year is going well for you and that you are looking forward to the summer months ahead!

This month's E-bulletin contains news about the Annual Meeting in Atlanta; in particular, our new registration rates have just gone into effect. The May issue of Religious Studies News was recently released and I hope you greatly enjoy the issue and all that it has to offer, including Academic Abby. Please get involved in your region or encourage others to do so; regional development grants are available for those who have special projects that promise to be of benefit to the regions.

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

Sincerely yours

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Registration and Housing: Early Bird Rates Expire on August 31!

[Registration and Housing](#) for the 2011 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, are now open. You must be registered to secure housing. Early Bird registration rates are in effect until August 31, 2011. [Click here](#) for the Registration and Housing brochure containing

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all the details, and then [register and book housing online](#).

Women's Mentoring Luncheon

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 on Sunday, November 20, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Judith Plaskow, Traci West, Namsoon Kang, and Katie Cannon. 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. [Click here to register](#).

Register for Overcoming Barriers to Underrepresented Scholarship: A Strategy and Action Workshop

Despite more than four decades of feminist, antiracist, queer, and other insurgent scholarship, this work and the scholars who produce it still face many barriers in the academy. This strategy and action workshop on the Friday before the Annual Meeting will focus on developing a plan of action for overcoming these barriers. The morning session will feature a panel that will discuss barriers to and strategies for promoting and disseminating paradigm-shifting intellectual projects in the academy. In the afternoon, participants will work on developing concrete proposals for collective action that can be implemented within the AAR and our home institutions. The cost is only \$50; you may include it with your [Annual Meeting registration](#). Contact Judith Plaskow at Judith.plaskow@manhattan.edu for subsidy information.

MAY RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS NOW AVAILABLE!

We are very pleased to announce the release of the May issue of *Religious Studies News*. The issue can be accessed by going online to www.rsonline.org.

In this issue, you will find lots of information on our upcoming Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. You can also read about pertinent matters in the field of religion in our Focus, Features, and News sections. Our *Spotlight on Teaching* issue delves into teaching religion and ecology: from the abstract to the personal, from despair to hope.

ACADEMIC ABBY

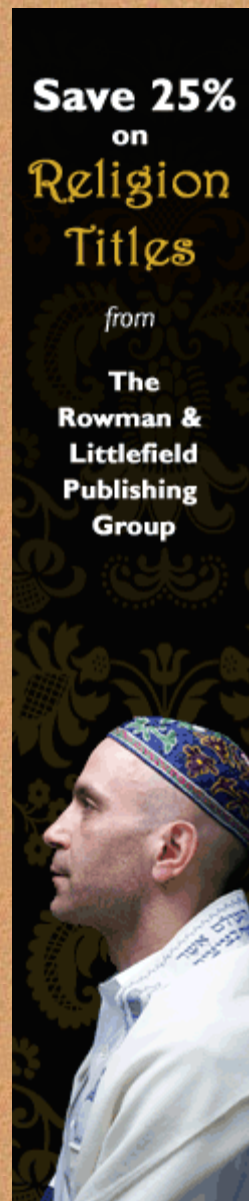
Do you have a question about life in academe that you are at a loss to answer by yourself but don't feel you can approach your colleagues with it? [Ask Academic Abby!](#) Academic Abby is able to answer questions large and small, from dealing with faculty dilemmas, to



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tenure issues, to work/life balance troubles. Questions can be submitted anonymously through an [online form](#). Members of the AAR Status of Women in the Profession will respond to each question received. The question and answer will be posted on the [SWP web page](#) and in issues of *Religious Studies News*.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Have you considered applying for a 2011–2012 [Regional Development Grant](#)? Regional Development Grants provide funds for special projects within the regions that promise to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members and do the work of the AAR in the regions. Workshops, special programs, training events, and other innovative regional projects may be funded through this source. Where possible, projects are designed so that they may be duplicated or transported to other regions.

Applications should include a narrative description of the project detailing how the project promises to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members and the work of the region. Please include comments on how these projects or activities may be adapted to other regional groups. The application should state the time period covered by the project and provide a detailed budget (office expenses, travel expenses, honoraria, stipend, and other expenses). Institutional overhead costs should not be included in this budget. No grant will exceed \$4,000.

Successful grants from prior years can be [found here](#).

Deadlines:

- August 1, 2011 – Grant proposals due to Regional Directors
 - September 1, 2011 – Regional Directors forward grants to Regions Committee
 - October 15, 2011 – Regional grant awards announced
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