



# e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

## **Religious Studies News — May Issue 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](http://www.rsonline.org).

In this issue, you will find news about the upcoming 2013 Annual Meeting, how to get involved in AAR leadership, a new *Spotlight on Teaching*, plus lots of other information from the AAR.

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## **ANNUAL MEETING NEWS**

### **Registration and Housing Is OPEN!**

[Register](#) today to receive the best price on the Annual Meetings! The 2013 member rate is deeply discounted. Annual Meeting registration rates increase on **June 15**, so lock in the savings today.

Check out the [Annual Meeting Brochure](#) for all the details on registration, housing, tours, workshops, plenary sessions, and more!

### **Additional Meetings Reservation System Is Open!**

[Reserve](#) your reception, editorial meeting, or other business event at the Annual Meeting today through the [online Additional Meeting reservation system](#)! Additional Meetings that are requested now are published in the online and print *Annual Meetings Program Book*. The first deadline for requesting an additional meeting is fast approaching on **May 31**.

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## Students of Color Presenting on the Annual Meeting Program: Subsidies Available — May 19 Deadline!

AAR's Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee provides registration waivers to AAR student members of color who are presenting papers at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

If you are a student of color on the AAR Annual Meeting program and are not receiving institutional support, you are eligible to have your registration fee waived (or reimbursed). To apply for this assistance, please complete [the short questionnaire](#) no later than 11:59 pm EST, **May 19, 2013**. Subsidies are limited to 25 applicants. Priority will be given to those who successfully complete the questionnaire first and meet the requirements. Applicants must be a current 2013 AAR member and registered solely as an AAR member for the Annual Meeting (e.g., not registered as a SBL or dual member). Those who would rather wait to register for the Annual Meeting until after the subsidies are announced on June 3 may do so. You may direct any questions to [reg@aarweb.org](mailto:reg@aarweb.org).

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## NEWS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND CHAIRS

### Academic Relations Committee Seeking Input from Members

The Academic Relations Committee has adopted a plan that will guide its work between the spring of 2013 and the fall of 2015. As part of this plan, the Committee will focus its energy on several matters, including:

- 1) The issues connected to colleges' increasing reliance on contingent faculty; and
- 2) Providing assistance to the chairs of religious studies departments.

To this end, the Committee welcomes members and department chairs to offer advice to the Committee on topics related to supporting adjunct faculty and assisting the chairs of religious studies departments.

Please send any feedback you have or information regarding your department's efforts in these two areas to [info@aarweb.org](mailto:info@aarweb.org). The committee will be meeting this summer to work on a plan of action to be pursued over the next few years.

### Departments Seeking External Reviewers

## VARIETIES OF UNDERSTANDING

New Perspectives  
from Psychology,  
Philosophy, &  
Theology



Funding available.  
Proposals due  
November 1<sup>st</sup>.



A project based at Fordham  
University in New York City

From time to time, chairs of religious studies departments ask the Academic Relations Committee to help them identify scholars who might be willing to serve as external reviewers for departmental reviews. The committee is always happy to assist with your search.

If you would like us to suggest potential reviewers for your department, you can do so in one of two ways:

- 1) Send [info@aarweb.org](mailto:info@aarweb.org) an e-mail that describes the qualities you are looking for in your reviewers (Are you looking, for example, for professors who have served as the chair of a religious studies department at a small liberal arts college? For people who specialize in Islamic studies?). Please be sure to include information about yourself (name of your institution, size, relevant information about the search); or
- 2) Complete [the request form](#) on the AAR website.

The committee will send you, within two weeks of your request, a list of potential reviewers.

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## **AAR AWARDS & GRANTS**

### **Call for AAR Committee Nominations**

Each year, members of the American Academy of Religion are invited to nominate persons to fill open positions on AAR Committees, Task Forces, and Juries. This year, there are openings on the following groups:

- +Academic Relations Committee
- +American Lectures in the History of Religions Committee
- +Excellence in the History of Religion Book Award Juries
- +International Connections Committee
- +Public Understanding of Religion Committee
- +Research Grants Jury
- +Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee
- +Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee
- +Status of Women in the Profession Committee
- +Teaching and Learning Committee
- +Theological Education Committee

Nominations for positions on these groups must be made in writing and

must include:

- 1) A brief description of the nominee's academic and professional interests
- 2) A brief summary of the nominee's activity in the AAR
- 3) A brief statement describing the nominee's interest or promise for a particular assignment
- 4) A current copy of the nominee's curriculum vita.

Members may nominate themselves. All nominees must be members in good standing of the AAR. Nominations must be received by **August 1, 2013**. Nominations may be submitted [online](#), e-mailed, faxed, or posted to:

Elizabeth Hardcastle  
Service Coordinator  
American Academy of Religion  
Suite 300  
825 Houston Mill Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329 USA  
Fax: 404-727-7959  
[nominations@aarweb.org](mailto:nominations@aarweb.org)

John L. Esposito, President of the AAR, and the Board of Directors will review nominations and make selections during August and September 2013. Nominees will be notified of their status soon thereafter. If you have questions about particular assignments, please feel free to contact the AAR's Executive Staff, Board members, or Committee/Task Force chairs. Committee descriptions and rosters are available at [www.aarweb.org/about\\_AAR/committees](http://www.aarweb.org/about_AAR/committees).

### **AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching**

The Teaching and Learning Committee 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. The deadline for nominations is **October 1, 2013**.

### **AAR Research Grants**

The 2013-2014 [Research Grants Online Submission System](#) is open! Each year the AAR awards grants of up to \$5,000 for individual and collaborative research projects. All applicants must apply [online](#); paper applications will not be accepted. The deadline to apply for a 2014 grant is August 1, 2013. Go to the [AAR website](#) for additional information.

## Regional Development Grants

Have you considered applying for a 2013–2014 Regional Development Grant? Regional Development Grants provide funds for special projects within the regions that 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 should be 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 lives 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](#). Application deadlines are:

**+August 1, 2013** — Grant proposals due to Regional Coordinators

**+September 1, 2013** — Regional Coordinators forward grants to Regions Committee

**+October 15, 2013** — Regional grant awards announced

A list of the Regional Coordinators can be found [here](#).

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## IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you interested in the latest happenings in the field of religion? Would you like to post an announcement of an event, award competition, or other news of importance in the field? [In the Field](#) is your resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education, published online by the AAR.

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## ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues

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 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 Committee will respond to each question received. The question and answer will be posted on the [Status of Women in the Profession web page](#) and issues of [Religious Studies News](#).

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## ASK THE DIVA

If you are experiencing issues of special concern to LGBTIQ scholars of religion, the Diva can help! What questions do you have about graduate school, career development, teaching, etc.? Questions can be submitted anonymously through an [online form](#). Members of the LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee will respond. Your confidentiality is assured; the answers can be e-mailed to you privately if you wish. With your permission, the questions and answers will be posted anonymously in [Religious Studies News](#).

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## AAR MEMBER NOTES



### In Memoriam

Otto Maduro

April 14, 1945 – May 9, 2013

It is with great sadness that the AAR announces the passing of Otto Maduro, Professor of Religion at Drew University and the AAR's immediate past President. A philosopher and sociologist of religion, Professor Maduro was the author of more than 100 books and articles in a dozen languages. First and foremost, his work focused on the interrelation of religious traditions (the Christian churches in particular) and the yearnings for liberation among the economically, racially, culturally, and/or sexually oppressed peoples. Please join the AAR staff and Board in keeping Otto's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers in this time of loss. (Read the full announcement [here](#).)

## Awards and Honors

[Nancy J. Davis](#), DePauw University

Davis's book, *Claiming Society for God: Religious Movements and Social Welfare in Egypt, Israel, Italy, and the United States* (Indiana University Press, 2012) co-won the gold medal in the Religion category of the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards. It also received the 2013 Scholarly Achievement Award of the North Central Sociological Association.

[John L. Esposito](#), Georgetown University

Esposito received the Lifetime Achievement Award: American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, "In Recognition of His Outstanding Contributions to the Study of Islam and Muslim Societies and for Promoting Muslim-Christian Understanding."

[Pankaj Jain](#), University of North Texas

Jain was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship for Environment Leadership Program to study the Culture and Ecology of the Indian Himalayas.

[Scott M. Kenworthy](#), Miami University of Ohio

Awarded Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study Residential Fellowship (fall semester 2013) and Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (18 months) for book project on "Patriarch Tikhon Bellavin, the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Russian Revolution."

**Anthony Byrd**, Emory University

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation is pleased to name Byrd a 2013 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellow. Mr. Byrd is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. His dissertation, *As a Benefit for Mankind: Qādī 'Abd al-Jabbār's (d. 1025) Free Will Theodicy*, explores moral identity and the formation of religious orthodoxy in classical Islamic thought. Each 2013 Newcombe Fellow will receive a 12-month award of \$25,000.

**Cristina Richie**, Boston College

Cristina Richie, a PhD student at Boston College, won the 2013 Catholic Health Association's [CHA] Annual Theology and Ethics Colloquium graduate student essay award. She was flown to St. Louis to present "Building a Framework for Green Bioethics: Integrating Ecology into the Medical Industry" in March and was awarded \$500.

[Christopher D. Rodkey](#), Penn State York

Honored with the 2013 James H. Burness Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award is given annually to recognize any aspect of excellent instruction that contributes to the academic quality of the Penn State York campus.

[Lavanya Vemsani](#), Shawnee State University

Awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, OH. The Distinguished Teaching Award honors a full-time faculty member at SSU in recognition of outstanding commitment to teaching at Shawnee State University. Vemsani is presented with the

Award at the Commencement Ceremony, on May 4th, 2013.

### **Books and Major Publications**

[Sayed Hassan Akhlaq Hussaini](#), Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East

*From Tradition of Balkh to Modernity of Paris* (Kabul: Afghanistan, Nebras Research Institute, 2010)

[Patrick S. Cheng](#), Episcopal Divinity School

*Rainbow Theology: Bridging Race, Sexuality, and Spirit*, Seabury Books, April 2013, ISBN 978-1596272415.

[Bradley S. Clough](#), The University of Montana

*Early Indian and Theravada Buddhism: Soteriological Controversy and Diversity*. Cambria Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-60497-829-2.

[Monica A. Coleman](#), Claremont School of Theology

*Yes Ain't I a Womanist Too?: Third Wave Womanist Religious Thought*, Fortress Press, May 2013. ISBN 978-0800698768

[Jodi Eichler-Levine](#), University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

*Suffer the Little Children: Uses of the Past in Jewish and African American Children's Literature*. New York University Press, April 2013. ISBN: 978-0814722992

[John L. Esposito](#), Georgetown University

*The Future of Islam*, Oxford University Press ISBN978-0-19-997577-8

[Ronald A. Kuipers](#), The Institute for Christian Studies

*Richard Rorty* (Bloomsbury Contemporary American Thinkers), Bloomsbury Academic, March 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4411-8238-8

[Carl Olson](#), Allegheny College

*The Allure of Decadent Thinking: Religious Studies and the Challenge of Postmodernism*, Oxford University Press, 2013, ISBN 978-0-19-995983-9

[Leslie E. Sponsel](#), University of Hawaii

*Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution*, Praeger, July 2012.

[Manuel A. Vasquez](#), University of Florida

*The Diaspora of Brazilian Religions*. Leiden: Brill, 2013. Co-edited with Cristina Rocha (University of Western Sydney). ISBN13: 9789004236943

[Pamela D. Winfield](#), Elon University



*Icons and Iconoclasm in Japanese Buddhism: Kukai and Dogen on the Art of Enlightenment.* Oxford University Press, 2013.

### **Career Transitions**

[Michael Jerryson](#), Youngstown State University

Michael Jerryson has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Religious Studies in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Youngstown State University.

[Ronald A. Kuipers](#), The Institute for Christian Studies

Appointed Director of the Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics at The Institute for Christian Studies.

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Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones! [Submit your Member Note online.](#)

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