



e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

AAR AWARDS NEWS

2013 AAR Book Award Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the AAR Book Award Winners! The Awards for Excellence and Best First Book in the History of Religions recognize new scholarly publications that make significant contributions to the study of religion. The awards honor books of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity, and importance; books that affect decisively how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted. For more information, please see [Book Awards](#).

The awards will be presented at the AAR's 2013 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on Sunday, November 24, 2013, 8:00–9:30 PM.

Award for Excellence in Religion: Analytical-Descriptive Studies



Anna Fedele, CRIA —Lisbon University Institute
Looking for Mary Magdalene: Alternative Pilgrimage and Ritual Creativity at Catholic Shrines in France, Oxford University Press, 2012.



Award for Excellence in Religion: Constructive-Reflective
Jeffrey L. Kosky, Washington and Lee University
Arts of Wonder: Enchanting Secularity — Walter De Maria, Diller + Scofidio, James Turrell, Andy Goldsworthy, University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Award for Excellence in Religion: Historical Studies

Christian K. Wedemeyer, University of Chicago Divinity

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School

Making Sense of Tantric Buddhism: History, Semiology, and Transgression in the Indian Traditions, Columbia University Press, 2012.



Award for Excellence in Religion: Textual Studies

Emily T. Hudson, Boston University

Disorienting Dharma: Ethics and the Aesthetics of Suffering in the Mahabharata, Oxford University Press, 2012.



Best First Book in the History of Religions

A. Azfar Moin, Southern Methodist University

The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam, Columbia University Press, 2012.

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**.

2013–2014 International Dissertation Research Grants

The 2013–2014 International Dissertation Research Grants applications process is [open](#). These annual grants, designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.

Deadline: December 1, 2013.

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meetings Program Book Is Online!

[Online Annual Meetings Program Book](#)! Connect with colleagues, hear about new research, visit the exhibition hall... the Annual Meeting is an event not to be missed! There is still time to [register at the Advance Rate](#) and receive a *Program Book* (you must register for the Annual Meeting by

August 30 to receive a *Program Book!*).

Women's Mentoring Luncheon — Registration Is Open!

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and the Women's Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon on Sunday, November 24, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Traci West, Ellen Armour, and Rebecca Todd Peters; see [here](#) for a full list of confirmed mentors. 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 100. Click [here](#) to register.

2013 Employment Center Open

To register for the Employment Center at this year's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, post a job ad, view job ads, or upload your CV, go to the [new site](#), jointly operated by the AAR and SBL.

Baltimore Annual Meeting Hotels and Travel Discounts

AAR has negotiated special conference rates at twenty-seven luxurious and convenient hotels for the convenience of meeting attendees. Please note that you can only get the special conference rate by booking through the AAR. Registration is required to reserve a hotel at the specially negotiated rates.

Making your air travel reservations? AAR has arranged for travel discounts with several airlines and a car rental company. Visit the AAR [web site](#) for the discount codes.

There is lots of information about local transportation, discounts, and other items to make your travel to the Annual Meeting easier. Please see the [AAR web site](#).

Women and Religion Section 40th Anniversary!

What is the future of Women and Religion as a section at the AAR? The Women and Religion Section (W&R) turned 40 and we're looking toward the future. W & R strives to be inter-disciplinary, inter-religious, and radically diverse as it struggles to fully represent and disrupt the very categories by which it is named. Join our social media campaign and tell us what you think! Use #AARWR40 to submit your thoughts (FYI: All posts must be public to be collated via <http://tagboard.com/aarwr40> and presented at our AAR annual meeting session in November. For more information check out the [Women and Religion Section's web page](#).

IN MEMORIAM

The field of religion lost two notable AAR members recently. Our condolences go to the many friends and family mourning their loss.



Robert N. Bellah, 1927–2013

Long-time AAR member Robert N. Bellah, sociologist, moralist, communitarian, and Episcopal deacon, passed away on July 30, 2013, at the age of 86. Bellah was the recipient of the 2007 AAR Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.

Bellah was the Elliot Professor of Sociology Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught sociology of religion. Educated at Harvard where he taught for 10 years, Bellah moved to Berkeley in 1967 and served there until 1997. He did cross-cultural work on religion in Japan and in American society. Bellah is best known for his seminal essays "Civil Religion in America" (1967) — where he coined the term "American civil religion" — and "Religious Evolution" (1964). He won the Sorokin Award from the American Sociological Association for *Broken Covenant: American Civil Religion in a Time of Trial* (1975) and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life* (1985). A prolific author, Bellah published his latest book, *Religion in Human Evolution*, in 2011.

A celebrated scholar and teacher, Bellah also won the Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching from the Danforth Foundation. In 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Bellah the National Humanities Medal for raising "our awareness of the values that are at the core of democratic institutions and of the dangers of individualism unchecked by social responsibility."

In the September issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, a review essay by Jack Miles on two of Professor Bellah's recent publications will be published. Coming in the December issue of the *JAAR*, an obituary by Mark Juergensmeyer and a roundtable on the sociology of religion to which Professor Bellah was a contributor.

Bellah's [presentation](#) on Religion in Human Evolution at the 2011 AAR Annual Meeting is available on the [AAR web site](#).



Jean Bethke Elshtain, 1941–2013

Jean Bethke Elshtain, long-time AAR member and one of the nation's most prominent and provocative thinkers, died Sunday, August 11, 2013. Elshtain was the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. She was a Guggenheim Fellow, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Phi Beta Kappa Lecturer, and held the Maguire Chair in Ethics at the Library of Congress.

Elshtain was a prolific author. Her books included *Meditations on Modern Political Thought* (1988), *Public Man, Private Woman: Women in Social and Political Thought* (1993), *Women and War* (1995), *Augustine and the Limits of Politics* (1998), *Jane Addams and the Dream of American Democracy* (2001), and *Just War Against Terror* (2004). Elshtain is survived by her husband, four children, and four grandchildren. The University of Chicago has published a longer [obituary](#).

Elshtain photo by Jason Smith

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.

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](#).

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](#).

AAR MEMBER NOTES

Awards and Accomplishments

[Gary Dorrien](#), Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University
Awarded the PROSE Award in Theology and Religious Studies by the Association of American Publishers for his book *Kantian Reason and Hegelian Spirit: The Idealistic Logic of Modern Theology*, published by Wiley-Blackwell.

Books and Major Publications

Eric Gerard Pearman, Allen University
The Lion and The Lamb: The Trayvon Martin Tragedy, Gautier, MS: Pink Kiss Publishing Company, 2013.

Maha Marouan, University of Alabama
Witches, Goddesses, and Angry Spirits: The Politics of Spiritual Liberation in African Diaspora Women's Fiction, Ohio State University Press, 2013.

Hamid Mavani, Claremont Graduate University
Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism: From Ali to Post-Khomeini, Routledge, 2013.

Asma Afsaruddin, Indiana University
Striving in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought, June 2013, Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199730933.

David A. Salomon, Russell Sage College
The Glossa Ordinaria as Medieval Hypertext, Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2012.

Other Items of Interest

Maha Marouan, University of Alabama

First issue of an online magazine called US in Cuba created by graduate students in the Gender and Race Studies Department at the University of Alabama. The magazine is the result of a course conducted by Marouan in Havana, Cuba on "Religion, Race and Gender in Cuban Popular Culture." Comments welcome.

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