



e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

Happy New Year! Thank you for making the American Academy of Religion part of your 2014. This e-Bulletin touches on only a few of the exciting benefits and programs coming to you throughout the year!

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS



The [2014 Call for Papers](#) is online! The AAR Annual Meeting will be in San Diego, California, November 22–25. The [PAPERS system](#) will open on **January 21**. Start thinking about your Annual Meeting proposal today — the deadline for the Call for Papers is **March**

3.

REGIONAL MEETING NEWS

Support your region and plan to attend your 2014 regional meeting! Call for Papers and online registration is open for many regions — check out [your region](#) to see how you can become involved!

AAR GRANTS & AWARDS NEWS

2014 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner: Shafique N. Virani

The AAR's Teaching and Learning Committee is pleased to announce Shafique N. Virani is the recipient of the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award. Virani, Distinguished

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[825 Houston Mill Rd. NE
STE 300
Atlanta, GA 30329-4205](#)

[Tel: 404-727-3049
Fax: 404-727-7959](#)

[www.aarweb.org](#)



Professor of Islamic Studies and chair of the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto, will

make remarks and engage questions and answers during the Special Topics Forum at this year's Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. Visit the [AAR website](#) to view the complete announcement. Congratulations to Professor Virani!

2013–2014 Research Grant Winners Announced

Congratulations to these AAR members who won collaborative and individual research grants!

Collaborative

John Corrigan, Florida State University

How Do We Study Religion and Emotion?

Collaborators:

- Diana Fritz Cates, University of Iowa
- Anna Gade, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University
- June McDaniel, College of Charleston
- Sarah Ross, Universität Bern
- Donovan Schaefer, Haverford College
- Linda Woodhead, Lancaster University
- Mark Wynn, University of Leeds

Individual

Julius Bailey, University of Redlands

"That Hardy Race of Pioneers": The History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the American West

Kim Haines-Eitzen, Cornell University

Listening to the Desert in Late Antiquity: Landscape, Sensory Experience, and the Religious Imagination

Harold Morales, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Latino Muslim by Design: Race, Religion, Media & the Making of Minority Identities in America

Brian Pennington, Maryville College
Natural Disaster and Divine Agency: Hindu Theodicies of Climate Change

Leela Prasad, Duke University
Moved by Gandhi — A Documentary Film

Mark Rowe, McMaster University
Female Priests in Japanese Temple Buddhism

SherAli Tareen, Franklin and Marshall College
Islam, Tradition, and Democracy: The Case of the Deoband Madrasa

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 and 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 2014 award, nominations must be made by **February 1, 2014**. For submission requirements and more information, please see [here](#).

AAR Seeks Book Awards Submissions

The American Academy of Religion seeks submissions for the Best First Book in the History of Religions Award as well as the four categories of the Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion. The four categories for the Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion are:

- Analytical-Descriptive Studies
- Constructive-Reflective Studies
- Historical Studies
- Textual Studies

The submission deadline for all book awards is **February 10**. Submission instructions and eligibility requirements are available [online](#). Send submissions to the AAR Executive Office:

Sarah Levine
Attn: Book Awards
American Academy of Religion
825 Houston Mill RD NE STE 300
Atlanta, GA 30329

AAR to Conduct Survey to Analyze Long-Term Impact of the Religious Studies Major

The AAR requests institutions with an undergraduate major in religious studies support a survey of their former majors that will help indicate the impact of the religious studies major.

Institutions can participate in the survey by providing a list of graduates with current e-mail addresses along with a letter from an institutional figure (department chair or otherwise) that will accompany the survey when it is sent to former students. Participating institutions will receive a report of their institution's results as well as national data.

Grants are available to help institutions that need resources to conduct the survey. The grant application deadline is **February 1, 2014**.

The project is supported by the Teagle Foundation and administered by an IRB protocol by Georgia State University. To learn more, please visit the survey's [web page](#).

IAHR's XXI World Congress Call for Papers: Letter from ICC Chair Amy Allocco

January 14, 2014

AAR has long been interested in how it can best serve the needs of its international members and facilitate critical conversations about the diverse ways that religion is studied in different geographical settings and institutional contexts. As one reflection of these commitments, in 2010 the AAR joined the [International Association for the History of Religions](#) (IAHR) as one of nearly 50 national and regional member organizations and, since then, has worked assiduously to develop its collaborative relationship with this organization.

Several of the AAR-IAHR collaborations have involved the [International Connections Committee](#) (ICC), one of the AAR's standing committees, which is charged with fostering attention to the worldwide scope of scholarship in religion and the international composition of the Academy's membership. In order to do so the committee sponsors special programs, communicates with scholars abroad, and extends hospitality to international attendees at the Annual Meeting. The AAR launched the [Collaborative International Research Grants](#) (CIRG) competition this year,

which will serve as the ICC's signature special program. This initiative is intended to support generative research collaborations between and among scholars located in different geographical regions who wish to pursue focused, joint projects in any area of the study of religion. In recognition of the partnership with the IAHR, the AAR has invited the IAHR General Secretary to serve as a liaison to the ICC and as a member of the jury for the CIRG competition. The first cohort of CIRG recipients, whose awards will range from \$500 to \$5000, will be announced in Spring 2014.

Another recent example of the partnership between the AAR and the IAHR is the AAR sending two delegates to the IAHR's Special Conference focused on the theme *Religion, Migration, Mutation* in September 2013. Held jointly with the European Association for the Study of Religions and the British Association for the Study of Religions, this conference was hosted by Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool, UK and featured scholars from nearly 40 countries. Participation in this meeting allowed ICC members to revivify existing relationships and establish new ones with international scholars, to publicize the AAR's new CIRG program, and to explore pathways for co-sponsored sessions at upcoming IAHR conferences.

The most significant of these conferences is the **IAHR's XXI World Congress**, which will take place **August 23 to 29, 2015**, in Erfurt, Germany. The theme for the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress is *Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present*; the Call for Panels is available [here](#) and all AAR members, who are IAHR members by virtue of their AAR membership, are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal.

Dr. Amy L. Allocco
Chair, International Connections Committee
Distinguished Emerging Scholar in Religious Studies, Elon University

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](#).

MEMBER NOTES

In Memoriam

Robert C. Lester, University of Colorado, Boulder, Emeritus
February 1, 1933–December 13, 2013

Robert Lester died in Santa Barbara, CA, following a fall that resulted in a severe spinal injury. An astute student of the religions of India, Professor Lester received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1963 and taught at Cornell and American universities before joining the faculty of the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1970 with a mandate to establish a program, now a department, in the study of religion. A full obituary is on the [University of Colorado, Boulder website](#).

Books and Major Publications

[Scott Bullard](#), Judson College

Re-membling the Body: The Lord's Supper and Ecclesial Unity in Free Church Traditions.

[Amanullah De SONDY](#), University of Miami

The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities, Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.

[Diana Eck](#), Harvard University

On Common Ground: World Religions in America is now available online at

www.pluralism.org/ocg, free of charge.

[Grace Ji-Sun Kim](#), Georgetown University

Reimagining with Christian Doctrines: Responding to Global Gender Injustices, Palgrave Macmillan, co-edited with Jenny Dagers.

Robert MacSwain, University of the South

Scripture, Metaphysics, and Poetry: Austin Farrer's The Glass of Vision with Critical Commentary, Ashgate Studies in Theology, Imagination, and the Arts Series. Ashgate Publishing, December 2013.

[Afsar Mohammad](#), University of Texas at Austin

The Festival of Pirs: Popular Islam and Shared Devotion in South India, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Priscilla Pope-Levison, Seattle Pacific University

Building the Old Time Religion: Women Evangelists in the Progressive Era, New York University Press, 2014.

Hans Schwarz, University of Regensburg

The Human Being: A Theological Anthropology, Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI, 2013.

[Win Whelan](#), St. Bonaventure University - Emerita

"English in the Roman Catholic Liturgy 1969-2002," in *World Englishes*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 439-442.

David Wilkinson, Durham University

Science, Religion, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, Oxford University Press, 2013.

[Phyllis Zagano](#), Hofstra University

Mysticism and the Spiritual Quest: A Crosscultural Anthology, Paulist Press, 2013. Introductory essays by Jeffrey Long, Joshua Schapiro, Ori Soltes, Phyllis Zagano, and Hussein Rashid.

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