



e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

VOTE TODAY IN THE 2014 AAR OFFICER ELECTIONS!

Elect the future leaders of the AAR! The Vice President, Secretary, and At-Large Director positions are to be filled during this election. The successful candidates will take office at the conclusion of the 2014 Annual Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to influence the governance of the AAR, so please cast your vote for the candidates now.

Please [click here](#) for information and to view the candidate statements. Voting is open to members through **October 22, 2014** (12:00 PM Eastern Time).

All members should have received an email with a link to the 2014 AAR elections ballot. If you have not yet received a link to the ballot, please notify us via e-mail at nominations@aarweb.org. Be sure to include your full name and the e-mail address to which you would like the link to the ballot sent.

Thank you for your participation!

RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS, REDESIGNED!

The AAR's publication of record, *Religious Studies News (RSN)*, is undergoing a major redesign! It's not only getting a new, sleeker, web-magazine look, it's also shifting editorial focus to become a news site that reports and comments on major trends and conversations in the field, highlights noteworthy publications, introduces scholars through interviews, and provides explainers for a more general audience.

With those major changes underway, there will not be the typical release of an October issue, but look for more information about *RSN* and its debut in the coming months. Contact *RSN*'s editor, [Sarah Levine](#), if you have any questions.

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ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meeting Housing

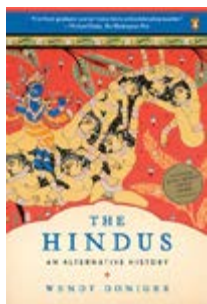
October 21 is the deadline to obtain our special conference rates for sleeping rooms at the Annual Meeting, and it's fast approaching! Don't miss out on potentially saving hundreds of dollars. If you haven't [registered](#) for the Annual Meeting, you may obtain housing during the process. If you have already registered, you may add housing by using the link in your registration confirmation email. If you don't have that email, you may have it sent to you by emailing reg@aarweb.org.

[AAR Annual Meeting Program Book](#)

The online *Program Book* (and PDF versions of the print *Program Book*) may be found [here](#). Printed books will be mailed in October to registered attendees as of August 14 who elected to receive a book by mail.

Contingent Faculty Reception (A22–410, Saturday, 6:30 PM–7:30 PM)

AAR members who work at colleges and universities on a contingent or contractual basis are welcome to meet and greet each other at this reception hosted by the AAR's new Contingent Faculty Task Force. RSVP to Sarah Levine, slevine@aarweb.org, by **Friday, November 7**, to receive room location.



The Doniger Affair: Censorship, Self-Censorship, and the Role of the Academy in the Public Understanding of Religion

Read Barbara McGraw's In the Public Interest column, [The Doniger Affair: Censorship, Self-Censorship, and the Role of the Academy in the Public Understanding of Religion](#), on the debates stirred by the decision of Penguin India to cease publication of Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus: An Alternative History*.

Don't miss these related sessions at this year's Annual Meeting:

A23–125 The Politics of Religious Sentiment: Religion and the Indian Public in the Light of the Doniger/Penguin Affair

November 23, 9:00–11:30 AM

Sponsored by the Hinduism Group and Law, Religion, and Culture Group

A23–202 The Doniger Affair: Censorship, Self-Censorship, and the Role of the Academy in the Public Understanding of Religion

November 23, 1:00–2:30 PM

Sponsored by the Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion

On our
new
and
recent
books
in
**Religious
Studies**
(and on
any
UNC Press
book)
— plus,
if your
order totals
\$75.00,
**shipping
is free!**



YALE JOURNAL OF Music & Religion

an interdisciplinary forum for the study of sacred music in all of its ritual, artistic, and cultural contexts. Published twice yearly by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, this peer-reviewed open-access journal publishes substantial scholarship on religious music of all traditions across a range of methodologies.

The journal encourages study of the full array of musical, ritual, literary, and other artistic forms that co-constitute the worlds of beliefs and practices.

PWD Lunch: Connecting Conversations

The Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee will host a luncheon for scholars and students with disabilities, as well as anyone interested in disability issues in the academy. The lunch follows a Special Topics Forum on "Invisible Disabilities and Hidden Illnesses in the Academy: Fostering Cultures of Accessibility." Please join us on **Monday, November 24**, 11:45 am–12:45 pm, for informal conversation and a chance to build connections with colleagues. Registration for the lunch costs \$13 and is limited to 100 people. If you would like to add this event to your registration, please contact the AAR Registration Bureau at reg@aarweb.org for assistance.

Women's Mentoring Roundtable [Registration](#)

Each year, the Status of Women in the Profession Committee (SWP) organizes a luncheon during the Annual Meeting. Several mid-career and senior AAR scholars gather with newer and emerging scholars in the field to discuss pertinent issues like choosing an adviser, getting published, contract negotiation, and the challenge of balancing work and personal commitments. The lunch is cosponsored with the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Women's Caucus. [Pre-registration is required](#) and the lunch costs \$13. Sorry, no refunds.

SWP is proud to announce an updated edition of the *Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A to Z* is being released at the Annual Meeting. Deeply discounted copies of the book are available to purchase with the luncheon registration for only \$15 each.

A list of the mentors and more information on the Mentoring Lunch is available on the [registration page](#).

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES OF NOTE

Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School

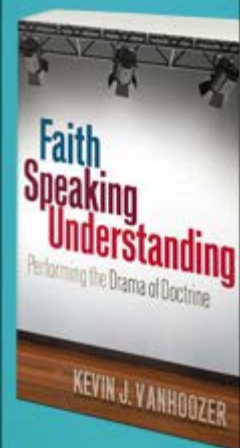
Oct 23–25, 2014 at Harvard Divinity School

Sponsored by the Science, Religion, and Culture Program at Harvard Divinity School and AAR's New England-Maritimes Region

The "[Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion](#)" is an annual multi-day gathering of graduate students studying religion within a variety of disciplinary frameworks. It is comprised of panels that cross religious traditions, academic disciplines, and intellectual and theological commitments. This year's conference features four thematic modules: The Study of Religion: Past,

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ism.yale.edu/yjmr

NEW
from
KEVIN J.
VANHOOZER



"Will soon be deemed
a 'classic'."
—Stanley
Hauerwas

WJK
WESTMINSTER
JOHN KNOX PRESS

New in
THEOLOGY

from
CHRISTINE
HELMER

Present, and Future; Religion and Environmental Imagination; Epistemologies of Emotion; and Religious Meaning of Skin. Other highlights include panel sessions on professionalization and public writing. Professor Mark S. Cladis of Brown University will deliver the keynote address, "Romanticism, Modernity, and the Study of Religion: Politics, Ecology, and Spirituality at the Crossroads."

IAHR Extends Call for Proposals Deadline to December 15

Important Announcement: The deadline for panel proposals for the [XXI Quinquennial World Congress](#) of the IAHR has been extended by the organizers to merge with the deadline for paper and poster proposals on **Monday, December 15, 2014.**

The XXI Quinquennial World Congress of the IAHR, hosted by the German Association for the Study of Religions (DVRW), will take place in Erfurt, Germany, **August 23–29, 2015.** The Congress theme is *Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present*. All proposals must be submitted electronically via the [IAHR 2015 website](#).

For more information, please see [here](#). The AAR and its membership are members of the [International Association for the History of Religions \(IAHR\)](#).

AAR GRANTS AND AWARDS NEWS

Regional Development Grant Winners Announced

Congratulations to our three [Regional Development Grant awardees](#)! Read on for a summary of each winning grant application:

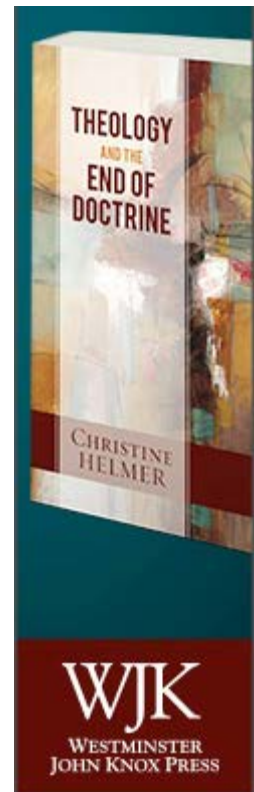
[Meeting the Challenge of Transitions: Employment Workshops for Religious Studies Scholars and Religious Professionals](#)

Submitted by Amy Hale with Jeffery Yergler from the Western Region

There will be a series of three workshops:

The first workshop, drawing on Dr. Yergler's ministerial background, will focus on career transitions and job skills for religious professionals, exploring the unique skill sets that religious professionals have and can contribute in a variety of professional environments.

The second will be a workshop for graduate students and PhDs in Religious Studies or Theology that will help them identify their skills and consider a range of possible career options that can fit holistically into wider life strategies.



The third workshop will focus specifically on career transitions specifically for people 40 and over. Middle aged professionals, particularly those with advanced degrees, face unique challenges when changing careers.

Graduate Conference on "Religion and the Natural Elements"

Submitted by Ariel Schwartz from the Midwest Region

Students and faculty from institutions around the region and across the United States will convene to explore various theoretical and methodological approaches to religion's intersections with aspects of nature, from the environment, climate, flora, and fauna, to human interactions with the natural, in the form of spirits, gods and goddesses, and miracles. Focusing on the relationships among ecosystems, religious practice, and religious thought, presenters will discuss topics such as Druid rituals, John Muir's theology, eco-halal, sacred geography, and Manichean food practices. At this intentionally interdisciplinary, regional conference, burgeoning scholars will reflect on the interplay of religion and nature in the heart of the Midwest.

Religious Studies Inside and Outside Prison Walls: A Workshop

Submitted by Vincent Lloyd and Joshua Dubler from the Eastern International Region

In the EIR, there are currently about ten programs offering higher education in prison. Of these, only one includes a substantial theology or religious studies component. We propose to offer a workshop that brings current prison educators from these programs together with religious studies and theology scholars interested in starting prison education programs. We hope to encourage current prison education programs in our region to consider adding religious studies or theology components, and we hope to give prospective prison educators from our discipline the resources and support they need to make their visions of prison education more concrete.

2014–2015 International Dissertation Research Grants

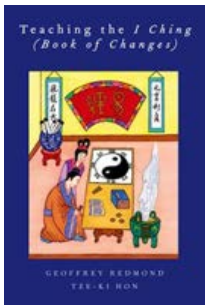
The 2014–2015 International Dissertation Research Grants [applications process is open](#). These annual grants, designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses. For information about the program, please visit the [web page](#). The deadline is **December 1**.

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 2015 award, nominations must be made by **February 1, 2015**. For submission requirements and more information, please see [here](#).

NEW RELEASE IN THE AAR TEACHING RELIGIOUS STUDIES SERIES



Geoffrey Redmond and Tze-ki Hon's *Teaching the I Ching* (Book of Changes), ISBN: 9780199766819, published by Oxford University Press. AAR members receive a **30% discount** on all AAR/OUP series titles. Sign in to [Member Discounts](#) on the AAR website and click the link to OUP.

RENEW FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 TODAY!

[Renew](#) your 2015 AAR membership! Make sure your access remains uninterrupted to all your member benefits, including print and online access to *JAAR*, *Religious Studies News*, and reduced registration rates at the Annual Meeting. Renew your membership for calendar year 2015 at <https://www.aarweb.org/join2015>.

Keep an eye on your mailbox and inbox for important news about your 2015 membership. There will also be opportunities for giveaways announced each week on the AAR [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAR's [In the Field](#) is an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education. Check it out!

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



Academic Abby

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](#).



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

Awards and Accomplishments

Ronald L. Grimes, Ritual Studies International

The University of Lund (Sweden) recently bestowed an honorary doctorate on Professor Grimes for major international contributions to the interdisciplinary field of ritual studies. He is the author of a dozen books, most recently *The Craft of Ritual Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2014). Professor Grimes has been a visiting professor at several universities including Radboud University (Nijmegen, the Netherlands), Charles University (Prague, the Czech Republic), and Yale University. Currently, he is Emeritus Professor of Religion & Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada).

Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Danforth Center, Washington University in St. Louis
Received the 2014 James W.C. Pennington Award for her research on African-American religion and history. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) and the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University in Germany established the prize in 2011 to pay tribute to James W.C. Pennington, an African-American churchman and former slave, who in 1849 was the first African American to receive an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University. The award is given to scholars who have distinguished work on slavery, emancipation, peace, education, reform, civil rights, religion and intercultural

understanding.

Books and Major Publications

David Albertson, University of Southern California

Mathematical Theologies: Nicholas of Cusa and the Legacy of Thierry of Chartres, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Kathryn Alexander, Christ Episcopal Church, Little Rock

Saving Beauty: A Theological Aesthetics of Nature, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Edward Curtis, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

The Call of Bilal: Islam in the African Diaspora, University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

[Sharon Ellis Davis](#), McCormick Theological Seminary

Battered African American Women: A Study of Gender Entrapment, Edwin Mellen Press, 2014, ISBN: 0-7734-4316-7.

LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant, Williams College

Talking to the Dead: Religion, Music, and Lived Memory among Gullah-Geechee Women, Duke University Press, 2014.

Jean-Francois Mayer, Religioscope

Orthodox Identities in Western Europe: Migration, Settlement and Innovation, Ashgate, 2014. Edited by Maria Hämmerli, University of Fribourg, Switzerland and Jean-François Mayer, Institut Religioscope, Switzerland.

Glen Segger, Yale University

Richard Baxter's Reformed Liturgy: A Puritan Alternative to the Book of Common Prayer, Ashgate, 2014.

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