



# e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

### Annual Meeting Report

The 2014 Annual Meetings in San Diego drew 9,874 attendees! There were some 1,350 sessions over the course of the week. We are already planning the 2015 Annual Meetings in Atlanta, GA for next November. Check back in mid-January for the 2015 Call for Papers.

### AAR Gives Back to San Diego



Each year, AAR thanks the Annual Meeting host city in part by making donations to local charities. In 2014, AAR attendees directly participated in a few of these efforts. Attendees found small plush zoo animals hidden in Annual Meeting locations. A \$5 donation was made for every animal found and either brought

to the AAR booth or posted on social media. The escaped zoo animal scavenger hunt raised \$500 for [Project Wildlife](#), a San Diego wildlife charity. Project Wildlife cares for injured, orphaned, and sick native wildlife and releases rehabilitated animals back into their natural habitats.

For the second year, AAR attendees were also encouraged to drop their unopened hotel soaps and toiletries off in bins located in the Convention Center. This year the 227 donated items went to Alpha Project in San Diego; more information can be found [here](#).

Since 2009, we have been working with *NativeEnergy* to support their sustainability projects, and have donated \$10,140 to the Ethiopia Clean Water

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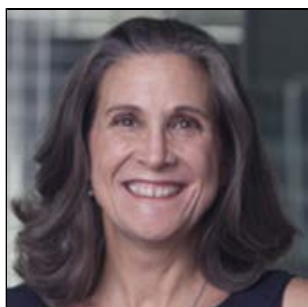
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Project and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Natural Methane Capture and Use Project. More information and a list of participants can be found [here](#).

A huge thank you to those who participated in our sustainability initiatives and donation processes!

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### **KIMBERLY RAE CONNOR: Thank You for Thirteen Years of Service to the Publications Committee**



The Publications Committee of the AAR would like to acknowledge publicly the tremendous service and leadership provided by [Kim Connor](#), and extend deep felt gratitude to her as she steps down from her position as chair of the committee. Kim has selflessly devoted great time and energy to this committee for thirteen years. From 2002 to 2011 she was editor of the Academy Series, helping many authors turn good

dissertations into good books—a hands-on and time-consuming task, benefitting not only scholarship but having a large impact on the careers of young colleagues. She has been chair of the Publications Committee from 2011 to 2014. We have appreciated her humor, wisdom, and efficiency. Kim has served as an associate editor on the JAAR Editorial Board since 2011, and is currently chairing the JAAR Editor Search Committee. As a small token of our deep gratitude the Publications Committee is making a donation in Kim's name to the AAR.

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### **2015 AAR REGIONAL MEETINGS: CALL FOR PAPERS**

Support your region and plan to attend your 2015 regional meeting. The following Calls for Papers are open:

Eastern International Deadline: February 16, 2015

Midwest Deadline: January 6, 2015

New England-Maritimes Deadline: January 12, 2015

Upper Midwest Deadline: December 21, 2014

Look up your [Region's Call for Papers](#) today!

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### **AAR AWARDS & GRANTS NEWS**

**Martin E. Marty Award Deadline Is January 25, 2015**

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To nominate someone for the AAR's [Martin E. Marty Award](#), which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion by those whose work speaks to the public as well as to scholars, please see here. Nominations and self-nominations are welcomed. The deadline for nominations is **January 25, 2015**.

### 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](#).

### 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

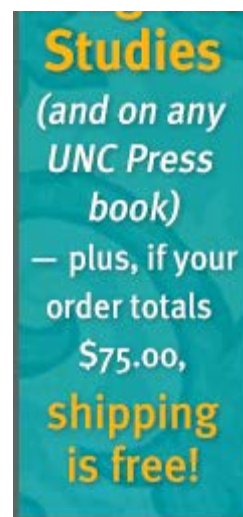
### New Grant Program from NEH



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces a new ["Public Scholar" grant program](#) that supports popular scholarly books in the humanities.

The program is open to independent scholars and individuals affiliated with scholarly institutions. The grant offers a stipend of \$4,200 per month for six to twelve months. Applicants must have previously published a book or monograph with a university or commercial press, or



*First Book  
Grant for  
Minority  
Scholars*

Deadline for  
application

**JANUARY  
15<sup>TH</sup>**

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FOR DETAILS**



articles and essays that reach a wide readership. The application deadline for the first cycle of Public Scholar grants is **March 3, 2015**.

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### **AAR ACADEMY FUND CONTRIBUTORS**

The AAR gratefully acknowledges our members who contributed to the Academy Fund from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. Contributions to this fund support new programs, international initiatives, the International Dissertation Research Fellowships, and the general operations of the Academy. Thank you for your donations! Please see [here](#) for the complete list of contributors. For more information about supporting the work of the Academy, or to make a secure online donation, please see [here](#).

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### **THANK YOU TO OUTGOING AAR LEADERSHIP (Terms End in 2014)**

AAR would like to thank the following Committee, Task Force, and Jury Members whose terms end in 2014.

Raj Balkaran Graduate Student Committee	Scott T. Kline Nominations Committee
Sharon V. Betcher Status of People with Disabilities Committee	Anne E. Monius Publications Committee
Anna Bigelow Program Committee	Stacey L. Patty Finance Committee
Kimberly Rae Connor Publications Committee	Judith Plaskow Status of People with Disabilities Committee
Miguel A. De La Torre Program Committee	Ellen Posman Teaching and Learning Committee
Horace Griffin Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee	Matthew Puffer Graduate Student Committee
Grove Harris Regions Committee	Gil Rosenberg Graduate Student Committee

Jacqueline Hidalgo  
Status of Women in the Profession  
Committee

Rachel Schneider Vlachos  
Graduate Student  
Committee

Mary Hinton  
Regions Committee

Scott Singer  
Graduate Student  
Committee

Alice Hunt  
Audit Committee

Deanna A. Thompson  
Nominations Committee

James Logan  
Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in  
the Profession Committee

Frederick Ware  
Research Grants Jury

## 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!

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## ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues



### 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 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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## MEMBER NOTES



### In Memoriam

Martin Riesebrodt (1948–2014), University of Chicago Riesebrodt, professor emeritus of the sociology of religion at the University of Chicago, died December 6, 2014, of cancer in Berlin. He was 66. The University of Chicago Divinity School has [published a reflection](#) on Professor Riesebrodt's scholarship and

mentorship.

### **Books and Major Publications**

[Andrea Jain](#), Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
*Selling Yoga: From Counterculture to Pop Culture*, Oxford University Press,  
2014.

Joseph Laycock, Texas State University  
*The Seer of Bayside: Veronica Lueken and the Struggle to Define Catholicism*,  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Martha Reineke, University of Northern Iowa  
*Intimate Domain: Desire, Trauma, and Mimetic Theory*, Michigan State  
University Press, 2014.

Michael Sohn, Cleveland State University  
*The Good of Recognition: Phenomenology, Ethics, and Religion in the Thought  
of Levinas and Ricoeur*, Baylor University Press, 2014.

Benjamin E. Zeller, Lake Forest College  
*Heaven's Gate: America's UFO Religion*, New York: New York University Press,  
2014.

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