



e-Bulletin

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meetings Program Book [Published Online](#)

The online *Annual Meetings Program Book* is [published](#). Start planning your meeting schedule today! More than 1,000 academic sessions, additional meetings, receptions, workshops, and tours will be offered. Most sessions will take place at the San Diego Convention Center.

August 14 Is a Big Deadline!

- **Advance Registration Rates Ends after August 14**
Browse the online [Program Book](#), see all the incredible sessions offered, and [register](#) today so you do not miss out.
- **Print Program Book Mailed to All Registrants as of August 14**
Annual Meeting attendees must be [registered](#) by **August 14** in order to receive the print *Program Book* in the mail. Check your mailing address on your registration confirmation email to ensure prompt delivery!

The print *Annual Meetings Program Book* will be mailed in early October to all registered attendees as of **August 14**. The *At-A-Glance*, with all the latest session and room updates, will be in the tote bag available onsite to all attendees. The Mobile App will once again be available free of charge for smart phone users. Changes to the meeting program during the meeting will be announced via the Mobile App, which is also available on the Web.

Women's Mentoring Roundtable Registration

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Dates & Deadlines:

- **August 1:** [AAR Research Grants Deadline](#)
- **August 1:** [Regional Development Grants Deadline](#)
- **August 1:** [Spotlight on Teaching Editor Search](#)
- **August 14:** [Advance Registration Rate Ends](#)

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.

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](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING EDITOR SEARCH: Deadline August 1

The AAR seeks a *Spotlight on Teaching* editor. *Spotlight on Teaching* is a major teaching and learning initiative of the AAR and its Committee on Teaching and Learning. Over the last several years, it has become a principal venue for exploring opportunities and challenges in teaching and learning about religions. *Spotlight* appears as a special supplement to *Religious Studies News* in the May and October issues. Each issue focuses on a particular theme, concern, or setting. The most recent issue is [here](#).

The *Spotlight* Editor serves a four-year term as an ex-officio member of the AAR's Teaching and Learning Committee. All applicants must be members of the American Academy of Religion. If you are interested in this position, please e-mail inquiries, nominations (self-nominations are encouraged), and applications (a letter describing interests and qualifications, plus a current curriculum vita) by Word or PDF attachment to Elizabeth Hardcastle, Service Coordinator, ehardcastle@aarweb.org. The application deadline is **August 1**.

AAR RESEARCH GRANTS: Deadline August 1

AAR each year grants awards ranging from \$500 to \$5000 to support projects proposed by AAR members and selected by the AAR Research Grants Review Committee. These projects can be either collaborative or

- **August 14:** [Deadline for Print Program Book Mailing](#)
- **September 1:** [2015 Officer Nominations Deadline](#)
- **September 25:** [JAAR Editor Search](#)
- **October 15:** [Regional Research Grants Announced](#)

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

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

www.aarweb.org

individual.

[Individual Grants](#)

These grants provide support for important aspects of research such as travel to archives and libraries and field work. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$5000.

Funds are not provided for dissertation research, research assistance, released time, and publication expenses, nor travel to attend the AAR Annual Meeting.

[Collaborative Grants](#)

Collaborative grants are intended to stimulate cooperative research among scholars who have a focus on a clearly identified research project. They may also be used for interdisciplinary work with scholars outside the field of religion, especially when such work shows promise of continuing beyond the year funded. Collaborative project proposals are expected to describe plans for having the results of the research published.

Grants can provide funds for networking and communication. Funds may also be used to support small research conferences. Conference proposals will be considered only if they are designed primarily to advance research. Conferences presenting papers that report on previous research will not be considered. Funds are not provided for publication costs, research assistance, or released time.

A group must apply through an AAR member designated as the project director. Not all participants need to hold AAR membership. Grant awards will range from \$500 to \$5000.

More information on [Individual](#) and [Collaborative](#) Grants can be found online.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: Deadline August 1

Have you considered applying for a [2014–2015 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, 2014 — Grant proposals due to Regional Coordinators

September 1, 2014 — Regional Coordinators forward grants to Regions Committee

October 15, 2014 — Regional grant awards announced

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

CALL FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS: Deadline September 1

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that the Vice President, Treasurer, Regions Director, Student Director, and one At-Large Director positions are up for election in 2015. The nominations deadline has passed for the 2014 elected positions.

Nominations for any of the elected positions must be received by **September 1** of the year prior to the election year. To be considered for any elected position, please submit the following information:

- A brief biographical sketch of no more than 200 words
- A statement on your candidacy for the position, between 500–600 words (e.g., what objectives and goals you would bring to the position)
- A current curriculum vitae

Please send nominations directly to nominations@aarweb.org. Send questions to Elizabeth Hardcastle at ehardcastle@aarweb.org.

JAAR EDITOR SEARCH: Deadline September 25

Professor Amir Hussain will complete his term as Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* at the end of 2015. The Academy is

initiating a search for his successor. Professor Kimberly Connor, Chair of the AAR Publications Committee, has agreed to chair the search. A link to the Editor's job description, frequently asked questions, and directions for making nominations or applications is [here](#). Application deadline: **September 25**.

WINNERS OF AAR JOURNALISM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Peggy Fletcher Stack of the Salt Lake Tribune placed first in the 2014 American Academy of Religion Award for Best In-Depth Newswriting on Religion. Jaweed Kaleem of the Huffington Post placed second, and Matthew Brown of the Deseret News placed third. See the full announcement [here](#).

IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS

IAHR's XXI World Congress Call for Papers

The International Association for the History of Religion's [XXI World Congress](#), 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.

This announcement and others are posted in AAR's [In the Field](#) an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education.

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



Ellen Aitken, McGill University

Professor Ellen Aitken, Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University, passed away on Friday, June 13th after a brief but brave battle with cancer. An ordained Episcopalian Minister, Ellen was dedicated to furthering understanding of religion's impact on the world. A graduate of Harvard University, she used her scholarly background in early Christianity and the early Church to help frame the lessons of globalisation and religion today. More information about her untimely death and her impact can be found on the [McGill University website](#) and the [Tony Blair Faith Foundation](#).



Vincent G. Harding, Iliff School of Theology

AAR member, social activist, civil rights leader, and professor emeritus of religion and social transformation at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, he passed away on May 19, 2014, at the age of 82. Harding, a friend and colleague of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., chronicled the civil rights movement as both a participant and a historian, and in 1997 cofounded the [Veterans of Hope Project](#) at Iliff, an educational initiative on religion, culture, and democracy. For more about the life and work of Dr. Harding, please see these articles from the [Denver Post](#) and [Huffington Post](#).



Daniel Bennett McGee, Baylor University

Professor and Emeritus Melton Endowed Chair of Religion at Baylor University, Dr. McGee died April 19, 2014, at the age of 80. A past Southwest AAR regionally elected director and member of the AAR Board of Directors, Dr. McGee taught theological ethics at Baylor for 40 years, and served on numerous regional and national committees related to justice issues.

For more information, please see [here](#).

Books and Major Publications

[Robert Bolger](#), Eastside Catholic

Gesturing Toward Reality: David Foster Wallace and Philosophy, coedited with Scott Korb, Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.

[Robert M. Geraci](#), Manhattan College

Virtually Sacred: Myth and Meaning in World of Warcraft and Second Life, Oxford University Press, 2014

Carl Hughes, Texas Lutheran University

Kierkegaard and the Staging of Desire: Rhetoric and Performance in a Theology of Eros, Fordham University Press, 2014.

[Kevin Schilbrack](#), Appalachian State University

Philosophy and the Study of Religions: A Manifesto, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

[Jennifer Elisa Veninga](#), St. Edward's University

Secularism, Theology and Islam: The Danish Social Imaginary and the Cartoon Crisis of 2005–2006, Bloomsbury, 2014.

Michelle Voss Roberts, Wake Forest University

Tastes of the Divine: Hindu and Christian Theologies of Emotion, Fordham University Press, 2014.

In the News

Cameron Partridge, Harvard University

On June 22, Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge became the first openly transgender priest to preach at the historic Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Partridge is a member of the AAR Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer Persons in the Profession Committee. A full article about the significance of Partridge's engagement is at [HuffPost Religion](#).

[Cristina Richie](#), Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Interviewed by the *Chicago Tribune* for her research on voluntary sterilization for childfree women. Richie, the student representative for the New England-Maritimes region and adjunct professor of health care ethics at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, was quoted several times on a front page story of the May 13 issue. See Julie Deardorff, "Tubal Ligation Can be a Battle," May 13, 2014. Her interview can also be found online for digital subscribers to the *Chicago Tribune* at Julie Deardorff, "[Doctors Often Reluctant to Sterilize Young](#)

[Women.](#)" May 13, 2014.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)
