

AAR Member News

FIRST WOMAN EDITOR OF JAAR: CYNTHIA ELLER Congratulations



to Professor Cynthia Eller on her appointment to a five-year term (2016–2020) as Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. She is the first woman editor of the AAR's flagship journal. Read the full announcement

[here](#).

NEW AAR POLICY ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PENDING REVISION TO STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The AAR Board of Directors has adopted a new policy on public statements issued by the AAR and will revise its 2006 Statement on Academic Freedom. For more information, please see [here](#).

GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITY: AAR-LUCE FELLOWSHIPS AT THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State is keenly interested in drawing upon the insight of scholars of religion to help formulate and implement US foreign policy. In support of this vital effort, the Henry Luce Foundation has recently awarded the AAR a generous grant to fund fellowships at the Department. These fellowships provide a wonderful opportunity to offer your expertise toward reducing violent conflict, improving regional security, and protecting human rights.



To be eligible, applicants must:

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1. hold a PhD in the humanities or related social sciences
2. be a US citizen (a Department of State requirement)
3. have at least five years' full-time professional work experience
4. be available to work full-time on site in Washington, DC, for twelve months
5. possess substantial academic expertise on current religion outside of North America
6. not currently be a US government employee

AAR membership is not required. Fellows without other funding will receive a monthly payment of \$6,500 and a relocation subsidy of up to \$1,500. Fellows are not employees; no benefits are provided.

The call will open in early May and close in early June. Separate applications will need to be submitted to both the AAR-Luce Fellowship Program and the Department of State's Franklin Fellows Program. Among the requirements will be a personal statement, resume, writing sample, and two recommendation letters.

By end of summer 2015, finalists will be selected, contingent on getting a government security clearance, which can take on average four to eight months and sometimes longer. Depending on that length, a fellow's availability, and Department of State needs, fellows will start work sometime between January 5 and July 7, 2016.

Other program details are still being finalized but will be posted in a call on the AAR homepage by early May. Please await that for more information, and please do not contact the Department of State.

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Registration and Housing Is Open!



[Register](#) today to receive the best price on the Annual Meeting! The 2015 member rate is deeply discounted. Annual Meeting registration rates increase on **May 22**, so lock in the savings today.

[Teaching Award
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AAR Annual Meeting Travel Grants - 25 Grants Available



Application Deadline: May 1

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce that it will award **twenty-five** travel grants worth **\$500 each**, plus complimentary Annual Meeting registration, on a competitive basis to members who demonstrate both financial need and a desire to participate in the Annual Meeting. Special consideration will be given to applicants from underrepresented minorities.

More information, including how to apply before the **May 1** deadline, is [online](#).

AAR Religion and the Arts Travel Grant

Application Deadline: May 1

The Religion and the Arts Travel Grant will assist a graduate student or young scholar studying Religion and the Arts who is without institutional support to attend the AAR Annual Meeting. The travel grant will offset the travel costs associated with attending the Annual Meeting: registration fees (including tours and workshops), hotel room, transportation, and meals **up to \$1,500**.

More information on the Religion and the Arts Grant, including how to apply before the **May 1** deadline, is [online](#).

REGIONAL NEWS

2015 REGIONAL MEETINGS

Plan to attend your [regional meeting](#) this year! The following online registration systems are open:

- [Eastern International](#)
Deadline: **May 1, 2015**
- [Upper Midwest](#)
Deadline: **April 15, 2015**

PhD Life Transitions Workshops at Golden Gate University

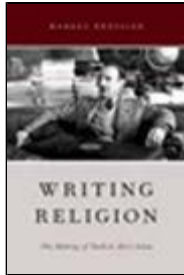
Don't miss these [free professional development and career workshops](#) to be held at the Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California, **April 18–19, 2015**. The workshops are funded by an AAR

Regional Development Grant. The workshops are open to all AAR members, regardless of region.

Apply for a Regional Development Grant

Have you considered applying for a 2015–2016 AAR Regional Development Grant? [Apply today!](#)

Deadline: **June 1, 2015.**



WRITING RELIGION: THE MAKING OF TURKISH ALEVI ISLAM

New in paperback! Markus Dressler's [Writing Religion: The Making of Turkish Alevi Islam](#), published by Oxford University Press. AAR members receive a [30% discount](#) on all AAR/OUP series titles.

SUBSCRIBE TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

Receive twice-monthly updates in your inbox by [subscribing to the mailing list](#). Recent articles and interviews published in *RSN* include:



- a [conversation](#) with 2015 AAR president Tom Tweed
- Juliane Hammer's [reflection on the intersection](#) of religious, national, and gender identity in the Women's Mosque of America
- Kyle Harper, winner of a 2014 AAR Award for Excellence, interviewed by Kristian Petersen about [sexual and religious dynamics](#) in pre- and post-Christian Rome
- a [call for self-reflexivity](#), by Sam Houston and Thomas Whitley, in response to acts cultural destruction
- articles on [balance](#) and [self-care](#) by Isobel Johnston for the Guide for the Guild

By subscribing to the digest, you'll get *RSN* conveniently packaged for your inbox.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Each year, members of the American Academy of Religion are

invited to [nominate](#) persons to fill open positions on AAR Standing Committees, Task Forces, and Juries. Members may nominate themselves. All nominees must be members in good standing of the AAR.

There are openings in the following groups for service beginning **January 1, 2016**:

- [Academic Relations Committee](#)
- [American Lectures in the History of Religions](#)
- [Book Awards Juries: Best First Book in the History of Religions](#)
- [Employment Services Advisory](#)
- [Graduate Student Awards Jury](#)
- [International Connections Committee](#)
- [Public Understanding of Religion Committee](#)
- [Religion and the Arts Award Jury](#)
- [Research Grants Jury](#)
- [Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession Committee](#)
- [Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee](#)
- [Status of Women in the Profession Committee](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Committee](#)
- [Theological Education Committee](#)

More information on the nominations, including the application, is on the [AAR website](#). Nominations must be received by June 1, 2015. Please submit your nomination(s) [here](#).

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2016 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The [Teaching and Learning Committee](#) encourages and solicits nominations for the 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award. 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 15, 2015**. Please contact Elizabeth Hardcastle at ehardcastle@aarweb.org with any questions.

XXI IAHR World Congress

[Register](#) for the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)



Congress to be held in Erfurt, Germany, **August 23–29, 2015**. For more information, see [here](#). The AAR and its membership are members of the IAHR.

IN THE FIELD

Want to know more about events, calls, and other opportunities in the field of religion? 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



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](#).

MEMBER NOTES

Awards and Accomplishments

[Bernadette J. Brooten](#), Brandeis University

Awarded a Doctorate of Theology, *honoris causa*, by the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Books and Major Publications

[Sophia Arjana](#), Iliff School of Theology

Muslims in the Western Imagination, New York: Oxford University Press, February 2015.

G. Clarke Chapman, Moravian College

Universal Health Care as a Human Right: The Argument of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lewiston NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2014.

Todd Lewis, College of the Holy Cross

Buddhists: Understanding Buddhism Through the Lives of Practitioners, London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

[Calvin Mercer](#), East Carolina University

Transhumanism and the Body: The World Religions Speak, coeditors Calvin Mercer and Derek Maher, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Paul Numrich, Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Religion and Community in the New Urban America, with coauthor Elfriede Wedam, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)