

# AAR Member News

## WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK ON RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICES!



Member engagement makes the AAR's work have more impact: A draft version of the new responsible research practices statement is available to [read online](#), and AAR president Thomas Tweed and executive director Jack Fitzmier ask for your feedback on its content in order to make further revisions. Visit the [AAR website](#) for more information and ways to send us your comments.

## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

### *Annual Meeting Program*

#### **Book Published Online**

The online *Annual Meeting 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 Hyatt Regency, Marriott Marquis, and Hilton Downtown hotels.



### **August 13 Is a Big Deadline!**

- **Advance Registration Rates Ends after August 13**  
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 13**  
Annual Meeting attendees must be [registered](#) by **August**

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**13** in order to receive the print *Program Book*, which is mailed in early October. Check your mailing address on your registration confirmation email to ensure prompt delivery!

### Employment Center Registration Opens for Employers



The AAR/SBL Employment Center is now open to [candidates](#) and [employers](#) for preregistration. Candidates who register with the Employment Center (free of charge!) receive an Annual Meetings edition of *Employment Listings*, the opportunity to submit a CV for employer review, and access to confidential communication with registered employers. Employers who register advertised positions with the Employment Center can access the credentials of registered candidates, send and receive confidential communication with registered job seekers, use an interview booth, and (for an additional fee) reserve a Private Interview Room. The deadline for both candidates and employers to preregister is **October 30, 2015**. Preregister to receive full benefits! For further details, visit the [AAR/SBL Employment Services website](#).

### Register for the Women's Mentoring Luncheon

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.

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

### AAR HONORS JOURNALISTS FOR IN-DEPTH REPORTING ON RELIGION

Congratulations to Elizabeth Dias, *Time*; Daniel Burke, CNN; and David Ovalle, *Miami Herald* for winning the AAR's 2015 Best In-Depth Reporting on Religion Award. See the full announcement [here](#), and read a [sample article](#) from each writer's submission.

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### The Holy Spirit, Science & Theological Education

The Annual Renewal Theology Conference

**March 18 – 19  
2016**



**Call for Papers  
Deadline  
Nov. 30, 2015**

[regent.edu/  
spirit-and-science](http://regent.edu/spirit-and-science)

## CALL FOR AAR OFFICER NOMINATIONS: Deadline September 1



The AAR Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that the Vice President, Program Unit Director, and one At-Large Director positions are up for election in **2016**.

The nominations deadline has passed for the 2015 elected positions.

[Nominations](#) for the Vice President, Program Unit Director, and At-Large Director positions must be received by **September 1** of the year prior to the election year.

Visit the [AAR website](#) for more information on the nomination process for these positions.

## RSN: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE...

*Religious Studies News* is crowdsourcing scholars' of religion favorite podcasts, films, television series, and novels. [Submit your](#)



[recommendations](#) through our survey, and *RSN* will publish your responses throughout the summer.



## **JOURNEY BACK TO GOD: ORIGEN ON THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**

New in paperback! Mark Scott's [Journey Back to God: Origen on the Problem of Evil](#). AAR members receive a [30% discount](#) on all AAR/Oxford University Press series titles.

## 2016 REGIONAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Plan to attend your [2016 regional meeting](#). The following Calls for Papers are open:

[Southeast \(SECSOR\)](#)

Deadline: **October 5, 2015**

[Southwest \(SWCRS\)](#)

Deadline: **October 15, 2015**

## AAR GRANTS NEWS

### Individual and Collaborative Research Grants

The [2015-2016 Research Grants Online Submission System](#) is now open!



Each year the AAR awards grants of up to \$5,000 for individual and collaborative research projects. All applications must be submitted [online](#); paper applications will not be accepted.

The deadline to apply is **August 1, 2015**. For additional information, please see the [AAR website](#)

### AAR Collaborative International Research Grants

The [2015-2016 Collaborative International Research Grants Online Submission System](#) is now open! The AAR's Collaborative International Research Grants program supports 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. Applications for awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 will be reviewed by the AAR's [International Connections Committee](#) (ICC). Please direct inquiries to Dr. Amy L. Allocco, ICC Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Elon University, USA ([aallocco@elon.edu](mailto:aallocco@elon.edu)).

The deadline to apply is **October 1, 2015**. Applications must be submitted via the [online proposal submission system](#). For information about the program, please visit the [AAR web site](#).

### 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](mailto:ehardcastle@aarweb.org) with any questions.

### 2015 AAR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Are you an AAR member who is passionate about your profession

and guild? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm? Do you think AAR membership is an important part of your professional life? If so, the AAR invites you to [join the AAR Ambassador Program!](#)

The AAR Ambassador program helps get information out to people about the study of religion and AAR programs. Ambassadors act as a point of contact for the AAR at your institution. It is a great way to volunteer in the AAR without leaving your office. [Apply](#) to be a 2015 AAR Ambassador today!

### **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**

#### **In Memoriam**

Austin Creel (1929–2015), University of Florida, Emeritus  
Austin B. Creel, professor of religion emeritus at the University of Florida, passed away on June 29, 2015. He joined the UF religion department in 1957, and served as chair of the department from 1977 to 1990. He retired in 1998. Professor Creel earned the PhD in ethics from Yale University in 1959, and was a widely known

expert on Hindu ethics. A longtime member of the AAR, he was honored with the AAR's Ray L. Hart Service Award in 1995 for his dedication and service to the work of the Academy. More information about Professor Creel's life and work may be found [here](#) on the UF website.

Owen C. Thomas (1922–2015), Episcopal Divinity School, Emeritus



Owen Clark Thomas, a member of the AAR for many years, was professor of theology emeritus at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He passed away on June 29, 2015, in Berkeley, California, at the age of 92. Dr.

Thomas earned a bachelor's degree from the Episcopal Theological School (later renamed Episcopal Divinity School) and was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1950. In 1955, he earned the PhD from Columbia University. He taught at ETS and EDS for more than forty years, and retired in 1993. A memorial service for Dr. Thomas is being planned by EDS. Please check their website later this summer for more information: [www.eds.edu/](http://www.eds.edu/).

### **Awards and Accomplishments**

Matthias Beier, Christian Theological Seminary  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Mental Health Counseling, [Matthias Beier](#) has been named a [Tutu Fellow](#) by the Desmond Tutu Center for Peace, Reconciliation, and Global Justice at Butler University and CTS for research on the therapeutic liberation theology of prolific European theologian Eugen Drewermann. Beier's work highlights Drewermann's innovative reinterpretation of the message of Jesus as both liberating and healing by deconstructing internalized theological oppression and its social, religious, and economic forms. Author of the first English monograph on Drewermann's work, *A Violent God-Image*, Beier has been invited to pen a biography of Drewermann by Patmos Verlag, to be published in September 2015.

[John C. Reeves](#), University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Named a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies for 2015–16 for his project on "Illuminating the Afterlife of Ancient Apocryphal Jewish Literature."

Jennifer Reid, University of Maine Farmington

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has named AAR member Jennifer Reid among its 2015 Fellows. Over the next year Reid will build on her previous work on the legal foundations of property-based law in ex-British colonies that have repudiated other longstanding (and generally religious) indigenous claims. She will be working with indigenous lawyers and land rights activists in a number of countries to establish a clearer picture of how scholars of religion can have a more vital public voice in the struggle for legal recognition of indigenous land claims.

### **Books and Major Publications**

Pierre Hurteau, Retired, *L'Avenir de la laïcité au Québec: Pluralisme religieux et espace public*, Paris: L'Harmattan, July 2015.

[Grace Ji-Sun Kim](#), Earlham School of Religion, coedited a new volume with Jenny Dagers, *Christian Doctrines for Global Gender Justice*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. This is volume 2 and the first volume is *Reimagining with Christian Doctrines: Responding to Global Gender Injustices*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014, coedited by Kim and Dagers.

Davina Lopez, Eckerd College, and Todd Penner, *De-Introducing the New Testament: Texts, Worlds, Methods, Stories*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

Anthony Petro, Boston University, *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion*, Oxford University Press, July, 2015.

### **Career Transitions**

[James Ernest](#), Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. has announced that James D. Ernest will be its next Editor-in-Chief. He will also join the Board of Directors as a Vice President. Ernest brings to Eerdmans more than two decades of experience in acquiring and editing academic books in biblical studies and related fields, most recently at Baker Publishing Group, where he was Executive Editor for Baker Academic and Brazos Press. He also worked previously at Hendrickson Publishers (as Acquisitions Editor and Associate

Editorial Director) and at H. W. Wilson Company. Ernest holds a PhD from Boston College, an MA from Boston University, an MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a BA from Wheaton College.

Santiago Slabodsky, Claremont School of Theology and Hofstra University

Co-chair of the Liberation Theologies group, Santiago Slabodsky will leave Claremont School of Theology and become Florence and Robert Kaufman Chair in Jewish Studies at Hofstra University-New York. Dr. Slabodsky holds a PhD from the University of Toronto and previous degrees from Duke University, the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary, and the University of Buenos Aires. His book, *Decolonial Judaism: Triumphal Failures of Barbaric Thinking*, was published in 2014 and released in paperback in 2015.

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Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)