

# AAR Member News

## EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION RATES END AFTER JUNE 18!



[Register today](#) for the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting! Rates go up as much as \$50 **after June 18, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**. You must be registered to secure housing, and our special housing rates are

going fast!

## JUNE 18 DEADLINE: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AAR-LUCE FELLOWSHIPS IN RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The AAR invites applications for AAR-Luce Fellowships in Religion and International Affairs. The program places scholars with PhDs, from the humanities or related social sciences, or ThDs at the US



Department of State, under the Department's Franklin Fellows Program. Fellows will participate in substantive work of the Department involving religion and international affairs. Fellows will receive a stipend of up to \$6,500 per month plus up to \$1,500 as a relocation subsidy.

Funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, the Fellowship program seeks to bring scholarly knowledge and critical perspectives to the analysis of contemporary issues and the shaping of policy; and to offer scholars opportunities to contribute their expertise while learning about the functioning of a US government agency.

Please see the AAR's website for [more information and to apply](#).

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**Deadline: June 18, 2015, at 5:00 pm EDT.**

### **SCHOLARLY ASSOCIATIONS DEFEND TENURE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN WISCONSIN**

The AAR Board of Directors has joined other associations in the American Council of Learned Societies in issuing a statement about tenure and academic freedom at the University of Wisconsin. Read the full statement [here](#).

### **ZIBA MIR-HOSSEINI NAMED 2015 MARTY AWARD WINNER**



The AAR Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion is pleased to announce Ziba Mir-Hosseini is the recipient of the 2015 Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion. A pioneer in the field of Islamic feminism, Professor Mir-Hosseini is professorial research associate at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Law at the University of London.

Read the [full announcement](#) about this year's winner in [Religious Studies News](#), and plan to attend the Marty Forum on **Sunday, November 22, 3:00-4:30 pm** at the AAR Annual Meeting in Atlanta, where Professor Mir-Hosseini will discuss themes of her work with Diana Eck, professor of comparative religion and Indian studies and director of The Pluralism Project at Harvard University.

### **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.

### **NOW AVAILABLE: JUNE ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**

Read the [latest issue](#) of JAAR for a special tribute to Marcus J. Borg (1942–2015), thought-provoking articles and reviews, and a roundtable

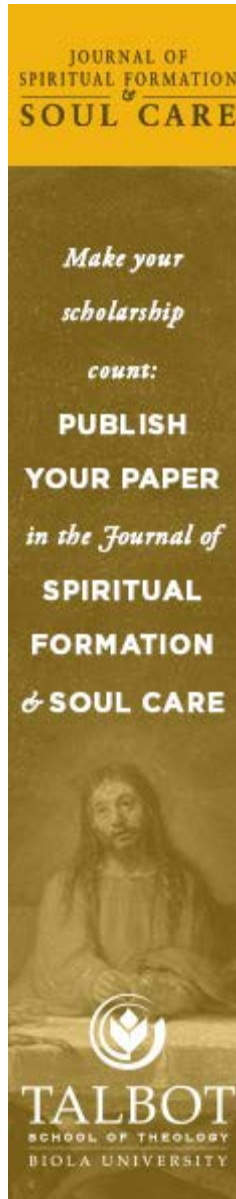
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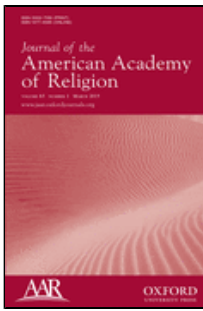


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on climate destabilization and the study of religion.

### **SOUTHEAST REGION CALL FOR PAPERS IS OPEN**

The 2016 Southeast (SECSOR) Regional meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 4–6. [Submit your proposal](#) by **October 5, 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. By subscribing to the digest, you'll get *RSN* conveniently packaged for your inbox.



### XXI IAHR World Congress

[Register](#) by **June 30th, 2015** 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

### In Memoriam

William J. Cassidy, Alfred University



William (Bill) J. Cassidy III died unexpectedly at home in Bodega, California, April 28, 2015. He taught at Alfred University as a professor of religion in the Human Studies Division from 1987–2008. Following his retirement, he returned to California and settled in Bodega where he further pursued his lifelong interest in Eastern religions and enthusiastically practiced tai chi.

Anthony Yu, University of Chicago



Anthony C. Yu, scholar of religion and literature at the University of Chicago, passed away May 12, 2015. For information about the life and work of Professor Yu, please see the obituary published on the University of Chicago's [website](#).

### Awards and Accomplishments

[Edward Curtis](#), Indiana University School of Liberal Arts, Indianapolis  
The NEH has awarded AAR member Edward Curtis and SSSR officer Art Farnsley \$119,009 to conduct "World Religions in Greater Indianapolis," a two-year study program on contemporary religious traditions in greater Indianapolis for 15 faculty members at the Indianapolis campus of Ivy Tech Community College. Ivy Tech faculty in the program will be introduced to world religious traditions and their sacred texts, and study their significance to US history and culture. They will then hold discussions with members of a recent immigrant community from that tradition. Finally, they will create course modules that they can incorporate into their existing humanities courses on world literature, history, and other topics.

Susannah Laramée Kidd, Mercer University

Named a 2015 ACLS Public Fellow by the American Council of Learned Societies, and will be placed as a research analyst with the

Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Read the full announcement [here](#).

### **Career Transitions**

Edwin David Aponte, Louisville Institute

The Rev. Dr. Edwin David Aponte, dean and chief executive administrator of Palmer Theological Seminary at Eastern University, has been named executive director of the Louisville Institute at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Aponte, who also serves as professor of religion and culture at Eastern University, will begin work at the Louisville Institute on July 1, 2015. For more information about Dr. Aponte's appointment, [see here](#).

[Jodi Eichler-Levine](#), University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Jodi Eichler-Levine has been appointed Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization and associate professor of Religion Studies at Lehigh University. She will begin her post there in August 2015.

### **In the News**

Michael Calabria, St. Bonaventure University

Fr. Michael Calabria, OFM, PhD, who taught on the university faculty in the Department of Modern Languages from 2003 until 2012, is returning to St. Bonaventure to direct the newly established Center for Arab and Islamic Studies. Seeking to promote an understanding of Arab and Islamic cultures and an appreciation of both their historical and contemporary significance in the global community, the Center's areas of focus will be scholarship, on- and off-campus instruction, and community outreach. For more information about the Center, visit [www.sbu.edu/CAIS](http://www.sbu.edu/CAIS). To read the full announcement, see [here](#).

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