



AAR ELECTIONS RESULTS

The 2015 Election results are [announced!](#) David Gushee has been elected Vice President, Jonathan Sarna has been elected Treasurer, Ardy Bass has been elected Regions Director, Bhakti Mamtora has been elected Student Director, and Grace Ji-Sun Kim has been elected as an At-Large Director. Congratulations!



David Gushee
Vice President



Jonathan Sarna
Treasurer



Grace Ji-Sun Kim
At-Large Director



Ardy Bass
Regions Director



Bhakti Mamtora
Student Director

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR NEEDED FOR JAAR – Deadline: December 1

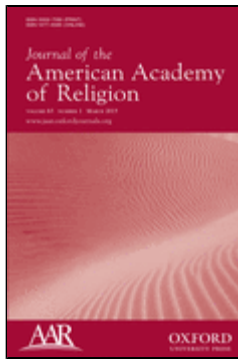
If you are interested in serving as Book Review Editor for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, please e-mail the journal’s incoming General Editor, Cynthia Eller, at jaareditor@aarweb.org with a letter

Your Membership Will Expire on December 31
[JOIN TODAY FOR 2016!](#)

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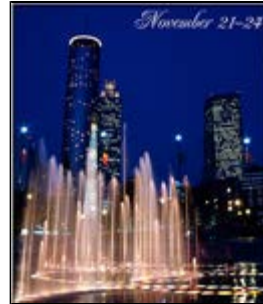
of interest and a CV by **December 1, 2015**.

The five-year term begins in January 2016. For details, please see [here](#).

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Registration Materials

In the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the AAR & SBL Registration area on the Exhibit Level. Pick up your tote bag at the kiosk located in the Ballroom Level. The name badge lanyards are in your tote bag. You will also find the *At-A-Glance*, and other information to make



your Annual Meeting a little easier. **If you have received your name badge in the mail, there's no need to come to the Registration Desk.**

New Session: *The Study of Religion and Responses to Terrorism: Paris, Beirut and Beyond* (A21-250)

Saturday - 1:00 PM-3:30 PM, Hyatt-Regency Ballroom

As we all try to come to terms with the attacks in France and Lebanon last week, this panel creates a space to discuss these events and the role of scholars of religion in helping others (students and the broader public) to understand them. We will ask questions including: what are the connections between the Paris attacks, other recent attacks in Europe, and ISIS-inspired attacks in Beirut and Baghdad? What should the role of scholars of religion be in contesting Islamophobia and debating appropriate responses to terrorism? How can scholars of religion help shape attitudes and conversations about Islam, religion and violence in the general public? How might the attacks in Paris, Beirut, and elsewhere open up classroom conversations about broader issues in the study of religion?

Todd Green, Luther College, Presiding

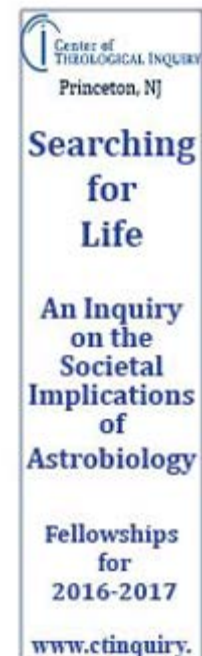
Panelists:



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AND NEW
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MOVEMENTS**
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Spirituality in
Contemporary
America

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PRESS



Stephanie Frank, Columbia College Chicago
Joshua Ralston, University of Edinburgh
Sophia Arjana, Iliff School of Theology
Edward E. Curtis, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Jerusha Lamptey, Union Theological Seminary
Sarah Rollens, Rhodes College

Guides to the AAR Annual Meeting

Please check out the following guides to help you navigate this year's Annual Meeting:

[Guide to the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting](#)

[New Member or First-Time Attendee](#)

[International Members](#)

Mobile App Available!

We are excited to announce that you can download the FREE [AARSBL15 Mobile App](#) for Android and iOS using the links or QR codes below.



<http://ativ.me/7xh>



<http://ativ.me/7xg>



If you are having technical difficulties with the mobile app, please consult this [FAQ](#) or contact us at support@aarweb.org.

Food at the Annual Meeting

On weekdays, there is an underground food court, which provides fast and inexpensive meal options for attendees during business hours. The Peachtree Center Mall Food Court can be accessed from an indoor walkway (with 3 stairs; no ADA options available without journeying outside) directly from the Hyatt. Look for the list of restaurants signage in the Hyatt, Marriott, and Hilton for other

www.ctinquiry.org/apply

**Application
Deadline:
January 15,
2016**

CTI gratefully
acknowledges
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Inquiry from
NASA
&
John Templeton
Foundation.

options. For ADA options, [see here](#). A more complete list of downtown restaurants is [here](#). If you are looking for vegetarian or restaurants that can accommodate restricted diets, [this list](#) may be helpful. For information regarding Kosher arrangements, please contact Joseph Weinstein at shabbat@sbl-site.org.

Catlanta Cats Hiding at Annual Meeting

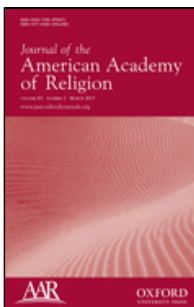


Here is a sneak peek at the Catlanta cats! The small screen-printed wood cats will be hidden in Annual Meeting locations. Catlanta is the name used by a local artist for his works left in public places as part of the Free Art Friday movement. Finders keepers - these will be a true keepsake from the 2015 Annual Meeting! Find a cat, post a selfie on social media and AAR will donate \$5 to Paws Atlanta, a local no-kill animal shelter

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION NEWS

In Appreciation: JAAR Editor Amir Hussain

This December marks the end of Amir Hussain's term as Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Join us in [thanking](#) Professor Hussain, Book Review Editor David Sánchez, and their institution, Loyola Marymount University, for five years of excellence in publishing the premier academic journal in the field of religious studies. To read "Adiós," Professor Hussain's final Editor's Note in the December issue of JAAR, click [here](#).



December Issue of JAAR Is Published

Read this issue for wide-ranging articles, incisive book reviews, and a special roundtable on LGBTIQ persons in Africa. To access the online edition, log in [here](#) with your AAR member ID.

AAR GRANTS NEWS

2015–2016 International Dissertation Research Grants Application Process Is Open!

These [two annual grants](#), designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation



research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.

The deadline to apply is **December 1, 2015**. For information about the program, please visit the [web page](#).

2016 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 2016 AAR Ambassador today!

MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

What matters to you in your AAR membership? Let us know by completing the [Member Satisfaction Survey](#). Your feedback on AAR programs and services is crucial. The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. [Submit the survey](#) by **December 31** to be entered into a drawing to **win one of 3 free AAR memberships**.



2016 REGIONAL CALL FOR PAPERS

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

[Eastern International](#)

Deadline: **February 15, 2016**

[Mid-Atlantic](#)

Deadline: **December 18, 2015**

[Midwest](#)

Deadline: **January 11, 2016**

[New England-Maritimes](#)

Deadline: **January 19, 2016**

[Pacific Northwest](#)

Deadline: **January 15, 2016**

[Upper Midwest](#)

Deadline: **December 20, 2015**

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



Jim Fowler (1940–2015), Emory University

James W. Fowler III, theologian, ethicist, and educator, passed away on October 16, 2015, at the age of 75. He was the Charles Howard Candler Professor Emeritus of Theology and Human Development in the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He earned a PhD in religion

and society from Harvard University, and joined the faculty of Candler in 1977. Professor Fowler is widely known for his groundbreaking work on faith development and practical theology. His 1981 book, *“Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning,”* has gone through more than 40 printings and is taught around the world. For more information on his life and work, please see Candler's website [here](#).



Rita Gross (1943–2015), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Longtime AAR member Rita M. Gross, well-known scholar on Buddhism and gender, died on November 11, 2015, at the age of 72. She was

professor emerita of comparative studies in religion at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she taught from 1973 to 1998. In 1975, she became the cochair of the new Women in Religion section of the AAR, and remained active with committee and program unit work at the AAR until her stroke in October of this year. She was the author of the influential *Buddhism After Patriarchy*, and a Buddhist dharma teacher, appointed by Her Eminence Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche. For more information about Professor Gross, please see the [Leader-Telegram](#), [Tricycle](#), [Feminism and Religion](#), and [Lion's Roar](#).

Books and Major Publications

Patricia Appelbaum, University of Massachusetts
St. Francis of America: How a Thirteenth-Century Friar Became America's Most Popular Saint, University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

[Donna Bowman](#), University of Central Arkansas
Prayer Shawl Ministries and Women's Theological Imagination, Lexington Books, 2015.

[George Gonzalez](#), Monmouth University
Shape-Shifting Capital: Spiritual Management, Critical Theory, and the Ethnographic Project, Lexington Books, 2015.

Karen V. Guth, St. Catherine University
Christian Ethics at the Boundary: Feminism and Theologies of Public

Life, Fortress Press, 2015.

H.C. Hillier, Wilfrid Laurier University

Muhammad Iqbal: Essays on the Reconstruction of Modern Muslim Thought, H.C. Hillier and Basit Bilal Koshul (eds), Edinburgh University Press, 2015.

Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham College

Here I Am: Faith Stories of Korean American Clergywomen, Judson Press, 2015.

Kevin M. Lowe, Independent Scholar

Baptized with the Soil: Christian Agrarians and the Crusade for Rural America, Oxford University Press, 2015.

[Kirk MacGregor](#), Carthage College

Luis de Molina: The Life and Theology of the Founder of Middle Knowledge, Zondervan Academic, 2015.

Herbert R. Marbury, Vanderbilt University

Pillars of Cloud and Fire: The Politics of Exodus in African American Biblical Interpretation, New York University Press, 2015.

Donovan Schaefer, University of Oxford

Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power, Duke University Press, 2015.

Laura Stivers, Dominican University of California

Earth Ethics: A Case Method Approach, James B. Martin-Schramm, Luther College, Daniel T. Spencer, University of Montana, and Laura A. Stivers, Dominican University of California, editors. Orbis Books, 2015.

[Linn Marie Tonstad](#), Yale University

God and Difference: The Trinity, Sexuality, and the Transformation of Finitude, Routledge, 2015.

[Wesley Williams](#), POJ Press, Inc.

The Purpose of Jesus: A Biblical Man or Interpreted Myth, POJ Press, Inc., 2014.

Claire E. Wolfteich, Boston University

Invitation to Practical Theology: Catholic Voices and Visions, Paulist Press, 2014.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)