

# AAR Member News

## APPLY FOR A MENTOR! AVAILABLE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED PERSONS IN THE PROFESSION

The American Academy of Religion announces the continuation of a program to assist in the mentoring of underrepresented groups. The program is an initiative of the four standing committees of the AAR:



- [Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Queer Persons in the Profession \(LGBTIQ\)](#)
- [Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession \(PWD\)](#)
- [Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession \(REM\)](#)
- [Status of Women in the Profession \(SWP\)](#)

Thirty-five applicants will be matched with participating scholars who will serve as mentors for a period of one year.

You may apply for the mentoring program by completing [this online form](#).

The deadline for mentoring applications is **May 15, 2016**. Notification of program acceptance will be sent by **June 1, 2016**.

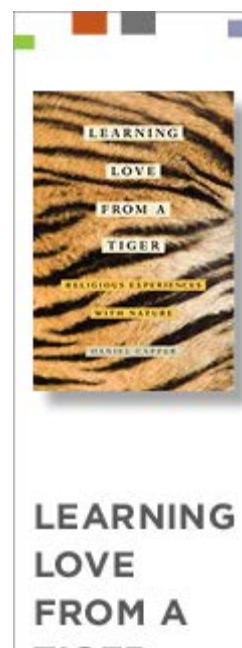
## CALL FOR COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS



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.

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All nominees must be members in good standing of the AAR. There are open positions on the following groups for service beginning **January 1, 2017**:

- [Academic Relations Committee](#)
- [American Lectures in the History of Religions](#)
- [Book Awards Juries](#)
- [International Connections Committee](#)
- [Public Understanding of Religion Committee](#)
- [Religion and the Arts Award Jury](#)
- [Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Queer Persons in the Profession](#)
- [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](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Committee](#)
- [Theological Education Committee](#)

Additional information on the nominations process, including the application, is available on the [AAR website](#).

**Nominations must be received by June 1, 2016.** Please submit your nomination(s) [here](#).

Please contact Elizabeth Hardcastle at [ehardcastle@aarweb.org](mailto:ehardcastle@aarweb.org) with any questions.

#### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

Regional Development Grants provide funds for special projects within the regions to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members. Workshops, special programs, training events and other innovative regional projects may be funded through this source. Generally, grants funded fall into two categories: seed funding to begin an ongoing regional initiative, or one-time funds for special projects. Visit the [AAR website](#) for information and to see grant winning proposals from prior years. Grants will not exceed \$4,000.



**Deadlines June 1:** Grant proposals due to [Regional Coordinators](#)

**July 1:** Regional Coordinators forward grants to Regions Committee



**August 15:** Regional grant awards announced

### **AAR/OUP BOOK SERIES EDITORS NEEDED**

Apply today! The AAR Publications Committee seeks two book editors, one for the [Academy Series](#) and one for the [Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series](#). Both series are sponsored by the American Academy of Religion and published in cooperation with Oxford University Press. For more information, please see [here](#). The deadline to apply is **June 1, 2016**.

### **CALL FOR PERSONAL NARRATIVE BLOG POSTS**

The [AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee \(SWP\)](#) is particularly interested in querying the “values” associated with models of work/life balance. We are inviting blogs that discuss what women in the academy consider to be “values” for themselves.

Accepted posts will be published in the [Guide for the Guild](#) feature of [Religious Studies News](#). The Guide for the Guild supplies a mixtures of stories about, strategies of, policies for, and critical reflections upon the different challenges that face varying individuals as they navigate their jobs, careers, diverse institutions, various “families,” different communities, and their own self-care.

Please submit your blog to Aislinn Jones at [ajones@aarweb.org](mailto:ajones@aarweb.org) by **June 1, 2016**. Your blog may be edited and returned to you for authorial review in the fall, with the goal of it being posted in the [Guide for the Guild](#) by **January 1, 2017**.

### **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**

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



### **Academic Abby**

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**



Nikki Bado, Iowa State University

Nikki passed away on April 22, 2016. She was an associate professor at Iowa State University. She wrote on Paganism, religion in popular culture, Japanese religious festivals, the body in religion, ritual and play, and pilgrimage. Her book, *Coming to the Edge of the Circle: A Wiccan Initiation Ritual*, was published as part of the AAR Academy Series. Nikki was a very active member of the AAR; she was serving on the AAR Status of Persons with Disabilities Committee and in the Body and Religion Group's steering committee at the time of her death. She also served with the Women and Religion Section; Anthropology of Religion Group; Ritual Studies Group; and was fundamental in the establishment of the Contemporary Pagan Studies Group.

### **Books and Major Publications**

Carl Olson, Allegheny College

*Religious Ways of Experiencing Life: A Global and Narrative Approach*, Routledge, 2016.

[Steven Schroeder](#), Independent Scholar

*What's Love Got to Do with It? a city out of thin air*, Lamar University Press, 2016.

Darryl W. Stephens, Lancaster Theological Seminary

*Methodist Morals: Social Principles in the Public Church's Witness*,  
University of Tennessee Press, April 2016.

### **In the News**

[Grace Ji-Sun Kim](#), Earlham School of Religion

Read Grace Kim's new *Time* article, "[Motherhood Shouldn't Be a Competitive Sport](#)," published May 5, 2016. "The mommy wars are not just about whose kids turn out better; it's also about which mom suffers the most along the way."

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

### **AAR Dates and Deadlines**

- May 15 [AAR Mentoring Program](#)
- May 19 [Annual Mtg Super Saver Rates End](#)
- May 21 [Pacific Northwest Meeting Registration](#)
- Jun 1 [Regional Grant Submissions](#)
- Jun 1 [Work/Life Balance Posts Due](#)
- Jun 1 [Calls for AAR/OUP Book Series Editors Conclude](#)
- Jun 1 [Committee Nominations Due](#)