

AAR Member News

After the Election: Statement from the AAR Board

In recent months, our nation experienced a political campaign that was bitter, divisive, and polarizing. During the campaign and since the election, a range of behaviors has appeared with new vigor and force in our national life: deeply offensive language aimed at others; emboldened discrimination against racial and ethnic minority groups; threats to the undocumented; marginalization of many of the religious groups that we study; assaults on facts, inquiry, and truth telling. These actions and attitudes erode our democratic structures and threaten the common good. They also threaten fundamental elements of higher education: the willingness to consider a variety of perspectives, the exercise of rigorous inquiry, and the discipline of reasoned discourse. For these reasons, the American Academy of Religion condemns these behaviors in the strongest terms.

We have just completed our Annual Meetings, during which the campaign and election were discussed in scheduled sessions, in special forums, and in countless informal conversations. We also did what we do so very well: shared our research, met with publishers, reconnected with colleagues from across the country, and formed new scholarly networks. In all of this activity, we lived out core values that have, in recent planning sessions and member focus groups, been reaffirmed by our Board and Staff:

- **Academic Excellence and Professional Responsibility**
- **Free Inquiry and Critical Examination**
- **Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Respect and Transparency**

These values resist the corrosive behaviors noted above. They help move us forward, not backward; they are constructive, not

Your membership will end December 31.

[Join for 2017 today!](#)

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destructive. As we move into uncertain days ahead, our Academy shall continue to seek ways to honor and enact these values in all that we say and do. In this, we foster excellence in our learned society, strengthen the educational structures in which we work, and empower the students whom we serve.

AAR Thanks Outgoing Leaders and Volunteers

AAR would like to thank the [committee, task force, and jury members](#) whose terms end in 2016. We are grateful for their dedicated service to the Academy!

AAR Members Give Back to San Antonio

Each year, AAR thanks the Annual Meeting host city in part by making a donation to a local charity. In 2016, AAR attendees directly participated in these efforts. For the fourth year, AAR attendees were encouraged to drop their unopened hotel soaps and toiletries off in bins located in the Convention Center. This year an astounding 1,216 donated items went to Thrive Youth Center in San Antonio; more information can be found [here](#).

A *huge* thank you to our attendees for making an effort to drop off your items to assist those in need! This year far surpassed all previous years and we hope to continue the growth of this project next year.

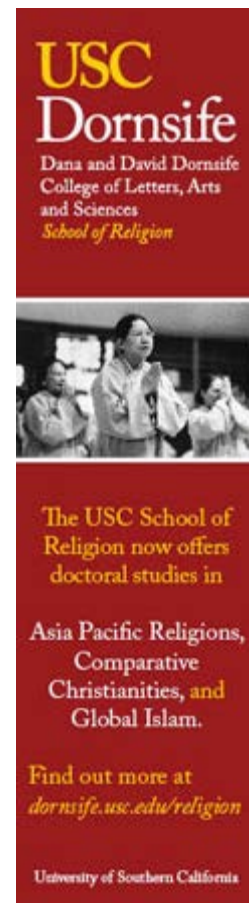
Join for 2017 Today!

Don't miss a beat: [renew](#) your membership for 2017. Make sure your access remains uninterrupted to all your member benefits, including print and online access to *JAAR*, *Religious Studies News*, *Reading Religion*, and reduced registration rates to the Annual Meeting. [Renew your membership](#) for calendar year 2017 today!



2017 AAR Regional Meetings

Support emerging scholarship by presenting and attending your region's meeting. The following calls for papers are open for submission:



Mid-Atlantic Deadline: December 16
Upper Midwest Deadline: January 6
Midwest Deadline: January 10
Pacific Northwest Deadline: January 13
New England-Maritimes Deadline: January 18
Eastern International Deadline: February 15

Look up your [Region's call for papers](#) today!

2017 Humanities Advocacy Day



Registration is open for the [National Humanities Alliance Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day](#), to be held March 13–14, 2017 in Washington, DC. The deadline for advance registration is January 7, 2017.

Award Nominations

Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion



To nominate someone for the AAR's [Martin E. Marty Award](#), which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion by those whose work speaks to the public as well as to scholars, please see [here](#). Nominations and self-nominations are welcomed. The deadline for nominations is **January 25, 2017**.

Religion and the Arts Award

The [AAR Award in Religion and the Arts](#) is presented annually to an artist, performer, critic, curator, or scholar who has made a recent significant contribution to the understanding of the relations among the arts and religions, both for the academy and for a broader public. [Submission guidelines](#) are available on the AAR website, and the deadline for nominations is **February 1, 2017**.

Book Awards

The American Academy of Religion seeks submissions for the annual book awards:



1. Best First Book in the History of Religions
2. Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion (winners in four categories):

- Analytical-Descriptive Studies
- Constructive-Reflective Studies
- Historical Studies
- Textual Studies

The submission deadline for all book awards is **February 10, 2017**. Submission instructions and eligibility requirements are [available online](#). Send submissions to the AAR Executive Office:

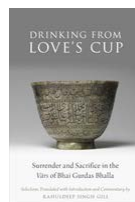
Sarah Levine
Attn: Book Awards
American Academy of Religion
825 Houston Mill RD NE STE 300
Atlanta, GA 30329

Questions and letters of nomination may be sent to slevine@aarweb.org.

Publications News

New Release in AAR Religion in Translation Series

Rahuldeep Singh Gill's [Drinking From Love's Cup: Surrender and Sacrifice in the Vars of Bhai Gurdas Bhalla](#), ISBN: 9780190624088, published by Oxford University Press. AAR members receive a 30% discount on all AAR/OUP series titles. Sign in to [Member Discounts](#) on the AAR website and click the link to OUP.



[Sign up](#) for the AAR's *Reading Religion* newsletter and every two weeks a list of new books received and new reviews published will be sent to your e-mail inbox.

Click on the books that interest you, and you're in. Easy to subscribe, easy to unsubscribe, and therefore nothing to lose.

AAR Employment Status Survey

The AAR knows that more now than ever before, graduates with

degrees in religious studies and theology lead diverse professional lives. We also know that they are in varying positions of employment security.

We invite you to take our [Employment Status Survey](#).

The survey will help us better understand the educational and career paths of religious studies graduates. With it, we hope to not only learn more about faculty (full- and part-time; tenure, tenure-track, and non-tenure track), but also members who work in careers—by choice or by necessity—outside academia. This data will help us identify employment trends, better understand the job market for religious studies graduates, and develop programs to serve the membership with career options and during career transitions. Of course, the survey is anonymous—no individual's responses will be made public. We do intend to share aggregate results.

At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to enter into a drawing to win one of twelve \$50 Amazon giftcards, one of five AAR memberships, or an Apple iPad.

The survey will take between five and twenty minutes, depending on your career track. The survey closes December 31, 2016.

Fill Out Your AAR Member Profile for a Chance to Win

Take a moment and fill your AAR [Member Profile](#)! You can now upload a profile picture, add a research or career bio, complete the research interests survey, and upload your CV or resume.

With our member directory, search for colleagues by their research interests.

Members who complete their Member Profile by **January 1, 2017**, and on a quarterly basis through the 2017 calendar year, will be entered to win a \$250 Visa gift card drawing. On September 15, 2017, we will draw from eligible members to award (one) \$1000 VISA gift card, (one) \$500 VISA gift card, (one) iPad, and (ten) 2018 AAR memberships. To be eligible for the drawing, you must complete three of the four sections of Member Profile.

[Learn more](#) about the Member Profile on the AAR website.

Member Notes

Books and Major Publications

[Cara Burnidge](#), University of Northern Iowa

A Peaceful Conquest: Woodrow Wilson, Religion, and the New World Order, University of Chicago Press, 2016.

[Shai Feraro](#), Tel Aviv University

Contemporary Alternative Spiritualities in Israel, Shai Feraro and James R. Lewis (eds.), Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Mathew Foust, Central Connecticut State University

Feminist Encounters with Confucius, Mathew A. Foust and Sor-hoon Tan (eds.), Brill, 2016.

[Daniel Hodge](#), North Park University

Hip Hop's Hostile Gospel: A Post-Soul Theological Exploration, Brill, 2016.

[Jeremy Kidwell](#), University of Birmingham

The Theology of Craft and the Craft of Work: From Tabernacle to Eucharist, Routledge, 2016.

Jaime Lara, Arizona State University

Birdman of Assisi: Art and the Apocalyptic in the Colonial Andes, Arizona Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, 2016.

Susan B. Ridgely, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Practicing What the Doctor Preached: At Home with Focus on the Family, Oxford University Press, 2016.

[Michael Slouber](#), Western Washington University

Early Tantric Medicine: Snakebite, Mantras, and Healing in the Gāruḍa Tantras, Oxford University Press, 2016.

[Deanna Thompson](#), Hamline University

The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World, Abingdon Press, 2016.

In Memoriam

Andrew Rippin (1950–2016), University of
Victoria, Emeritus



Longtime AAR member Andrew Rippin, Professor Emeritus of Islamic History, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, passed away on November 29, 2016, at the age of 66. Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and well-known scholar of Qur'anic and Islamic studies, Rippin earned the PhD from McGill University in 1981 and taught at the University of Calgary before joining the history department at the University of Victoria in 2000. Rippin served as the first president of the International Qur'anic Studies Association (IQSA), and a tribute to him from IQSA may be found [here](#).

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