



# AAR Member News

## Proposed Changes to AAR Bylaws

Please read this [important notice](#) to all AAR members about proposed changes to the AAR Bylaws to add a new contingent faculty position to the Board of Directors.

## AAR Honors Journalists for Best Religion Reporting

Congratulations to Ariel Sabar, writing for *The Atlantic* and *Smithsonian*, Rachel Zoll of The Associated Press, and Ruth Graham, writing for *The New York Times Magazine* and *Slate* for winning the AAR's 2017 Best In-Depth Reporting on Religion Award. See the [full announcement](#), and read a [sample article](#) from each writer's submission.

## Public Scholars Project Webinars

Join leading scholars and practitioners in a conversation on tools and resources for skillfully engaging publics outside the academy. Sponsored by the AAR's Public Understanding of Religion Committee and by the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, the free 45-minute webinars will occur approximately monthly. The next webinar is "Religious Studies in K-12 Public Education" on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 12:00 pm EDT. It features [Diane Moore](#), director, Religious Literacy Project, Harvard Divinity School; [Mike Waggoner](#), professor, University of Northern Iowa, and editor, *Religion & Education*; and [Scott Abbott](#), director of social studies, DC Public Schools. The webinar will include a presentation and extended Q&A.



Additional webinars for 2017 will include exhibiting religion in museums (in September), scholars engaging publics about religious persecution (in October), and religious studies in podcasts and radio shows (in December). Register at

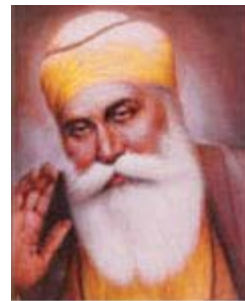
<http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/resources/psp/>.

## Academic Study of Religion Added to K-12 Social Studies Guidelines

The AAR and the Newseum Institute's Religious Freedom Center have collaborated in getting a supplement on the academic study of religion added to *College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Framework*, guidelines that the National Council for the Social Studies provides for K-12 social studies instruction. The "Religious Studies Companion Document for the C3 Framework" recognizes the academic study of religion as an essential part of the social studies curriculum. The C3 Framework is widely used by state and school district curriculum experts for social studies standards and curriculum

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**2018  
GURU NANAK  
INTERFAITH  
PRIZE**

**CALL FOR  
NOMINATIONS**

**DEADLINE:  
JULY 17, 2017**

**SUBMIT A  
NOMINATION**



development. The entire C3 Framework including the new companion document is now available starting at page 92 at [www.socialstudies.org/c3](http://www.socialstudies.org/c3).



## 2016-17 AAR Collaborative International Research Grant Winners

The AAR's [International Connections Committee](#) is pleased to announce the winners of the Collaborative International Research Grants program. This [grant program](#) is intended to support 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.

Congratulations to the winners!

**Yaqoob Bangash**, IT University of the Punjab, Pakistan  
**Arun W. Jones**, Emory University, USA  
*"Dear Sisters, let us go on a little trip": The Religious of Jesus and Mary and Women's Education in Colonial Punjab, 1856-1947*

**Deidre Green**, Brigham Young University, USA  
**Amy Hoyt**, University of the Pacific, USA  
**Gertrude Fester**, Sol Plaatje University, South Africa  
**Kristen J. Leslie**, Eden Theological Seminary, USA  
**Julie Allen**, Brigham Young University, USA  
*Women, Religion, and Transitional Justice: Ethnographic Research in Rwanda*

**Azfar Moin**, University of Texas at Austin, USA  
**Noman Baig**, Habib University, Pakistan  
*Saint Shrines and Sovereignty in Pakistan*

**Lauren Pfister**, Hong Kong Baptist University  
**Ricardo Mak King Sang**, Hong Kong Baptist University  
**Tatiana L. Pang**, Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia  
**Piotr Adamek**, Monumenta Serica, Germany  
*A Comparative Sinological Assessment of The Four Books and Its Commentaries by Zhu Xi Produced in the 1820s by the Russian Orthodox Missionary-Scholar Iakinf (1777-1852)*

**Ute Possekkel**, Harvard Divinity School, USA  
**J. F. Coakley**, Cambridge University, UK  
*Liturgy, Learning, and Exegesis in Late Antique Persia: Thomas of Edessa's Explanations of the Feasts*

**Tehseen Thaver**, Bard College, USA  
**Hamed Fayazi**, Qom Islamic Seminary, Iran  
*Operations of Ambiguity in Medieval Shi'i Qur'an Commentaries*

## AAR Members Awarded Luce/ACLS Grants in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) has announced the 2017 university grantees of the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. The awards provide \$60,000 to universities to pursue cross-sector collaborations through a range of curricular,



programming, and public outreach activities. The AAR is thrilled to recognize the following members' projects:

From Arizona State University, AAR member **John D. Carlson** with fellow investigators Kristin Grady Gilger and Anand Gopal will use the grant funds to work on a project titled Religion, Journalism, and Democracy: Strengthening Vital Institutions of Civil Society, which brings together journalists and religion scholars to study how religious practitioners and organizations are part of the fabric of democratic culture.

From Northwestern University, AAR members **Elizabeth Shakman Hurd** and **Brannon D. Ingram** will focus on the accessibility of nuanced scholarship and journalism in their project titled Talking "Religion": Publics, Politics, and the Media.

And from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, AAR member **Susan B. Ridgley** and coinvestigator Michael W. Wagner will use their grant money to support a series of workshops to develop robust religion reporting at the local level in their project Interactive Skill Building to Improve Religious and International Affairs Storytelling in Local Journalism.

Congratulations! [Learn more](#) about the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. Application information for individual program fellowships will be available August.

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## Apply Now for Research Grants



The 2017-18 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.

[Learn more](#) about the individual and collaborative research grants.

Applications will be reviewed by the [AAR's Research Grants Jury](#).

All applications must be submitted through the [online submission system](#).

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## Call for *Spotlight on Theological Education* Editor

The American Academy of Religion seeks a [Spotlight on Theological Education](#) editor. *Spotlight on Theological Education* is a major initiative of the [AAR's Theological Education Committee](#).

Information about the position is available [here](#). Nominations (self-nominations are encouraged) and applications may be [submitted online](#). Applications must include a letter describing interests and qualifications, plus a current curriculum vita.

The application deadline is **August 1, 2017**.

## Call for *Spotlight on Teaching* Editor

The American Academy of Religion seeks a [Spotlight on Teaching](#) editor. *Spotlight on Teaching* is a major teaching and learning initiative of the AAR and its [Committee on Teaching and Learning](#).

Information about the position is available [here](#). Nominations (self-nominations are encouraged) and applications may be [submitted online](#). Applications must include a letter describing interests and qualifications, plus a current curriculum vita.

The application deadline is **August 1, 2017**.

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## AAR Publications News

### New in *Religious Studies News*



#### [The 2016 Election and its Aftermath in the Religious Studies Classroom](#)

*Spotlight on Teaching*

The Trump election and presidency has managed to dominate many of our conversations—and that extends into college classrooms, too. In 2017, courses on Islam, race, and even Martin Luther take on new coloring in light of current American politics. Authors in the latest issue of *Spotlight on Teaching* reflect on teaching their classes in the era of Trump.



#### [Beguiling Prophet, Bumbling Priest: Trump and Civil Religion in the Age of Bans, Walls, and Alternative Facts](#)

*Morgan Shipley*

Trump's facing an old problem in his transition from candidate to president: shifting from prophet to priest.



#### [Bhriqupati Singh on Secularity, Religion, and Quality of Life in Rural India](#)

AAR book award winner Bhriqupati Singh, assistant professor of anthropology at Brown University, speaks about how his examination of the Sahariyas, a tribe living in extreme poverty in Northwest India, stretches and blurs the boundaries of religion and secularity in studying how the tribespeople reflect on questions of ethics, happiness, and quality of life.



#### [Preparing for a Nonacademic Career: What's a Scholar](#)

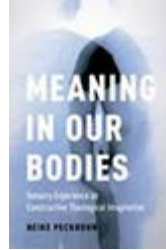
## [to Do?](#)

A candid panel discussion among PhD candidates and professionals with religion PhDs who work outside the academic faculty career-track. Recorded during the 2016 Annual Meeting, panelists speak frankly about graduate school, the academic job market, and the freedom to think beyond the university.

## New Release in AAR Academy Series

Heike Peckruhn's [Meaning in Our Bodies: Sensory Experience as Constructive Theological Imagination](#),

ISBN: 9780190280925, 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.



## JAAR: June Issue



The [June issue \(85:2\)](#) of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* is published. This issue includes Darryl Wilkinson's "Discussing the Discipline" on animism in the anthropological study of religion; articles from Mason Allred, Anya Foxen, Aisha Geissinger, Jonathan Herman, Erez Joskovich, Kristian Klippenstein, Mark Porter, Edward Slingerland, and Brenton Sullivan; and comprehensive book reviews. To read the issue online, click Sign In on the *JAAR* home page and select "[Sign in via society site.](#)"

## Reading Religion Newsletter

[Subscribe](#) to the *Reading Religion* newsletter to receive a bi-weekly list in your e-mail inbox of new books received and new reviews published on the *Reading Religion* website. Such an easy and convenient way to stay up to date with scholarly publishing in the field of religious studies!



## Member Notes

### Awards and Accomplishments

Christine Helmer, Northwestern University, received an honorary doctorate in theology from the faculty of theology of the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame, has been awarded a 2017 Andrew Carnegie fellowship.

### Career Transitions

[Cristina Richie](#) joined the Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies Department in the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

### Books and Major Publications

Thomas R. Blanton IV, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago *Paul and Economics: A Handbook* (Fortress Press, 2017).

[Kris Hiuser](#), Independent Scholar  
*Animals, Theology and the Incarnation* (SCM Press, 2017).

Jason Josephson-Storm, Williams College  
*The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity, and the Birth of the Human Sciences* (University of Chicago Press, 2017).

[Timothy Knepper](#), Drake University  
*A Spectrum of Faith: Religions of the World in America's Heartland* (Drake Community Press, 2017).

[George Kam Wah Mak](#), Hong Kong Baptist University  
*Protestant Bible Translation and Mandarin as the National Language of China* (Brill, 2017).

Jin Y. Park, American University  
*Women and Buddhist Philosophy: Engaging Zen Master Kim Iryōp* (University of Hawaii Press, 2017).

[A. Whitney Sanford](#), University of Florida  
*Living Sustainably: What Intentional Communities Can Teach Us About Democracy, Simplicity, and Nonviolence* (University Press of Kentucky, 2017).

Perry Schmidt-Leukel, University of Muenster, Germany  
*Buddhist-Christian Relations in Asia* (EOS Verlag, 2017).

Kristine Suna-Koro, Xavier University  
*In Counterpoint: Diaspora, Postcoloniality, and Sacramental Theology* (Pickwick, 2017).

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

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### Dates and Deadlines

June 29	<a href="#">Annual Meeting Early Bird Rate Ends</a>
August 1	<a href="#">Research Grants Submissions Deadline</a>
August 1	<a href="#">Call for Spotlight on Teaching Editor</a>
August 1	<a href="#">Call for Spotlight on Theological Education Editor</a>