

AAR Member News

2017 Call for Papers Now Open



The [Call for Papers](#) for the 2017 AAR Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, is now online. Proposals may be submitted through the [Program Administration Proposal, Evaluation, Review, and Submission \(PAPERS\) System](#). The deadline for proposal submission is **5:00 PM EST, Wednesday, March 1**.

Action Alert! Help the AAR Advocate for the NEH



Last week we heard a report that the administration of President Donald Trump will seek to *eliminate* funding for the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and other federal cultural agencies. You can read the report [here](#).

For half a century, Congress has supported the NEH, and in that time the Endowment has funded the work of many AAR members and their institutions. *You* can advocate for the NEH by telling your congressional representatives and the President that you value funding for the humanities.

[Click here to take action.](#)



The AAR is a member of the **National Humanities Alliance**, which is dedicated to advocacy for the NEH specifically, and the humanities and humanistic social sciences more generally. You can learn more about the Alliance's plans to

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secure funding for the NEH [here](#).

Registration is now open for the [NHA Annual Meeting and Humanities Advocacy Day](#). The deadline for registration is March 3, 2017.

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!



Outgoing Program Unit Chairs

Thank you to our Program Unit Chairs whose terms ended in 2016! For the full list, please see [here](#).

2017 AAR Regional Meetings

Support your region and plan to attend your 2017 regional meeting! Check out [your region](#) to see how you can become involved! The following online registration systems and calls for papers are open:

Calls for Papers:

[Eastern International](#) – February 15 Deadline

Registrations:

[Mid-Atlantic](#) – Early Bird Deadline: February 5

[Midwest](#) – Deadline: February 13

[Southeast](#) – Deadline: March 3

[Southwest](#) – Deadline: March 10

Please click [here](#) for information about regional calls for papers, meeting dates and locations, and online registration.

Award Nominations Now Open

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.

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**.

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



Writing Beyond the Academy

*a writing workshop for
academics who wish to
reach a broad audience*

**Applications due:
February 6, 2017**

This writing workshop is for academics working with spiritually-oriented research or personal stories who want to reach a broader audience.

After an introductory presentation with tips and guidelines for producing more accessible, compelling and story-based writing, participants will be free to write on their own.

Throughout the week, you will have access to an experienced writing coach who has written successfully for a variety of audiences and taught writers of all kinds to draw more deeply from human experience and their own lives.

collegevilleinstitute.org
320-363-3366

 Collegeville Institute

is **January 25, 2017.**

2016–2017 Research Grant Winners

Congratulations to these [AAR members](#) who won collaborative and individual research grants!

For information about AAR grant opportunities, please see [here](#).

AAR Academy Fund Contributors



The AAR gratefully acknowledges our members who contributed to the Academy Fund from **July 1, 2015**, through **June 30, 2016**. Contributions to this fund support Annual Meeting Travel

Grants, international initiatives, including the International Dissertation Research Fellowships, new programs, and the general operations of the Academy. Thank you for your donations! Please see [here](#) for the complete list of contributors. For more information about supporting the work of the Academy, or to make a secure online donation, please see [here](#).

AAR Publications: Newsletter Subscriptions and Alerts

Sign up for free newsletters from [Reading Religion](#) and [Religious Studies News](#), and free e-Alerts from the [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#). Keep up with the latest scholarship in the field of religious studies through your e-mail inbox!



Luce/ACLS Grants for Universities



The American Council of Learned Societies [requests proposals for grants](#) to be funded by the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. Deadline: March 23, 2017.

Member Notes

In Memoriam



Huston Smith (1919–2016), Syracuse University,
Emeritus

Huston Cummings Smith, Thomas J. Watson Professor
of Religion and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of

Philosophy, Emeritus, Syracuse University, passed away on December 30, 2016, at the age of 97. Professor Smith introduced millions to the study of world religions through his research, television series, film documentaries, recordings, interviews, and publications, including his bestselling work *The World's Religions*. A longtime member of the AAR, he was awarded the Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award in 2004. For more about the life of this renowned scholar, read his [obituary](#) in the *New York Times* and a [remembrance](#) from his friend and colleague, Arvind Sharma, McGill University, in *Religious Studies News*.

Books and Publications

[Julianne Hazen](#), Niagara University

Sufism in America: The Alami Tariqa of Waterport, New York, Lexington Books, 2016.

[Nahid Afrose Kabir](#), Georgetown University

Muslim Americans: Debating the Notions of American and Un-American, Routledge, 2017.

Robert McKim, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Religious Perspectives on Religious Diversity, ed., Brill, 2016.

[Jordan Rosenblum](#), University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Jewish Dietary Laws in the Ancient World, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones!

[Submit your Member Note online.](#)

Dates and Deadlines

Jan 25 [Martin Marty Award](#)

Feb 1 [Religion and the Arts Award](#)

Feb 10 [Book Awards Submissions](#)

Feb 13 [Midwest Meeting Registration](#)

Feb 15 [Eastern Int'l Region CFP](#)

Feb 28 [Journalism Contest Submissions](#)