



RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

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CALL FOR PAPERS

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

Religious Studies News is the newspaper of record for the field especially designed to serve the professional needs of persons involved in teaching and scholarship in religion (broadly construed to include religious studies, theology, and sacred texts). Published quarterly by the American Academy of Religion, *RSN* is received by some 10,000 scholars and by libraries at colleges and universities across North America and abroad. *Religious Studies News* communicates the important events of the field and related areas. It provides a forum for members and others to examine critical issues in education, pedagogy (especially through the biannual *Spotlight on Teaching*), research, publishing, and the public understanding of religion. It also publishes news about the services and programs of the AAR and other organizations, including employment services and registration information for the AAR Annual Meeting.

For writing and advertising guidelines, please see www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.asp.

2007

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Subscriptions for individuals and institutions are available. See www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn for more information.

Deadlines for submissions:

January	October 15
March	December 15
April	February 15
October	July 15

Advertising

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2007 Member Calendar

Dates are subject to change. Check www.aarweb.org for the latest information.

January

Religious Studies News January issue, including the Annual Meeting Call for Papers, results of the officer elections, and the 2006 Annual Report.

January 1. Annual term of membership begins for the 11,000 members of the AAR, the largest and most inclusive association of religion scholars in the world.

January 19–20. International Connections Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 27. Nominations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 26–27. History of Religion Jury meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 31. Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/marty/.

(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at www.aarweb.org/meetings/meetings.asp.)

February

February 1. Nominations due for Best First Book in the History of Religions award. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/books/rules.asp.

February 3–4. Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 3–4. Graduate Student Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 9–10. Public Understanding of Religion Committee meeting, Washington, D.C.

February 10–11. Academic Relations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 15. Submissions for the May 2006 issue of *Religious Studies News* due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.

February 17. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 23–24. Theological Education Steering Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 23–24. Status of Women in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

February 23–24. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at www.aarweb.org/meetings/meetings.asp.)

March

Religious Studies News March issue.

Spotlight on Theological Education.

Journal of the American Academy of Religion March 2007 issue. For more information on AAR publications, see www.aarweb.org/publications or go directly to the JAAR home page hosted by Oxford University Press, <http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org>.

March 1. 2007 Annual Meeting proposals due to program unit chairs.

March 1–2. Mid-Atlantic regional meeting, Baltimore, MD.

March 2–3. Religion in the Schools Task Force meeting, Washington, D.C.

March 3–4. Southwest regional meeting, Dallas, TX.

March 16–18. Southeast regional meeting, Nashville, TN.

March 17. Publications Committee meeting, New York, NY.

March 20. Nominations due for Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion book awards. For details, see www.aarweb.org/awards/book/rules.asp.

March 23–24. Rocky Mountain–Great Plains regional meeting, Omaha, NE.

March 24–26. Western regional meeting, Berkeley, CA.

March 27. Humanities Advocacy Day, an event organized by the National Humanities Alliance and co-sponsored by the AAR and more than 20 organizations to promote support for the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, see www.nhalliance.org.

March 30–31. Midwest regional meeting, River Forest, IL.

(For more information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/regions/meetings.asp.)

April

April 1. Notification of acceptance of Annual Meeting paper proposals by Program Unit Chairs.

April 13–14. Upper Midwest regional meeting, St. Paul, MN.

April 27. Executive Committee meeting, San Diego, CA.

April 27. Regionally Elected Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.

April 28–29. Spring Board of Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.

(For more information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/regions/meetings.asp.)

May

Religious Studies News May issue.

Spotlight on Teaching Spring issue.

Annual Meeting registration materials mailed with RSN.

May 1. Nominations (including self-nominations) for committee appointments requested.

May 4–5. Eastern International regional meeting, Waterloo, ON, Canada.

May 4–6. Pacific Northwest regional meeting, Lethbridge, AB, Canada.

May 15. Annual Meeting registration & housing opens for 2007 Annual Meeting.

May 15. Registration for the Employment Information Services Center opens.

May 30. Annual Meeting Additional Meeting requests due for priority consideration.

(For more Annual Meeting information, see www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/2007/default.asp.)

June

Journal of the American Academy of Religion June issue.

June 15. Membership renewal deadline for 2007 Annual Meeting participants.

July

July 1. New fiscal year begins.

July 15. Submission deadline for the October issue of *Religious Studies News*. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.

July 31. Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

August

Annual Meeting program goes online.

August 1. Change of address due for priority receipt of the Annual Meeting *Program Book*.

August 1. Research Grant Applications due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/grants.

August 1. Regional development grant applications due to regional secretaries.

August 15. Membership renewal period for 2008 begins.

September

Journal of the American Academy of Religion September issue.

Annual Meeting *Program Books* mailed to members.

September 8. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

TBA. Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

October

Religious Studies News October issue.

Spotlight on Teaching Fall issue.

October 1–31. AAR officer election period. Candidate profiles will be published in the October RSN.

October 15. January 2008 *Religious Studies News* submission deadline.

October 15. Excellence in Teaching award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/teaching.asp.

October 21. EIS preregistration closes.

November

November 1. Research grant awards announced.

November 15. Executive Committee meeting, San Diego, CA.

November 16. Fall Board of Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.

November 16. Chairs Workshop at the Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

November 17–20. Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. Held concurrently with the Society of Biblical Literature, comprising some 11,000 registrants, 200 publishers, and 150 hiring departments.

TBA. Annual Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting. See the *Program Book* for day and time.

December

Journal of the American Academy of Religion December issue.

December 1. New program unit proposals due.

December 8–9. Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

December 15. Submissions for the March 2008 issue of *Religious Studies News* due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/publications/rsn.

December 31. Membership renewal for 2008 due. Renew online at www.aarweb.org/dues.

And keep in mind throughout the year...

Regional organizations have various deadlines throughout the fall for their Calls for Papers. See www.aarweb.org/regions/default.asp.

In the Field. News of events and opportunities for scholars of religion. *In the Field* is a members-only online publication that accepts brief announcements, including calls for papers, grant news, conference announcements, and other opportunities appropriate for scholars of religion. Submit text online at www.aarweb.org/publications/inthefieldsubmit.asp.

Openings: Employment Opportunities for Scholars of Religion. *Openings* is a members-only online publication listing job announcements in areas of interest to members; issues are viewable online from the first through the last day of each month. Submit announcements online, and review policies and pricing, at www.aarweb.org/openings/submit.asp.

RSN

General Information

Meeting Location

The 2007 AAR Annual Meeting and Book Exhibit will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego Marriott Hotel, and Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, CA, November 17–20.

Future Annual Meeting locations include:
2008 – Chicago, IL, October 25–28
2009 – Montreal, QC, November 7–10
2010 – Atlanta, GA, October 30–November 2
2011 – San Francisco, CA, November 18–21
2012 – Atlanta, GA, November 2–5

Registration and Housing

You must be registered for the meeting in order to secure a room in the Annual Meeting hotel at our specially negotiated hotel rates (which are often half the published room rate for the property). When you receive your preregistration information in the May issue of *Religious Studies News* (or online), carefully review and follow the instructions in order to secure your housing. Although registration may be completed without submitting your housing request, you are encouraged to submit both together.

Questions about the Call

The work of the program unit is coordinated by the chair(s) and a steering committee who design the sessions and make the decisions about which proposals will eventually be on the program. Each proposal is carefully referred, usually in a “blind” procedure (i.e., without the name of the proposer being provided to the referees). All proposals, abstracts, and completed participant information (as well as any questions you may have) should be sent to the individual(s) named in this Call.

Please inquire with the appropriate unit chair about the amount of time granted for your presentation, and by what date the respondent (if any) must receive your completed paper.

Questions about the Annual Meeting

Concerns of a general nature may be sent to the AAR executive office to the attention of the Annual Meeting Program Director, 825 Houston Mill Road NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329, USA; W: 404-727-3049; F: 404-727-7959; annualmeeting@aarweb.org.

Additional Meetings

Organizations, persons, or program units wishing to plan receptions and other meetings before, during, or after the Annual Meeting should go online to www.aarweb.org after March 15, 2007. This Web site will have information regarding guidelines, necessary forms, and costs to request Additional Meeting space at the Annual Meeting and/or how to announce your event in the Annual Meeting *Program Book*.

Questions should be directed to Experient, Inc., at 314-997-1500 after March 15, 2007. Written requests can be sent to Experient, Inc., 4 Cityplace DR, Suite 480, St. Louis, MO 63141-7062, or aarsbl@experient-inc.com.

The deadline for priority scheduling of Additional Meeting requests is May 30, 2007. Requests after that date will be accommodated as space allows.

2007 Calendar of Deadlines

March 1, 2007

Deadline for proposals, participant forms, and abstracts to be received by program unit chairs.

April 1, 2007

Notification of acceptance (or not) of proposals by program unit chairs. All program participants must renew/establish 2007 AAR memberships in order to participate on the program.

April 7, 2007

Program unit chairs submit session request information (*Program Book* copy, abstracts, participant forms) to AAR executive office online.

May 15, 2007

Annual Meeting and hotel registration opens. Forms available online and in the May *Religious Studies News*.

May 30, 2007

Deadline for submission of Additional Meeting request forms. Forms are available online at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet beginning March 15.

June 15, 2007

Deadline for participants to renew their AAR membership and be preregistered for the meeting. **Names of participants not registered will be removed from the *Program Book*.**

July 31, 2007

Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

August 1, 2007

Deadline for AAR members to renew and update their addresses for priority receipt of the *Annual Meeting Program Book*.

September 2007

Annual Meeting Program Book mailed to members.

November 17–20, 2007

AAR Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

Step 1: Note acceptable method(s) of submission and the persons to whom it should be sent.

Step 2: Submit all materials by one method only (if you submit your proposal via e-mail, you must not fax your participant form — the participant form must be sent via e-mail as well).

Step 3: Follow all instructions for submission requirements as outlined below, both general guidelines and those specific to your method of submission.

Step 4: Note the difference between paper and panel proposals.

Step 5: Be prepared to fulfill your AAR membership requirement if accepted onto the program. This must be done no later than June 15, 2007, or you may jeopardize your participation on the program in November.

General Guidelines

Participation at the Annual Meeting

All participants on the AAR program must be current (2007) members of AAR.

Membership in SBL does not fulfill this requirement. All participants must also be preregistered for the Annual Meeting by June 15, 2007. Any participant who is not a current 2007 AAR member or preregistered for the Annual Meeting by June 15, 2007, will have his/her name removed from the printed *Program Book* and will jeopardize his/her participation on the program in November.

N.B. All 2006 and 2007 members receive this Call. To inquire about your 2007 membership status, please see www.aarweb.org/membership.

Participation Limits

Each member may appear on the Annual Meeting program (AAR and/or SBL side) a total of **two times** in any capacity (e.g., present a paper, be a panelist, be a respondent, or preside over a session). The only exception is for business meeting presiders.

Further, it is not appropriate to present the same material in two separate sessions, no matter the convention for describing them. If you are proposing the same idea to two different program units, you must be prepared to choose in which you will present if you are accepted onto both.

Multiple Submissions

To foster broad participation and to facilitate the work of unit chairs, the Program Committee allows but does not encourage multiple submissions of proposals. The total limit on such submissions is two. These may consist of the same proposal submitted to two different program units, or two different proposals to two different units.

A Program Participant Form must accompany each proposal (a separate participant form is not required for OP3), and the other program units to which you submitted proposals must be indicated. While failure to disclose multiple submissions may well result in the rejection of all submissions, disclosure of multiple submissions will not jeopardize full consideration of each. **The deadline for receipt of all submissions is March 1, 2007.**

Proposal Requirements

You are required to submit both a proposal (not more than 1,000 words) and an abstract (not more than 150 words) of your presentation. This holds regardless of your method of submission or the type of proposal you are making. Only proposals will be evaluated in the selection process, but if your proposal is accepted for the Annual Meeting, the abstract will be included in the *Book of Abstracts*.

Proposals

The proposal should state, as fully as you can, the proposal's purpose and how the argument will proceed. Provide enough context to show that you are aware of the basic literature in the field and summarize the argument of your presentation. Be specific about what sort of contribution your proposal will make. Bear in mind the nature of the program unit to which you are applying, particularly as reflected in the Call for Papers.

Failure to submit a proposal, an abstract, and/or participant form(s) may disqualify a submission from consideration. Further, submitting a proposal in a method other than those noted after each program unit's call will result in disqualification.

Proposal Formats

The Annual Meeting program has three types of sessions: paper sessions, panel sessions, and poster sessions.

Papers

A session with separately announced paper titles is considered a “paper” session. Paper proposals are more often submitted individually and arranged into a session by the chair(s) and steering committee of a program unit.

History of Christianity Section

Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University, Presiding

Theme: *Who Do You Say That I Am? The Construction and Use of Mormon and Anti-Mormon Identities*

David Gore, University of Minnesota, Duluth
Joseph Smith and the Rhetoric of Economics and Prophecy

Quincy Newell, University of Wyoming
Seeing Jane: Jane Elizabeth Manning James' Posthumous Career as an LDS Symbol

D. William Faupel, Wesley Theological Seminary
Elijah III: The Influence of Mormonism on John Alexander Dowie

Sara Patterson, Loyola Marymount University
“A PO Box and a Desire to Witness for Jesus”: Calling and Mission in the Ex-Mormons for Jesus

Responding:

Kathleen Flake, Vanderbilt University

Panels

A “panel” is a session with one announced theme and a list of participants who address that theme but do not present separate formal papers. Panel proposals are generally submitted as prearranged session proposals.

Christian Spirituality Group

Douglas Burton-Christie, Loyola Marymount University, Presiding

Theme: *Spirituality: Its Uses and Misuses*

Panelists:

Philip F. Sheldrake, University of Durham
Stephanie Paulsell, Harvard University
Kwok Pui Lan, Episcopal Divinity School
Leigh E. Schmidt, Princeton University
Mary Frohlich, Catholic Theological Union

Prearranged Session Proposals

Members may wish to submit a prearranged session in its entirety, complete with a presider, respondent, and participants. You will note in the Call that some program units use this procedure more than others (Religion in South Asia Section, for instance). Special considerations go into the submission of such a session. The coordinator of a prearranged session must submit a proposal that lists all the participants (presider, participants, and respondent [if desired]). Prearranged sessions can either be for paper or panel sessions.

Submissions for a **panel** session should include a single proposal detailing the focus of the session, one abstract, and a single participant form for all involved. (A separate participant form is not required when using OP3.) Submissions for a **paper** session must include each presenter's original paper proposal and abstract in addition to the necessary forms; one participant form for

GUIDELINES, from p.3

each participant. (A separate participant form is not required when using OP3.) Failure to send in a complete prearranged proposal may disqualify an entry. **Units reserve the right to accept prearranged session proposals in full or in part.**

Poster Session Proposals

AAR is accepting proposals for poster sessions. A poster session presents research or discourse on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4' x 8' board. The poster session presenter is available during an assigned session time in order to interact on a one-to-one basis with the attendee viewing the poster. A well-planned poster communicates its message in a visually and textually powerful way, allowing the attendee to grasp the information quickly.

Poster session proposals should consist of a short description of the topic and focus of the research, one abstract, and a single participant form for all involved with the presentation. Submissions will be reviewed and evaluated for acceptance onto the program by members of the Program Committee. Submissions are accepted through the OP3 system.

For more information on poster sessions, please visit the AAR Web site at www.aarweb.org.

Wildcard Sessions

To allow for more experimental sessions and the development of new and creative scholarly conversations, the Program Committee is in its second year of a three-year experiment that will offer members direct access to the Annual Meeting program for a limited number of "wild card" sessions. Wildcard sessions address an area of interest that does not naturally fall within the purview of any program unit.

You may submit a proposal in response to a wildcard session call or for an entire session (session proposal; presider; list of participants with presentation titles and abstracts, if applicable; etc.) via OP3. Wildcard sessions must be in the 90-minute session format.

The Program Committee will review the proposals. If a proposal covers an area that fits within an established program unit, the proposal will be forwarded to the unit for possible inclusion on the unit's program.

The Program Committee's decisions will be announced by April 1, 2007. Wildcard sessions are subject to the same policies as other submissions. **See page 19 for the Wildcard call for papers.**

90-Minute Sessions

The Sunday afternoon schedule for the AAR program consists of three 90-minute sessions to be scheduled as follows: 1:00-2:30 PM; 3:00-4:30 PM; and 5:00-6:30 PM. AAR encourages creative and innovative proposals for these sessions. Some possibilities include: restricting a panel to two 30-minute papers followed by discussion; posting papers in advance to focus on discussion rather than presentation; topical panel discussions; discussion of a book or film; panel on teaching in the field; or workshop-style sessions. The 90-minute format is perfect for hosting specialized conversations on an aspect of the field or "teaching" a topic to the audience.

Abstracts

Along with your proposal and completed participant form, you must submit an abstract of your proposed presentation in electronic format. Even if you are submitting your proposal via surface mail or fax, you must also send one copy of your abstract electronically in addition to the print copies. If possible send the abstract in the body of an e-mail with the subject heading: "Abstract for [supply your name]." You may also send it virus-free on disk, or via e-mail as an attachment. *Please note some program units will not accept attachments.*

Use the following guidelines for format:

- WordPerfect, MSWord, RTE, PDF, or ASCII text format.
- For transliterated characters, please describe them to the best of your ability after the text of your abstract, under "Diacritical Marks." The "Diacritical Marks" portion will not be included in your word count. These can include italics, macrons, under- or over-dots, etc. (i.e., add macrons over the first and second "a" in Yogācāra; put a slash through the "o" in Søren). For non-Western characters, please use universal embedded fonts.
- The abstract should have the exact same title as your paper, followed by your name and then the name of your institution (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name) or city, state, or province.
- The body of the abstract may be no more than 150 words in length. Successful proposals with abstracts longer than 150 words will be shortened.
- Do not use footnotes; any present will be deleted.
- Please scan your abstract for viruses before sending.

Participant Forms

The Program Participant Forms (see page 8) are designed to provide the information necessary to respond to your proposal and to organize the Annual Meeting. It is important that these forms be filled out clearly and completely by the participant. Please use the participant form appropriate for your method of submission (see below). Ensure that the title of your proposal exactly matches the title you use on the participant form in order for the two to be positively matched.

Submission Methods (Specific Guidelines)

OP3

Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract via the Online Paper/Panel Proposal (OP3) system.

Please go online to www.aarweb.org for full submission instructions. Separate participant forms are not required with OP3, as your participant information is integrated in the online form. **NB: Do not place your name or other identifying remarks in the body of the proposal field or abstract field in OP3; this may endanger the anonymous review process of the unit and acceptance of your proposal may be jeopardized.**

E-mail

Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract within the BODY of ONE single e-mail. Locate the online "Participant Form for E-mail Submission" at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form. Be sure you use the exact same title on the "Participant Form for E-mail Submission" as you do on the e-mailed proposal. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit a copy to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete proposal to either one of the co-chairs.

E-mail w/Attachments

Submit your 1,000-word proposal, 150-word abstract, and participant form as attachments in one single e-mail. Please locate the "Participant Form for E-mail Attachment Submission" at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form; this will require the use of MSWord. If you are unable to use MSWord or the "MSWord Form" online, please locate the "Participant Form for E-mail Submission" at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form. Be sure you use the exact same title on the "Participant Form for E-mail Submission" as you do on the attached proposal you e-mailed. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit a copy to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete proposal to either one of the co-chairs.

Fax

Submit one (1) copy of the proposal, including abstract (with your name and institution listed). Submit one (1) copy of the participant form. Be certain you include a current e-mail address on your participant form. Notifications of acceptance/rejection will be sent out via e-mail.

1. Use plain white paper, 8.5" x 11" (or A4) with one-inch margins.


2. Do not use institutional or other letterhead.
3. Use a computer and printer, preferably a laser printer. (Handwritten proposals cannot be accepted.)
4. Use the following format:
 - a. Type title of proposal.
 - b. Below the title, type name of presenter, a comma, and a complete name of institution. If there is no institutional affiliation, list city, state, or province.
 - c. Type body of proposal double-spaced. Proposals should not exceed 1,000 words.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit a copy to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete packet to either one of the co-chairs. Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a fax number so the program unit chair can send the notification regarding your acceptance/rejection onto the program. Send one electronic copy of your abstract to the same person to whom you are sending your proposal. See above under Abstracts.

Surface Mail

Unless otherwise instructed in the Call itself, submit six (6) copies of the proposal, including (1) copy with your name and institution listed, and five (5) copies which are "anonymous," (i.e., your name and institution are not listed anywhere on the proposal). You need only submit one (1) copy of the participant form. Be certain you include a current e-mail address on your participant form. Notifications of acceptance/rejection will be sent out via e-mail.

1. Use plain white paper, 8.5" x 11" (or A4) with one-inch margins.
2. Do not use institutional or other letterhead.
3. Use a computer and printer, preferably a laser printer. (Handwritten proposals cannot be accepted.)
4. Use the following format:
 - a. Type title of proposal.
 - b. On one copy of the proposal, below the title, type name of presenter, a comma, and a complete name of institution (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). Or, if you are not affiliated with any school, list city, state, or province. Do not list this information on the other five copies of the proposal.
 - c. Type body of proposal double-spaced. Proposals should not exceed 1,000 words.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit copies to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete packet to either one of the co-chairs. Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification regarding your acceptance/rejection onto the program. Send one (1) electronic copy of your abstract to the same person to whom you are sending your proposal. See above under Abstracts. 

SECTIONS

Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section

Joseph A. Favazza, Stonehill College, jfavazza@stonehill.edu. Fran Grace, University of Redlands, fran_grace@redlands.edu.

The Academic Teaching and Study of Religion Section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. We are committed to selecting proposals that join innovative teaching practice with the scholarship of teaching and learning, and creating sessions that model and foster experiential and active learning. Noting that preference will be given to presentations featuring interactive formats, we encourage proposals in these areas: 1) Teaching and Learning "Street Fair" (posters, exhibits, and/or interactive "teach-ins" that excite or educate others about a breakthrough moment in the classroom or a great course); 2) For a possible joint session with the Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group, examples of contemplative practices and teaching within a course that successfully advance learning outcomes or course goals; 3) Mentoring undergraduate research as a teaching practice (e.g., success stories, strategies, pedagogical issues); 4) Teaching on the "edge of ecological apocalypse" (pedagogies, courses, and assignments that interrelate religious and environmental studies); 5) Embodied pedagogies that invite the learner into sacred or liminal times and spaces (e.g., yoga, calendrical events, ritual performance, music, borderlands as sacred space); and 6) Assessment "success stories" that demonstrate the achievement of identified outcomes in courses, programs, and departments, and that are translatable into other contexts. In addition, we invite proposals for a "topics in teaching" luncheon to be co-sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Selected presenters will lead a round-table luncheon conversation on the topic (e.g., teaching disasters, teaching beyond your comfort zone, teaching World Religions, teaching without tenure, etc.). NOTE: Be sure to indicate clearly which area of the call your proposal will address.

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Arts, Literature, and Religion Section

Jennifer Geddes, University of Virginia, jlg2u@virginia.edu. S. Brent Plate, Texas Christian University, b.plate@tcu.edu.

The Arts, Literature, and Religion Section invites proposals for papers and for pre-arranged sessions on the following topics: arts and literature of China; the relationship between words and images in the study of religion; postcolonial readings; adaptations from book to film; photography and religion; architecture and literature; blasphemy; John Steinbeck; Asian-American women's writings; the arts and literature of travel and migration; writings and images of the missions; environmental writing, especially dealing with the desert and the ocean; border art, especially between the United States and Mexico; photography and painting of the American West (Ansel Adams, Georgia O'Keeffe, Albert Bierstadt, etc.); artistic and literary movements in the Pacific Rim; visual and literary afterlives of the Psalms (for a possible co-sponsored session with SBL's Psalms Section); visualization of torture in pictures of crucifixion, martyrdom, and public punishment (for a possible co-sponsored session with Christian Systematic Theology Section); Ursula Le Guin, particularly on the relation between her work and Daoism (for a possible co-sponsored session with the Daoist Studies Consultation). Please send proposals to both program units when responding to a joint call for papers.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Buddhism Section

Janet Gyatso, Harvard University, gyatso@hds.harvard.edu. Charles Hallisey, University of Wisconsin, challisey@wisc.edu.

In anticipation of the special focus on China at the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Buddhism Section invites panel proposals that thematize the place of China within the various scholarly landscapes concerned with the study of Buddhism across Asia and beyond. Proposals focusing on the contours of Buddhist studies in China itself are also welcome. Fully or partially formed panel proposals on other topics are welcome as well, as are individual papers, which will be accommodated in one omnibus panel. The section especially invites proposals for sessions that take advantage in creative ways of the new formats offered for the annual program. The section also invites panel proposals on the following themes and topics: methods for the study of women and Buddhism; new technologies in teaching about Buddhism; macrohistorical and macroregional processes and the study of the history of Buddhism; responses to Western science by Buddhists; Buddhism and film; categories of difference in Buddhist monasticism (e.g., forest/village, discipline of book/discipline of meditation); notions of Buddhist offerings and social systems; and miraculous events and superhuman beings in Buddhism. The section invites all interested in proposing presentations to con-

Sections are the most inclusive type of program unit, aimed at reflecting the major areas of academic interest of the members of the Academy and at addressing the continuing agenda of the various subfields within the study of religion. Attendance at sessions of sections (as well as any of the other program units) is open to all persons who are registered for the Annual Meeting.

sult the section's discussion board at the AAR's PUCS system to coordinate efforts and interests with others. The section's chairs and steering committee can also offer assistance in filling out panel proposals or offering advice on any issue related to proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Christian Systematic Theology Section

Cynthia L. Rigby, Austin Theological Seminary, crigby@austinseminary.edu. Gerard Loughlin, Durham University, gerard.loughlin@dur.ac.uk.

General Theme: Sin, Grace, and Redemption. We invite constructive (not merely historical) proposals on a wide range of approaches relating sin, grace, and redemption. Sessions may be organized around the following themes: 1) The place of "the law" in the dynamics of sin, grace, and redemption; 2) The compatibility of Eastern and Western approaches to "sin," "grace," and "redemption"; 3) The necessity or redundancy of "atonement" for "redemption"; 4) The difference that the perspectives of sinner and sinned against make to the understanding of sin, grace, and redemption; 5) The helpfulness or unhelpfulness of "sin" as a theological category; 6) The relationships between grace and nature, grace and justice, and/or grace and vengeance; and 7) The visualization of torture in pictures of crucifixion, martyrdom, and public punishment (for a possible co-sponsored session with the Arts, Literature, and Religion Section). Proposals from Chinese scholars, or scholars working on Chinese Christian theology, are especially welcome. For planning purposes, our projected theme for 2008 will be "Christian Doctrine and Judaism."

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Comparative Studies in Religion Section

Tracy Pintchman, Loyola University Chicago, tpintch@luc.edu. Selva J. Raj, Albion College, sraj@albion.edu.

The Comparative Studies in Religion Section provides the opportunity for significant cross-traditional and/or cross-cultural inquiry. We seek proposals that provide occasion for comparative inquiry seriously engaging two or more religious traditions around a common topic and that also reflect critically on the conceptual tools employed in the inquiry. While we accept individual paper proposals, we strongly encourage group proposals either in the form of thematic paper sessions (maximum four presenters, a presider, and a respondent) or as panel sessions (maximum six presenters). Thematic paper session proposals must include both an abstract and individual paper proposals. Panel proposals must include a two-page abstract and a list of the panel members.

The steering committee reserves the right to add individuals to any group proposal. Proposals must be made through the online system unless alternative arrangements have been made with one of the co-chairs well in advance of the deadline. The 2007 meeting includes a focus on contributions of Chinese scholars and scholarship in the study of religion. Therefore, session organizers are strongly encouraged to consider such scholars and scholarship in their proposals. Themes proposed for the 2007 meeting, with organizers identified in parentheses where appropriate, are as follows: 1) Global indigenous movements (Kay Read, kay.a.read@gmail.com); 2) Encounters in ethnography today (Karen Pechilis, kpechili@drew.edu); 3) Religion and material culture; 4) Notions of intentionality (Katherine Jones, joneskj@wofford.edu); 5) Methodological issues in teaching comparative religions; 6) Religion and popular culture; and 7) Twins and twinship (Kimberley Patton, kimberley_patton@harvard.edu). Additional proposals for comparative panels and sessions are encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Ethics Section

Jane Hicks, St. John Fisher College, jhicks@sjfc.edu. Miguel de la Torre, Iliff University, mdelatorre@iliff.edu.

The Ethics Section invites proposals providing ethical analyses from all religious traditions and diverse ethical methodologies in response to the following themes. 1) Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment. San Diego is a city of massive cultural and demographic flow from Latin America and Asia. What are the ethical issues raised by immigration and its impact on the encounter of cultures? (co-sponsored with the Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group and the Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group). 2) States as Laboratories: Medical, Environmental, and Economic Initiatives and the State, Challenges and Opportunities. 3) Innovative Methods in Religious Ethics: Philosophical, Comparative, and Social Scientific Perspectives. 4) Hooray for Hollywood? Ethics and Entertainment. Ethical issues in film, TV, media, and other forms of popular culture. 5) Biblical Ethics from the Margins: Racial, Ethnic, and Other Minority Perspectives (co-sponsored with the Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group and the Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation). 6) Papers of particular excellence on other topics are also invited. All proposals should identify the methodology used and contribution of the argument to current academic conversations. Proposals for co-sponsored sessions should be sent to all sponsoring program units. Submissions to the Ethics Section will be accepted via OP3 only.

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(continued on next page)

Membership Current?

You must be a current AAR member in order to participate on the program. You must also be registered for the 2007 meeting. Persons who do not meet the membership and registration requirements by June 15, 2007, will not appear in the Program Book. To renew your membership, use the form on page 20 or go online to www.aarweb.org/membership. Annual Meeting registration opens May 15.

History of Christianity Section

Nathan Rein, Ursinus College, nrein@ursinus.edu. Teresa Shaw, Claremont Graduate Union, teresa.shaw@cgu.edu.

The History of Christianity Section seeks to present innovative and engaging research on the history, culture, and development of Christianity from its origins to the present, while at the same time promoting interdisciplinary dialogue among the fields of history, ritual studies, art history, anthropology, and historical theology. We seek proposals for individual papers or entire panels on the following topics: saints and sainthood; exegesis in the history of Christianity; the history of Christianity in China and the Chinese diaspora; and "folk" belief and "superstition." We will consider proposals on other topics as well. Papers should be conceived for an effective 20-minute presentation. All proposals must be submitted online

via OP3 and will be evaluated in anonymous peer review by the section steering committee.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



North American Religions Section

Kathleen Flake, Vanderbilt Divinity School, kathleen.flake@vanderbilt.edu. Philip Goff, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, pgoff@iupui.edu.

The North American Religions Section seeks to advance the study of religions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico by promoting innovative scholarship across disciplinary and national boundaries. Thus, we host sessions based on their potential to foster critical and comparative discussion on themes that are inclusive of

a variety of peoples, traditions, and regions. In recognition of the locale of our next meeting, the section welcomes especially proposals on borderlands (especially Mexican-American and Pacific Rim) and religion in time of war. Other potential topics for sessions include secularism(s), the religious "right" and "left," and the family (marriage, children, sexual norms, and adoption, including international adoption). More generally, we seek proposals that revisit the survey course on religion in America, consider the relation between history and ethnography in the study of North American religions, or offer critical reflections on keywords in the study of American religion. To spur interactive sessions, we seek proposals for round tables, debates, visual and musical performances, workshops, and other appropriate formats, as well as more traditional presentations.

Regardless, we encourage all presenters to eschew the conventional format and to consider teaching or simply talking their ideas and arguments, not merely reading their papers aloud.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Philosophy of Religion Section

Thomas A. Carlson, University of Santa Barbara, California, tcarlson@religion.ucsb.edu. Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles, jprabhu@calstatela.edu.

The Philosophy of Religion Section invites proposals for individual papers, paper sessions, and panels related to the following topics: Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*; the thought of Franz Rosenzweig; Charles Taylor's Gifford Lectures ("Living in a Secular Age"); the turn to St. Paul in Alain Badiou, et al.; China and the philosophy of religion; Wittgenstein on silence and the mystical (a session to be co-sponsored with the Mysticism Group in homage to D. Z. Phillips). We also welcome proposals on topics not explicitly listed here. PLEASE NOTE: Proposal submissions will not be accepted by any means other than the OP3 system.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion and the Social Sciences Section

Douglas A. Hicks, University of Richmond, dhicks@richmond.edu.

The steering committee of Religion and the Social Sciences especially invites proposals in relation to the following themes: 1) Political economy and the voice of religion; 2) Psychology of moral imagination: resources for facing environmental crisis (for possible joint session with Person, Culture, and Religion Group); 3) Border crossings, immigration, and religious intersections in Mexico/Southern California (for possible joint session with Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change Consultation); 4) Psychologies and theologies of human development; and 5) Religion and food: understandings from the social sciences and religious/theological studies. We also welcome other paper or panel proposals that fit with the section's purpose: to support scholarship

at the intersection of the social sciences (including psychology, sociology, political sciences, economics, and cultural studies) and religious or theological studies. Topics may include: the study of religious and theological questions through specific social scientific methodologies, the contribution of religious and theological approaches to the work of social scientific disciplines, and comparative assessments of current issues by humanities-based and social scientific methods. In order to be accepted for presentation, a paper or panel proposal must explicitly state its author's methodology(ies).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion in South Asia Section

Parimal G. Patil, Harvard University, ppatil@fas.harvard.edu. Tazim Kassam, Syracuse University, tkassam@syr.edu.

We invite proposals for fully developed paper or panel sessions on any aspect of religion(s) in South Asia — textual, ethnographic, visual, historical, philosophical, pedagogical, comparative, etc. We will also consider individual paper proposals, but strongly encourage everyone to submit complete paper or panel sessions whenever possible. Interdisciplinary approaches and multitransition perspectives are encouraged. Specific topics suggested by RISA members include: A Review of *Religions of South Asia: An Introduction* (Jack Llewellyn, jllewellyn@missouristate.edu); encounters in ethnography today (Karen Pechilis, kpechili@drew.edu); religion and reform writers in post-colonial India and Hindu-Muslim encounters: shared spaces and ideologies (Prabhavati Reddy, preddy@verizon.net); religious buildings: changing uses and competing claims (Leslie C. Orr, orr@concordia.ca); satire, humor, and character in South Asian religions/visual culture (Paul Courtright, relpb@emory.edu); South Asia and the tsunami/natural disasters; South Asia: post-9/11; prosperity and the transformation of sacred space; South Asian religions through its art and architecture; reading novels religiously; illness as religious experience; and curatorial studies, preservation, and RISA.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Study of Islam Section

Nelly Van Doorn-Harder, Valparaiso University, Nelly.VanDoorn-Harder@valpo.edu. Omid Safi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, omid@email.unc.edu.

The Study of Islam Section encourages paper proposals in all areas of Islamic studies. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication, as well as innovative examination of Islamic practices and texts. As always, we welcome submissions dealing with the Qur'an, Islamic law, philosophy, jurisprudence, Sufism, rituals, gender and sexuality constructions, engagement with modernity, teaching Islam, interfaith, and other areas of general interest. Furthermore we encourage proposals dealing with Shi'ism within and across these areas. In addition, we also invite more particular panels on the following themes: 1) Islam in North

"These stories may come up from the basement of church history, but news about their existence deserves to be shouted from the housetops." —MARTIN E. MARTY

A People's History of Christianity

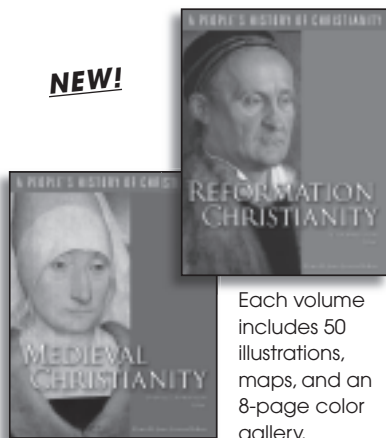
The Lived Religion of Christians in the First Two Thousand Years

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America. Especially solicited are proposals focusing on Islamic movements and expressions in California. 2) Islam in Europe: topics concerning movements and symbolic expressions of identity (clothing, etc.) are welcome. 3) Youth: networks, culture, and organizations such as MSA. 4) Teaching Islam through the arts: poetry, films, music, novels, etc. 5) Muslim approaches to the Bible. 6) In view of the 2007 AAR focus on China, all topics on Islam in China or Chinese Muslims (including those in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia) are welcome. We welcome both "paper sessions" and "panel sessions." A "paper session" has individually listed proposals and abstracts, whereas a "panel session" is organized around a theme. Since our review process is an anonymous one, we especially ask that organizers pay attention to issues of diversity (ethnic, gender, age, discipline, etc.). In order to assure coherence in the proposal, feel free to utilize the Study of Islam listserve to solicit other proposals on the theme you are putting together. Finally, we encourage new formats to present the papers, poster sessions, and using audiovisual material. Submissions via OP3 system unless unforeseen technical difficulties arise.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Study of Judaism Section

Aryeh Cohen, University of Judaism, aryeh@uj.edu. Martin Kavka, Florida State University, mkavka@mailers.fsu.edu.

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) The discourse of authenticity and/or heresy; 2) Judaism and American political discourse, in honor of the centenary of Abraham Joshua Heschel; 3) Judaism and the ethics of warfare; 4) New approaches in Jewish feminist scholarship; 5) Halakhic reasoning and legal theory; 6) Theodicy (for a session to be co-sponsored with the Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group); and 7) The formulation and function of vows, oaths, contracts, and/or curses in the period of formative Judaism and Christianity (for a session to be co-sponsored with the SBL Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section). As always, we aim to present panels at the AAR that display a wide diversity of methodological and historical subfields in the study of Judaism, and welcome all paper and panel proposals that help meet this aim.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Theology and Religious Reflection Section

Kwok Pui Lan, Episcopal Divinity School, Pkwook@eds.edu. Joerg Rieger, Southern Methodist University, jrieger@mail.smu.edu.

The Theology and Religious Reflection Section invites proposals for the 2007 program on the following themes: 1) Theological and religious reflections on work, immigration, and borders; 2)

Theology, gender, and science (issues such as theology and neuroscience as they pertain to race, gender, and class); 3) Interreligious dialogue and geopolitical realities; 4) Theology, liberalism, and progressive Christianity; 5) Theology of the military; and 6) Theology and love. Additionally, the Theology and Religious Reflection Section welcomes paper and panel proposals which address the intersections of theological and religious reflection with philosophical and political issues, and with questions of literary, cultural, and critical theory.

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Women and Religion Section

Jung Ha Kim, Georgia State University, socjhh@langate.gsu.edu. Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University, lzoloth@northwestern.edu.

The Women and Religion Section invites

papers and panels from a variety of religious traditions that explore the role of women in text, history, ritual, (contemporary) culture, and organizational life. This year we are focusing on four themes that will locate our section in light of the Southern California venue of the 2007 conference; in light of the last joint meeting with colleagues from SBL; in light of the culture of the gaze on the body; and in light of women and Chinese religions. Possible topics include: women's bodies as sites of science, exchange, and meaning; women and religion in the movies; the gaze on the body; "California Girls"; women in Bible and other sacred scriptures; Chinese religions and women; Chinese women in the American religious imagination; and women in religion and in the emerging science (neuroscience, genomics, stem cell research, fertility research.) Panels that feature both junior and senior scholars and papers that use innovative ways of presenting information are strongly encouraged.

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GROUPS

African Religions Group

Samuel K. (Kip) Elolia, Emmanuel School of Religion, eloliak@esr.edu. Laura Grillo, Pacifica Graduate Institute, lgrillo@pacific.edu.

Papers are invited on the following themes: 1) The material and economic dimensions of religions in Africa today; 2) (Mis)translations and (re)conceptualizations of indigenous religious ideas across ethnic and cultural boundaries in Africa; 3) Religion, violence, and conflict in Africa — dynamics and responses. In the evaluation of proposals, the committee will give preference to scholarly and constructive papers that are likely to solicit discussion. In keeping with the 2007 international focus, we welcome submissions from Chinese scholars. Submission via OP3 is preferred, but e-mailed submissions are acceptable.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Afro-American Religious History Group

Moses N. Moore, Arizona State University, mosesnmoore@gmail.com. Anthea Butler, University of Rochester, anthea.butler@rochester.edu.

The Afro-American History Group invites panel proposals or papers on the following themes: The history of African-American religion in the West, including such themes as westward migration, African Americans and Mormonism, Native Americans, borderland issues, Mexico, and the African Diaspora and religious tradition. Panels that also focus on historic aspects of African-American religion (movement, events, or persons) in California are also encouraged. Papers or panels that cover the following anniversaries: the African-American religious experience in Jamestown (2007 marks the 400th anniversary of the landing in 1607); and the commemoration of the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. Panels for book and/or film discussions are also encouraged.

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Groups are established to encourage the exploration of an emergent area of study or methodology, to cultivate the relation between the study of religion and a cognate discipline, or to pursue a long-range and broad research project. More focused than sections and less restricted in participation than seminars, groups are expected to experiment with the format of sessions at the Annual Meeting.

Anthropology of Religion Group

J. Shawn Landres, Synagogue 3000/ UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, shawn@landres.com. Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College, rebecca.norris@merrimack.edu.

We invite proposals from across anthropology and religion, especially papers that move beyond traditional ethnographic methods. This year we especially seek papers for the following themes: 1) Personal and community narrative (e.g., autoethnography and oral history, particularly related to Pacific Rim, Latin-American, African-American, and African immigrant religious communities on the West Coast); 2) Fieldwork dilemmas in the study of anomalous experiences and altered states of consciousness; 3) "Chinese Sacred Spaces: Framing Forms and Fieldwork," to be co-sponsored with the Sacred Spaces in Asia Group; and 4) Anthropology and social archaeology of the ancient world, including the Dead Sea Scrolls communities. We encourage submissions from scholars using anthropology to study diverse traditions, regions, and eras.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group

Su Yon Pak, Union Theological Seminary, spak@uts.columbia.edu. Anne Joh, Phillips Theological Seminary, anne.joh@ptstulsa.edu.

We welcome 1) Interdisciplinary theological and religious reflections on globalization, postcolonialism, and postmodernity in conversation with Asian and Asian-American experiences; and 2) Proposals that address the complexity of "Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment," since San Diego is a city of massive cultural and demographic flow from Latin America and Asia. We also welcome 3) Proposals on the eve of the AAR/SBL split marking the history, struggle, and vision of the ANARCS/SBL Asian American Hermeneutics groups. Especially of interest are proposals pairing senior/junior scholars discussing changes and trajectories in the study of Asian North American religion, theology, and Biblical studies; and 4) Proposals that push the boundaries of theory and research in Asian North American religions.

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Augustine and Augustinianisms Group

Robert P. Kennedy, St. Francis Xavier University, rkennedy@stfx.ca. Kim Paffenroth, Iona College, kimpaffenroth@msn.com.

Papers are invited on the following two themes: 1) Augustine and psychology: We seek papers on any aspect of this topic, including Augustine's understanding of the self; psychoanalytical interpretations of Augustine and his work; and the influence of Augustinian concepts in later thought. 2) Augustine and Empire: Papers dealing with the place of North Africa within the Roman empire, Augustine's attitude(s) towards the Roman empire or imperial aspirations generally, and Augustine's influence, supposed or real, on later empires all would be welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group

Laura E. Donaldson, Cornell University, ld49@cornell.edu. Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University, fernando.f.segovia@vanderbilt.edu.

We are co-sponsoring a session on "Biblical Ethics from the Margins: Racial, Ethnic, and Other Minority Perspectives" with the Ethics Section and the Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation. We are seeking papers by and from marginalized communities with a biblical eye toward social justice. The second session of the Bible in Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Communities Group is an invited panel entitled "Gating the Nations: Biblical Ideologies of the Wall." This panel will address the way the Bible has been used to construct (or deconstruct) walls such as that between California and Mexico, the walls of Mazanar, a World War II concentration camp in Northern California, and the walls of the California mission system. Related issues will include social walls such as the California Exclusion Act.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group

Jon L. Berquist, Westminster John Knox Press, jberquist@aol.com. Catherine Keller, Drew University, keller@bookbuzz.com.

This group encourages dialogue between constructive theologians and biblical scholars, dealing with themes of interest to both disciplines within the context of postmodern situations. We encourage creative proposals that will suggest new and provocative solutions to questions of biblical theology. For next year, we will focus on new readings of Exodus, diaspora, and immigration.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Bioethics and Religion Group

Aline H. Kalbian, Florida State University, akalbian@fsu.edu. Swasti Bhattacharyya, Buena Vista University, bhattacharyya@bvuu.edu.

Inspired by San Diego's proximity to Mexico, we invite papers on the theme "Bioethics and Borderlands." Topics might include health care and immigration reform; the duty to care for the vulnerable; the notion of the stranger in medicine; global epidemics that transgress national borders; and ethical issues particular to immigrant populations both in the United States and abroad. We encourage

diverse methodological, textual, historical, and social approaches, as well as cross-cultural, class, and gender analyses. Special consideration will be given to proposals that attend to religious texts and practices. We also invite proposals for a joint session with the Women and Religion Section on "Gender and the Ethics of Gamete Donation." Papers on any topic in bioethics and religion will also receive consideration.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Black Theology Group

Stacey Floyd-thomas, Texas Christian University, s.floyd-thomas@tcu.edu. Stephen G. Ray, Lutheran Theological Sseminary at Philadelphia, sray@ltsps.edu.

The Black Theology Group seeks papers and/or panel proposals on issues of methods and sources in the ongoing development of black theology. We are particularly interested in proposals that engage world religions (especially, but not limited to, Buddhism and Hinduism) from a black theological perspective.

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PARTICIPANT FORM 2007 (PREARRANGED SESSION)

The session organizer or chair must fill out this form in its entirety.

Names and institutions will appear in the *Program Book* as indicated below (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). If you are not affiliated with an institution, list city, state, or province.

(PLEASE PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INK.)

Session Organizer Contact Information

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Postal Code _____

Country _____

Office Phone _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

1. PROPOSED THEME of SESSION:

2. PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal:

2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal, if any. Please place a number in the order of your preference, if any, of program unit acceptance:

3. PLANNED PARTICIPANTS for this session, in order of appearance:

Presider: _____

Panelists: _____

Respondent: _____

3b. OTHER PROGRAM UNITS in which above participants may participate or to which they are also sending submissions, if any (list participant name and program unit):

(Completed participant form(s) must accompany each submission.)

4. AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS for the entire session (note number needed):

___ Slide Projector w/Screen & Carousel

___ Extra Carousel(s)

___ Overhead Projector w/Screen

___ Extra Screen

___ VCR or DVD Player with Monitor (circle one)

___ Cassette or CD Player (circle one)

___ Computer: Windows Macintosh Internet

___ LCD Projector w/Screen

___ Other: _____

Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. The executive office makes every attempt to honor the AV requests of our members. Unusual requests should be cleared, through the appropriate program unit chair, with the executive office to confirm the availability of the equipment or setup of space.

5. SCHEDULING NEEDS due to religious observance, if any:

NOTE: No individual may participate on the program more than two times.

Also available at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for download

Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group

Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg College, hale@augsb.org. Lisa Dahill, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, ldahill@trinitylutheranseminary.edu.

In honor of the long history of joint meetings between the AAR and SBL, we invite proposals exploring Bonhoeffer's use and exegesis of biblical texts, including, but not limited to, the Psalms. Such proposals might also explore Bonhoeffer as pastor, preacher, and/or theologian. The release of the newly translated volumes (13 & 16) of Bonhoeffer's pastoral letters and time in London could be of particular import in

this work. We also invite proposals exploring this question: does the current resurgence of religion, particularly conservative Christianity in America, call for renewed engagement with Bonhoeffer's "religionless" interpretation? Finally, we invite proposals for a possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Genocide, and Holocaust Group on the use of Bonhoeffer's life and theology in post-Holocaust (and postgenocide) interfaith dialogues.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Group

John Makransky, Boston College, makransk@bc.edu. Roger Jackson, Carleton College, rjackson@carleton.edu.

This group explores how modern academic study of Buddhism may inform Buddhist understandings today, and how Buddhist understandings may help address contemporary problems in society, philosophy, and religion. We invite paper or panel proposals on the following:

1) Buddhist perspectives on a contemporary issue — for example, how feminism and Buddhism inform each other; or how

Buddhism and ecological awareness inform each other; or how Buddhism and a current social problem inform each other. 2) A Buddhist theme reconsidered in its relevance to our time — such as karma, liberation, emptiness, or universal compassion. 3) For a co-sponsored session with the Academic Teaching and Study of Religion Section, we also invite papers on how contemplative practices may help fulfill pedagogical goals of courses, with examples.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Buddhist Philosophy Group

John D. Dunne, Emory University, jdunne@emory.edu. A. Charles Muller, Toyo Gakuen University, acmuller@jj.em-net.ne.jp.

The Buddhist Philosophy Group, while accepting individual paper proposals, seeks mainly to sponsor tightly integrated group presentations. Topics might center on the content or interpretation of a specific philosophical problem, but they might also address metatheoretical issues such as methodology. Panels may likewise focus on a recent publication central to the field or a classical text of particular importance. Panels or sessions that use a diversity of methods to address a thematic issue within a regional focus are also encouraged. Potential topics raised by group members include: contemplative practice and philosophy; a typology of philosophical categories; ineffability; debate; tathāgatagarbha; perception; reflexive awareness; dignāga in China; what is buddhist philosophy — emic and etic accounts; trikāya theory; and eighth-ninth century Sino-Tibetan philosophy. Other topics are also welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



(continued on next page)

**PARTICIPANT FORM 2007
(INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS)**



Each presenter, panelist, respondent, and presider must fill out a form in its entirety.

It is very important that the participant fill out this form. Name and institution will appear in the Program Book as indicated below (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name).

If you are not affiliated with an institution, list city, state, or province.

(PLEASE PRINT IN BLUE OR BLACK INK.)

Name			
Institution			
Mailing Address			
City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country
Office Phone	Home Phone	E-mail	

1. TITLE OF YOUR PROPOSAL (if presenting a paper):

2. PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal:

2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal, if any. Please place a number in the order of your preference, if any, of program unit acceptance:

4. AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS (note number needed) :

- ___ Slide Projector w/Screen & Carousel
- ___ Extra Carousel(s)
- ___ Overhead Projector w/Screen
- ___ Extra Screen
- ___ VCR or DVD Player w/Monitor (circle one)
- ___ Cassette or CD Player (circle one)
- ___ Computer: Windows Macintosh Internet
- ___ LCD Projector w/Screen
- ___ Other: _____

Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. The executive office makes every attempt to honor the AV requests of our members. Unusual requests should be cleared, through the appropriate program unit chair, with the executive office to confirm the availability of the equipment or setup of space.

5. SCHEDULING NEEDS due to religious observance, if any:

(Completed participant form(s) must accompany each submission.)

3. YOUR ROLE in this session:

- Presiding
- Presenting (titled paper)
- Responding
- Panelist (untitled presentation)
- Presiding at a Business Meeting

NOTE: No individual may participate in the program more than two times.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- = Surface mail
- = Fax
- = OP3
- = E-mail
- = E-mail with attachment

Chinese Religions Group

Daniel B. Stevenson, University of Kansas, dbsteve@ku.edu. James Robson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, robsonj@umich.edu.

We invite proposals related to all aspects of religious thought and practice in China and Chinese diaspora communities. For 2007 we welcome proposals in the following areas: religious policy and practice in China (including the status of Christian and Islamic traditions, and the politics of "popular superstition" and "heretical movements"); religious ramifications of civil service exam culture; digital resources for the study of Chinese religions (prospects and impact on future scholarship); ritual discourses in China and their implications for current ritual theory; negotiating multiple religious obligations; and Dunhuang studies. With Chinese contributions to the study of religion as the international focus for 2007, we are especially interested in programs on the history, organization, and methodological disposition of religious studies as a discipline in Chinese academic institutions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Christian Spirituality Group

Arthur Holder, Graduate Theological Union, aholder@gtu.edu. Wendy M. Wright, Creighton University, wumwright@creighton.edu.

We welcome proposals that explore the relationship between the academic study of Christian spirituality and its practice, as well as proposals that employ multidisciplinary perspectives. We particularly invite proposals on the following themes: 1) Christian spirituality and the phenomenon of multiple religious belonging (e.g., Bede Griffiths, Abhishiktananda, Intermonastic experience, etc.); 2) The Psalms in Christian spirituality; 3) The spirituality of Chinese or Chinese-American Christians; and 4) For a co-sponsored session with the Religion and Ecology Group: Christian spiritual practices for a sustainable ecology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Comparative Religious Ethics Group

Aaron Stalnaker, Indiana University, astalnak@indiana.edu.

We encourage submissions that actively compare and contrast positions or trajectories from diverse religious thinkers or groups, rather than merely reporting views from individual traditions. This year, in collaboration with the Confucian Traditions Group, we invite papers that analyze the unusual prominence of studies of Chinese thought, especially early Confucianism, in the development of comparative religious ethics, pointing out both distinctive contributions and possible limitations of this trend. We also solicit integrated sessions, as well as individual proposals, on substantive topics in comparative religious ethics. Themes of particular interest include comparative approaches to moral psychology and moral agency; problems of relativism and normative argument in comparative ethics; and analysis of how comparative inquiry changes and/or makes claims on its practitioners.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Comparative Studies in Hinduisms and Judaisms Group

Kathryn McClymond, Georgia State University, kmcclymond@gsu.edu.

This group seeks to bring together scholars of Hinduism and Judaism to generate responsible and insightful comparative conversation with the intention of developing alternatives to the Christian-based paradigms that have tended to dominate the academic study of religion. Paper proposals on any theme will be considered for acceptance, but for the 2007 sessions we particularly invite papers on the following themes: 1) Kabbalah, Hindu mysticism, and new religious movements; 2) Practices and teaching related to hair; 3) Iconography and iconoclasm; and 4) Women's laments. Proposals for individual papers as well as full panels are encouraged. Presenters need not have expertise in both Hindu and Jewish traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Comparative Theology Group

Deepak Sarma, Case Western Reserve University, deepak.sarma@case.edu. Tracy Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University, ttiemeier@lmu.edu.

Comparative Theology Group seeks proposals exploring CT in multiple traditions. Full, multiperson proposals preferred — steering committee is willing to help. Topics include further theorization of comparison; CT as theological; CT's theories, methodologies, precedents, genealogies; is CT inevitably Christian?; vs. Euro-American domination of CT; CT's audience; multiple religious identities; oral traditions; creeds, dogmas; truth claims; rebirth pro/con; translation problems; Eastern Orthodoxy, Eastern religions; CT, Chinese, Japanese religions; Benedict XVI, Islam, apologetics; Christian-Jewish dialogue as CT; orthopraxy; Taoist, Western liturgy; mysticism and spiritual practices; hagiography; Frisina's *Unity of Knowledge and Action*; liberal theologies, world religions; feminist critiques; *Altruism in World Religions* (Neusner/Chilton); freedom; and nature-affirming/denying religions. Online submission only; thematic sessions (four + respondent), panels (five + respondent). Thematic: abstract + paper proposals; panel: abstract + names.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Confucian Traditions Group

Keith Knapp, Citadel, keith.knapp@citadel.edu. Michael Puett, Harvard University, puett@fas.harvard.edu.

We invite proposals concerning any aspect of Confucianism. Topics of interest are: empirical approaches (sociological or anthropological) to the study of Confucianism; Neo-Confucian ideas about evil; what is a Confucian? the formation of the Confucian classics; and what is at stake in Confucianism as a religion? In collaboration with the Comparative Religious Ethics Group, we invite papers that analyze the prominence of studies of early Confucianism in the development of comparative religious ethics. We also encourage panels in the new 90-minute format, which can take the form of a symposium on a particular text, pedagogy, or a specific author. Since the international focus of next year's meeting will be Chinese contributions to the study of religion, please think about including Chinese scholars in your panels.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group

Steven Engler, Mount Royal College, sjengler@gmail.com. Kocku von Stuckrad, University of Amsterdam, c.k.m.vonStuckrad@uva.nl.

CTDR offers a forum for critical/theoretical work in conversation with concrete cases, e.g., the historical or ethnographic study of religious life and institutions. This year's themes: 1) China's "isms" (origin, validity, and ideological functions of

"Daoism," "Chinese Buddhism," "Confucianism," "folk religion," etc.); 2) Race, power, binary thinking (distortions and marginalizations in the study of religion); 3) Critical discussion of Thomas Tweed's *Crossing and Dwelling* (how does this theory work with specific cases, e.g., nomadism, diasporic religions?); 4) Documentary film and issues of visual representation; 5) Contemporary theorists/theories from non-Euro-U.S. contexts (especially those emerging out of non-Christian traditions); and 6) Discourse analysis (uses and insights, especially in the area of religious law).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Eastern Orthodox Studies Group

Paul Gavriluk, University of Saint Thomas (MN), plgavriluk@stthomas.edu. Eve Tibbs, Fuller Seminary, etibbs@adelphia.net.

The Eastern Orthodox Studies Group invites papers on the following two topics: 1) Historical and/or contemporary encounters between Eastern Christianity and Islam with proposals being sought in all areas of contact between the two religious traditions including, but not limited to, shared theological views, popular religious expressions, and depictions of the other in religious and other literature; and 2) The use of images or icons in the Eastern Christian tradition within a variety of differing contexts, settings, or space: liturgical, devotional, public, private, or political.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Ecclesiological Investigations Group

Michael A. Fahey, Boston College, michael.fahay@marquette.edu. Gerard Mannion, Liverpool Hope University, manniog@hope.ac.uk.

1) Communion and Otherness: Contemporary Challenges of "Impaired Communion." Communion as an ecumenical challenge between churches and an ecclesiological challenge within churches, with a focus on constructive proposals for the present. We also invite papers critically assessing recently published studies such as Zizioulas's *Communion and Otherness*. 2) "The Church and Its Many Asian Faces." Papers exploring questions pertaining to Asian ecclesiology, inculturation, and interreligious dialogue, with a specific focus upon ministry and authority. We particularly welcome papers addressing relevant ecclesiological themes in relation to the AAR 2007 theme of China. Also welcome are historical treatments of the churches in and of Asia and their influence upon the wider Christian community. Papers exploring shared interests with comparative theology, feminist, or social scientific aspects of Asian ecclesiology are also invited.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Checklists

Prearranged Paper/Panel Session Proposals

- Proposal being sent via proper method
- Current 2007 memberships for all participants including presider
- Completed Prearranged Session Participant Form listing all participants including presider (not necessary in OP3)
- Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)
- For paper sessions: individual abstracts for all participants
- For panel session: single abstract for the entire session
- Abstract(s) in an electronic format (150 words or fewer)

Individual Proposals

- Proposal being sent via proper method
- Current membership for 2007
- Completed Participant Form (not necessary in OP3)
- Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)
- Abstract, in an electronic format (150 words or fewer)

Evangelical Theology Group

John R. Franke, Biblical Theological Seminary, jfranke@biblical.edu. Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ashland Theological Seminary, wcorbin@ashland.edu.

The Evangelical Theology Group is accepting paper and panel proposals for the following themes in 2007: 1) Evangelical traditions and tradition. Proposals are welcomed that explore the diversity of evangelical expression (confessional/theological, cultural/ethnic, emergent, etc.) and its relationship to the idea of a unifying evangelical tradition. 2) Evangelicals in Southern California. Proposals may explore how geographic, cultural, and social factors have shaped evangelical interaction with the racial, ethnic, and religious communities of the area. 3) For a co-sponsored session with the Wesleyan Studies Group: Hospitality to the dispossessed. Papers are invited which explore a theology of immigration, treating topics such as social action in immigrant communities, negotiating dual cultures, and the interface between established Christian communities and newly arrived immigrants.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group

Rosemary P. Carbine, College of the Holy Cross, rcarbine@holycross.edu. M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University, mghamner@syr.edu.

Paper and panel proposals are invited that critically and practically engage feminist theory and religious reflection. Preference is given to proposals with substantial feminist theoretical argument and with attention to cross-cultural perspectives, especially China studies. We solicit both papers and panels particularly on the following topics: 1) Pedagogy and power: teaching toward transformation in feminist/womanist theory and theology (co-sponsored with Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group); 2) Reconceptualizing divine and human power: engagements especially but not only with Catherine Keller; and 3) Tragedy, irony, and other alternative genres for feminist theories and theologies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group

Donald L. Boisvert, Concordia University, dllb@alcor.concordia.ca.

The Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group explores the intersections of gay male experience and religion. This year we are interested in the role religion plays in the contestations over U.S. immigration and the social construction of racial/ethnic "others"; how does this relate to the (religious) constructions of gay men as sexual/gender "others"? Similarly, we are interested in the construction of religious "others" — noninstitutional forms of spiritual practice as well as gay male contributions to pagan and neopagan or "nature" religions. Finally, we encourage papers on the historical trajectory from "gay" to "queer";

what does the shift toward queer sensibilities portend for religion and ethics? We also welcome paper and panel proposals on topics not listed here and from all religious traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Hinduism Group

Timothy Lubin, Washington and Lee University, lubint@wlu.edu. Vijaya Nagarajan, University of San Francisco, nagarajan@usfca.edu.

We invite session proposals for the 2007 meeting on any aspect of Hinduism. Interdisciplinary and comparative proposals are also welcome, but individual paper proposals cannot be accepted. Proposals must be made through the online system. Topics proposed at the meeting: religion of the "backward" moves forward (Christian Novetzke); trees and forests (Eliza Kent); global gurus (Joanne Waghorne); Hindu reform movements (Diana Dimitrova); Hindu activist critique of the Hindutva (Koenraad Elst); Hindu "Occidentalism" (Sushil Mittal); effects of tourism (Jim Lochtefeld); Bhagavata-Purana (Ithamar Theodor); and Hindu ascetic traditions (Ramdas Lamb). Proposals on other topics are of course welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Indigenous Religious Traditions Group

Jualynne E. Dodson, Michigan State University, dodsonj2@msu.edu. Ines M. Talamantez, University of California, Santa Barbara, talamant@religion.ucsb.edu.

We welcome papers and panels devoted to three particular areas: 1) Shamanism in indigenous practices focusing on types, forms, and meanings of shamanistic expression in several regions of the world, including Australasia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. 2) Chinese scholarship on indigenous traditions including work by Chinese scholars on indigenous traditions in China and other places and critique of such work. 3) Rethinking the study of indigenous religions in contemporary society examining epistemological, hermeneutical, and methodological innovations for scholarship on indigenous religions. In general, we encourage papers and/or panels that interrogate the concept of indigenous religion rather than report on indigenous practice. What would be the criteria of indigenous religion for China or Australasia? Or, can settler traditions become indigenous?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Islamic Mysticism Group

Vincent Cornell, Emory University, vcornell@emory.edu. Carl Ernst, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, cernst@email.unc.edu.

The Islamic Mysticism Group solicits paper and panel proposals for the 2007 AAR Annual Meeting, especially in relation to the following topics: narrative and

storytelling in Islamic mysticism; practical and engaged Sufism; reformist and legal aspects of Islamic mysticism; neo-Platonism and Islamic mysticism; the nature of a Sufi order (e.g., the Qadiriyya); Islamic mysticism and the arts (including film and communication media); and Sufism and psychology. Proposals dealing with Islamic mysticism in China are especially welcome in view of the AAR emphasis on China in 2007.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Japanese Religions Group

Paula Arai, Carleton College, parai@carleton.edu. Jay Ford, Wake Forest University, fordj.wfu.edu.

We invite panel and individual proposals related to all aspects of Japanese religious practice and thought, both historical and contemporary. For 2007 we welcome proposals relating to the following topics: 1) Use of visuals (images, videos, etc.) in teaching Japanese religiosity; 2) How migration (both people and traditions) has changed Japanese religion; 3) The impact of Japanese translations of "law" and "religion" on the study of religion and legal debates about religion; 4) Material culture and practices; 5) Chinese views of Japanese religions (in conjunction with the AAR focus on Chinese scholarship); and 6) Exile in Japanese religious history.

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Consider including reflections on the relevance of Japanese religiosity to religiosity and the study of religion more broadly construed. Creative formats (film, organized discussion, "workshop," etc.) are encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



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SMU PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

January 28-30, 2008

Albert Outler and the Wesleyan Spirit

A scholarly conference on the occasion
of the centennial of the birth of
Albert Cook Outler

This conference for scholars, pastors, church and academic professionals, and laity will bring scholars from throughout the globe to Southern Methodist University where Albert C. Outler (1908-1989) studied and taught generations of clergy and academicians. Outler was among the most important figures in Wesley scholarship and a leading theologian of the Methodist tradition and the ecumenical movement. This conference will critically examine Outler's work and assess his contributions to Wesley studies, Christian history, Protestant theology, ecumenism, and the church.

A Call for Papers is available at perkins.smu.edu
Proposals are due March 16, 2007.



For more information contact:
Gary MacDonald, director of Advanced Ministerial Studies
Southern Methodist University
Perkins School of Theology
P.O. Box 750133
Dallas, TX 75275
gmacdona@smu.edu 214.768.3161

Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group

Andrew Burgess, University of New Mexico, aburgess@unm.edu. Marilyn Piety, Drexel University, mpiety@drexel.edu.

The Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group invites proposals for papers on the topic of "Kierkegaard and Religious Pluralism." The call should be understood broadly so that it includes topics as diverse as Kierkegaard's attitude toward religions other than Christianity; the employment of Kierkegaardian themes in understanding other religious traditions; the interpretation of Kierkegaard from the perspectives of other religious traditions; and the use of Kierkegaard's writing as a resource for interreligious conversation. There will also be a prearranged panel, co-sponsored with the Schleiermacher Group, on Kierkegaard's relation to Schleiermacher.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Korean Religions Group

Jin Y. Park, American University, jjpark@american.edu. John I. Goulde, Sweet Briar College, goulde@sbc.edu.

The Korean Religions Group invites panel and/or paper proposals on the following topics: 1) Social science approaches to the critical understanding of Korean

Christianity; 2) Korean Buddhism as a part of North Asian Buddhism; 3) Korean adaptations and developments of Chinese Confucianism; 4) The status and function of women in Korean religions today; and 5) Korean religions at home and abroad: comparative analyses. We also welcome any other proposals on different topics that have a well-defined methodology and include critical analyses of the data. Please submit panel and paper proposals via the AAR OP3 system no later than March 7, 2007. If you have any questions or additional suggestions, please contact John Goulde or Jin Park by e-mail.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group

Carmen Marie Nanko-Fernandez, Catholic Theological Union, cnanko@ctu.edu. Benjamin Valentin, Andover Newton Theological School, bvalentin@ants.edu.

The Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group invites papers and/or panel proposals on the following thematic: Varieties of Latino/a Religious Experience and Expression. This session wishes to explore and/or engage with the distinct forms of religions and/or religious traditions found among U.S. Latino/as. It is

especially interested in engagement with "non-Christian" religious practices and communities. A second session will be an invited panel meant to honor the work of Latino theologian Orlando Espín on the occasion of his 60th birthday. This panel session will also explore the implications of his body of work for the ongoing development of U.S. Latino/a theologies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Law, Religion, and Culture Group

Robert Yelle, University of Memphis, robertyelle@hotmail.com.

We invite paper and panel proposals on any aspect of the cultural, historical, critical, and comparative study of the intersections of law and religion, including legal categories in religious traditions, the treatment of religion within legal traditions, and human rights and freedom of religion and belief. We especially encourage proposals on the following themes: the cross-cultural translation of the categories of "law" and "religion," the ways in which such translations have influenced the study of religion — especially religions other than Christianity — and the impact of law on conceptions of religion around the world.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Lesbian-Feminist Issues and Religion Group

Julie J. Kilmer, Olivet College, jkilmer@olivetcollege.edu. Elizabeth A. Say, California State University Northridge, elizabeth.say@csun.edu.

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) LFIR is interested in facilitating a panel conversation on the subject of intergenerational understandings of lesbian/queer identity. If you are interested in participating, suggest what you might contribute to such a panel. 2) The effect of sexual orientation on immigrants and issues of immigration. 3) Lesbian identity in the work of Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherríe Moraga, or other Chicana lesbians. 4) Pagan groups/neopaganism in contemporary lesbian circles. 5) Scholarship from political settings outside of the United States that encourages global conversations about lesbian issues in religion. We also encourage thoughtful, well-developed ideas on any range of topics falling under the rubric of lesbian-feminist issues in religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Men's Studies in Religion Group

David Livingston, Mercyhurst College, dlivingst@mercyhurst.edu. Mark Justad, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, mark.justad@vanderbilt.edu.

Submissions are sought in: 1) Masculinities and Asian religious traditions. 2) Masculinity and Border Crossings: Mexico/U.S. border in particular; men crossing/protecting borders

Member ID Number

You can find your membership ID number on any of the official paperwork that comes from the AAR. The top line of the address label has your ID number. It is a single letter followed by five (5) numbers (e.g., Z12345).

If you are a 2006 or 2007 member, the label on this Call for Papers has your ID number on it. If it is not there, please go to www.aarweb.org/membership and you can request to have your ID number e-mailed to you immediately.

broadly interpreted. 3) The spirituality of boys and the issues boys face in spiritual development. 4) Religious reflection on men and masculinities in context — possible themes: war, empire, aging, embodiment, fathering, sports, and global economics. Papers from religious traditions engaging masculinities and nationality, race, class, sexual orientation, social roles, etc., also sought. We also invite papers for a shared session with the SBL Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section that investigate the social constructions of men, masculinity, and maleness in the context of formative Christianity and Judaism. We are particularly interested in papers that consider these concepts in intersection with analysis of race, ethnicity, class, social status, and religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Mysticism Group

June McDaniel, College of Charleston, mcdanielj@cofc.edu. Laura Weed, College of Saint Rose, weedl@strose.edu.

We focus on the comparative, philosophical, theological, psychological, historical, theoretical, cross-cultural, and transnational nature of mysticism, religious experience, and spiritual practice. Creative, imaginative, and scholarly proposals with a clear methodology are invited for 2007 on 1) Asceticism, love, and knowledge; 2) Mystical body, mystical senses in tantra (co-sponsored with the Tantric Studies Group); 3) Mysticism and yoga (co-sponsored with the Yoga Consultation); 4) Wittgenstein on silence and the mystical: in memory of D. Z. Phillips (co-sponsored with the Philosophy of Religion Section); and 5) Mysticism and the arts: mystical paintings, poetry, and handbooks.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



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Native Traditions in the Americas Group

Michael McNally, Carleton College, mmcnally@carleton.edu. Kenneth Mello, University of Vermont, Kenneth.Mello@uvm.edu.

We invite individual papers and group proposals on any aspect of Native Traditions in the Americas. In light of meeting in San Diego, we encourage proposals in the following areas: 1) Religious ideas and associations with water, including the transmission of religion and culture via water and waterways (especially, but not limited to, proposals that focus on the Pacific, California, and Mexico); 2) Militarization of native lands and impact on religions and cultures; 3) Consequences of missionization in contemporary native spiritual communities; 4) Connections between U.S. Native, Mexican indigenous, and Chicana/o religious/spiritual traditions; 5) Methodology for teaching native religious traditions; and 6) Native religious traditions and song/music/chant/dance. Proposals must be submitted electronically, preferably via OP3, but may be submitted via e-mail attachments to both co-chairs.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



New Religious Movements Group

Douglas E. Cowan, Renison College, University of Waterloo, decowan@uwaterloo.ca.

The New Religious Movements Group invites proposals on the following topics: 1) New religions in Latin America, including the emergence of North American Protestantisms; 2) Changes in the conceptualization of “mainstream” versus “marginal” religious traditions as these relate to the study of new religions; 3) Religious innovation and creativity; and 4) All other aspects of new religions study. For our joint session co-sponsored with the Western Esotericism Group, we invite proposals on the exchange and innovation of esoteric ideas in new and emergent religions. Since the conference will be held in San Diego, proposals that focus on new religions in America and the “metaphysical heartland” of California in particular are especially welcome. Proposals for the cosponsored session should be sent to both groups.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Nineteenth-Century Theology Group

Garrett Green, Connecticut College, garrett.green@conncoll.edu.

1) Nineteenth-century interpretations of earliest Christianity session: historical and rhetorical analysis of classic nineteenth-century constructions of Christian origins, e.g., portraits of Jesus and Paul, accounts of Jesus's relation to Judaism, etc. Focus is on 1840–1914. Proposals by scholars of earliest Christianity are also welcome. Organizer: Lori Pearson, lpearson@carleton.edu. 2) Religion and politics in nineteenth-century theology and philosophy of religion session: explorations of the political dimensions of the work of classic nineteenth-century thinkers, or analyses of the relation between “the political” and “the

religious” in a particular thinker's work, etc. Organizer: Ted Vial, TVial@iliff.edu. 3) Joint session with Société Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy: revisionist Roman Catholic scholarship on Christian origins during the Modernist period (1890–1914) — e.g., A. Loisy, L. Duchesne, P. Batiffol, A. Houtin, E. Buonaiuti, Mgr. Le Camus. Organizer: David Schultenover, David.Schultenover@marquette.edu.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Person, Culture, and Religion Group

Kathleen Bishop, Drew University, Kbsh87@aol.com. Pamela Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, pcooper@ltsps.edu.

Proposals are invited on 1) Multiple selves and subjects: multiplicity, unity, and hybridity in psychological and religious conceptions of identity (e.g., explorations from constructivism, trauma theory and identity, post-colonial theories of hybridity); 2) Negotiating religious pluralism: psychological resources for understanding (e.g., psychology-of-religion explorations of issues re: immigration, xenophobia, mestizaje, hybridity, religions in America: where pluralities flourish/clash); 3) Seeing white(ness): religious and psychological reflections on the psychopatholog(ies) of in/visible privilege; 4) Chinese religious conceptions of psyche, self, and healing; and 5) Psychology of moral imagination: resources for environmental crisis (co-sponsored with Religion & the Social Sciences Section); See also SBL Psychology and Biblical Studies Section. PCR also welcomes proposals on other themes dealing with psychology, culture, and religion. For more info: PCR Web site <http://home.att.net/~pcr-aarl>.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Platonism and Neoplatonism Group

Willemien Otten, Utrecht University, w.otten@theo.uu.nl. Gregory Shaw, Stonehill College, gshaw@stonehill.edu.

1) Foundations of Neoplatonism — Papers are invited to explore the sources of classical neoplatonic theory and practice. These sources may include but are not limited to Platonic, Pythagorean, Aristotelian, Stoic, Gnostic, and Hermetic writings. The question to be addressed is how these traditions are given expression by neoplatonic authors and what distinguishes them as neoplatonic. Are there distinctly neoplatonic principles and, if so, what are they? 2) Expressions of New Age Neoplatonism — It has been argued that Neoplatonism has been a primary influence on New Age authors from Helena Blavatsky to contemporary Wiccans. In what senses are New Age beliefs and practices Neoplatonic? Is Neoplatonism today being given authentic expression and new life or have contemporary authors and practitioners misappropriated and/or misunderstood classical neoplatonic literature?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Practical Theology Group

Bonnie Miller-Mclemore, Vanderbilt University, bonnie.miller-mclemore@vanderbilt.edu. James Nieman, Hartford Seminary, jnieman@hartsem.edu.

The Practical Theology Group engages practical theology and religious practice, reflects critically on religious tradition and practice, and explores issues in particular sub-disciplines of practical theology and ministry. In particular, we invite papers and panel proposals on the following topics: 1) How prayer, worship, or liturgy provide occasions for shaping political attitudes, stances, and activism; 2) The role and use of scripture in pastoral practice or practical theology more generally; and, in light of the meeting location in southern California, 3) Practical theological perspectives on immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons and their communities. Preference will be shown to proposals that demonstrate practical theological methods and examine the theologies embedded in practices. We encourage proposals that respect diverse beliefs, moral claims, and political commitments.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group

Eddie S. Glaude, Princeton University, esglaude@princeton.edu. David Lamberth, Harvard University, david_lamberth@harvard.edu.

We invite proposals for papers on: 1) Gender/sexuality and pragmatist theories of agency; 2) In light of the conference's location in San Diego, CA, we invite papers to take up the question: what can pragmatism say about immigration?; 3) William James, John Dewey, and New Age religiosity; and 4) The work of Richard Bernstein. In addition to these areas of interest, we welcome proposals on other topics relevant to pragmatism and empiricism, as well as panel proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Qur'an Group

Jane McAuliffe, Georgetown University, jdm1@georgetown.edu. Gordon Newby, Emory University, gnewby@emory.edu.

We welcome proposals related to the academic study of the Qur'an. Topics include: analysis of Qur'anic text; history of interpretation of the Qur'an; the recitation/performative aspects of the Qur'an; artistic aspects of the Qur'an; the relationship of the Qur'an to other scriptures and traditions; and the historical/textual milieu in which the Qur'an has been received. We especially welcome proposals that have a pedagogical focus, designed to educate members of the AAR on incorporating material about the Qur'an into their existing courses. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication and self-awareness, as well as innovative examination of Islamic societies and texts. All prearranged sessions consider the gender and seniority diversity of participants; respondents are essential. Innovative, interactive formats and multimedia presentations are welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



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Reformed Theology and History Group

Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, ksonderegger@vts.edu. Robert Sherman, Bangor Theological Seminary, rsherman@bts.edu.

Open Communion: Cheap Grace or Gospel Imperative? For nearly five centuries Reformed communities have debated lay access to the Lord's Supper. What led to these various positions on how closed or open the Table should be? Does the history of restricted or fenced tables (communion tokens, the Puritans' Half-Way Covenant, or the requirement of baptism) influence contemporary practice? How might modern churches ritually integrate past confessional stipulations or the perspectives of access to and efficacy of this sacrament articulated by Reformed theologians such as Zwingli, Calvin, Edwards, and Barth? What about children's participation in communion? Should “closed” practices and beliefs be “reformed” or remain binding? The Reformed Theology and History Group invites biblical, theological, and historical papers concerning Reformed positions on the open/closed communion table debates.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion and Disability Studies Group

Deborah Creamer, Iliff School of Theology, dcreammer@iliff.edu. Kerry Wynn, Southeast Missouri State University, kwynn@semo.edu.

1) We invite papers that examine the contributions of disability studies to the full range of fields within religious studies. For example, what does a disability lens contribute to ethical deliberations about euthanasia? How does disability theology fit in with liberation theologies? What might a deaf culture perspective bring to emphases on listening within meditation, proclamation, counseling, or spiritual direction? 2) We invite papers that look at issues of methodology in relation to religion and disability studies. Many current studies focus on ethnography. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this, and what other methodological approaches might be appropriate? How important is participation of people with disabilities in doing research and designing research methodology?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



(continued on next page)

Religion and Ecology Group

David Barnhill, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, barnhill@uwosh.edu. John A. Grim, Forum on Religion and Ecology, grim@religionandecology.org.

The Religion and Ecology Group invites proposals exploring relationships between religions, cultures, and environments. We encourage thematically coherent sessions, panels, and individual papers related to the following themes: Christian spiritual practices and ecology; Christian eco-theology: 40 years after Lynn White's *Thesis*; religion, environmental issues, and possibilities of a sustainable China; issues related to California: suburbanization, boundaries, immigration, or environmental movements; globalization, free trade, and the Pacific Rim; oceans and spiritualities of place; religious ethics of water in dry places; an ethic of the sea: responses to the loss of fisheries and ocean pollution; science, technology and religion; ecology and epistemology; sustainable campuses or theological schools: spiritual values and practices; and rituals that reconnect with nature. Visit our AAR Web site: www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/2007/PUCS/web/default.asp, or www.religionandecology.org and www.religionandnature.com/aar for more details, and information for organizing sessions. For additional information or questions, contact co-chairs listed above.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion and Popular Culture Group

Sarah McFarland Taylor, Northwestern University, Sarah@northwestern.edu. Richard J. Callahan Jr., University of Missouri-Columbia, callahanrj@missouri.edu.

The Religion and Popular Culture Group invites both organized sessions and individual paper proposals that explore the intersections of religion and popular culture. This year we especially encourage presentations that examine the workings of religion in following contexts: 1) Religion and tourism (especially in the Mexican-American borderlands); 2) Popular culture and domesticity (religion in the home, etc.); 3) Queer theory and LGBT studies (especially, queering sacred performance, sacred performativity, etc.); 4) Religion in the Pacific Rim; 5) Festival and carnival; and 6) Virtual gaming worlds. Our unit strongly encourages alternative, interactive, and creative formats for panels and session presentations. Accompanying audiovisual and other supplements are also strongly encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group

Nelson Maldonado-Torres, University of California, Berkeley, nmt@berkeley.edu. Jeanette Reedy Solano, California State University, Fullerton, jsolano@fullerton.edu.

The Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group invites submissions of proposals on the following topics: 1) Religion, ("illegal") migration, displacement, coalition building, and the struggle for immigrant rights in the Americas: proposals on the Chinese immigrant experience will be given

especial attention for a possible co-sponsored panel with the Religion and Migration Consultation, but other proposals will be considered as well; 2) Recent religious developments in Mexico: issues of race and/or religious diversity; 3) Religion and the body: recent developments in reproductive rights; 4) Discovering the divine in the dark: exploring religion and film from Latin America and the Caribbean (for a possible co-sponsored panel with Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group); and 5) Sacred sites as big business: the economics of religious tourism.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University, amir.hussain@lmu.edu. John Lyden, Dana College, jlyden@dana.edu.

We seek proposals related to: 1) Methodological issues in the study and teaching of religion, film, and visual culture; 2) The use of semiotics and critical theory in the study of visuality and image; 3) Ritual aspects of film, and the filming of rituals; 4) Use of sound and music in film; 5) Documentary films about religion, and hermeneutical issues arising from the relation of filmmakers to subjects filmed (e.g., "creative work" vs. "filmed reality"), and including how documentaries may reveal/conceal bias, especially when used to teach about religion; and 6) Films on China or Chinese religions, Southern California, or Latino/a culture. We also welcome panel proposals on topics or recent books in the field, as well as co-sponsorship with other units.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group

Oren Baruch Stier, Florida International University, stiero@fiu.edu. Katharina von Kellenbach, St. Mary's College of Maryland, kvonkellenbach@smcm.edu.

We invite individual papers and/or complete panel proposals, from any methodological perspective, on the following topics: 1) The use and usefulness of audiovisual testimony for religious, ethical, and theological approaches to the Holocaust and other genocides, especially in light of the meeting's proximity to the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's archives; 2) Theodicy in the aftermath of catastrophe, including the Holocaust, genocides, slavery, and natural disasters (papers may or may not be comparative); and 3) A possible co-sponsored session with the Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group on the use of Bonhoeffer's life and theology in post-Holocaust (and postgenocide) interfaith dialogues. We are especially interested in innovative presentation formats and alternative panel proposals that feature comparative, constructive, critical, and/or reflective approaches.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



* New Program Unit *

Religion, Media, and Culture Group

Sean McCloud, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, spmcclo@email.uncc.edu. Gordon Lynch, University of Birmingham, G.A.Lynch@bham.ac.uk.

The Religion, Media, and Culture Group invites individual paper and panel submissions that further our theoretical, empirical, and historical understandings of the intersections between religion, media, and different forms of cultural production and consumption. Although we encourage submissions in all areas, in 2007 we are especially interested in: 1) California as a site of media production, distribution, and consumption, as well as the state's iconographic significance in national and international media; and 2) Theorizing media and religion: exploring how key concepts and writers in cultural and social theory might usefully inform debates in this field. We welcome innovative presentation formats and session structures that utilize a full range of media in order to encourage discussion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University, lbarnes@tiac.net. Suzanne J. Crawford, Pacific Lutheran University, suzanne.crawford@plu.edu.

The Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group invites proposals for papers addressing religious worldviews, beliefs and/or practices, and understandings of medicine/healing traditions, in relation to aging and/or becoming an elder. We particularly welcome theoretical inquiry. We also invite proposals for a joint session with the Daoist Studies Consultation on Daoist understandings of, and approaches to, healing. Minority and women scholars are encouraged to submit proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion, Politics, and the State Group

Barbara A. McGraw, Saint Mary's College of California, bmcgraw9@mac.com. Andrew Murphy, Valparaiso University, andrew.murphy@valpo.edu.

In addition to receiving proposals that are generally within the purview of this group, we are interested in the following: 1) How can religion (including political theology, whether conservative or progressive) contribute to public life, politics, and/or conceptions of democracy without undermining the separation of church and state? 2) What is the "common good" and how can religion contribute to a conception of the "common good" that is not majoritarian and therefore takes account of a pluralism that includes small minorities? 3) Religion, democracy, and foreign policy. 4) Over the past several years, there have been a number of challenges from the margins of pluralism. How have issues involving pagans and

the state, both here and abroad, contributed? NOTE: Please send all inquiries to both chairs. Thank you.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group

Jon Pahl, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, jpahl@lts.edu. Marla J. Selvidge, University of Central Missouri, Selvidge@cmsu.edu.

For group proposals or questions regarding the 2007 session please contact either of the co-chairs listed above. The Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group is soliciting papers in the following areas: children, youth, and war; religions and transnational economies in conflict (globalization); literatures, images, and/or the material culture of peace-making; and religious aspects in conflict over immigration, sanctuary, and place. We encourage the use of Power Point presentations to supplement the papers. The group is seeking to co-sponsor with another group or section during the 2007 session.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Ritual Studies Group

Donna Lynne Seamone, Acadia University, donna.seamone@acadiau.ca. Scott Haldeman, Chicago Theological Seminary, shaldeman@cts-chicago.edu.

Proposals welcomed on: 1) Theorizing participants in rites: Agents? Actors? Subjects? or Other?; 2) Rites "as if": ethical issues related to the doing rites of "others" and/or participating in their rites; 3) Economics and rites: exchange of material wealth, roles of owners and benefactors of sacred space/objects, rites in relation to larger economic structures and dynamics; 4) How rites change and make change; 5) Rites on/of the Web; and 6) The state of the field: classic theories in need of revisiting and reevaluating and/or new questions confronting the study of ritual and theoretical proposals to address them. Proposals for full panels on other timely issues in the ritual studies are welcomed. All proposals should attend to theory and method in the study of ritual.

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Roman Catholic Studies Group

Vincent J. Miller, Georgetown University, millerv@georgetown.edu. Daniel Speed Thompson, Saint Mary's University, dthompson1@stmarytx.edu.

The group welcomes proposals for papers or sessions on any topic concerning theological, historical, and cultural studies of Catholicism. Session proposals may be edited. Particular interests include: Catholicism in the Southwest, transnational Catholicism, geographical/other borderlands. Catholicism in the immigration debate. Catholicism in China/Pacific Rim. (Suggestions for Chinese scholars are encouraged.) The Chinese Rites controversy, inculturation. The Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association. Relations with Islam, Benedict's Regensburg address — theological, cultural, and media studies (for a possible joint session with Study of Islam Section). Catholicism and religious freedom. Catholicism and the body, JPII's *Theology of the Body* — reception, use, critique. Broader considerations of the Catholic body in belief, imagination, representation, and practice, including gender, labor, sex, marginalized/invisible bodies, ecclesiology-community and individualism. Possible author/critics panel on Schloesser's *Jazz Age Catholicism*.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Sacred Space in Asia Group

Steven Heine, Florida International University, heines@fiu.edu. Pamela D. Winfield, Meredith College, winfield@meredith.edu.

In keeping with the geographical focus on China in 2007, the Sacred Space in Asia Group solicits papers from a wide variety of historical and methodological perspectives especially on the following topics: 1) Wutai-shan past and present; 2) The Silk Route, including but not limited to Dunhuang cave-shrines, Xuanzang and other pilgrims, Xi'an then and now, Tang dynasty, Islam and other influences, traders and raiders, and emerging scholarship on Silk Route music; and 3) Chinese sacred spaces: framing forms and field-work (for a possible co-sponsored panel with the Anthropology of Religion Group). Full panel proposals, innovative programming ideas (e.g., film, audio, interactive media) and individual papers on other topics related to sacred space in China or Asia are welcome. Initial inquiries may be addressed to panel co-chairs.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Schleiermacher Group

Brent Sockness, Stanford University, sockness@stanford.edu.

This fourth and last session in our group's four-year reexamination of Schleiermacher's magnum opus, *The Christian Faith*, will be devoted to the work's prolegomena (props. 1–31). Proposals are invited on any aspect of *Glaubenslehre's* introduction, e.g.: Schleiermacher's theory of religion and

treatment of the religions; his use of "Lehnsätze" in determining Christianity's "essence"; the epistemological status and two-fold value of properly dogmatic statements; his decisions concerning the selection and organization of dogmatic materials; the (contested) role of the prolegomena within the *Glaubenslehre* as a whole; etc. In addition, the Schleiermacher Group is co-sponsoring with the Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group a prearranged panel on Kierkegaard's relationship to Schleiermacher.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Science, Technology, and Religion Group

Greg Peterson, South Dakota State University, greg.peterson@sdstate.edu. Lisa Stenmark, San Jose State University, lstenmark@earthlink.net.

The Science, Technology, and Religion Group is seeking papers on 1) Bonobos and theological anthropology/primatology, exploring questions of human nature and/or community and moral formation (sponsored jointly by the Animals and Religion Consultation); 2) Global warming: science, ethics, and policy in theological perspective; and 3) Intersections between the Bible, science, sex, and gender identity. (Certain biblical and theological positions on sex and gender identity seem to be opposed to those of evolutionary psychology, genetics, and neuroscience. This session seeks to trouble such oppositions, identify the overlaps, and trace possible intersections - and oppositions - in these discourses. To be co-sponsored with SBL's Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible Group.) Papers and panel proposals dealing specifically with science, religion, and public policy or theology and technology will also be considered.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Scriptural Reasoning Group

Randi Rashkover, York College of Pennsylvania, rrashkov@ycp.edu. Scott Bader-Saye, University of Scranton, badersayes2@scranton.edu.

Scriptural Reasoning Group gathers Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinkers for the study of scriptural texts that speak to themes of contemporary importance. Papers should examine brief scriptural passages (drawing on both textual scholarship and reception history) and suggest how they address contemporary readers' concerns. Participants will be asked to circulate drafts in advance and revise their papers in conversation with each other. At least one session will include text study in small groups. We invite paper or panel proposals in the following areas: 1) Women and scripture; 2) Law; 3) War; 4) Creation (Genesis 1, John 1, and Sura 2:30–39); and 4) SR theory. We particularly welcome panel proposals to include speakers from at least two of the three religious traditions represented in scriptural reasoning.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



E-mail Notifications

Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification about your acceptance/rejection onto the program.

Signifying (on) Scriptures Group

Vincent L. Wimbush, Claremont Graduate University, vincent.wimbush@cgu.edu.

2007 programming will focus on "Scriptural Fundamentalisms among Peoples of Color in the United States," an interdisciplinary research project of the Institute for Signifying Scriptures. At the center of the project is an exploration of particular groups' engagements with "scriptures" and the ways in which such engagements reflect, contribute to, or undermine social and identity formation with respect to society, culture, and power. Five (5) research directors will constitute a panel reporting on the progress of their ethnographic research and data collection. The panel will be moderated and include two (2) respondents.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Tantric Studies Group

Glen A. Hayes, Bloomfield College, Glen_Hayes@bloomfield.edu. Paul Muller-Ortega, University of Rochester, plml@mail.rochester.edu.

The Tantric Studies Group invites papers and preformed panels dealing with recent research in Tantric Studies, including but not limited to the following topics: 1) Mystical body, mystical senses in tantra (co-sponsored with the Mysticism Group); 2) The categories of "yoga" and "tantra" (co-sponsored with the Yoga Consultation); 3) Tantra and magical powers: Siddhis as metaphors and actualities; 4) Tantra and devotionalism: emotional and aesthetic dimensions of tantra; 5) Tantra and royal/courtly cultures; 6) Art history and the study of tantra; and 7) Insider/outsider approaches to the study of tantra. The tantric studies Group supports the collaboration of scholars in Tantric Studies across the traditional boundaries of research based on geographic regions, specific traditions, and academic disciplines. Inquiries may be directed to Glen A. Hayes or to Paul Muller-Ortega.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Theology and Continental Philosophy Group

Ellen Armour, Vanderbilt Divinity School, ellen.armour@vanderbilt.edu. Bruce Ellis Benson, Wheaton College, bruce.ellis.benson@wheaton.edu.

We invite proposals that explore work done by Giorgio Agamben, the phenomenon of testimony or witnessing, science, nature, and/or embodiment (from a continental perspective), and visual culture.

Proposals on other continental figures or topics are also welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group

Frances Garrett, University of Toronto, frances.garrett@utoronto.ca. Kurtis Schaeffer, University of Virginia, ks6bb@virginia.edu.

In light of the 2007 AAR Annual Meeting's focus on China, the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group invites papers or panels focused on Tibetan religion in China or the interface between Tibetan and Chinese religions. We are also seeking papers for a panel to be co-sponsored with the Buddhist Philosophy Group, the Buddhism Section, or other groups or sections as relevant. The mission of the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group is to create an environment that promotes conversation between different approaches to the study of Tibetan and Himalayan religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Tillich: Issues in Theology, Religion, and Culture Group

Robison B. James (University of Richmond, and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond), 7914 Alvarado RD, Richmond, VA 23229, USA; rjames@richmond.edu. Rachel Sophia Baard (Villanova University), 250 E. Wynnewood RD, Apt. A-17, Wynnewood, PA 19096, USA; rachel.baard@villanova.edu.

We invite proposals that use or relate to Paul Tillich's thought on: 1) Theories of international relations and globalization, with possible attention to recent books by Mark L. Taylor, Ronald H. Stone, and Lon Weaver (possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Politics, and the State Group); 2) Scriptural sources for Tillich's thought, including: Is Tillich a biblical theologian?; 3) Issues of pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusivism — culturally as well as theologically; and 4) Tillich's relationship with Judaism or Buddhism, including persons and thought. Tillich-related papers on other themes will be seriously considered, with specific themes for sessions determined by the merit of the proposals received. A winning student paper will receive the \$300 Annual Tillich Prize.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



(continued on next page)

90-MINUTE SESSIONS

Sunday afternoons will be scheduled with three 90-minute time slots to allow for more intense scholarly explorations on a topic. See page four for more information.

Wesleyan Studies Group

Sarah Lancaster, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, SLancaster@mtso.edu. K. Steve McCormick, Nazarene Theological Seminary, smccormick@nts.edu.

The group is open to any proposals providing historical or constructive engagement with the Wesleys or Wesleyan/Methodist traditions. This year we particularly solicit papers in these areas: 1) Celebration of the tercentenary of Charles Wesley's birth. Papers are invited which explore Charles Wesley's contribution to the Wesleyan movement, especially how his hymns provide a theological understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. 2) For a co-

sponsored session with the Evangelical Group: hospitality to the dispossessed. Papers are invited which explore a theology of immigration, treating topics such as social action in various immigrant communities, different experiences of first- and second-generation immigrants, negotiating dual cultures, and the interface between established Christian communities and newly arrived immigrants.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Western Esotericism Group

Allison P. Coudert, University of California, Davis, apcoudert@ucdavis.edu. Wouter J. Hanegraaff, University of Amsterdam, w.j.hanegraaff@uva.nl.

The Western Esotericism Group invites paper proposals, from various disciplinary perspectives, dealing with Western esoteric currents and their various cultural ramifications. Theme of preference: "Esotericism and Transgression." Western esoteric currents are not infrequently depicted as "transgressive" with respect to the religious, social, and political standards of mainstream culture. Which forms did that image take on, and what reasons may account for it? Proposals will be welcome that address the topic either from a general, theoretical point of view and/or by study-

ing specific historical cases. Preferred theme for panel co-sponsored with the New Religious Movements Group: "Exchange and innovation of esoteric ideas in new and emergent religions." Given the location in San Diego, proposals focusing on America, and more specifically California, are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group

Evelyn L. Parker, Southern Methodist University, eparker@smu.edu. Linda Thomas, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, lthomas@lsthc.edu.

The Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group invites paper and panel proposals that critically explore: 1) Sources and authorities used for signifying on women's bodies: biblical studies, LGBTQ theory/studies, Hip Hop, politics of media; 2) Womanist ecological perspectives and the ethic of care, ethical/moral responses to variations in womanist methodology, diverse religious traditions; and 3) A co-sponsored panel with the Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group on pedagogies of power and teaching for transformation with womanist and feminist theory, theology, and methodology. Proposals will

be accepted via online submission only.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



World Christianity Group

Dale T. Irvin, New York Theological Seminary, dirvin@att.net. Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, pcp5@georgetown.edu.

The World Christianity Group seeks to explore intercultural, interconfessional, and interreligious dynamics of Christianity as a world religion, bringing into conversation scholars in church history, Christian mission, theology, sociology of religion, non-Christian religions, new religious movements, and comparative religion. The group welcomes proposals on 1) China in world Christianity, with attention to the long history of Christianity in China, as well as the manner in which China has figured as a trope in other regional experiences of world Christianity; 2) Gendered perspectives on World Christianity, with special attention to methodological concerns; and 3) Local border-crossings and hybridity, especially concerning Christianity and other religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



SEMINAR

Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Seminar

Tao Jiang, Rutgers University, tjiang@rci.rutgers.edu. Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, Lancaster University, c.ram-prasad@lancaster.ac.uk.

The theme for 2007 will be rituals in Indian and Chinese cultures. We are seeking proposals that address such aspects of rituals as follows: What in classical Indian and/or Chinese contexts do we identify as ritual and how does that affect any theory of ritual?

What are the sources of ritual authority and how are they interpreted? What issues does the performance of rituals address? How are rituals articulated and presented?, etc. While comparative proposals are very welcome, proposals addressing rituals within one particular culture and/or context are also solicited. Since we hope to facilitate discussions among the panelists, one requirement is that panelists are willing to engage with each other in the discussion at the conference.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Seminars are highly specific projects driven by a collaborative research agenda leading toward publication. They are expected to eventuate in publication(s). They are strictly limited in duration (five years) and membership (20). Members agree to continue the work of the seminar between Annual Meetings through correspondence, exchange of papers and bibliographies, and on listservs, etc. The single session at the Annual Meeting is devoted to consideration of previously distributed papers and to foster collaborations in a public setting that allows auditors to gain insight into the project, the process, and the people involved. While no new papers are presented at the session, auditors are welcome to attend.

CONSULTATIONS

Animals and Religion Consultation

Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University, hoboster@southwestern.edu. Paul Waldau, Tufts University, paul.waldau@tufts.edu.

The Animals and Religion Consultation encourages proposals in the following areas: the place of animals and environmental ethics in a sustainable China, with a focus on religious resources; animals and/as food in religious traditions; animals in indigenous religious traditions; animals and healing; animals as divinities; the role of zoos and religion; religious responses to mass extinction; the place(s) of animal

protection activism in/as religion; animal consciousness/intelligence in religion and/or religious ethics; animality and philosophy of religion/continental philosophy/critical theory; and examination of bonobos and theological anthropology/primatology, exploring questions of human nature and/or community/moral formation, with Science, Technology, and Religion Group.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation

Tom Ogletree, Yale University, thomas.ogletree@yale.edu. Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary, gstassen@fuller.edu.

The Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation integrates study of scriptural teachings in their social/ethical context with critical study of contemporary social/ethical contexts. We seek insights from ethical disciplines for self-critical awareness of assumptions that influence scriptural interpretation, and insights from scriptural disciplines for self-critical awareness in ethics. In 2007 we call for papers that offer "Critical Reflection on the

Consultations are exploratory opportunities to test the degree and breadth of interest among members of the Academy in areas and topics of academic interest not currently included in the concerns of existing sections, groups, or seminars.

Prophetic Calling," combining studies of scriptural texts with the challenges of a contemporary public witness by committed Jewish, Christian, or Muslim agents. Topic for the session: "Critical Reflection on the Prophetic Calling." Please direct queries about the call to Tom Ogletree.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



* *New Program Unit* *

Buddhism in the West Consultation

Jeff Wilson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, jeffwilson@unc.edu.

The Buddhism in the West Consultation is designed to provide a venue for new studies on Buddhism in non-Asian locales, and a chance for scholars in this area to collectively clarify the intellectual and methodological underpinnings of research on Buddhism in the West, including consideration of new possibilities in methods and approaches. In keeping with the 2007 AAR focus on China, we are particularly interested in work on Chinese Buddhism in the West. The consultation also seeks proposals on 1) Practice and ritual in Western Buddhist communities; 2) Issues of translation; 3) New directions in the study of Buddhism in the West; and 4) Open call for papers. All proposals must be made through the AAR's OP3 online system.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation

Marcia Bunge, Christ College, Valparaiso University, marcia.bunge@valpo.edu. Barbara Pitkin, Stanford University, pitkin@stanford.edu.

We invite proposals in any area of childhood studies and religion but especially welcome papers on: 1) Children and sacred texts: children's relation to sacred texts in the world's religious traditions, e.g., children's access to, use of, and responses to sacred texts; sacred texts and children's religious formation; children's scriptures; children's memorization of sacred texts as spiritual practice; reading sacred texts with children; images of children in sacred texts. 2) Women and children (co-sponsored with the Women and Religion Section): children in feminist religious thought and practice in a variety of traditions; e.g., religious reflection before and after parenthood; the politics of childrearing; how parenthood reshapes religious ideals; social justice/liberation for women and children; feminist spiritual practices and children; and spirituality of childbirth and parenting.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Christianity and Academia Consultation

David S. Cunningham, Hope College, cunningham@hope.edu.

This consultation explores issues at the intersection of Christian theology and higher education. Papers are invited on such topics as: theological accounts of academic freedom; the (declining?) role of denominations in church-related institutions; issues surrounding institutionally sponsored worship and worship spaces; the challenges for non-Christian faculty at church-related institutions, and the converse; fundamentalism(s) on campus; the postmodern student (visual culture, embrace of personal spiritualities, "incredulity toward metanarratives"); the perception and reception of theology

among other academic disciplines; the role of external funding in shaping the theological orientation of institutions; and the idea of a "theology of administration" for church-related colleges and seminaries. We prefer papers that move beyond mere description and that endeavor to analyze the issues from a theological perspective.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Contemporary Islam Consultation

Rosalind Gwynne, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, rgwynne@utk.edu. Richard C. Martin, Emory University, rcmartin@emory.edu.

The consultation welcomes proposals for both individual submissions and organized thematic panels, in all areas that broadly fall under the rubric of contemporary Islam, referring to the period of the last two centuries. Among the themes suggested from the floor at the business meeting in 2006 were intra-Islamic dialogue; center, periphery, and globalization; the contributions of recently deceased notable figures, such as Montgomery Watt and Clifford Geertz; and the academic study of religion in predominantly Muslim societies. The consultation invites cosponsorship with other units of panels on comparative themes (religion and migration, and Islam in colonial-postcolonial contexts have been proposed), as well as panels and papers that engage members of the AAR who are not Islamic studies experts.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Contemporary Pagan Studies Consultation

Wendy Griffin, California State University, Long Beach, wgriffin@csulb.edu.

We invite papers that address issues of either "Pagan Borderlands" or "Pagans and the State: Here and Abroad." For the first, we seek especially contributions that concern the interfaith intersection of paganism and mainstream religion; pagan liminality; pluralism, polytheism, and/or international paganism in different contexts; and cultural appropriation or borrowing (e.g., loan words, concepts, and practices). For the second, we are considering legal challenges; political environment; paganism and polity; communities in conflict; and pagans and the military. Papers on all these topics may include theoretical, empirical, theological, or other perspectives. We also welcome papers on other themes dealing with contemporary pagan studies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Coptic Christianity Consultation

Lois Farag, Luther Seminary, lfarag@luthersem.edu.

1) Coptic Material Culture: We invite papers on Coptic material culture in its variety of expressions. Topics could address themes in archeology, art history, iconography, sculpture, textiles, architecture, cinematic expressions, textual, or other meth-

ods not explicitly mentioned. Proposals in any historic period including the modern era are encouraged. Innovative research work is welcomed. 2) Coptic Martyrdom: We welcome papers on the theme of martyrdom in the Coptic Church. These themes should address martyrdom in its plurality of expressions such as spiritual or physical suffering, death, ascetic martyrdom, or confessors. We urge presenters to investigate the topic of martyrdom through the centuries, including the modern era.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation

Richard Jaffe, Duke University, Richard.Jaffe@duke.edu. Tisa Wenger, Arizona State University, Tisa.Wenger@asu.edu.

The consultation seeks papers concerned with historical inquiry into the construction of the category of "religion" in various social and cultural contexts, and their relationship to the academic study of religion. We strive for sessions that represent diverse cultural/geographic locations. This year we especially encourage proposals on the following themes: 1) The cross-cultural implications of translations, particularly in law, of the category "religion," including the ways in which such translations have influenced the study of religion (especially non-Christian religions), and the impact of law on conceptions of religion around the world; 2) China's "ism's" — the origin, validity, and ideological functions of "Taoism," "Chinese Buddhism," "Confucianism," "folk religion," etc.; and 3) The significance of the cultural history of the study of religion for religious studies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Daoist Studies Consultation

Jonathan Herman, Georgia State University, jherman2@gsu.edu. Louis Komjathy, Pacific Lutheran University, komjathy@plu.edu.

The Daoist Studies Consultation invites panel and/or paper proposals on the following topics: 1) Daoism, medicine, and healing (co-sponsored with the Religions, Medicines and Healing Group); 2) Daoist ritual; 3) Daoism and American literature; 4) Daoist studies: states of the field; and 5) Cross-cultural interpretations of Daoism. We also welcome proposals on different topics. Please submit panel and paper proposals via the OP3 system no later than March 1, 2007. If you have any questions or additional suggestions, please contact the co-chairs at the above e-mail addresses.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation

Kathleen Garces-Foley, Marymount University, garces.foley@marymount.edu. Christopher Moreman, St. Francis Xavier University, F: 902-867-3610, cmoreman@stfx.ca.

The Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation invites proposals for presentations addressing all aspects of dying, death,

and the dead, and from any methodological approach. Our theme for the 2007 AAR is "Continuing Bonds with the Dead: What role do the dead have in individual lives and the community?" In addition to this main theme, and in keeping with the international theme of the AAR, we also invite proposals addressing death in the Chinese context. Further, as always, all proposals are encouraged even if they do not fall squarely within the parameters of the themes above. Please include in your proposal a description of your presentation style, as it is our hope to have dynamic, engaging presentations paired with conversation among audience and presenters.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Liberal Theologies Consultation

Christine Helmer, Harvard Divinity School, chelmer@hds.harvard.edu.

Papers are welcome that address the question of how social, political, and/or religious praxis is dialogically related to the constructive-theological work of liberal theologies. Considerations of praxis should draw upon concrete experiences with social action; theological reflections can include theoretical, conceptual, historical, constructive, and interdisciplinary aspects. A specific emphasis on the topic of praxis and liberalism as it is understood in different religions is especially welcome. Papers are also invited that critically and constructively reflect on the intersection between liberal theologies and interreligious dialogue. Topics can include the postcolonial/liberation critiques of classical liberalism's Christian-centrism, constructive theological reflection on liberalism and religious pluralism, liberalism's contributions to the comparative study of religion, comparative theologies, and/or a theology of religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



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KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- = Surface mail
- = Fax
- = OP3
- = E-mail
- = E-mail with attachment

★ *New Program Unit* ★

Mormon Studies Consultation

James McLachlan, Western Carolina University, jmclachla@wcu.edu. Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University, gru2@byu.edu.

The Mormon Studies Consultation invites paper proposals for its inaugural session, "Mormon Studies in the Academy." We are particularly interested in presentations that examine the range of topics, disciplines, and methodologies that can be brought into dialogue with Mormonism as it is studied in an academic environment. Possible topics include: 1) Launching Mormon Studies courses and programs: opportunities and challenges; 2) What can Mormon Studies learn from Jewish Studies, Catholic Studies, etc? What new perspectives and approaches might Mormon Studies bring to these more established fields?; 3) How might the Mormon "case study" enrich religious studies curricula?; 4) The survey course on Mormonism: topics, texts, and methodologies; and 5) Imagining the introductory textbook on Mormonism.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

North American Hinduism Consultation

Lola Williamson, Millsaps College, willill@millsaps.edu.

This consultation is devoted to the study of diaspora and transnational forms of Hinduism in North America as well as religious forms, such as particular organizations, practices, or movements that are shaped significantly by Hindu traditions, teachings, or ideals. Individual paper proposals will be considered, but full panel or session proposals are preferred. Online submissions only. Suggested topics: Hindu practices outside of institutional settings; use of scriptures and epics in North American Hinduism; role of the guru in North American Hinduism; educating children in Hindu values and practices; changes between first-, second-, and third-generation immigrant Hindus.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Open and Relational Theologies Consultation

Thomas Jay Oord, Northwest Nazarene University, tjoord@nnu.edu.

Theme: What God does, chooses not to do, or cannot do." Open and relational theologies are distinguished from other theological movements by their claims about God's power. But significant differences exist among open and relational theologies with regard to how best to conceive of divine power. These differences affect how one approaches the problem of evil, eschatology, creation, prayer, human responsibility, religious pluralism, spiritual formation, etc. We invite papers that use resources from scriptures, theological traditions, science, and philosophy to explore what God does, chooses not to do, or cannot do.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Pentecostal Charismatic-Movements Consultation

James K. A. Smith, Calvin College, jks4@calvin.edu. Amos Yong, Regent University, ayong@regent.edu.

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements (PCM) Consultation seeks proposals for fully developed panels or papers on the following themes: 1) New trajectories of PCM theory and research; and, in light of the San Diego locale of the meeting, 2) Latin American/Latino immigration, transnational, and diasporic PCMs. We are interested in directions of research that feature new methods and theoretical approaches to the scholarly examination of Christian renewal movements past and present, as well as those which focus on aspects including but not limited to the Latin American nations in the recent Pew Forum ten-country survey on PCM's. Within the above rubrics, papers/panels may explore PCM relation to and influence in areas such as civil/human rights, environmental policy, politics, gender, globalization, social reform, and war and peace.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Queer Theory and LGBT Studies in Religion Consultation

Melissa M. Wilcox, Whitman College, wilcoxmm@whitman.edu.

This year we are especially interested in proposals on the following topics: 1) Queering sacred performance and sacred performativities — including, among others, ritual music, dance, movement, liturgy, objects, clothing and decoration, and speech, for a possible co-sponsored session with the Religion and Popular Culture Group; 2) Queer/postcolonial perspectives on religion, space, time, and kinship, especially in the context of borders and migration, both external (e.g., tourism, international adoption, political asylum, immigration laws, rural-urban issues) and internal (e.g., mestizaje, the self-policing subject, identity compartmentalization); 3) Queer Latina/Latino religiosities, especially (but not exclusively) in San Diego and its environs; and 4) Gender variance and same-sex attraction in Islam. We also welcome all other proposals on topics relevant to queer theory in religion and/or LGBT studies in religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Religion and Cities Consultation

Lowell W. Livezey, New York Theological Seminary, 475 Riverside DR, Suite 500, New York, NY 10115, USA; W: 212-870-1246; llivezey@nyts.edu. Lawrence H. Mamiya (Vassar College), 124 Raymond AVE, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604, USA; W: 845-437-5522; mamiya@vassar.edu.

We invite papers related to the following themes: 1) Construction of religious identity in urban contexts; 2) Urban sacred space

— how it is created, how it is lost; and 3) Urban poverty and economic justice under the impact of globalization. In selecting papers we will be particularly interested in those that treat cities and urban settings as subjects of religious inquiry in their own right — not simply as sites or settings in which religiously significant events occur or religious groups or institutions are situated.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion and Colonialism Consultation

Mark Elmore, New York University, mark.elmore@nyu.edu. Caleb Elfenbein, University of California, Santa Barbara, che@umail.ucsb.edu.

In recent decades, a putative return of religion has led to reevaluation of the secularization thesis. We request proposals examining an important framework for this reevaluation: relations between religion and state in postcolonial contexts. How did colonial encounters transform relations between the state and religious formations? How did independence movements further transform this relationship? How have specific postcolonial governmental developments (legal, educational, economic, etc.) affected these relations? How have developments in postcolonial societies affected the way colonizing societies understand the state/religion nexus? In addressing these questions, we hope to form a panel representing historically and contextually diverse forms of colonialism, including issues of religion, neocolonialism, and globalization. We are especially interested in papers/panels with a strong theoretical content accessible to a broad listening audience.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



★ *New Program Unit* ★

Religion and Migration Consultation

Marie Marquardt, Agnes Scott College, mmarquardt@agnesscott.edu. Jennifer Saunders, Denison University, saundersj@denison.edu.

This consultation seeks to create a forum in which scholars exploring religion and migration engage in conversation across boundaries of methodology, religious tradition, and region. We welcome papers on migrating peoples within and across national borders, and in all regions of the world. Potential topics include 1) Migration and the Chinese religious diaspora (co-sponsored with Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group): building on the 2007 AAR China focus by exploring the role of religion in settlement processes and transnational network formation for Chinese migrants. 2) Religion on the move — migration, displacement, and identity: examining the role of religious narratives and practices for migrants' identity construction (race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality). 3) Religious objects and migration: the transnational movement of visual and material culture.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion and Sexuality Consultation

R. Marie Griffith, Princeton University, griffith@princeton.edu. Catherine Roach, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, croach@nc.ua.edu.

We invite proposals on religion and sexuality, broadly conceptualized and focused on questions of why and how sex matters for particular religious persons, communities, or traditions. Topics may be historical or contemporary, and we especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches, interest in gender (broadly defined), and attention to methodological issues. We welcome proposals for papers or full sessions on an array of topics under this capacious rubric. This year we particularly encourage submissions that treat sexuality in relation to the politicization of childhood; we are also interested in topics pertaining to bioethics, technology, debates over marriage, and other questions of international scope. We welcome innovative program formats that allow for in-depth discussion, and we hope to foster cross-cultural approaches to this subject.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion in Europe Consultation

Robert E. Alvis, Saint Meinrad School of Theology, ralvis@saintmeinrad.edu. Andrii Krawchuk, University of Sudbury, akrawchuk@sympatico.ca.

The Religion in Europe Consultation promotes the interdisciplinary study of religion relating to the social, cultural, and political evolution of Europe. We invite proposals on any aspect of religion connected to Europe in any historical period and encourage submissions from various disciplines, including political science, history, sociology, anthropology, law, philosophy, and theology. This year we seek papers on the following themes: 1) Evolving religious perceptions and concepts of "Europe"/"the West"; 2) Migration, minorities, and the challenges of conformity/nonconformity to established religious and/or political systems and values; 3) Religion and empire, religious interpretations/critiques of the political order, and/or religious dimensions of liberal democracy; and 4) Secularism, secularization, and the implications for religious communities. Proposals that don't correspond to these themes will also be considered.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change Consultation

Joe Pettit, Morgan State University, morganprof@yahoo.com. Melissa Rogers, Wake Forest University, rogersm@wfu.edu.

We seek paper and panel proposals on interdisciplinary research between religious studies and public policy. We welcome proposals on all aspects of this subject. We are especially interested in proposals addressing: 1) Racial inequality. How could interdisciplinary research between religious studies and public policy influence current debates about racial inequality? 2) Immigration. How might attention to public policy debates on immigration improve

religious discussions/debates on the topic as found in such things as denominational statements, scholarly work, or sermons (for possible co-sponsored session with the Religion and the Social Sciences Section)? 3) Government funding of faith-based organizations. In particular, what are the implications of David Kuo's *Tempting Faith: An Inside Story of Political Seduction* for scholarship and public policy on government support of faith-based organizations?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Rethinking the Field Consultation

Bradley L. Herling, Boston University, bherling@bu.edu.

Rethinking the Field invites proposals (especially from graduate students) for panels that reflect on established and emerging subfields within the study of religion. Past sessions have investigated philosophy of religion, religion and literature, religion and ecology, and liberal theology. For the coming year, we are particularly interested in sponsoring panels on sociology or anthropology of religion, religion and science, and subfields within biblical studies, though all proposals are welcome. The consultation is committed to innovative and interactive forms of programming: proposals from prospective conveners (a maximum of two for any given panel) should justify the choice of the selected discipline and include a plan for a program that varies from the standard paper-response format. Senior par-

ticipants may be included as part of the panel.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



* New Program Unit *

Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Consultation

Jeanne Halgren Kilde, University of Minnesota, jkilde@umn.edu.

This consultation seeks paper proposals from scholars of diverse traditions, religions, and time periods, who explore the function of religious space and/or place as a constitutive component of religious systems. We seek papers that employ methodologically innovative approaches to understanding the relationships between space and religious meaning. We are particularly interested in how space and place function in the development of individual and community religious memory, in the growth and direction of religious or ecclesiastical social structures, in the interpretation of texts, and in the development of religious practices. We encourage submissions that take a comparative approach across traditions or time periods, or that can be paired with other submissions to suggest enlightening comparisons or disjunctures.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation

Johnny B. Hill, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, jhill@lpts.edu.

The Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation invites paper proposals that examine the intersection between King's vision of the beloved community and the political, cultural, and economic dimensions of globalization. King's understanding of the beloved community as a global ethic with a deep concern for the plight of the poor and powerless serves as a core theme of reflection. On the 40th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign, the consultation will also consider papers that treat this important juncture in King's work and the impact of globalization on the poor.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation

Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, cchapple@lmu.edu. Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Northwestern University, s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu.

The consultation seeks papers on the topic of Yoga in Theory and Practice from a variety of perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, history of religions, philosophy and theology, and cultural studies. Contacts are listed for potential joint proposals. Submissions should be made through OP3. Christianity and yoga (Cleo Kearns, cmkearns@aol.com); freedom and

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submission in guru traditions (Lola Williamson, willill@millsaps.edu); modern meditational yoga (Lloyd Pflueger, lloyd@truman.edu); celebrating Gerald Larson's *Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophy* yoga volume (Knut Jacobson, knut.jacobson@rel.uib.no); gender in yoga (Laura Cornell, laura@greenyoga.org); yoga in early modern India (Andrew Nicholson, ajnicholson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu); definitions of Yoga and religion (Jim Laine, laine@macalester.edu); Frederick Smith's *The Self Possessed* (Stuart Sarbacker, s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu); mysticism and yoga (with the Mysticism Group), and; the categories of "yoga" and "tantra" (with the Tantric Studies Group).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



WILDCARD SESSIONS

Wildcard sessions address an area of interest that does not naturally fall within the purview of any program unit. Members are invited to submit fully developed proposals for an entire session (session proposal; presider; list of participants with presentation titles and abstracts, if applicable; etc.). Sessions must be in the 90-minute session format. The Program Committee will review the proposals. If a proposal covers an area that fits within an established program unit, the proposal will be forwarded to the unit for possible inclusion on the unit's program.

The Holy Child: Traditions of the Infant and Child Jesus

Kristi Upson-Saia, Occidental College, upsonsaia@oxy.edu.

Although long neglected by modern scholars, historically the childhood of Jesus has been considered supremely important to understanding Jesus's identity and Christian piety. This session seeks to address the significance of these traditions and depictions of the young Jesus, from birth to childhood. We welcome proposals in the following areas: 1) Literary traditions of the young Jesus, including stories of his birth, sojourn in Egypt, and childhood adventures; 2) Liturgical devotions to the young Jesus (e.g., the Infant Jesus of Prague); 3) Artwork and figurines depicting the infant and/or young boy; and 4) Traditions surrounding relics from Jesus's infancy (e.g., holy prepuce).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Is Humanism a Dead Topic in the Study of Religion?

W. David Hall, Centre College w david.hall@centre.edu; Glenn Whitehouse, Florida Gulf Coast University, gwhiteho@fgcu.edu.

Various strands of post-Enlightenment thought shaping current study of religion and theology have suggested that religious humanism is imperialistic, inappropriate, or passé. This session addresses the issue of whether or not humanism is still a viable subject and/or methodological perspective in the study of religion and theology. Topics of particular interest are the history of the humanistic enterprise, humanistic impulses in the various religious traditions, what humanism might offer in light of current religious conflicts around the world, and/or whether the recent proposal for a theological humanism might offer hope for future directions in the study of religion and theology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



The Religion Major and Liberal Education

Timothy M. Renick, Georgia State University, trenick@gsu.edu.

With the rapid growth of the major in religion, the unique and evolving place it occupies in the modern academy, and significant changes in the national and global contexts in which Americans view religion, there is a need to reassess the relationship between the goals of the concentration and those of liberal education. Papers for this special session — part of an AAR/Teagle Foundation initiative — will discuss challenges to the major and successful responses: How can the religion major better prepare students to meet the needs of liberal education, the professions, and society? Papers that discuss challenges, strategies and innovations at individual institutions, as well as those which examine these issues more broadly, are encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religion, Theology, and Music

Theodore L. Trost, University of Alabama, ttrost@bama.ua.edu. Philip Stoltzfus, St. Olaf College, stoltzpz@stolaf.edu.

We invite papers on the religious and theological dimensions of music. Our particular emphasis will be upon theoretical, methodological, or philosophical approaches to the study of musical phenomena, relating to the following themes: 1) Religious or theological themes in popular music; 2) Music as an expression of religious experience; 3) Theologies of music (using historical, systematic, constructive, or liberationist materials); 4) The role (or lack thereof) of music in theologies of art or "theological aesthetics"; and 5) World music as it relates to world religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



(continued on next page)

Religions in Southeast Asia

Sor-Ching Low, Trinity University,
sorching.low@trinity.edu.

Calling for papers on religions and religious developments in Southeast Asia. Special interests focus on interstices and points of contact between art and religion, traditions and modernity, theory and ethnography; small and big traditions; and religious identity and national identity. Textual, performative, and comparative approaches are welcome. Interdisciplinary approaches and multireligious perspectives are encouraged. Individual papers or thematically formed panels will be considered.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Religious Implications of Extreme Longevity

Calvin Mercer, East Carolina University,
mercerc@ecu.edu.

Calls for dialogue and debate about the implications for society of extreme longevity — the indefinite extension of healthy human life — are being heard from several quarters (e.g., President's Council on Bioethics, Hastings Center, leading scientists). A 2006 panel addressed general implications of extreme longevity science for the world's religions. This proposed panel will extend that conversation by focusing attention on the eschatological visions of religions and how those visions might be impacted by the development and widespread use of radical life-extension technology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:



Election Results

President: Jeffrey Stout
President-Elect: Emilie Townes
Vice President: Mark Juergensmeyer

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce the results of the elections for 2007.

A total of 1,948 votes were cast.

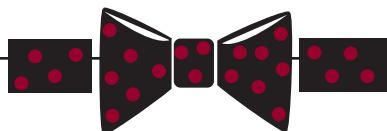
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Please check your membership status at www.aarweb.org/membersonly/.

If you need to renew, you will find a link on that page. Or, if you prefer, you can mail or fax to us the form at right.

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The AAR Public Understanding of Religion invites nominations and self-nominations for the Martin E. Marty Award for Contributions to the Public Understanding of Religion.

The award is intended to bring greater recognition to scholars whose relevance and eloquence speaks not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. Nominees for this award do not have to be AAR members. For nomination details, see www.aarweb.org/awards/marty/nominations.asp.

or mail the name of the nominee, his or her affiliation, and any supporting information by January 31, 2007, to Marty Award, AAR, 825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

Please make any corrections necessary in your contact information

Dr. Prof. Ms. Mr. Other _____

Name: _____

If your surname is not the last word in your name, please circle it (e.g., Kim Kyong Min, Juana González Nuñez).

Address: _____

City: _____

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Postal Code: _____

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Institution Where You Are Employed: _____

School or Department of Your Primary Appointment: _____

I am the chair

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please circle the appropriate dues category. See below for information on applicable discounts.

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\$105,000 – \$119,999	\$175	\$140	\$140	\$105
\$90,000 – \$104,999	\$150	\$120	\$120	\$90
\$75,000 – \$89,999	\$135	\$108	\$108	\$81
\$60,000 – \$74,999	\$115	\$92	\$92	\$69
\$50,000 – \$59,999	\$95	\$76	\$76	\$57
\$40,000 – \$49,999	\$80	\$64	\$64	\$48
\$30,000 – \$39,999	\$60	\$48	\$48	\$36
\$20,000 – \$29,999	\$45	\$36	\$36	\$27
Under \$20,000	\$40	\$32	\$32	\$24
Under \$15,000 and non U.S.	\$15	\$12	\$12	\$9
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Sustaining Member		\$1,000		

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- I am age 65 or older *and* I am retired from full-time employment.

③ SBL Member:

- I am also a *current* member of the Society of Biblical Literature. *SBL dues must be paid separately to SBL.*

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2007 Calendar Year

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2007

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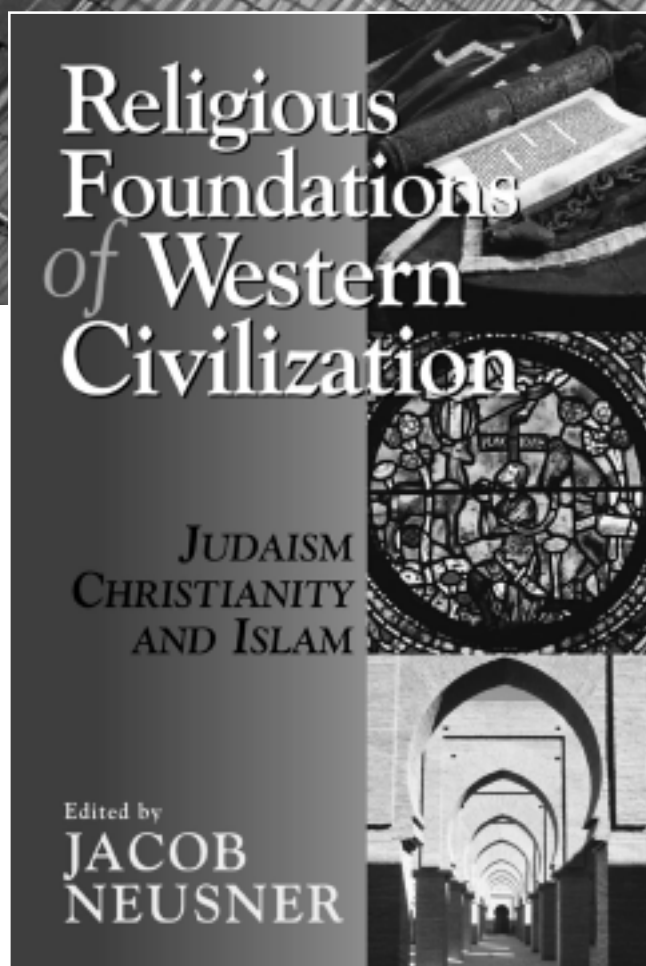
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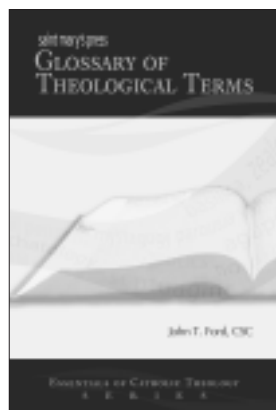
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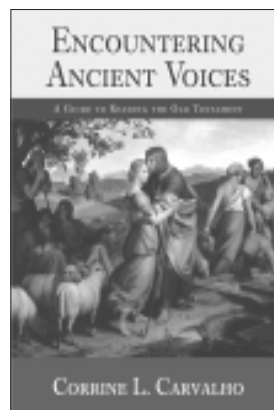
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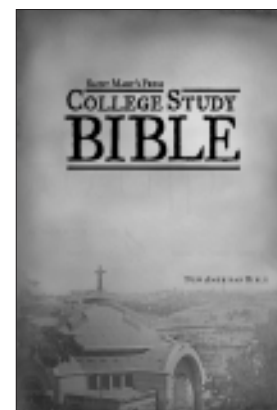


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ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the President



Dear AAR
Colleagues and
Friends,

It is a pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the American Academy of Religion. At the outset, I would

like to thank all of you who have committed yourselves to the intellectual and professional work of the Academy during this year. Never have I worked with a group of colleagues so dedicated to the voluntary work that is involved in the many activities and committees of the Academy.

I extend a special vote of thanks to the search committee, chaired by Hans Hillerbrand, that was charged with finding a new Executive Director. The search committee devoted countless hours to this task over the course of many months. This was both time-consuming and rewarding work. I also want to thank all of you who agreed to let us speak with you about this position and who offered such insightful perspectives on the structure, purpose, and future of the AAR. The AAR had evolved to a new level of complexity and excellence under the leadership of Barbara DeConcini. Assessing these productive years and looking ahead with all of you was an important process.

The Academy is fortunate to have been able to hire Jack Fitzmier as our new Executive Director. Jack's background at Gordon Conwell Theological School, Princeton University, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Claremont School of

Theology give him both the academic and administrative background to be an effective leader at this crucial juncture in the life of the Academy as we approach the first independent annual meeting in 2008. He is familiar with both religious studies and theological studies and will enable the AAR to maintain a "big tent" for the whole span of scholarly discussions in the Academy. In addition, Jack is simply a delightful person with whom to work. We are lucky to have him.

When I assumed the presidency in Philadelphia in November of 2005, we were concluding what was the largest ever annual meeting with 9,982 attendees, 1,200 more than the previous high in Atlanta in 2003. As you will see in this report, the enrolled membership in the Academy has grown by some 2,000 in the past ten years. This year, the AAR Program Committee approved 19 new program units that explore old and new areas of scholarly inquiry from Coptic Christianity to Comparative Ethics to Science, Technology, and Religion. Our program units, in general, have received more proposals than ever before.

The study and analysis of religion is indisputably important in the world in which we live today. Religious and theological studies are integral to the curriculum of more than 2,000 colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Our survey of undergraduate departments also tells us that the study of religion is on the upswing in colleges and universities. There are more religion majors across the board than ever before and more students taking courses in religion.

Almost 20% of the student members of the AAR identify as racial and ethnic minorities, and this year a group of colleagues launched the AAR Career Guide for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, edited by Miguel A. De La Torre with contributions from many dedicated colleagues. This guide was previewed at the 2005 annual meeting and subsequently released on the AAR Web site. It is a provocative online resource written by those who have "been there," and it invites comments and critiques from those who use it. We hope that this will be an important resource both for candidates and for departments engaged in hiring.

In September 2006, we learned that the U.S. Government continued to block Tariq Ramadan's visa, keeping him from entering the country and, once again, from participating at our Annual Meeting. You may recall that in November 2004, Tariq Ramadan had been scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the AAR. He did so, finally, by video-conference, since he was not able to enter the U.S.

In January 2006, the AAR, along with the AAUP and PEN American Center, joined an ACLU lawsuit filed against the Government under the Freedom of Information Act. We were seeking the reasons for revoking Ramadan's visa after he had been hired as a tenured professor at the University of Notre Dame in 2004. At issue was the use of what was deemed "ideological exclusion" in denying Ramadan a visa under a provision of the Patriot Act, interpreted so broadly as to be a danger to the very enterprise of debate and exchange in a free society. In denying

his visa, the U.S. government invoked a provision of the Patriot Act to deny a visa to anyone who "endorses" or "espouses" terrorism. It was chilling to see this provision interpreted so broadly as to sweep into its dragnet a prominent intellectual who has been a consistent public critic of Islamic extremism and terrorism.

On September 21, 2006, the government responded to a U.S. District Judge's request to issue a formal decision by continuing to block Ramadan's request for a visa, this time on the grounds that he had made a contribution of 600 Euros to a French and Swiss charity for humanitarian aid to Palestinians, aid which, in turn, might have been administered by Hamas.

Tariq Ramadan is certainly not the only scholar so barred from entering the United States, but his case has particular salience for members of the AAR, as many count him among the most articulate Muslim theologians and ethicists. He also speaks directly to the many issues raised by the rising presence of Muslims in European and North American societies, and he is a member of the editorial board of the AAR Journal. His exclusion from our company strikes a blow at the very heart of our commitment to the study and analysis of religion and should be of concern to every member of the Academy.

Diana L. Eck
President

Centennial Strategic Plan 2004–2009

Vision

The American Academy of Religion (AAR) is the preeminent scholarly and professional society in the field of religion, recognized as the field's leader in critical scholarship; teaching and learning about religion; and resources for pedagogy, programs, the professoriate, and the public understanding of religion.

Mission

In a world where religion plays so central a role in social, political, and economic events, as well as in the lives of communities and individuals, there is a critical need for ongoing reflection upon and understanding of religious traditions, issues, questions, and values. The American Academy of Religion's mission is to promote such reflection through excellence in scholarship and teaching.

As a learned society and professional association of teachers and research scholars, the American Academy of Religion has over 9,500 members, most of whom teach in more than 1,500 colleges, universities, seminaries, and schools in North America and abroad. The Academy is dedicated to furthering knowledge of religions in all their forms and manifestations. This is accomplished through Academy-wide and regional conferences and meetings, research support, publications, professional development and outreach programs, and member services.

Within a context of free inquiry and critical examination, the AAR welcomes all disciplined reflection on religion — from both within and outside of communities of belief and practice — and seeks to enhance its broad public understanding.

Goals

To accomplish this mission, the AAR sets forth the following goals:

1. To promote research and scholarship in the field of religion.
2. To foster excellence in teaching and learning in the field.
3. To facilitate our members' professional development.
4. To develop programming and participation in AAR regional groups.
5. To advance publication and scholarly communication in the field.
6. To contribute to the public understanding of religion.
7. To welcome into our conversation the various voices in the field of religion

and to support and encourage diversity within the Academy.

8. To enhance awareness of the international context for the study of religion and to increase involvement in the AAR by scholars and teachers from around the globe.
9. To advance and secure the future of the academic study of religion.

Strategic Objectives

As we prepare for the Academy's centennial in 2009, 100 years from the founding of its predecessor organization, we identify the following strategic objectives. The attention given to these objectives simply highlights them for special focus within the AAR's continuing commitment to current and ongoing programs and services.

See **STRATEGIC PLAN** p.24

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear AAR
Colleagues and
Friends,

I write this message for our Annual Report with a deep appreciation for the Academy's past and with a keen sense of excitement about

the challenges that lie before us. This looking backward and forward, I suppose, is not surprising given the recent transition in the Academy's Executive Office.

My predecessor in the Executive Director's chair, Barbara DeConcini, graciously spent much of July orienting me to the job. I learned about AAR's budgets and grants, committees and task forces, staff positions and job descriptions, and about the relationships we have with a large number of other scholarly

and professional societies. To be sure, these facts and figures are important in their own right. But taken together they form something larger and far more impressive. During Barbara's tenure the AAR grew from a modest organization into a complex institution: membership increased from approximately 6,000 members to nearly 10,500; annual meetings expanded; a staff of four became a staff of sixteen; our financial condition developed very nicely with net assets growing from some \$400,000 to nearly \$10 million; and even the office space grew, from an apartment-turned-business-space in student housing to the beautiful Luce Center. I can assure you that this maturation of our Academy is real, not imagined. It stands as a testimony to Barbara's able leadership and as an icon of the tremendous growth of our field. This is all to say that by all sorts of measurable indicators, the AAR is very healthy.

The Academy's good health allows us the freedom to think imaginatively about the opportunities that are coming into view.

The growth of our guild over the last ten years is remarkable, and our Academy has kept pace. This fall our membership hit record highs, and every indicator suggests that the Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting will be the largest we have held. This growth enables enlarged conversations and a diversity of methodological perspectives that are exciting. Our programming — both in the expansion of program units and the addition of professional programs — will also follow suit. Larger publics — both scholarly and general — are taking new interest in the study of religion. Thoughtful people are learning what many of us have already discovered: Religion is not merely one aspect of our cultures, it is one of the most important aspects of our cultures. In an age of religious interest, fervor, dissent, and even violence, our

Academy is very well positioned to contribute to the public understanding of religion.

In 2009 our Academy will reach a remarkable milestone — the 100th anniversary of its founding. Plans for our centennial observances will involve our membership in some sustained reflection about future directions, and will involve us all in seeking support for those new initiatives.

I think the future of the American Academy of Religion is bright, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

STRATEGIC PLAN, from p.23

1. To attract new members to the AAR.

The notable growth of the AAR membership over the past ten years still leaves many scholars and teachers in the field of religion unaffiliated with the AAR. Both the field and the Academy will be stronger and intellectually richer if these colleagues choose to join our ranks.

2. To enhance the role of the AAR in the profession.

As a professional association, the AAR includes among its primary responsibilities collecting and analyzing data about the field; monitoring trends in the profession that affect individuals and departments (e.g., the increasing use of adjunct teachers, the erosion of tenure, the growing corporate culture in college and university administration); keeping members apprised of such developments; and taking action whenever appropriate on behalf of the field and its professors.

3. To enhance the identity of the AAR within the larger scholarly community.

As the field of religion continues to develop and to change its contours, there is growing interest and need to relate the field to cognate fields. At the same time, we have not yet made a thoroughly convincing case for our field within the liberal arts setting, among college and university administrators and colleagues.

4. To clarify the identity and mission of the AAR vis-à-vis other scholarly societies in religion, holding stand-alone annual meetings beginning in 2008.

Currently the number of scholarly societies dedicated to the study of religion is growing, and on a global scale. Some have a general focus; others very specific areas of interest. In order to insure a fruitful interaction with these societies, it is important that the AAR have a clearly defined identity and mission of its own.

5. To foster scholarly interaction among all approaches to the study of religion, including the ethical and theological perspectives that arise within particular religious traditions. Our objective is to welcome reflection from within and among particular religious traditions into our conversation.

As the Academy continues to grow in size and scope, it is important that the AAR stand-alone meeting not be misunderstood as a gesture in favor of any single approach to the study of religion. The AAR must make ever clearer its mission to welcome critical reflection from all scholarly vantages and perspectives, from both within and outside of living faith traditions.

6. To enhance the international dimension of the AAR.

By its nature, the academic study of religion is an international enterprise. What is more, enhancing the AAR's international connections is increasingly important for the work of religion scholars and the flourishing of the field itself in today's interconnected world.

7. To diversify the Academy's leadership and nurture leaders for the future.

At the same time that colleges and universities are decreasing their historical support of scholarly societies, the AAR's growth and ambitious programming need more dedicated and competent volunteers to provide intellectual and strategic leadership. As the field's contours continue to change and succeeding generations of scholars and teachers join the Academy, it is important to nurture and cultivate new cadres of leaders, both regionally and Academy-wide, and to foster greater racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the field and the Academy. To remain vital, the AAR must regularly review organizational structures to assure access and openness to change, as well as continuity and tradition.

8. To prepare for the AAR's centennial in 2009.

The forthcoming AAR centennial offers the opportunity to strengthen the institutional memory of the Academy and to take steps to maximize continuing leadership and service in the field far into the future.

9. To enhance the financial security of the AAR.

The AAR's continued striving toward excellence as the leading scholarly and professional association in the field of religion is related to the financial resources available to imagine and undertake these and other emerging objectives.

Governance and Structure

New AAR Committees and Task Forces Graduate Student Committee

At its April 2006 meeting, the AAR Board granted the Graduate Student Task Force standing committee status, making it the Graduate Student Committee (GSC). The GSC addresses the needs and concerns of graduate students and promotes their professional development and participation in the AAR and the academy as a whole. The GSC has developed as the result of the Board's initiatives in the 1990s to be more intentional in including student members in the formal planning and structure of the AAR. To achieve this goal, the Student Director has been elected to the Board of Directors to serve as the committee's designated representative.

Task Force on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in the Profession

At its April 2006 meeting, the AAR Board approved the creation of the Task Force on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in the Profession. The LGBT Task Force recommends policies and practices to assure that LGBT persons have full access to and academic freedom within the Academy; the Task Force also develops programs to enhance their status in the profession.

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Efforts to Improve the Environment, 2006

The AAR is committed to awareness of environmental issues as they affect our operations. While providing our staff with benchmarks for strengthening this commitment, the following report is meant to bring our Board and membership up to date on progress made by the executive office.

Infrastructure

The American Academy of Religion is headquartered at the Luce Center, which the AAR owns jointly with the Society of Biblical Literature. During the building's planning and construction, the AAR worked with the architects to create an environment that was functional, attractive, and of low impact to the environment.

The Luce Center itself is set in woodland, and as few trees as possible were dislodged for its construction. The tall trees surrounding it shade the building, and wide overhangs above the windows on each floor decrease air conditioning needs and electrical consumption. The headquarters is fitted with energy efficient fluorescent lights; except for security lights, the building is darkened at night. Elevators provide full accessibility to wheelchairs, but the building's atrium is designed to encourage the use of stairs. Parking lot buffers minimize water runoff, and the grounds — where they are landscaped at all — are planted with materials whose water needs are matched to the local climate. During dry periods, we rely on an automated watering system only for a brief time at a late hour, in compliance with Georgia's voluntary outdoor watering restrictions.

Communications

The AAR has resolved to benefit the environment by prioritizing membership communications in electronic format — Web site updates and e-mail notices — in lieu of print. To that end, we do the following:

The AAR Web site provides as much interactivity as possible, allowing members to retrieve and update information without using paper. (Paper options for membership records still exist, of course, for those who lack access to the Internet or who simply prefer hard copy.)

Ephemeral communications such as Openings and In the Field are produced solely online. The AAR publishes a monthly e-Bulletin to convey timely information to members without exhausting any nonrenewable resource.

An electronic update for Board members, scheduled for delivery throughout the academic year, is currently being developed.

An online CV submission form was developed for the 2006 Employment Information Services. Employers registered for this service can view candidates' CVs before they arrive at the designated interviews. Electronic communication between candidates and employers also allows for scheduling interviews at EIS during the Annual Meeting.

Membership renewal messages are sent via e-mail. When necessary, follow-up reminders are sent by surface mail. It is hoped that this approach will substantially reduce our use of paper in this membership cycle. For print versions of the membership renewal mailing, materials are chosen with an eye on environmental responsibility:

Inserts and envelopes are printed on paper that contains some recycled content.

All inks used in the printing are soy-based.

AAR window envelopes are cellophane-free so that they can be recycled in regular white paper bins.

Corporate Culture

Sustainability Initiatives

In 2006, the AAR participated with leaders from more than a dozen national disciplinary associations to consider how sustainability education can create a better future. Sustainability education produces graduates who are knowledgeable about and engaged in the solutions to society's social, economic, and environmental challenges. The U.S. partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development organized this stimulating meeting, which was sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, and University Leaders for a Sustainable Future.

The AAR can contribute significantly to the sustainability efforts — from creating new textbook opportunities and teaching workshops, to making statements of support for the Decade and finding ways to hold environmentally friendly meetings. This initiative will continue, and member involvement will be critical for its success.

Reducing and Reusing

The AAR strongly encourages an environmental commitment among its employees. Products that can be reused are retained and restored to inventory. Most of its staff members print routine office communications (if they must print them at all) on the unused sides of fax transmissions or other discarded materials. The AAR has provided many of its employees with PDAs, portable flash drives, and laptop computers, minimizing the waste of printing materials that can better be carried in electronic format.

Recycling

The AAR participates in all available Emory University recycling programs, including white paper, colored paper, and magazine/newspaper recycling. On its own, the AAR collects and recycles aluminum cans and plastics that are used by employees. Toner cartridges are returned to the manufacturer for recycling.

Alternative Transportation

As a university affiliate, the AAR is eligible for the Emory University Alternative Transportation Program. Two AAR employees participate in one or more alternative transportation programs, including carpooling, using public transportation, and bicycling. One staff member sold his car and now uses a scooter as his only motorized transportation. Additionally, the AAR encourages its employees to telecommute as necessary, and has set up IT infrastructures to make it easier for them to do so; several AAR employees telecommute at least one day a week.

AAR employees who are enrolled in alternative transportation programs rely on the Emory University fleet of cars to run errands during the day. Where possible, these vehicles are called on for office errands as well.

Committee on the Environment

An AAR employee sits on Emory University's Committee on the Environment, whose charge is to review capital projects for their environmental impact and to make policy recommendations. The committee has three primary goals:

Ensure that environmental values are represented in Emory's strategic plans and policies.

Embed environmental standards in individual capital projects and processes.

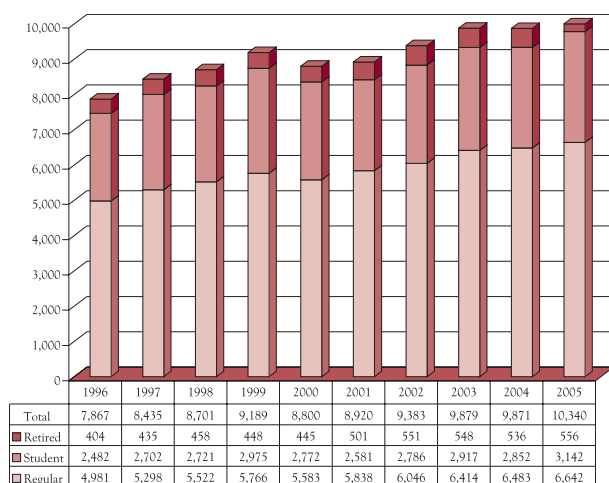
Improve communications with campus and surrounding communities. 

Members


Membership Trends

AAR membership has grown substantially since 1996, with 2005 membership figures over 30% higher than at the beginning of this ten-year period. Indeed, in 2005, the AAR experienced a watershed event, passing the 10,000-member mark for the first time in its history. A small decline in membership in 2000 (probably related to the dissolution of Scholars Press and, with it, the joint AAR/SBL membership on a single form) was reversed in 2001. Regular members account for approximately 64% of the total membership, while student members make up approximately 30%; retired members comprise the remainder. AAR memberships run for the calendar year.

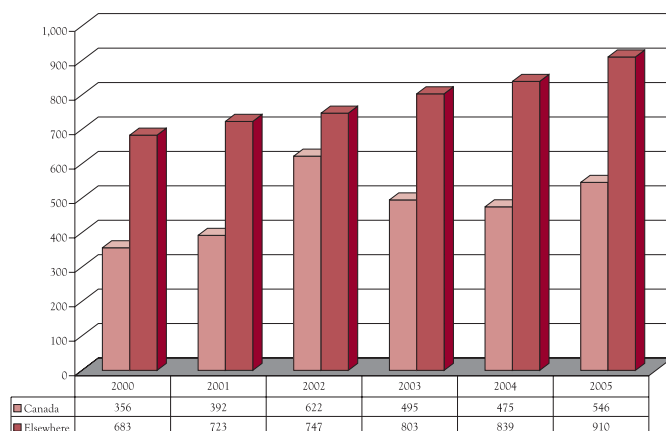
AAR Membership Trends, 1996–2005



International Connections

In keeping with the goal of enhancing its international dimension, the American Academy of Religion reaches out to scholars worldwide. Between 2000 and 2005, international membership as a percentage of total membership registered modest but steady growth, from 11.9% to 14%. The international focus of our Annual Meeting — Africa in 2006, China in 2007, and South Asia in 2008 — will continue to expand the AAR's global scope. 

Growth of International Membership, 2000–2005

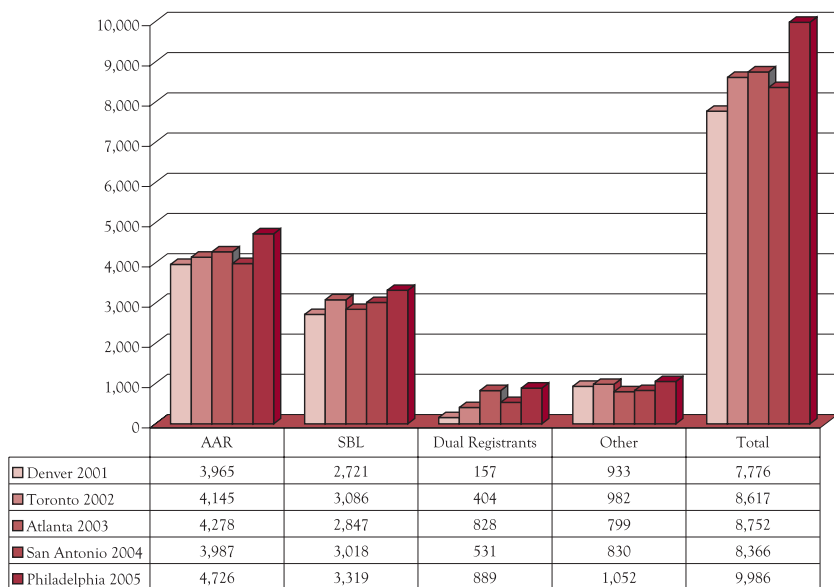


Meetings

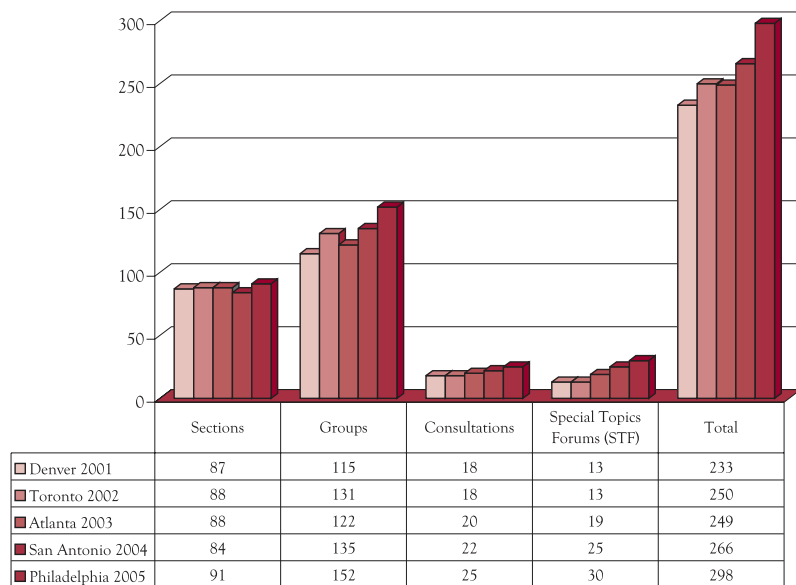
Annual Meeting

The AAR Annual Meeting is large both in size and in complexity, from the number of registrants, sessions, and exhibitors to the number of special workshops and conferences of related scholarly organizations. It is the largest scholarly conference on religion and, for the four days of the conference, the largest religion “bookstore.” In 2006, the AAR program structure comprises 15 sections, 65 groups, two seminars, and 24 consultations for a total of 106 program units. Plenary lectures, arts gatherings, business meetings, professional development sessions, and a whole range of special events for various constituencies enhance the program. Twenty-six scholarly organizations have formal ties with the Academy, and some 193 others hold their meetings at the AAR conference. [RSN](#)

Annual Meeting Registration by Affiliation, 2001–2005



Annual Meeting Sessions by Program Unit, 2001–2005



New Program Units

In September 2005, the Program Committee approved the following 19 new program units for 2006:

- Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities
- Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity
- Biblical/Contextual Ethics
- Buddhist Critical–Constructive Reflection
- Buddhist Philosophy
- Christianity and Academia
- Comparative Religious Ethics
- Comparative Theology
- Coptic Christianity
- Especially for Graduate Students
- Practical Theology
- Religion in Europe
- Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change
- Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective
- Science, Technology, and Religion (expansion of Religion and Science Group)
- Signifying (on) Scriptures
- Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- World Christianity
- Yoga in Theory and Practice [RSN](#)

Related Scholarly Organizations

The American Academy of Religion welcomes opportunities to cooperate with organizations whose missions are similar to our own. The Board has formally recognized the following organizations:

- African Association for the Study of Religions
- Association of Practical Theology
- Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- Christian Theological Research Fellowship
- European Society of Women in Theological Research
- Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Hermetic Academy
- International Bonhoeffer Society–English Language Section
- International Institute for Field Being
- International Society for Chinese Philosophy
- Karl Barth Society of North America
- La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- North American Paul Tillich Society
- Person, Culture, and Religion
- Polanyi Society
- Schleiermacher Society
- Société internationale d’études sur Alfred Loisy
- Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
- Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
- Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
- Society of Christian Philosophers
- Søren Kierkegaard Society
- Theta Alpha Kappa
- Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship [RSN](#)

2007 Regional Meetings

Eastern International

May 4–5, 2007
University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, ONT, Canada

Mid-Atlantic

March 1–2, 2007
Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys
Baltimore, MD

Midwest

March 30–31, 2007
Dominican University
River Forest, IL

New England–Maritimes

Instead of holding a regional meeting in 2007, the region will co-sponsor conferences proposed by regional members.

Pacific Northwest

May 4–6, 2007
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge, AB, Canada

Rocky Mountain–Great Plains

March 23–24, 2007
Hilton Garden Inn
Omaha, NE

Southeast

March 16–18, 2007
Sheraton Downtown Nashville
Nashville, TN

Southwest

March 3–4, 2007
Westin Hotel, DFW Airport
Irving, TX

Upper Midwest

April 13–14, 2007
Luther Seminary
St. Paul, MN

Western

March 24–26, 2007
The Graduate Theological Union
Berkeley, CA [RSN](#)

Future AAR Annual Meeting Dates and Sites

- 2007 San Diego, CA, November 17–20
- 2008 Chicago, IL, October 25–28
- 2009 Montréal, QC, Canada, November 7–10
- 2010 Atlanta, GA, October 30–November 2
- 2011 San Francisco, CA, November 18–21 [RSN](#)

Publications

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

AAR's book series, published by Oxford University Press, are thriving. Over the past year four new titles were published and eight new titles were contracted. Oxford also publishes *JAAR*, which introduced a new cover design with the March 2006 issue. Back issues of *JAAR* can be accessed online through ATLAS, J-STOR, and Project Muse. The Academy has also published one issue of *Spotlight on Teaching (Reflections on a Teaching Career in Religion)* and four issues of the field's newspaper of record, *Religious Studies News*.

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Recently Published Monographs

Stephen C. Berkwitz. *The History of the Buddha's Relic Shrine: A Translation of the Sinhala Thupavamsa*. November 2006.

Oliver Freiberger. *Asceticism and Its Critics: Historical Accounts and Comparative Perspectives*. July 2006.

John L. Meech. *Paul in Israel's Story: Self and Community at the Cross*. August 2006.

Gerardus van der Leeuw. *Sacred and Profane Beauty: The Holy in Art*. August 2006.

Monographs under Contract

Jennifer Beste. *God and the Victim: A Theology of Trauma, Grace, and Freedom*.

David G. Bromley. *Teaching New Religious Movements*.


Kathleen Garces-Foley. *Crossing the Ethnic Divide: The Multiethnic Church on a Mission*.

Margaret Kamitsuka. *Feminist Theology and the Challenge of Difference*.

David Kyuman Kim. *Melancholic Freedom: Regenerating Agency and the Revolution of the Spirit*.

Susanne Mrozik. *Virtuous Bodies*.

Tania Oldenhege. *Parables for Our Time: Rereading New Testament Scholarship after the Holocaust*.

Jeffrey L. Richey. *Teaching Confucianism*. 

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Grants & Awards

Research Grant Awards 2006–2007

Collaborative

Edward E. Curtis, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Revisiting Black Gods of the Metropolis: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century

Collaborators:

Stephen W. Angell, Earlham School of Religion
Marla Frederick-McGlathery, Harvard University
Clarence E. Hardy III, Dartmouth College
Kelly Eileen Hayes, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Sylvester A. Johnson, Florida A&M University
Kathryn Lofton, Reed College
Omar M. McRoberts, University of Chicago
Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College
Carolyn Moxley Rouse, Princeton University
Nora Lynne Rubel, Connecticut College
Danielle Brune Sigler, Austin College

Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College
Religious Games and Toys: Exploring the Serious Side of Play

Collaborator:

Nikki Bado-Fralick, Iowa State University

Joerg Rieger, Southern Methodist University
The Spirit of Empire

Collaborators:

Néstor Míguez, Instituto Superior Evangélico de Estudios Teológicos

Jung Mo Sung, Methodist University of Sao Paulo

Individual

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University School of Medicine
Chinese Religious Healing in America: A Social History, 1849–2004

Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University
Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine

Heidi Campbell, Texas A&M University
Exploring How Religiosity Shapes Media Use & Interaction in a Global Information Society in Israel

Frances Garrett, University of Toronto
Organization and Analysis of Digital Editions of Tibetan Religious and Medical Histories

R. Marie Griffith, Princeton University
Holy Sex: Christians and the Sexual Revolution, from the Kinsey Reports to True Love Waits


Karline McLain, Bucknell University
Envisioning Hinduism: Raja Ravi Varma and the Visual Canon

Donald S. Prudlo, Jacksonville State University
The Anti-Heretical Efforts of Peter of Verona: An Investigation into the Lived Religion of the Medieval Italian Laity

Megan H. Reid, University of Southern California
Judging Race and Religion: Pierre Crabitte and African American Muslims in Early Twentieth-Century Cairo

Sufia Mendez Uddin, University of Vermont
Speaking the Same Language: Muslim and Hindu Veneration of Bonbibbi

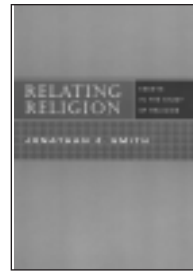
Archana Venkatesan, St. Lawrence University
Embodying Memories: Performance and Ritual Culture at the Vishnu Temple of Alvar Tirunagari, South India

Michael J. Zogry, University of Kansas
Playing or Praying? The Cherokee Anetso Ceremonial Complex and the Performance of Cultural Identity 

Book Awards

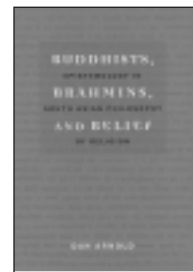
The American Academy of Religion offers Awards for Excellence to recognize new scholarly publications that make significant contributions to the study of religion. These awards honor works of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity, and importance — books that have a decisive effect on how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted.

Awards for Excellence



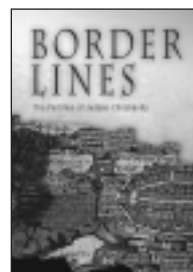
Analytical–Descriptive

Jonathan Z. Smith. *Relating Religion: Essays in the Study of Religion*. University of Chicago Press, 2004.



Constructive–Reflective

Dan Arnold. *Buddhists, Brahmins, and Belief: Epistemology in South Asian Philosophy of Religion*. Columbia University Press, 2006.




Historical

Dan Boyarin. *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.



Best First Book in the History of Religions

Ebrahim Moosa. *Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination*. University of North Carolina Press, 2005. 


Excellence in Teaching Award

The American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Teaching both recognizes the importance of teaching and honors outstanding teaching in the field. We congratulate this year's winner:

Patricia O'Connell Killen, Pacific Lutheran University.

Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award

The Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion, established in 1996, recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion. The award goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. The contribution can be in any medium (e.g., books, films, TV, public speaking), as long as it is based on scholarship in religion. We congratulate this year's awardee:

Andrew M. Greeley, professor of sociology, Arizona State University, and research associate, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. 

Media Awards

Annually the AAR honors the best in-depth reporting on topics related to religion. There are three contests. We offer our congratulations to this year's winners.

News Outlets with more than 100,000 Circulation

First Place Charles Radin, *Boston Globe*
Second Place Robert Sibley, *Ottawa Citizen*
Third Place John Blake, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

News Outlets under 100,000 Circulation

First Place Jean Gordon, *Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Mississippi)*
Second Place Brett Buckner, *Anniston Star (Anniston, Alabama)*
Third Place Terri Jo Ryan, *Waco Tribune-Herald*

Opinion Writing

First Place Naomi Schaefer Riley, *Wall Street Journal*
Second Place Tracey O'Shaughnessy, *Republican-American (Waterbury, Connecticut)*
Third Place Douglas Todd, *Vancouver Sun* 

Outreach

Government Relations

The AAR has arranged for two panels to take place at the Library of Congress during the 2006 Annual Meeting. Both are co-sponsored by the AAR and the Library. The first, "Writing the Story of America's Religious Origins," has the additional co-sponsorship of the National History Center, and the second, "Legislating International Religious Freedom," has the additional co-sponsorship of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

In order to highlight the value of religion expertise to government officials and others in Washington's public policy community, several 2006 AAR forums have been opened to the public. Among these are the panels at the Library of Congress and the Annual Meeting plenaries with author Karen Armstrong and with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Last year the AAR joined with the American Association of University Professors and with the PEN American Center in an ACLU lawsuit to prevent U.S. government officials from barring foreign scholars from the United States solely because of views those scholars express. The suit has drawn coverage in the *Agence France Presse*, *Associated Press*, *Boston Globe*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Fox News*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Knight Ridder Newspapers*, *Le Matin*, *New York Times*, *Reuters*, and *Wall Street Journal*. As this 2006 Annual Report went to press, the AAR learned that the State Department had finally rendered a decision in the case of Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Islamic Studies at Oxford University, denying him a visa.


In November 2005, the AAR held several educational sessions for FBI agents on topics involving religion and violence. Another round of sessions is slated for November 2006, when an additional panel of AAR members is scheduled to speak at a forum at FBI headquarters.

Several sessions were also presented in November 2005 to an audience of government directors of prison chaplaincy programs on issues involving free exercise of religion by inmates. Since that time, the AAR has responded to several participant requests for referrals to scholars with specific expertise.

In March, a number of AAR delegations met with Congressional staff to advocate funding for the humanities, especially with respect to the academic study of religion. The AAR is organizing more than a dozen delegations for similar meetings in November 2006.

Media Relations

The AAR received a one-year \$50,000 grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to continue to fund Religionsource, the AAR's referral service for journalists. Religionsource responded to more than 1,500 queries from media, including ABC, Associated Press, *Atlantic Monthly*, BBC, Beliefnet, CNBC, CNN, *Esquire*, *Forbes*, France TV 2, *Gentleman's Quarterly*, *Glamour*, *Harper's*, *Los Angeles Times*, NPR, *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Ottawa Citizen*, PBS, Religion News Service, Reuters, *Slate*, *Smart Money*, *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*, as well as hundreds of regional and local media.

Thirty journalists attended the 2005 Annual Meeting, including journalists from Beliefnet, *Christian Century*, Minnesota Public Radio, *Ottawa Citizen*, ReligionLink, and *Washington Post*. Articles about the meeting appeared in *Christianity Today*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Jewish Exponent*, and *Publishers Weekly*. 

The Profession

Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Online Career Guide

The AAR has published a Career Guide for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. Available online at www.aarweb.org/about/board/rem/careerguide, the guide covers the career lifespan, from graduate school to post tenure, and includes a chapter for administrators considering hires. Readers may participate in an online discussion board.

The Job Market in Religion

The AAR administers the Employment Information Services (EIS) for the field, providing opportunities for communication between employing institutions and candidates through Openings Online and the EIS Center at the Annual Meeting.

Openings Online appears monthly, offering the most comprehensive listing available of faculty and administrative positions for religion scholars. Candidates can conduct searches of the positions based on a variety of criteria, including the location of the position and the employer's preferred subspecialty. They can choose to save particular ads to their personalized "My Openings" Web page.

The EIS Center serves hundreds of interested scholars and employers by centralizing information about position announcements and candidate qualifications onsite at the Annual Meeting. Candidate CVs are available both onsite at the EIS Center and online throughout the hiring season. The center facilitates the interview process by providing semi-private space in the Interview Hall, arranging access to private interview rooms, administering a message center for communication between job candidates and employers, and mounting programs on career development.

At the 2005 EIS Center, 126 institutions conducted interviews for a total of 148 positions. The total number of registered candidates was 513, and the ratio of positions to candidates was 1:3.47.

Each year, statistics are kept on the use of the EIS Center. Candidates and jobs registered with EIS do not represent all jobs in religion, nor even all jobs advertised in Openings. They do, however, provide some indicators about the state of the job market (See chart of trends in Position Openings and Applicants showing data from 2003 through 2005).

EIS also collects data on the outcome of searches conducted at EIS. In April of each year, all employers and candidates who were registered for the previous year's EIS Center are requested to complete a survey about the search experience. Employers are asked to submit information about whether the position was filled, whether the appointee was interviewed at the EIS Center, and the rank, position type, education, and gender of the appointee. Candidates are asked about their overall experiences of the job search process and whether they received an offer. Analysis of the resulting data reveals the types of jobs offered and the kinds of candidates chosen to fill those positions. Results from the 2004 and 2005 surveys can be found on the EIS Web site at www.aarweb.org/eis.

Trends in Position Openings and Applicants

All candidates and employers registered for the EIS Center are required to select job classifications from a provided list. Candidates select the classifications that they consider to be their specialties, and employers select the classifications that best fit the description of the available position. The chart at right compares the candidates' primary choices to those of the employers'. Because the chart covers only the primary choices, when drawing conclusions from these data it is important to note that many jobs fall under classifications that candidates are less likely to use to describe their primary field, but might well select as a secondary or tertiary specialization (World Religions, for example).

Additional data, including secondary and tertiary classifications and job data for the period 1990–2002, is available upon request from Shelly Roberts at sroberts@aarweb.org.

EMPLOYERS	2003	2004	2005
Positions Registered	121	140	148
Total Institutions Registered	98	115	126
Preregistered	76	89	133
Registered On-site	22	26	15
Ratio of Positions to Candidates	1:3.35	1:3.16	1:3.47
CANDIDATES	2003	2004	2005
Total Registered	405	442	513
Preregistered	331	368	419
Registered On-site	74	74	94
Female Participants	144	145	142
Male Participants	261	237	217
Did Not Report Gender	0	60	154
Ratio of Female to Male	1:1.8	1:1.6	1:1.5


Job Classifications	POSITIONS			CANDIDATES			POSITIONS TO CANDIDATES		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Administration (e.g., President, Dean, Director, Program Director, Coordinator)	1	1	1	0	0	0	1:0	1:0	1:0
Ancient Near Eastern Languages	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	2	N/A	0:0	0:2
Archaeology – Ancient Near East	N/A	0	0	N/A	1	1	N/A	0:1	0:1
Archaeology – Greco-Roman	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0:0	0:0
Arts, Literature & Religion	0	0	0	5	3	7	0:5	0:3	0:7
Asian Religions (general or not listed separately)	3	10	4	2	7	5	1:0.7	1:0.7	1:1.3
Biblical Languages	N/A	1	0	N/A	1	1	N/A	1:1	0:1
Buddhism	1	2	0	7	11	15	1:7	1:5.5	0:15
Catholic Studies	1	3	4	2	0	2	1:2	3:0	1:0.5
Catholic Theology (all areas)	8	8	7	8	15	19	1:1	1:1.9	1:2.7
Central and South American and Caribbean Religions	1	1	0	1	0	0	1:1	1:0	0:0
Christian Ethics	5	5	6	25	28	26	1:5	1:5.6	1:4.3
Christian Studies	3	1	3	1	2	0	1:0.3	1:2	3:0
Christian Theology (general or not listed separately)	7	5	3	23	23	17	1:3.3	1:4.6	1:5.7
Christian Theology: Practical/Praxis	0	0	0	8	8	5	0:8	0:8	0:5
Christian Theology: Systematic/Constructive	5	5	5	35	26	44	1:7	1:5.2	1:8.8
Classics	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	N/A	0:0	0:1
Comparative Religions	3	2	4	6	7	8	1:2	1:3.5	1:2
Critical Studies/Theory/Methods in Religion	1	0	0	5	5	4	1:5	0:5	0:4
Early Christianity/Church History	N/A	0	3	N/A	12	25	N/A	0:12	1:8.3
Early Judaism	N/A	0	0	N/A	2	0	N/A	0:2	0:0
East Asian Religions (general or not listed separately)	4	3	7	3	5	4	1:0.8	1:1.7	1:0.6
Editorial	0	0	1	0	0	0	0:0	0:0	1:0
Epigraphy	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0:0	0:0
Gay/Lesbian Studies in Religion	0	0	0	1	1	0	0:1	0:1	0:0
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	13	10	12	57	65	69	1:4.4	1:6.5	1:5.8
Hinduism	1	0	0	6	6	4	1:6	0:6	0:4
History of Christianity/Church History	3	7	7	24	30	21	1:8	1:4.3	1:3
History of Religion (general)	0	4	3	5	5	4	0:5	1:1.3	1:1.3
Indigenous/Native/Traditional Religions	0	4	0	0	4	3	0:0	1:1	0:3
Introduction to Religion	0	0	1	2	1	0	0:2	0:1	1:0
Islam	7	9	13	8	7	25	1:1.1	1:0.8	1:1.9
Judaism	1	2	9	5	2	4	1:5	1:1	1:0.4
Library	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:0	0:0	0:0
Missiology	1	0	0	0	2	0	1:0	0:2	0:0
New Religious Movements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:0	0:0	0:0
New Testament	13	12	13	40	56	71	N/A	1:4.7	1:5.5
North American Religions	3	4	7	15	21	23	1:5	1:5.3	1:3.3
Pastoral Care	1	2	0	4	1	5	1:4	1:0.5	0:5
Philosophy of Religion	1	1	1	16	11	10	1:16	1:11	1:10
Preaching/Ministry	2	3	0	0	0	1	2:0	3:0	0:1
Rabbinic Judaism	N/A	0	1	N/A	1	0	N/A	0:1	1:0
Racial/Ethnic Minority Studies in Religion	1	1	0	3	5	2	1:3	1:5	0:2
Religions of Africa/Oceania	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1:0
Religious Ethics	3	3	3	10	14	8	1:3.3	1:4.7	1:2.7
Religion/Theology: Two or More Subfields	6	3	4	11	13	11	1:1.8	1:4.3	1:2.8
Second Temple Judaism	N/A	2	0	N/A	4	5	N/A	1:2	0:5
Septuagint	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	N/A	0:0	0:1
Social Sciences and Religion (e.g., Religion & Society, Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)	1	1	0	7	8	8	1:7	1:8	0:8
South Asian Religions (general or not listed separately)	6	10	4	5	14	8	1:0.8	1:1.4	1:2
Women's Studies in Religion	1	0	1	4	1	6	1:4	0:1	1:6
World Religions	6	6	5	0	4	3	6:0	1:0.6	1:0.6
Other	8	9	15	4	5	7	1:0.5	1:0.6	1:0.5
Not Reporting	0	0	0	47	5	28	0:47	0:5	0:28
Total	121	140	148	405	442	513	1:3.35	1:3.16	1:3.47

Data Analysis

Subfields with the most positions

- Islam (13)
- New Testament (13)
- Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (12)
- Catholic Theology (7)
- East Asian Religions (7)
- History of Christianity/Church History (7)
- North American Religions (7)

Most common primary subfields of candidates

- New Testament (71)
- Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (69)
- Christian Theology: Systematic/Constructive (44)
- Christian Ethics (26)
- Early Christianity/Church History (25)
- Islam (25) 

The Department

Theological Programs Initiative

In 2005 the AAR conducted seven Theological Programs Initiative (TPI) consultations. During these sessions, participants responded with a plethora of comments, suggestions, and personal insights regarding the Academy, theological schools and programs, and what new programs, publications, workshops, and Annual Meeting opportunities we might offer. At the broadest level, several all-encompassing ideas emerged in nearly every context.

The need to address the theory vs. praxis tension, to remedy the fragmentation of the theological school course of study, and to understand diverse subject matters. One of the dichotomies that scholars in theological education recognize is that their concern to train students for service in ecclesial settings often pulls faculty in directions counter to their scholarly guilds and professional needs. There was a general consensus that graduate theological education should focus on biblical studies, history, and theology, and their application within and to practical theology. Currently, no scholarly forum for this dialogue exists in theological schools.

The need to accommodate interdisciplinary and inter-religious conversations between and across several disciplines, between different understandings of God, and between different institutional settings, theological perspectives and approaches. No national forum is available for this type of dialogue regarding theological education, as it is for theological administrators. Such a forum would be guided by a common educational endeavor, rather than by guild-specific disciplines. The convening of seminars and workshops was urged.

The need to narrow the divide between religious studies and theology (the analytical vs. the confessional, critical skepticism vs. passionate engagement), between evangelicals and liberals, between doctoral producers and doctoral consumers, between different communities, and between theological schools and the ecclesial bodies they serve.

Following the consultations, we created the Theological Education Steering Committee to give leadership to the TPI. The committee is made up of nine seasoned, distinguished faculty and administrators from theological schools in the U.S.

Daniel Aleshire, Association of Theological Schools

Larry Golemon, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

David Kelsey, Yale University Divinity School, emeritus

Paul C. H. Lim, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Daisy Machado, Lexington Theological Seminary


Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Kathleen Talvacchia, Independent Scholar

John Thatamanil, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Barbara Brown Zikmund, Catholic University of America

Carey J. Gifford, American Academy of Religion (Staff Liaison)

This committee's charge is to meet the scholarly and professional needs of theological educators by creating programs and services that bring theological studies into the wider conversation of the Academy, thereby enriching the work of theological educators. 

Leadership Workshops

At the 2005 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the Academic Relations Committee sponsored a workshop titled *Enlarging the Pie: Strategies for Managing and Growing Departmental Resources*. Forty-four participants discussed the following topics:

- Defining a Resource and Determining the Local Environment
- Growing Funds and Physical Space
- Growing Faculty and Students
- Budgeting and Financial Management
- Growing Links to Other Departments

The workshop leaders were:

Timothy Renick, Georgia State University and Richard M. Carp, Appalachian State University.

Session Leaders were:

- Tom Coburn, Naropa Institute
- Zayn Kassam, Pomona College
- Tom Kasulis, Ohio State University
- John Raines, Temple University
- Dianne Stewart, Emory University
- Deanna Thompson, Hamline University

In Washington, D.C., the Academic Relations Committee will sponsor a workshop on Personnel Issues: *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. Co-leaders of the workshop are Betty DeBerg, Northern Iowa University, and Chester Gillis, Georgetown University. Joining them as a panelist is Daniel Aleshire, executive director of the Association of Theological Schools. Breakout sessions will be led by DeBerg, Gillis, Aleshire, and members of the Academic Relations Committee (Richard Carp, Appalachian State University, L. DeAne Lagerquist, St. Olaf College, and Chun-Fang Yu, Columbia University).

Regional seminars are being planned for 2007 to address how to prepare for and navigate the intricacies of the academic job hunt. Topics to be addressed will be where to look for positions, construction of a curriculum vitae and teaching portfolio, writing the application letter, preparing for interviews, and negotiating salary and benefits. Regions are being offered the seminars to be held the next few years at their meetings.

Virtual Teaching & Learning Center

Under the guidance of the Committee on Teaching and Learning, this online resource consolidates the many curricular and pedagogic resources developed by the AAR over the years, and makes them more widely available and usable in digitized form. Originally this project was called the Virtual Teaching & Learning Center, but the committee changed the name to Teaching and Learning Resources to better reflect the service. The online data bank gathers important teaching tools in one searchable online location, so that scholarly contributions to teaching are available to the entire field. The Web site is constantly being updated, and its redesign will both change the look and make it easier to navigate.

Undergraduate Survey

The American Academy of Religion is in the process of surveying the 1,100+ universities and colleges that offer religion courses on the undergraduate level. For the first time, the AAR is using an online format to gather the data. This longitudinal project will compare how religion courses and faculty have changed since the 1999–2000 academic year, when the first such survey was completed. We will be reporting various relationships by affiliation and aggregate numbers regarding religion majors, courses, departmental characteristics, and enrollment. The surveys are part of the signature program of the Lilly Endowment funded Strengthening College and University Programs in Religion and Theology (SCURT) initiative. Data collection is continuing as response rate has been low. Data analysis begins in Fall 2006.

Community College Survey

The American Academy of Religion collaborated with the Community College Humanities Association in a study of how religion is taught at community colleges. The study determines what religion courses are being taught and whether they are required, how many different courses are offered, and a snapshot of the faculty teaching the courses.

The data will be used to develop programming for this constituency of the Academy. Currently, there are about 140 community college members of the AAR. Consultations with community college members will be conducted at the Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting, and possibly at a few regional meetings.

Of the colleges reporting, about 40 percent indicate they teach religion courses. The courses most taught, in descending order, are:

- Introduction to Religion/World Religion/Comparative Religion
- Bible (Old/New Testament; Survey of the Bible)
- Christianity (Life of Jesus, History of Christianity)
- Eastern Religions (Asian Religions, Buddhism, Hinduism)
- Other (Life, Death and Dying; Women and Religion; Latter Day Saints; Black Church in America; Anthropology of Religion; Religion in the United States)
- Judaism
- Islam

Enrollment trends for religion courses at community colleges are reported to be steady (53%) or rising (38%).

Respondents report that religion is taught primarily in Humanities or Social Science Departments. Only three colleges reported a free-standing Department of Religion/Religious Studies, and fourteen reported combined religion and philosophy departments.


Religion courses are part of an Honors Program in 14% of respondent colleges, and 3% offer a degree program in religion. In these latter colleges, the average number of majors for the 2003–2004 academic year was 7.8.

AAR also collected information on faculty appointments and degrees. Of the 964 reported as religion faculty members, 266 (28%) are full-time, while 698 (72%) are on adjunct or part-time appointments. For philosophy faculty (1,741), 29% are full-time, and 71% are on adjunct or part-time appointments. The highest earned degrees reported for full-time religion faculty are: Ph.D. (42%), M.A. (38%) and M.Div. (13%). For part-time and adjunct religion faculty, the highest earned degrees reported are: Ph.D. (18%), M.A. (43%), and M.Div. (31%).

The degree fields for full-time religion faculty span a broad range:

- Philosophy (35%)
- Religion (20%)
- English (12%)
- Social Sciences (8%)
- Humanities (7%)
- Theology (6%)
- History (6%)
- Other (5%)

For adjunct and part-time religion faculty, religion was the top degree field:

- Religion (34%)
- Philosophy (26%)
- Theology (19%)
- Humanities (5%)
- Social Sciences (4%)
- English (4%)
- History (3%)
- Other (6%) 

Independent Accountant's Report

To the Finance Committee
American Academy of Religion
Atlanta, Georgia

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the American Academy of Religion as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities and net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the American Academy of Religion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the American Academy of Religion as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The additional information on pages 16 and 17 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

August 14, 2006

Jones and Kolb, Certified Public Accountants

	2006	2005	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2006	Total 2005
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 823,818	\$ 1,351,647					
Marketable securities	6,258,545	5,730,484					
Accounts receivable, net	33,046	42,529					
Pew grant receivable		66,000					
Prepaid expenses	122,032	40,545					
Furniture and equipment, net	25,003	28,596					
Share of Luce Center assets, net	2,163,593	2,180,710					
Total assets	\$ 9,426,037	\$ 9,440,511					
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS							
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 194,297	\$ 127,264					
Accrued vacation	122,068	70,128					
Deferred revenue - memberships	331,607	305,956					
Deferred revenue - Annual Meeting	560,110	470,621					
Total liabilities	1,208,082	973,969					
Net Assets							
Unrestricted	6,168,211	6,178,747					
Temporarily restricted	949,744	1,187,795					
Permanently restricted	1,100,000	1,100,000					
Total net assets	8,217,955	8,466,542					
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 9,426,037	\$ 9,440,511					
REVENUES AND GAINS							
Membership dues	\$ 693,545	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 693,545	\$ -	\$ 693,545	\$ 648,925
Grants		42,500		42,500		42,500	167,000
ARP dues				0		0	4,648
Annual Meeting	1,058,131			1,058,131		1,058,131	907,052
Employment information services	172,025			172,025		172,025	171,971
Label sales	55,297			55,297		55,297	49,104
Advertising and publications	20,668			20,668		20,668	17,290
Royalties	3,918	1,329		5,247		5,247	4,387
Book sales	18,588			18,588		18,588	25,457
Contributions	43,561	1,350		44,911		44,911	37,058
Luce Center rental income	112,508			112,508		112,508	109,729
Interest and dividends	149,105	32,062		181,167		181,167	152,333
Net assets released from restrictions	357,436	(357,436)		0		0	0
Total revenues and gains	2,684,782	(280,195)		2,404,587		2,404,587	2,294,954

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2006	Total 2005
EXPENSES					
Research and publications	\$ 141,382	\$ -	-	\$ 135,429	\$ 167,038
Member services	377,204			346,696	307,193
Professional development services	312,159			304,994	277,175
External relations	358,220			482,467	389,122
Annual meeting	986,585			934,826	600,444
Luce Center expenses	145,880			146,477	146,435
General and administration	427,865			373,339	276,826
Fundraising	94,207			119,274	60,698
Total expenses	2,843,502			2,843,502	2,224,931
Change in net assets before investment gains	(158,720)	(280,195)		(438,915)	70,023
Investment gains	148,184	42,144		190,328	146,132
Change in net assets	(10,536)	(238,051)		(248,587)	216,155
Net assets Beginning of the year	6,178,747	1,187,795	1,100,000	8,466,542	8,250,387
Net assets End of the year	\$ 6,168,211	\$ 949,744	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 8,217,955	\$ 8,466,542

Cash flows from operating activities

Change in net assets	\$ (248,587)	\$ 216,155
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Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:

Depreciation	69,410	69,225
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(190,328)	(146,132)
Change in marketable securities	(8,535)	(10,542)
(Increase) decrease in receivables	75,483	246,578
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(81,487)	5,203
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	67,033	31,296
Increase (decrease) in accrued vacation	51,940	9,260
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	115,140	60,853

Total adjustments	98,656	265,741
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Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(149,931)	481,896
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Cash flows from investing activities

Acquisition of equipment	(23,664)	(8,938)
Purchase of marketable securities	(354,234)	(130,581)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(377,898)	(139,519)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(527,829)	342,377

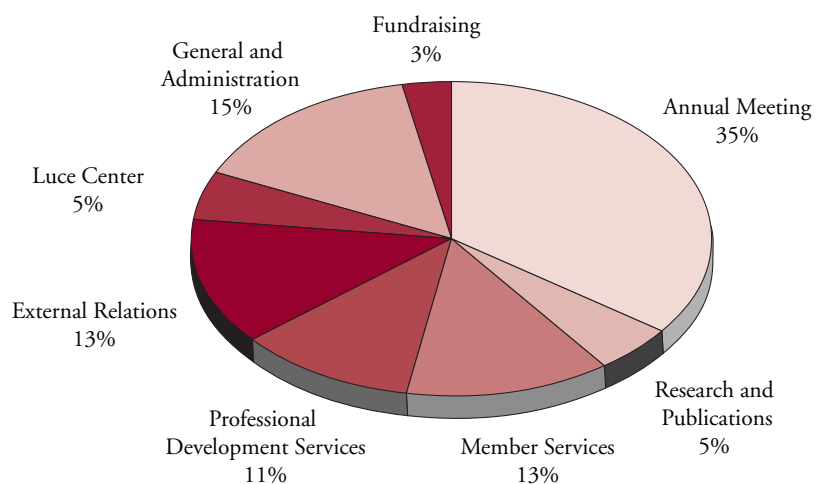
Cash and cash equivalents

Beginning of year	1,351,647	1,009,270
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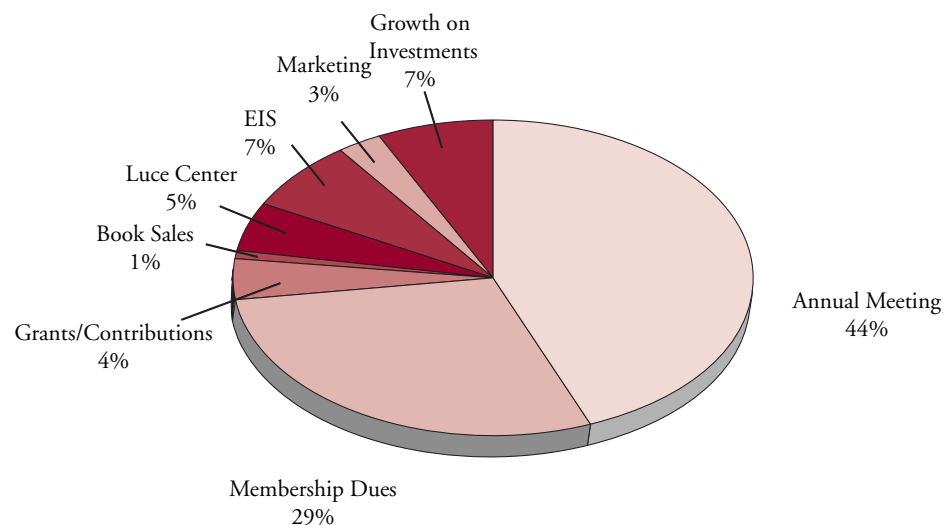
Cash and cash equivalents End of year	\$ 823,818	\$ 1,351,647
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[Note: Audit reports are accompanied by many pages of footnotes, giving further information and describing the accounting methods used. Please contact the AAR for these footnotes.]

Distribution of Expenses



Sources of Revenue



The American Academy of Religion deeply appreciates our loyal and generous contributors.

The Academy expresses our gratitude to the foundations that have supported our work during the last several years. Special appreciation goes to the boards and executive staffs of the following.

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The Pew Charitable Trusts

AAR's development activities are a crucial part of our programs and services. Members' and friends' generous contributions to the Academy Fund year after year help support programs and important initiatives for religion scholars and the field. We are grateful for all contributions from members and nonmembers alike, whether these gifts come to us through membership renewals, Annual Meeting registrations, direct mail solicitations, or spontaneous gestures of generosity. Most donors do not restrict their gifts, though the AAR also welcomes contributions directed to specific programs. Since membership dues accounted for less than 30% of our annual budget, all contributions to the Academy Fund have a meaningful impact.

The following list reflects donations received from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Please notify the AAR office of any incorrect listings, as we strive for accuracy in our records.

Members and friends who would like to remember the American Academy of Religion in their wills or estates are asked to contact the AAR Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier, for information (404-727-3049). 

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 Lamin Sanneh *
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 Traci C. West
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 Tyanna Yonkers Day *

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 Nsengha
 Lucinda Nolan
 Richard T. Nolan
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 Fortunate Ojiako *
 Hilmi Okur *
 Thomas Oord *
 Gaye Williams Ortiz
 Lieve Orye
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 Stephen G. Ray *
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 Cynthia Rigby *
 Holly Roberts
 Traugott Roser
 Rosetta E. Ross *
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 Gabriel Salguero *
 Jamie Sanders *
 Deborah Savage
 David Schultenover
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 Neelima Shukla-Bhatt *
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 Sylvia Hutcherson Maddox
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