

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS

November 22-25  
Boston, MA



AAR Annual Meeting November Sessions, November 22-25 Preliminary Program Book  
Last updated: September 26, 2025

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## Thursday November 20

P20-100

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Society of Adventist Philosophers - The Architecture of Authority: Legitimacy, Obedience, and Contestation I

Thursday, 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

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P20-200

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Society of Adventist Philosophers - The Architecture of Authority: Legitimacy, Obedience, and Contestation II

Thursday, 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

## Society of Adventist Philosophers - The Architecture of Authority: Legitimacy, Obedience, and Contestation

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M20-301

**Hosted by:** Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Theme: Revelation in Ecumenical Perspectives

Thursday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Offsite

Celebrate Rodney Petersen's new Reformation commentary on Revelation, with friends from the BTI Consortium's International Mission and Ecumenism program—at BU's Marsh Chapel on Thursday, November 20th from 3-5pm—for an afternoon of retrospection and futur

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M20-300

**Hosted by:** Lutheran Scholars Network

Theme: Seeing, Embodying, and Performing Christ: Luther and Mystical Theology I

Thursday, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sheraton, Clarendon (Third Floor)

Lutheran Scholars Network (LSN) is sponsoring this pre-AAR workshop on Luther and mysticism. Our focus is emerging scholarship, in particular: 1) Luther in view of medieval antecedents; 2) critical work on early 20th century connections to German nationalism; 3) ecumenical mysticism during times of crisis; 4) constructive spiritual and political practices. Keynotes by JT Paasch and Aristotle Papanikolaou.

The conference takes place on Thursday, Nov. 20 (4pm-7pm) and Friday, Nov. 21 (9:30am-5:30pm). All interested are invited; program will be sent to you when you send an email intent to participate to Christine Helmer: [c-helmer@northwestern.edu](mailto:c-helmer@northwestern.edu)

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## Friday November 21

M21-100

**Hosted by:** North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists Women's Ministries

Theme: Adventist Women Scholars Breakfast

Friday, 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

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M21-112

**Hosted by:** Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE)

Theme: Breakfast for Participants in the NetVUE Pre-Conference Gathering

Friday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

Participants in the NetVUE Pre-Conference Gathering, "Scriptural Reasoning and/as Vocational Discernment," are invited for a light breakfast prior to the beginning of the second day of the gathering. If you are interested in participating in this event and have not yet registered, please contact Lynne Spoelhof, NetVUE director of operations, at [lspoelhof@cic.edu](mailto:lspoelhof@cic.edu).

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P21-100

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Plenary Session I

Friday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Plenary Session I

Presiding: Rodney Palmer, Andrews University

Plenary Presentation #1: Trauma and the End of the Age: Reading the Olivet Discourse (Matt 24–25) in an Age of Anxiety

Laszlo Gallusz, Newbold College

Plenary Presentation #2: Restoration or Inflammation? Musings on the Interface of Adventist Culture and the Realm of Trauma Studies

Carmen Lau, Adventist Forum

Plenary Presentation #3: Examining Elijah's Trauma-induced Depression – Implications for Addressing Mental Illness in 2025

Erin Stone, Kaiser Permanente — Southern California

Discussion (10 min)

Rodney Palmer, Andrews University, presiding

## Panelist

Laszlo Gallusz, Newbold College

Carmen Lau

Erin Stone, Kaiser Permanente — Southern California

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M21-101

**Hosted by:** Logos for Education

Theme: Faithful Innovation in Christian Higher Ed: Logos & Learn Breakfast

Friday, 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

Round out your ETS/SBL experience with breakfast, conversation, and practical training. We're dedicating a morning for leaders and faculty in Christian higher education like you.

- After breakfast, our keynote speaker, Dr. Ken Coley, will share effective teaching strategies that shape both mind and heart. Dr. Coley has spent decades equipping future pastors and professors, training hundreds of faculty in teaching and learning, and writing extensively on classroom effectiveness in theological education.
- Next, a faculty panel shows how they use Logos and other tools to enhance teaching, deepen biblical literacy, and foster spiritual growth in students.
- We'll close with a focused Logos training sessions you can apply immediately in your academic work.

## Morning Schedule

8:00–8:30 a.m.—Breakfast and networking

8:30–9:20 a.m.—Keynote with Dr. Ken Coley: Effective Teaching Strategies

9:20–10:00 a.m.—Panel: Equipping Students for Biblical Literacy and Spiritual Growth

10:00–10:15 a.m.—Break

10:15–11:00 a.m.—Training : Using Logos for Academic Research

Join for the keynote or stay for the full morning. RSVP by October 21—space is limited.

RSVP here: <https://www.bigmarker.com/logos/ets-sbl-reception>

Questions? Email Audrianna Cageao (Audrianna.Cageao@Logos.com) or visit the Logos booth.

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M21-110

**Hosted by:** Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies (LWTRS)

Theme: LWTRS Annual Gathering

Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies (LWTRS) gather annually for scholarship, worship, and friendship. All Lutheran women and nonbinary scholars in theology and religion are invited, including graduate students, those who teach or study at Lutheran institutions, and/or those who are rostered in the ELCA or ELCIC.

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P21-101

**Hosted by:** North American Paul Tillich Society

Theme: North American Paul Tillich Society Annual Meeting: Tillich and Nature

Friday, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Sheraton, Hampton (Third Floor)

Tillich & Nature

8:30–9:50: Mark Banas, Jari Ristiniemi, Kirk MacGregor

10:05–11:10: Sofia Loiacona, Timothy Hakler, Isabel Ovanesova

11:10–11:50: Ben Chicka

11:50–1: Board Meeting

1–2:45: Julius Trugenberger, Greylyn Hydinger, Matti Trimbath, Verna Ehret

3–4:20: Taeha An, David Odell-Scott, Ron Stone

4:30–5:35: Keynote

5:35–6: Business Meeting

6: Dinner

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P21-103

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Religion and Trauma: Pathways to Resilience, Hope, and Healing PAPER SESSION I-A

Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Zdravko Zack Plantak, presiding

## Papers

Keith A. Burton  
Living While Black: Toxic Triggers and Adventist Trauma

Alyssa Hislop  
Unsettling Truths and Exodus 20:22-26: An Appeal for more Trauma-Informed Approaches to Racial Reconciliation in Christianity

Elise Harboldt  
Bending Toward Justice: How Perceptions of Divine Justice Influence Trauma Recovery

James W. Walters, Loma Linda University  
Soul Trauma: The Plight of LGBTQ+ Members

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P21-104

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies  
Theme: Religion and Trauma: Pathways to Resilience, Hope, and Healing PAPER SESSION I-B  
Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 311 (Third Level)

Oleg Kostyuk, AdventHealth University, presiding

## Papers

Lisa Hermann, Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
The Healing of the Paralytic—A Case of Functional Neurologic Disorder?

Ernie Bursey, AdventHealth University  
Matthew's Directives for the Persecuted

Kayle de Waal, Trans-European Division  
A Mimetic and Trauma-Informed Perspective on the Fall of Babylon

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P21-105

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Religion and Trauma: Pathways to Resilience, Hope, and Healing PAPER SESSION I-C

Friday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 309 (Third Level)

## Papers

Petr Cincala, Andrews University

On Experiencing Religious Abuse and Trauma in the Church

Valentyna Kuryliak

Traumatization of Seventh-day Adventist Church Members in the Context of the War in Ukraine

Patrick Johnson, Trans-European Division

Health on the Margins: Minimizing the Trauma of Health Essentialism

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A21-102

**Hosted by:** Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Angela Parker, presiding

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A21-103

**Hosted by:** Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

This meeting is only for committee members and is closed to the public. If you have any questions about the committee or want to join the committee, please contact the committee chair K. Christine Pae at [paec@denison.edu](mailto:paec@denison.edu).

K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

### Panelist

Xochitl Alvizo

Ruth Amwe, Princeton Theological Seminary

Eleanor Craig, Emory University

Laura Nasrallah

Amy Elizabeth Steele

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A21-100

**Hosted by:** Academic Relations Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Russell T. McCutcheon, University of Alabama, presiding

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M21-102

**Hosted by:** CSEE, Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education

Theme: World Religion Teachers Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sheraton, Boylston (Third Floor)

This annual, one-day meeting brings together nationally recognized scholars and religion teachers from around North America to make contacts and hear about new developments in the study of the major religious traditions of the world. Scholars will share their latest research, and school teachers will share information about projects they are working on and classroom activities.

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A21-101

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: THATCamp

Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)



"Artificial Intelligence" is only the most recent (and most disruptive) example of digital technology that has and will transform how religious communities function. Digital technology has also changed how scholars teach and conduct research on religion. If you are interested in how technology is changing and will change our work, we invite you to THATCamp.

THATCamp is an unconference. This means learning and building occurs in hands-on workshops proposed by participants rather than formal presentations. Topics could include how to use AI in research or the classroom, digital research methods, web-based class assignments, etc. What are the implications of technology on our fields? How does digital scholarship fit into our domain of study? What are its professional implications? THATCamp is an open, welcoming environment for sharing and learning.

The cost for attending the unconference is \$15, which includes the entire day of sessions and a coffee break.

### **Panelist**

Adam Porter, Illinois College  
Randall Reed

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A21-107

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion and American Council of Learned Societies

Theme: Working Group on American Buddhism - Invitation Only

Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 208 (Second Level)

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P21-106

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion

Theme: Resituating Religious Studies

Friday, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

### **Panelist**

Gaudencia Mudada, University of Zimbabwe  
Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University  
Aidan Nuttall, University of Alabama  
William Underwood, Oberlin College & Conservatory  
Thomas Waldrup

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M21-104

**Hosted by:** De Gruyter Brill

Theme: De Gruyter Brill: EBR - General Board Meeting 1

Friday, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sheraton, Republic B (Second Floor)

De Gruyter Brill: General board meeting of the Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)  
9.30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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M21-111

**Hosted by:** Lutheran Scholars Network

Theme: Seeing, Embodying, and Performing Christ: Luther and Mystical Theology II

Friday, 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Sheraton, Clarendon (Third Floor)

Lutheran Scholars Network (LSN) is sponsoring this pre-AAR workshop on Luther and mysticism. Our focus is emerging scholarship, in particular: 1) Luther in view of medieval antecedents; 2) critical work on early 20th century connections to German nationalism; 3) ecumenical mysticism during times of crisis; 4) constructive spiritual and political practices. Keynotes by JT Paasch and Aristotle Papanikolaou.

The conference takes place on Thursday, Nov. 20 (4pm-7pm) and Friday, Nov. 21 (9:30am-5:30pm). All interested are invited; program will be sent to you when you send an email intent to participate to Christine Helmer: [c-helmer@northwestern.edu](mailto:c-helmer@northwestern.edu)

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A21-108

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Museums as Ritual Sites: Between Theory and Practice

Friday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Offsite

This year the volume *Museums as Ritual Sites. Civilizing Rituals Reconsidered* (Routledge 2025) was published. It critically celebrates the influential work done by Carol Duncan in *Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums* (Routledge 1995). This pre-conference workshop builds on the success of the new volume and invites participants to explore the ritual potential of

contemporary museums together. By considering the complex intersections of religion, diversity and inclusion, consumption, and tradition, participants will explore in situ how museums function as liminal zones in and of themselves, as well as within the broader societal context beyond museum walls. The aim of the workshop is to reinforce the importance of the connection between theory and practice in the study of religion in public spaces like museums. The workshop also offers the opportunity for scholars of all levels to engage with museum professionals and their views on religion and ritual in their professional practice.

Location: The Center for Netherlandish Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Lieke Wijnia, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam & University of Groningen, presiding

## Panelist

James Bielo

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P21-108

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Paper Session II-B - Theology After Trauma: Faith Seeking Healing

Friday, 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 311 (Third Level)

Tammy Wiese, University of St. Andrews, presiding

## Papers

Jacob Aguimesheo, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

Healing Through the Word: A Canonical Approach to Scripture as a Trauma Resource

James Wibberding, Pacific Union College

Sin, Authority, and Trauma

Cory Wetterlin, Kettering Health

Three-Phase Salvation from Suffering and Trauma

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P21-109

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Paper Session II-C - Forming Healers: Trauma-Informed Education and Ministry

Friday, 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 309 (Third Level)

## Papers

Solomon Appiah, Valley View University  
Wounded Healers: A Theological Exploration of the Effectiveness of Healing Ministries Among Previously Traumatized Pastoral Caregivers

Marla Nedelcu, AdventHealth University  
Training Healthcare Students for Resilience and Compassion in a Trauma-Informed Context: Case Studies from Teaching

Hebert Liessi, Northeast Brazil Adventist University  
Education as a Pathway to Healing and Identity Formation in University Students

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P21-107

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Religion and Trauma: Pathways to Resilience, Hope, and Healing PAPER SESSION II-A  
Religion and Trauma in Acts and Pauline Literature

Friday, 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Rodney Palmer, Andrews University, presiding

## Papers

Eike Mueller, Newbold College  
Abandoned by Jesus: The Trauma of Jesus' Ascension

Jonathan Campbell, Burman University  
Found Families: "Confessional Communities" in the Early Christian Movement

John McVay, Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Paul's Advice to Wives and Husbands (Ephesians 5:21–33) and the Trauma of Slavery

M21-109

**Hosted by:** Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

Theme: Session 1: Women, Gender, and Freedom: Texts to Contemporary Contexts

Friday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

This interdisciplinary panel investigates the evolving conceptions of women, gender, and freedom through literary, philosophical, and performative traditions across four major Dharma traditions: Jainism, Sikhism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The selected papers draw from a rich archive of premodern and early modern texts, artistic representations, devotional narratives, and vernacular poetics to interrogate the layered and context-dependent meanings of gendered agency and religious identity. The panel asks: How have Dharma traditions historically framed questions of gender and freedom? In what ways do women-centered narratives offer models for ethical, emotional, or spiritual liberation? And how do these frameworks respond to or complicate contemporary understandings of self, body, and community? In sum, this panel seeks to meaningfully engage ongoing scholarly conversations on gender and freedom by centering the roles, voices, and interpretive agency of women within diverse Dharma traditions. Through a comparative lens, the panel not only facilitates interreligious dialogue but also invites a critical reexamination of received narratives concerning freedom, ethics, and spiritual authority. By bringing Jain, Sikh, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions into sustained conversation, this panel offers new insights into the historically situated and evolving expressions of gendered religiosity.

Shivani Bothra, California State University, Long Beach, presiding

## Papers

Nikky Singh, Colby College

Women, Gender, And Freedom: Premodern Stories for Modern Times

Justin Henry, University of South Florida

Echoes of Sri Lanka's Lion Rock: The Monks, Nuns, and Divine Damsels of the Sigiri Graffiti

Rodney Sebastian, St. Jude's University

Intersections of Gender and Devotion: Sija Laiobi and The Role of Women in Manipuri Devotional Arts

Venu Mehta, Claremont School of Theology

Winning a Kingdom with Seven 'koḍīs': Emotions, Ethics, Freedom, and Gender in the Jain Narrative of Surasundarīno Rās

A21-104

**Hosted by:** Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary, presiding

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A21-105

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Media and Religion: Counter-Media and Resistance

Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This pre-conference workshop will explore the potential for resistance within certain media forms, specifically exploring how religious and spiritual communities engage with media as a way to counter dominant discourses. These counter-voices may be speaking against injustices within religious institutions or working to dismantle larger systems of oppression in society. The structure of the workshop will include 2-3 keynote presentations from scholars who are working on research in the area of counter-media, resistance, and religion. Following the keynote presentations, participants will engage in roundtable discussions about the presentations, their own research interests, and theories discussed in a selection of assigned readings. This workshop will be ideal for participants interested in activism within religious communities, alternative media forms, and theories around resistance and media.

Kristin Peterson, presiding

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A21-106

**Hosted by:** Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

Melissa M. Wilcox, University of California, Riverside, presiding

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M21-107

**Hosted by:** Hispanic Theological Initiative

Theme: Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium - Member Council Meeting (Private)  
Friday, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom CD (Fourth Floor)

Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium - Member Council Meeting (Private) - 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

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M21-106

**Hosted by:** De Gruyter Brill  
Theme: De Gruyter Brill: EBR - General Board Meeting 2  
Friday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

De Gruyter Brill: General board meeting of the Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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P21-102

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies  
Theme: Business Session II  
Friday, 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 311 (Third Level)

ASRS Business Session II

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M21-108

**Hosted by:** Manchester Wesley Research Centre  
Theme: Individuals and Institutions: Intersections of Gender, Culture and Historiography  
Friday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Theme: **Individuals and Institutions: Intersections of Gender, Culture and Historiography**

Presiding: Geordan Hammond, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

1. Emily Nelms Chastain, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

"Institutional Gatekeeping and Gendered Agency: How American Methodist Women Navigated Ecclesial Patriarchy, 1880–1980."

1. David Bundy, Manchester Wesley Research Centre.

"Gender and Institutional Development in a Holiness Church: The Case of Helen Isabel Root (1873-1945), Free Methodist."

1. Michèle Sigg, Boston University.

"The Individual in the New Historiography of World Christianity: Methodological Reflections on the Use of Biography in African Christian History"

1. Stephen Wright, Manchester Wesley Research Centre, Nazarene Theological College

"Sometimes the Heart is Dry": Petitionary Prayer in Julian of Norwich and Origen of Alexandria"

Geordan Hammond, Emory University, presiding

## Papers

Emily Nelms Chastain

Institutional Gatekeeping and Gendered Agency: How American Methodist Women Navigated Ecclesial Patriarchy, 1880–1980

David Bundy, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

Gender and Institutional Development in a Holiness Church: The Case of Helen Isabel Root (1873-1945), Free Methodist

M. Sigg, Boston University

The Individual in the New Historiography of World Christianity: Methodological Reflections on the Use of Biography in African Christian History

Stephen Wright, Nazarene Theological College

Sometimes the Heart is Dry": Petitionary Prayer in Julian of Norwich and Origen of Alexandria



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P21-200

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Plenary Session II - Religion and Trauma: Pathways to Resilience, Hope, and Healing

Friday, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Plenary Session II

Presiding: Katrina Blue, Pacific Union College

Plenary Presentation #1: The Trauma of Public Shaming in Early Adventism

Denis Fortin, Andrews University

Plenary Presentation #2: Trauma and Testimony: A Case Study

Gilbert Valentine, La Sierra University and Avondale University

Discussion (15 min)

Katrina Blue, Pacific Union College, presiding

### **Panelist**

Denis Fortin, Andrews University

Gilbert Valentine, La Sierra University

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A21-200

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Developing Guidelines for Ethical Hiring, Equitable Assignment and Effective Evaluation of Contingent Faculty in Religion Departments

Friday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This workshop brings together contingent faculty, administrators, and department leaders to explore ethical and equitable practices in hiring, evaluating, and supporting non-tenure-track faculty in the study of religion. As academic institutions increasingly rely on contingent labor, this session addresses urgent questions around fair treatment, transparency, and inclusion — especially for minoritized scholars and marginalized scholarship.

Participants will examine existing guidelines, share experiences, and collaboratively draft recommendations on topics such as equitable hiring, minimum standards of support, transparent communication, and inclusive peer review. Outcomes from the workshop will help inform a set of guidelines for consideration by the AAR Board, with the goal of promoting more just and sustainable academic structures.

Patrick Reyes, presiding  
Minjung Noh, Lehigh University, presiding

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A21-203

**Hosted by:** Regional Council  
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Matthew Vaughan, Columbia University, presiding

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A21-201

**Hosted by:** Applied Religious Studies Committee  
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

Molly Bassett, Georgia State University, presiding

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A21-202

**Hosted by:** Graduate Student Committee  
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Ristina Gooden, Vanderbilt University, presiding

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M21-200

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research  
Theme: IBR Board Meeting  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Independence B (Fourth Floor)

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P21-205

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion  
Theme: Relational Forms  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

### **Panelist**

Rachel Schwaller  
Sam Calderwood, Washburn University  
Isaiah Ellis, Southern Methodist University  
Mitsutoshi Horii

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**Hosted by:** Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit  
Theme: AAR Womanist Ingathering 2025  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 304 (Third Level)

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P21-201

**Hosted by:** Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship  
Theme: Annual Meeting of the Thomas F Torrance Theological Fellowship  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 104 (Plaza Level)

The Annual Meeting of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship invites all scholars to the presentation of papers and extended discussion and fellowship. Presentations by Prof Tom Greggs, Dr Scott Harrower, and Dr Myk Habets will be followed by extensive time for discussion. This year's theme is pneumatology. All welcome.

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M21-201

**Hosted by:** Arts of Interpretation  
Theme: Arts of Interpretation  
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Offsite

Arts of Interpretation

Tozzer Room #203, 21 Divinity Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138

1:30-2:30 pm: The Legacy of Charles H. Long

Presenters: David Carrasco & Raymond Carr

3-4:30 pm: How & Why White Supremacy Persists

Contact: Philip P. Arnold, [pparnold@syr.edu](mailto:pparnold@syr.edu)

Open to all AAR & SBL members

The phenomenon of religion is exerting a critical role in the world. Our times require more robust religion theory. The tradition of the history of religions, as articulated by Charles Long, urges us to take religious phenomenology seriously. While the academy has spent years discounting and dismissing history of religions this panel investigates its continued relevance. Long foresaw how religion is integral to nation states and the rise of authoritarianism as an extension of colonialism as a context for cultural contact and erasure. There's an urgency today for returning to Long's critical theoretical framework from various perspectives with renewed vigor and creativity.

Adam Brett, Syracuse University, presiding

### **Panelist**

David Carrasco, Harvard University

Raymond Carr

Philip P. Arnold, Syracuse University

Natalie Avalos, University of Colorado, Boulder

Teresa Smallwood

Emilie M. Townes, Vanderbilt University

Corey D. B. Walker, Winston Salem State University

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M21-202

**Hosted by:** The Society for Post-Supersessionist Theology

Theme: Doing Post-Supersessionist Theology

Friday, 1:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 111 (Plaza Level)

### **Papers**

Edwin Chr. Van Driel, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
On Incarnation and Family: Supralapsarian Christological Resources for a Post-Supersessionist Theology

Collin Cornell  
Challenging Israel-Obsolescence in Biblical Theology

## **Respondent**

Alan Brill, Seton Hall University

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P21-202

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Paper Session IV-A: Trauma, Justice, and the Margins of Faith Presiding: Zdravko

Plantak, Loma Linda University

Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Zdravko Zack Plantak, presiding

## **Papers**

Keith A. Burton

Living While Black: Toxic Triggers and Adventist Trauma

Alyssa Hislop

Unsettling Truths and Exodus 20:22-26: An Appeal for more Trauma-Informed Approaches to Racial Reconciliation in Christianity

Elise Harboldt

Bending Toward Justice: How Perceptions of Divine Justice Influence

James W. Walters, Loma Linda University

Soul Trauma: The Plight of LGBTQ+ Members

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P21-203

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Paper Session IV-B - Apocalypse and Affliction: Trauma and the End of Things  
Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 309 (Third Level)

## Papers

Filipe Masotti, Latin-American Seventh-day Adventist Seminary at Adventist College of Paraná  
Eschatological Existence and Trauma: Zechariah 9–14 and the Reconstruction of Judah's  
Shattered Symbolic Universe

Jan Sigvartsen, Andrews University  
Trauma and Moral Injury as Catalysts Driving Theology

Mot Laurentiu-Florentin, Adventus University in Romania  
The Post-Eschatological Therapeia of the Nations Through the Leaves of the Tree of Life (Rev  
22:2)

Laura Wibberding, Pacific Union College  
Everyone's Dying and the World is Ending: the 1850s Review Deaths and Eschatology

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P21-204

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Paper Session IV-C: Healing the Wounded: Trauma-Informed Ministry in Action

Presiding: Esther Green, Andrews University

Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 306 (Third Level)

Esther Green, Andrews University, presiding

## Papers

Duane Covrig, Kettering Health  
Suffering within Anointing for Ministry: Pain & Comfort in Biblical Leadership

Seth Pierce  
The Exorcist and Peter Pan: How Satanic Panic Tropes Haunt Adventist Deliverance Ministries  
and Contribute to Religious Trauma

Christie Chui-Shan Chow, Princeton Theological Seminary

Faith, Mission, & Transformation: Li Weisan's Aesthetic Expression of SDA's Historical Trauma in China

Sean Facchinello, Federal Bureau of Prisons, FCI Big Spring, Texas  
Trauma and the Benefits of Resilient Recovery for the Incarcerated

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M21-204

**Hosted by:** Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

Theme: Session 2: Compassion as a Path to Freedom

Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

This panel will explore the central role of compassion in both theory and practice in the Dharma traditions, with specific focus on Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Hinduism. Across these diverse spiritual paths, compassion is not only a virtue but also a transformative practice that shapes the way practitioners engage with themselves, others, and the world as they pursue liberation. Scholars will elucidate the unique expressions of compassion within each tradition, examining how compassion serves as a path to spiritual freedom, liberation, social harmony, and ethical living. The panel will highlight the philosophical underpinnings, practical applications, and transformative power of compassion as taught in each tradition, while demonstrating their applicability in contemporary society.

Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology / University of Zurich, presiding

## Papers

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside  
Between Entanglement and Enlightenment: Rethinking Compassion in Jain and Buddhist Thought

Nirinjan Khalsa, Loyola Marymount University  
Cultivating Compassionate Courage as Sage Warriors

Eileen Goddard, University of California, Santa Barbara  
The Interweaving of Cosmology, Soteriology and Compassion in the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Tradition

Kusumita P. Pedersen, St. Francis College (Professor Emeritus)  
Swami Vivekananda on Liberation, Compassion and Love

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A21-204

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Talking Repro with Reporters: A Media Training for Scholars of Abortion and Religion

Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

Join a reproductive rights activist and strategic communications expert for an interactive media training for scholars of religion and abortion. Participants will learn practical strategies for interacting with journalists, including vetting media requests, understanding reporter terminology, preparing for interviews, and developing compelling messaging that communicates the complexity of your research. By analyzing interview clips and conducting interview practice sessions, attendees will refine their ability to reach diverse audiences through prepared remarks, video interviews, and audio-only conversations. While the workshop will be most helpful for scholars studying reproductive rights, it will also illuminate strategies for discussing politically charged topics while maintaining nuance and academic integrity. Participants will leave with concrete tools to confidently engage with media outlets and contribute meaningfully to public discourse on the intersection of religion and reproductive rights.

Kate Hoeting, Catholics for Choice, presiding

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A21-205

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Teaching with Grace: Trauma-Informed Education in Theology and Religious Studies

Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)

This interactive workshop, led by a multiethnic and multicultural team of three generations of scholars, aims to provide theoretical, practical, and pedagogical insight into teaching theology and religion in a trauma-informed manner. The tools and insights are deduced from an original qualitative research project that interviewed student and faculty at an R1 divinity school to learn about their experiences regarding trauma in the learning environment. Aspects of trauma-informed teaching will be modeled through the format of the workshop. Presenters will create a space for attendees to consider how trauma-informed teaching suggestions might be contextualized for their institution.

Hannah Sutton-Adams, presiding

**Panelist**



Jan Holton  
Frédérique Ndatirwa, Duke Divinity School

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M21-203

**Hosted by:** Association for Interreligious/Interfaith Studies

Theme: “Doing Dialogue Across Religious Differences Now”: Panel Discussion, Followed by Small Group Dialogues

Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Sheraton, Commonwealth (Third Floor)

This session begins with a panel bringing together scholars publishing on dialogue to discuss the possibilities and challenges for forging fresh conversations across religious differences in this difficult historical moment. Drawing on their distinct disciplinary approaches, the panelists' research and practice dialogue in a variety of contexts, including higher education, community groups, inter- and intra-religious organizations, and publicly funded programs. The panel discussion will be facilitated around a set of questions inviting conversation between panelists about what they have been learning about dialogue and the insights as well as questions they have about how to do dialogue across religious differences now.

Building on the panel discussion, the second half of this event will invite everyone to participate in structured, small-group dialogues about the possibilities and challenges people are experiencing as scholars, educators, activists, or individuals engaging across religious differences in today's environment.

Register for this event at: [aiistudies.org](http://aiistudies.org)

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M21-300

**Hosted by:** University of Notre Dame Australia

Theme: Biohacking and Meaning-Making Roundtable

Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, North Star (Seventh Floor)

Anthropologists, sociologists, theologians, and religious studies scholars together reflect on how biohacking, a DIY approach to augmenting the human body and mind (including DIYbio, spiritual augmentation, health and wellness optimisation, and technological futurism) relates to broader questions of meaning, purpose and spirituality.

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A21-206

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Centers for Religion and Public Life Workshop

Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

This workshop is for anyone who is involved in (or interested in being involved in) programs/centers/institutes or initiatives related to religion and public life. It offers:

- insights into the 'state of the field' with established and emerging leaders working in a diversity of institutions
- networking, dialoguing, and peer-resourcing opportunities for anyone involved in leading or supporting an institute, center, or program that engages with religion in public life.
- discussion of critical topics relevant to religion and public life, both substantively and practically
- resources on public scholarship, public programming, funding, and building institutional infrastructure for research, teaching, and other initiatives
- support for all stages of leadership, including early-career and non-traditional

This is an ongoing venue to share best practices, pool ideas, and develop collaborations.

Rachel Schneider, Rice University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Rachel Schneider, Rice University

Joseph Tucker Edmonds, Indiana University, Indianapolis

Elaine Howard Ecklund

Justine Ellis

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A21-207

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Interactive Qualitative Research Workshop: Challenging Extractivist Praxis in Ethnographic Theologies and Qualitative Research

Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

This workshop will support theological researchers to assess themes of power, reflexivity, agency, and accountability in their qualitative and ethnographic research projects. Writers, artists, students, instructors, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds are invited to explore strategies that challenge extractivist postures in ethnographic theology and qualitative research methods. Extractivist approaches foreground non-reciprocal knowledge acquisition that offers

little to no benefit to those communities who are subjects of and/or partners in research and to the contexts from which academic and practical knowledge is mined. The workshop features interactive and small and large group discussions and foregrounds the conference theme of freedom by querying dynamics of ownership, access, interpretation and the afterlives of projects in ethnographic theological research as well as other relevant ecclesial and academic contexts such as conferences, classrooms, and congregations.

Kathryn House, presiding

Rachelle Green, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, presiding

## **Panelist**

Sarah Farmer, Indiana Wesleyan University

Adam Robersmith

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology

Amy Levad

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A21-305

**Hosted by:** Publications Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, Hamilton College, presiding

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A21-300

**Hosted by:** Committee on Teaching and Learning

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

Nichole Phillips, Emory University, presiding

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A21-302

**Hosted by:** International Connections Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Sigridur Gudmarsdottir, VID Specialized University, presiding

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A21-303

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Creating Public Scholarship Through Podcasting and Other Media

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

This podcast workshop is designed for religion scholars interested in exploring the growing role of audio media in academic and pedagogical contexts. Participants will gain an understanding of foundational skills necessary to launch and maintain a podcast, including scripting, recording, editing, and publishing. In addition to hands-on training, the workshop will offer critical insight into the evolving pedagogical landscape, examining how podcasts can be used as powerful tools for teaching, public scholarship, and engagement beyond the classroom. Whether you're looking to integrate podcasts into your curriculum or launch your own scholarly series, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to get started.

Brought to you by the co-hosts of Straight White American Jesus (SWAJ), Dr. Bradley Onishi and Dr. Daniel Miller. SWAJ is downloaded 3 million times per year and has been assigned in courses at dozens of universities across the world. Joining Brad and Dan will be Dr. Leah Payne, creator of the award-winning PRX podcast Rock That Doesn't Roll and Spirit and Power: Charismatics and Politics in American Public Life.

Bradley Onishi, Skidmore College, presiding

Daniel Miller, Landmark College, presiding

### **Panelist**

Leah Payne

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M21-302

**Hosted by:** Raimon Panikkar Consultation Group

Theme: Panikkar in Dialogue

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, presiding

## Papers

Rita Grassi

Raimon Panikkar's Academic Contribution to Religious Studies: The Intercultural Method as a Way Towards Peace

Jizhang Yi, University of Toronto

Dialogical Dialogue and Comparative Theology: A Kierkegaardian Perspective

Shruti Dixit, University of St Andrews

Vāc and the Taoist Feminine: A Hindu-Taoist Dialogue with Raimon Panikkar

Nemo Castelli Galecio, Trinity College Dublin

Is Option for the Poor an option? One of Panikkar's approaches to Liberation Theology

Andrew Thrasher, University of Birmingham

Methodological Pluralism and Interreligious Christianness

Aizaiah Yong

Listening at the River: Hildegard, Panikkar, and Contemplative Transformation

## Respondent

Young-chan Ro, George Mason University

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A21-304

**Hosted by:** Pre-Conference Workshops

Theme: Advancing Access: Disability and Solidarity in Teaching

Friday, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

During this workshop, participants will explore a diversity of teaching practices, strategies, and activities that enable more accessible pedagogy through inclusive ways of being and thinking. The workshop includes a series of lightning talks on various issues and approaches related to access and disability within contexts of religious studies and theological education. Participants are invited to bring their own teaching materials (syllabi, learning activities, assessments, etc.) to this workshop. With these materials, participants will work in two distinct small groups to identify salient areas for new perspectives and change.

Sarah Jean Barton, Duke University, presiding

Audrey Seah, College of the Holy Cross, presiding

### **Panelist**

Heike Peckruhn, Eastern Mennonite University

Kirk VanGilder, Gallaudet University

Meghan Henning, University of Dayton

Jana Bennett, University of Dayton

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P21-300

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Plenary Session III Presiding: Zdravko Plantak, Loma Linda University

Friday, 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

Plenary Session III

Presiding: Zdravko Plantak, Loma Linda University

Plenary Presentation #1: Oppressing Women in God's Name: Who Has the Final Say?

Pilira Zapita, Newbold College

Plenary Presentation #2: Only the Suffering God Can Help": Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

Vulnerability, and a Theological Ethics of Trauma

Jeffrey Gang, Loma Linda University

Zack Plantak, Loma Linda University, presiding

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P21-302

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion

Theme: Political Imaginaries

Friday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

### **Panelist**

Ross Moret, Florida State University

Thomas Carrico, Independent Scholar

Ridhima Sharma, University of Toronto

Carlos Ruiz Martinez, University of Iowa

Shamim Hossain, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

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A21-306

**Hosted by:** Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: Pre-Conference Workshop: "Reimagining Hope: Finding Ways Forward in Challenging Times"

Friday, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

The Psychology, Culture, and Religion (PCR) Unit is offering the pre-conference workshop titled "Reimagining Hope: Finding Ways Forward in Challenging Times." This interactive workshop will focus on both theologies of hope and empirical psychological science research on the nature of hope and its function in people's lives. It will be facilitated by Dr. Barbara McClure, the Christie Cozad Neuger Professor in Pastoral Theology and Practice at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University.

Barbara McClure, presiding

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M21-304

**Hosted by:** Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

Theme: Session 3: Perspective and Choice

Friday, 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

The goal of the panel, "Perspective and Choice," is to examine the relationship between perception as a cognitive episode and freedom, or the way in which one can choose to see reality in some way or another. We want to bring the resources of dharma traditions to discussion in philosophy such as epistemology and the psychology of perception, showing how language, concepts, ideas, etc. construct the phenomenon within the individual.

Stephanie Corigliano, Humboldt State University, presiding

## Papers

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington

Freedom and Self-Formation: Rethinking Autonomy through the Swaminarayan Hindu Tradition

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno

Attention to Plural Perspectives: A Gandhian Way for Religious Freedom and Interfaith Harmony

Raja Rosenhagen, California State University, Fresno  
The Jain Doctrine of nayavada: A Perspectivalist Reading

Jonathan Edelmann, International Society for Science and Religion  
Jiva Gosvamin on Perception and Freedom: Objective Perspectivalism and Choice

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A21-307

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion  
Theme: AAR Board of Directors Closed Committee Meeting  
Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding  
Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M21-303

**Hosted by:** Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network  
Theme: Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network Annual Meeting  
Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Offsite

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P21-301

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies  
Theme: Sectional Meetings by Discipline  
Friday, 4:15 PM - 5:45 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

16:15-17:15 Sectional Meetings by Discipline

- Christian Theology and History: Martin Hanna, Andrews University
- New Testament: tbc
- Old Testament: tbc
- Philosophy and Ethics: Zane Yi, Loma Linda University
- Practical Theology: Dan Serb, Newbold College
- World Religions/Missiology: John Jones, La Sierra University

17:15-17:45 Additional Sectional Meetings



- Black Theology Group: Olive Hemmings, Washington Adventist University
- Women in Theology Group: Lena Toews, Union Adventist University

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P21-402

**Hosted by:** Karl Barth Society of North America

Theme: Karl Barth and Black Theology: Retrospect and Prospect

Friday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

This session interrogates the relationship between the work of Karl Barth and thinkers in the sphere of Black Theology. The panelists will look backward and forward, reflecting on key moments in years gone by and thinking generatively about scholarship in Barth studies and Black Theology in the years to come.

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City, presiding

## Papers

Brandon Watson, University of Münster

Toward Revolutionary Permanence: Assessing The Barthian Roots in Paul Lehmann and James Cone

Jason Evans, Princeton Theological Seminary

What's the Use? A Black Queer (Critical) Appreciation of Karl Barth

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M21-401

Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons

**Hosted by:** Stone-Campbell Journal

Theme: Stone-Campbell Journal Reception

Friday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

A CONVERSATION ABOUT 1 TIMOTHY

James Sedlacek and Christopher Hutson

SCJ invites friends and colleagues from all streams who identify with the Stone-Campbell

Movement tradition for fellowship, light refreshments, and interesting conversation. For additional information contact William Baker (scjeditor@aol.com)

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M21-400

**Hosted by:** Rhodes College and Institute of Buddhist Studies

Theme: Book Launch Oxford Handbook of Lived Buddhism

Friday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sheraton, Public Garden (Fifth Floor)

Join us for a celebratory book launch of The Oxford Handbook of Lived Buddhism. Authors from this volume will speak on the case studies they provide in the handbook, plus ways their work can be utilized in the classroom. Meant for students at all levels, the Handbook of Lived Buddhism provides instructors and students diverse circumstances of Buddhism lived and practiced across cultural contexts, to deepen the engagement and study of Buddhism as a lived religion. This roundtable discussion will highlight many of the chapters within the volume, to offer a preview of the work for scholars, educators, and students.

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P21-400

**Hosted by:** Søren Kierkegaard Society

Theme: Søren Kierkegaard Society Banquet

Friday, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Offsite

Distinguished Speaker: Gordon Marino, Professor Emeritus St. Olaf College

Reading and Re-reading Kierkegaard on the Stages of My Life's Way

This year's banquet will take place at Democracy Brewing. Dr. Marino's talk will begin at 5:30 PM and be followed by dinner. To register for this event please go to <https://kierkegaardsocietyusa.com/> or contact the Society's Treasurer, Joseph Westfall, at [westfallj@uhd.edu](mailto:westfallj@uhd.edu).

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M21-403

**Hosted by:** Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

Theme: Session 4: Annual DANAM Book Award and Keynote Address

Friday, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

Dr Adarsh Deepak Memorial Book Award,  
Hindu and Catholic, Priest and Scholar: A Love Story, Francis X. Clooney, T&T Clark, 2024.  
This autobiography traces Francis X. Clooney's intellectual and spiritual journey from middle-class American Catholicism to a lifelong study of Hinduism. It explains how he became interested in learning from Hinduism more than 50 years ago, and how professionally he came to fashion comparative theology as a way of learning interreligiously that is boldly intellectual and deep personal and practical. His strong commitment to Hindu-Catholic learning is lived out in intersections of his roles as theologian and scholar of Hinduism, as a professor and practicing Catholic priest, and even now in his role as Parkman Professor of Divinity, Harvard University.

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno, presiding

### Panelist

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University

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A21-401/S21-313

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Board/Council Reception

Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 200 (Second Level)

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A21-400

**Hosted by:** Journal of the American Academy of Religion (JAAR)

Theme: Closed Editorial Board Meeting

Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

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Andrea Jain, Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis, presiding

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P21-401

**Hosted by:** Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc.

Theme: Feminist Studies in Religion Joint Unit Board Meeting

Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boston University (Third Floor)

This is a joint meeting for all unit advisory and editorial boards of Feminist Studies in Religion (FSR), including board members of the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion (JFSR), eFSR/Blog, and the LAB (CoLaboratory). We will gather to meet each other, share ideas and concerns, and plan for the future. This is a closed meeting for FSR unit board members.

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M21-410

**Hosted by:** The John, Jesus, and History Project

Theme: John, Jesus, and History, Volumes 4 and 5--An Overview

Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 202 (Second Level)

This session will feature an overview of the sixty newly published essays in the central SBL series the John, Jesus, and History Project (ECL):

JJH 4--Jesus Remembered in the Johannine Situation:

--Early, Middle, Late, Post A and B

JJH 5--Jesus Remembered Among the Gospels:

John and Mark, John and Matthew, John and Luke, John and Q/double tradition

Brief discussion will follow each of the volume overviews.

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M21-506

**Hosted by:** Hymn Society in the United States and Canada

Theme: Hymn Festival

Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Offsite

Join The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada at historic Old South Church (home church of Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, and William Billings) for an evening of singing. There will be a variety of genres (organ, guitar, a capella...) and a variety of leaders from local organists to nationally recognized song leaders.

Time & Location: 7PM to 8:30PM at Old South Church, 645 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116

Cost: This event is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will go to support the scholarship programs of the local American Guild of Organists Chapter and The Hymn Society.

Contact Dr. Stephanie Budwey for more information: [stephanie.a.budwey@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stephanie.a.budwey@vanderbilt.edu)

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M21-501

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research

Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Annual Lecture

Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, America North and Center (Fourth Floor)

Institute for Biblical Research Annual Lecture

Ellen Davis, "A Path through the Wilderness: Tracing the Covenantal Economics of Psalms"

Mark Boda and Brent Strawn, Respondents

All are welcome.

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M21-502

**Hosted by:** Mennonite Scholars and Friends

Theme: The Anabaptist Theological Tradition at 500: Toward an Antiracist Future

Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

Mennonite Scholars and Friends welcome Drew Hart (Messiah University) to reflect on the Anabaptist theological tradition's past, present, and future in its 500th anniversary year. Hart will draw on themes from his new book, *Making It Plain: Why We Need Anabaptism and the Black Church* (Herald Press 2025), to outline possibilities for an antiracist and decolonial form of Christian faith. Janna Hunter Bowman (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary), Dennis Edwards (North Park Theological Seminary), and Laura Schmidt Roberts (Fresno Pacific University) will offer responses. A reception will follow.

Drew Hart, presiding

## **Respondent**

Janna Hunter-Bowman

Dennis Edwards, North Park Theological Seminary

Laura Schmidt Roberts, Fresno Pacific University

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P21-500

Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons

**Hosted by:** Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc.

Theme: Feminist Studies in Religion Reception

Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

Please join us for a reception to meet with members of Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc. (FSR), learn about its work and how to be involved, and gather with others interested in feminist studies in religion.

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M21-500

**Hosted by:** Evangelical Philosophical Society  
Theme: Has God Been Found? Panel Discussion  
Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM  
Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

Panel discussion of *Has God Been Found?*, ed. Adam Johnson (Wm. B. Eerdmans, forthcoming), a transcript of a debate between Adam Johnson and Dan Barker with essays by Paul Copan, Dolores Morris, Rob Koons, Alex Malpass, Dan Linford, Robin Collins, Philip Goff, Joshua Rasmussen, Ben Watkins, David Enoch, David Baggett, Andrew Drinkard, Joseph Folley, and Joe Schmid in which they respond to issues raised in the debate. In this panel six of the authors from the book will present portions from their chapters.

Moderator: Andrew Drinkard, Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Panelists:

Adam Lloyd Johnson, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dan Barker, Freedom from Religion Foundation.

Paul Copan, Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Dan Linford, independent philosopher specializing in philosophy of physics and philosophy of religion.

Robert Koons – University of Texas, Austin.

Benjamin Watkins, Nuclear Engineer, United States Navy and host of Real Atheology: A Philosophy of Religion Podcast.

Andrew Drinkard, Palm Beach Atlantic University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Adam Johnson, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Dan Barker, Freedom from Religion Foundation

Paul Copan, Palm Beach Atlantic University

Dan Linford, Independent Scholar

Robert Koons, University of Texas, Austin

Benjamin Watkins, Benjamin Watkins, United States Navy, Host of Real Atheology: A Philosophy of Religion Podcast.

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M21-505

**Hosted by:** Unitarian Universalist Scholars and Friends

Theme: Unitarian Universalism, Boston, and the Spirit of Revolution

Friday, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Offsite

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M21-504

Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons

**Hosted by:** Mennonite Scholars and Friends

Theme: Mennonite Scholars and Friends Reception

Friday, 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

Please join us for the 2025 Mennonite Scholars and Friends reception. The reception will follow a session featuring a keynote presentation by Drew Hart and responses by Janna Hunter Bowman, Dennis Edwards, and Laura Schmidt Roberts.

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M21-503

Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research

Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Reception

Friday, 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, America South (Fourth Floor)

Institute for Biblical Research Dessert Reception

The annual reception, following the IBR Annual Lecture, is generously sponsored by Zondervan.

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## Saturday November 22

M22-101

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research  
Theme: IBR Women Scholars Breakfast  
Saturday, 7:00 AM - 8:45 AM  
Westin Copley Place, America South (Fourth Floor)

IBR Women Scholars Breakfast

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M22-110

**Hosted by:** Council on Graduate Studies in Religion  
Theme: Council on Graduate Studies in Religion - Annual Meeting  
Saturday, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 306 (Third Level)

CGSR Annual meeting for member schools. Breakfast will be provided.

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M22-111

**Hosted by:** Columbia Theological Seminary  
Theme: Columbia Theological Seminary Alumni, Faculty & Friends Breakfast  
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

Join us for a joyful gathering of Columbia Theological Seminary alums, pastors, scholars, and friends. Enjoy fellowship, re-engagement, and celebration as Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr. shares bold initiatives shaping Columbia's future. Meet our esteemed faculty, and celebrate the depth and breadth of theological inquiry emerging from Columbia's vibrant academic community. Start your day inspired and nourished, and be part of this joyful occasion as we prepare to enter Columbia's third century of theological education and faith formation!

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P22-100

**Hosted by:** Society for Hindu-Christian Studies  
Theme: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  
Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

Society of Hindu-Christian Studies Board of Directors Meeting



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M22-102

**Hosted by:** The Bible Translator

Theme: The Bible Translator: editorial board meeting

Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Sheraton, Marlborough (Third Floor)

The annual meeting of the Editorial Board of The Bible Translator journal  
(<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/tbt>).

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A22-101

**Hosted by:** Academic Relations Committee

Theme: Department Chairs Breakfast

Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding  
Russell T. McCutcheon, University of Alabama, presiding

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A22-100

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: New Member Breakfast

Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)

New AAR members are welcome to join AAR leadership to learn more about AAR benefits and how to navigate the annual meeting, while networking with colleagues.

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding  
Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M22-513

**Hosted by:** Pan Lutheran Cocktail Hour

Theme: Pan Lutheran Cocktail Hour

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom AB (Fourth Floor)

A time for Lutherans of any synod and friends of Lutherans to come together in the spirit of table talk to find what binds us in faith and what we have to learn from each other. The topic will be the power of words in Lutheran theology and how this inspires us as teachers and preachers. Co sponsored by Journal of Lutheran Ethics, Revs Drs Albert “Pete” Pero, jr and Cheryl Stewart Pero Center on Intersectionality Studies at LSTC, and Christ School of Theology, ILT.

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P22-113

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

Theme: Meeting this Moment: Advice for Handling Difficult Topics in the Classroom and Navigating Challenging Institutional Environments

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Empire (Seventh Floor)

This Society for the Study of Japanese Religions roundtable is centered on two aspects of our profession that, while evergreen, have become more salient in recent days: (1) best practices for teaching difficult topics in the classroom and (2) strategies for navigating challenging institutional environments, particularly those hostile to our field. In this time of crisis within American higher education, four faculty representing different regions of the country, institutional types, stages in their careers, and subject expertise will share their experience before opening up to questions and dialogue with attendees. This will be a place for collective brainstorming about how best to meet this moment, and although the panelists are all connected to the field of Japanese religious studies, much of what we discuss will be broadly relevant to many outside our field. All are welcome to learn and share.

Victoria Montrose, Furman University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Stephen G. Covell

Takashi Miura, University of Arizona

Emily Simpson, University of California, Santa Barbara

John A. Tucker, East Carolina University

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P22-112

**Hosted by:** Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

Theme: Roundtable on God at Play: Lila in Hindu and Christian Traditions edited by Daniel Soars

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

The first comparative treatment of the topic of *līlā* in Hindu and Christian traditions, this volume explores what it means to consider divine and human action under the categories of play, wit, drama, grace, and compassion. *God at Play* presents a theological exploration of the multifaceted motif of *līlā* across diverse Hindu and Christian landscapes and its wide-ranging connections to divine and human creativity. Given its ubiquity in Hindu theologies and life-forms, *līlā* offers a rich comparative framework for exploring certain ways of understanding divine and human action as expressed in Hindu and Christian sacred texts, philosophical theology, and ritual practices. This session will be followed by a half hour Business Meeting of the Society for Hindu Christian Studies.

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University, presiding

### Panelist

Rachel Fell McDermott  
Sahaj Patel  
Sucharita Adluri  
Chad Bauman

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M22-108

**Hosted by:** Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)

Theme: Session 5: DANAM Annual Book Review Panel: Theodor, Ithamar, *The Philosophy of the Bhagavad-Gita*, Cambridge University Press, 2025

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

The Bhagavad-gītā is a world classic considered not only the "Hindu Bible" but sometimes the "Indian Bible" as well. Over the last 200 years or so, it has attracted much Indological attention; the present work continues this Indological scholarship, and particularly the works of R.C. Zaehner (OUP 1969) and Angelika Malinar (CUP 2007), which are profusely quoted and referred to. As such, it offers a systematic survey of the Bhagavad-gītā's main topics and doctrines in an innovative way. In my book *"Exploring the Bhagavad-gītā: Philosophy, Structure and Meaning"* (Ashgate 2010 and later Routledge 2016) I have argued for a coherent structure underlying the Bhagavad-gītā, which I called "The Three Storey House" structure. This structure considers the Bhagavad-gītā to be based upon a hierarchical concept of reality, constructed by three tiers arranged one above the other, and connected by an ethical ladder, existentially leading one higher and higher through a gradual transformational process aiming at the upper tier. The present book develops this idea further thematically.

Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno, presiding

### **Panelist**

Jonathan Edelmann, International Society for Science and Religion

Nikky Singh, Colby College

Graham M. Schweig, Christopher Newport University

Stephanie Coriglano, Humboldt State University

Aleksandar Uskokov, Yale University

### **Respondent**

Ithamar Theodor

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A22-148/P22-107

**Hosted by:** Ecclesial Practices Unit and Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

Theme: Teaching and the Futures of Freedom

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Great Republic (Seventh Floor)

Educational prophet bell hooks long asserted that education is a practice of freedom. But education is not inevitably so. Education that imagines and invites freedom must be made to do so by educators and students alike. Where might we turn for wisdom, dreams, strategies, and stories about the nature and shape of teaching that rehearses freedom? According to practical theologians and religious educators Rachelle Green and Almeda Wright, we should look at Prisons and Archives. In this session, Green and Wright will put their recent scholarship into conversation with one another: *Learning to Live: Prisons, Pedagogy, and Theological Education* (2024) and *Teaching to Live: Black Religion, Activist-Educators, and Radical Social Change* (2024). This conversation will explore how teaching and learning in prison and during times of social change can help us wrestle with the question of how and why we teach when freedoms are threatened. The future of education depends on our ability to imagine futures beyond the present and shape them in and through our teaching.

Sarah Farmer, Indiana Wesleyan University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Rachelle Green, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

Almeda Wright, Yale University

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A22-127

**Hosted by:** Pentecostal–Charismatic Movements Unit

Theme: “The Blind will See, the Deaf will Hear, the Dead will Live Again”: Freedom from Disease, Demons, and Death in Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This session contextualizes twenty-first-century healing, deliverance, and resurrection claims within global Pentecostal-Charismatic Christian traditions. Each paper considers religio-cultural, historical, and political contexts to examine the methods, theologies, and social consequences of miracle claims. More specifically, the papers will offer general understandings of Charismatic beliefs, rituals, and practices of healing, deliverance, and resurrections to draw insights into our understanding of academic engagement with communities, archives, and spiritual authorities. Our underlying questions are: what is the Pentecostal-Charismatic distinctive when it comes to healing, deliverance, and resurrection? What happens to our understanding of the contemporary Pentecostal-Charismatic movement when we look at it through the analytical lens of miracles? Given the paucity of scholarly understanding of healing, deliverance, and resurrection claims, specifically among Pentecostal-Charismatics, how can fresh approaches in history, sociology, and ethnography refocus scholarly attention away from a flattening preoccupation with determining veracity and toward the impact on local and global cultural processes?

Gaston Espinosa, presiding

## Papers

Dara Delgado, Allegheny College

Heavenly Experiences and the Practicality of Pentecostal Piety

Erica Ramirez, Louisville Institute

The Biopolitics of Miracles

Phil Davis, Northwestern University

Freedom from Death

Candy Gunther Brown, Indiana University

Freedom from Demons

## Respondent

Dara Delgado, Allegheny College  
Erica Ramirez, Louisville Institute  
Candy Gunther Brown, Indiana University  
Phil Davis, Northwestern University  
Joao Chaves, Baylor University

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A22-141

**Hosted by:** Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit

Theme: Author Meets Respondents Session on Immaculate Misconceptions: A Black Mariology with Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

“Mary is Black.”

*Immaculate Misconceptions: A Black Mariology* begins with this claim to ground how Christian-colonial imaginaries of salvation and identity are challenged when we rethink assumptions about race, gender, and divine significance through the lens of the Virgin Mary, and specifically, through a return to the Black Madonna.

Staged as a Black feminist and womanist theological conversation, the book traverses Biblical exegesis, church history, theological inquiry, and artistic intervention to consider a theology *partus sequitur ventrem*—arising *from* the condition of the Black Mother, *following* the condition of the Black Madonna, and *for* the consideration of all those who pursue justice and life at the spiritual intersections of the world. The book questions the ‘legislative doctrine’ around perceptions of Mary as the Mother of God, and considers how Christian collusion with colonialism, capitalism, and anti-Blackness have worked to deny Blackness from the realms of the sacred. The book thinks through Black women’s reproductive legacies theologically, and revisits the figure of the Black Madonna as fugitive, the womb as hush harbor, birth as liturgy, and Black life as holy.

Oluwatomisin Oredein, Brite Divinity School, presiding

### Panelist

Emilie M. Townes, Vanderbilt University

Keri Day, Princeton Theological Seminary

Kelly Brown Douglas, Episcopal Divinity School At Union Theological Seminary

### Respondent

Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones, Boston College

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A22-131

**Hosted by:** Religion and the Social Sciences Unit

Theme: Between Liberation and Discord: How Freedom Fractures Expertise and Authority in North American Religious and Spiritual Contexts

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

In this wide-ranging, anthropologically informed roundtable, we ask how freedom may fracture expertise and authority in North American religious, spiritual, and political contexts, both online and off. Does freedom mean everyone can be an expert on their own terms, and that everyone gets to define their own truth? These questions have pressing urgency in the current climate of proliferating authorities and experts, which we do not limit to a “death” of expertise but rather an opening up of the category that could dissolve traditional expertise structures. Through varied lenses of astrology, environmental regulation, minority religious communities, online ecosystems, and vaccine refusal, among others, we examine the multivalent implications of freedom for authority and expertise. These implications offer potential paths both to resilience among disenfranchised communities and threats to public wellbeing.

Omri Elisha, Queens College/The Graduate Center, CUNY, presiding

### **Panelist**

Susannah Crockford, University of Exeter

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University

Hillary Kaell, McGill University

Sam Kestenabum, UCSB

Philip Deslippe

Suzanne Van Geuns, Princeton University

Omri Elisha, Queens College/The Graduate Center, CUNY

Orit Avishai

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A22-132

**Hosted by:** Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit

Theme: Book Panel: Sally Promey, *Religion in Plain View*

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Vermont (Fifth Floor)

In *Religion in Plain View*, Sally Promey shows how evangelical Christianity, capitalism, and imperialism have co-produced the public display of American religion. Promey moves across

geographies from New England to California to Hawaii, considering modes of display from street art and vehicle décor to monuments, architecture, and more. She concludes that the exhibitionary aesthetics of American religion serve as a Protestant technology of White nation formation. The book introduces four generative concepts— *testimonial aesthetics*, *material establishment*, *heritage fabrication*, and *landshaping*— for the study of religion, visual culture, race, and colonialism across diverse geographic and temporal contexts. This roundtable brings together a diverse panel of scholars to consider the utility of Promey’s analysis from a range of disciplinary and institutional locations.

Dustin Gavin, Yale University, presiding  
Rebecca Potts, presiding  
Camille Angelo, Yale University, presiding

### Panelist

Emily Floyd  
Judith Weisenfeld, Princeton University  
Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra, Yale University  
Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh, Stanford University  
David Walker  
Eric Stephen  
Tiffany Hale  
Rachel Lindsey, Saint Louis University

### Respondent

Sally M. Promey

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A22-114/S22-105a

**Hosted by:** Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit, Middle Eastern Christianity Unit, and SBL's Biblical Exegesis from Eastern Orthodox Perspectives

Theme: Christian Freedom in the Contemporary Middle East

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

This session explores the challenge and promise of freedom, both political and spiritual, for Christians in the contemporary Middle East. The papers in this session explore this topic from a variety of methodological and disciplinary angles, and include analyses of Palestinian evangelicals’ navigation of both political and theological freedom, the existential threat to Christians in Gaza, the role of discernment in the development of Syrian Christian identity post-Assad, the conception of freedom in the writings of the Coptic monk and theologian Matta al-



Miskin, and the expansion of women's access to liturgical participation as key to the preservation of Orthodox communities in the Middle East and the diaspora.

Mike Azar, Society of Biblical Literature, presiding

## Papers

Lena Rose, University of Konstanz

Freedom and its Limits: Palestinian Evangelicals and Global Evangelicalism

Hossam Garas, University of Edinburgh

The Church in a Wounded World: Matta al-Miskīn on Martyrdom and Spiritual Freedom

Tony Amoury Alkhoury, Union Theological Seminary

Discernment as a Way of Life: Reclaiming the Church's Identity in the Syrian Context

Courtney Haubert, Fordham University

With One Voice and One Heart: Orthodox Chant as a Tool of Resistance for Middle Eastern Christians

Yousef AlKhouri, Bethlehem Bible College

Introducing Ecclesiocide: A History of the Christian Community in Gaza and the Threat of Extinction

## Respondent

Candace Lukasik

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A22-115

**Hosted by:** Ecclesiological Investigations Unit, Religious Conversions Unit, and World Christianity Unit

Theme: Conversion to "None": New Directions in the Study of Deconversion

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

This panel brings together new scholarship exploring the nature of deconversion with particular attention to institutional power dynamics within Christian churches across a diverse spectrum. Sandie Cornish explores how the Catholic Church in Australia is responding to criticisms of gender injustice by disaffected and disaffiliated women through the Synod on Synodality. Meanwhile, Olli Saukko explores how disaffected millennials within the Finnish

evangelical “Fifth revival” movement have been influenced by exvangelical millennials in the US. Preston Hill presents the “religious residues” which remain in the worldviews and behaviors of individuals who have deconverted, shaping their strategies for finding meaning and belonging within and beyond institutions. Finally, Oakley Hill shows how the experiences of ex-Mormons and ex-Latter Day Saints support a general theory of deconversion according to which value misalignment exacerbates conflict within institutions, such that institutional exit appears as a less costly alternative than remaining a discontented member.

Kristine Suna-Koro, presiding

## Papers

Sandie Cornish, Australian Catholic University

Moving from Listening to Action: Exploring the potential of synodality to address the disaffiliation of Catholic women

Olli Saukko

Are there #Exvangelicals in Finland?

Preston Hill, Richmond Graduate University

Posttraumatic Spiritual Yearning: Religious Deconstruction and the Nearness Program in Psychological and Theological Context

Oakley Hill, George Mason University

The Deconversion as Conflict Hypothesis

## Respondent

Linda Mercadante, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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A22-113

**Hosted by:** Animals and Religion Unit and Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit

Theme: Disruption and Renewal: Exploring Indigenous Human-Animal Relationalities

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This panel explores Indigenous perspectives on human-animal relationality, highlighting how colonial forces have disrupted traditional forms of kinship, care, and ecological engagement. The panel centers Indigenous worldviews and histories to emphasize alternative ways of being and knowing. The first paper explores the earth diver motif in Dene traditions of northern

Canada, illustrating how Indigenous cosmogony informs ecological and political relationships with the nonhuman world. The next two papers focus on Indigenous and settler engagements with horses in North America, examining shifting horse cultures within missionary encounters, and the equestrian practices of settler nuns in Bitterroot Salish territory. The final paper turns to India, specifically the Bhil Adivasi communities of Gujarat, analyzing the evolving discourse on animal sacrifice as shaped by Jain, Vaishnava, and *bhakti* influences on Bhil attitudes towards killability of animals. Together, these studies discuss rupture, adaptation, and possibilities for renewal in human-animal relationships within diverse colonial and postcolonial Indigenous traditions.

Jonathan Dickstein, University of California-Santa Barbara, presiding

## Papers

David Walsh, Gettysburg College

Muskrat is Boss of the Land: the Earth-diver Myth and Implications for Decolonization

Melissa Coles, University of Notre Dame

The Relationship between Indigenous Communities, Oblate Missionaries, and Horses in the Nineteenth-Century North West

Danae Jacobson

"Ride a man's saddle:" Horses, Nuns, and Indigenous Horse Culture in Montana

Maharshi Vyas, University of California, Santa Barbara

Sacrifice Becomes "Violence?": Changing Attitudes Towards Animal Life among Indigenous Communities of India

## Respondent

Jonathan Dickstein, University of California-Santa Barbara

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A22-138

**Hosted by:** Teaching Religion Unit

Theme: Drag Pedagogy and Queer Knowledges in the Undergraduate Religion Classroom

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, MIT (Third Floor)

The essay "Drag Pedagogy" identifies five elements of Drag Queen Story Hour that bring queer imagination to students: play as praxis, aesthetic transformation, strategic defiance,

destigmatization of shame, and embodied kinship. Teaching in undergraduate religion classrooms should take the lessons of drag pedagogy and become places of active inclusivity and discovery for all.

This roundtable will be conducted in two parts. First, instructors who have developed classes which present topics in both religion and gender/sexuality will discuss their various approaches and considerations, as well as the lessons they've learned over years of queerly shaping their teaching practices. Second, a group of trans, nonbinary, and otherwise gender-nonconforming undergraduates will share their experiences with this instruction, speaking on how the material in these classes introduced them to liberative possibilities of religious texts and practice, as well as how they used sacred texts to explore their own identities and interactions with the world.

Whitney Cox, presiding

### **Panelist**

Max Thornton

Matt Smith

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A22-120

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit

Theme: Educating Hindus

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This roundtable will explore the rituals, pedagogies, philosophies, and politics of Hindu education in modernity. What are the modes, methods, and aims of Hindu inculcation in different contexts, whether in South Asia or among the Hindu diaspora? How have new technologies and modes of education transformed modes of making Hindus? What are the political contexts and implications of these different educational environments, especially with respect to such things as caste, gender, and Hindu nationalism? This roundtable will analyze Hindu education along the axes of space, audience, media, and application. Doing so will highlight Hindu education as a project of negotiation, innovation, adaptation, and perhaps liberation. By discussing such intersections, this roundtable will highlight the ethical importance of Hindu education as a subject of scholarly inquiry and its potential to enrich the study of Hindu traditions more broadly.

Gaurika Mehta, Santa Clara University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Nick Tackes

Shana Sippy, Centre College  
Sailaja Krishnamurti  
Mohit Kaycee  
Debadatta Chakraborty, University of Massachusetts  
Andrew Kunze  
Harshita Yalamarty, Queen's University

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A22-112

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Pagan Studies Unit

Theme: Environments : Pagan Identities, TheXlogies, Practices and Dangers

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Northeastern (Third Floor)

The CPS Steering Committee looks to the role of environments in constructing religious identity and the roles of ontological scaffolds and praxis. How do inner and outer environments, individuals and communities engage pilgrimage in light of critiques of spiritual tourism? Can new understandings of ontology be forged against the legacies of the singular detached self on its journey? Reclaiming Nordic indigenous heritages in diasporic contexts brings its own challenges to relational dynamics of environment at the personal and social level. What dangers exist in commodification and decontextualization of sacred practices? How do social environmental discourses of “sin” and “sexual purity” condition the journey of queer communities to locate themselves as oppositional sources of power? Can AI and LLM move from computing ‘environments’ to other-than-human status themselves as interlocutors? Where is agency within and among ‘natural,’ ‘social,’ and ‘AI’ environments? We will seek to explore possibilities and problematics in this area.

Giovanna Parmigiani, presiding

## Papers

Kim Fromkin, Harvard University

Re-enchanting Neo-Pagan Pilgrimage: Exploring the Sacred within the More-Than-Human World

Freia Titland, California Institute of Integral Studies

Reclaiming Indigeneity: Sámi-American Identity, Spirituality, and the Role of Western Goddess Practices in Cultural Continuity

Laurel Zwissler, Central Michigan University

Drawing Down the Rainbow: Queer and Trans Issues in Contemporary Paganism

Carl Thompson, Harvard Divinity School

AI and Personhood: An Ethical Examination of Artificial Intelligence and the Relational Ontology of Non-Human Persons.

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A22-116

**Hosted by:** Ethics Unit

Theme: Freedom and Responsibility Revisited

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

Abraham Joshua Heschel famously wrote, “In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.” But what happens when one is not in a free society, or when freedom for some comes at the expense of others? How do we trace the limits of our obligations without letting people off the hook? How can we balance the need to hold individuals accountable with the need to challenge structures, regimes, and ideologies? This panel reexamines the relationship between guilt and responsibility under the conditions of constrained agency, systemic evil, human finitude, and religiously-sanctioned sexism.

Derek Buyan, presiding

## Papers

Stephanie Thurston

Constrained Agency, Social Practices, and Responsibility for Structural Injustice

Elizabeth Block, Saint Louis University

From Non-Interference to Provision of Necessary Resources and Just Conditions: Freedom, Responsibility, and Humility in the work of Dorothy Roberts and M. Shawn Copeland

Todd D. Whitmore, University of Notre Dame

The Woman Caught in Addiction: Freedom, Responsibility, and Substance Use in a Regime of Gendered Torture

Katarina Von Kuhn

Moral Responsibility: Velleity and Vocation

Business Meeting

Nichole Flores

Russell Johnson, University of Chicago

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A22-129

**Hosted by:** Religion and Economy Unit

Theme: Labour, Speculation, and Technocratic Possessions: Reflections on the Intimate Logics of Empire

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

This roundtable brings together scholarship that explores the edges of labour and empire. Panelists present research on the shadow-economies and theologies of post-emancipation afterlives, sacrificial markets that demand destruction, technocratic evangelicalism that prepares terrain for technification of markets, and the reproductive and racialized economic forces that foreclose bodily autonomy and reinforce technocratic control. Tying all these papers together is a concern for the racialized and gendered logics of empire, from disembodied landscapes of the technosphere to the most intimate landscapes of reproductive monitoring and longing.

Esra Tunc, San Diego State University, presiding

## Papers

William Underwood, Oberlin College & Conservatory

"The Hallowed Realm of the Self-Possessed": Christian Conversions of Slavery and Freedom

Florence Pasche Guignard, Other

Freedom from Religion, BigPharma and BigData: Current Trends in the Market of Fertility Awareness and Cycle Tracking

Nicolas Sarian, University of Toronto

Luxury and the Logic of Sacrifice: Economic Expenditure in the Management of Surplus

Kati Curts, Sewanee: The University of the South

Prospecting and Penance with Baby Doe Tabor: Silver, Spirit, Scandal at the Frontiers of American Religion

Joy Palacios

Tech Evangelism

Jaclyn Michael, University of Tennessee

What Is A "Sellable" Muslim? Towards a Political Economy of Muslim Cultural Representation in Contemporary India

## Respondent

Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University  
Business Meeting  
Rebecca Bartel

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A22-124

**Hosted by:** Liberation Theologies Unit

Theme: Liberating Freedoms

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

As a tradition of critical theological reflection, liberation theology correlates freedom with justice, often challenging liberal conceptions of liberty by stressing the material conditions that render freedom possible. Liberationists have stressed that hegemonic understandings of freedom are constructed on the oppression of marginalized communities and populations, through land appropriation, labor exploitation, ecological devastation, and genocide. The papers in this papers session explore the material conditions for freedom, the role of spirituality in confronting injustice, and the connections between liberation and trauma. These critical interrogations and the expected dialogue among the panelists and the audience will create a generative zone to address the theme of freedom from a liberationist perspective.

Nixon Cleophas, presiding

## Papers

Jeremy Posadas, Stetson University

Imagining the Material Conditions of Liberation: The Abolition of Compulsory Waged Labor

Christopher Tirres, Santa Clara University

Spirituality, Liberation, and Intelligence: Resourcing Pragmatic and Liberationist Methodologies

Amanda Bolaños

The Margins of Freedom in a Theology of the In-Between: Mestizo Trauma and Mestizo Healing

M. Mookie Manalili, Boston University

Suffering Speaks: Embodied Articulation (in Spiritual Autobiographies)

Business Meeting



K. Christine Pae, Denison University  
Filipe Maia, Boston University

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A22-123

**Hosted by:** Law, Religion, and Culture Unit

Theme: Limits of “Religious Freedom” in Comparative Perspective

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

This panel examines judicial systems in the UK, US, Hungary, and Brazil, with a comparative focus on lived religion in relation to—and under the thumb of—the law. Challenges and tactics for negotiating the promise of religious freedom, attempts at pursuing intergenerational justice, and the function of courts as a zone for both criminalization of religious practice and its defense by practitioners. By collecting together these differing concerns—as well as approaching questions of religious freedom through varied theoretical lenses, engaging in specific case studies and also evaluating the ideal structures of legal processes—this panel promises to open to broader conversations about the possibilities—including serious risks—of the idea of “religious freedom” across the globe.

Silas Allard, Emory University, presiding

## Papers

Kevin Hargaden

Freedom for the Yet-to-Be: Theological Horizons of Future Generations Commissioners

Danielle Boaz

Initiation as Abuse?: Exploring Allegations of Child Endangering Against Devotees of Africana Religions

Matyas Bodi, University of Oxford

Lived Experiences of Religious Freedom: Organizational Challenges in the United Kingdom

## Respondent

Silas Allard, Emory University

Business Meeting

Spencer Dew, Ohio State University

Dana Lloyd, Villanova University

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A22-108

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Philosophy Unit and Yogācāra Studies Unit

Theme: Making Sense of Bill Waldron's *Making Sense of Mind Only*

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Bill Waldron's seminal 'Making Sense of Mind Only: Why Yogācāra Buddhism Matters' provides an overview of early Yogācāra tradition—its texts, doctrines, and practices—while demonstrating its continued relevance. The book reframes Yogācāra as a cognitivist inquiry investigating the conditions that give rise to phenomena, moving beyond debates about whether Yogācāra should be classified as idealism. This approach allows Waldron to engage Yogācāra on its own terms while establishing meaningful dialogues with contemporary philosophy and cognitive science. In this roundtable, participants will examine different aspects of *Making Sense of Mind Only*, analyzing its contributions to both historical understanding and contemporary applications of Yogācāra thought. In this roundtable, each participant will briefly engage one aspect of the book, Bill Waldron will then respond before opening the discussion with the audience.

Eyal Aviv, presiding

### Panelist

Jonathan Gold

Jessica Zu, University of Southern California

Karin Meyers

Szilvia Szanyi

Jingjing Li, Leiden University

### Respondent

Justin Doran, Middlebury College

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A22-109

**Hosted by:** Chinese Religions Unit and Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit

Theme: Masculinities in Chinese Religions: Beyond Wen and Wu

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

Kam Louie's theories of *wen* (civil or literary) and *wu* (martial) masculinities have shaped scholarship on masculinity in Chinese culture, including the few studies of masculinity in

Chinese religions. This panel recognizes the theoretical contributions of *wen* and *wu* masculinity while also revealing the many ways in which masculinities in Chinese religions transcend the *wen-wu* spectrum. By focusing on masculinity in lived religious contexts, as opposed to only addressing prescriptive or hegemonic forms of masculinity, the four papers in this panel offer alternative theoretical and methodological possibilities for making sense of masculinities in Chinese religions from the late imperial to the contemporary period. Insights about monastic gender for eunuchs and non-elite monks, physical intimacy and vulnerability for male religious healers, and spatial constructions of masculinity in local ritual practice enrich the field of Chinese religions by addressing masculinity as gendered and showing that masculinities extend well beyond *wen* and *wu*.

Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee, presiding

## Papers

Qingyue Pan

Eunuchs as Monks: Contested Masculinity and Monastic Refuge in Ming China

Gilbert Chen, Towson University

Trans Clerical Masculinities: Family and Buddhist Monks in Late Imperial China

Kin Cheung, Moravian University

The Masculinity of a Chinese Religious Healer beyond Wen-Wu: Attending to Wounds, Physical Contact, and Intimacy in the Healer-Patient Relationship

Esmond Chuah Meng Soh, University of Cambridge

Martyrs, Men, and Masculinity: Institutional and Ritual Reproductions of Male Authority in the Nine Emperor Gods Festival of Postcolonial Southeast Asia

## Respondent

Xiaofei Kang

Business Meeting

Rongdao Lai, McGill University

Susan Andrews

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A22-126

**Hosted by:** New Religious Movements Unit

Theme: Media and Cultural Issues and the Transformations of New Religions

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

The papers in this wide-ranging panel address communities such as Santa Muerte, 3HO/SDI, Asian religions in the Soviet Union, and the Latter-day Saints, issues as varied as the use of email communications to confront controversies, rhetorical delegitimization strategies, and the "spiritual but not religious" trend, and areas as disparate as Lithuania and the Americas. Across these communities, topics, and areas, the authors of these papers engage new methodologies and theories to examine how the communities they study transform in the face of social and cultural pressures and crises, giving new religions scholars the chance to reflect on how change and newness shape the new religions experience.

Suzanne Newcombe, The Open University, presiding

## Papers

Deimantas Valanciunas, Vilnius University

Asian-Influenced New Religious Movements and the Media in Early Post-Soviet Lithuania

R. Andrew Chesnut

Death of Church and State: The Political Economy of Santa Muerte in the Americas

Simranjit Steel, University of Memphis

Monir Hossain, University of Memphis

Managing Crisis and Commercial Success: The Case of 3HO/SDI

Jared Halverson

Minimize, Maximize, and Close: Media Portrayals of New Religious Movements

Linda Ceriello

Rainn Wilson's "Soul Boom" as a Metamodern New Religious Movement

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P22-111

**Hosted by:** National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR)

Theme: NABPR Annual November Meeting

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

NABPR National Association of Professors of Religion annual November meeting, featuring a plenary address, a presidential address, and business session. Open to all.

Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University, presiding

## Panelist

Shively T.J. Smith  
Business Meeting  
Adam English

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A22-134

**Hosted by:** South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: New Directions in South Asian Religions

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

The New Directions panel introduces new research in the study religion in South Asia by recently-graduated Ph.D. students and doctoral candidates. This year's papers examine wide ranging topics including Bhagavaty goddess-possession, erotic Persian literature, early modern inter-religious theology, and the religious life of Mughal princess Jahanara. In doing so, panelists consider the intersections of religion with gender, caste, sexuality, and literary texts.

Aalekhya Malladi, McGill University, presiding

## Papers

Kartik Maini, University of Chicago

For the Muslims of Hindustān: Unsettling the Indic in Early Modern South Asia

Hasan Hameed, Princeton University

The Ethics of Erotics: Engaging Persian Literature in Colonial India

Rakshit Malik, Emory University

Sufism, Temporality, Spatial Specialties: Princess Jahanara as the Object and Subject of Time

Shweta Radhakrishnan, Columbia University in the City of New York

The Becoming-Work of Worship: Ritual Possession and Labor in Kerala

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A22-128

**Hosted by:** Reformed Theology and History Unit

Theme: Political Freedom from a Reformed Perspective

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

TBA

Nathaniel Gray Sutanto, presiding

## Papers

EUNTAEK JUNG, Harvard Divinity School

Calvin's Theo-political Vision: Reconnecting the Church and Eucharist in the Shadow of Exile

Olaoluwatoni Alimi, Princeton University

Layne Hancock, University of Notre Dame

Jonathan Edwards and Slavery

Andrew Peterson, Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness

Reformed Theology and the Politics of Divine Authority

## Respondent

Michelle Sanchez

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A22-117

**Hosted by:** Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: Prophetic and Shamanic Women from a Global Perspective

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel engages with the continuities and discontinuities between the experiences of prophetic and shamanic women around the globe. Among the themes which arise in these presentations are the role of the Virgin Mary, shifting understandings of the female body, women's subjectivity and individuality, and suffering and illness in prophetic claims.

Carolina Glauster, Drew University Theological School, presiding

## Papers

Frances Kneupper, The University of Mississippi

The Relationship between Prophecy and Holiness in Sainly Women of the Late Middle Ages

Brianna Leavitt-Alcantara  
Apocalypse Now: Maya Marianism, Female Prophecy, and Rebellion

Elena Valussi, Loyola University, Chicago  
Women shamans, diviners and spirit mediums in China

## Respondent

Drew Billings, University of Mississippi

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A22-118

**Hosted by:** Gay Men and Religion Unit

Theme: Queer Identity, Colonialism, and the Politics of Recognition

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

This panel explores ways gay and queer people seek religious community in colonial and neo-colonial contexts, caught between assimilation and building new queer worlds, both in the flesh and online. Freedom appears as a tantalizing reward for those who are able (by virtue of racial and economic privilege) to assimilate, chasing the promises of empire, as well as in building spaces where new forms of life and relationship can be explored.

Samuel Ernest, Yale University, presiding

## Papers

Emma Thompson, Princeton University

Complicatedly, Calculatedly Complicit? Choosing between Cosmopolitanism and Communitarianism

Niklas Rodewald, Loyola University Chicago

The "Normal Gay Guy": J.D. Vance, Catholicism, and the Colonial Politics of Recognition

Dimitri Bawole

Gay World on the Space: Unveiling Lived Experiences of Indonesian Gay Individuals on X

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A22-121

**Hosted by:** International Development and Religion Unit and Religion and Migration Unit  
Theme: Religion and Climate Migration  
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Marriott Copley Place, Fairfield (Third Floor)

Changes in environments – often a consequence of rapid and radical anthropogenic climate change – are an increasingly important driver of migration. Despite a consensus among scholars that the environmental impact on migration is difficult to measure, its significance for the movement of people across the globe needs to be studied. This co-sponsored session will include presentations that explore the nexus between religion and climate migration from both empirical and explanatory angles, including normative questions.

Nanette Spina, presiding  
Sana Patel, Rice Uni, presiding  
Olivia Wilkinson, presiding  
Christopher Duncanson-Hales, University of Sudbury, presiding

## Papers

Gary Slater, University of Münster  
Climate Change, Migration, and the Persistence of an “Invasion” Narrative

Joyce Konigsburg, DePaul University  
Discerning the Differences between Immigration and Forced Climate Migration

Tiffany Hunsinger  
Faith on the Move: Catholic Social Teaching and Climate-Induced Migration

F. LeRon Shults  
Modeling Religion and Climate Migration: Case Studies in Social Simulation for Development Aid

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A22-107

**Hosted by:** Body and Religion Unit and Religion and Economy Unit  
Theme: Religion and Eugenics: A Critical Roundtable on Histories, Resurgences, and the Struggle for Bodily Freedom  
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)



This roundtable explores the enduring entanglements of religion and eugenics, analyzing how theological, economic, and political frameworks have historically shaped and continue to shape reproductive governance, bodily autonomy, and national belonging. While often framed as a relic of the past, eugenic logics persist in contemporary debates over reproductive rights, demographic anxieties, and medical ethics. From early 20th-century liberal Protestant justifications for racialized population control to modern right-wing natalism, religious actors have played central roles in sustaining and resisting eugenicist ideologies. The resurgence of pronatalist politics—exemplified by figures like J.D. Vance—revives historical fears of white fertility decline, positioning reproduction as a national imperative. At the same time, religious ethics continue to inform debates over reproductive justice, disability, and genetic “fitness,” raising urgent questions about whose lives are valued and whose autonomy is constrained. This roundtable interrogates how religious institutions and ideologies shape freedom, exclusion, and the contested futures of bodily sovereignty.

Seokweon Jeon, Harvard University, presiding

### Panelist

Seokweon Jeon, Harvard University

Irene Stroud, Princeton University

Melissa Wilde

Jamie Marsella, Harvard University

Charles McCrary, Eckerd College

Terence Keel, University of California, Los Angeles

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A22-105

**Hosted by:** Bioethics and Religion Unit and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit

Theme: Religious Worlds, Risk, & Health Agency: Ethics & Embodiment in Contemporary Public Health Contexts

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

This session brings together four interdisciplinary papers that explore the ethical, spiritual, and cultural dimensions of health and embodiment across varied religious and sociopolitical landscapes. Moving beyond dominant biomedical narratives, the presenters engage grounded, community-based research to interrogate how religious worldviews, racialized structures, and reproductive norms shape lived experiences and moral claims. Together, these papers illuminate how moral knowledge is co-produced through narrative, ritual, and resistance—offering fresh ethical insights at the intersection of religion, medicine, healing, and bioethics.

Hajung Lee, University of Puget Sound, presiding

## Papers

David Craig

Ivan Hicks, The AfricaLogical Institute

Advancing Health Agency Versus Autonomy: Community-Valued Research and Ethical Advocacy in Medicaid Policy

Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University

Free to be Me: Black Childfree Women's Experiences Negotiating Prenatal Healthcare Policies"

Tyler Fuller, Boston University

Public Health and the Politics of Catholic Practice: The Narrative Divide Between "Good Religion" and "Bad Belief"

Andrea Rota, University of Oslo

Religious and Secular Worldviews in a Pandemic: Risk, Responsibility, and Resistance

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A22-122

**Hosted by:** Jain Studies Unit

Theme: Rethinking Jain Semi-Renouncers

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

The papers in this panel collectively challenge received narratives on various, supposedly corrupt and lax Jain 'semi-renouncers', Śvetāmbara *caityāvāsins*, *śrīpūjyas*, and *yatis*, and Digambara *bhaṭṭārakas*. The perspectives on these classes of monks are often based on polemical discourses of rival traditions and are framed by post facto concerns and epistemic frameworks. In some sources, the *caityāvāsins* appear as indistinguishable from their nemesis, the *vasatīvāsins*. And in their own times, *śrīpūjyas*, *yatis*, and *bhaṭṭārakas* too were venerated as ideal renouncers. They took full monastic vows, and the royal paraphernalia which they adopted, including thrones, palanquins, and parasols, were not seen as a sign of their laxity but as expressions of their actual authority as the kingpins of lay and ascetic Jain polities.

John E. Cort, presiding

## Papers

Christine Chojnacki, University of Toronto

Who are the yatis of the Jain Śvetāmbara romance-poems (8th-12th century CE)?

Anchit Jain, University of Delhi

Who Were the Caityavāsins? Monastic Dwelling, Sectarian Polemics, and Reform in Medieval Jainism

Eric Villalobos, Emory University

Challenging Semi-Renunciacy: Did Śvetāmbara Yatis Take the Five Great Vows?

Tillo Detige, Rutgers University

The king is dead, long live the king! Digambara bhaṭṭarakas and munis

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A22-106

**Hosted by:** Black Theology Unit and Class, Labor, and Religion Unit

Theme: Review on Black Theology and The Black Panthers

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This panel will be a review of *Black Theology and The Black Panthers*. In *Black Theology and The Black Panthers*, Joshua Bartholomew argues for a pragmatic response to racialized capitalism, dealing with the relationship between economic justice and racial equality. By examining the economic philosophies and inter-communal survival programs of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense from 1967-1971, Bartholomew utilizes a Womanist methodology to connect The Panthers' praxis with priorities of Black Theological Ethics. In doing so, Bartholomew offers a basis for moving Christian ethicists away from normative models of economic justice that eschew experience and knowledge from marginalized communities. Ultimately, Bartholomew reveals how the power of racial politics for radical change can constructively and inclusively impact the struggle for freedom and social justice.

Cornel West, Union Theological Seminary, presiding

### **Panelist**

Obery M. Hendricks, Columbia University

Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

### **Respondent**

Joshua Bartholomew, Saint Paul School of Theology

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A22-130

**Hosted by:** Religion and Human Rights Unit and Religion and Politics Unit  
Theme: Sanctuary Movement Legacies: Forty Years After the 1985 Arizona Sanctuary Trial  
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

In 1985 the federal government indicted sixteen people in Arizona who opened up their churches to provide refuge to undocumented immigrants. Those indicted were participants in the sanctuary movement, an ecumenical network of clergy and lay faithful providing refuge to immigrants fleeing the U.S.-funded Cold War proxy wars in Central America. The ensuing Arizona Sanctuary Trial (1985-1986) garnered national attention and galvanized churches and municipalities into declaring themselves sanctuaries for immigrants who faced deportation. In the intervening decades, activists and institutions have turned to the idea of sanctuary as a tool to resist attacks on immigrant communities. The legacy of sanctuary remains relevant today. In January of 2025 the Trump administration rescinded a policy that limited immigration enforcement at schools, hospitals, and churches, demonstrating the continued relevance of sanctuary. This interdisciplinary roundtable explores attempts to repress the sanctuary movement, its artistic and liturgical expressions, and its ideological divisions.

Tatyana Castillo-Ramos, presiding

### Panelist

Lloyd Barba, Amherst College  
Rady Roldan  
Mary Ward-Bucher, Temple University  
Carlos Ruiz Martinez, University of Iowa  
Daryl Ireland, Boston University  
Business Meeting  
Laura Alexander  
Jenna Reinbold

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A22-139

**Hosted by:** Theology and Religious Reflection Unit  
Theme: Spiritual Esoterisms  
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This roundtable discussion explores the role of spiritual esoterisms in religious reflection. Taking inspiration from Nathan Snaza's recent *Tendings: Feminist Esoterisms and the Abolition of Man*, we understand esoterisms to include some of what is traditionally considered the "Western esoteric" tradition, but also modalities of worlding "in which more-than-human socialities and knowledge practices would be co-compositional" (2024, 10). In this case, we explore worlds

where spiritual knowledges link humans and non-humans (including, potentially, departed ancestors and divinities) into socialities that are irreducibly material *and* spiritual, and where these socialities are bounded – inclusive of some but not all. The roundtable explores these questions with attention to Argentine gothic literature, the writing of James Baldwin, Lúkumi religious practices, and Hasidic prophylactic magic.

C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University, presiding

### **Panelist**

An Yountae

Carol Wayne White, Bucknell University

Solimar Otero, Indiana University

Sam Shuman, University of Virginia

### **Respondent**

Nathan Snaza

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A22-136

**Hosted by:** Study of Islam Unit

Theme: Teaching Palestine in Islamic Studies

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

Teaching about Palestine in religious studies and specifically Islamic studies carries a particular set of challenges that come from a pervasive tendency in public and political discourse and in scholarship to explain the origins of the “conflict” in Israel/Palestine as a century-old conflict between Jews and Muslims. This roundtable brings together scholars in Islamic studies who reflect on and share their experiences of incorporating Palestine into their teaching. Some of us have done so since long before the Hamas attack in October 2023 and Israel’s annihilation of Gaza and ethnic cleansing of the West Bank in response. We teach Palestine in a climate of institutional repression of pro-Palestinian solidarity activism. Participants in this roundtable offer their reflections on how they have navigated this landscape in their own institutional context and share both particular pedagogical tools/activities and questions that have arisen from their experiences.

Celene Ibrahim, Harvard University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Zareena Grewal

Yasir Ibrahim  
Irfana Hashmi  
Juliane Hammer, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill  
Mahan Mirza, University of Notre Dame

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A22-140

**Hosted by:** Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

Theme: Technologies of Governance in Tibet and the Himalayas

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Inspired by the 2025 AAR theme of “Freedom,” this panel examines shifting conceptions of political power and novel techniques for its enactment across the Tibetan and Himalayan regions from the period of Tibetan scholastic institutionalization (14th–16th centuries) to the mid-20th century geopolitical entanglements of the region. This politically fraught period, marked by conflict, nevertheless produced novel conceptions of religious authority and governance. The panel explores how the region’s religious elite articulated these shifting conceptions of the political sphere through philosophical treatises, biographies, artistic representations, monastic curricula and codes of conduct, and ritual technologies. Papers examine: How have Buddhist thinkers informed Tibetan and Himalayan attitudes toward authority and freedom across social, religious and political landscapes? How were artistic and literary media deployed in the articulation of power across the region? And how have communities across the region negotiated shifting and competing models of political power?

Alex Matthews, presiding

## Papers

Uudam Baoagudamu

Between Lhasa and Beijing: Dual Religious Governance in Qing Mongolia

Palden Gyal

Bringing Light to the ‘Dark Borderlands’: Theorizing and Tracing Tibetan Buddhist Missionization in Gyalrong

Seth Auster-Rosen

Can Madhyamaka Philosophy Ground a Political Theory?: Tsongkhapa, Mikyö Dorje, and the Political Stakes of Buddhist Omniscience

Rebecca Bloom

Graphic Governance: The Thirteenth Dalai Lama's Vinaya Murals and his Projects of State Protection

Matthew Drew, Northwestern University

Sovereignty through Subjugation: Dülwa as Statecraft in the 13th Dalai Lama's Monastic Guidelines

Annabella Pitkin, Lehigh University

Sovereign Bodhisattvas: Tibetan Buddhist Political Theories of Authority, Power, and Critique

Jetsun Deleplanque

Theocracy in the Greater Tibetan Region: The Case of Bhutan

## Respondent

Matthew King, University of California, Riverside

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A22-111

**Hosted by:** Comparative Religious Ethics Unit

Theme: The Current State and Present Prospects of Comparative Religious Ethics

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This roundtable on the state of the field of comparative religious ethics invites participants to consider: what is the future of comparative religious ethics in the field of religious ethics, the field of religious studies, and the academy as a whole? The discussion will focus in particular on how debates regarding universalism and particularism have both pushed the field forward and enumerated new challenges to which comparative religious ethicists must respond.

Representing a variety of standpoints within the field, the panelists will discuss their sense of these challenges as well as ways in which comparative religious ethics, when attentive to these issues, is well situated to respond to some of the most pressing moral and political questions of our day.

Shannon Dunn, presiding

## Panelist

Rosemary Kellison, Florida State University

Charles Mathewes

Bharat Ranganathan, Case Western Reserve University

Peng Yin, Boston University

Aaron Stalnaker, Indiana University, Bloomington  
Irene Oh  
Business Meeting  
Rosemary Kellison, Florida State University  
Shannon Dunn

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A22-125

**Hosted by:** Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit

Theme: The Eco-theological Legacy of H. Paul Santmire

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of Lutheran theologian H. Paul Santmire's pathbreaking *The Travail of Nature: The Ambiguous Ecological Promise of Christian Theology* (Fortress Press, 1985). There Santmire argued, "It seems clear that Christian theologians have a public responsibility to respond to [the environmental crisis] in terms of both a critical appropriation of their own tradition and a constructive exploration of the possibility of new ways of valuing nature, along with new ways of affirming the values of human history." This ecumenical, global, and intergenerational panel of clergy and activists, biblical scholars and theologians takes up Santmire's challenge by examining how the Lutheran theologian's own canon has aided the emergence of ecotheologies and influenced the reformation of histories, liturgies, pastoral leadership, and spiritual practices. In the spirit of honoring his legacy this panel asks: how might Santmire's work help us think alongside new global ecological problems and promises?

Kiara Jorgenson, presiding

### Panelist

Lisa E. Dahill, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace

Steven Bouma-Prediger

Barbara Rossing

Phoebe Morad, Lutherans Resorting Creation

Daniel Castillo

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A22-104

**Hosted by:** Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and North American Hinduism Unit

Theme: The Rise of South Asian Conservatism in the US

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)



This roundtable explores South Asian conservatisms within the North American political discourse writ large. The contradictory entanglement of Asian American conservative groups with white politics and white supremacy while remaining concerned about racial animus and anti-immigrant sentiment requires such groups to construct their own grammar and ideological framework—a uniquely Asian-iterated conservatism (Mishra 2024). The panelists, who hail from both academic and social activism spaces, discuss how conservative orgs position themselves to advance particular religious or social aims, how such groups leverage supremacist discourses to advance nativist goals, the use of religious freedom to promote a particularized vision of cultural, religious, and identitarian aspects of Asian communities, and the shared bigotries with other conservative movements for political advancement. Together these reflections analyze how South Asian conservative organizations benefit from discussions of pluralism and diversity while seeking to advance culturally-curated hegemonic forms of conservative politics within North America.

Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina, presiding

### **Panelist**

Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver  
Sheena Sood, Delaware Valley University  
Rupa Pillai, University of Pennsylvania  
Manan Ahmed Asif, Columbia University  
Pranay Somayajula, Hindus for Human Rights  
Safa Ahmed, IAMC

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A22-135

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: The Women Who Made Malcolm X, el-Malik Shabazz

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

The Special Session “The Women Who Made Malcolm” roundtable convenes Muslim women aligned to the Nation of Islam (NOI) and scholars of NOI engaging in critical discourse on the lived experiences of NOI women, and their quest for freedom inside NOI and in our larger society.

Iman AbdoulKarim, Yale University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Sonia Sanchez  
C. S'thembile West

Halima Taha, Kamoinge Photography Collective  
Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons  
Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame

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A22-110

**Hosted by:** Cognitive Science of Religion Unit

Theme: Theories and Methods in the Cognitive Science of Religion

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

Paul Robertson, University of New Hampshire, presiding

## Papers

Chang In Sohn, Graduate Theological Union

Bridging Neuroscience and Theology: Determinism, Metacognition, and Human Freedom

Daekyung Jung, Yonsei University

Is Religious Experience Epistemologically Reliable? An Embodied Cognitive Approach

Hemal Trivedi, Georgetown University

The Nesting Method - An Interdisciplinary Model for the Ego-Dissolution Experience

Erin Prophet

Using Ape to Prove Angel: Reimagining Connections with Animals in Nineteenth-Century Evolutionary Theologies

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A22-146

**Hosted by:** Practical Theology Unit

Theme: Transformative Teaching and Learning in Practical Theology: Creative Approaches, Global Conversations, and Contextual Practices

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

This session fosters a global dialogue exploring innovative pedagogical approaches, contextual applications, and interdisciplinary insights within the sub-fields of practical theology. The session includes contributions addressing: innovative and experimental teaching methods in practical theology, pedagogical creativity across diverse cultural and socio-political contexts,

theoretical reflections on learning processes in practical theology, and collaborative and participatory models of teaching and learning. The session format includes brief presentations and extended interaction, discussion, and collaboration with authors.

Sabrina Müller, Zurich University, presiding

Joyce Mercer, presiding

Knut Tveitereid, presiding

## Papers

Jonas Idestrom, Stockholm School of Theology

Tone Stangeland Kaufman

Fostering Pastoral Assembling: An Interdisciplinary, Practical Urban Ecclesiology Course

Easten Law, Princeton Theological Seminary

Global Learning for Lived Theology & World Christianity: Balancing Online Content Delivery & Local Contextual Application

Hannah Sutton-Adams

Jan Holton

Frédérique Ndatirwa, Duke Divinity School

Navigating Difficult Content in the Classroom: Trauma-Informed Pedagogy for Practical Theology

Michael DeLashmutt, General Theological Seminary

From Clay to Spirit: Ceramics as Transformative Practical Theology

Brittany Caine-Conley, Iliff School of Theology

Katherine Turpin, Iliff School of Theology

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Unlearning Neoliberalism in White Progressive Churches

Susan Forshey, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Reading the Context, Reading the Practice: Lectio Divina as a Pedagogy for Pastoral Reflection

Keisha McKenzie

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Laura Stivers

Transformative Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning toward Moral Agency in the Face of the Seemingly Insurmountable

Business Meeting

Sabrina Müller, Zurich University

Marc Lavalée

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A22-103

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit and Mysticism Unit

Theme: Transhuman Mysticisms: Animals, Aliens, and Objects

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This panel explores new approaches to the study of mysticism and the arts, with an emphasis on non-human, more-than-human, and transhuman mysticisms, particularly as expressed in visual art, music, film, and science fiction. Topics to be considered include plant mysticisms, new materialism, science fiction, and multi-species mysticism.

George Pati, Valparaiso University, presiding

## Papers

Timothy Grieve-Carlson, Westminster College

"They Have a Lot to Say:" Enchantment and Ethics in Plant-Human Communication

Michelle Bentsman

Calling all the God(s): Efficacious Ritual Song and the Vocal Body

James Thrall, Knox College

Evolving Humanity and Mystical Empathy in Dan Simmons's Hyperion Cantos

Tom Berendt, Arcadia University

Feline Divinanimality: Thundercats Fetishism and Lyran Mysticism

## Respondent

Learned Foote, Lawrence University

Business Meeting

Gloria Hernández, West Chester University

George Pati, Valparaiso University

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A22-137

**Hosted by:** Tantric Studies Unit

Theme: Yoginīs in Śākta Tantric Traditions: Power, Language, Transmission, and Possession

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This panel brings together new research on *yoginīs* in South Asian Tantric traditions, from early-medieval Kaula and Vajrayāna sources and classical literary theory to the Śākṭeya traditions of Kerala and contemporary communities associated with yoginī temples. Yoginīs have central roles in multiple Tantric traditions, which envision them as beings of power renowned for their ability to bless, reveal, empower, transform, protect and destroy. The panel explores yoginīs and related goddesses from a variety of perspectives, historical periods and regions, bringing together ethnographic and textual research. We examine yoginīs as stock figures in literary theory, as powerful goddesses ruling over locales, as bestowers of secret teachings and initiations outside of conventional textual transmission, and as powerful and charismatic women. Considering yoginīs in these diverse ways opens up new insights into the varied meanings and life-worlds of tantric goddesses.

Jackson Stephenson, presiding

## Papers

Jackson Stephenson

How to talk like a Yoginī: On Rājaśekhara's comments in the Kāvyaṁīmāṁsā

Maciej Karasinski-Sroka, Stanford University

Spear-wielding mothers and yoginīs from afar – the revealers of the Śākṭeya traditions of Kerala.

Sowmya a

Evidence of Powers of Yoginis

Shaman Hatley, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Yoginīs, Revelation, and Hidden Knowledge in Tantric Śaivism

## Respondent

Sthaneshwar Timalsina

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A22-133/S22-104

**Hosted by:** SBL's Arts and Religions in Antiquity Section, Bible and Animal Studies Section, and AAR's Animals and Religion Unit

Theme: Animals, Monsters, and the Human

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 311 (Third Level)

How can post-humanist questions inform our interpretations of animals represented in ancient art? Are they depicted as antithetical or complementary to humans? How do animals fit into menageries, paradisaical scenes, battle scenes, and hellscapes? Are animals somehow more “natural” to certain landscapes than humans? The papers in this session will interact with Rafe Neis's 2023 *When a Human Gives Birth to a Raven*

Michael Motia, University of Massachusetts, Boston, presiding

## Papers

Sarah Iles Johnston  
Unnatural Hybrids on Ancient Greek Vases

Jeremy McInerney, University of Pennsylvania  
Centaur and the Posthuman

Karen Britt, Northwest Missouri State University  
Ra'anan Boustan  
When Is a Lion More Than a Lion? Animal Imagery and Power in the Huqoq Synagogue

Blake Leyerle, University of Notre Dame  
Animals in the Ambulatory

Denisa Hradilová, Palacký University Olomouc  
Animals and Anthropomorphic Figures as Religious or Apotropaic Symbols on Late Antique Egyptian Christian Textiles

## Respondent

Rachel Rafael Neis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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A22-102/S22-106

**Hosted by:** AAR's Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit and SBL's Religion and Philosophy in Antiquity Unit

Theme: Critical Approaches to the Oxford Handbook of Deification (2024)

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Sheraton, Public Garden (Fifth Floor)

Athanasios Despotis, presiding

## Papers

Athanasios Antonopoulos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Critical Approach to the Notions of Asceticism and Ascetic Deification in the Oxford Handbook of Deification

Mark Elliot, Wycliffe College  
'Friendship with God'. A critical appreciation of Deification and its handbook

Paul Gavriluk, University of St. Thomas  
Deification: Definitional and Methodological Issues

Myk Habets, Laidlaw College  
Theosis in Recent Christian Thought: Ecumenical Potentials and Pitfalls

Steven Stapella, Duke University  
The Condemnation of the Flesh: Platonic Anthropology and Theosis

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P22-115

**Hosted by:** Niebuhr Society

Theme: Roundtable Discussion on Niebuhr, Nations, and Nationalism

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Arlington (Third Floor)

This year the Niebuhr Society will host a roundtable panel discussion will think with, before and beyond the work of the Niebuhrs to reflect on the role of the nation and nationalism in political theology in the United States, both historically and today.

Joshua Mauldin, presiding

## Panelist

Heath Carter, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Valerie C. Cooper, Duke University  
Dallas Gingles, Southern Methodist University  
Elisabeth Kincaid, Baylor University  
Jonathan Tran, Baylor University

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P22-106

**Hosted by:** Søren Kierkegaard Society

Theme: Whence the Lily? Wither the Bird? A Panel on Kierkegaard's Spirituality

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, North Star (Seventh Floor)

Elizabeth Xiao-An Li, University of Copenhagen, presiding

## Papers

Christopher Barnett

What Does 'the Single Individual' Have to Do with ChatGPT? Kierkegaard's Spirituality in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Carl Hughes, Texas Lutheran University

Spiritual Practice(s) in Kierkegaard

Frances Maughan-Brown

Devotion, Religion and Exclusion: Kierkegaard on Choosing Spirituality

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P22-104

**Hosted by:** Lutheran Scholars Network

Theme: Book Panel on Risto Saarinen's Philosophical Justice and Reformation Righteousness: The Latin Aristotle to Luther and Melancthon

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick B (Second Floor)

Lutheran Scholars Network (LSN) is excited to engage Risto Saarinen's important book, *Philosophical Justice and Reformation Righteousness* (OUP 2025). Prof. Saarinen focuses on the *iustitia dei* as central to Luther and as significantly funding medieval discussions of justice. Panelists illumine the book's philosophical, theological, ethical, and constructive dimensions.

Amy Carr, Western Illinois University, presiding

## Panelist

Anna Vind, University of Copenhagen



Jennifer Hockenbery, Journal of Lutheran Ethics  
Anne Käfer, University of Münster  
Natalia Marandiuc, United Lutheran Seminary  
Richard Cross, University of Notre Dame  
Christine Helmer, Northwestern University

## **Respondent**

Risto Saarinen, University of Helsinki

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P22-102

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies

Theme: Sabbath Morning Proceedings

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

9:00-9:20 Morning Devotional

Plenary Presentation #1: Pastoral and Theological Reflections on Paul's Multi-Faceted Response to "Afflictions"

John Brunt, La Sierra University

9:20-10:45 Sabbath School Panel Discussion

Reflections and Responses: The Oxford Handbook of Seventh-day Adventism (2024)

Moderator: Michael Campbell

11:00-12:00 Worship Service

Sermon: Good God! What Have We Done to You?

Randy Roberts, Loma Linda University

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M22-107

**Hosted by:** Booth University College

Theme: Salvation Army Scholars and Friends Annual Meeting

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Defender (Seventh Floor)

Salvation Army Scholars and Friends Annual Meeting

Sponsored by the Centre for Salvation Army Studies—a research institute at Booth University College in Winnipeg, Canada—this event provides a venue for scholarship on the Salvation

Army. Anyone interested in the academic study of the Salvation Army is welcome to attend.

Andrew M. Eason, Booth University College, Presiding

Andy Miller, III, Wesley Biblical Seminary  
“William Booth and the Sacraments”

R. David Rightmire, Asbury University  
“The History and Significance of Word & Deed: A Journal of Salvation Army Theology & Ministry”

Roger J. Green, Gordon College  
“Lessons Learned from Writing a Biography of Bramwell Booth”

Rebecca Carter-Chand, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies  
at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
Carter-Chand discusses her new book Christian Internationalism and German Belonging: The  
Salvation Army from Imperial Germany to Nazism (University of Wisconsin Press, 2025)

Andrew Eason, Booth University College, presiding

## **Panelist**

Andrew Miller  
R. David Rightmire  
Roger J. Green  
Rebecca Carter-Chand

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P22-114

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Theme: SSCS Paper Panel and Discussion & SSCS Members Meeting

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay A (Second Floor)

Paper Panel and Discussion

“An Examination of Conscience: Christian Spirituality and Current Events”

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Followed by Members Meeting

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

## **Panelist**

Kyle Schenkewitz, Mount St. Joseph University  
Michelle Arnold, Mount St. Joseph University  
David De La Fuente, Fordham University  
Min-Ah Cho, Georgetown University

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P22-103

**Hosted by:** International Society for Chinese Philosophy

**Theme:** The Richness of Chinese Religiosity

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Columbus I and II (First Floor)

Panel 1: The Third Wave of Confucianism and Tu Weiming's Contributions

Presider:

Peter Phan, Georgetown University

Panelists:

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale University - "Reflections on Tu Weiming's Contributions to Ecology and Spirituality."

Yong Huang, Chinese University of Hongkong and Fudan University - "Tu Weiming's Anthropocosmism and the Self-Other Merging in Contemporary Moral Psychology."

Jianbao Wang, Peking University and Chung Kong Business School - "From Global Ethics to Multi-Planetary Ethics: A Perspective of Spiritual Humanism."

Young-chan Ro, George Mason University - "Humanism and Beyond: Tu Weiming and Raimon Panikkar in Dialogical Dialogue."

Respondent:

Sojeong Park, Sungkyunkwan University

Panel 2: Exploring the Richness of Chinese Religiosity

Panelists:

Hao Hong, University of Maine - "The Power of Indecisiveness: An Interpretation of Wu-wei (無為) in Daodejing."

Lam Kuen, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology - "Is Realization of Self-nature 見性 a conceptual trap? A Critical Review of Huineng through the Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra"

Haoyue Yang, Georgetown University - "Happy Bodhisattvas and Angry Sages: Śāntideva and the Cheng Brothers on Anger."

Martin Lu, Bond University - "The Onto-hermeneutical Philosophy of Chung-ying Cheng and Chinese Christian Theology of Thomas In-sing Leung."

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, presiding

## Papers

Mary Evelyn Tucker  
Reflections on Tu Weiming's Contributions to Ecology and Spirituality

Yong Huang  
Tu Weiming's Anthropocosmism and the Self-Other Merging in Contemporary Moral Psychology

JianBAO WANG  
From Global Ethics to Multi-Planetary Ethics: A Perspective of Spiritual Humanism

Young-chan Ro, George Mason University  
Humanism and Beyond: Tu Weiming and Raimon Panikkar in Dialogical Dialogue

Hao Hong, University of Maine  
The Power of Indecisiveness: An Interpretation of Wu-wei (無為) in Daodejing

Lam Kuen, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Is Realization of Self-nature 見性 a conceptual trap? A Critical Review of Huineng through the Laṅkāvatāra Sūtra

Haoyue Yang  
Happy Bodhisattvas and Angry Sages: Śāntideva and the Cheng Brothers on Anger

Martin Lu, Bond University  
The Onto-hermeneutical Philosophy of Chung-ying Cheng and Chinese Christian Theology of Thomas In-sing Leung

## Respondent

So-Jeong PARK

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P22-110

**Hosted by:** Karl Barth Society of North America

Theme: Karl Barth and Freedom

Saturday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Liberty B (Second Floor)

This session reflects on Karl Barth and the AAR theme of freedom. Papers consider the meaning(s) of freedom—divine and creaturely—in Barth's writings with both interpretive and constructive concerns in play.

Paul Dafydd Jones, University of Virginia, presiding

## Papers

David McNutt

"You Are Responsible to No One and to Nothing": Barth, Berdyaev, and Artistic Freedom

Lisa Powell, St. Ambrose University

Mary's Fiat: Freedom for Surrogacy?

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P22-109

**Hosted by:** Colloquium on Violence and Religion

Theme: Mimetic Theory, Identity, and the Formation of the Self

Saturday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

This session brings mimetic theory into dialogue with theology, pedagogy, and contemporary theories of identity to explore how desire shapes personal and communal formation. The first paper presents a pedagogical framework for teaching the lives of the saints in Catholic religious education, emphasizing the saints' conversion of desire as a model for adolescent development. Drawing on Girard's theory of mimetic desire, positive mimesis, and affective conversion, it proposes ways educators can invite students to critically reflect on their own desires through figures like St. Ignatius of Loyola. The second paper engages queer and crip theologies alongside mimetic theory to critique the limits of rigid identity categories. While queer and crip perspectives challenge binaries, mimetic theory reveals how such categories can still participate in cycles of exclusion and violence. Together, these papers explore alternative models of identity grounded not in rivalry or social comparison, but in openness to divine and transformative desire.

Chelsea King, presiding

## Papers

Margaret Felice, Boston College

A Pedagogy of Saints as Paradigms of Desire

Madeline Jarrett, Boston College

Dangerous Binaries: Girard in Conversation with Crip and Queer Theories

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P22-108

**Hosted by:** Hymn Society in the United States and Canada

Theme: The Hymn Society Presents: Scholarship on LGBTQIA2S+ Hymnody

Saturday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Westin Copley Place, Helicon (Seventh Floor)

Join The Hymn Society's Director of Research, Dr. Stephanie Budwey, for a presentation on the history and current hymnody of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

This presentation considers the role that Christian sacred music has played in the movement for equal rights in the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Just as music played an instrumental role in the Civil Rights Movement, it has also been a driving force in the struggle for justice in the LGBTQIA2S+ community. This exploration includes examining the songs themselves and collections of songs, including the Metropolitan Community Church's Trial Hymnal (1981) and Hymnal Project (1989–1993), as well as the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada's 2019 collection Songs for the Holy Other: Songs for: Hymns Affirming the LGBTQIA2S+Community. Additionally, this presentation draws from interviews with Christian pastors and musicians from around the world and U. S. contemporary artists Flamy Grant, Jennifer Knapp, and Semler to consider the role that music has played in the struggle for justice for the LGBTQIA2S+ community both inside and outside of church walls.

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M22-109

**Hosted by:** Rice University Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance

Theme: Religious Pluralism and Conflict in Global Context: A Multi-Disciplinary Agenda for Future Research

Saturday, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Courier (Seventh Floor)

Religious conflict and the conditions which sustain religious pluralism are front and center in these times, and the need for scholarship that is global, interdisciplinary, and relevant is urgent. Rice University's Boniuk Institute, led by Elaine Howard Ecklund, has hosted two global convenings of scholars of religious pluralism and conflict and is seeking to gather scholars at AAR to discuss the current context and a future agenda for research in these areas. Through these gatherings, the Boniuk Institute connecting scholars to each other and to the Institute in view of future grant-funded global project.

M22-103

**Hosted by:** BDK America

Theme: Numata Chairs Coordinators Meeting

Saturday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Gloucester/Newbury (Second Floor)

Numata Chairs Coordinators Meeting

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P22-101

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion

Theme: NAASR Business Meeting

Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

Annual business for NAASR.

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A22-149

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Honoring Jonathan Shay: A Performance by Theater of War

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

Theater of War was founded in 2009, inspired by Jonathan Shay's work on moral injury, which interprets the experience of war veterans through the ancient poetry of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. (<https://theaterofwar.com/>). This performance will honor Jonathan Shay's work and will serve as a powerful and provocative way to welcome new scholars and those curious about the connections between war, combat trauma, moral injury, as well as the power of artistic mediums to give profound expression to moral harm and woundedness.

Brian Powers, Durham University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Rita Brock

### **Respondent**

Bryan Dorries, Artistic Director, Theater of War and Public Artist in Residence (PAIR) for the City of New York

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A22-147

**Hosted by:** Publications Committee

Theme: Invite Only: BYO Lunch for Journal Editors

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, Hamilton College, presiding

Andrea Jain, Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis, presiding

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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A22-143

**Hosted by:** International Connections Committee

Theme: Making International Connections: A Lunch Hour Workshop

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

Sigríður Guðmarsdóttir, VID Specialized University, presiding

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A22-144

**Hosted by:** Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee

Theme: Mentoring Lunch

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)

Melissa M. Wilcox, University of California, Riverside, presiding

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A22-150

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Religious Studies Department & Program Closures: Insights, Strategies, & Steps

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)



Join us for this listening and strategizing session as part of continuing series responding to the accelerating closure of religious studies departments and programs in the US academy. The panelists will include the current leadership and several past presidents of the AAR. The focus will be to share insights, anticipate challenges, proactively strategize, and act in solidarity.

Leela Prasad, Brown University, presiding

Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, presiding

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A22-142

**Hosted by:** Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee

Theme: Networking Lunch

Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

The Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee invites you to our annual Networking Luncheon at the AAR Annual Meeting. It's a chance to strategize together about the future of academic labor. Colleagues across all positions—part-time, contract, and permanent—are encouraged to bring ideas, share challenges, and explore concrete steps toward greater equity, fair pay, and labor justice in our profession. Please note: this year's luncheon will be bring your own lunch, and no registration is required. Simply come by, share a meal, and join the conversation.

Minjung Noh, Lehigh University, presiding

Patrick Reyes, presiding

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M22-112

**Hosted by:** Christian Scholarship Foundation

Theme: Christian Scholarship Foundation Luncheon

Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom HI (Fourth Floor)

Welcome to the Christian Scholarship Foundation reception and luncheon! We are delighted for invited guests to join us for this special luncheon to reconnect with each other.

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M22-104

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research  
Theme: IBR Students Lunch  
Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Offsite

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M22-105

**Hosted by:** Theologia  
Theme: Lunch for Women in Christian Theology  
Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom E (Fourth Floor)

Theologia seeks to promote and celebrate women working in the field of Christian theology by cultivating spaces for fellowship, mentoring, and academic engagement. If you are a woman and consider yourself a Christian and theologian, please join us as we gather for lunch and a short program featuring reflections from Sarah Coakley, Norris-Hulse Professor emerita, University of Cambridge. Cost to attend is \$25; financial help is available. Advance registration is required: [REGISTRATION LINK HERE](#)

We can only guarantee spots for the first 65 who register. Co-sponsored by Baker Academic, Baylor University Press, Wipf and Stock Publishers, Zondervan Academic, Western Theological Seminary, Wycliffe College, and the John Templeton Foundation. Contact Kristen Deede Johnson [kd.johnson@utoronto.ca](mailto:kd.johnson@utoronto.ca) or Christa McKirland [christa.mckirland@carey.ac.nz](mailto:christa.mckirland@carey.ac.nz) with questions.

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P22-200

**Hosted by:** Adventist Society for Religious Studies  
Theme: Good God! What Have We Done to You? Randy Roberts, Loma Linda University  
Saturday, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

12:00-12:30 Randy Roberts, Loma Linda University  
"Good God! What Have We Done to You?"

Randy Roberts, Loma Linda University, presiding

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M22-200

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research  
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Board Meeting

Saturday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Independence B (Fourth Floor)

Institute for Biblical Research Board Meeting

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A22-202

**Hosted by:** Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: (Re)Assessing Asian American Racialization and the Future of Asian American Theology

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

The recent “revival” of Asian American theology has endeavored to move past familiar descriptions of Asian American racialization—the perpetual foreigner, yellow peril, model minority tropes—to more analytic accounts attentive to the larger structural situatedness of Asian American life. Yet these accounts are not necessarily uniform, which underscores the different ways in which emancipatory politics (within the church and beyond) have been envisioned. For some, Asian American racialization reinforces the insistence of racial identity as a crucial theological source; for others, it suggests the need to move beyond racial identity for the sake of liberation. Recent events (such as the rise in anti-Asian violence, scapegoating of immigrants and DEI initiatives, and the repeal of affirmative action) have amplified these questions. This roundtable session considers whether recent accounts of Asian American racialization require revision in light of these events or whether they continue to possess explanatory and normative power.

Jessica Wong, Azusa Pacific University, presiding

### Panelist

Jonathan Tran, Baylor University

Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology

Daniel Lee, Fuller Theological Seminary

Ki Joo Choi, Seton Hall University

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A22-205

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit, Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit

Theme: A comprehensive interdisciplinary program to develop, refine, implement, and evaluate a novel evidence-based spiritually integrated intervention for healthcare chaplaincy  
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

Spiritual health clinicians (SHCs; healthcare chaplains) are vital members of interdisciplinary healthcare teams trained to address broad social and emotional patient and staff care needs within a pluralistic religious landscape. With an expanded breadth of SHC presence in hospital medicine, the last decade has seen an increase in the volume and rigor of research in healthcare chaplaincy, with lofty goals of optimizing clinical pastoral education for the needs of the modern chaplain, demonstrating the impact of spiritual health consults on patient outcomes, and improving outcomes for the many care-seekers with whom SHCs touch. Here, interdisciplinary scholars from Spiritual Health, Clinical and Health Psychology, and Anthropology will discuss a program of research to develop, refine, implement, and evaluate a novel evidence-based spiritually integrated intervention - CCSH™ (Compassion-Centered Spiritual Health) – that was developed to address the broad social and emotional care needs within the diverse and multi-cultural religious landscape of healthcare.

Roman Palitsky, Emory University, presiding

### Panelist

Maureen Shelton, Emory University  
Jennifer Mascaro  
Deanna Kaplan, Emory University  
Business Meeting  
Kristy Slominski, University of Arizona  
Kyrā Malika Daniels, Boston College

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A22-228

**Hosted by:** Tantric Studies Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit  
Theme: Adaptation and Productive Tension: Kuṇḍalinī Reconsidered  
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This panel traces the historical and conceptual evolution of *kuṇḍalinī* across diverse textual traditions, embodied practices, and cultural contexts. The six papers illuminate *kuṇḍalinī*'s remarkable adaptability and productivity as a concept and practice: from its complex tantric expressions in Kaula traditions and its philosophical reframing in the *Mokṣopāya*, to its central technical role in *haṭha* yoga texts and its esoteric expression in Bengali Bāul-Fakir songs. The panel further examines *kuṇḍalinī*'s modern transformations through Theosophical reinterpretations and the medicalized framework of the San Francisco Kundalini Clinic. These

diverse approaches reveal *kuṇḍalinī* as a nexus of creative tension—force and dissolution, consciousness and energy, traditional authority and innovation. The panel presents a rich, multidimensional understanding of *kuṇḍalinī* by bringing together historical, philological, and ethnographic methods. This panel contributes to our understanding of how premodern South Asian concepts adapt and transform across epistemic, cultural, and temporal contexts.

Shaman Hatley, University of Massachusetts, Boston, presiding

## Papers

Tamara Cohen, University of Toronto  
Kuṇḍalinī in the Mokṣopāya

Ruth Westoby  
Kuṇḍalinī, sound-matter and dissolution in premodern yoga

Keith Cantu  
A Serpent-Shaped Lifeboat: Kuṇḍalinī in Bāul-Fakir Musical Language Worlds

Anya Foxen, California Polytechnic State University  
Hybrid Serpents and Solar Power: Early Twentieth-century Theosophical Models of Kuṇḍalinī

Marleen Thaler, University of Vienna  
Serpents and the Clinic: Kundalini Research at the San Francisco-based Kundalini Clinic

## Respondent

Ben Williams

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A22-222

**Hosted by:** Religion and Disability Studies Unit

Theme: Armand Leon van Ommen's *Autism and Worship: A Conversation Exploring Liturgy, Autistic Experience, and Theology*

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

This roundtable session explores Armand Leon van Ommen's recent book with Baylor University Press, *Autism and Worship: A Liturgical Theology*. In conversation with both autistic and non-autistic respondents from a variety of Christian traditions, as well as the author, this roundtable

will explore how van Ommen's book both challenges and expands existing conversations in liturgical theology, disability theology, research methodology, and ecclesial practice.

Sarah Jean Barton, Duke University, presiding

### Panelist

Kimberly Belcher, University of Notre Dame

Joanna Leidenhag, University of Leeds

Lamar Hardwick

Audrey Seah, College of the Holy Cross

### Respondent

Armand Van Ommen

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A22-234

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit and Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics: Andrea McComb Sanchez's *Of Corn and Catholicism: A History of Religion and Power in Pueblo Indian Patron Saint Feast Days*

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

In her recently published book, *Of Corn and Catholicism: A History of Religion and Power in Pueblo Indian Patron Saint Feast Days*, Andrea McComb Sanchez examines how the religion of the Eastern Pueblo Indians of New Mexico intertwined with Spanish Catholicism. Focusing on the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, the book examines the feast days as sites of resistance, accommodation, and appropriation. The book contributes to Pueblo history while also offering theoretical insights to the scholarly discourse around tradition through what McComb Sanchez calls "bounded incorporation." She introduces this term to describe the process by which the Eastern Pueblo navigated the imposition of colonial systems of oppression through Catholicism. This roundtable explores the book's wide-ranging historical and theoretical contributions to the fields of Religious Studies, Indigenous Studies, History, and American Studies as well as its applicability in teaching courses on Southwest histories, religion and colonization, and borderlands.

Timothy Vasko, presiding

### Panelist

Sydney Beckmann, California State University, Fresno  
Joseph Wiebe  
Mary Churchill, Sonoma State University  
Michael McNally  
Tisa Wenger, Yale University  
Tiffany Hale  
Anthony Trujillo

## **Respondent**

Andrea McComb Sanchez, University of Arizona

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A22-225

**Hosted by:** Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit  
Theme: Authors Meet Critic- Religion in the Américas  
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

*Religion in the Américas* explores the fluid, dynamic, and complex nature of religion across Latin America and its diasporic communities in the United States. Utilizing a transdisciplinary and trans-hemispheric lens, this groundbreaking anthology transcends traditional scholarly boundaries—geographical, disciplinary, and temporal—as it explores ideas and cultural practices that share a common history of Iberian colonialism. In this roundtable, panelists/contributors to the edited volume will reflect on the past, present, and future of the study of Religion in the Latinx Americas, paying particular attention to themes of epistemic practice, local insights, and emerging theories of religion.

Justin Doran, Middlebury College, presiding

## **Panelist**

Christopher Tirres, Santa Clara University  
Jessica Delgado, Ohio State University  
Jennifer Scheper Hughes, University of California, Riverside  
Daisy Vargas  
Tatyana Castillo-Ramos

## **Respondent**

David Carrasco, Harvard University

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A22-204

**Hosted by:** Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit

Theme: Bonhoeffer and Popular Culture

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

Recent years have seen a proliferation of representations of the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer in popular culture and the arts, including film, theatre, musicals, and documentaries. This session gathers a panel of leading Bonhoeffer scholars to analyze this phenomenon, reflecting on various representations of Bonhoeffer, the significance of these portrayals, their impact on Bonhoeffer's legacy, and the role of scholars and leaders of scholarly organizations in our reception of these representations.

Karen V. Guth, College of the Holy Cross, presiding

### **Panelist**

Mac Loftin, Harvard University

Stephen R. Haynes, Rhodes College

Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg University

Reggie Williams, McCormick Theological Seminary

Victoria Barnett

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A22-211

**Hosted by:** Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit

Theme: Book Panel on Mona Oraby's *Devotion to the Administrative State: Religion and Social Order in Egypt* (2024)

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

"Regulation does not inhibit freedom," writes Mona Oraby in *Devotion to the Administrative State* (2024). "To be free, religiously, is to be contained within a group." This insurgent idea orients Oraby's powerful ethnography of marginal religious groups in Egypt. *Devotion to the Administrative State* is a work of interdisciplinary practice and anthropological insight that inspires thinking about community anew and presses us to organize our conference assembly more directly toward community recognition and engagement. This roundtable seeks to host a discussion that includes all attendees through common discussion on secularism, belonging, and freedom.



Kathryn Lofton, presiding

### **Panelist**

Dana Logan, UNC Greensboro  
Nermeen Mouftah, University of Illinois, Chicago  
Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame  
Mona Oraby, Howard University  
Noah Salomon, University of Virginia

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A22-229

**Hosted by:** Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit

Theme: Book Panel: John Wesley's Letters (Volume 31, Bicentennial Edition)

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

Book Panel: Volume 31, the final volume of John Wesley's letters within the Bicentennial Edition, comprising a total of seven volumes, was published in August 2024. During the upcoming book panel, invited scholars will examine the implications of this comprehensive collection, which includes all letters available online, for our understanding of John Wesley's life and work.

Randy L. Maddox, Duke University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Cindy Aalders  
Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School  
Helmut Renders  
Filipe Maia, Boston University

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A22-209

**Hosted by:** Comparative Theology Unit

Theme: Comparative Theology and Protestant Traditions

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

The comparative theological discourse has been largely conceptualized and shaped by Roman Catholic theologians in the Western hemisphere. A significant strand of this discourse defines comparative theology as a theological, and perhaps even confessional, enterprise in which the

individual comparative theologian brings into fruitful dialogue texts of another tradition with their own for the purposes of theological learning. Within these parameters, Christian theology has been regarded with much singularity. This panel considers Protestant contributions to the comparative theological field by addressing hermeneutical and theological questions from diverse Protestant backgrounds, including Anglican, Lutheran, and various traditions rooted in Wesleyan and Calvinist thought in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Axel Marc Oaks Takacs, Seton Hall University, presiding

## Papers

Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Boston College

Comparing "Churches": Anglican Method and Comparative Theology

Hans Harmakaputra

Protestant Comparative Theologies from Asia: Methodological Reflections on Recent Works

Michelle Voss

Reformed and Reforming, United and Uniting

Joshua Ralston, University of Edinburgh

On not listening to Muslims: Hearer Excess and Reformed Christian Theology

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A22-206

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit

Theme: Creaturely Freedom: Human and Non-Human

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

This session explores conceptualizations of human and non-human freedom in relation to the great "wheel of being," creaturely plasticity and disability, and participation in the shared intentionality of the triune God.

Andrea C. White, Union Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

David Clough, University of Aberdeen

What Kind of Freedom? A Theology of Liberation for Non-Human Animals

Robert Elliot, Providence College  
Human Freedom as Participation in Triune Shared Intentionality

Lisa Powell, St. Ambrose University  
Tanner's Freedom as Plasticity: Human Nature, Disability, and the Natural World

Jennifer A. Herdt, Yale University  
Creaturely Freedom and the Great Wheel of Being

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A22-227

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Diagnosing Devotion, Denying Freedom: A Roundtable on Science, Religion, and Race in Judith Weisenfeld's *Black Religion in the Madhouse* (NYU Press, 2025)

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

Judith Weisenfeld's ***Black Religion in the Madhouse: Race and Psychiatry in Slavery's Wake*** (NYU Press) examines the intersection of race, psychiatry, and US religion. She proposes that science in the decades after the end of the US Civil War was not a neutral instrument of description; rather, it created objects of knowledge—pathologies, including about religion—that were infused with white supremacism. In this way, this work provides an illuminating look at the ways that religion, race and mental health have also been vectors for delimiting of freedom. *Black Religion in the Madhouse* creates new terrain for engagement between scholars of the history of science, race, and US religion. This roundtable draws scholars from a variety of fields and perspectives to shed light on Weisenfeld's work.

Nicole Turner, Princeton University, presiding  
Donovan Schaefer, presiding

### **Panelist**

Judith Weisenfeld, Princeton University  
Terence Keel, University of California, Los Angeles  
Jamil Drake, Yale University  
Danielle Boaz  
Wangui Muigai, Brandeis University

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A22-212

**Hosted by:** Ecclesiological Investigations Unit

Theme: Ecclesiologies of Freedom  
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This session addresses how different Christian communities do or do not envision the life of the church in terms of Christian or human freedom. Risto Saarinen's paper, "Martin Luther and the Ecclesiological Appeal of Christian Freedom" will argue that the perspective Luther develops in *The Freedom of a Christian* continues the Scotist and late medieval understanding of justice as a pursuit of another's good (*bonum alienum*). Phyllis Zagano's "Does Catholic Synodality Promise Ecclesial Freedom for Catholic Women" questions whether the ongoing process of synodality will bring about a free Catholic acceptance of ordained women. Lastly, Roberto De La Noval shows the consequences of erroneously taking "doctrine" as the subject of development, and how this perspective serves to make invisible the role in "doctrinal developments" of the theologian and her intellectual freedom in "The Freedom of the Theologian as Precondition for 'Doctrinal Development:' Catholic Teaching on Slavery as Case Study."

Jason Welle, Boston College, presiding

## Papers

Roberto De La Noval, Boston College  
The Freedom of the Theologian as the Precondition for "Doctrinal Development": Catholic Teaching on Slavery as Case Study

Phyllis Zagano, Hofstra University  
Does Catholic Synodality Promise Ecclesial Freedom for Catholic Women?

Risto Saarinen, University of Helsinki  
Martin Luther and the Ecclesiological Appeal of Christian Freedom

Business Meeting  
Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education  
Britta Meiers Carlson, Sewanee: The University of the South

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A22-210

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Islam Unit

Theme: Encountering the Boundaries of Islamic Tradition: Approaches through Technology, Racialization, Sensory Experience, and Literature

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

These papers illuminate the porous and dynamic boundaries of Islamic tradition as engaged across technological, racial, ritual, sensory, and literary terrains. The first paper explores how artificial intelligence, when applied to the task of Qur'an translation, has implications for how revelation is understood. Another explores how the denial of antiblackness in Muslim communities heightens "ontological terror" on the part of those who are racialized. The third paper provides a fascinating study of *ziyara* (visitation) practices among Muslims who seek to commemorate Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz at their gravesite and other locations in New York and meanwhile push against discourses of permissibility. The fourth and final paper engages in a reading of Kamila Shamsie's novel *Home Fire* to demonstrate how the limits of western literary and philosophical tradition expand beyond that of its supposedly uniquely European foundation. It demonstrates how Islam was/is also constitutive of a supposed "Westernness."

Amanullah De Sony, presiding

## Papers

Yunus Dogan Telliel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

AI-ification of the Qur'an: KuranGPT, or Translatability in an Age of LLMs

Zaynab Shahar

The Question of "Is Islam Antiblack" is a Question for the Black Radical Tradition

Katherine Merriman, University of Detroit Mercy

Ziyarat to the Manzar of El-Shabazz: Space-Time Transcendence and Spiritual Guidance from the Grave

Samuel Kigar, University of Puget Sound

Islam is the Eternal Irony of the Community: Reading Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*

## Respondent

Yasmine Flodin-Ali

Business Meeting

Candace Mixon, Reed College

Kimberly Wortmann, Wake Forest University

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A22-208

**Hosted by:** Comparative Studies in Religion Unit and South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: Female Saints, Self-Fashioning, and Freedom: New Directions in the Comparative Study of Historical Exemplars

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

At present scholars are producing a critical mass of scholarship on historical female exemplars ("saints") of devotion in India, including articles and book-length studies on their poetry and the hagiographies about them by later male authors. Such scholarship supports a revisiting of the comparative study of female saints. This papers panel identifies, responds and contributes to the terms of comparison using the generative AAR 2025 theme of "freedom" to illuminate facets of the process of devotion that are revealed by detailed study of historical female saints from multiple traditions of India. Posing new questions about cultural memory, authorial voice, gender construction, the space between poetry and hagiography, and the multiplicity of images of human flourishing, the papers illuminate a claim that the freedom of self-fashioning is central to the expression of devotion. Our aim is to develop this analytic for use in the global study of female saints.

Nanette Spina, presiding

## Papers

Karen Pechilis, Drew University

Devotion, Freedom, and Identity: An Early Female Saint

Gil Ben-Herut, University of South Florida

Fluid Corpus, Multiple Subjectivities: The Vacanas of Akka Mahadevi

Dean Accardi, Connecticut College

The Clothing of the Naked Saint: Lal Ded's Role in Shaping Ascetic Masculinity

Nancy M. Martin

Becoming in the Company of the Bhaktas: Expanding Gender and Self with Mirabai

Aalekhya Malladi, McGill University

Asceticism, Hagiography, and Telugu Womanhood

## Respondent

Neelima Shukla-Bhatt

A22-223

**Hosted by:** Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit

Theme: Folkloric Horror and Conjure as Prophetic Religion: Storytelling, Resistance, and Liberation

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

One of the core elements of embodied religious beliefs and practices is the contrast between that which is at the theological level vs that which is actually happening within the people and practices. Dr. Yvonne Chireau does this brilliantly in her book *Black Magic: Religion and the African Conjuring Tradition*. This roundtable discussion aims to build off that work in conversation with emerging scholars at the intersections of Folk Practices, Prophetic narrative traditions, Folk Horror and Religion. Folk horror being that which haunts a community based on its own histories. (Nijhuis) American Folk horror is currently having a resurgence in popular imagination. Films like *Nope*, *Nanny, Sinners*, *Lovecraft Country*, *His House*, Octavia Butler's works, and the surrealism of *Atlanta* show that there is a preoccupation with folk horror and its engagement with religion, its prophetic possibility, and its ability to offer navigational knowledge for the current political and cultural climate.

Jessica Knippel, Claremont Graduate School, presiding

### Panelist

DeAnna Daniels

Leland Merritt

Tamisha Tyler, Bethany Theological Seminary

Yvonne Chireau, Swarthmore College

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A22-219

**Hosted by:** Open and Relational Theologies Unit

Theme: Friendship, Freedom, and Divine Vulnerability: Jürgen Moltmann's Relational Theology

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

Jürgen Moltmann's passing in 2024 called forth a wave of remembrance and appreciation, highlighting once again his place in the firmament of contemporary theology. In this session, the Open and Relational Theologies Unit will consider Moltmann's legacy as a theologian of freedom and relationality. Session papers will explore: the "kenotic grammar" of Moltmann's theology and the power of kenosis to provide creaturely freedom; a reading of Moltmann and Balthasar on divine passibility that places vulnerability, risk, and trust at the heart of the divine essence and the center of human freedom and flourishing; Moltmann's influence on theologies of disability, with an emphasis on his spirit of liberation; Moltmann's interpretation of Christ's

"friendship on the cross" as a model for liberative human friendship; and Moltmann's concept of "open friendship with God," seen through Jesus's encounters with women in John's Gospel, as a resource for feminist theology.

Janna Gonwa, Gannon University, presiding

## Papers

Samuel Youngs

Freedom's Engine is Kenosis: The Unity of Creational Freedom and Divine Self-Emptying in Moltmann's Theology

Thomas Elbourn, Boston College

The Dynamic Death of God in Moltmann and Balthasar: Toward a Relational Anthropology of Vulnerability

Isabella Novsima, Drew University

Disability and Liberation: The Legacy of Jurgen Moltmann in Theology of Disabilities

Elaina Mair

That's What Friends Are For: Jürgen Moltmann's Account of Friendship as a Means To Freedom

Joy McDougall, Emory University

Open Friendship: Jürgen Moltmann's Overture to Feminist Theology Today

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A22-215

**Hosted by:** Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit and Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: Indigenous Ecologies: Lands, Waters, and Politics

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

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Seth Schermerhorn, Hamilton College, presiding

## Papers

Aron Tillema, Santa Clara University

Lisa Grayshield, Washoe Warrior Society

Whose Sustainability? Freedom, Land Use, and Competing Conceptions of Care at Cave Rock



Pamela Klassen, University of Toronto

'The Sound of The Rustling of The Gold is Under My Feet Where I Stand': Mineral Rights and Responsibilities in Anishinaabe and Settler Gold Rush Narratives

Nathan Samayo, Princeton Theological Seminary

On Hima: Colonial and Indigenous Politics of Conservation in Guåhan

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A22-200

**Hosted by:** African Diaspora Religions, Anthropology of Religion, Queer Studies in Religion, Religion, Affect, and Emotion, Religions, Medicines, and Healing, Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Unit

Theme: Kitchen Table Conversations

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

Scott Barton, University of Notre Dame, presiding

## Papers

Melodie Jackson

"Nourishing the Spirit, Starving for Kinship: Black Mormon Women, Food, and the Struggle for Belonging"

Christy Charnel

care at the crossroads

Rachel Lindsey, Saint Louis University

Setting the Table: Religion in Carrie Mae Weems's "Kitchen Table" (1990) Photography

Jeania Ree Moore, Yale University

The "Kitchen Table Historian": On the Subversive Erotic Pedagogy of Black Historical Romance Writer Beverly Jenkins

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A22-213

**Hosted by:** Exploratory Session

Theme: Liturgy, Song, and Theology

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This year's proposed roundtable addresses the conference theme of freedom. In the spirit of multidisciplinary dialogue and engaging with scholars from diverse contexts, our panel seeks to probe the intersection of song, liturgical theology, resistance and liberation struggles spanning from Guatemala to Latino/a/x Pentecostal pastors in Florida to the liberating potential of dance, movement, and song in worship to Brazilian and Canadian perspectives on songs of resistance against USA imperialism

Lisa Hancock, presiding

### Panelist

Becca Whitla, University of Saskatchewan  
Néstor Medina, University of Toronto  
Fernando Berwig Silva  
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

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A22-201

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit and North American Religions Unit

Theme: Moral Re-Imagination and Grassroots Practices of Re-Worlding: The Work of Religious Rebinding in the Age of 'Post-Secular' Capitalism

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

"Religion," like "art", and "politics", was never a free-standing concept but, rather, a coordinating concept in an interrelated social grammar that underwrote industrial capitalism's original charter. The cultural and economic changes that have accompanied the turn to neoliberalism in the last almost half-century imply shifts in the borders, definitions, and relationships both *within* and *between* categories of religion, art, and politics. Taken together, the panel engages with practices of moral reimagination as constitutive steps in communal analyses of and responses to the coordinates of contemporary power. The papers gathered here reflect on the life and labors of communities of practice that ground their analysis, cultural subvention of, and moral resistance to the social imaginaries and social ontologies of American gendered racial capitalism in artful practices of moral re-imagination and, in so doing, mirror these displacements but also look to somehow exercise political agency within them.

Casey Aldridge, Florida State University, presiding

### Panelist

George Gonzalez, City University of New York  
Laura McTighe, Florida State University  
Matthew Harris, University of Chicago  
Lucia Hulsether  
Rima Vesely-Flad

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A22-203

**Hosted by:** Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit and Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit

Theme: Participatory Thought in the Platonic and Augustinian Tradition

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

The past several years have witnessed renewed interest in participatory metaphysics, a key conceptual element of the Platonic tradition. Participation has been employed in different ways to conceptualize the relationship between God and creation, transcendence and immanence, and the One in the many. In this context Augustine, and numerous figures influenced by his thought, have made important and innovative contributions to this tradition. As such, it represents a theological and philosophical conversation that has continued across centuries. This panel invites papers that consider participatory metaphysics that examine either Augustine and Augustine-influenced thinkers, as well as papers that consider participation in the wider Platonic tradition.

Han-luen Kantzer Komline, presiding

## Papers

Robert Ziegler, University of Virginia

Gabriel Kim, University of Virginia

Augustine and the Neoplatonists on the Origin of Divine Visions

Mark Wiebe

An Analysis of Augustine's Porphyrian Critiques of Manichaeism

Jon Thompson, Regent University

Divine Immensity and Participation: Platonic and Christian Sources

Buki Fatona

Mapping the Summit of Human Perceptual Experience: From St Augustine's mansio to Thomas Aquinas' habitatio

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A22-216

**Hosted by:** Japanese Religions Unit and Space, Place, and Religion Unit

Theme: Performance and "Materiality": Toward Genealogy of the Sacred Space in Shinto Rituals and Performances

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This panel examines the formation of sacred space through performances, expanding beyond traditional ritual studies. By analyzing different forms of materiality—including sonority, landscape, gestures, and manuscripts—it investigates how performances dynamically shape space and connect with the “outside” world. The first presentation explores the role of Gagaku music in Shinto rituals, emphasizing its overlooked influence on spatiality and sacred atmosphere. The second focuses on the Ōharae purification ritual, reassessing the role of natural landscapes through Edo-period sources and demonstrating their significance in ritual space. The third examines the Miho Shinto Church, showing how divine possession (*kishinhō*) extends sacred space beyond physical sites, incorporating the texts as well as the kannushi’s body and speech. This interdisciplinary approach integrates ritual and spatial theory, phenomenology, and religious studies, fostering comparative research on sacred space across cultures. By exploring spatial transformations in diverse ritual contexts, this panel offers new perspectives on the complexity of the Shinto religious experience.

## Papers

Andrea Giolai, Leiden university

“Folk Gagaku” and the Sonic World of Shinto Rituals

Eiko Namiki, International Christian University

The Incorporation of Spiritual Learning and the Creation of Rituals at the Miho Shrine

Mariangela Carpinteri, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Materiality of the Landscape: Wild Nature in the Experience of the Ōharae

## Respondent

Emily Simpson, University of California, Santa Barbara

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A22-220

**Hosted by:** Practical Theology Unit and Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: Postcolonializing Scholarship, Teaching, and Mentoring for All People: Honoring and Celebrating the Contributions of Emmanuel Y. Lartey

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

The corpus of Emmanuel Y. Lartey's field-shaping scholarship, transformative teaching, and compassionate mentoring has made groundbreaking contributions to the study of practical theology, pastoral theology and care, African religious traditions, and theological education worldwide. To honor and celebrate Lartey's contributions, five scholars in practical theology, pastoral theology, and the psychology of religion—all of whom studied under his tutelage and received his close mentoring—will discuss how each has engaged with and been deeply shaped by Lartey's work. Together with the communities of the Practical Theology Unit and the Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit, this special session will create and provide a *postcolonializing* space where everyone can come together to recognize and celebrate Lartey's invaluable contributions and legacy at this year's AAR annual meeting in Boston.

Jaco Dreyer, presiding

### Panelist

Eunil David Cho, Boston University

Keith Menhinick

Stephanie M. Crumpton, McCormick Theological Seminary

Lahrona Little, Emory University

Corwin Davis, Pacific School of Religion

Hee-Kyu Heidi Park

Sabrina Müller, Zurich University

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A22-224

**Hosted by:** Religion, Media, and Culture Unit and Teaching Religion Unit

Theme: Ready Player Learn: Teaching Religion and Games through Challenges, Strategies, and Innovations

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

As games and gaming continue to shape contemporary culture, religious studies scholars are increasingly incorporating them as pedagogical tools. This roundtable brings together six scholars who explore diverse strategies for using games in religious studies classrooms, from analog and digital/virtual gameplay to studying game-related content on online platforms and in global tourism. Panelists discuss the logistical challenges of integrating games—such as accessibility, cost, and equitable assessment—while highlighting their potential to engage students with religious themes, historical narratives, and social dynamics. Topics include the

use of analog and role-playing games, the design and approval of courses on religion and video games, teaching religion publicly through games and online creator platforms, and the afterlife of games in tourism and pilgrimage. By addressing both challenges and opportunities, this roundtable offers practical insights into the pedagogical value of games in religious studies.

Joseph Tucker Edmonds, Indiana University, Indianapolis, presiding

## Panelist

Jeffrey Wheatley

Jonathan David Lawrence

Rachel Wagner, Ithaca College

William Chavez, Stetson University

Kaitlyn Ugoretz, University of California, Santa Barbara

Daigengna Duoer

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A22-217

**Hosted by:** Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit and Nineteenth Century Theology Unit

Theme: Religion and Literature in the Nineteenth Century

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

In recent discussions within nineteenth-century literary studies, there is a growing recognition of the significant impact of religion. This session explores the connections between religious ideas and the wider realm of literature during the nineteenth century in both Europe and North America. Papers presented will delve into a variety of notable figures from this era, including Sara Coleridge, Norman MacLeod, Søren Kierkegaard, George MacDonald, and Henry David Thoreau. Topics will cover a broad spectrum, such as pseudonymity, motherhood, the intersection of religion and fantasy literature, among others.

Marilyn Piety, presiding

## Papers

James Smoker, Regent College

A Theological Reading of Sara Coleridge's *Phantasmion* (1837)

Joy Clarkson, King's College London

Following the Gold Thread: The Influence of Romanticism and Literary Form on the Religious Works of Norman MacLeod

Joseph Westfall, Other  
Kierkegaard, Schumann, and the Musical-Religious: An Approach to Literary Polyvocality

Richard Higgins  
The Unseen and Unheard: Thoreau's Religious Vision

Laurie Wilson, Biola University  
The Motherhood of the Childless

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A22-207

**Hosted by:** Comparative Religious Ethics Unit and Liberation Theologies Unit  
Theme: Resistance, Revolution, and Reconciliation: Comparative Approaches to Liberation Theology  
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

These papers consider liberation theology in a comparative perspective. They address a wide range of geographical contexts including Iran, Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala, Palestine, India, Indonesia, and the United States, as well as diverse religious traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Indigenous traditions. The papers expand our notion of the theological to include not only formal theological texts but also ritual practice, sacred space, storytelling, care work, and political practices of resistance, revolution, and reconciliation. Together, the panelists help us to appreciate the possibilities and the potential limitations of liberation theology as a comparative framework.

James Waters, Villanova University, presiding

## Papers

Thomas Greene  
A Framework for Comparative Liberation Ethics with Gustavo Gutiérrez and Ali Shariati

Russell Johnson, University of Chicago  
Liberation and Reconciliation: J. Deotis Roberts, Mohandas Gandhi, and Śāntideva in Dialogue

Nindyo Sasongko, Fordham University  
The Myth of Peace: A Comparative Theology of Decolonization and Ritual in Javanese Temples

Marah Sarji  
Guatemala and Gaza, Enfleshed Divinity in Women's Ethics of Care

J.P. Reed, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Babak Rahimi, University of California, San Diego

Soodeh Mansouri

A Comparative Analysis of Sacred Stories and Their Impact in the Iranian and Nicaraguan  
Revolutions

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A22-233

**Hosted by:** Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Unit

Theme: Review Panel: Robert Paul Seesengood's American Standard: The Bible in U.S. Popular  
Culture

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This session will review Robert Paul Seesengood's recent book on the intersections of Cultural  
Studies and Biblical texts, entitled: "American Standard: The Bible in U.S. Popular Culture"  
(Wiley-Blackwell, 2024).

Ludwig Noya, Villanova University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Brennan W. Breed, Columbia Theological Seminary

Haley Gabrielle, Emory University

Tina Pippin, Agnes Scott College

Ted A. Smith

Hannah Strommen

### **Respondent**

Robert Seesengood, Drew University

Business Meeting

Ludwig Noya, Villanova University

Robert Seesengood, Drew University

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A22-235

**Hosted by:** Daoist Studies Unit and Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit

Theme: Sacred Breath: Qi and Prana in Indian and Chinese Traditions

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM



Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

*Qi* and *prāṇa*, terms for vital force or breath analogous to *pneuma*, *ruach*, and *spiritus*, have ancient roots and are still widely practiced and theorized in almost all Asian cultures. They are foundational to Chinese medicine as well as Ayurveda. They played roles in cosmological, metaphysical, philosophical reflections, health, and spiritual practices. It may be tempting to see them as referring to the same phenomenon, but a deeper look reveals nuance and complexity. We will discuss both shared assumptions as well as differences. We will also discuss their multivalence and the diverse ways that *qi* and *prāṇa* evolved over millennia and theorized within the Chinese and Indian traditions. We also explore the potential cross-fertilization between these two cultures, how notions of *prāṇa* translated into China, and if and how they shaped the way *qi* was understood and practiced. Similarly, we hope to discuss whether the concept of *qi* made its way into India and whether it helped shape medical, meditative, and religio-philosophical views and practices in India.

Eyal Aviv, presiding

### Panelist

Yi Ding, DePaul University

Michael Stanley-Baker, Nanyang Technological University

Ana Funes, Fairfield University

### Respondent

Gil Raz, Dartmouth College

Business Meeting

Eyal Aviv

Karen O'Brien-Kop, King's College London

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A22-226

**Hosted by:** Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: Secularism and Pluralism in Global Contexts: Sociological Perspectives

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

This panel examines political secularism, atheism, and religious pluralism across diverse national contexts. The first paper explores how Mexico's new policy for engaging religious groups marks a shift from church-state separation to a collaboration with religious organizations that empowers evangelicals while marginalizing minority religions. The second paper offers a typology of models of state approaches to religious pluralism in six Arabian Gulf nations, highlighting how religious tolerance is shaped by governments based on sectarian

politics, economic incentives, and geopolitical positioning. The third paper investigates the historical contingencies that have shaped religious pluralism in Hong Kong's education system, highlighting how pluralism emerged from pragmatic governance choices and shifting social conditions. The final paper reveals findings from a comparative study of nontheism, focusing on the beliefs, identities, and morality of atheists and agnostics in China. This panel offers a critical understanding on how secularism and pluralism are shaped, experienced, and transformed globally.

Joseph Blankholm, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

## Papers

Abraham Hawley Suarez, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Protestantizing Mexican Secularism: Local Dynamics of Religious Policy Under López Obrador

Brandon Vaidyanathan  
Pluralisms Without Freedom? Innovations in State-Managed Tolerance and Constraint in the Arabian Gulf

Ryan Hornbeck, Wenzhou-Kean University  
Jonathan Lanman, Queen's University  
Adam Baimel  
Lois Lee, University College, London  
Atheism and Agnosticism in 21st-Century China: Results from a Six-Nation Study of Nontheistic Beliefs, Identities, and Moral Perspectives

Business Meeting  
Dusty Hoesly, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Di Di, Santa Clara University

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A22-231

**Hosted by:** World Christianity Unit

Theme: The Construction of Christian Nationalism and its Relation to Freedom

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Through an examination of global contexts throughout the twentieth century this panel explores the interplay between Christian nationalism and the concept of freedom. The first paper addresses expressions of Chinese nationalism implemented through an authoritarian regime and its confluence of Christian and Confucian ideas of power. The second paper explores Indonesia's independence struggle, and a Christian liberation message rooted in

collective freedom and security. The third paper examines the intersection of economic class, social hierarchy, and legal systems among Indian Christians in the nationalist movement. The fourth paper spotlights the nationalist movements' development in Zimbabwe and the negotiations between local Christians and foreign missionaries in the turn away from imperialism. Together, these papers provide a nuanced understanding of how Christian nationalism has been constructed and its complex relationship with the pursuit of freedom across different cultural and historical landscapes.

Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University, presiding

## Papers

Shin-Fung Hung

Between Confucius and Christ: Chiang Kai-shek's Christian Nationalism Across Multifaith China and Taiwan

Aulia Simon Partogi Situmeang, Boston University School of Theology

Reinterpreting Freedom and Liberation Theology from Indonesia: Insights from Amir Sjarifoeddin's Life

Dax Mathew, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Contested Ideas of Freedom: Indian Christians Challenging the Social Caste System through the Writ of Habeas Corpus

Alison Zilversmit, University of Edinburgh

Navigating "Tight Corners" of Christian Mission in Colonial Zimbabwe: Charles Mzingeli and the 1945 Land Apportionment Amendment

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A23-124

**Hosted by:** Qur'an Unit

Theme: The Qur'an and its Interpretation

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Fairfield (Third Floor)

This panel features papers employing diverse approaches to the study of the Qur'an and its interpretation.

Samuel Ross, presiding

## Papers

Sarra Tlili, University of Florida  
Qur'anic Soundscapes: The Interplay of Sound and Meaning

Tulaib Zafir, Harvard University  
The Hanafi Ontology of the Qur'an: Its Persistence in Theology and Cessation in Law

Saqib Qureshi  
Is There Room for Imagination in Qur'anic Interpretation? Further Insights on the Reception of al-Zamakhsharī's Imaginative Hermeneutics (Ṭarīq al-Takhyīl) in Post-Classical Qur'anic Commentaries

Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz, The University of Chicago  
Mollā Fenārī's Quranic Hermeneutics Between Legal Theory and Sufism

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A22-218

**Hosted by:** North American Religions Unit

Theme: The Site of Higher Education and The Formation of Religious-Political Identity

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

These papers examine the site of higher education as a location that influences the formation of religious identity and perspectives on religion. It focuses on the formation of religious-political identities among students, spanning conservative and progressive views. One paper examines a conservative student newspaper, shaping campus discourse and the rhetoric around the intersection of religious and political issues. Another paper examines educating students about the history of campus activism, grounding their university identity in relation to an intersection of religion and politics. The third paper considers the legacy of a prominent Christian nationalist figure on a university, which includes a chapel, art, and events on campus, thus framing the university as a defender of the faith

Brandon Bayne, presiding

## Papers

Andrew Gardner, Mercer University  
From Heresy Trials to LGBTQ Rights: A Case Study in Teaching the History of Campus Activism and Student Voice at Mercer University

Morgan Proffitt-Davis  
The Flame that Must Not Die

## Respondent

Thelathia Young

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A22-221

**Hosted by:** Queer Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Topics in Queer Studies in Religion

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

This panel explores the expansive transdisciplinary knowledges, religions and spiritualities, methods, and epistemologies that define queer and trans studies in religion. Panelists will share their research on topics related to Afro-Brazilian religions, secularities, and experiments in teaching and learning. They engage questions of the limits of secular framings of sexual freedom, embodied pedagogy, the value of non-Western epistemologies in postcolonial social justice pursuits, the need for affirming childhood transition narratives, and offer their takes on what it means to engage in “bad” religion and reading.

Brandy Daniels, University of Portland, presiding

## Papers

Kelsey Cooper, University of California, Santa Barbara

Pathways to Freedom: Afro-Brazilian Religion in Queer and Trans Activism

L. Patrick Burrows, Berea College

Indecent Teaching: On the Pedagogical Possibilities and Challenges of Marcella Althaus-Reid

Caroline Cunfer, Brown

The Right to Celibacy: Bumble and the Secular Aesthetics of Sexual Liberation

Max Thornton

Brainwashed by the Cult of Transgenderism: Religious and Secular Narratives Against Childhood Transition

Maxine King, Princeton Theological Seminary

Trans Literalism and the Semiotic (Gender) Ideology of Secularism

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A22-232

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit and Chinese Religions Unit

Theme: What Can Sūtras Do? Elaborating the Aesthetics, Affectivity, and Transformative Power of Mahāyāna Sūtras in Premodern Asia

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

Mahāyāna *sūtras* regularly depict their own language and material forms as possessing supreme, transformative power, promising devotees extraordinary worldly and soteriological benefits. However, scholarship has often focused on these claims in isolation, less frequently examining how historical practitioners engaged with and enacted such transformative potentials. Contributing to emerging discourse on the aesthetic and affective dimensions of Mahāyāna Buddhism, this panel explores how Buddhists have activated these powers, enhancing the sensible range of what *sūtras* can do. Through four case studies spanning premodern Asia, we demonstrate that Buddhists were highly inventive in integrating *sūtras* into affectively charged ritual, artistic, and literary productions, putting scripture to work. These mediations—ranging from miracle tales to illustrated manuscripts to poetic contemplations to demon-summoning rites—enlivened and made more tangible the *sūtras*' promised abilities to transform reality, thus establishing their palpable agency in the world. Mahāyāna *sūtras* transform us when we make their worlds come—sensibly—alive.

Natalie Gummer, presiding

## Papers

Simona Lazzerini

Of Lust and Bones: Transformative Experiences in Esoteric Manuals

Nikita Kuzmin

Text and Image Across Media and Languages: A Case Study of Tangut, Chinese, and Uyghur Illuminated Sutras and Inscriptions

Julian Butterfield, Stanford University

Sighing in Astonishment, Weeping with Joy: Feeling the Power of the Lotus Sūtra in Medieval Chinese Miracle Tales

Tiantian Cai

Waves of Mind, Oceans of Consciousness: Embodied Metaphors in the Laṅkāvatāra-sūtra and its Transformative Role

## Respondent

Ralph Craig, Whitman College

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A22-214

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit

Theme: Wild Card: Witnessing Faith, Claiming Freedom: Christian Voices from Ireland to Ecuador

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This session explores diverse expressions of Christian identity, authority, and transformation across time and cultures. Topics include Protestant visual arts theologies in the U.S., gender and episcopal authority in early medieval Ireland, missionary photography and indigenous conversion in Ecuador, and sixteenth-century Anabaptist martyr narratives. Together, these papers highlight how Christian communities have navigated belief, representation, and freedom in varied historical and cultural contexts.

Minji Lee, Montclair State University, presiding

## Papers

Abigail Schweizer, Yale University

"Christianity Today" Versus "The Christian Century": Comparing Evangelical and Liberal Protestant Visual Arts Theologies, 1960-1985

Judith Bishop

Brigit and the Bishop Conundrum: Gender and Authority in Early Medieval Ireland

Diego Cortes, University of Oregon

From Fundamentalism to Evangelicalism: Missionary Photography, Religious Transformation, and Indigenous Conversion in Mid-20th Century Ecuador

Jennifer Otto, University of Lethbridge

Model Martyrs: Sixteenth-century Anabaptist Martyr Narratives as Living Texts

Business Meeting

Minji Lee, Montclair State University

Roy Fisher, Loyola Marymount University

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M22-204

**Hosted by:** Women's Caucus of the AAR-SBL, WikiProject Women in Religion

Theme: A History of Women Claiming Voice

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

This event highlights biographies to be included in a volume about women who (1) figure prominently as founders, leaders, activists, participants and supporters in the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus; (2) reflect the diverse nature of such participants and the traditions they represent; (3) do not have a biographical entry on Wikipedia.

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A22-230/S22-242

**Hosted by:** SBL's Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics Seminar, Bible in America Section, John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern Section, Latino/a/e and Latin American Biblical Interpretation Section, and AAR's Religion and Migration Unit

Theme: Panel Review of Yii-Jan Lin's *Immigration and Apocalypse* (Oxford: 2024)

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

Panel Review of Yii-Jan Lin's *Immigration and Apocalypse* (Oxford, 2024).

Jacqueline Hidalgo, Williams College, presiding

### **Panelist**

Lloyd Barba, Amherst College

Melissa Borja, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Willie J. Jennings, Yale University

Jennifer Kaalund

Tat-siong Benny Liew

Roberto Mata

### **Respondent**

Yii-Jan Lin

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M22-202

**Hosted by:** Scriptura



Theme: Parallelism as Conceptual Blending  
Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Northeastern (Third Floor)

"Parallelism as Conceptual Blending: A Theoretical Foundation"  
Elizabeth Robar, Scriptura (30min)  
"Parallelism as Conceptual Blending: Case Study in Select Psalms"  
Ryan Sikes & Ian Atkinson, Scriptura (1hr)  
Workshop in Parallelism as Conceptual Blending  
(1h)

### Panelist

Elizabeth Robar, Scriptura  
Ryan Sikes, Scriptura  
Ian Atkinson, Scriptura

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P22-201

**Hosted by:** Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

Theme: Some Highlights of the Journey Thus Far of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies (SBCS)

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, St. George CD (Third Floor)

We will reflect on the journey of the Society of Buddhist Christian Studies thus far as it approaches its 40th anniversary. This session will highlight some milestones of the society's history. It will gather some members who have been firsthand witnesses of the society's history. They will reflect on what for them are highlights and milestones of the society's journey thus far. Based on that, they will also offer insights on how the society can impact Buddhist-Christian studies now and in the future

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M22-203

**Hosted by:** Theology Without Walls Group

Theme: Systematic: The Human Predicament

Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A (Second Floor)

The next topic for a systematic TWW is the human predicament -- the key to religious, spiritual, and philosophical visions. Relevant evidence can be found in the religious traditions, various

disciplines and cultural expressions, and personal experience. What are the salient questions, insights, and articulations?

John Thatamanil, presiding

## Papers

Perry Schmidt-Leukel

Defect of Insight and Defect of Will: Fractal Entanglements in Buddhism and Christianity

Richard Oxenberg

Nullity, Ignorance, and Sin: Toward a Phenomenological 'Diagnosis' of the Human Predicament

Jon Paul Sydnor

Toward a Nondual Christianity: Salvation as the Restoration of Loving Unity-in-Difference

Jonathan Weidenbaum

Between a Broken Cosmos and the Insulated Ego: Jewish Thought and the Drama of Reparation

William Franke

The Chronic Human Condition as Revealed by Plagues and Pandemics

Kip Elolia

Ethnography as a Theological Method

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P22-202

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion

Theme: Contextualizing Crisis without Universalism

Saturday, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

## Panelist

Ting Guo, Chinese University of Hong Kong

James Dennis LoRusso, University of North Florida

Karen DeVries, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Robyn Walsh, University of Miami

Adrian Hermann, University of Bonn

P22-302

**Hosted by:** Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion

Theme: Beyond Abstinence-Only: Purity Culture in Today's Political Moment

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex Center (Third Floor)

While “purity culture” is most associated with the evangelical abstinence teachings and rituals of the 1990s-2000s, featuring purity rings, purity balls, and abstinence pledges, scholars of the movement have recognized how purity culture(s) transcend(s) white evangelicalism, infiltrating broader U.S. culture and policymaking. This *Feminist Studies in Religion* roundtable convenes interdisciplinary feminist scholars to discuss how purity ideology operates as a dangerous and often invisible force driving the current wave of transgender healthcare bans, DEI rollbacks, ICE deportations, proposed pronatalist policies, U.S. foreign relations, and other current events. This diverse group of panelists will be invited to engage the following questions: where do purity culture logics show up in specific policies or ideologies of the Trump Administration 2.0? How can understanding these policies/ideologies as rooted in purity logics help us better challenge and dismantle them?

Lauren Sawyer, presiding

### Panelist

Kimi Bryson

Samuel Ernest, Yale University

Katie Heatherly, University of Notre Dame

Victoria Houser, University of California Santa Barbara

Mihee Kim-Kort

Jennifer McGrath, Independent Researcher

Madison Natarajan, William James College

Chanelle Robinson

Flora Tang, University of Notre Dame

Indhira Udofia

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A22-304

**Hosted by:** Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop and Religion Unit

Theme: Beyond Labels: Exploring Critical Mixed-Race Ethics and Generational Trauma through Kendrick Lamar's Rhythmic Hermeneutic

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

This analysis explores the intersection of Kendrick Lamar's artistry, cultural critique, and changing religious perspectives through key events like his Super Bowl Halftime Show and the album *Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers*. By juxtaposing his performance with conventional understandings of identity and power structures, Lamar challenges the hypermasculinity and phallogocentrism inherent in hip hop, advocating instead for a rhythmic epistemology that prioritizes collective resonance and inclusivity. His shift from traditional Christian notions of salvation to Eckhart Tolle's concepts of healing and the Ego reflects a broader dissatisfaction with existing religious frameworks for addressing generational trauma. Additionally, the examination of his rap beef with Drake underscores issues of racial authenticity and identity, while highlighting the importance of critical mixed-race ethics that account for multiracial experiences. This multifaceted exploration affirms hip hop's role in shaping narratives around race, identity, and liberation in contemporary society.

Robert Saler, Christian Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Jessica Couch

Phallogocentrism vs. Pulscentrism: Toward a Rhythmic Hermeneutic of Freedom

E. Rector, University of Toronto

Ayahwasca & The Valley of Silence: Kendrick Lamar on the Insufficiency of Christian Theology for Generational Trauma

Daniella Hobbs

Not Like Us Either: The Kendrick Lamar/Drake Rap Beef as a Case Study for Critical Mixed-Race Ethics

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A22-318

**Hosted by:** Middle Eastern Christianity Unit

Theme: Book Review Panel Discussion of Munther Isaac's *Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza*

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This panel features scholarly engagement with Munther Isaac's theological reflections on the role of Christian discourse in shaping responses to the crisis in Gaza. Writing as a Palestinian pastor and theologian, Isaac challenges dominant Western Christian narratives that, he argues, have long sustained a colonial project marked by displacement and discrimination since the nineteenth century. Through close readings of biblical texts and historical analysis, Isaac calls

for a critical reassessment of the ways Christian theology can either obscure or illuminate structures of violence and inequality. Panelists will consider the broader implications of Isaac's work for contemporary theological ethics and the politics of solidarity within Christian thought.

Daniel Bannoura, presiding

### **Panelist**

Jennifer Maidrand  
Safwat Marzouk  
Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame  
Riad Kassis

### **Respondent**

Munther Isaac, Bethlehem Bible College  
Business Meeting  
Deanna Womack  
Mourad Takawi, University of the Incarnate Word

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A22-301

**Hosted by:** Buddhism and Caste Seminar

Theme: Buddhism and Caste in South Asian Ethnography

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel utilizes ethnography to center the voices of caste-oppressed Buddhists in India, Western Odisha, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The first two panelists focus the relationship caste plays in Buddhism(s) transmitted through oral cultures in India. Panelist 1 examines the forms, cultural practices, and meanings of Buddhist songs for Dalit-Bahujan communities, showing how sonic culture reflects anti-caste cultural practices. Panelist 2 explores the role of myths, legends, and folktales within the Gandha community of Odisha for reconstructing anti-caste histories. The next two papers move outside of India to consider the role of caste and ethnoreligious identity within Muslim majority regions. Panelist 3 examines the impact of Bengali Muslim migration in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, on indigenous Buddhist social structures. Panelist 4 traces the Buddhist lifeworld created by caste marginalized Buddhists in Pakistan.

Adeana McNicholl, Vanderbilt University, presiding

### **Papers**

K Kalyani, Azim Premji University

From hymns of Devotion to Resistance: Buddhist sonic as an anti-caste counterpublic

Snehashish Das, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Reconstructing the Buddhist Past from Folk Myths; a Study of Ganda Anti-Caste Community in Western Odisha.

Muhammad ALA UDDIN, Department of Anthropology, University of Chittagong

Migration, Religion, and Caste: The Impact of Bengali Settlement on Indigenous Buddhist Social Structures in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh

Ghulam Hussain , Bahria University Islamabad

Negotiating Precarity of the Last Surviving Buddhist Communities in a Privileged Caste Muslim Pakistan

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A22-302

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit

Theme: Catholicism and State-Building: Protest, Piety, and Control

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

If you have an interest in church-state relations, empire, protest, and regimes of control, you've found the right session! We welcome your curiosity and your questions as three panelists and a respondent discuss carceral reform institutions run by women religious in the 19th century U.S. West, churchstate violence in the colonial Philippines, and theologies of protest in recent anti-authoritarian uprisings in South Korea.

Nicholas Dawes, presiding

## Papers

Hennessey Star, University of New Mexico

States and Sisters: The Role of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in State-Building and Girls' Carceral Institutions in the Western United States

James T. Bretzke, John Carroll University

Deja-vu all over again! From K-Pop To K-Trump in Korean Political Turmoil

Philip Conklin, University of California-Santa Cruz

The Cofradía de San Jose in the longue durée of popular Catholicism

## Respondent

Winnifred Sullivan

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A22-311

**Hosted by:** Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit

Theme: Chaplaincy on Liberatory Frontiers

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This session brings together theoretical, ethnographic, community, and clinical chaplaincy innovations at the liberatory frontiers to professionally impact spaces of unfreedom and suffering. Examples of effective advocacy and transformation come from value-based community organizing to turn private grief into public witness confronting systemic injustice in workplace and movement chaplaincy; ways in which Asian and migrant communities' ethnicity, belief systems, and cultural understandings of healing, including in narratives of ancestors and ghosts, highlight tensions between Western models of care and non-Western spiritual traditions particularly related to trauma, displacement, and racialized structural exclusions informing clinical hospital encounters; advocacy in end-of-life spiritual care with patients who have severe mental health challenges sheds light on the limitations of standard models of care and possible alternatives; and a case study from European university chaplaincy of how to transform chaplaincy from a siloed, minoritized profession serving minority religious populations to a multifaith, whole-organization change agent.

Leigh Miller, Maitripa College, presiding

## Papers

George Schmidt, Vanderbilt University

Militant Chaplaincy: A Söllean Weaponization of Chaplaincy's Fundamental Competencies in Value-Based Community Organizing

Xueying Wang, Harvard Divinity School

Chaplaincy, Hauntings, and Racialized Healing: Navigating Spiritual Care Experiences Among Migrant Communities in American Hospitals

Aaron Klink, Duke University

Advocates in the Storm: Hospice Chaplaincy With Patients With Severe Mental Illness

Jeremy Clines, University of Sheffield

Tamara Hervey, City, University of London

Non-exclusionary spiritual care: chaplains as consultant practitioners who listen, research and respond in pursuit of enabling holistic inclusion

Business Meeting

Aaron Klink, Duke University

Leigh Miller, Maitripa College

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A22-330

**Hosted by:** Sikh Studies Unit

Theme: Confronting Empire and Sacred Worlding in Sikh Practice

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vermont (Fifth Floor)

This panel explores the dynamic interplay between empire and sacred worlding within Sikh practice. By examining historical and contemporary contexts, we aim to uncover how Sikh communities have navigated and resisted imperial forces while simultaneously cultivating sacred spaces and identities. Through interdisciplinary approaches, panelists will discuss the ways in which Sikh practices challenge hegemonic structures and foster resilience, spirituality, and community cohesion. This dialogue will provide insights into the transformative potential of sacred worlding in confronting and reimagining empire.

Francesca Cassio, Hofstra University, presiding

## Papers

Harpreet Singh

Confronting Empire: Recovering the Text of Guru Gobind Singh's *Ẓafarnāma* (c. 1705)

Jaskiran Kaur Bhogal, University of Oxford

Jen Dickinson, University of Southampton

Rishika Mukhopadhyay, University of Southampton

Saeed Ahmed, OP Jindal University

Sacred worlding of diasporic Sikh heritage: A creative (de)territorialised approach

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A22-305

**Hosted by:** Daoist Studies Unit



Theme: Contemplating the Dao: New directions in the study of Chinese religion and contemplative traditions, in response to the work of Harold D. Roth

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This roundtable brings together scholars of early Chinese religion, Daoist studies, and contemplative studies to explore new directions in their fields through the lens of Harold D. Roth's influential work. Roth's research has significantly impacted how scholars understand early Chinese texts and practices, emphasizing the central role of contemplative practice and challenging long-held assumptions about the context of textual production in early China. His contributions also extend to the study of classical Chinese thought more broadly, cross-cultural religious ethics, and the emerging field of contemplative studies. Panelists will reflect on Roth's legacy, engage critically with his methods, and discuss how his work informs new research across religious studies, history, philosophy, contemplative studies, and more. Featuring diverse disciplinary perspectives, this session highlights the continued relevance of Roth's scholarship while raising new questions for future inquiry.

Matthew Duperon, presiding

### **Panelist**

Judson Murray, Capital University

Larson Di Fiori

Jung Lee, Northeastern University

Adrien Stoloff

Erin Cline

Matthew Duperon

### **Respondent**

Harold D. Roth, Brown University

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A22-316

**Hosted by:** Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: Ecofeminist Approaches to Liberation: Displacement, Disaster, and Geographic Inequalities

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Drew University Theological School, presiding

## Papers

Steven James

Critical Ethnography as a Basis for Queer Theoethical Analysis: A Study of Active Resistance for a Queer Latine Migrant Christian Ministry

Isabela Rosales

Faith, Policy, and Reproductive Healthcare: In the Wake of a Forced Migration Crisis

Haley Chuor, Harvard Divinity School

Seed of Resistance: Maize in Mesoamerica

Fellipe dos Anjos Pereira, Drew University

The Falling Sky as Cosmopolitical Warfare: Eschatological scenes of an Ancestral Catastrophe in Brazil

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A22-300

**Hosted by:** Bioethics and Religion Unit

Theme: Emerging Technology Ethics in Religious Frames

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

Emerging technologies continue to raise some of the most important questions in bioethics - around life and death, what it means to be human, and what it means to truly care for other humans. Papers in this session will address various aspects of intersections between biomedical technology and religious perspectives: genetic testing, AI and organoid intelligence, and life-sustaining technologies and risky truth-telling that a patient is going to die. The speakers will present various genealogies, perspectives, and areas of professional practice in their reflections on some of the most pressing bioethical questions.

Amy Michelle DeBaets, presiding

## Papers

Micah Rojo, Duke University

"You Are Going to Die": Risky Truth-telling in the Contemporary American Hospital

Caterina Baffa

Genetic Testing and the Garden of God

Kimbell Kornu

AI, OI (Organoid Intelligence), and Ersatz Incarnation: A Genealogy of Cognitive Science and Disappearance of the Human

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A22-307

**Hosted by:** Energy, Extraction, and Religion Seminar

Theme: Extractivist States and Religion

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This session will be an author-meets-critics forum featuring Mohamed Amer Meziane's *States of the Earth: An Ecological and Racial History of Secularization* (Verso 2024). Engaging current debates in secular studies and political theology, Meziane theorizes secularism neither as de-Christianization nor the continuation of Christianity. In the face of failed mass conversion of colonial subjects, Meziane demonstrates that imperial powers turned efforts toward secular civilizing missions, pursuing eschatological perfection on Earth through industrialization and fossil fuel extraction. Meziane therefore offers an alternative to the fossil capital narrative of climate emergency, demonstrating fossil capitalism, colonialism, and the violence of the modern state as rooted in "imperiality," or the ongoing afterlives of imperialism. Respondents Matt Smith, J. Brent Crosson, and \_\_\_\_ have each theorized religion and extraction in their own work with intriguing points of overlap and distinction. Each of the panelists will offer reflections on *States of the Earth*, followed by a response from Mohamed Meziane.

Evan Berry, Arizona State University, presiding

## Papers

Mary-Jane Rubenstein

Cosmological Extraction: Secularity and the Sacrifice of the Heavens

Nikki Hoskins, University of Scranton

The Fungibility of Black Ecologies: Energy and Extraction

J. Crosson, University of Texas, Austin

The States Below the Earth

Matthew Smith, Alma College

On Conversion and Secularization: Responding to Meziane's *The States of Earth*

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A22-323

**Hosted by:** Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Unit

Theme: Facing Threats to Democracy: Lessons from Pragmatism

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

veteran members of the pragmatism unit reflect on what resources pragmatism can offer in facing the current threats to our democracy

Xavier Pickett, Cornell University, presiding

### Panelist

Victor Anderson, Vanderbilt University

David Lamberth

Christopher Tirres, Santa Clara University

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A22-325

**Hosted by:** Religion and Food Unit

Theme: Feasts and Fractures: Negotiating Religion, Nation, and Cuisine

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This panel explores the intersections between religion, national identity, culinary heritage, and political power through a critical examination of foods such as the South African heritage *braai* (meat bbq), Korean *bab* (rice) at the *bhabsang* (the kitchen table), Indonesian-Malaysian dispute over *rendang*, a curry that both claim. Authors deploy these foods as part of their day-to-day political, communal and ancestral realities.

William Schanbacher, University of South Florida, presiding

### Papers

Eunjin Jeon

From Sonmat to Honbap: Negotiating Identity and Spirituality at the Korean Kitchen Table

Hendrawan Wijoyo

Freeing Rendang from The Jaw of Racial Capitalism: Gastropolitics from the Perspective of Cultural Commons

Lerato Pitso  
Not Yet Uhuru: The Colonised South Africa Plate

Business Meeting  
Aldea Mulhern, Brandon University

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P22-301

**Hosted by:** Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy  
Theme: Freedom and its discontents: cross-cultural conversations  
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This panel is sponsored by Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy (SACP). SACP was established in 1967 as a nonprofit organization aimed at advancing the development of the disciplines of Asian and comparative philosophy in the international academic arena, and bringing together Asian and Western philosophers for a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas. Addressing AAR 2025's presidential theme "freedom," the three presentations in this panel draw from understudied theoretical resources to think in connection about the unresolved, intractable, transcultural issues of domination and freedom and everything in between.

Minjung Noh, Lehigh University, presiding

## Papers

Sookyung Hwang  
Inner path for freedom: Master Daehaeng's thought on human nature, interconnectedness and awakening

Minjung Noh, Lehigh University  
James Mark Shields  
Interpreting Diderot's 'Philosophie de Chinois': Limits of Enlightenment Freedom in Translating Chinese Philosophy

Eunchul Jung, Drew University  
The Salimist: A Comparative Study of the Postmodern Feminine (and perhaps Feminist) Subject beyond Liberal Humanism.

Business Meeting  
Jessica Zu, University of Southern California  
Minjung Noh, Lehigh University

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A22-329

**Hosted by:** Religious Conversions Unit

Theme: Frontiers in Conversion Studies: Religious Conversion and Deconversion in Contemporary Society

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

These papers explore new frontiers in conversion studies as scholars grapple with new mechanisms and contexts for the process of religious conversion and deconversion . The first examines conversions effected through engagement with The Urantia Book, a book of spiritual teachings said to have been communicated by celestial beings in the early 20th century. In recent years, engagement with the book has been augmented by AI-guided theological discussions that raise new questions about the limits and possibilities of digital conversion. The second re-examines the established view that religious conversion is a process through a longitudinal empirical study of Iraqi refugees in Finland who converted from Islam to Christianity, focusing on how their understandings of conversion changed over six years. The third uses a close examination of a novel religious ritual for effecting deconversion – debaptism – to explore what the (a)theology of (de)baptism reveals about consent and ecclesial belonging in secularizing worlds.

Kalvin Cummings, presiding

## Papers

Sharon Adams, University of Colorado, Boulder

Artificial Intelligence and the Transformative Narratives of Urantia Book Conversion: Cognitive Shifts, Personal Experience, and the Psychology of Religious Change

Iiris Nikanne

Empirical approach to conversion as a process: Follow-up study revisiting the experiences of Iraqi refugees in Finland who have converted from Islam to Christianity

Jason Steidl Jack, Saint Joseph's College, New York

Troubling the Waters: Debaptism, Agency, and Christian Dialogue with Secular Critique

Business Meeting

Eliza Kent, Skidmore College

Kathleen M. Self, St. Lawrence University

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A22-324

**Hosted by:** Religion and Cities Unit

Theme: Governance, Infrastructure, and Urban Activism

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Fairfield (Third Floor)

This panel explores the ways in which religious communities, sites, and ideas serve as infrastructure for urban governance and activism. The first paper presents an ethnographic analysis of a street shrine in Ahmedabad, India as an encrypted place. The second engages the history of Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco as a node of radical social activism. The third examines POWER Interfaith in Philadelphia as a race-centered, interfaith community organizing project. The final paper turns to Charlotte as a case study in considering the civil religion of economic growth and grassroots movements that perform prophetic and iconoclastic functions.

Alexander Luckmann, presiding

## Papers

Vaidehi Paneri, Syracuse University

Encrypted spaces and JUGAAD: Street Shrine culture in urban India.

Michael McLaughlin, Florida State University

Sanctuary for the Revolution: Glide Church and the Religious Infrastructure of Bay Area Activism

Linda Noonan, United Lutheran Seminary

Show Us What Theology Looks Like: Interfaith Organizing as a Form of Public Theology in Philadelphia

Casey Aldridge, Florida State University

Caught in Charlotte's Growing Web: Growtheology and Degrowth Iconoclasm in the Banking Capital of the Bible Belt

## Respondent

Isaiah Ellis, Southern Methodist University

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A22-310

**Hosted by:** Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit

Theme: Human Enhancement and Contemporary Challenges: Ecology, Economics, and Theology  
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

In this session human biotechnological enhancement proposals are treated from three different perspectives: (1) their relationship to the existing dialogue between climate change and religious eschatologies, (2) the theological anthropology that continues to shape public opinion on the limits of enhancement, and (3) the moral implications of situating enhancement within a market framework. Together, these papers engage transhumanisms and human enhancement as they intersect with contemporary challenges in ecology, economics and theological anthropology.

Calvin Mercer, presiding

## Papers

Michael Mørch  
Ray Kurzweil's Eschatological Vision

Braden Molhoek, Graduate Theological Union  
Evolving Theological Anthropology

Maria Kenney  
Transhumanism in the Age of Capitalism: How Presenting Biotechnologies as Consumer "Choices" Evades the Moral Question

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A22-331

**Hosted by:** South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: In Search of Freedom: A Roundtable on Afsar Mohammad's "Remaking History: 1948 Police Action and the Muslims of Hyderabad"

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

How do we understand the idea of freedom from a lens of vernacular Islam? Responding to this question, we propose a roundtable discussion of Afsar Mohammad's book *Remaking History: 1948 Police Action and the Muslims of Hyderabad* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Considered to be another dimension of the Partition, the violent event of 1948 in the princely state of Hyderabad led to the killings of thousands of Muslims and then migrations to Pakistan and the other parts of the world. *Remaking History* documents these oral histories and juxtaposes them with a set of written narratives including governmental and media



archives. The book emphasizes the need of reframing the Muslim question in contemporary studies. The proposed roundtable about this book discusses some of these questions with an emphasis on the rise of a new Muslim identity in the Hyderabad state that centers on the idea of freedom, equality and social justice.

Danielle Widmann Abraham, Ursinus College, presiding

### **Panelist**

Anand Taneja, Vanderbilt University  
M. Shobhana Xavier, Queen's University  
Carla Bellamy  
Anand Venkatkrishnan

### **Respondent**

Afsar Mohammad, University of Pennsylvania

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A22-320

**Hosted by:** Motherhood and Religions Unit

Theme: Inaugural Session of the Motherhood and Religions Unit

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, MIT (Third Floor)

This inaugural session explores the diverse and often overlooked dimensions of maternal experiences in religious contexts through four case studies in a variety of historical and cultural contexts. Spanning Islamic traditions, Song China, Aztec cosmology, and colonial Quebec, these papers challenge normative constructions of motherhood by examining alternative and collective maternal roles, religious motivations, and the transformative power of birth and caregiving.

- “Mothers of the Believers” and “Mother of Her Father”: Islamic Parables of Non-Normative Mothering, by Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union
- Between Motherhood and Otherhood: Maternity and Religious Motivation in Song China (960–1279), by Tali HersHKovitz, Brown University
- Matrescence and the Battle of Birth in Aztec Cosmology: Towards a Matricentric Heroism of Birth, by Yvonne Sherwood, University of Oslo
- A Dense Site of Multiple Motherhoods: the Case of the Foundlings of Quebec’s Hôtel-Dieu, 1800-1845, by Mary Corley Dunn, Saint Louis University

Pascale Engelmajer, presiding  
Florence Pasche Guignard, Other, presiding

## Papers

Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union  
“Mothers of the Believers” and “Mother of Her Father”: Islamic Parables of Non-Normative Mothering

Tali HersHKovitz, Brown University  
Between Motherhood and Otherhood: Maternity and Religious Motivation in Song China (960–1279)

Yvonne Sherwood, University of Oslo  
Matrescence and the Battle of Birth in Aztec Cosmology: Towards a Matricentric Heroism of Birth

Mary Corley Dunn, Saint Louis University  
A Dense Site of Multiple Motherhoods: the Case of the Foundlings of Quebec’s Hôtel-Dieu, 1800-1845

## Respondent

Giulia Pedrucci

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A22-313

**Hosted by:** Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit and Schleiermacher Unit

Theme: Is there such a thing as a Christian Nation? Cultural Christianity and Historical Progress

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

The notion of “cultural Christianity” as a social good has seen a resurgence in contemporary discussions of religious and national identity, with a growing number of voices actively promoting Christian culture or society as a driving aspect of social progress. This notion of a culturally normative Christianity, together with the idea of Christian society as advancing or shepherding historical progress, also plays a prominent role in the work of Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Schleiermacher, who each sought to clearly distinguish Christian faith from modern nationalism. This joint session considers the themes of Christian society and historical progress in the writings of Kierkegaard, Schleiermacher, and their interlocutors. Its three papers consider the philosophy of history in Hegel and Kierkegaard, the doctrine of providence as it

relates to divine sovereignty and human freedom, and the relation of divine revelation to modern concepts of history and progress.

Matthew Robinson, University of Bonn, presiding

## Papers

Thomas Millay, St. Olaf College (Hong Kierkegaard Library)  
"The Logic of Contemporaneity: Kierkegaard's Philosophy of History"

Michelle CAO, TST, University of Toronto  
Divine Preservation in Schleiermacher and Bonhoeffer

EUNTAEK JUNG, Harvard Divinity School  
The Consciousness of Historical Progress and Theological Disputes: The Dialogue Between G. E. Lessing and S. Kierkegaard

## Respondent

Matthew D. Kirkpatrick

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A22-303

**Hosted by:** Childhood Studies and Religion Unit

Theme: Liberating Childhoods – Visions of Freedom, Rights, & Agency

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

Liberating Childhoods addresses the often-overlooked role of children and their rights within religious and political spheres, where they are excluded from decision-making and denied agency. It focuses on the importance of recognizing children's human rights and advocates for their holistic liberation through an examination of religious, philosophical, and political practices. By reflecting on children's grassroots experiences, the panel aims to resist their ongoing oppression and emphasizes the necessity of contextually informed religious practices that support the flourishing of children both in the U.S. and globally.

Corwin Davis, Pacific School of Religion, presiding

## Papers

Rebekah Gordon

Childish Governance: The Subjugation of Childhood to Empire Building

Jennifer E. Beste, College of Saint Benedict

Liberating Childhoods: Envisioning a Global Childist Account of Justice

Robyn Boere, University of Oslo

Liberation across Generations? Proposals for Ageless Voting and Paedocommunion Compared

Lauren Warner

Singing Liberation: African American Youth, Music, and the Transformative Promise of Black Liberation Theology

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A22-335

**Hosted by:** Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

Theme: Lucidity in the Dark: Poems, Songs and Narratives in/of Tibetan Carceral Worlds

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

What kinds of realization and accomplishments are possible in settings of extreme confinement? Throughout Tibetan Buddhist history, practitioners have purposely submitted themselves to periods of isolation, in which they are confined to small spaces, engage in sensory deprivation and undergo severe austerities. Many Tibetan religious figures have also undergone periods of political persecution that resulted in arrest, imprisonment, exile, etc. It is this relationship between voluntary confinement, carceral detainment and creative religious output that is the topic of this panel. This panel examines a number of figures throughout Tibetan history, from the first Tibetan monks to Mingyur Peldron in the 18th century to political prisoners, lamas and artists in contemporary Tibet. We will explore the kinds of ideas, realizations, accomplishments and affective modes that emerge in periods of detainment and political persecution. This panel includes five panelists and a presider, two of whom are former political prisoners from Tibet.

Kati Fitzgerald, presiding

### **Panelist**

Ngawang Sangdrol

Dhondup Rekjong, Northwest University

Gedun Rabsal

Ngawang Choephel

Alison Melnick Dyer, Bates College

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A22-319

**Hosted by:** Mormon Studies Unit

Theme: Marginalized Mormons, Marginalized Texts

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This panel considers three case studies in which individuals and texts on the margins of Mormonism helped shape the tradition's overall development. The first deals with John Taylor's uncanonized polyamy revelations from the 1880s, while the second explores the rise and fall of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ, an institutional movement designed to accommodate LGBTQ+ Saints in the 1980s and 1990s. The final paper investigates how LDS thought has shaped a number of science fiction authors in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Together, these papers demonstrate the broad boundaries of Mormon revelatory, theological, and literary imaginations.

Jana Riess, presiding

## Papers

Seth Perry

Informal Canonization and the Revelations of John Taylor

Joshua Smith, Boston University

Beyond Heteronormativity: The Queer Struggle for Mormon Identity in the 1980s and 90s

Liz Busby, Brigham Young University

One Great Whole: The Influence of Theology on the Portrayal of Aliens in Latter-day Saint Science Fiction

Business Meeting

Benjamin Park

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A22-317

**Hosted by:** Mahabharata and Classical Hinduism Seminar

Theme: Metaphysics in the Mahābhārata: How Diverse Ideologies are Reconciled through Commentary and Philosophical Analysis

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

Dhruv Nagar's paper analyzes Nīlakaṇṭha's 17th century commentary on the *Mahābhārata*, demonstrating how its non-dualist (*advaita*) philosophical framework is articulated, and addressing the commentary's views on the meaning of the *Mahābhārata*. Nataliya Yanchevskaya's paper examines the *Mahābhārata*'s cosmological framework, exploring the tension between human agency and cosmic predetermination in the *Mahābhārata*.

Arti Dhand, University of Toronto, presiding

## Papers

Dhruv Nagar

What is an epic about?: Nīlakaṇṭha's Bhāratabhāvadīpa and the Meta-Epic as Mode of Writing and Reflection

Nataliya Yanchevskaya, Princeton University

Human Agency, Freedom, and Destiny in the *Mahābhārata*

## Author

Dhruv Nagar

Nataliya Yanchevskaya, Princeton University

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A22-315

**Hosted by:** Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible Seminar

Theme: Mortal Wonder, Dreamlike Writing: Poiesis and Poetics in the Sinographic Sphere, Session I

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This year our seminar investigates the role and meaning of language and its forms of expression—poetic foremost—in the sinographic sphere, where the Literary Sinitic Buddhist canon was used and shaped. In this first session, Paula Varsano's paper explores Du Fu's (712–770) innovative poems on painting and their perspective on the poet's mortal subjectivity. Yiren Zheng's paper examines Dong Yue's (1620–1686) theorization of the relationship between dreaming, virtuality, and literary composition. Laurie Patton's and Heather Blair's responses will bring our presenters' work into broader conversations on language and poiesis that this seminar has fostered, including last year's discussion of poetics in early and medieval South Asia.

Nancy Lin, Institute of Buddhist Studies, presiding

## Papers

Paula Varsano, UC Berkeley

"Where Might I Find Those Swift Scissors of Bingzhou?": The Poiesis of Non-Transcendence in Du Fu's (712-770) Poems on Painting

Yiren Zheng, Dartmouth College

Dream-Generated Poetry and Virtuality in Seventeenth-Century China

## Respondent

Laurie Louise Patton, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Heather Blair, Indiana University, Bloomington

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A22-333

**Hosted by:** Theology and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: Neither Secular Nor Religious

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

These papers explore what becomes possible in the study of religion when the oft-interrogated distinction between the religious and the secular is not so much challenged as ignored. With case studies treating parody, nihilism, mastery, and sublimity located in particular sites - a cat's astrology chart referenced in a psychiatric case study, a church-like bar, Elena Ferrante's novels, a trio of Korean postcolonial novels - these papers offer an innovative selection of exciting insights into what the multiplicity of methods in religious studies make possible beyond the religious-secular divide.

Eleanor Craig, Emory University, presiding

## Papers

Emilie Casey, Emory University

"Born Under Unlucky Star": Astrology, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Religious Authenticity

L. Patrick Burrows, Berea College

Church (it's a bar!): Theological parody(?) at Sister Louisa's CHURCH of the Living Room and Ping-Pong Emporium

Taeha An, Vanderbilt University

A22-312

**Hosted by:** Islam, Gender, Women Unit

Theme: New Books in the Study of Women and Gender in Islamic Studies

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

This session showcases four recently published books of significance for the study of women and gender in Islamic studies: Mulki Al-Sharmani, *Islamic Feminism: Hermeneutics and Activism* (2024); Lamya H, *Hijab Butch Blues* (2024); KD Thompson, *Muslims on the Margins: Creating Queer Religious Community in North America* (2023); Karen Bauer and Feras Hamza, *Women, Households, and the Hereafter in the Qur'an: A Patronage of Piety* (2024). Scholars other than the books' authors will offer short presentations that provide a summary of the book including the core arguments; identify and analyze the book's methodological and theoretical contributions and significance; formulate key questions the book raises, particularly regarding gendered authority, tradition, feminism, and decoloniality; and reflect on how the book advances the field and informs their own research. The presentations will be followed by a discussion of common themes, methodological and theoretical trends, and highlight other books published since 2019.

Tazeen Ali, presiding

## Papers

Amira Abou-Taleb

Discussion of The Book: Islamic Feminism: Hermeneutics and Activism

Aysha Hidayatullah

Lamya H's *Hijab Butch Blues* as an Epistemological Intervention

Shahana Munazir

Creating Muslim Futures: Katrina Thompson's Queer "Discursive Futurism" and the Ethical Labor of Middle-Class Muslim Women in India

Celene Ibrahim, Harvard University

Karen Bauer and Feras Hamza: *Women, Households, and the Hereafter in the Qur'an: A Patronage of Piety*



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A22-306

**Hosted by:** Drugs and Religion Unit

Theme: New Frontiers in the Study of Drugs and Religion

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

This panel will highlight exemplary research focusing on the intersection of drugs and religion. Topics under consideration will include entity encounters within addiction narratives and psychedelic-assisted therapy, ethnographic analysis of Buddhist treatment centers for substance abuse, alternative philosophies of psychedelic experience rooted in Western religious traditions, and an examination of Ozempic, analyzed as a pharmacological form of fasting.

J. Christian Greer, Stanford University, presiding

Gary Laderman, Emory, presiding

## Papers

David Riley Campbell, University College Dublin

Altered States of Autonomy: Entities, Agency, and Intentionality in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy and Addiction Recovery

Catherine Hartmann, University of Wyoming

Hungry Ghosts No More: Buddhist Addiction Recovery Movements in the United States

Paul Gillis-Smith

On the Exhaustion of "Psychedelic": Lisa Bieberman and the Religious Use of Psychochemicals

Isabella Carr

Pharmaceutical Asceticism: GLP-1s Receptor Agonists, Ecstatic Fasting, and Altered Metabolic States

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A22-334

**Hosted by:** Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Unit

Theme: New Topographies in King Studies

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

This panel explores new and exciting work on the theology and philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr. It brings together scholars who are advancing Kingian ideas relevant to modern discourse.

Valerie Miles-Tribble, Berkeley School of Theology, presiding

## Papers

Kevin Patrick Considine, Catholic Theological Union

Freedom for "Our Sick White Brothers": A Kingian Theology of the Moral Injury in Whiteness

Mark Thompson

Selma And The Cross

David Justice, Saint Louis University

An Anti-Political Revolution: Reading the Azusa Street Revival and Civil Rights Movement within the Black Radical Tradition

Business Meeting

Leonard McKinnis

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A22-328

**Hosted by:** Religion in Southeast Asia Unit

Theme: Popular Piety and Intersectional Ethics in Southeast Asia

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

This omnibus paper session highlights innovative, interdisciplinary work on and with religion in Southeast Asia. The five papers consider spaces, discourses, and practices of grassroots resistance, freedom, and ethical world-making in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. These works center Kachin Baptist women's resistance movements, aesthetic practices of queer and trans Thai Buddhist artists, fraught dynamics of Malaysia's diverse Christian population, portrayals of Acehnese resistance icon Cut Nyak Din, and the liberative struggles of minorities in Myanmar.

MK Long, Dartmouth College, presiding

## Papers

Sau Nam, University of Denver

Legacy of the Resistance Movement against Military Regime in Myanmar and its Impact on Kachin Baptist Women

Ray Buckner, Northwestern University

Sensual Materialities: Buddhist Art-Making and Bodily Ethics in Queer and Trans Bangkok

Charissa Lee Yi Zhen, Yale Divinity School

Two-Way Bulwark: Resistance in and through Christianity Among Indigenous Malaysians, 1970-present

Myra Mentari Abubakar, National University of Singapore

From the Shadows of War: The Rise of Female Hero as a Symbol of Jihad

Mana Tun, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

The Primacy of Liberation over Peace/Reconciliation in Myanmar's Revolutionary Context: A Theological and Ethical Reflection

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A22-309

**Hosted by:** Graduate Student Committee

Theme: Professionalization and the Job Market: Contract Negotiation

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 303 (Third Level)

When preparing for the job market, the focus is often on the application and interview process. While these aspects are crucial in securing a tenure track position, there is a needed discussion of contract negotiations. There is so much preparation in securing the interview that often candidates feeling uncertain about their ability to effectively negotiate. In particular candidates are concerned with negotiating moving expenses, research funds, and tenure expectations.

Panelists will draw on their own experiences from both administrative and academic perspectives on contract negotiations. They will address key issues including how to negotiate moving and travel funds, clarify tenure expectations, understanding course loads, and salary discussions. Understanding these elements not only empowers individuals but also helps to foster a more equitable job market for emerging scholars. While geared towards tenure track jobs this discussion is open to those pursuing careers in non-academic jobs.

Allison Isidore, University of Iowa, presiding

### **Panelist**

Brad Stoddard, McDaniel College

Kristy Nabhan-Warren  
Sierra Lawson

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A22-314

**Hosted by:** Korean Religions Unit

Theme: Prophets or Perpetrators? The Role of Korean Religions in Systems of Oppression and Liberation.

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This panel critically examines the paradoxical roles of Korean religious traditions as both forces of liberation and instruments of oppression. Rooted in Korea's socio-political history, religious ethics and practices have shaped discourses on justice, suffering, and resistance. In an era of rapid modernization and political upheaval, it is imperative to reassess how these traditions sustain power hierarchies while also serving as catalysts for transformative change. Bringing together theological, sociological, and historical perspectives, this session interrogates case studies such as the reconfigurations of freedom in Won Buddhism, the resurgence of shamanistic rituals, and the entanglements of Protestantism with far-right politics. It also reexamines the roles of Christianity and Confucianism in gendered oppression. Through postcolonial and feminist critiques, this panel reimagines religious activism in Korea, unveiling both its visionary and problematic dimensions. Ultimately, it seeks to illuminate how faith and justice intersect in the ongoing pursuit of a more equitable society.

Shinjaee Lee, Boston College, presiding

## Papers

Dongho Han, Princeton Theological Seminary

Church and Far-Right Politics: The Radicalization of Conservative Protestantism in South Korea

Sergei Sevriugin, Victoria University of Wellington

Freedom and Rationality as an Instrument of Social Transformation in Won Buddhism

Minjin Kim, Princeton Theological Seminary

Modern Shamanistic Practices among Young Koreans Amidst Societal Uncertainties

Eunchong Kim

Rethinking Women's Oppression in the Korean Church: Christianity's Complicity and Confucianism's Possibility:

John Grisafi, University of Michigan

## The Subjectivity of Liberation and Oppression in Modern Korean Religion

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A22-339

**Hosted by:** Regional Council

Theme: Regions Forum

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

Representatives from each of the AAR's regions will introduce their regions and their work, presenting initiatives, challenges, and success stories. This session is for anyone interested in being involved in the AAR's regional initiatives.

Matthew Vaughan, Columbia University, presiding

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M22-310

**Hosted by:** International Journal of Sport and Religion

Theme: Religion and Sport New Book Panel

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Gloucester/Newbury (Second Floor)

This event features the authors of three new books on Religion and Sport: Art Remillard (*Bodies in Motion*

*A Religious History of Sports in America*), Paul Putz (*The Spirit of the Game: American Christianity and Big-Time Sports*), and Gary Green (*Playing the Game: Embodied Brilliance beyond the Moral Limits of Race in Sport*). The authors will discuss their books and respond to questions from their fellow panelists and the audience.

Annie Blazer, College of William & Mary, presiding

### **Panelist**

Arthur Remillard, Saint Francis University

Paul Putz, Baylor University

Gary Green, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

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A22-327

**Hosted by:** Religion and Science Fiction Unit

Theme: Religion's Future in Space: Priests, Pastors, and Missionaries on the Final Frontier  
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

This session considers how human religious figures in science fiction negotiate predicaments and alterity in places beyond Earth. Lois McFarland explores how an evangelical pastor shares the gospel to an alien civilization, forcing him to question his faith in Michael Farber's *The Book of Strange New Things*. With examples from the novel *The Sparrow* and the *Doctor Who*, *Firefly*, and *Star Trek* television series, Kori Pacyniak constructs a genealogy of clergy in space to ask how matters of ethics/morality, theodicy and other difficult religious concerns are emblematic of the "priest" in science fiction. Scott Paeth tracks how earth's religious traditions change in outer space by focusing on religious figures in the popular visualizations *Firefly* and *The Expanse*.

Laura Ammon, Appalachian State University, presiding

## Papers

Lois McFarland, University of Edinburgh  
"On Planet God": Evangelicals in Space in Michel Faber's *The Book of Strange New Things* (2014)

Kori Pacyniak, University of California, Riverside  
Take Me to Church [in Space] : The Priest in Speculative Fiction

Scott Paeth, DePaul University  
You Don't Fix Faith, Faith Fixes You: Religion in *Firefly* and the *Expanse*

Business Meeting  
James Thrall, Knox College  
Rudy V. Busto, University of California, Santa Barbara

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A22-326

**Hosted by:** Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Unit  
Theme: Situating and Responding to Global Ethnoreligious Nationalisms across Diverse K-12 Schools  
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

How are (ethno)religious nationalist movements around the globe shaping K-12 schooling and curriculum? What do teachers and teacher educators need to learn about these phenomena?

How can educators develop curriculum responsive to these times? This paper session shares ongoing research and practice responding to the global phenomenon of rising ethnoreligious nationalisms in public K-12 education. All the work emerges from a transnational perspective on the dangers posed by the global rise of ethnoreligious nationalist movements in education. From this standpoint, ethnoreligious nationalist groups' conceptualize literacy as a mechanism of social control, reinforcing authoritarianism and hierarchical domination by those within the ruling ethnoreligious (often fundamentalist) sect. Such movements exploit the vulnerabilities created by social upheaval, economic instability, mass global migration, ecological collapse, and other crises; furthermore, they justify violence against those beyond their imagined community of cultural insiders, mobilizing affective rhetoric to reinforce exclusionary and authoritarian ideologies within educational systems.

Laura Yares, presiding

## Papers

Sandro Barros, Michigan State University

Kasun Gajasinghe, Michigan State University

Conceptualizing the Dangerous Rise of Ethnoreligious Nationalist Literacies: Ethnoreligious Nationalism and Public Education

Katie Ward, Michigan State University

Joel Berends, Michigan State University

Examining Rhetorical Constructions of "Book Boundaries" in Michigan School Board Election Campaigns as Enactments of White Christian Nationalism's Vision for Literacy Censorship

Mary Juzwik, Michigan State University

Responding to Challenges with Holocaust and Genocide Literacy Curriculum in Times of Rising Ethnoreligious Nationalism

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A22-336

**Hosted by:** Vatican II Studies Unit

Theme: The Conciliar Legacy of Freedom

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

Sixty years ago, *Gaudium et Spes* and *Dignitatis Humanae* emerged as pivotal Vatican II documents, addressing the Catholic Church's understanding and commitment to freedom. In the changing context of the long 1960s, with its shifting socio-political dynamics, the concept of freedom was reframed as both a theological and social imperative, influencing how Catholics

engage with personal liberty, human rights, religious freedom, and the interaction between religion and state. This panel invites papers exploring the conciliar legacy of freedom, including historical expressions in the reception of the Council and its evolving conceptualization, by addressing questions such as: How did the concept shape discussions on human autonomy and the Church's engagement with modernity? In what ways did it influence or continue to influence theological and political responses to the tensions between authoritarianism and revolution? How do rejecting and overextending freedoms shape and navigate the council's legacy, both past and present? How have receptions and interpretations of conciliar freedom impacted debates on personal and collective rights, as well as inspire concrete action for social justice?

Jakob Rinderknecht, University of the Incarnate Word, presiding

## Papers

Michael McGravey, Elms College

The Conciliar Legacy of Freedom and the Rise of Catholic Authoritarianism: Christian Nationalism, Catholic Integralism, and the Role of Church Leadership

Mary Kate Holman, Fairfield University

Parrhesia: Speaking Freely in a Synodal Church

Stephanie Wong

Religious Freedom and the Local Church: Contextualizing Vatican II discourses in 'Confucian' China and the 'Protestant' U.S.

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A22-322

**Hosted by:** Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit

Theme: The Great Chain of Being

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

The Great Chain of Being is perhaps the most distinctive aspect of what C.S. Lewis described as 'The Discarded Image'. Is the modern age best considered as the rejection of the *scala naturae* that shaped the Western mind from Parmenides to Dionysius the Areopagite, Dante, and Shakespeare? Since Descartes, many philosophers have tended to view human minds as 'ghosts in the machine' and as radically dislocated from 'nature'. Others have subsumed the human person into 'nature' challenging the aspects of human nature that resist reduction to the 'physicalist' paradigm, such as 'consciousness' 'intentionality' or a 'sense of value'. Some have viewed this dichotomy between Cartesianism and materialism as one reason for the ecological



crisis. Are there good reasons for viewing the human being as a 'part' of nature, and yet occupying a unique role and responsibility in the 'chain of being'? What are the prospects for the idea of the 'chain of being' without theology? Papers are invited from both a historical and systematic perspective.

Alexander Hampton, University of Toronto, presiding

## Papers

Andreas Nordlander, Gothenburg University  
Humanism, Ecology, and the Enduring Relevance of the *Scala Naturae*

Kristóf Oltvai, The University of Chicago Divinity School  
Sapience or sovereignty? Divine power, papal authority, and the "chain of being" in dispute in 13th-century Paris

Sarah Griffin, Boston College  
The Theophany and *Theoria* of *Natura*: What John Scotus Eriugena Learns from Maximus the Confessor

Business Meeting  
Douglas Hedley, University of Cambridge

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A22-308

**Hosted by:** Foucault and the Study of Religion Seminar  
Theme: The Subject of Foucault: Re-reading Misreadings  
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

Foucault remains the single most cited scholar in quant-H-index history. Accusations and adulations fly around Foucault, whose publications over the last forty years eclipse his output while alive, with scores of lectures and interviews, and now drafts from his archives at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Yet when a philosopher can be posthumously mobilized for opposing ends of ideological spectra, Foucault himself would urge a critical eye to the stakes and argumentative bases for these claims. Any evaluative logic imposing normative standards of right and wrong, heroic and corrosive, should be approached critically. Foucault is neither saint nor sinner.

The papers in this panel take up and challenge readings of Foucault-the-scholar at different points of intellectual and practical pressure rethinking: genealogy as dynamic critical method that emerges in conjunction with historiography, epistemic shifts in colonialism and nationalism

in Malay-Muslim populations, political spirituality and collective resistance movements in the Iranian revolution, and the excesses of postmodernism and nihilism consuming its own tail.

Lauren Barbato, presiding

## Papers

Jason Storm, Williams College

Genealogy's Hidden Roots: The Forgotten French Debate That Shaped Foucault (1962–1971)

Keanu Heydari, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Misreading Michel Foucault? Rethinking His Engagement with the Iranian Revolution

Ehsan Shahwahid

Islam, Knowledge & Power: A Critical Study on Islamisation in Malay World

Adam Herpolsheimer, Temple University

NO SPOILERS: God's Not Dead, but Michel Foucault Might Be

Business Meeting

Niki Clements, Rice University

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A22-332

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Trans Joy and Liberation in a Time of Apocalypse

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

Apocalypse is both cataclysm and unveiling, inflection point and revelation of truth. Cultivating liberation and joy, as trans people show us, is a key part of human survival. In the cataclysmic unveilings of our time, where do trans/gender diverse people find meaning, liberation and joy? This panel offers five perspectives on that question with sensitivity and imagination, in projects such as writing gender divergent fanfiction of biblical text, uncovering queer/trans historiographies, imagining new ways of understanding gender through creative writing, exploring trans and queer identities as imago dei, and opening the undergraduate classroom to trans and queer readings of sacred text.

Jonathan Morgan, Claremont School of Theology, presiding

## Panelist

Janine Warrington  
Jaeda Calaway  
Ro Robinson  
Chelsea Gregoire, Claremont School of Theology  
Whitney Cox

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A22-337

**Hosted by:** Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Transnational Asian/American Feminist Theologies: History, Challenges, and Future Possibilities

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

This roundtable brings together a group of Asian/American feminist scholars from different generations and social locations who have been actively involved in PANAAWTM to examine the history and future of transnational Asian/American feminist theologies. Since its founding in the 1980s, PANAAWTM has been crucial in shaping feminist theological discourse, challenging Eurocentric and patriarchal frameworks, and fostering mentorship and solidarity across borders. As feminist theologians face increasing scrutiny and threats to academic freedom, this session will critically engage with the obstacles confronting antiracist, anti-imperialist feminist theological scholarship today. Panelists will explore key contributions of transnational feminist theological movements, the challenges posed by shifting political and institutional landscapes, and strategies for sustaining cross-regional theological collaborations. This roundtable highlights enduring struggles and emerging possibilities and offers a vital space for reflection, resistance, and envisioning new directions in transnational Asian/American feminist theologies.

Boyung Lee, Iliff School of Theology, presiding

### Panelist

Pui Lan Kwok, Candler School of Theology  
B. Yuki Schwartz, Claremont School of Theology  
Lama Htoi San Lu, North Park Theological Seminary  
Lisa Asedillo, Pacific School of Religion  
Nami Kim, Spelman College

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A22-321

**Hosted by:** Music and Religion Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit

Theme: Yogic Traditions and Sacred Sound Practices

Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

This panel offers an introduction to and discussion of the new edited volume *Yogic Traditions and Sacred Sound Practices in the United States* (forthcoming in 2025 from SUNY Press). Several chapters will be introduced by their authors, the editor-scholar will introduce the volume as a whole, and an outside discussant will comment on the volume. *Yogic Traditions* is divided into two parts. The first part, "History of Yogic Thought, Mantra, and South Asian Theologies of Sacred Sound" deepens our understanding of the historical and literary lineages of Indian Yogic traditions currently practiced in the U.S., including substantial discussions on Indian sound concepts and early music treatises. The second part, "Technologies of the Sacred, Affective Ecologies, and the Sacred Sound Practices of Devotional Communities in the U.S." provides ethnographic descriptions of the sacred sound practices pertaining to diverse yogic traditions currently practiced in the United States and their associated lineages.

Brita Heimarck, Boston University, presiding

## Papers

Barbara A. Holdrege

From Vedic Recitation to Nāma-Saṃkīrtana: Reimagining the Name in Kṛṣṇa Bhakti

Anna Guterman, University of Virginia

THE RESONANCE OF MATAṆGA'S FLUTE: A MYTHIC INTERLOCUTOR OF CLASSICAL TANTRA AND MUSICOLOGY

Igor Iwanek, Boston University

Nada Yoga (Yoga of Sound): Vibration, Sacred Sound, and its Modern Application

Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology / University of Zurich

"Puruṣa bound from within / without looking on": Gurani Anjali's Sāṃkhya-Yoga Music on Long Island, New York

## Respondent

Mark McLaughlin, William & Mary

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M22-301

**Hosted by:** Theology Without Walls Group

Theme: Book Panel

Saturday, 3:30PM - 6:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick B (Second Floor)

This book panel on the first five books in the TWW series will present critical appreciations, including, of course, challenges and questions that remain to be answered.

Chair: **Catherine Cornille**, Boston College:

**Hans S. Gustafson**, University of St. Thomas:

Theology Without Walls Founding Essays, ed. Christopher Denny & Rita Sherma

**Jeffrey J. Kripal**, Rice University:

The Sacred/Secular Binary: Challenging the Divide in University Culture and Democratic Societies, by Rory McEntee

**Jeffery Long**, Elizabethtown College:

Radically Personal: God and Ourselves in the New Axial Age, by Jerry L. Martin

**Trina Jones**, Wofford College:

Confessions of a Young Philosopher, by Abigail L. Rosenthal

**Mark Heim**, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School

Life Seeking Understanding: How Spiritual But Not Religious and Other Seekers Can Construct Their Own Theology, by Hans le Grand

Catherine Cornille, presiding

## **Panelist**

Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas

Jeffrey J. Kripal, Rice University

Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College

Katherine Janiec Jones, Wofford College

S. Mark Heim, Yale University

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M22-300

**Hosted by:** Saint Louis University  
Theme: Saint Louis University Reception  
Saturday, 3:30PM - 6:00 PM  
Offsite

Where: Casa Romero (30 Gloucester Street)

Description: All faculty, students, alums, and friends of the Saint Louis University's Department of Theological Studies are invited to our annual reception. Appetizers and drinks provided.

Contact: Grant Kaplan, Associate Chair of DTS

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P22-300

**Hosted by:** North American Association for the Study of Religion  
Theme: NAAAR Keynote  
Saturday, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

Annual NAASR keynote address will be given by Tomoko Masuzawa, Professor Emerita, University of Michigan.

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M22-302

**Hosted by:** 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea  
Theme: 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea  
Saturday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Courier (Seventh Floor)

This session commemorates 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, uniting scholars from Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant traditions to discuss its lasting impact. It also includes an interfaith dialogue on the Qur'an's perspective on the Nicene Creed, exploring its theological significance across traditions.

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A22-338/S22-337

**Hosted by:** SBL's Biblical Studies and Spiritual Care: Intersections of Pastoral Praxis and Biblical Hermeneutics and AAR's Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit

**Theme:** Review Panel of Sarah Jobe, *No Godforsaken Place: Prison Chaplaincy, Karl Barth, and Practicing Life in Prison* (T&T Clark, 2025)

Saturday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

This session is a review panel of Sarah C. Jobe's, *No Godforsaken Place: Prison Chaplaincy, Karl Barth, and Practicing Life in Prison* (T&T Clark, 2025).

How does the life, arrest, trial, conviction, execution, and release from state-supervision of Jesus Christ enact the salvation of the cosmos? How does that one carceral life-in-death link up with life in the face of prison death today?

In *No Godforsaken Place*, Sarah Jobe weaves careful ethnographic work, the systematic theology of Karl Barth, and biblical interpretation to craft a textured exploration of life-after-death work, i.e. salvation. Through interviews with prison chaplains across the United States, Jobe explores the spiritual and religious life contained within America's prison systems through the profession of prison chaplaincy. The theological foundations of the text coherently link Karl Barth's experience of prison chaplaincy and his Christological theology with the theological understandings in the chaplains' interviews; and Jobe's "practical soteriology" emerges in a thoroughly intricate and compelling contextualized vision.

Ryan Schellenberg, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, presiding

## Panelist

Jason Evans, Princeton Theological Seminary

Jerusha Neal

Patrick Tugwell, University of California, Santa Barbara

Shelly Rambo, Boston University

## Respondent

Sarah Jobe

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A22-433

**Hosted by:** Secularism and Secularity Unit

**Theme:** "The Secular" in America's Current Political Moment

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

What does it mean for scholars of religion to study "the secular" in the context of a nation experiencing profound shifts toward authoritarian populism? This panel examines that

question's intellectual and moral implications from a variety of perspectives. Through specialized studies cutting across multiple subfields, panelists will explore features of the current US-American moment that are especially salient sites for interrogating the secular. The first illuminates the persistence of theological logics within the seemingly secular systems through which coloniality and economic exploitation intersect, while a second argues that the failure of American secularism to contain Christian nationalism must be addressed in theological registers. The next two presenters turn to the rhetoric of "the secular" itself, with one exploring the articulations of secularity as inherently hostile to traditional religion in American conservative legal discourse, and another interrogating what more nuanced scholarly treatments of "secularism" and the "secular" might offer religious studies.

Eric Stephen, presiding

## Papers

Deivit Montealegre, University of Toronto

Beyond Secularization: Unmasking the Theological-Economic Logic of Colonial Power

Maddie Abbott, Princeton Theological Seminary

Toward a Theology of the Secular: Theological Engagement as a Challenge to Christian Nationalism

Jenna Reinbold

Creating the 'Cruel Secular'

Joseph Blankholm, University of California, Santa Barbara

Is the Secular Tradition All Bad? A Critical Reflection on the State of the Critical Subfield

Business Meeting

Eric Stephen

Rafael Vizcaino, DePaul University

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A22-423

**Hosted by:** Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit

Theme: Aesthetics, Emotion, and Embodiment in Buddhist Masculinities

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Fairfield (Third Floor)

This panel brings together scholars of Buddhist studies using qualitative, historical, and textual approaches to explore embodiment and affect in the making of Buddhist masculinities. The first panelist examines the karmic connections between guru and disciple and the emotional bonds



between men through cycles of death and rebirth. Exploring how “death is a portal for spiritual transformation and deepening intimacy,” the author traces how Buddhist men care for each other across space and time. The next panelist examines varieties of monastic aesthetics and the making of monks’ reputation and authority in contemporary Thailand. As monks’ images circulate on and offline, their appearance, dress, and bodily comportment shape how they come to be recognized as “idols.” The panelist ends with an examination of the place of the “Oriental” man in the racial anxieties of the nineteenth century U.S.. Centering a disability studies perspective, this paper explores how ableist discourses shape religious notions of the ideal body and ideal masculinity.

Linda G. Jones, presiding

## Papers

Joshua Brallier, Northwestern University

“I Prayed Fiercely to Never Be Separated from You in All My Future Lives”: Masculine Intimacy Across Lifetimes in the Rang rNam of the Tibetan Buddhist Adept Do Khyentsé Yeshé Dorjé

Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College

Monastic Idols: Aesthetic Embodiments of Masculinity

Jessica Albrecht, FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg

The “Oriental’s” Masculinity: Between Disability and Sexualization

Business Meeting

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University, Bloomington

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, Kalamazoo College

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A22-437

**Hosted by:** Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit

Theme: At This Time: Exploring Racial/Ethnic Models of Theological Education

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

The Theological Education between the Times Project presents a panel that attends to the unique gifts and challenges of theological education by and for historically marginalized racial and ethnic communities. Stemming in part from the project’s new edited volume, *At This Time: Dialogues in Theological Education*, the panel will feature a lively, sharp, and generous conversation about the potentials and the risks of ethnically-specific theological education. Bringing together five major leaders in theological education, this roundtable opens space for them to reflect together on the shared question of the goods, limits, challenges, and

opportunities of theological education that is specifically from and for historically marginalized communities.

Hilary Scarsella, presiding

Corwin Davis, Pacific School of Religion, presiding

## Panelist

Joanne Solis-Walker

Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology

Matthew Williams

Juan Molina, Mexican American Catholic College

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A22-404

**Hosted by:** Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit

Theme: Augustine and the "Public"

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

As a bishop, preacher, theologian, and correspondent, Augustine engaged a range of publics by virtue of his role as both an ecclesial and political figure leader as well as the range of modes in which he wrote. He was also deeply concerned with the social, ethical, and political effects – for good and for ill – of a range of cultural media (including literature, philosophy, preaching, and rhetoric) as well as public events (including rites, and festivals, and spectacles). This panel considers this theme in Augustine's work in historical context as well as its ongoing relevance for engaging contemporary ethical and political matters.

Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, Princeton Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Joseph Clair, George Fox University

21st Century Presidential Appeals to Augustine – from Obama to Vance

John Walker, Princeton University

Fraternal Correction as Democratic Discipline: An Augustinian Account

Abraham Wu, University of Cambridge

From the Inner Sanctum to the Res Publica: Augustinian Conscience and Public Reasoning

Todd Bryant, Duke Divinity School  
Bloodthirsty Pleasure: An Augustinian Theology of Antiblack Spectacles

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A22-412

**Hosted by:** Contemplative Studies Unit and Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit

Theme: Author meets Critic: Flourishing Kin, Indigenous Wisdom for Collective Well-Being by Yuria Celidwen (Nahua/Maya Bats'il K'op)

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Celidwen's book *Flourishing Kin* bridges Indigenous ontologies and methodologies, academic research, and poetic expression to cultivate sustainable collective flourishing through Indigenous contemplative spiritualities and sciences. This roundtable brings scholars of diverse fields to discuss Celidwen's perspectives of relationality and flourishing as a spiritual-aesthetic arrest only possible in community through cultivating relationships toward all kin, from human to more-than-human, and the living Earth. Celidwen's research draws from Indigenous spiritualities through ontologies and methodologies from her upbringing of Nahua and Maya Traditions and other Indigenous Traditions from around the world. Her research converses with Contemplative Studies, Religious Studies, Environmental Studies, Religion and Ecology, African Religions, and Eastern Religions to show the tremendous benefit of integrating Indigenous forms of contemplation in approaches to well-being. Through poetic expression and authentic truth-telling, Celidwen invites a path that meets the world's complexity with reverence and joyous participation in the flourishing of all living beings.

Loriliai Biernacki, presiding

### Panelist

Seth Schermerhorn, Hamilton College

Lawrence W. Gross

John Dunne

Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia

Oludamini Ogunnaike, University of Virginia

Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco

Michael Ing

### Respondent

Yuria Celidwen, University of California, Berkeley

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A22-424

**Hosted by:** North American Hinduism Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critic: Tracy Pintchman's *Goddess Beyond Boundaries*

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

In 2024, Tracy Pintchman published *Goddess Beyond Boundaries: Worshipping the Eternal Mother at a North American Hindu Temple*. Drawing on over 15 years of research in a small city in Michigan, Pintchman moves beyond diasporic frames to showcase how a Goddess temple and its community creatively adapt Hindu ideas and practices to their lives in the United States. This panel features 4 scholars, including specialists in urban religion, *bhakti* traditions, and Caribbean Hinduism, who will reflect upon the significance of this book to the field of North American Hinduisms.

Aarti Patel, Penn State University, presiding

### Panelist

Tracy Pintchman

Jack Hawley

Rachel Fell McDermott

Gaurika Mehta, Santa Clara University

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A22-406

**Hosted by:** Bioethics and Religion Unit

Theme: Bioethical Principlism and Religion

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

Tom Beauchamp and James Childress' seminal book, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, arose out of the Belmont Report in the late 1970s and serves as a common model in which clinical practitioners think through their ethical obligations and conflicts. The principlist approach has both ardent followers and critics, and the papers in this session will offer updated considerations of principlist approaches to bioethical questions in the context of religious scholarship and practice.

Hajung Lee, University of Puget Sound, presiding

### Papers

Emily Beatrix Hammer, University of St Andrews

Revisiting Principlism in the Age of Big Data: Why Justice Must Redefine Informed Consent

Howard Pickett, Washington and Lee University

A Knock at the Door: A Contractualist Approach to and Defense of Principlism

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A22-403

**Hosted by:** Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and Buddhism in the West Unit

Theme: Book Preview Panel: Emergent Dharma: Asian American Buddhist Feminists on Practice, Identity, and Resistance

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

**Abstract:**

This roundtable discussion will explore the forthcoming book, *Emergent Dharma: Asian American Buddhist Feminists on Practice, Identity, and Resistance*, edited by Sharon A. Suh, as a critical intervention in Buddhist Studies, Asian American Studies, Asian American Religions, and Feminist Religious Studies (North Atlantic Books, 2025). This anthology presents a diverse array of voices that challenge dominant narratives of Buddhism in the United States, highlight feminist approaches to Buddhist practice, and critique the epistemological boundaries of traditional Buddhist Studies. This roundtable features three of the authors of the volume who will discuss their own contributions and implications for rethinking the intersections of race, gender, and Buddhism.

Joseph Cheah, presiding

**Panelist**

Sharon A. Suh

Jane Iwamura

Tammy Ho

Funie Hsu

**Respondent**

Mark Unno, University of Oregon

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A22-435

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Centering Islam: Challenges for Islamic/Muslim Studies Programs on Campus

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

Muslims, Muslim-majority societies, and anti-Muslim hostility are firmly in the American public eye today. Ignorance is on full display, but in some contexts so are curiosity and the desire to understand and engage. During our roundtable discussion, colleagues with experience in Islamic Studies/Muslim Studies and related programs and centers a diverse array of American institutions of higher learning will talk about challenges, opportunities, and best practices in a broader climate that is insufficiently supportive of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences and in which the demands for public and student-facing work and intra-institutional service around topics associated with Islam and Muslims remain high. While dynamics specific to each institution shape the possibilities and constraints for Islamic Studies centers and programs, some issues and concerns are shared across campuses.

Kecia Ali, Boston University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University

Chad Haines

Eileen Kane, Connecticut College

Robert Rozehnal, Lehigh University

Yasmin Saikia, Arizona State University

Kayla Renee Wheeler, Xavier University

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A22-418

**Hosted by:** Esotericism Unit and Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: Ecology and Esotericism

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, MIT (Third Floor)

This panel explores how esoteric models of nature, cosmos, and the nonhuman are attuned to ecological consciousness and the agency of the more-than-human world in ways distinct from institutional religious thought. The first paper revisits Algernon Blackwood's weird fiction of vegetal horror and Mary-Jane Rubenstein's pantheistic mysticism to uncover a plant consciousness that challenges dominant materialisms. The second paper evaluates Aldo Leopold's reliance on P.D. Ouspensky's *Tertium Organum* to show how esoteric influences and the notion of the cosmos' hidden legibility were democratized in his land ethic. The final paper looks at Henry Cornelius Agrippa's Renaissance occult philosophy through Bruno Latour's Actor-

Network-Theory and Peircean semiotics to propose an ecosystemic metaphysics where magical signs mediate invisible agencies across nature and culture. Together, these papers retrieve esoteric religious currents to recover relational ontologies and immanent agencies that reimagine religion's ecological role beyond the limits of dominant traditions.

Timothy Grieve-Carlson, Westminster College, presiding

## Papers

Jacob Erickson, Trinity College, Dublin

"The Terror of the Trees": Algernon Blackwood, Vegetal Entanglement, and Pantheist Legacies

Jacob Sherman, California Institute of Integral Studies

Aldo Leopold, Esotericism, and the Legibility of the World

Sam Cole-Osborn

An Ecosystem of Agential Signs: Occult Metaphysics, Actor-Networks, and Semiotics

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A22-408

**Hosted by:** Childhood Studies and Religion Unit

Theme: Embracing Children in Religious Practice

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

Religious and faith communities are often described as essential for children and their childhood, yet, the inclusion of children in communal and religious practice(s) is understudied. In this session, scholars and practitioners explore what it looks like to embrace children in religious practice across cultures and religious affiliations.

Rode Molla, Virginia Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Phoebe Jones

Beyond Accommodation: Embracing the Spirituality of Children with Disabilities in the Church

Claire Princess Ayelotan

The Impact of Child Fostering on African Diaspora Communities: Case Studies of Child Migrants and Esoteric Beliefs

Thomas B. Ellis, Appalachian State University

Give me the childrearing practice, and I will give you the culture: The Developmental Psychology of Hindu Freedom and Illusion

Business Meeting

Rode Molla, Virginia Theological Seminary

Kishundra King, Iliff School of Theology

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A22-411

**Hosted by:** Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence Unit

Theme: Entangled Freedoms, Religion, and Violence

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

“Entanglement” now saturates the pages of articles and monographs across disciplines, usually signifying alternate ontologies to the Aristotelian and Abrahamic notions of identity grounded in (a) Being. Whether from the works of New Materialists, proponents of Actor Network Theory, cyberneticists, Earth and life scientists, eco-feminists, and/or Indigenous thought and praxis, re-orienting to the fundamental reality of “entanglement” in its varied iterations is presented as the *sine qua non* for “living well together,” including non-human species. In ontologies of entanglement, the valence of “freedom” shifts toward relationality, obligations, de-centered and distributed agency, and circularity—a far cry from libertarian notions of “freedom” that permeate much public discourse and activism in the West.

Andrew Murphy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, presiding

## Papers

Natalia Schwien, Harvard

“If You Give a Mouse A Human Brain: How Neural Chimeroids Reshape Brain Exceptionalism and Recall Mytho-Kinship”

Ulrike Ernst-Auga, Humboldt University of Berlin

"Overcoming Violence in Japanese Shintoism, 2025"

Flagg Miller, University of California, Davis

Coffee, Resistance and the Racialization of Islamic Indigeneity in South Africa

Chase L. Way, Nevada State University

Symbolic Logics of Violence: Theravāda Dialetheism and the Analytic Self-Refutation of Julius Evola’s Metaphysics of War



## Respondent

Jon Gill

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A22-405

**Hosted by:** Bahá'í Studies Unit

Theme: Exploring Dimensions of the Divine: History, Revelation, Justice, and Legacy in Bahá'í Thought

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This panel explores different dimensions of Bahá'í thought during the roughly 180 years of this faith's history. Key issues discussed include the thought and practices of female heroines and martyrs, themes of concealment and disclosure in early Bahá'í scriptures, ideas of justice and divine order in key legal texts, and the history of ideas concerning the harmony of science and religion.

Omid Ghaemmghami, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton, presiding

## Papers

Raya Hazini, Graduate Theological Union

Fatima Zahra and Tahirih Baraghani—Life, Knowledge, and Legacy

Zackery Heern, Idaho State University

Unveiling the Bahá'í Faith: Concealment and Disclosure in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

Ali Rod Khadem, Suffolk University - Law School

The Ontology of Justice: Bahá'í Perspectives on Law, Being, and Divine Order

Iqan Shahidi, University of Cambridge

Evolving Perspectives: The Intellectual History of the Harmony of Science and Religion in the Bahá'í Faith

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A22-417

**Hosted by:** Energy, Extraction, and Religion Seminar

Theme: Extraction, Religion and Land/place-based methods  
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

The papers in this session begin with place and consider the ways extraction and religion interact in the context of particular geographies. Continuing conversations from 2023 EER sessions on methodological and epistemological extractivism, this session features scholars each approaching extractivism in relation to a particular place. Panelists employ a variety of methods – textual, ethnographic, and historical – to analyze the imbrications of extractive economies and religious life. In addition to presenting their research, each panelist will offer specific reflections on their methods and the ways these approaches situate their work in relation to land, local inhabitants, local lifeways, and extractivist practices. Stephanie Gray draws on firsthand testimony and theoretical framing to examine the entwinement of settler colonialism, natural resource extraction, and human exploitation in the West Bank. Oriane Lavole's research on the Tibetan Buddhist Treasure Tradition draws on a case study of Chokgyur Lingpa's 1866 revelation at Sengö Yamtso to begin to articulate an ethics of extraction. And Emma Gerritsen draws on oral histories of 20th century Appalachian coal camps to analyze the role of land and labor exploitation in lived religion.

Terra Schwerin Rowe, University of North Texas, presiding

## Papers

Stephanie Gray, Global Centre for Advanced Studies  
From Occupation to Extraction: Understanding Ecological Settler Colonialism in the West Bank

Emma Gerritsen, Freie Universität Berlin  
Religious Narratives of Extractivist Places: Christianity and Oral Histories of Appalachia

Oriane Lavole  
Towards an Ethics of Extraction: Insights from the Tibetan Treasure Tradition

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A22-419

**Hosted by:** Foucault and the Study of Religion Seminar  
Theme: Foucauldian responses to /The Care of the Self and the Care of the Other/  
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This roundtable will take up Daniel Wyche's 2025 monograph /The Care of the Self and the Care of the Other/ to work through the critical possibilities for the care of self and others that kept Foucault working even unto his 1984 death.

Through different disciplinary prisms, Ellen Armour, Sonam Kachru, and Adam Stern respond to Wyche's work on the relationship between the ethical transformation of the self and the political transformation of the world. These dialectics of resistance and transformation spoke to Foucault, and they are even more necessary in our current climate.

Niki Kasumi Clements presides and Daniel Wyche responds, but we will distribute to all participants the "Foucault" chapter so we might collectively discuss what to do together.

Niki Clements, Rice University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Ellen T. Armour, Vanderbilt University

Sonam Kachru, Yale University

Adam Stern, University of Wisconsin–Madison

### **Respondent**

Daniel Wyche, Columbia University

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A22-410

**Hosted by:** Class, Labor, and Religion Unit

Theme: From Fields and Factories to Women's Clubs: Navigating Class, Religion and Labor

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

This panel explores how the specific convergence of religion, class and labor yield different historical memories and sensibilities. From fields to factories and from Black women's clubs to economic uplift efforts, religious ideas have fostered, and continue to foster, pragmatic and utopian views of labor, advocacy and equality, while also complicating the intersections of class, gender, and race.

Kerry Danner, presiding

### **Papers**

James Crossley, University of Cambridge

Interpreting the British Marxist Historians and Religious Radicalism: From Historical Materialism to History from Below

Chandra Plowden, Harvard University

Making Efficient (and Clean) Domestic Workers: Coming Street YWCA's Training School for Domestic Workers Racial Uplift through Racial Acquiescence

Ryan Bennett, The University of Edinburgh

The Incarnational Theology of William Temple and Dorothy Day: Trans-Atlantic perspectives on Class and Labor with global structures of Capitalism

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A22-421

**Hosted by:** Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit

Theme: Kierkegaard and Incarceration, Freedom, Faith, and Reason

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

How does the thought of Søren Kierkegaard apply to challenges facing human freedom? This session includes interpretations on freedom, unfreedom, faith, and reason through the religious and philosophical thought of Søren Kierkegaard. The papers apply Kierkegaard's ideas to concerns such as hyper-incarceration and increasing global prison populations, the crisis of the individual in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, and contemporary debates on the relationship between the self and faith and reason. The papers pressure Kierkegaard's writings on the categories of the aesthetic, ethical, and religious to offer clarity and clarification of his ideas and texts, as well as analyses on pressing existential questions and demands placed before humanity. What is the proper existential relation of the self before God? How do we orient ourselves toward the good, the true, and the possibility of redemption? How does unfreedom in the world impact being captive in the idea of God?

Natalia Marandiuc, United Lutheran Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Nigel Hatton, University of California, Merced

"A Solitary Lifetime Prisoner": Kierkegaard and the Problem of Prison Reform

Austin Herbert, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Climacus on the Self as Synthesis: Risking Faith and Reason in Kierkegaard

Business Meeting  
Nigel Hatton, University of California, Merced  
Deidre Green, Graduate Theological Union

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P22-400

**Hosted by:** La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars of Religion

Theme: La Comunidad Book Panel

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vermont (Fifth Floor)

A diverse panel of Latino/a theologians and scholars of religion engage the latest work from Christopher D. Tirres, *Liberating Spiritualities: Reimagining Faith in the Américas* (Fordham University Press, 2025).

Erica Ramirez, Louisville Institute, presiding

### **Panelist**

Elaine Padilla, University of La Verne  
Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology  
Rubén Bonilla Ramos  
Maria T. Davila, Merrimack College  
Raul Zegarra

### **Respondent**

Christopher Tirres, Santa Clara University

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A22-416

**Hosted by:** Ecclesial Practices Unit and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: La Herida Abierta and Freedom: Trauma, Memory and Crossing Boundaries

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

Patricia Bonilla, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, presiding

### **Panelist**

Teresa Delgado, St. John's University  
Patrick Reyes

A22-413

**Hosted by:** Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit

Theme: Lived Religion: An Autopsy?

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

The Lived Religion approach to religious studies emerged in the late 1990s out of the field of American religious history. It has sometimes been proffered as a modality of religious studies that attenuates the field's imperial and civilizational biases, and has inspired work widely beyond its original Christian American purview, in Asian, Africana, and Latinx contexts.

This panel opens a retrospective on lived religion. We come together from diverse subfields to ask: What does it mean, and has it meant, to designate "life" to religion? What sorts of work have been availed by this approach? What sorts of work have been occluded? In what ways has lived religion contributed to a cultural reorientation of religious studies? What has it meant for the study of religion in America? What has it meant for the study of religions elsewhere? And what is the relation of the center and periphery?

Lucia Hulsether, presiding

### Panelist

Jack Downey, University of Rochester

Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina

Noreen Khawaja

Dana Logan, UNC Greensboro

James Padilioni

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A22-409

**Hosted by:** Chinese Christianities Unit

Theme: Modern Chinese Theologies: Review and State of the Field

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Chinese Christianities Unit, this Roundtable uses the recent three-volume set *Modern Chinese Theologies* as a starting point to discuss the growth and present construct of the field of Chinese Christianity through a theological lens. The panel

explores how geographical, linguistic and historical experiences have shaped the parameters of research, as it discusses the division of Chinese theology and Christianity by ecclesial identities (mission denominations versus independent Chinese churches); by region or country; and by reception context (academic or church setting). Without foreclosing long-debated questions such as the relationship between denominational belonging and theological development, or socialism and Christianity, the panel will focus on two topics of much recent interest: the expansion of debate on Sinophone and diasporic theologies (and their contested nature), and recent trends in the mainland academic project of Sino-Christian theology.

Chloe Starr, Yale University, presiding

### Panelist

Jesse Sun, Belmont University

Stephanie Wong

Easten Law, Princeton Theological Seminary

Ximian Xu

Naomi Thurston

Business Meeting

Easten Law, Princeton Theological Seminary

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A22-422

**Hosted by:** Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible Seminar

Theme: Musical Forms, Philosophical Visions: Poiesis and Poetics in the Sinographic Sphere,  
Session 2

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This year our seminar investigates the role and meaning of language and its forms of expression—poetic foremost—in the sinographic sphere, where the Literary Sinitic Buddhist canon was used and shaped. In this second session, Jean Tsui's paper explores the Ming philosopher Wang Yangming's (1472-1529) invention of “song poems” and the implications of creating forms without content for his philosophical vision. Jiangnan Li's paper investigates how Song Emperor Taizong's (r. 976–997) poetic compositions shape new religious meanings by blending Buddhist, Daoist, and Sinitic literary and musical forms. Laurie Patton's and Heather Blair's responses will bring our presenters' work into broader conversations on language and poiesis that this seminar has fostered, including last year's discussion of poetics in early and medieval South Asia.

Thomas Mazanec, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

## Papers

Jean Tsui, College of Staten Island CUNY

Pacing Predictably into the Unpredictable: The Promise and Precariousness of Wang Yangming's Song Poems

Jiangnan Li, University of California, Berkeley

Imperial Poetics and the Three Teachings: On Song Emperor Taizong's "Buddhist Verses"

## Respondent

Laurie Louise Patton, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Heather Blair, Indiana University, Bloomington

Business Meeting

Roy Tzohar

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A22-429

**Hosted by:** Religion in Europe Unit

Theme: New books on contemporary France: Islam, Pluralism, and Religious Difference

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This roundtable session focuses on two new books on religion and politics in France: ***Muslim and Catholic Experiences of National Belonging in France: Rethinking Boundaries, Inequities, and Faith in the Republic*** (Bloomsbury Academic 2024), by Carol Ferrara; and ***Fraternal Critique: The Politics of Muslim Community in France*** (Chicago, March 2025) by Kirsten Wesselhoeft. Together, these two works not only shed fresh light on recent French politics related to religion that receive scarce attention in anglophone discourse, but they each develop core central concepts – francité, for Ferrara, and fraternal critique, for Wesselhoeft – that have broad applicability for scholarly analysis of religious communities and the politics of belonging in multiracial postcolonial nation states. The interdisciplinary panel of discussants will open up the wider questions and interventions that come out of these two works taken together, and will underscore their impact for the study of religion in and beyond Europe.

Brenna Moore, Fordham University, presiding

## Panelist

Carol Ferrara, Emerson College

Kirsten Wesselhoeft



## Respondent

Feryal Salem, American Islamic College  
Samuel Kigar, University of Puget Sound  
Kambiz GhaneaBassiri  
Business Meeting  
John McCormack, Aurora University  
Tyson Herberger, University of Southeastern Norway

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A22-425

**Hosted by:** Quaker Studies Unit  
Theme: New Directions in Quaker Studies  
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

These papers chart new directions in Quaker Studies in both content and method.

Andrew Taylor, College of St. Scholastica, presiding

## Papers

Stephen Angell, Earlham School of Religion  
The Evolution of Quaker Exhortations on Women's Ministry in the 1650s

Shena Deuchars, University of Birmingham, UK  
The methodological challenges of global surveys: A Quaker case study

Edith Chamwama  
QUAKER EXISTENTIAL SPIRITUALITY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY KENYAN QUAKER WOMEN IN THE  
KUHAMBIZA ITAYA (LIGHTING THE LAMP) RITUAL

## Respondent

David Harrington Watt, Haverford College  
Esther Mombo  
Business Meeting  
Andrew Taylor, College of St. Scholastica

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A22-407

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit

Theme: New Voices in Buddhist Studies

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This omnibus panel brings together promising scholarship by PhD students in the field of Buddhist Studies. This year's presentations demonstrate a striking range of methodological approaches and expertise in terms of region and historical period. Presenters will address disability in Chinese Buddhism, a textual survey of the cultivation of alimentary disgust, the theorization of treasure revelations in Tibet, and reframing Buddhism as 'culture,' in contemporary South Korea.

Amy P. Langenberg, Eckerd College, presiding

## Papers

Yuan Zhang, University of Florida

Perceiving Disgust: The Reflection on the Repulsiveness of Food in Buddhist Meditation

Echo Weng

Rethinking Disability Through Medieval Chinese Buddhist Narratives

Heather Moody

Revealing the Hidden: Theorizing and Narrating Treasure Discovery in Early Tibetan Buddhism

Yeonwoo Joh, Yale University

Propagating Religion as Culture: The Quandaries of Buddhism's Cultural Success in Modern South Korea

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A22-436

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Normative and Descriptive Modes of Inquiry: Can they Relate?

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

This roundtable convenes a programmatic conversation between scholars who work in "normative" fields (e.g., ethics, theology, and philosophy) and scholars who work in more "descriptive" fields (e.g., history, ethnography, and social scientific approaches), regarding issues around the relationship of normative and descriptive inquiry in religious studies.

Some sort of “normative”/“descriptive” binary still organizes much scholarship in religious studies. We aim not to obliterate the distinction, but to engage the two modes of inquiry in fruitful conversation, to see what they might learn from one another.

Can normative scholars better incorporate the enormous empirical sophistication of descriptive scholarship? And how might descriptive modes of inquiry usefully learn from the practices of normative scholars? We do not aim at producing an anti-positivist polemic nor an apologetic for normativity, but simply advancing a kind of ongoing conversation on these matters.

William Wood, University of Oxford, presiding

### Panelist

Charles Mathewes  
Michelle Sanchez  
Jesse Couenhoven  
Molly Farneth

### Respondent

Constance Furey  
Jonathan Sheehan, University of California, Berkeley

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A22-415

**Hosted by:** Drugs and Religion Unit

Theme: Psychedelics and Religious Traditions: New Studies and Findings

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

What do we know about how religious people understand and experience psychedelics? A new interdisciplinary initiative at the Emory Center for Psychedelics and Spirituality, entitled *MOSAIC: Psychedelics and Religious Traditions*, addresses this question. This roundtable will present findings from:

- “Jewish Journeys,” a quantitative study (N=1500) of a diverse range of Jewish Americans.
- “Varieties of Psychedelic Spiritual Experiences,” psychedelic testimonies from a range of religious experiencers.
- A population-based survey of Muslim experiences of psychedelics and their impact on faith, integration, and culture.
- A qualitative study examining former LDS members’ psychedelic experiences
- A qualitative study of Christian clergy attitudes toward psychedelics.

In addition to illuminating the range of psychedelic religious experiences, these studies will contribute to the provision of culturally competent care for religious psychedelic experiencers who may have spiritual, existential, religious, and theological (SERT) experiences in therapeutic, religious, or recreational contexts.

Roman Palitsky, Emory University, presiding

## Panelist

Jay Michaelson

Jaime Clark-Soles

Nathan Fisher, University of California, Santa Barbara

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A22-402

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion and American Council of Learned Societies

Theme: Public Scholarship Networking Reception

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

Co-sponsored by the American Academy of Religion, American Council of Learned Societies, and the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life

Please join us for a networking event and reception for publicly engaged scholars of religion. This event is designed to support and connect scholars of all career stages, working within and beyond the academy, who are pursuing publicly-engaged and/or community-based research. The session will offer opportunities for attendees to discuss issues of mutual interest, make new connections, learn about each other's work, and share resources and tools. In addition, co-hosts ACLS, the American Academy of Religion, and the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life will share information about resources they provide for public scholars. We will also update attendees about the joint "Publicly Engaged Religion Scholarship Mapping Project."

Whether you are new to publicly-engaged and community-based work, or have years of experience and expertise, we invite you to join us and connect with scholars deepening public understanding of the roles of religion in society.

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Tiffany Puett, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, presiding

Daphne Weber, presiding

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A22-431

**Hosted by:** Religion, Sport, and Play Unit

Theme: Religion, Sport, and PLAY

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This session focuses on PLAY, as opposed to sporting games and competition. Play is often contrasted with competitive games, as it is idealistically described as autotelic and somehow more innate than sport. However, as these papers suggest, play is not just creativity with the body without boundaries. Ethics, the other, and social norms are categories that each essay explores in their workings with the concept of play.

Terry Shoemaker, presiding

## Papers

Nevia Selmon, Harvard Divinity School

Rower as Witness: Levinas, Ricoeur, and the Human Condition in Motion

Travis Pickell, George Fox University

Resonant Play: Exploring C. Thi Nguyen's Aesthetics of Agency and Hartmut Rosa's Theory of Resonance

Kristin Graff-Kallevag

What happens when yoga goes to church? From a word-centered to a body-centered religiosity?

## Respondent

Eric Bain-Selbo

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A22-427

**Hosted by:** Religion and Memory Unit

Theme: Religious Memory in Text and Context in Premodern Asia

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Death is a site of memory creation in numerous religious cultures. The papers on this panel explore memory cultures and practices that center around the moment of death across traditions, time, and space. They weave the textual and non-textual together, such as the

poetic rhetoric and calligraphic styles of dying Zen Buddhist masters or Chinese Buddhist tomb inscriptions on stone memorial structures. Another examines the Hindu Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava practice of remembering the divine by cultivating forgetfulness of self, and hence experiencing divine love at death. In examining textual and contextual practices of memory and forgetfulness, the papers also speak to remembrance beyond death, whether through the testimonies of loved ones, the politics of memorial creation, or the eternal enjoyment of divine love.

Ella Myer, Emory University, presiding

## Papers

Kedao Tong, Stanford University

Constructing Memory of the Late Masters: Stūpa Inscriptions for Buddhist Monastics of Fourteenth-Century China

Zhuolun Xie, Princeton University

Testament of the Dying Brush: Reading the Final Calligraphies of a Seventeenth-century Zen Buddhist Master

Eileen Goddard, University of California, Santa Barbara

Forgetfulness As Devotion in the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Tradition

## Author

Yi Ding, DePaul University

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A22-434

**Hosted by:** Sikh Studies Unit

Theme: Sikh Struggles for Freedom and Human Rights

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

This panel explores the multifaceted struggles of the Sikh community for freedom and human rights, focusing on both historical and contemporary contexts. It examines the role of Sikh religious and cultural symbols in motivating and legitimizing collective actions, as seen in the Kisan Andolan farmers' protest. The panel also delves into the use of torture against Sikh militants during the 1980s and 1990s, highlighting the gendered and psycho-political dimensions of such practices.

By integrating insights from these two studies, the panel underscores the enduring impact of Sikh teachings on resistance movements and the complex interplay between identity, power, and violence. It aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of how Sikh struggles for autonomy and justice are shaped by and respond to broader socio-political dynamics, offering diverse perspectives on the ongoing quest for equality and human rights within the Sikh community.

Rajbir Judge, California State University, Long Beach, presiding

## Papers

Christine Moliner

"It is Baba Nanak who is running this protest". The role of Sikhi in the Indian farmers protest

Prabhsharanbir Singh

Interplay of Torture, Gender, and Fantasy during the Sikh Militant Movement

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A22-401

**Hosted by:** African Diaspora Religions Unit

Theme: Spiritual Energy's Ability to Effect Culture, Health and Change in Haiti and Jamaica

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This Caribbean-themed panel explores the quest for freedom through spiritual embodiment; healing and wholeness; and state sovereignty. The papers in this session takes on the parallels and convergences of Lwa (S/spirits) in Vodou and the Holy Spirit in Christianity in building community, Jamaican Revival Zion's "Physician's Order" and the graveyard technology of physician-healers, and the newly independent Jamaican state's use of the suppression of Rastafari community at the center of the Coral Gardens Massacre of 1963 to perform independence while maintaining colonial scripts. The three papers offer innovative disruption and reconstruction of freedom by interrogating performances of power in community-building through spiritual divinity, healing and wholeness through graveyard medicine, sovereignty through marginal group suppression.

Carol Marie Webster, Fordham University, presiding

Scott Barton, University of Notre Dame, presiding

## Papers

Celucien Joseph, Indian River State College

Cosmic Forces and the Divine Energy: The World of the Lwa and the Presence of the Spirit in the World

Khytie Brown, University of Texas at Austin

Graveyard Physicians: The Politics of Healing in Revival Zion Religion

Peyton White

Jamaican Plantation Sovereignty and the Suppression of Rastafari: Coral Gardens in 1963

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A22-428

**Hosted by:** Religion and Popular Culture Unit

Theme: Tabletop Religion

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Table top role-playing games (TTRPGs) are at an all time high in popularity, inspiring players' almost limitless creativity. This panel demonstrates that creativity inside and outside of religious traditions and encourages us to consider the positives and negatives of allowing our religious imaginations to run wild.

America Wolff, presiding

## Papers

Che Pieper

Play with Bodies: Analog roleplay and Jewish affect

Thomas Waldrup

When the habit makes the monk roll with advantage: TTRPG players and clothing, intersecting real and game worlds

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A22-430

**Hosted by:** Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit and Teaching Religion Unit

Theme: Teaching Religion and Genocide During this Political Moment

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)



In this roundtable discussion, scholars from a variety of institutions will reflect on how they teach the history and politics of genocide at time when the federal government is withholding research money and requiring vetting of university courses. How do we teach the topic of genocide with integrity and academic rigor in politically polarized classrooms, especially when accusations of genocide may be met with intimidation by law enforcement? Scholars will reflect on their pedagogical strategies that keep in mind student learning, university missions, and ongoing debates over free speech and inquiry.

David Tollerton, presiding

## Panelist

Tim Langille, Arizona State University  
Kate Kelly Middleton, Catholic University of America  
Kate DeConinck, Keene State College

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A22-426

**Hosted by:** Religion and Cities Unit and Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: The Religious Ecology of Cities: Christianity in U.S. and Australian Contexts

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

This panel explores how Christian congregations adapt to and shape urban life across diverse cities and cultural contexts. The first paper analyzes political messaging in sermons across Chicago congregations using a novel dataset and computational methods, focusing on pastoral responses to policing and community violence. The second paper utilizes ethnography to examine how two Christian congregations mediate race and class dynamics through a community development project in East Oakland, California. The third paper presents a decade-long mixed-methods study of how Christian congregations in Boston have survived in and adapted to a secularizing, “Post-Christian” urban environment. The final paper uses ethnography to analyze how church-led community gardening initiatives cultivate food and social ties in inner-urban Sydney. Together, these papers offer a comparative and interdisciplinary understanding of how Christian organizations adapt to sociopolitical change, community needs, and the religious ecologies of cities.

Dusty Hoesly, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

## Papers

Kraig Beyerlein, University of Notre Dame  
Simone Zhang, New York University

## Sermons in the Windy City: Analyzing Political Messaging in Religious Discourse Across Chicago Congregations

Derek Wu, UC Berkeley

Bridging Christianities: Race, Class, and Community Development in an Urban Neighborhood

Jane Yim, Emmanuel Gospel Center

Church Survival in a 'Post-Christian' City: Findings from a Mixed-Method Study on How Boston's New Churches Have Endured Over a Decade

Rosemary Hancock

Seeding Christianity and Growing Urban Sociality: Church-Based Community Gardening in Inner-Urban Sydney

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A22-420

**Hosted by:** Hindu Philosophy Unit and Islamic Mysticism Unit

Theme: What Does It Mean for God to "Exist"? An Experiment in Hindu/Islamic Comparative Philosophy

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This session focuses on the question of God's existence: not *whether* God exists, but *how* God exists. What does it mean to refer to God (or to Allāh, Brahman, or Īśvara) as "existing" or as "being"? What is the relationship between Divine Being and non-divine beings? Do rocks and trees and people exist in the same sense that God exists, or does the word have different meanings in each context? Are there gradations within reality/existence/being? The papers will discuss a variety of Hindu and Islamic views; the aim is to provide a model for comparative philosophy that is attentive to historical context as well as to internal diversity within the traditions studied. Each presentation will be kept accessible to non-specialists, and short enough to allow time for discussion.

Catherine Prueitt, University of British Columbia, presiding

## Papers

Sana Azmat

Dāwūd al-Qayṣarī's Exposition of Being (wujūd): Philosophical and Theological Debates in al-Muqaddimat al-Qayṣarī

Michael Allen, University of Virginia

## Does Brahman "Exist"? Equivocation and Apophasis in Advaita Vedānta

Nariman Aavani

Rethinking Existence, Cause, and Effect: Mullā Ṣadrā's Īqāz al-nā'imīn in Dialogue with Gadādhara's Kāraṇatāvāda

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A22-432

**Hosted by:** Science, Technology, and Religion Unit

Theme: Widening the Circle: Communicating Science and Religion to Broader Audiences

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

How can experts in the study of science and religion translate insights from their research in inviting, accessible, and accurate ways in order to invite wider conversations about the field among scholars, students, and the public? What are some of the best strategies for identifying and capturing broader interest in science and religion and where are some key locations for this work? These questions are the basis of this roundtable conversation featuring scholars dialoguing with museum professionals. Together, they will discuss strategies for engagement and current projects designed to expand and enhance dialogue about science and religion in classrooms and museums. This roundtable will highlight multiple audiences and paths for expanding conversations about science and religion: 1) in classrooms; 2) with other scholars; 3) among the wider public, especially in museum settings.

Peter Jordan, University of Oxford, presiding

### Panelist

Tricia Ross

Gintaras Duda, Creighton University

Tom Rockwell, Science and Spirit Studio

Dani LeBlanc, Museum of Science (Boston)

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A22-400/S22-401

**Hosted by:** AAR's Graduate Student Committee and SBL's Students in the Profession Committee

Theme: AAR/SBL Grad Student Happy Hour

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

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Jacob Robinson, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M22-400

**Hosted by:** Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism

Theme: Memorial Gathering in Honor of Peter Gregory

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism will host an informal gathering to share memories and reflect on the career of Peter Gregory (1945- 2025), the Jill Ker Conway Professor Emeritus of Religion and East Asian Studies at Smith College and eminent scholar of medieval Chinese Buddhism. A few designated speakers will be followed by “open microphone” for all wishing to pay tribute to Peter.

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M22-401

**Hosted by:** Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education

Theme: NetVUE Reception for Members and Friends

Saturday, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

The Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) is a nationwide campus-supported network to increase the capacity of independent colleges and universities to support undergraduate students as they explore and discern their many callings in life, and as they reflect on questions of meaning, purpose, and identity. Since its launch in 2009, NetVUE has grown rapidly to include nearly 350 institutions. All SBL and AAR participants are invited to join us for this reception, whether or not their institutions are members of the network.

Stop by for a chance to learn more about NetVUE (including faculty development and grant opportunities), to connect with friends and colleagues with similar interests, and to enjoy one another’s company. NetVUE is administered by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) with support from member dues and the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc.

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A22-438

**Hosted by:** Music and Religion Unit and the Center for Jewish-Christian Learning at Boston College

Theme: Delvyn Case's "The Binding of Isaac According to the Elohist": A Live Musical Performance and Panel Discussion  
Saturday, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Offsite

Award-winning American composer Delvyn Case conducts the Deus Ex Musica Ensemble in a live performance of his dramatic new solo cantata based on Genesis 22. Daring to imagine alternative ending to this infamous story, this 25-minute piece explores the complex theological, narrative, and interpretive challenges of this infamous passage by highlighting how the thread of sacrificial violence tragically binds together Elohim, Abraham, Isaac, and Elohim – and, through its historical legacy – all of us as well. Sponsored by the Boston College Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, the performance will be followed by a panel discussion featuring an interfaith collection of scholars and clergy.

6:00-7:30pm on Saturday, November 22nd at Old South Church (645 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02116)

Joshua Busman, presiding

### **Panelist**

Delvyn Case, Wheaton College, Massachusetts

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M22-404

**Hosted by:** John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

Theme: John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics Reception

Saturday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Staffordshire Ballroom (Third Floor)

We welcome all our friends and colleagues attending this year's annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature to join us for a festive reception Saturday night!

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M22-403

**Hosted by:** Forum for Theological Exploration

Theme: FTE Annual Alumni Reception

Saturday, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sheraton, Grand Ballroom (Second Floor)

The FTE Annual Alumni Reception is a gathering where alumni and current participants of FTE programs come together to celebrate, connect, and engage with one another.

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M22-405

**Hosted by:** Theological Education between the Times

Theme: Theological Education between the Times Reception

Saturday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Huntington Ballroom (Second Floor)

Join the Theological Education between the Times project for a reception celebrating the 10 years of the grant's work and its participants and fellows! This reception will honor the project's previous book successes and celebrate the culminating edited volume, 'At This Time: Dialogues in Theological Education.' We will hear a few short reflections - and a special musical performance - from senior fellows. Friends and supporters of TEBT are invited to a free-flowing time with music, conviviality, and good food.

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M22-500

**Hosted by:** Boston College Theology Department and the Clough School of Theology and Ministry

Theme: Boston College Theology Department and Clough School of Theology and Ministry Reception

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom CD (Fourth Floor)

Please join the Boston College Theology Department and the Clough School of Theology and Ministry for a cocktail reception.

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A22-500

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Presidential Address: Freedom and the Ethics of Vigilance in a Time of Endangerment

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

A year after my call last November to the AAR community to explore conditions of freedom and unfreedom in new ways, we are confronted with a deepening climate of erosion and

erasure. From military dictatorships to university administrations that mow down departments and programs, an atmosphere of repercussion, inhumanity, and inscrutability prevails. The fragility and fickleness of these arrangements of life press us to keep asking what each of us can do, and to keep searching for possibilities. I turn to poets and storytellers, activists and political visionaries, who have discerned a practice of vigilance more sovereign and sustaining than the brute vigilantism of the state and other oppressive structures. What does it mean to be alert not only to threat but also to possibility—to be vigilant for justice, vigilant for the smallest acts of dignity, vigilant for freedom in the ordinary and the everyday? What kind of agency and orientation does an ethics of vigilance reveal, what hope does it trace, what does it offer us and what does it demand of us?

Leela Prasad, Brown University, presiding

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M22-503

**Hosted by:** Fordham University Theology Department

Theme: 2025 AAR/SBL Fordham University Reception

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Adams/Parliament/Baltic (Seventh Floor)

Fordham University Theology alumni, faculty, friends, and current and prospective graduate students are warmly invited to the Theology Reception to meet, mingle, and learn about our latest programs and projects.

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M22-502

**Hosted by:** Dallas Theological Seminary

Theme: Dallas Theological Seminary Alumni Dinner

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Offsite

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M22-501

**Hosted by:** Brigham Young University

Theme: Friends of BYU

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom E (Fourth Floor)

Friends of BYU Reception.

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M22-506

**Hosted by:** Nova Religio and New Religious Movement Unit

Theme: Nova Religio and New Religious Movement Unit Reception

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Defender (Seventh Floor)

Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions and the AAR New Religious Movement program unit invite friends and scholars of NRMs to attend our annual reception.

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M22-505

**Hosted by:** Indiana University

Theme: Religious Studies Alumni and Friends Reception

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom HI (Fourth Floor)

Indiana University Department of Religious Studies Alumni and Friends Reception.

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M22-507

**Hosted by:** Religious Studies Review (RSR)

Theme: Religious Studies Review (RSR) Annual Meeting

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sheraton, Boylston (Third Floor)

Religious Studies Review (RSR) is a quarterly review of publications across the entire field of religion and related disciplines. RSR is the only publication that provides major review essays and short reviews for over 1,000 titles in religion annually. The editorial staff is composed of professors from all over the world.

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M22-504

**Hosted by:** Graduate Theological Union

Theme: The GTU Alumni Reception

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Westin Copley Place, Essex North (Third Floor)

### The GTU Alumni Reception

All GTU alumni, students, faculty, and their friends or guests attending the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature are invited for reconnections and fellowship.

Please RSVP so we can welcome you: [ofalcone@gtu.edu](mailto:ofalcone@gtu.edu)

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M22-509

**Hosted by:** Zen Reading Group

Theme: Zen Reading Group Annual Meeting

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sheraton, Independence West (Second Floor)

Steven Heine, Florida International University, presiding

## Papers

Kevin Buckelew, Northwestern University

Why Did Chan Masters Predict Their Own Rebirths as Oxen?

Yi Ding, DePaul University

Translation Issues in Moheyan's Dunwu dacheng zhengli jue

Ben Van Overmeire, Duke Kunshan University

Ruixiang Hu, Duke Kunshan University

"Buddhist Cosmology in Taixu's 'A Treatise on the Doctrinal Foundation of True Realism'"

Kedao Tong, Stanford University

"Interpreting Sheng in Seventeenth-Century Chan Discourses on Releasing Lives (fangsheng)"

## Respondent

Morten Schlutter, University of Iowa

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P22-501

**Hosted by:** Societe Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy

Theme: Societe Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Sheraton, Marlborough (Third Floor)

Societe Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy

Working Papers on R C Modernism

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P22-500

**Hosted by:** Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS)

Theme: Religion and Science Hospitality Event

Saturday, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Offsite

Join us for our Religion and Science Hospitality Event at The Colonnade Hotel, Colonnade East/West.

Sponsored by John Templeton Foundation. Hosted by: Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science; Institute on Religion in an Age of Science; International Society for Science and Religion; Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences; AI and Faith; AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion Program (DoSER); and Zygon Center and CASIRAS.

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A22-501

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Member and Presidential Reception

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

Immediately following the Presidential Address, join AAR leadership and colleagues to celebrate you as AAR members.

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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A22-505

**Hosted by:** Films

Theme: A Sacred Piece of Home: Washington D.C.

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

A SACRED PIECE OF HOME: WASHINGTON D:C. is a documentary series about places of worship in the D.C. Area made by distinct ethno-religious communities. The multi-faceted series lies at the intersection of religion, architecture, ethnicity, and immigration history. It includes all major religions and many ethnic groups – English, Irish, German, African, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Korean and Indian. Interviews with scholars, authors, clergy and congregants inform us about the founding of Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, a Hindu Temple and a Mosque. Also featured are a Gothic Cathedral, a Catholic Basilica, neo-classical churches, many versions of a Synagogue, a Sikh Gurdwara, a Zoroastrian temple, a Buddhist temple and Jain mandir. More information on <https://www.sacredpieceofhome.com>

The program was conceptualized by Amita Sarin, a member of IEHS. She co-produced the series with Dr. Ori Z. Soltes, Georgetown University, who is also Host and narrator. 143 words

The series is streaming free nationwide on the PBS app until the end of 2025. Or click on <https://weta.org/watch/shows/sacred-piece-home-washington-dc>

Amita Sarin, Cultural Literacy Associates, LLC, presiding

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M22-510

**Hosted by:** Asbury Theological Seminary

Theme: Asbury Theological Seminary Reception

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay A (Second Floor)

A reception for alumni and friends of Asbury Theological Seminary. This is a come and go reception, with just a brief presentation from faculty and representatives of each skill. A time for fellowship and (re)acquaintance over light refreshments.

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M22-511

**Hosted by:** Baker Academic & Brazos Press

Theme: Baker Academic & Brazos Press Reception

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

Annual reception for authors and friends of Baker Academic & Brazos Press.

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M22-512

**Hosted by:** Hispanic Theological Initiative

Theme: Hispanic Theological Initiative Reception

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom F (Fourth Floor)

Reception for friends and participants attending the 2025 American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings.

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M22-402

**Hosted by:** Alan Wagner

Theme: Lives of the Buddha: A Staged Reading of a New Play

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, America North (Fourth Floor)

"Lives of the Buddha" is a new theatrical play composed primarily of excerpts from early, popular Chinese Buddhist texts, transmitted from India, which recount the story of the Buddha and many of his past lives. This work seeks to imagine and create the experience of orally presenting these materials to an audience, perhaps as it might have been some 2000 years ago, before they were even first written down.

By interpreting these scriptures as the written traces of a preexisting oral performance literature, with alternating passages of narration, dialogue, and stage direction, this project also places them among the oldest theatrical writings in existence.

This show will be a staged reading of the play, performed by a group of professional actors, followed by a discussion with the audience.

Written and directed by Alan Wagner.

For more information, and to read the play, visit <https://livesofthebuddha.com>

#Buddhism #Buddha #hagiography #storytelling #BuddhistStudies #Jataka #Arts #Theater

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A22-502

**Hosted by:** Films

Theme: Sugarcane

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

*Sugarcane*, an Oscar-nominated documentary, is “an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning” with the destructive policies and practices of assimilation. *Sugarcane* illuminates the heartbreak and beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding strength to survive. The Indigenous ways of knowing and living portrayed are a beautiful, resilient, and love-filled way of life, persisting despite the injustices of colonialism spanning generations. *Sugarcane* conveys how the past lives on in the present for the survivors of residential schools and their descendants yet provides hope for the future. *Sugarcane* is a story of harm, healing, and a journey towards the regaining of personal and collective freedom. Named after the Sugarcane Reserve in British Columbia, and engaging with the history of the nearby Mission school, the realities revealed are not uncommon to the experience of Indigenous Peoples elsewhere in North America. (<https://sugarcanefilm.com/>)

Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, presiding

Laura Duhan-Kaplan, presiding

## Panelist

Christine Jamieson

Julian Brave, NoiseCat

Emily Kassie

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P22-502

**Hosted by:** Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

Theme: Wabash Center Reception

Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex Center and South (Third Floor)

We invite you to our 30th Anniversary Reception—a night filled with drinks, tapas, music by our DJ, and delicious desserts. Join us for a special evening as the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion celebrates 30 years of supporting faculty in religious studies and theological education! Connect with past, present, and future participants of Wabash Center workshops, colloquies, consultations, and grants. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, networking, and celebration with colleagues and friends in the field. Let’s come together to honor three decades of transformative teaching and learning—we can’t wait to celebrate with you

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A22-503

**Hosted by:** Publications Committee

Theme: AAR Publications Networking Reception

Saturday, 8:30 PM - 9:45 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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A22-504

**Hosted by:** Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee

Theme: Reception

Saturday, 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom CD (Fourth Floor)

Jacob Robinson, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M22-515

**Hosted by:** Fortress Press

Theme: Fortress Press Reception

Saturday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Staffordshire Ballroom (Third Floor)

Join us at our annual reception to honor our brilliant authors, unveil our newest publications, and explore the promising horizons of academic publishing!

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## Sunday November 23

M23-101

**Hosted by:** Church of Christ Scholars and Friends Assembly

Theme: Church of Christ Scholars and Friends Assembly

Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Staffordshire Ballroom (Third Floor)

Please join us for this annual worship service.

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M23-102

**Hosted by:** Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Theme: Gordon-Conwell Alumni Breakfast

Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Offsite

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M23-100

**Hosted by:** Center of Theological Inquiry

Theme: Breakfast Reception

Sunday, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom HI (Fourth Floor)

CTI members, friends, guests, and anyone interested in learning more about our international research program are cordially invited to attend our annual breakfast reception.

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M23-103

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research

Theme: IBR Worship Service

Sunday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Westin Copley Place, Essex South (Third Floor)

IBR Worship Service

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M23-110

**Hosted by:** US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Theme: Breakfast and Briefing

Sunday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere B (Second Floor)

Join us for breakfast to learn more about programs and publishing opportunities at the USHMM, as well as the activities of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations and its affiliated academic journal, *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*. The breakfast will be hosted

by representatives of both organizations and the journal. Presentations begin at 8:00 am. RSVP to Thornton Muncher, [tmuncher@ushmm.org](mailto:tmuncher@ushmm.org) by Nov. 1.

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P23-100

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

Theme: Society for the Study of Chinese Religions Mentoring Breakfast

Sunday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Westin Copley Place, St. George CD (Third Floor)

This is a breakfast meeting for scholars of Chinese religions who would like to receive or offer mentorship in the field, especially around the topics of the job search, publishing, and dealing with discrimination. We especially welcome junior scholars, scholars of color, women scholars, and scholars from underrepresented groups.

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M23-104

**Hosted by:** Temple University

Theme: 2025 Temple Alumni Breakfast

Sunday, 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

This is an annual event that celebrates Temple University's Department of Religion ("TUDOR"), our alumni, current graduate students, former students and our faculty. Friends of the program are all welcome!

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P23-103

**Hosted by:** Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

Theme: Moral Worlds and Sacred Duties: Ethics in Hindu and Christian Thought and Practice

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This panel undertakes a comparative study of ethics, morality and power in Hindu and Christian traditions. It examines the ways ethics in these traditions have been understood and practiced in both historical and contemporary contexts. By centering Hindu-Christian perspectives on morality, this panel aims to illustrate the ways that such an analysis enhances the study of ethics in religion and philosophy more broadly.



Bhakti Mamtara, University of Arizona, presiding

## Papers

Arun W. Jones

Expanding Ideas of Rajadharma and Christendom in Colonial North India

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington

Seeing the Divine in All: Hindu-Christian Ethics of Equality in a Divided World

Elsa Marty

Caste and Tribe: Rethinking the Margins in Hindu-Christian Ethics

Andrew J. Nicholson

Yogic Ethics for the Worldly King: Self-mastery and the Science of Statecraft (niti-sastra)

Iva Patel, Augsburg University

Social Commitments and Bodily Actions as Bhakti-Sadhana in Contemporary Hindu Didactics

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A23-130

**Hosted by:** Religion, Media, and Culture Unit

Theme: "We Destroy Arguments": Evangelical Disputes over Media, Morals, and Public Policy

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This papers session investigates the internal debates that occur within transnational evangelical communities. Presenters will engage multiple case studies, exploring questions of how Christians should best relate to social media technologies and social media influencers, how to evaluate individual exemption requests from civil law, and various other attitudes toward war, the religious fringe, and entertainment media. This session presents evangelicals not as a monolithic, morally unified movement but as a spiritually diverse and socially heterogeneous community.

Margarita Simon Guillory, Boston University, presiding

## Papers

Deborah Whitehead, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Who Are You Following?": U.S. Evangelicals, Social Media, and Theologies of Influence

Isabel Perozek, Amherst College  
Redacted or Otherwise: Religious Exemptions to the COVID-19 Vaccine

Yusuke Aikawa  
An Examination of Japanese Christian Reception to Billy Graham's Evangelism: A Study of  
Christian Periodicals and Newspapers

Rachel Wagner, Ithaca College  
From Noise to Signal: The Devilish Controversies of Angel Studios

## Respondent

Spencer Kunz, Florida State University

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A23-100

**Hosted by:** African Religions Unit

Theme: "Transnationalism, Digital Technology, and the Rearticulation of African Religious  
Traditions in the Modern Era"

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

The influence and impact of the internet, AI, and social media on public religious participation and performances of religion manifest in various ways. Traditionally, African religions favored face-to-face interaction and in-person participation in ritual and devotional practice. Today, the public sphere has expanded into digital spaces, creating new opportunities for gender inclusivity, greater freedom of religious participation, and innovation in ritual performance and practice. The papers in this session examine how digital spaces have shifted and transformed religious devotion and practice, highlighting the role of social media and others in shaping religious participation within indigenous African religions, Islam, and Christianity.

Georgette Ledgister, Harvard University, presiding

## Papers

Nduka Udeagha  
Digital Liberation and Global Identity: NSPPD's Role in Redefining Religious Freedom for the  
African Diaspora

Akeem Adagbada, University of Cambridge  
Edi Festival in Ile-Ife: Gender, Violence and Participation in the Age of Social Media

Zainab Bukola Winjobi-Arikewuyo, Florida State University  
Freedom in Migration: Yoruba Muslim Women, Digital Religion, and Gendered Agency in the Diaspora

Business Meeting  
David Ngong

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A23-122

**Hosted by:** Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: 23 Years After Spotlight: Trust, Justice, and Healing for the Life of the Christian Church

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

On January 6, 2002, *The Boston Globe* published a groundbreaking investigation revealing that former priest John Geoghan had abused 130 children, with the Catholic hierarchy covering it up. This sparked a global reckoning, marking a dark chapter for the Church—especially in Boston—and the pain continues to resonate. In the years since, rebuilding trust, pursuing justice, and promoting healing have become central to academic, religious, and social discourse within Catholic and broader Christian communities.

As we reflect on the ongoing impact of the clergy sexual abuse crisis, we ask: How have scholars, educators, and practitioners contributed to restoring trust and justice? How can psychology, theology, and culture engage in generative conversations to meet the psychological and spiritual needs of parishioners and church leaders? What new initiatives, ministerial programs, and spiritual practices have emerged to prevent abuse, promote healing, and foster flourishing within faith communities?

Brooke Petersen, presiding

## Papers

AHyun Lee

Reckoning with Hidden Wounds: Pastoral Care for Undocumented Victim-survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse Confronting Anti-Immigrant Hostility

Eve Marie Schwartz, Emory University

Sexual Abuse in the Church and a Reenvisioning of the Crucifixion Narrative.

Lucy Huh, Baylor University

Silent Sufferers: Addressing Clergy Sexual Exploitation of Adults in the Catholic Church

## Respondent

Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University

Lisa M. Cataldo, Fordham University

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A23-116

**Hosted by:** Islamic Mysticism Unit

Theme: Agency and Polemics: Towards Political and Decolonial Sufism

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

From the Sufi theodicy of ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jazā’irī (1808–1883), a figure whose life and thought intertwine with anti-colonial resistance to the writings of Indian theologian Ubaidullah Sindhi (d. 1944) and Iranian Sociologist Ali Shariati (d. 1977) to the theological and spiritual nuances in the music of Umm Kulthum and modern rituals of *dhikr* in Egypt and in the diaspora the papers in this panel consider political, philosophical, and theological currents in 18th and 20th century India, Iran, Algeria, and Egypt and beyond. These papers raise many critical issues, especially of how polemics and agentic responses in politically tense moments across space and time can contribute to conversations of Sufism, politics, and decoloniality.

Parisa Zahiremami, University of Toronto, presiding

## Papers

Shaheer Ahmed, Emory University

Beyond the Wujūd - Shuhūd Polemic: An Analysis of ‘Abd al-‘Alī al-Lakhnawī’s Risāla-i-wahdat al-wujūd

Sarah Merchant, UC Berkeley

Politicizing Sufi Ontologies: Ubaidullah Sindhi and Ali Shariati's 20th Century Articulations of Wahdat ul-Wajud and Tawhid

Zaid Adhami

Singing with Umm Kulthum, from California to Syria: Tormented Love, Spiritual Struggle, and Political Theology

Lahouari Taleb

The Colonial Context of The Sufi Theodicy of Amīr ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Jazā’irī (d. 1883)

Rubia Medina

The Transformation of Dhikr in Modern Egypt: Reform, Agency, and Digital Mediation

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A23-119

**Hosted by:** Law, Religion, and Culture Unit and Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics: Dana Lloyd's: *Land is Kin: Sovereignty, Religious Freedom, and Indigenous Sacred Sites* (University Press of Kansas, 2024)

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

This panel brings together scholars of religion and Indigenous studies to respond to Dana Lloyd's book *Land is Kin: Sovereignty, Religious Freedom, and Indigenous Sacred Site*. Here, Lloyd argues that while the struggle between Native American sovereignty and American courts involves *religion* and *religious freedom*, these discourses often obscure what is at stake in land dispute cases between Indigenous people and settler courts. In truth, at least from the perspective of empire and settler courts, the struggle is more about land—about whether the land is property of the federal government *or* something sacred or religious to Native people. For this reason, a move beyond “religious freedom” and even “rights” language may be necessary in achieving justice for Native people seeking their right to self-sovereignty. Our panel aims to critically discuss the implications of Lloyd's argument for religious freedom and rights discourses, law, future Native sovereignty efforts, and resistance to empire.

Tisa Wenger, Yale University, presiding

### Panelist

Jace Weaver

Natalie Avalos, University of Colorado, Boulder

James Waters, Villanova University

Zara Surratt

### Respondent

Dana Lloyd, Villanova University

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A23-110

**Hosted by:** Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit

Theme: Author Meets Readers: Jamie L. Brummitt's *Protestant Relics in Early America* (Oxford University Press, 2025)

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This “Author Meets Readers” book panel will consider Jamie L. Brummitt’s *Protestant Relics in Early America* (Oxford University Press, 2025), a daring new monograph that explores how both early Americans’ emotional grief-work and their politics were literally grounded in holy matter--the relics, remains, and heavenly presences of their sacred dead, including George Washington. Panelists will consider how early American Protestants’ engagement with “supernatural memory objects,” as diverse as Washington’s hair and schoolgirls’ mourning embroidery, founded notions of civil rights, civil religion, race, political belonging, and slavery and freedom in the early American republic. We hope that audience discussion may also turn to the question of whether similar dynamics are in play today.

Lauren Winner, Duke University, presiding

### Panelist

Mark Valeri, Washington University in St. Louis  
Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, Kalamazoo College  
Seth Gaiters, Ohio State University

### Respondent

Jamie Brummitt, University of North Carolina At Wilmington  
Business Meeting  
John Borchert, University of North Carolina At Greensboro

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A23-105

**Hosted by:** Buddhism in the West Unit and Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit  
Theme: Author-Meets-Critics: Black Buddhists and the Black Radical Tradition: The Practice of Stillness in the Movement for Liberation (New York University Press, 2022)  
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

In *Black Buddhists and the Black Radical Tradition*, Rima Vesely-Flad examines the distinctive features of Black-identifying Buddhist practitioners, arguing that Black Buddhists interpret Buddhist teachings in ways that mesh with Black radical thought. Drawing on interviews with forty Black Buddhist teachers and practitioners, Vesely-Flad argues that Buddhist teachings, through their focus on healing intergenerational trauma, provide a vitally important foundation for achieving Black liberation. She shows that Buddhist teachings as practiced by Black Americans emphasize different aspects of the religion than do those in white convert Buddhist communities, focusing more on devotional practices to ancestors and community uplift. These

ancestral practices mirror Buddhist practices in Asian and Asian-American *sanghas*. This unique volume shows the importance of Black Buddhist teachers' insights into Buddhist wisdom, and how they align Buddhism with Black radical teachings. Finally, this volume raises questions about how Black Buddhists Asian-American Buddhists align and can develop further connections.

Jane Iwamura, presiding

### **Panelist**

Tracey Hucks, Colgate University

Sharon A. Suh

Ann Gleig, University of Central Florida

Ralph Craig, Whitman College

Jonathan Gold

Toni Pressley-Sanon, Eastern Michigan University

### **Respondent**

Rima Vesely-Flad

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A23-109

**Hosted by:** Confucian Traditions Unit

Theme: Beyond Boundaries: Confucianism and The Evolution of Chinese Utopian Thought

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

The concept of utopia has long captivated thinkers across cultures, including in China, where diverse utopian visions emerged within Confucian, Daoist, and Legalist traditions. Scholars often argue that while Confucian utopias emphasized hierarchy and morality, Daoist models championed harmony with nature, whereas Legalist visions sought strict governance. However, rigid classifications overlook the fluidity of Chinese utopian thought, as thinkers often blended elements from different traditions. This panel challenges traditional paradigms by exploring varied Chinese utopian visions. The first paper critiques the Legalist utopia of Shang Yang and Han Feizi, highlighting its dystopian consequences. The second examines the utopian poetry of Tao Yuanming, revealing its Confucian influences. The third analyzes contemporary Confucian philosopher Zhang Xianglong's proposal for Special Districts for Confucian Culture, showing its fusion of Confucian, Daoist, and Western ideas. Together, these studies demonstrate the adaptability of Chinese utopian thought, transcending rigid intellectual boundaries to shape evolving ideals of society.

Alexus McLeod, presiding

## Papers

Liang CAI

Can punishments Eliminate Punishments: Confucians' Criticism on Legalists' Utopia Dream

Michael Ing

"On and on the Times Move": Tao Yuanming on the (Im)possibilities of Utopia

Ori Tavor, University of Pennsylvania

The Sacralization of Tradition in Contemporary Confucian Utopianism

Hyo-Dong Lee, Drew University

Tianxia World Order and Daedong Democracy: Toward a Confucian Utopian Re-imagination of the Global Commons

## Respondent

Anna Sun, Duke University

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A23-107

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit

Theme: Book Panel: Natalie Carnes, *Attunement: The Art and Politics of Feminist Theology*

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

This panel discusses the recent monograph authored by Natalie Carnes, *Attunement: The Art and Politics of Feminist Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

Sameer Yadav, Baylor University, presiding

## Panelist

Keri Day, Princeton Theological Seminary

Andrea C. White, Union Theological Seminary

Maxine King, Princeton Theological Seminary

Natalia Marandiuc, United Lutheran Seminary

Christine Helmer, Northwestern University

## Respondent



Natalie Carnes, Baylor University  
Business Meeting  
Natalia Marandiuc, United Lutheran Seminary  
Hanna Reichel, Princeton Theological Seminary

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A23-117

**Hosted by:** Japanese Religions Unit and New Religious Movements Unit

Theme: Breaking Sacred Ceilings: Women's Leadership in Japanese New Religious Movements

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

This panel addresses women's leadership in Japanese new religious movements (NRMs), an understudied intersection that challenges three persistent biases in religious studies: androcentrism, antiquity bias, and preference for established religions. Three papers examine women leaders across different historical periods and explore how women navigate leadership in traditionally male-dominated religious spheres. The first paper investigates Itō Asako of Muga No Ai, examining connections between her religious leadership and feminist politics. The second analyzes media representations of Okano Kimiko, founder of Kōdō Kyōdan, whose neutral-to-positive portrayal contrasts typical negative depictions of female NRM leaders. The third presents case studies of Shinsō Itō (Shinnyo-en) and Kōshō Niwano (Risshō Kōseikai), examining how they balance tradition and innovation in their leadership approaches. By positioning these women within concentric circles of personal religious experience, family dynamics, and societal engagement, the panel offers fresh perspectives on religious authority, leadership strategies, and gender in modern Japanese religion.

Victoria Montrose, Furman University, presiding

## Papers

Jeff Schroeder, University of Oregon

Women's Liberation and Religious Salvation: The Case of Itō Asako and the Muga No Ai (Selfless Love) Movement in Modern Japan

Yuxin Qin, Harvard University

Lay Buddhism in the Eyes of the Beholders: Public Images of Okano Kimiko and Kōdō Kyōdan

Victoria Montrose, Furman University

Daughters Lead the Way: Women Successors in Japanese New Buddhist Movements

## Respondent

A23-103

**Hosted by:** Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Catholic Studies Unit

Theme: Catholic AI: Catholic and Anglican Approaches and Experiments with AI

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This panel examines the theological implications of artificial intelligence through Catholic and Anglican frameworks. From Augustinian philosophy to Vatican teachings and Anglican theological traditions, presenters explore how established religious perspectives can illuminate our understanding of increasingly autonomous AI systems. Key themes include human-AI interactions in faith contexts, theological questions of agency and freedom, and the concept of "relational intelligence" that respects both technological capabilities and human dignity. The panel investigates how AI is reshaping religious authority and spiritual practice while critically assessing its limitations compared to human consciousness and relationships. Throughout, Catholic and Anglican traditions provide distinctive lenses for addressing fundamental questions about what it means to be human in an era where our relationships with each other, creation, and God, and Technology are questions with which scholars must wrestle.

Tracy J. Trothen, Queen's University, presiding

## Papers

W. Tay Moss, CHURCHx

Michael DeLashmutt, General Theological Seminary

Human-to-AI Interaction in Faith Contexts: Analyzing Conversations with 'Ask Cathy'

Joyce Konigsburg, DePaul University

Antiqua et Nova: Catholic Perspectives on Artificial and Human Intelligence, Freedom, and Agency

Seung Heon (Hosea) Sheen, University of Oxford

Do Androids Dream of God?: An Augustinian Critique of Generative AI

Brianne Jacobs, Emmanuel College, Boston

Roman Catholic Contributions to Imagining the AI Future

Michael DeLashmutt, General Theological Seminary

Spirit in the Machine: Anglican Theology and the Emergence of AI-mediated Spirituality

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A23-133

**Hosted by:** Space, Place, and Religion Unit

Theme: Chapels: the Practices and Politics of Small Spaces

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

What is a chapel? Despite the ubiquity of chapels worldwide, there has been comparatively little scholarly effort to study chapels as a type or uncover their spatial politics. Often small in scale and built by “laypeople” outside of the purview of religious hierarchies, chapels and other small sacred spaces offer scholars a way of reading religious architectural history from the bottom up. Chapels uplift underrepresented subjectivities of lived religion and bring religious architecture’s entanglements with race, gender, and class to the forefront of study. Chapels exist at the nexus of the individual and the collective, the local site and global mobilities and networks, the singular structure and the complex. This roundtable will be structured around a series of chapels, each discussant presenting one case study. These presentations will be followed by a conversation about what a “chapel studies” based around this collection of sites might look like.

Babak Manouchehrifar, presiding

### Panelist

Alexander Luckmann

Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra, Yale University

Eziaku Nwokocha, Rice University

Laura Snell, University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael Yorke, Yale University

Michelle Apotsos, Williams College

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A23-113

**Hosted by:** Hindu Philosophy Unit

Theme: Debating Yogic Perception: A Philosophical Roundtable

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This year's roundtable will focus on yogic perception, or the idea that certain people have direct knowledge of objects or truths beyond the reach of ordinary sense-perception. Our starting-point will be Kumāṛila's critique of yogic perception in the *Ślokavārttika*. Panelists will discuss responses to Kumāṛila's objections as well as arguments in favor of yogic perception, drawing

from the *Yogasūtras*, the Jain thinkers Amṛtacandra and Hemacandra, Abhinavagupta, and Vivekananda. The goal of the format is to create a space for lively and rigorous discussion, rather than traditional paper presentations. A handout with the original Sanskrit and an English translation of selections from Kumārila will be provided.

Parimal G. Patil, Harvard University, presiding

## Panelist

Lawrence McCrea

Jed Forman, UCSB

Lynna Dhanani, University of California, Davis

Daniele Cuneo, University of Texas at Austin

Swami Medhananda, USC & UCLA

Business Meeting

Michael Allen, University of Virginia

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A23-135

**Hosted by:** Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Embodied Freedom: Feminist Theologies, Resistance, and Liberation Across Contexts

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

This panel brings together diverse feminist theological perspectives to interrogate the meaning of freedom in the face of systemic religious, cultural, and political oppression. Through papers grounded in womanist theology, Indigenous feminist practice, fat liberation hermeneutics, and psychological theory, presenters explore how bodies, identities, and belief systems intersect in both liberative and restrictive ways. Topics range from Harriet Tubman’s visionary spirituality to the role of music in shaping U.S. civil religio-political discourse, and from challenges to reproductive labor ideology in Christian liturgy to the struggles of Indigenous women navigating faith and recognition in the American South. One paper examines how a holistic doctoral program fosters theological and personal flourishing among women scholars, revealing new insights through Self-Determination Theory. Together, these papers offer creative, critical, and embodied approaches to advancing gender justice, religious freedom, and collective liberation—calling us to reimagine freedom as deeply relational, spiritual, and grounded in lived experience.

Hilary Scarsella, presiding

## Papers

Rosemary P. Carbine, Whittier College

Un/Freedom Talk and Walk in Song: Music and US Civil Religio-Political Discourses and Praxis of Freedom

Chanelle Robinson

Visions of Freedom

Kelly Collins

My Stomach is Flat\* (The “L” is Silent): A Liberative Body Hermeneutic

Brennan Keegan, College of Charleston

Indigenous Christian Feminism and Religious Freedom in the American South: Navigating Faith, Identity, and Recognition

Alison Woolley, Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education (UK)

Freedom to flourish?: Using psychological self-determination theory to investigate an innovative programme supporting women’s doctoral research in theology

Elizabeth Freese

Liturgy Versus Liberty: A Post-Roe Confrontation with Reproductive Labor Ideology in Christian Worship

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A23-111

**Hosted by:** Evangelical Studies Unit

Theme: Evangelical Ideologies of Freedom

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

Evangelicals have long navigated a tangled web between faith and freedom. From embracing authoritarian rule to regulating sexual activity to negotiating the possibilities and perils of capitalism, evangelical faith has both informed and constrained their adherents’ views of freedom. This session will explore various facets of the vexed relationship between evangelicals and their proliferating ideologies of freedom.

Jessica Wong, Azusa Pacific University, presiding

## Papers

Jared Stacy

Evangelical Apocalypse: The Advent of Late Fascism and Rhetorics of Freedom

Allison Murray, University of Oslo

Free from Lust: The "72-hour Rule" and the Evangelical Marital Sexual Economy

Chad Moore, Boston University

The Aesthetics of Enterprise Evangelical "Edutainment": How Corporate Artists Helped  
Proselytize Capitalism Across the American Heartland

Business Meeting

Peter Choi

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A23-104

**Hosted by:** Body and Religion Unit and Religion and Disability Studies Unit

Theme: Exploring Disability Eschatology: A Constructive Conversation with Maja Whitaker

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

In her recent book *Perfect in Weakness: Disability and Human Flourishing in the New Creation* (Baylor University Press, 2023), Maja Whitaker lays out a vision for how to conceptualize disability within Christian eschatology. There is a longstanding debate in the history of Christian thought concerning whether or not embodied traits associated with disability will be eliminated in the eschaton as instances of divine healing. Whitaker champions her version of "the retention view," which maintains that at least some impairments will be retained in a redeemed creation. Panelists in this session will engage the arguments and implications of Whitaker's book from a variety of perspectives, including Christian theology, biblical studies, religious studies viewed more broadly, and South Asian religious traditions. Whitaker herself will be present to respond.

David Scott, presiding

### **Panelist**

Brian Brock

Louise Gosbell

Courtney Wilder

Vivek Shah, University of Toronto

### **Respondent**

Maja Whitaker

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A23-106

**Hosted by:** Childhood Studies and Religion Unit and Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit

Theme: Fascism and Futurity: Psychic Conflict over the Child in the Philosophy of Religion

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

The philosophy of religion has extensively explored themes of futurity and fascism but has overlooked the control of children as a pivotal force in shaping political futurity. This panel examines Christian Nationalism as "pseudo-activity," where actions serve as substitute satisfactions, elevating themselves into ends in themselves (Adorno, 1968). Control of children becomes a substitute for wholeness of the self. Drawing on Todd McGowan's concept of political fantasy, panelists explore how Christian Nationalism uses oppressive systems through unconscious investments in the fantasy of the nuclear family. Christian Nationalists emphasize the nuclear family's importance, which involves the control and domination of women and children. While feminist theory has addressed religious ideology and patriarchal norms, these papers highlight the unique aspect of child control in Christian Nationalism. This panel offers a new direction in Theology and Continental Philosophy by investigating Chrisofascist control over children.

Akayla Lewis, Claremont Graduate University, presiding

## Papers

Akayla Lewis, Claremont Graduate University

Failure of the Future: Christian Nationalism, Transgenderism, and the Figure of the Child

Peter Kline

Anti-Fascist Lullabies: On Aborting 'The Child

Janice McRandal

Theological (Dis) Repair: Neo-liberal Fascism and Redemption

Peter Capretto, Phillips Theological Seminary

Fascist Acquiescence: A Social Analysis of Intergenerational Coercion

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A23-128

**Hosted by:** Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit and Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit

Theme: Feeling Film: Exploring Aesthetics, Affect, and Audiences in Religion and Film

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

Films are *moving pictures* in more than one sense: they are images in motion via the cinematic apparatus, and they are visual artworks that affect us emotionally. In this co-sponsored session, presenters attend to the dynamics of artistic interpretation, aesthetic expression, and audience reception in a variety of films and genres. How do the unique cinematic aesthetics of two “pilgrimage” films—Luis Buñuel’s “The Milky Way” and Tsai Ming-liang’s “Walker”—affect religious/theological imaginations? What are the religious dimensions of melodramas and the affective dimensions of Christian faith-based films? Ultimately, how do movies move us in religious ways, and how might scholars of religion better appreciate the affective power of cinema?

DeAnna Daniels, presiding

## Papers

Stefanie Knauss, Villanova University

Feeling Impressions: Aesthetic Form, Affective Economy, and Religious Sensibilities in Melodrama

Teng Kuan Ng, Singapore Management University

Seeing Slowly: The Affective Formations of Buddhist Wisdom in Tsai Ming-liang's "Walker"

Michelle Oing

Buñuel’s Pilgrimage: La voie lactée as Surrealist Theology

Matthew Konerth, University of Denver and School of Iliff

What Christian Films and Horror Have in Common: Analyzing Christian Films as an Affect Genre

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A23-125

**Hosted by:** Religion and Economy Unit and Religion and Popular Culture Unit

Theme: Freedom's Multi-Levels: Aesthetics of Spiritual Hustle in Liberal Political Economies

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

This roundtable considers the presidential theme of “freedom” in light of current work on religion, economy, and popular culture. We are interested in conceptions of freedom produced by capitalism in recent decades and how they circulate through new kinds of work and related popular media. Drawing on our current research on multi-level marketing, life coaching, sales seminars, influencing, and personal branding, we examine the rise of these corporate forms



and associated cultures of entrepreneurial hustle in contexts of wage stagnation, waning upward mobility, and rising inequality. Together, we ask: How do the aesthetics of entrepreneurial hustle negotiate the complicated and often contradictory senses of freedom produced by capitalism? Considering various entrepreneurial networks and lifestyle media, we explore how our discipline(s) can help think through the way capitalism's utopian promises of freedom are produced and experienced on aesthetic, affective, and bodily levels, even in states of economic precarity.

Angela Xia, presiding

### Panelist

Eden Consenstein, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Susannah Crockford, University of Exeter

Cody Musselman

Kevin Rose

Josiah Taru

Ame Wren, University of Virginia

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A23-108

**Hosted by:** Comparative Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: How to Teach “Impossibly”: Thinking about Comparison With, Against, and Through Jeff Kripal's Work

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

In the second edition of *Comparing Religions*, Jeffrey Kripal speaks to the theme of “impossibility,” arguing that supernatural or paranormal events actually “happen all the time, ... despite our models and frameworks to the contrary” (Kripal 2024: xxiii). In this often-assigned religious studies textbook, Kripal further expresses the hope that scholars in the academy will literally “fall off” of their “(mental) scaffolding,” thereby expanding their religious studies theorizing to encompass such phenomena and orientations. This roundtable takes on the challenge that Kripal presents as it relates to the often daunting and—to some—“impossible” task of bringing comparative religious studies to the undergraduate classroom. From critically examining Buddhist *siddhi* to reimagining comparative teaching through Kripal's anti-reductive framework, presenters engage with the notion of the “impossible,” exploring tensions between skepticism and belief, and considering how to interrogate this theme in different educational environments and in response to diverse student motivations.

Eric D. Mortensen, Guilford College, presiding

### Panelist

Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas  
Ben Van Overmeire, Duke Kunshan University  
Oliver Freiburger, University of Texas, Austin  
Christopher Jensen, Carleton University  
Massimo Rondolino  
Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan, Austin College

## **Respondent**

Jeffrey J. Kripal, Rice University

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A23-118

**Hosted by:** Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: Latine Public Witness in the Wake of Far-Right Movements

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Applying theologically-informed analyses to broader social issues has deep roots in the Americas. From Bartolomé de las Casas to Gustavo Gutiérrez to Latine Christians today, using faith to inform public discourse and policy has a long tradition in Latine Christianity. While some approaches promote human flourishing, others have diminished the humanity of others. This dynamic has become increasingly pressing with the rise of Far-Right Movements in the U.S. and abroad.

This roundtable invites theologians, ethicists, historians and social scientists to explore the role of Latine public witness in our present moment. Panelists will highlight the evolving conditions for public witness within the United States and beyond.

Tony Lin, presiding

## **Panelist**

Joao Chaves, Baylor University

Erica Ramirez, Louisville Institute

Lucila Crena, Wesley Theological Seminary

Brandon C. Martinez, Providence College

Juan Martinez, Drew University

Business Meeting

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Drew University Theological School

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A23-129

**Hosted by:** Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit and Secularism and Secularity Unit

Theme: Muslim/Freedom

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

Drawing on this year's presidential theme, this panel will focus on how contemporary Muslim communities have negotiated the logics of Western secularism by reconceptualizing and problematizing the idea of "freedom." The first paper explores Islamic concept-practices relating to *tahrir* ("freedom") in the context of French settler colonialism in Algeria (1830–1962). The second paper considers how a state discourse on "freedom" governs Germany's adjudication of asylum claims based on conversion to Christianity, especially among claimants coming from countries such as Iran and Afghanistan. The third paper highlights how French Muslim women have been mobilizing to "disrupt, decolonize and dismantle the political-theological practices and ideologies of freedom" that have been built precisely on their subjugation. The final paper challenges essentialist interpretations of *ummah* through an examination of how a community of Indonesian Muslim immigrants in Philadelphia have redefined this concept as a form of liberatory cosmopolitanism.

Samaah Jaffer, Yale University, presiding

## Papers

Ahmed Mitiche, Columbia University

'The sickness of the soul, the domination of the mind, the possession of horizons': Takwīn al-naḥs (formation of the spirit/self) as emancipatory ethico-politics

Lena Rose, University of Konstanz

"Secularised" Christianity and the Underside of "Freedom": The Politics of Belonging in Asylum Adjudications Based on Conversion to Christianity

Kirsten Wesselhoeft

The Freedom of "Safe Harbors": French Muslim articulations of decolonial feminism, the obligations of sisterhood, and secular sensibilities beyond state power

Perdian Tumanan, Villanova University

Ummah: Between Cosmopolitanism and the Struggle for Recognition

## Respondent

Mayanthi Fernando

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A23-114

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit

Theme: New Books in Hindu Studies

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable features four first monographs in Hindu studies with the aim of both exposing scholars in the field to new theoretical interventions, and of providing concrete ideas about how to incorporate those interventions into scholars' own pedagogies. The authors are grouped in pairs and then respond to each other's' books. The first pair of books focus on texts and communities centered around the Hindu deity Krishna. The books in the second pair both examine migrant and diasporic communities. While all four books this year analyze aspects of Hindu traditions, the content and scope of each book is strikingly varied. Spanning diverse locations from Delhi to Mumbai to Banaras to British Columbia, languages including Sanskrit, Hindi, and English, and both textual and ethnographic methodologies, these books provide a snapshot of the breadth of the field of Hindu studies.

Sohini Pillai, Kalamazoo College, presiding

### Panelist

Anand Venkatkrishnan

Claire Robison, Bowdoin College

Shankar Ramaswami

Nishant Upadhyay, University of Colorado, Boulder

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A23-115

**Hosted by:** Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit, Religion in Europe Unit, and Vatican II Studies Unit

Theme: Nostra Aetate at 60

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the groundbreaking Vatican II declaration on the Church's relationship with non-Christian religions. To commemorate this milestone, the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies, Religion in Europe, and Vatican II units will explore the enduring significance, challenges, and future implications of Nostra Aetate in European, North American, and other contexts. This panel aims to foster a rich, interdisciplinary dialogue that examines how Nostra Aetate has shaped and continues to shape interreligious dynamics and religious identities in an increasingly pluralistic world.

Feryal Salem, American Islamic College, presiding

## Papers

Alaina Keller

A Paradigm Universalized: Nostra Aetate's Influence on Contemporary Interreligious Dialogue

Peter Thuesen, Indiana University Indianapolis

Cardinal Cushing and the Jews: An American Context for Nostra Aetate

CLAIRE MALIGOT

The other(s') council: Jewish and Muslim agency at Vatican II, based on their archives

Younus Mirza

Nostra Aetate and Mary: Mary as a Bridge Figure Between Christianity and Islam

## Respondent

Jaisy Joseph, Villanova University

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A23-126

**Hosted by:** Religion and Politics Unit and Religion and Sexuality Unit

Theme: Panel on Sara Moslener's *After Purity: Race, Sex, and Religion in White Christian America* (Penguin, 2025)

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This panel presents original engagements with, and reflections on, Sara Moslener's *After Purity: Race, Sex, and Religion in White America* (Penguin, 2025), followed by a response to the panelists by Sara Moslener. The structures and dynamics of "purity culture" and its role within White American evangelicalism have received increased attention in recent years. In her most recent work on purity culture, *After Purity: Race, Sex, and Religion in White Christian America*, Sara Moslener significantly advances this scholarly agenda and extends it in valuable new directions. Drawing on her research (through the After Purity Project) on the experiences of women impacted by purity culture, she explores the constitutive role of white supremacy in the construction of so-called "traditional" or "biblical" conceptions of "purity" as it impacts the domains of not only gender and sexuality, but family, religion, politics, and racial identity.

Bradley Onishi, Skidmore College, presiding

## Panelist

Daniel Miller, Landmark College  
Jackie Hidalgo, University of San Diego  
Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University  
Shreena Gandhi

## Respondent

Sara Moslener

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A23-121

**Hosted by:** Political Theology Unit

Theme: Political Theology as Performance: A Panel on Staging Sovereignty by Arthur Bradley  
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This roundtable explores the relation between political theology and performance in conversation with Arthur Bradley's book *Staging Sovereignty: Theory, Theater, Thaumaturgy* (Columbia University Press, 2024). The panel gathers an interdisciplinary group of scholars drawn from departments of English, Philosophy, and Religion. Taking Bradley's book as an incitement, they will place of religion in debates over sovereignty, aesthetics, and theatrical power. By clarifying the link between ritual performance and the production of authority, the panelists will reflect upon the crisis that currently faces pluralist democracies.

David Newheiser, Florida State University, presiding

## Panelist

Nichole Flores  
Ludger Viefhues-Bailey, Le Moyne College  
Miguel Vatter, Deakin University  
Elettra Stimilli, Sapienza Università di Roma  
Montserrat Herrero, Universidad de Navarra

## Respondent

Arthur Bradley, Lancaster University  
Business Meeting  
An Yountae  
Michelle Sanchez

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A23-131

**Hosted by:** Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Unit

Theme: Prison Abolition as Lived Religious Peacebuilding

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable will bring together U.S.-based practitioners of restorative justice (RJ), transformative justice (TJ), and prison abolition from within and outside academe. It will both situate their praxes as peacebuilding practice and explore these entwined (and sometimes attention) modalities as lived religion. While conceiving of prison abolition as a religious practice of peacebuilding is novel, one quickly finds similarities between them in the work of community-led interventions in violence, exercises of imagination, social analysis, and critiques of dominant systems. This roundtable will contextualize prison abolition, RJ and TJ within the peace studies subfield of religious studies, allow participants to engage one another in terms of what, concretely, their praxes entail; the degree to which their activities, commitments, and coalitions constitute lived religious practice; and how everyone can learn from differing emphases in praxes with the potential for collaboration.

James McCarty, presiding

### **Panelist**

Supreme Hassan, Responsible Party Consulting Group

Sashi James, Families for Justice as Healing

Laura McTighe, Florida State University

Nikia Robert

### **Respondent**

Amanda Napior, Boston University

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A23-123

**Hosted by:** Queer Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Queering Religion Across Geographies and Traditions

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Cathy Cohen (1997) argues that queer people's capacity is to cultivate interlocking systems of resistance. Expanding queerness beyond an embodied form of gender of sexual "deviance," she proposes a project of coalition-building across geographies and traditions. Taking up this

framing, we do four things. One, investigate the cultural violence leading up to the assassination of the first openly queer imam, Muhsin Hendricks in South Africa (d.2025). Two, examine the anti-trans discourses of neotraditional Muslim American preachers as an adoption of conservative white Christian political discourse in the United States. Three, analyze examples of queerness in contemporary American Jewish pro-Palestinian spaces to understand how it is mobilized as a resistance to mechanisms of political violence and paradigms of national belonging. Finally, explore the work of two queer artists in American Chinatowns, imagining alternative spaces and futures in resistance to rising gentrification, displacement, and jail-building in New York City and Boston's Chinatowns.

Brittany Landorf, presiding

## Papers

Mujahid Osman, Emory University  
The Killing of the Gay Imam

Garrett Kiriakos-Fugate  
Anti-Trans Political Discourses of Neotraditional Muslim Preachers

Zohar Gitlis  
Jewish Queerness as Political and Spiritual Refusal

Flora Tang, University of Notre Dame  
Queer Protectors of Chinatown: Imagining Spatial Futures beyond Displacement

## Respondent

Megan Robertson, University of Leeds

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A23-102

**Hosted by:** Anthropology of Religion Unit and Qur'an Unit  
Theme: Qur'anic Crossings: Senses, Media, and Epistemology  
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable discussion considers the Qur'an's circulation as a religious scripture in daily life through its manifold "crossing" of sensory and communal boundaries. Though the Qur'an has been richly analyzed through both its vocal recitation and the visibility of manuscript reproductions, other anthropologists of religion have productively engaged scriptures in



"transmedial" form, that is, as expressions that "cross" material and sensory thresholds. Drawing on these critiques, the various participants on this roundtable engage different iterations of Qur'anic "crossing," from the Qur'an's circulation as an object of both interfaith understanding and intercommunal violence in the U.S.; to the "voicing" of the Qur'an in the visual medium of American Sign Language; to the Qur'an's remediation through the "interpretive" genre of oral exegesis (tafsir). In doing so, we hope to encourage other anthropologists of religion to rethink the ontologies and sensory epistemologies of the texts and material artifacts in the traditions they study.

Ian VanderMeulen, New York University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Ian VanderMeulen, New York University  
Nermeen Mouftah, University of Illinois, Chicago  
Zareena Grewal  
Amadu Kunateh, Harvard University

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A23-112

**Hosted by:** Exploratory Session

Theme: Religion and Trauma

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

This roundtable session will explore the intersection of theology and trauma, with particular focus on religious trauma. Recent global studies indicate that 1 out of every 10 people around the world are de-identifying from religion, specifically because of traumatic or abusive experiences in church (McLaughlin et al. 2022). It is thus the task of this panel to reimagine conceptual and contextual frameworks for connection with the divine alongside trauma survivors. As a panel that is interdisciplinary in nature, we will have input from theologians, philosophers, psychologists, clinicians, and pastors alongside of the experiences and testimony of trauma survivors.

Hannah James, presiding

### **Panelist**

Preston Hill, Richmond Graduate University  
Shelly Rambo, Boston University  
Michelle Panchuk, Murray State University  
Katie Cross, University of Aberdeen  
Dave Wang, Fuller Theological Seminary

A23-134

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Remembering Coretta Scott King

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

While Coretta Scott King is recognized as the architect of the King legacy and founder of the MLK Center, few realized the integral placement of her justice worldview and activism to influence the public role of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A classically-trained musicologist, Scott King's justice lens was informed by historical and sociocultural aesthetics. Essentially, Scott King was already championing social change through peaceful protest and introduced MLK to Gandhi's philosophical praxis of *satyagraha*, seeded in the educational synergy of their shared Boston collegiate experience. As a proponent for the Center, Scott King also traveled extensively to speak on nonviolence, anti-war and peace justice activist for religious freedom, racial and economic justice, LGBTQIA dignity, and gender justice.

The Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit and others will invite panelists that focus on Scott King as a justice coalition builder, organizational leader, and spiritually-grounded orator in her own right.

Valerie Miles-Tribble, Berkeley School of Theology, presiding

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A23-132

**Hosted by:** Ritual Studies Unit and Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: Sociology of Ritual: Global Perspectives and Theoretical Interventions

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This panel explores a variety of sociological approaches to ritual theory and practice. The first paper analyzes interviews with members who voted to approve women's ordination within the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) to determine that this shift came about as a result of experiences of ritual and relationships with authority. The second paper provides results from the multi-sited, mixed-methods Young People and Christian Worship (YPCW) study, focusing on a taxonomy and practices of young ritual participants. The third paper relies on a survey and interviews with Japanese Buddhist monks from diverse sects to examine their varied responses to contemporary mindfulness programs, showing concerns about adaptation to secular Western contexts. The final paper utilizes extensive ethnographic

research into Rick Steves' group tours, as well as his books and broadcast media, to show the benefits of applying social performance theory in analyzing ritual action.

Simranjit Steel, University of Memphis, presiding

## Papers

David Howlett, Smith College

Nancy Ross

"You might change your mind!": Authority, Ritual, and Approving Women's Ordination in the 1980s RLDS Church

Sarah Kathleen Johnson, Saint Paul University

Nelson Cowan

Emily Andrews

Young People and Christian Ritual: Beyond Transactional Engagement

Shreya Wagh

The Response of Buddhist Monks to Contemporary Mindfulness Programs in Japan

Anne Taylor, Yale University

From Ritual to Performance in the Study of Religion: the case of Rick Steves' Europe

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A23-127

**Hosted by:** Religion and Science Fiction Unit and Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

Theme: Tales of the (Im)possible in Tibetan Buddhism and Speculative Fiction

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

Texts found in the Tibetan and Himalayan religions are filled with events and beings that extend beyond the ordinary world into realms of the supernatural and the superhuman. Speculative fiction, whether in genres of science fiction, fantasy, or horror, explores in its own ways many of the same questions about reality, morality, and possibility posed by Tibetan accounts. This two-hour panel places a variety of Tibetan Buddhist sources in conversation with works of speculative fiction to elucidate or interrogate these questions. In six distinctive papers spanning time periods and genres, presenters will use their text pairings as mutually enriching heuristic devices for thinking-with thematic binaries such as freedom/oppression, imagination/reality, enlightenment/delusion, death/rebirth, and humanity/other sentience. The panel includes Tibetan, East Asian, and Euro-American scholars of Tibetan religion at various career stages,

including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, tenure-track and tenured professors, as well as a published novelist.

Seth Auster-Rosen, presiding

## Papers

Holly Gayley

Padma Baimacuo

Dekyi Lhamo, University of Colorado Boulder

Haunting Voices from Beyond: Delog Narratives and Literary Anxieties of Karmic Retribution

Catherine Hartmann, University of Wyoming

Zombie Ethics: Narratives of Liberation and Entrapment in Tibetan Zombie Tales and George Saunders' "Liberation Day"

Joie Szu-Chiao Chen, Harvard University

The Mundane as Revelatory and Extraordinary in Stag tshang ras pa's Pilgrimage Account and Susanna Clarke's Piranesi

Kurtis Schaeffer

Darkness and Light: Two Narratives of Political Struggle

Erin Burke, University of Virginia

The Narratives that Bind: Establishing and Restoring Relationships Between Humans, Gods, and the Environment in Choné Yum Tsering's The Meeting of the Mountain Gods and Rikdzin Gödemchen's Clouds of Offerings for Nyenchen Thanglha

Annabella Pitkin, Lehigh University

Tsering Yangzom Lama

Drolma Choekyi Jusa, University of Vienna

Living Embodiments of Place and Power: The Transformational Poetics and Politics of Alai's The Song of King Gesar, the Three Sisters Mountain myth, and the avatars of New York City in N.K. Jemisin's The City We Became.

## Respondent

Dominique Townsend, Columbia University

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit

Theme: Teaching Buddhism in 2025

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

The humanities, religion departments, and Buddhist Studies programs are all under threat as state legislators cut funding, politicians interfere with liberal arts curricula, and students struggle to grasp the value and relevance of these fields of study. How and why do we teach Buddhist Studies in this environment? This roundtable addresses these questions from diverse perspectives, centering faculty working at financially vulnerable institutions or in states in which higher education is under legislative attack. We will provide a moderated discussion; our panelists' comments coalesce around the following themes: legislative threats and departmental closures, pedagogy, the devaluing of the humanities alongside the emphasis on STEM, skill-based learning, and the legibility of our curricula to students. Our aim is to triage Buddhist Studies pedagogy in 2025.

Rongdao Lai, McGill University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Amy P. Langenberg, Eckerd College  
Barbara Ambros, University of North Carolina  
Natalie Gummer  
Matthew Mitchell  
Jimmy Yu, Florida State University  
Natasha Mikles, Texas State University  
Business Meeting  
Bryan Lowe, Princeton University  
Amy P. Langenberg, Eckerd College

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A23-120

**Hosted by:** Liberation Theologies Unit and Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Unit

Theme: Theology after Gaza

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Can scholars and activists imagine a theology for liberation and freedom after the total war on Gaza? Is it even possible to imagine a God of liberation whose name has been invoked again and again in genocides across the globe? If it is ever possible to reimagine God, what theologies can emerge? What must we overcome to give birth to a theology of liberation in the face of the most documented and broadcasted genocide in Gaza?

Pui Lan Kwok, Candler School of Theology, presiding

## Panelist

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame  
K. Christine Pae, Denison University  
Mitri Raheb, Dar al-Kalima University  
Mark Lewis Taylor, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Adam Vander Tuig, Highlander Center

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P23-104

**Hosted by:** International Society for Science and Religion

Theme: Un-interesting sciences and religion

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Westin Copley Place, St. George AB (Third Floor)

This panel will reflect on the many scientific disciplines that rarely appear in science-and-religion conversations—meteorology, chemistry, materials science, condensed-matter physics, and more—and ask why these sciences attract so little theological attention, and whether they should. Jonathan Jong frames the challenge pointedly in his critique of science-engaged theology: “It seems that almost nothing published in the pages of *Science* and *Nature* is worth engaging with; but this should be intolerable to anyone seeking to do science-engaged theology.” Quite simply, the field of “science and religion” (or science-engaged theology) remains parochial in its scientific scope, focusing largely on the sciences of origins (particle physics, cosmology, evolutionary biology) and of mind (psychology, cognitive science), a selectivity that betrays a patchy engagement with the wider scientific enterprise. What would it take for scholars—after a decade spent debating the very categories of “science” and “religion”—to cultivate a deeper interest in science for its own sake? One possible avenue is to follow philosophers of science who examine research practices rather than limiting attention to theories and results, thereby redirecting the conversation toward scientific interests and everyday laboratory practice beyond the familiar domains of origins and mind.

- Condensed Matter Physics (Mark Harris, University of Oxford)
- Chemistry (Amanda Nichols, Oklahoma Christian)
- Earth Science (Tim Middleton, University of Oxford)
- Bioscience, Engineering (Pete Jordan, University of Oxford)
- Anthropology (Joe Blankholm, UCSB)
- Philosophy of Science (Meghan Page, Loyola University Maryland)

Presider: Niels Henrik Gregersen

Niels Henrik Gregersen, presiding

## Panelist

Mark Harris, University of Oxford  
Amanda Nichols  
Tim Middleton, University of Oxford  
Peter Jordan, University of Oxford  
Joseph Blankholm, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Meghan Page, Loyola University, Maryland

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M23-112

**Hosted by:** Society for Pentecostal Studies

Theme: Roundtable Discussion of Steve Walton's Acts 1-9:42 volume in the Word Biblical Commentary Series

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Empire (Seventh Floor)

Rodolfo Galvan Estrada III, Vanguard University, presiding

## Panelist

John Griffiths, Alphacrucis University College  
Susan Wendel, Trinity Western University  
Craig Keener, Asbury Theological Seminary

## Respondent

Steve Walton, Trinity College, Bristol, UK

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P23-102

**Hosted by:** Colloquium on Violence and Religion

Theme: Mimetic Theory in Literature and Film

Sunday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom B (Fourth Floor)

This session explores the enduring influence of mimetic theory in interpreting both interpersonal conflict and contemporary literature. The first paper engages Stephen Karpman's "Drama Triangle" alongside René Girard's theories of desire and opposition, showing how the recurring roles of Persecutor, Victim, and Rescuer in conflict mirror cinematic portrayals of heroism and villainy. By placing Girard in dialogue with conflict psychology and film, the paper suggests that Christian nonviolence offers a counter-narrative to the moral scripts of popular

media. The second paper turns to the fiction of Michel Houellebecq, whose novel *Submission* critiques and yet unwittingly enacts key Girardian insights. Though Houellebecq's narrator dismisses mimetic theory, his fiction reveals characters caught in webs of triangular desire, grappling with the consequences of secularization and political fatigue. Together, these papers offer fresh perspectives on how mimetic patterns shape both our cultural imagination and our understanding of conflict, desire, and ethical possibility.

Brian Robinette, Boston College, presiding

## Papers

Russell Johnson, University of Chicago

Every Hero Needs a Villain: Conflict as Dramatic and Mimetic

Grant Kaplan, Saint Louis University

Mimetic Themes in the Literature of Michel Houellebecq

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M23-107

**Hosted by:** Reformed Theology and History Unit and Baylor University Press

Theme: The Devil Revisited: A Discussion of Philip G. Ziegler's *God's Adversary and Ours*

Sunday, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Staffordshire Ballroom (Third Floor)

The devil, the figure styled by John Calvin as “God’s enemy and ours,” is ubiquitous in the witness of the New Testament, but contemporary Christian doctrine generally remains dumbfounded about what to do with him. At the same time, modern impulses have yielded a resurgence in the language of the “demonic”—that is, pervasive, pernicious, personified evil. In light of this perplexity, Philip G. Ziegler raises and seeks to answer a pointed question in his book *God's Adversary and Ours*: Can the gospel actually be heard and understood without meaningful reference to this inimical entity?

This panel will discuss Ziegler's cautious but determined biblical-theological exploration of the identity, ontology, and agency of the devil.

## Panelist

John M.G. Barclay, University of Durham

Susannah Ticciati

Arnold Huijgen, Protestant Theological University, The Netherlands

Beverly Roberts Gaventa, Princeton Theological Seminary



## Respondent

Philip G. Ziegler, University of Aberdeen

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M23-113

**Hosted by:** Bloomsbury Digital Resources

Theme: Theology & Religion Online: Connect and Collaborate

Sunday, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

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A23-138

**Hosted by:** Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions Committee

Theme: Networking Lunch

Sunday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

You're invited to our annual Connecting Conversations Luncheon! The PWD Committee is thrilled to host this special event, a cherished tradition that has always provided a valuable space for our members with disabilities and their allies in the Academy to connect and build community.

This year, we're making a small change to the format. Instead of a paid meal, we'll be hosting a Bring Your Own Lunch (BYOL) event. Whether you bring your own lunch or not, please join us! We believe the most important part of this gathering is the conversation and connection.

If you have any questions, please contact the PWD chair, Nick Shrubsole, at [Nicholas.Shrubsole@ucf.edu](mailto:Nicholas.Shrubsole@ucf.edu).

Nick Shrubsole, University of Central Florida, presiding

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P23-106

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Chinese Religions

Theme: New Voices in Chinese Religions

Sunday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

The Society for the Study of Chinese Religions is hosting an annual Roundtable of Emerging Voices in the Study of Chinese Religions at the American Academy of Religions. Participants are Ph.D. students or early career scholars in Chinese Religions who will present their current research.

## Papers

Anne Crosby, McMaster university  
Ritual and Innovation: Beigang Wude Temple, Taiwan

Christopher Rowe, University of Virginia  
Letters for the End of the World: Yinguang's (1862-1940) Buddhist Readings of Modern Crises

Esmond Chuah Meng Soh, University of Cambridge  
Abjection in Transition: Ritual Form and Mythic Pluralism in the Nine Emperor Gods Festival

Ziqi Xuan  
Incense Associations and Spirit Mediums: Expression of Contemporary Salvationist Religions at the Mount Tai

Christopher Yang, Brown University  
A Vital Matter: Essence 精, Spirit 神, and Self-Cultivation in Early China

Xiaoyu Zhang  
Fasting Calendars and Dietary Ethics in Republican Shanghai, 1912-1949

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A23-137

**Hosted by:** Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee  
Theme: Mentoring Lunch  
Sunday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)

K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

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A23-136

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Presidential Plenary: The Sovereignty of Hope: Scholarship, Precarity, and the Future of Academic Freedom

Sunday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

In an era of faculty precarity, ideological polarization, and institutional histories of injustice, what does it mean to practice hope as an intellectual and political commitment? What strategies and choices make hope and freedom viable? This panel explores hope not as naïve optimism, but as a form of sovereignty—a declaration of intellectual and ethical autonomy as well as accountability—in the face of everyday structural constraints, implicit and explicit (and old and new) hierarchies, censorship and surveillance, and professional vulnerability.

Leela Prasad, Brown University, presiding

### Panelist

Laurie Louise Patton, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

James Bowley

Larissa Carneiro

Koritha Mitchell, Boston University

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M23-109

**Hosted by:** Baker Academic

Theme: In God's Presence: A Jewish Theology for Jews and Christians

Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex South (Third Floor)

Join us for a discussion on 'In God's Presence: A Theological Reintroduction to Judaism' by Alon Goshen-Gottstein. A fireside chat featuring two theologians – Jon Levenson of Harvard University (Jewish) and David Ford of Cambridge University (Christian) will consider how this novel theological reading of Judaism's history and spirituality can shed new light and inspire mutual understanding for Jews and Christians. Goshen-Gottstein's book, the fruit of a lifetime of study and spiritual practice, offers a framework for understanding Judaism for both the insider and the outsider. Painting a composite picture of Judaism from its beginnings until today, Goshen-Gottstein draws on history, literature, theology, spirituality, and practiced religious life to craft an overview in which these different parts are appreciated as pieces of a larger whole.

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M23-111

**Hosted by:** Hebrew Union College - Pines School of Graduate Studies  
Theme: HUC Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Luncheon  
Sunday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

HUC Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Luncheon: All Alumni, Faculty and current students of the HUC PSGS are invited to attend this luncheon.

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P23-101

**Hosted by:** Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion  
Theme: Wabash Center BIPOC Faculty Luncheon  
Sunday, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Essex North (Third Floor)

This mealtime gathering offers a much-needed space of connection, renewal, and mutual support for those who identify as BIPOC faculty. Join a community that understands the unique challenges and joys of navigating academia. Hear about Wabash Center grants specifically allocated for BIPOC peer mentoring and engage in a rich conversation about self-care and wellness as essential to the teaching life. Being healthy, getting healthy, and staying healthy are critical to thriving in the classroom, within institutions, and throughout your academic career. Gather with a network that affirms life-giving teaching and faculty formation—a space where your presence, experiences, and well-being matter.

Please register by November 1, 2025, directly on our website or at this link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb3oDM9TAdiHFE3dbkT8N6mTW\\_r\\_pO...](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb3oDM9TAdiHFE3dbkT8N6mTW_r_pO...)

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M23-108

**Hosted by:** Fetzer Institute, Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies, and European Society Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies  
Theme: A Shared Sacred Story in a Pluralistic World: A Scholarly-Practitioner Panel  
Sunday, 11:40 AM - 12:55 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

This panel explores the "Our Shared Sacred Story" project (Orbis Books, 2025) by examining the possibilities, challenges, and limitations of collaboratively retelling diverse religious narratives to address global issues, promote dialogue, engage pluralism, and strengthen both civic and academic understanding.

Panelists:

Bill Vendley (VP of World Religions and Spirituality, Fetzer Institute)

Anantanand Rambachan (Professor of Religion, Saint Olaf College)

Judith Simmer-Brown (Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, Naropa University)

Anna Sun (Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Sociology, Duke University)

Mohamed Elsanousi (Executive Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)

Background to the Project: Bill Vendley

Welcome Remark: Bob Boisture (former President of the Fetzer Institute)

Bill Vendley , Fetzer Institute, presiding

Bob Boisture , Fetzer Institute, presiding

**Panelist**

Anant Rambachan

Judith Simmer-Brown, Naropa University

Anna Sun, Duke University

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P23-201

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

Theme: Beyond Hagiography: Re-telling the Lives of Japan's Buddhist Founders in Unexpected Places

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Sheraton, Republic B (Second Floor)

This panel explores the diverse ways hagiography functions in Japanese Buddhism, challenging approaches that privilege hagiographies resembling the literary archetype of the saint's life prevalent in Euro-Christian contexts. Focusing on the retelling of stories about iconic Buddhist founders such as Dōgen, Shinran, and Nichiren, the panel's papers examine how these narratives have been adapted across different media, from medieval Zen initiation documents to modern visual arts and public debates. Through a transsectarian comparison, the panel reveals how Japanese Buddhist communities have reinvented their founders' lives to reflect changing doctrinal and political landscapes, while also addressing broader issues in the study of hagiography. By drawing on examples from both premodern and modern contexts, as well as across a wide range of media, the panel promotes a broader understanding of Japanese

Buddhist hagiography that transcends traditional boundaries, and invites comparative dialogue across cultural and religious contexts.

Eric Swanson, Loyola Marymount University, presiding

## Papers

Stephan Licha

Making Dōgen: Hagiographical Strategies of Legitimization in Medieval Sōtō Zen Buddhism

Bruce Winkelman

Controversy as Hagiography: The Disputed Life of Shinran in Early-Modern Shin Buddhism

Yulia Burenina

Premodern Roots, Modern Elaborations: Continuity and Innovation in the Making of Nichiren in Japan

## Respondent

Massimo Rondolino

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A23-206

**Hosted by:** Cognitive Science of Religion Unit

Theme: 4E Approaches to Cognitive Science of Religion

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Will add

Jed Forman, University of California, Berkeley, presiding

## Papers

Robert Elliot, Providence College

4E Cognition and Humans as the Image of God: Enacting What We Share with the Divine

David H. Nikkel, University of North Carolina At Pembroke

4e Cognition and Classical Religions' Anthropology and Ontology

John Teehan

## Enacting Religious Worldviews: A Cognitive-Scientific Worldviews Study

David Riley Campbell, University College Dublin

Immersed in the Ecological Body: Enactive Sense-Making and Identity Formation in Wiccan Practice

Nathan Fisher, McGill University

The Resurrected Emergent Self - An Enactive Lens on the Goals of Classical and Contemporary Abrahamic Contemplative Paths

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A23-202

**Hosted by:** Body and Religion Unit

Theme: A Discourse of Our Own?: on the merits (and demerits) of a cohesive vocabulary for embodiment in the study of religion

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

As embodiment has sought to assert itself in humanities and psychology, it has had to borrow and augment existing language from other theories and methodologies. This might be a necessary step in establishing a new body of theories and/or methods. It may also be a particular growing pain for introducing a theory/method that contrasts so distinctly from the established theories and methods for those topics that embodiment tends to address: ritual, performance, religious experience, religion and psychology, etc.... However, since embodiment has been emerging for decades now, it seems fair to ask: Have we arrived (or are we arriving) at a point when we can point to a cohesive vocabulary for embodiment studies? If such a cohesive vocabulary is desirable, what would it look like and where might gaps in vocabulary suggest gaps in research or in embodiment as a theory/method?

Isobel-Marie Johnston, presiding

### Panelist

Kimerer L. LaMothe

Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College

Adrienne Krone

Melissa M. Wilcox, University of California, Riverside

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A23-208

**Hosted by:** Comparative Theology Unit

Theme: Affect in Contemplative Practice – Tibetan and Christian Parallels  
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This paper session considers the role of affect—of embodied felt sense—in grounding and sustaining contemplative transformation. Together, our three papers explore instances where affect (embodied felt sense) plays a constitutive role in a process of knowing, and each offers some comparative and theoretical mediation to try to make sense of this affective process as a basic human reality, one that has been taken up diversely by diverse contemplative traditions. Our aim is to theologize about this basic human reality comparatively, considering what further insights about our respective contemplative traditions can emerge collaboratively. Our papers take up contemplative instructions from historical Tibetan and Christian practices, considering them phenomenologically with an eye towards how the contemplative process unfolds by attuning to and habituating certain basic affects.

Amy Maxey, Oblate School of Theology, presiding

## Papers

Renee Ford, Aarhus University  
I'm Hot, Tired, and Hungry: An Auto-Ethnographical Account of Compassion Cultivation in Nyungne, a Buddhist Ascetic Practice

Brian Robinette, Boston College  
The Felt Sense of God: Christian Contemplative Practice in Dialogue with Phenomenology and Tibetan Buddhist Practice Traditions

Matthew Vale  
Utter Safety, Vast Expanse: Affect and Insight in Dzogchen Preliminary Practices

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A23-226

**Hosted by:** Religion and Disability Studies Unit

Theme: Agency, Knowledge, and Spirituality through a Disability Lens

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

The presentations in this session use the insights of disability studies to reexamine historical perspectives, question common perceptions of mental illness and intellectual ability, and highlight overlooked dimensions of human freedom and flourishing. Each in its own way names how ableism and collaborating oppressive forces limit the capacity for agency, knowledge, or



spiritual engagement of the disabled. Each presentation envisions a liberating alternative for how disabled lives ought to be represented, regarded, and embraced.

Audrey Seah, College of the Holy Cross, presiding

## Papers

Calli Micale, Palmer Theological Seminary

More than Metaphor: disability and faith in the thought of Frederick Douglass

Katherine McCray

How We Choose: Christian Representations of Psychosocial Disability and the Foundations of Moral Choice

Hannah Waite, University of Leeds

Beyond the Binary: Giving Voice to Religious Experiences in Mania and Psychosis

Andrew Barron, Tyndale University

Tiffany Devries, Tyndale University

Crippling Assumptions: Disability, Mental Illness, and the Myth of the Able-Bodied Disciple

Susan McElcheran

An Alternative Epistemology: Intellectual Disability and The Cloud of Unknowing

Business Meeting

David Scott

Sarah Jean Barton, Duke University

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A23-235

**Hosted by:** Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit

Theme: Arminianism

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

The Presidential theme for the Annual Meeting, “Freedom,” is at the heart of Arminian theology, with its emphasis on human free will and divine non-coercion with regard to salvation. The papers in this session explore Arminianism from a variety of theological, historical, and cultural perspectives, addressing tensions from the earliest days of Wesleyan and Methodist thought and practice to the present day.

Cindy K. Wesley, University of Northern Colorado, presiding

## Papers

Martin Wellings

'Another Gospel' or 'A remaining tension'? Methodist Arminianism in Great Britain from the Free Grace Controversy to the Anglican-Methodist Covenant, 1740-2004

Ian B. Straker

Arminianism, Calvinism, And the Fight Against Slavery

Hilde Marie Movafagh, The United Methodist Seminary, and MF Norwegian School of Theology  
Prevenient grace – enabling freedom

Evert Van Kuiken, Oklahoma Wesleyan University

The Unaccommodated Arminius: Disputing and Extending Muller's Account

Business Meeting

Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School

Jung Choi, Duke University

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A23-223

**Hosted by:** Qur'an Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Tehseen Thaver's *Beyond Sectarianism* + Business Meeting

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

This author-meets-critics roundtable focuses on Professor Tehseen Thaver of Princeton University's new book *Beyond Sectarianism: Ambiguity, Hermeneutics, and the Formations of Religious Identity in Early Islam* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023). It argues that a narrow sectarian driven approach to the study of Shi'i Qur'an commentary traditions, one that assumes perfect correspondence between sectarian identity and hermeneutics, conceals more than it reveals. Although marked as a Shi'i scholar and exegete, the interpretive and political horizons that informed al-Radi's scholarly endeavors were irreducible to predetermined templates of sectarian identity corresponding to often presumed signature features of Shi'i theology and identity such as privileging interiority and the religious authority of the Imams. Rather, Thaver argues, al-Radi was an active participant and beneficiary of critical intellectual currents and debates that animated the wider Muslim humanities during his life, especially on questions of language, poetry, and theology.

SherAli Tareen, presiding

## Panelist

Teena Purohitt  
Tariq Jaffer  
Shuaib Ally

## Respondent

Tehseen Thaver, Princeton University

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A23-200

**Hosted by:** Afro-American Religious History Unit and Religion and Sexuality Unit

Theme: Author-Meets-Respondents Session for Ahmad Greene-Hayes, *Underworld Work: Black Atlantic Religion Making in Jim Crow New Orleans* (University of Chicago Press, 2025)

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This Author-Meets-Respondents session will provide a forum for critical engagement with Ahmad Greene-Hayes's book, *Underworld Work: Black Atlantic Religion Making in Jim Crow New Orleans* (2025). Greene-Hayes illuminates the spiritual practices that flourished in Jim Crow-era New Orleans including ancestral veneration, faith healing, and spiritualized sex work, revealing how Africana esotericisms were employed to navigate and transcend the limitations of an anti-Black world. The book highlights the resilience and creativity of Black religious life in the face of state-sanctioned terror and legal and extralegal violence. Respondents of varying rank will offer insights on the book's contributions to the study of African American religious history, queer studies in religion, and the intersection of religion and sexuality. Discussion will explore the book's methodological innovations and theoretical interventions, its engagement with Black Atlantic traditions in the American South, and its implications for understanding Africana religious practices in the face of empire.

Matthew Cressler, presiding

## Panelist

Yvonne Chireau, Swarthmore College  
Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh, Stanford University  
Jathan Martin  
Joseph Winters, Duke University  
Khytie Brown, University of Texas at Austin  
Jamil Drake, Yale University

## Respondent

A23-215

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit, and South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: Bollywood, Hindutva, and Pedagogy

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable examines how Bollywood films, both historical and contemporary, can be taught in religious studies classrooms to explore the contemporary study of Hindutva ideologies, Islamophobia, casteism, and patriarchy. This discussion will highlight interdisciplinary approaches from religious studies, anthropology, literary studies, film and media studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and critical caste studies. Key topics include Hindu nationalism's impact on Bollywood, representations of inter-religious interactions in modern South Asia, the role of film in South Asian diaspora identity formation, portrayals of Hindu deities and epics, and the increasing marginalization of Muslim and Dalit communities. This session also aims to provide pedagogical strategies for integrating Bollywood films into religion and film courses, offering insights for scholars beyond South Asian studies who seek to engage with Bollywood cinema in their teaching.

Eliza Kent, Skidmore College, presiding

### Panelist

Francesca Chubb-Confer, Oberlin College

Sohini Pillai, Kalamazoo College

Eliza Kent, Skidmore College

Arun Brahmabhatt, Syracuse University

Anand Taneja, Vanderbilt University

Heidi Pauwels, University of Washington

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A23-213

**Hosted by:** Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: Care as Theory and Method in the Study of Religion

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This panel will consider questions such as: how can care ethics serve as a method for religious studies scholars, in their fieldwork, in their textual analyses, or in the archive? How do religious and spiritual sensibilities inform notions of "collective care" that operate outside of or beyond

explicitly religious communities? What kind of care do we owe the people about or for whom we write? How do the people, texts, and archives we study care for us as scholars? How might our relationships with people, texts, and places change if care is at the center of our engagement with them? And in this time of crisis, what role does care play in the classroom?

Dana Lloyd, Villanova University, presiding

## Panelist

Karen Bray  
Méadhbh Mclvor, Arizona State University  
Ludger Viefhues-Bailey, Le Moyne College  
Barbara Sostaita, Harvard University  
Joi Orr, Interdenominational Theological Seminary

## Respondent

Eleanor Craig, Emory University  
Business Meeting  
Annie Blazer, College of William & Mary  
Amanda Nichols, University of California, Santa Barbara

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A23-221

**Hosted by:** Pentecostal–Charismatic Movements Unit

Theme: Challenging Gender and Sexual Paradigms in Pentecostal Studies: A Latino/Latin American Perspective

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

In recent years, journalists and public commentators have become increasingly fascinated by the supposed rightward turn of Latino/as living in the United States and in Latin America. Religion—specifically, Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity—is often said to be the fulcrum of this growing conservatism. Gender, sexuality, and *machismo*, in turn, are often thought to be at the core of this religious conservatism. This panel challenges this conventional narrative by pointing to a different set of possibilities within Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity: a gay Latino Pentecostal missionary and evangelist in the 1970s and 1980s; an LGBTQ-affirming Pentecostal-Charismatic congregation in present-day Brazil; and “Indecent” Pentecostal women in present-day Colombia. Together, these papers add new voices and perspectives to ongoing scholarly discussions on Latino Pentecostals, gender, and sexuality, challenging dominant narratives and paradigms in Pentecostal Studies and shedding new light on the ecumenical networks and movements in which queer and progressive Latino/a Pentecostals are embedded.

Joao Chaves, Baylor University, presiding

## Papers

Daniel Ballon-Garst

“Gay Hispano”: Rev. José Mojica and Las Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana in the United States and Mexico

Claudia Alvarez

The Queer People of the Pentecost: Voices from Latin America

Laura Montoya Cifuentes

Indecent Pentecostalism: A Twenty-first-century Re-reading of Elisabeth Brusco’s Work in Colombia

Jonathan Calvillo

Pentecostal Social Action in Times of Exclusion: Learning from A Latine Cross-Generational Story

## Respondent

Gina Zurlo, Harvard University

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A23-224

**Hosted by:** Reformed Theology and History Unit

Theme: Christian Freedom

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

This session explores the multifaceted theme of Christian freedom within the Reformed tradition, engaging its historical, theological and ethical dimensions. Against the backdrop of historic Reformed approaches to Christian freedom, it proposes how the “freedom of a Christian” in relation to the state might be understood today; and explores—in connection with the cinema of Paul Schrader—the possibility of freedom in Christ given the depravity that pervades human life. Further, it contends—in connection with the apocalyptic features of Karl Barth’s doctrine of death—that, in Christ’s death, we attain both freedom from “evil” death and freedom to “natural” death; and argues that current Reformed thought and practice might be newly informed by “radical” elements of Pauline pneumatology.

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City, presiding

## Papers

Charles Regli

The Freedom of a Christian: A Rewind to Step Forward

Greg Cootsona, California State University, Chico

Calvin, Barth, Schrader: The Depths of Depravity and the Reality of Freedom

Tsz-Fung Tin

'Freedom from death' and 'freedom to death': Karl Barth's doctrine of death re-examined through the lens of apocalyptic patterns

Shea Watts, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Treasure in Earthen Vessels: Fleshing out Paul's Radical Pneumatology

Business Meeting

Christina Larsen, Grand Canyon University

Arnold Huijgen, Protestant Theological University, The Netherlands

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A23-228

**Hosted by:** Religion and Politics Unit

Theme: Christian Nationalism - New Directions

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

Christian Nationalism continues to exert a powerful influence around the world. Excellent studies conducted by a variety of gifted scholars have probed Christian Nationalism in its American and evangelical contexts. Better understanding this cultural and political movement fully demands that we take creative approaches to explore how Christian Nationalism expresses itself in other contexts as well. The papers in this session use a variety of methods to look at alternative areas and contexts where Christian Nationalism arises. Lisa Gasson-Gardiner takes a different approach by looking at Christian Nationalism through the lens of an affect economy in "Not Flattening the Foe: Teaching and Researching the Christian Far Right as Affect Economy." Hannah Peterson explores Christian Nationalism in lesser-known contexts in "Orthodox Jews, Latter Day Saints, and the MAGA Movement: A New Lens on Christian Nationalism." Guillermo Flores Borda takes us to Latin America in his presentation "Latin American Christian Nationalism: Adapting US White Christian Nationalism to Latin American Politics from 2016 to 2023." Each of these papers brings valuable insight and broader perspective on this timely topic.

Scott Culpepper, Dordt University, presiding

## Papers

Lisa Gasson-Gardner, University of Tennessee

Not Flattening the Foe: Teaching and Researching the Christian Far Right as Affect Economy

Hannah Peterson

Orthodox Jews, Latter Day Saints, and the MAGA Movement: A New Lens on Christian Nationalism

Guillermo Flores Borda

Latin American Christian Nationalism: Adapting US White Christian Nationalism to Latin American Politics from 2016 to 2023

Business Meeting

Scott Culpepper, Dordt University

Candace Lukasik

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A23-209

**Hosted by:** Contemplative Studies Unit

Theme: Contemplative Epistemologies: Diverse Methods and Practices

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This panel brings together scholarship on contemplative epistemologies, ways of knowing through diverse methods and practices.

Michael Sheehy, presiding

## Papers

Dhruv Nagar

Knowing or Contemplating as 'Attending to': The Body and its Immaterial Other in Sāṃkhya, Advaita and Trika

Agnes Bolinska, University of South Carolina

Mindfulness meditation research and evidence-based medicine

Haseena Sahib

The Means of Arabic Qur'ān Recitation and Poetry Chanting to Arrive at Higher Forms of Knowing



Marianne Florian  
Embedded and Enactive Cognition in Contemplative Learning

## Respondent

Michael Sheehy

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A23-201

**Hosted by:** Animals and Religion Unit

Theme: Entangled Freedoms: Ethics & More Than Human Animals

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

Do all species have the right to be free? How has religion shaped the complex notions of “freedom” that inform the human relationship with the more-than-human world? Each of the papers on this panel wrestles with the reality that human freedom is always entangled with other forms of life.

Christopher Carter, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, presiding

## Papers

Colin Weaver, University of Chicago

Mercy Killing and Self-Sacrificing Deer: Projections of Animal Desire and Autonomy in Evangelical Hunting Devotionals

Beth Quick, Drew University

Creaturely Labor and the Problem of Christian Vocation

Sarra Tlili, University of Florida

A Cosmic Chorus of Praise: Animal Devotion and Ethics in the Hadith

Neil Messer

Evolution, Eschatology, and Animal Ethics: Attending to Creaturely Suffering and Struggle

Business Meeting

Katharine Mershon, Western Carolina University

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A23-211

**Hosted by:** Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit

Theme: Explorations in Orthodox Christian Tradition from the Caucasus to India

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

This session explores diverse but often neglected geographic, historical, and theological territories within Orthodox Christian tradition. The papers in this session analyze such topics as modern theology in the Malankara Orthodox Church of India, medieval theological and liturgical manuscript traditions in Georgia, Sergei Bulgakov and John Behr's engagement with Nicene theology, and the theological implications of divergences in Eucharistic practice in Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Western Christian traditions.

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University, presiding

## Papers

Sujit Thomas

The relationship between spiritual freedom and political freedom in the thought of Paulose Mar Gregorios.

David Iobidze, Akaki Tsereteli State University

The Georgian Translation of the Dogmatic and Polemical Treatises of Saint Maximus the Confessor (K14) and Its Significance for the Reconstruction of the Greek Original Text

Tamazi Devidze, Akaki Tsereteli State University

The Burnt Fathers' Service in New Iadgari

Eugenia Torrance, University of Notre Dame

"Begotten from the Father Before All Ages": Finding a Place for the Nicene Theology of Time after Bulgakov and Behr

Abdulla Galadari, Khalifa University

The Eucharist: Liturgy of the Eastern Churches and Their Theological Implication

## Respondent

Philip Dorroll, Wofford College

Business Meeting

Philip Dorroll, Wofford College

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University

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A23-236

**Hosted by:** Moral Injury and Recovery in Religion, Society, and Culture Unit

Theme: Exploring Moral Injury - Political Critique, Cultural Memory and Conceptual Vocabulary

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Moral Injury is a complex phenomenon, the many facets of which are illuminated through multiple conceptual lenses. This session will explore the concept through the lenses of disability and mad studies, the transgenerational memories of immigrant communities, and the Korean concept of shimcheong.

Brian Powers, Durham University, presiding

## Papers

Alana Dickey

Mad Studies, Disability Studies, and the Medicalization of Moral Injury

Business Meeting

Brian Powers, Durham University

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A23-232

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Freedom and Flourishing in Fraught Times

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

In the difficult times we are living in today, it can be hard to know how to maintain our balance and where to direct our efforts. As AAR President Leela Prasad has noted, “assaults on freedom and human rights are rampant, ruthless, and recurring.” This can make us wonder whether flourishing is even a relevant consideration any more. And yet some would argue that ideals can be especially important in less than ideal times. This interdisciplinary roundtable session invites delegates to join a panel of scholars from philosophy, history, religious studies, and theology to explore the nature of freedom and flourishing, examining how these ideals may be related to each other and discussing how they might help us find renewed hope and a clearer sense of purpose and direction as we journey together through fraught times.

James Pawelski, presiding

## Panelist

Brendan Case  
Terrence Johnson  
Justin McDaniel  
Sophia Rosenfeld, University of Pennsylvania  
Miroslav Volf

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A23-225

**Hosted by:** Religion and Cities Unit

Theme: Harvard and the Hood: Religious Scholars and Community Practitioners

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This panel considers the theoretical, historical, and practical considerations around collaborations between scholars of local religion and practitioners such as religious leaders, activists, non-profit collaborators, and government officials. Panelists include an organizer who led an interfaith initiative around affordable housing in Colorado, a scholar who examines walking as a means of co-creating knowledge, a city planner who explores public service as a ministry and the city as a congregation, and a scholar who directs a set of practitioner-oriented, campus-community programs in religious literacy and interfaith leadership. This session will explore questions such as: How do collaborations between scholars and practitioners offer new forms of scholarly analysis and knowledge production? How do scholar-practitioners negotiate their multiple roles? What ethical questions arise in interactions between scholars and practitioners?

Heather Miller Rubens, presiding

## Papers

Nathan Davis Hunt, Boston University

“The Land is Mine”: A Congregational Case Study of Affordable Housing Action as a Praxis of Political Revelation — Relations & Contradictions

Christopher Valencia, University of California, Riverside

“Walking the Streets of San Bernardino with the Traveling Chaplain: Remembering the Forgotten.”

Spencer Williams, Union Theological Seminary

City as Congregation: Moving Beyond a Community of Proximity Towards a Community of Practice

Timothy D. Knepper, Drake University  
Not As Thorny As Might Seem: Issues in Scholar-Practitioner Collaboration

Business Meeting  
Edward Dunar, Albertus Magnus College  
Fatimah Fanusie

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A23-222

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: How to Pay Attention: The Early European Sciences and Aesthetics of Attention

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

This panel explores sciences and practices of attention as they developed over pre- and early modern Europe, spanning late Medieval, Rationalist, Enlightenment, and Romantic sources. It considers attention's changing role in religious experience, science's empirical observation of observation, and the way philosophers of religion adopted and adapted these modes of attending. Consulting the early science and psychology of attention, philosophers of religion negotiated this equivocal faculty, determining its proper use, quality, and objects for religious experience. How did they incorporate religious modes of attending in their own contemplative practices? To what extent were they willing to risk forms of idolatrous fixation? And what aesthetic reveries did they come to promote? The panel includes papers on a Franciscan friar's poetry of attention, the status of wonder in Descartes and Spinoza, Kant's attempts to mitigate pathologies of attention, and Schleiermacher's aesthetics of cosmic absorption.

Danica Cao, University of Chicago, presiding

## Papers

Talin Tahajian, Yale University

"Vidimus enim stellam eius in oriente et venimus adorare eum": Attending to the Sign in a Late Medieval English Sermon on the Epiphany

Rebekah Rosenfeld

Ethical Attention, Scientific Explanation: Wonder in the Epistemologies of Descartes and Spinoza

Sherah Bloor, Harvard University

Kant's Attention Economy and the Fear of Idolatrous Fixation

Ella Wilhelm, University of Chicago  
Cosmic Absorption: On the Aesthetics of Schleiermacher's Romantic Religion

## Respondent

Ryan Coyne, University of Chicago

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A23-207

**Hosted by:** Comparative Religious Ethics Unit

Theme: Music and Joy: Lessons on the Good Life (Daniel Chua)

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This proposal suggests offering a panel to assess the religious and ethical significance of the book, *Music and Joy: Lessons on the Good Life* (Yale University Press) by Daniel K.L. Chua, a musicologist. The book offers an interdisciplinary approach to an age-old question: What makes for a good life? The answer Chua offers is that the good life depends upon experiencing the spiritual significance of music, which is best conceived as joy. The panel contends that the book presents a compelling argument: that music/joy provides not only invaluable lessons on the good life but also the possibility of a *healthier*—and perhaps more spiritual—ethos. What is intriguing about the work is the way Chua weaves ancient and modern philosophical and religious traditions, both Eastern and Western, to argue that music itself is a *wordless* player in developing ethical awareness.

Inese Radzins, California State University Stanislaus, presiding

## Panelist

Henry Kuo, Eden Theological Seminary

Tat-siong Benny Liew

Jeremy Begbie

Michael Puett

## Respondent

Daniel Chua, University of Hong Kong

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A23-218

**Hosted by:** Korean Religions Unit

Theme: Noteworthy Trends and Developments in English-language Scholarship on Korean Religions in the Past Twenty-Five Years  
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

The past twenty-five years have seen a blossoming of English-language scholarship on Korean religions. Yet little effort has been made to reflect on this scholarship as a community of Korean religions scholars--little effort, for example, to determine areas that have been studied well, that have been neglected or understudied, to recognize figures and texts that have been pivotal in advancing our understanding of various aspects of Korean religions. This roundtable aims to engage in such reflection, by discussing noteworthy trends and developments in English-language scholarship on the five main religious traditions of Korea in the past quarter century--Buddhism, Confucianism, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Shamanism--with discussion on each led by a panelist. During open discussion, in addition to questions specific to abovementioned traditions, broader questions—such as What does the future hold for the study of Korean Religions in the English language? —may also be entertained.

Timothy S. Lee, Brite Divinity School, presiding

### **Panelist**

Young-chan Ro, George Mason University  
Jonathan Feuer  
Franklin Rausch  
Angie Heo  
Liora Sarfati

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A23-230

**Hosted by:** Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit

Theme: Public Persuasion, Visual Religion, and Maximalist Communities

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

This panel includes several studies that examine the role of visual culture (film, television) in structuring social life, communal participation, and the strategies for affecting individual participation. In their own way, each presenter explores how these experiences can be shaped on the intersections and edges of our collective organization, such as racial exclusions, professional structures, national identity, or religious coercion. They offer answers to questions about the role of visual culture in religious indoctrination, and how images are used to promote public norms and religious consensus. Together, our presenters explore the relationships between visual culture and public persuasion, including film and television that take up religious nationalism, high control communities, and supremacist groups.

Kristian Petersen, presiding

## Papers

Micah Franklin, Yale Divinity School

God's Rap Kingdom: King Bullethead, the Music Video, and Unification Theology.

Bryson White, Santa Clara University

The Birth of a Nation: Christian Eschatology and Black Disappearance

Taylor Valci, Yale Divinity School

One Nation Under God: A survey and analysis of the God's Not Dead film series and their sought contributions to the rise of Christian nationalism from 2014 to 2024

K. E. Carver

Kier Giveth, Kier Taketh Away: Freedom and Identity vs. Corporate and Worship Cult/ure through the Lens of AppleTV's \*Severance\*

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A23-214

**Hosted by:** Gay Men and Religion Unit

Theme: Queer Kinship, Synodality, and Intergenerational Ethics

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This panel examines the ethics and practicalities of queer kinship in religious idioms. The papers provide theoretical and practical understandings of models available to queer subjects for imagining religious collectivity and relationship. They stage a conversation between the reception of synodality among queer Catholics in the Philippines and queer iterations of familial piety.

Michael Pettinger, presiding

## Papers

Patrick Haley, Princeton Theological Seminary

Fraught Families, Queer Elders, and the Virtue (and Vices) of Filial Piety

Argel Oclarit, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Philippines

Synodality in the (Non)Reception of Fiducia Supplicans among Filipino Catholic Priests and Same-Sex Couples



## Respondent

Richard McCarty, Mercyhurst University  
Business Meeting  
Michael Pettinger

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A23-227

**Hosted by:** Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: Reconceiving Freedoms: Roundtable on "Building a Moral Economy: Pathways for People of Courage" Books 1 & 2

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This Roundtable will present and explore a set of theoretical and practical proposals for advancing global movements toward ecological, equitable, and democratic economic systems (policies, practices, principles, and structures). Featuring two recent books in the *Building a Moral Economy* series, this Roundtable centralizes visions of economic and socio-ecological relationships that do not fall prey to simplistic fallacies of freedom, but instead cultivate freedom from the demands of an extractive economy and freedom for living in right relationships with self, human others, and the Earth community. Three authors and four panelists are featured in this Roundtable, which explores how people can participate in a journey of economic healing by viewing economic life as spiritual practice; build alternatives to extractive capitalism (social structures, worldview, and lifestyle practices); and pursuing forms of freedom that are life-giving instead of relationship-sundering and death-dealing.

Christiana Zenner, Fordham University, presiding

## Panelist

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
abby mohaupt, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Michael Malcom, The People's Justice Council

## Respondent

Pui Lan Kwok, Candler School of Theology  
Terra Schwerin Rowe, University of North Texas  
Melanie Harris, Wake Forest Divinity School  
Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Drew University Theological School

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A23-229

**Hosted by:** Religion and the Social Sciences Unit and Religion in Southeast Asia Unit  
**Theme:** Religion as 'Weapon of the Weak': Honoring the Life and Legacy of James C. Scott  
**Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**  
Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

James C. Scott, described by *The New York Times* as “Professor Who Learned from Peasants” and the “Unofficial Founder of the Field of Resistance Studies,” died on July 19, 2024. One year after his passing, this roundtable reflects on the life and legacy of one of the most influential political scientists of our lifetime who theorized politics outside the state framework and popularized such terms as “weapons of the weak,” “hidden transcripts,” “seeing like a state,” and “the art of not being governed.” Although Scott’s work focused on everyday forms of peasant resistance in Southeast Asia, his ideas have traveled beyond his disciplinary and regional boundaries, profoundly shaping interdisciplinary scholarship across diverse global contexts. Panelists will discuss how Scott's ideas have inspired their research on religion, politics, ecology, decentralized resistance, and freedom within contexts of nationalism, dictatorship, and state control, and will open up for discussions with audience.

Ardeth Maung Thawngmung, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, presiding

### Panelist

David Thang Moe, Yale University  
Devaka Premawardhana, Emory University  
Mark Brett, University of Divinity  
Richard A. Horsley  
Robert W. Hefner  
Ling Zhang, University of Cambridge

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A23-216

**Hosted by:** International Development and Religion Unit and Religion and the Social Sciences Unit  
**Theme:** Religion, Politics, and Development in Tumultuous Times  
**Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**  
Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

We are in a tumultuous time for development agendas and international politics. Given the end of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, changes to foreign aid within the Trump administration in the US, and political upheavals around the world, this panel explores and critically engages with intersections of religion, politics, and international development. Papers

will explore international development funding and practices vis-a-vis religion as well as sociopolitical contestations vis-a-vis religion and the state in global contexts.

Xochitl Alvizo, presiding

## Papers

Emmy Corey

Hustling PEPFAR: Making Global Public Health Work in Nairobi

Kjetil Fretheim

Transformation and localization: Ecumenical diaconia and the SDGs

Sonja Krivacic, Faith Literacy & FoRB, LM International

Centering Freedom of Religion and Belief for Faith-Sensitive Development Practice

Business Meeting

Sara Williams, Fairfield University

Rachel Schneider, Rice University

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A23-203

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit

Theme: Revisiting Buddhist Studies and Postcolonial Theory Thirty Years After Donald Lopez's *Curators of the Buddha* (Chicago, 1995)

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

Thirty years since its publication, Donald Lopez's edited volume *Curators of the Buddha* (Chicago, 1995) remains an important scholarly engagement of the study of Buddhism and postcolonial critique. Following the groundbreaking work of the *Curators* volume, the papers in this session augment the ongoing conversation around Buddhism, colonialism, and postcolonialism in one of two ways: by continuing to provincialize Buddhist Studies and Buddhism by analyzing discourse or by studying intra-Asian and intra-Buddhist colonialism. Thus, they seek to answer one or both of two questions: 1) What can be learned from making the curators of Buddhism the objects of analysis?; and 2) What might postcolonial or post-Orientalist studies look like?

Thomas Calobrisi, Institute of Buddhist Studies, presiding

Eliot Davenport, presiding

## Papers

Jason Storm, Williams College

Beyond Postcolonial Buddhist Studies: Imperial Entanglements, Decolonial Possibilities, and Metamodern Futures

Alexandra Kaloyanides

New Roads in the Study of Buddhism and Empire: The Konbaung Dynasty and Buddhist Imperial Formations

Natalie Quli, Institute of Buddhist Studies

Curators of Vipassana: Exoticizing and Denigrating Orientalism in the American Vipassana Movement

Blaine Patrick Werner, University of Virginia

Close Encounters of the Orientalist Kind: Ambivalence and Desire in Buddhist Studies

## Respondent

Donald S. Lopez

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A23-231

**Hosted by:** Ritual Studies Unit

Theme: Ritual Reforged: Destruction, Memory, and Power in Bespoke Practices

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

People often adapt rituals to fit new circumstances or new groups of people. This panel explores the notion of “bespoke” rituals in which rituals are created to reflect special places or moments. The first paper explores a blended Hindu-Buddhist ritual practice adapted for a Buddhist community in Chiang Mai, drawing on notions of lived religion as it describes a novel ritual creation. The second paper examines the tension between the secular and religious in the bespoke memorialization contexts of the COVID-19 memorial named ‘Sanctuary.’ The third paper offers a perspective on bespoke capitalistic ritual in the form of the destruction of luxury goods, arguing that the destructive act is a sacrificial one to reaffirm social power.

Renee Cyr, presiding

## Papers

Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College

Novel Wish-Making Rituals: Case Study from Buddhist Thailand

David Tollerton

Let the Crowd Figure Out What It Means: The Ambivalent Religious-Secular Ritual of Mourning at David Best's 'Sanctuary' Memorial

Nicolas Sarian, University of Toronto

Sacrifice and Waste: Ritualizing Overstock Destruction in Contemporary Luxury

## Respondent

Joshua Urich, Colby College

Business Meeting

Joy Palacios

Courtney Applewhite, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

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A23-217

**Hosted by:** Jewish Studies Unit and Motherhood and Religions Unit

Theme: Sacred Sarah(s): Inter-Religious Exchanges and Concepts of Motherhood

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel examines the cultural, religious, and gendered significance of Sarah, the Jewish matriarch, emphasizing her role as a maternal figure in Jewish tradition. Often portrayed negatively in the Bible—laughing at the promise of conception and casting Hagar and her son into the desert—later narratives reframe her with traits of faith, agency, and spiritual authority. These reinterpretations highlight her role as a religious ideal of motherhood.

The panel explores Sarah's evolving image in three Jewish communities: Ashkenazi Jews (12th-16th-century texts in Hebrew and Yiddish), Bene Israel Jews (19th-20th-century Marathi texts), and the Ma'aminim, a crypto-Jewish Sabbatian group in the Ottoman Empire (19th-20th-century Ladino, Hebrew, and Turkish texts). Speakers will analyze Sarah's portrayal as a maternal figure and its connections to classical Jewish texts, co-territorial religions (Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam), and localized Jewish practices, revealing how religious traditions reinterpret maternal figures across time and cultures.

Anna Schultz, University of Chicago, presiding

## Papers

Oren Cohen Roman, Lund University

When the Matriarch Sarah Met Mother Mary: Ashkenazi Retellings of the Binding of Isaac

Anna Schultz, University of Chicago

A Mother's Longing: Performances of Sarah in the Bene Israel Akedah

Hadar Feldman, Tel Aviv University

Motherhood in Mystical Ritual and a Messianic Community: Sarah in Late Sabbatianism  
Between Judaism and Islam

Business Meeting

Florence Pasche Guignard, Other

Pascale Engelmajer

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A23-219

**Hosted by:** Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

Theme: Survivance and the Sacred: Native Traditions in Colonial Binds

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

The study of Native American religious traditions remains contested, shaped by colonial frameworks that have misrepresented Indigenous lifeways as static rather than living systems. The concept of Pan-Indianism embodies these tensions: while some criticize it for flattening distinct spiritualities and sovereignties, others celebrate it for fostering intertribal diplomacy and survivance. This panel centers Indigenous agency through four case studies: the Ghost Dance as an enduring resurgent practice (challenging reductive narratives tied to Wounded Knee); peyote ceremonies' criminalization and resilience as medicine-prayer syntheses; Delaware tribal negotiations of authenticity and Pan-Indianism's dual role as adaptation/contention; and sweetgrass harvesting's challenge to Western ecological ethics through sacred reciprocity. Together, these papers reveal how Native religious traditions—distinct yet dynamically intersecting—navigate colonial disruption, reframing Pan-Indianism not as homogenization but as a vital, contested dimension of Indigenous sociality and political-spiritual practice.

Kenneth Mello, presiding

## Papers

Octavio Carrasco

The Ghost Dance: Ritual, Resistance, and a New Religion

Nanea Renteria

Women's Medicine: Religious vs. Secular Peyote Consumption in New Spain and the Contemporary United States

Dillon Sampson, Syracuse University

'Being' in Delaware Country: Authenticity and the Perception of Cultural Decline

Eva Pascal, Saint Michael's College

Plants as Agents and Partners: Braiding Sweetgrass and the Expansion of Ethical Imagination

## Respondent

Sydney Beckmann, California State University, Fresno

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A23-233

**Hosted by:** Tantric Studies Unit

Theme: Tantric Objects and Tantric Subjects: Exploring Materiality, Presence, and Power in Tantric Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain Traditions

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

This panel explores Tantric objects and Tantric subjects in varieties of Tantric religious milieux across South Asia, representing novel approaches to materiality in Tantric traditions. Our five panelists bring diverse methodological, philosophical, textual, and theoretical approaches, exploring the development of early esoteric Buddhism via ancient rock-cut caves in the Deccan, ritual objects in Kālīkrama ritual, temple bells in Digambara Jain temples, feminine bodies in Kaula ritual, and a philosophical framework for Tantric ritual objects and subjects using the philosophy of fourteenth century South Indian Tantric luminary, Maheśvarānanda. Together, our panelists ask novel questions, share emerging evidence, and develop useful tools for understanding and theorizing Tantric objects and subjects across their diverse material, historical, philosophical, textual, social, soteriological, and ritual contexts.

Elaine Fisher, presiding

## Papers

Hillary Langberg, Bard College

Conflicting Categories and Blurred Boundaries: Mahāyāna and Emergence of Tantric Buddhism in the Rock-Cut Western Deccan Caves

Madhav Prasad Lamichhane, Nepal Sanskrit University

Exploring the Significance and Symbolism of Tantric Objects in the Kālikākrama Tradition

Ellen Gough, Emory University

Ghaṇṭākaraṇa Mahāvīra and the Jain Tantric Diagrams of Temple Bells

Sundari Johansen, California Institute of Integral Studies

Tantric Object as Tantric Subject: Material Agency and the Feminine Tantric Body

Sthaneshwar Timalina

Tantric Objects, Tantric Subjects: A Complex Fluidity in the Formation of Subjectivity and Objectivity in Nondual Tantras

Business Meeting

Shaman Hatley, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Anya Golovkova, Lake Forest College

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A23-234

**Hosted by:** Teaching Religion Unit

Theme: Teaching Tactics

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

This interactive session will feature short presentations of specific "tactics" -- a single activity, lesson, or other piece -- for teaching religion. Each presenter will demonstrate their tactic, and then the audience will have time to discuss questions and possible applications in different types of classrooms/settings. The final 30 minutes of this session will serve as the business meeting for the Teaching Religion Unit. This meeting is open to everyone! Please join us and share your ideas.

Joseph Tucker Edmonds, Indiana University, Indianapolis, presiding

## Papers

Jeremy F. Cohen, McMaster University

"I Use it to Help me Think": Troubling the Hype Around AI in Education

Marie Olson Purcell, Southern Methodist University

Adapting the Fishbowl Discussion: Reducing the Hot Seat, Elevating Content, Including More Voices

Mitchel Hickman, University of California, Santa Barbara



Machine Learning: Pedagogy, Video Games, and the Challenges of the Day

Benjamin Chicka, Curry College

Religious Playgrounds: Playing with Ethics and Religious Identity in Video Games

Beverley McGuire, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Teaching Buddhism as a Lived Religion

Business Meeting

Joseph Tucker Edmonds, Indiana University, Indianapolis

Kate DeConinck, Keene State College

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A23-210

**Hosted by:** Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit, Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit and Theology and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: The Hermeneutics of (Neo)Fascism in the Study of Religion

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This roundtable considers the reuptake, reinterpretation, and returns of religious studies concepts and frameworks aligned with historical fascist and authoritarian projects. Scholars recognize these undercurrents in canonical theories that posit religion as irreducible sacred essence, esoteric knowledge, other-than-human presence, or animate sovereign force. And yet, simultaneously, scholarship dedicated to the critique of secular, Eurocentric knowledge formations have gravitated toward many of these formulations in their work to posit resistant, revolutionary, and/or restorative possibilities beyond the strictures of colonial and humanist rationality. Panelists reflect on this apparent contradiction: where it comes from, what attachments it may reveal, what is at stake in the work of revaluation, and what these patterns teach us about our relationships to histories that we otherwise disavow.

Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina, presiding

### **Panelist**

Mac Loftin, Harvard University

Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver

Evan Goldstein

Adrian Emmanuel Hernandez Acosta

Lucia Hulsether

A23-220

**Hosted by:** Nineteenth Century Theology Unit

Theme: The History of Religions School

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

The History of Religions School is a significant scholarly movement that emerged in Göttingen during the late nineteenth century. It rose to prominence in the early twentieth century and has influenced the academic study of religion. The papers presented in this session examine the reception history of the History of Religions School, exploring various theologians and influences in Germany, France, and North America.

Annette G. Aubert, Westminster Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Christoph Marksches, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Constellations in Berlin: Harnack, Lietzmann, and the History of Religions School

Lori K. Pearson, Carleton College

Troeltsch on Faith and Religious Experience: Reinterpreting the History of Religions School

Annelies Lannoy, Ghent University

The Reception of the History of Religions School in France

Jonathan Teubner, Harvard University

After Harnack: The History-of-Religions School and the Changing Shape of Theology in the United States

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A23-205

**Hosted by:** Christian Spirituality Unit

Theme: The Sacred and the Struggle: Christian Spirituality in Contexts of Power and Resistance

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

This session examines how Christian spirituality responds to the realities of suffering, constraint, and the longing for liberation. It considers how spiritual practices shape understandings of freedom, cultivate resilience, and sustain hope within contexts of personal, communal, and systemic struggle. The papers invite reflection on the transformative

possibilities of faith when it is lived in tension with the injustices and complexities of political and social life.

Leonard McMahon, Graduate Theological Union, presiding

## Papers

SIU KIT CHIU, Logos Evangelical Seminary

“My Future...to be Martyred”: Redefining Martyrdom as Freedom in Watchman Nee’s Spirituality

Anita Houck

Pieter G. R. De Villiers

Freedom from Oppression, Freedom for Joy: Humor as a Liberative Spiritual Practice

Jennifer Lewis, Boston University

Rest, Racial Justice, and Spiritualities of Repair: The Role of Rest in Ecclesial Vocations to Racial Justice

Alicia Giselle Gaytan, University of Virginia

Sacramentality and Consumption: Teresa de Cartagena’s Eucharistic Imagination in Grove of the Infirm

Business Meeting

Beringia Zen

Matthew Wickman, Brigham Young University

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A23-212

**Hosted by:** Ecclesial Practices Unit

Theme: Transgressive Freedoms in the (Un)Making of Church

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

Ecclesial Practices Unit invites four scholars using creative qualitative research methods to consider what freedom and unfreedom feel like, what it feels like to be free *from*, *for*, and *with*, and how feelings of freedom relate to feelings of other concepts such as power, justice, mercy, constraint, resistance, movement, and liberty. Specifically, this dynamic session explores cultural and gendered dynamics of expressing freedom and unfreedom and their relationship to the making and unmaking of church and religious community.

Easten Law, Princeton Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Mihee Kim-Kort

Innovating Church, Accidentally: (Digital) Presence and Processes toward Formation for Progressive Asian American Christians

Dongho Han, Princeton Theological Seminary

The Transgressive Freedom Over Gender Boundaries: Pastoral Theological Interventions for Young Korean Men's Self-Alienation

HyeLim Yoon

Freedom and Unfreedom in the Ministry of Korean Women Pastors in White-Dominant Congregations

Rebekah Mui

Speaking into the Silence: Purity Culture and Sexual Abuse Among "Complementarian" Mennonites

Business Meeting

Rebecca Spurrier

Rachelle Green, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

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P23-200

**Hosted by:** Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies

Theme: Doctrine and Dissent: Buddhist-Christian Reflections on Normativity and Authority

Sunday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Empire (Seventh Floor)

In the Christian tradition, doctrines have played an important role in setting the terms of theological speculation, while also drawing boundaries marking membership or exclusion from religious institutions. Dharma traditions, for their part, tended to envisage the philosophical articulation of particular insights as the expression of intellectual and existential realization. In the former case, doctrinal normativity expunged discordant positions as erroneous and misleading, whereas in the latter, the adoption of specific claims and positions often meant that alternative beliefs and practices were seen as defective, but arguably viable for individuals unable to reach a higher level of realization. The goal of this panel is to bring into conversation these distinct approaches to doctrinal reflection, foregrounding the distinctive significance that normativity possesses in various religious contexts because of their different approaches to anthropology, cosmology and soteriology.

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M23-201

**Hosted by:** The Bible Translator

Theme: Quality Assurance of Bible Translation Tools and Products

Sunday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex Center (Third Floor)

The source text editions, reference works and digital tools used by Bible translators require quality assurance processes, as do Bible translation products (published Bible translations). This session, hosted by the journal *The Bible Translator*, addresses this concern with presentations as follows:

- Samy Tioyé, Hebrew Bible: A survey of print and digital critical editions of the Hebrew Bible with a view to the quality of data provided and the usability of the text presentation and paratextual elements for translators in Africa (respondent: Terry Wardlaw)
- Edgar Ebojo, New Testament: A survey of print and digital critical editions of the New Testament with a view to the quality of data provided and the usability of the text presentation and paratextual elements for translators (respondent: Florian Voss)
- Reinier de Blois, Translation Theory and Practice: A presentation of the recently-published book *Quality in Translation: A Multithreaded Fabric* (<https://leanpub.com/qualityintranslation>), including multimodal approaches and the use of AI (respondent: Justino Alfredo)

### Panelist

Samy Tioyé  
Edjar Ebojo  
Reinier de Blois

### Respondent

Terry Wardlaw  
Florian Voss  
Justino Alfredo

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M23-202

**Hosted by:** Center for the Theology of Childhood

Theme: Journal of Childhood and Religion Reception

Sunday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

The Journal of Childhood and Religion is delighted to announce its revival after a hiatus since 2017. This reception offers a special opportunity to celebrate the journal's renewed presence as a scholarly home for interdisciplinary conversations at the intersections of childhood, religion, and spirituality. We will also take time to honor the vision and leadership of those who guided the journal in its earlier years and laid the foundation for its continued growth. We invite all interested colleagues—longtime supporters of the journal, new scholars, and those curious about its scope—to join us in celebrating this important milestone for the field. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

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A23-334

**Hosted by:** Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit

Theme: "Real Yoga": Discourses of Authenticity in Yoga Texts and Practices

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

What is "real" or "authentic" yoga and who gets to define it? Discourses of authenticity have been central to the history of yoga, shaping how yoga has been understood and practiced in South Asia and globally. This panel explores how, why, and to what effect different communities have made (and continue to make) competing claims about the "true" essence of yoga. Our five papers each analyze the rhetorical power plays and value judgments inherent in authenticity discourses about yoga coming out of multiple religious traditions and different historical contexts, from the medieval period to the present day. Two papers deal with authenticity in medieval Jain yoga, and another paper continues this to the authenticity discourses around Indian yogis in modernity. Another paper extends this to debates over authentic sadhus in Bengali Bāul-Fakir musical contexts, while the final paper addresses what counts as "authentic" in the contemporary yoga world or "Yogaland."

Anya Foxen, California Polytechnic State University, presiding

## Papers

Corinna Lhoir, University of Hamburg

The Yogapradīpa in Two Voices: Textual Variations, Editorial Choices, and Authenticity in Jain Yoga

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside

Jain Yoga and the Quest for Authenticity: Haribhadra and Yaśovijaya's Perspectives

Patton Burchett, College of William and Mary

Fraudulent Yogis: Debating the Authenticity of the Yogi in the Victorian Age

Keith Cantu

"Stop Faking and Follow the Fakir Way": Baul-Fakirs and Authenticity

Drew Thomases, San Diego State University

"Going Deeper": The Search for Authenticity in Yogaland

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A23-324

**Hosted by:** Publicly Engaged Scholarship in the Study of Religion Seminar

Theme: Academic Freedom, Community-Engagement, and Contemporary Challenges to the Academy

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Public and Community-engaged research and teaching often engages directly with pressing social challenges and collaborates with differently situated stakeholders. Historically, scholars and administrators have debated the merits of these kinds of approaches but have tended to see community engagement as a valuable component of academia. However, as social and political pressures continue to intensify, some scholars who do engaged and public work (and the community partners with whom they work) find themselves under increased scrutiny. Many of the offices and funding agencies that have supported this kind of outreach have also found themselves forced to rebrand their missions or shut down entirely. This workshop brings together representatives from the Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom with other faculty and researchers to consider ongoing challenges to academic freedom in light of these social and political developments. The workshop will provide insights and resources that may be useful for scholars who conduct engaged and public work, and will explore how faculty may effectively continue this work given changing social and

Joseph Witt, University of Tennessee, presiding

### **Panelist**

Victoria Machado, Rollins College

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A23-300

**Hosted by:** Anglican Studies Seminar

Theme: Anglican Studies Seminar -- Session 1

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

The focus of year four of the Anglican Studies Seminar is on the ways that practical theology (ministerial and pastoral practices) are shaped simultaneously by local contexts and the elements treated in the work of the previous years of the seminar in ways that also contribute to Anglican identity formation. The ways in which the churches in the Anglican world are both articulated and then instantiated by those charged with realizing those aims through pastoral practice are all influenced to a significant degree by the contextual elements that inform the shape that Anglican identity takes in a given place. These ways of living ecclesiology, too, must be analyzed using the tools provided by Anglican Studies in order to understand better the range of realities we are talking about when we talk about the form of Christianity we call “Anglican.”

Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas, presiding

## Papers

Molly James

Data Trends and the future of The Episcopal Church

Charles Bell

Defining orthodoxy: dissent, development, delineation, and disobedience in a twenty-first century communion

Tom Noakes-Duncan, St John’s Theological College

George Armstrong’s Rebirth as Priestly Activist: Public Liturgy in the Vietnam War Era

Joshua Kulak

The Practice of Migration with Dignity towards Justice

Business Meeting

Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Claremont School of Theology

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A23-329

**Hosted by:** Secularism and Secularity Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics: Recent Anthropological Works on Secularization, Modernity, and Religious Life Outside Western Contexts

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)



This roundtable brings together anthropologists with diverse methodological, theoretical, and topical backgrounds whose recent publications have each nonetheless centered questions surrounding the accommodations and counter-movements that have emerged within various non-Western religious communities in response to processes of modernity and secularization. Panelists will include: (1) Mayfair Yang, whose work, *Re-enchanting Modernity: Ritual Economy and Society in Wenzhou, China* (2020), scrutinizes how investments in temple-building, rituals, and festivals operate to subvert state secularization in China; (2) Hannah Gould, author of *When Death Falls Apart: Making and Unmaking the Necromaterial Traditions of Contemporary Japan* (2023), which surveys how changing Buddhist death rituals and funerary equipment in contemporary Japan reflect adaptations and reactions to demographic decline; and (3) Eric Hoenes del Pinal, who examines the role of language and discourse in shaping and contesting Catholic identities among an indigenous Q'eqchi' Maya community in contemporary Guatemala in "Guarded by Two Jaguars: A Catholic Parish Divided by Language and Faith" (2022).

Jesse Lee, presiding

### Panelist

Hannah Gould, The University of Melbourne

Eric Hoenes Del Pinal, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Mayfair Yang, UC Santa Barbara

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A23-337

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit

Theme: Book Panel: A Christocentric View of God's Purpose

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

Why did the Son of God assume human form? For many in the Christian theological tradition, the answer is redemption—Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. But a few voices in the tradition have demurred, locating the divine motive for the incarnation *supra lapsum*, above the Fall. In this book panel, two recent proposals by Sam Wells and Edwin Chr. van Driel for a "supralapsarian" motive in the incarnation are critically examined and brought into conversation.

Phillip Hussey, Saint Louis University, presiding

### Panelist

Ian A. McFarland, Emory University

Andrew Torrance

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City

## Respondent

Edwin Chr. Van Driel, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
Samuel Wells

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A23-323

**Hosted by:** Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: Bridging Faith and Science: Collaborative Research on Suffering, Virtue, and Aesthetics

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

This roundtable will feature the work of six theologians who have engaged in a three-year long Templeton-funded Cross-Training grant with psychological scientists. Each theologian chosen to participate is committed to the flourishing of minority groups in their local context. The theologians were specifically trained in three critical areas: (1) education in and engagement with psychological literature, (2) mentor-training in labs, and (3) interdisciplinary collaboration with psychological scientists. Together with their psychological mentors, each theologian on this roundtable has proposed and carried out a theologically informed empirical project related to one of three areas: suffering, virtue development, or aesthetics. For these theologians, team-based projects were a new way to conduct and engage in interdisciplinary research. We believe this cross-training pedagogy provides a model for how theologians can collaborate both within and outside their field as interdisciplinarity becomes more integral to humanities researchers.

Devan Stahl, presiding

## Panelist

Elise Edwards, Baylor University

Kathryn Reklis

Daniel Hill, Baylor University

Kelly Iverson, Baylor University

Natalie Carnes, Baylor University

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A23-306

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit and Religion in Premodern Europe and the Mediterranean Unit

Theme: Catholic Studies' Haunted History: Methodological Approaches to Medieval Past

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This session explores the presuppositions of Catholic Studies as a field within religious studies, and the long, complex, and shifting relation of contemporary Catholicism to its past histories. The three papers gathered here suggest that insights into facets of this dynamic relation can be found in very different aspects of the Catholic past. The first paper argues that the emphasis on Jesus's bloodied embodiment in early modern Spanish Catholicism occurred in the context of Spanish debates over purity of blood and forced conversion. The second puts discourse about paganism in early medieval pastoral literature into conversation with contemporary debates about Catholic enculturation. The third interrogates Catholic Studies itself, in its relation to the "medieval," the modern, and the "non-modern." In querying these varied relations to the past, we hope to encourage conversation between scholars of premodern and contemporary Catholic studies.

Karin Krause, The University of Chicago Divinity School, presiding

## Papers

Jessica A. Boon

Jesus' Bloody Hyperbody: Materiality and Physiology in Late Medieval Spanish Passion Devotion

Katherine Tarrant, University of Virginia

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Paganism in the Medieval Catholic Imagination

Andrew Salzmann

Muse, not Handmaid: Medieval Studies and the Expansion of the Catholic Imagination

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A23-338

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Celebration of the 90th Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

On the occasion of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso's ninetieth birthday year, this roundtable celebrates, analyzes, and reflects on His Holiness's legacy in the academic study of religion. The fields of Buddhist Studies, Tibetan Studies, and Contemplative Sciences have been particularly impacted by his vision and compassion. The speakers on this roundtable offer a scholarly reflection on HHDL's central role in the changing position and perception of Tibetan Buddhism since his exile from China in 1959. Leading scholars in the Academy will briefly comment and then the floor will be open to discussion.

Nicole Willock, presiding

## Panelist

Donald S. Lopez  
Janet Gyatso  
Michael Sheehy  
Dominique Townsend, Columbia University  
Gray Tuttle  
Holly Gayley  
Gedun Rabsal  
Tenzin Dorjee, Columbia University

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A23-322

**Hosted by:** Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Unit

Theme: Classical Pragmatist Roots and Contemporary Fruits

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

The Boston area is the birthplace of American Pragmatism. Charles Peirce was born in Cambridge, and William James spent much of his career teaching at Harvard. The papers in this session will consider how the insights of the classical pragmatists can help us think through and expand contemporary conversations around epistemic responsibility, affect and emotion, and feminist thought and pedagogy,

Mary Friedline, presiding

## Papers

Joe Pettit, Morgan State University  
Conceptual Emotions and Emotional Concepts: Possible Neurobiological Foundations for the Insights of Classical Pragmatists

Gary Slater, University of Münster  
International Borders and Epistemic Responsibility: A Peircean Approach

Nathan Garcia, Marian University  
Openness to Experience: Charles S. Peirce's Abduction through the lens of The Five-Factor Model

Seulbin Lee  
Title: Freedom through Fostering Democratic Social Relations: Jane Addams's Faithful Feminist Pragmatist Pedagogy

Business Meeting  
Mary Friedline  
Xavier Pickett, Cornell University

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A23-302

**Hosted by:** Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit

Theme: Coded Beliefs: AI's Impact on Traditions, Moral Agency, and Workplaces

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

This session brings together scholars examining AI's disruptive and creative impact on religious traditions. This panel traverses multiple religious contexts—from AI astrology applications replacing traditional jyotiś practitioners to the role of religious scholars in developing AI moral awareness and agency. Papers explore the theological implications of AI companionship through feminist and mystical lenses, the possibility of constructing a virtuous AI moral agent, and emerging workplace conflicts when religious beliefs clash with technological imperatives. Together, these investigations reveal how AI technologies are not merely tools but active mediators reshaping religious authority, the meaning of moral agency, and spiritual practice. The panel invites critical reflection on what happens when ancient wisdom traditions encounter algorithmic reasoning, asking what religious communities stand to gain or lose as digital interfaces increasingly mediate their relationship with the sacred, and how religious perspectives might inform more ethical AI development.

Randall Reed, presiding

## Papers

Kush Depala, University of Heidelberg

"Computer Says No": Examining the intervention of GPTs on South Asian astrology

Min-Ah Cho, Georgetown University

Artificial Intelligence and Intimate Relationships: Emotional Capitalism, Feminist Critique, and Christian Mysticism

Mark Graves

Constructing an AI Moral Agent

Whittney Barth

Assessing New Frontiers for When AI Meets Religion in the Workplace

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A23-304

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Philosophy Unit

Theme: Defending metaphysics in Buddhist philosophy

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This panel proposes to discuss metaphysics as a legitimate category in Buddhist philosophy, *contra* the assumption that Buddhist anti-essentialism championing the absence of self (*śūnyatā*) implies the anti-metaphysical nature of Buddhist philosophical thought. All three papers defend a rich and diverse usage of metaphysics to account for texts from different times and regions of the history of Buddhist philosophy: Theravāda thought (Buddhaghosa), Indian Madhyamaka (Nāgārjuna), and Chinese Madhyamaka (Jizang). They also use “metaphysics” variously to describe anti-realism, to highlight an approach opposed to phenomenology or the double structure present in its historical development in Greek and European philosophies. Some papers will lean more heavily on meta-theoretical and methodological considerations regarding metaphysics, others will resort to historical forays in the history of metaphysics in the West to provide a transhistorical and transcultural reflection on metaphysics.

Amber Carpenter, presiding

## Papers

Amod Lele, Northeastern University

The metaphysical interpretation of Buddhaghosa: a defence

Ernest Brewster, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Mereological Anti-Realism in Sinitic Madhyamaka Buddhism

## Respondent

Amod Lele, Northeastern University

Ernest Brewster, Austrian Academy of Sciences

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A23-326

**Hosted by:** Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit

Theme: Dispossession, Display, and Repatriation - Caring for Sacred Objects in the Américas

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This panel investigates the ongoing legacies of colonial and imperial extraction in the Américas by examining the contested fates of sacred objects and the ethical, spiritual, and political demands for their return. Historically, colonialism and imperialism in the Américas were enacted through the theft of sacred objects; the legacies of dispossession are often reflected in their continued display and displacement. In this panel, three scholars present individual case studies from the Latina/o Américas to highlight the importance of relationships between religious groups and material religion and the disruption of these relationships when sacred objects are taken, stolen, (or otherwise acquired) from communities of origin. Together, these papers highlight the importance of “care” and “return” of sacred objects: Peruvian Catholics asserting the importance of cultural patrimony when three stolen paintings are discovered in Miami, Florida; the activist art of Glicéria Tupinambá in working to repatriate sacred objects housed in museums to her community in Brazil; and insight into ethical concerns and responsibilities related to processes of repatriating of sacred objects from collections housed at the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Ronald Bernier, Wentworth Institute of Technology, presiding

## Papers

Drake Konow, University of Texas, Austin

Quando o Manto fala e o que o Manto diz: Museum Encounters and Reclaiming the Sacred in the Work of Glicéria Tupinambá

Patrick Polk, University of California, Los Angeles

Stewarding the Sacred In and Out of Museums: Repatriation, Reciprocity, and Other Forms of Return

Rachael Diaz, University of Florida

The Ownership of God: The Question of Religious Artifacts and Where They Belong

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A23-303

**Hosted by:** Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit, Chinese Religions Unit and Japanese Religions Unit

Theme: East Asian Self-Cultivation Practices in Transnational and Diasporic Perspective

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This roundtable panel takes a transnational perspective to consider the potential utility of the East Asian concept of “self-cultivation” (a catch-all English translation of a group of related words, including 修養, 修身, and 修行) for religious studies and as a potential sub-discipline. Scholars of religion in China, Korea, Japan, and East Asian diasporas (in the U.S. and Europe) will present examples of how the category of self-cultivation appears in their varied research areas and works as a means to think about a range of practices that the academy often describes as “religious” or “spiritual” against the claims of practitioners themselves, who often distinguish their practices from religion. We will also reflect on the adequacy of the English phrase “self-cultivation” as an analytical or pedagogical framework, as it may reify a concept of “self” that obscures emic goals of overcoming an illusory selfhood or being overly self-centered.

Paride Stortini, Ghent University, presiding

### Panelist

Ester Bianchi  
Kin Cheung, Moravian University  
Clark Chilson, University of Pittsburgh  
Yeonhwa (Victoria) Jeon  
Andreas Niehaus, University of Ghent  
H. Sum Cheuk Shing  
Haewon Yang, Ewha Womans University

### Respondent

Stephen G. Covell  
Justin Stein

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A23-308

**Hosted by:** Class, Labor, and Religion Unit and Evangelical Studies Unit

Theme: Evangelicals and Labor

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This roundtable thinks with Ken Estey's *Labor Evangelicals: Faith, Authority, and Resistance at Work* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) as a springboard to broader consideration of evangelicals' engagement with work, unions, class, workplace power, and political power. The book studies theologically conservative working class evangelicals in the United States who resist the common preconception that they eagerly embrace deregulation, unfettered markets, and globalized capital. Through ethnographic methods, it shows how white and African American evangelicals think about labor in working-class communities in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Moncure, North Carolina.



James Dennis LoRusso, University of North Florida, presiding

## Panelist

Ken Estey, Brooklyn College

Myriam Renaud

Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University

Business Meeting

Kerry Danner

Jeremy Posadas, Stetson University

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A23-310

**Hosted by:** Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit

Theme: Fascist Genealogies and the "Beyond" of Reason

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This panel addresses the inheritances of fascism in the study of religion. Taking up discrete genealogical trajectories, each presenter attends to a concept of considerable political ambiguity, including the sacred, the dark enlightenment, esotericism, and the unconscious of history. Papers consider these concepts as they have appeared in--and in contemporary scholarship have been repurposed from--the works of Jacob Böhme, Martin Heidegger, Mircea Eliade, Carl Schmitt, and others.

Rebecca Potts, presiding

## Papers

Sergio Glajar, The University of Texas at Austin

Romanian Legionaries in Spain: Mircea Eliade on Christo-Fascist Martyrdom

C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University

The Dark Enlightenment, Theosophy, and the Future

Joshua Lupo, University of Notre Dame

A Genealogical Critique of the Turn to the Sacred

Matthew Peterson, University of Southern California

The Unconscious of History: Religion and Fascism between the World Wars and Today

## Respondent

William Underwood, Oberlin College & Conservatory

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A23-325

**Hosted by:** Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit

Theme: Feeling (More than) Free: Affective Resistance and Oppressive Systems

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

What are the constraints on efforts to strive for freedom? What are the possibilities of imagining what it is to be free, to feel free? And what is the felt cost of the struggle for freedom? This session explores the contours of feeling around freedom, particularly in response to oppressive systems. Moving beyond conventional understandings of freedom, morality, and the good, the participants consider the affects of longing and desire, harm and freedom, and post-Enlightenment subjectivity. Feeling "more than free" acknowledges an excess of feeling, the proliferation of "infinitely many" affective attachments that push/pull bodies through the world, and their repetition. Bodies are sites of conflicting, competing feelings that make, leave, and shape subjectivity in ways that do not always cohere. Affects are auto-telic; their purpose is fulfilled in their feeling. Thus, feeling (> than) free embraces the incoherent, inchoate ways that bodies fumble and strive toward imagined ideals of freedom.

Shea Watts, Union Presbyterian Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Lynette Moran

Harmed, Now Free: Queer and Traditional Emotional Responses to Disaffiliation and Change in the UMC

Elizabeth Chiarovano, Yale Divinity School

Justice-Oriented Anger As a Virtue: Expanding the Morally Good in Situations of Oppression

Nathan Snaza

What is Freedom beyond the Post-Enlightenment Subject?

Business Meeting  
Shea Watts, Union Presbyterian Seminary  
Marvin Wickware

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P23-303

**Hosted by:** La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars of Religion

Theme: Francisco: Ecumenical Reflections on the Legacy of the First Latin American Pope

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

Francis, the first Latin American pope, left an enduring legacy of socially engaged Catholic teaching covering all aspects of human experience from the climate crisis to human sexuality to just war theory. La Comunidad invites critical engagements of this legacy that illustrate how Francis's vision has informed and impacted Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Rodolfo Galvan Estrada III, Vanguard University, presiding

## Papers

Néstor Medina, University of Toronto

What Catholicism has to do with Ecumenism

Neomi De Anda, University of Dayton

Riding the Wave with Francisco? Inundar, Abundar y María

Ramon Luzarraga

Maintaining and Sustaining Comunidad at the Margins: Pope Francis' Latin American Context

Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Saint Louis University

Pope Francis, Liberation Theology, and Catholic Social Teaching

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A23-327

**Hosted by:** Religious Reflections on Friendship Seminar

Theme: Healing and Friendship Beyond Residential School Experiences: A Conversation with the Directors of Sugarcane

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

This roundtable discussion explores themes of friendship and kinship within *Sugarcane*, an Oscar-nominated documentary. The co-directors, Emily Kassie and Julian Brave NoiseCat, will speak to the role that friendship played in the formation of the film and highlight the centrality of relational themes expressed through the documentary. Such themes may include kinship with the land, the shared pursuit of truth, reconciliation and friendship between generations, and the intertwining of friendship and justice when it comes to relationships between peoples.

Panelists will share key insights from the documentary, and respond to the following question: What practices of friendship, personal and civic, can we nurture within our spheres of influence—whether as academics, activists, authors, faith leaders, journalists, or filmmakers—to support healing, provoke dialogue, promote justice, nurture friendship and solidarity, and contribute towards the multigenerational flourishing of Indigenous Peoples, and, in turn, the multigenerational flourishing of all?

Anne-Marie Ellithorpe, presiding

### **Panelist**

Julian Brave, NoiseCat  
Emily Kassie  
Christine Jamieson  
Laura Duhan-Kaplan  
Maria T. Davila, Merrimack College  
James W. Perkinson  
Brian Stiltner

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A23-316

**Hosted by:** Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit

Theme: Interactive Workshop

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

### **Interactive Workshop**

Based on the success of our previous workshops, we invite brief presentations (10 minutes) designed to stimulate substantive conversation on critical issues in Interreligious and Interfaith Studies and engagement.

We will address the following topics:

- Recent Publications in the Field
- Comparative Theologies in Encounter

- Interfaith on the Ground: Digital, Local and Cross-Cultural Practices
- Reimagining Religious Pluralism: Ethics, Literacy and Civil Responsibility
- Contexts of Care: Gender, Chaplaincy, and Leadership in Interreligious Life
- Theological Pathways Across Difference
- Building the Field of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies

Presentations unfold simultaneously at separate tables, with attendees selecting the conversations in which they would like to participate.

Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas, presiding

Feryal Salem, American Islamic College, presiding

Anne Hege Grung, University of Oslo, presiding

Benjamin Sax, presiding

Rachel A. Heath, Vanderbilt University, presiding

Kevin Minister, presiding

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Fordham University, presiding

Younus Mirza, presiding

## Papers

Dror Bondi

Abraham Joshua Heschel's Interreligious Approach as an Alternative to the Weaponization of Religious Freedom

Ryan Lemasters, University of Kansas

Covenantal Pluralism and a Revised Account of Religious Literacy

KAYLA NATHANIA THAYEB, Boston University

Fullness of Emptiness: Reading Philippians 2:7 through Zen

Kevin Wilson

Hide and Speak: A Qualitative Analysis of Interfaith Storytelling Among Christian Digital Creators on Instagram Using Fraser's Framework of Indirect Communication

Hee An Choi, Boston University

Interfaith Women Leaders' Wellbeing and Leadership

Karsten Thomsen, Southern Danish University

Naveed Baig, Theological Faculty, Oslo

Interfaith, generic, spiritual or...? What next for chaplaincy in Scandinavia?

Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas

Mapping Interreligious Studies: Locating the Field in the Academic Ecosystem

Aisha Subhan, Chicago Theological Seminary  
Mysticisms in Action Syllabus (Intended for Workshop)

Judith Pajo  
The Impact of Religious Pluralism on Interfaith Dialogue in Different Regions

Alex Gruber, Fordham University  
Alex Gruber, Fordham University  
From the Grounds Up: A Model for Contextually Attentive Decolonial Movements between Indigenous and Christian Communities

Anant Rambachan  
Anna Sun, Duke University  
Judith Simmer-Brown, Naropa University  
Our Shared Sacred Story: Exploring Interreligious Narratives, Challenges and Opportunities

Cory Gloeckner, John Carroll University  
Zeki Saritoprak  
The Role of the Holy Spirit in Religions: Comparing Islamic and Christian Views on Revelation

Elliott Jones  
Remedying the Malaise of Work: A Dialogue Between Abraham Joshua Heschel and Josef Pieper

Business Meeting  
Anne Hege Grung, University of Oslo

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A23-313

**Hosted by:** Hindu Philosophy Unit

Theme: Liberation as Sovereignty, Space, and Mindlessness (Emerging Scholars in Hindu Philosophy)

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This session highlights current doctoral research in Hindu philosophy. In accord with this year's AAR theme of "freedom," each of the three papers offers new insights into the different ways in which liberation (*mokṣa*) was understood in premodern South Asia. The first paper draws attention to the relatively understudied Pāśupata system, focusing on the early commentator Kauṇḍinya's understanding of liberation not just as freedom from suffering but as attainment of "sovereignty" (*aiśvarya*). Both of the other two papers focus on the *Mokṣopāya/Yogavāsiṣṭha*, offering a close reading of the story of Līlā, a queen who comes to learn that time and space are not as they appear. The first of these two papers explores the meaning of the term *cidākāśa*, or

“the space of consciousness,” while the other offers a novel interpretation of the term *manonāśa*, or the “destruction of the mind.”

Aleksandar Uskokov, Yale University, presiding

## Papers

Maire White, Stanford University

Liberation and Sovereignty: Reinterpreting Mokṣa in Kauṇḍinya’s Pāśupata Exegesis

Vivek Shah, University of Toronto

Līlā’s Adventures in the Pavillion: Freedom and the Space of Consciousness in the Mokṣopāya

Aamir Kaderbhai, Oxford University

Living without your Mind: The Mokṣopāya’s Vision of Liberation

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A23-309

**Hosted by:** Comparative Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Love of Neighbor in Dialogue Across Religions

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

This session explores the concept of "Love of Neighbor" as a fundamental ethical and spiritual principle across religious traditions. Through a comparative analysis, panelists will examine how this idea(l) is articulated in the sacred texts of their respective traditions and the specific practices that exemplify and embody it. Questions to be addressed include: Who is considered a "neighbor"? What obligations does this love entail? And what historical, cultural, and social contexts influence the interpretations and practices of this ideal.

David Schones, presiding

## Papers

Odeya Eshel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“Praise The Word”: A Comparative View on Jewish and Buddhist Exegetical Practices

Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College

Embodiments of Love of Neighbor in the Jewish Tradition

YanChen Liu

## Respondent

David Schones

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A23-321

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Love, Risk, and an Uncertain Future: Fannie Bialek's *Love in Time: An Ethical Inquiry*

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

In *Love in Time: An Ethical Inquiry* (University of Chicago Press, 2025), Fannie Bialek argues that love, for a finite being, is an experience of uncertainty. Central to the experience of love is the desire for more time with the beloved and for a future shaped by them, and thus a ceding of desire for control over that future. While many of the most influential conversations in Western philosophical and religious thought have tried to secure love against such uncertainty, Bialek argues that love is an experience of risk, oriented toward an uncertain future. The panel offers critical responses to Bialek's book, engaging her conception of love and uncertainty, and her contributions to philosophy of religion and ethics, with a response from the author.

Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Georgia State University, presiding

## Panelist

Martin Kavka, Florida State University

Amy M. Hollywood, Harvard University

Louis Ruprecht, Georgia State University

## Respondent

Fannie Bialek, Washington University in St. Louis

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A23-319

**Hosted by:** Motherhood and Religions Unit

Theme: Motherhood Encountered/in Times of Encounter: Religious Transmission, Preservation, and Adaptation

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)



How can motherhood and mothering serve as critical frameworks into histories and literatures of cross-religious and cross-cultural encounter? This roundtable will bring together four scholars whose work—literary and/or historical—centers around kinship and the body in the religious sphere. How do queer and feminist theories of maternity provide insight into moments of religious crisis, adaptation, and continuity? How have motherhood and mothering shaped patterns of religious transmission and rupture in contexts of encounter—from ancient Israel to the transatlantic Spanish Empire to the contemporary United States? Putting in conversation these distinct landscapes of encounter will shed light on notions of motherhood and mothering in relationship with transmission, religious preservation and adaptation, and the body. How does the site and role of the mother shape the production of religion at moments of upheaval and convergence?

Laura S. Levitt, Temple University, presiding  
Sucharita Sarkar, presiding

### **Panelist**

Sierra Lawson  
Aria Tsoulouhas, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Rachel Kaufman, UCLA  
Cara Rock-Singer

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A23-331

**Hosted by:** Study of Islam Unit

Theme: New doctoral work in Islamic studies

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

This session offers a rich opportunity to engage with up-and-coming scholarship in the field, by showcasing the research of several doctoral candidates. Each graduate student will present on their dissertation project for five minutes followed by short responses from other panelists, and then open discussion among panelists and audience members.

Kristian Petersen, presiding

### **Papers**

Khadeeja Majoka  
Faqiri: Subaltern Religion in the Neoliberal State of Islam

Faezeh Izadi, University of Calgary

Philanthropy, Faith, and the State: Theological, Jurisprudential, and Political Perspectives from the School of Hilla on Shia Charitable Practice

Sara Bolghiran, Leiden University

See(k)ing Beauty in Islam: Politics and Processes of Re-Enchantment in the Lowlands

Derya Dogan, Indiana University Bloomington

Teaching and Learning of Civics and Religion at An American Islamic School

Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Philosophy of Rububiyah (Divine Providence): A Theology for the Oppressed

Mohannad Abusarah

Islamic Intellectual History and Social Development in Late Ottoman Palestine

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A23-333

**Hosted by:** Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Unit

Theme: Palestine and/as Feminism

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

The question of Palestine has and continues to serve as the linchpin of ethics in our current time – something that was made ever more evident during the 2024 U.S. Presidential election. Building upon the work of feminist and queer scholars of color, this panel identifies how activism and organizing around Palestine is inextricably tied to feminism. Furthermore, the panel explores questions such as: What does it mean to organize as feminists of color around Palestine? What does organizing around Palestine say about what feminist of color value, teach, or how they survive? Finally, this panel also seeks to uncover the challenges around organizing for Palestine for feminists of color, including (but not limited to): forced censorship and the high costs of speaking up/against institutions of power.

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame, presiding

### **Panelist**

Marah Sarji

Mónica Rey, Boston University

Crystal Silva McCormick, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Shehnaz Haqqani

M23-203

**Hosted by:** Women's Caucus

Theme: Pentecostal Women's Agency and Freedom

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This AAR/SBL Women's Caucus International panel explores the intersections of women, gender, religion, and theology. Emphasis is placed on Pentecostal women's agency and "Freedom," as well as its entanglement with spirituality, challenging Western notions of freedom. Special emphasis will be on African Pentecostal women's voices.

Deborah Fulthorp, Grand Canyon University, presiding

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A23-328

**Hosted by:** Scriptural Reasoning Unit

Theme: Prophecy and Adoption

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Religious discourse on adoption in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam often draws on the prophetic texts of these respective traditions to talk about the ethical calls to care for orphans, metaphors of divine adoption and the prophetic capacities and callings of adopted children in these traditions. With increased attention to adoption's traumatic dimensions and the risks of cultural erasure, a close examination of the significance and place of adoption in religious practice is warranted.

Essam Fahim, presiding

## Papers

William Young

Prophecy and Adoption

Jeta Luboteni, Boston University

Orphans and Adoption in the Quran: An Ethical Revolution

Marilyn Piety

The Dark Side of "Adoption"

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A23-318

**Hosted by:** Jewish Studies Unit

Theme: Race, Identity, and Land

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

This panel brings together scholarship focused on the relationships between people and places, and the way places shape both individual and group identities. The first paper broadens discussions of Jewish indigeneity by bringing the Textual Reasoning approach to Jewish thought into dialogue with particular strands of Native American thought about the nature and role of land, place, and the more-than-human relatives of human beings.

The second paper uses James Baldwin's little-known letters from his trip to Israel to weave together reflections on Black American and Jewish experiences of political exclusion, taking scenes from his travels as points of departure for thinking about diaspora, homeland, and political liberation.

The third paper focuses on the way different 19th-century Europeans used the term "White Falasha" to reveal how religious identity was used as a tool of theological manipulation, challenging reductionist views of conversion and highlighting the intersection of race, authority, and religious persuasion.

Sam Shuman, University of Virginia, presiding

## Papers

Samuel Brody, University of Kansas

The Tribe, the Text, and the Land: Judaism, Pragmatism, and Native American Thought

Lucy Onderwyzer Gold, Brown University

"An extremely valuable journey": James Baldwin's Letters from Israel

Joanna Martin, Indiana University Bloomington

Mirrors and Magnets: The Leveraging of "White Falasha" in the Construction of Religious Identity

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A23-301

**Hosted by:** Applied Religious Studies Committee

Theme: Religion in Place: Local Knowledge and Practice in Applied Religious Studies

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

In cities, suburbs, and rural areas throughout the United States, scholar/practitioners in applied religious studies are working to build more just and inclusive communities for people of all religions and none. Based at both universities and nonprofit organizations – and working closely with diverse community partners – these scholar/practitioners facilitate interfaith dialogue, build faith-based social justice coalitions, conduct community-based research, enhance the public understanding of religion, and create space for new voices in the public sphere. Their work is necessarily grounded in what the anthropologist Clifford Geertz has described as “local knowledge” – in an intimate, personal engagement with the everyday lives and concerns of one’s diverse neighbors – and can therefore help us reimagine religious studies as a community-based, civically-engaged academic field. This panel discussion will bring together scholar/practitioners working in a range of distinctive communities, for an open conversation about local knowledge, place-based practice, and the future of academic religious studies.

Tiffany Puett, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, presiding

### Panelist

Henry Goldschmidt

Laura McTighe, Florida State University

Lucas Schulte

Elinor Julia Pierce, Harvard University

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A23-314

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: Roundtable Book Panel on "Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery and the Making of American Christianity" by William Yoo (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2025)

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

The Latina/o Religion, Culture and Society unit and the History of Christianity units invite scholars to explore the theme of Freedom by engaging William Yoo’s *Reckoning with History* through the lenses of history, theology, and social justice. Panelists should discuss how the legacies of settler colonialism and slavery have shaped—and continue to shape—religious thought, practices, and institutions, particularly within the context of American Christianity. This session calls for critical engagement with the paradoxes of freedom in religious and national narratives.

We encourage panelists to address the following questions: How did Christian theology support systems of oppression such as land dispossession and enslavement while proclaiming a gospel

that is inherently liberative? How did Indigenous, Black, or Latine Christians resist and reimagine freedom within these oppressive systems? What can contemporary communities, especially those struggling for dignity, learn from this history as they grapple with ongoing inequities in church and society?

Ángel J. Gallardo, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, presiding

### **Panelist**

Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University  
Felipe Hinojosa, Texas A&M University, College Station  
Helen Jin Kim, Emory University  
Daniel Ramirez

### **Respondent**

William Yoo

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A23-312

**Hosted by:** Hagiology Seminar

Theme: Saints and (Alternative) Embodiment

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

The embodied aspects and bodily dynamics of extraordinary individuals (saints, sages, heroes, etc.) are well known and vary widely across traditions. Saints have been regularly studied for the ways that their (cultivated and represented) bodies perfect, unsettle, transgress, and critique human norms. This panel extends these reliable questions about saintly embodiment beyond the realm of the human. How do they exist in bodies that are decidedly not human or adjacent to the human realm (animal, spiritual, technological, spatial, etc.). In other words, in what ways are saintly figures embedded in systems of nonhuman life (and with what effect in their hagiographical media)? In what ways have saintly bodies transcended or exited the realm of the human through their own supernatural powers or others' technological adaptations? To what extent and in what ways do these theoretical discussions advance the work of comparative and cross-cultural analysis of such extraordinary individuals?

Jon Keune, Michigan State University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Jingyu Liu, Rollins College  
James Padilioni

Hector Varela Rios, Villanova University  
R. Brian Siebeking, Gonzaga University  
Claire Kennedy

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A23-315

**Hosted by:** Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit

Theme: Silk Routes: Material Cultural Encounters

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This panel examines key religio-cultural expressions of Buddhism on the Silk Road in history, highlighting material religion and its relationship to pre-modern India. Addressing the locations of Kucha, Datong and Dunhuang, the papers explore cultural encounters on the Silk Routes through the topics of sexuality and monastic identities, cosmology, burial practices and meditation. Together, the papers consider how cultural practices from Northern India (e.g. Kashmir, Kashgar, Gandhāra) were exchanged on the Silk Routes, from Kumārajīva's translations to the transmission of Sarvāstivāda cave meditation techniques. Linking material culture and beliefs, embodiment and textuality, the papers combine new research findings for discussion.

Nobuyoshi Yamabe, presiding

## Papers

Mariko Namba Walter, ACANSRS

Tocharian Buddhism, Kumārajīva, and the Lotus Sūtra: Pre-eminent "depraved" monk (破戒僧) from Kucha and Married monks in Central Asia

Lidu Joy Yi, Florida State University

Seeing Buddhas in the Afterlife: A Case Study of the Xing Hejiang Tomb

Zhiru Ng, Pomona College

Visualizing the Intermediary Existence (Antarābhava) in Dunhuang Cave Art and Texts (Kṣitigarbha and the Ten Kings Revisited)

Karen O'Brien-Kop, King's College London

Filling in the Blanks: The Syntax and Semiotics of Meditation in the Qizil Yoga Manual

Zsuzsanna Gulacsi

The co-emergence of end-of-life rites in Buddhist and Manichaean art along the Silk Roads

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P23-302

**Hosted by:** Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts

Theme: Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts: General Session

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

This session will feature papers and discussion on a range of issues relating to the study of iconic texts, material scriptures, and the social contexts of holy books and writings.

David Dault, presiding

## Papers

Rachel Fell McDermott

“Stripping, Shaming, Substituting, Solemnizing: How to Live with a National Poet”

Casey A'Hearn

Heritage is Choice: When Latter Day Saints Construct the Lamanite

Jack Brownfield

The Pastoral-Performative Function of Scripture in Jerome's Consolation Letters

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A23-317

**Hosted by:** Islam, Gender, Women Unit

Theme: Teaching Specific Readings on Women and Gender in Islamic Studies in the Undergraduate Classroom

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

This session brings together presentations on specific readings on women and gender in the Islamic studies classroom. Presenters explain how they use a particular reading, in what kind of courses, and how they engage students in discussion of the assigned materials. The specific readings range from a lecture by Malak Hifni Nasif to contemporary scholarly writings by Aysha Hidayatullah, Zahra Ayubi, and Yasmin Nurgat, some which in turn engage with premodern primary texts. Presenters will discuss pedagogical strategies and participate in further conversation on readings in the undergraduate classroom, gender in Islamic studies, and feminist pedagogy.



Esra Tunc, San Diego State University, presiding

## Papers

Rebecca Makas, Villanova University

From "Just Add Women and Stir" to Engaged Study of Gender: Teaching Zahra Ayubi's "DeUniversalizing Male Normativity"

Carolyn Baugh, Gannon University

Gender Construction in Malak Hifni Nasif's "Comparing Egyptian and Western Women"

Roshan Iqbal, Agnes Scott College

Reading Ibn Taymiyya's Ruling on Menstruation in the Undergraduate Classroom

Kate Kelly Middleton, Catholic University of America

Reading Side-by-Side: Women Centering Doubt in Muslim-Christian Scriptural Reading

Business Meeting

Juliane Hammer, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

Roshan Iqbal, Agnes Scott College

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A23-336

**Hosted by:** Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit and Religion and Memory Unit

Theme: The Afterlives of Jewish Memory

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

Examines how memories of the Jewish dead have been preserved via texts, plaques, burials, and artificial intelligence (AI) as well as the impacts of these memory practices. Panelists consider the literary afterlives of Rabbi Amnon of Mainz; synagogue yahrzeit plaques as material memory and communal concern; American Jews' use of burials to control Jews involved in the sex trade, and sex workers' subsequent rebellion against that control; and AI technologies of memory and figures of holocaust representation. Co-sponsored by the Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit and the Religion and Memory Unit.

Jodi Eichler-Levine, presiding

## Papers

Emilie Amar-Zifkin, McGill University

Faithful Retellings: The Literary Afterlives of Rabbi Amnon of Mainz

Ranana Dine, University of Chicago  
Jewish Memorial Wallpaper: Synagogue Yahrzeit Plaques as Material Memory and Communal Concern

Laura Leibman, Princeton University  
Necropolitics and Memory in New York's Jewish Sex-Workers' Cemeteries

Celia Stern, Brown University  
Talking with the Dead?: Technologies of Memory and Figures of Holocaust Representation

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P23-301

**Hosted by:** Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion  
**Theme:** The Classroom as a Site of Healing: Pedagogies of Care and Justice  
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Great Republic (Seventh Floor)

Healing is not just a therapeutic aim—it is a pedagogical imperative. In a world shaped by systemic harm, oppression, and crisis, educators must create learning spaces that acknowledge students' full selves—their identities, histories, and lived experiences. Traditional educational models have too often ignored the ways trauma, racism, sexism, and class divisions shape students' engagement, confidence, and sense of belonging. Yet, these forces also affect educators, who face their own emotional, intellectual, and institutional challenges in teaching? How do we foster meaningful learning when students arrive in distress? How do we, as educators, sustain ourselves while holding space for students' realities? This panel explores the tensions and possibilities of teaching in ways that prioritize healing, care, and transformation. Panelists will share concrete strategies for designing classrooms that cultivate agency, curiosity, and intellectual growth—spaces that recognize harm but do not center it. Join us for a conversation about how education can be a practice of healing for both students and educators.

Moderator

- Adam Bond, Baylor University

Panelists:

- Heath Carter, Princeton Theological Seminary
- Stephanie Crumpton, McCormick Theological Seminary
- Michael Hogue, Meadville Lombard Theological School
- Kenneth Ngwa, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
- Shana Sippy, Centre College

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A23-332

**Hosted by:** Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Unit

Theme: Theologizing Comics and Graphic Novels with Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

This panel discusses the ways in which Martin Luther King, Jr. shows up in graphic novels and comics. It aims to theologize comics via the lens of a Kingian positionalality. As an example of this work, by focusing on the 1957 graphic novel, *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*, participants explore the publication as a vital piece of "popular" culture that helped democratize the lessons of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the longue duree of the Civil Rights Movement within the broader context of U.S. history. Further, when David C. Walker, Chuck Brown, and Sanford Greene dropped *Bitter Root* into the world, they broke open new possibilities for investigating theological meaning-making with comics and graphic novels. By centering on a Black family in the United States who move through space-time and engage in rootwork, *Bitter Root* raises important questions about the possibility or impossibility of nonviolent resistance.

Aaron Grizzell, presiding

### Panelist

Juan Floyd-Thomas

Montague Williams

Sakena Young-Scaggs, Stanford University

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A23-320

**Hosted by:** North American Religions Unit

Theme: US Religion, Gender, and Sexuality: Emerging Spectrum of Theological Perspectives and Healthcare Practices

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

The United States is facing pressing issues of healthcare and its intersection with gender and sexuality. These papers consider contemporary Catholic and Orthodox Jewish views of reproductive rights and gender-affirming care. They utilize different methods to understand the intersection of theological stances and personal experience, arguing collectively that binary choices, as these issues are commonly framed politically, do not encapsulate the spectrum of theological perspectives and healthcare practices. The papers call for a critical analysis of these

emerging views and practices in light of the political climate around religion, gender, and sexuality.

Adrienne Krone, presiding

## Papers

Terry Hawley Reeder, College of Wooster

Resurrecting a Catholic and Comparative Case for Reproductive Freedom

Kori Pacyniak, University of California, Riverside

The Catholic Imperative for Trans Affirming Healthcare

Tyson Herberger, University of Southeastern Norway

Tyson Herberger, University of Southeastern Norway

Developing Orthodox Jewish Viewpoints of Abortion in a post-Roe World: An Examination of Shifting Rabbinic Engagement

## Respondent

Samira Mehta

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P23-300

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Theme: Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Columbus I and II (First Floor)

SSCS Board of Directors Meeting

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M23-300

**Hosted by:** TUTKU EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

Theme: "Paul's Cilician Journeys: Routes and Roads around Tarsus" Dr. Mark Wilson and Dr. Glen Thompson

Sunday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

““Paul’s Cilician Journeys: Routes and Roads around Tarsus”

Dr. Mark Wilson and Dr. Glen Thompson

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A23-335/S23-346

**Hosted by:** AAR's Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Unit and SBL's Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section, The Bible and Animal Studies Section

Theme: Theoretically Animals

Sunday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

Co-sponsored session with The Bible and Animal Studies (SBL), Reading Theory and the Bible (SBL) and Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Contexts (AAR) which will explore animal studies and/in the Bible but with a particular focus on theory. This panel will engage with Animals and/in Sacred Texts, via strong engagement with sharply informed critical theory—including but also going beyond Agamben, Calarco, Derrida, Haraway, and others—in an effort to address "what is 'the Animal'?"

Sébastien Doane, Université Laval, presiding

## Papers

Ken Stone, Chicago Theological Seminary

Reading the Bible’s Animals as a Foucauldian Spiritual Exercise

Yvonne Sherwood, University of Oslo

The Sacrifice of the Animal: Altar and Laboratory

Hongzhen Lu, The School of Philosophy and Social Development (SOPASD) of Shandong University

Numbers 22:22-33 reread through the lens of entangled empathy

Launa Steward, Meredith College

Entangling the Matters of God, a Prophet, and a She-Ass: Sketching a New Materialist Hermeneutic in Numbers 22:21-35

Travis Proctor

Jesus the Serpent, Theoretically: Animality, Desire, and Jesus in the Epistle of Barnabas

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A23-433

**Hosted by:** Scriptural Reasoning Unit

Theme: "Debt and Freedom" Scriptural Reasoning Session

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, MIT (Third Floor)

Scriptural Reasoning session on the topic of "Debt and Freedom" featuring texts from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and the Qur'an. The time of study will be followed by paper examining the Scripture, Interpretation, and Practice (SIP) graduate program at the University of Virginia, conceptualizing it as a mode of intellectual formation. Determining how to characterize SIP's distinctiveness across multiple projects is part of the paper's analytic task.

Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Hamline University, presiding

## Papers

Daniel Weiss

Leviticus 25:8-19

Nicholas Adams, University of Birmingham

Luke 16:1-16

Mubashir Abbasi

Qur'an 2:274–281, Surah al-Baqarah

Essam Fahim

SIP as Intellectual Formation: A Comparative Perspective

Business Meeting

Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Hamline University

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A23-429

**Hosted by:** Religion and Science Fiction Unit

Theme: (Re)Imagining Religion through New and Old Ways to Tell a Good Story

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This session provokes new ways of thinking about religion through papers that extend the meaning of both religion and "speculative fiction." Jonathan Campoverde considers how *Dungeon Crawler Carl*, a Literary Role-Playing Game ("LitRPG") novel, pulls readers into the

game world of a post-Apocalyptic survivor and his cat companion. Enduring cycles of creation, destruction, and renewal, protagonists play through layers of the game to win their freedom and restore the Earth. Rohan Hassan discusses how Hindu mythology is recast in the Indian science fiction film *Kalki 2898 AD*. By tying the film to the contemporary economy of religion in India, Hassan offers it as a material apparatus for gestating and promoting religious discourses. Emily Fitzgerald argues that the Buddhist *Vimalakirti Sutra* is a form of speculative fiction. Through world-building and narrative devices this ancient text conforms to modern speculative fiction's ability to expand our thinking about embodiment, truth, and religious experience.

Harrison Hall, Harvard University, presiding

## Papers

Jonathan Campoverde

You Will Not Break Me: Liberation and Oppression in Matt Dinniman's *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series

ROHAN HASSAN, ALIAH UNIVERSITY

Religion and science fiction in contemporary India: A study of entanglements and materiality of religion in Indian Science Fictional film, *Kalki 2898* (2024)

Emily FitzGerald

Fragrant Imagination: The *Vimalakirti Sutra* as Speculative Fiction

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A23-402

**Hosted by:** Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit

Theme: AI Experiments: Balancing Innovation, Bias, and Agency in AI-Driven Religious Studies

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

This panel investigates how artificial intelligence (AI) transforms religious scholarship and practice through collaborative human-machine engagement. Centering ethical and methodological challenges, the papers collectively explore how AI tools—from retrieval-augmented generation to reasoning models—mediate issues of representation, interpretation, and agency in religious contexts. Key themes include the necessity of human oversight in mitigating AI biases, particularly in amplifying marginalized voices (e.g., women in religious history, womanist visual culture) and preserving theological nuance in cross-cultural translation. While AI offers novel possibilities—generating content, simulating historical figures, or enhancing interpretive frameworks—the research underscores questions of transparency,

cultural sensitivity, and ethical responsibility permeate discussions. Together, the panel highlights AI's potential to expand religious inquiry while advocating for frameworks that prioritize equity, accountability, and interdisciplinary collaboration, balancing technological innovation with critical humanistic reflection.

Theodore Vial, Iliff School of Theology, presiding

## Papers

Clifford Anderson, Yale University

Generating Stub Articles about Women in Religion: An Experiment in Retrieval Augmented Generation and Fine-Tuning LLMs

Randall Reed

The Thoughts of AI

Rouying Tang

The Role of Human Agency in AI-Assisted Classical Chinese Translation: A Case Study of the Pumenpin

Shonda Nicole Gladden, Indiana University, Indianapolis

Theo-Moral Imagination in the Digital Age: AI, Womanist Visual Culture, and the Pursuit of Freedom

Business Meeting

Tracy J. Trothen, Queen's University

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A23-430

**Hosted by:** Religion in Premodern Europe and the Mediterranean Unit

Theme: Alphabets, Manuscripts and Early Print: Sites of Fluid Religion around the Premodern Mediterranean

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

In the case studies presented in this session, intersections between politics, identity, and different religious cultures are explored through close studies of books and letters, seen as sites of fluid religion. The first paper examines a powerful confluence of religion and politics in the iconography of a frontispiece inspired by Saint Gregory of Nazianzen's *Third Discourse on Peace* in a twelfth-century Greek manuscript. The second looks at the ways letters are invested with cosmic power in late medieval Jewish Kabbalah and the Sufi tradition in Islam, illuminating the role of inter-religious dialogue in the development of letter mysticism in both traditions.



The third looks at 16th-century Jewish-Italian humanist Gershom (Hieronymus) Soncino whose print shop produced an array of materials so diverse it caused some people to question his Jewish identity. These papers show religious traditions converging with each other, with politics, with humanism, and with issues of religious identity.

Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger, Gordon College, presiding

## Papers

Karin Krause

Ideas of Peace in an Illuminated Manuscript from Byzantium

Ryan Olson, Bard Graduate Center

Cosmological Echoes: A Comparison of Mystical Alphabets in al-Andalus

Ishai Mishory, San Diego State University

Marrano with Inky Hands: The Limits of Identity in Early Modern Jewish Bibliography

Business Meeting

Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

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A23-401

**Hosted by:** Anglican Studies Seminar

Theme: Anglican Studies Seminar -- Session 2

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

Session 2 of the Anglican Studies Seminar is an introduction to new books in Anglican Studies and a Business Meeting. the following authors and books will be featured:

Michael Battle and Thandi Gamedze, *Conversations in Global Anglican Theology* (Series), Vol 1 (Seabury, 2024)

Charlie Bell, *Unity: Anglicanism's Impossible Dream?* (SCM, 2024)

Robert MacSwain, *Essays Anglican and Analytic: Explorations in Critical Catholicism* (Eerdmans, 2025)

Jesse A. Zink, *Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World* (Church Publishing, 2024)

The books presentation will be followed by a Business Meeting to discuss year five of the seminar and future leadership.

Thandi Gamedze, presiding  
Business Meeting  
Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Claremont School of Theology

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A23-404

**Hosted by:** Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit  
Theme: Augustine the African: A Roundtable Discussion  
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

The influence of Augustine's works on Christian theology and Western philosophy is foundational - and yet, his North African and Berber identity have been largely neglected. Catherine Conybeare's new book, *Augustine the African*, explores precisely the ways in which "his groundbreaking works emerge from an exile's perspective within an African context. In its depiction of this Christian saint, *Augustine the African* upends conventional wisdom and traces core ideas of Christian thought to their origins on the African continent." This roundtable will feature responses to this work from several disciplinary perspectives.

Michael Lamb, Wake Forest University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Willemien Otten  
Gregory Lee, Wheaton College, Illinois  
Jacob K. Olupona, Harvard University  
Alden Bass, Lipscomb University  
Catherine Conybeare

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A23-435

**Hosted by:** Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit  
Theme: Combahee River Collective: Pedagogies for the Present  
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

It has been just over fifty years since the Combahee River Collective formed in Boston and began work that would become foundational to the development of Black Feminism in the United States. This session offers a discussion that honors and critically engages the legacy of

the Collective in terms of its influence on pedagogy. Speakers connect this legacy to pedagogical practices that have been useful for navigating classroom crises around race, to methods for building transformational and coalitional learning across identities, and to the development of pedagogies that empower students to take informed democratic action in service of sexual health and sexual justice. Together, these three presentations present a set of new pedagogical developments in the tradition of the Collective that are designed meet today's political and educational climate.

Peter Capretto, Phillips Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Chanequa Walker-Barnes, Columbia Theological Seminary

A Place to Call My Own: Combahee Wisdom for the Womanist Theological Classroom

Kimberly George, Columbia University

The Combahee River Collective Statement , Coalitionary Politics, and White Male Feminism

Jon Kara Shields

More Than Words: Co-creating Engagement with Sexual Justice

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A23-409

**Hosted by:** Constructive Muslim Thought and Engaged Scholarship Seminar

Theme: Envisioning the Future of Constructive Muslim Work

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

For the fifth and final year of the Constructive Muslim Thought and Engaged Scholarship Seminar, this roundtable session invites voices from across this burgeoning field to weight in on what the future of constructive Muslim scholarship might look like. The task at hand is one of envisioning. Drawing upon their respective areas of expertise as well as experiences in community and the Academy, each discussant has been asked to respond to the following prompts in order to foster a broader conversation with seminar attendees: Taking into account what has come before and what is unfolding presently, where do you believe constructive Muslim work ought to go and grown next? What questions or challenges still need answering? What do we need to develop? What needs overcoming or transforming? What might this field look like in ten or twenty years?

Sam Houston, Stetson University, presiding

## Panelist

Celene Ibrahim, Harvard University  
Youssef Carter, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill  
Sara Bolghiran, Leiden University  
Martin Nguyen, Fairfield University  
Farah El-Sharif

## Respondent

Yousef Casewit  
Business Meeting  
Martin Nguyen, Fairfield University  
Sarrah Tlili, University of Florida

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A23-419

**Hosted by:** Mahabharata and Classical Hinduism Seminar

Theme: Ethics in War and the Classroom: Warrior Women, American Students, and the Mahābhārata

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

Julie Rocton's paper examines the hypotheses of the French anthropologist Alain Testart regarding women and martial practices through an episode of the *Mahābhārata*, the two-generation narrative of Ambā and Śikhaṇḍinī. Iva Patel's paper discusses how she teaches undergraduate students in a course on the *Mahābhārata*, aiding them in examining complex situations in life with consideration for ethical dilemmas and problem-solving, so that the narratives, especially those about "underdogs", connect with their own experiences.

Bruce M. Sullivan, Northern Arizona University, presiding

## Papers

Julie Rocton, TDMAM

Testing Alain Testart's Hypotheses About Female Martiality through the Analysis of the Episode of Ambā-Śikhaṇḍinī-Śikhaṇḍin in Vyāsa's Mahābhārata.

Iva Patel, Augsburg University

Ethics in Chaotic Times: Teaching the Mahābhārata at the Intersection of Social Upheaval and Personal Stakes in an Urban University Classroom

## Author

Julie Rocton, TDMAM  
Iva Patel, Augsburg University

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M23-401

**Hosted by:** Society for the Study of Christian Universalism

Theme: Explorations in Christian Universalism

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Helicon (Seventh Floor)

Robin Parry, Wipf&Stock, presiding

## Papers

Tom Greggs

Universalism: Dogma or Personalist Hope

Lee Barrett, Lancaster Theological Seminary

Three Views of Christian Universalism

Thomas Talbott, Willamette University

Divine Election's Unconditional Nature and Universal Application

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A23-416

**Hosted by:** Hagiology Seminar

Theme: Fictional Saints

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

Media that represent extraordinary individuals (saints, sages, heroes, etc.) are well known for their interplay between “historical” and “fictional” elements—a polarity that has been justly interrogated in contemporary theory. This roundtable takes up the status of fiction as a cross-cultural dimension of hagiography, in three respects: (1) The textures and functions of fictional artistry in conventional hagiography or the “historical” force of even “ahistorical” saintly representations; (2) The role of saintly figures appearing in fictionalized representations of historical religions; (3) Saintly figures and functions in speculative fictional worlds, which may enact saintly dynamics or upend saintly dynamics. Contributions will explore resonances and

dissonances between such wide-ranging sources as medieval Christian saints' *Lives*, medieval Sufi poetry, contemporary Iranian filmmaking, literary reimaginings of the Wandering Jew legendarium, the "hagiographic form" in European and American Modernist literature, and saintly figures and functions appearing in the sci-fantasy strategy wargame Warhammer 40,000.

Aaron Hollander, presiding

## Panelist

Rachel Smith

Stephanie Yep, Appalachian State University

Joel Swanson, Sarah Lawrence College

Erik Eklund, University of Nottingham

William Sherman, University of North Carolina At Charlotte

Chris Porter

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A23-432

**Hosted by:** Religious Reflections on Friendship Seminar

Theme: Friendship, Frenemies, and Freedom: Lessons from the Lotus, Liberatory Politics, Leadership Legacies, & Public Dimensions of Interreligious Friendship

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

Presenters within this session explore relational themes from diverse religious and interreligious perspectives. John M. Thompson *challenges contemporary perspectives on friendship*, as he discusses the relationship between the Buddha and his archnemesis Devadatta, depicted in the *Lotus Sutra*, and poses the possibility that a frenemy could turn out to be the best friend we could ask for. Regardless of specific religious commitments, Charles Guth III helps scholars resist apolitical conceptions of friendship as he connects spirituality and social justice, thus integrating mystical and political dimensions of friendship with the Divine. Soren Hessler examines the friendship between Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, a founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement, and Howard Thurman, Christian mystic and social reformer. Interreligious friendships emerge as central to their leadership styles and legacies. Finally, Julie Siddiqi and Lindsay Simmonds—a Muslim interfaith activist and an orthodox Jewish academic—explore questions about the *public significance of a private friendship* during times of polarization and conflict.

Molly Gower, presiding

## Papers

Soren Hessler

Intergenerational Interreligious Friendships: Leadership Legacies of Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Howard Thurman

Charles Guth, Princeton Theological Seminary

Liberatory Politics and Friendship with God

John M. Thompson

“Say Hello to my Little Frenemy!” – Devadatta in the Lotus

Julie Siddiqi, The British Muslim Network

Lindsay Simmonds

“Facing Outward and Inward: What is the work of Jewish and Muslim friends in navigating their own faith communities in the UK, whilst the ongoing conflict in the Israel-Palestine region continues to impact on diaspora communities?”

Business Meeting

Anne-Marie Ellithorpe

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A23-426

**Hosted by:** Publicly Engaged Scholarship in the Study of Religion Seminar

Theme: From local economies to communal sovereignty: Toward an emancipated future – A dialogue with organizers and scholars on Muslim-led initiatives to build alternative economic ecosystems

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This roundtable brings together community organizers with scholars to explore American Muslim initiatives rooted in Black histories and that echo what Malcolm X referred to as “the economic philosophy of Black Nationalism,” namely epistemologies of economic self-sustainability. The session addresses the work of organizations in Midwestern urban centers doing trailblazing work in local economic development and building alternative economic ecosystems, thereby challenging the extractive and exclusionary economic structures that govern our social world. The discussion will revolve around four key areas:

1. The connections between these different initiatives, and the kind of philosophy that their work expresses in practice.
2. The relationship between this economic work and questions of communal sovereignty.
3. The role of Islam and political theology in this work, and balancing particularity and rootedness with solidarity and inclusivity.

4. The potential of mutual exchange and interaction between scholars in academia and those doing work “on the ground.”

Zaid Adhami, presiding

## Panelist

Esra Tunc, San Diego State University

Ismail Samad

Ahmad Jitan

Alisa Perkins, Western Michigan University

Business Meeting

Rebecca Bartel

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A23-417

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit

Theme: Hinduism in the Anthropocene

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

In recent decades, the Anthropocene—the proposed geological epoch defined by the rise of the “human” as a geophysical agent capable of causing large scale shifts in climate patterns—has emerged as a frontier for humans, non-humans, and the humanities. How might the study of Hinduism contribute to ongoing debates about the Anthropocene? Can thinking from the edges of the Anthropocene—polluted rivers, oceans and oil spills, drought-prone deserts—and rethinking mythological tales of collective death and transformation provide new ways of understanding Hindu concepts and communities in a world shaped by climate crises, conspiracy theories, extraction, and development? This panel offers ethnographic analyses of Hindu communities’ relationships with and responses to climate crises and conservation efforts in Nepal, Guyana, and New York, anthropological engagement with the emergence of conspiracy theories about climate change in India, and textual explorations of extinction, collective death, and epochal consciousness in the *Upanishads* and the *Mahābhārata*.

Shana Sippy, Centre College, presiding

## Papers

Patton Burchett, College of William and Mary

Water, Faith, Climate Change, and Development at Nepal's Chār Dhām

Gaurika Mehta, Santa Clara University



Karma, Kaliyuga, and the Anthropocene: Thinking with the Indo-Caribbean Madrasī Diasporas of Guyana and New York

David E. Silverberg, Columbia University

Ecologies of Blame: Religion, Commerce, Conspiracy, and the Climate Crisis

Vijaya Nagarajan

Yama, Sāvitri, Bhūdevi and the Possibilities of Collective Death

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A23-411

**Hosted by:** Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop and Religion Unit and Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: In the Time of Sky-Rhyming: How Hip Hop Resonated in Brown Los Angeles. Author Meets Respondents Session

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

*In the Time of Sky-Rhyming: How Hip Hop Resonated in Brown Los Angeles* (Oxford University Press 2024), by Jonathan Calvillo, traces Hip Hop's reception and adaptation within the Latine communities of Los Angeles in the 1980s. "The Time of Sky-Rhyming," the book contends, represents a critical moment in which notions of Hip Hop authenticity became codified and eventually held up as pure, as regional and ethnic adaptations of NYC Hip Hop emerged in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Resonating with the emergence of Pentecostalism in Los Angeles, the early Los Angeles Hip Hop scene was shaped by Black American movements, afrodiasporic practices, and multiracial innovations, including from Latinos. Moreover, brown creatives were active in establishing key spaces of Hip Hop resonance in Los Angeles. Religion and spirituality, it turns out, were constant influences in the lives of brown creatives present in the burgeoning West Coast scene.

Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano, Vanderbilt Divinity School, presiding

### Panelist

Daniel White Hodge, North Park University

Jon Gill, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Dara Delgado, Allegheny College

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, Kalamazoo College

### Respondent

Jonathan Calvillo

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A23-422

**Hosted by:** Middle Eastern Christianity Unit

Theme: Liberation, Liturgy, and Space in Middle Eastern Christianity

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This session explores the intersections of liturgy, religious space, and liberation in Middle Eastern Christian communities, both in their homelands and in the diaspora. The four papers speak to the diversity of Middle Eastern Christianity across time and place: examining Ephrem the Syrian's reimagining of space and salvation in the context of the 4th century siege of Nisibis; exploring how Egyptian Christians mythologized the inundation through ritual, literature, and devotion; considering how the Coptic Eucharistic liturgy becomes a transformative tool for liberation in a social and theological context; and illuminating how traditional Coptic architectural aesthetics are reinterpreted and reimagined in a contemporary American context.

Reyhan Durmaz, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

## Papers

Marzie Naderi

Imprisoned Within, Liberated Beyond: Ephrem the Syrian's Reimagining of Space and Salvation

Jonah Bissell

Michael Patron of the Inundation: Ecology & Liturgy in Pre-Modern Egypt

Riad Ghobrial, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies

'You Are He Who Unbinds the Chained': A Liberationist Analysis of the Coptic Orthodox Eucharistic Liturgy

Mena Basta

Illuminating Diaspora: Architectural and Artistic Expressions in Fanousian Coptic Churches in America

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A23-420

**Hosted by:** Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit and Religion in Europe Unit

Theme: Love, Violence, and Insurrection: Lutheran Thoughts at the 500th anniversary of the Peasants' War

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

The three papers in this panel work together to discuss and analyze the historical events surrounding the Peasant's War and the complex and nuanced response of Martin Luther. All three consider how Luther's theology can promote theologically grounded peace and oppose violence in a variety of contexts today.

John McCormack, Aurora University, presiding

## Papers

Tapio Leinonen, University of Helsinki  
Promoting Peace, Protecting the Innocent, and Punishing the Wicked. Luther's Responses to Peasants' Revolt.

Lauren Larkin, University of Aberdeen  
It's Not Rebellion; It's Counter-Insurrection: Christian Freedom and Responsibility and the Necessity of Resistance

Jennifer Hockenbery, Journal of Lutheran Ethics  
Toward a Lutheran Model of Non-Violent Family [and global-political] Structures.

## Respondent

Kenneth Appold, Princeton Theological Seminary

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A23-405

**Hosted by:** Chinese Christianities Unit

Theme: Mixed Media & Globalizing Faith in Chinese Christianities

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This panel highlights how Chinese Christians have employed different media in their negotiations of faith and culture amidst the globalization of Chinese Christianity: sermons, music, newspapers, personal letters, gazeteers, and more. The presentations represent a range of denominational cases and geographic settings but all focus on the 20th century-contemporary period. Each presentation presents a rich case of how processes of globalization and communication influence individual and community responses to local social, political, cultural, and theological questions.

YUN-CHING (Victoria) SHEN, presiding

## Papers

Jin Lu

Brotherly Connection in War and Exile (1936-1960): Fathers Wang Changzhi and Gaston Fessard

Ho Lun Donald Wong

Cautious Confidence: A Close Reading of the Anglican Sheng Kung Hui Bao, 1908-1913

Wenqian Wang, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

A Quantitative Study of "The Unification of Worship" in the Late Three-Self Patriotic Movement

Kai Shmushko, University of Amsterdam

CCM with Chinese Characteristics? Exploring the Role of Music in Overseas Chinese Evangelical Communities

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A23-427

**Hosted by:** Religion and Migration Unit

Theme: Myth-making and Migration

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This session explores myth-making in public and political debates about migration. As exemplified by the current U.S. administration's plans for "the largest deportation operation in American history," myths involving categories of race and religion are a crucial element for understanding people on the move. Concentrating on contemporary North America, the papers in this session offer empirical as well as evaluative explorations of how such myths about migration are conceptualized, communicated, critiqued, and countered.

Sana Patel, Rice Uni, presiding

Nanette Spina, presiding

## Papers

Jennifer A. Selby, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Amelie Barras

Theorizing Invisible Migrants: The case of Nonreligious White French Immigrants in Montréal and Toronto, Canada

Noemi Vega Quiñones

Cultivating Agency: Preparation, Silence, and Resistance to Trumpian Anti-Immigrant Tactics

Silas Allard, Emory University

From Johnson-Reed to Hart-Celler: The Theo-logic of U.S. Immigration Policy

Kim Akano

Sacred Exchanges: Religious Rhetoric and Twentieth-Century West African Student Migration in the United States

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A23-412

**Hosted by:** Daoist Studies Unit

Theme: Negotiation and Compromise: Bridging the Gap Between Doctrine and Practice in Chinese Religions

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

This panel explores the dynamic interplay between doctrine and practice across religious and philosophical traditions. While doctrine is often perceived as prescriptive, this panel argues that it functions as a fluid resource, subject to reinterpretation and instrumentalization by its practitioners. Rather than being passively enacted, doctrine both shapes and is shaped by practice. Through four case studies spanning Buddhism, Daoism, folk beliefs (fengshui), and Confucianism, this panel examines how doctrinal ideals were negotiated in specific historical contexts. The first paper reconstructs Tang Buddhist burial practices, revealing the mediation between canonical principles and local customs. The second investigates Jiaobei divination, demonstrating how collective ritual participation constructs “orthodox” traditions. The third analyzes Northern Song Fengshui, illustrating how elite families selectively applied geomantic principles for strategic ends. The fourth explores the legitimization of Wang Yangming’s legacy, highlighting the role of biographical narratives in doctrinal reconfiguration. Together, these studies offer a framework for understanding doctrine as a lived and contested practice.

Barend ter Haar, University of Hamburg, presiding

## Papers

Lan Li

Shaping Numinous Space: The Adoption of Buddhist Burials in the Tang Dynasty

Ye Yuan, EPHE-PSL

Behold the Sign: Bridging the Doctrine and the Local Practice with Jiao 筊

Tianyu Shi

Unveil from the Ground: Fengshui Burial Practices Through Texts and Archaeology in the Northern Song Dynasty

Huiqiao Yao

Modeling Confucius: Crafting the “Hereditary House” of Wang Yangming

## Respondent

James Alexander Benn, McMaster University

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A23-414

**Hosted by:** Esotericism Unit

Theme: New Approaches to the Study of Esotericism

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

This panel brings together scholars working on both novel approaches to long-standing esoteric subjects *and* entirely new topics for the study of esotericism. Jeanne Halgren Kilde’s paper explores the esoteric inspiration behind Eero Saarinen’s MIT Chapel (1955), demonstrating the efficacy of religious architecture as a methodological starting point for studying esoteric religion and nature-based spirituality. Brendan Jamal Thornton’s paper offers a fresh ethnographic perspective on the role of esoteric texts in contemporary Caribbean religion, providing new insights into the influence of occult literatures on Afro-Caribbean religions. Francesco Piraino’s paper presents an ethnographic investigation into the institutionalization of transgression in contemporary Thelema.

Marla Segol, presiding

## Papers

Jeanne Halgren Kilde, University of Minnesota

Esoteric Thought, Interfaith Space, and the MIT Chapel: How Architecture Redefined Spirituality and Fostered Cooperation across Religious Traditions

Francesco Piraino, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School

Beyond Transgression: Thelema After the Counterculture Revolution – An Ethnographic Approach to Lived Esotericism in the U.S.

Brendan Jamal Thornton, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill  
On Keys and Conjurations: Afro-Creole Adaptations of The Book of Black Magic in Trinidad and Tobago

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A23-407

**Hosted by:** Collective Karma and Karmic Collectives: Conversations without Borders Seminar

Theme: Non-human Karmic Collectives

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

This panel includes four presentations that explore the Indic and Tibetan karmic imaginaries. The first paper explores the karmic worldviews in *Sāṃkhyakārikā* and its commentaries, with a focus on the reciprocal relation of human and animals. The second paper analyzes a selection of karmic tales in Mahāyāna traditions and develops the idea of "more-than-human collective karma" as a potential tool for social and animal justice. The third paper studies the *Unimpeded Sound Tantra* (*Sgra thal 'gyur*) and its associated sky divination practice, highlighting how shared karma is conceptualized across human, non-human, and more-than-human relations and how the contemplative life is embedded in overlapping social domains. The last paper analyzes the interlinked agency of human non-human beings featured in the COVID pandemic discourses of contemporary Tibet. Together the panelists showcase how various karma-informed social imaginations enrich, nuance, and change the terms of debate in existing conversations about freedom, equity, and justice.

Qian Zhang, University of Calgary, presiding

## Papers

Zoe Slatoff, Loyola Marymount University

Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral: Our Karmic Connection to Those Born from Horizontal Wombs

Colin Simonds

Nonhuman Animals, Karmic Collectives, and More-than-Human Justice in Mahāyāna Buddhism

Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia

Sky Divinations: An Elemental Practice from the Unimpeded Sound Tantra

William McGrath, New York University

Karma and the Emergence Widespread Disease: Agency in the Pandemic Discourses of Tibet

Business Meeting

Susanne Kerekes, Trinity College  
Jessica Zu, University of Southern California

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A23-431

**Hosted by:** Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit

Theme: Oct. 7th and the Question of Genocide in Gaza: A Panel Discussion with Omer Bartov

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

In December 2023, following the State of Israel's response to Hamas' October 7th attack, a case was brought to the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. In the period since, questions of whether the term 'genocide' is appropriate in this context have been fiercely debated. Omer Bartov, Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University, and a former member of the Israeli military, has been a key voice in this debate in the United States. This panel will hear from Bartov and a range of respondents, considering the validity and implications of applying the term 'genocide', and its impact on community relations.

Benjamin Sax, presiding

### Panelist

Omer Bartov, Brown University

Jennifer L. Geddes

Sarah K. Pinnock

Norman Goda, University of Florida

Alana Vincent

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A23-421

**Hosted by:** Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit

Theme: Performing and Packaging "Tradition:" From Hitler Youth to Social Media

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vermont (Fifth Floor)

This panel explores how invocations of "tradition" shape historical and contemporary representations of conservative masculinities. The panel begins with an exploration of Nazi ideals of masculinity, examining how Hitler Youth reached into the Saxon past to find exemplars and models of military men who exemplified "protection of traditional life ways" and "the fight against a foreign culture." Moving to masculine invocations of tradition on Twitter (X) and Instagram, panelists explore how men aesthetically craft online personas. From evangelical



men who represent themselves as frontiersmen and intellectual patriarchs on Instagram to Derek Guy (aka Menswear Guy), a prominent Twitter account that offers fashion commentary and engages in online battles with conservatives and trads, the panel examines the malleability of “tradition” and the ideological uses of its invocation.

Magda Mohamed, Boston University, presiding

## Papers

Madeline Levy

Widukind the Protector: The Intertwined Portrayal and Production of Masculinity and Tradition in the Hitler Youth

Joshua Howard, Emory University

The Frontiersman and the Intellectual: Christian Reconstructionism and Performing Masculinities through Instagram

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A23-439

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Philosophy Unit

Theme: Phenomenology and Buddhism: New Horizons

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

European phenomenology has historically helped articulate Buddhism's rigor and depth as philosophy. But analytic philosophy is now philosophy's dominant mode, as well as an advantageous medium to flex Buddhism's philosophical strengths. Is phenomenology's relationship to Buddhist philosophy still valuable? We argue “yes,” emphasizing that the two have (1) a shared method of elucidating experience immanently, (2) a shared aspiration (and problematization) that such inquiry be presuppositionless, and (3) a shared preoccupation with unconditioned knowing as identical to ethical transformation. We distinguish phenomenology qua method versus qua tradition, advocating for phenomenology as a transhistorical method whose early instances are pre-modern Buddhist (Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese) and late instance is late-modern European. We ask how ritual, text, and body figure in phenomenological insight, exploring the philosophy-religion distinction. And, building on recent discourse on Buddhism and ‘critical phenomenology,’ we continue the conversation on Buddhism and phenomenology as such, and unto new horizons.

Zachary Joachim, presiding

## Papers

Jae Pi

Vasubandhu's Phenomenology of Understanding: Perception as an Interpretive Context

Bertram Liyanage

Apoha as Constitution: Rethinking Exclusion in Buddhist Epistemology

Rae Dachille, University of Arizona

Paradox and Embodied Appearance in the Sakya Lamdré Tradition

## Respondent

Zachary Joachim

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A23-400

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Presidential Plenary: "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free," a performance led by Joshua Campbell and Roopa Mahadevan

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

This performance is a communal, participatory engagement with the sound, feeling, and archive of freedom struggle. Borrowing its title from Billy Taylor's 1963 song made popular in 1967 by Nina Simone, the performance takes inspiration from 1) the artists' own performing arts roots: Indian classical bhakti tradition and African-American spiritual and gospel tradition, and 2) the artistic works of other communities who have historically exerted and asserted their freedom in the face of oppression. They will engage the audience in interactive musical prompts to explore how the use of the voice/body, spontaneous art-making, and improvisation can be a tool for building community, strength, and joy. Co-led by composer-vocalists Roopa Mahadevan and Joshua Brian Campbell, the performance will be generative, experimental, and grounded in traditions of communal music-making as organizing and catalyzing moments. It argues that, across history, oppressed people have sung themselves beyond the bounds of their reality into what Ashon Crawley calls an "otherwise possibility," and that in rehearsing these modes of musicking together, we can attempt to enact—to use Robin D. G. Kelley's language—their "freedom dreams." The presentation explores freedom both as feeling and as a real condition constructed correlative to constraint, creativity, and catharsis.

Leela Prasad, Brown University, presiding

## Panelist

Roopa Mahadevan

A23-434

**Hosted by:** Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

Theme: Privilege and Positionality in Tibetan and Himalayan Fieldwork Settings

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable featuring eight scholars from diverse racial, cultural, and professional backgrounds considers the complex role of privilege and positionality in Tibetan and Himalayan fieldwork settings. While scholars today know the idea of a perfectly objective researcher is a myth, we seldom acknowledge how our actual and perceived identities—gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, ability—affect the information we have access to in fieldwork settings. A researcher’s perceived identity carries with it very different privileges, disadvantages, and abilities to negotiate entry in fieldwork spaces. These realities have trickle-down effects on the production of knowledge in the Academy and in the preservation of Tibetan culture. This roundtable invites scholars to meditate on how their unique positionality—both actual and perceived—has privileged, hindered, or otherwise affected their work in the field.

Natasha Mikles, Texas State University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Tenzin Jinba, National University of Singapore

Alyson Prude

Elaine Lai

Natasha Mikles, Texas State University

Nisheeta Jagtiani, Northwestern University

Alison Melnick Dyer, Bates College

Rohit Singh, Denison University

Joie Szu-Chiao Chen, Harvard University

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A23-413

**Hosted by:** Drugs and Religion Unit and Science, Technology, and Religion Unit

Theme: Psychedelics, Religion, and the Law

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This panel explores the legal and conceptual challenges facing psychedelic religious practitioners in the United States, examining how religious freedom laws constrain non-Christian spiritual traditions. The first paper critiques how legal frameworks prioritize Protestant Christian models of religiosity, forcing Indigenous and entheogenic traditions to conform. The second examines the Church of Ambrosia's legal battles and the ethical dilemmas scholars face when asked to help construct religious legitimacy. The third explores how psychedelic-assisted therapy neglects the significance of place, proposing an alternative model based on emplacement. The fourth paper presents an ethnographic study of Soul Quest and Sacred Sanctuary, analyzing how psychedelic churches strategically adjust their religious identities to navigate legal scrutiny. Together, these papers illuminate how law shapes religious expression, how scholars engage with emergent psychedelic traditions, and how emplacement influences both religious freedom and therapy. This panel advances discussions on the legal and cultural dynamics of psychedelic spirituality in the 21st century.

Allison Isidore, University of Iowa, presiding

## Papers

Brad Stoddard, McDaniel College  
Psychedelic Churches and the Tyranny of "Religion"

Tarryl Janik  
Sacred Sanctuary & Soul Quest Ayahuasca Church: The Intersection of Transpersonal Psychology & Law

Hugh B. Urban, Ohio State University  
The Church of Ambrosia: Religion, Law, and the Role of the Scholar in a Contemporary Psychedelic Church

Tristan Angieri, Harvard University  
Tripping in "Non-Place": Emplacement, Religious Freedom, and Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy?

## Respondent

Mayanthi Fernando

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A23-425

**Hosted by:** Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: Psychology, Culture, and Religion: Works in Progress

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

Please join us for this "Works in Progress" session, where members of our unit come together to share their ongoing projects. All are welcome! Our goal is to exchange generative ideas and receive constructive feedback from colleagues in a warm environment. The session will be followed by our business meeting.

Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University, presiding  
Business Meeting  
Eunil David Cho, Boston University

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A23-440

**Hosted by:** Ethics Unit

Theme: Religion and Ethics in the Wake of the Anthropocene

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

In this round-table six scholars, who (broadly speaking, come from the field of religion and nature/ecology) will critically examine the concept of the Anthropocene. This concept has shaped the way we think about the planetary future in some helpful but also very problematic ways. We will look at critiques of the anthropocene from post-humanist and planetary perspectives, and from ideas emerging out of microbiology and microanimality. In addition we will discuss links between the idea of the Anthropocene and religious nationalism, "sophiology," and the construction of the idea of "religion" itself. Is the anthropocene something which we need to reject or keep? Or does it really matter for ethics in the end?

Whitney Bauman, Florida International University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Lisa Sideris, University of California, Santa Barbara

Willis Jenkins, University of Virginia

Alda Balthrop-Lewis, Florida State University

Aminah Al-Attas Bradford

Kocku Von Stuckrad

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A23-406

**Hosted by:** Chinese Religions Unit

Theme: Religion, Secularism, and Love as a Political Discourse in Modern China

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable hopes to convene an interdisciplinary conversation reflecting the spirit of Ting GUO's *Religion, Secularism, and Love as a Political Discourse in Modern China* (2025) which explores the political meaning of love in modern Chinese politics and why *ai* 愛 (love) has been a crucial political discourse for secular nationalism for generations of political leaders as a powerful instrument to the present day. This book offers the first systematic examination of the ways in which the notion of love has been introduced, adapted, and engineered as a political discourse for the building and rebuilding of a secular modern nation, all the while appropriating Confucianism, Christianity, popular religion, ghost stories, political religion, and their religious affects. The insights of this exploration expand not only the discussion of the relationship between religion and politics in modern China, but also the study of affective governance and religious nationalisms around the world today.

Ting Guo, Chinese University of Hong Kong, presiding

## Panelist

Justin Tse  
Donovan Schaefer  
Xenia Chan, Augustana University  
Rebecca Nedostup

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A23-428

**Hosted by:** Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Unit

Theme: Religious Literacy in Plural Societies. Theoretical Approaches and Empirical Findings

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This panel investigates the evolving role of religion in education, focusing on how religious literacy, representation, and sensitivity intersect with citizenship education and pedagogical professionalism. Drawing on diverse theoretical and empirical approaches, the panel highlights both challenges and opportunities in addressing religious diversity in contemporary classrooms. The discussion aims to foster critical reflection on educational practices that promote democratic engagement and intercultural understanding in increasingly pluralistic societies.

Angela Bernardo, Sapienza University of Rome, presiding

## Papers

Abigail Felan

Emma Nicosia, University of Minnesota

Amy Allen, Virginia Tech

Religious Representation and Power Dynamics in High School Social Studies Standards

Ryan Lemasters, University of Kansas

The Attentiveness-Based Account of Religious Literacy

Eva Lindhardt, Aarhus University, Denmark

The classroom as a community of disagreement – strengthening students' citizenship education by teaching controversial issues in religious education

Kathrin Winkler

Religious Sensitivity as an Educational Resource in the Migration Society - Empirical Findings on Pedagogical Professionalism in Multi-Religious Schools

Business Meeting

Angela Bernardo, Sapienza University of Rome

Kate Soules

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A23-408

**Hosted by:** Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence Unit

Theme: Religious Nationalisms, Gendered Freedoms, and the Security Logic of Violence

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

This panel examines how violence is sacralized and legitimized through religious, nationalist, and gendered narratives. Rather than viewing violence as a rupture, panelists analyze it as a central tool in constructing moral, political, and cultural order. Drawing on case studies from Nepal, Bangladesh, Cold War America, and the mid-century NYPD, the papers explore how religious symbolism and rhetoric justify coercion, secure state power, and shape public imaginaries. Themes include Hindu nationalism and martial myth in Nepal; the gendered pathways of female jihadist radicalization in South Asia; religious panic and surveillance in U.S. educational policy; and Catholic fascist networks within American policing as documented by minoritized press. The panel interrogates how violence is moralized through appeals to purity, protection, and divine mission—especially where gender and race are central to defining freedom or threat. Together, these papers reflect CARV's commitment to analyzing how religion and violence co-produce structures of authority and exclusion.

Andrew Murphy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, presiding

## Papers

Klaus Yoder

The Christian Front on the Force: Catholic Fascism in the NYPD through the eyes of the Yiddish and African American Press, 1939-1954

Michael Graziano

Religions, Schools, and Security in Cold War American Culture

Eloisa Stuparich

The Khukri and the Saffron Flag: Reframing Gorkha Bravery for the Hindu Kingdom

Shahla Shahreen, University of Iowa

Shafi Md. Mostofa, University of Dhaka

Female radicalization in Bangladesh: an investigation of its scope, extent, and key motivations behind

Business Meeting

Chase L. Way, Nevada State University

Flagg Miller, University of California, Davis

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A23-410

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Islam Unit

Theme: Sexual Violence in Muslim Communities: Towards Awareness and Accountability – A Conversation

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This roundtable brings together several academic contributors to the open-access volume, *Sexual Violence in Muslim Communities: Towards Awareness and Accountability* ([svmcproject.org](http://svmcproject.org)), launched in December 2024. Panelists discuss their contributions to the volume ranging from how sexual violence invokes specific gendered and racialized assumptions about Islam that threaten how Muslim advocates respond to these issues in their own communities; a critical rereading of Surat Yusuf in the Qur'an in light of the MeToo movement; a critique of the exclusive focus on bodily autonomy countered by a relational sexual ethic; reflections on Muslim chaplains' responsibility in working with SV survivors; and a methodological and ethical reflection on scholars working with community advocates that highlights questions of hierarchy, leadership, and decolonization of methods. Together, the panelists invite attendees from all fields of religious studies to a necessary conversation that breaks the pervasive silence around sexual violence, in and beyond Muslim contexts.

Shenila Khoja-Moolji, presiding

**Panelist**



Halla Attallah  
Samah Choudhury, University of Chicago  
Saadia Yacoob  
Wietske Merison  
Nancy Khalil , University of Michigan

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A23-403

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit

Theme: Songs and Artistic Expressions of Freedom

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel investigates the paradoxes of freedom in an era of repeatedly undermined human rights. Papers in this panel challenge the cooption of freedom's language by oppressive groups, resists systemic oppression, and/or affirms enduring and transformative visions of freedom. The first paper examines the way Nana Kwame Adeji-Brenyah's novel, *Chain-Gang All-Stars*, asks us to redefine our concepts of freedom and annihilation. The second paper explores how the Black prophetic tradition manifests in the current Black Lives Matter era through a consideration of Angela Harrelson's memoir. The third paper attends to Leslie Marmon Silko's artistic expression as an Indigenous storyteller. The final paper offers a reading of Edward Elgar's setting of Saint John Henry Newman's poem, *The Dream of Gerontius*.

Adam Newman, presiding

## Papers

Kristine Whaley, St Petersburg College

Annihilation and Freedom: How Chain-Gang All-Stars Examines the Intersection of Incarceration and Empowerment

Jason Collins, Brown University

Unorthodox Secularism: A Case Study in Sydney Owenson's *The Wild Irish Girl*

Mark S. Cladis, Brown University

Leslie Marmon Silko and the Artistic Expression of Indigenous Storytelling: Freedom and Sovereignty in Defiance of Settler Colonialism

Michael Downes, University of St Andrews

Ardor and Ambivalence in Edward Elgar's Setting of John Henry Newman's *The Dream of Gerontius*

Jade Evans, University of Texas, Austin

Everyday Prophets: Angela Harrelson's Lift Your Voice and the Evolution of the Black Prophetic Tradition in the Black Lives Matter Era

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A23-424

**Hosted by:** Music and Religion Unit

Theme: The Billings Pendulum: Rethinking the Pioneering Boston Composer

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

This session explores the significance and legacy of pioneering American composer of sacred music, William Billings, who died 225 years ago this year. Billings tanned leather, taught singing schools, fathered a large family, and composed sacred music in Boston during the American Revolution. A staunch Whig, his music was associated with the cause of American freedom. The centerpiece of the roundtable will be a musical program, *The Billings Pendulum*, composed this year. Panelists will offer brief comments on the musical program and Billings's religiosity, politics, and lasting significance.

Leonard Raybon, Tulane University, presiding

### Panelist

David Stowe, Michigan State University

Jennifer Rycenga, San Jose State University

Tim Eriksen, Amherst College

Delvyn Case, Wheaton College, Massachusetts

### Respondent

Stephen A. Marini, Wellesley College

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A23-436

**Hosted by:** Vatican II Studies Unit

Theme: The Role of the Theologian at the Council and in a Synodal Church

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

The Second Vatican Council was not only a meeting of the world's bishops but also a gathering of theologians. After nearly fifty years of theological renewal, theologians such as Henri de

Lubac, John Courtney Murray, Karl Rahner, Yves Congar, Gregory Baum, and Hans Küng gave almost daily lectures in their national groups, greatly influencing the council's direction and teachings. Following the council, however, the relationship between theologians and bishops remains ambiguous. While the International Theological Commission was established in 1967 to advise the church's magisterium, a series of investigations were also conducted against theologians like Leonardo Boff, Elizabeth Johnson, and Jacques Dupuis. What can be learned from the period leading up to, during, and after the council regarding the role of a theologian, especially the emergence of lay theologians, in relation to academic theology and church life? If Pope Francis's vision of synodality is deeply rooted in the Council, then what is the role of the theologian in a synodal church? How might Pope Francis's recent 2023 *motu proprio Ad Theologiam Promovendam* reflect the different paradigms and schools of thought at work in a global church?

Jos Moons, presiding

## Papers

Timothy Perron

How Theologians in a Synodal Church Can Aid Bishops in Developing Nuanced Anthropologies Through Interdisciplinary Engagement on Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Edward Dunar, Albertus Magnus College

Noticing the Gaps: The Limitations of Synodality and the Task of Theologians

Therese Lautua, Harvard University

Indigenous Pacific Theologians of the Moana and a Synodal Church

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A23-437

**Hosted by:** Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Unit

Theme: There Is Always Room: Tools for Pedagogical Freedom

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

The 21st century poses its own challenges to education to which imaginative and liberative pedagogy must respond. Examining how marginalized identity empowers teaching as tool of resistance, exploring how political and health crises around Covid-19 diversify the tools of pedagogy, and honoring how the decades old question of womanism's influence on the existential question of thriving in the classroom comes to bear, these papers explore how pedagogy is as much a personal practice as it is an interpersonal one - an intersectional commitment as much as it is a political one.

Hinasahar Muneeruddin, presiding

## Papers

Heesung Hwang, Pacific School of Religion

Minji Lee, Montclair State University

Unsettling the Academy: Asian Immigrant Women Scholars as Disruptive Presence

Adriana Rivera

Trauma-Informed Critical Pedagogy in Online Theological Education

Lakisha Lockhart, Union Presbyterian Seminary

The Womanist Playground: Making the Classroom a Clearing Space for Wholeness, Solidarity, Liberated Embodiment, and Resistance

Business Meeting

Oluwatomisin Oredein, Brite Divinity School

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A23-438

**Hosted by:** Yogācāra Studies Unit

Theme: Tradition in the Making: The Role of Commentary in Yogācāra

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

Relative to the attention the work of the founders and key philosophers of Yogācāra has received, the commentarial tradition has attracted far less recognition in Yogācāra scholarship. This panel aims to remedy this by shedding light on and appreciating the role of commentators in establishing Yogācāra as a distinctive tradition and in shaping the school's doctrinal orientation. The papers in the panel focus on a variety of topics related to the role of Yogācāra commentarial literature, including distinguishing features and sources of Yogācāra hermeneutics, the commentarial strategies used by Yogācāra commentators to interpret the root texts and construct narratives, the power commentaries have in transforming the meaning of the works on which they comment, and how commentators understand their task *as* commentators. The papers cover a wide range and diversity of commentators and commentaries from India to Korea, from the 4th to the 8th century.

Roy Tzohar, presiding

## Papers

Jae Pi

Vasubandhu's How to Do Things with Texts: Proper Uses of Texts to Comment on Texts

Szilvia Szanyi

What does a commentator do? Commentarial strategies and challenges in Sthiramati's  
Triṃśikāvijñaptibhāṣya

Christopher Jones

A Commentary "Transforming the Basis": Yogācāra Doctrine in the Chinese Ratnagotravibhāga,  
or Baoxinglun 寶性論

Sumi Lee, Duksung Women's University

A Yogācāra Reading of Tathāgatagarbha: Silla Yogācāra Scholar Daehyeon's Commentarial  
Approach to the Awakening of Faith

Business Meeting

Douglas S. Duckworth, Temple University

Jingjing Li, Leiden University

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A23-418

**Hosted by:** Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit

Theme: Transformative Functionality of Art: Cultivating Aesthetic Experiences between South  
Asian and East Asian traditions

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This panel furthers the functional turn in the study of art to recouple philosophical analyses of concepts with empirical research on material culture. Bringing together scholars who work on Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Confucian traditions, the panel explores how and why aesthetic experiences function to ameliorate the moral and soteriological cultivation of practitioners. To unpack such a transformative function of art, presenters in this panel examine theories proposed by thinkers across South Asian and East Asian traditions for an interregional, intercultural, and interdisciplinary conversation. Besides, they will tap into the efficacy of art in resolving various types of paradoxes in the cultivating process. Such a conversation lays the groundwork for reconsidering the possibility of closing the rift between theories and praxis in contemporary studies of art.

Jingjing Li, Leiden University, presiding

### Panelist

James Reich

Lilith Lee, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Tiantian Cai  
Mingzhu Nalan  
Dobin Choi, Leiden University

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M23-534

**Hosted by:** APARRI (Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative)

Theme: APARRI Reception

Sunday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Offsite

Join us for the APARRI Reception/Happy Hour at D16 (955 Boylston Street Unit A in Boston).

Please RSVP by Nov 16 if possible

here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwrYoPSgSxXS-D7YV1R6krLIZr0FWUIVw-KntsTPy3p\\_HtpQ/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwrYoPSgSxXS-D7YV1R6krLIZr0FWUIVw-KntsTPy3p_HtpQ/viewform?usp=dialog). Learn more about us here: <https://aparri.org/>.

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M23-533

**Hosted by:** Union Presbyterian Seminary

Theme: Union Presbyterian Seminary Alumni and Friends Reception

Sunday, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Offsite

Sunday, November 23

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

UPSem invites alumni, friends, faculty, and students to a cocktail reception. We look forward to enjoying this annual event with you!

To RSVP and receive venue information, please contact [sarah.amick@upsem.edu](mailto:sarah.amick@upsem.edu).

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M23-522

**Hosted by:** Korean North American Theology

Theme: Korean North American Theology: Book Review

Sunday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, North Star (Seventh Floor)

Korean North American Theology Book Review

Nov. 23 5:30-6:30

Moderator: Tim Lee (Brite/TCU)

Book Review: Peter Phan (Georgetown U) Christianity and Migration: A THEOLOGY OF MIGRATION FOR OUR AGE (Oxford, 25)

Responder: Hee An Choi (Boston U)

Aizaiah Yong (Collegeville Institute) Trauma and Renewal: Toward Holistic Transformation (Orbis, 25)

Responder: Kristine Chong (Independent Scholar)

Timothy S. Lee, Brite Divinity School, presiding

## Panelist

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University

Hee An Choi, Boston University

Aizaiah Yong

## Respondent

Kristine Chong

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P23-400

**Hosted by:** Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought

Theme: American Journal of Theology and Philosophy Lecture

Sunday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Empire (Seventh Floor)

This is the annual lecture of the American Journal of Theology and Philosophy, the affiliated journal of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought. The lecture is given by Professor Monica Coleman of the University of Delaware. It begins at 6pm.

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P23-401

**Hosted by:** Association for Public Religion and Intellectual Life

Theme: Good Writing for the Public Good: *CrossCurrents* at 75 and *Killing the Buddha* at 25

Sunday, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

2025 marks two anniversaries: 75 years of publishing at the journal *CrossCurrents* and 25 years at KtB (*Killing the Buddha*). While these two publishing venues are separate, they are linked in the ways they have attempted to bring critical, creative, and compassionate writing about

religion to a general public. Both have worked to advance critical takes on religious life, with interests in social justice, just as they have highlighted the importance of creative writing and querying the divide between insiders and outsiders.

This event will bring together former writers from the two publications who will offer their own insights on the ways creative and critical perspectives can be fused for the public good.

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, Hamilton College, presiding

## **Panelist**

Brook Wilensky-Lanford  
Brialen Hopper

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M23-402

**Hosted by:** Fetzer Institute

Theme: Fetzer Institute Reception for "A Shared Sacred Story" Project

Sunday, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex North (Third Floor)

Invitation-only banquet for scholars and friends of the "Shared Sacred Story" Project

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M23-503

**Hosted by:** University of Cambridge/University of Oxford

Theme: Cambridge and Oxford Joint Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 208 (Second Level)

Cambridge and Oxford Joint Reception. Alumni and potential applicants are especially welcome. Drinks and light snacks will be provided.

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M23-505

**Hosted by:** University of Notre Dame

Theme: Notre Dame Theology Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)



The Department of Theology from the University of Notre Dame welcomes students, alumni, and friends to join us for a reception.

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M23-531

**Hosted by:** Vanderbilt Divinity School

Theme: Vanderbilt Divinity School Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Staffordshire Ballroom (Third Floor)

Alumni, faculty, students, and colleagues are warmly invited to join the Vanderbilt Divinity School reception.

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M23-506

**Hosted by:** Yale Divinity School

Theme: Yale University Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Gloucester (Third Floor)

Please join Gregory E. Sterling, Dean of Yale Divinity School, for a gathering of alumni, faculty, students, and colleagues.

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M23-530

**Hosted by:** International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)

Theme: Al Faruqi Memorial Lecture and Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

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M23-516

**Hosted by:** Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global/ACLS

Theme: Alumni of The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Gloucester/Newbury (Second Floor)

ACLS administers Buddhist Studies grants and fellowships on behalf of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global. We invite all program alumni to this reception for a celebration of their research and news on upcoming programs.

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M23-521

**Hosted by:** Chicago Theological Seminary

Theme: Chicago Theological Seminary Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere B (Second Floor)

Join CTS for evening refreshments and fellowship as you connect and reconnect with alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. President Braxton will offer welcome at 7:30 pm.

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M23-500

**Hosted by:** DU/Iliff Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion

Theme: DU/Iliff Joint Doctoral Program reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom JK (Fourth Floor)

DU/Iliff Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion (JDP) reception open to all JDP faculty, students, alumni, prospective students, and friends. Please join us for food and drinks.

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M23-520

**Hosted by:** Princeton Theological Seminary

Theme: Princeton Theological Seminary Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Essex South (Third Floor)

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M23-501

**Hosted by:** Princeton

Theme: Princeton University, Department of Religion, Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, America Center (Fourth Floor)

Princeton University, Department of Religion - Annual Reunion Reception at the AAR-SBL Meetings.

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M23-502

**Hosted by:** UNC-CH Department of Religious Studies

Theme: UNC-CH Religious Studies Reception

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom G (Fourth Floor)

Join the Department of Religious Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill for a fundraising reception to benefit graduate student research.

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M23-504

**Hosted by:** University of Iowa Religious Studies

Theme: University of Iowa Alumni and Friends

Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hilton Back Bay, Maverick A and B (Second Floor)

We hope you will be able to stop by Iowa's reception to say farewell to Maureen Walterhouse who will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

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M23-509

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research

Theme: Every Voice: A Center for Kingdom Diversity in Christian Theological Education Gathering

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Adams/Parliament/Baltic (Seventh Floor)

Institute for Biblical Research Reception: Every Voice: A Center for Kingdom Diversity in Christian Theological Education Gathering

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A23-501

**Hosted by:** Films

Theme: “Zavobe Oyen’ike” (The Wise Womb Deserves Honor and Care)

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

*Zavobe Oyen’ike* (The Wise Womb Deserves Honor and Care) highlights the largely unseen work of African-descended women and wombed Spiritual Activists/healers in Atlanta, GA and their comrades. It follows their journeys from the murder of Rayshard Brooks to the current Stop Cop City movement. The collective of healers share intimate insights into the personal, spiritual, and real costs of community activism. Black wombed Spiritual Activists have a strong, although underrepresented, lineage as foundational supporters of Liberatory freedom movements throughout the diaspora. This documentary offers solidarity and wisdom from seasoned Spiritual Activists and elders to support other healers on their journeys. Responsive to this year’s Presidential call to “chart pathways for understanding and ensuring a distant but visible and viable horizon of freedom for all,” *Zavobe Oyen’ike* is a powerful and unapologetic call to support these luminaries and imaginaries of freedom they open.

Neith Sankofa, Healing Artist and Producer, presiding

**Panelist**

Neith Sankofa, Healing Artist and Producer

Wyoma , Performer and Creator of Afrikan Healing Dance

Keyanna Jones-Moore, Minister and Community Organizer

Jennifer Willsea, Anti-racist facilitator

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M23-507

**Hosted by:** Catholic Biblical Association of America

Theme: 2025 Reception

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom F (Fourth Floor)

The Catholic Biblical Association of America invites all members and friends to a special evening reception to celebrate our shared commitment to biblical scholarship and fellowship. Please join us for refreshments, collegial conversation, and the opportunity to connect with fellow scholars. A brief presentation will announce upcoming events, publications, and grant opportunities.

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A23-500

**Hosted by:** Films

Theme: Abraham's Bridge: Short Film Screening and Discussion

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

**Screening and Discussion: ABRAHAM'S BRIDGE (2024, short documentary)**

The short film ABRAHAM'S BRIDGE documents an experiment in intentional proximity in the American Midwest. On 38 acres in Omaha, Nebraska, a mosque, synagogue, church, and interfaith center have built side-by-side: they are connected by a circular wooden bridge, a vast organic donation garden, and a quietly disruptive vision. Yet as the Tri-Faith co-location project takes shape, they must confront difficult questions about the limits of the Abrahamic model, declining religious affiliation, and rising currents of division. After October 7, 2023, the communities can no longer avoid the topic of Israel/Palestine and must find a way forward together. Production on this film was completed in November 2024. The total running time of the film is 36 minutes.

Elinor Julia Pierce, Harvard University, presiding

**Panelist**

Elinor Julia Pierce, Harvard University

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M23-518

**Hosted by:** Department of Religious Studies & Program in Judaic Studies | Brown University

Theme: Brown University Reception

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 204 (Second Level)

Please join the Department of Religious Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies at Brown University for our annual reception.

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M23-508

**Hosted by:** Columbia University in the City of New York

Theme: Columbia University Department of Religion and Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life Reception

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom HI (Fourth Floor)

The Department of Religion at Columbia University and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL) invite alumni, faculty, friends, and current and prospective graduate students to join us for a reception. All are welcome.

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**Hosted by:** Films

Theme: Psalm of Howard Thurman

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The *Psalm of Howard Thurman* offers a dramatic and insightful glimpse into the inner world of Howard Thurman. Filmmaker Arleigh Prelow sensitively chronicles Thurman's story with particular attention to the insights of women. The film features newly uncovered documentary sources that will spark interest and discussion among Thurman scholars. Ms. Prelow's masterful telling of Thurman's 20th-century spiritual journey will captivate all who watch this captivating film. Dr. Thurman was the first African American faculty member at Boston University, making it fitting to highlight this aspect, especially since we will be in Boston this year. Ms. Prelow originally met Thurman while at BU and, in addition to being his student, remained a mentee and friend of Thurman's wife and children, who are interviewed in the film.

Co-sponsored by African American Religious History Unit, Liberation Theologies Unit, and Religion and Cities Unit.

Fatimah Fanusie, presiding

**Panelist**

Arleigh Prelow

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M23-510

**Hosted by:** Religion & American Culture

Theme: Religion & American Culture Reception

Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Huntington Ballroom (Second Floor)

Annual reception of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture

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M23-517

**Hosted by:** Rice University Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance, and Department of Religion  
**Theme:** Rice University Boniuk Institute and Department of Religion Reception  
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom E (Fourth Floor)

Rice University Boniuk Institute and Department of Religion Reception. Reception for Rice University faculty, alumni, affiliates as well as anyone interested in learning more about the Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance, and Department of Religion. Light Appetizers and open bar.

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M23-519

**Hosted by:** Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto  
**Theme:** The DSR Turns 50: An Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 313 (Third Level)

In 2025-2026, University of Toronto's Department for the Study of Religion marks its 50th anniversary. Help us celebrate our amazing alumni and friends, and to toast our next half-century.

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M23-532

**Hosted by:** Union Theological Seminary  
**Theme:** Union Theological Seminary Alumni & Friends Reception  
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Third Floor Atrium Lounge

Join us on Sunday, November 23, 2025, 8–10 PM EST for Union's Alumni & Friends Reception during the 2025 SBL & AAR Annual Meetings. Gather with alumni, friends, and faculty as President Serene Jones and Dean Su Yon Pak share updates on Union's latest initiatives.

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M23-514

**Hosted by:** University of California  
**Theme:** University of California Reception  
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Regis (Third Floor)

Welcome to the first annual joint University of California reception! This event is co-sponsored by the UC Santa Barbara Religious Studies Department and the UC Riverside Department for the Study of Religion.

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M23-511

**Hosted by:** Emory University - Graduate Division of Religion (GDR)

Theme: Emory University - Graduate Division of Religion (GDR) Reception

Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, America North (Fourth Floor)

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M23-512

**Hosted by:** FSU Department of Religion

Theme: FSU Department of Religion

Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom CD (Fourth Floor)

FSU Department of Religion invites attendees of AAR/SBL to a reception.

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M23-513

**Hosted by:** Perkins School of Theology | SMU

Theme: Perkins School of Theology Alumni & Friends Reception

Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, America South (Fourth Floor)

Perkins School of Theology and Southern Methodist University Alumni and Friends Reception

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M23-515

**Hosted by:** University of Chicago Divinity School

Theme: University of Chicago Divinity School Reception

Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Sheraton, Grand Ballroom (Second Floor)



Join the alumni, professors, students, and friends of the University of Chicago Divinity School for conversation and refreshments, and hear from Dean Robinson about the School's exciting upcoming events and opportunities.

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## Monday November 24

M24-101

**Hosted by:** Regent College

Theme: Friends of Regent Breakfast

Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom CD (Fourth Floor)

An informal breakfast gathering of Alumni, Faculty, and Friends of Regent College. Come connect with old friends, make new connections, and hear about what's happening at Regent College. Hosted by Regent College's Alumni Office.

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M24-102

**Hosted by:** Restoration Quarterly

Theme: Restoration Quarterly Breakfast

Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Essex Center (Third Floor)

Friends of Restoration Quarterly breakfast

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M24-100

**Hosted by:** Fuller Theological Seminary

Theme: Fuller Seminary Alumni & Friends Breakfast

Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Westin Copley Place, Essex North (Third Floor)

Join us for breakfast while networking with the Fuller community. Featured speaker Jeff Keuss, Dean, School of Mission and Theology and Professor of Theology & Culture, speaking on "Name Your God(s): Compassion as Activism in 1 Kings 18: 20–40."

Registration required.

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M24-104

**Hosted by:** Institute for Biblical Research

Theme: IBR Ethnic Minorities' Breakfast

Monday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Westin Copley Place, St. George CD (Third Floor)

IBR Ethnic Minorities' Breakfast

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A24-100

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Program Unit Chairs Breakfast

Monday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 302 (Third Level)

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M24-103

**Hosted by:** Dead Sea Discoveries Journal

Theme: Dead Sea Discoveries Editorial Board Meeting

Monday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Sheraton, Boylston (Third Floor)

Invitation only editorial board meeting for the journal, Dead Sea Discoveries.

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A24-128

**Hosted by:** Religion and Memory Unit

Theme: (Mis)Remembering America: Religion and Forgetting in the United States

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

This panel explores how religion shapes both the construction and erasure of aspects of American history and life. One paper examines a paradox at Boston College, where the reuse of

spaces connected to clergy sexual abuse has both advanced admirable causes and fostered the forgetting of that abuse. Another paper analyzes the myth of the family farm in rural America, highlighting how religious and political discourses obscure the realities of corporate farming and reinforce evangelical ideals around gender and the natural world. A third paper investigates a 1920 Unitarian commemoration of the Pilgrims and shows how the event transformed the Pilgrims from symbols of Christian nationalism into icons of global religious liberalism. The final paper analyzes the memorialization of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge gay bar fire (led by MCC minister Rev. Dexter Brecht) and argues that responsible memory requires assessing if some names and stories should not be recalled.

Kati Curts, Sewanee: The University of the South, presiding

## Papers

Stephanie C. Edwards, Boston College

Buying Amnesia: Boston College's Bailout of Clergy-Perpetrated Sexual Abuse

Annalisa Lane

God's Country: Cultivating the Family Farm and the Politics of Forgetting in America's Heartland

Satoru Kimura, Harvard University

Liberalism, Inter-Religious Dialogue, and a Shifting Image of the Pilgrim Fathers in Interwar America

Jonathan Southwick Smith, Emory University

Queer Memory, Queer Opacity: Forgetting the Upstairs Lounge Gay Bar Fire

## Respondent

Sally M. Promey

Business Meeting

Christopher Cantwell

Ella Myer, Emory University

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A24-112

**Hosted by:** Comparative Theology Unit and Theology and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: About Time: Comparative Approaches to Religion, Time, and Justice

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

We are running out of time. Such is the sentiment of so many people around the world today. In the face of a multitude of crises, global politics seems to be driven and defined by an overwhelming sense of anxiety and impending apocalypse. Whether it is climate change, increasing political instability, or rapid technological advancements, humanity seems to be barreling toward an uncertain future at best and catastrophe at worst. This panel brings together four scholars to critically reflect on religious perceptions and philosophies of time to explore where we are, where we are headed, and what we can do. Engaging Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, and secularist perspectives, this panel discusses both how dominant theologies of time undergird the present politics, as well as how alternative visions of time can offer individuals and communities a new way of political being and action not dependent on linear, fixed, or progressive time.

Jesse Lee, presiding

## Papers

Aseel Azab

Eschatologies of Intention: The Temporality of Struggles Against Structural Evil

Fannie Bialek, Washington University in St. Louis

Urgency at the End of the World: Worldliness and Temporality in Heschel's Sabbath

Elaine Lai

Rethinking AI Narratives Through Buddhism

Liz Vukovic

Tinkering Toward Salvation: The Secular Eschatology of Ecomodernism

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A24-105

**Hosted by:** Black Theology Unit

Theme: Black Queer Pathways in Black Theology

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

This panel considers the impact of Black Theology on Black sexual theoethics. Panelists will engage the role of Black and Womanist theology in deconstructing, expanding, and building new understandings of "the oppressed."

Nixon Cleophas, presiding

## Papers

Alexis (Lex) Dunbar

Tell the Story! - Black Trans-Masculine Experience and Expanding Horizons of Black Queer Theology

Jennifer S. Leath, Queen's University

The Powerful Politics of Humility: Looking Back on James Cone's God of The Oppressed

Jason Evans, Princeton Theological Seminary

The Way of the Black Christ as Disidentification and Queer Failure: Christology After James H. Cone

## Respondent

Kelly Brown Douglas, Episcopal Divinity School At Union Theological Seminary

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A24-135

**Hosted by:** Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 201 (Second Level)

Nick Shrubsole, University of Central Florida, presiding

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A24-101

**Hosted by:** Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee

Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

Patrick Reyes, presiding

Minjung Noh, Lehigh University, presiding

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A24-113

**Hosted by:** Confucian Traditions Unit

Theme: Confucian Contemplative Practices and Self-Cultivation  
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This session continues the discussion of *Confucian Contemplation*. All presenters contribute to an upcoming special issue of the *Journal of Contemplative Studies*.

The first paper explores Mencius' contemplative practices—restorative sleep, self-examination, and empathetic extension—as pathways to cultivating “flood-like qi,” enabling noetic insights into human goodness. The second paper revisits Zhu Xi's meditative reading, comparing it with *lectio divina*, and argues for a more nuanced understanding of its interplay between vocal recitation and silent reflection. The third paper critiques the hierarchical distortions of *gyeong/jing* (敬, reverence) via Korean Confucianism and advocates for a reciprocal, inclusive ethical framework. The final paper examines the Kongyang Confucian Fellowship's digital spiritual journaling, revealing its role in adapting Neo-Confucian self-cultivation for the modern era. Together, these studies illuminate Confucianism's evolving contemplative dimensions.

Yidi Wu, presiding

## Papers

Jung Lee, Northeastern University  
How to Become a “Great Person” (da ren 大人): “Reflection” (si 思) and the Practice of Nourishing the Qi in the Mencius

Ryan Pino, Boston College  
Zhu Xi's Meditative Reading and Lectio Divina: A Comparison Revisited [Primary tabs View](#)

Jea Sophia Oh, West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
An Ecofeminist Extension of Gyeong/Jing (敬) in Confucian Contemplation via Donghak's Samgyeong/Sanjing (三敬) to Heaven, Humanity, and Nature

Shumo Wang, Duke University  
Ever Renewing: Confucian Contemplative Journaling in the Digital Age

## Respondent

Bin Song, Washington College

**Hosted by:** Religion and Popular Culture Unit

Theme: Drawing Religion: Approaches to Comics and Graphic Novels in Research, Reviewing, and Scholarship

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable panel, sponsored by *Religious Studies Review*, is invested in highlighting contemporary scholarship on and the future of comics and graphic novels within the religious studies academy. As such, it will feature scholars and artists working at the intersection of comics and religion on topics including sacred texts and translation, Black religions, Catholicism and social justice, and art-making practices.

Each panelist will offer brief introductory comments (5-7mins), framing their own work and career path in relation to the comics medium. The roundtable will then open to a moderated conversation with a focus on approaches for reviewing comics, challenges of making such scholarship legible to the academy, and thoughts on future directions for the study of religion and comics in our research, writing, and teaching.

Spencer Dew, Ohio State University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Yvonne Chireau, Swarthmore College

Elizabeth Coody, Morningside College

Matthew Cressler

Marcus Jimenez, Independent Artist

Dan Clanton, Doane University

A. David Lewis

Christina Pasqua, University of Toronto

Business Meeting

David Feltmate, Auburn University, Montgomery

Kaitlyn Ugoretz, University of California, Santa Barbara

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A24-117

**Hosted by:** Islamic Mysticism Unit

Theme: Ecology, Ethics, and Piety in Sufi Thought and Practice

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

Environmental and ecological issues have been an important cornerstone of Sufi studies for the past century. For the Sufis, the issue of environmentalism is centered on certain verses of the Qur'ān, which emphasize the beauty of the world. The Sufis take the command of being "God's

vicegerent on earth” seriously in that they believe that they ought to be the caretakers of nature. The four papers of this panel focus on how these verses of the Qur’ān are manifested in different areas of the world.

Mohammad Amin Mansouri, presiding

## Papers

Munjed Murad, Harvard University

Beauty is in the Nature of Things: A Sufi Theory of Beauty in the Works of Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī and Rūzbihān Baqlī

Aysenur Cam, Princeton University

Epistemic Vicegerency in Islamic Eco-Ethics

Taha Firdous Shah, Emory University

In the quest for bāṭinī peace: Forms of everyday piety in a khanqāh in Kashmir

Peter Dziedzic, Harvard University

More-than-Human Songs in the Garden of 'Nightingales': The Kashmiri Rishinamas as Islamic Ecopoetics

## Respondent

Aziza Shanazarova, Columbia University

Business Meeting

Syed Zaidi, Emory University

M. Shobhana Xavier, Queen's University

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A24-103

**Hosted by:** Afro-American Religious History Unit

Theme: Embodied Aesthetics, Political Resistance, and Cultural Reclamation: The Varieties of African American Religious Politics from the 1960s Onward

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

This panel presents new research that explores the varieties of African American religious culture and political formation in the latter third of the twentieth century. These papers examine the formation of the Nation of Islam’s Temple #11 in Boston, Rev. Henry Mitchell’s embrace of reactionary conservative politics in the midst of the civil rights movement, and the



contours of Black religious aesthetics in Majorette Dance at HBCUs, respectively. Taken together, they advance a complex view of the ways that African Americans have constructed and embodied religion, race, and political formation. How have Black religious communities defined and performed religious culture? What ideas and issues have influenced the range of diverse perspectives in Black religious politics? How might Black religious history be expanded and extended through analysis of embodied and kinesthetic elements?

Ambre Dromgoole, Cornell University, presiding

## Papers

Sam McLoughlin, Stanford University

"No More 'Fussin' & Bussin'": Rev. Henry Mitchell and Freedom From the Federal Government

Fatimah Fanusie

Freedom, Justice, and Equality: the Development of Boston's Temple # 11

Dustin Gavin, Yale University

The Stands: A Religious and Aesthetic Study of HBCU Majorette Dance

## Respondent

Vaughn Booker, University of Pennsylvania

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A24-136

**Hosted by:** Study of Islam Unit

Theme: Embodied Ambiguities: Queering Gender and Sexuality in Islamic Discourses

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

This panel brings together four papers that reflect on various levels of ambiguity in Islamic discourses on gender and sexuality, from legal classifications of the intersex body, to social responses to homoerotic literature, and queer experiments with communal piety. The four papers span very different historical contexts, from medieval transregional legal discourse, to early modern South Asia, to the contemporary United States. The papers also reflect distinct methodological approaches: ethnography, close readings of classical legal texts, and reception history of popular literary texts.

Yasmine Flodin-Ali, presiding

## Papers

Hasan Hameed, Princeton University

Reading Desire: Islamic Ethics and Homoerotics in Early Modern India

Mehrdad Alipour, Utrecht University

Khunthā as a Third Ontological Category: Rethinking Intersexuality in Classical Māliki and Shi'i Legal Discourses

Indira Gesink, Baldwin Wallace University

Ontological vs. Categorical Sex Difference in Classical Shāfi'i jurisprudence: the Case of the Khunthā (Intersex)

Magda Mohamed, Boston University

Playful Piety: How American Muslims Play with/in Islam

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A24-109

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit and Jewish Studies Unit

Theme: Good for the Catholics? Jewish Studies Scholars Reflect on Catholic Higher Education Sixty Years After *Nostra Aetate*

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

The sixty years since *Nostra Aetate* have seen significant changes across the landscape of Catholic higher education. In this roundtable discussion, three scholars of Jewish studies who work within different contexts of Catholic higher education will discuss the past, present, and future of Jewish-Catholic dialogue and collaboration after *Nostra Aetate*. The panelists will explore questions including: In what ways have the promises of *Nostra Aetate* been fulfilled at Catholic universities? In what ways have they failed? In what ways did *Nostra Aetate* not go far enough? In what ways is Catholic-Jewish dialogue unique in spaces of academia and higher education? What are the unique challenges of doing this dialogue in spaces of higher education? Is this dialogue having an impact on Catholic-Jewish relations beyond the campus? What should the next “big steps” be in Catholic-Jewish interreligious dialogue?

Sara Ronis, presiding

### Panelist

Malka Simkovich, Catholic Theological Union

Zvi Novick, University of Notre Dame

Ethan Schwartz, Villanova University  
Business Meeting  
Jennifer Caplan  
Andrea Dara Cooper

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A24-116

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit

Theme: Homes, Histories, and Political Commitments in Ethnographies of Hinduism

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

This roundtable examines what it means to ethnographically study Hinduism as scholars situated both within and outside Religious Studies departments in North American universities. Bringing together scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds who engage in ethnography—whether directly or more circuitously—the roundtable asks what the ethnographic, as a mode of studying contemporary Hinduism, makes possible as well as limits. We engage with two distinct but related sets of questions: First, how do we reckon with our scholarly and political practice, given the historical ties of Hindu Studies with alliances between brahminism and whiteness, while also being embedded in the history of empire? How might ethnography—as method, stance, and writerly practice—inform the issue? Second, we discuss the meaning and implications of doing ethnographic research in contemporary India (and among Indian communities abroad) in light of the current political climate and nationalist articulations of Indian history and politics.

Deonnie Moodie, University of Oklahoma, presiding

### **Panelist**

Shruti Patel

Emilia Bachrach, Oberlin College and Conservatory

Kartik Maini, University of Chicago

Ridhima Sharma, University of Toronto

Tulasi Srinivas, Emerson College

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A24-122

**Hosted by:** Mysticism Unit

Theme: Mysticism and Liberation: Freedom, Confinement, and Exile

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This panel explores the intersections of mysticism and freedom by centering liberatory practices that explicitly challenge authoritarian or oppressive structures. Papers in this session will examine topics including mysticism and disability, prison abolition, Black spiritualism, Indian nationalism, and Eastern Orthodoxy.

Fernanda Garcia Ortiz, presiding

## Papers

Tatiana Tiaynen-Qadir, Tampere University, Finland

Ali Qadir, Tampere University, Finland

Eastern Orthodox mystics in society: Liberation from Self and Soviet authority

Nicholas Collins, Rice University

Karmayogin: The Practical Mysticism of Sri Aurobindo in the Struggle Against Fascism and Colonialism

Emma Ceruti

Nancy Eiesland as Mystic: Mysticism, Liberation, and The Disabled God

Rebecca Makas, Villanova University

Prison Abolition, Mysticism, and Liberation of the Imagination: A Manifesto on the Power of the Ineffable

Grace Christensen

Were the Spirits Silent or Silenced? A Study of Literature on Black Spiritualism in the United States

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A24-125

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Non-Human Intelligence, Agency, and Freedom

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This panel considers the philosophical and ethical significance of the intelligence, agency, and freedom of non-human species, especially in light of ecological sensitivity and environmental concerns. Working across a range of philosophical traditions, the panelists consider challenges

to anthropocentrism in the central categories and methodologies of philosophy of religion, and they explore other, non-human modes of knowing and acting.

Molly Farneth, presiding

## Papers

Russell Powell, Harvard Divinity School

Where Thought Takes Root: Plant Intelligence and the Undoing of Human Mastery

Jennifer A. Herdt, Yale University

Life, Agency, and Multispecies Freedom

Beatrice Marovich

Only the Fungi Can Save Us Now

Ehsan Sheikholharam, Kennesaw State University

John Miller

The Case of the Animals versus Man: A Medieval Critique of Anthropocentrism

Business Meeting

Lori K. Pearson, Carleton College

Molly Farneth

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A24-114

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Pagan Studies Unit

Theme: Novel Knowledge : Transmission and Enchantment in History, Literature and Contemporary Media

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

The CPS Steering Committee seeks to understand more about the communication of esoteric and magical information. Scholarship has suggested the trade and spread of magical books was as important in the building of American and British Paganism as personal transmission and learning had been thought to be. What can we learn from microhistories of practitioners, embedded in the book trade while being authors themselves? Before the Internet, occult and new age spiritualities were often dependent upon such channels, but the contours of such operations have yet to be fully investigated. At the same time, these operations are not confined to the past. Works of popular books and television programs have provided gateway routes for discovery and inspiration of magical and Pagan discourse for generations. In areas often seen as culturally and economically devastated, can current developments in speculative

fiction re-enchant and re-present regional older folk magic practices for new generations?

Christopher Chase, Iowa State University, presiding

## Papers

Shai Feraro

A Witch's Bookshelf – Delving into the Esoteric Book Trade in Britain Through Doreen Valiente's Notebooks

Jefferson Calico, University of the Cumberlands  
Pagan Re-enchantment and Speculative Fiction

## Respondent

Jenny Butler  
Business Meeting  
Giovanna Parmigiani

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A24-130

**Hosted by:** Religion and Sexuality Unit

Theme: Panel Discussion of Danielle Tumminio Hansen's *Speaking of Rape: The Limits of Language in Sexual Violations*

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

*Speaking of Rape: The Limits of Language in Sexual Violations* examines how language shapes survivors' ability to process, resist, and heal from sexual harm. Tumminio Hansen explores whether the difficulty in articulating trauma stems solely from the nature of traumatic violence or also from linguistic limitations shaped by social constructs. Drawing parallels to theological critiques of masculine God-language, she argues that survivors face linguistic idolatry and irrelevance, which hinder healing and justice. Engaging trauma theorists, pastoral theologians, and feminist philosophy, she critiques current definitions of terms like "rape," "victim," and "perpetrator" while advocating for more empowering alternatives. She also reimagines justice through restorative practices centered on storytelling and survivor agency. By weaving theology, feminist philosophy, trauma studies, and first-person narrative, Tumminio Hansen offers a framework for rethinking language, justice, and healing—ultimately modeling how to speak the unspeakable in pursuit of liberation, resistance, freedom, and personal and collective transformation.

Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology, presiding

### Panelist

Monica Coleman, University of Delaware  
Michelle Panchuk, Murray State University  
Michael Rea  
Jonathan Tran, Baylor University  
Samuel Youngs

### Respondent

Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University

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A24-104

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit

Theme: Poetics of Comparison. A Roundtable in Honor of Francis Clooney

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

In our post-colonial era, comparativists face the dual challenge of adhering to rigorous methodological standards while embracing the creative dynamics of comparison. This roundtable will examine the poetics inherent in the comparative process, understanding poetics both as *poiesis*—the creation of new meanings—and as a form of linguistic play. The roundtable will bring together a group of scholars of comparative theology, religion, and literature engaging diverse religious and literary traditions.

Gloria Hernández, West Chester University, presiding

### Panelist

Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University  
Laurie Louise Patton, American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
Michelle Voss  
Luis M. Giron  
Thomas Cattoi, Graduate Theological Union

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A24-126

**Hosted by:** Political Theology Unit

Theme: Political Poetics of Singularity: Theopolitical Entanglements

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This roundtable aims to rethink the intersections of politics and theology through a poetics of singularity (i.e. how the imaginative expression of a single figure, event, or experience disables or activates collectivities in ways irreducible to human history, agency, and categories of identity). Bringing together scholars of anthropology, religious studies, and literature, it seeks to dis-imagine current versions of politics, universality, and subjectivity by locating the political at the intersection of mystical, environmental, aesthetic, technological, religious, and historical imaginaries.

Linking these entry points is shared interest in how claims to singularity efface difference, but also affirm a radical uniqueness, reifying the exception (i.e. in claims about the singularity of the Holocaust, the figure of the survivor, or death as a limit case). We hope to challenge these forms of categorical stasis by converging on a *poetics* of singularity and the enfleshed speech acts in which it is performed.

Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Georgia State University, presiding

### Panelist

Valentina Napolitano, University of Toronto  
Constance Furey  
Carlota McAllister  
Niklaus Largier  
Adam Stern, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Yunus Dogan Telli, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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A24-127

**Hosted by:** Practical Theology Unit

Theme: Practical Theology for Politically Fraught Times

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

The landscape of politics in the U.S. and around the globe is fraught with anxiety, distress, and suffering. We are witnessing unprecedented political tensions, deepening ideological polarization, rising authoritarianism (including Christian Nationalism), and erosion of democratic institutional norms. Competing narratives of truth, a proliferation of misinformation and disinformation, the marginalization of vulnerable communities, and geopolitical tensions further contribute to this anxiety. How might practical theology be done in these politically fraught times? How can practical theologians and practitioners respond meaningfully, critically,



and compassionately to these global political challenges? What are the implications of these theologies and practices for conceptions and experiences of freedom?

The Practical Theology Unit regards practical theology – a discipline committed to bridging theological reflection and lived reality – uniquely positioned to offer critical insights and transformative practices to these important questions. This session brings presentations ranging across various sub-disciplines of practical theology, as well as global contexts.

Marc Lavalley, presiding

Hee-Kyu Heidi Park, presiding

Claudia Herrera-Montero, Dominican University, presiding

## Papers

Leah Thomas, Lancaster Theological Seminary

Pastoral/Spiritual Care in Times of Distress: A Turn to Embodiment

Christine Smaller

Cultivating Cognitive Virtues Through Prophetic Humour: A Homiletic Strategy for Critical Engagement in Politically Fraught Times

Insung Paik, Emory University

Beyond Distortion: Exploration of a new homiletical method by focusing on ‘grief’ to overcome politically fraught times

Linda (Yun Ja) Kwak, Boston University

The Theopolitical Impact of Korean American Women Pastors: An Investigation into Interdependent Leadership

LaMont Johnson

Title: Practical Theology in Politically Fraught Times: A Transformational Response to Christian Nationalism and White Nationalism

Konnie Vissers

Back to the Garden: Pastoral Care for Humans and Humus

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A24-102

**Hosted by:** African Diaspora Religions, Arts, Literature, and Religion, Body and Religion, Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society, Religions in the Latina/o Americas, Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism

Theme: Precarity: Being as Black Womanhood  
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

## Papers

Erica Johnson  
Deliberate Revelation: Telling as Place-Making

Drake Konow, University of Texas, Austin  
Mounting Secular Counter-Theology in Castiel Vitorino Brasileiro's *Montando a historia da vida*

Amina Shumake, Vanderbilt University  
When the Word Falls Apart: On Racial Capitalism and the Theopoetics of Black Silence

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A24-134

**Hosted by:** Science, Technology, and Religion Unit  
Theme: Reconsidering Eugenics in Science and Religion Scholarship  
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

This roundtable discussion will offer, to a wide variety of scholars across numerous subfields, a broad conversation about the role of eugenics in scholarship on science and religion. We aim to reconsider the history and present of the field “science and religion”—as practiced by theologians, philosophers, historians, and others—and its entanglements with eugenic ideologies and organizations, particularly but not exclusively in the early- and mid-twentieth century. In so doing, we seek to bring critical scholarship on eugenics into conversation with religious studies. Bioessentialist attempts to control heredity have been a feature of U.S. and global politics for more than a century, and they are on the rise. Scholars of religion, science, and technology need frameworks and vocabularies for addressing eugenics in their research and teaching. We aim to generate a productive conversation about where our field has been and where it ought to go.

Charles McCrary, Eckerd College, presiding

## Panelist

John Slattery  
Myrna Perez  
Suzanne Van Geuns, Princeton University

Jason Sexton, University of California, Los Angeles

## Respondent

Elonda Clay, Vrije University Amsterdam

Business Meeting

Myrna Perez

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A24-138

**Hosted by:** Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Reimagining Freedom: Women's Embodied Resistance Across Religious and Cultural Landscapes

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This panel brings together global perspectives on women's negotiations of freedom within religious, cultural, and political contexts. From Türkiye to Tibet, Kenya to Korea, and diaspora communities in China, these papers examine how women navigate systems of power and tradition, transforming spaces of constraint into sites of resilience and liberation. Topics include women's spatial practices in Turkish mosques, feminist responses to femicide in Kenya, and Jewish women's ritual creativity in Harbin's diaspora. A study of Korean comfort women through poetry interrogates the limits of political liberation, while contemporary Tibetan nuns offer a non-Western vision of liberatory complementarianism rooted in compassion and motherhood. Collectively, these papers challenge static notions of freedom, illuminating how women reinterpret faith, identity, and agency across shifting socio-religious landscapes. Through lived practices, cultural memory, and theological innovation, the panel reveals how freedom is not given, but continuously woven through acts of resistance, imagination, and communal care.

Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union, presiding

## Papers

busra karasakal, Bahcesehir University

"Whose Mosque Is It?": Women's Roles, Experiences, and Spatial Negotiations in Türkiye

Telesia Musili, university of Nairobi

Trapped in Deadly Love: Unpacking the Dynamics of Femicide and Women's Struggle for Freedom in Kenya

YanChen Liu

Weaving Freedom: Jewish Women's Resilience in Harbin's Diaspora, 1898–1950

Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University

Andrew Taylor, College of St. Scholastica

A Liberatory Complementarianism?: Contemporary Tibetan Nuns Theorize Motherhood and Womanhood

Shinmyung Kim, Emory University

Reconceptualizing Freedom and Liberation: Analyzing Korean Women's Experiences through Gunho Kim's Poem "어머님 말씀 (Ömönim Malssŭm)"

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A24-118

**Hosted by:** Jain Studies Unit and South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: Religion and Global Capitalism in Jainism and Beyond

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

This panel explores the paradox of Jain economic success and wealth accumulation in relation to the religion's precepts of non-attachment and ascetic ideal of absolute renunciation. Contributors survey contemporary Jain attitudes towards wealth accumulation in the context of global capitalism, making use of a variety of media and ethnographic data to articulate ways in which Jains redeploy canonical scripture to justify and interpret contemporary practices and attitudes. The case studies under consideration center on Jain communities in India and abroad and include a range of occupational groups and social classes, exploring in addition relationships between Jains and adjacent religious communities (Hindu, Muslim) to account for the formation of etic and emic characterizations of Jain economic competence, in addition to broader, inter-religious discourses of "Dharmic capitalism."

Gregory Clines, Trinity University, presiding

## Papers

M. Whitney Kelting, Northeastern University

Money and Masculinity in Late Capitalist Jainism

Justin Henry, University of South Florida

Capitalism and the Cultivation of Virtue from Jain Perspective

David Silverberg

Jainism and Commercial Capitalism: Ethno-religion, Commerce, and Historical Transformation

Jaclyn Michael, University of Tennessee

What Is A “Sellable” Muslim? Towards a Political Economy of Muslim Cultural Representation in Contemporary India

## Respondent

Steven Vose, University of Colorado, Denver

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A24-131

**Hosted by:** Religion and the Social Sciences Unit and Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: Religion in the Workplace: Freedoms and Functions

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

Recent social science work shines a light on religion and spirituality in the lives of workers—how it can contribute to a sense of meaning and purpose at work, but also how it can be a source of conflict and discrimination—within an increasingly pluralistic workplace. Yet there has been little empirical attention in the field of religious studies about how religion and work intersect. This multidisciplinary roundtable seeks to open critical conversation about workplaces as sites of lived religion; to explore the functions of religion in the contemporary US workplace; and to consider questions of religious freedom and intersectional struggles for human flourishing, using the workplace as a case study. We will explore why the workplace is a crucial site for examining issues of religious freedom in a multi-racial, multi-religious democracy and discuss key questions, debates, and theoretical and methodological tools needed to better understand religion’s role in the workplace.

Rachel Schneider, Rice University, presiding

## Panelist

Rachel Schneider, Rice University

Judith Ellen Brunton, Rice University

Elaine Howard Ecklund

Jauhara Ferguson

## Respondent

Kristy Nabhan-Warren

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A24-132

**Hosted by:** Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Unit

Theme: Religion, Mass Atrocities, and Genocide

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

How might we make sense of the connection between religion, genocide, and mass atrocities? Why is interrogating this connection through a critical theoretical frame vital for articulating a more capacious analysis of religion and peacebuilding?

A common assumption is that religiously motivated atrocities are self-evident. However, the dynamics and relations between religion and atrocities are complex and require significant analytical parsing. In exploring these connections, this roundtable will examine the relation between religion and genocide and mass atrocities by focusing on the Gaza genocide from a comparative perspective.

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame, presiding

### **Panelist**

Ebrahim Moosa, University of Notre Dame

Mónica Rey, Boston University

Hanine Shehadeah, NYU Abu Dhabi

### **Respondent**

Santiago H. Slabodsky

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A24-119

**Hosted by:** Korean Religions Unit and Religion and Politics Unit

Theme: Religion, Resistance, and Reform: Political Polarization in the Wake of South Korea's 2024 Martial Law Decree

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This panel explores the underexamined role of Korean religions in shaping the political discourse surrounding South Korea's 2024 martial law decree and its aftermath. Amid mass protests, impeachment trials, and rising political polarization, religious groups have emerged as key actors in narratives of legitimacy, resistance, and reform. The panel investigates the intersections of Christian nationalism, anti-communism, xenophobia, and anti-feminist politics within pro-Yoon mobilizations, focusing on trans-Pacific networks influenced by Trumpism and

the New Apostolic Reformation. By situating Korean religion within global right-wing populist currents, this panel highlights how religious ideologies and institutions shape both authoritarian and democratic imaginaries, providing critical insights into South Korea's evolving political trends and the broader global struggle over democracy.

Angie Heo, presiding

## Papers

Shalon Park, Princeton Theological Seminary

Christian Nationalism and Sinophobia: The Role of Anti-China Sentiment in South Korean Politics and Diplomacy

Minjung Noh, Lehigh University

Gender as a Common Enemy: Grammars of Transpacific Hate Rhetoric in Post-December 3 South Korea

Sandra Park, University of Arizona

Christian Anticommunism and Enemy-making in Cold War South Korea

Myung-Sahm Suh, Sogang University

From Trumpism to Yoonism? Trans-Pacific Charismatic Christian Networks and South Korea's 2024-2025 Political Crisis

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A24-108

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit

Theme: Religious Labor in the Making of Buddhist Worlds

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

What is religious labor? Is it a monk tending to radishes in a temple garden or a Buddhist statue carver at work in his workshop? Labor within religious contexts is intertwined with everyday moral economies and realities molded by local and global capitalistic networks. Religion influences the ways work is organized, valued, and experienced, shaping how people recognize and understand their own and others' labor. It challenges individuals and communities to envision alternative perspectives on labor processes and practices. By exploring the intersection of Buddhism and labor, this roundtable unravels the logics of what we term "religious labor" to investigate not only how religion shapes labor processes but also how work is a co-constitutive element in the formation of Buddhist worlds. This roundtable explores how religious labor

serves as a conduit through which material and immaterial labor become co-constituted and how the interdependent processes of valuation make such transformations intelligible.

Thomas Borchert, presiding

## Panelist

Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College  
Paulina Kolata, Harvard University  
Beiyin Deng, University of Missouri, Columbia  
julia cassaniti  
Courtney Bruntz

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A24-123

**Hosted by:** Nineteenth Century Theology Unit, Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Unit and Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit

Theme: Revisiting Personalism: In Boston and Beyond

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

This year's annual meeting in Boston occurs approximately 150 years after theologian and philosopher Borden Parker Bowne (1847–1910) returned to the U.S. from his European studies and began his career teaching at Boston University. Through his subsequent work, Bowne became known as the "Father of Boston Personalism." The papers in this session explore the history and legacy of personalist thought from the 19th century to today, examining underappreciated thinkers, unexplored influences, and the ongoing relevance of personalism in contemporary conversations.

Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School, presiding

Mary Friedline, presiding

## Papers

Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman, Wesley House, Cambridge

Joining the Dots: Exploring the connections between Saint John Henry Newman and the Boston Personalists

Nathaniel Holmes, Florida Memorial University

Boston Personalism and Ethical Prophecy: The Legacy of Rufus Burrow, Jr's Personalist Philosophy



Kari Martin, University of Chicago

How To Speak With a Tree: Erazim Kohák's Ecological Personalism and the Ecopoetics of Environmental Disaster

J.J. Warren

Postmodern Personalism? The Queer Condition of Ontological Instability

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A24-133

**Hosted by:** Ritual Studies Unit

Theme: Ritual Liberation and Suppression

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

This panel explores the tension between rituals of liberation and ritual suppression by asking how ritual practices offer a sense of freedom, under what circumstances normative regimes ban or belittle ritual practices, and by what means practitioners reinvest their rituals with meaning in the face of a culture that minimizes them. The first paper considers the liberation afforded by decluttering rituals as they both produce and obscure waste. The second paper shows how evangelical women, constrained in their public actions by the norms of Christian femininity, turn their homes into prayer closets that allow them to privately act as “prayer warriors.” The third paper counters a history of misunderstanding and suppression by recovering the rituals and voices of Appalachian snake-handling. The fourth paper reveals investing in Bitcoin as a ritual that seeks to restructure power relations in the global economy and results in a sense of personal dignity and freedom.

Damian Lanahan-Kalish, presiding

## Papers

Claire Rostov

“When we let go of the stuff that binds us, we will be free”: Decluttering Rituals in Pursuit of Freedom

Sarah Hedgecock, Tulane University

The Theology of the Closet: Prayer Closets, War Rooms, and Evangelical Femininity

Chase Viscuse

Serpents, Social Norms, and Good Ole Southern Communitas: A Theoretical Approach to Appalachian Serpent Handling

A24-110

**Hosted by:** Christian Spirituality Unit

Theme: Selling Spirituality: The Commodification of Christian Practice in a Consumer Age

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

This session investigates how Christian spirituality is being reshaped through intersections with capitalism, technology, and labor in contemporary American contexts. It explores the ways spiritual practices and identities are formed in response to systems of economic exchange, cultural production, and mediated community. Together, these papers raise critical questions about the moral, theological, and political implications of living out faith in a capitalist society.

Beringia Zen, presiding

## Papers

Katie Toman, University of Virginia

And God Said, "Let There be Essential Oils": Multi-Level Marketing and Christian Women

Kevin Lazarus, Emory University

Commodified Care: Henri Nouwen's Legacy of Spiritual Transformation through Care

Brett Smith, Miami University

Cory Driver, Miami University

"IJNIPA" – Prayer Apps, Entrepreneurial Christianity, and the Spirituality of Business

Margaret Felice, Boston College

Afflicting the Comfortable: Exodus 90 and American spirituality

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A24-120

**Hosted by:** Law, Religion, and Culture Unit

Theme: Stating and Unstating: Winnifred Fallers Sullivan's Contributions to the Study of Law and Religion

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This roundtable session reflects on how the study of law and religion has been changed by the contributions of Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, who, close to thirty years ago, co-founded what is now the Law, Religion, and Culture program unit. Throughout her richly collaborative career, she has disrupted the terms we use to talk about these subjects and has helped scholars of law and religion to establish new grammars with which to think about collectivity, subjectivity, and political theology. This roundtable, then, assembles scholars from an array of fields whose collective work spans diverse geographies, methods, and conceptual groundings to acknowledge Sullivan's work as a colleague, collaborator, and interlocutor, and, with her, to imagine where next the field might go.

Morgan Barbre, Yale University, presiding

### Panelist

Jason C. Bivins, North Carolina State University  
Elizabeth Shakman Hurd  
M. Cathleen Kaveny  
Benjamin Berger  
Tomoko Masuzawa  
Sarah Ludin  
Paul Christopher Johnson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Philip Hamburger  
Robert A. Yelle, LMU Munich  
Pamela Klassen, University of Toronto  
Mona Oraby, Howard University

### Respondent

Winnifred Sullivan

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A24-141

**Hosted by:** Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit and Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

Theme: The Category of "Nature" and Anthropocentrism of Philosophy of Religion

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Marriott Copley Place, Grand Ballroom JK (Fourth Floor)

Followed by the GCPR unit business meeting, the session participants propose new conceptions of "nature" as a key category for philosophy of religion. Classic philosophy of religion often uncritically assumes a bifurcation between nature and humans while proving God's existence or

establishing God's attributes (e.g., natural theology). The session deploys "nature" as a category inclusive of humans, non-human beings, and divine entities. Geoff Ashton and Karen O'Brien-Kop both explore how Sāṃkhya thought reframes nature. Agnieszka Rostalska develops a holistic approach using methods of critical inquiry (*ānvīkṣikī*), where Matthew Robertson draws from the Ayurvedic *Carakasamhitā* to undermine binary arrangements of nature and humanity. Finally, Nural Sophia Liepsner draws upon Sufi sources to theorize space in terms of *rahim* (the womb) as a space of cosmic unity. There will be time for the audience to engage these participants to draw out consequences for doing philosophy of religion. The final 30 minutes will be reserved for the Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion program unit business meeting. Please attend if you wish to directly contribute to the 2026 sessions.

Marie-Helene Gorisse, presiding

## Papers

Agnieszka Rostalska, Ghent University  
"The naturalistic traits of early Indian philosophy"

Matthew Robertson, Murray State University  
Divine and Elemental Flows: Reflections from Early Ayurveda on Nature, Personhood, and the Legal Status of Rivers

Geoff Ashton, University of San Francisco  
Sāṃkhya as a Phenomenology of Living Nature? Some Comments on Life and the First-Person in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and the Sāṃkhya Kārikā

Karen O'Brien-Kop, King's College London  
Samkhya Dualism in the Anthropocene

Nura Sophia Liepsner  
Turning Towards the Womb as Microcosm— From Sufi Conceptualizations of the Rahim to Gender-Justice in Contemporary Islam

Business Meeting  
Nathan R. B. Loewen, University of Alabama

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A24-140

**Hosted by:** Comparative Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: The Depths of Divine Reflexivity: Kimberley C. Patton's Contributions to the Study of Comparative Religion

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

In this roundtable, scholars across fields within religious studies examine how Kimberley C. Patton's work has influenced their own scholarship, which all draws from the analytic of divine reflexivity she proposed in 2009. Trained as an historian of ancient Greek religion, Patton has worked across nearly a dozen global religious traditions from Neolithic times to the present. Her commitment to the comparative study of religion has produced major theoretical interventions in religious studies, provoked insightful critique of phenomenological categories of analysis, and illuminated unexplored categories of inquiry. With attention to divine motherhood, sacred oceans, oath-swearing spirits, icons and idols, religious animals, and holy tears, this roundtable assembles scholars across various regional, historical, and temporal contexts to critically reflect on divine reflexivity. As a collective, they consider how thinking with Patton has shaped their own work, and what that thinking means for the general practice of the comparative study of religion.

Kyrah Malika Daniels, Boston College, presiding

### **Panelist**

Ayodeji Ogunnaike

David Mozina

Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan, Austin College

Eric D. Mortensen, Guilford College

Kyrah Malika Daniels, Boston College

### **Respondent**

Kimberley Patton, Harvard University

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A24-124

**Hosted by:** Open and Relational Theologies Unit

Theme: The Future of God: Hope, Freedom, and Eschatology

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

Open and Relational Theologies deem God to be persuasive, not coercive; a lure, not a puppeteer. But human freedom seems to imply our ability to resist God's love forever. It also seems to imply the potential for evil to triumph in time. If God's love precludes God's control of individual persons and our collective history, how strong is our hope for God's liberative action in the present and for an eschatology where God will be "all in all"? Panelists will offer: an open theist argument for the doctrine of bodily resurrection as grounds for hope in cosmic redemption; a pneumatological account of freedom as the invitation to participate in God's

hope for the future; an interpretation of *apokatastasis* consistent with an open future; and a call for an eschatological imagination that balances the freedom of the future with the need to concretize hope against injustice.

Leon Harris, Biola University, presiding

## Papers

Wm. Curtis Holtzen, Hope International University  
Embodied Hope: Christian Materialism, Open Theism, and the Resurrection

Wesley Biddy, Pentecostal Theological Seminary  
Hope as Liberation and as Participation with God: An Engagement with the Theology of Jürgen Moltmann

Robert Cornwall  
Theodicy, the Restoration of All Things, and an Open but Hopeful Future

Victoria Slabinski, University of Virginia  
Questions of the Future: Moltmann, Rahner, and De La Torre on Eschatology, Freedom, and Hope

Business Meeting  
Jon Paul Sydnor

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A24-137

**Hosted by:** Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit  
Theme: The Legacy of François Laruelle for Philosophy of Religion and Theology  
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

This panel considers the legacy of the late François Laruelle (1937-2024) for philosophy of religion and theology. Laruelle's work, which he called 'non-philosophy' or 'non-standard philosophy,' was from very early on interested in themes, ideas, concepts that are rightly called religious, and the later phases of non-philosophy were increasingly marked by a preponderance of religious and theological materials. The members of this panel argue that Laruelle's engagement with the religious dimension of human life and thought should be of interest to scholars of religion. The panel consists of three papers and a response, each of which highlights an element of Laruelle's thought, such as the political-theological overtones of the structure of what Laruelle calls 'philosophical decision,' Laruelle's complex and vexing relation to Derrida

and deconstruction, and Laruelle's peculiar, ethical usage of religious and theological figures like Saint Paul and Saint Sebastian.

Marika Rose, University of Winchester, presiding

## Papers

Sean Capener, University of Toronto  
The Philosopher's Two Bodies: Laruelle and Political Theology

Kimberly Matheson  
Laruelle, Deconstruction, and Human Religion

Timothy Snediker  
These Arrows in My Flesh (Sebastianism as Method)

## Respondent

Anthony Paul Smith, La Salle University

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A24-111

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit, Reformed Theology and History Unit, and Schleiermacher Unit

Theme: The Promise of Freedom in Modern Theological Reflection

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

Freedom! Long-standing theme of doctrinal reflection, core value of modernity, and pressing concern of oppressed communities everywhere, the theme of freedom is full of urgency, promise, and ambivalence. This joint session highlights notable treatments of freedom emerging in modern and contemporary systematic theology, particularly in the contrasting accounts of freedom in the writings of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Søren Kierkegaard, Karl Barth, and James Cone. The session's four papers inquire into the complex questions surrounding the relationship of divine and human freedom, freedom and authority, liberation and social sin, and theological affirmations of freedom and human dignity amidst the modern history of oppression.

Kevin Vander Schel, presiding

## Papers

Casey Spinks, University of Texas, Austin  
Kierkegaard's Sense of Divine Authority and Christian Freedom

Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma  
Legislating Innocence: Theology and the Politics of Guilt in Contemporary America

Taido Chino, Trinity College Bristol  
Negotiating Freedom in Schleiermacher and Barth

Enoch Kuo, Seton Hall University  
Political Economy, Social Sin, and the Task of Theology in Schleiermacher's "Natural Law"  
Defense of Queer Desire

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P24-100

**Hosted by:** International Society for Science and Religion

Theme: Theology and Psychology Collaborations in the 'God, Language & Diversity' Project

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Westin Copley Place, St. George AB (Third Floor)

God, Language and Diversity' is a research project consisting of five pairs of psychology-theology collaborations. Each project explores a different aspect of linguistic diversity and spiritual flourishing within Christian and Jewish traditions. The types of linguistic diversity under consideration are multilingualism, autism (speaking and non-speaking), dyslexia, aphasia, and midrash interpretative practices.

Unusually for the field of either science-and-religion or science-engaged theology, within 'God, Language and Diversity,' each research project was co-designed and is being implemented equally by psychologists and theologians. Both disciplinary partners have an equal stake in the research questions and equal ownership of the project.

In this panel, six researchers (five theologians and one psychologist) will reflect of how this intense form of interdisciplinary collaboration works in practice, what the benefits and limitations are, and what lessons might be taken forward in future research."

### **Panelist**

Joanna Leidenhag, University of Leeds  
Daniel Mirman, University of Edinburgh  
John Perry, University of St Andrews  
James Eglinton, University of Edinburgh  
Armand Van Ommen



A24-107

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit

Theme: Visualizing Buddhism and Medicine

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Over the past two decades, “Buddhism and medicine” has emerged as a dynamic new field of study, bringing together scholars from multiple disciplines to construct a global history that spans vast time periods and geographies. Yet with few exceptions, this growing body of scholarship remains text-focused, privileging written sources over visual and material evidence. This is surprising given the centrality of visuality and materiality to Buddhist studies since the 1990s. Through diverse methodological and disciplinary perspectives, our panel aims to prompt a “visual turn” within the subfield of Buddhism and medicine, exploring how visual culture can serve as both source and method of study. As our panel demonstrates, the intertwined histories of Buddhism and medicine have produced a rich visual archive. Papers cover a range of regions and time periods—medieval Japan, Korea, early-modern Tibet, and present-day India—addressing topics such as anatomical illustrations, talismans, disease demons, and special bodies in film and photography.

D. Max Moerman, presiding

## Papers

Briana Brightly, Harvard University

Iconometry, or How to Draw the Buddha and Dissect a Corpse

Sujung Kim, Johns Hopkins University

Buddhist Edibles in Chosŏn Korea: Consuming Images and Visualizing the Sacred

Andrew Macomber, Oberlin College

When Disease-Demons Attack!: Illustrated Narratives and the Horror of Buddhist Graphic Medicine in Japan

Donagh Coleman, University of California, Berkeley

Post-mortem Tukdam Meditation as Image and the Radiance of Presence

## Respondent

James Robson

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M24-108

**Hosted by:** Society for Pentecostal Studies

Theme: New Testament Readings

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Westin Copley Place, Courier (Seventh Floor)

Dongsoo Kim, Pyeongtaek University, presiding

## Papers

Blaine Charette, Northwest University

Paul's Epistemology of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians

David Johnson, Regents Theological College (UK)

Affects as Meaning: Affect Theory as a Lens for Pentecostal Biblical Interpretation

Sammy Alfaro, Grand Canyon University

The Spirit of Prophecy: Recovering the Prophetic Call to Social Justice in Revelation

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A24-142

**Hosted by:** AAR Status Committees

Theme: All-Status Committee listening session: Critical and Activist Perspectives on Academic Freedom

Monday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

The current U.S. administration's use of funding as leverage has significantly impacted higher education, pushing institutions to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. This includes restrictions on course content, program offerings, and hiring practices, leading to a chilling effect on academic freedom and the very well-being of faculty. This panel will explore the profound professional, personal, and academic pressures faced by faculty whose identities belong to (or intersect across) racially and ethnically minoritized communities, women and gender-minoritized peoples, people with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ peoples. In this challenging climate, many colleagues feel unwelcome and unsafe. We will provide a crucial platform to illuminate these lived experiences and discuss strategies for resistance, resilience, and

advocacy, aiming to safeguard the future of inclusive scholarship, teaching, and learning -- within and outside institutions of higher education.

Nick Shrubsole, University of Central Florida, presiding

## Panelist

Mary Jo Iozzio

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M24-106

**Hosted by:** Journal for the Study of Judaism

Theme: Journal for the Study of Judaism Editorial Board Meeting

Monday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Westin Copley Place, Great Republic (Seventh Floor)

An invitation only meeting of the editorial boards of the Journal for the Study of Judaism and its affiliated series, Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism.

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A24-232

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Archives and Abuse: Boston's Bishop Accountability as a Case Study in Digital Public Access

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

Nearly 25 years ago, survivors and journalists put Boston at the center of international conversations about religion and sexual abuse. In the aftermath of the scandal, a group of Boston Catholics created BishopAccountability.org, a small nonprofit which has now become the world's largest digital archive of religious abuse. This panel brings scholars into conversation with Boston-area survivors, attorneys, and activists who have worked extensively with Bishop Accountability, to reflect together on a shared set of critical questions, including: *How have digital abuse archives influenced public understandings of religion? What forms of justice can open-access archives produce for survivors and their families? What opportunities do these archives present for teaching and research? Given that similar efforts to document sexual violence in other traditions have been shut down, what has made BishopAccountability sustainable? And finally, what does this abuse archive teach us about the digital futures of religious studies?*

Kathryn Lofton, presiding

## Panelist

Brian Clites, Case Western Reserve University  
Amanda Lucia, University of California, Riverside  
Ann Hagan Webb, South Shore Counseling  
R. Marie Griffith, Washington University in St. Louis  
Nancy Eve Cohen, New England Public Media  
Kathleen Holscher  
Walter Robinson, Boston Globe

## Respondent

Terry McKiernan , Bishop Accountability

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A24-203

**Hosted by:** Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit

Theme: Asian America's Religious Past and Present: Inclusion, Freedom, Democracy and Trauma

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

In line with this year's AAR presidential theme of "Freedom," this panel brings together four papers to discuss the manifold ways that Asian American communities have utilized and/or complicated US national myths about freedom through their unique religio-racial experiences. From Chinese American Exclusion to Japanese American Incarceration and Korean American pro-democracy movements to Vietnamese American movements for Trump--how has religion, especially Christianity, shaped these pivotal moments in US history? How has religion not only shaped Asian American racialization but also movements to build a more perfect union, including inclusionary citizenship, the fight for religious freedom, the formation of multiracial democracy, and healing from intergenerational trauma? Building on US and transnational archives, ethnographic research and multi-lingual interviews, these panelists uncover research that delves deeply into the ethnic diversity of Asian American religious communities, from the nineteenth century to the contemporary moment.

Christopher The, Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, presiding

## Papers

Derek Wu, UC Berkeley

Seward's Missionaries: Inclusionary Protestantism and the Struggle for China's Markets

Ken Miyagi, Princeton Theological Seminary

Soul Liberty for Nikkei Christian Internees: Nikkei Christians in the Incarceration Camp and Their Relationship to the Religious Freedom

Seulbin Lee

Collective Freedom to “Live Right, Know Your Roots, Live Strong, Live Together”:

Reconceptualizing Freedom through the Memories of Activism and Spirituality in the Korean Diaspora

Madison Chau, Boston University

Vietnamese Americans, Donald Trump, and Intergenerational Trauma: Understanding the Generational Divide Through Volkan's Group Psychology

## Respondent

Derek Wu, UC Berkeley

Ken Miyagi, Princeton Theological Seminary

Seulbin Lee

Madison Chau, Boston University

Business Meeting

Helen Jin Kim, Emory University

Jesse Lee

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A24-211

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Islam Unit and Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit

Theme: Author-Meets-Critics Panel on Basit Kareem Iqbal's "The Dread Heights: Tribulation and Refuge after the Syrian Revolution."

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

This panel discusses Basit Kareem Iqbal's *The Dread Heights: Tribulation and Refuge after the Syrian Revolution* and how this book intervenes in contemporary Islam, political theology, and the anthropology of religion. This rich ethnography opens up a space to address some of the most urgent political and ethical questions that animate contemporary Islam (and global religion more broadly). To name a few:

- the hermeneutics of the religious tradition in times of displacement
- the ambivalence of hospitality in worlds destroyed by hostility
- the (im)possibility of repair in the face of war and violence
- the relevance of ethical practices and comportments in political exile

Iqbal brings consummate ethnographic attunement to the everyday struggles of displaced Syrian refugees, relief workers, and religious scholars in both Jordan and Canada. The panelists represent diverse disciplinary backgrounds and will discuss and debate the book's key arguments and how this monograph advances conversations in method and theory.

Ali Altaf Mian, presiding

### Panelist

Anthony Paul Smith, La Salle University

Carlota McAllister

Samaah Jaffer, Yale University

Martin Nguyen, Fairfield University

### Respondent

Basit Iqbal, McMaster University

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A24-212

**Hosted by:** Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit and Queer Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Author-Meets-Critics: M. Wolff's *Body Problems*

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

M. Wolff's 2025 book *Body Problems: What Intersex Priest Sally Gross Teaches Us About Embodiment, Justice, and Belonging* (Duke University Press) bridges intersexuality studies, interreligious dialogue, and international social justice movements. Gross was designated male at birth and conditionally white as a Jewish person under apartheid in South Africa. She became engaged in pro-Palestinian activism in Israel, was diagnosed as intersex while serving as a Catholic priest in England, and ultimately returned to South Africa to become an intersex activist. As the first book-length publication on Sally Gross, it offers crucial insights into questions of embodiment, religious identity, and social justice through the lens of Gross's remarkable life and advocacy work. Stephanie Budwey, Sarah Imhoff, Joseph Winters, and Kent Brintnall will respond to the book.

Mari Joerstad, Vancouver School of Theology, presiding

### Panelist

Stephanie Budwey

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University, Bloomington

Joseph Winters, Duke University

Megan Goodwin

## Respondent

M Wolff, Augustana College

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A24-202

**Hosted by:** Anthropology of Religion Unit

Theme: Beyond Autonomy: Critical Ethnographies of Freedom and Religion

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

Public discussions about religion and freedom often turn on the question of whether a particular religious identity is or is not oppressive to the individual. Yet, as anthropologists have long shown, people tend to see in their religious commitments the means for liberation and self-mastery, even (or perhaps especially) when those commitments also entail significant restrictions on personal autonomy. In order to untangle this apparent paradox we must critically examine what “freedom” and related terms such as “liberty” mean contextually, and not assume that a perhaps too narrow definition of the term predicated on Western liberal values and perspective is the norm. The papers in this panel draw on original ethnographic research with Evangelical Christians in Zimbabwe and the United States, Orthodox Christians in Greece, and Muslims in India to challenge familiar concepts and expand our understanding of what it means to be free.

Brendan Jamal Thornton, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill, presiding

## Papers

Leanne Williams Green, University of Sydney

Independence without Freedom: Baptist Alternatives in Harare, Zimbabwe

Shahana Munazir

Freedom as discontinuous: Muslim Women's Ethical Responses to Hindu Majoritarianism in Contemporary India

Sam Victor, McGill University

Reasoning Patriarchy out of the Bible: Doctrinal Change and the Ethics of Intellectual Autonomy at a Tennessee Church

Hannah Howard

Between Freedom and Obligation in Greek Orthodox Ethics of Service

## Respondent

Sam Shuman, University of Virginia

Business Meeting

Eric Hoenes Del Pinal, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

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A24-201

**Hosted by:** Animals and Religion Unit

Theme: Beyond Personhood: New Ways to Imagine Our Solidarity with Animals

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

Since the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Native Americans first taught it to Irving Hallowell in the mid-20th century, the concept of animals as “persons like us” has fired the imaginations of both animal studies scholars and animal advocates. As philosopher Matthew Calarco has persuasively framed it, thinking of animals as *the same* as humans can help us get past speciesist views of other animals as somehow “less than” human animals. Yet as Calarco himself acknowledges, personhood has its limits. For example, students often point out to us in class discussion that personhood still has anthropocentric aspects, since it involves comparing other animals’ traits to those of human animals, which (wrongly) suggests that humanity should be the gold standard to which all sentient beings should aspire. How, then, might we (re)conceive of animals in ways that bring us closer to them, rather than the other way around?

Barbara K. Darling-Smith, Wheaton College, presiding

## Panelist

David Clough, University of Aberdeen

Allison Covey

Beth Berkowitz

Geoffrey Barstow, Oregon State University

Lina Verchery

David Aftandilian

Laura Hobgood

Paul Waldau

Business Meeting

Katharine Mershon, Western Carolina University

Christopher Carter, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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A24-223

**Hosted by:** North American Religions Unit

Theme: Black Religion and Narratives of Race

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

Narratives of race provide frameworks for interpreting the role of people of color in the formation of religious movements, and thus for the remembered value of their leadership. These three papers critically analyze the remembered value of religious leaders on African American religious organizations, presenting the historical contribution to religious organizations and questioning narratives of race that undergird their remembered value. Leaders include Rebecca Jackson (a 19th-century Black Shaker Eldress), Louise Little, Betty Shabazz, and Safiya Bukhari (key figures in Black Islam and Black Nationalism), and Lauron William De Laurence (an occult publisher who influenced many Black religions the Nation of Islam and hoodoo).

Mélena Laudig, presiding

## Papers

Rebekah Trollinger, University of Vermont

Rebecca Jackson and the Archive

Iman AbdoulKarim, Yale University

Knowing Otherwise: Self-Determination in U.S. Black Muslima Thought

Justine Bakker, Radboud University

Occultism, Whiteness, Normativity: On LW De Laurence

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A24-204

**Hosted by:** Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit

Theme: Bonhoeffer and Freedom

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

Constructive explorations of Bonhoeffer's theological, practical, and ethical legacy have proven generative for a range of liberative theologies and praxes. The four papers in this session advance new constructive engagements through examinations of Bonhoeffer in conversation

with Ella Baker's model community organizing, Edward Said's critique of orientalism, Hannah Arendt's anthropology, and contemporary shame theorists.

Matthew Puffer, Valparaiso University, presiding

## Papers

Andrew Clark-Howard, St Johns Theological College  
Bonhoeffer Looks East: Freedom, Palestine, and the Orientalist Gaze

Michelle CAO, TST, University of Toronto  
Humanity and God's Preservation in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Theology: A Perspective on God's Condescension in Christ

Kristopher Norris  
Baker and Bonhoeffer: Responsibility and Community Organizing

B. Yuki Schwartz, Claremont School of Theology  
Overcoming Shame: Confession and Discipleship in Bonhoeffer's Theology

Business Meeting  
Matthew Puffer, Valparaiso University  
Karen V. Guth, College of the Holy Cross

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A24-206

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit  
Theme: Catholicisms in Urban Asia  
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This panel explores the diverse ways Catholicism interacts with urban landscapes, state power, and cultural identity across Asia. Through ethnographic and historical analyses in Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia, and China, it examines how Catholic institutions, spaces, and practices shape and are shaped by urban processes.

The first paper investigates the Catholic Church's role in urban governance in Timor-Leste, focusing on land politics during Pope Francis' 2024 visit. The second examines Catholic chapels in Southeast Asian malls, questioning the boundaries between sacred and commercial spaces. The third traces how Catholic elites in Sabah, Malaysia, linked religious and political consciousness to agricultural traditions. The fourth explores inculturation in Shenzhen, China, under state-imposed sinicization policies.

Jack Downey, University of Rochester, presiding

## Papers

Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra, Yale University

Faith, Power, and Displacement: The Catholic Church and Urban Transformation in Timor-Leste

Mark Inigo Tallara, University of the Philippines Diliman

Catholicism in Commercial Hubs: The Role of Sacred Spaces in Shopping Malls Across Southeast Asia

Sharmini Aphrodite, National University of Singapore

Ripening the Harvest: Agriculture, Urbanism and the Rise of a Kadazan Catholic Identity, 1950s-1960s

Leonard Yeo, National University of Singapore

Inculturating Catholicism in Urban China: Offering, Evangelization, and the Politics of Sinicization in Shenzhen

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A24-219

**Hosted by:** Jain Studies Unit

Theme: Celebrating the Jinas: Celebrations and Festivals in Jain Visual and Material Culture

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

The proposed panel explores the representations of festivals and celebrations in Jain material and visual culture, highlighting how these community practices convey important information regarding not only the rituals, sacred objects, and artworks, but also, in the case of performances, the artists/devotees who performed on such occasions and the recipients/viewers of their performances. Presentations should examine how Jain celebrations are performed, portrayed and experienced in the material and visual culture from different geographical areas and chronological periods. The aim of the panel is to deepen our understanding of the symbolic and material dimensions of Jain festivities and their significance within the broader cultural and religious landscape of India. Also, the panel wishes to throw light on the identity of the performing and visual artists who worked for the Jain community, connecting historical and contemporary practices.

Steven Vose, University of Colorado, Denver, presiding

## Papers

Anna Tosato

Dancing in Celebration of the Jinas: A Study of Performing Artists and Performing Arts in Ancient Jainism.

Ellen Gough, Emory University

Digambara Jain Monks who Wear Clothes: The Art of Jain Festival Narratives

Nandita Punj, University of Arizona

Monks as Artists: Visual Interpolations and Interpretations in a Shalibhadra Chaupai manuscript

## Respondent

John E. Cort

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A24-214

**Hosted by:** Ecclesiological Investigations Unit

Theme: Church, State, and Project 2025

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

This session explores freedom of religion in the relationship between church and state, and in view of *Project 2025 (Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise)*.

Congdon's "Resident Arsonists" argues that while much has been made of the New Apostolic Reformation and its dominionist theology of the Seven Mountain Mandate, the actual policies of the second Trump administration are better understood through the lens of postliberalism.

Kennel's "Conspiracism as Political Theology" analyses the self-conscious rejection of conspiracism in Project 2025, treating its approach to trust-building as indicative of wider ecclesial-social conjugations in American society.

Asano's "Stepping on the Image of Christ" shows that despite persecution, hidden Christians preserved their faith through adaptation and resilience, demonstrating how religious identity endured under suppression in early modern Japan.

Finally, McNulty's "Towards Synodal Parliamentarianism?" argues for a qualified form of 'synodal parliamentarianism' in which synodality is seen as developing an ongoing dialogue in the Vatican II-era between Catholic ecclesiology and liberal-democratic society.

Henry Kuo, Eden Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

David Congdon

Resident Arsonists: The Postliberal Ecclesiology of Project 2025

Maxwell Kennel, Canadian Institute for Far-Right Studies

Conspiracism as Political Theology: Project 2025 and Ecclesiologies of Conspiracy

Momoka Asano, University of California, Santa Barbara

Stepping on the image of Christ as a form of deconversion, Venerating a Buddhist bodhisattva as a form of preserving the Christian faith

Stephen McNulty, Yale University

Towards Synodal Parliamentarianism? Liberal Democracy as a Post-Conciliar Conversation Partner

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A24-230

**Hosted by:** Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit

Theme: Communicating the Sacred (and Profane) in Holocaust Exhibitions and Texts

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Holocaust memory is not merely a realm of historical information but, for many, also interwoven with perceptions of sacredness. This is especially evident in the status of witness testimonies from survivors and attempts to record the experiences of pre-war Jewish communities. The papers in this panel will explore the challenges and even dangers associated with this authority. But critical consideration will also be given to the inverse, that is, the status of perpetrator testimony, material, and ephemera in Holocaust museums and archives. What happens when the sacred, profane, and the profoundly evil are displayed together?

Rebecca Carter-Chand, presiding

## Papers

Leah Lawford, University of Exeter

Sacred Testimony: The Transformation of Holocaust Survivors into Digitized Moral Exemplars

Jennifer Rich, Rowan University

## Exploring Yizker Bikher as Sacred Objects

Kate DeConinck, Keene State College

Nazi Flags and Other "Disgraceful" Things: The Role of Perpetrator Materials in Holocaust Museums and Archival Collections

Business Meeting

Benjamin Sax

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A24-227

**Hosted by:** Religion and Food Unit and Religion, Media, and Culture Unit

Theme: Consumption and Authenticity in Developing Media and Technology

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This panel examines themes of consumption (by physical and digital selves) and authenticity (across changing media platforms and technologies). First, presenters investigate the dynamics of local community migration from physical to virtual spaces for the preservation of ceremonial meal consumption, the parasocial relationships that develop between media consumers and influencers around normative wellness rhetoric and body-image devotion, and how anonymity protects online communities from legal consequence for consuming consciousness-altering substances. Second, presenters explore the individual/communal affectations of the contemporary digital landscape, analyzing cases of AI-assisted artistic expression, digitized and/or interactive religious rituals, and alternate-reality gameplay whereby *digitality* fosters a "hyperreal" mode of being. Ultimately, the session examines the aesthetics/mechanisms that govern what counts as authentic religious practice, authority, and expression.

Abtsam Saleh, Harvard University, presiding

## Papers

Babak Rahimi, University of California, San Diego

The Digital Votive: Experiencing Nazri in Remembering the Imam Online During the Pandemic

Reyhab Patel, Carleton University

Beyond Bias: AI, Muslim Artists, and the Creation of Digital Spaces for Healing

Lily Zwaan

Carnivore Women of TikTok: Healing from Modernity

Nathan Springer, University of Ottawa

"SWIM" Team: Trip Reports, Anonymity, and Discursive Freedom during Psychedelic Prohibition

Lanfu Yang

Play the Electronic Wooden Fish: Digitizing Rituals in Chinese Cyberspace

Camden MacKenzie, Queen's University

NRM or ARG? Alternate Reality Games and Invented Religion on the Internet

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A24-231

**Hosted by:** Sikh Studies Unit, Teaching Religion Unit and Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit

Theme: Creative Approaches to Teaching Sikhi through a Decolonial Frame

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

The Sikh Studies Unit, Teaching Religion Unit, and Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit invite scholars, educators, activists, and community leaders to submit papers for a possible co-sponsored panel on "Creative Approaches to Teaching Sikhi through a Decolonial Frame." This panel aims to explore innovative and transformative methods for teaching Sikh history, philosophy, and practices by challenging colonial narratives and embracing decolonial perspectives. We seek contributions that highlight creative pedagogical strategies, curriculum development, and community engagement that centre Sikh voices and experiences, fostering a more inclusive and accurate understanding of Sikhi. We welcome papers that address, but are not limited to, the following themes and topics: a) Decolonising Sikh History and Narratives, b) Innovative Pedagogical Strategies, c) Curriculum Development, d) Community Engagement and Empowerment.

Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds, presiding

## Papers

Francesca Cassio, Hofstra University

"Listening and Singing Gurbānī Kīrtan as a Way of Learning. A Decolonized and Collaborative Approach to Teaching Sikh Musical Literature, History, and Philosophy"

Jim Alexander, Franklin College

Komal Kaur, Umeed Hope

Centering Sovereignty: Exploring Sikhi through Interfaith-Community Advised Pedagogy

Nirinjan Khalsa, Loyola Marymount University

A24-226

**Hosted by:** Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: Doctrine of Discovery and Environmental Devastation

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

The “Age of Discovery” ushered in widespread devastation for Indigenous Peoples through land theft, enslavement, and cultural and physical genocide. Rooted in 15th-century Papal Bulls known as the Doctrine of Discovery, colonial powers justified violence by declaring non-Christians as “enemies of Christ.” These decrees echoed the Crusades and aimed to establish a global Christian empire and economy, treating land as an extractive commodity. In 1823, the U.S. Supreme Court adopted this doctrine in *Johnson v. M’Intosh*, embedding it in U.S. property law to justify further Indigenous land seizure. Though rooted in Catholic theology, this logic has shaped U.S. Protestant nation-building and persists today. The economic systems born from these ideologies—including the transatlantic slave trade and modern corporate extractivism—have played a central role in the environmental crises we now face. Environmental destruction and Indigenous dispossession are thus deeply intertwined in the legacy of colonial expansion.

Adam Brett, Syracuse University, presiding

### Panelist

Philip P. Arnold, Syracuse University

Sandra Bigtree, Indigenous Values Initiative

Karenna Gore, Center for Earth Ethics and/or Union Theological Seminary

Betty Lyons, Indigenous Values Initiative

Sarah Nahar, University of Michigan

### Respondent

Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco

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A24-233

**Hosted by:** Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit

Theme: Embodied Spirituality and Praxis as Envoiced Memories

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)



This session assembles four panelists who provide diverse perspectives on the ways that Black Women's spirituality and memory are valued and embodied in our praxis. The theoethical praxis of "envoicing" invites agency to articulate the intergenerational reclamation of past with present. This session affirms the phenomenological actions of Black Women's making-a-way out of no way" through an epistemological sense of knowing.

Candace M. Laughinghouse, Chicago Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Marielle Thomas

Altar Work: Black Women, Sacred Reclamation and the Fourth Wave of Womanism

Charie Payne

Winds Laden with Dust: Way-Finding Through Creolized Religious Experiences

Yvette Blair-Lavallais

Oral Food Narratives, Sacred Memory & Folklore: How Family History is Passed Down at the Kitchen Table

Cynthia Perry

Running Toward Freedom: Womanist Athletes as Theologians of Liberation

## Respondent

Lakisha Lockhart, Union Presbyterian Seminary

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A24-207

**Hosted by:** Chinese Religions Unit and Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit

Theme: Emotive Facets of Chinese Religious Life

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This panel provides a pioneering contribution to the emerging fields of research on emotions and Chinese religion by exploring emotive facets of religious experience, including their impact on self-cultivation, elite discourse, and devotional practices such as pilgrimage. Paper #1 examines these issues at an individual level, with a case study of an accomplished visual artist and musician who became a Buddhist monk at mid-life and entered a distinctively different community of emotions. The panel's second paper explores the profound significance of humor for an emotional community of Chinese elites who directed laughter of derision at female spirit

mediums. Paper #3 treats emotional communities of Hakka families that experience the joys of going on pilgrimage together to a Guanyin temple in northern Taiwan, while the panel's final paper assesses the emotive aspects of pilgrimage in communities of men and women who worship the Goddess of Mount Tai.

Elena Valussi, Loyola University, Chicago, presiding

## Papers

Raoul Birnbaum

Is there room for emotional expression?: when a talented artist becomes a monk in Buddhist China

Xiaofei Kang

The Art of Laughing at Female Mediums

Paul Katz

The Joys of Journeys to a Familial Past: Topophilia and the Experience of Hakka Pilgrimage in Northern Taiwan

Zhujun Ma, Brown University

Emotionally and Bodily Correlated: Intimacy in the Precious Scrolls about the Goddess of Mount Tai

## Respondent

Elena Valussi, Loyola University, Chicago

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A24-215

**Hosted by:** Evangelical Studies Unit

Theme: Evangelical Inerrancy: From the Bible to Politics

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Since the early 20th century, biblical inerrancy served fundamentalists as a theological litmus test. In the 1970s, conservative evangelical leaders declared a "Battle for the Bible" against both liberal Protestants and moderates in their own ranks. A crucial but understudied part of this theological consolidation and its legacy in the New Christian Right was the work of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI). From 1978 to 1986, the ICBI gathered evangelicals to sign the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy then Statements on Biblical

Hermeneutics and Biblical Application and also helped sponsor the 1982 Congress on the Bible. The ICBI's publications are important windows into American evangelicalism during its existence. Research into the participants in ICBI efforts and the ICBI archives offers further insights into evangelical theology, politics, and culture. These four papers are a first step toward expanding scholarly analysis of the ICBI and its impact on American evangelicalism.

James Martin, Southern Methodist University, presiding

## Papers

Austin Steelman

Biblical Inerrancy and 20th Century North American Political Movements

Michaela Calahan, Southern Methodist University

Biblical Inerrancy and Racism

Jason Hentschel

Biblical Inerrancy and Patriarchy

James Martin, Southern Methodist University

Biblical Inerrancy and Control of the Womb as Symbolic Masculinity among Project 2025 Supporters

## Respondent

Susanne Scholz, Southern Methodist University

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A24-237

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit and Political Theology Unit

Theme: Freedom as Fugitivity and Marronage

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

This panel explores marronage and fugitivity as embodied, relational, and imaginative practices of freedom, extending beyond narrow conceptions of escape and resistance. Through sonic expressions within Black preaching traditions, historical reconsiderations of maroon communities in North America, philosophical challenges to notions of self-possession, and critical ethnographic engagements with Mennonite utopian communities, the papers demonstrate how fugitivity reveals nuanced articulations of freedom. Marronage emerges as a complex interplay involving relational ties to land, ecosystems, sound, spiritual traditions, and

community formation. Overall, the session explores how to redefine liberation and belonging in ways that disrupt colonial and capitalist logics of domination.

An Yountae, presiding

## Papers

Joshua Lazard

A Sound from 'Something Within': The Sonic Properties of Fugitivity in the Black Preaching Tradition

Blair Wilner, University of Virginia

Exorcizing Property: Marronage as a Practice of Freedom

Ryne Beddard

Freedom as Dismal Swamp Marronage

Lars Akerson

Anika Reynar

The Good Place and No Place: Reading Utopias in Old Colony Mennonite Communities and the Book of Revelation

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A24-200

**Hosted by:** African Religions Unit

Theme: Indigenous Hermeneutics in the Work of Prof. Jacob K. Olupona and Beyond

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

Indigenous hermeneutics—the practice of interpreting indigenous traditions through frameworks developed by those societies themselves—has emerged as arguably the dominant framework of the field of African Religions. First developed by Professor Jacob Olupona, it has been immensely productive in freeing the study of African-derived religion from colonial biases and concerns but has curiously grown rapidly without formal publications or public engagement with the theory. Instead, scholars have adopted it through engaging directly with Prof. Olupona's work and sharing it with each other individually. This roundtable introduces the history and theory of indigenous hermeneutics to the academic public and reflects on its place in the field of African Religions and beyond. The participants include scholars at various career stages offering different perspectives on indigenous hermeneutics with Professor Olupona himself serving as the respondent and time reserved for others who employ indigenous hermeneutics to share their thoughts and experiences as well.

Danoye Oguntola-Laguda, presiding

### **Panelist**

Afe Adogame, Princeton Theological Seminary  
Sarah Adegbite  
Kyras Malika Daniels, Boston College  
Ayodeji Ogunnaike

### **Respondent**

Jacob K. Olupona, Harvard University

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A24-221

**Hosted by:** Jewish Studies Unit

Theme: Jewish Ethics for the Not-Quite-Human: Obligations to the Dead, the Yet-To-Be-Conceived, and AI

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

In popular discourse people often use the term ethics to describe the ways humans properly interact with each other, or the virtuous moral formation of the individual. One can see this in much of the discourse of Jewish ethics which often focuses on questions within bioethics, sexual ethics, and politics, among others. Even when Jewish ethics is expanded beyond these questions it is often used to address our relations to living things like animals and the earth. This panel expands the realm of Jewish ethics by asking about our obligations to categories beyond the living, namely the not-yet-conceived, the dead, and artificial intelligence. We ask together how might Jewish ethics help us better relate to beings that are not alive? Ultimately this panel argues that we must expand our moral language, concepts, and values in order to develop a Jewish ethics for the not-quite-human.

Sara Ronis, presiding

### **Papers**

Ranana Dine, University of Chicago  
An Ethics of Erasure: The Jewish Moral Response to the Dead Body

Sarah Zager  
The Law of Those We Hope For: Abstraction, Infertility, and Obligation In Feminist Jewish Ethics

David Zvi Kalman

The Right to be Forgotten, The Right to be Remembered: AI & Norm Creation in Jewish Thought

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A24-217

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit and Space, Place, and Religion Unit

Theme: Methods of Mapping Protestant Worlds: Maps, Charts, Taxonomies, Diagrams, and Frames

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

Although studies of Protestant Christianity have often “located” Protestantism in individuals and their interior beliefs, this panel instead frames Protestantism as a tradition that desires to plant itself in the physical world. We suggest Protestantism sustains itself through socio-material worlds, and we propose researchers will be better able to visualize Protestantism – and its effects on the late modern Western world – by mapping such Protestant worlds. The overarching question for our panel, then, is: How might we map Protestantism? We focus on North American Protestantisms (and their global reach) in the pivotal period from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century, when much of the scaffolding was built for today’s disciplines of geography, history, natural science, and religious studies. The five papers discuss different map-making methods that can help researchers “see” these Protestant worlds and their effects: geographic maps; temporal charts; taxonomic catalogs; mental diagrams; and frames for scholarly visualizations.

Ingie Hovland, University of Georgia, presiding

## Papers

Emily Conroy-Krutz

"I Love to Stand Before a Map of the World": Missionary Intelligence and Geographic Knowledge

Andrew T. Coates, Duke University

To Take Time: Dispensationalist Bible Maps and Charts in the Early Twentieth Century

Hillary Kaell, McGill University

Weird Taxonomies in the Wake of Natural History

Ingie Hovland, University of Georgia

Diagramming as a Method of Mapping Protestant Subjectivities: Three Examples

## Respondent

James Bielo

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A24-210

**Hosted by:** Confucian Traditions Unit and Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit  
Theme: Moral and Immoral Emotions in Korean Confucian Philosophy and Culture  
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

This panel explores emotions in Korean philosophy and culture, offering diverse perspectives on moral and immoral emotions. The first presentation examines the emotional life of Confucian sages using Yi Ik's comprehensive typology of emotions. The second paper reframes negative emotions within the Confucian tradition through Jeong Yagyong's work, emphasizing individualized moral self-cultivation.

The third presentation analyzes emotional expressions in Joseon literati women's writings, highlighting how their articulations of resentment and vulnerability facilitated interpersonal connections. The final paper investigates the philosophical implications of Jeong, a contemporary Korean emotional concept, comparing it with ancient Greek and Chinese notions of joy.

Collectively, these papers provide a multifaceted examination of emotions in Korean philosophical thought, spanning historical Confucian perspectives to present-day cultural concepts. This research contributes to understanding the complex interplay between Confucian ethics, gender dynamics, and emotional expression in Korean society.

So-Yi Chung, Sogang University, presiding

## Papers

Youngsun Back, Sungkyunkwan University  
The Emotional Life of Confucian Sages

Seonhee Kim, Ewha Womans University  
A Discussion on the Moral Role of Negative Emotions: Focusing on Dasan Jeong Yagyong

So-Yi Chung, Sogang University

Two faces of Resentment – focusing on the Writings of Joseon Confucian Women

So-Jeong PARK

Philosophical Joy of Korea, Jeong, in a Comparative Perspective

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A24-208

**Hosted by:** Christian Spirituality Unit and Mysticism Unit

Theme: Mysticism, Inter-Spirituality, and Multiple Religious Belonging

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

Inter-spirituality and multiple religious belonging are categories that scholars utilize to describe individuals and communities that lie beyond the borders and boundaries of traditional religious affiliation or identification. This panel investigates recent trends and contemporary inter-spiritual mystics or movements, as well as past examples of persons, communities, or theorists who embody or exemplify multiple or religious cross-identification based upon their own mystical experience or praxis.

David Odorisio, Pacifica Graduate Institute, presiding

## Papers

Andrew Stone Porter, Bellarmine University

Decolonizing Comparative Mysticism: Thomas Merton's Non-Orientalist Interspirituality

Allyson Huval, Yale University

Christian Yoga, Christian Mysticism

Reyner Budiman, University of Toronto

Drinking from Several Wells: Howard Thurman's Interfaith Imagination and Multiple Religious Belonging

Swasti Bhattacharyya

Bernadette McNary-Zak, Rhodes College

The Bhagavad Gita, Vinoba Bhave, and Thomas Merton

Business Meeting

C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University



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A24-222

**Hosted by:** New Religious Movements Unit

Theme: New Religions, New Members, New Visions

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

The four papers in this session examine three well-known new religious communities: Christian Science, the Branch Davidians, and the Jehovah's Witnesses. The papers address several important issues in the development of these communities, including the role of healing in the early popularity of Christian Science, how David Koresh's pilgrimages to Israel shaped his apocalyptic vision, and new research on affiliation, reaffiliation, and second-generation membership among Jehovah's Witnesses. Taken together, these papers also offer new religions scholars the opportunity to reflect on the importance of continued new scholarship on established new religions.

Erin Prophet, presiding

## Papers

David Hall, Florida State University

"The 'Spirit of the Times' is Both Critical and Scientific:" Reassessing the Outsider Narrative of Christian Science Healing

Jolene Chu

Believing, Bonding, Behaving, Belonging Among 2nd-Generation Jehovah's Witnesses in Japan and Rwanda

Jonathan Cahana

David Koresh's Pilgrimages to Israel: Messianic and Political Perspectives

Ollimatti Peltonen, European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses

On the Road Again: Initial Steps in the Study of Reaffiliation with Jehovah's Witnesses

Business Meeting

Jeremy Rapport

W. Michael Ashcraft, Truman State University

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A24-213

**Hosted by:** Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit and Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit

Theme: Patriarchal Normativity and Feminist Approaches to Eastern Orthodox Traditions  
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Drawing on Eastern Orthodox theology and tradition, this session disrupts normative understanding of masculinity, offering critical readings of biblical scriptures, church fathers, and contemporary social phenomena through feminist lenses. From an eco-theological reading of Eve and theosis, to considering filmic cosmic temporalities in a critique of Maximus the Confessor, to questions about personhood in the Orthodox deaconess movement, to a constructivist pedagogy for combating male radicalism in the contemporary Orthodox Churches, each of these papers reflects on themes on tradition, adaptation, revival, and essentialism as they relate to gender, patriarchal normativity, and the Orthodox Church.

Kyle Byron, University of Toronto, presiding

## Papers

Dina Zingaro

REREADING EVE: THEOSIS IN EDEN, THE WOMB, AND THE TOMB

Alice Candy

The First Swallow in Springtime: Elisabeth Behr-Sigel's Lasting Impact on the Question of Women's Ordination

Courtney Haubert, Fordham University

Violent Catechetical Pedagogy as a Conduit for Radicalism Among Orthodox Christian Converts

Sarah Bloesch, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

Hegemonic Masculinities in Time: Maximus the Confessor and \_Interstellar\_

## Respondent

Sarah Livick-Moses, Gannon University

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A24-229

**Hosted by:** Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit

Theme: Pentecostalism and the Postcolony

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This panel offers research and perspectives, which explore the dialectics of Pentecostalism and Christianity in the postcolonial context of Africa. An interdisciplinary panel, and the papers are grounded in different disciplines and employing diverse methods and sources. The panel explores Pentecostalism and postcolonialism in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia, as well as considering notions of postcolonialism and Black diaspora, which both offer synergies and divergences of interpretation. Our presenters are grounded in both empirical research and critical and constructive theories into the phenomenon of the postcolony and Pentecostalism in Africa.

Chammah Kaunda, presiding

## Papers

Abimbola Adelakun

Everything Christianity Represents is being Destroyed on the Internet!: Pentecostalism and Platformization in Nigeria

Chammah Kaunda

Postcolonial Covenantal Nationalism: Politics of Impossibility, Symbolic Violence and Pentecostalism in Zambia

Marlon Millner, Wesleyan University

Pentecostalism and/as Blackness – A Diasporic Conversation

Jörg Haustein, University of Cambridge

The rise of 'Pentecostal Republics' in Africa? Insights from Ethiopia

Itohan Idumwonyi

African Pentecostal Women Pastors in Catholic Europe: Souls in Search of Bodies and Migrant Corporeality

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A24-224

**Hosted by:** Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit and Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity Unit

Theme: Platonism in the Religious Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

James McGrath, Butler University, presiding

## Papers

Syed Zaidi, Emory University

The Role of the Neoplatonic Intellect in the Thought of the Brethren of Purity and Mandaean Texts

Timothy Troutner, Assumption University

Damascius' Crisis of Participation and Our Own

Benedetto Neola, Universiteit Leiden

From Vision to Union: Transcending Intellect in Later Neoplatonism

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A24-228

**Hosted by:** Religion and Popular Culture Unit

Theme: Playing Religion in Video Game Worlds

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

This panel considers the way that video games take different aspects of religious life--from material culture to isolated contemplation--and build game worlds around them. Panelists will consider a variety of traditions and ideas as they ponder how religious ideas inform both the content and the ludology of modern video games.

Kaitlyn Ugoretz, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

## Papers

Seth Pierce

Combat Cross: The Media Effects of Weaponized Religion in Castlevania

Satoko Fujiwara, University of Tokyo

Games set you free: The Ideologization of Gaming by "spiritual intellectuals" in Japan

Mat Schramm

Pl(/r)aying Video Games

Jieyu Liu, University of Colorado Boulder

Reimagining Chinese Kung Fu in the French Video Game Sifu

A24-234

**Hosted by:** Afro-American Religious History Unit

Theme: Revisiting Landmarks: James Melvin Washington's *Frustrated Fellowship* at 40

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

In recent years, scholarship on African American religious history has moved away from Black Christian denominations as sites of scholarly inquiry. On the eve of the 40th anniversary of James Melvin Washington's *Frustrated Fellowship: The Black Baptist Quest for Social Power* (1986), this panel argues for the diverse contributions that denominational histories can make to the study of African American religions.

The panelists for this session will place their work in conversation with Washington's book. They will identify the ways in which their research grows the canon of scholarship of Black religious traditions *through* their focus on the Christian denominations that they investigate.

Alison Gise Johnson, presiding

### Panelist

Adam Bond, Baylor University

Cori Tucker-Price

Dennis C. Dickerson

Quinton Dixie, Duke Divinity School

Christina Davidson, University of Southern California

Business Meeting

Matthew Cressler

Nicole Turner, Princeton University

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A24-220

**Hosted by:** Japanese Religions Unit

Theme: Ritual Across the Divide: Integrating Premodern and Modern Approaches to Religious Practice in Japan

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

This panel brings together scholars specializing in premodern and modern Japanese religion to explore methods for studying ritual. Scholars of premodern religions traditionally emphasize textual sources and philological and historical methods. Scholars of contemporary Japanese religions often engage with ethnographic fieldwork, performance theory, and sociology. This panel will investigate how these methodologies can be integrated to develop a more dynamic understanding of Japanese rituals, considering both their historical evolution and their present-

day [re]enactment. The papers will explore how different types of evidence—textual, material, and performative—shape the study of rituals, the extent to which modern theoretical frameworks can be applied to premodern ritual practices, and how ritual performances from earlier periods inform contemporary religious expressions. By fostering a conversation between specialists working on ritual in diverse time periods, this panel bridges gaps in methodological and temporal divides in the study of Japanese religions.

Or Porath, Tel Aviv University, presiding  
Daigengna Duoer, presiding

## Papers

Or Porath, Tel Aviv University  
An Affective Ritual? Reimagining Chigo Kanjō in Kon Tōkō's Chigo (1936)

Jonathan Thumas  
Not Stuck in the Past: Archaeology and Ritual in Japan's Buddhist Hinterland

Simona Lazzerini  
Identity, Community, and Ritual: How Social Media is Changing Contemporary Nichiren Buddhism

Daigengna Duoer  
Past in the Present: The Genkō Shrine and the Ritual Reinvention of History

## Respondent

Bryan Lowe, Princeton University

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A24-209

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit

Theme: The Difference Resurrection Makes

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

What does Christian eschatology have to say in a time of hopelessness? How to speak of God's glory in light of crucified hopes? How does hope spring into action in a traumatized world? How can theological imagination help us to live truthfully in the midst of ambiguity? And what, if any, difference does it make to foreground the resurrection in all of this?

These are live questions Kelly Brown Douglas (*Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter* 2021), Ian McFarland (*The Hope of Glory: A Theology of Redemption* 2024), Katie Cross (*Hope in Today's World: Chalmer Lectures* 2024), and Judith Wolfe (*The Theological Imagination: Perception and Interpretation in Life, Art, and Faith* 2025) are addressing in their work. In this roundtable discussion, these panelists will present their thoughts and enter into conversation with each other and the audience.

Hanna Reichel, Princeton Theological Seminary, presiding

### Panelist

Kelly Brown Douglas, Episcopal Divinity School At Union Theological Seminary

Ian A. McFarland, Emory University

Katie Cross, University of Aberdeen

Judith Wolfe, University of St Andrews

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A24-216

**Hosted by:** Gay Men and Religion Unit and Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit

Theme: Thinking with Anthony Petro's *Provoking Religion: Sex, Art, and the Culture Wars* (OUP, 2025)

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This panel, co-sponsored by the Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit, the Gay Men and Religion Unit, and the Secularism and Secularity Unit, will celebrate and think with Anthony Petro's new monograph, *Provoking Religion: Sex, Art, and the Culture Wars* (Oxford University Press, 2025). Featuring scholars interested in queer, gay, lesbian, feminist, and trans visual culture as well as twentieth-century American religious histories, the timeliness of Petro's text and the conversations it generates cannot be overstated.

Siobhan Kelly, Harvard University, presiding

### Panelist

Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma

Drake Konow, University of Texas, Austin

William Stell, New York University

Kris Trujillo

Samuel Catlin

### Respondent

A24-218

**Hosted by:** Islam, Gender, Women Unit, Study of Islam Unit, and Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Womb and the World: Islamic Discourses of Reproductive Freedom

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

This panel is a focused engagement with the theme of reproductive freedom within Islam. It explores how the contemporary Islamic tradition influences – and gets influenced by – women’s reproductive physiology. Papers in this panel utilize diverse methodologies from disability studies, feminist ethnography, and legal discourse analysis to address this theme. Scholarship on reproductive freedom has been sporadically produced within Islamic Studies, and existing works have retained a mainly historical lens. Papers in this panel broaden the thematic scope of Islamic reproductive freedom by focusing on contemporary social tensions related to reproductive freedom, and by situating womb-related phenomenon of barrenness, infertility, and menstruation — alongside the matters of abortion and contraception — as determinants of Muslim women’s reproductive freedom.

Nura Sophia Liepsner, presiding

## Papers

Halla Attallah

Gender and Reproduction in the Qur’an: Rereading Conceiving and Barren Bodies

Faiza Rahman

Islamic Embodiments of Menstruation

Celene Ibrahim, Harvard University

Muslim Decision-Making on Elective Abortion: Between Biopower and Holistic Approaches to Reproductive Care

Saadia Yacoob

Whose body? Whose choice? Abortion and Women’s Reproductive Choice in Hanafi Law

## Respondent

Zahra Ayubi, Dartmouth College



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A24-236

**Hosted by:** World Christianity Unit

Theme: World Christianity and the contestation of Freedom and Modes of Empowerment

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

Freedom is often a contested term. It can be co-opted to align with the agenda of those in power in various spheres with the society including the religious sphere or be the means of liberation for the oppressed. In this session, the papers will examine how historical and contemporary constructions of freedom intertwines with Christian expressions in particular Latin American and Asian contexts to produce modes of empowerment, competing visions of democracy/nationalism, and transnational coalitions in our contemporary world.

Alexander Chow, University of Edinburgh, presiding

## Papers

Tomoya Fujihara

Nakada Juji's View on Jewish People: Theology, Nationalism, and Japan's Mission

Stephen Di Trolio, Princeton Theological Seminary

The Religious Politics of Argentine Nationalism: Contrasting Catholic and Protestant Stances in 1930-1940s

Yu-Huei Huang

One Island, Two Voices of Freedom: Imaginations of Freedom in Late Twentieth-Century Theology in Taiwan

Joao Chaves, Baylor University

Raimundo Barreto

The Theopolitics of Domination in the Américas: Latin American Christian Nationalism and their Partners Abroad

Business Meeting

Janice McLean-Farrell, New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University

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M24-200

**Hosted by:** Theology Without Walls Group

Theme: Open Topics in Transreligious Exploration  
Monday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

Joyce Konigsburg, DePaul University, presiding

## Papers

Ruben L. F. Habito, Southern Methodist University  
Our Current Global Polycrisis as a Spiritual Crisis: The Buddhist Four Noble Truths as a Path to Healing”

Thang San Mung, Tyrannus Gospel Ministry  
Paradise Beyond Borders: Spirituality, Homeland, and the Transreligious Quest in Zomi Penecostalism

Benjamin Chicka, Curry College  
Videogames as Transreligious Experience: Breaking Down Barriers to Accepting Diversity

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P24-200

**Hosted by:** Association for Public Religion and Intellectual Life  
Theme: Encountering Buddha in Museums: Modern Expressions of an Ancient Tradition  
Monday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Empire (Seventh Floor)

"Encountering Buddha in Museums: Modern Expressions of an Ancient Tradition" brings together five papers examining recent displays of Buddhist art and practices in museums and cultural settings. This event marks the beginning of a year-long project by APRIL that examines the place of religion in museums.

Erik Braun, presiding

## Papers

Aik Sai Goh, University of Virginia  
Grasping a Famous Buddhist Mountain in China: Monumentalism and Miniaturization at the Jiuhuashan Dayuan Buddhist Culture Park

Paride Stortini, Ghent University

Modern Displays of Buddhism or Displaying Buddhist Modernity? Multiple Temporalities at Two Recent Exhibitions in Japan and Belgium

Stephanie Bell

Fateful Encounters: Recounting Buddhist Images Within and Beyond National Museums in Japan

Emily Anderson, Japanese American National Museum

Exhibiting Buddhist Life Incarcerated: Japanese American National Museum's Sutra and Bible

Jie Zhang, Arizona State University

Chinese Buddhist Art in the Ten Thousand Chinese Things Exhibition (1842), London

## Respondent

Pamela D. Winfield

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M24-202

**Hosted by:** Society for Pentecostal Studies

Theme: Old Testament Readings

Monday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Westin Copley Place, Courier (Seventh Floor)

Rick Wadholm, Evangel University, presiding

## Papers

Silas Sham, Bethany Community Church Northeast (Seattle, WA)

A Stew of Sorrow: A Story of Simmering Grief and Fracture

Jamie Riddle, Oral Roberts University

Eschatological Theodicy in Job? Descent, Ascent, and a Biblical Theological Perspective

Harold Gutierrez, Oral Roberts University

The Spirit in Exile: Pneumatic Activity and Diasporic Existence in Ezekiel's Visions

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M24-201

**Hosted by:** Theology Without Walls Group  
Theme: Theology Without Walls Planning session  
Monday, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

The planning meeting will assess where the TWW project stands at present, and what topics and activities will best advance it as we go forward. Everybody is invited.

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A24-320

**Hosted by:** Religion and Politics Unit  
Theme: "A View from Canada: Toronto and the 'American' Academy of Religion"  
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

What is the place of Canada within the "American" Academy of Religion? How do geopolitics and national borders shape the work of teaching and scholarship? The current U.S. Presidential administration brings renewed and urgent attention to these questions. In this roundtable panel, a group of University of Toronto alumni reflect on their experiences working on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. The Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto was formed fifty years ago, alongside the postwar rise of religious studies in the U.S. Its subsequent growth, like that of the city of Toronto, was shaped by the economics of a historical period that has now changed. Our roundtable panelists' reflections use Toronto as a site for reflecting on the cultural history of the study of religion as a North American disciplinary formation, and for speculating about this discipline's possible futures.

Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University, presiding

### **Panelist**

Arun Brahmbhatt, Syracuse University  
Judith Ellen Brunton, Rice University  
Matthew King, University of California, Riverside  
Michele Murray, Bishop's University

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A24-334

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion  
Theme: American Lectures in the History of Religion Lecture: With Liberty and Justice For All: Recentering Our Work as Scholars of Religion  
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

The fourth and final ALHR lecture, “With Liberty and Justice For All: Recentering Our Work as Scholars of Religion.” My aim in this final lecture is to make use of a main idea from each of the previous lectures—scholarship and teaching that are focused on creating greater spaces of justice and hope, a robust commitment/recommitment to democracy making, and growing our scholarship large in such a way that we speak directly to the challenges we are facing in higher education and our larger society that is currently leaning toward deadly polarizations that we both decry and maintain. I explore how we can employ our knowledge and skills as scholars of religion to build a better world for all.

Megan Robb, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

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A24-326

**Hosted by:** Science, Technology, and Religion Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics: Myrna Perez's *Criticizing Science*

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

Myrna Perez's *Criticizing Science: Stephen Jay Gould and the Struggle for American Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP 2024) analyzes the career of Harvard paleontologist and public intellectual Stephen Jay Gould against the backdrop of contemporary debates around science, religion, and political controversy. Gould is a well-studied figure in the field of science and religion, but this discussion largely focuses on a small subset of his work. Perez draws on an expansive study of the full sweep of his career, considering especially how he modeled a relationship between science and power that still holds relevance today.

Alison Renna, presiding

## Panelist

Terence Keel, University of California, Los Angeles

Victoria Lorrimar

John Modern, Franklin & Marshall College

Donovan Schaefer

## Respondent

Myrna Perez

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A24-335

**Hosted by:** Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit

Theme: Black Religion, Death, and the Afterlives of Memory

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

This roundtable explores "The Afterlives of Memory" through Black studies and Black religion. It examines memory as a contested site, particularly for marginalized communities, where its defacement is a tool of domination. We investigate how Black cultural practices, from oral traditions of African societies to rituals of Afro-Diasporic traditions and cultures to contemporary links in Black literature and social movements, have interrupted and pushed back against the violence of captivity and erasure through the preservation of ancestral memory. Indeed, memory, in its reclamation and preservation, becomes a site of struggle and freedom-dreaming.

Topics include cultural-afterlife and haunting memory, Hoodoo understanding of death, Haitian Vodou practices, the impact of incarceration on memory, Black ecological deaths, and the role of grieving rituals in social movement. The roundtable aims to demonstrate memory's dynamic force in shaping Black religious, political, and cultural landscapes, emphasizing re-membering as sacred-duty in ongoing struggles for justice and liberation.

Seth Gaiters, Ohio State University, presiding

### Panelist

Christina Desert

Marcelitte Failla

James Hill, University of Oklahoma

Nikki Hoskins, University of Scranton

Bryson White, Santa Clara University

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A24-321

**Hosted by:** Religion and the Social Sciences Unit

Theme: Book Panel on Choosing Love: What LGBTQ+ Christians Can Teach Us All About Relationships, Inclusion, and Justice

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This panel brings together leading scholars of queer and trans studies in religion to engage with Dawne Moon and Theresa W. Tobin's book *Choosing Love: What LGBTQ+ Christians Can Teach Us All About Relationships, Inclusion, and Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2025). Panelists will consider the book's contributions to the field and in the context of intensifying culture wars.

Orit Avishai, presiding

### Panelist

Lynne Gerber  
Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University  
Daniel Ballon-Garst  
Luther Young

### Respondent

Dawne Moon  
Theresa Tobin

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A24-307

**Hosted by:** Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit  
Theme: Book panel: *Global Philosophy* (Equinox, 2025)  
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

The new sourcebook *Global Philosophy* (Equinox, 2025) is a first-of-its-kind collection of translations, writings, and conversations by sixty leading contemporary philosophers and translators, featuring some of the major ideas, themes, and arguments nearly one hundred philosophical texts of Africana, Buddhist, Confucian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Latin American, Mesoamerican, Native American, and Taoist philosophy. It includes translations from sixteen different languages on topics including metaphysics, cosmology, epistemology, philosophy of language, logic, ethics, storytelling, philosophy of religion, selfhood, death, and freedom.

In this roundtable, contributors and teachers who have used the volume will discuss how it fits into philosophy research and pedagogy. There will also be discussion of the relative merits of labels like “global philosophy,” “cross-cultural philosophy,” and “fusion philosophy”; connections between these and allied fields such as the history of philosophy and the philosophy of religion; the challenges of making space for them in the Anglo-American academy; and other questions.

Anil Mundra, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

### Panelist

Muhammad Faruque, University of Cincinnati  
Marie-Helene Gorisse

Alexus McLeod  
Cyrus Zargar, University of Central Florida

## Respondent

Mohammed Rustom

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A24-301

**Hosted by:** Buddhism in the West Unit

Theme: Buddhism in the West: New Directions

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel explores a series of new academic directions in understanding Buddhism's transmission and transformation outside Buddhist Asia. **"Translating the Tathāgata"** examines a failed CIA effort to use a screenplay on the Buddha's life for Cold War psychological warfare, **American Buddhist Tradition: The work of the Tibetan Preliminary Practices** investigates how American Buddhists engage with Tibetan practices to cultivate tradition, challenging the tradition-modernity dichotomy. **Deconstructing the Dichotomy between the Esoteric and Buddhism in the West: the case study of Ananda Metteyya** argues that Western esotericism is integral to understanding Buddhism's Western transmission, using Ananda Metteyya's life as a case study. **Redacting Forest Spirits: A Discourse Analysis of Psychotherapeutic Uses of Buddhist Metta (Lovingkindness) Meditation Practice** analyzes the secular appropriation of metta meditation in Western psychotherapies, highlighting ethical concerns and potential limitations.

Adeana McNicholl, Vanderbilt University, presiding

## Papers

Laura Harrington

"Translating the Tathāgata: The Life of the Buddha and the Struggle for Asian Buddhism"

Pema McLaughlin, Northwestern University

American Buddhist Tradition: The work of the Tibetan Preliminary Practices

Elizabeth Harris

John Crow

Deconstructing the Dichotomy between the Esoteric and Buddhism in the West: the case study of Ananda Metteyya



James Hamrick, University of Georgia  
Redacting Forest Spirits: A Discourse Analysis of Psychotherapeutic Uses of Buddhist Metta  
(Lovingkindness) Meditation Practice

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A24-302

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit

Theme: Catholic Feminisms in the Americas

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Vineyard (Fourth Floor)

What does it mean to be a Catholic feminist today? These three papers offer views from Canada, the United States and Latin America. Together, they open a conversation about the wide range of viewpoints across the hemisphere, suggest new language for studying Catholic feminisms in the academy, and to explore the possibilities for new forms of Catholic feminisms to emerge from the ground up.

Katherine Dugan, Springfield College, presiding

## Papers

Lauren Tassone, Harvard University

Are We Talking About The Same Thing? An Analysis of "Catholic Feminism"

Peter Baltutis, St. Mary's University

Courageous Solidarity or Contradicting Catholic Moral Teaching: The Canadian Catholic Church and The Polarizing World March of Women 2000

Alyssa Bedrosian, The Ohio State University

Catholic Feminism, Strategic Saints, and the Fight for Abortion Rights in the Americas

Business Meeting

John Seitz, Fordham University

J. Michelle Molina, Northwestern University

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A24-304

**Hosted by:** Contemplative Studies Unit

Theme: Contours of Freedom: Contemplative Practices in Jain Thought and Literature

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

This panel brings together five scholars studying Jain contemplative practices through philological, historical, anthropological, and philosophical approaches. The first three presentations examine Jain ideas on contemplation as presented in various Jain texts: the *Cīvakacintāmaṇi* (9th century), Yaśovijaya's *Dvātriṃśaddvātriṃśikā* (17th century), and Śrīmad Rājendra's *Mokṣamālā* and *Ātmasiddhi* (19th century). Each presenter analyzes how these texts articulate or portray Jain contemplative practices within their respective historical and intellectual contexts. The remaining presentations explore contemporary cultural intersections of Jainism and contemplative practices. Case studies include Acharya Sushil Kumar's "Arhum Yoga," which integrates Jain and non-Jain elements into a unique system of yoga and sound theory, and *prekṣā-dhyāna*, a systematized Jain meditation practice framed for a global audience that emphasizes contemporary concerns, such as health and science. Collectively, these five presentations shed new light on the variegated nature of Jain contemplative practices and provide new research opportunities in Jain Studies and Contemplative Studies.

Nataliia Pavlyk, presiding

## Papers

Morgan Curtis, Harvard University

Let the Animals Lead the Way: Mantra, Contemplation, and Spiritual Progression in the *Cīvakacintāmaṇi*

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside

Yaśovijaya's Insights on Contemplation and Meditative Experience

Cogen Bohanec, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology

A Critical Examination of Śrīmad Rājendra's Teachings on Contemplative Practices

Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology / University of Zurich

Arhum "Jain" Yoga: Acharya Sushil Kumar's Assemblage of Pan-South Asian Contemplative Practices in Song of the Soul

Pratibha Pragya

Secularization of Contemplation: the Example of Prekṣā-Dhyāna

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A24-318

**Hosted by:** Religion and Food Unit

Theme: Creative and Confined: Religion and Food in Public and Private Spaces

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This panel brings together voices through methodological perspectives and across varied academic trajectories. Gendered religious expression ties together the first two papers, across public and private spaces: The first paper examines evangelical Christian women baristas' reconfiguration of sacred space through coffee culture, while the second paper explores the nuances of Muslim women's culinary practices in Ottoman contexts. The next two papers cut across public and private spaces in the contexts of forest-field and prison: the penultimate paper examines Jewish environmental activism through eco-kosher practices of a well-known Jewish charitable organization, and finally, the last paper critically reflects on the freedom and obligation required by food justice, bumping up against the context of mass incarceration. Collectively, these presentations illuminate how religious foodways shape—and are shaped by—the ethics of relationship as it pertains to family, gender, society, species, and ecology.

Aldea Mulhern, Brandon University, presiding

## Papers

Cory Driver, Miami University

"Sacrament of the People": Evangelical Christian Women as Baristas and Popular Priests

Moina Maaz, Claremont Graduate University

"Muslim Women's Kitchens: The Intersection of Gender, Food, and Religion"

Avalon Jade Theisen, Arizona State University

Adamah and Sustainable Foodways

Howard Pickett, Washington and Lee University

Food Justice and the Moral Horror of Mass Incarceration

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A24-315

**Hosted by:** North American Hinduism Unit

Theme: Devotion, Decoration, and Domesticity: Diaspora Hinduism in North America

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

Comprised of presenters from different stages in their professional careers, our panel sheds light on four lesser explored case studies of the Hindu American experience. Grounded in ethnographic fieldwork, each presenter pushes us to revisit the key conceptual categories that

have often guided investigations Hindu diasporas. Whereas the first paper locates contemporary Canadian Brahma Kumari practices at the intersection of South Asian and Western cultures, the second explores how placemaking and ecological concerns direct devotion towards Hindu goddesses in the Bay Area. Our final papers encourage us to open our eyes and look more rigorously at the lives of Hindu objects and devotionality outside spaces that center the temple and Indian nationality. All in all, despite being a very crowded discipline, our panel reminds us that the study of North American Hindu traditions remains animated and is committed to pursuing research agendas in directions that are unfamiliar but exciting.

Tracy Pintchman, presiding

## Papers

Diana Dimitrova, University of Montreal  
The Brahma Kumari Tradition in Canada

Vijaya Nagarajan  
Goddesses Lakshmi and Bhudevi and Their Active Presence in the Tamil Hindu Diaspora in the SF Bay Area: Will Climate Change Events Affect the Worship of Two Qualitatively Different Hindu Goddesses?

Justin Grosnick  
Lord of the World, Lord of the Home: The Myriad Dimensions of Devotion to Lord Jagannath in the SF Bay Area.

Aditya Bhattacharjee, University of Pennsylvania  
Gods of Food and Design: Thai Restaurant Art, Hindu Deities, and the Material Culture of Contemporary American Orientalism

Shreya Maini, Duke University  
Ethnographic Dilemmas of Fieldwork in Hindutva India: Navigating Alienation, Exclusion, and Ideological Tensions

## Respondent

Aarti Patel, Penn State University

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A24-306

**Hosted by:** Esotericism Unit  
Theme: Esotericism on Trial

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

Throughout history, esoteric beliefs and practices have been frequently outlawed, criminalized, and scandalized. The panelists in this session all explore novel scholarly approaches to the study of esotericism and the law. Maria Koutsouris's paper explores how Marsilio Ficino's fear of inquisitorial scrutiny influenced his portrayal of polytheism. Marla Segol's paper shows how medieval and early modern kabbalistic interpretations of the *Song of Songs* led to widespread condemnation, litigation, and punishment of practitioners. Alexander Rocklin's paper traces social and moral panics in Trinidad, revealing social tensions connected to anti-witchcraft laws, esoteric practice, and race.

Marina Alexandrova, University of Texas, Austin, presiding

## Papers

Maria Koutsouris, Boston University  
Hidden Polytheism in Print: Marsilio Ficino's Coded Cosmology in the Age of Inquisition

Marla Segol  
Singing the Same Old Song of Songs (and different): Ritualized Sexuality in Medieval Kabbalah from Orthodoxy to Heterodoxy

Alexander Rocklin, Kenyon College  
Slippery Devils and Resource Curses: Moral Panics, Obeah, and Popular Constructions of Esotericism in Colonial Trinidad

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A24-310

**Hosted by:** Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit  
Theme: Expanding Perspectives and Disciplinary Boundaries in to Meet Spiritual Care Needs  
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

Two papers offer deeply-rooted and contemporary adaptations of non-theistic, non-western spiritual traditions for new perspectives and effective practices of chaplaincy, and two papers engage spiritual care skills and concepts in non-traditional professional and disciplinary contexts. The session presenters offer Buddhist resources for Buddhist, interfaith, and secular campus chaplaincy; multi-faceted Indian Yogic philosophy, ethics, and physical movements as a system to inform healthcare chaplaincy; an argument for spiritual care in the work of public defenders to maintain the dignity and meet the needs of persons in the criminal justice system;

and an exploration of spiritual care education in the experiences of professional social workers and their clients. Together, they shed new light on the resources and practices with which, and spaces within which, innovative spiritual care works to free persons from suffering, urging us to question the limits of existing mainstream models and disciplinary boundaries.

Leigh Miller, Maitripa College, presiding

## Papers

Priya Sraman, Emory University

Recontextualizing Buddhism Through Campus Ministry – Experience of a Buddhist Chaplain in Higher Education

Sabbi Lall, Harvard Divinity School

An Innovative and Accessible Chaplaincy Founded in Sanskrit Yoga Teachings

Peter Dickson

Bearing Witness: A Public Defender's Call to Spiritual Care

David O'Malley

Strengthening Religious Literacy and Cultural Competency in Social Work Education Curriculum to Examine and Promote Religious Freedom

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A24-316

**Hosted by:** Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit

Theme: Forgiveness, Mysticism, and Liberation: Exploring Pathways to Healing and Transformation

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

This panel explores the intersections of forgiveness, mysticism, and liberation through three distinct yet interconnected perspectives in philosophy, psychology of religion, and spiritual care. The first paper examines Howard Thurman's concept of forgiveness as both a personal and communal act of freedom. The second delves into the mystical traditions of San Juan de la Cruz, Howard Thurman, and Raimon Panikkar, focusing on how mystical darkness serves as a transformative force for liberation. The third paper addresses the healing of African undocumented immigrants, particularly through the lens of Exodus, examining the possibility of healing the embittered soul in contexts of displacement and trauma. Together, these papers illuminate transformative pathways to healing and liberation.

Eunil David Cho, Boston University, presiding

## Papers

Kendall Walser Cox

“Can the mouse forgive the cat for eating him?” Howard Thurman on the Freedom and Deferral of Forgiveness

M. Mookie Manalili, Boston University

On Mystical Darkness: Prophets & Mystics for Liberatory Transformation - San Juan de la Cruz, Howard Thurman, and Raimon Panikkar

Charles Adonteng

Can Healing Occur in Exodus? Healing the Embittered Soul of African Undocumented Immigrants

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A24-336

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Philosophy Unit

Theme: Freedom and Bondage in and around Buddhism

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom C (Third Level)

Scholars have often noted the Buddhist claim to freedom and equality. While this ideal has been problematized through historical studies of the lived Buddhist tradition, our panel seeks to recover and explore some of the diverse historical and trans-denominational resonances and divergences on the philosophical question of bondage and freedom. We are interested in how different traditions either internal or adjacent to Buddhism have theorized the question of freedom. What are the conditions – political, social, ontological, or otherwise - for freedom? How is freedom construed not just as a philosophical idea but as a practice of self-fashioning? How have philosophers attempted to think freedom and bondage as non-dual? These papers explore how concepts such as *karma* (action), *karuṇā* (care), and *xing/svabhāva* (nature) are negotiated and can be used constructively to build accounts of freedom and/or/as liberation that challenge Western accounts rooted in the liberal imagination of the individual.

Karin Meyers, presiding

## Papers

Jessica Xiaomin Zu, University of Southern California

A Care-based Processual Philosophy for Isonomia (no-rule): Recovering Nonviolent Politics in Pāli Texts

Aleksandra Restifo, Florida International University

Between Karma and Agency: Kundakunda and Amṛtacandra on Bondage and Liberation

Peter Yuanxi Chen, Columbia University

Thinking Dialectically with Zhang Taiyan

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A24-333

**Hosted by:** Yogācāra Studies Unit

Theme: Indian Buddhist Pramāṇa in Chinese

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

The Buddhist conception of the means of knowledge (*pramāṇa*) was revolutionarily systemized by Dignāga (c. 480–c. 540 CE) and Dharmakīrti (c. 600–c. 660 CE) in India. Some of Dignāga’s works have been transmitted into Chinese, but their ideas—especially Dharmakīrti’s—have not been fully articulated until modern times. The related Chinese works reflect different linguistic adaptations and sinification, while dealing mostly with *hetuvidyā* (Buddhist logico-epistemology or science of reasoning). Did the Chinese Buddhist monks fail to address the Indian Buddhist system adequately, or did they happen to reformulate a domesticated one? How did it happen? What nuances are left out or preserved in the Chinese sources, and what is the significance? This session investigates the transmission, translations, and key notions of Indian Buddhist *pramāṇa* in Chinese cultural and intellectual landscapes. It will explore the encounter and reflect on the challenges of this cross-cultural dialogue.

Tao Jiang, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, presiding

## Papers

Jakub Zamorski, Jagiellonian University

The “Science of Reasons” in China and the Problem of “Sinification”

Ching Keng, National Taiwan University

On the Mental Consciousness Simultaneous with Five Sensory Consciousnesses

Yat-Ching Yeung, Temple University

The Notion of “Pratyakṣa” in Chinese



## Respondent

Dan Lusthaus, Harvard University

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A24-323

**Hosted by:** Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit

Theme: Latin American Culture Wars

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This panel examines how Christianity—Catholic, Orthodox, and evangelical—continues to reshape political and cultural imaginaries in contemporary Latin America. Across diverse national contexts, religious actors and institutions are not only responding to shifting demographic realities, including migration and diaspora, but actively intervening in public life through moral discourse, political mobilization, and reconfigurations of identity. Drawing on ethnographic and political analysis, the panel explores how Christian identity becomes a vehicle for asserting claims to nationhood, legitimacy, and moral authority. From diasporic communities that sacralize political struggle, to emergent religious political parties that challenge secular and pluralistic frameworks, and to conservative realignments that conflate religiosity with national values, Christianity remains central to how power is imagined and enacted. These interventions reveal a region in which religion is neither merely resurgent nor in decline, but instead is being renegotiated in dynamic and contested ways—shaping who belongs, who governs, and what it means to live faithfully in the twenty-first century.

Josefrayn Sanchez-Perry, presiding

## Papers

Deanna Womack

La Lucha por Palestina: Lived Religion in the Palestinian Christian Diaspora of Chile

Veronique Lecaros

Considering the cultural war from a Peruvian standpoint: analysis of alliances between Catholic clerics, Pentecostal/Charismatic pastors and politicians

Taylor Boas, Boston University

Guillermo Flores Borda, Boston University

Contemporary Religious Political Parties in Latin America

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A24-305

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Islam Unit

Theme: Malcolm Lives: Martyrdom, Afterlife, and the Undercommons

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This roundtable coincides with the centennial of Malcolm X's birth. It interrogates the life, spiritual legacy, intellectual resonances, and afterlife of this organic intellectual and globally renowned Black Muslim martyr. Heeding the 2025 AAR call to engage in deliberations that chart pathways to freedom, this roundtable considers how scholars can draw guidance from Malcolm X as we imagine new intellectual and political possibilities for freedom in the face of militarism, war, tyranny, repression, and other global systems of exclusion that continue to haunt our communities.

Fatima Siwaju, presiding

### Panelist

Rasul Miller, University of California Irvine

Youssef Carter, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

Bryon Maxey, University of Toronto

Saqib Usman, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Samiha Rahman, CSULB

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A24-331

**Hosted by:** Vernacular Landscapes and Global Dialogues: Understanding Buddhist Monasticism Seminar

Theme: Monastic Lineages and Succession

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

Taking a comparative cross-cultural approach with case studies from South, Southeast, Inner and East Asia, this 90-minute roundtable centers on the question: How has monastic succession been implemented in Buddhist institutions and/or socially-constructed in Buddhist literatures? The diverse group of presenters (across a range of criteria: gender, nationality, professional experience, and institutional affiliation) includes four scholars in Pali Buddhist traditions and four experts in Tibetan Buddhist traditions. Prior to the AAR, each participant will pre-circulate papers on their respective case study from Sri Lanka, Burma, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Central Tibet, or China, ranging from the seventeenth century to the contemporary period. During the session, each presenter will limit their remarks to eight minutes to illuminate the central question on monastic succession and will distribute a handout to contextualize the form/s of

succession and/or its imaginings socially, historically, and politically. The remaining fifteen minutes will be used for discussion.

Nicole Willock, presiding

## Panelist

Chandima Gangodawila, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Dominique Townsend, Columbia University

Alexey Kirichenko, Moscow State University

Gray Tuttle

MK Long, Dartmouth College

Agata Bareja-Starzynska, University of Warsaw

Nicole Willock

Upali Sraman

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A24-313

**Hosted by:** Moral Injury and Recovery in Religion, Society, and Culture Unit

Theme: Moral Injury and Complex Moral Expectations

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

The study of moral injury as a concept has allowed us to more closely examine the complex moral environments in which we operate. This session will attend to the ways in which individuals experience moral injury in religious and cultural environments in ways that question the moral expectations that undergird them.

Nigel Hatton, University of California, Merced, presiding

## Papers

Christopher Driscoll, Lehigh University

Discerning Dave Chappelle: American Masculinity, Moral Injury, and the Healing Power of Comedy

Angela Molloy

Angela Molloy, Iliff/DU Joint Doctoral Program

Moral Injury and Religious Ableism: A Constructive Vision for a Future of Disability Justice

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A24-309

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit

Theme: Mysticism, Aesthetics, and Philosophy: Debating Simon Critchley's *Mysticism* (2024)

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

Simon Critchley's book *Mysticism* (2024) has already been of significant interest to scholars of religion. This roundtable will seek to showcase a range of responses, considering whether and how Critchley offers new insight to the study of religion and religious experience. *Mysticism* is in many ways unclassifiable: part memoir, part curiosity project (as are so many things Critchley writes), part highly accessible introduction to Christian mysticism. While those already predisposed to appreciate mysticism will likely find in the book confirmation of its place in the broader landscape of religious studies, roundtable participants will also consider whether his approach distorts the phenomenon as it has been approached by scholars of various religious traditions. Key to our collaborative consideration will be his claims that mysticism is "experience at its most intense," the transformation of mystical experience into aesthetic experience, and his methodological approach.

Constance Furey, presiding

### Panelist

Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger, Gordon College

Amy M. Hollywood, Harvard University

C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University

Ian DeWeese-Boyd, Gordon College

Rachel Smith

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A24-303

**Hosted by:** Chinese Religions Unit

Theme: New Works in Chinese Religions

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

This session consists of the best individual papers submitted to the Chinese Religions Unit. Through topics that include spirit medium, spirit writing, Bible work, and political mourning, panelists address the multiple religiosities in the rapidly changing socio-political landscape of the twentieth and twenty-first century.

Susan Andrews, presiding

## Papers

George Kam Wah Mak, Hong Kong Baptist University

A Short-lived Experiment in Bible Work among the Chinese Populations outside China: The Bible Society Service for Overseas Chinese, 1955-1957

Anne Crosby, McMaster university

Chinese Spirit Writing and Technological Innovation: Wude Temple, Taiwan

Ziqi Xuan

From Spirit Mediums to Incense Associations: Expression of Contemporary Salvationist Religions at the Mount Tai

Matthew Lai

Political Mourning as Ritual Protest: The Chinese Religious Elements of the June 4 Candlelight Vigils in Hong Kong

Haoran Ke, University of Hong Kong

Sculpting Divinity: Liuyang's Teaching of Mount Hua Masters' Ritual for Spirit Mediums

## Respondent

Wei Wu

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A24-328

**Hosted by:** South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: On Beauty: Text and Context

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

A robust and lively conversation on the place of beauty at this troubled moment, its links with freedom, practice and truth, by a panel of emergent and legendary scholars of South Asia.

Jack Hawley, presiding

## Panelist

Amanda Lucia, University of California, Riverside

Leah Comeau, Saint Joseph's University

Jinah Kim

Vasudha Narayanan  
Davesh Soneji

## Respondent

Tulasi Srinivas, Emerson College

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A24-332

**Hosted by:** Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Panel Discussion of Margaret Kamitsuka's *Desirable Belief: A Theology of Eros*

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

*Desirable Belief: A Theology of Eros* is a critical and constructive work informed by the phenomenon of erotic love. The Christian tradition has long associated passion with sin, shame, and narcissism; whereas contemporary theologies of eros extol sexual desire as a sacred endowment. This book eschews these two extremes. Margaret Kamitsuka examines how the complexities of love, desire, freedom, constraint, and deferral are narrated in biblical texts, allegorized by church fathers, manifested in the lives of mystics, analyzed in psychodynamic theory, and depicted in poetry, literature, and Christian art. The book demonstrates how taking eros seriously impacts foundational Christian doctrines.

Ellen T. Armour, Vanderbilt University, presiding

## Panelist

Sonya Cronin, Florida State University

Niklas Rodewald, Loyola University Chicago

Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, Princeton Theological Seminary

David Hadley Jensen, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

## Respondent

Margaret Kamitsuka, Oberlin College and Conservatory

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A24-319

**Hosted by:** Religion and Human Rights Unit

Theme: Panel discussion of Slavica Jakelić, 'Pluralizing Humanism: Religions and Secularisms Beyond Power'

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Fairfield (Third Floor)

Employing theoretical, historical, and sociological arguments, *Pluralizing Humanism* moves beyond the discourse of critique. It engages theories of religion and secularism, as well as postmodern, postcolonial, and decolonial critiques of Western humanist projects, to uncover the ideas and practices of religious and secular humanisms when they challenge dehumanization in the pursuit of conditions of flourishing for all. Through studies of the Solidarity movement in Poland and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, Jakelić demonstrates the centrality of humanist traditions to the emergence of religious-secular solidarities that transformed the political landscapes of the world. By highlighting the instances in which humanisms functioned as checks on each other's absolutist claims, the book contends that humanisms supply a constructive path for addressing the challenges of our time—a time of radically divided societies and intolerant, even violent, forms of nationalism.

Matthew Puffer, Valparaíso University, presiding

### Panelist

Jennifer A. Herdt, Yale University  
Philip Gorski  
Sarah Azaransky  
Ted A. Smith  
Nebojša Zelić, University of Rijeka, Croatia

### Respondent

Slavica Jakelić, Valparaíso University

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A24-312

**Hosted by:** Jewish Studies Unit

Theme: Philosophy and Counter-Philosophy

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Dartmouth (Third Floor)

The papers in this panel re-think the category of philosophy by engaging with the philosophical dimensions of identity, wisdom, and mourning through particular cultural lenses. The first paper examines Gillian Rose's complex relationship with Derrida, positing him as a representation of "aberrated mourning." It highlights Rose's preference for "inaugurated mourning," drawing connections to early Christian theology while critiquing Derrida's relation to the halakhic figure of the *agunah*. The second paper explores Glikl's Yiddish writings, considering how her reflections on "living well" challenge Greek philosophy by promoting a distinctly Jewish wisdom. The paper illustrates how Glikl's writing serves as a philosophical

practice aimed at achieving this “counter-philosophy.” The third paper analyzes Frantz Fanon’s analysis of Sartre, examining the role of religion in defining humanity within colonial discourse. The paper explores how Blackness is negotiated through comparison to Jewishness and the entangled narratives of exclusion and fetishism in European modernity. Together, these papers contribute to ongoing discussions of philosophy, identity, and cultural critique.

Andrea Dara Cooper, presiding

## Papers

Josh Cohen, Haverford College

The Deserted Wife, the Monk's Ladder: On Gillian Rose's Derrida

Emily Bogin, Boston University

Writing Against Death: Glikl’s Jewish Wisdom

Kirsten Collins, University of Chicago

Brothers In Misfortune: Blackness, Jewishness, and the Fetish in Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks

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A24-317

**Hosted by:** Quaker Studies Unit

Theme: Quakers, the Holocaust, and the Cold War

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

The papers in this session will discuss the Quaker response to the Holocaust and the Cold War.

Stephen Angell, Earlham School of Religion, presiding

## Papers

David Harrington Watt, Haverford College

Quakers, Jews, and Nazis

Alexandra Southgate, Temple University

Friendly Diplomats: Quakers and the Cold War

Luke Devine

Two Quakers Inspired by Dostoevsky: Fritz Eichenberg and William Hubben



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A24-322

**Hosted by:** Religion, Sport, and Play Unit

Theme: Race and Gender Issues in Religion and Sports

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (Third Floor)

The papers in this session examine the role of race and gender in selected sports and how religion informs this intersection. The idea that sports constitutes a "color blind meritocracy" and the fact that the sports world has become the primary site for political arguments over transgenderism inform the critical tone of these essays.

Jeffrey Scholes, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, presiding

## Papers

Ryan Halloran

Her Majesty, The G.O.A.T.: Simone Biles, U.S.A. Gymnastics, and the Weighted Crown of Black Catholic Excellence

Kathleen Mroz, Emmanuel College, Boston

The Right to Race: The Boston Marathon's Gender Policy and The Question of Worthiness

John White, Baylor University

Gary Green, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

From Commodification to Communion: A Theological Anthropology of Black Embodiment in Sports and Society

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A24-324

**Hosted by:** Religious Conversions Unit

Theme: Religious Trauma and Deconversion: Gender, Sexuality, Faith and Formation

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This session explores the connection between religious trauma and deconversion for survivors of sexual abuse and LGBTQ+ individuals. Living within and then leaving a traumatizing religious environment can lead to profound spiritual crisis, struggles with gender and sexual identity, and

radically transformed narratives about the self, family and community. Drawing on in-depth interviews with LGBTQ+ young adults in the US, queer adults from evangelical backgrounds in the Netherlands, and women survivors of clerical sexual abuse in Chile, these papers provide a nuanced examination of the process of deconversion. What mental health challenges – and opportunities – do survivors of religious trauma have to navigate? What resources do survivors of trauma draw on to find resilience and alternative sources of spiritual support? Seen through the lens of queer theory and theology, how can deconversion – perhaps more aptly called deformation, or un-formation – support flourishing?

Kathleen M. Self, St. Lawrence University, presiding

## Papers

Jafeth Jacobs, vrije universiteit amsterdam

Srdjan Sremac

Reclaiming the Self: Dutch Queer Narratives of Religious Trauma, Deconversion, and Empowered Sexual Agency.

Maria Soledad Del Villar, Boston College

Women rebuilding faith and community in the aftermath of the sexual abuse crisis in the Chilean catholic Church.

Brandy Daniels, University of Portland

Losing our religion? Faith, Feelings, and (Un-)Formation

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A24-308

**Hosted by:** Graduate Student Committee

Theme: Set the Syllabus Free: Reimagining Learning for a Liberated Future

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 303 (Third Level)

The traditional classroom can feel rigid and uninspiring, locked into predictable rhythms of lectures and reading lists: lecture, read, grade, repeat. But what if pedagogy was a dynamic, immersive practice—one that sparks curiosity, fuels creativity, and transforms learning into something truly alive? This session reimagines pedagogy beyond rote tradition, showcasing innovative approaches that deepen critical engagement and empower students to embody their learning. We'll explore strategies that honor multiple ways of knowing by treating the classroom as a space of discovery rather than mere content delivery. Participants will leave with practical insights for designing courses that embrace creativity, dialogue, and imagination, equipping students to engage the world with fresh eyes and deeper purpose.

Ristina Gooden, Vanderbilt University, presiding

## Panelist

Erica Johnson

Jacob Barrett, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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A24-327

**Hosted by:** Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: The Changing Landscape of Religion in American Public Life: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

This panel explores how American faith communities navigate current political, cultural, and organizational challenges in the post-pandemic landscape. The first paper uses two national election surveys to analyze religious voting patterns in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, providing insights into how faith traditions, ethnocultural identities, and culture wars shape electoral politics. The second paper relies on a survey of 25,000 church attendees from fifty denominations to illustrate how congregational life has evolved since the Covid-19 pandemic. The third paper utilizes interviews to examine narratives of child-rearing among Episcopalian parents, focusing on how theologically inclusive frameworks balance freedom and moral guidance in religious socialization within families. The last paper uses mixed-methods to explore how American Zen Buddhist communities navigate organizational and generational changes during a clergy shortage. Together, these papers offer a nuanced, data-driven account of how U.S. religious communities engage with shifting political and social climates.

Di Di, Santa Clara University, presiding

## Papers

James Guth, Furman University

Religious Alignments in the 2024 US Presidential Election

Scott Thumma

Charissa Mikoski

Views from the Pews: How 25,000 church attendees describe post-pandemic congregational life.

Ellie Ash, Indiana University Indianapolis

Meghan Bowen, Regis College (Toronto School of Theology)

Brian Steensland

Freedom and Guidance in a Theologically Inclusive Tradition: Episcopal Parents' Narratives of Religious Child Rearing

Rebecca S. K. Li, The College of New Jersey

Adapting to Organizational Challenges in American Zen Buddhist Communities

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A24-300

**Hosted by:** Black Theology Unit, Karl Barth Society of North America, and Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit

Theme: The Politics of Redemption: A Conversation with M. Shawn Copeland

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

This session, cosponsored by the Black Theology unit, the Karl Barth Society of North America, and Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, focuses on M. Shawn Copeland's book and engages key issues in Black theology, Womanist thought, and the topic of freedom. Panelists will include M. Shawn Copeland, Willie Jennings, and Andrea White.

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City, presiding

Paul Dafydd Jones, University of Virginia, presiding

### Panelist

M. Shawn Copeland, Boston College

### Respondent

Willie Jennings, Duke Divinity School

Andrea C. White, Union Theological Seminary

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A24-325

**Hosted by:** Sacred Texts and Ethics Unit

Theme: The Promise and Peril of Public Hermeneutics

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Provincetown (Fourth Floor)

The power of sacred texts has always been alluring to politicians and policymakers. But in times of social strife, the stakes go beyond interpretative accuracy. Human dignity, the common

good, and democratic governance may be on the line. Exploring the moral responsibility of biblical teacher-scholars in the classroom, a biblical theology of public land advocacy, and the (mis)use of Christian and Confucian values in American and South Korean administrations, this session offers three papers that address the promise and peril of public hermeneutics.

Stephanie Yep, Appalachian State University, presiding

## Papers

Russell CD Arnold, Regis University

Training Responsible Readers: Reading the Gospels and Genesis with Undergraduates in the Aftermath of the 2024 Election

Karl Kuhn

Commonwealth and Conquest: the promise and peril of a biblical theology of public lands

James T. Bretzke, John Carroll University

Make the Great Learning (大學) Great(er) Again: How Confucius, Augustine, & Aquinas Might Instruct Donald Trump, J.D. Vance and Yoon Suk Yeol

Business Meeting

R. Brian Siebeking, Gonzaga University

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A24-314

**Hosted by:** Music and Religion Unit

Theme: Theomusicology for Today

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

Scholars of Black Music will engage in a discussion of how the term “theomusicology,” originally coined by Jahya Jongintaba (formerly Jon Michael Spencer), serves as a meaningful framework today. Drawing from their expertise in sociology, ethnomusicology, musicology, history, and theology, panelists will offer a wide range of methodological insights as they focus on the connection between spiritual values and musical expression in Black Music. A goal of the panel is to review contemporary iterations and uses of the term *theomusicology* while redefining it for modern use. A range of Black music experiences spanning Reconstruction era bush meetings in Baltimore to George Floyd’s funeral will be examined in the light of *theomusicology* and explored by the panel. Looking at the interchange between Black Music, Spirit and culture, panelists will bring to light the valuable framework *theomusicology* offers when talking about Black experience, Black identity, and Black resistance.

Charrise Barron, Harvard University, presiding

### Panelist

Carolynne Hitter Brown, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Antipas Harris

Braxton Shelley

### Respondent

Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Colby College

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A24-330

**Hosted by:** Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit

Theme: Tibetan Interdependence, or Dendrel, as a Way of Freedom

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

This panel examines the remarkable range of Tibetan receptions of the Buddhist law of causation, Interdependent Arising (*pratītyasamutpāda*; Tib. *rten 'brel*, “dendrel”). While this classic Indic Buddhist model of how things emerge describes a process by which living beings are caught in a cycle of ignorance, in Tibet it became a dynamic of flourishing. The first paper will look at a switch in emphasis in the Tibetan philosophical examination of dendrel. The second paper will explore how good interdependence can be created, rather than passively received. The third paper examines the deep appreciation of dendrel in terms of the way that the land itself acts as an agent of education. The fourth paper explores dendrel in certain Indian Buddhist doctrinal texts and then modified in Tibetan astrology and divination. The final paper will draw on New Materialisms and multispecies ethnographers to lend new language to characterize Tibetan ways of dendrel.

Janet Gyatso, presiding

### Papers

Emily McRae

Dependent Arising and Ignorance

Tashi Dekyi, University of Virginia

Dendrel in Everyday Tibetan Life as a Process of Critical Indigenous Education

Sarah Jacoby, Northwestern University

The Dendrel of Interdependent Freedom

Bhumshikgyal Benxiujia, Rice University

The Dendrel of Astrology and Geomancy in Tibetan Ecological Thought

Janet Gyatso

Spotting Dendrel as a Way of Freedom

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A24-311

**Hosted by:** Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit

Theme: Weaponization of Religious Freedom

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Religious freedom is recognized as an essential human right. Yet claims of religious liberty are also used to justify discrimination against women, LGBTQ+ individuals, religious minorities, and others. We sometimes see interfaith alliances collaborating to undermine civil rights protections. High-profile disputes over insurance coverage of contraceptives and abortion raise questions about the individuals' liberties, often sacrificed to the claims of religious institutions or even private companies.

Lawmakers wield "religious liberty" to impose their own religious beliefs, both explicitly and unacknowledged, restricting the lives and freedoms of others. We have also witnessed concerns about religious bigotry being used as a shield against criticism and a challenge to freedom of speech and assembly. How do we guard individual liberties and group practices while resisting the increasing weaponization of religious freedom?

We will explore topics that address these with a particular focus on the impact on our multifaith context and encounters across religious difference.

Feryal Salem, American Islamic College, presiding

## Papers

Rachel Nireso-Paralkar, Union Theological Seminary

Bruja, Christian, or Other? Politics of Categorizing "Brujería" alongside Mexican Spiritual Practices

Linda Noonan, United Lutheran Seminary

Show Us What Theology Looks Like: Interfaith Organizing as a Form of Public Theology in Philadelphia

Ruth Foster, Yale University  
Navigating the 'Missionary Question': The Governance of Religious Freedom in Israel

## Respondent

Anne Hege Grung, University of Oslo

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A24-329

**Hosted by:** Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar

Theme: Weaponizing Religion: Critical Perspectives on Israel/Palestine

Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

Panelists will discuss a variety of locations where religion has been weaponized in the context of Israel/Palestine: African American Christian Zionist tours of the State of Israel, Holocaust memory, trauma, and *teshuvah*, the self-exile of Israelis, and in claims about 'Jewish indigeneity' to Palestine.

Iskander Abbasi, presiding

## Papers

Roger Baumann, Hope College

Invoking and Deploying Religion on African American Christian Solidarity Tours of Israel

Stephanie Gray, Global Centre for Advanced Studies

Remember, Return, Repair: Holocaust Memory and Israeli-Palestinian Trauma

Joyce Dalsheim

The Ends of Jewish Nationalism: Abandonment, Exile, and Repetition

Sabina Ali, Indiana University, Bloomington

Weaponizing Indigeneity: Zionist Public Discourses on Possessing Palestine

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A24-413

**Hosted by:** Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit



Theme: (Un)Freedom: Thinking Sex, Kink, and BDSM  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, Back Bay D (Second Floor)

This panel addresses questions of freedom and unfreedom in BDSM, kink, sex work, and other minoritized sexual practices. The first paper offers a transfeminist critique of entanglement and intimacies to show how violent and bloody trans women's entanglements with religion and the state can be. This paper highlights the religious sensations of rendering and being rendered into meat. The second paper examines Jean Paulhan's *Histoire d'O*, arguing Christian mystical ascent is central to *O* and to other texts of erotic self-abasement written by women that make art that fragments the freedom/unfreedom dichotomy. The final paper reflects on the merging of queer and subversive sexuality and holiness, speaking to the experience of spiritual strippers and sex workers. This paper contributes to a queer and sapphic theology unapologetically committed to the work strippers do at the pole to bring irreducible objects of desire and forms of healing into theirs and others' lives.

Rebecca Potts, presiding

## Papers

Talia Burnside, American University  
Sadomasochistic Nature Religion: Transfeminism, BDSM, and the Meat of Religious Studies

Madeleine Scott, Harvard University  
How Can It Be I Am No Longer I: Mysticism, Eroticism, and the Dissolution of Un/Freedom

A. Lake Stein, Fordham University  
Praying at the Pole: Irreducibility, Promiscuity, and the Faithfulness of Giving One Another What We Want

Business Meeting  
Siobhan Kelly, Harvard University

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A24-424

**Hosted by:** South Asian Religions Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Leela Prasad's *The Audacious Raconteur*

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

This author meets critics panel centers Leela Prasad's 2020 monograph *The Audacious Raconteur* published by Cornell University Press. By presenting detailed yet always riveting

accounts of four fascinating nineteenth century Southern Indian figures and their discursive and literary acts that poach at the hegemony of British colonial power, Prasad theorizes sovereignty as a quality that is not restricted to the modern state or its sites of exception, but that finds expression and sustenance through modes of storytelling that populate and inhabit the thicket of everyday life. Sovereignty represents an aspiration that can never be conclusively colonized, Prasad argues, in this thoroughly interdisciplinary monograph situated at the intersection of literary, religious, and South Asian Studies. This panel engages some pressing themes of sovereignty, narrative, and colonial power highlighted in *The Audacious Raconteur*.

SherAli Tareen, presiding

### Panelist

SherAli Tareen  
Bhakti Mamtara, University of Arizona  
Brian A. Hatcher, Tufts University  
J. Barton Scott

### Respondent

Leela Prasad, Brown University

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A24-407

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Islam Unit

Theme: Author Meets Readers Session: Reflections on Kecia Ali's *The Woman Question*

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

Kecia Ali's *The Woman Question in Islamic Studies* is a bold appraisal of citational politics in Islamic Studies, offering an incisive look into the pervasive ways that the citation and inclusion of women as scholars, historical influences, and active participants in the constitution of Islam have routinely been diminished, disregarded, or erased entirely. A group of six speakers from different institutional homes, disciplinary trainings, backgrounds, and at different points of their academic careers will reflect on *The Woman Question* and its implications for Islamic Studies and the study of religion at large. They will offer comments assessing citational diversity across anthropology, philosophy, history, Black studies, ethnic studies, and digital humanities while sharing the insights and challenges that *The Woman Question* poses for their own work. Dr. Ali will respond to speaker comments before turning to an audience Q/A.

Juliane Hammer, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill, presiding

### Panelist

Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst, University of Vermont  
Zahra Ayubi, Dartmouth College  
Kayla Renee Wheeler, Xavier University  
Iman AbdoulKarim, Yale University  
Samah Choudhury, University of Chicago  
Shawkat Toorawa

## Respondent

Kecia Ali, Boston University

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A24-414

**Hosted by:** Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit  
Theme: Doctrine, Shame, and Affordances in Lutheran Theology  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

This panel features constructive reflection on the doctrines of sola scriptura, justification, and sin alongside Hanna Reichel's use of 'affordance' in theology. How does contemporary Lutheran theology seek freedom and transformation within sedimented histories of theology?

Anne Heikkinen, University of Helsinki, presiding

## Papers

Jan-Olav Henriksen, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society  
Bondage Instead of Freedom? Sola Scriptura as an Entrance to Pathological Theology

Aaron Klink, Duke University  
From Shame to Transformation: A Queer Perspective on Justification by Faith

Kristin Graff-Kallevag  
Tone Stangeland Kaufman  
Sin, Shame, and Resonance: Affordances and Dis-affordances of the Doctrine of Sin in Young People's Theologizing

## Respondent

Hanna Reichel, Princeton Theological Seminary

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A24-405

**Hosted by:** Collective Karma and Karmic Collectives: Conversations without Borders Seminar

Theme: Entangled Agencies: Karmic Worldviews and Worldbuilding

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Tufts (Third Floor)

How does the “karmic worldview” shape reality and how has karma been used to frame the soteriological aims of practitioners, intellectuals and politicians? This panel seeks to contribute to the field of Religious Studies by foregrounding how karma shapes agency in individual actions, communal interactions, and nation-building projects through what we are calling a “karmic worldview.” Spanning philosophical and quotidian concerns, from premodern to modern contexts, this panel bridges the divide between historical, ethnographic, doctrinal, and literary domains to generate a rich interdisciplinary dialogue. Through philosophical analysis, literary examination, socio-political inquiry, and anthropological insight, the panel aims to illuminate the enduring and evolving significance of differing karmic worldviews and the subjective agencies that these nurture across diverse traditions and historical periods.

Jennifer Eichman, presiding

## Papers

Ernest Brewster, Austrian Academy of Sciences

On the karmic nature of the intermediate being/state (antarābhava) between biological death and rebirth

Tiantian Cai

The Jiguan 機關 and the Mind: Rethinking Agency in a Karmic World

Lei Ying

From “Seeds-Karma” to “Karmic Totality”: Buddhist Discourses on Nation Building in Late Qing China

Alex Grabiner

Cultivating Karmic Connections: Doctrinal Emphases in the Tzu Chi School of Buddhism

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A24-400

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit

Theme: Exploring Religious Freedom through Art-Based Research

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

Art Based Research in Theology surfaces new knowledge that discursive reasoning alone cannot access. Through woodcuts, collage, and William Blake's Book of Thel, this panel will explore new theological knowledge on the topic of Religious Freedom accessed through the creation of visual art. *Icons of Resistance: The Freedom of Embodied Prayer* will share woodcuts. *Imitatio Mary: The Ascetic Resistance of Jesus' Mama* will share a collage. *An Analytical View on William Blake's The Book of Thel* will examine ideas William Blake surfaced through creating his paintings and poetry in The Book of Thel. Participants will have an opportunity to view art-work for ten minutes before the presenters share what they learned through their creations.

Angela Hummel, presiding

## Papers

Rebekah Schultz, University of Virginia  
*Icons of Resistance: The Freedom of Embodied Prayer*

Samaneh Gachpazian  
*An Analytical View on William Blake's The Book of Thel*

Leslie Polk  
*Imitatio Mary: The Ascetic Resistance of Jesus' Mama*

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A24-417

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Freedom and Responsibility in the 19th and 20th Century: Voices and Lessons from the African American Intellectual Tradition

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

This panel explores ideas of freedom and responsibility within the African American intellectual tradition, drawing on figures from the 19th and 20th centuries. In responding to Abraham Joshua Heschel's assertion that "In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible," we aim to highlight how African American thinkers have historically navigated the paradoxes of constrained agency and moral accountability under conditions of injustice. By foregrounding voices such as Henry Highland Garnet, Frederick Douglass, Mamie Till-Mobley, and Martin Luther King Jr., this panel explores how religious and moral traditions have provided resources

for reimagining ethical ideals, and highlights the relevance of the African American intellectual tradition in illuminating the moral stakes of freedom in both past and present contexts.

Kera Street, Harvard University, presiding

## Papers

Donnell Williamson, Brown University

Between Pharaohs: Henry Highland's Ethical and Prophetic Reimagining of Freedom and Responsibility

Candace Jordan

The Achievement of Acknowledgement: On Responsibility and Being Moved

Darren Yau, Princeton University

The Social Effects of Unfreedom: Martin Luther King Jr. on the Vice of Sloth

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A24-411

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit

Theme: Is Christian Nationalism White?

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

What is the relationship between White nationalism—the social and political praxis of White supremacy—and Christian nationalism, the historical-revisionist pursuit of a state exclusively by and for Christian people? Although the last decade of scholarship on militant conservative Christianity in American politics has often attended to race, there remains a fuzzy shared vocabulary on whether “Whiteness” is a non-negotiable organizing concept or a collateral marker of American Christian ‘culture.’ Compounding this issue are the seismic shifts of the 2024 presidential election, in which Donald Trump commanded the Latino vote and outperformed with several other minorities—as well as broader resentment animating an antidemocratic turn in political systems around the world. Through attention to key fronts in the “culture wars,” medieval iconography, Latin American and US Latino politics, and the American heartland in the Christian nationalist imaginary, this roundtable examines the utility of *White* Christian nationalism as a scholarly analytic.

William Schultz, presiding

## Panelist

Christian Pattavina  
Annalissa Lane  
Guillermo Flores Borda, Boston University  
Spencer Kunz, Florida State University

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A24-401

**Hosted by:** Bahá'í Studies Unit

Theme: Issues in Contemporary Bahá'í Community Life

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 310 (Third Level)

This panel examines Bahá'í community life in settings around the world. It examines aspects of Bahá'í spirituality, dream interpretation, conversion, and scholarship. It also looks at how Bahá'ís both fit into and distinguish themselves from wider social norms and how Bahá'ís today think about their relationships with other religious and non-religious friends and neighbors. Bahá'í communities discussed include groups in Ireland, Iran, Germany, the U.S. and England.

Christopher White, Vassar College, presiding

## Papers

Tova Makhani belkin, Ben Gurion University

Catholic Habitus and Bahá'í Identity in Europe: Continuity, Conversion, and the Lived Experience of Progressive Revelation

Payvand Agahi, University of Oxford

Conceptualizing virtue: an examination of the relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and the VIA of positive psychology

Dehghani Sasha, Baha'i Chair for World Peace, Maryland University

Religious Freedom and Religious Studies - The Bahá'í Faith in Iran and Germany: A Comparison

Emily Goshey, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait

Truth or Illusion? Dreaming in Islam and the Bahá'í Faith

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A24-404

**Hosted by:** Catholic Studies Unit

Theme: On Grammatical Thomism  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Boylston (First Floor)

Initially coined as a term of criticism, the designation 'grammatical thomism' refers to a methodological approach that involves a conversation between two unlikely figures: Thomas Aquinas and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Although separated by almost 700 years of cultural evolution, the late 20th century revealed some deep affinities between their approaches to theology and philosophy. These affinities include an attention to language, a non-dualist anthropology that grounds human life in public shared behaviors, and a forgoing of the modern sceptical barrier between humans and the world they inhabit. In the hands of Herbert McCabe, David Burrell, Fergus Kerr, Brian Davies, and others, this synthesis has generated crucial insights for contemporary theology and philosophy of religion in the Anglosphere and beyond.

J. Michelle Molina, Northwestern University, presiding

## Papers

Filippo Casati, Lehigh University  
Against A Certain (Wittgensteinian) Apophatic Theology, Or In praise of Grammatical Thomism.

Jarek Jankowski, University of St Andrews  
Philosophy and Theology in a Single Vision? A Faultline in 'Grammatical Thomism'

Austin Kopack, University of St Andrews  
The Space Between Speech: Silence and the Function of Faith-language in Rowan Williams, Stephen Mulhall, and Ignace D'hert OP.

Jack Norman, Australian Catholic University  
The Three Isomorphisms of David Burrell: Medieval, Modern, and Hybridised accounts of Language and Reality

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A24-423

**Hosted by:** Science, Technology, and Religion Unit  
Theme: Re-Inherit the Wind  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

The 2025 American Academy of Religion marks a century since The Scopes Trial. The trial's afterlives, especially its reincarnations as *Inherit the Wind*, attest to its potency as a vehicle for



epistemological, political, and moral critique. The present moment of national and global crises calls for creative re-engagement with Proverbs 11:29, which promises the wise will triumph over the foolish, who will be left with nothing to inherit but the wind. The defense has invited Hochmah, the feminine figure of wisdom who appears throughout the book of Proverbs, to plead the case. "Do you think everything in the Bible should have literal interpretation?" asked Darrow when he put Hochmah on the stand. In her spirit, this dramatic, interactive roundtable will invite panelists and attendees to *Re-Inherit the Wind* by bringing Jewish feminist wisdom to bear on the moral crises we now face.

Laura S. Levitt, Temple University, presiding

## Panelist

Cara Rock-Singer  
Rachel Feldman  
Laura Yares

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A24-402

**Hosted by:** Buddhism and Caste Seminar

Theme: Recast(e)ing the Buddhist Past

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

Together, these panelists adopt a textual approach that uncovers both the construction of caste in premodern Buddhist texts and the ways that later Buddhists engaged with the literary tradition. Panelist 1 re-examines the characterization of the Buddhist tradition's stance toward caste by placing early Buddhist texts within the historical context of the development of Brahmanical caste ideology. Panelist 2 analyzes the production of caste categories in Mahāyāna Sutras through discourses about smell, meat-eating, and purity. The next two panelists consider how modern South Asian thinkers engaged with the premodern Buddhist textual tradition. Panelist 3 positions B.R. Ambedkar as a philologist, whose engagement with Pali and Sanskrit literature was guided by his anti-caste work. Panelist 4 broadens the focus from Ambedkar to also include Anagarika Dharmapala and Dharmanand Kosambi, illustrating how caste remained an integral component of all three modernist subcontinental Buddhist reformers.

Nicholas Witkowski, presiding

## Papers

Nathan McGovern, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater  
Buddhism's Role in the Birth of Caste Ideology

Marielle Harrison  
Smelling Caste in Mahāyāna Sūtras

Ali Ahsan, University of Georgia  
Reading Ambedkar as a Philologist: Language, Time, and Caste in BAWS (Volumes 3, 11, and 16)

Bhadrajee Hewage, University of Oxford  
Reform or Abolition? Caste Dilemmas for Modern South Asian Buddhist Thinkers

Business Meeting  
Adeana McNicholl, Vanderbilt University  
Nicholas Witkowski

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A24-416  
**Hosted by:** North American Religions Unit  
Theme: Religion and US Sites of Discipline  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

These papers argue that sites of discipline have key roles in shaping religious and American identities. With an undercurrent that these are sites of violence, these papers illustrate how asylums and prisons have policies of recognizing religions, practices of ensuring religious freedom, and goals of cultivating religious norms. One paper argues that nineteenth-century asylums shaped norms of white patriarchal authority, in a larger context of authorizing wealth through slavery. A second paper asks us to reconsider the nineteenth-century Latter-day Saint prison experience, including the limits of pluralism and tolerance in prisons and in respect to the larger US society. A third paper moves to the twenty-first century, when the Michigan Department of Corrections recognized a white supremacist movement as a religion; the paper illustrates sincere religious belief in a context of violence inside and outside the prison, and complicates the boundary between racial extremism and religious pluralism.

Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University, presiding

## Papers

Carter Kurtz, UNC Chapel Hill  
"This 'House of Refuge': The Asylum and the Home as Sites of Religious Discipline in the US South

Reid Neilson

"Sentences: Chronicling the 1844 Jail Martyrdom of Mormon Leaders Joseph and Hyrum Smith"

Brooklyn Oxandaboure

The Christian Identity Movement and Crises of Authority: Complicating Notions of Sincere Belief in the Michigan Prison System

## Respondent

Brad Stoddard, McDaniel College

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A24-426

**Hosted by:** Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar

Theme: Religion, Scholasticism, and Campus Repression

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

In this round table, discussants will present about the wholesale destruction of universities in Gaza. They will also examine "the Palestine exception" in Israel and the United States that has included pedagogical impediments: faculty firings and rescinded job offers, banning of BDS initiatives, invasive interrogation of departments, syllabi and curriculum, and cancellation of outside speakers.

Rebecca Alpert, presiding

## Panelist

Iskander Abbasi

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame

Robert O. Smith

Santiago H. Slabodsky

Daniel Bannoura

Anna Bigelow, Stanford University

Business Meeting

Jason Springs

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A24-420

**Hosted by:** Religion and Human Rights Unit and Teaching Religion Unit

Theme: Religious and Academic Freedom, Education, and Democracy

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

This panel examines the intersections of religious freedom, education, academic freedom, and concepts of liberal democracy. Religion has played a role in promoting freedom of thought and expanding educational opportunities, but also in restricting who has access to the goods of education and liberal democracy and what communities, students, and scholars can say. These papers argue for an expanded concept of religion and religious studies that enhances freedom of individuals and communities in a pluralistic society. The speakers will argue for the good of academic exchange and freedom even in a highly restrictive prison setting; the promise of Catholic Social Teaching to defend practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion; religious ethical thought that promotes the goods of public education; and protection of religious freedom that recognizes values of equity and community, rejecting uncritical ideas about “religion” drawn from Protestant Christianity. Authors will address both theoretical approaches and relevance to pedagogy.

Jenna Reinbold, presiding

## Papers

Margaret Kearney, Emory  
Christian Ethics and Abolitionist Education

Andrew Stone Porter, Bellarmine University  
Deploying Catholic Social Teaching to Defend DEI Initiatives As Protected Religious Expression

Victoria Machado, Rollins College  
Teaching Religion Behind Bars: exploring academic freedom in a place that is not free

Izzak Novak  
The Iron Cage of "Obsessive Liberalism": Rethinking US Religious Freedom Law

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A24-427

**Hosted by:** Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity Unit  
Theme: Review and Discussion of Recent Books about Mandaeanism  
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Marriott Copley Place, Suffolk (Third Floor)

This book review panel will focus on recent books on Mandaeanism by Jorunn Jacobsen Buckley (*1800 Years of Encounters with Mandaeans*), Sandra van Rompaey (*Mandaean Symbolic Art*), and Edmondo Lupieri (*John of the Mandaeans*).

Reyhan Durmaz, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

### Panelist

Zsuzsanna Gulacsi

Charles Haberl, Rutgers University, Camden

James McGrath, Butler University

Syed Zaidi, Emory University

### Respondent

Jorunn J. Buckley

Edmondo Lupieri

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A24-415

**Hosted by:** Mormon Studies Unit

Theme: Revisiting Classic Books in Mormon Studies

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

Revisiting classic books in Mormon Studies

Although the field of Mormon Studies is only fifty years old, it has steadily developed in how it addresses crucial questions and issues. The goal of this panel is to assess how the field has evolved on these central questions over the past decades. Presenters will discuss themes including gender, methodology, sexuality, and race through the lens of five classic works from the 1980s through the 2000s.

1984: *Religion and Sexuality: The Shakers, The Mormons, and the Oneida Community* by Lawrence Foster (University of Illinois Press)

1985: *Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition* by Jan Shipps (University of Illinois Press)

1987: *Sisters in Spirit: Mormon Women in Historical and Cultural Perspective* by Maureen Ursenbach Beecher and Lavina Fielding Anderson (University of Illinois Press)

1991: *Mormonism and the Bible* by Phil Barlow (Oxford University Press)

2003: *All Abraham's Children* by Armand Mauss (University of Illinois Press)

Benjamin Park, presiding

## Panelist

Kate Davis  
Seth Perry  
Colleen McDannell  
Kimberly Matheson  
Elise Boxer, University of South Dakota  
Business Meeting  
Jana Riess  
Benjamin Park

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A24-428

**Hosted by:** Vernacular Landscapes and Global Dialogues: Understanding Buddhist Monasticism Seminar

Theme: Ritual Education in Buddhist Monasticism: Tradition, Transmission, and Adaptation

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

Buddhist monastic education has traditionally integrated textual study, ritual training, and communal service. However, contemporary monastic institutions increasingly prioritize scholastic study, marginalizing ritual practice and creating tensions between traditional responsibilities and modern Buddhist networks. This panel examines how monastic training continues to rely on ritual expertise while adapting to local and global changes.

Bringing together an international team of scholars, this panel explores vernacular traditions and global dialogues on ritual training in Buddhist monasticism. Papers address diverse case studies: monks at the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) in Ladakh balancing ritual obligations with academic study; monastic music and its transmission despite modernization; vows and ritual commitments as pedagogical and ethical frameworks; and Vajrayāna ritual training at Sera Jey Monastery, where secret Hayagrīva practices shape monastic identity.

Together, these papers challenge the perceived divide between ritual and scholasticism.

Patrick Lambelet, Maitripa College, presiding

## Papers

Rohit Singh, Denison University

Ritual Practice and Monastic Education at the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in Ladakh

Nawang Shakspo, Ladakh Solitarian

Monastic Music, Vocational Training, and Buddhist Education in Ladakh

Jin Jr Shi

Living Vows, Living Karma : A Buddhist Hermeneutics of Practice in Monastic Ritual

Rory Tasker

A Mahāyāna Monastic University's Vajrāyāna Heart: The Most Secret Hayagrīva (rta mgrin yang sangs) Practices of Sera Jey Monastery

Zichi Shih, The University of Hong Kong

Contemporary Pedagogy of Chinese Bhikṣuṇī's Education in Taiwan: A Case Study of the Luminary International Buddhist Society (Bhikṣuṇī Saṃgha)

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A24-421

**Hosted by:** Sacred Texts and Ethics Unit

Theme: Sacred Texts and Ethics: New Ventures

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

This panel brings together papers across several traditions and areas of concern: from Buddhist ethical narratives to the Qur'anic wisdom and questions of warfare.

Nura Sophia Liepsner, presiding

## Papers

Ossama Abdelgawwad

Mapping out the Concept of Wisdom (Ḥikmah) in the Qur'an: Shifting Interpretations in Classical and Modern Exegesis

Chun Fai Ng, Harvard Divinity School

Transformative Narratives of Filial Piety: Cultural Adaptation and Moral Agency in the Śyāma Jātaka

Syeda Beena Butool, Nazareth University

Where There are No Ethics: Kitab al-Jihād and the Spoils of War

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A24-422

**Hosted by:** Schleiermacher Unit

Theme: Schleiermacher as Innovator: New Horizons for Research

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This session considers new directions in recent scholarship on Schleiermacher's thought that move beyond lingering one-sided caricatures of his work to recover the ongoing significance of his writings for the modern study of religion, theology, and philosophy. The three papers of this session take up the critical reception of Schleiermacher's christology and social ethics, and consider the contested legacy of Schleiermacher's work in the theological writings of Ernst Troeltsch and Karl Barth.

Calli Micale, Palmer Theological Seminary, presiding

## Papers

Joseph Walker-Lenow, Duke Divinity School

"Paul DeHart between Möhler and Schleiermacher: Unspeakable Cults as Correction and Continuation of Schleiermacherian Christology"

Eckhart Chan, University of Oxford, Oriel College

In the Footsteps of Schleiermacher: Ernst Troeltsch and the Legacy of the Glaubenslehre

Stephen Morrison, University of Aberdeen

Karl Barth's positive reception of Friedrich Schleiermacher's social ethics

Business Meeting

Kevin Vander Schel

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A24-425

**Hosted by:** Study of Islam Unit

Theme: Sufism's Other Sources: Emerging Developments in Sufi Historiography

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)



This panel makes important advances in the field of Sufi historiography, exploring the history of Sufism through uncommon sources and perspectives that have gone understudied. The first paper examines the way hadith sciences functioned as critical arenas for negotiating epistemic authority and spiritual legitimacy in early modern South Asia. The second paper provides a window into Sufi historiography by analyzing colonial documents that were co-created by European Orientalists and Indian Muslims. The third paper explores the contributions of a female philosopher to the tradition of Akbarian mysticism. And the fourth paper examines the intersections of dreams and political power in Suhrawardi's mystical and philosophical teachings.

Elliott Bazzano, Le Moyne College, presiding

## Papers

Hammad Khan, University of Georgia

Beyond Verification: Hadith Sciences, Sufi Historiography, and Epistemic Pluralism in Early Modern Islam

Kristen Miller, Arizona State University

Decolonizing the Study of Sufism in India: An Examination of a British Colonial Text

Emann Allebban

Women in Islamic Philosophy? Sitt al-'Ajam and the Interpretation of Akbarian Thought

Mohammad Meerzaei

Suhrawardi's Other Dream: Knowledge, Power, and Authenticity between Three Dream Accounts

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A24-412

**Hosted by:** Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit

Theme: Technological Transcendence and DIY Biohacking: The Politics and Economics of Transhumanism

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

Can you buy transcendence? Or an extended life? Within transhumanism, a movement dedicated to radically changing the human condition, rapid technological advancement is a necessity. But who takes on the risk of experimental technologies involving body modification, gene replacement, cryonics, and brain-computer interfaces?

This roundtable discussion will explore the divide within transhumanism over corporatism, regulation, artificial intelligence development, and technological experimentation. While usually thought of as being monolithic, transhumanists do not agree on either their ideal future or the proper path to get there. This roundtable will explore why these divisions have occurred and the ways in which those divisions will likely influence the transhumanist movement in the future.

Seth Villegas, Boston University, presiding

## Panelist

Jacob Boss, Indiana University, Bloomington  
Muhammad Faruque, University of Cincinnati  
James J. Hughes, University of Massachusetts

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A24-409

**Hosted by:** Ethics Unit

Theme: The Anthropocene and Religious Ethics

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Liberty C (Second Floor)

Twenty-five years ago, Paul Crutzen popularized the term “Anthropocene” to refer to the epoch in which humanity has had a significant impact on the earth’s geology and ecology. Crutzen’s article contained a dire warning but also a note of hope, suggesting that humans could pursue “careful manipulation and restoration of the natural environment.” These papers consider whether religious responses to the Anthropocene require hope. Does our responsibility hinge on the chance of achieving some sort of salvation for humanity? Is “restoration” what we should work toward, or can we renarrate our relationship to the natural world in terms of irony, tragedy, or kenosis?

Nichole Flores, presiding

## Papers

Brandy Daniels, University of Portland  
A Hopeless Ethic? Queer Negativity, the Anthropocene, and Apocalypse

Katrina Myers  
Solace without Salvation: Schopenhauerian Ethics and Hopelessness

Frederick Simmons, University of Cambridge

A24-419

**Hosted by:** Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: The Sacred, the Object, and the Entangled: Religion and the Politics of More-than-Human Life

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

This session brings together scholars working at the cutting edge of religion, ecology, and multispecies justice to confront the systems that sever humans from the more-than-human world. Whether through the sacred resistance of Minamata protest literature, the politics of poop, or the spiritual implications of multispecies entanglement, these papers challenge the logics of extraction, autonomy, and control that underwrite ecological collapse. In their place, they offer visions of embodied freedom, collective subjectivity, and ecological solidarity grounded in animist cosmologies, Buddhist ethics, and radical relationality. By interrogating the infrastructures—both material and metaphysical—that render life disposable, these scholars call for a transformation in how we imagine democracy, agency, and responsibility. This session is a call to unmake the old assumptions and begin building livable futures rooted in reciprocity, vulnerability, and the sacred entanglement of all life.

Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco, presiding

## Papers

Russell Powell, Harvard Divinity School

Can Democracy Hear the More-Than-Human? Representation, Accountability, and the Hope of Multispecies Democracy

Sarah Nahar, University of Michigan

Fertile, Social, Dangerous, Sacred, Gift, and System: Religion and the Ambiguity of Human Excreta

Wing Yin Li, Princeton Theological Seminary

Freeing Subjectivity from Subjection: Countering Slow Violence in the Tragedy of Minamata Disease with a (Pre)Animistic Ecological Solidarity

Chaitanya Motupalli, Brite Divinity School

The Entangled Web: Embodied Freedom as a Framework for Multispecies Flourishing

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A24-406

**Hosted by:** Constructive Muslim Thought and Engaged Scholarship Seminar

Theme: The Shape of Our Engaged Endeavors

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

Entering the final year of the five-year seminar on Constructive Muslim Thought and Engaged Scholarship, this roundtable session gathers together scholars invested in the future of the field. Each discussant has been invited to offer brief remarks in response to the following prompts in order to seed a broader conversation with seminar attendees: As Muslims in the academy committed to engaged and/or constructive scholarship, describe what you think are the most productive trends contributing to the growth of engaged and constructive endeavors. Where do you see promise? Where do you see peril? What approaches, methods, and perspectives should this developing field be taking account of? What needs refinement? Where ought this work go in the years ahead? Where do you see your own work developing?

Samaah Jaffer, Yale University, presiding

### **Panelist**

R. David Coolidge, Bayan Islamic Graduate School

Hussein Rashid

Sarra Tlili, University of Florida

Cyrus Zargar, University of Central Florida

Oludamini Ogunnaike, University of Virginia

### **Respondent**

Jerusha Rhodes

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A24-418

**Hosted by:** Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit

Theme: The Vision of God and the Divine Intellect

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

The vision of God is one of the key topics of Western philosophy and is frequently linked to a model of intellect derived from the Platonic tradition. This panel invites papers that explore how images of 'vision' relate to strictly epistemological and metaphysical concerns? These are

issues that have captivated philosophers from Plato, to Nicholas of Cusa, to Spinoza, to Hegel and beyond. The notion of divine vision has generated numerous difficulties, as evinced by the critiques of many recent philosophers writing in the wake of both Heidegger and the twentieth century empiricists, both of whom have often been unsparing in their critiques of such metaphysical models. Analysis of some recent reflection on this topic from philosophers such as Jean-Luc Marion or Stephen Clark would be welcome. Papers are invited from both a historical and systematic perspective.

Douglas Hedley, University of Cambridge, presiding

## Papers

Philip Porter, Saint Louis University

Tears and Clear Sight: Compunction, Weeping, and the Vision of God in Gregory the Great

Derek Michaud

John Smith on Deification and the Vision of God

EMILY KING

Platonist Writing and Divine Vision: The Phaedrus and the Notebooks of Simone Weil

Boyd Taylor Coolman

Neoplatonic Metaphysics and Dionysian Hierarchy in the Theological Epistemology of Thomas Gallus

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A24-429

**Hosted by:** Trans Caucus

Theme: Trans Caucus Meeting

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Marriott Copley Place, Simmons (Third Floor)

Jonathan Morgan, Claremont School of Theology, presiding

Skyler Jay Keiter-Massefski, Other, presiding

Kori Pacyniak, University of California, Riverside, presiding

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A24-410

**Hosted by:** Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Unthought Unfreedoms: Engaged and Critical Perspectives on Philosophy of Religion

Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM  
Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

Philosophical reflection often involves thinking through certain types of conditions. How might we understand, and possibly interrogate, texts and topics in the philosophy of religion with attention to the effects of contingent yet persistent social structures? How might such an engaged and critical question help us consider ways of relating philosophy of religion to the AAR's 2025 presidential theme of "freedom"? The session will respond to these questions with a discussion about how philosophers of religion might identify unfreedoms, and then argue the merits of leaving these conditions intact. Leah Kalmanson considers how the self, itself, is a source of unfreedom. Zeyad el Nabolsy explains the consequences of God's image for African freedom. Yarran Hominh reformulates the problem of evil by theorizing unfreedom. And, Deborah Casewell evaluates 'strategic madness' as a philosophical response to power structures.

Nathan R. B. Loewen, University of Alabama, presiding

## Papers

Leah Kalmanson, University of North Texas  
Freedom and Fantasy: On the Self as a Source of Unfreedom

Zeyad el Nabolsy, York University  
Freedom in/from the Image of God: Edward W. Blyden on Christianity and Islam

Yarran Hominh, Bard College  
Pessimism and the stability of unfreedom as a problem of evil

Deborah Casewell  
Strategic Madness: The Resistance and Challenge in Simone Weil's Religious Philosophy

David Thien Le, Emory University  
Religion, Racecraft, and the "Tyranny of Convention"

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A24-501

**Hosted by:** Special Session

Theme: Memorial Session for Michael Ium

Monday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This session commemorates Michael Ium, a historian of Tibetan Buddhism who passed at the age of 41 in April 2025. Speakers will provide brief comments that either: 1) overview his scholarship on Tibetan Buddhist Scholasticism; 2) share his contribution to various institutions and their surrounding communities (including the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the University of Toronto, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Maitripa College); 3) discuss his pedagogy of love and sympathetic joy; 4) recognize his service to the field (e.g., co-editor for the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies*); 5) call for scholars to contribute toward or continue his unpublished work and work in progress on Tibetan Buddhist pilgrimage and Gelukpa magic; or 6) highlight Michael as a human being, i.e., things not listed on his CV.

Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University, presiding

### Panelist

Kin Cheung, Moravian University  
Uudam Baoagudamu  
Daigengna Duoer  
Kati Fitzgerald  
Jed Forman, University of California, Berkeley  
Catherine Hartmann, University of Wyoming  
Julia Hirsch  
Patrick Lambelet, Maitripa College  
Rory Lindsay, University of Toronto  
William McGrath, New York University  
Natasha Mikles, Texas State University  
Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Rohit Singh, Denison University  
Channa Li, IKGA

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A24-500

**Hosted by:** American Academy of Religion

Theme: Program Unit Chairs and Steering Committee Reception

Monday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Sheraton, Back Bay B (Second Floor)

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M24-500

**Hosted by:** Australian Catholic University

Theme: Australian Catholic University Reception  
Monday, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
Westin Copley Place, Huntington Ballroom (Second Floor)

Join us for the Australian Catholic University Reception hosted by the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL).

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M24-510  
**Hosted by:** Honoring Israeli Scholarship Reception  
Theme: Honoring Israeli Scholarship Reception  
Monday, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)

We are delighted to have you join us for drinks and light refreshments as we honor and celebrate Israeli biblical scholarship. Scholars and students of Israeli institutions in the past, present and future, as well as our colleagues and friends, are warmly invited!

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## Tuesday November 25

A25-103  
**Hosted by:** Religion and Politics Unit  
Theme: "Right" Perspectives  
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  
Sheraton, Liberty A (Second Floor)

This panel presents three diverse and sometimes surprising perspectives on conservative ideologies by situating them firmly within U.S. religious history. The first paper examines the role of “colorblind conservatism” during the 1960s and 1970s as a result of the prosperity gospel’s insistence on moral failure as the cause of the inequality of non-white Americans. The second explores how conservative women’s groups from the United Daughters of the Confederacy to Moms for Liberty have exerted control over U.S. public school history curriculum and the far reaching impact of this influence on the nation’s future. The final paper reexamines the ideological and spiritual roots of Donald Trump’s rhetoric in his two election victories. With attention to American metaphysical traditions and neoliberal market logic, this paper ties Trump and his rhetoric to very American national myths.

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University, presiding



## Papers

Kristen Balzer, Northwestern University

Consecrating Colorblindness: The Symbiotic Rise of the American Prosperity Gospel and Colorblind Conservatism, from Brown to Bakke

Cassandra Hawkins, Emory University

Mothers, Daughters, and the Politics of History: Religion and The Rhetoric of Freedom in Conservative Women's Lobbying for Educational Control

Patrick Tugwell, University of California, Santa Barbara

The American Theology of Winning: Trump, Peale, and the Metaphysical Tradition

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A25-102

**Hosted by:** Comparative Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Catching Sight of a Snake: South Asian Nāgas in Ancient and Modern Life Worlds

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Sheraton, Tremont (Third Floor)

*Nāgas* are snake-like creatures that exhibit a complex and dynamic combination of cobra, human, divine, and other characteristics. They are foundational to South Asian traditions, appearing in stories, images, and practices across the region's diverse religious communities for over two millennia.

This panel presents an edited book project bringing together stories, images and performances which enable us to catch glimpses of how *nāgas* live, look and feel in the manifold worlds, religious traditions and cultures they inhabit. The time and area that will be covered in our book ranges from the earliest textual and visual traces of *nāgas* to the spread of their iconography and mythology across different parts of South Asia, where, in some cases, they blend with other water and serpent beings already present there.

Kristin Scheible, presiding

## Papers

Gerrit Lange, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Naiṇī Mātā of Pindar Valley: A Local Himalayan Nāginī Within a Bigger Picture

Amy L. Allocco, Elon University

Divine Snakes, Sneaky Planets, and Remedial Rituals in South Indian Hindu Traditions

Charlotte Noelle Gorant, Columbia University

The Buddha's "Taming" of the Fiery Nāga at Uruvela: Matching the nāga's heated anger with iddhi

Jon Keune, Michigan State University

Nagas in History and Myth: Ambedkarite Buddhist Uses of the Past in Contemporary Central India

## Respondent

Brian Black, Lancaster University

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A25-107

**Hosted by:** Theology and Religious Reflection Unit

Theme: Is Theology Dying?: On Doing Hospice for an Academic Discipline

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Sheraton, Stuart (Third Floor)

Those of us working in academia are aware of the numerous crises on the horizon, for higher education. No academic field is immune, but some are more vulnerable than others. Theology is one of those: excluded from many public institutions, the field relies on seminaries for life support. But increasingly, seminaries are skeptical of the value of theology and are removing it from their curricula.

Is academic theology dying? Or is theology simply changing shape and form? This roundtable brings together scholars who have (at one point in their career) identified as theologians: graduate students, seminary professors, political theologians, comparative theologians, and those who have left the field behind. The discussion will bring a death studies lens to our conversation about theology as we reflect, together, on what it might mean to be part of a dying practice and what sorts of legacies we imagine it might have.

Beatrice Marovich, presiding

## Panelist

Adam Kotsko, North Central College

Scott Kirkland

Shelly Rambo, Boston University

Hanna Reichel, Princeton Theological Seminary

Sameer Yadav, Baylor University

## Respondent

Meghan Mercury, Graduate Theological Union

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A25-105

**Hosted by:** Sociology of Religion Unit

Theme: Jehovah's Witnesses between Global and Local: A Comparison of Their Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices in Canada and Argentina

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Sheraton, Independence East (Second Floor)

The JW-MAP (Jehovah's Witnesses' Motivations, Attitudes, Practices) research project is dedicated to exploring the existence of a gap between the beliefs and behaviors of JW's and their perception by the general public. Beliefs and behaviors were measured through a questionnaire distributed to JW's, while public perceptions were measured through a YouGov survey and social media research. The research covers six countries. At this meeting data from Argentina and Canada will be presented and discussed with the aim of helping to dispel the stereotypes that have hindered the integration of JW's into the social fabric and legal systems governing state-religion relations.

David Voas, University College, London, presiding

## Papers

Siobhan McAndrew, University of Sheffield

Believing, Belonging, Behavior and Bonding among Jehovah's Witnesses: A Quantitative Comparison of Canada and Argentina

Pierre Noël, University of Sherbrooke

Jehovah's Witnesses in Canada between legal regulation and social acceptance

Maria Pilar Bossio, National University of La Plata

Jehovah's Witnesses in Argentina: A Case of "Low-Key Integration" Amid Legal and Social Challenges

Amidu Elabo, Hartford Institute for Religious Research

Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Jehovah's Witnesses on YouTube Across Argentina, Canada and the United States

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A25-104

**Hosted by:** Religion and the Social Sciences Unit

Theme: New Social Scientific Research on Religion in the U.S.

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

This session highlights three papers that present new quantitative and qualitative findings on religion in the U.S. Papers investigate such topics as how Bahá'í communities has adapted to challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, shifts in clergy persons' sense of agency following the 2024 presidential election, and relationships of religious "Nones" to spirituality and religion.

Sara Williams, Fairfield University, presiding

## Papers

Tony Jones

Ryan Burge, Eastern Illinois University

American Nones: New Typology of the Non-Religious and their Quest for Meaning

Mike McMullen

Initial Analysis of FACT 2024 Member Survey of Bahá'í Communities

Kristen Hydinger, Boston University

Judith A. Gerstenblith, Boston University

Steven Sandage

Laura Captari, Boston University

The Religious Leader's Sense of Agency Since November 5, 2024: A Case Study of U.S. Clergy

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A25-124

**Hosted by:** Christian Systematic Theology Unit

Theme: Political Freedom: Divine Sovereignty and Human Liberation

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 207 (Second Level)

This session considers a range of political freedoms in relation to God's reception of human gifts, Iraenaeus's Christology, Nyssa's antislavery thought, and Gutierrez's liberation theology.

Joseph Flipper, University of Dayton, presiding

## Papers

Benjamin Menghini  
God's Gifts and Divine Reception

Awet Andemicael  
Divine Sovereignty, Human Freedom, and the Christological Vocation to Power: Political Resources from Irenaeus

Thomas Breedlove, Baylor University  
The Equality of the Grave: Reconsidering Freedom in Gregory of Nyssa's Antislavery Rhetoric

Emmanuel De Leon  
Liberation and Providence: Decolonial Trajectories in the Work of Gustavo Gutiérrez

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A25-106

**Hosted by:** South Asian Religions Unit  
Theme: South Asian Religions in Collections  
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  
Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

The goal of this panel is to reignite conversations between museum professionals and scholars of religion, both of whom hold vested interest in religious objects, cultural authority, and the dissemination of public knowledge. We aim to interrogate and challenge value-laden categories such as public knowledge, heritage building, and cultural preservation in museums and other institutions that hold religious objects from South Asia. We ask of our individual collections, in what way is meaning conditioned by material assemblages and social infrastructures, and how both the historical trajectories and contemporary lives of objects become embedded within their custodianship. Finally, we invite our respondent and audience members to join us in reflecting on the sensorial roles of object displays and the complex, multi-layered performances of devotion and expertise that shape South Asian Religions in institutional collections.

Avni Chag, presiding  
Leah Comeau, Saint Joseph's University, presiding

## Papers

Urmila Mohan  
Gujarati Patolas as Devotional Labor

Priya Swamy, Wereldmuseum, the Netherlands  
Towards a Possible Bahujan Art History in World Cultures Museums

Leah Comeau, Saint Joseph's University  
Rudolf Otto's Receipts: Representations of Hinduism in German Special Collections

Avni Chag  
From Shrine to Glass Case and Back Again: The Agency of South Asian Religious Artefacts in  
Secular and Sacred Contexts

## Respondent

Vidya Dehejia, Columbia University

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A25-100

**Hosted by:** Buddhism Unit

Theme: The Buddha of Alternative Futures: Crafting Maitreya in Indic and Chinese Sources

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

Maitreya has often been stereotypically portrayed as a future buddha who, by marking the culmination of a reincarnation series, represents salvation or renewal. However, this simplistic portrayal obscures the complexity of this mythical figure found in Indic, Central Asian, and Chinese Buddhist traditions. As a corrective, this panel explores three overlooked dimensions of Maitreya that challenge, complicate, and expand our conventional understanding.

The first paper analyzes the *Maitreyapariṣcchā*, contrasting Maitreya's long yet skillful path to awakening with Śākyamuni's swift and sacrificial attainment. It argues that this text reconfigures earlier multi-buddha frameworks and offers an alternative bodhisattva ideal. The second paper, by investigating the connection between Maitreya's name and the meditative cultivation of *maitrī* (loving-kindness), sheds light on the often-ignored etymological link constructed through past-life narratives. The third paper examines Maitreya in the *Vairocanābhisaṃbodhi* and its Chinese commentary, exploring textual and visual representations of Maitreya in early Tantric Buddhism.

Kedao Tong, Stanford University, presiding

## Papers

Channa Li, IKGA

Maitreya's Long Bodhisattva Journey vs. Śākyamuni's Swift Attainment: Two Ideals of the Bodhisattva Path in the Maitreyapariṣcchā

Yi Ding, DePaul University

Why Maitreya is Called Maitreya?—Connecting the Etymological Dots between the Meditative Cultivation of Maitrī and Maitreya

Jeffrey Kotyk, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

An Esoteric Alternative: Maitreya in the Chinese Commentary on the Vairocanaṅghisambodhi

## Respondent

April Hughes

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A25-109

**Hosted by:** Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit

Theme: Arts, Literature, and Religion at the Centennial of 1925

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Republic A (Second Floor)

2025's annual meeting marks the centennial of an auspicious year for the idea of the "modern" in the arts—a year that saw the publication, curation, and emergence of important works, performances, and ideas that spoke to a modernizing world. This session focuses on work, workers, and movements situated in and around 1925, considering what it means to think about artistic modernism religiously, even it participates in debates and modes of representation that complicate or even reject the religious as it had been previously understood. Papers in this session consider the Boston Expressionists' interest in the metaphysics of corporeal disintegration, Anglophone dramatists' (including Shaw and Hurston) use of religion to revivify the theater's modern potential, visions of Christian masculinity in *Ben Hur*, Mussolini's reinterpretation of the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, and the complex legacy of the North American reception of novels by Toyohiko Kagawa and Sundar Singh.

M. Cooper Harriss, Indiana University, Bloomington, presiding

## Papers

Rebecca Kastleman, Columbia University

Drama and Religion in English Around 1925

Jonathon Eder

“Dorothy Adlow—Art Critic as Prophet and Pastor of the Boston Expressionists”

Montagu James, Brown University  
The Mussolinization of St. Francis of Assisi

Hannah Nation, University of Edinburgh  
From Reality and Religion to Before the Dawn: How the Reception of Sundar Singh and Toyohiko Kagawa’s Works Taught North American Audiences to Call Asian Theology Mystical in the 1920s

Madison Lyonhart  
Reinforcing Christology and Christian Masculinity in Ben-Hur: A Tale of Christ (1925)

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A25-120

**Hosted by:** Study of Islam Unit

Theme: Author Meets Critics: Revisiting Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination after 20 Years

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Berkeley (Third Floor)

The publication of Ebrahim Moosa's *Ghazālī and the Poetics of imagination* (UNC Press 2005), winner of the 2006 AAR book award for Best First Book in the History of Religions, was a monumental moment in Islamic Studies and the study of religion more broadly. This monograph pioneered an approach to Islamic Studies that was simultaneously intensely philological, fiercely theoretical, and unabashedly normative in its proposals for reenergizing the Islamic intellectual tradition. This panel brings together four scholars at varied career stages, disciplinary persuasions, and foci of specialization to interrogate and reflect on the importance, implications, as well as the limits and tensions of Moosa's monograph twenty years later.

SherAli Tareen, presiding

### **Panelist**

Zareena Grewal

Jawad Qureshi

Ali Altaf Mian

### **Respondent**

Ebrahim Moosa, University of Notre Dame



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A25-114

**Hosted by:** Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit and Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit

Theme: Author-Meets-Respondents on Barbara Sostaita's *Sanctuary Everywhere: The Fugitive Sacred in the Sonoran Desert*

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 206 (Second Level)

This author-meets-respondents session engages Barbara Andrea Sostaita's *Sanctuary Everywhere: The Fugitive Sacred in the Sonoran Desert* (Duke 2024). Sostaita's fieldwork with migrants across the landscapes of the U.S.-Mexico border allows her to reimagine sanctuary as a set of practices—both fugitive and sacred—in the face of quotidian violence and carceral projects. This panel brings together scholars who examine race, migration, ethnicity, and religion across the disciplines of history, anthropology, performance studies, philosophy, Latinx studies, and religious studies. This interdisciplinary panel will critically reflect on the book and its importance for the study of religion and our world today.

Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma, presiding

### Panelist

Tatyana Castillo-Ramos

Eleanor Craig, Emory University

Matthew Harris, University of Chicago

Felipe Hinojosa, Texas A&M University, College Station

Elaine Pena

Daisy Vargas

### Respondent

Barbara Sostaita, Harvard University

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A25-118

**Hosted by:** Religion and Ecology Unit

Theme: Bodies, Lands, and the Work of Repair: Coalition Politics in Religious Ecology

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

This session brings together scholars and activists working at the intersection of religion, ecology, and resistance to explore how spiritual traditions and interfaith coalitions are

confronting environmental injustice and reclaiming relationships to land. Drawing on fieldwork and grassroots movements—from Maya-led visions of shared territorial belonging in Mexico to interreligious pipeline blockades in the U.S.—the papers trace how sacred practices are mobilized in defense of ecosystems and community life. Engaging themes such as reproductive justice, fossil fuel divestment, degrowth, and Indigenous cosmologies, presenters show how faith-based actors are resisting systems of extraction and dispossession while imagining political ecologies grounded in care, reciprocity, and co-existence. Across diverse contexts, the session highlights how religious worldviews animate collective struggle and nourish radical alternatives to ecological and social domination—alternatives rooted not only in critique, but in ceremony, coalition, and the hard work of transformation.

Joseph Wiebe, presiding

## Papers

Lars Akerson

Anika Reynar

Grafted into the land: On tending common freedom through multifaith territorial conflict

Kristi Del Vecchio, Bucknell University

Environmental Conditions for the Possibility of Reproductive Freedom

Brooklynn Reardon, Duke University

Sabbath as Spatial Politic: A Theological Post-Capitalist Political Ecology

Mark Clatterbuck, Montclair State University

Sacred Resistance: Eco-Activism as Ceremony

Eun Young Choi, Boston University

Human Detachment from the Land: Understanding the appropriation, expropriation and exploitation of land in the context of an extension of Marxian concepts of primitive accumulation and alienation from an animist/ecological perspective

Business Meeting

Joseph Wiebe

Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco

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A25-121

**Hosted by:** Women and Religion Unit

Theme: Collaborative Pathways: Feminist Scholarship, Freedom, and Faith Across Contexts

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth Floor)

Co-sponsored with the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus, this panel explores the intersections of gender, freedom, and religion through the lens of feminist collaboration and mentorship. Featuring emerging scholars, the session highlights diverse global contexts—Victorian-era Korea, medieval China, contemporary South Korea, and Madagascar—to examine how women navigate, reinterpret, and resist religious and cultural constraints. Papers include analyses of Korean Protestant women's negotiations of Victorian womanhood, African churchwomen's movements for liberation and solidarity, strategic uses of chastity and religion in medieval China, and the paradoxes of neoliberal empowerment for evangelical businesswomen in South Korea. Together, these studies offer rich insights into how women embody, challenge, and transform religious traditions. Emphasizing intergenerational and intercultural dialogue, the panel fosters collaborative methodologies and invites participants to consider how feminist religious scholarship can be a site of both critical reflection and imaginative resistance.

Julia Enxing, presiding

## Papers

Sangeon Kim

Reinterpreted Victorian Womanhood: Freedom, Constraints, and Faith of Korean Protestant Women

Nomenjanahary Mamisoa Rakotomalala

Nurturing Women's self-determination and solidarity for a shared vision of liberation and transformation. Case study of Churchwomen in Sub-Saharan Africa--Madagascar.

RONGHU ZHU

Coming to terms with Chastity: Strategic Uses of Religion for Women Sexuality in Medieval China

Sora Um, Emory University

Rich Evangelical Superwoman: God's Blessings and Submissive Businesswomen in Neoliberal South Korea

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A25-115

**Hosted by:** History of Christianity Unit

Theme: Councils and Synods: aftermath, reception, legacy

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Olmsted (Fifth Floor)

Examining the reception of Nicaea over 1700 years, this panel explores the historical, theological, and cultural aftermath, reception, and legacy of the Council of Nicaea (325) and other significant councils, focusing on their impact on creedal development, liturgical practices, and ecumenical dialogue. By integrating interdisciplinary approaches—historical, philological, and digital humanities—we aim to deepen understanding of how conciliar decisions have shaped Christian tradition. In 2025, two key anniversaries—the 1700th of Nicaea and the 60th of Vatican II—highlight the renewed relevance of synodality in contemporary church life, as seen in recent Orthodox and Catholic synods. Additionally, it explores local synodal reception in the Merovingian period and the liturgical influence of Nicaea until Vatican II. Finally, Digital Humanities are explored, proposing methods like Transformer models to analyze ancient texts. By combining diverse disciplinary perspectives, the panel seeks to advance understanding of the historical and doctrinal impact of councils and synods in Christian history.

Alberto Melloni, Fondazione per le scienze religiose, presiding

## Papers

Emanuel Fiano, Fordham University

The Reception of Nicaea in Rome: Samplings into the Correspondences of Julius and Liberius

Costanza Bianchi, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose (Bologna)

The Nicene Legacy in the Coptic context. The Transmission of the Nicene and Constantinopolitan Creeds in the Egyptian Area

GIACOMO FREDA CIVICO, La Sapienza Università di Roma

The Reception of the Nicene Creed among the Goths: Doctrinal Boundaries and Fluid Identities

Gregory Halfond, Framingham State University

Appeals to Distant Authority in the Merovingian Conciliar Acts

Massimiliano Proietti, Foundation for Religious Studies (Bologna)

Nicaea and the Creed: The Liturgical Transmission in Eucharistic and Baptismal Rites of the Churches

Elia Scapini, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose

Federico Iezzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

DamSym: Leveraging AI and NLP to Analyze the Legacy of Nicea in Greek and Latin Patristic Texts.

## Respondent

Federico Ruoizzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

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A25-119

**Hosted by:** Religion and Popular Culture Unit

Theme: Ethics in/of Genre Literature

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Arnold Arboretum (Fifth Floor)

How people read different genres--whether it is within a religious tradition, as fans of a genre, or as film viewers--affects their life trajectories and the ways they view the world. The papers in this session consider a broad range of reading experiences which include how Black women learn romance rules by raiding their family members' book stashes, how travel books can help facilitate civil repair, how Jewish authors think about interstellar lives, and how apocalyptic films can help us think about the world we inhabit to inspire the audience to think about the complicated conundrums that literary engagement can help us traverse.

Roger A. Sneed, Furman University, presiding

## Papers

Jeania Ree Moore, Yale University

Stash – Towards a Womanist Virtue Ethic of Romance Reading

Anne Taylor, Yale University

From tourism to pilgrimage: Travel with Rick Steves' Europe as a project of civil repair

Erica Hurwitz Andrus, University of Vermont

Ethical Encounters of the Third Kind: Aliens, Jews, and the Dilemmas of First Contact in the Work of Mary Doria Russell and Ruthanna Emrys

Thomas Lynch, University of Chichester

Hope Hiding in Plain Sight: The Dilemmas of Polycrisis Cinema

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A25-117

**Hosted by:** Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Religion, Philosophy, and Language in a Disenchanted World

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 101 (Plaza Level)

This panel probes philosophical and literary responses to secularity and post-secularity, with attention to Weber, Wittgenstein, Murdoch, and Dussel. Panelists consider how these figures have turned to poetry, mysticism, and post-secular theology to disrupt disciplinary boundaries and narratives of disenchantment.

Lori K. Pearson, Carleton College, presiding

## Papers

Tessa Finley  
Iris Murdoch's practical mysticism

Rafael Vizcaino, DePaul University  
Decolonizing the Relation: Between Philosophy and Theology

Linden Smith, Syracuse University  
Philosophy as a Way out of Life: Wittgenstein's Mystical Ethics

John-Harmen Valk  
Maturity as a Way of Life and the Contradictions of Freedom in Weber's Political Ethic of Responsibility

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A25-112

**Hosted by:** Contemporary Pagan Studies Unit

Theme: Roundtable on 'The Spider Dance' (Equinox, 2024) by Giovanna Parmigiani (Harvard Divinity School and CSWR)

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, Dalton (Third Floor)

Based on ethnographic research among contemporary Pagan communities in Southern Italy. *The Spider Dance* challenges (uni)linear ideas and experiences of time and temporality by showing the interconnectedness of alternative historicities, healing, and place-making among persons engaged in reviving, continuing, or re-creating traditional Pagan practices. Parmigiani examines local Pagans, their ritual practices associated with dance / music called *pizzica*. *Pizzica* is associated with *tarantismo*, a phenomenon present and attested until the second half of the 20th century. Affecting mostly (but not only) women, *tarantismo* has been described as physical suffering created by the bite of tarantulas and cured with *pizzica*. At the turn of the century *tarantismo* disappeared and new forms, called *neotarantismi*, emerged. *The Spider Dance* highlights connections with contemporary forms of magic and healing. *The Spider Dance*

also makes key contributions to the anthropological study of magic, of contemporary religions, of “historicitities,” and to scholarly debates in Italy and abroad.

Christopher Chase, Iowa State University, presiding

### Panelist

Helen Berger

Chas Clifton, Colorado State University, Pueblo

Giovanna Parmigiani

Francesco Piraino, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School

Fadeke Castor, Northeastern University

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A25-110

**Hosted by:** Buddhist Philosophy Unit

Theme: Roundtable on Stephen Harris’s Buddhist Ethics and the Bodhisattva Path: Śāntideva on Virtue and Well-Being (Bloomsbury Academic 2023)

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

Bringing together scholars in the fields of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhist ethics, this roundtable discusses Stephen Harris’s new book *Buddhist Ethics and the Bodhisattva Path: Śāntideva on Virtue and Well-Being* (published by Bloomsbury Academic 2023). Building on previous studies on Śāntideva’s *Introduction to the Practices of Awakening (Bodhicaryāvatāra)*, Harris delves deeper into this crucial text to enhance the scholarly understanding of virtues and delineate Buddhist ethics as a virtue theory. In a close examination of Harris’s work, the panelists will engage with the analysis of virtues and their cultivation, subsequently addressing methodological questions on how to study Buddhist ethics. Together, they will also explore the social benefits of the development of Buddhist virtues.

Jingjing Li, Leiden University, presiding

### Panelist

Amber Carpenter

Barbra R. Clayton, Mount Allison University

Douglas Duckworth, Temple University

Amod Lele, Northeastern University

Perry Schmidt-Leukel

### Respondent

Stephen Harris

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A25-108

**Hosted by:** Anthropology of Religion Unit

Theme: Sensory Landscapes and the Sacred

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 110 (Plaza Level)

Beginning from the premise that religious practices always entail distinct regimes of sensory engagement, this panel investigates how people's religious affects, and in particular their relation to place and space, are shaped by ritual sensoria. Drawing on various anthropological, ethnographic, and historical methodologies, the papers examine how sight, sound, smell, and touch contribute to a sense of religious emplacement in contexts as diverse as pre-colonial Andean temples, Canada's urban centers, Tamil Catholics' Marian devotions, and South Asian Shi'i poetry. What can anthropologists learn about religions by closely examining the interplay between the sensory stimuli and the built environment in which they are deployed. How might that interplay facilitate certain kinds of religious habitus? What might a comparative examination of ritual sensoria illuminate about the underlying mechanisms through which people individually and collectively experience the sacred?

Eric Hoenes Del Pinal, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, presiding

## Papers

Alba Menéndez Pereda, University of California, Los Angeles

Sensing Inca Sacredness: The Sounds, Visions, Aromas, and Tastes of the Coricancha

Sophia Omokanye, University of Toronto

Mapping Christian Audibilities

Vivek Joseph

White Virgin, Tamil Mother: The Virgin Mary and a South Asian Grammar of Finding Place

Fizza Joffrey, University of Oxford

Karbala-shanāsī: The Making of South Asian Shi'ism through the Sensorium

## Respondent

Lauren Leve



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A25-125

**Hosted by:** Ethics Unit

Theme: The Ethicist as Hero

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sheraton, The Fens (Fifth Floor)

The 2024 film *Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.* ignited criticism from scholars who argued that it distorts Dietrich Bonhoeffer's legacy and promotes a message at odds with his writings. Similar criticism has been levied at *Gandhi* (1982), *Confucius* (2010), *Hannah Arendt* (2012), and *Restless Heart: The Confessions of Saint Augustine* (2012). Do the authors who belong on ethics syllabi also belong on the silver screen? What are the benefits and dangers of looking to the lives of philosophers and theologians for inspiration and entertainment? How have storytellers done this responsibly or irresponsibly in the past, and what lessons can be learned from analyzing their efforts? Should kids watch a movie about al-Ghazali courageously writing the *Ihya*? Or is Heidegger right that "he lived, he worked, he died" is all we need to know about Aristotle's life?

Shelly Penton, University of Virginia, presiding

## Papers

Zachary Taylor

Between Icon and Idol: Augustine in Film and the Problem of the Christian Hero

Will Livingston

Mining the Conceptual Gulf Between "Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters" and "Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin."

David Gides

Bonhoeffer's True Heroism in Film?: The Myth of the "Bonhoeffer Moment" and the Consistency Between His Theology and Political Resistance

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A25-116

**Hosted by:** North American Religions Unit

Theme: What's in a Name? Contextual Approaches to "Evangelical" in Scholarship and Practice

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hynes Convention Center, 103 (Plaza Level)

“Evangelical” has always been a tricky word, but in recent years it has become even trickier. Scholars of evangelicalism have sought not merely to expand the scope of the field but also to interrogate its normative assumptions and to imagine new frameworks. The papers in this panel aim to contribute to this conversation by moving away from longstanding definitions of evangelicalism and toward concrete and contextual understandings of the term through four case studies in the United States. Utilizing ethnographic, historical, rhetorical, and theological methods, this panel examines the deployment of the word “evangelical” both as a self-identification for communities of Christians and as a scholarly term that connects communities to historical traditions and to other contemporary movements. Each paper contends with the use or non-use of “evangelical” in a specific context to address the question: What are the stakes of this term in our scholarship and beyond?

Melissa Borja, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, presiding

## Papers

Kera Street, Harvard University

“Naming and Non-Naming: Faith and Identity in a Black Women’s Born-Again Movement”

Jorden Sharick, Stanford University

“Embodying Evangelical: Progressive White Evangelicals, Racial-Ethnic Otherness, and the Narrative Redemption of Evangelicalism”

Kelsey Hanson Woodruff, Harvard University

“What is the ‘Post’ in Post-Evangelical Feminism?”

William Stell, New York University

“We’re People of the Good News”: The Queer Case of Ralph Blair

## Respondent

Daniel Vaca

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A25-123

**Hosted by:** Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit

Theme: Emerging Scholarship Workshop

Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, 308 (Third Level)

This format offers an opportunity for more substantive conversation about works in progress than the traditional panel presentation. This year, we will be discussing two new projects exploring Latinx and Latin American religious expression and embodiment in the United States through Chicana art and Brazilian Pentecostal Faith healing practices. Both authors will share a brief overview of their work for the benefit of the audience; two respondents, who will have read the longer versions of the papers, will share comments and questions designed to stimulate discussion, encourage further investigation, and offer suggestions for preparing the papers for publication. Audience questions and suggestions will follow.

Fernando Berwig Silva, presiding

## Papers

Anabella Martinez, Baylor University

Becoming the “Our” in Our Lady of Guadalupe: Liberationist Ethics for Chicanas through the Embodiment of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tiago Franco de Paula, Boston College

Faith healing in an immigrant church: illness and health in the perspective of Brazilian Pentecostals living in the USA

## Respondent

Jessica Delgado, Ohio State University

Justin Doran, Middlebury College

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A25-122

**Hosted by:** Hinduism Unit

Theme: The Languages of Hinduism

Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Sheraton, Gardner (Third Floor)

This panel seeks to highlight the many languages of Hinduism beyond Sanskrit and the primary vernaculars of academic study. Its goal is to study Hinduism through the lens of regional or vernacular languages that are less frequently studied in academic circles, and, more importantly, not typically associated with Hinduism. Specifically, the studies included in this panel focus on Thai, Bengali, Gujarati, and Chinese. By analyzing these languages from various regions, including Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia across different historical periods, these papers collectively argue for the intricate and dynamic connection between these languages and the formation and development of Hindu institutions, identities, and scriptures.

The history of Hinduism has always involved more than just Sanskrit, as several languages have been instrumental in shaping and transforming different Hindu traditions and Hindu-related communities throughout India and beyond. This panel hopes to promote more in-depth research on the same topic.

Daniele Cuneo, University of Texas at Austin, presiding

## Papers

Nathan McGovern, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater  
An Episode of the Harivaṃśa in Siamese Literature

Ujaan Ghosh  
Idolatry, Language, and the Birth of “Hindutva:” Religious Articulation and the Constructions of Hinduism in Colonial Bengal

Steven Vose, University of Colorado, Denver  
The Virtuous Vernacular: Cultivating Jain Women’s Moral Conduct (Śīla) in a Fifteenth-Century Gujarati Story Collection

Marc Lagace, McMaster University  
Kṛṣṇa’s Final Word: Examining Bojiafan song, a Chinese Hindu Scripture

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