AAR Annual Meeting November Sessions, November 22-25
Preliminary Program Book
Last updated: September 8, 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)

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)

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

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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.

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

M21-101
Hosted by: Logos for Education
Theme: Faithful Innovation: Advancing Biblical Scholarship in the Digital Age | Logos for Education Breakfast & Training
Friday, 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Hynes Convention Center, 210 (Second Level)
Join Logos for Education for a Friday morning gathering designed to equip and inspire Christian higher education leaders and faculty.
Start the day with breakfast and conversation, followed by a keynote from **Dr. Ken Coley** on effective teaching strategies that shape both the mind and the heart. Then, hear from a panel of faculty from leading institutions on how they integrate Logos and other educational technologies to enhance teaching, deepen biblical literacy, and foster spiritual growth in students. The morning concludes with two targeted Logos training sessions to help you use the platform more effectively in your academic work.
Morning Schedule
8:00–8:30 a.m. – Breakfast and networking

8:30–9:20 a.m. – Keynote – Dr. Ken Coley, *Effective Teaching Strategies*
9:20–9:50 a.m. – Panel – Continuing the conversation on effective teaching through Logos and educational technology
9:50–10:00 a.m. – Break
10:00–10:30 a.m. – Training 1 – Using Logos for Academic Research
10:30–11:00 a.m. – Training 2 – Advanced Searching in Logos
You're welcome to attend just keynote or stay for the full morning.
RSVP Here: https://www.bigmarker.com/logos/ets-sbl-reception (Space is limited so save your spot today.)
Questions? Email Audrianna Cageao at Audrianna.Cageao@Logos.com or visit the Logos booth.

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.

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

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)
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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

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)
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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)
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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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A21-103
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.

K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

Panelist

Xochitl Alvizo
Ruth Amwe, Princeton Theological Seminary
Eleanor Craig, Emory University
Laura Nasrallah
Amy Elizabeth Steele

A21-100
Hosted by: Academic Relations Committee
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting

Friday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

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Russell T. McCutcheon, University of Alabama, presiding

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)

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Angela Parker, presiding

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.

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

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)

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Panelist

Gaudencia Mudada, University of Zimbabwe
Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University
Aidan Nuttall, University of Alabama

William Underwood, Oberlin College & Conservatory
Thomas Waldrupe

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.

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)

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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

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)

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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

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)

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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)

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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

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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

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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)

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Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary, presiding

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

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)

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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.

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

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

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
Willie J. Jennings, Yale University, presiding

M21-200
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: IBR Board Meeting
Friday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Westin Copley Place, Independence B (Fourth Floor)

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M21-210
Hosted by: Women's Caucus of the AAR-SBL, WikiProject Women in Religion
Theme: A History of Women Claiming Voice
Friday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Sheraton, Independence East (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.

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)

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Molly Bassett, Georgia State University, presiding

A21-203
Hosted by: Regional Council
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

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Matthew Vaughan, Columbia University, presiding

A21-202
Hosted by: Graduate Student Committee
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

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Ristina Gooden, Vanderbilt University, presiding

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)

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Panelist

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

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.

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: Davíd Carrasco & Raymond Carr

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

Chair: Adam DJ Brett

Panelists: Philip P. Arnold, Natalie Avalos, Teresa Smallwood, Emilie Townes, & Corey D.B. Walker

Contact: Philip P. Arnold, 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

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)

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Papers

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

Collin Cornell
Challenging Israel-Obsolesence in Biblical Theology

Respondent

Alan Brill, Seton Hall University

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)

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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

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)

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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)

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Esther Green, Andrews University, presiding

Papers

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

Seth Pierce, Walla Walla University

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

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 Chocie, presiding

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
Fréderique Ndatirwa, Duke Divinity School

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

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.

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

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

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)

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Nichole Phillips, Emory University, presiding

A21-305
Hosted by: Publications Committee
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting
Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 105 (Plaza Level)

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

A21-302
Hosted by: International Connections Committee
Theme: Closed Committee Meeting
Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 108 (Plaza Level)

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Sigríður Guðmarsdóttir, University of Iceland, presiding

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

M21-302
Hosted by: Raimon Panikkar Consultation Group
Theme: Panikkar in Dialogue
Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Sheraton, Fairfax A (Third Floor)

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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

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

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

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)

Partcipants:
Ross Moret, Florida State University
Thomas J. Carrico, Jr., Independent Scholar
Ridhima Sharma, University of Toronto
Carlos Ruiz Martinez, University of Iowa
Shamim Hossain, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

Panelist

Ross Moret
Thomas Carrico
Ridhima Sharma
Carlos Ruiz Martinez, University of Iowa
Shamim Hossain

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

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: Ojbective 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)

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

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, Andrew 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)

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.

P21-400
Hosted by: Søren Kierkegaard Society
Theme: Søren Kierkegaard Society Banquet
Friday, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Offsite

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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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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).

A22-101
Hosted by: Academic Relations Committee
Theme: Department Chairs Breakfast
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Hynes Convention Center, 203 (Second Level)

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

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)

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

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.

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

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

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 Corigliano, Humboldt State University
Aleksandar Uskokov, Yale University

Respondent

Ithamar Theodor

A24-408/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

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

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

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

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

A22-114/S
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

P22-105
Hosted by: North American Association for the Study of Religion
Theme: Contextualizing Crisis without Universalism
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hilton Back Bay, Belvidere A (Second Floor)

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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

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, Richmont 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

A22-113
Hosted by: COSPONSORED: 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

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

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

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.

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

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

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 Cleophat, 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

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

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, Oxford University
Jingjing Li, Leiden University

Respondent

Justin Doran, Middlebury College

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

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 delegitmization 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

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

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 Saintly Women of the Late Middle Ages

Brianna Leavitt-Alcntara
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

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

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
Ulrich Schmiedel, 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

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 *caityāvāsin*s, *śrīpūjya*s, and *yati*s, and Digambara *bhaṭṭāraka*s. 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 *caityāvāsin*s appear as indistinguishable from their nemesis, the *vasatīvāsin*s. And in their own times, *śrīpūjya*s, *yati*s, and *bhaṭṭāraka*s 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-Renunciancy: Did Śvetāmbara Yatis Take the Five Great Vows?

Tillo Detige, Rutgers University
The king is dead, long live the king! Digambara bhaṭṭārakas and munis

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 Rocherster Crozer Divinity School

Respondent

Joshua Bartholomew, Saint Paul School of Theology

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

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

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

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

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

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

A22-104
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and North American Hinduism Unit
Theme: The Rise of South Asian Conservatisms 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

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.

Panelist

Sonia Sanchez
C. S'thembile West
Halima Taha, Kamoinge Photography Collective
Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons
Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame

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)

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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

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

Hannah Sutton-Adams
Jan Holton
Fréderique 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 Lavallee

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

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 *yoginī*s in South Asian Tantric traditions, from early-medieval Kaula and Vajrayāna sources and classical literary theory to the Śākteya 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 Kāvyamīmāṃsā

Maciej Karasinski-Sroka, Stanford University
Spear-wielding mothers and yoginīs from afar – the revealers of the Śākteya 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

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, paradisical 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
Centaurs 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

A22-102/S
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)

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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 Gavrilyuk, 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

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)

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.

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 Melanchthon
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

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

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

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

Kyle Schenkewitz and Michelle Arnold, Mount St. Joseph University
David de la Fuente, Fordham University
Tiffany Hunsinger, University of Dayton
Min-Ah Cho, Georgetown University

Followed by Members Meeting
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

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?

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.

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

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.

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)

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S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, Hamilton College, presiding
Andrea Jain, Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis, presiding
Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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)

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Sigríður Guðmarsdóttir, University of Iceland, presiding

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)

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

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Willie J. Jennings, Yale University, presiding

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 or Christa McKirland christa.mckirland@carey.ac.nz with questions.

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

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

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
Kyrah Malika Daniels, Boston College

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 *Mokṣopāy*a, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Weisfeld'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

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

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 Sondy, 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

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

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)

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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

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

Respondent

Melissa M. Wilcox, University of California, Riverside

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 Manichaeanism

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 Universty
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

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
Lahronda Little, Emory University
Corwin Davis, Pacific School of Religion
Hee-Kyu Heidi Park
Sabrina Müller, Zurich University

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

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

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, Albright College

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

Alexander Fedorov
Accidental Religious Plurality: Colonial and Postcolonial Legacies in Hong Kong Schools

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

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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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

Anca Wilkening, Harvard University
Becoming Salient: Free Speech and the New Rise of a Conservative Campus Magazine at Harvard University

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

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 *sūtra*s 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 *sūtra*s can do. Through four case studies spanning premodern Asia, we demonstrate that Buddhists were highly inventive in integrating *sūtra*s 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 *sūtra*s' promised abilities to

transform reality, thus establishing their palpable agency in the world. Mahāyāna *sūtra*s 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

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

M22-200
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Board Meeting
Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Westin Copley Place, Independence B (Fourth Floor)

Institute for Biblical Research Board Meeting

A22-230/S
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

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

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

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

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
Ayahuasca & 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

Hilary Rantisi
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

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

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 religous populations to a multifaith, whole-organization change agent.

Aaron Klink, Duke University, 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
Leigh Miller, Maitripa College

A22-337
Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Collaborative Pathways: Feminist Scholarship, Freedom, and Faith Across Contexts
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Sheraton, Independence East (Second 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.

Deborah Fulthorp, Grand Canyon University, 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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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

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)

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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

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)

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 and villages to analyze the role of land in lived religion.

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

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

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

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, St. Joseph's University 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 and 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

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

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

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
Postcolonial Melancholia and Nihilism against Nihilism: An Existential-Analytic of Post-Korean War Literature (1950s—1960s)

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

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

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.

Shinjae 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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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.

Panelist

Arthur Remillard
Paul Putz
Gary Green, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

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

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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.

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

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

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

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 MATAṄGA'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

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
Jeffery D. Long, Elizabethtown College
Katherine Janiec Jones, Wofford College
S. Mark Heim, Yale University

M22-300

Hosted by: Saint Louis University
Theme: Saint Louis University Reception
Saturday, 3:30PM - 6:00 PM
Offsite

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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.

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.

A22-338/S
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 s 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, Jobeexplores the spiritual and religious life contained within America's prison systems through the professionof 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

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

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

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 Rocherster Crozer Divinity School
Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology
Matthew Williams
Juan Molina, Mexican American Catholic College

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
Michael Ing

Respondent

Yuria Celidwen, University of California, Berkeley

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

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 FBuddhist 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

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 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

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

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

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 Ghaemmaghami, 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

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) Domestics: 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

John Steichen, Boston College
The Brothers Karamazov and the Problem of Faith, A Kierkegaardian Perspective

Business Meeting
Nigel Hatton, University of California, Merced
Deidre Green, Graduate Theological Union

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

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)

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Patricia Bonilla, presiding

Panelist

Teresa Delgado, St. John's University
Patrick Reyes
Arelis Benítez, Vanderbilt University
Lis Valle-Ruiz

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 religion*s* 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

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

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

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
Roshanarah Jahangeer
Kambiz GhaneaBassiri
Business Meeting
John McCormack, Aurora University
Tyson Herberger, University of Southeastern Norway

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

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

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

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)

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

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 at 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

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

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

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 Waldrupe

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

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 Īqāẓ 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)

A22-400/S
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

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.

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.

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

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!

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.

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.

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 the Clough School of Theology and Ministry for a cocktail reception.

A22-500
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Presidential Address
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

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Leela Prasad, Brown University, presiding

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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)

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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
"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

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

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.

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)

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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)

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Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

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)

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Jacob Robinson, American Academy of Religion, presiding

M22-521
Hosted by: The Enoch Seminar
Theme: Enoch Seminar Reception
Saturday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 312 (Third Level)

The Enoch Seminar is an international group of specialists in Second Temple Judaism and Christianity, Rabbinic, and Islamic Origins. Our group gathers regularly online and in person to discuss topics of interest and new research. All are invited to join us at this reception to learn about our recent and future activities.

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!

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.

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.

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

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 by Nov. 1.

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.

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!

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 Mamtora, 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

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

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

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

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 ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Jazāʾirī (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 ʻAbd al-ʿAlī 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 ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Jazāʾirī (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

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

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

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

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

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

Jessica Starling

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 Manouchehrhifar, 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

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 Kumārila's critique of yogic perception in the *Ślokavārttika.* Panelists will discuss responses to Kumārila's objections as well as arguments in favor of yogic perception, drawing from the *Yogasūtra*s, 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

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

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

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

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

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 Freiberger, University of Texas, Austin
Christopher Jensen , Carleton University
Massimo Rondolino
Ivette Vargas-O'Bryan, Austin College

Respondent

Jeffrey J. Kripal

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

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-nafs (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

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

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

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

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

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 attension) 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

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

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 visuality 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

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 reimaine 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, psychologyists, clinicians, and pastors alongside of the experiences and testimony of trauma survivors.

Hannah James, presiding

Panelist

Preston Hill, Richmont Graduate University
Shelly Rambo, Boston University
Michelle Panchuk, Murray State University
Katie Cross, University of Aberdeen
Dave Wang, Fuller Theological Seminary
Brian Powers, Durham University
Julia Feder

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

A23-139
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

A23-124
Hosted by: Qur'an Unit
Theme: The Qur'an and its Interpretation

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Marriott Copley Place, Berkeley (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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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

Mitri Raheb, Dar al-Kalima University
Jude Lal Fernando, Trinity College Dublin
Adam Vander Tuig, Highlander Center
Nicolas Panotto
Carlos Mendoza-Alvarez, Boston College
K. Christine Pae, Denison University

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

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)

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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

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

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

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.

Nick Shrubsole, University of Central Florida, presiding

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

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)

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K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

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

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.

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.

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/1FAIpQLSeb3oDM9TAdiHFE3dbkT8N6mTWr_pO…

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 Emeritx 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Harvard University

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 Brahmbhatt, Syracuse University
Anand Taneja, Vanderbilt University
Heidi Pauwels, University of Washington

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 McIvor, 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

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 Pentecostalisms, 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

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." Eric Tuttle describes how the rugged individualism of wild west mythology shaped eschatology in "Cowboy Eschatology: Make Eschatology Democratic Again." 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

Eric Tuttle
Cowboy Eschatology: Make Eschatology Democratic Again

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

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 Qurʾān Recitation and Poetry Chanting to Arrive at Higher Forms of Knowing

Marianne Florian
Embedded and Enactive Cognition in Contemplative Learning

Respondent

Michael Sheehy

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

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

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

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

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.”

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

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

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

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

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*

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

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

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 Thawnghmung, 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

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

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

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)

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

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

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
Ghaṇṭākarṇa 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 Timalsina
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

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

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 Markschies, 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

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.

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 translators require quality assurance processes, as do Bible translation products. This session addresses this concern with presentations as follows:

1. Hebrew Bible resources and tools (speaker: Lady Mandalika TBC, respondent TBA)
2. Greek New Testament editions (speaker: Edgar Ebojo, respondent Florian Voss TBC)
3. Quality in Bible Translation (speaker: Reinier de Blois, respondent TBA)

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

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

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 influnced 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

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

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, 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

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

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 Pasts
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

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

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

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

Rachaell 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

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

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 contempoary 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

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

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

A23-330
Hosted by: Special Session
Theme: Honoring Jonathan Shay: A Performance by Theater of War
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 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 Odessey. (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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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 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

Sepideh Afrashteh, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan
Bridging Beliefs: Exploring Parallels Between Amida in Buddhism and Allah in Islam

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
The Role of the Holy Spirit in Religions: Comparing Islamic and Christian Views on Revelation

Business Meeting
Anne Hege Grung, University of Oslo

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
Love of Neighbor Reimagined: Ritual Partnerships in Rabbinic and Confucian Ecology

Respondent

David Schones

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

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

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

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"

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 indigenity 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

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

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?

Scott Harrower, Ridley College, Melbourne, presiding

Panelist

Jingyu Liu, Rollins College
James Padilioni
Hector Varela Rios, Villanova University
R. Brian Siebeking, Gonzaga University
Claire Kennedy

P23-302

Hosted by: Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts
Theme: SCRIPT Papers Session
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Marriott Copley Place, Maine (Fifth Floor)

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David Dault, presiding

Papers

Rachel Fell McDermott
“Stripping, Shaming, Substituting, Solemnzing: 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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A23-315
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.

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

Papers

Zsuzsanna Gulacsi

The co-emergence of end-of-life rites in Buddhist and Manichaean art along the Silk Roads

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

TBD TBD, TBD
Seeing Buddhas in the Afterlife: A Case Study of the Xing Hejiang Tomb

TBD TBD, TBD
Visualizing the Intermediary Existence (Antarābhava) in Dunhuang Cave Art and Texts (Kṣitigarbha and the Ten Kings Revisited)

TBD TBD, TBD
Filling in the Blanks: The Syntax and Semiotics of Meditation in the Qizil Yoga Manual

Reviewer

Lidu Joy Yi, Florida State University
Zhiru Ng, Pomona College
Mariko Namba Walter, ACANSRS
Nobuyoshi Yamabe

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, Agnus Scott
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

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

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 theolgize comics via the lends of a Kingian positionality. As 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

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

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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

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

A23-335/S

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 engages 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sarra Tlili, University of Florida

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

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)

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Robin Parry, Wipf&Stock, presiding

Papers

Tom Greggs
Universalism: Dogma or Personalist Hope

Lee Barrett, Lancaster Theological Seminary
Three Views of Christia 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

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

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

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 Madrasi 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

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 archatectural 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

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.

Ulrich Schmiedel, 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

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

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

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.

Samah Choudhury, University of Chicago, presiding

Papers

Madeline Levy
Widukind the Protector: The Intertwined Portrayal and Production of Masculinity and Tradition in the Hitler Youth

Ross Neir
Menswear Guy and the "True Retvrn to Tradition"

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

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 Joshuah Campbell and Roopa Mahadevan
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hynes Convention Center, Ballroom A (Third Level)

> Our presentation on freedom takes inspiration from 1) our 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 their freedom in the face of oppression (e.g., Sri Lankan tamil resistance, work songs of African-American chain gangs, Asian laborers in California, Palestinian poetry). In addition to singing works from these traditions, we will engage the audience in interactive musical prompts to explore how the use of the voice/body, spontaneous art-making, and artistic improvisation can be a tool for building community, strength, and joy. The musicians will include Roopa Mahadevan and Joshuah Campbell, individually as well as together, along with 1-2 musicians to be confirmed (e.g., Jake Blunt, Ria Modak) who also explore identity, labor, and the power of music for change in their artistic-academic works. The musicians are considering the use of a few visuals (e.g., lyrics, singing prompts, images) to support the performance. 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
Joshuah Campbell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Accountablity* (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

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

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

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, Oxford University
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

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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

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

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.

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
Briallen Hopper

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
Marriott Copley Place, Third Floor Atrium Lounge

Cambridge and Oxford Joint Reception. Alumni and potential applicants are especially welcome. Drinks and light snacks will be provided.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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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.

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

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.

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.

A23-501
Hosted by: Films
Theme: FILM: “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’ke* 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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)

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

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.

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

Annalissa 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

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 Cleophat, 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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A24-101
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)

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Patrick Reyes, presiding
Willie J. Jennings, Yale University, presiding

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)

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Nick Shrubsole, University of Central Florida, presiding

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

A24-129
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

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 Qurʾān, 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 Qurʾān 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 an an Islamic Ecopoetics

Respondent

Aziza Shanazarova, Columbia University
Business Meeting
Syed Zaidi, Emory University
M. Shobhana Xavier, Queen's University

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

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 Shiʿi Legal Discourses

Indira Gesink, Baldwin Wallace University
Ontological vs. Categorical Sex Difference in Classical Shāfiʿī jurisprudence: the Case of the Khunthā (Intersex)

Magda Mohamed, Boston University
Playful Piety: How American Muslims Play with/in Islam

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

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
Tulasi Srinivas, emerson college

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-Oteyza, Harvard, 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

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

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

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

A24-126
Hosted by: Political Theology Unit
Theme: Political Poetics of Singularity: Theopolitical Entanglements
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sheraton, Back Bay B (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 Telliel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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 Lavallee, 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
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

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)

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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

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 (Ŏmŏnim Malssŭm)"

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

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

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

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
Fom 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

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

Elsa Marty, Institute for Vaishnava Studies
Bitcoin is Freedom: Rituals in Bitcoin Maximalism

A24-115
Hosted by: Daoist Studies Unit and Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit
Theme: Sacred Breath: Qi and Prana in Indian and Chinese Traditions
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sheraton, Liberty C (Second 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

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

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 *Carakasaṃhitā* 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

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

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

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

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 Jame 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
Daniel Weiss

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

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)

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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

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.

M24-107
Hosted by: Springtide Research Institute
Theme: Why They Show Up: Young People, Religion, and Org Involvement
Monday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Westin Copley Place, Essex North (Third Floor)

Join this Lunch and Learn with Springtide Research Institute to hear our latest findings exploring young people’s experiences and perspectives on organizational involvement within religious spaces. Amid outsized attention to why young people leave religious institutions, Springtide has identified a number of reasons why young people show up and actively participate in these spaces. Dr. Angela Patterson, Head of Content, will share data and key takeaways from Springtide’s 2025 mixed methods, nationally representative study on young people, religion,

and organizational involvement, funded in part by Lilly Endowment Inc. A panel of Springtide Research Advisors will then respond to the findings, bringing their own expertise as well as encounters with youth and young adults across a variety of faith-based settings. Panelists include Dr. Melinda Denton, professor of sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio and co-investigator on the National Study of Youth and Religion, Dr. Rucha Kaur, Managing Director of Education and Community Development at Sikh Coalition, and Rev. Kenji Kuramitsu, LCSW, Associate Dean for Community Life at Rockefeller Chapel, University of Chicago. Springtide Research Institute engages the power of social science to learn from and about young people ages 13 to 25. As a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, we deliver accessible research on the perspectives and experiences of the newest generations. Our empirical data amplify the voices of young people, inform those who know and serve them, and lead the way in showing what's next. Learn more about Springtide's research and resources at springtideresearch.org.

Angela Patterson, Springtide Research Institute, presiding

Panelist

Melinda Denton, University of Texas, San Antonio
Rucha Kaur, Sikh Coalition
Kenji Kuramitsu, University of Chicago

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

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

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

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

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

Candace Lukasik
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

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

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

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

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

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
Reimagining Resilience in Pedagogy and Practice as Sage Warriors

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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
Betty Lyons, Indigenous Values Initiative
Sarah Nahar

Respondent

Kimberly Carfore

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

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

Zhujun Ma, Brown University
Emotionally and Bodily Correlated: Intimacy in the Precious Scrolls about the Goddess of Mount Tai

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

Respondent

Elena Valussi, Loyola University, Chicago

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

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
Kyrah Malika Daniels, Boston College
Ayodeji Ogunnaike

Respondent

Jacob K. Olupona, Harvard University

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

Jamie Brummitt, University of North Carolina At Wilmington
Remapping Protestant Belief

Respondent

James Bielo

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

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

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

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 interpretatoin. 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)

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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, Walla Walla University
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

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

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), andJudith 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

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

Anthony Petro, University of Notre Dame

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

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

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)

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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

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.

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

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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)

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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.

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

A24-334
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: American Lectures in the History of Religion Lecture
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hynes Convention Center, 209 (Second Level)

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Megan Robb, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

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

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

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

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

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

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 Rājcandra's *Mokṣamāḷā* 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 Rājcandra'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

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

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 Perspectices 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

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

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

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
Saquib Usman, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Samiha Rahman, CSULB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, Valparaiso University, presiding

Panelist

Jennifer A. Herdt, Yale University
Philip Gorski
Sarah Azaransky
Ted A. Smith
Nebojša Zelić, University of Rijeka, Croatia

Respondent

Slavica Jakelic, Valparaiso University

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

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

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

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

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

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 thef 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

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

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 *teshuva*, 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

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 Mamtora, University of Arizona
Brian A. Hatcher, Tufts University
J. Barton Scott

Respondent

Leela Prasad, Brown University

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 patriarchic 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

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A24-426
Hosted by: Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar
Theme: Religion, Scholasticide, 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

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 Mandaeism
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

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

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)

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

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-ʿAjam and the Interpretation of Akbarian Thought

Mohammad Meerzaei

Suhrawardī'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

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
The Anthropocene Ironies and Christian Ethics: Forging a New Sphere of Moral Responsibility

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A24-419
Hosted by: Religion and Ecology Unit
Theme: The Sacred, the Abject, 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, presiding

Papers

Russell Powell, Harvard Divinity School
Can Democracy Hear the More-Than-Human? Representation, Accountability, and the Hope of Multispecies Democracy

Sarah Nahar
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

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)

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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”

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

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)

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

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).

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!

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.

Candace Lukasik, 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 *nāga*s 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

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

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 JWs and their perception by the general public. Beliefs and behaviors were measured through a questionnaire distributed to JWs, 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 JWs 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 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

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 *Maitreyaparipṛcchā*, 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 Maitreyaparipṛcchā

Yi Ding, DePaul University
Why Maitreya is Called Maitreya?—Connecting the Etymological Dots between the Meditative Cultivation of Maitrī and Maitreya

Jeffrey Kotyk
An Esoteric Alternative: Maitreya in the Chinese Commentary on the Vairocanābhisaṃbodhi

Respondent

April Hughes

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 Assissi, 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)

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

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

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

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 untill 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 Ruozzi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

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 "historicities," 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

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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

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 Shiʿi 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 Shiʿism through the Sensorium

Respondent

Lauren Leve

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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A25-121
Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Transnational Asian/American Feminist Theologies: History, Challenges, and Future Possibilities
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sheraton, Boston Common (Fifth 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

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?

Daniel Vaca, presiding

Papers

Kera Street, Harvard University
"Naming and Non-Naming: Faith and Identity in a Black Women's Born-Again Movement"

Jorden Sharick, Harvard 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

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

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