2026
ANNUAL MEETINGS
November 21–24 ◆ Denver, CO



AAR Annual Meeting November Sessions, November 21-24 Preliminary Program Book
Last updated: October 16, 2026
SESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONFIRM SESSIONS IN THE ONLINE PROGRAM BOOK

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Thursday November 19

M19-100
Hosted by: Society of Adventist Philosophers
Theme: Reimagining Christian Identity: Ontology, Truth, and Practice in a Not-So-Secular Age of Empire
Thursday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 207 (Street Level)

Session 1:

8:00-9:30am - Abigail Doukhan, "Babel's Renegade: A Levinasian Reading of Abraham's Exilic Journey out of Empire"

9:30-10:15am - Jakub Lecki, "The Latter Rain as a Paradigm-Disrupting Witness: Reimagining Christian Identity through Plato and Kuhn"

Session 2:

10:30-11:15am - Jayden Samiadji, "A Secular Defense of Christian Universalism? Alain Badiou's Reading of Paul""

11:15-12:00pm - Michael Swenson, "The Moral Ecology of Algorithms: Christian Identity and the Ethics of AI-Mediated Formation"

Author

Abi Doukhan
Jakob Lecki
Jayden Samiadji
Michael Swenson

P19-200
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Society of Adventist Philosophers
Thursday, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Reimagining Christian Identity: Ontology, Truth, and Practice in a Not-So-Secular Age of Empire
Session 3:

1:00-1:45pm - Philip Clayton, "The Elpidic Turn: Liberatory Hope and Revolutionary Resistance as Prophetic Imaginaries"

1:45-2:30pm - Grace Oei, "Truth in the Age of Biopower: Resisting Ideology Through Struggle and Community"

2:30-3:15pm - Timothy Golden, “When Rivers Are Left Alone: A Poetic Reckoning with the Techne of Onto-Theology”

Session 4 (3:30-6:00pm):

James J. Londis & Family Lecturer: James K. A. Smith (Professor of Philosophy, Calvin University)

Panelist

James K. A. Smith

Author

Philip Clayton
Grace Oei
Timothy Golden

Respondent

Tihomir Lazic, Newbold College, UK
Michael Younker

Friday November 20

M20-100
Hosted by: Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE)
Theme: Breakfast for the NetVUE Pre-Conference Gathering, "Is Citizenship a Vocation?"
Friday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1E (Ballroom Level)

Participants in the NetVUE Pre-Conference Gathering, "Is Citizenship a Vocation? Loyalty, Protest, Advocacy" 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. NetVUE is an affiliate member of SBL.

P20-103
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Reimagining the Church for a Changing World: Identity, Community, and Mission
Friday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Session 1

P20-104
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Session 1-B – Digital Ecclesial Practice
Friday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 203 (Street Level)

Room B – Digital Ecclesial Practice
Presiding: Oleg Kostyuk, AdventHealth University
Paper #1: The Jesus Method for Social Media: A New Path for Discipleship in the Digital Neighborhood
Mabio Coelho, Andrews University

Paper #2: Civilizing Narratives in the Digital Church: Data Colonialism and the Future of Adventist Ecclesial Practice
Jeffrey Gang, Loma Linda University

Paper #3: Reimagining Baptism in the Digital Age: An Exegetical-Theological Analysis of Its Administration in the NT and Its Implications for Online Worship
Suryanica Aristas Pasuhuk & Malalasoa Daniel Andrianjafimbeloarijaona, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

Discussion (15 minutes)

Oleg Kostyuk, AdventHealth University, presiding

Author

Mabio Coelho Neto
Jeffrey Gang, Loma Linda University
Suryanica Aristas Pasuhuk, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
Malalasoa Daniel Andrianjafimbeloarijaona, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

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M20-101
Hosted by: Logos for Education
Theme: Leading Through the Shift: Logos & Learn Breakfast
Friday, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2AB (Terrace Level)

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

- After breakfast, our keynote speaker, Ed Stetzer, dean of Talbot School of Theology at Biola University, will share the latest State of the Church research and what it means for your classroom. Stetzer has spent decades studying trends in American faith and church life, and his research offers a timely, practical lens on Gen Z faith and spiritual openness.
- Next, a faculty panel shows how they use Logos and other tools to enhance teaching, deepen biblical literacy, and foster spiritual growth in students.
- We'll close with a focused Logos training session you can apply immediately in your academic research.

Morning Schedule
8:30–9:00 a.m.—Breakfast and networking
9:00–9:50 a.m.—Keynote with Ed Stetzer: Leading Through the Shift
9:50–10:30 a.m.—Faculty Panel

10:30–10:45 a.m.—Break
10:45–11:30 a.m.—Logos Training

Join for the keynote or stay for the full morning. RSVP by October 23rd—space is limited.

RSVP here

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

M20-102
Hosted by: Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies
Theme: Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies Annual Gathering
Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Offsite

Lutheran Women in Theological and Religious Studies (LWTRS) gathers annually for scholarship, worship, networking, and friendship.

Who: 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.

When: Thursday evening—informal networking time (details TBD).

Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm with an optional dinner after.

Location: Champa Arts Center, First Floor, 1245 Champa St. Denver, CO 80204 (across the street from the convention center)

Theme: This year we are reflecting on the Augsburg Confession and how it speaks to us today as we approach its 500th anniversary.

Registration is on a sliding scale. Please contact women.lwtrs@gmail.com for registration information.

P20-100
Hosted by: North American Paul Tillich Society
Theme: Annual Meeting: Morning Session
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sonesta Denver Downtown, Oxford Peak (Lobby Level)

Tillich's Philosophy vis-à-vis Contemporary Technology

Papers

Benjamin Chicka, Curry College
The Courage to Be Artificial Intelligence

Isabel Ovanesova, Gannon University
When Carbon Pretends to Ground: Generative AI and the Confusion of Technical Reason with the Ground of Being

Matti Trimbath, Boston University
Her Body, Her Data: Intersectional Feminism, Paul Tillich, and the Ethics of Biometric Data Surveillance

John Burrell, University of Connecticut
Meeting Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

Greylyn Hydinger, Gannon University
Tillich and Technology: The Depth Dimension and Estrangement

A20-100
Hosted by: Applied Religious Studies Committee
Theme: Applied Religious Studies Committee Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

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SueJeanne Koh, University of California, Irvine, presiding

A20-101
Hosted by: Committee on Teaching and Learning
Theme: Committee on Teaching and Learning Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

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Namdrol Miranda Adams, presiding
Kristyn Sessions, presiding

A20-102
Hosted by: Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion
Theme: Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

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David Newheiser, Florida State University, presiding
Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary, presiding

A20-104
Hosted by: Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

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Eziaku Nwokocha, Rice University, presiding

A20-105
Hosted by: Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

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K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

P20-101
Hosted by: Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
Theme: The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Board Meeting
Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 15 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

The Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies Annual Board Meeting (Contact: grace.song@woninstitute.edu)

P20-105
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 2-A: Identity: Who is the Church? - The Unaffiliated and the Search for Identity
Friday, 9:10 AM - 10:10 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Paper Session II: Identity: Who Is the Church?
Room A – The Unaffiliated and the Search for Identity
Presiding: TBD
Paper #1: An Everlasting Gospel for Every Nation: The Three Angels' Messages as Missional Authorization for Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated
Zilan Holtmann, Andrews University

Paper #2: Recovering the Ekklesia: Liberating the Church from the Antichrist
Keith Burton, AdventHealth University

Paper #3: Becoming a Church of Belonging for Generation Z
Kenley Hall, Andrews University

Discussion (15 minutes)

Author

Zilan Holtmann, Andrews University
Keith A. Burton
Kenley D. Hall, Andrews University

P20-106
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 2B - Identity: Who Is the Church?: Ecclesiology: Structure & Authority
Friday, 9:10 AM - 10:10 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 203 (Street Level)

Room B – Ecclesiology: Structure & Authority
Presiding: Ross Winkle, Pacific Union College
Paper #1: Running Together, Arriving Differently: Authority in Tension in the Johannine Vision

of the Church
Laslo Gallusz, Newbold College of Higher Education

Paper #2: The Apostle Paul's Vision of How the Church Lives the Reconciled Life in the Letter to the Ephesians: Its Implications for the Adventist Doctrines of the Church (#12) and the Second Coming of Christ (#25)
Leo Ranzolin, Loma Linda University

Paper #3: William Tyndale and a New Adventist Congregationalism
John McVay, Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Discussion (15 minutes)

Ross Winkle, Pacific Union College, presiding

Author

Laszlo Gallusz, Newbold College
Leo Ranzolin, Loma Linda University
John McVay, Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

A20-202
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Collecting, Curating, Exhibiting: How Museums Make the Sacred
Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Offsite

Museums are sacralizing institutions. They make decisions about what material culture will be preserved, set apart, and narrated as valuable, special, irreplaceable, priceless. Museums make the sacred throughout various forms of frontstage and backstage labor: from forming and maintaining collections to managing research access, curatorial choices and practices, and designing public exhibitions. The sacralizing work of museums is capacious, transecting contingent binaries such as religious-secular, religion-culture, religion-science, religion-heritage, and religion-politics. This pre-conference workshop invites participants who are interested in collaboratively exploring the ways in which museums perform sacralization.

Location: Denver Museum of Science and Nature

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, APRIL, presiding
James Bielo, presiding

A20-106

Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops and Ecclesial Practices Unit
Theme: Demystifying Planning, Funding and Managing Qualitative Research
Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4B (Ballroom Level)

Qualitative research often unfolds in complex, unpredictable environments. Securing funding, managing relationships, handling data, and ensuring meaningful impact all require thoughtful planning and adaptive strategies. This workshop opens up the "black box" of research management by creating space for honest conversation about what works, what doesn't, and what researchers wish they'd known earlier. Participants will gain insight into the realities of running qualitative projects—from negotiating with funders to collaborating with communities, from managing multi-year grants to navigating emerging questions around AI. Whether you are new to qualitative research or looking to refine your practice, this workshop offers practical wisdom and a supportive environment for reflection. This interactive session brings together 6–8 invited facilitators, each offering five-minute presentations on a key aspect of qualitative research projects, such as funding, assessment, data management, and more. Then, participants will join facilitators for in-depth discussions, allowing for rich, small-group exploration of the issues raised.

Sarah Dunlop, University of Cambridge, presiding
Easten Law, Yonsei University, presiding

Panelist

Sarah Kathleen Johnson, Saint Paul University
Christian Scharen, Lutheran School of Theology At Chicago
Eunil David Cho, Boston University
Dustin Benac, Baylor University
Eileen Campbell-Reed, Vanderbilt Divinity School
Perzavia Praylow, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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A20-107
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Centers for Religion and Public Life Workshop
Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4F (Ballroom 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.

The workshop offers a full day devoted to networking and community building, peer resourcing, skills building, and leadership development. Special sessions will be devoted to skills-building such as funding, staffing and infrastructure, and collaboration across disciplines. We will also be diving into the key content issues and opportunities for increased scholarly engagement and

effectiveness at the intersections of religion and public life as well as envisioning pathways for future mutual coordination and collaboration.

This is an ongoing forum for sharing best practices, pool ideas, and developing collaborations. We welcome all who are interested to join our network.

Rachel Schneider, presiding

Panelist

Justine Ellis
Joseph Tucker Edmonds
Todd Ferguson, Rice University
Elaine Howard Ecklund

P20-107
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 3A: Engaging a Divided World: Justice and Mission - Justice and the Public Square
Friday, 10:20 AM - 11:20 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Paper Session 3A - Engaging a Divided World: Justice and Mission
Room A - Justice and the Public Square
Presiding: Olive Hemmings, Washington Adventist University
Paper #1: Using Computation Analysis to Examine Racial Colorblindness in SDA Sermons
Jillian Royal, Cornell University

Paper #2: Christian Nationalism: A Threat to Religious Liberty and Social Justice: The Adventist Prophetic Response
Isaac Olatunji, Oakwood University

Paper #3: The Retributive Complex: Rethinking Divine Justice and the Church's Role in a Divided World
Tammy Wiese, University of St. Andrews

Discussion (15 minutes)

Olive J. Hemmings, presiding

Author

Jillian Royal
Isaac Olatunji, Oakwood University
Tammy Wiese

P20-108
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 3B - Engaging a Divided World: Justice and Mission - The Church's Mission and Witness to the World
Friday, 10:20 AM - 11:20 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 203 (Street Level)

Paper Session 3B: Engaging a Divided World: Justice and Mission - The Church's Mission and Witness to the World
Presiding: Andrew Tompkins, Andrews University
Paper #1: Seeking the Welfare of the City: Reimagining the Missional Community and Identity of the Church in Contemporary China
Chuanshan Liang, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies

Paper #2: Reimagining the Remnant: The Ecclesiological Tension Between Denominational Identity and Universality
Seunghyeon Oh, Andrews University

Paper #3: Inroads to the Islamic Community. Reimagining Church Outreach to Muslim Neighbors
Sean Facchinello, Federal Prison, US Army Retired Chaplain (LTC)

Discussion (15 minutes)

Andrew Tompkins, presiding

Author

Liang Chuanshan, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies
Seunghyeon Oh, Andrews University
Sean Facchinello, Federal Bureau of Prisons, FCI Big Spring, Texas

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M20-105
Hosted by: Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)
Theme: Dharma and the Future of Artificial Intelligence
Friday, 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

What responses do the dharma traditions offer to the emergence and proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI)? To answer this question, this panel brings together scholars of dharma traditions who will present a variety of philosophical, ethical, and engaged approaches to addressing the risks, opportunities, and challenges AI poses for our shared future. Presenters will discuss questions of AI sentience as well as several social and environmental issues, highlighting the manifold resources the dharma traditions provide us as we collectively face this paradigm-shifting technology.

Panelist

Loriliai Biernacki
Stephanie Corigliano
Agni Hogaboom
Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds

P20-109
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: ASRS Business Session II
Friday, 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Adventist Society for Religious Studies - Business Session 2

A20-200
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Committee and Jury Lunch
Friday, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom Level)

Invite only event.

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

M20-106
Hosted by: BDK America
Theme: Numata Chairs Coordinators Meeting
Friday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 14 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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P20-102
Hosted by: North American Paul Tillich Society
Theme: Annual Meeting: Afternoon Session
Friday, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Sonesta Denver Downtown, Oxford Peak (Lobby Level)

Tillich and Constructive Theology

Papers

Johnathon Augustine
Paul Tillich's Doctrine of God and the Christian Theological Tradition

Stephen D. Morrison, University of Aberdeen
Tillich's Appeals to Calvin: Symbol, Abyss, and Correlation

Brach Jennings
Uncovering the Presence of Paul Tillich's Theology in the Writings of Marcus J. Borg

Taylor Thomas
Navigating the Flesh: Paul Tillich, Eros, and Queer Desire

Christopher Homer, Georgia Southern University
Break on Through to the Other: Beyond Symbolic Limitation

Kirk MacGregor, McPherson College
Tillich's Philosophy of Music

Nimi Wariboko, Boston University
Tillich's Trinitarian Principles and The Tripartite Structure of Mothering in Kalabari-Nigeria: A Resignification of Theology

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P20-110
Hosted by: Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies
Theme: Rethinking Interreligious Literacy for Today's Context: Annual Meeting of the Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies
Friday, 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

The annual meeting of AIIS pairs dynamic panel presentations with small group dialogues engaging all participants in scholarly conversations shaping the field of interreligious studies. This year, our sessions invite a fresh assessment of what we mean by interreligious literacy, how we build community capacities for interreligious literacy, and what interreligious literacy looks like in the age of AI. The Friday meeting opens with a panel of scholars discussing emerging trends in interreligious literacy and education. Everyone will then be invited into structured, small-group dialogues to learn more about shifting understandings of interreligious literacy in the face of polycrisis. The final panel brings together leaders from partner organizations to share about how they are helping communities build the skills for interreligious literacy, interfaith storytelling, and social change locally in Denver and in broader national and even global contexts. A dinner reception will follow. Register for this event at: aiistudies.org

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P20-202
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 4A - Community: Identity and Praxis - The Table, Food, and Lived Theology
Friday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Paper Session 4A: Community: Identity and Praxis - The Table, Food, and Lived Theology
Presiding: Jim Wibberding, Pacific Union College
Paper #1: The Table: The Church's Lifeline
H. David Mendoza, Texas Conference of SDA Church

Paper #2: Keeping Adventist Food Weird: Adventist Food Pedagogy and the (Mal)Formation of Ethical and Ecclesial Imagination
Vaughn Nelson, Boston University

Paper #3: Reimagining the Church by Listening to Her: Toward an Adventist Public Lived Theology
Geoffrey Nelson Blake, Graduate Theological Union

Discussion (15 minutes)

James Wibberding, Pacific Union College, presiding

Author

H. David Mendoza, Texas Conference of SDA Church
Vaughn Nelson
Geoffrey Nelson-Blake

P20-203
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 4B: Community: Identity and Praxis - Forming the Next Generation
Friday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 203 (Street Level)

Paper Session 4B - Community: Identity and Praxis - Forming the Next Generation
Presiding: Zane Yi, Loma Linda University
Paper #1: Between Storytelling and Structure: The Early Church as Model for Spiritual Discernment for the 21st Century Church
Eike Mueller, Newbold College of Higher Education

Paper #2: How the Concepts of Truth and Identity Change in the pre-modern, modern, post-modern, and post-human Western and Adventist Contexts
Tamara Pispisa, Italian Adventist University

Paper #3: Reimagining the Church through Discipleship in Adventist Higher Education: Integrating Faith and Learning for Christian Identity, Community, and Mission
Herbert Liessi, Northeast Brazilian Adventist University

Discussion (15 minutes)

Zane Yi, presiding

Author

Eike Mueller, Newbold College
Tamara Pispisa, Italian Adventist University
Hebert Liessi, Northeast Brazil Adventist University

A20-209
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Why We Come Together: Media, Religion and Community
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 202 (Street Level)

The 2026 Media and Religion pre-conference workshop will reflect on the intersections of media, religion, and community—not as fixed categories, but as active and unstable formations through which people come to belong, to struggle, and to imagine otherwise. In keeping with this year's presidential theme of "Future/s," how might we think about what the study of religion and media can offer to the theoretical and practical work of community formation and vice-versa? How are communities mediated, fragmented, destroyed, or newly constituted in our

hypermediated moment, and what form(s) do they take? And how might these questions help us think about a range of possible futures: political, planetary, professional, intellectual?

Deborah Whitehead, presiding

M20-200
Hosted by: Theology Without Walls
Theme: Consciousness, Cosmos, and Transcendence: How to Think about Mind, World, and the Transcendent
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)
John Thatamanil, presiding

Papers

Perry Schmidt-Leukel, University of Muenster
Vedanta, Madhyamaka, and Transcendental Theology

Jan-Olav Henriksen, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion, and Society
Karl Jaspers as a Resource for Theology Without Walls: Human Consciousness toward the Encompassing

Rory McEntee, Drew University
Two Sides of the Same Coin: A Convergence of Timeless Awareness, A Divergence of Embodied Manifestation

Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College, Boston
Infinity Is Bigger Than You Think: A Mathematical Argument for an Ever-Increasing God

Benjamin Crace, American University of Kuwait
From Planck to Planet: Toward a Nested Theory of Consciousness and Transcendence

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M20-205
Hosted by: Society for Post-Supersessionist Theology
Theme: Theological Responses to the New Anti-Judaism
Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

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Panelist

Jules Freeman, London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism; Tel Aviv University
Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Boston College
Geoffrey Ready, University of Toronto
Rachel Slutsky

P20-201
Hosted by: Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship
Theme: Torrance's Christian Doctrine of God 30 Years Later: Retrospect and Prospect
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

"Analogia Gloriae: T. F. Torrance's Contribution to a Trinitarian Soteriology of Doxological Contrition"

Event Description:
Our annual lecture will be given by Rev. Dr. Khaled Anatolios, Notre Dame University
On the 30th anniversary of T. F. Torrance's publication of his magisterial The Christian Doctrine of God, One Being Three Persons and in the afterglow of last year's 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, Fr. Anatolios will offer a retrospective and prospective analysis of Torrance's contribution to trinitarian theology.
Khaled Anatolios is John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology and Chair of the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. His books include Deification through the Cross: An Eastern Christian Theology of Salvation (Eerdmans), Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine (Baker), The Trinity in the Life of the Church (Baker), and Athanasius: The Coherence of His Thought (Routledge).

1:00-1:35 Business meeting for members
1:45-3:15 Lecture
3:20-4:00 Q & A
For more information: www.tftorrance.org

A20-210
Hosted by: Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: Womanist In-Gathering
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 207 (Street Level)

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Valerie Miles-Tribble, Berkeley School of Theology, presiding

A20-103
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Teaching Religion through Health Care Case Studies
Friday, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

This workshop will introduce religious studies instructors to a collection of case studies for classroom use, curated by Interfaith America. These twenty-seven case studies present real-life scenarios from health care settings. In this interactive workshop, participants will practice using these case studies and will leave more equipped to incorporate them into their classrooms. Sample case studies feature a Sikh patient with head trauma, a Buddhist patient resisting pain medicine, a Hindu patient self-administering Ayurvedic cleansing, a Native American patient requesting a smudging ceremony in hospice care, a Haredi Jewish patient concerned about radiation tattoos, and Muslim parents concerned about hospital food and insulin therapy for their diabetic child. These case studies raise issues of religious literacy, intercultural competency, diversity accommodations, and ethics. The case studies also immerse students in practical applications of their knowledge. Workshop facilitators include case study authors and faculty who use these case studies in their teaching.

Lora Walsh, presiding

Panelist

Suzanne Watts Henderson
Melanie Trexler
Sharrona Pearl, Texas Christian University
Philippa Koch, Missouri State University
Garrett Potts
Madeline Reyes, Case Western Reserve University
Anne Mocko

A20-300
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Experiential Religious Studies Pedagogies for Flourishing Animal and Multispecies Futures
Friday, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1E (Ballroom Level)

This 4-hour workshop, *Experiential Religious Studies Pedagogies for Flourishing Animal and Multispecies Futures,* convenes instructors in religious studies—particularly those teaching

animals and pluralist religion courses—to cultivate concrete, transferable pedagogical practices capable of creatively engaging the current state of multispecies destruction.

We aim to craft experiential, interactive, and reflective assignments that thread the needle between action and reflection while navigating embodied experience, tendencies among students for conflict avoidance, balancing empirical animal data with theoretical arguments, intersectional overlap with race, gender and species violence, and overlooked forms of knowing among more-than-human entities and marginal people.

Over four sessions, presenters/participants will frame a course, scaffold skills and trust-building, evaluate assignments, and draft their own embodied encounter-reflection assessment. Participants will leave a pedagogy packet of sample assignments, rubric elements, interactive techniques, and a new network of teaching colleagues committed to advancing experiential religious studies pedagogies for multispecies flourishing.

Brianne Donaldson, University of California, Irvine, presiding

Panelist

Vasile Stănescu, Mercer University
Matthew Halteman
Kirsty Jones
David Aftandilian
Sarah A. Bowen

Hosted by: Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee
Theme: Gathering Racial and Ethnic Voices Amid a Dismantling of Higher Education
Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

The Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee recommends policies and good practices to assure the full access, belonging, and academic freedom of racial/ethnic minoritized persons within the Academy and develops programs to enhance their status in their professions. If you identify as belonging to this constituency among AAR, we invite you to participate in our listening session. During this time, we hope to gather and learn more about how CREM can better represent the needs and interests of our constituency.

Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano, Vanderbilt University, presiding
Geran Lorraine, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, presiding
Nicole Symmonds, presiding
Rohit Singh, Denison University, presiding
Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein, presiding
Rodolfo Nolasco, presiding

P20-204
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 5A - Healing and Belonging in a Broken World - Healing, Grief, and Compassion
Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Paper Session 5A - Healing and Belonging in a Broken World - Healing, Grief, and Compassion
Presiding: Zdravko Plantak, Loma Linda University
Paper #1: "With Healing in Its Wings" (Mal. 4:2): Reimagining the Bible for a Broken World
Sigve Tonstad, Loma Linda University

Paper #2: Reimagining Presence: Adventist Chaplaincy and the Liturgical Form of Grief in Wartime Ukraine, Valentyna Kuryliak, Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Science

Paper #3: Known by their love?
Karen Holford, Trans European Division

Discussion (15 minutes)

Zdravko Zack Plantak, Loma Linda University, presiding

Author

Sigve Tonstad, Loma Linda University
Valentyna Kuryliak
Karen Holford, Trans European Division

P20-205
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Paper Session 5B: Healing and Belonging in a Broken World - Rethinking Church and Community in a Post-Church Age
Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 203 (Street Level)

Room B - Rethinking Church and Community in a Post-Church Age
Presiding: Young-Chun Kim, Pacific Union College
Paper #1: My Jesus and I: Why do I need the Church?
Erhard Gallos, Andrews University

Paper #2: Reflections on the Institutional Church
Denis Fortin, Andrews University

Paper #3: Algorithms of Redemption: Reimagining Community and Theological Imagination in the Horizon of the Second Advent
Michael Swenson, Microsoft

Discussion (15 minutes)

Young-Chun Kim, presiding

Author

Erhard Gallos
Denis Fortin
Michael Swenson

M20-201
Hosted by: Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)
Theme: Imagination, Intention, and the Living Earth: Dharma Traditions and the Futures of Sustainability
Friday, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

This panel examines how Dharma traditions mobilize imagination and intention to envision and enact sustainable futures. Drawing on classical texts, ethnographic case studies, and contemporary agrarian and legal discourse, the papers collectively demonstrate that Hindu and Jain intellectual and spiritual traditions offer not merely ethical guidelines but generative cosmologies — ways of imagining the human–nature relationship that carry transformative power. Chair: Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles; Pankaj Jain, FLAME University, Pune, India; Gyanendra Tiwari, FLAME University, Pune, India; Veena Howard, Fresno State, CA; Raja Rosenhagen, Fresno State, CA

Christopher Chapple, presiding

Panelist

Pankaj Jain
Veena Howard, California State University, Fresno
Raja Rosenhagen, California State University, Fresno
Gyanendra Tiwari, FLAME University

A20-203
Hosted by: Academic Relations Committee

Theme: Academic Relations Committee Meeting
Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

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Kristin Scheible, presiding

M20-206
Hosted by: Catholic Biblical Association of America
Theme: Book Review Panel: The Ancient Enochic Tradition as an Authoritative Tradition in History and the Present. By Loren T. Stuckenbruck
Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 502 (Street Level)

Book review panel discussion of The Ancient Enochic Tradition as an Authoritative Tradition in History and the Present by Loren T. Stuckenbruck
Contacts: Archie Wright, Joshua Scott

Archie Wright, presiding

Panelist

Loren Stuckenbruck
Daniel Assafa
Ralph Lee
Sofanit Abebe
Henryk Drawnel

A20-204
Hosted by: Graduate Student Committee
Theme: Graduate Student Committee Meeting
Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

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Jacob Barrett, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presiding

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A20-205

Hosted by: International Connections Committee
Theme: International Connections Committee Meeting
Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

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Sigridur Gudmarsdottir, University of Iceland, presiding

A20-207
Hosted by: Regional Council
Theme: Regional Council Meeting
Friday, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

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Matthew Vaughan, presiding

M20-202
Hosted by: Midwest Buddhist Studies Collective
Theme: Annual Meeting of the Midwest Buddhist Studies Collective
Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 12 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

The Midwest Buddhist Studies Collective will hold its annual meeting at the AAR to welcome new members, discuss topics pertinent to the group, and set the next year's agenda.

P20-200
Hosted by: International Bonhoeffer Society
Theme: International Bonhoeffer Society - English Language Section, Board of Directors
Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

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Lori Brandt Hale, presiding

A20-206
Hosted by: Pre-Conference Workshops
Theme: Podcasting and Video Platforms: Advancing Public Understanding of Religion in the Digital Age
Friday, 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1C (Ballroom Level)

This media workshop is designed for religion scholars interested in exploring podcasting, youtube, and other platforms as venues for advancing the public understanding of religion. Participants will gain an understanding of foundational skills necessary to launch and maintain audio or video projects, including scripting, recording, editing, and publishing. The workshop will offer critical insight into the evolving pedagogical landscape, examining how these media can be powerful tools for teaching, public scholarship, and engagement beyond the classroom. Whether you're looking to integrate these efforts into your curriculum or launch your own scholarly series, this workshop will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to get started.

Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary, presiding
Lynne Gerber, presiding

P20-301
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Business Session III
Friday, 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

ASRS - Business Session III

M20-300
Hosted by: Ancient Jew Review
Theme: Models of Piety in Late Antiquity
Friday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2D (Terrace Level)

Models of Piety in Late Antiquity (or MOP) is an independent, annual meeting of scholars of religion in late antiquity. The meeting occurs concurrently with the Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion's annual meetings in mid-November. This year's gathering will meet from 3:00-4:30pm on November 20th in Denver, CO. Presenters include Dina Boero, Ra'anan Boustan, and Karen Britt. All are welcome! For more information or to join the mailing list, email ancientjewreview@gmail.com.

Panelist

Ra'anan Boustan
Karen Britt, Northwest Missouri State University
Dina Boero, The College of New Jersey

M20-302
Hosted by: Raimon Panikkar Consultation
Theme: Raimon Panikkar Consultation
Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 15 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Panikkar in Dialogue

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, presiding

Papers

Jizhang Yi, University of Toronto and Harvard University
Dialogical Dialogue and Skillful Means: Raimon Panikkar and Hsing Yun on Transformative Interreligious Encounter

Sumi Lee, Ewha Womans University
The One and the Many: Buddhist Thought in Dialogue with Raimon Panikkar

Jianbao WANG, Peking University and Loyola Marymount University
Young-chan Ro, George Mason University
The Religious Self-Awareness of Contemporary Confucianism: Tu Weiming, Raimon Panikkar, and the Dawn of the Second Axial Age

Andrew Thrasher, George Mason University
Three Models of Mythologization: Panikkar, Bultmann, and Vanhoozer

Respondent

Young-chan Ro, George Mason University
Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University

A20-208
Hosted by: Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee
Theme: Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee Meeting

Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

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Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano, Vanderbilt University, presiding

P20-302
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Sectional Meetings
Friday, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Sectional Meetings:
Christian Theology and History: Martin Hanna, Andrews University
New Testament: Erhard Gallos, Andrews University
Old Testament: Oliver Glanz, Andrews University
Philosophy and Ethics: Marina Garner, Loma Linda University
Practical Theology: Ernest Furness, Northern California Conference
World Religions/Missiology: Andrew Tompkins, Andrews University

Panelist

Martin Hanna
Erhard Gallos
Oliver Glanz, Andrews University
Marina Garner
Ernest Furness
Andrew Tompkins

A20-301
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit
Theme: Narrative Spiritual Care: Resistance and Resonance
Friday, 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom Level)

This workshop, led by a team of narratively-oriented spiritual care scholars, will explain the basics of narrative spiritual care and invite participants to try out conversations using this method in pairs and in collective conversation with the entire group. Narrative spiritual care is an emergent strategy that brings the methodology of narrative therapy and practice into pastoral and spiritual care. The narrative approach was founded in the 1980s by Michael White and David Epston, Australian social workers who turned toward the disciplines of poststructural theory

(such as feminism, postcolonialism, literary theory, and queer studies) to understand human identity. Narrative spiritual care foregrounds resistance and resonance: *resisting* dominant cultural stories that try to tell us who we are and offer limited and false choices for how we ought to live; and *experiencing resonance*—spiritual and social support for our deeply held values, beliefs, and purposes for living.

Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University, presiding

Panelist

Mary Clark Moschella

M20-303
Hosted by: Theology Without Walls
Theme: The One and the Many: Theological Unities and Diversities
Friday, 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)
Jerry L. Martin, University of Colorado, Boulder, presiding

Papers

Jonathan Weidenbaum, Berkeley College
Between Brahman and a Finite God: Traversing Continents to Negotiate Theological Tensions

Royce Anderson, Independent Scholar
Peace: Unifying Human Minds, the World, and the Transcendent

Hans Le Grand, University of Amsterdam
A Vision of Society Grounded on a Theology and Philosophy of Diversity

Abigail Rosenthal, Brooklyn College (CUNY)
Why the Jews?

M20-304
Hosted by: Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)
Theme: Engaged Dharma: Indian Religious Principles in Theory and Practice Today
Friday, 3:40 PM - 5:10 PM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

Ethicists, theologians, and ordinary people have long recognized that absolute maxims inevitably collide with the moral complexity of the real world we inhabit. Contributors to this panel

investigate how South Asians today navigate the demand for “absolute non-violence” promoted by Jain scriptural tradition and Gandhian ethics while engaging in productive philanthropic and civic activity. Panelists consider ways in which Hindus and Jains accommodate the problem of “karmic collateral” – the “knock-on” effects of environmental disruption which may accrue from otherwise virtuously motivated charitable activity, as well as the problem of the ideal of absolute non-violence in collective governance, e.g., instances in which inflicting harm may be necessary to prevent the infliction of greater harm in the future.

Panelist

Justin Henry, University of South Florida
Ithamar Theodor, Zefat Academic College
Shivani Bothra, California State University, Long Beach
Gabrielle Sigrist, Loyola Marymount University

P20-300
Hosted by: Karl Barth Society of North America
Theme: On Karl Barth's The Christian Life
Friday, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 403 (Street Level)

This session focuses on Barth's posthumous work, *The Christian Life*. It addresses the work's distinctive account of Christian witness, the "hallowing" of God's name, eschatology, human righteousness and unrighteousness, and related topics.

Keith Johnson, presiding

Papers

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City
God’s Future as Gift and Goal: Hastening to and Waiting for the Kingdom in Karl Barth’s The Christian Life.

Paul Dafydd Jones
On meeting the Kingdom that comes: Karl Barth's theology of revolt in The Christian Life

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M20-305
Hosted by: Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network/Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)
Theme: Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network Annual Meeting
Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Redstone (Third Floor)

Feminist Liberation Theologians' Network Annual Meeting will focus on the rapidly changing face of feminist studies in religion in light of AI. We will address some implications of this reality for scholars and activists alike. Global backlash against women and non-binary people in this same context invites us to reconsider strategies and to deepen our common work. The meeting will include networking time as well as focused discussion. Plan to participate!
The FLTN Annual Meeting is open to all. RSVP waterstaff@hers.com. For further information, contact: Mary E. Hunt mhunt@hers.com.

A20-303
Hosted by: Publications Committee
Theme: Publications Committee Meeting
Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

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S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, APRIL, presiding

A20-304
Hosted by: Trans Caucus
Theme: Trans Caucus Meeting
Friday, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 202 (Street Level)

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P20-303
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Sectional Meetings 2
Friday, 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Sectional Meetings 2:
Black Theology Group: Olive Hemmings, Washington Adventist University
Women in Theology Group: Lena Toews, Union Adventist University

Panelist

Olive J. Hemmings
Lena Toews, Union College

M20-404
Hosted by: Stone-Campbell Journal
Theme: Stone-Campbell Journal Annual Reception
Friday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3B (Terrace Level)

A Conversation about the Gospel of John
Holly Carey)Abilene Christian University)
Interviewed by Heather Gorman (Point University)

SCJ invites all who identify with the Stone-Campbell tradition for fellowship and conversation. For additional information contact William Baker (scjeditor@aol.com)

M20-400
Hosted by: Gonzaga University Arnold Endowment
Theme: Book Launch: Routledge Companion to Religion and Film, 2nd Edition
Friday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Columbine (I.M. Pei Tower - Terrace Level)

Join us for a celebratory book launch of the Routledge Companion to Religion and Film, 2nd Edition. The editor and contributing authors will share the distinctive approaches featured in this volume. This roundtable will highlight selected chapters, offering a preview of its innovative scholarship for academics, educators, and students in the field. Expanding from the first edition, the companion presents theoretically sophisticated and contextually grounded analyses across a diverse range of films and issues. It examines global cinema reflecting varied cultures and religions (Abrahamic, African, Asian, Atheist, Native American, Pagan), employs multiple methodologies, and considers film production. This volume is a valuable resource for teachers and scholars. The launch includes a raffle for the book. For questions, contact Gloria Chien, Arnold Distinguished Professor, Gonzaga University, at chien@gonzaga.edu. RSVP for refreshments: https://forms.office.com/r/GX3qL7NHHJ?origin=lprLink

Panelist

John Lyden
Gloria I-Ling Chien, Gonzaga University
Melissa Conroy

Matthew Konerth
Eric Mazur
Kristian Petersen
Rachel Wagner
Laurel Zwissler, Central Michigan University

M20-402
Hosted by: Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)
Theme: DĀNAM 2026 Keynote Speaker
Friday, 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

Keynote Speaker: Professor Judith Simmer- Brown, "Reimagining our Sacred Stories: Present and Future"

A20-400
Hosted by: Publications Committee
Theme: JAAR Editorial Board Meeting
Friday, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

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Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding
Andrea Jain, presiding

P20-400
Hosted by: Hymn Society in the United States and Canada
Theme: Singing Resistance at the AAR – Pub Sing
Friday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Offsite

Join fellow resisters in song in a boisterous, poignant evening of singing together. As we have seen at the anti-ICE protests in Minnesota and Chicago, and in many other actions of resistance around the world, song can be a powerful part of protest, helping to hold a community together, to maintain morale, to communicate with others, and much more.

Join Music that Makes Community and the Hymn Society of the USA and Canada for this evening of singing resistance in a variety of keys.

Date & Time: Friday, November 20th, 6PM
Location: The Celtic on Market, 1400 Market St.,
Denver, C0 80202

M20-403
Hosted by: Axis Mundi Media
Theme: Religion and the 2026 Midterms: Authors Roundtable
Friday, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3GH (Terrace Level)

In the aftermath of the 2026 midterm elections, religion remains a vital force in shaping American politics, public life, and the future of democracy. Join Brad Onishi, Matthew D. Taylor, Alba Onofrio, and a distinguished group of scholars, journalists, clergy, and public intellectuals for a timely roundtable discussion examining what the election revealed about faith, power, identity, and civic engagement in the United States.

Featuring authors of some of the most anticipated new books on religion, politics, democracy, and social change, this conversation will bring together leading voices who have spent years researching and documenting the movements transforming American public life. Panelists will reflect on the role of Christian nationalism, religious activism, demographic change, and competing visions of citizenship and belonging that shaped the 2026 election cycle.

Part book forum, part public conversation, and part analysis of a pivotal political moment, this event offers audiences the opportunity to engage directly with authors and experts whose new work helps explain the forces reshaping religion and democracy in America today—and what may lie ahead.

Panelist

Bradley Onishi, Institute for Religion, Media, and Civic Engagement
Matthew D. Taylor, Georgetown University

P20-500
Hosted by: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies
Theme: Book panel for winner of the Selva J. Raj Prize for Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies, History/Ethnography.
Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

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Arun W. Jones, presiding

Panelist

Bhakti Mamtora, University of Arizona
Jayakiran Sebastian, United Lutheran Seminary
Mrinalini Sebastian
Maharshi Vyas, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill

M20-501
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Annual Lecture
Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza CF (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Jeannine Brown, "Theology in Active Voice: The Hermeneutics of New Testament Theologizing" Respondents: Michael Gorman and Joshua Jipp All are welcome.

Author

Jeannine Brown

Respondent

E. Michael Gorman
Joshua Jipp

M20-502
Hosted by: Mennonite Scholars and Friends
Theme: Mennonites, Activism, and Political Engagement
Friday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Redstone (Third Floor)

Scholars and practitioners will reflect on Mennonite conceptions of "the political" and modes of political engagement. Papers cover topics such as oaths, apocalyptic, and power.

Hosted by: Tours
Theme: Art and Theology in Conversation: A Clyfford Still Museum Experience
Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Offsite

Visual Thinking and Theology: Creating New Theological Thought Inspired by Clyfford Still

The Episcopal Church of Colorado and the Clyfford Still Museum are proud to present the opportunity for 80 AAR participants to tour the museum and collaborate on how visual thinking can help us create new theological ideas and insights.

Clyfford Still had a unique artistic vision and was unwilling to compromise it for money or recognition. As he evolved as an artist, Still's works transitioned from recognizable images or landscapes to more abstract shapes, colors, and lines to express an idea or feeling on huge canvases. Still insisted that all of his work be kept together in one museum, and this led to the creation of the Clyfford Still Museum in downtown Denver, Colorado.

This unique opportunity is funded by the Episcopal Church in Colorado. This event will be on Friday evening, Nov. 20th, from 7-9 p.m. The event will include a brief presentation by Dr. Angela Hummel, an interactive tour of the museum, and collaboration on incorporating visual thinking into theological work.

The Clyfford Still Museum is located 0.7 miles away from the Colorado Convention Center. The cost of the tour includes a rideshare voucher and a donation to the Museum.

M20-506
Hosted by: Black Religious Scholarts Group
Theme: Black Religious Scholars Group Twenty-Ninth Annual Consultation "Making It Plain: Envisioning Freedom in These Yet to Be United States"
Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial A (Third Level)

Join us for the Black Religious Scholars Group Twenty-Ninth Annual Consultation "Making It Plain: Envisioning Freedom in These Yet to Be United States." In addition to our convening of the "Council of Griots" panelists, this year we are designating Dr. Rachel Harding as a BRSG honoree posthumously in recognition of her significant and collaborative contributions and scholarship in Black religious studies across the African diaspora.

M20-500
Hosted by: Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
Theme: Feminist Studies in Religion Reception
Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 2 (Second Floor)

Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc., is a nonprofit educational organization whose goal is to foster feminist studies in religion in all of its variety and diversity. We publish the flagship Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion and have digital presence through our EFSR Blog and Co-Laboratory initiatives. All are welcome at the reception!

M20-503
Hosted by: The Women's Christian Theology Reader
Theme: The Women's Christian Theology Reader Book Launch
Friday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 2 (Second Floor)

A celebration of the publication of The Women's Christian Theology Reader (Wiley 2026), for contributors to and friends of the project.

M20-504
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Reception
Friday, 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza DE (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

This dessert reception, which follows the IBR Annual Lecture, is generously sponsored by IVP Academic.

Saturday November 21

P21-117
Hosted by: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies
Theme: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies Board Meeting
Saturday, 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 15 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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M21-102

Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Women Scholars' Breakfast
Saturday, 7:00 AM - 8:45 AM
Sheraton Denver, Grand Ballroom 1 (I.M. Pei Tower - Second Level)

For information, contact Michelle Knight at women@ibr-bbr.org.

M21-101
Hosted by: Council on Graduate Studies in Religion
Theme: Council on Graduate Studies in Religion
Saturday, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 608 (Street Level)

Annual Meeting for members of The Council on Graduate Studies in Religion. Breakfast will be served.

Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Program Unit Chairs Lounge
Saturday-Monday, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Quartz Boardroom (Second Floor)

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Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Sensory Lounge
Saturday-Monday, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, A Lobby (Street Level)

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Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Student Lounge
Saturday-Monday, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 202 (Street Level)

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Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Women and Gender Minority Lounge
Saturday-Monday, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Aspen B (Third Floor)

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A21-101
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Department Chair and Program Coordinator's Breakfast
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

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Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

A21-100
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: New Members Breakfast and Annual Meeting Orientation
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2C+3C (Ballroom Level)

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

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

M21-106
Hosted by: Interfaith America
Theme: Faith and Health Educator Breakfast
Saturday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2D (Terrace Level)

Interfaith America builds communities of practice to unlock the positive role of religion in health. We connect health programs, faith-based organizations, and health leaders to bridge religion and health in support of human flourishing.
We are convening faculty in religious studies who are interested in collaborating with health-related fields on their campuses to integrate religious diversity into pre-health education.
At this gathering, we will share Interfaith America's work on integrating religious diversity into pre-health programs and engage in informal, roundtable discussions with fellow educators and practitioners
Questions?
Please contact the Program Manager, Nazish Rizwan at nrizwan@interfaithamerica.org
RSVP
Reserve your spot for the Faith & Health Educator Breakfast by responding here:
https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8839722/AAR-Faith-Health-Educator-Breakf…

M21-108
Hosted by: Dharma Academy of North America (DANAM)
Theme: Book Review Panel: Provincializing Pluralism: Difference and Diversity in South Asian Traditions, edited by Brian Black and James Madaio
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

How have South Asian traditions responded to plurality and difference? The question lies at the centre of this collection, inviting us to challenge established conceptions of pluralism and understand South Asian ways of thinking about difference, diversity, and 'the other'. This diverse collection is the first in-depth treatment of the variety of ways that South Asian traditions theorise plurality. Bringing together case studies across South Asia's distinctive religious landscape, it marks a significant contribution to re-thinking pluralism in the 21st century.

Kristin Scheible, presiding

Panelist

Arti Dhand, University of Toronto
Oliver Freiberger
Loriliai Biernacki
Gil Ben-Herut
Ana Laura Funes Maderey
Laurie Patton, President of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences
Amir Hussain

Respondent

Brian Black

James Madaio

P21-106
Hosted by: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies
Theme: Hindu-Christian Insight on Ecotheology followed by Business Meeting
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4F (Ballroom Level)

This panel highlights the ample resources available in both Hindu and Christian traditions for collective ecological responsibility. Using methods of comparative theology, the papers identify themes of divine presence, ecological necessity, and the interdependency of ecosystems across traditions in primary texts and authoritative voices. Taken as a whole, they argue that Hindu and Christian sources can be read in mutually illuminating ways that deepen ecological reflection and clarify shared theological responsibilities.

Kerry San Chirico, presiding

Panelist

Katie Mahowski Mylroie
Jess Navarette, Boston College
Daniel Scheid
Erin Cline, Georgetown University
Business Meeting
Bhakti Mamtora, University of Arizona

A21-105
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: AI and the Search for the Sacred: Arts, Texts, and Social Practices
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

This panel explores how AI is reshaping religious imagination and artistic expression. The first paper examines the Ghana episode of the docuseries The Art of Theology, which visualizes historical moments where no archival footage exists and AI-generated imagery is incorporated. Does AI have a place in scholarly storytelling or risk distorting ancestral memory? The second paper explores the position of religious leaders in the time of AI as a replacement for religious leaders. The third paper uses the example of The AI Bible on Instagram to model an approach that analyzes religion and AI as disciplinary technologies. The fourth paper compares how viewers emotionally and analytically engage with biblical art of human origin versus art generated by artificial intelligence (AI). The final paper analyzes the communicative culture

created by generative AI, suggesting that these AI media forms represent a “Theater of the Absurd” mirroring contemporary existential uncertainty about emerging technoculture.

Ossama Abdelgawwad, Valparaiso University, presiding

Papers

Lakeisha Aquino, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Sacred Digitization: AI, Ancestral Aesthetics, and the Reclamation of Ghanaian Christian Identity

Claire Kennedy
Putting the “Gen” in Genuflect: AI-Generated Devotional Imagery in a Catholic Parish

Lauren Horn Griffin, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Critical Approaches to the Study of Religion and AI: A Case Study of AI Bible on Instagram

Lucas White, Appalachian State University
Isabella McMillan, Appalachian State University
Madeleine Pilione, Appalachian State University
Emma Hancock, Appalachian State University
Synthetic Sacredness: A Comparative Focus Group Study of AI and Human Religious Art

Heidi Ann Campbell
Navigating the Sacred in the "Theater of the Absurd": AI Slop, Brainrot, and New Religious Imaginaries

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A21-122
Hosted by: North American Hinduism Unit, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit and South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

Since the 2022 release of ChatGPT, consumer-facing GenAI platforms have rapidly transformed key sectors of the global cultural landscape, including certain aspects of South Asian religions. Scholarship, meanwhile, remains woefully behind in mapping these shifts. Taking its cue from Lawrence Babb and Susan Wadley’s influential 1995 edited volume *Media and the Transformations of Religion in South Asia*, this roundtable offers an exploratory and emphatically incomplete effort in this regard. It highlights Jain and Hindu uses of AI across text-based pedagogic apps (Jain GPT, Bhagavad Gita GPT, and Ask BVKS AI) and visual media (darshanic Hindu and Jain commemorative images). To develop a more fulsome picture of GenAI usage across the full range of South Asian religions, the roundtable also has a highly

distinctive format. A series of panelist “speed presentations” will be followed by a tightly regulated “lightning round” of maximum one-minute AI descriptions from audience members.

J. Barton Scott, presiding

Panelist

Mikaela Chase, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Ridhima Sharma
R. David Coolidge
David Silverberg
Kajri Jain, University of Toronto

M21-119
Hosted by: Lutheran Scholars Network
Theme: An Anniversary Celebration of Philosophy and Theology in Luther Scholarship
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sheraton Denver, Columbine (I.M. Pei Tower - Terrace Level)

Lutheran Scholars Network (LSN) is pleased to offer a celebratory panel on the tenth anniversary of its founding in 2016. The 2026 session features both a retrospective reflection of past contributions and a prospective anticipation of future research. Of particular importance for LSN is research on the medieval Luther and on the broad topic of Luther and philosophy, as well as the relation of historical to constructive theology and the significance of theology for contemporary ethics.

Lauren Larkin, presiding

Papers

Jennifer Hockenbery
No Longer Handmaid or Whore: How Luther Freed Philosophy from its Roman Catholic Context

Richard Cross
Luther’s Christology in the light of the Marginal Notes on Biel’s Collectorium

Piotr Malysz
The Promise of the Promise

Denise Rector, Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Lutheran and Constructive Theology: Fortress Under Construction

A21-139
Hosted by: Religion and Sexuality Unit
Theme: Author-Meets-Critics Panel on Samira Mehta's God Bless the Pill
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This roundtable will offer critical reflections on a timely new book: Samira Mehta's *God Bless the Pill: The Surprising History of Contraception and Sexuality in American Religion* (University of North Carolina Press, 2026). Revealing a long, often-hidden history of religion and sexual health, Samira Mehta's groundbreaking account details the high-stakes culture war battles fought over contraception in the United States. In addition to being a deeply researched study, *God Bless the Pill* also offers a powerfully usable, deeply sensitive historical guide to our present moment, during which sexual and reproductive autonomy has come under a renewed wave of attack. The roundtable convenes rising and established scholars of religion with a broad range of expertise–including in religion and sexuality, women's history, African American religions, American Jewish history, and American Catholicism–to explore how *God Bless the Pill* reframes our history of contraception and sexuality and offers a roadmap for our contemporary moment.

Anthony Petro, presiding

Panelist

R. Marie Griffith
Sarah Imhoff
Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University
Katherine Dugan, Springfield College
Margaret Hamm
Kathryn Lofton

Respondent

Samira Mehta

A21-103
Hosted by: Afro-American Religious History Unit and Music and Religion Unit
Theme: Black Religion, Music, and the Aesthetics of the Sacred Profane
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

What happens when Black artists refuse the boundary between the sacred and the profane? These four papers show how such a refusal is not transgression but a mode of religious practice worked

out through sound, embodiment, and desire. From Teddy Pendergrass's ecstatic concert rituals to Prince's devotional eroticism, from Tonex's queer disruption of gospel's heteronormative order to the cosmic spiritual experiments of Sun Ra and Alice Coltrane, these four case studies recover a tradition of Black musical and religious creativity that exceeds the bounds of church. Drawing on recordings, liner notes, concert footage, and archival ephemera, contributors open new theoretical and historiographical ground for understanding how Black religious experience has been made, unmade, and reimagined through sound.

Alisha Jones, University of Cambridge, presiding

Papers

Candace M. Laughinghouse, Gammon Theological Seminary
From Arkestra to Ashram: Afro-Futurist Womanist Theologies of Black Sound

Kyle Brooks, University of San Diego
Come Go With Me – Teddy Pendergrass and the Ecstatic Trajectories of Black Musical Performance

Marissa Mira Perea, University of Virginia
The Flesh the Witnesses Could Not Hold: Prince, The Rainbow Children, and the Black Religious Archive

Justin Dickerson, Boston University School of Theology
Please Don't Stop The Music: The Quare(ing) Work of Anthoy C. Williams II as (Tonex)

A21-129
Hosted by: Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit
Theme: Costumbre: A Critical Examination of a Term for Customary Indigenous Religious Practices in Mexico and Guatemala
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This bilingual (English/Spanish) roundtable brings together scholars of religion to critically examine the category of "*costumbre"* as it is used in historical and contemporary context across Mesoamerica. Rooted in Spanish legal traditions, the term "*costumbre"* (lit. "custom") has come to refer to the customary ritual practices, modes of social organization, and belief systems of Indigenous communities across the continent. Like other terms that are used in parallel with "religion" and its cognates, *costumbre* is a contested term that denotes something that is religion-like without explicitly being classed as "religious." This critical investigation of how "*costumbre"* has variously been discursively framed and deployed over the last 500 years aims to prompt scholars to rethink the question of how "religion" and "religions" are configured from

the vantage point of Indigenous Americans' efforts to resist and reconfigure the imposition of those categories from the colonial period through the present.

Eric Hoenes Del Pinal, presiding

Panelist

Rebecca Mendoza, Harvard University
Josefrayn Sanchez-Perry
Abelardo de la Cruz
Miguel Astor-Aguilera, Arizona State University
C James MacKenzie

A21-107
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Crossing Boundaries and Creating Change: Faith-Based Justice Work in Contemporary Asian America
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

Although casual observers often dismiss Asian American religious communities as inward-looking and conservative, the reality is that Asian American religious communities across the country are drawing on their faith to mobilize creative responses to a wide array of pressing social, political, and economic challenges. In doing so, they are often rooting their efforts in values of solidarity and diversity, intentionally pursuing their work in collaboration with people who are different from themselves. What does this type of coalitional justice work look like in practice? And what are the possibilities and perils of trying to work across boundaries of social difference in order to transform our world? This roundtable discussion offers a critical examination of six examples of contemporary faith-based justice work conducted by Asian American religious communities committed to bridging differences and working in coalition amid polarized and politically fraught times.

Tammy Ho, presiding

Panelist

Melissa Borja
Jonathan Tran, Duke University
Rupa Pillai

A21-117
Hosted by: Evangelical Studies Unit

Theme: Culture Making and the Future: Art, Media, and Technology
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

Evangelicals have long been active agents in cultural production through art, media, and technology. This session examines the relationship between cultural production, visions of the future, and evangelical spirituality and theology. The papers engage a diverse range of topics—including the body, artificial intelligence, and eschatological imaginaries of heaven and hell—to analyze how competing visions of the future shape evangelical thought and practice in the present.

Papers

Abigail Baeza
Adjudicating Nudity: Evangelicalism and the Problem of Artistic Ambiguity

Micah Franklin
Manicured Heavens: Anthropocentric Topographies in Evangelical Media

Ellie Grace Lashier
Performing Salvation: Fear and Hope in Heaven's Gates & Hell's Flames

Melanie Dzugan
On Earth as it is in Heaven: Apocalyptic AI and Ethical Alignment with the Lamb

Business Meeting
Peter Choi

A21-127
Hosted by: Religion and Disability Studies Unit and Ecclesial Practices Unit
Theme: Disabled Experience in Qualitative Research
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

This co-sponsored, interactive panel explores how disabled experience shapes methodology and lived participation in qualitative research processes related to religion and theology. Panelists will offer reflections on the intersections of their disability experience with: a) their roles as researchers (and/or research subjects), b) approaches to methodological choices, and c) research outcomes.

Rebecca Spurrier, Columbia Theological Seminary, presiding
Audrey Seah, presiding

Panelist

Kyle Stevenson
Miriam Spies
Sarah Jean Barton
Cathy Webb, Augustana College

A21-116
Hosted by: Ethics Unit
Theme: Ethics and Constant Crisis
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

Ethical reflection is often concerned with responsible action—identifying problems, imagining alternatives, and promoting steps to achieve a brighter future. But we are in a moment that is characterized by unpredictability, a bombardment of moral demands, and pervasive harms. Trauma and crisis fatigue make it difficult for many people to imagine anything beyond survival. These papers explore how the field of religious ethics helps us understand and respond to this felt lack of agency. Do the experiences of the traumatized, demoralized, and compassion-fatigued complicate existing moral paradigms? What does responsibility look like when one's capacity to respond has been overwhelmed? Do we need to be able to envision a better world to withstand the crises around us?

Russell Johnson, presiding

Papers

Andrew Packman, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
Agential Depletion in the Wake of Irreparable Evils: Atmospheric Adhesion, Infinite Demands, and the Theological Pathos of Responsive Ethics

Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum
Are "Good Boundaries" Good?: Ethical Discernment, Boundaries, and Community Action Amidst the Constant Crises of Homelessness

Tucker Gregor, University of Iowa
Moral Morale: A Thomistic Account of Quotidian Despair and Moral Injury

Katrina Myers, University of Chicago
Rituals of Resilience: Mutual Aid and the Reconstitution of Agency in Constant Crisis

Business Meeting
Nichole Flores, University of Virginia

P21-103
Hosted by: International Society for Science and Religion
Theme: Evolution, Convergence, and Providence: Celebrating the Work of Simon Conway Morris
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

This panel will explore the significance of Simon Conway Morris's work for the field of science and religion. A particular focus will be the bearing of his ground-breaking work on evolutionary convergence for how we understand such questions as the directionality or purposefulness of evolution, human uniqueness, and whether divine providence is compatible with the naturalistic and putatively 'blind' mechanisms of evolutionary change. Simon Conway Morris will provide a response.

Pete Jordan, presiding

Panelist

Peter Harrison
Seth Hart
Nicola Hoggard Creegan
Sarah Coakley

Respondent

Simon Conway Morris

A21-104
Hosted by: Animals and Religion Unit
Theme: Facing Our Future/s Together: Human, Posthuman, and More-Than-Human Animals
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This session explores the struggles with imagining the futures of humans and more-than-human animals amid rising fascism, genocide, and ecological disaster. The first paper examines moments in biblical interpretation where readers thought with ravens, given these birds' frequent presence in depictions of famine, flood, and the destruction of civilizations. The second paper proposes a non-anthropocentric Jewish ecotheology by viewing sacrifice as an interspecies transformation that can foster an imagination reworking human-animal relations to rethink the concept of perfection. The third paper investigates dehumanization and animalization through social psychological research, which shows strong links between perceived human-animal divisions and dehumanizing beliefs toward out-groups. The fourth paper engages post-humanist thought to argue that unearthing and burying 'unhuman" others (both racialized and speciated) is essential to envisioning a posthuman path towards flourishing.

David Aftandilian, presiding

Papers

Ashleigh Elser
Ravens in the Ruins: Birdwatching in the Apocalypse

Alexandra Zirkle, State University of New York, Buffalo
Animal Sacrifice and Interspecies Transformation

Joe Iriana
Neutering Dehumanization: The Liberative Potential of Theology that Softens Human-Animal Divisions

Eric Meyer
Silence and the Face(s) of the Future: Toward an Interspecies, Interreligious Posthumanism

Respondent

Christopher Carter
Business Meeting
Katharine Mershon, Western Carolina University

A21-110
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit and Religion and Food Unit
Theme: Growing, Circulating, Disrupting: Ethics and Affects in Buddhist Food Economies
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

By asking what food does as a social and affective agent within Buddhist communities, this cross-regional panel examines Buddhist food economies through historically grounded ethnographic cases in Myanmar, Taiwan, Japan, and the United States. Across temples, farms, kitchens, markets, and ritual spaces, food moves through infrastructures of cultivation, exchange, offering, and waste that connect monastics and lay practitioners, the living and the dead. The panel approaches food as relational, highlighting how practices of growing, circulating, and discarding food organize labour, authority, care, and belonging. The papers examine food scarcity among Buddhist nuns in Myanmar, tea production and commercialization in Taiwanese Buddhist communities, food offerings in Vietnamese American funeral rites, and the management of perishable offerings in Japanese ossuaries. Together, they show how Buddhist food economies generate infrastructures of care and sites of tension, revealing how food actively shapes and disrupts ethical, affective, and institutional life.

Barbara Ambros, presiding

Papers

Kai Shmushko, University of Amsterdam
Efficacious Green Fields: Perspectives on the Role of Ecological Tea in Taiwanese Buddhist Communities

Rachelle Saruya, Mahidol University
Food Scarcity and the Precarious Gift: Navigating Food Scarcity in the Making of the Myanmar Buddhist Nun

Elsa Immer
Perilous Crossings: Caring for the Living and the Dead through Food at a Vietnamese Zen Temple in Northern Virginia

Paulina Kolata, Harvard University
The Paradox of Abundance in Landscapes of Absence: Food Offerings and the Temporal Politics of Waste in Contemporary Japanese Buddhism

Business Meeting
Amy P. Langenberg
Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee

A21-106
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: Imagining Religious Futures
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This panel explores how religious symbols, rituals, and stories influence and challenge visions of the future across different contexts and traditions. Using case studies from diverse religions, the papers examine how religious language and imagery shape futures. The first paper investigates Hikaru Okuizumi's *The Night to Kill a Snake*(1992), suggesting that its use of religious snake imagery—from Shinto myth to Genesis—disrupts narrative flow and highlights the fragility of religious futures. The second paper examines Vaiṣṇava Purāṇic cosmology, connecting cyclical time and avatāras to contemporary Hindu discussions of climate change and apocalyptic visions. The third paper reimagines life-affirming futures that are more expansive and inclusive of all peoples. The final paper closely examines Garry Kilworth's sci-fi novel *The Night of Kadar* (1978) and discusses Islam at the center of future possibilities. The papers highlight how the future is represented, embodied, and practiced. Overall, the papers present imagined religious futures.

George Pati, presiding

Papers

Haruka Umetsu Cho
The Collapse of Futurity and Narrativity in Hikaru Okuizumi's The Night to Kill a Snake

Diana Dimitrova
Visions of the Future, Hindu Apocalyptic Notions, Cultural Discourses and Climate Change

Grant Showalter-Swanson, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Theopoetics: Embodied God-Talk Toward Life-Giving Futures

Ahmed Elbenni, Princeton University
Limitphobia, Deep Time, and "The Night of Kadar": Is Islamic Futurism Possible?

Business Meeting
Adam Newman
George Pati

A21-102
Hosted by: African Religions Unit and Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit
Theme: Indigenous Time, Lands, and Solidarity, from Africa to the Americas
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This roundtable brings together Indigenous scholars to consider autochthonous notions of landscape, solidarity, and the future. Rooted in different forms of indigeneity across Africa and the Americas, our theoretical consideration of Indigenous epistemologies and ontologies serves a political objective: forging solidarity among ways of being in the world not anchored in white settler colonial modernity. Together, we elaborate how Indigenous conceptions constitute fluid means to think across communities to escape colonial logics of teleological futures.

Across the world, Indigenous peoples fight for ancestral land restoration based on spiritual connection across generations. Time is cyclical, contrary to settler linear time which implies futures antagonistic to Indigenous peoples. At the core of Indigenous solidarity is contesting "colonial unknowing"—the naturalization of settler colonialism. As Glen Coulthard asserts, Indigenous peoples must reinforce cultural resurgence to reject liberal politics of recognition that foreclose land restoration and futures framed on Indigenous terms.

Nigel Hatton, presiding

Panelist

Felicia Lopez, University of California, Merced
Sedney Suarez Gordon, UC Merced

Masilo Lepuru, UC Merced

A21-114
Hosted by: Drugs and Religion Unit and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit
Theme: Islam, Psychedelics, and Global Muslim Communities: Intersections Between Tradition and Phenomenological Experience
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

Our roundtable consists of a US-based religious studies professor, US-based psychiatrist, Canada-based doctoral candidate in psychology, and a UK-based Islamic studies scholar/interfaith community leader. Our diverse team of speakers will offer similarly diverse methodologies unified by the common theme of psychedelics in/and Islamic traditions. Our collective project of this roundtable gears toward an edited volume of a dozen or so chapters that can offer an authoritative scholarly assessment of the nascent but growing field of "Islam and psychedelics."

A small handful of articles have appeared in recent years that focus on psychedelics and Islam (e.g, Asgar, 2025 and Rab et al., 2025), but the research is only budding and largely siloed. Our project therefore seeks to offer a coherent approach to this growing field with a set of unified but diverse methodologies, ranging from Qur'anic interpretation to subjective phenomenological experiences and original fieldwork, with qualitative interviews and data analysis.

Elliott Bazzano, presiding

Panelist

Fayzan Rab, Emory University

A21-121
Hosted by: Mysticism Unit, Religion in Europe Unit, and Religion in Premodern Europe and the Mediterranean Unit
Theme: Judaism and Mystical Politics
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

This panel examines the ways Jewish and antisemitic mystical writing engages with politics, apocalypticism, and theology. The papers explore how the threat of Judeo-Bolshevism was used to shore up a mystico-fascist apocalypticism in Romania, the complexity of Gershom Scholem's anti-ideological turn in Jewish mysticism, and how Sabbatian kabbalists deployed shock and abjection as a theological method.

Michael Ostling, presiding

Papers

Leo Franks, University of California at Berkeley
Anti-Providential Nominalist Nominalism in Jewish Mystical Thought

Marla Segol
Sacred Eros, Sacred Shock: Emotional Edgeplay from Sabbatian to New Age Kabbalah

Respondent

Tyson Herberger

A21-128
Hosted by: Religion in Southeast Asia Unit
Theme: Land, Race, and Religion in Southeast Asia
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This omnibus paper session features new works on religion, racialization, ethics, and ecology in Indonesia and the Philippines. The first paper reveals how competing religious ontologies shape environmental futures in Southeast Asia, foregrounding indigenous Parmalim cosmology that disrupts anthropocentric moral hierarchies embedded in modern land regimes. The second paper examines the relative disappearance of race language in the Dutch East Indies at the turn of the twentieth century under Abraham Kuyper's Ethical Politics, identifying traces of racial power in the moral vocabularies of care, tutelage, and responsibility. The third paper traces histories of migration to and evangelization in the Philippines, investigating possible evidence for the transmission of Manichaeism and the cosmology of the *Infinito Dios.*

David Thang Moe, Yale University, presiding

Papers

Joyada Gultom, Boston University School of Theology
Land as Presence, Land as Property: Parmalim Ontology and Competing Ecological Futures in North Sumatra

Perdian Tumanan, Villanova University

Vanishing Race: Kuyper's Theology, Ethical Politics, and the Disappearance of Race Language in Indonesian Colonialism

Rudy V. Busto
"Did Manichaeism Reach the Philippines? Weighing the (Circumstantial) Evidence"

Business Meeting
MK Long, Dartmouth College

A21-131
Hosted by: Study of Islam Unit
Theme: Material Conditions of Faith: Islamic Practice and Political Economy
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

This panel situates contemporary Islamic practice and experience in relation to political economy and material conditions in a variety of contexts: from South Asia, to Central Asia, the Persian Gulf, and North America. Drawing on diverse methodological approaches, the papers offer sophisticated analyses of 21st century political-economic and material developments that shape Islamic ethics, law, ritual, piety, identity, and experience.

Zaid Adhami, presiding

Papers

Samira Musleh
Paradise Lost and Found: The Ethicolegal Landscape of Romantic Love in the Maldives

Seyed Hossein Hosseini Nassab
Islamic Law in the Market: Islamic Finance and Legal Adaptation in North America

David Simonowitz, Pepperdine University
Arks of Salvation Twixt the Seas: The Bahraini Ma'tam as Vessel of Commemoration, Contestation, and Performative Emancipation.

Usmon Boron, Yale University
Bearing Tradition: The Difficulty of Leaving Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia

Business Meeting
Zaid Adhami
Samah Choudhury, DePaul University

A21-109
Hosted by: Body and Religion Unit and Hinduism Unit
Theme: Mediating Divine Agency in Modern Hinduism
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This panel brings together scholars from a wide range of regional and methodological specializations to analyze the manifestation and mediation of divine agency in modern Hinduism. The concept of divine agency is common in many forms of Hindu religious thought and practice, often expressed in concepts such as *ichha* (will) and *lila* (play) – with human agents often being described as *nimitta* (vehicles) of the deity's will. The papers in this panel explore how, in modern and contemporary Hinduism, this conceptual framework of divine agency has created the conditions for making claims and justifying actions in the name of non-human actors, in distinct legal and ritual spaces. Bringing together legal scholarship and ethnographic research, this panel reorients focus on divine agency as a critical site of *mediation* in modern Hinduism, with wide-ranging, and largely unexplored, consequences with regards to claims over space, property, and identity.

Anna Bigelow, presiding

Papers

Esha Meher
Fair Weather Friends? Representing the Will of the Hindu Deity in the Indian Courtroom

Ehud Halperin
Moved by Devtās: Embodied Mediation of Divine Agency in Western Himalayan Palanquin Rituals

Amy Allocco, Elon University
Drummer-Priests, Humans, and Gods: Divine Mediation in Tamil South India

Shiva Sai Ram Urella, Yale University
"Resolving" Conflict Among the Sons of Shiva: Caste, Possession, and Political Mobilization in the Margins of a South Indian Metropolis

Gaurika Mehta
"See through the eyes of the Mother:" Spirit Possession as Multisensory Darśan

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A21-133
Hosted by: Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit
Theme: Methodist Connectionalism in America and Beyond – A Future-Focused Retrospective on the Work and Influence of Russell E. Richey

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

Long before the late Russell E. Richey (1941-2025) gathered thirteen of his previously published essays in *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives* (Nashville: GBHEM, 2009), he had made his mark on Methodist history by transforming the way we study it and expanding the horizons of whose voices were welcome. For this session, in honor of his legacy, both seasoned and emerging scholars provide their own innovative perspectives on what keeps Methodists connected, not only in America but worldwide.

Jermaine Marshall, presiding

Papers

Martin Wellings
Five Marks of Methodism: What kept British Methodists connected? Or didn't?

David Scott, The United Methodist Church
From Russ Richey to an International, Interdenominational Methodist Connectionalism

Emily Nelms Chastain, Southern Methodist University
Held Together: Methodist Connectionalism as Ecclesial Belonging

Respondent

Ashley Boggan, South Methodist University
Business Meeting
Jung Choi, Duke University Divinity School
Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School

A21-130
Hosted by: Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit and Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Unit
Theme: Mobilizing the Dead: Latin American Migrant-led Movements Re-member the Crucified Body
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

Political theology is emerging from Latin American migrant-led social movements in the United States. Research collaborators interpret organizing practices of Movimiento Cosecha as a form of theological praxis in which migrant communities confront experiences of dismemberment, social death, and political exclusion by retrieving the dead—ancestors, martyrs, and historical figures of resistance—in order to construct a political movement body capable of collective action.

Through practices of "re-membering," fragments produced by migration, detention, deportation, and displacement are brought together into a communal body that becomes both a site of resistance and a theological image of the crucified body of Christ. The practices described illuminate three emerging theological trajectories within contemporary migrant struggles: The development of a grassroots populist political theology, the emergence of a migrant theology centered on a migrant divinity, and the need to decolonize the concept of religion through new practices of solidarity and articulation.

Panelist

Dara Marquez, Movimiento Cosecha
Carlos Castaneda, Movimiento Cosecha
Nicolas Panotto
Janna Hunter-Bowman

A21-111
Hosted by: Chinese Religions Unit
Theme: Negotiating Disaster: Ritual, Sacred Image, and Cross-Cultural Encounter in Chinese Religious Life
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

The panel examines the experiences of Chinese local communities in disasters and their attempts to interpret and respond to these natural and social crises. These responses take various forms: religious texts, sacred images, and rituals shaped through negotiation among different actors over sacred authority and ritual efficacy. Many of these practices had visual, embodied, and emotional dimensions. The panel explores these responses in a global, cross-cultural, and historical context, examining the diverse ways in which people have experienced and navigated moments of crisis. It investigates tensions between missionaries and local communities over rainmaking rituals between the late seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, contention over Tibetan esoteric ceremonies to pacify calamities in the 1920s, and the evolving meanings of a popular Japanese image of Guanyin in post-war Taiwan. From a perspective of cross-cultural religious encounters, it presents natural disaster as a site where religious authority, political agenda, and communal obligation intersect.

Wei Wu, Emory University, presiding

Papers

Beichen Zu, Pennsylvania State University
Praying for Rain: Drought, Rural Conflicts, and Religious Encounters in Qing China

Wei Wu, Emory University

Calamity-Pacifying Ceremonies and the Rise of Tibetan Esoteric Buddhism in Early Twentieth Century China

Wei-Cheng Li, National Taiwan University
Disaster and Religious Perception: The 1959 Floods in Taiwan and the Remaking of the "Guanyin Riding the Dragon" Image

Respondent

Hsiao-Lan Hu, University of Detroit Mercy

A21-126
Hosted by: Reformed Theology and History Unit
Theme: Political Judgment and the Reformed Tradition
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This session engages the multifaceted theme of "political judgment" across the Reformed tradition, engaging its varied historical, theological, ethical, and political dimensions. It examines the covenantal reframing of political authority and judgment in the Huguenot Philippe de Mornay's *Vindiciae, contra tyrannos* (1579); it explores Oliver O'Donovan's appeal to judgment as *privatio* in the *civitas Dei* and the implications that follow for the political witness of the Church; and it argues that, given the gun's function as a mythic instrument of final judgment within American cultural identity, Christian eschatological identity rejects the narrative coherence of guns.

Christina Larsen, presiding

Papers

Daniel Hill, Baylor University
In Judgment Over Tyrants: Vindiciae, Covenant, and the Theological Interpretation of Scripture

Kam Fung Johnny Lai, University of Edinburgh
Oliver O'Donovan's Political Witness of the Church as Contradicting Communications of Truth and Judgment

Taylor Holleyman, Baylor University
Tools of Judgement: Guns and Narrative Identities

Polly Ha, Duke University
Post-Reformation Deliberation: From Renaissance Self-Fashioning to Reformed Self-Adjudication

Business Meeting
Christina Larsen
Arnold Huijgen

A21-125
Hosted by: Practical Theology Unit
Theme: Preaching Futures: Homiletics, Ecology, and the Climate Crisis
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Following the Future/s theme, this session explores how preaching is shaped by ecological change, climate crisis, and the search for responsible and hopeful ways of speaking in uncertain times. The session aims to bring homiletics and ecological questions into a constructive conversation: practical, reflective, and attentive to lived experience.

Marc Lavallee, presiding

Papers

Shaleen Kendrick, Neuro-Relational Integration
Polar Bears, People, and Possibility: Preaching Rapid Adaptive Evolution in the Climate Crisis

Sabrina Müller, University of Bonn
Earth as Text, Earth as Pulpit Embodied Ecological Preaching between Mindfulness, Place, and Resistance

Reyner Budiman
Eco-Autobiographical Preaching: Toward an Eco-Homiletical Theology of Interconnectedness

Cody Sanders, Luther Seminary
Eco-Theological Imagination Amid Collapse: Engaging Ecological Futures and Climate Collapse from the Pulpit

Business Meeting
Shantelle Weber
Marc Lavallee

A21-140
Hosted by: Contemporary Pagan Studies Unit
Theme: Queering Conceptions of Religion: YouTube Tarot, Tumblr Neopaganism, 21st Century Witchcraft, and Neoshamanic Mushroom Churches

Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

By centering beliefs that are often problematically labelled as “New Age,” “Cults,” “Spirituality,” or other derogatory terms, the panel considers the fascinating potential for queering the very concept of “religion.” The papers in the panel explore four different sets of religious communities and practices, each within their own unique context but all on the margins of Religious Studies, to reveal how the concept of religion can be queered and some potential future possibilities this queering holds. The panel argues for a model of queerness that extends beyond sexuality and gender to include a variety of cultural, historical, and religious iterations. This queering seeks to unite Religious Studies with some communities, spiritual traditions, and spaces too often forgotten by the discipline. The panel poses the question of what the future may look like when we queer dominant and restrictive conceptions of religion in the present using religious beliefs from the margins?

Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver, presiding

Papers

Deeptangshu Das
Queering Tarot, Queering Tantra: A Case Study of Indian Tarot Channels on YouTube

David Kemp, University of Denver
Neopagan Identities on Tumblr: Religious Organization Without Hierarchy

Sho McClarence, Iliff School of Theology
Reclamation of the Witch: An Exploration of 21st Century Witchcraft

Kimberly Melgoza
Neoshamanism: Mushroom Churches in the United States

A21-123
Hosted by: Pentecostal–Charismatic Movements Unit
Theme: Re-envisioning Black Pentecostalism in Twentieth-Century America
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

The 2026 publication of two books—*More Than Tongues Can Tell* (Eric Lewis Williams) and *The Subversive Pulpit* (Dara Coleby Delgado)—confronts readers with the disjunction between the received historiography and the social and theological reality of African American Pentecostalism in the twentieth century. Though often associated with white churches and characterized as an ecstatic, exclusivist, or socially unengaged movement, Pentecostalism has offered an empowering spiritual home to Black theologians, church leaders, and congregants for

more than a century. Through close analyses of the lives and works of key leaders in Black Pentecostalism, these volumes reveal a vibrant history of intellectual work as well as racial and gender justice advocacy. Drawing together both theological and social-historical studies of these figures, this joint book review panel will ask how their stories might inform liberatory paths for the study and practice of Pentecostalism in our troubled political present and future.

David Bundy, presiding

Panelist

Harold Dean Trulear
Jonathan Chism
Cheryl J. Sanders
Rebekah Trollinger

Respondent

Eric Lewis Williams
Dara Delgado

P21-101
Hosted by: Association for Public Religion and Intellectual Life
Theme: Representing Religion in Museums
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

This session will bring together participants in projects hosted by AAR and APRIL through 2026. It will include perspectives from curators and religion scholars who have been writing about and organizing museum exhibitions, exploring the ways religion is represented, reified, and recreated in museums. This includes questions about representation and repatriation, conservation and conversion, display and delight.

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, APRIL, presiding

Panelist

James Bielo
Pamela D. Winfield
Sarah Dees, Iowa State University
Hussein Rashid

A21-135

Hosted by: World Christianity Unit
Theme: Sacralizing the body: Women's bodies as sites of ritual, healing, memory and the creation of alternative futures in World Christianity
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

In 2006, Dana L. Robert asked: "What would the study of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America look like if scholars put women at the center of their research?" This panel responds by centering the female body as a site of memory and the creation of just futures. Painting the Unspoken highlights the importance of visual sources in understanding Christian women in East Asia as active creators who shaped visual power for the church's vitality. Re-membering the Body examines how contemporary Rwandan women-led religious spaces employ testimony to help women navigate the "Holy Saturday" of unresolved grief while working towards new futures. Tamar's Cry for Justice interrogates the corrosive masculinity that underlies spousal abuse in Timor, offering a Timorese homiletic for preaching the "texts of terror" to confront gender-based violence. Institutional Memory and Historiographical Limits argues for recognizing Catholic women healers and prophetic figures by expanding historiographical boundaries.

Papers

Megan Bedford-Strohm
Re-membering the Body: Trauma and Testimony among Rwandan Christian Women in the Context of Women Foundation Ministries

Lingshu Liu
Painting the Unspoken: Female Christian Artists in Modern East Asia and Their Works

Ruth Kause, Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto
Tamar's Cry for Justice: A Timorese Women Homiletic for Preaching the "Texts of Terror" against Abusers

Business Meeting
Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University
Janice McLean-Farrell

A21-108
Hosted by: Black Theology Unit and Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: SINNERS: Ancestral Memory, Generational Storytelling and the Spiritual Imagination of Freedom
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

SINNERS: Ancestral Memory, Generational Storytelling and the Spiritual Imagination of Freedom. The film SINNERS, directed by Ryan Coogler, evokes rich theological and spiritual questions rooted in the African Diaspora experience. The panel includes womanist and interdisciplinary perspectives to explore how the film's messaging on spiritual pathways link ancestral knowing with generational telling - illuminating past, present, and future quests for resilience, liberation, and communal flourishing.

2-hour session

Valerie Miles-Tribble, Berkeley School of Theology, presiding

Panelist

Amber Lowe, Georgia State University
Melanie Jones Quarles, Union Presbyterian Seminary
Tatayana Richardson, Vanderbilt University
Sakena Young-Scaggs, Gammon Theological Seminary
Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Vanderbilt University

Respondent

DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona

A21-142
Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Spiritual Harm and Epistemic Violence Across Religious Traditions
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

This panel advances a rigorous, cross-tradition theorization of spiritual harm as a distinctive form of injury produced through the weaponization of sacred authority. Drawing on Christian, exvangelical, Catholic, Islamic, and decolonial feminist contexts, the papers examine how spiritual harm operates through archetypal betrayal, epistemic violence, fiduciary breach, and institutional repentance practices that routinely marginalize survivors' knowledge and agency. Panelists foreground survivors as authoritative epistemic agents while conceiving harm as simultaneously personal and systemic, gendered, racialized, and historically embedded. Together, the papers move beyond descriptive accounts of "church hurt" toward analytic frameworks capable of naming injury, locating responsibility within religious traditions themselves, and imagining non-carceral futures of accountability. Attention to reparative practices—writing as sanctuary, narrative resistance, juridical reimagining, survivor-centered apology, and flexible response frameworks—offers resources for ethical repair that refuse institutional self-protection and re-center dignity, care, and moral agency.

Tracy McEwan, Australian Catholic University, presiding

Papers

Ashley Starr-Morris
'Even When the Truth Isn't Hopeful, the Telling of It Is': Spiritual Harm and Epistemic Resistance in Women's Exvangelical Narratives

Hilary Scarsella
A Survivor-Centered Framework for Addressing Spiritual Harm

Kimberly George
Epistemic Violence as Spiritual Harm, Writing as Sanctuary: An Exploration of Gloria Anzaldúa's Spiritual Activism

Elizabeth Latham, Princeton University
More Than Sorry: Spiritual Harm, Survivor Agency, and the Theology of Papal Apologies

Mohamed Mitiche, University of Johannesburg
Spiritual Abuse as Fiduciary Breach: Reimagining Islamic Legal Futures of Accountability

Lucy Huh
When the Shepherd Becomes the Wolf: Sacred Relational Archetypes in Clergy Sexual Abuse

Business Meeting
Tracy McEwan, Australian Catholic University
Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union

A21-132
Hosted by: Teaching Religion Unit
Theme: Teaching Tactics
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

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.

Kate Gibeault, presiding

Papers

Claire Rostov
The Power of Things: Material Culture in the Classroom

Leigh Miller
Teaching Empathy Guesses for Ministerial Formation

Holly Hillgardner
Lectio Divina-Inspired Techniques to Nurture Waning Attention Spans

Sean Beckett, Regent College
The Hebrew Memory Palace: An Ancient, Innovative Approach to Biblical Language Learning

Monica Sanford
When Students Use the Classroom for Spiritual Formation: How to Maintain Academic Rigor and Honor Student Concerns

Business Meeting
Joseph Tucker Edmonds
Kate Gibeault

A21-120
Hosted by: Liberation Theologies Unit
Theme: Temporalities of Liberation in the Age of Settler Futurity
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

There is a strong parallel between discourse on progress and settler colonialism. The drive to expand and occupy the land is often accompanied by the thought of a linear time in which history progresses toward a singular telos. Might the energy that fuels settler colonialism, ancient and present, be also the drive for settling the future?

This panel invites contributions that challenge notions of linear, progressive time and invite us to reflect on future thinking as an invitation to imagine alternative futures. Such perspectives challenge dominant and oppressive futures driven by extraction, settler colonialism, and capitalist accumulation. As many scholars and activists have suggested, nonhegemonic religious communities and Indigenous traditions offer alternative ways of conceiving of temporality. Here, future thinking is not necessarily an act of imagination oriented towards a time *ahead* of us, but a way of imagining and demanding a different time, a different form of relating to the past, to the ancestors, and, ultimately, a different way of inhabiting the present moment.

Sunder John Boopalan, Canadian Mennonite University, presiding

Papers

Dorothy Dean, Hastings College
Worlds Without Ends: Anti-Telic Disruption of Settler-Colonial Time

Carmen Lansdowne, Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto
The Marrow Thieves and Creating The Good Life: Liberative Indigenous Futurism for a World in Peril

Carlos Manrique
Ethnographying messianic time in a scene of grassroots popular sovereignty in Latin America

Fellipe dos Anjos Pereira, Drew University
Specters of Future/s Devoured by Mining: Religious Resistance Against Predatory (Neo)Extractivism in Brazil

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A21-124
Hosted by: Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: The Future of Relational Thought: The Uncertain Practice of Hope
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

Since the publication of her first book *From a Broken Web* (1986), Catherine Keller's work has been structured around the challenge and possibility of relational thinking. Throughout her career, and in the context of increasing environmental awareness, her affirmations of mutuality and interdependence have helped articulate visions of ecological possibility and planetary becoming. But entanglement also names the complexity of our condition. Now, as she retires from Drew University, we face conditions that make the future almost impossible to think about: rising authoritarianism, institutional collapse, environmental breakdown. What might becoming look like now, through what Keller has called the cloud of impossibility? What planetary visions for the future feel possible? What might the uncertain relational practice of hope bring us, as we face into this moment? Panelists will explore what we might inherit from thinking entanglement.

Beatrice Marovich, presiding

Panelist

Mary-Jane Rubenstein
John Thatamanil
Whitney Bauman
Clayton Crockett
Andrea C. White

Respondent

Catherine Keller

P21-102
Hosted by: International Association for the History of Religions
Theme: The Global Study of Religions Revisited – Regional Perspectives Twenty Years After Religious Studies: A Global View (Session II)
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4C (Ballroom Level)

Over the past twenty years, profound transformations have affected the global landscape and, with it, the academic study of religions. In light of these changes, it is timely to revisit earlier attempts to conceptualize the field from a global perspective. In the early 2000s, Gregory D. Alles embarked on a collaborative project mapping the study of religions as a global enterprise, resulting in the edited volume *Religious Studies: A Global View* (2008). In the introduction, Alles noted that while a global community of scholars of religion was emerging, an asymmetry of knowledge persisted, whereby results, methods, and theories did not circulate equally across the world. The volume offered an overview of the study of religions in its global diversity while reflecting on the commonalities that allow us to speak of a distinctive field. This panel is the second of two collaborative sessions organized by the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) and the American Academy of Religion (AAR), one of the IAHR's member associations, to revisit and update selected findings of the book. Session I, held as part of the AAR's June 2026 online meeting, featured perspectives from Western Europe, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, and Latin America. This second session turns to North America, Africa, Taiwan, and India. Together, the two sessions explore how regional conditions have reshaped the field over the past two decades and consider what these developments mean for the study of religions as a global scholarly enterprise.

In person in Denver – North America:

Sarah Hammerschlag, University of Chicago, Chicago

In person in Denver – Sub-Saharan Africa:

Kudzai Biri, Hope College, Holland, MI

In person in Denver – South and Southeast Asia:

Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya, University of Delhi

Pre-recorded – Taiwan:

Wei-hsian Chi, Academia Sinica, Taipei

Andrea Rota, University of Oslo, presiding

Satoko Fujiwara, University of Tokyo, presiding

Panelist

Sarah Hammerschlag, University of Chicago, Chicago
Kudzai Biri, Hope College, Holland, MI
Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya, University of Delhi
Wei-hsian Chi, Academia Sinica, Taipei

A21-115
Hosted by: Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit
Theme: Theologies of Soul and Being: From Gregory of Nyssa to John Zizioulas
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Spanning historical and theoretical divides, this panel explores the shaping effect of Orthodox theological ideas on human bodies, concepts of the soul, and being. Papers will cover Gregory Palamas' understandings of the world soul versus the human soul, a contemplation of Gregory of Nyssa's theosis in critical relationship to Methodist theologian John Wesley's sanctification, and John Zizioulas' eschatological reverie on being and human existence.

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University, presiding

Papers

WONYEONG LEE, Western North Carolina Conferene of The United Methodist Church
Imperiled Bodies and Future Holiness: Gregory of Nyssa and John Wesley as Counter-Formations of Embodied Life

Micah Hogan
The Anthropocene and the Life of the World: The Human Being as Functional World Soul in St. Gregory Palamas

Alexis Torrance
Teleology vs Eschatology? Exploring a Zizioulian desideratum

Respondent

Philip Dorroll, Wofford College
Business Meeting
Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University
Philip Dorroll, Wofford College

A21-118
Hosted by: Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit, Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit, and Theology and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Thinking with Wendy Mallette's Lesbian Feminist Killjoys: Sin, Queer Negativity, and Inherited Guilt (NYU Press, 2026)
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This panel will celebrate, think with, and critically engage Wendy Mallette's new monograph, *Lesbian Feminist Killjoys: Sin, Queer Negativity, and Inherited Guilt* (NYU Press, 2026). This author-meets-respondents session will feature scholars at the graduate, junior, and senior level who are interested in historical and/or theological approaches to queer, lesbian, feminist, and trans studies, Christian discourse on sin, and American religious cultures. Dr. Mallette will offer a response.

Lucia Hulsether, presiding

Panelist

Janet R. Jakobsen
Siobhan Kelly, Boston University
Amaryah Shaye Armstrong
Eleanor Craig
Kimi Bryson-Reilly
Victoria Slabinski, University of Virginia

Respondent

Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma

A21-119
Hosted by: Japanese Religions Unit
Theme: War Memorialization as Negotiation: Navigating Social and Diplomatic Relations through War Memory in Modern Japan
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

Yasukuni has inordinately dominated scholarship on Japanese war memorialization. In contrast, this panel shows how diverse religious actors, sites, and rituals shape and mediate war memorialization in ways irreducible to nationalism. The first paper looks at the new religious movement Konkōkyō to show how religions utilize rituals of war and peace to navigate their marginalized position in society. The second examines how a 1930s Nichiren priest reinterpreted

a Japanese-Mongolian medieval war monument to highlight memorialization's role in diplomacy. The third discusses an "ear mound" of body parts taken from victims of Japan's sixteenth-century invasion of Korea to analyze the shifting role of burials and pacification in postwar peace rhetoric. The fourth explores political discourse of rituals conducted in Japan for the Korean war dead of Japan's wartime colonial mobilization. These papers show how war memorialization is not simply nationalistic celebration, but rather a complex, multi-faceted, transnational negotiation.

Bryan Lowe, presiding

Papers

Heather Heimbach, Princeton University
Pacifism and Pacification in Konkōkyō Ireisai: Local War Memorial Ritual and the Construction of Group Identity in Modern Japan

Daigengna Duoer, Boston University
Compassion and Conquest: Memorializing the Transnational Mongol War Dead in Modern Japan

Melissa Anne-Marie Curley
Taking, Keeping, Caring, Stealing: Competing Claims to Ownership of the Dead at a Buddhist Burial Mound

Florence Galmiche, Université Paris Cité
Bitter Souls from Wartime Colonial Mobilization: Ritual and Political Action around Korean Remains in Japan

Respondent

Jolyon Thomas

A21-112
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit
Theme: What is the Future of Theological Aesthetics?
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

In response to the 2026 Presidential theme, this roundtable session will consider the future of theological aesthetics and its place in responding to the uncertainties that theologians face today. Theologians rely on aesthetics to shape the future by imagining, or reimaging, the past, making theological aesthetics integral to the practice of theology more generally; however, what this future will look like depends on how theologians navigate the fact that aesthetics can be used in

the service of both oppression and liberation. This panel seeks to bring these issues to light as a way to consider the future of theological aesthetics in relation to its own origins, and what the effects will be for theology more generally as it seeks to aesthetically navigate its origins in relation to the world in which it is currently practices. The discussion will provide a clearer understanding of the place of aesthetics in theological discourse.

Ben DeSpain, presiding

Panelist

Natalie Carnes
Lexi Eikelboom
Elise Edwards, Baylor University
Meghan Page
Jessica Davenport, Colgate University
Kathryn Reklis

P21-108
Hosted by: Søren Kierkegaard Society
Theme: Kierkegaard and Negative Phenomena
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This session explores the centrality of "the negative" in Søren Kierkegaard's authorship, attending to its philosophical, theological, and literary dimensions. This panel investigates the constitutive role of negation—understood not merely as a logical operation, but first and foremost as an existential movement manifested in phenomena such as anxiety, absurdity, irony, offense, despair, and silence.

K. Soderquist, presiding

Panelist

Claudia Welz, Goethe University, Frankfurt
Clare Carlisle
Clay Snell

P21-112
Hosted by: Niebuhr Society
Theme: Niebuhr Society Meeting
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Redstone (Third Floor)

Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Ramsey on Just and Unjust Wars

This year the Niebuhr Society will examine current discussions on war, in dialogue with Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Ramsey. Attention will be paid to discussions of the just war tradition as that tradition has been interpreted in contemporary thought and practice. Among the many questions discussed will be the question of how and whether the just war tradition can be action-guiding in the contemporary international context.

Joshua Mauldin, presiding

Panelist

Mark Douglas
Anna Floerke Scheid
Kevin Carnahan
Dallas Gingles, Southern Methodist University

P21-110
Hosted by: International Society for Chinese Philosophy
Theme: Gender, Transcendence, and Self-Cultivation in Confucian Philosophy
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 15 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Contact: Bin Song (Washington College), bsong2@washcoll.edu.

Panel 1: "Contemporary Confucian Applications on Gender and Queerness"
Ting-mien Lee (Lanzhou University, China): “Appropriating Datong: Queer Inclusion and the Geopolitics of Moral Superiority in Contemporary China”
Li-Hsiang Lisa Rosenlee (University of Hawai’i – West O’ahu): “What is the use of Confucian Feminism to the LGBTQ communities?”
Anna Sun (Duke University): “A Place at the Altar: Challenging Gendered Ritual Inequality in Contemporary Confucian Practice”
Peng Yin (Boston University):“How to Write a Confucian Queer History?”

Panel 2 "Transcendence, Self-Cultivation, and Spiritual Joy"
Jea Sophia Oh (West Chester University): “For a Sustainable Future of Earth-Democracy: The Divine Transcendence and Immanence of Samjae (三才) and Samkyung (三敬)”
Jordan Jackson (University of California, Riverside): “The Emergence of Self-Cultivation Techniques in Pre-Qin Confucian Philosophy”
Doil Kim (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea): “No-Self and Joy: The Path to the Formation of Yan Hui's Spiritual State”

Bin Song, presiding

Papers

Ting-mien Lee, Lanzhou University
Appropriating Datong: Queer Inclusion and the Geopolitics of Moral Superiority in Contemporary China

Li-Hsiang Rosenlee
What is the use of Confucian Feminism to the LGBTQ communities?

Anna Sun, Duke University
A Place at the Altar: Challenging Gendered Ritual Inequality in Contemporary Confucian Practice

Peng Yin
How to Write a Confucian Queer History?

Jea Sophia Oh
For a Sustainable Future of Earth-Democracy: The Divine Transcendence and Immanence of Samjae (三才) and Samkyung (三敬)

Jordan Jackson, University of California, Riverside
The Emergence of Self-Cultivation Techniques in Pre-Qin Confucian Philosophy

Doil Kim
No-Self and Joy: The Path to the Formation of Yan Hui's Spiritual State

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P21-111
Hosted by: Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
Theme: Honoring Judith Simmer-Brown: Scholarship, Contemplation, and Interreligious Friendship
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row E (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

This panel honors the life, work, and enduring legacy of Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown, whose scholarship, teaching, and leadership have profoundly shaped the fields of Buddhist studies, contemplative education, and Buddhist-Christian dialogue. Convened to celebrate her many contributions to the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies and the wider academic and contemplative communities, the panel will bring together colleagues, students, and friends to reflect on the impact of her work.

M21-118
Hosted by: Booth University College
Theme: Salvation Army Scholars and Friends
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza Court 4 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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 Eason, Booth University College, presiding

Papers

Rachel Sheils
Living Out One's Faith Serving the Poor: A Comparative Study of Two Christian Movements—The Salvation Army and the Catholic Worker Movement

Erica Bowler
'Immorality' and 'Selfishness': Florence Booth and the Campaign Against Contraceptives (1934-1936)

Chang Han Kim
The Taming of the Hermits: The Salvation Army Mission in Korea, 1908–1940

Young Sung Kim, The Salvation Army
We Drink from Our Own Wells: Reimagining Salvationist Ecclesiology through a Diasporic Korean Salvationist Lens

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P21-107
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
Theme: Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality Presidential Address and Annual Meeting
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 3 (Second Floor)

9:00am – 10:30am 2026 Presidential Address

Shannon McAlister, Fordham University

"Is Christian Spirituality Always Good?"

10:45am – 12:00pm Annual Members' Business Meeting

All are welcome. For more information on the Society and its events, please visit https://societyforstudyofchristianspirituality.org/. Please send additional questions to Amy Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer at amaxey@ost.edu.

Margaret Benefiel, presiding

P21-115
Hosted by: North American Association for the Study of Religion
Theme: Business meeting
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 12 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

NAASR's annual business meeting provides members with updates on the association's activities, discussions of ongoing priorities, opportunities for member involvement, and any formal business requiring consideration or approval.

P21-104
Hosted by: Karl Barth Society of North America
Theme: Karl Barth and Christian Nationalism
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Aspen A (Third Floor)

This session comprises two papers that reckon with Karl Barth's work in relation to Christian nationalism, past and present, along with responses and a period of QandA.

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City, presiding
Paul Dafydd Jones, presiding

Papers

David Congdon, University of Kansas
The Politics of God's Yes: Karl Barth in Conversation with American Christian Nationalism

Nicola Whyte
On Nationalism, Patriotism, and Sin: Reading Karl Barth in Scotland

Respondent

Philip G. Ziegler
Keith Johnson

P21-100
Hosted by: Colloquium on Violence and Religion
Theme: Mimetic Theory, Social Order, and the Question of Identity
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1D (Ballroom Level)

This session brings together two papers that examine how social and cultural boundaries are constructed, maintained, and challenged. The first paper explores mimetic theory in a prison context, focusing on dynamics of purity, exclusion, and the challenge of extending compassion to the most marginalized. The second paper reconsiders the Vattimo–Girard debate through the lens of Henza culture, highlighting how more fluid forms of identity ("loose ontology") open new possibilities for rethinking gender, metaphysics, and the role of difference in social life.

Grant Kaplan, presiding

Papers

Chris Haw, University of Scranton
Prison Differentiation, Mimetic Theory, and Dirty Compassion

Colby Dickinson
Rethinking both metaphysical foundations and anthropological realities: Bridging the Vattimo-Girard debate through the 'loose ontology' of Henza culture and the crossing of gendered binaries

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M21-113
Hosted by: Religion and Cities Unit
Theme: Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Theologically Trained Leaders in Local Government
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Offsite

This panel discussion, hosted at the Colorado State Capitol, brings together Denver-area scholar-practitioners who hold positions in city and state leadership and bring theologically informed perspectives to their public roles. Drawing on their training in theology and religious studies, panelists will examine how scholarly engagement with religion shapes the intellectual and ethical frameworks that guide policy decisions and institutional leadership. The discussion will also address the challenges of navigating political structures as theologically trained professionals, and the broader contributions that religious scholarship can make to contemporary democratic practice. Collectively, this panel makes the case that formation in theology and religious studies provides a substantive and generative foundation for principled civic leadership. For more

information, including panelists and directions, visit tinyurl.com/RACStateCapitolEvent. For questions, contact aarreligionandcities@gmail.com.

M21-115
Hosted by: Society for Pentecostal Studies
Theme: A Round Table Discussion of Rebecca Idestrom, Show Me Your Glory: The Glory of God in the Old Testament (Wipf and Stock, 2023).
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Blaine Charette, Northwest University, Presiding Panelists: Carmen Joy Imes, Talbot School of Theology (20 min) Rebecca Basdeo Hill, Pentecostal Theological Seminary (20 min) Jon Bentall, Northwest University (20 min) Response: Rebecca Idestrom, Tyndale Seminary (30 min) Panel Discussion (30 min) Open Discussion (30 min)

Blaine Charette, Northwest University, presiding

Panelist

Carmen Joy Imes, Talbot School of Theology
Rebecca Basdeo-Hill, Pentecostal Theological Seminary
Jon Bentall, Seattle Pacific University

Respondent

Rebecca Idestrom, Tyndale University College and Seminary

P21-114
Hosted by: Adventist Society for Religious Studies
Theme: Sabbath Worship and Sermon - Speaker: Dr Kendra Haloviak Valentine
Saturday, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 601 (Street Level)

Sabbath Worship
9:30 -10:15 am Sabbath School Panel Discussion: “The Church Reimagined”
10:15 – 11:00 am Interview “Looking Ahead” with Tihomir Lazić
11:00 – 11:30 am Worship
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Sermon, Kendra Haloviak Valentine, La Sierra University

Panelist

Tihomir Lazic, Newbold College, UK
Kendra J. Haloviak

P21-116
Hosted by: North American Association for the Study of Religion
Theme: The Costs of Preserving Religious Studies
Saturday, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 12 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Lee Edelman writes that “For politics, however radical the means by which specific constituencies attempt to produce a more desirable social order, remains, at its core, conservative, insofar as it works to affirm a structure, to authenticate social order, which it then intends to transmit to the future in the form of its inner Child." This session takes Edelman’s point seriously for religious studies, where the graduate student is quite literally the figure in whom the discipline invests its futurity. Each panelist - themselves PhD candidates trained on the field's critical apparatus - offers a brief provocation from within Edelman's frame, examining how the logic of disciplinary reproduction shapes what the field can imagine for itself: what counts as legitimate scholarship, what gets preserved and at what cost, and why alternatives that might require genuine transformation remain foreclosed in favor of transmitting the field as it already is. Their provocations then become the basis for a larger open conversation that asks not what religious studies owes its future but what its commitment to having one - in a specific, recognizable form - forecloses.

M21-117
Hosted by: Boniuk Institute- Rice University
Theme: Boniuk Institute Meeting on Faith and AI
Saturday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza Court 3 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Boniuk Institute Meeting to disscuss current context and future directions in research on Faith and AI.

M21-122
Hosted by: Theologia
Theme: Gathering for Women in Christian Theology
Saturday, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Offsite

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 light brunch and a short program.
Cost to attend is $25; financial help is available. Gathering is being held at First Baptist Church of Denver. Advance registration is required. https://www.westernsem.edu/theologia/
We can only guarantee spots for the first 65 who register. Co-sponsored by Baker Academic, Baylor University Press, Zondervan Academic, Western Theological Seminary, Wheaton College, and Wycliffe College.
Contact Kristen Deede Johnson kd.johnson@utoronto.ca with questions.

A21-137
Hosted by: Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: LGBTIQ+ Mentoring Lunch
Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2C+3C (Ballroom Level)

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A21-136
Hosted by: International Connections Committee
Theme: Navigating the Politics of Travel: Workshop (BYO Lunch)
Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

Travel has long been an essential component of academic work, in terms of conference and workshop participations, fieldwork, short term and long term mobilities, formal and informal networking etc. How are academic practices of professional international (and domestic) travel changing and why? How will changing travel behavior change the collaboration of scholars and international connections in the future, and how does the digital transformation of international collaboration change the professional role of researchers? What are the advantages and disadvantages of changing practices and for whom? Please join the International Connections Committee for this lunchtime discussion of the politics of travel. After a brief introduction, we will offer several thematic table conversations, including themes such as: International political challenges affecting international scholars, climate justice considerations, mobilities as a justice issue, academic travel, power and social injustices etc.

The AAR will provide lunchtime drinks and small snacks. Attendees are welcome to bring a lunch.

John P. Burgess, presiding

P21-118
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
Theme: New Voices in the Study of Chinese Religions
Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom Level)

This event showcases new research in the field by recent PhDs as well as ABDs who are completing their dissertation work.

M21-120
Hosted by: Women's Spirituality Studies Press
Theme: Women's Spirituality Studies Press: Book Launch and Dialogue
Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 112 (Street Level)

The late Professor Mara Lynn Keller was instrumental in getting the Goddess Studies program unit established in AAR. She spent her final year, 2023, designing and founding a new nonprofit, peer-reviewed publishing house, Women's Spirituality Studies Press (www.wsspress.org), and left a bequest toward that end. This fall WSSP is launching its inaugural list: an anthology of diverse women's voices across Western traditions, edited by Xochitl Alvizo and Gina Messina; the first two titles from the Women's Spirituality Classics series (by Charlene Spretnak and the late Carol P. Christ), and two powerful collections by celebrated poets, Mary Mackey and Annie Finch. WSSP publishes books in seven areas related to religions and spiritual traditions worldwide. It publishes both academic books and books for a general audience. The Executive Director of WSSP, Dr. Gina Messina, will facilitate a community discussion about the field of Women's Spirituality studies today and possible future directions.

A21-138
Hosted by: Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee
Theme: Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee Luncheon with Open Discussion
Saturday, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

The Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee invites you to our annual Networking Luncheon at the AAR Annual Meeting. It's a chance to strategize together about the future of academic labor. Colleagues across all positions—part-time, contract, and permanent—are

encouraged to bring ideas, share challenges, and explore concrete steps toward greater equity, fair pay, and labor justice in our profession. Please note: this year's luncheon will be bring your own lunch, and no registration is required. Simply come by, share a meal, and join the conversation.

M21-121
Hosted by: Christian Scholarship Foundation
Theme: Christian Scholarship Foundation Luncheon
Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4D (Ballroom Level)

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

M21-109
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: IBR Students Lunch
Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Offsite

For information, contact Matt Quintana (students@ibr-bbr.org).

P21-113
Hosted by: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
Theme: Wabash Doctoral Student Luncehon
Saturday, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial E (Third Level)

As you prepare for life beyond the PhD, conversations about research often take center stage. But what about the teaching life that awaits you? This luncheon invites doctoral students to gather in intentional community to reflect on the transition from doctoral study to faculty leadership. Hosted by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, this gathering creates space to connect with peers across institutions and to begin building relationships with an organization deeply committed to strengthening teaching in theology and religion. While Wabash primarily supports faculty, we recognize that the habits, imagination, and pedagogical commitments of future professors are formed long before the first faculty appointment. This conversation will explore what it means to prepare now for a thriving teaching

life—intellectually, relationally, and vocationally. Come meet other doctoral students navigating similar questions. Learn how Wabash supports faculty once they enter the professoriate. Begin building the networks that will sustain you not just through the dissertation, but into the classroom and beyond. This is a space to think ahead, build relationships, and imagine your future as a teacher-scholar with intention. Please register directly on our website or at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb3oDM9TAdiHFE3dbkT8N6mTWr_pO…

M21-116
Hosted by: Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit and Baker Academic
Theme: Liberal Arts that Liberate: A New Edition of Desiring the Kingdom for a New Context
Saturday, 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

James K. A. Smith's Desiring the Kingdom has been widely acclaimed and used in a variety of educational settings since its publication in 2009. In a new second edition this fall, Smith rearticulates his core argument that human beings are lovers shaped by liturgies for our shifting world. The context has changed dramatically: the dominant "liturgies" shaping desire today are algorithmic feeds, streaming platforms, and AI interfaces–all enacting the desire complex of neoliberalism. This panel explores how Smith's framework meets this moment. Does the concept of embodied habit formation need rethinking when so much formation happens through disembodied digital practices? And in such a landscape, can a liberal arts education still be liberating?

David Henreckson, Whitworth University, presiding

Panelist

Jonathan Tran, Duke University
Malcolm Foley
Jennifer A. Herdt
James K. A. Smith

M21-200
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Board Meeting
Saturday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza Court 1 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

For information, contact Ruth Anne Reese at secretary@ibr-bbr.org.

A21-234
Hosted by: Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Ali Altaf Mian's Islamic Ethics and Spiritual Sovereignty
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

I am proposing an author meets critics roundtable panel on Professor Ali Altaf Mian of University of Florida's highly anticipated new book Islamic Ethics and Spiritual Sovereignty (University of Notre Dame Press, 2026) that brings together the study of Islam, South Asia, and Continental Philosophy in singularly innovative ways.

SherAli Tareen, presiding

Panelist

Rajbir Judge
Suvaid Yaseen

Respondent

Ali Altaf Mian
Business Meeting
Marika Rose
Anthony Paul Smith

A21-208
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: AAR's Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit and SBL's Religion and Philosophy in Antiquity Seminar
Theme: Book Panel on The Geometry of Christian Contemplation: Measure without Measure (Oxford, 2025) by David Albertson
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This panel engages with David Albertson's *The Geometry of Christian Contemplation: Measure without Measure*(Oxford, 2025), a study that explores the intersection of mystical theology, mathematical imagination, and the conceptual frameworks of Christian contemplative practice. Albertson argues that Christian contemplation can be understood through a logic of 'measure without measure,' in which the disciplined structures of the mind and imagination allow for encounters with the infinite, the ineffable, and the divine. Drawing on historical sources from patristic, medieval, and early modern authors, the book examines how geometric, proportional,

and formal analogies mediate the relationship between human cognition and divine transcendence. Papers in this panel engage concepts key to Albertson's work, including historical investigations of geometric or numerical metaphors in Christian spirituality; philosophical or theological analyses of measure, proportion, and the infinite.

John Kenney, presiding

Papers

Sean Barrett
Consider the Stars, the Atom, the Host: Measure Without Measure in Synodal Preaching

Sean Hannan
Formal Landscapes in David Albertson and Gregory of Nyssa

Respondent

David Albertson
Kevin Corrigan

A21-205
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit and Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit
Theme: Buddhism as Cinematic Experience and Practice
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This roundtable queries the act of viewing and making films as embodied Buddhist practices. Film viewing could be a Buddhist practice that is done individually, in groups, in conversation, and on various occasions. Film viewing also entails multisensory experiences that could lend themselves to a new mode of practicing Buddhism. Filmmaking, on the other hand, not only serves to depict Buddhism on screen, but could itself be a cinematic way of practicing Buddhism that moves beyond its conventional textual, oral, and cultural practices.

Dhondup T. Rekjong, Northwestern University, presiding

Panelist

Lily Stuart , Case Western Reserve Univeristy
Lina Verchery, Victoria University of Wellington
Edward Burger, ONE MIND Productions
Francisca Cho
Donagh Coleman
Lugyal Bhum, Northwestern University

Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University

A21-232
Hosted by: Tantric Studies Unit
Theme: Contextualizing Experience: Tantra in Conversation with Critical Phenomenology
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This panel brings new textual and historical research in Śaiva, Vaiṣṇava, and Buddhist tantric traditions into dialogue with an emerging response to critiques of "religious experience" under the rubric of critical phenomenological approaches to religion. Drawing on source material from Kaula, non-dual Śaiva, Krama, Pāñcarātra, and Tibetan Buddhist systems of practice, we aim to situate tantric studies as a primary archive for empirical data and emic theoretical resources in the critical phenomenological study of religion. Reframing the reception of critiques within religious studies of the term "experience" as an analytic category, critical phenomenology of religion aims not to speak of experience as an ahistorical universal, but rather to situate experiential phenomena as agentively shaping the external world in their concrete historical and sociopolitical contexts. To this end, this panel makes the case that, in historical context, the tantric experiential technologies and the social, intersubjective dynamics of religion are mutually constitutive.

Papers

Elaine Fisher
Critical Phenomenology and the Field of Tantric Studies

Ben Williams
The Role of Experience in Representations of the Yoginīmelaka

Eileen Goddard
Pāñcarātra Paradigms of Devotional Experience Over Divine Identity

James Gentry
Igniting Experience that Moves Crowds: Shared Sensations and Kindred Belonging in 13th Century Tibet

Respondent

Janet Gyatso

A21-202

Hosted by: Black Theology Unit and Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: Dancing Minds, Working Justice: Womanist Ethics as Method, Countermemory, and Hope
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

In the 20th anniversary year of the publication of *Womanist Ethics and the Cultural Production of Evil*, this session celebrates the publication of *Dancing Minds, Working Justice: Selected Essays of Emilie M. Townes* (Two Cities Press) and anticipates the publication of *Womanist Dancing Mind Map: A Festschrift for Emilie M. Townes*. Bringing together four decades of scholarship, *Dancing Minds, Working Justice* articulates womanist ethics as a disciplined practice of moral imagination rooted in everydayness, embodiment, and responsible public engagement. Panelists will reflect on Townes's contributions to womanist thought, Christian ethics, and theological education, with particular attention to how her work continues to shape contemporary debates about democracy, leadership, and justice. Creatively engaging themes of lament, hope, love, and justice, panelists will demonstrate how Townes' work is a guiding light for innovation in the study, pedagogies, and praxes of religion.

Shatavia Wynn, presiding

Panelist

Kelly Brown Douglas, Harvard Divinity School
Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
Kate Ott
Eboni Marshall Turman, Yale University
Jennifer S. Leath
Teresa Smallwood

Respondent

emilie m. townes

A21-222
Hosted by: Practical Theology Unit
Theme: Digital Hush Harbors: Black and Womanist Practical Theology in the Age of Artificial Intelligence An Experimental Multimodal Roundtable on Algorithmic Disenfranchisement, Digital Care, and Ecclesial Futures
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

Artificial intelligence and digital infrastructures are reshaping how religious communities imagine authority, practice care, and form community. This experimental multimodal roundtable gathers scholars working at the intersections of practical theology, womanist theology, Black

digital religion, pastoral care, and artificial intelligence to explore how digital worlds are transforming ecclesial practice and theological imagination. Centering Black and womanist perspectives, participants examine digital environments as contested spiritual terrains shaped by algorithmic power, racialized violence, and techno-colonial extraction, while also recognizing them as sites of resistance, care, and communal creativity. The conversation engages themes including digital hush harbors and insurgent proclamation, queering womanist Afrofuturist AI ethics, Black posthuman futures, digital spiritual care, and evolving forms of digital ecclesiology. Through short provocations, multimodal engagement, and collaborative dialogue, the session invites practical theology to imagine more just and liberatory technological futures.

Melva Sampson, presiding

Panelist

Melva Sampson
Angel Clark
Erika Gault
Philip Butler, Iliff School of Theology
Irie Lynne Session, Eden Theological Seminary

A21-206
Hosted by: Chinese Religions Unit
Theme: Emplacing Efficacy in Eras of Uncertainty: Material Strategies and Spatial Adaptation in 10–13th Century Southern Coastal China
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This panel examines how inherited claims of religious efficacy were materially and spatially re-secured in southeastern China between the Five Dynasties and the Southern Song (tenth–thirteenth centuries). Amid dynastic transition, maritime expansion, and demographic change, Buddhist cosmologies, deity cults, and geomantic doctrines asserted enduring authority, yet their efficacy had to be continually reestablished within new landscapes and communities. Drawing on approaches that foreground the emplacement of religion in material settings, the papers explore how efficacy was stabilized through construction, inscription, monumental translation, and environmental adaptation. Case studies range from pagoda surfaces bearing repeated Buddha images, and the transformation of Aśoka stupas, to inscriptional strategies that localized the cult of Mazu and geomantic burial practices recalibrated to southern hydrological conditions. Together, the papers show that efficacy was not simply inherited but materially grounded through textual, architectural, and environmental practices enabling religious traditions to take root within shifting terrains of coastal China.

Terry Kleeman, presiding

Papers

Huajie Fan
Built Surface or Religious Vision? Leifeng's Missing Exterior Buddhas in Wuyue Pagoda Networks

Jiayi Zhu, University of Chicago
Bronze to Stone, Court to Coast: Recasting the Aśoka Stūpa in Maritime East Asia

Yu Xuan Tay, UCLA
Narrating a Goddess: Religious Legitimacy and Authority in the Spread of Mazu Cult during the Southern Song

Tianyu Shi, University of Hamburg
Six Feet Under Wet Ground:Hydrological Landscapes and the Environmental Transformation of Fengshui in Southern Song China

Respondent

Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee
Business Meeting
Rongdao Lai
Susan Andrews

A21-229
Hosted by: Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit
Theme: Enduring Empire: Theologies of Violence and Postcolonial Poetics
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

This panel will consider the theologies of violence that sustain empire and the possibilities for postcolonial counter-poetics.

Adam Stern, University of Wisconsin, Madison, presiding

Papers

Hee-Kyu Heidi Park
Fractal Spectrality and Postcolonial Futurity: Theological Imagination after the Korean War

James Ramsey
Self-Evidence: On the Declaration of Independence and the Rule of Law

Mays Smithwick, Yale University
Prophecies for Empire: the Book of Revelation and National Security

Abubakr Jamal, Vanderbilt University
Restating Tropicality: Another Critique of Modern Knowledge

Janice McRandal
Who is still afraid of the big bad Apocalypse? imperialistic teleology and the worlds that come after

Business Meeting
Adam Stern, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Marlon Millner, Wesleyan University

A21-225
Hosted by: Religion and Ecology Unit
Theme: Environmental Justice and Religious Ecologies: Community, Resistance, and Alternative Futures
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

These papers explore environmental justice through the intersecting lenses of religion, community action, and alternative ecological imaginaries. Across diverse contexts—from urban food systems in Gary, Indiana to data infrastructure conflicts in Northern Virginia, Indigenous environmental philosophy in Minas Gerais, and faith-based activism in West Virginia—the panels highlight how communities resist extractive systems while cultivating more just and sustainable futures. Together, they examine shifts from charity to sovereignty in food justice movements, grassroots resistance to energy- and resource-intensive technologies, Indigenous epistemologies that reimagine human–environment relations, and the practical challenges of aligning religious ethics with socio-ecological action. By foregrounding lived practices and moral frameworks, these papers illuminate how faith traditions and community knowledge can generate transformative responses to environmental crises.

Kristi Del Vecchio, Oberlin College, presiding

Papers

Dominic Wilkins, Berea College
Negotiating Natural Gas, Negotiating Just Futures

Ryan Juskus, University of Notre Dame
“Good F-Words” in Gary: A Case Study of How Faith, Farming, Finance, and the Field of Science are Combining to Transform Food Systems in Steel City

Kyle Lambelet, Virginia Theological Seminary
Data Center Resistance as Counter-Apocalyptic Praxis

Fellipe dos Anjos Pereira, Drew University
Memories of Ancestral Future/s: The Hydro-spiritual Force of Ailton Krenak's Environmental Philosophy

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A21-207
Hosted by: Christian Spirituality Unit
Theme: Evil, Transformation, and Self-Development
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

Christian spirituality implies confrontation with a broadly imagined, wide-ranging, and persistent category of evil. These traditions have commonly interpreted this confrontation as generative of self-development or transformation. This struggle, though difficult, facilitates spiritual growth amid temptations towards complacency. However, this path of self-transformation, or *metanoia*, risks inappropriately justifying the experience of evil in its self-reflections. What resources can Christian spiritual traditions marshal to contend with the overt and covert or banal presence of evil? And how can they do so without trying to make the absurdity of evil intelligible?

Matthew Wickman, Brigham Young University, presiding

Papers

Elizabeth Propst, Harvard Divinity School
Illegibility, Performativity, and Interpretive Grace: Attending to Evil in Blood Meridian

Bede Benjamin Bidlack
Martial Metaphors in Ignatian Spirituality: A Somatic, Comparative Approach

Kristen Daley Mosier
The future of evil is present now: how a baptismal ecospirituality can persevere in resisting evil

Travis Pickell, George Fox University
The Paradox of Friction and Formation: Reimagining Struggle, Virtue, and the End(s) of Formation

Business Meeting
Matthew Wickman, Brigham Young University

A21-227
Hosted by: Religion and Science Fiction Unit

Theme: Future Religion: Ecology, Technology, and Social Order in Speculative Worlds
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

This panel examines speculative fiction reimaginings of religion, ethics, and social life in future worlds. Through readings of works by Ishiguro, Le Guin, Wolfe, and Bazterrica, the papers explore how religious ideas persist, mutate, and generate new meanings within technologically and ecologically transformed societies. Together, the papers ask: how do speculative narratives interrogate structures of power—including labor hierarchies, gender norms, and social orders—while asking what forms of ecological responsibility, technological mediation and moral agency remain possible? Here religion is not merely inherited tradition but dynamic of practices and imaginaries that shape how communities respond to crisis and envision alternative futures. By bringing theology, philosophy, and literary analysis into conversation, the panel highlights speculative fiction as a critical space for reflecting on the ethical and social implications of emerging technological and ecological conditions, while reconsidering the categories of religion and the secular in an uncertain, even frightening future.

James Thrall, Knox College, presiding

Papers

Karen DeVries
Earthbound Wisdom, Earthbound Worlding: Always Coming Home in the Chthulucene

Joshua Wright, Hope College
Increate and Outsider: Religion in Gene Wolfe's Solar Cycle

Margaret Kearney, Emory University
Programmed for Sacrifice: Disposability and Moral Agency in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Klara and the Sun

Jonathan Campoverde
Bodies, Belief, and Performance: Gender and Theological Power in Parable of the Sower, The Handmaid’s Tale, and The Unworthy.

Business Meeting
James Thrall, Knox College
Rudy V. Busto

A21-236
Hosted by: Traditions of Eastern Late Antiquity Unit
Theme: Hope and Despair in Late Antiquity
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

This session offers papers on a variety of aspects of religious intersection in eastern late antiquity, including several that relate to themes of affect, hope, and despair in the traditions of eastern late antiquity.

Papers

Blake Hartung, Arizona State University
Nisibis Laments: The Despair and Hope of a Late Ancient City

Reyhan Durmaz
Documenting Despair and Hope: Temples as War Archives in Late Antiquity

Eric DeVilliers
A Vision Deferred: Jacob of Serugh on Sinaitic Theophany

Syed Zaidi, Butler University
The Brethren of Purity's Use of Zoroastrian Religious Figures in their Thought

Business Meeting
Laura Locke Estes

A21-209
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit and Open and Relational Theologies Unit
Theme: Imagining Liberative Futures
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

Reflecting on the AAR's 2026 presidential theme of future/s, the Christian Systematic Theology Unit, alongside the Open and Relational Theologies Unit, has assembled a panel that considers the imagination required for liberative futures. This panel will begin by addressing our current moral disorientation and its potential for generating a more liberative future, even within the context of a capitalist world order. Recognizing the complexity of all ethical endeavor and the problematic power structures involved, we will discuss the relationship of self and other in our current globalized environment. Having described our time and the challenges it presents, the panel will then consider a response to the present that utilizes antebellum theologies of abolition to critique and transform current politics. Finally, we will consider the experience of time during incarceration, and the means by which carceral time can generate a liberative future for returning citizens.

Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College, Boston, presiding

Papers

Hannah Jones, University of Indianapolis
Abolition Theology: Notes on Time and Eschatology

Sean Baz-Garza
Anti-Capitalist Virtue: Tanner, Herdt, and Contemporary Finance-Capitalism

Thomas Elbourn, Boston College
Ethics in the Face of the Future: Levinas and Open Theism in "the Little Job" of Luke 13

Debbie Brubaker, Boston University School of Theology
Moral Disorientation and Liberative Futures

Charles Atkins, XL Endeavors, LLC
Release of the Captives: Transformed carceral time as an opportunity for re-orienting perspectives on liberative futures.

A21-201
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Korean Religions Unit
Theme: Korean Religions in the Age of AI
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

According to the IMF, South Korea has one of the highest AI adoption rates in the world. About a third of the population uses ChatGPT every month. The newly elected government led by Lee Jae Myung is putting AI at the forefront of its economic policy. In Korea's highly pluralistic society, religious communities are already experimenting with AI in strikingly diverse ways. This panel invites papers focusing on any topic related to the present and future relationship between Korean religions and AI, including: approaches to the use of AI related to Korean religious values, applications of AI in religious communities or scholarship, and/or ethical and philosophical debates about AI. Why should scholars interested in religion and AI pay attention to Korea?

Jonathan Feuer, presiding

Papers

Yoehan Oh, Yale University
The Sacred Data Center: Korean Patriotic Buddhist Materiality, Naver, and the Making of AI Sovereignty

Yong Sup Song
Korean Traditional Values for Harmonious Human-Robot Coexistence

Un Hey Kim
AI as a Political Actor and the Ethics of Memory in Data Capitalism

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A21-215
Hosted by: Exploratory Session
Theme: Liturgy as Resistance Towards God's Future
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

From Jesus overturning tables in the temple, to Civil Rights leaders marching against injustice while singing "We Shall Overcome," to masses celebrated in ecclesial base communities in Latin America, to funerals under Apartheid in South Africa, to one hundred clerics arrested for civil disobedience in Minneapolis, the spaces, preaching, singing, and praying of the Christian tradition have been theological sites of resistance to evil and oppression. In this roundtable, theologians, liturgists, and hymnologists discuss how liturgy forms worshipers theologically, ethically, and practically for the work of resisting evil and building God's beloved community now and into the future. With scholarly engagement from Trans, queer, decolonial, anti-racist, disability, systematic theology, and practical theology perspectives, this dialogue explores how the *leitourgia*—the work of the people—prepares people to speak truth to power, join in non-violent protest, and enflesh futures built on mutual care and flourishing for all God's creation.

Lisa Hancock, presiding

Panelist

Stephanie Budwey
Eli Cooper-Nelson
Shantelle Weber
Miriam Spies
Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School

A21-219
Hosted by: Mysticism Unit and Religion and Disability Studies Unit
Theme: Mysticism and Vulnerability
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

This co-sponsored session reflects on the intersections of vulnerability and mysticism through lens of disability. Papers will explore mystically informed political orientations to sickness, a mystical model of vulnerability that links spiritual transformation with ethical participation, how

appeals to vulnerability inadvertently mask power relations and abuse, and how intellectual disability's status as loss and limit correlates with the state of unknowing in *The Cloud*.

C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University, presiding

Papers

Madeleine Scott
"Our Greatest Dignity is Not to Be Parts of a Body": Catherine of Siena and Simone Weil on Disability in Christ's Mystical Body

Emma Ceruti
Costly Vulnerability: Rethinking Mystical Openness in Disability Theology

Kevin Lazarus, Wesley Theological Seminary
Vulnerability, Mysticism, and the Tainted Legacy of Jean Vanier

Susan McElcheran
Vulnerable Unknowing as Interdependent Strength: Intellectual Disability and The Cloud of Unknowing

Respondent

Kirk VanGilder

M21-201
Hosted by: Ligare: A Christian Psychedelic Society
Theme: New Book Discussion: Psychedelics and Soul Care: What Christians Need to Know: A Conversation with Jaime Clark-Soles
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 3 (Second Floor)

This session engages Psychedelics and Soul Care: What Christians Need to Know (2027 Eerdmans) by Jaime Clark-Soles, which draws on biblical studies to address the place of intense religious experiences in Christianity, including psychedelic spiritual experiences. Clark-Soles integrates biblical/theological sources with the recent proliferation in scientific research into the potential mental health benefits of psychedelic substances like psilocybin and LSD, noting that biomedical researchers often link the "mystical-like" experiences with the mental health benefit. Clark-Soles was a volunteer research participant in the widely-reported Johns Hopkins University study on the "Effects of Psilocybin on Religious and Spiritual Attitudes and Behaviors in Clergy from Various Major World Religions" (2025), which led to the formation of Ligare: A Christian Psychedelic Society. (contact: coleturn@pts.edu).

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, presiding

Panelist

Lynn Huber
Bryan McCarthy, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg
Rebekah Miles
Lisa Gezon, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Jessica Felix Romero
Geoffrey Ready, University of Toronto

Respondent

Jaime Clark-Soles

A21-231
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: New Directions in the Study of South Asian Religions
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street 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 Hindu epics in colonial educational discourse, religious frameworks in animal welfare societies in Kolkatta, the materiality of Bay Area Jagannath worship, Mughal emperor Jahangir’s religious self-representation, and aniconic worship in Tamil Nadu. In doing so, panelists consider the intersections of religion with gender, caste, sexuality, and literary texts.

Aarti Patel, Pennsylvania State University, presiding

Papers

Sarah Levenstam, University of Chicago
"Becoming Philosophical": Moral Imagination and the Ethics of Street Dog Care in Kolkata

Justin Grosnick, Graduate Theological Union
Jagannath’s Travels and Transformations from Puri to the Bay: A New Material Biography of Deities

Henry Brefka, The University of Chicago
Jahangir's Oddities

David Monteserin Narayana

Worshipping the Invisible: Hindu Aniconism as a New Direction in the Study of South Asian Religions

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A21-214
Hosted by: Ecclesiological Investigations Unit
Theme: Prophetic Imaginations and Ecclesial Futures
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

The panel begins with David De La Fuente's "Urbi et Orbi." The paper argues that Pope Francis' ecclesiology is *ad intra* dependent on Henri de Lubac and his sense of the past, and *ad extra* oriented to the future by way of Michel de Certeau.

Moving our focus from the Catholic church to a feminist church, Kathryn Common and April Blaine's "From Preservation to Flourishing" introduces and extends four marks of the feminist church to reimagine it as a living organism, enabling a different kind of ecclesial future.

Sheryl Johnson's "Challenging the Myth of 'Change Resistance'" reframes the view of ecclesial conflict from a sign of communal resistance to a sign of communal grief.

Finally, Carmen Landsdowne's "Competent to Implement, Unable to Imagine", contends that ecclesial futures for North American churches cannot be funded into existence. Rather, they require a prior act of prophetic imagination.

Henry Kuo, Eden Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

David De La Fuente, Fordham University
Urbi et Orbi: The Lubacian Past and the Certeauian Future of Pope Francis's Prophetic Ecclesiology

Kathryn Common
April Blaine, California Institute of Integral Studies
From Preservation to Flourishing: Feminist Ecclesiology and the Church as Living Organism

Sheryl Johnson
Challenging the Myth of "Change Resistance": Employing Pastoral Storytelling to Empower Prophetic Imagination for Ecclesial Futures

Carmen Lansdowne, Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto
Competent to Implement, Unable to Imagine: Prophetic Ecclesiology, Institutional Investment, and the Ecclesial Futures of North American Churches

A21-212
Hosted by: Confucian Traditions Unit
Theme: Re-Enchanting Confucianism: The Global Revival and Contemporary Practice of Confucianism as a Lived Religion
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

This panel reframes the study of Confucian religiosity by shifting attention from the definitional question of whether Confucianism "is" a religion to the historical and social processes through which it becomes religious under modern conditions. We argue that contemporary Confucian revival should be understood not as the passive survival of a premodern tradition, but as a polycentric process of re-enchantment after disenchantment. Following modern secularization, revolutionary iconoclasm, and the recasting of Confucianism as philosophy, ethics, or cultural heritage, new religious forms emerge through ritual reconstruction, local practice, affective experience, and institutional experimentation. The four papers trace this process across Maoist China, contemporary rural Fujian, American divinity schools, and modern settings of filial practice and end-of-life care. Together, they contribute to broader discussions of lived religion, secularity, religion-making, and institutionalization, while offering a new methodological framework for studying Confucianism as a dynamic and adaptive religious tradition.

Shumo Wang, Duke University, presiding

Papers

Zhaoshen Wang, University of Wisconsin–Madison
The Afterglow Before the Storm: The Forgotten Confucian Revival of 1962 in Maoist China

HU HSU, University of California, Berkeley
Returning to the Local Pantheon: The Cult of the Neo-Confucian Scholar Wang Yangming in Contemporary China

Wenxu Zahng, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Beyond Interpersonal Morality: Three Modalities of Filial Piety as Lived Religion in Contemporary Practice

Respondent

Anna Sun, Duke University
Business Meeting
Bin Song
Michael Ing

A21-224
Hosted by: Qur'an Unit and Scriptural Reasoning Unit
Theme: Reading Across Scriptural Lines: The Bible, the Qur’an, and the Book of Mormon
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This panel brings together two traditions of reading the Qur’an with the Bible: those of Qur’anic Studies and Scriptural Reasoning. It features four papers investigating the Qur’an’s intertextual relationship with the Bible and Rabbinic tradition followed by a response and group discussion led by the AAR’s Scriptural Reasoning Unit.

Samuel Ross, Texas Christian University, presiding

Papers

Abdulla Galadari, Khalifa University of Science & Technology
A Simile from Those Who Have Gone Before You: The Light Verse and Its Jewish Metaphor

Adam Kotsko, North Central College
Iblīs, Job, and the Problem of Evil

Morgan Davis, Brigham Young University
Typology after the Bible: The Qurʾān and the Book of Mormon as Post-Biblical Scripture

Respondent

Nauman Faizi

A21-221
Hosted by: Political Theology Unit
Theme: Reproducing the Future: Political Theology, Life, and the Governance of Futurity
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

How is the future imagined, secured, and reproduced—and what theological assumptions underwrite these efforts? This panel examines how political projects organize life in the name of futurity across contexts including early modern natural philosophy, Nazi racial ideology, transpacific messianism, and AI-driven climate governance.

Central to these accounts is the role of reproduction—biological, social, and conceptual—in sustaining visions of collective destiny. Whether through racialized family, scientific metaphor, or persistent messianic expectation, the future emerges as something to be cultivated and redeemed. At the same time, contemporary governance increasingly translates life into objects of prediction and management, reframing vulnerability as risk.

Taken together, these papers show that projects of futurity depend on theological imaginaries of life, purity, and redemption—even when they appear secular—and invite critical reflection on what forms of life such futures demand.

Brandy Daniels, presiding

Papers

Madeline Levy
(Re)producing "Aryans" for a Redemptive Future: The Strategic Ambivalences of Family in Nazi Germany

Abel Aruan, Villanova University
Bacon's Wedding: Political Theology of Family and Royal Marriage Tradition in Redargutio philosophiarum, 1608

Der Lor, Emory University
The Messianic Figure is Dead, Long Live Messianism: A Transpacific Political Theology of Hmong Messianism

Kyong-Jin Lee, Fuller Theological Seminary
Toward an Ethics of Vulnerable Flesh in the Age of AI and the Anthropocene

Business Meeting
An Yountae
Michelle Sanchez

A21-216
Hosted by: Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit
Theme: Resilience of the Human and the More-than-human from the Ring of Fire to the Baltic
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

This panel explores the resilient lifeworlds at the heart of human and more-than-human communities across Pasifika's Ring of Fire and the Baltic region. Together, the papers trace how Indigenous epistemologies, spiritualities, and ecologies endure—and resist—amid ongoing colonial, religious, and developmental pressures. Across these diverse contexts, the session highlights how Indigenous knowledge systems and spiritual ecologies persist and adapt under

colonial, religious, and economic pressures. From the endurance of Pasifika cultural practices and the negotiation of digital media by the Baduy, to the systemic marginalization of Indigenous religions in Indonesia and the threatened sacredness of Baltic forests, these papers together illuminate the ongoing struggles—and remarkable resilience—of communities working to sustain their cultural worlds and protect the more-than-human relations that anchor them.

David Walsh, Gettysburg College, presiding

Papers

Jonathan Cabrera, Yale University
"Can you teach me everything I need to know?": Yo'amte Siha in the Mariana Islands, the Taotao Mo'na, and Indigenous Futures

Eglute Trinkauskaite, Maryland Institute College of Art and LLTI
Baltic Forests as Terra Nullius and Future Survival lessons

A21-204
Hosted by: Buddhism in the West Unit and Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit
Theme: Resisting Empire: The Experiences of Buddhist Chaplains in a Safety Net Hospital
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This roundtable convenes six Buddhist chaplains serving in a U.S. urban safety-net hospital to examine how Buddhist spiritual care is practiced, and contested, inside institutions shaped by borders, austerity, and racialized inequality. Framed for the AAR presidential theme "Future/s," the session treats chaplaincy as a frontline site where futures are negotiated: patients facing deportation, homelessness, addiction, and terminal illness; hospitals navigating shrinking public resources; and Buddhism becoming embedded in secular-professional workplaces. Through brief anonymized "micro-verbatims" and a facilitated, case-based reflection method, participants will identify the Buddhist resources most operative at the bedside and the advocacy moves chaplains can make within clinical teams. Attendees will leave with transferable tools for justice-oriented spiritual care and a research agenda linking Buddhism-in-practice to innovations in chaplaincy.

Jeffrey Ng, Harvard Divinity School, presiding

Panelist

Maya Lee, Harvard Divinity School
Jiamin Li
Dhondup Palden

Respondent

Samuel Lowe, Boston Medical Center

A21-200
Hosted by: African Diaspora Religions Unit and African Religions Unit
Theme: Responding to "Yoruba Mythology"
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

The anthology *Yoruba Mythology: Tales of the Òrìṣà from West Africa and the Diaspora* (forthcoming, October 2026) assembles hundreds of myths, legends, and folktales from West Africa, Brazil, and Cuba into the first collection of its kind in scope and geographic range. Drawing on more than fifteen years of fieldwork, study with Ifá and òrìṣà priests and priestesses, and engagement with diaspora communities, the volume brings together myths of the òrìṣà myths, general folktales, and Ijapa trickster tales in a single, accessible English-language anthology. Its introduction advances a series of arguments about the nature of Yoruba mythology as a living, primarily oral tradition that resists the fixity of the printed page: its nonlinear philosophy of time, its refusal of the sacred/secular and good/evil binaries familiar to Western readers, its omnivorous capacity to absorb material from Islam, Christianity, and other traditions, and its remarkable expansion across the Atlantic and, increasingly, across the globe.

Panelist

Robin Garcia
Nicholas Judt

Respondent

Oludamini Ogunnaike
Ayodeji Ogunnaike, McGill University

A21-230
Hosted by: Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit
Theme: Ritual Transformations of Sickness
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

This panel examines how diverse communities, in their quests to alleviate suffering, pursue ritual and interpretative transformations of sickness as a way to negotiate or transcend medical frameworks. The first paper explores the transformative power of ritual songs through Hindu deathbed chanting, Jewish pre-burial recitations,and Shipibo Amazonian plant medicine songs. It examines “the ritual song paradox” as the productive tension within which physical affliction coexists with metaphysical perfection. The second paper focuses on the healing ritual of

ayahuasca in the Church of Santo Daime in Brazil, arguing that healing results from community, bodily discipline, and a collective understanding of ayahuasca as sacred. The third paper studies Ghanaian immigrants in the US and their interpretative transformations around health as a result of migration. The final paper frames the psychiatric injection of antipsychotics as a "secular sacrament" administered within the modern "liturgy of the clinic" for schizophrenic patients within South Korea.

Kristy Slominski, University of Arizona, presiding

Papers

Michelle Bentsman
Afflicted, Deathless, Divine: The Ritual Song Paradox

Larissa Carneiro, Duke University
Ayahuasca in Brazil: When Religion Meets Science

Moses Biney, Rice University
Religion, Medicine, and Health Decision-Making among Ghanaian Immigrants in the United States.

Shin Kwon Kim, Ajou University School of Medicine
Yong Hyuk Cho, Ajou University School of Medicine
The Secular Sacrament of the Needle: Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics, the Liturgy of the Clinic, and the Epistemological Convergence of Evidence-Based Medicine and Faith-Based Healing in South Korea

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A21-226
Hosted by: Religion and Economy Unit
Theme: Securing a Future: Speculative Practice across Religion and Economy
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This roundtable considers modern speculative practices that deploy the future to arrange power, property, and people in the present. Under the rubrics of religion, divination and prophetic practices are perhaps the most obvious uses of the future to accrue present day power and capital. Like religion, modern political economies offer their own forensics of the future, with quantitative speculation and risk management central to relationships of exchange and capital accumulation. Interest rates, insurance policies, demographic projections, and patent laws join millenarian prophets and fortune tellers in accumulating power and capital through speculation about the future. With research spanning divination patents, national insurance benefits, eugenicist economic models, and Christian nationalist infrastructures along the U.S.-Mexico

border, roundtable participants examine the social function of future(s) at the intersection of religion and economy in modern life.

Marissa Mira Perea, University of Virginia, presiding

Panelist

Andrew Ventimiglia
Angela Xia, University of Notre Dame
Charles McCrary, Eckerd College
Rebecca Bartel
Kevin Rose, University of Virginia
Business Meeting
Esra Tunc, San Diego State University
Kati Curts, Sewanee: The University of the South

A21-223
Hosted by: Queer Studies in Religion Unit
Theme: Sociality toward Subversive Temporalities
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This session is an exploration of the subversive temporalities and geographies that shape trans and queer life. From Turkey to Brazil, from Black and Latinx House Ballrooms to hospice facilities, tenderness, softness, and joy contrast with the hardness of the state as this panel considers the reorganizing potential of space and place in transforming sociality, while looking to quotidian practices and strategies that make up queer, trans, and two-spirit livability and sustainability.

El/yse Ambrose, University of California, Riverside, presiding

Papers

Joseph Coyle, University of Nebraska Omaha
Sleepovers, Silliness, and the Sacred in São Paulo: Minor Methods of Queer and Trans Pentecostal Study

Sahin Acikgoz, University of California, Riverside
Futurity and Circulation: On Family, Religion, and the Figure of Trans Life

Geran Lorraine, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Queer Fugitive Joy and the Future It Breaks Open

Ludger Viefhues-Bailey

Washing the Dying: Labor, Worldmaking, and Action in the Queer Temporalities of AIDS Hospice Care.

Business Meeting
Kori Pacyniak, Indiana University - Center for Religion and the Human
El/yse Ambrose, University of California, Riverside

A21-233
Hosted by: Teaching Religion Unit
Theme: Teaching Religion with and in Community: Experiential Pedagogies, Public Ritual, and Mediated Sacred Space
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This session examines how religious traditions are taught, learned, and embodied in contemporary spaces beyond formal classrooms, including temples, museums, and public urban streets. The session explores how participation, material culture, ritual reenactment, and spatial design function as powerful pedagogical frameworks. Moreover, the session invites scholars and educators to rethink what counts as "teaching religion" by attending to embodied learning, relational mentorship, affective experience, and community-based pedagogy in secular and pluralistic contexts.

Joseph Tucker Edmonds, presiding

Papers

Xiandong Shi, University of the West
Learning Buddhism through Practice: Experiential Religious Education in Chinese American Temple Youth Programs

Hillary Langberg
Tibetan Artworks on View: Interrogating Pedagogical Efficacy and Experience in Major Museum Displays of Esoteric and Ritually-Focused Buddhist Art

Abby Mohaupt
Via Crucis: Community-based Religious Political Training

A21-220
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit and Religion and Cities Unit
Theme: The Contested U.S. City
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

This session examines the contestation of power and meaning within U.S. cities and how religious communities navigate these dynamics. Papers include an analysis of how the Ismaili Center in Houston negotiates minority recognition through aesthetic architectural choices, an exploration of the New York Police Department's turn to institutional Catholicism in the twentieth century in response to corruption scandals, and an ethnographic study of how the Church of the Common Ground (CCG) in Atlanta transforms a public park into a locus of healing for people whose daily life is structured by surveillance, scarcity, and displacement.

Brandon Bayne, presiding

Papers

Ehsan Sheikholharam, Kennesaw State University
Aesthetic Governance and Minority Recognition: The Ismaili Center in Houston

Klaus Yoder
From Corruption to Holiness: Claiming Catholicism in the New York Police Department

Mengfei Su, Candler School of Theology - Emory University
Spatial Liturgies and Urban Healing: The Church of the Common Ground as a Mobile Heterotopia in Atlanta's Woodruff Park

Respondent

Isaiah Ellis

A21-203
Hosted by: Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit
Theme: The Future of Bonhoeffer Studies
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This session brings together a diverse panel of distinguished scholars to reflect on the future of Bonhoeffer studies.

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

Panelist

Philip G. Ziegler
Lisa E. Dahill, Hartford International University of Peace & Religion

Anthony Reddie, University of Oxford
Michael Mawson
Lori Brandt Hale

A21-210
Hosted by: Religion and Memory Unit and Space, Place, and Religion Unit
Theme: The Land Remembers I: Monuments, Memorials, and the Material Afterlives of Suffering
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

These case studies argue that monuments and memorial forms are not static commemorations but dynamic sites of interpretation. Bringing together case studies from South Korea, the United States, and Canada, this session explores how memory is embedded not only in archives but also in land, architecture, and religious structures and how the afterlives of suffering are mediated.

In the first paper, the Holocaust Museum established by Korean Christian Zionists localizes a global narrative of trauma within a geopolitically divided landscape. The second paper examines mid-twentieth-century New Jersey, and how racialized futures were materially produced and subsequently obscured through the shuttering of a black Episcopal church to finance a white one. The final paper examines the religious dimensions of the internment of Japanese Canadians, and how Japanese Buddhist spaces serve as a locus for negotiating memory, loss, and renewal.

Kendall Marchman, presiding

Papers

K. Christine Pae, Denison University
Politics of Spatiality and Eschatological Fantasy: The Holocaust Museum in the Demilitarized Zone of the Korean Peninsula

Emily Pruszinski
Traces Remain: A Case Study in Memory and Forgetting from Christ the King, Willingboro

John Martens, McMaster University
Building on The Ashes of the Ancestors: Steveston Buddhist Temple's Sanmon Gate and the Afterlives of Internment

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A21-218
Hosted by: Motherhood and Religions Unit and Religion and Food Unit
Theme: The Nourishing Maternal? Motherhood, Food, and Religion

Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

The intertwined realms of motherhood and food practices shape religious communities, identities, and imagined futures. Food is a central site through which religious meaning, ethical formation, and cultural continuity are enacted, and mothers often act as the primary religious enculturators, through feeding, withholding, preparing, cultivating, sharing food, and passing on culinary and dietary traditions to maintain the continuity and future of the community.

From maternal cannibalism in the Hebrew Bible inverting the maternal role of nourisher, to state positioning of dairy cows as suffering mothers who nourish humans with milk extracted largely by men, to rural Ethiopian Orthodox women preparing bread and coffee for St. Mary's day during a fast, to an interfaith donation garden providing culturally- and religiously-appropriate food as maternal care for the community, this panel shows how foodways, implemented by those who perform mother work, are powerful arenas of regulation, resistance, risk, and hope.

Aldea Mulhern, Brandon University, presiding

Papers

Rachel Willoughby, Wheaton College
Mothers, Hunger, and Siege: The Reversal of Maternal Provision in 2 Kings 6 and Lamentations

Talia Burnside, Morgan State University
Mother Machines and Mister Milk: Animal Motherhoods and the Patriarchal Nature Religion of American Dairy

Chiharu Kamimura, Boston University
Tending Devotion through Everyday Food Practices: Women’s Preparation and Sharing around a Saint’s Day in a Rural Ethiopian Orthodox Community

Courtney Wilder
The Mothers of the Garden: Religious Pluralism, Food Justice, and Urban Agriculture

Business Meeting
Aldea Mulhern, Brandon University
William Schanbacher, University of South Florida
Pascale Engelmajer

A21-213
Hosted by: Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit and Nineteenth Century Theology Unit
Theme: Theology Bridging East and West During the “Long Nineteenth Century"
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

This panel explores the interaction between nineteenth-century Western philosophy and religious thought and their reception within Eastern Orthodox theology in the “long nineteenth century” (1789- 1918). Papers will explore Semyon Frank's engagement with Schleiermacher's theological anthropology, the reception of Friedrich Nietzsche in Semyon Frank, parallels between Alexei Khomiakov and Johann Adam Möhler's ecclesiology, and the relationship between Schelling’s philosophy and Russian personalism.

Mark McInroy, University of Oxford, presiding

Papers

Annette G. Aubert
Connecting West and East: Semyon Frank and Friedrich Schleiermacher’s Anthropology

Nathaniel Wood, Fordham University
Theosis, Individuality, and the Reception of Nietzsche in Frank's Godmanhood

Alexander Hurtsellers, Christ the Saviour Seminary
Sobornost and Einheit: Johann Adam Möhler and Alexei Khomiakov’s Organismic Ecclesiologies

Luke Roberts
“Restrainers of Rationality”: Pavel Florensky’s Ascetic Reception of Schelling’s Personalism

Respondent

Philip Dorroll, Wofford College

A21-235
Hosted by: Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: Tomorrowlands: Disney and the Future of Religions
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

What kinds of futurity are imagined in the cultural flows surrounding the Walt Disney Company, and how are they implicitly and explicitly religious? This lightning round brings together scholars of film, ethnography, theory, history, and more for provocations on this year’s presidential theme.

Since 1955 Disney theme parks have always been spaces of temporal displacement. “Here you leave today and enter the world of yesterday, tomorrow, and fantasy,” says the plaque above the entrance to Disneyland in Anaheim, California and to the Magic Kingdom in Florida. Today, the Walt Disney Company and its fans engage with futures in the films, the parks, through online

roleplay games, on streaming platforms, at fan conventions, and in timeshare vacation homes. Each panelist will present a tightly focused 3-5 minute provocation–an example based on their research in the Disney pantheon– followed by robust discussion among the presenters and between the panel and the audience.

Jennifer Caplan, University of Cincinnati, presiding

Panelist

Jodi Eichler-Levine, Lehigh University
Adrienne Krone
Joshua Parks, University of Virginia
Che Pieper
Karis Ryu

A21-211
Hosted by: Comparative Theology Unit
Theme: Transhumanism, deification, and dharma religions: pushing the boundaries of the human condition
Saturday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

In recent years, the swift advancement of transhumanism, propelled by the rapid progress of artificial intelligence, has transformed what was once a marginal phenomenon into a significant cultural movement. Transhumanism's goal is to shift humanity's evolution from the biological to the technological sphere, seeking to free our species from physical- and indeed, spatial and temporal limitations. So far, scholarly work on transhumanism has largely focused on its physical and biological dimensions. The purpose of this panel is to expand this conversation, bringing current scientific perspectives on transhumanism in dialogue with the Christian notion of deification, as well as with analogous transformative practices from Tibetan Buddhism and the tradition of yoga. The panel will underscore the points of contact between these traditions and transhumanism's striving for self-transcendence, while foregrounding the tension between transhumanism's longing to overcome physical limitations, and the ascetical character of the religious practices seeking *theōsis*, *nirvāna*, or liberation.

Kristin Johnston Largen, Wartburg Theological Seminary, presiding

Panelist

Thomas Cattoi, Angelicum Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas
Gayle Woloschak
Stuart Sarbacker
Nathan Jowers
Seth Hart

Business Meeting
Katie Mahowski Mylroie
Martha L. Moore-Keish

P21-201
Hosted by: North American Association for the Study of Religion
Theme: Challenges and Futures
Saturday, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 12 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

As the IAHR's North American regional association, NAASR will be hosting a conversation at this year's in-person meeting about the state of academia in this region. While the phenomenon of broad-scale institutional challenges is not new (guest editor Gary Lease devoted a special issue of MTSR in 1995 to the "pathologies" characterizing the study of religion in North American universities), the specific infrastructural characteristics of these challenges deserve our attention. Especially since our theoretical commitments ask us to examine the structural workings of power, we are in the intellectual position to explore this moment in higher education not only in terms of its machinations and effects but also in terms of prospective responses and resistances to the same.

We are assembling a discussion with a roundtable format to facilitate analysis that is as forthright and productive as possible. How should we respond to the rapidly changing economic and institutional landscape of academia? How can we demonstrate to our students the importance of thinking critically so as to give them language and tools for their own navigations of the social worlds in which they find themselves? What exactly is our work as scholars of religion in relation to the profession right now? To be clear, and in keeping with NAASR's priorities regarding method and theory, these questions and their answers should not reinforce a theory/praxis binary. On the contrary, we want to assemble a group of thinkers who can put our particular skills to work in proactively undermining that very binary and demonstrating how needful our scholarship is in this moment.

M21-202
Hosted by: Theology Without Walls
Theme: The Theological Depth of Women's Lived Experience: In, Out, Around, and Beyond the Walls
Saturday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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Katherine Janiec Jones, presiding

Papers

Linda Mercadante
Women Exploring Theology Where You Least Expect It

Janice Poss, Claremont Graduate University
Critical and Spiritual Aspects of Women's Lived Experience Outside the Walls of Their Religions

Susan Power Bratton
Women's Lived Experiences, Environmental Health, Institutional Theological Ecology, and Ethical Prioritization

Rita Sherma
Women and the Right to Think Theologically: Contemplation, Tradition, and Theology Without Walls

Jennifer Hill
Reconfiguring Forms of Religious Authority Through Baha'i Teachings

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P21-200
Hosted by: Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
Theme: Life-Changing Encounters: What Buddhist-Christian Dialogue Does to Who We Are
Saturday, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row E (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

This session explores a question at the heart of interfaith encounter: how does sustained, meaningful dialogue with another tradition shape who we are? What happens to our own religious identity and lived practice when we engage deeply with another faith—especially when that engagement does not involve conversion?

A21-301
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Bioethics and Religion Unit
Theme: AI and the Moral Imagination: Reshaping Character, Care, and Corporeal Dignity
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

The papers in this panel critically engage the complex ethical and religious questions raised by the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Altogether, the authors confront the potential of AI systems to transform—and be transformed by—abiding concerns of human

dignity, vulnerability, and flourishing. The first author considers AI's possible role in virtue formation, while proposing Niebuhrian virtues of moral vigilance as an important check on advancing AI. The second author argues that the creation of compassionate AI in healthcare, especially eldercare, requires modeling multiple dimensions of human suffering and health agency in support of phronetic attention and compassionate response. With the final paper, the authors attend to the development of AI-enabled virtual autopsy systems. These AI-generated digital reconstructions of the postmortem body raise new bioethical and religious concerns about corporeal dignity, privacy, and the governance of digital bodily data.

Amy Michelle DeBaets, presiding

Papers

Greg Peterson
Advancing AI, Virtue Enhancement, and the Need for Niebuhrian Virtues of Moral Vigilance

Mark Graves
Phronetic Attention to Suffering and Health Agency in Artificial Intelligence Systems

Hajung Lee
Jun Woo Lee, Ewha Womans University Cancer Center for Women
Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality in Virtual Autopsy: Religious Bioethics and the Future of Death Investigation

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A21-326
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism.
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

I am proposing an author meets critics roundtable panel on Professor SherAli Tareen's new book *Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism* (Oneworld Publications, 2026). *Aspirations and Tensions*, published in the prestigious *Makers of the Muslim World Series*, presents a comprehensive and detailed yet accessible analysis of the life and key Arabic and Persian texts of arguably the most influential and prolific early modern South Asian Muslim scholar Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi (d. 1762). In addition to examining the complexities and ambiguities of Waliyullah's thought in a range of disciplines including Islamic law, politics, Qur'an translation and commentary, and Sufism, the book also considers his contested legacy in modern South Asia and in Arab contexts beyond South Asia. Discussants, from varied intellectual positionalities and career stages, will engage the key arguments and interventions of this book, and highlight its significance to the academic study of Religion.

Suvaid Yaseen, presiding

Panelist

Ali Altaf Mian
Marcia Hermansen, Habib University
Junaid Quadri
William Sherman
Tariq Jaffer

Respondent

SherAli Tareen

A21-308
Hosted by: Daoist Studies Unit
Theme: Beyond the Broken Rite: Negotiating, Legalizing, and Enduring Ritual Failure in Chinese Religion
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

While Daoism is fundamentally a liturgical tradition, scholarship has frequently focused on the history and structure of its rites rather than the precarious mechanisms of their efficacy. This panel interrogates the productive category of "ritual failure" in Chinese religion, Daoist rites in particular, moving beyond functionalist binaries of success versus failure. Taking Catherine Bell's analysis of Lu Xiujing, specifically her insights on the bureaucratic metaphor and the priesthood's consolidation of efficacy, as a theoretical departure point, we examine how failure is constructed and managed across three distinct contexts: Song dynasty anecdotal literature, late imperial stele inscriptions, and contemporary Daoist practice in Hunan. The papers argue that ritual breakdown is rarely a void; instead, it serves as a critical diagnostic site where moral boundaries are hardened, institutional authority is reorganized through legal coordination, and divine-human relations are intimately recalibrated through bodily technologies. Collectively, we demonstrate that efficacy in Daoist rituals resides not merely in the completion of a rite, but in the sophisticated management of its potential collapse.

David Mozina, presiding

Papers

Jingyu Liu, Rollins College
When Heaven Says No: Karma, Justice, and Ritual Failure in Song-dynasty China

Ye Yuan, EPHE-PSL
Managing Ritual Failure: Jiaobei Divination and Daoist Negotiation in Central Hunan

Yumeng Zhang
When Rituals Fail to Coordinate: Legalizing Efficacy in Late Imperial Southern Shanxi Steles

Respondent

David Mozina

A21-333
Hosted by: African Diaspora Religions Unit
Theme: Carework: Re/Claiming Futures - AI, Spiritual Care, and Futurity in 21st Century African Diaspora Religious and Spiritual Life
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

AI has entered the African Diaspora Religions (ADR) space. Known for embodied cosmologies and epistemologies where knowledge, communication, and communion are deeply mapped into and evoke from the body - where feet, hands, head, back, and chest, and the rhythm and placement of hips, shoulders, and buttocks speak to, about, and from divinities, and where touch and sound center and elevate encounters - ADR practitioners have begun augmenting and/or transforming their practices through the use of AI as a spiritual medium. Simultaneously, practitioners are themselves transforming AI. At once captivated and captured by futures of religious and spiritual life, on the frontier of new worlds, ADR practitioners are harnessing AI in powerful ways to stay intimately connected across the globe - traversing uncharted territories of spiritual/religious realms near and far. In this session presenters explore, examine, and/or interrogate AI and ADR practitioners' fluid concepts of power, agency, embodiment, stasis, and futurity.

Scott Barton, presiding

Papers

Afia Sun Kim, City Seminary of New York
Spoken Word: An Emerging Practice of Sharing Testimony among Next-Generation African Diaspora Christians

Saran Sidime
Warped Intimacies, Vulnerability, and Psychic Absorptions: The Spiritual and Political Lives of Ghanaian Youth Under the Global Order

Business Meeting
KB Dennis-Meade, Northwestern University

A21-329
Hosted by: Vatican II Studies Unit
Theme: Catholicism: End or Beginning? Reflections on The Unfinished Manuscript by Mary Daly
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This roundtable session examines the unfinished manuscript written by Mary Daly, *Catholicism: End or Beginning*. Now published as a volume, the roundtable brings together its contributors to extend the conversation started by this text. The central conviction of this panel is that Daly is indeed a part of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition – whether Daly and Roman Catholic scholars would claim one another or not. As such, this panel hopes to bring Daly back into conversation with Catholic theologians. In so doing, the panel will explore two major elements of Daly's life and intellectual journey: (1) her time as an observer at the Second Vatican Council (2) the significance of her engagement with Catholic theologians in *Catholicism: End or Beginning (CEB)* as well as the points of intersection between Daly Studies and Catholic Studies. The panel will conclude with a reflection on the ecclesiological challenges her thought offers the church today.

Jennifer Rycenga, San José State University, presiding

Panelist

Mary E. Hunt
Xochitl Alvizo, California State University, Northridge
Lisa Sowle Cahill

Respondent

Meg Stapleton Smith, Fordham University

A21-304
Hosted by: Collective Karma and Karmic Collectives: Conversations without Borders Seminar
Theme: Collective Karma and Phenomenologies of World-Making
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This roundtable asks how karma-informed phenomenologies of world-making might reframe existing conversations about structural violence, collective responsibility, and the shared creation of just and plural worlds. The six panelists engage Buddhist karmic frameworks as resources for understanding how collectives – communities, institutions, movements, pilgrims, memorializers, consumers – participate in the ongoing making/unmaking and maintenance of shared worlds.

Scholars working at the intersection of Buddhist philosophical and practice traditions, critical social analysis, social organizing, phenomenology, and ethnography broadly engage questions to consider how inherited karmic formations unfold prereflectively to naturalize structures of harm and constrain our collective imagination; and what forms of practice, memorialization, or political and community organization demonstrate the possibility of karmic transformation at a more expansive scale.

Gregory Snyder, Union Theological Seminary, presiding

Panelist

Brooke Lavelle
Sonam Kachru, Yale University
Duncan Williams
Susanne Kerekes, Trinity College
Kevin Poe

A21-313
Hosted by: Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit
Theme: Emergent Sites of Care: Innovation and Solidarity in Chaplaincy
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

Sponsored by *Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care*, this session brings together three presenters exploring how chaplains are reimagining spiritual care to meet emerging forms of collective suffering and transformation. One paper examines transdisciplinary approaches to chaplaincy that foster resilience amid ecological and social crises, expanding spiritual care into community and organizational settings. A second presentation investigates the expanding field of animal and interspecies chaplaincy, highlighting how practitioners sustain ethical presence in contexts of human–animal grief and transition. The third paper offers a compelling vision of labor solidarity as a spiritual and vocational commitment for healthcare chaplains, grounded in feminist and Catholic social ethics. Together, these papers illuminate new frontiers of chaplaincy practice—shaping compassionate responses to ecological, interspecies, and labor realities of our time.

Leigh Miller, presiding

Papers

Nisha Shah, California Institute of Integral Studies
“Natural” Partnerships for the Future—Chaplains Filling Emergent Climate/Community Needs Working with Non-Profit Organizations, Schools, and Community Groups

Sarah A. Bowen

Mapping Veterinary Chaplaincy, Animal Chaplaincy, and Interspecies Spiritual Care: Expanding the Boundaries of Chaplaincy Practice

Hillary Bylund, Fordham University
From Patient Room to Picket Line: Solidarity and the Future of Healthcare Chaplaincy

Business Meeting
Leigh Miller
Aaron Klink

A21-335
Hosted by: Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Unit
Theme: Examining Martin Luther King Jr.'s Theology of Nonviolence
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

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Barbara Annette Fears, Howard University, presiding

Papers

Hyungjin An, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Transnational Christology: E. Stanley Jones, Gandhi, and the Making of Nonviolent Theology

Philip Scholer, Vanderbilt
The American Roots of Non-Violence: King, Niebuhr, and the Crisis of Liberalism

Darren Yau
Black Internationalism's Political Theology: Martin Luther King Jr. on Boycotts and War Abolition in the World House

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P21-304
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Japanese Religions
Theme: From Animism to Animation: Authors Meet Critics
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

This authors-meet-critics session introduces a book co-authored by three scholars representing religious studies, environmental humanities, and the history of science. Responding to calls to

reconsider human-nonhuman relations in a time of global polycrisis, the book offers a novel framework for imagining connections between animated matter and political action through case studies focused on animated films, ritual practices, and robotics. Rather than studying *animism* as a specific cultural tradition distinct from non-animistic cultures and their supposedly disenchanted worldviews, the authors argue that practices of *animation* are universal, even as they stress that specific methods of animation differ according to time and place. The authors investigate how humans make persons through rituals, use the technique of compositing to construct worlds in illustrated films, and evoke feelings to forge intimacy with robots. Additionally, they show how humans deanimate entities that have become unruly, dysfunctional, or unwanted.

Barbara Ambros, presiding

Panelist

Aike Peter Rots, University of Oslo
Jolyon Thomas

Respondent

Mariangela Carpinteri
Mayanthi Fernando
Natasha Heller
Darryl Wilkinson, Dartmouth College

A21-322
Hosted by: Religion and the Social Sciences Unit
Theme: Futures from the Fringe: Extraterrestrial Encounter and the Religious Imagination of Alternative Worlds
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

What happens to human futures when they are organized around the possibility of contact with beings who are, by definition, unknowable? This panel brings together three scholars working at the intersection of religion, science, and culture to examine how extraterrestrial life and intelligence–scientifically speculated, culturally contested, and personally experienced–function as sites where alternative futures are imagined, struggled over, and made livable. Each paper examines communities operating at the margins of both institutional science and mainstream religion that are nonetheless engaged in urgent, consequential work to open new horizons: epistemically, cosmologically, and therapeutically. Together, the papers illuminate how UFO subcultures, alien abduction communities, and the scientific practices of SETI researchers function as laboratories for the anthropology of the future–spaces where competing imaginations contest the shape of what is possible, who has the authority to say so, and what forms of life will be viable.

Connor Martini, Princeton University, presiding

Papers

Connor Martini, Princeton University
Scientific Divination: Prediction, Enchantment, and the SETI Future

J. Tyler Odle
Archives of Trauma: Traumatic Mystical Experience, Therapy, and the Lives of Anomalous Experiencers

Molly Johnson, Rice University
Whose Truth Is Out There?: UFOs and Spiritual-Communicative Knowledge Production

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A21-323
Hosted by: Religion, Sport, and Play Unit
Theme: Games, Religion, and Contemporary Politics
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

Many people who play games understand their actions as political. This session examines the role of games and sport in creating space for political expression, forging a humanistic outlook, and informing theological understandings.

Terry Shoemaker, Truman State University, presiding

Papers

Kianna Mahony
Games, Games, Games: Humanism's Understanding of the Parallel Arenas of Life

Benjamin Ball
The Dish is not the Recipe: What Dungeons and Dragons reveals about Doctrine, Fundamentalisms, and Use

Magda Mohamed
Proposed Paper Title: Playing for American Muslim Girlhood in a time of Genocide

Respondent

Kimberly Diaz

Business Meeting
Terry Shoemaker, Truman State University
Kimberly Diaz

A21-305
Hosted by: Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop and Religion Unit
Theme: Hell Before the End: Tupac Shakur's Racial Eschatology and the Carceral World
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

This session examines the concept of "the world" in the thought of Tupac Shakur as a space structured by the negation of Black life through sexual stigmatization, carceral surveillance, and Black male vulnerability. Through close readings of tracks such as "F*** the World" and "Blasphemy," it argues that juridical power and media function as mechanisms that render Black men objects of suspicion and punishment.

Situating Shakur within broader traditions of Black critique, the paper engages the notion of "thingification" to show how Black male life is constructed as inherently culpable. It further argues that Shakur articulates a form of racial eschatology, drawing on dispensationalist discourse while reorienting it toward present conditions. In this account, hell is not deferred but lived. Against this "world," Shakur gestures toward a counter-eschatological horizon of Black peace and release.

Robert Saler, presiding

Papers

Bryson White
"My Only Fear of Death is Coming Back Reincarnated": Tupac Shakur and the Condemnation of the World

Respondent

James Hill, Boston University
Tamisha Tyler
Business Meeting
Daniel White Hodge
Justin Smith, Azusa Pacific University

A21-318
Hosted by: North American Hinduism Unit

Theme: Hidden Hinduisms: Expansion, Engagement, and Enculturation of Hindu Traditions in North America
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

This session consists of four ethnographic studies of local, often marginalized forms of lived Hinduism practiced in North America. Focused on peculiar, sometimes hidden varieties of Hindu devotion and practice, these projects represent various engagements between devotees and their traditions as they have been reinterpreted and recreated for new contexts, times, and cultures. The panel's emphasis on ethnography not only de-centers Indian Hinduism, but also shifts the focus away from scholarly and other conventions and towards devotee perspectives and experiences, as well as material realities. Addressing cases ranging from deity devotion and contemporary events to Hindu communities and even inter-religious mixing, these papers depart from traditional narratives. Collectively they invite renewed reflection upon Hinduism and diaspora, and call our attention to the frequently ignored creativity and originality employed under the broader heading of Hinduism as it expands into, engages with, and enculturates itself into ever new times and places.

Tracy Pintchman, presiding

Papers

Diana Dimitrova
The Brahma Kumari Tradition in Canada

Vijaya Nagarajan
Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess 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, Graduate Theological Union
Expanding into Diaspora and Home: The Myriad Dimensions of Devotion to Jagannath in the SF Bay Area

Aditya Bhattacharjee, Sewanee: The University of the South
The Sacred Table: Thai Food, Hindu Gods, and Restaurant Religion in North America

Respondent

George Pati
Business Meeting
Rupa Pillai
Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver

A21-309
Hosted by: Ecclesial Practices Unit
Theme: Imagining and Imaging the Future Church
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

How might arts-based and imaginative practices function not simply as modes of representation, but as sites of theological reflection and ecclesial imagination? How might embodied experiences serve as loci for imagination of the future/s?

This session explores the methodological possibilities that emerge when ethnographic research engages creative and arts-based practices. Papers in this session examine how drawing, creative writing, and image-focused mixed-methods research function as methodological tools that both reveal and generate theological insight. By foregrounding methodological innovation, this conversation will highlight how ethnographic research can both document and generate new possibilities for understanding the future(s) of church.

Kathryn House, Meadville Lombard Theological School, presiding

Papers

Shih-Hsien Chen, Wycliffe College, the University of Toronto
Lived Ecclesial Images and Theological Models: A Dialogue between Social-Scientific Inquiry and Ecclesiology

Joshua Zentner-Barrett
“Draw Me an Anglican Worship Service”: Studying Coloniality in Canadian Anglican Liturgy Through Drawing

Shauna Kubossek, Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto
Theopoetics and Testimony: Reimagining Theology Through Communal Creative Writing

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A21-315
Hosted by: Korean Religions Unit and Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: K-pop, Demon Hunters, and Beyond: Korean Religion and Popular Culture
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

The 2025 film *KPop Demon Hunters* exposed many fans to elements of Korean religion which the film draws upon. This film is just one recent example of how popular culture, from or based on Korea, intersects with Korean religion. In response to this growing phenomenon, this session features three papers that address the representation of Korean religion within popular culture

media. The first paper examines *KPop Demon Hunters* as a hybridized example of musical exorcisms in Korea, referencing elements of shamanism, Christianity, and Buddhism together with K-pop and appealing diverse audiences. The second paper argues that the "Jesus Birthday Cafe" (Jesus Saeng-ca), organized by Korea Campus Crusade for Christ, refashions Christian devotion through the affective and participatory grammar of K-pop fandom. The final paper approaches *KPop Demon Hunters* as a tool for education about Korean religion, taking advantage of the film's broad popularity and its heavy reliance on Korean religious influences.

John Grisafi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, presiding

Papers

Candy Gunther Brown
Musical Exorcisms from Kut to K-pop: Music, Spirit Power, and Fandom across Korean Religions in KPop Demon Hunters

Eunjin Jeon
The K-pop-ification of the Divine: Affective Fandom and Colonial Visuality in the "Jesus Birthday Cafe"

John Grisafi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Teaching Korean Religion with KPop Demon Hunters

Respondent

Minjung Noh

A21-317
Hosted by: Moral Injury and Recovery in Religion, Society, and Culture Unit
Theme: Moral Injury and Imagining a Hopeful Future
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

This paper session engages with the concepts of "moral injury" and recovery in light of AAR's 2026 presidential theme of *the future*. The session places moral injury in global, transnational, and intersectional contexts, and shows how the forms of oppression and injury the concept can illuminate and clarify discursively also become sites for recovery, possibility, solidarity, and imagining a viable future together. With the rise of authoritarianism around the world, dystopian visions of the future are increasingly popular. Oppressive and unjust ethical, religious, legal, and moral frameworks in the West disguised as progress, fairness, and civility have resulted in amplified physical, semiotic, and psychic violence directed toward minority groups across the globe. Spiritual, communal, and cultural forms of response and response-ability to these moral,

epistemic and hermeneutic conditions motivate the proceedings of the session and address the fate of our futurity in an age of precarity.

Lily An Kim, DPT, Asia Pacific Peace Museum, presiding

Papers

Armond Dorsey, Harvard Divinity School
Let the Heavens Rejoice: A Framework for Developing Gospel Music Interventions against Intersectional Stress and Moral Injury among Black Women

Bhakti Mamtora, University of Arizona
Visions of Hope Between Epistemic Injustice and Moral Injury

Mengfei Su, Candler School of Theology - Emory University
When the Caregiver Collapses: Moral Injury, Diagnostic Ambitions, and Systemic Failure in the Nanking Safety Zone (1937–1938)

Business Meeting
Michael Yandell, Brite Divinity School
Nigel Hatton

P21-302
Hosted by: National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR)
Theme: NABPR Annual November Meeting
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

The Annual November Meeting of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion is open to all AAR/SBL conference attendees. The session will feature a presidential address by Laura Rodgers Levens, BSK and a plenary address by Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein, Brite Divinity School. The two presentations will include QandA and be followed by a brief business session.

Adam English, Campbell University, presiding

Panelist

Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University
Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein
Business Meeting
Laura Rodgers Levens

A21-314
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Islam, Gender, Women Unit
Theme: New Publications in the Study of Islam, Gender, and Women: Roundtable Discussions
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

This session highlights recent scholarship in the study of Islam, gender, and women through an interactive, small-group format. Presenters will be discussing works by Mahjabeen Dhala, Aziza Shanazarova, Zeynep K. Korkman, and Deanna Ferree Womack. Attendees will have access to slides/handouts in advance in order to select the table discussing the work of their choice for an in-depth conversation. The session will conclude with brief reports from each facilitator to the full audience. Business meeting to follow.

Zaynab Shahar, presiding

Panelist

Moina Maaz
Aziza Shanazarova
Zahra Moballegh, Harvard Divinity School
Echo Thompson, Princeton University
Business Meeting
Tazeen Ali
Zahra Ayubi, Dartmouth College

P21-307
Hosted by: Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts
Theme: New World Revelations: Scriptural Creativity in Nineteenth-Century American Protestantism
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

The occurrence of new revelations and "bibles" in nineteenth-century America—which opened up new spiritual worlds on a grand scale—remains a perennial topic of fascination for students and scholars of American history, but these have rarely been studied in relation to each other. This panel features a selection of authors from an upcoming volume that seeks to explore new revelations and scriptural production across ethnic and linguistic lines. While by no means exhaustive of the incredibly prolific production that characterized this period, the contributors give sustained, comparative, and theoretical analysis to a wide range of newly created or "discovered" scriptures. The authors take inspiration from relational models that avoid essentializing scripture as an inherently special type of text as opposed to one given this status by

a community of believers but also strongly ground their analysis within the cultural context of the nineteenth-century United States and Protestant-derived scriptural practices.

Jan Stievermann, University of Heidelberg, presiding

Papers

Seth Perry
Lifting the Chair You're Standing On: Theorizing Scripturalization in the Nineteenth Century

Everett Messamore
"Given on Spiritual Authority": Revelatory Tensions in Spiritualist Alternative Gospels

Tisa Wenger, Yale University
"He Has Not Instructed Them by Books": Divine Authority on Kiikapoi Lands

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A21-334
Hosted by: Foucault and the Study of Religion Seminar
Theme: Normativity, Biopolitics, and the Dangerous Individual
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

Normativity, Biopolitics, and the Dangerous Individual across narrative epistemology and the biopolitics of migration, colonialism, and beyond.

Daniel Schultz, presiding

Papers

Evelyn Isais, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Survival of the Fittest": Populationist Influence on U.S. Colonial Expansion

Joshua Urich
Affect, Detective Fiction, and Foucault's "Literature of Criminality"

Adam Herpolsheimer, Temple University
Canguilhem, Foucault, and the Concept: A Discursive View of 'Biological Sex' in Trans-exclusive Radical Feminism

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A21-310
Hosted by: Energy, Extraction, and Religion Seminar
Theme: Pedagogies of the extractive zone
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

Recognizing the importance of higher education classrooms for shaping future activists, community organizers, engineers, city planners, politicians, and tech entrepreneurs, this round table builds on the theme of counter-extractivist futures with a focus on pedagogy, curricula, and higher education. At this session we will ask five pedagogues with experience teaching topics on or related to energy, extraction, and religion to reflect on the implications of a turn toward critical engagement with religion, energy and extraction in classrooms and university settings broadly. In particular, they will discuss how the insights and theories from this seminar and this transdisciplinary array of fields should be incorporated into religious studies and theology courses; how a refusal of extractivism should change our methods of teaching and mentoring; and how attention to the nexus of energy, extraction, and religion might facilitate broader efforts to rethink and reimagine higher education.

Evan Berry, presiding

Panelist

Darren Dochuk
Judith Ellen Brunton, Rice University
Joseph Witt, University of Tennessee
Victoria Machado, Rollins College
Dominic Wilkins, Berea College

A21-302
Hosted by: Childhood Studies and Religion Unit
Theme: Politics of Resistance and Resilience in Childhood Studies
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

By focusing on children's resistance and resilience, the panel explores how these values are formed through literature, religious education, community life, and cultural experiences. Instead of viewing resilience as a personal attribute, the session traces how resilience is created through social, religious, and imaginative frameworks, and how children engage in resisting restrictive narratives and constructing new possibilities for themselves and their communities.

Rode Molla, Virginia Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Naomi St. André, Princeton Theological Seminary
What Does God Know About Teenage Girls? On Brio Magazine, Conservative Girlhood, and the Politics of Power

Rebekah Gordon, Transylvania University
Abandoning the Child: A Case for the Future We Deserve

Lydia Willsky-Ciollo
"'For Children Who Care to Learn': Making Resilient Children in Patty Gray's Journey to the Cotton Islands"

Business Meeting
Rode Molla, Virginia Theological Seminary
Kishundra King, Union Theological Seminary

A21-320
Hosted by: Religion and Cities Unit
Theme: Precarity and Survival in Urban Asia
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

This session explores religious encounters with experiences of precarity, scarcity, and survival in Asian cities. Papers include an engagement with an art installation as a representation of the precarity of garland craftspeople of Bangkok, an examination of Mumbai as a case study of religious pluralism as a highly contested, continuous process, and a theological reading of the relationship between finance-dominated capitalism and the built environment in Seoul.

Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra, presiding

Papers

Ray Buckner
Flowers, Garland Makers, and Discard in Contemporary Bangkok

Rachel Nireso Paralkar
Aamchi Mumbai: A Case Study of Interreligious Engagement in Mumbai, India

Donghyung Lee, Yale University
Moon Villages (Dal-Dongnae), High-Rise Apartments, and Urban Renewal: A Theological Critique of Seoul's Capitalism and the Built Environment

Business Meeting
Fatimah Fanusie

A21-300
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Publicly Engaged Religion Mapping Project: Launching A New Resource
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4A (Ballroom Level)

This session debuts the Publicly Engaged Religion Mapping Project Website, which includes a database for public scholarship projects on religion, methodological and analytical recommendations, and relevant funding sources. The website aims to generate resources and information about publicly engaged religious scholarship to foster a network of invested scholars, practitioners, and communities. The project is a collaboration of AAR, ACLS, the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, and funded through the Henry Luce Foundation.

Claudia Schippert, American Academy of Religion, presiding

Panelist

Daphne Weber, American Council of Learned Societies

P21-303
Hosted by: Religious Education Association
Theme: Religious Studies as Disciplinary Training for Academic Advising in the Liberal Arts
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

Where can religious studies scholars fit in the context of a half century long shift towards a career-minded neoliberal university? How can the skills cultivated in the study of religion contribute meaningfully to the future of the liberal arts when religious studies departments are being cut? This roundtable offers reflections on one example of a public R1 university where religious studies scholars have been central to the implementation of a new advising model integrating academic advising with liberal arts classroom teaching. Each scholar will reflect briefly upon how our disciplinary training produces an academic toolbox that allows us to perform the kind of "musical listening" and interdisciplinary pedagogy that are the hallmarks of academic advising and the first-year experience. Additionally, we will touch upon how the theoretical underpinnings, methods, and conversations in religious studies have prepared us to implement a transformative academic experience that affects thousands of undergraduate students annually.

Meira Kensky, presiding

Panelist

Chance Bonar
Creighton Coleman
Eric Hilker

A21-328
Hosted by: Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar
Theme: Responding to the Violence in Palestine/Israel
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This session, planned in cooperation with the Religion and Social Conflicts Unit, will look at various responses to violence as interpreted by Jewish proponents of non-violence, Christian Zionists in South Korea, and Christian and Qur'anic theologians

Papers

K. Christine Pae, Denison University
Blood Allies and Sacred Suffering: The Holocaust Museum and Christian Zionist Narratives in South Korea

Nicole Simpson
The (Theo)Politics of Innocence: Deconstructing the Innocent-Guilty Binary in Counterterrorism Discourse on Gaza

Respondent

Mitri Raheb, Dar al-Kalima University

A21-324
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Schleiermacher Unit
Theme: Review Panel of The Oxford Handbook of Friedrich Schleiermacher: New Horizons for Research
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This roundtable discussion will consider the themes and approaches of the recent volume, *The Oxford Handbook of Friedrich Schleiermacher*, edited by Andrew C. Dole, Shelli M. Poe, and Kevin M. Vander Schel. This volume provides authoritative interpretations of developing trends in contemporary Schleiermacher scholarship from both German and English-speaking scholars and seeks to offer a comprehensive view of Schleiermacher's writings and influence from a wide

range of interpretive perspectives. It includes treatments of Schleiermacher's historical, philosophical, and theological works, including lesser-known contributions that are largely overlooked in Anglophone scholarship, while also locating his work in a broader intellectual context and highlighting the ongoing constructive potential of his thought to inform contemporary avenues of scholarly research in philosophy, theology, and the study of religion.

Kevin Vander Schel, presiding

Panelist

Andre Munzinger
Jacqueline Marina
Mary J. Streufert

Respondent

Andrew Dole
Business Meeting
Calli Micale, Palmer Theological Seminary
Kevin Vander Schel

P21-306
Hosted by: Hagiography Society
Theme: Saints as Divine Evidence? The Hagiological Argument for the Existence of God
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

An interdisciplinary panel on Robert MacSwain's *Saints as Divine Evidence: The Hagiological Argument for the Existence of God* (Cambridge University Press, 2025). This session explores the potential epistemic significance of unusually holy lives, drawn from multiple secular and religious traditions, for contemporary religious belief and practice, with 'saints' considered under three distinct categories: (1) radical altruists, (2) embodied sources of religious experience, and (3) enacted life narratives. Chaired by Hans Harmakaputra (Philosophy, Religion, and Classics, Augustana University), the panel includes Barbara Zimbalist (Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Meghan Page (Philosophy, Loyola University Maryland), William Wood (Theology and Religion, Oxford University), and Jonathan Tran (Duke Divinity School). The author, Robert MacSwain (School of Theology, University of the South), will respond.

Hans Harmakaputra, presiding

Panelist

Barbara Zimbalist

Meghan Page
William Wood, University of Oxford
Jonathan Tran, Duke University

Respondent

Robert MacSwain, Sewanee: The University of the South

A21-327
Hosted by: Special Session
Theme: Senior Scholars Review Their Early Work
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

In “Senior Scholars Review Their Early Work,” four senior scholars from diverse fields will evaluate their earliest work with responses from two junior scholars. Using the genre of the academic review, this panel will consider the afterlives of academic works and how we can marshal those afterlives in the service of the field.

Nathanael Homewood, University of Minnesota, presiding

Panelist

Mary-Jane Rubenstein
Richard B. Turner
Leela Prasad, Brown University
Thomas A. Tweed
Candace Lukasik, Harvard Divinity School

Respondent

Hassan Henderson-Lott

A21-325
Hosted by: Sikh Studies Unit
Theme: Sikh Political Imaginaries: Sovereignty, Pluralism, and Global Futures
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

This panel examines Sikh political thought and its engagements with sovereignty, nationalism, technology, and global governance. Spanning early modern Panjab, the colonial/technological encounter, and contemporary US politics, these papers map how Sikh communities imagine and

negotiate political authority across time. Together they offer a rich, multi-scalar account of Sikh political imaginaries — constitutional, spiritual, technological, and diasporic.

Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds, presiding

Papers

Prabhsharanbir Singh
Sikh Spirituality in the Technocene

Simranjit Steel, University of Memphis
Tensions between Religious Nationalism and Pluralism: The Sikh Case

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A21-306
Hosted by: Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit and Esotericism Unit
Theme: Spirituality and Politics on the 75th Anniversary of Adorno's "Theses Against Occultism"
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

The 75th anniversary of Adorno's *Minima Moralia* and his "Theses Against Occultism" provide a timely occasion to assess the confluence of spirituality and politics. Panelists on this roundtable will examine how spirituality, esotericism, and the occult have been vital to political movements and actions on both the left and the right. Though Adorno was sharply critical of astrology and other New Age beliefs, this panel considers the metaphysical tradition as a whole to be neither good nor bad, just as traditions like Christianity and Islam are neither good nor bad. Instead, relying on their original empirical research, panelists will analyze the specific ways in which metaphysical beliefs and practices have guided and buttressed activity across the political spectrum. As metaphysical spirituality moves from the margins of society into mainstream and popular culture, it's more important than ever to consider its political range and the modes to which it tends.

Matthew Harris, presiding

Panelist

Joseph Blankholm
Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina
Dana Logan, University of North Carolina At Greensboro
Abraham Hawley Suarez
Lucia Hulsether
Sam Levin, Yale University

A21-307
Hosted by: Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit
Theme: Teaching with Native American and Indigenous Religions on Stolen Land
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4C (Ballroom Level)

This roundtable asks: What can the future of teaching Native American and Indigenous religious studies course look like in contrast to earlier practice? How can theories and methods from Native American and Indigenous studies offer critical interventions and adaptations to religious studies pedagogy, making *any* course more responsive to questions of social justice? In lieu of probing Indigenous religious traditions themselves, this roundtable argues for understanding the relationship between Indigenous religions, power, and justice. This involves interrogating the study of religion as an academic field and considering Indigenous contestations and engagements with traditional approaches. Together, the participants speak to the sacred of place, Native American and Indigenous relationality, and ethical relations between Native American and Indigenous, and non-Indigenous peoples. Altogether, this roundtable offers non-specialists who find themselves teaching content related to Native American and Indigenous religions a resource for a decolonized, future-oriented pedagogy.

Jennifer Graber, presiding

Panelist

Greg Johnson
Anca Wilkening, University of Pennsylvania
Paul Gareau
Abel Gomez, San Jose State University

Respondent

Melissa Borja

A21-312
Hosted by: Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit
Theme: Theological Anthropology, Ethics, and Virtue in the Context of Emerging Technologies: Critical Perspectives on Transhumanism
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

These papers analyze the external creation of our human capacities - including both our minds and even our wombs. These papers offer three critical perspectives for analyzing these emerging technologies: 1) the fundamental alienation that might accompany new reproductive

technologies, 2) the potential distortion of the Image of God caused by botched human enhancements, and 3) the importance of metaphysical precision for resolving ethical debates. Together, these papers seek to clarify challenges within the debates around transhumanism and human enhancement over theological anthropology, ethics, and virtue.

Tom Berendt, Arcadia University, presiding

Papers

Weijia Cheng, Boston University
"Superintelligence" as Caricature: A Bioconservative Critique of "Intelligence" Enhancement Derived from the Theistic Ethics of Robert Merrihew Adams

Mary Nickel
Born of Woman: artificial wombs and the future of piety

Seth Villegas
The Future of the Dialogue Between Religion and Transhumanism: An Evaluation

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P21-305
Hosted by: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
Theme: Thinking Teaching: Strategies, Stories and Insight to Improve Teaching
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

Teaching theology and religion is both intellectually rigorous and deeply human work—shaped over time by experimentation, challenge, and discovery. This panel celebrates the release of Thinking Teaching: Stories, Insights, and Strategies to Ignite Reflection, Discussion, and Imagination by Nancy Lynne Westfield. Drawing on decades in the classroom, the book invites educators to pause and reconsider the habits, assumptions, and possibilities that shape their teaching. Join a distinguished group of teacher-scholars as they reflect on enduring questions of vocation, creativity, and growth. Together, they will explore how educators sustain imagination, adapt to changing contexts, and continue learning across a lifetime of teaching. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the book and learn about a new Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion grant opportunity to support faculty conversations in their own institutions.

Panelist

Lisa Thompson
Willie James Jennings
Katherine Turpin
Boyung Lee, Iliff School of Theology

Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

A21-321
Hosted by: Religion and Migration Unit
Theme: Transcultural Religion, Recognition, and Resistance in Contemporary Migration
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

This session investigates the intersections of transcultural theory, recognition, and moral theological formation in contemporary migration. Utilizing philosophy, ethnography, and theology, contributors examine how religious communities shape migrant agency amidst mobility and inequality. The panel first explores transculturalism through recognition theory, analyzing how belonging is negotiated—and sometimes contested—within religious spaces. A moral-theological critique follows, centering on African Pentecostalism; it challenges the "sanctification" of mass emigration and proposes alternative frameworks that value local presence and resistance. Finally, ethnographic studies of Ghanaian migrants in Australia and transit migrants elsewhere illustrate how religious discourses serve as "knowledge systems" to contest marginalization. By framing transcultural religion as a site of active moral and political negotiation, this session moves beyond neutral cultural descriptions. Instead, it highlights how recognition and resistance are formed within the "Third Space" of migration, offering new insights into the spiritual and social landscapes of global diasporas.

Sana Patel, presiding

Papers

Lucy Pulamau
Liberation in Transit: An Unending Longing for Home

Dorcas Dennis
Transcultural Discourses of the 'Unwanted': African Migrants' Pentecostal Constructs of Belonging in Australia

Inioluwa Akinwale, Yale University
Protagonists of an African Future: Pentecostalism, the Japa Phenomenon, and the Moral-Theological Crisis of Africa's Youth

Li-Wei Liu
Transculturality, Recognition Theory, and the Shaping of Migrant Identities in the Canadian Immigrant Ecclesial Context

Business Meeting
Itohan Idumwonyi, Gonzaga University
Sana Patel

A21-303
Hosted by: Chinese Religions Unit and Daoist Studies Unit
Theme: Vernacularizing with Techne in Chinese Religions
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

How did people share arcane, complex, or unfamiliar religious ideas and practices across sociocultural divides throughout Chinese history? Responding to and building on the "praxis turn" in the study of Chinese religions, this panel employs the heuristic notions of vernacularization and *techne* to further examine the lived processes in which religious knowledge was organized, transmitted, and embodied into practice. Through developing and deploying craft, technique, or skill, religious practitioners, lay people, and what we might call non-specialist users participated in a religious ecology that foregrounded varying forms of efficacies. Informed by preexisting conceptualizations of vernacularization and *techne*, the four papers in this panel explore case studies from the middle, late imperial, and contemporary periods to analyze Buddhist, Confucian, Daoist, and "popular" attempts to produce and implement broad-based religious knowledge and practices for apotropaic, didactic, healing, and other purposes.

Papers

Ziqi Xuan
Animal Spirits and Narrative Techne: Vernacular Knowledge Production in Contemporary Pilgrimage in Northern China

Sophia Shi, Princeton University
Beasts for the Living: Talisman, Divination, and Ritual Practice in Dunhuang Manuscripts
Sophia Shi,

Katherine Alexander, University of Colorado, Boulder
No Illicit Thoughts: Practical Confucian Sexual Ethics in the Qing

Respondent

Elena Valussi

A21-331
Hosted by: Yogācāra Studies Unit
Theme: Yogācāra and the Body
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

In the idealist model of Yogācāra Buddhism, the mind is always prioritized, and the body is considered only secondary. If we follow the typical understanding of Yogācāra, the body is a creation of *ālayavijñāna*. Thus, the body may seem completely dependenton *ālayavijñāna*. This panel challenges this assumption and highlights the significance of the body in the Yogācāra tradition. At least in practical contexts, the body is very important. Nobody can live without a body. Meditative practice, in particular, involves both body and mind. This panel highlights a perspective often overlooked by researchers focused predominantly upon mind. The panel has three papers. The first sheds light on the relationship between *ālayavijñāna* and the body in early Indian texts. The second discusses the significance of sense faculties in the Yogācāra model of cognition. The third examines how the mind-body relationship centered on *ālayavijñāna* was transformed in a later Tibetan tradition.

Eyal Aviv, presiding

Papers

Nobuyoshi Yamabe, Waseda University
The Mind-Body Relationship in Early Yogācāra: Centering on Ālayavijñāna

William Waldron
Yogācāra as vijñāna-vāda: Examining Perception in Light of our Sense Faculties (indriya) and Categories (vikalpa)

Rae Dachille
Disentangling the Flower from Its Perfume: Āśraya and Ālaya in a Tibetan Tantric Text

Respondent

Eyal Aviv

M21-300
Hosted by: Manchester Wesley Research Centre
Theme: Women and Witness in the Wesleyan and Holiness Traditions
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza Court 4 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

This session highlights the research of scholars associated with the Manchester Wesley Research Centre. This year's session will focus on distinctive forms of ministry within the broader holiness and Methodist-adjacent movements. This session will give particular attention to the ministry lives of women within the Wesleyan world. The MWRC supports theological, historical, biblical,

and practical scholarship within the broader Wesleyan world, and encourages dialogue across the family of traditions which make up Methodism, Pentecostalism, and the holiness movement.

Panelist

Priscilla Pope-Levison, Southern Methodist University
David Bundy
Mark Maddix

Hosted by: Tours
Theme: Whiskey and History Walking Tour
Saturday, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Offsite

On this 3-hour walking tour of Downtown Denver, you'll find out about Whiskey and Denver History! Denver was truly the Wild West, founded over a barrel of whiskey where dreams and fortunes were made, won, and lost.

We'll start at Denver's oldest Irish Pub, learn about and sample Irish Whiskey. You'll learn about the local whiskies that settled the West and the roles they played in the founding of the city. Along the way you'll hear tales of the pioneers that made Denver what it is today!

We like to say this is a History Tour with drinking, not a pub crawl. Expect a lot of fun, light History and a variety of Whiskies. We end the tour at a local distillery where you can sample their aged spirits. Total walking distance is 1.5 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.

M21-301
Hosted by: Theology Without Walls
Theme: Planning Meeting: How Far Has TWW Come, and What Is Yet to be Done?
Saturday, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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Jerry L. Martin, University of Colorado, Boulder, presiding
John Thatamanil, presiding
Jeffery D. Long, presiding
Demian Wheeler, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, presiding

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A21-332/S21-329
Hosted by: AAR's Ritual Studies Unit and SBL's Ritual in the Biblical World Section
Theme: Ronald L. Grimes' Contributions to Ritual Studies
Saturday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 502 (Street Level)

Ronald L. Grimes has had a critical influence on the development of ritual theory and the practice of ritual studies over the last fifty years. To both honor and evaluate Grimes's work, this roundtable features a talk by Grimes, structured as a dialogue and discussion, followed by three papers on the appropriation and critical development of his insights in ritual studies across world religions. In recognition of the scope of Grimes's influence, the session includes panelists from both the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion.

Joy Palacios, University of Calgary, presiding
Goran Zivkovic, Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, presiding

Papers

Ronald L. Grimes
Joy Palacios, University of Calgary
Dialogue with Ronald L. Grimes on the Nature of Ritual Studies

Sarah Pike
Burning the Land as a "Deep World" Ritual

Naphtali Meshel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
How Rituals Work and How to Work on Rituals: ATribute to Ronald Grimes

Respondent

Ronald L. Grimes
Courtney Applewhite

M21-504
Hosted by: Religious Studies Review
Theme: Religious Studies Review Annual Meeting
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 15 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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.

A21-411
Hosted by: Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit
Theme: “What We Can't Write: Writing About Death and Material Culture in Academia”
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This panel considers how scholars who study memory objects of the dead navigate the expectations of academic writing and disciplinary boundaries that treat these objects as dead, secular objects and/or non-supernatural signifiers of the past. Papers examine writing about memory objects of the dead in disciplines that treat the objects themselves as dead objects; scholarly methods and/or editorial processes that privilege secular methods for studying and writing about memory objects of the dead; narratives about memory objects of the dead from scholars’ own lives that reveal challenges in writing about death and material culture; and tensions between writing about death and material culture and dedicating books in memory of the dead.

Jamie Brummitt, presiding

Papers

Seth Gaiters, North Carolina State University
The Monograph as Relic: Paratext and the "Autobiographical Refusal"

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada
Analog Absences: Cassette Tapes and the Materiality of Forgetting

Santiago Pinon, Texas Christian University
Presence in What Remains: Memory Objects, Lament, and the Limits of Scholarly Distance

Bryson White
The Afterlife of Materiality: Presence and Distance in the Academy

Evans Baah Mintah, Columbia Theological Seminary
Writing About the Dead as Present: Akan and Ga Memory Objects and the Limits of Academic Language

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A21-415

Hosted by: Ethics Unit and Political Theology Unit
Theme: Aligned with What? AI, Power, and Technology Governance
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

It's often stated that AI technology should be aligned to human values, but as OpenAI admits, "Aligning AI systems with human values also poses a range of other significant sociotechnical challenges, such as deciding to whom these systems should be aligned." AI cannot be aligned to *human values*, but always *particular humans' values*, and presumably the values held by a powerful minority. This panel considers the ways developments in AI research and usage interact with existing power dynamics. What theological and ethical resources might help us grasp the operation of power and mode of governance anticipated by the widespread use of AI? How might our fields help us to articulate the human over and against these models, both in response to the question of "alignment" and to the question of the *kind* of "human" guidance or oversight that LLMs continue to require?

Nicholas Hayes-Mota, presiding

Papers

Benjamin Ball
Providence and algorithmic prescription: new directions for theology and AI

Saman Fazeli, University of Chicago
Aligning the Self: Affect, Ethics, and the Limits of Alignment Discourse in Artificial Intelligence

Berit Reisenauer Guidotti, Boston College
Christian Political Theology, Algorithmic Power, and Algorithmic Possibilities

Madeline Gold
In Whose Image: Technocratic Desires as Eugenic Dysphoria

A21-403
Hosted by: Bioethics and Religion Unit
Theme: Anthropology, Agency, and Audience: Contested Future(s) in Bioethics and Religion
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

The papers in this session envision potential futures for bioethics and religion while insisting that the field can remain neither conceptually thin nor politically naïve, especially while operating in a contested moral and conceptual landscape. The authors of the first paper address criticisms of public bioethics as prioritizing autonomy over vulnerability and lived moral experience. They

argue that though public bioethics operates within a pluralistic society, the field does not have to abandon acknowledgment of human fragility and relationality. The second author promotes dialogue between psychiatry and theology to craft more robust accounts of moral responsibility and anthropology. Together, these fields can enrich bioethics through more nuanced understandings of agency, virtue, and moral development. Looking to the future of public health and public bioethics, the final author identifies a need for further engagement with neo-conservative Christianity and how theological/political identities now intersect with and shape attitudes toward expertise and authority.

Mark Lambert, presiding

Papers

Bharat Ranganathan
Jeremy Sabella
What Kind of ‘Anthropology’ Does Public Bioethics Require?

Charles Baczyk-Bell
Towards a future of culpability: 'personality disorders' and their theological challenge

Shaunesse' Jacobs Plaisimond, University of South Florida
Neo-Conservative Christianity as Bioethics' Future Interlocutor

Business Meeting
Amy Michelle DeBaets
Mark Lambert

A21-429
Hosted by: Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics: Candace Mixon's Fatimeh Matters in Contemporary Iran: Shi'ism, Gender, and Culture (Bloomsbury Academic, 2026)
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

Historically often treated as a woman of little significance, Fatimeh has become a key figure in the project of state building after the Iranian Revolution as the Iranian state, clerics, artists, and others have reimagined the importance of the mother of the Twelver Shi'i Imamate. Mixon’s book walks us through a wealth of material objects that reveal Fatimeh’s crucial role in the culture, politics, and religious ideology of contemporary Iran. She traces Fatimeh's presence in objects and places as varied as pamphlets, sacred manuscripts, the holy shrine cities of Mashhad and Qom, and the tile factory of the Astan-e Quds-e Razavi Foundation – a site where religious material culture is literally manufactured. This panel brings together readers who will discuss Mixon's contribution to the study of Islam, Shi'ism, Iran, gender, material culture, and religion.

Matthew Hotham, presiding

Panelist

Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union
Susanna L. Drake
Michael Muhammad Knight
Candace Mixon, Reed College
Andrew Coates
Business Meeting
Haley Gabrielle, Greensboro College
Ludwig Noya

A21-422
Hosted by: Mormon Studies Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics: Elise Boxer's Mormon Settler Colonialism: Inventing the Lamanite (2025)
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This panel brings together scholars of religion and Indigenous studies to respond to Elise Boxer's book *Mormon Settler Colonialism: Inventing the Lamanite* (2025). Boxer examines Mormon religious ideologies and the production of the Lamanite subject position using settler colonialism as a theoretical framework. She takes an episodic approach to examine various historical moments that produce and give meaning to indigeneity, prompting us to deeper understanding of how American settler belonging and Indigenous erasure happen through the figure of the hyper-visible Indigenous as Lamanite in Mormon settler-theologies. Author and panelists will discuss how the book and its Indigenous Studies framework contribute not only to scholarly understandings of Indigenous lived experiences, but to the Mormon religious tradition, by advancing our understanding of how indigeneity is imagined, produced, and embedded in Mormon religious structures.

Sarah Dees, Iowa State University, presiding

Panelist

Jerome Clark, Arizona State University
Tiffany Hale
Elisha Chi, University of California, San Diego
Zara Surratt

Respondent

Elise Boxer

A21-418
Hosted by: Law, Religion, and Culture Unit and Religion and Human Rights Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics: Elizabeth Shakman Hurd's Heaven Has a Wall: Religion, Borders, and the Global United States
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Silver A (Third Level)

Join us for a discussion of Elizabeth Shakman Hurd's new book *Heaven Has a Wall: Religion, Borders, and the Global United States* (University of Chicago Press, 2025). This timely work argues that borders are religious as well as political objects and that Americans share a "bipartisan border religion," which includes reverence for national security, a liturgy for immigration, and an eschatological foreign policy. In this panel, scholars in religious studies, sociology, and anthropology will discuss the work and its implications, with a response from Prof. Hurd.

Laura Alexander, University of Nebraska, Omaha, presiding

Panelist

Greg Johnson
Jaeeun Kim, University of Michigan
Janelle Adams
Joseph Coyle, University of Nebraska Omaha
Carlos Ruiz Martinez

Respondent

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

A21-425
Hosted by: Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Unit
Theme: Beauty, Meliorism, and Radical Hope in Tragic Times
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

Pragmatists and Empiricists often present what seems like an optimistic philosophical and/or theological worldview. They tend to believe the world can be improved through human effort, even if such progress is piecemeal and imperfect. However, such melioristic optimism is challenged in our time as we face rising authoritarianism, war, mass death, and the threat of environmental collapse among other tragedies. In a time when many people feel locked in a repeating cycle of hopelessness, this panel investigates resources for continued hope while

maintaining realism about difficult circumstances. Beauty is the common thread that unites the papers in this session as they develop accounts of meliorism as a ethical ideal, a poetic vision of reality, and the capacity to imagine new possibilities in a fragile world.

Papers

Tessa Finley
'The Uses of Flowers Were Infinite': Beauty After Catastrophe in Lorraine Hansberry's Post-Apocalyptic Play

Greylyn Hydinger, Gannon University
Beauty as Metaphysical Realism, Meliorism as Ethical Ideal

Nathan Garcia
Beauty in the Midst of Tragedy: Hillesum, García-Rivera, and the Poetic Universe

Business Meeting
Mary Friedline
Xavier Pickett, Cornell University

A21-413
Hosted by: Ecclesial Practices Unit
Theme: Belonging and the (Re)imagining of Ecclesial Life
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

What will it mean to belong in the future church—and who gets to decide?

This session explores how emerging forms of ecclesial life are reshaping the meanings and practices of belonging. Drawing on empirical and ethnographic research, these papers examine how belonging is being reshaped across migration, digital mediation, and ecumenical practice, inviting us to rethink belonging as fluid, contested, and newly configured for the future church. This conversation will open new possibilities and raise urgent questions about identity, authority, and community.

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

Papers

Christopher The, Association of Theological Schools
"Not Always…Permanent": Belonging, Departure, and the Ecclesial Imagination of Indonesian American Emerging Adults

Mykayla Turner
"We Also Worship in This Space": Applying Ritual Systems and Receptive Ecumenism to a Visual Ethnography of Two Ecumenical Shared Ministries in Rural Canada

Hyemin Na, Wesley Theological Seminary
If Moses had an iPhone: Christian AI Influencers, Racialized Aesthetics, and the Mediatization of Ecclesial Authority

Business Meeting
Rebecca Spurrier, Columbia Theological Seminary
Rachelle Green, Wabash Center for Teaching & Learning in Theology and Religion

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P21-404
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars of Religion
Theme: Book panel on Luis R. Rivera Rodríguez's forthcoming book, Doing Theology Latinamente: The Protestant Latinx Academic Movement: 1965-1979 (Fortress Press, 2026)
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4C (Ballroom Level)

This book represents the first attempt to propose a historical explanation, narrative, and chronology on how a network of Hispanic/Latinx leaders in Protestant denominations, ecumenical organizations, and in a few seminaries constituted a socio-religious movement that provoked and produced important changes in ATS-seminaries, including the production of a way to do theological education and reflection *latinamente*.

Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Saint Louis University, presiding

Panelist

Daniel Ramirez
Octavio Esqueda
Erica Ramirez
Ramon Luzarraga

Respondent

Luis R. Rivera

A21-428
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit

Theme: Book Panel: Feeling Like Lovers
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This book panel explores Matthew Thomas Miller's new book, *Feeling Like Lovers: Affect in Medieval Sufism*. The session will feature two panelists who will reflect on the book, followed by a response from the author and further discussion.

Shea Watts, presiding

Panelist

Donovan Schaefer, University of Pennsylvania
Cyrus Zargar, University of Central Florida

Respondent

Matthew Thomas Miller, University of Maryland
Business Meeting
Shea Watts

A21-433
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Book Review Panel - Sanctuary in America: How Activists Defied the Government and Defended Immigrants – And Why It Still Matters
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

Over the past decade, the concept of ‘sanctuary’ has emerged as the single most important political and cultural term in debates about American immigration. This panel convenes scholars of religion, civil rights, and immigration for a review and discussion of *Sanctuary in America* (Oxford University Press, 2026). Moreover, recent disputes over the legality, boundaries, and meaning of sanctuary places of targeted immigration enforcement in cities like Charlotte, Chicago, and Minneapolis serve as clear markers that over the past decade, the concept of ‘sanctuary’ has emerged as a paramount political and cultural term in debates about immigration.

Annalissa Lane, presiding

Panelist

Daisy Vargas
Jonathan Calvillo, Candler School of Theology

Respondent

Lloyd Barba
Sergio González

A21-406
Hosted by: Chinese Christianities Unit and Reformed Theology and History Unit
Theme: Building Sino-Reformed Future/s: Sources, Churches, and Theological Education across China, Taiwan, and the Diaspora
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This roundtable brings together leading scholars who are helping to shape the next phase of conversation around Sino-Reformed theology. The panel centers three interrelated areas:

1. the distance—sometimes productive, sometimes disruptive—between the Dutch and European traditions of Neo-Calvinism and the ways those traditions are received among Chinese-speaking Christians;
2. the translational, curricular, and institutional channels through which Reformed sources move; and
3. ecclesiology and theological education as arenas in which communities imagine, contest, and materialize future possibilities.

Framed by the AAR theme "FUTURE/S," this panel treats Reformed futures not as a single trajectory but as multiple, sometimes competing, visions shaped by location, memory, language, and lived ecclesial practice across mainland China, Taiwan, and the diaspora.

Easten Law, Yonsei University, presiding

Papers

Ximian Xu, University of Cambridge
Sino-Reformed Theology without the Boundaries of Mere Chinese Culture

YUN-CHING (Victoria) SHEN
Politics, Gender, and History of the Reformed Theology Under Constraint

Ian Sun
The Impact of Reformed Theology on Chinese Urban Churches in the Twenty-First Century: Past and Future

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A21-434
Hosted by: Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit
Theme: Colonizing Decolonialization? Co-optation, Critique, and Pedagogies of Resistance in the Academy
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

In recent decades, decolonial theory and practice have become increasingly incorporated within academic institutions as an effort to recognize the immense degree to which the academy is both constructed through colonialism and perpetuates colonial domination. This awareness is now accompanied by an increasing emphasis on the ethically urgent task of decolonizing the academy. As is always the case, however, a common strategy of power structures for preserving themselves is to co-opt the language of liberatory movements for its own purposes. This session considers whether and how the language of "decolonizing the academy" is vulnerable to such cooptation, what the ramifications are (especially for those who are already significantly disenfranchised within academia), and how the work of decolonization can continue effectively amidst this kind of obfuscation. The slate of presentations includes both conceptual critique and analysis of present decolonial practices suited for future cultivation.

Kimberly George, presiding

Papers

Ryan R. Gladwin
Decolonizing Theology or Colonizing Decoloniality?: Radical Dissent and the Institutional Capture of Decolonization

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology
Who Gets to Say They're Decolonizing? Theological Education, Rhetorical Performance, and Abyssal Thinking

Leigh Miller
"Meeting the Buddhas as Art and Presence: Community-Engaged Documentation of Holy Objects"

A21-423
Hosted by: Music and Religion Unit
Theme: Fantasies and Futures: Reconstituting Religious Frameworks for Musical Meaning-Making
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

By exploring Afrofuturist album *Dirty Computer* and the Cantonese worship conference Raw Harmony Worship Live, the panel explores musical meaning-making through reorientation of religious analytical frameworks. In the case of *Dirty Computer*, womanist theology is centered in the exploration of science fiction, whereas in the Raw Harmony Worship Live experience, psychoanalysis displaces theology to understand worship music as the breeding ground of God-centered fantasy. This session will conclude with the business meeting for the Music and Religion Unit.

Joshua Busman, University of North Carolina At Pembroke, presiding

Papers

Sage Warner
"You F*cked the World Up Now, We'll F*ck It All Back Down": Soteriological Visions of Black Queer Thriving in Janelle Monáe's "Dirty Computer"

Tsz Lok Sit, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
Yiu Ming Cheung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
The Parallax of Healing: Musical Technique as Fantasy's Hardware in Contemporary Christian Worship

Business Meeting
Charrise Barron, Harvard University
Joshua Busman, University of North Carolina At Pembroke

M21-404
Hosted by: Fortress Press
Theme: Fortress Press Happy Hour
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3B (Terrace Level)

Join us for a relaxed happy hour where you can meet our editors to chat about a book project before your dinner plans!

A21-432
Hosted by: Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Unit
Theme: Futuring in (the) Return: Decolonizing Pedagogy and Learning Praxis
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

What if intelligence comes from within, comes from before - the formal structures of educational systems? These papers address the possibilities of decolonial, multicultural, and multireligious forms of pedagogy and praxis within and outside the academy/classroom.

Papers

Hannah Injamuri
Dal as Pedagogy: Wisdom of Dalit Ancestors Complicating Christian Identity towards Imagination, Protest, and Resistance in Contemporary India

Shin Cheng, Graduate Theological Union
Decentering the Preaching Classroom: Pedagogical Possibilities for Multicultural Theological Education

Adriana Rivera
Teaching with Talking Circles: Futuring the Theological Academy by Returning to Indigenous Principles and Practices

Raya Hazini, Graduate Theological Union
Beacons of Light: Feminist Chains of Transmission and the Future of Religious Scholarship

Business Meeting
Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein

A21-408
Hosted by: Comparative Studies in Religion Unit
Theme: Graphics, Literature, Maps in Comparative Tradition
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

This session examines three features of comparing religions: religious maps, religious futurity, and prophetic speech. The first paper develops religious ideology displayed in geographic lists as the first “maps,” which shaped cosmological depictions of the divine in the development of maps.

The second paper addresses apocalypticism as a grammar across cultural and chronological boundaries as a strategy for conceptualizing sacred time, enabling religious communities to recalibrate deferred endings within the span of their history.

The third paper illuminates the textual legacies beyond political crises by demonstrating that wisdom literature and prophetic speech are cross-cultural tools for communities seeking to construct just, alternative futures in the face of corrupt temporal power.

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, presiding

Papers

Chris McKinny, Lipscomb University
Joshua Hunter, Lipscomb University
Before Graphics: Topographic Lists as Religiously Informed Spatial Maps

Chi-Chi Liao, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
After the End: Apocalyptic Grammar as a Cross-Traditional Strategy of Religious Futurity

Melvin Sensenig
Confronting the King, Constructing the Future: A Comparative Analysis of Confucius and Jeremiah

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A21-412
Hosted by: Drugs and Religion Unit
Theme: Intoxicating Questions about Drugs and Religious Life
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

This papers session will offer four presenters discussing a diverse range of research projects on drugs and religion. From yoga and coffee to the war on drugs, Sufi consumption of cannabis to entheogenic substances and Zoroastrianism, the questions raised about these intersections bring new perspectives to the sacred and drugged life. In addition to topics and diverse religious cultures, the panel also includes explorations of different time periods.

Papers

Stuart Sarbacker
No Coffee, No Prāṇa: Coffee Culture and the Krishnamacharya Yoga Lineage

Adam Bremer-McCollum, Center for the Study of World Religions
“To inform me of what exists in actuality”: Sufis and Cannabis in Arabic Texts from the 13th-15th Centuries

Caleb Blair, Emory University
The Devil is in the Dosage: The Symbiosis of the War on Drugs and Spiritual Warfare in the Reagan Era

Pablo Vazquez, Graduate Theological Union
Opening the Eye of the Soul: Zoroastrian Entheogenic Engagements

P21-403
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Japanese Religions
Theme: Japanese Pure Land Buddhist Thought and Culture: A State-of-the-Field Panel in Honor of James Dobbins
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

This state-of-the-field panel on Pure Land Buddhist Studies in North America focuses on the impact of James Dobbins, Professor Emeritus of Religion and East Asian Studies at Oberlin College. Dobbins' first monograph, *Jōdo Shinshū: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan* (1989) served as a beacon for many emerging scholars in the early 2000s, illuminating the otherwise obscure and idiosyncratic world of Shin Buddhism. As we began charting our own research trajectories, *Jōdo Shinshū* along with Dobbins' second monograph, *Letters of the Nun Eshinni: Images of Pure Land Buddhism in Medieval Japan* (2004) provided a map of possible directions for scholarship on Pure Land Buddhism. In this session, four scholars present their current research on diverse aspects of Japanese Buddhism from the medieval to the contemporary, highlighting the impact of Dobbins' scholarship and mentorship. Dobbins' response to the papers will reflect on the past, present, and future of the field.

Jessica Starling, presiding

Panelist

Jessica Starling
Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College
Chris Callahan, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Jeff Schroeder

Respondent

James C. Dobbins

A21-407
Hosted by: Collective Karma and Karmic Collectives: Conversations without Borders Seminar
Theme: Karmic Processes and Complex Entanglement: Beyond the Individual-Collective Binary
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

The presentations in this panel work together to illustrate diverse non-dualistic paradigms of understanding karmic processes. The first paper examines the Bhutanese deployment of "wheel of life" the context of biodiversity, agriculture, and diet, with larger implications for revitalizing worldviews and generating flourishing human and more-than-human futures. The second paper

reads Advaita Vedānta alongside Alfred North Whitehead's process philosophy and reconsiders Indic theorizations of karma as a non-linear field linking individuals, communities, and ecological systems (e.g. the atmospheric modalities of the guṇas). The third presentation examines Joana Macy's notion of the bodhisattva path, one that valorizes boundless perseverance (*vīrya*), patience (*kṣānti*), and non-attainment (*anupalambha*), rather than measurable progress toward the *finis ultimus* of *nirvāṇa*, since the actual attainment of the "final cause" of liberation would undermine the constitutively *aspirational* ethics of the bodhicitta. It further highlights Macy's insights through contemporary complexity theory to articulate bodhisattva ethics as groundless teleology.

Jessica Zu, presiding

Papers

Elizabeth Allison
Collective Karma in Lived Himalayan Buddhism: Weaving together the fate of sentient beings for flourishing futures

Joseph Pryor
Feeling Karmically: Māyā and the Guṇas as Kinesthetic Location

Jesse Berger
The Strange Attraction of the Bodhisattva Path: Dynamical Systems and Buddhist Ethics

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A21-402
Hosted by: Bahá'í Studies Unit
Theme: KEY CHANGES IN CONTEMPORARY BAHA'I THOUGHT AND PRACTICE
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This panel brings together four presentations that explore how Bahá'í thought engages some of the most pressing intellectual, moral, and global challenges of our time by reframing questions of agency, responsibility and collective action. Moving from a philosophical analysis of history and politics to a theological reexamination of sin, the panel highlights how moral obligation and human choice are understood as relational and historically situated rather than abstract and universalized. It further examines tensions in the application of the principle of the harmony of science and religion, particularly in shifting Bahá'í discourses on sexuality, revealing how institutional engagement with scientific authority evolves in response to changing knowledge. Finally, it addresses the fragmentation of contemporary climate discourse, proposing a more integrative conceptual framework for collective action. Taken together, the panel advances a unifying theme: that overcoming fragmentation—whether in politics, ethics, science, or environmental action—requires a coherent, flexible framework rooted in an evolving Baha'i understanding of global unity, human agency, and consultative processes.

Omid Ghaemmaghami, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton, presiding

Papers

Todd Smith, Association for Baha'i Studies
Beyond Eternity, Inevitability, and Catastrophe: The Promise of World Peace and the Recovery of Human Agency

Caleb Gilleland
Covenant, Command, and Conscience: Rethinking Sin and Moral Obligation from a Bahá'í Perspective

Alana Dickey, Indiana University, Bloomington
"A Matter of Moral Understanding": The Shifting Place of Medicine in Baha'i Discourses on Sexuality

Julian Cauzae, Harvard Divinity School
Toward a Conceptual Framework for Climate Action: Learning from the Ecomodernist Debate

Business Meeting
Omid Ghaemmaghami, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton
Christopher Glen White

A21-417
Hosted by: Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit
Theme: Kierkegaard as Resource for Feminist, Womanist, and Queer Constructive Theologies
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

As the lives and personhood of women, people of color, and those from the queer community of all backgrounds and identities continue to be increasingly devalued, marginalized, dehumanized, and brutalized in the current socio-cultural context of the U.S., this panel plumbs the depths of Kierkegaard's writings in order to share the unexpected resources for constructing life-affirming and life-thriving feminist, womanist, and queer theologies. Although Kierkegaard was a product of his own nineteenth century cultural context of gender essentialism, he was ahead of his time in many ways and often challenges the assumptions of his culture through his celebration of women as exemplars/icons of the Christian life. The panel explores how he moves female identity from margin to center in his writings, highlights interdependence and certain types of community as key facets of his thought, and lifts up Christianity's resources for going beyond survival toward thriving and flourishing for various marginalized identities.

Carl Hughes, presiding

Papers

Tekoa Robinson, Villanova University
An Equal Chance for Women to Choose Faith: Kierkegaard's Inclusive Vision of the Imitation of Christ

Jaeha Woo, Evangelia University
In Praise of Divine Patriarchy: Kierkegaard's Absolute Paradox as a Call to Kenosis

Casey Stanley , Vanderbilt
Repetition as Resurrection–Kierkegaard's Christological Dialectic of Human Agency

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A21-431
Hosted by: Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit
Theme: More-Than-Human Sociality in Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhism
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

This panel examines more-than-human sociality as a structural feature of Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist traditions, tracing how territorial spirits and natural forces function as stakeholders, interlocutors, and constitutive members of political, ecological, and soteriological communities. The four papers together ask what it means for a community — a polity, a practice lineage, a cosmological order — to include non-human beings as structural rather than peripheral participants. Spanning contemporary Tibetan literature, nineteenth-century biographical and revelatory materials from eastern Tibet, the intellectual history of early modern Bhutan, and ongoing place-based knowledge on the Tibetan plateau, and drawing on literary analysis, textual history, institutional history, and Indigenous epistemology, the panel argues that more-than-human sociality is not a premodern residue but a sophisticated and coherent framework for thinking about community, knowledge, and power — one with urgent contributions to make to contemporary conversations about ecology, governance, and the limits of the human.

James Gentry, presiding

Papers

Tashi Dekyid Monet
Mountain Debates on Climate Change in Tibet: Revitalizing the Voices of Indigenous Territorial Sovereigns and Associated Religious Practices in Tibetan Contemporary Literature

Oriane Lavole
Renewing the Covenant: Territorial Deities, Ecological Mediation, and Treasure Revelation in Nineteenth-Century Eastern Tibet

Sarah Jacoby
The Ethics of Exchange with the More-Than-Human in the Tibetan Treasure Tradition

Jetsun Deleplanque, University of California, Berkeley
Members of the Maṇḍala: Environmental Agency and State-Building in Seventeenth-Century Bhutan

Respondent

Janet Gyatso
Business Meeting
Brandon Dotson, Georgetown University
Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University

A21-420
Hosted by: Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit
Theme: Muslim Masculinities
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

From classical texts to TikTok, Muslim masculinity has taken many forms. These papers analyze the way that Muslim men have imagined ideal masculinity physically, spiritually, and relationally, as well as the ways men have embodied and/or resisted these ideals.

J Selke, Lafayette College, presiding

Papers

Lauren Horn Griffin, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Crusaderpilled: Masculinity, Muslims, and Medieval Knights on Tiktok

Kathryn M. Kueny, Fordham University
Of Beards and Smooth Faces: Equivocal masculinities in the Qur'an, sunnah and early Muslim sources

Rebecca Makas
Wayward Sufi Fathers: Or, How Mysticism Makes Abandoning, Ignoring, or Caring for One's Children Equally Radical and Pious Choices

Business Meeting
Sarah Imhoff
Kyle Byron

A21-419
Hosted by: Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit
Theme: Neighborly Vernaculars: Worship, Translation, and Solidarity in Global Lutheranisms
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

Papers in this session engage theologies of neighborliness, diversity, and solidarity in matters of worship and translation.

2026 marks the 500th commemoration of Martin Luther's 1526 *Deutsche Messe*, and so whether through Luther and the Wittenberg Reformers' commitment to worship in the vernacular German, embodied catechesis, or sacramental practice, the *DM* helped shape Lutheran theology in enduring ways. Luther's own translation work—whether of biblical texts or in matters of worship—also prompts us to ask: What role does language or translation play in matters of embodied theology in diverse and global contexts?

Our first paper engages the theme of neighborly theology in baptism and the mass. The second looks at Luther's own theology of translation and its relation to moral commitments of solidarity. Finally, our last paper examines contemporary debates about the use of vernacular languages for worship in Adivasi (indigenous) Lutheran churches in North India.

Jacob Erickson, Trinity College Dublin, presiding

Papers

Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Lutheran Theological Seminary (SK)
Baptism, the Mass, and the Embodiment of Luther's Neighbourly Theology

Justin Nickel
Guided by Their Language: Translation, Incarnation, and Solidarity

Elsa Marty
Linguistic Diversity, Ecclesial Unity, and Evangelism among Lutherans in North India

Respondent

Man Hei Yip, Wartburg Seminary
Business Meeting
Marit Trelstad, Pacific Lutheran University
Jacob Erickson, Trinity College Dublin

A21-430
Hosted by: Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar
Theme: Palestine Past and Future
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This panel will look to past events in Palestinian life and history to imagine a future. Having completed our allotted five years as the Theological, Pedagogical, and Ethical Approaches to Israel/Palestine Seminar, our response to these papers will contemplate what we have accomplished and the future of our work in this growing field.

Papers

Alhena Katsof, The New School
Casting into the future by indexing the past: Khalil Rabah and The Palestinian Museum of Natural History and Humankind

Amira Abou-Taleb, University of Helsinki
Saving Palestine in Pre-1948 Literature: Placing the Past in the Service of the Future

Nate Cohen, Northwestern University
Reclaiming Performativity - ritual and solidarity during the student encampments

Respondent

Atalia Omer

A21-416
Hosted by: Foucault and the Study of Religion Seminar
Theme: Parrhesia Between Perpetua and Sojourner Truth
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

A discussion of religion and parrhesia as a way of life between the 3rd century martyr Perpetua and the abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

Daniel Wyche, presiding

Papers

Donnell Williamson

Not Light, but Fire: Frederick Douglass, St. Perpetua, and Reorientation

Maureen Kelly
Perpetua's Pain: Between Ethics and Genealogy

A21-400
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion and American Council of Learned Societies
Theme: Public Scholarship Networking Reception
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4A (Ballroom Level)

Please join us for a networking event and reception for publicly engaged scholars of religion. This event is designed to support and connect scholars of all career stages, working within and beyond the academy, who are pursuing publicly-engaged and/or community-based research. The session will offer opportunities for attendees to discuss issues of mutual interest, make new connections, learn about each other's work, and share resources and tools.
AAR will also introduce the new microcredentialing course “Doing Our Work in Public” developed in collaboration with ‘The Religion Department’ and sponsored in part by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning.
Whether you are new to publicly-engaged and community-based work, or have years of experience and expertise, we invite you to join us and connect with scholars deepening public understanding of the roles of religion in society.

A21-427
Hosted by: Quaker Studies Unit
Theme: Quakerism, Bondage, and Freedom
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

These papers challenge a hagiographic depiction of the Quakers as uniformly staunch abolitionists and explore the Quaker contributions to discourses of religious freedom.

Andrew Taylor, presiding

Papers

Jim Fussell, Pendle Hill Quaker Center
Scripture, Silence, and Institutional Power: Quaker Biblical Interpretation and the Persistence of Slaveholding among Friends

John D. Dadosky
Shunned into Freedom: Early Quakerism, Scapegoating, and the Emergence of Religious Freedom

Respondent

Stephen Angell
Business Meeting
Andrew Taylor
Stephen Angell

A21-414
Hosted by: Energy, Extraction, and Religion Seminar
Theme: Religion and Futures Beyond Extractivism
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

In this final year of the Energy, Extraction and Religion Seminar we risk posing the utopian/heterotopian question: what would it mean to think and live beyond extractivism? Counter to the techno-utopianism of progressively better, increasingly prosperous futures that also entail obscured exploitation and require bio-cultural homogenization, Lauren Berlant emphasizes, “to see like a heterotopian is to attend to and elaborate a loose assemblage of emergent lifeworlds” (2020, 14). What would this look like in the study of religion?

This panel features four papers that reflect on the ways religions may sustain or transform imaginaries of extractive futures: in the Niger Delta, in decolonial and relational utopian futures grounded in embodied practices and situated struggles, in Vodou counter-ontologies of non-possessive personhood, and in the very category of "religion" employed in religious studies.

Terra Schwerin Rowe, presiding

Papers

James Riofrio, Drew University
Beyond Techno-Utopianism: Decolonial Imaginaries for Ecological and Social Futures

Minjung Noh
Counter-Ontologies of Extraction: Vodou Plural Selfhood, Degrowth, and Post-Extractivist Futures

Tisa Wenger, Yale University
Spirits of Extraction: Heterotopian Futures and the Limits of Religion

Business Meeting
Terra Schwerin Rowe

A21-437
Hosted by: History of Christianity Unit
Theme: The Future of Supralapsarian Christology
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

Recent years have seen a surge of interest among Christian theologians and scholars in related fields in supralapsarian Christology -- the idea that the Incarnation is logically prior to the fact of sin in God's intentions for creation -- which is now arguably moving from a narrow thesis about the order of God's intentions to a wider theological sub-discipline, with potentially far-reaching implications for many aspects of Christian theology and exegesis, and consisting of important internal debates and fault lines. This panel, including five recent contributors to this literature, will seek to chart a course for the future development of supralapsarian Christology. Four panelists -- Brendan Case, Collin Cornell, Philip Hussey, and Jordan Daniel Wood -- will make specific proposals regarding the development of supralapsarian Christology, and the session will conclude with a synthetic and constructive response by Edwin Chr. Van Driel.

Thomas Breedlove, presiding

Panelist

Brendan Case
Phillip Hussey
Jordan Wood, Belmont University
Collin Cornell

Respondent

Edwin Chr. Van Driel

P21-401
Hosted by: International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture
Theme: The Planetary Costs of Nationalism
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This roundtable examines the environmental and social costs of nationalism by foregrounding the material consequences of "imagined" political boundaries. Building on Benedict Anderson's concept of imagined communities, it argues that national borders generate significant ecological

harm through three interrelated processes: militarized border enforcement, colonial and postcolonial terraforming, and warfare. These practices produce large, often unaccounted-for carbon footprints, while also enabling the destruction and reconfiguration of ecosystems and cultures—what can be understood as forms of omnicide. The paper situates nationalism within broader histories of extractive capitalism and environmental transformation, emphasizing how geopolitical divisions intensify planetary crises. In response, it proposes a reorientation toward "planetary politics," drawing on frameworks such as terrapolitanism, earth democracy, and cosmopolitanism from below. Such approaches envision nations as localized caretakers within a shared biosphere, advocating for governance and ethical orientations that prioritize ecological repair, historical accountability, and more-than-human interdependence.

Whitney Bauman, presiding

Panelist

Emma Tomalin
Karen Bray
Marcia Pally
Damon Berry, St. Lawrence University

A21-404
Hosted by: Catholic Studies Unit
Theme: The Theopolitics of the New "Counter-Cultural" Catholicism
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

This panel considers the unique theopolitical nature of the rise of "counter-cultural" Catholicism. The idea of integralism–the claim that public laws and policies should be based on Catholic teaching–has seen a resurgence in the past decade. These papers take up questions of integrationalism in US politics and the place of Catholicism in US public universities. This makes this panel a timely exploration of the idea of "counter-Catholicism," as defined by a turn to the Right in American Catholic politics.

Matthew Cressler, presiding

Papers

David Paternostro, SJ
"Divine Simplicity and Right Relations: A Classical Theist Response to Integralism"

Katie Ward, Michigan State University
"This Is the Easiest Persecution Anyone Could Ever Face": "Counter-Cultural" Catholicism in US Public Universities

Daniel Rober, Sacred Heart University
The Louis IX Option? Integralism's Politics of Despair

Respondent

Katherine Dugan, Springfield College

A21-435
Hosted by: Contemporary Islam Unit
Theme: Translating Islam: New Technologies, Sign Language, and the Ethics of Access
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

This panel features three papers that contribute to ideas of translating Islam across registers, broadly construed. As they consider translating historical processes of Islamic jurisprudence into seemingly handy AI *fatwa* generators, both accurately translating the Qur'an into American Sign Language as well as ethically translating the capacity to *hear* the word of God, or translating the space of Protestant American mega churches into the specialized "mega *masjid*," these papers explore technologies, urbanization, and access in novel ways. The disclaimers AI *fatwa* generators pose generators sit uneasily alongside their smooth circulation across platforms, leaving believers often confused on the authority of rulings issued . Deafness in the Qur'an can be a rhetorical device, but when the same terminology is used to describe a disability, deafness as deficiency becomes a moral move. And the translation of mega-spaces from Protestant to Muslim offers opportunities not only to copy, but be uniquely Muslim in America.

Melisa Ozer, Florida State University, presiding

Papers

Andrea Stanton, University of Denver
From Virtual Ifta' to AI Islam: Analyzing the Emergence and Impact of AI Fatwa Generators

Mona Hagmagid, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
The American Mega Masjid -- Exploring Congregational Models of American Sunni Suburban Communities

Respondent

Yunus Dogan Telliel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

A21-424
Hosted by: Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit
Theme: World Soul, Participation, and Panentheism: Mediating God and Cosmos
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

The enduring metaphysical problem of mediation between God and world is brought into focus through three interrelated concepts: world soul, participation, and panentheism. Spanning Platonic, patristic, medieval, and early modern sources, the panel examines how the intelligibility, vitality, and teleology of the cosmos are articulated without collapsing into either reductive materialism or undifferentiated pantheism. Particular attention is given to the conceptual grammar of mediation, whether figured as immanent principle, divine self-disclosure, or participatory activity, and to the ways such accounts sustain both cosmic order and creaturely dependence. The panel further explores how participatory metaphysics grounds accounts of creation, sacramentality, and contemplative fulfilment, while resisting both naturalistic reduction and the erasure of the Creator–creature distinction. The panel will consider the conceptual richness and philosophical stakes of participatory metaphysics across traditions.

Alexander Hampton, University of Toronto, presiding

Papers

Alden McCray, Grove City College
Contemplation, Participation, and Creaturely Being: Tracing the Eschatological Depths of Metaphysical Dependence

David Alenskis
Energy and Participation: Neoplatonic Poesis in Richard Hooker's Lawes of Ecclesiasticall Politie

Fengming Li, University of Georgia at Athens
From World Soul to Logos: John's Cosmology against the Timaeus

Benjamin Davidson, University of Cambridge
Panentheism, Dualism, and the Life of Nature between Henry More and Anne Conway

Business Meeting
Alexander Hampton, University of Toronto
Syed Zaidi, Butler University

A21-426
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit
Theme: Yoga and Psychology: Mind, Discipline, and the Making of Modern Subjects

Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

From the nineteenth century to the present, yoga—and especially the figure of the yogi—has served as a crucial site for negotiating what counts as "the psychological." Across colonial encounters, the rise of modern psychological science, new spiritual movements, and contemporary therapeutic culture, yoga has been repeatedly reframed as a discipline of mind: a technology of attention, a method of accessing the unconscious, a means of self-regulation, and, at times, a threat to autonomy itself. This panel examines the modern and contemporary psychologization of yoga, asking how yogic disciplines have been translated into psychological idioms and how those translations have reshaped both yoga and modern notions of subjectivity.

Shreya Maini, University of San Diego, presiding

Papers

Patton Burchett
The Yogi as Hypnotist: Attention, Colonial Politics, and the Vulnerabilities of the Modern Mind

Anya Foxen
Your Chakras Keep the Score: How Jungian Psychology Placed Samskaras in the Tantric Body

Drew Thomases
'Venus is Basically an Archetype': Jyotish, Psychological Astrology, and Discovering the Self in a Global Yoga Community

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A21-410
Hosted by: Daoist Studies Unit, Hindu Philosophy Unit and Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit
Theme: Zhuangzi and Indian Philosophers in Dialogue
Saturday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

The Zhuangzi is one of the most beloved Chinese philosophical and literary texts. It was revered by Daoists and admired by thinkers throughout Chinese history. The text also attracted criticism from early Confucians and from modern authors. In the West, Zhuangzi was hailed by Oscar Wilde as containing "some of the most caustic criticism of modern life I have met with." It also inspired the philosopher Martin Buber and the novelist Ursula Le Guin. Yet, there was little engagement with the text among Indian philosophers. Our panel's goal is to change that. The panel brings together scholars who work on Indian philosophy, who will engage with the themes in the Zhuangzi through Indian philosophical perspectives. After the presentations, an expert in Chinese Philosophy will respond. The panel ultimately will foster direct dialogue between these philosophical traditions and to explore the unique possibilities such a dialogue affords.

Eyal Aviv, presiding

Papers

Jed Forman, UCSB
Is a Horse a Horse or not? Both and Neither: The Zhuangzi, Nāgārjuna, and Malliṣeṇa on Indeterminacy

Chris Rahlwes
Zhuangzian and Jaina Embodied Perspectivism

Respondent

Peter Yuanxi Chen

A21-436
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
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2B+3B (Ballroom Level)

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Jacob G Robinson, American Academy of Religion, presiding

M21-403
Hosted by: Boston College
Theme: Boston College Theology Department and Clough School of Theology and Ministry Reception
Saturday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2C (Terrace Level)

Host: Andrea Vicini, SJ Chair Department of Theology

M21-401
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
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2EF (Terrace Level)

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!

M21-521
Hosted by: Dallas Theological Seminary
Theme: Dallas Theological Seminary Alumni Dinner
Saturday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Offsite

Join the Alumni Office for a complimentary SBL Alumni Dinner in Denver, CO! RSVP on at alumni.dts.edu/events/! The dinner will begin on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Thirsty Lion in Denver, CO (1605 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202). Attire is professional casual. Spouses are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

M21-512
Hosted by: Louisville Institute
Theme: Louisville Institute Reception
Saturday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 1B (Terrace Level)

The Louisville Institute warmly invites you to join us at our reception in the Mile High City—an evening of connection and celebration with LI alumni and friends, featuring delicious food, refreshing drinks, and lively music.

M21-400
Hosted by: Forum for Theological Exploration
Theme: FTE Annual Alumni Reception
Saturday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 1A (Terrace Level)

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.

M21-514
Hosted by: College Theology Society
Theme: Catholic Liturgy
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 303 (Street Level)

Roman Catholic Liturgy

A21-500
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Presidential Address: Whose Future/s?
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

Across our shared fields, departments in religion are closing and graduate programs throughout the humanities are forcibly constricted to barely functional levels. Larger political agendas are calling curricula committed to global diversity into question and schools committed to social justice are under threat. The future is therefore a pressing question for AAR members at every level. The issue is much larger than survival of past practices, it is a challenge of imagination and creativity that - I propose - we are uniquely qualified to pursue in the task of building innovative, and ultimately sustainable academic and public homes for our scholarship. In this presidential address I explore some theories of "futuring" that may help in addressing this moment. We cannot proceed in a "business as usual" fashion and so I ask what each of us can imagine beyond the usual. The American Academy of Religion is a member-run organization that is lean in material resources. However, if we use it, we have great power in networking and the collective creativity of our members. What are the ways that future thinking can galvanize creativity in scholarship, in public action, and in the AAR itself?

Angela Sims, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, presiding

Panelist

Laurel Schneider, President of the American Academy of Religion

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M21-500
Hosted by: Brigham Young University
Theme: Friends of BYU
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3C (Terrace Level)

The Friends of BYU Reception offers a chance for alumni, faculty, students, and friends of Brigham Young University to connect during the annual meeting. We invite you to join us for refreshments and an evening of collegial exchange.

M21-503
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
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 2 (Second Floor)

Scholars and friends associated with Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions and/or the AAR New Religious Movement Unit Reception are warmly welcomed to our annual reception.

M21-501
Hosted by: Indiana University
Theme: Religious Studies Alumni and Friends Reception
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3D (Terrace Level)

Indiana University Department of Religious Studies Alumni and Friends Reception

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M21-505
Hosted by: Urantia Book Academy
Theme: Urantia Book Studies – Theology and Spiritual Psychology
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row H (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

Join scholars of “The Urantia Book” presenting theological and psychological research.

Charles Lehner, Urantia Society of Greater New York, presiding

Papers

STEPHEN FINLAN

Is the Urantia Book Gnostic?

Byron Belitsos
Russian Orthodox Theology and Urantia Book Teachings

Stephen Padilla
The Face Within: Levinas, the Urantia Book, and Whitehead on Infinity, Novelty, and the Depth of the Subject

Stephanie Shaefer
Challenges of Family Conflicts Integrating Spirituality and Psychotherapy, Wisdom from Jesus and the Urantia Book, Personal Experience, Listening, Prayer and Forgiveness

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M21-506
Hosted by: Zen Reading Group
Theme: Zen Reading Group Annual Meeting
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 14 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

All are invited to attend. For more information contact heines@fiu.edu

Steven Heine, presiding

Papers

Yu-Chen Tsui, Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts
Uses of the Term mo in Hongzhi Zhengjue's Portrait Encomia

Lisa Kochinski, University of Southern California
Dharma Talks for Nuns in the Recorded Sayings of Lanxi Daolong

Junsub Eom, Columbia University
How Sŏn Masters Became 'Living Buddhas': Ritual Identification in The Liturgy of Worship and Repentance Before the Sŏn Patriarchs

Respondent

Morten Schlutter, University of Iowa

M21-522

Hosted by: Unitarian Universalist Scholars and Friends
Theme: Unitarian Universalist Scholars & Friends Reception and Panel
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Offsite

Please join friends and colleagues for hearty hors d'oeuvres, updates from theological school presidents Stephanie Krusemark and Elias Ortega, and a panel discussion on Colin Bossen's new book, The Political Theologies of Populism: The Garveyites, the Klan, and the Wobblies, 1905-1930. This work explores the transient and permanent dimensions of populist movements in the United States, and argues that populist movements have political theologies. Our discussion will feature comments by Filipe Maia (Boston University), Stephanie May (First Church Boston), and Dan McKanan (Harvard Divinity School).
This event will take place at the First Unitarian Society of Denver, 1400 Lafayette Street. This is a half hour walk from the Convention Center, or 20 minutes using the #15 bus, which runs every 6-10 minutes. All are welcome! To help us plan for food, an RSVP is appreciated but not required at https://forms.gle/F3tqm6aDXa6uNMAYA . Please contact Dan McKanan at dmckanan@hds.harvard.edu with questions.

P21-501
Hosted by: International Society for Science and Religion
Theme: Religion and Science Hospitality Event
Saturday, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Peak's Lounge (25th & 26th Floors)

Sponsored by John Templeton Foundation. Hosted by: Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science; International Society for Science and Religion; Institute on Religion in an Age of Science; Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences; AI and Faith; AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion Program (DoSER); Zygon Center and CASIRAS; and the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology. Everyone interested in the intersection between science and religion is invited to attend. This year, we will take a moment to honor in person the 2026 Templeton Prize winner, Professor Simon Conway Morris.

A21-501
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: AAR Member and Presidential Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

Immediately following the Presidential Address, join AAR leadership and colleagues to celebrate you as AAR members.

Laurel Schneider, President of the American Academy of Religion, presiding

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M21-507
Hosted by: Asbury Theological Seminary
Theme: Asbury Theological Seminary Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 2 (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.

M21-508
Hosted by: Baker Academic & Brazos Press
Theme: Baker Academic & Brazos Press Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Crestone (Third Floor)

Annual reception for authors and friends of Baker Academic & Brazos Press.

M21-515
Hosted by: Chicago Theological Seminary
Theme: Chicago Theological Seminary Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row I (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

Chicago Theological Seminary welcomes current students, alumni, and friends to an evening reception. We'll share updates on CTS's institutional transition, future initiatives, and ongoing mission, while reconnecting with our community and introducing attendees to the next chapter of our work.

A21-503
Hosted by: Films
Theme: Film Screening: I'd Rather Be Dead Than Silent
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

Film Screening and Panel Discussion:
I'd Rather Be Dead Than Silent
Directed by Tina Mascara

SYNOPSIS: After 9/11, fear and Islamophobia spikes in America. Into this storm steps Professor Khaled Abou El Fadl. Professor El Fadl is an Islamic jurist, human rights advocate, and one of the fiercest critics of Wahhabism and the Saudi regime. His refusal to stay silent makes him a lightning rod: vilified, threatened, and nearly killed for his words. Surrounded by a private library of half a million books — some banned for centuries — Khaled fights for an Islam rooted in pluralism, democracy, and justice.

Panel discussion: What 'a humanistic Islam' means and stands for in the present and future days to come. What it means for academic institutions to truly fight for freedom of speech, preserve rare Islamic texts, and support Muslims in the face of extreme right-wing attacks on universities and Islamic scholarship.

Nader Hashemi, presiding

Panelist

Khaled Abou El Fadl
Abudullah Alaoudh, Middle East Democracy Center
Grace Song, The Institute for Advanced Usuli Studies

M21-509
Hosted by: Boniuk Institute & Dept. of Religion-Rice University
Theme: Rice University-Boniuk Institute and Dept. of Religion Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Windows (I.M. Pei Tower - Second Level)

Rice University's Boniuk Institute and Department of Religion Reception for alumni, friends/affiliates, and those interested in connecting.

A21-506
Hosted by: Films
Theme: UNDIVIDED with Simran Jeet Singh
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

UNDIVIDED follows scholar and writer Simran Jeet Singh on a cross-country tour of the United States, uncovering stories of exclusion, resilience, and belonging among the country's diverse religious communities.

At the AAR Annual Conference, we will screen the episode on Gullah Geechee Stories. This episode explores several questions, including: How did African American Christian practices and traditional African spirituality combine to create Gullah Geechee culture in the South? How did the attempted uprising led by Christian preacher Denmark Vesey and conjurer Gullah Jack Pritchard exemplify collaboration among diverse religious actors in the abolitionist movement? And how are young hoodoo practitioners today navigating their relationship with Christian identity?

Simran Jeet Singh, presiding

P21-500
Hosted by: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
Theme: Wabash Center Reception
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial E (Third Level)

Come join us for drinks, tapas, music, and dessert while gathering with colleagues who share a commitment to teaching, learning, and faculty life in theology and religion. Reconnect with past participants of Wabash Center gatherings, and meet new friends who are part of this growing community of educators. Come for conversation, connection, and celebration of the teaching life!

A21-502
Hosted by: Films
Theme: AAR After Dark: John Carpenter's Prince of Darkness (1987)
Saturday, 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

Hosted by the Catholic Studies Unit and Religion and Popular Culture Unit

When Satan wakes up in the basement of a Catholic church, Catholic theologians and quantum physicists must team up to prevent the apocalypse! John Carpenter's *Prince of Darkness* (1987) is a cult Catholic supernatural horror classic: campy, cerebral, and, surprising as it may sound, timely. The second entry in Carpenter's renowned "apocalypse trilogy" is set in the ruinous landscape of Reagan-era Los Angeles and poses a question facing our field today: When endings arrive, are our institutions adequate to the task? Following the film screening, the co-authors of

Body and Blood: Catholic Horror in America (NYU Press, 2026) will lead a discussion situating the film in the longer history of Catholic horror in America.

Matthew Cressler, presiding

Panelist

Jack Downey
Kathleen Holscher

A21-504
Hosted by: Publications Committee
Theme: AAR Publications Networking Reception
Saturday, 8:30 PM - 9:45 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

Join the AAR Publications Committee, AAR/OUP Book Series Editors, JAAR editor, Religious Studies News editors, and authors and friends to celebrate AAR publications, network, and share resources.

Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding
S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, APRIL, presiding

A21-505
Hosted by: Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: Annual LGBTIQ* Status Committee Reception
Saturday, 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 4 (Fourth Floor)

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M21-511
Hosted by: Harvard Divinity School
Theme: Harvard University's AAR/SBL 2026 Reception
Saturday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Plaza DEF (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

The American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature 2026 Annual Meetings will take place from Thursday, November 19, to Tuesday, November 24, 2026, in Denver, Colorado.

Faculty, students, staff, alumni, colleagues, and friends of Harvard Divinity School are cordially invited to attend the Harvard University Reception during the conference.

Sunday November 22

M22-110
Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons
Hosted by: Biblical Theology Bulletin Editors
Theme: Biblical Theology Bulletin Editors' Meeting
Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate AB (Third Level)

Annual breakfast meeting of Biblical Theology Bulletin Editors, including online Zoom participants. Light breakfast provided.

M22-100
Hosted by: Church of Christ Scholars and Friends Assembly
Theme: Church of Christ Scholars and Friends Assembly
Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 207 (Street Level)

This is an annual worship gathering for those associated with the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement. All are welcome.

M22-111
Hosted by: Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Theme: Gordon-Conwell Alumni Breakfast
Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Offsite

Join President Scott Sunquist and fellow alumni on Sunday morning for fellowship, delicious food, and some exciting seminary updates. Alumni, spouses, faculty, and students are invited to attend. Registration is required. Please email alumni@gcts.edu with any questions. Register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1999717085634?aff=oddtdtcreator

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M22-102

Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Worship Service
Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:45 AM
Sheraton Denver, Grand Ballroom 2 (I.M. Pei Tower - Second Level)

All are welcome. For information, contact Cyndi Parker at narrativeofplace@gmail.com.

M22-101
Hosted by: Eden Theological Seminary
Theme: Momentum for Ministry Initiative: Scholar-Teacher Teams Co-Create in the Digital Age for Faith Communities and Leadership
Sunday, 7:00 AM - 8:45 AM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row H (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

Learn alongside interdisciplinary and multi-school teams of faculty in progressive theological graduate schools as we embark on a project to co-create educational resources and courses for faith communities and their leaders in this digital age. This session will include a mini-workshop on asynchronous teaching to resource ongoing work among current participant faculty and schools. Early project assessment will offer ideas for replicating the process among different schools and settings. Explore your school's participation in this collaborative Initiative.
Since 2023, a small group of graduate schools in the United States and Canada have been collaborating in a theologically aligned / geographically dispersed cross-registration agreement to expand course opportunities for our students. This practice of cooperation now deepens as teams of faculty from these schools collaborate in research, pedagogical design, and practices of constituent-listening.
Please join us for breakfast. For ticket prices and availability, contact Mary Schaller Blaufuss at mblaufuss@eden.edu or 314-918-2537.

P22-101
Hosted by: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Theme: Breakfast and Briefing with the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
Sunday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2D (Terrace Level)

Join us for breakfast to learn more about programs and publishing opportunities at the USHMM. The breakfast will be hosted by the Director of the Programs on Religion and the Holocaust and the Director of Academic Publishing in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies within the Museum. Presentations begin at 8:00 am. All are welcome. RSVP to Thornton Muncher, tmuncher@ushmm.org by Nov. 8th.

M22-103
Hosted by: Temple University
Theme: 2026 Temple Alumni Breakfast
Sunday, 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom 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!

P22-103
Hosted by: Society for Hindu-Christian Studies
Theme: Syriac Christianity and Hindu-Christian Dialogue
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4F (Ballroom Level)

The tradition of the Suriyani/Nasrani, or Mar Toma Margam ("way of St. Thomas"), continues to be little known, despite the increasing presence of Malayali Christians around the globe. The Churches of Kerala, today a spectrum of confessions, trace their common history back to the first century C.E., and witness to a longstanding and variegated interaction with the wider environment and ethos of the subcontinent. Their liturgical language of Syriac is a form of the Aramaic spoken by Jesus, a shibboleth marking the distinctiveness of the Nasrani as Middle Eastern in origin and orientation, even while Hindu in custom and conviction. The panel features papers probing the unique vistas and vantage points of the Nasrani.

Brian Butcher, McGill University, presiding

Panelist

George Pati
Kerry San Chirico
Reid Locklin, University of Toronto
Akhil Thomas, Harvard University

P22-102
Hosted by: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
Theme: Writing Teaching: A Creative Scholarship Workshop
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 4 (Fourth Floor)

For those hoping to broaden the reach and creativity of their scholarship, this session will be an opportunity to learn more about publishing creative and pedagogically focused work with the Wabash Center Journal on Teaching. Join us as we explore how reflective, narrative, and experimental writing can function as rigorous scholarship about teaching in religion and theology.

Participants will learn about the journal's mission and submission possibilities while engaging in generative writing exercises and collaborative discussion. This interactive gathering is designed to support scholars interested in expanding the forms and audiences of their academic work.

A22-135/S22-105
Hosted by: AAR's Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit and SBL's Biblical Studies and Spiritual Care Unit
Theme: AAR's Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit and SBL's Biblical Studies and Spiritual Care Unit
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 705 (Street Level)

The unit Biblical Studies and Spiritual Care: Intersections of Pastoral Praxis and Biblical Hermeneutics seeks to integrate into biblical scholarship the hermeneutical perspectives emerging from the diverse contexts of spiritual care, while also highlighting the relevance of biblical literature for the professionalization of chaplains. At the 2026 Annual Meeting, the unit will explore how biblical interpretation can engage the pastoral realities of military chaplaincy.

In this co-sponsored session, papers offer practice-based insights into biblical texts from military chaplains, alongside contributions from biblical scholars addressing moral injury. The session features four paper presentations, followed by an open discussion and Q&A.

Peter-Ben Ben Smit, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, presiding

Papers

Samuel Guy, Emmanuel Christian Seminary
Joab in Ammon: Military Authority, Betrayal, and Moral Injury in 2 Samuel 11 and Beyond

Aaron Klink
Learning To See Jesus Again: The Road to Emmaus Story as a Paradigm for Chaplaincy With Combat Veterans

Adam Tietje
For the Bible Tells Me So: Reading Trauma and Moral Injury Within the Biblical Text

A22-112
Hosted by: Hindu Philosophy Unit
Theme: Agency, Intention, and Moral Responsibility: A Philosophical Roundtable
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

This year's roundtable will focus on questions of agency (*kartṛtva*), intention, and moral responsibility. What does it mean to be an "agent" or "doer"? To what extent are human beings (and other living beings) in control of their actions? How does agency relate to selfhood or personal identity? Our starting-point will be an argument from the Jain philosopher Akalaṅka (8th c.), who in his *Tattvārthavārtika* criticizes both the Buddhist doctrine of no-self and the Sāṃkhya view that the self is an experiencer (*bhoktṛ*) but not an agent (*kartṛ*); for Akalaṅka, the one who performs an action must also be the one who experiences its "karmic" result. Panelists will discuss Akalaṅka's position alongside those of two other Jain philosophers, Kundakunda and Haribhadrasūri, and will also consider possible Hindu and Buddhist responses to their positions.

Aleksandar Uskokov, presiding

Panelist

Ana Bajzelj
Marie-Helene Gorisse
Anil Mundra, University of California, Santa Barbara

Respondent

James Reich
Business Meeting
Michael Allen

A22-104
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Class, Labor, and Religion Unit
Theme: AI, Labor, and Religion: Demystification, Critique, and Pedagogy
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This session considers the implications and impacts of artificial intelligence on workers and class from the perspective of religion/theology/ethics on two levels: on labor broadly speaking and then on academic labor specifically. Paper 1 demonstrates how techno-libertarian narratives

portray AI and its concomitant disruptions as socially salvific while obscuring class relations, including labor displacement. Paper 2 discusses how AI and automation shift tedious and dangerous work from humans on the periphery of society to machines on the periphery and then morally evaluates this shift if AI becomes sentient or self-conscious. Paper 3 explores how contingent faculty, the majority of academic labor, often have no meaningful choice about the use of AI, particularly given the time-inequalities that define contingent academic labor. Finally, Paper 4 presents a course activity in which students construct their own AI chatbot, thereby helping students understand how AI technologies work, as well as their limitations and drawbacks.

Randall Reed, presiding

Papers

Vincent Biondo, Humboldt State University
A World Without Workers? Silicon Valley's AI Religion is Machine Worship: Elon Musk, the All-In Podcast, and their Academic Fans

Braden Molhoek, Graduate Theological Union
Membership, Exploitation, and the American Dream: Human and AI Labor

Minjung Noh
Who Can Afford to Refuse? AI, Academic Labor, and the Bifurcation of Higher Education

Benjamin Zeller, Lake Forest College
Saintbots, Godbots, and Gurubots: Teaching Religion and AI by (De)Constructing LLMs

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A22-113
Hosted by: Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit and Native Traditions in the Americas Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics: Gabriel S. Estrada's Queer Indigenous Cinemas: Sovereign Genders from Seven Directions (U Arizona Press, 2026)
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This Author Meets Critics roundtable features three scholarly readings of Gabriel Estrada's *Queer Indigenous Cinemas: Sovereign Genders from Seven Directions* (University of Arizona Press, 2026). *Queer Indigenous Cinemas* is a monograph that relates Indigenous LGBTQI2+ media from the Americas, Pacific, and Caribbean,with chapters on Diné, Caxcan, Kānaka Maoli, Nêhiyawak, Yorùbá, and Tongva media, spatiality, and gender. It focuses on how Indigenous media producers confront colonial trauma and reclaim spatial, visual, spiritual, and erotic sovereignty of LGBTQI2+ peoples. As all five session scholars Drs. Celidwen, Churchill, Gomez, Lopez, and Estrada have served on the Native American Traditions of the Americas and/or Indigenous Religious Traditions Units in the American Academy of Religion (AAR), this

session’s book reviews will bring particular attention to sovereign Indigenous methods, languages, representations, genders, spiritualities, lands, and politics valued within those AAR Units. There will be time for the author's respondent responses and for questions and answers.

Yuria Celidwen, University of California, Berkeley, presiding

Panelist

Mary Churchill, Santa Rosa Junior College
Abel Gomez, San Jose State University
Felicia Lopez, University of California, Merced

Respondent

Gabriel Estrada, California State University, Long Beach
Business Meeting
Yuria Celidwen, University of California, Berkeley
Gabriel Estrada, California State University, Long Beach

A22-107
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit and Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: Buddhist Futures: Reform, Rectification, Utopia
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

At the heart of any revolutionary struggle, utopian project, or conservative reaction, is an idiosyncratic model of history that projects both back and forward. This panel explores four cases from the medieval, colonial, communist, and cold war conjunctures of East Asia to show how Buddhist models of history and their attendant moral imaginations shaped collective futures in the region. Our four talks, each by a doctoral student or early career scholar, range from attempts to rectify the imperial imprint of Buddhism in Korea and Taiwan, the rewriting of Buddhist historiography by socialist scholars in liberated China, to a survey of academic debates about utopian thinking in classical South Asian Buddhism and medieval China. Whether taking up instances of rectification, revolution, or utopia, these presentations investigate the role of Buddhism in acts of worldmaking, where the goal was not just to envision an alternative future—but enact it in the present.

Tony Scott, University of Tokyo, presiding

Papers

Jusung Lee, Yale University
Socially Viable Buddhism as Utopia: Public Religion in Colonial Korea, 1910–1945

Qinqin Peng, Ruhr University Bochum/University of Göttingen
Historical Buddhism, Revolutionary China: Writing Buddhist History under Marxism (1940s–1960s)

Daigengna Duoer, Boston University
Worldmaking at the Edge of Empire: The 7th Changkya Khutugtu, Postcolonial Rectification, and Cold War Utopian Buddhism in Taiwan

Respondent

James Mark Shields

A22-118
Hosted by: Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Captured Religion, Accountable Futures: Power, Ideology, and Tradition in Service of Mañana
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

This session examines how powerful systems, colonialism, Cold War geopolitics, neoliberalism, and capitalist ideology capture and discipline religion in Latino/a contexts, and what accountability demands in response. Papers explore how Afro-diasporic cosmologies have been subordinated within colonial frameworks that police religious legitimacy; how Cold War interventions weaponized Protestantism in Latin America while erasing the agency of the poor; how neoliberal ideology infiltrated Latino Evangelical life through the Prosperity Gospel; and how capitalism functions as a religious formation that forecloses liberatory futures through debt and carceral control. Together, these contributions insist that serious engagement with *mañana* requires naming how religion has been conscripted in service of domination—by external forces and through intra-communal reproduction of harm. Drawing on decolonial feminism, liberation theology, and critical historiography, the session pursues honest reckoning and the liberatory possibilities that emerge when communities refuse to foreclose the future.

Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Drew Theological School, presiding

Papers

James Riofrio, Drew University
Against Religious Purity: Syncretism, Afro-Latinidad, and the Coloniality of Religion

Jonathan Calvillo, Candler School of Theology
Stephen Di Trolio, Princeton Theological Seminary
Psy-Ops, Co-Opts, and Preferential Optics: Latin American Pentecostalism in the Cold War Era

Tony Lin, Yale University
Prosperity Gospel, Neoliberalism, and American Authoritarianism

Filipe Maia
Indebted to the Future: Latin American liberation theology and the critique of capitalism

Business Meeting
Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Drew Theological School
Hector Varela Rios, Villanova University

A22-108
Hosted by: Buddhist Philosophy Unit and Yogācāra Studies Unit
Theme: Critical Yogācāra Social Theory and Practice: Examining Racial Marginalization
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

This panel marks a collective effort in initiating a paradigm shift: away from post-positivist research paradigm, into a *critical* Yogācāra *social* philosophical paradigm. It calls on scholars of Buddhism to address a hermeneutical-moral imperative: if we take seriously the Buddhist goal of ending *Duḥkha*, then scholarship is compelled to address the conditioning of real-world suffering, especially the disproportionate, identity-based suffering inflicted on marginalized peoples everywhere.

Together, the four panelists outline a Buddhist critical social theory based on the teachings of the Yogācāra traditions and then apply it to real-world problems such as systemic social exclusion and marginalization and the ethnic and racial conflicts that ensue from that—the specter of climate crisis beclouding a livable future. We argue that Yogācāra Buddhism is necessarily a *critical* Yogācāra *social* theory that not only describes how sentient beings experience the world but also re-organizes the self while remaking the world.

Jessica Zu, presiding

Papers

William S. Waldron
Yogācāra and Essentializing Identity: Recognizing our Cultural Unconscious at Work

Jonathan Gold, Princeton University
Karmic Infrastructures: Emptiness, Race, and the Institutional Conditioning of Social Perception

Rima Vesely-Flad, Princeton University
A Yogacara Analysis of the Interconditioned Prison Industrial Complex

Ralph Craig, Whitman College

Tina Turner, the Yogācārin? Reading Turner’s Theory of the Subconscious Mind and Liberation in light of Yogācāra Buddhist Thought

Business Meeting
Jingjing Li
Douglas S. Duckworth

A22-125
Hosted by: Religion and Disability Studies Unit
Theme: Disability Perspectives for Alternative Futures
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

This panel centers disability perspectives as essential to shaping and imagining alternative futures: the first paper analyzes Deligny's theories on non-speaking autistic children and its potentials for worldmaking; the second offers a reading of Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower through Black and disability theologies, presenting Laura Olamina as crip Christ figure; the third envisions an “indecent” resurrection that rejects colonial constructs of decency and centers vulnerable, interdependent bodies; the fourth develops "somasarx" as crip-mad theological anthropology emphasizing creation as ongoing process, bodily vulnerability, relation to a body politic, and disruption as salvific demand; the final paper argues that non-speaking autistic people emerge as crucial guides for religious futures, their perspectives demanding liturgical, relational, and spatial transformations in faith communities.

Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Georgia State University, presiding

Papers

Rebekah Rosenfeld
Religious Comparison in Fernand Deligny’s Writing on Autism

Kyle Stevenson
Jesus Christ as a Cripped Apocalyse and Hope of New Creation

Adam Beyt
Towards an “Indecent” Resurrection: Disabled Intimacies and Communities of Care

Stephanie Edwards, The Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium
Megan Hopkins
Somasarx: A Mad-Crip Theological Anthropology

Kara Whittaker, Baylor University
Preparing for a Disabled Future: Why the Church Needs Nonspeakers Now More Than Ever

Business Meeting
Audrey Seah
Sarah Jean Barton

A22-109
Hosted by: Chinese Religions Unit and Teaching Religion Unit
Theme: Experiential Learning in and beyond the Chinese Religions Classroom
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

How and why do scholars of East Asian religions—particularly Chinese religions—employ experiential learning in the courses we lead? This roundtable session aims to foster classroom innovation, offer space for pedagogical reflection, and to cultivate community among educators across disciplinary expertise, institutional type, career stage, and life experience.

The proposed session will be divided into two parts. In part one, eight scholar educators at all career stages and diverse contexts will share their pedagogical work in 5-minute reflections and, if they wish, real-time experiential learning examples. In part two, all session participants will engage with presenters (and each other) in informal exchanges about the role of experiential learning in the study of Chinese religions. To promote engagement, conversation prompts will be pre-circulated to the CRU and all members will be invited to bring with them their own examples of experiential learning in their practice.

Natasha Heller, presiding

Panelist

Susan Andrews
Xu Ma
Rachel Pang
Geoffrey Goble
Megan Bryson, University of Tennessee
Thomas A. Wilson

A22-136
Hosted by: Women's Caucus
Theme: Feminist Theologies: The Basics
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

For most of Christian history, theology has been written primarily by men and for men. Beginning in the early 1960s, feminists identified ways traditional theologies omitted, ignored,

and vilified women's experiences, issues, and perspectives. In the past 60 years, feminists have developed a vibrant theological tradition that is essential for a full understanding of Christian theologies. Feminist theologies engage some of the most important and controversial issues of our time, from the roles of women in society to sexuality, abortion, gender identity, and the environment. Feminist Theologies: The Basics co-written by Susan Shaw and Grace Ji-Sun Kim offers new insights on how women do theology.

This panel will begin a discussion on Feminist Theologies: The Basics and examine feminist theological methodologies, new emerging feminist voices, the concept of intersectionality, and themes in theology, gender, and sexuality.

Business Meeting to Follow:

Come and Join us and be part of our leadership team! We also spend this time planning sessions for the Online and in-person AAR-SBL Conferences in 2027!

All are welcome!

Panelist

Kathryn Common
Kate Ott
Deborah Fulthorp
Mónica Rey, Boston University

Respondent

Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham School of Religion
Business Meeting
Joshua Turpin
Deborah Fulthorp

A22-100
Hosted by: African Diaspora Religions Unit, African Religions Unit, and Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: From Jeliya to Ajami, Ancestral Knowledge and the Future of Islamic Authority in Mandinka Intellectual Traditions
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This roundtable examines Mandinka intellectual traditions as systems for transmitting religious knowledge across generations. The discussion focuses on the relationship between jeliya, the Mandinka tradition of oral mastery, and the Ajami manuscript tradition. Mandinka forms of knowledge transmission, including genealogical narration, proverb, poetic performance, and

disciplined memory, organize authority within Islamic scholarship in West Africa. Ajami writing emerges within this environment as a medium for Mandinka language, ethical teaching, devotional expression, and theological reflection. Knowledge circulates through lineages that link teachers, performers, and ancestors. In contexts shaped by migration, educational change, and new media, Mandinka traditions continue to carry inherited knowledge while adapting to new conditions. The session treats Mandinka scholarship as a case for studying indigenous epistemologies of religious authority and the role of language, memory, and lineage in sustaining intellectual traditions.

Panelist

Oludamini Ogunnaike

A22-131
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: From Provisional to Permanent: The Architectural Evolution of South Asian Sacred Spaces in Europe and North America
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

Across North America and Europe, South Asian religious communities are moving from rented rooms and converted buildings to purpose-built sacred environments. This panel brings together five papers, each on a distinct tradition: Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jain, and Buddhist. With cases from London, Washington, D.C., Southern California, and northern England, the papers ask what determines architectural form, how traditional canons meet local planning codes, and what happens when ambition exceeds resources. Each engages with visibility, public presence, and duration, investigating how material and space function not merely as containers for the holy but as active producers of South Asian religious subjectivities. Stone mandirs, gold-domed gurdwaras, mosques with minarets, marble derāsars, and vihāras blending Asian and local forms all feature. As conspicuous public objects, religious buildings are read in ways that shape policy, planning, and social cohesion. This transatlantic, multi-faith panel discloses how minority communities move from provisional to permanent spaces.

Ved Patel, Davidson College, presiding

Papers

Emma Tomalin
From Adaptation to Architectural Assertion: Buddhist Sacred Space, Materiality, and Diasporic Belonging in Contemporary Britain

Shivani Bothra, California State University, Long Beach
Materializing Continuity: Temple Architecture, Pedagogy, and Communal Formation in the American Jain Diaspora

Amir Hussain
A half-century of South Asian mosque architecture in North America Amir Hussain, Professor of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University

David Bains, Samford University
Claiming Civic Space for Sikhs in Washington, D.C.: The Gurdwara on Embassy Row

Tilak Parekh, University of Cambridge
Seeing Religious Architecture: Depth Structure, Materiality, and Europe's first Traditional Hindu Temple

Respondent

Tracy Pintchman

A22-102
Hosted by: Anthropology of Religion Unit
Theme: Futures: Critical Ethnographies of Time and Temporalities I
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

One of two sponsored sessions featuring ethnographies of time and temporalities, “Futures” brings together papers that critically assess religious approaches to futurity through diverse examinations of ritual, praxis, and reinterpretation. The first paper examines how the structure of Appalachian Pentecostal snake handlers' ritual practices enables them to enact a "nostalgic apocalypticism", in which longing for the past coexists with anticipation of the world’s imminent completion. The second paper analyzes the ways in which young Muslim women in Patna, India hold *kismat* (divine will/predetermined future) and *mehnat* (human labor) in productive tension with each other as they reframe their secular work aspirations as forms of pious practice. The final paper considers how Turkish Muslim exiles in the U.S. reimagine their positions and trajectory in a sacred timescape to make sense of their experiences of banishment to a foreign land and the prospect of dying and being buried far from home.

Eric Hoenes Del Pinal, presiding

Papers

Chase Viscuse, University of Chicago Divinity School
Time Flies When You Handle Snakes: Tempo, Risk, and the Feeling of the End in Appalachian Serpent Handling

Shahana Munazir

Kismat and Mehnat: Ethical Aspirations of Muslim women in Patna, India

Kim Shively
Reorientating Sacred Timescape: Turkish Migration and Considerations of Death in Exile

Respondent

Brendan Jamal Thornton
Business Meeting
Eric Hoenes Del Pinal

A22-123
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit and Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit
Theme: Healing, Listening, and Liberation: Care Practices for Transformative Racial Justice
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This panel brings together three important recent monographs from mid-career psychologists of religion and pastoral theologians who are interrogating a similar transformative question: What insights do the psychology of religion and spiritual care offer for practical strategies in the ongoing struggle against social injustice and racist state violence? Each book approaches this question from overlapping perspectives within womanist theology, the psychology of religion, and intercultural spiritual care, yet share in their commitments to transformative liberation—particularly of caregiving and protest spaces. The panel invites each author into dialogue with a designated respondent whose scholarly expertise is directly relevant to and extends the concerns of the featured text. Taken together, these works represent transformative research that push the fields of psychology of religion and spiritual care to take account of how resistance, spiritual formation, and deep listening function are co-constitutive for racial justice.

Peter Capretto, Phillips Theological Seminary, presiding

Panelist

Stephanie M. Crumpton, McCormick Theological Seminary
Danjuma Gibson
Melinda McGarrah Sharp

Respondent

Kenya Tuttle, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Raynard Daniel Smith
Willie Jennings, Duke Divinity School

Business Meeting
Hilary Scarsella
Peter Capretto, Phillips Theological Seminary

A22-114
Hosted by: Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit
Theme: Interreligious Studies Interactive Workshop
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2C+3C (Ballroom 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:

- Christian Reflexive Postures in Interreligious Engagement
- Navigating Religious Boundaries: Theory and Formation
- Teaching Death and Dying: Interreligious Perspectives
- Recent Publications in the Field
- Interreligious Encounter on Campus
- Theoretical Approaches to Religious Diversity
- Interreligious Encounter on the Ground

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
Rachel A. Heath, Vanderbilt Divinity School, presiding
Russell CD Arnold, Regis University, presiding
Benjamin Sax, presiding
Kevin Minister, presiding
Patrice Brodeur, Université de Montréal, presiding
Syed Atif Rizwan, presiding
Linda Sauer Bredvik, Endless Sky Consulting, presiding

Papers

Caleb Crainer, Claremont School of Theology
Posture Problems: How White Christian Patterns Impede Interreligious Futures

Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Boston College

Resisting Anti-Judaism: Practices of Christian Solidarity

Monica Sanford
The Future of Ministry Is Interreligious: What an MDiv Effectiveness Assessment Reveals about Preparing the Next Generation of Interreligious Professionals

Oliver Freiberger
The Analysis of Religious Boundary-Work: A Method for Interreligious Studies?

Zeyneb Sayilgan
Ellen Posman
Teaching about Death and Dying in the Classroom and Beyond: Interreligious Perspectives

Elaine Lai, Stanford University
Valeria Vergani, Stanford University
Anthony Lee, Independent Scholar
Recent Publications in the Field: Beyond Dialogue: New Paradigms in Interfaith Discourse

Jon Carman, Southern Methodist University
"When Students Lead: An Institutional Model for Student-Driven Interfaith Programming"

Suzanne Schier, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University
Hindu College Students and Interreligious Engagement: Interrogating Clubs and Organizations as Sites of Belonging

Heejun Yang, Greensboro College
Reimagining Interreligious Studies: Toward Inculturation Theology of Religious Diversity

Ryan Lemasters, University of Kansas
What is Covenantal Pluralism? Definition, Scope, and Challenges

Mary Thurlkill
Bodies of Discourse: Walking for Peace in a Divided America

Business Meeting
Anne Hege Grung
Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas

A22-101
Hosted by: Afro-American Religious History Unit
Theme: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Black Religious Archive
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

What counts as a Black religious archive? Whom do we encounter in the archive? And how do those affective encounters and relationships shape our research? This session brings together five scholars whose work invites us to reimagine the sites and sources for studying Black religious history. Drawing on oral histories of enslaved children's spiritual lives, FBI surveillance files of Black nationalist women, a Reconstruction-era freedom colony and its built environment, Elijah Muhammad's residence, and the political education curricula of the Republic of New Afrika, these papers collectively argue that the Black religious archive is neither singular nor stable. It is oral and mediated, fugitive and conjured, spatial and alive with living presence. Together they advance methodological and ethical frameworks that insist on research as a form of encounter, one through which foreclosed memories are resurrected and futures otherwise become imaginable.

Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Harvard University, presiding

Papers

Mélena Laudig
Black Childhood, Black Religion, and the Oral Archive of Slavery and Religion

Nathan Davis Hunt, Boston University School of Theology
“Graveyards, Monuments, & Freedom Towns: Black Memory and the Communal Practice of Futures Otherwise at the African American Heritage Monument in Kendleton, TX”

Iman AbdoulKarim, Spelman College
Captive Spirituality: Black Religion, Futures, and Nationalism in the Republic of New Afrika

Peyton White
Fugitive Archives of Spiritual Lives: Re-membering Black Nationalist Women

Business Meeting
Matthew Cressler
Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Harvard University

A22-119
Hosted by: Mysticism Unit
Theme: Mysticism after Modernity: Contemporary Adaptations of Classical Themes
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This panel considers contemporary adaptations of classical mystical themes, particularly those reemerging or re-visioned among modern – and potential future – practitioners. The papers explore how decolonial approaches shift our understanding of historical mystic figures, the role ofpsychedelics and Artificial Intelligence on non-ordinary states of consciousness (NOSCs),how

the integration of spiritual or religious concerns impacts the practice of psychotherapy**,** and what happens when voice-hearing is understood as a mystical phenomenon.

David Odorisio, presiding

Papers

Elaine Padilla, University of La Verne
Becoming Nada: A Decolonial Approach to John of the Cross' "Dark Night of the Soul"

Jay Michaelson, Emory University
Trippable Pasts and Mystical Futures: AI Entities, Jewish Psychedelic Historiographies, and the Techno-Archaic Revival

Linden Smith, Syracuse University
Rudolf Otto Among the Therapists: The Instrumentalization of Mystery

Minhwan Song, Claremont School of Theology
Voice Hearers: Contemporary Mystics?

Business Meeting
C. Libby, Pennsylvania State University
David Odorisio

A22-139
Hosted by: Philosophy of Religion Unit and Political Theology Unit
Theme: Political Theology Reimagined: A Roundtable Discussion
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

The roundtable brings together a diverse range of scholars to reflect on contemporary political theology in light of a new field-shifting edited volume, *Political Theology Reimagined* (Duke University Press, 2025). *Political Theology Reimagined* centers decolonial, Black, queer, feminist, and Marxist modes of critical practice to offer a new, cutting-edge vision of the field that expansively rethinks what political theology means today, and where it is headed tomorrow. Traversing diverse sites, from South Asia to the Middle East to Indigenous North America, and working across diverse scales, from the national to the planetary to the cosmic, this volume help make visible the field's emerging new identity. Reflecting the rich diversity and interdisciplinarity of the field, contributors to the volumes, like participants of the roundtable, include scholars of literature and philosophy, political theory and anthropology, religious studies and theology. Short remarks by participants followed by a communal discussion with the audience.

Lucia Hulsether, presiding

Panelist

Alex Dubilet
Linn Tonstad
Anthony Paul Smith
Amaryah Shaye Armstrong
An Yountae
Zohar Gitlis, Brown University
Rajbir Judge
Carlota McAllister

A22-106
Hosted by: Body and Religion Unit, Tantric Studies Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit
Theme: Prāṇa and the Yogic Body: Histories and Philosophies of the Breath in South Asia
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This panel examines breathing practices as a lens for understanding the history of yoga and the body across South Asian religious traditions. Drawing on Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain sources spanning the Vedic period to the late twentieth century, five papers illuminate understudied episodes and debates in this history. Topics include the expiatory logic of breath-control rooted in Vedic ritual theory; *prāṇāyāma's* role in tantric Buddhist six-phased yoga; early Śaiva tantric breath observation and its connections to divination and *svarodaya*; Jain ambivalence toward and reinterpretation of *prāṇāyāma*; and Tibetan Buddhist engagement with neuroscience in the 1990s. Together, these papers demonstrate the importance of tracing historical and conceptual links in breath practice over more than two millennia, bringing new light to Indic ascetic, ritual, and yogic traditions for which theories of *prāṇa* and *prāṇāyāma* are central.

Ben Williams, presiding

Papers

Ana Laura Funes Maderey
Wind, Fire, and Water: The Elemental Logic of Expiatory Prāṇāyāma

Vesna Wallace, University of California, Santa Barbara
Multifunctional Characteristics of Prāṇāyāṃa in the Unexcelled Yoga Tantras

Shaman Hatley
Bodily Channels, Movements of Soul, and Inner Time: the Roots of Breath Prognostication (Svarodaya) in Early Tantric Śaivism

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside
Breath Regulation and Inner Transformation: Yaśovijaya's Jain Reframing of Prāṇāyāma

Matthew King
Like a Rider Upon His Mount: Reconciling the Nervous System with the ‘Subtle Life Supporting Wind’ (Tib. Srog ‘dzin gyi rlung phra mo) in the Decade of the Brain

Business Meeting
Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology
Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside

A22-137
Hosted by: Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit and Open and Relational Theologies Unit
Theme: Promise and Persuasion: The Allure of Lutheran Process Theologies
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

This Co-Sponsored Session between the Open and Relational Theologies Unit and the Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit gathers scholars working at the creative intersection of constructive Lutheran theology and process thought. What might Martin Luther or global Lutheran theological traditions have to do with Alfred North Whitehead? What creative theologies working in this intersection have already emerged over the last century? Is there such a thing as 'Lutheran Process Theology'? How might Lutheran theological motifs like justification, grace, promise, the hidden God, the theology of the cross, Lutheran ethics and more creatively transform in light of process insights into becoming, creative transformation, persuasive love, and relationality? How might these approaches engage feminist, queer, ecological, and decolonial approaches to God and world? This panel of global scholars engages these questions and imagines new trajectories for global Lutheran thought and embodied practice.

Thomas Hermans-Webster, Orbis Books, presiding

Panelist

Marit Trelstad, Pacific Lutheran University
Sigridur Gudmarsdottir, University of Iceland
Jacob Erickson, Trinity College Dublin
Eric Trozzo, University of Divinity, Melbourne
Petra Carlsson, University College Stockholm

Respondent

Catherine Keller
Business Meeting
Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College, Boston

Janna Gonwa, Gannon University

A22-130
Hosted by: Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
Theme: Quantum Quackery and Religion
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

In this long centenary of Quantum Mechanics (QM), the panel will debate its impact on religion and theology. For all its great successes, QM leads to famously strange claims about the nature of reality, claims which have sparked scientific and philosophical controversies since its early years. Far from being a deterrent, quantum strangeness has exerted a powerful pull on the religious imagination, especially in the form of 'quantum mysticism', which draws from many religious traditions to promote mind and holism. Such is its appeal that quantum mysticism has percolated into diverse non-religious contexts, even health and business. And yet the scientific backlash has been uncompromising, accusing such non-scientific appropriations of misrepresenting the science and beguiling vulnerable people with 'quantum quackery'. The panel will address the questions: What precisely is at stake here? Should the science be safeguarded, or does the area tap into serious religious and theological concerns?

Pete Jordan, presiding

Panelist

Eugenia Torrance
Mark Harris, University of Oxford
Emma Jaura, Oxford University
Allan Furic
Christopher Glen White
Business Meeting
Myrna Perez
Donovan Schaefer, University of Pennsylvania

A22-128
Hosted by: Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit
Theme: Reemergences of Holocaust Consciousness: Complicity, Comparison, and Repair
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

The collective memory of events is not linear in its intensity, beginning with prominence and then fading to obscurity, nor is independent from identity or political complications of the present. With the Holocaust, the complications of who remembers, when, and with what

interpretive lens, has taken on an especially contested character. The papers that make up this session explore specific moments of the Holocaust's reemergence in consciousness, all in some manner shaped by conflict. This includes invocations of the Holocaust in the context of war and attempts to re-approach lingering questions of complicity.

Tim Langille, Arizona State University, presiding

Papers

Joanna Martin
"The Jews of West Africa": Post-Holocaust Consciousness in the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970)

Jeannine Hill Fletcher
Grace of the Ghosts: Navigating memories toward institutional reparation

Laura Levitt, Temple University
The Memory of Complicity, Then and Now: Rereading Christa Wolf in 2026

A22-121
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit
Theme: Religion, Empire, and Imagining Futures in the American West
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

The American West has served as a vista for an imagined future for the agents of settler colonialism, as well as a place where crises shape institutional negotiation of religious identities and boundaries. This panel examines how actors in the American West have navigated these visions of a modern future amid crisis. Collectively, the panel demonstrates that religious life in the West has functioned as a site of contestation over who is considered worthy of protection, membership, and authority in a region often imagined as a testing ground for the nation's future. Emphasizing the intersections of place, mobility, and power, the panel contributes to broader conversations about how the American West has functioned as a site of futuristic imagining for religious people as well as a site of anxiety for those confronting shifting moral and religious boundaries, contested forms of belonging, and the uncertainties of a modernizing nation.

Brett Hendrickson, Lafayette College, presiding

Papers

Nicole Kirk
Religion on Tour: Circuses and the Nineteenth-Century American West

Quincy D. Newell
Somewhat Secular Saints: Modernity, the LDS Church, and the 1918 Flu Epidemic

James B. Bennett
Religion under Suspicion: Cold War Cultbusters in California

Lynne Gerber
Religious Labor at the Edge: AIDS, Religion, and Spirituality in San Francisco's Ward 5B

Respondent

Brandi Denison
Business Meeting
Brett Esaki, University of Arizona
Melissa Borja

A22-129
Hosted by: Ritual Studies Unit
Theme: Rituals of Resistance: Sacred Practice, Solidarity, and the Margins of Power
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This panel investigates ritual as a site of creative resistance, communal solidarity, and theological reimagination across diverse religious and cultural contexts. Drawing first on a visual ethnography of ecumenical shared ministries in rural Canada, the papers explore how differently ritualized bodies negotiate belonging when they worship together, or fail to, in shared space. From Canada, the panel turns to the aftermath of Karbala, arguing that Zaynab bint Ali's lamentation and sermon inaugurate a tradition of "devotional resistance" in which grief becomes a future-oriented moral practice, visible in contemporary rituals like Arbaeen. In Chicago, IMAN's "Faithful Fridays" gatherings enact a *barzakh* moral imagination—a prefigurative politics that cultivates solidarity across religious, racial, and class lines. Finally, amid violent ICE enforcement in Minneapolis, music, dance, and Native American ceremonial movement emerge as embodied ritual resistance. Together, these papers argue that ritual is never mere repetition, but an active and urgent negotiation of power, memory, and hope.

Renee Cyr, presiding

Papers

Mykayla Turner
"We Also Worship in This Space": Applying Ritual Systems and Receptive Ecumenism to a Visual Ethnography of Two Ecumenical Shared Ministries in Rural Canada

Moina Maaz
Grief as Theology, Ritual as Resistance: Zaynab bint Ali and the Future of Ritual Agency in Islam

Sam Houston, Stetson University
Ritual, Solidarity, and the Barzakh Moral Imagination in American Muslim Community Organization IMAN (Inner-city Muslim Action Network)

Cia Sautter
Ritual and De-Icing in Minnesota: Music, Dance, and Resistance

Business Meeting
Courtney Applewhite
Joy Palacios, University of Calgary

A22-105
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Roundtable Book Panel on "Crossing Shores and Horizons: Asian and Asian American Transnational Feminist Theologies" co-edited by Boyung Lee, kristine chong, Laura Mariko Cheifetz, and Nami Kim (Westminster John Knox Press, 2026)
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

Panelists will discuss "Crossing Shores and Horizons: Asian and Asian American Transnational Feminist Theologies," co-edited by Boyung Lee, kristine chong, Laura Mariko Cheifetz, and Nami Kim.The book explores how Asian and Asian/American transnational feminist theologies have shaped, challenged, and transformed knowledge production in theological education and ministerial praxis over the past four decades. Drawing from PANAAWTM (Pacific, Asian, and Asian North American Women in Theology and Ministry) trailblazers and members, the book highlights Asian and Asian/American feminist contributions to diverse theological disciplines, their ongoing relevance, and development of new methodologies and creative engagements that cultivate visions for liberative, justice-oriented futures.

Panelists will share reflections on "Crossing Horizons and Shores" that relate to their lived experiences of Asian and Asian/American transnational feminist theologies. Particular focus on the book's sections and themes are encouraged: trailblazers and intergenerational stewardship; collective healing and communal wisdom; reimagining theological discourses; and weaving new worlds.

Laura Cheifetz, presiding

Panelist

Kwok Pui-lan, Episcopal Divinity School
Tamara C. Ho, University of California, Riverside
Esther Parajuli
August Venuh
Angie Hong

Respondent

Kristine Chong

A22-120
Hosted by: New Religious Movements Unit, Religion and Human Rights Unit and Sociology of Religion Unit
Theme: Sociology, Social Theory, and New Religious Movements
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

This session examines major developments in the study of New Religious Movements (NRMs). Papers consider societal influences on scholars studying NRMs and how technological changes affect NRMs. Additionally they examine how religious difference and religious deviance are situated in the public sphere, as well as how discourses of deviance spread transnationally. Together, this panel offers insights into theoretical debates within the study of deviance, NRMs, and religious rights and freedoms.

Dusty Hoesly, University of California, Santa Barbara, presiding

Papers

Matthew Zaro Fisher, Loyola High School of Los Angeles
Communication Technology and the Evolution of Religion: A Systems Theory of NRMs

Suzanne Newcombe, Open University (UK) and Inform (Information Network Focus on Religious Movements)
The Future of Cultic Milieus and Public Platforms? Interaction Rituals, New Religiosity and ‘Radicalisation’ at Speakers’ Corner

SIU KIT CHIU
From Apologetics to Persecution: Anti-Cult Discourse, Deviance Labeling, and Transnational Stigmatization

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A22-115
Hosted by: Islam, Gender, Women Unit and Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: Teaching Islam, Gender, and Women through Multimedia Strategies and Challenges
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

In this pedagogy-focused session, educators will share an effective use of multimedia (film clips, online videos, music, digital or real life art/museum exhibitions, social media posts, or other audiovisual materials) in teaching topics related to Islam, gender, and women. Each presenter will lead a breakout table in discussion on pedagogical goals, learning outcomes, and practical strategies for fostering critical engagement about their chosen multimedia resource for about 50 minutes, followed by 5-7 minutes of summation for all attendees.

Echo Thompson, Princeton University, presiding

Papers

Judith L. Bishop, Mills College
Kamala Khan: A Study in the Hermeneutics of Popular Culture

MAIDAH KHALID
My Body, My Choice vs Our Bodies, Allah's Choice: Critically Analyzing Pakistan Aurat (Women) March Posters

Sherie A. Gayle, Georgetown University
Teaching Islam, Sex, and Gender in a Comparative Abrahamic Religions Classroom: Deidentification, Multimedia, and Pedagogies of Play

Candace Mixon, Reed College
Teaching with Our Males and Females (dir. Ahmad Alyaseer)

A22-111
Hosted by: Comparative Studies in Religion Unit and Quaker Studies Unit
Theme: The Light of a Thousand Suns: Foregrounding Difference in Comparisons of Light and Illumination
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

Many of the twentieth century's most illustrious comparativists argued that the ubiquity of light and luminosity across different religions and cultures suggested a universal human religiosity. But since the turn of the millennium, studies of supposedly universal archetypes or religious symbols have been natural casualties of postmodern and other deconstructive critiques of

comparative religion. Today, reputable comparative studies rarely search for universals and instead historically situate their comparands. This session will use a papers session followed by a spirited discussion to explore the possibility of symbolic and archetypal studies remaining analytically useful within our deconstructive age. Specialists in Quakerism, Judaism, Catholicism, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism will each offer a brief examination of the operation of light within a specific context relevant to their research. However, these papers are offered in service of a broader conversation discussing whether comparison might—or might not—prove generative to each scholar's more specialized research.

Zachary Joachim, Denison University, presiding

Papers

Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College
Images of Light in Jewish Texts

Robert Trent Pomplun
In thy Light, we see Light: The Christian Experience of the Sky

Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia
Rainbow Body: Immanent Luminosity in a Tibetan Buddhist Dzogchen Scripture

Hyungjin An, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi
From Inner Light to Ethical Community: Quaker Witness and the Pre-Religious Grammar of Light

Respondent

Andrew Taylor
Business Meeting
David Schones
Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College

A22-122
Hosted by: Political Theology Unit
Theme: The Performance of Memory and the Pedagogy of Media
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

If political theology refers to shared archives and imaginative slippages between political and religious ways of organizing the world, then memory is a crucial medium where these slippages materially occur. Memory shapes the way sense becomes perception and leads to judgment; collectively, memory supplies a shared background against which appeals to authority and

experience can become persuasive. As such, memory is always also performative: rather than a transparent record of the past, memory is a medium for the sense-making in the present in view of a certain kind of future. These papers critically engage the media through which memory is invoked and materialized to teach and form a certain kind of public. They look variously at film, video games, and higher education as varying sites of pedagogy engaged in the curation of collective memory and the cultivation of a kind of human community, often through a correlative strategy of forgetting.

Michelle Sanchez, presiding

Papers

Kristyn Sessions
Forgetting, Remembering, and Higher Education's Role in Memory Work

Enoch Kuo, Seton Hall University
Negotiating Memories in the Wake of Linguistic Colonialism

Nick Thacker
Pasolini and Marginal Christianity

Seulbin Lee, Vanderbilt University
The Haunted Future: Interrogating Abusive Memorialization of Specters and Moral Agency in the Metaverse of Roblox

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A22-127
Hosted by: Religion and Sexuality Unit
Theme: The Present Body/The Future of Sex
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

This session features four papers that investigate the shifting nature of bodies, sexualities, and their meanings across cultural, national, and religious contexts. The language of sex, sexual and erotic literacy, and how these are shaped by nationalistic and medical discourses all illuminate why and how change happens. Do our views, expressions, and tolerances of sexuality and bodies shift when we are given new languages and/or new political and religious contexts? Or are those limits overwhelmed by lived, embodied experiences requiring, even demanding, a re-making and re-telling of these narratives. Each of these questions offers us a framework for thinking about how the presence of bodies points us toward the future of sex.

Sara Moslener, presiding

Papers

Ashley Starr-Morris
Teaching Purity, Producing Futures: Sexual Literacy and Gendered Authority in Exvangelical Narratives

Geran Lorraine, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Wet Dreams and Demonic Kink: Liminal Erotics, Fluidity, and the Future of Sex

Business Meeting
Sara Moslener

A22-117
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit
Theme: The Problem That Won't Go Away: Authenticity and Essentialism at the Intersection of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This roundtable panel will address where these assumptions linger in academic, institutional, and public-facing contexts related to religious studies and Jewish studies. The participants will address how they navigate these encounters and how these conversations and assumptions might shift. Finally, they will address whether and in what ways ideas of authenticity and legitimacy might be intellectually productive in religious studies and Jewish Studies.

Martin Kavka, presiding

Panelist

Robert Erlewine, Eastern Michigan University
Sarah Imhoff
Rachel Gross, San Francisco State University
Fannie Bialek

A22-124
Hosted by: Qur'an Unit
Theme: The Qur'an, the Humanities, and the Future of Undergraduate Education
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This roundtable explores the role of the Qur'an and its study in the humanities. As a growing number of humanities departments in the US face closures due to budget cuts, lack of

enrollment, and public skepticism in a liberal arts education, there is a sense of anxiety about the future of Qur'anic and Islamic Studies. The session will bring together scholars of the Qur'an from different disciplinary homes to offer insights on the significance of the Qur'an to the humanities, both historically and moving forward in the academy. How can scholars of the Qur'an and Islam advocate for the humanities and the liberal arts more broadly? Why is it important for students to learn something about the Qur'an? What are some of the approaches to teaching the Qur'an as part of a canon of Great Books? How can interdisciplinary approaches from the humanities more broadly inform Qur'anic studies?

Halla Attallah, presiding

Panelist

Tehseen Thaver
Martin Nguyen
Jawad Qureshi
Shawkat Toorawa
Business Meeting
Halla Attallah
Samuel Ross, Texas Christian University
Shuaib Ally

A22-110
Hosted by: Cognitive Science of Religion Unit
Theme: Theories and Methods in Cognitive of Religion: Flirting with Embodiment and Agency
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

These papers explore new applications in CSR methodology and theory, with a special emphasis on questions of embodiment and agency in religion.

Hester E. Oberman, University of Arizona, presiding

Papers

Taylor Thomas
A 4E Account of Gender Transition

Kendra Bailey, Wheaton College, Illinois
From Phantasm to Interoception: Comparing Bodily Affectivity in Aquinas and Barrett

Paul Robertson
How a Human Agency-Marked Language (Tagalog) Conceptualizes Supernatural Agents

David H. Nikkel, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
The Embodied Logic of Magic

Business Meeting
Jed Forman, UCSB
Paul Robertson

A22-116
Hosted by: Japanese Religions Unit
Theme: Unruly Emotions: Feelings, Affect, and Emotions in Japanese Religions
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This panel examines emotions as powerful forces that move, confound, and connect a variety of actors in Japanese religions. The panel analyzes poignant emotions expressed and enacted in an array of contexts, such as the notions of shame and regret in medieval Pure Land literatures, sacrificial rage exhibited by Tokugawa peasant martyrs (*gimin*), emotive reconstructions of war memory in a modern new religion, and the senses of sadness and loneliness confronted by Buddhist women during the Covid-19 pandemic. Beyond simply offering case studies, the panel seeks to destabilize the persistent Euro-American centrism in the study of emotions and situate Japanese religions as sites of theory making in understanding the ways in which culturally formulated emotional matrices and affective landscapes inform religious actors and their practices in varying temporal contexts.

Sujung Kim, presiding

Papers

Ryoze Wada
Transformations of Shame: Repentance and Shamelessness in Late Heian Pure Land Buddhism

Takashi Miura
My Rage Will Go On: Sakura Sōgorō and the Trans-Corporeal/Trans-Temporal Rage of Tokugawa Protest Martyrs

Heather Heimbach, Princeton University
Pulled Back in Time: Cultivating Emotion in Konkōkyō War Memory Rituals

Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College
Revisiting Sensing Precarity via Deleuze: Japanese Buddhist Women and Emotions during Covid-19

Respondent

Timothy Benedict
Business Meeting
Jessica Starling
Takashi Miura

A22-140
Hosted by: Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit
Theme: Who's Haunting Whom: Horror, The Monstrous, and Religion as Modeled in the Work of Brandon Grafius
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

The use of horror as a methodological and analytical tool for engaging religion, rituals, and sacred texts has recently emerged as a significant area of study. Brandon Grafius, nominated for the Bram Stoker award, is among the scholars working at this intersection, and his research has gained attention in both academic circles and broader discussions of horror. His scholarship provides scholars and students with an innovative framework for examining religion, ritual, and sacred texts through horror, especially film. This roundtable brings together scholars to engage Grafius's work. Participants will explore how his approach reframes scriptural narratives, interprets the monstrous, and expands the methodological range of religious studies. They will also model this method and insights via recent films (*Is God Is*), building on the success of *Sinners*. The session invites critical dialogue on the interpretive possibilities and challenges that arise when horror theory and religion are placed in conversation.

Jessica Knippel, presiding

Panelist

DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona
Leland Merritt
Heather Macumber, Providence University College
Rebekah Welton, University of Exeter

Respondent

Brandon Grafius, Ecumenical Theological Seminary

A22-132
Hosted by: Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: Womanist Perspectives: Opportunities and Tensions
Sunday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This session offers diverse womanist perspectives about embodied approaches to opportunities for wholeness while navigating tensions.

Neonu Jewell, presiding

Papers

Jennifer Nelson, Drew Theological School
Confined, Not Crucified: Toward a Womanist Carceral Theology

Rochelle Johnson
When Faith Meets Fatigue: A Womanist Pastoral-Theological Approach to Black Women's Depression and Injustice

Business Meeting
Valerie Miles-Tribble, Berkeley School of Theology
Candace M. Laughinghouse, Gammon Theological Seminary

P22-200
Hosted by: Colloquium on Violence and Religion
Theme: Scarcity, Rivalry, and Faith: Reconsidering Desire in Politics and Theology
Sunday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

This session brings together two distinct yet complementary approaches to desire, conflict, and faith. The first paper examines Peter Thiel's Girardian critique of climate-centered political rationality, focusing on how narratives of scarcity may intensify mimetic rivalry and social conflict. The second paper offers a Kierkegaardian reading of *The Brothers Karamazov*, exploring the problem of faith through the relationship between Alyosha and Ivan.

Brian Robinette, presiding

Papers

Julius Trugenberger
Mimesis, Growth, and the Politics of Scarcity: Peter Thiel's Girardian Critique of Climate-Centered Political Rationality

John Steichen
The Brother's Karamazov and the Problem of Faith, A Kierkegaardian Perspective

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M22-108
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Reformed Theology and History Unit, Karl Barth Society of North America, and Baylor University Press
Theme: Prayer, Partnership, and Transformation: A Discussion of Cambria Kaltwasser's book, Karl Barth on Friendship with God
Sunday, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

Join us for a discussion of Karl Barth on Friendship with God, Cambria Kaltwasser's new book exploring the significance for the Christian life of Barth's understanding of God's self-humbling toward creatures in Jesus Christ.

Panelist

Cambria Kaltwasser, Northwestern College, Orange City
Paul Nimmo, University of Aberdeen
Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary
Stephen Wright, Nazarene Theological College

M22-106
Hosted by: Society for Pentecostal Studies
Theme: The Holy, the Spiritual, and the Monstrous: Pentecostal Explorations in Biblical Interpretation
Sunday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

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Rebecca Basdeo-Hill, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Lee Roy Martin, Pentecostal Theological Seminary
A Pentecostal Exploration of Holiness in the Former Prophets

Annette Kendall, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Is Daniel also a Man of the Spirit?

Robby Waddell
The Gospel According to Monsters: Reading Cultural Nightmares as Apocalyptic Signs

M22-109
Hosted by: De Gruyter Brill
Theme: Biblical Interpretation (Brill) - Editorial Meeting
Sunday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

Editorial Meeting Biblical Interpretation

A22-133
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Presidential Plenary: Whose Freedom? Whose Future? Religious Liberty and the Architecture of American Democracy
Sunday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

In a moment of growing pressure on religious liberty, academic freedom, and civil rights, Deborah Archer, President of the ACLU asks not only what freedoms we must defend, but what kind of future we are building. Drawing on the ACLU's work and the idea of "justice as construction," Deborah Archer will explore religious freedom as essential infrastructure for a pluralistic democracy—one capable of sustaining profound difference without turning difference into hierarchy or domination. The address considers the immediate and emerging challenges to religious freedom and argues that genuine pluralism does not simply happen: it must be deliberately built, protected, and sustained.

Laurel Schneider, President of the American Academy of Religion, presiding

Panelist

Deborah N. Archer, New York University

A22-134
Hosted by: Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: SWAG Listening and Mentoring Session: The Politics of Complaint
Sunday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2C+3C (Ballroom Level)

The Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee warmly invites all woman-identified and gender-minoritized AAR members at any stage in their professions to the Listening and Mentoring Session for self-reflective, critical, and supportive

conversations. This is a session in the politics of complaint (S. Ahmed): we are choosing to express the concerns regarding and limits of our institutional settings. From there, we hope to build additional plans and topics for how we can serve women and gender minoritized persons in the profession, whether through webinars, mentoring, or other means.

This session offers space for candid conversations about challenging issues the participants are facing due to their social identities, institutional culture, political climate, and more. Intended as peer-to-peer mentoring and conversation in a supportive environment, the session will host small group conversations on the topics, including academic freedom, scholarship, non-academic careers, research and publication, job search, professional development, social identity-related issues in professions, and graduate schools. All participants are expected to respect confidentiality and engage with one another with civility and without judgment.

No reservation is required. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Feel free to bring your own lunch.

K. Christine Pae, Denison University, presiding

Hosted by: Tours
Theme: History Colorado Center: Indigenous History Tour
Sunday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Offsite

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Colorado's rich heritage as you explore the interactive exhibits and immersive experiences at the History Colorado Center in downtown Denver. Our hour-long docent-led tour will cover several exhibits focused on Indigenous history, including the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit. After the tour, guests are welcome to stay and explore the museum at their own pace.

The History Colorado Center is located 1 mile away from the Colorado Convention Center, at 1200 N Broadway. Transportation will not be provided between the Colorado Convention Center and the History Colorado Center. The price of this tour includes a ride share voucher.

A22-203
Hosted by: Childhood Studies and Religion Unit and Practical Theology Unit
Theme: “Do we have a theological future?” Lessons to be learned from Children and Adolescents

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

Children and youth have been largely positioned within the discipline of practical theology internationally and in many local contexts of theological education. Ironically, there is still much theological reflection required through the lived realities and experiences of these youth. The 2026 Presidential theme calls for re-visioning and imagining the future of practical theologies that take the place and voice of children and young people seriously. This co-sponsored session gathers presentations that investigate the complex and multifaceted relation between religion and childhood functions as a forum for focused interdisciplinary and interreligious dialogue about the diverse relations of children and religion.

Shantelle Weber, presiding
Kishundra King, Union Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Heilim Choi
From Abandonment to Abundance : God-Experiences and the Emergence of Salim Pastoral Theology among Former Residents of Korean Residential Child Care Institutions

Sarah Kathleen Johnson, Saint Paul University
Nelson Cowan, Samford University
Emily Andrews
Holistic Liturgical Formation in Three Traditions of Worship: Insights from the Young People and Christian Worship Study

Karen-Marie Yust, Union Presbyterian Seminary
Implications of Digital Culture & AI for Children's Faith Formation

Peter Cariaga
Telling Each Other's Stories: Missionary Kids and Storytelling Practices

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A22-204
Hosted by: Christian Spirituality Unit
Theme: A New, or Newly Imagined, Christian Asceticism
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

While by now, Christian theology and spirituality have rightfully critiqued the misuse and abuse of Christian asceticism (especially the meaning and application of sacrifice), the interlocking realities of ecological exploitation/devastation and unfettered capitalism may suggest that there is need to revisit asceticism as a discipline. Christian spirituality scholars and practitioners should

consider ways that asceticism is a site both for agency and for exploitation. This panel imagines a future for Christian asceticism that is capable of responding to the needs of our present age through an integrated balance of attentiveness, urgency, and resistance to systemic injustice.

David De La Fuente, Fordham University, presiding

Papers

Ching Sum Leung
Hunger as Ethical Practice: Reimagining Asceticism with Simone Weil

Lance Green
A Technology Problem or an Ascetic Teacher: Peter Thiel and John Climacus (Mis)remembering Death

Luke Roberts
Emmanuel Mounier and the Promise of Social Asceticism

Kyle Lambelet, Virginia Theological Seminary
Apocalypse as Praxis

A22-237
Hosted by: Applied Religious Studies Committee, Bioethics and Religion Unit, and Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit
Theme: Applied Religious Studies at the Intersection of Religion and Health
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This roundtable explores new directions in applied religious studies at the intersection of religion and health. Participants will focus on the following themes: how specific contexts and local conditions (geographic, institutional, funding landscape) are shaping the field of applied religious studies and health; strategic development of undergraduate and graduate curricula and career development initiatives; limitations and constraints under which these programs operate; and future directions and possibilities. Each of the panelists will share insights from projects that they are undertaking to apply religious studies within health care settings: in hospitals, community clinics, trainings for health professionals and chaplains; curricular initiatives, public-facing education, and consulting work. Panelists will share highlights from their respective projects, with attention to both the challenges and opportunities of pursuing this kind of work.

Michele Berger, Case Western Reserve University, presiding

Panelist

Amanda Baugh, California State University, Northridge
Katherine Janiec Jones
Philippa Koch, Missouri State University
Brian Pennington, Elon University
Madeline Reyes, Case Western Reserve University
Kristy Slominski, University of Arizona
Lora Walsh
Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Georgia State University

A22-338
Hosted by: Theology and Religious Reflection Unit and Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: Author-Meets-Respondents Session for Joseph R. Winters, The Disturbing Profane: Hip Hop, Blackness, and the Sacred (Duke Press, 2025)
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

This Author-Meets-Respondents session provides a forum for critical engagement with Joseph R. Winters's book, *The Disturbing Profane: Hip Hop, Blackness, and the Sacred* (Duke University Press, 2025). Winters explores how hip hop's religiosity is anchored in the "dark sacred"—a register that signifies death and pleasure, opacity and contamination, exorbitance and anguish, rather than conventional notions of purity and wholeness. Bringing religious studies, Black studies, Black feminist thought, and critical theory into conversation with hip hop, the book radically troubles traditional boundaries between the sacred and the profane. Through nuanced analyses of artists such as Notorious B.I.G., Lauryn Hill, Kendrick Lamar, Lupe Fiasco, and Nicki Minaj, Winters shows how hip hop destabilizes fixed meanings of sacrality to confront listeners with their own investments in unpleasant social realities, exposing audiences to a volatile sacred and the unruly dynamics of Blackness. Furthermore, the text demonstrates that hip hop's dark sacrality is deeply intertwined with its expression of, participation in, and resistance to the antiblack and Black gendered violence structuring the contemporary social order. Respondents from a variety of specializations and career stages will evaluate the book's major contributions to Africana religious studies, hip hop studies, Black feminist critique, and cultural theory.

Lucia Hulsether, presiding

Panelist

DeAnna Daniels, University of Arizona
Jon Gill, Gustavus Adolphus College
Seth Gaiters, North Carolina State University
Rebecca Wilcox, Princeton Theological Seminary

Respondent

Joseph Winters

A22-218
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Middle Eastern Christianity Unit and Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: Book Panel on Candace Lukasik's Martyrs and Migrants: Coptic Christians and the Persecution Politics of U.S. Empire (2025)
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

Copts are the largest Christian community in the Middle East and among the world's oldest Christian communities. Once the objects of American missionary efforts, they have recently become newly visible in Western political and religious imaginaries. ISIS-related violence and anti-Muslim politics have spurred U.S. politicians and evangelical networks to mobilize projects of "saving" Middle Eastern Christians, reinforcing the moral discourse of the "Persecuted Church."

Drawing on fieldwork among Coptic migrants across Egypt and the U.S., *Martyrs and Migrants* examines how American imaginaries of global Christian persecution reshape Coptic collective memory and public identity. Lukasik argues that transnational Copts translate martyrdom into ambiguous forms of visibility, forging a theopolitics of Christian kinship in blood even as they remain subject to racialization, detention, and exclusion. This roundtable reflects on the book's interventions into debates over religion and empire, violence and migration, and the contested politics of recognition and belonging in contemporary Christianity.

Reyhan Durmaz, presiding

Panelist

Gil Anidjar
Elizabeth Castelli
Simon Coleman
Candace Lukasik, Harvard Divinity School

A22-206
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Comparative Theology Unit and Confucian Traditions Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Debating Transcendence: Creatio ex nihilo and Sheng Sheng (Fordham University Press, 2026)
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

This high-level roundtable convenes leading scholars of Confucianism, Christianity, and comparative theology to assess the methodological and constructive significance of *Debating Transcendence: Creatio ex nihilo and Sheng Sheng* (Fordham University Press, 2026). The panel examines whether classical Ruist thought offers a philosophically rigorous account of transcendence and how this reframes long-standing debates about Eurocentrism, religious diversity, and global theology. Engaging textual scholarship, constructive metaphysics, and critical theory, participants evaluate the book's claims regarding *generatio ex nihilo*, immanent transcendence, and non-confessional theology. By bringing multiple disciplinary perspectives into sustained dialogue, the session models a new stage of Confucian comparative theology—one that is historically grounded, conceptually precise, and globally conversant. The roundtable contributes substantively to contemporary philosophy of religion and comparative religious studies while advancing future-oriented frameworks for transreligious understanding.

Michael Ing, presiding

Panelist

Michael Ing
Leah Kalmanson, University of North Texas
Stephanie Wong, Villanova University

Respondent

Bin Song

A22-227
Hosted by: Space, Place, and Religion Unit
Theme: Creative Buddhist Frontiers
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

This panel views frontiers not as passive receivers of tradition but as dynamic laboratories where new doctrines, iconographies, rituals, and narratives emerge. As our four case studies demonstrate, frontiers have long generated innovative religious forms that reshaped the wider Buddhist world. We analyze devotional narratives of the Malaya mountains in Kashmir, Newar Buddhist donative communities in Nepal, myths concerning Mount Jizu in southwestern China, and the leadership of lama Chokyi Wangchuk in Tibet's Mangyul Gungtang corridor. These four cases demonstrate that these new geographic as well as imagined frontiers became engines of religious futurity: places where new social possibilities, doctrinal developments, and mythic visions took shape. The panel argues that an analysis of the confluence of creative energies in these frontiers will generate better analyses than would separately addressing each topic merely from the perspective of dominant Indic, Tibetan, or Sinitic forms of Buddhism.

Jennifer Eichman, presiding

Papers

Sloane Geddes, University of Toronto
Seeing the Mountain as Buddha: Metaphor and Narrative Structure in Śivasvāmin's early-Medieval Sanskrit poem, the Kapphiṇābhyudaya

Liwen Liu
Patronage and Persistence: An Epigraphic Study of Newar Buddhist Donations in Medieval Nepal

Lu Huang, UC Berkeley
Mount Jizu and the Mahākāśyapa Legend: The Creation of a Sacred Mountain in the Ming Southwestern Borderlands

Andrew Quintman
Marginal Buddhists: Frontier Lamas and Religious Formation in Tibet's Southern Borderlands

Business Meeting
Courtney Bruntz, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Katie Oxx, Saint Joseph's University

A22-222
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit
Theme: Faith in Space: American Religious Belief in Extraterrestrial Life
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This roundtable will explore the history of American religious belief in extraterrestrial life by bringing scholars from a number of fields to discuss traditions who have long been convinced that life exists elsewhere in the universe. The roundtable is designed so that it stands at a number of investigative intersections: American Protestantism and new religious movements, science and religion, apocalypticism and politics, as well as technology and material culture. It will also study a variety of American religious traditions including -- but not limited to -- Puritanism, Swedenborgianism, Mormonism, Seventh-Day Adventism, Theosophy, Scientology, Nation of Islam and a handful of UFO religions. Roundtable participants will also bring their varied academic interests, training and methodologies to bear on the question of where the study of American extraterrestrial religious belief might find fruitful avenues of study going forward.

Robert Brown, James Madison University, presiding

Panelist

Paul Gutjahr, Indiana University
Mary-Jane Rubenstein

David Morgan
Kathryn Lofton
Leigh E. Schmidt

A22-213
Hosted by: International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture and Religion and Ecology Unit
Theme: Future/s of the Field: Religion and Ecology at Thirty-five
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

The study of religion and ecology arrives at a moment dense with anniversaries and with pressures that make reflection more critical than commemorative. Taking the 2026 AAR presidential theme, "future/s," as its organizing principle, this roundtable asks what futures—those both concerning and captivating—are visible from within the field. Ecological disruption is more often than not narrated in apocalyptic terms, and the institutional conditions sustaining humanistic inquiry are themselves under strain. Just as cultural and political conversations ask how communities, institutions, and practices must adapt to an altered world, it is worth asking the same of the scholarly field that studies those very questions. Organized in partnership with the ISSRNC, which convened a companion session at its Venice anniversary conference in October, it foregrounds critical, field-level exchange: what has worked, what is under strain, what feels insufficient, and what the field offers scholars carrying it forward.

Joseph Wiebe, University of Alberta, Augustana, presiding

Panelist

Laurel D. Kearns
Christiana Zenner
Christopher Carter
Willis Jenkins
Evan Berry
Dominic Wilkins, Berea College

Respondent

Amanda Nichols
Business Meeting
Joseph Wiebe, University of Alberta, Augustana
Kimberly Carfore

A22-236

Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Futures of Religious Life: Gender, Aging, and Ecology Across Traditions
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

Engaging the AAR theme of futures, this panel examines how religious traditions construct, regulate, and reimagine bodies across contexts shaped by gender, age, ecology, and power. The papers move from Islamic legal and devotional discourses on aging female bodies, to Indigenous feminist engagements with Choctaw ceremonial life and ecological kinship, to Vietnamese Catholic women negotiating layered patriarchies, and to a theological critique of fatphobia as a form of structural sin within Christian history. Across these papers, the body emerges as a site where norms are enforced but also contested and transformed. Each paper identifies resources within tradition—legal, ritual, communal, and theological—that enable alternative futures grounded in dignity, relationality, and justice. By foregrounding embodied experience and structural critique, the panel advances a vision of religious futures attentive to repair, survivance, and institutional accountability.

Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union, presiding

Papers

Aziza Shanazarova
Aging Bodies and the Discipline of Sexuality in Islamic Traditions

Amy N. Allan, NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community
An Indigenous Feminist Perspective on Survivance: Choctaw Wisdom from the Green Corn Ceremony

Hai-Duong Nguyen, Villanova University
Gender Equality in the Vietnamese Catholic Church: A Future in Negotiation

Kelly Collins
Is This Real Life? Is This Just Fantasy? Caught In A [Fat] Landslide: Complicity, Harm, and the Possibility of Reparative Theology

Business Meeting
Tracy McEwan, Australian Catholic University
Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union

A22-214
Hosted by: Islamic Mysticism Unit
Theme: Futures of the Study of Islamic Philosophy– a Roundtable Discussion
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

What does the study of Islamic Philosophy look like in the third millennium? What are significant and recent developments with regard to its methodological commitments, critical concerns, and primary text materials? How are scholars moving beyond previous generations' commitments, assumptions, and disagreements, particularly considering major shifts in the larger study of Islam as well as broader political developments today?

This roundtable assembles a diverse group of scholars from a variety of institutions and departmental homes that all understand their work to contribute to the shaping of new futures in the study of Islamic philosophy.

Cyrus Zargar, University of Central Florida, presiding

Panelist

Rosabel Ansari
Oludamini Ogunnaike
Nora Jacobsen Ben Hammed, University of California, Berkeley
Cyril Uy, James Madison University
Raissa Von Doetinchem De Rande, University of Chicago Divinity School

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P22-201
Hosted by: International Society for Science and Religion
Theme: Historical and Philosophical Science-Engaged Theology (HPSET)
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

The purpose of this panel is to consider what it looks like for theologians to engage with science responsibly and critically. Science-engaged theology (SET) emerged out of a recent move away from the overly essentialist and totalizing methodological projects of Science and Religion. It has encouraged greater specificity, an end to methodological stalling, and attention to the entanglement between theology and science. SET, however, has been plagued by complaints that it is methodologically naive and prone to scientism. This panel seeks to articulate and develop a path forward for SET, one that makes use of the History and Philosophy of Science to give theologians better critical tools to engage with science responsibly and to interrogate the historical and conceptual foundations of scientific theories. We call this project Historical and Philosophical Science-Engaged Theology (HPSET).

J. Matthew Ashley, presiding

Panelist

Eugenia Torrance
Josh Reeves
Matthew Gummess

Simeon Zahl
Logan Patriquin, University of Notre Dame

Respondent

Joanna Leidenhag

A22-205
Hosted by: Comparative Religious Ethics Unit and Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Hope and Despair in an Algorithmic Age: Feminist Comparative Religious Ethics of AI Futures
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

As the world shifts through climate crisis, war, and technological upheaval, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become an issue and topic where despair and messianic hope converge. This roundtable, convening feminist theologians from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, explores "hope in a time of despair" and related questions of moral judgment and human agency regarding AI. Engaging the 2026 AAR theme of "future(s)," participants ask how feminist religious ethics might form responsible technological futures grounded in ethical reasoning and theological insight rather than naïve optimism or paralysis. Incorporating Black Protestant, white/mainline Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim feminist perspectives, the session models comparative religious ethics as a framework for navigating apocalyptic narratives, religious and secular alike. We ask: what counts as faithful hope or truthful despair in AI-shaped futures? By reasserting theology's role in confronting technological power, we seek resources for justice-serving, life-affirming responses amid our algorithmic age.

Thomas Greggs, University of Aberdeen, presiding

Panelist

Laurie Zoloth, University of Chicago
Elise Edwards, Baylor University

Respondent

Ayesha S. Chaudhry

A22-234
Hosted by: Contemporary Islam Unit
Theme: Islamic Futurities

Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This panel explores Islamic futurities through the lenses of Black Muslim thought, ethical self-formation, and contemporary political organizing. Bringing together historical, theoretical, and ethnographic approaches, our panelists examine how Muslims imagine and enact alternative futures grounded in faith, justice, and liberation. One paper analyzes Black Muslim futurities in mid-20th century print culture, tracing how visions of the "infinite future" articulated expansive possibilities for Black life, dignity, and sovereignty. Another investigates the relationship between futurity and the self, exploring how Muslims engage ethical and spiritual practices to cultivate future-oriented subjectivities. A third turns to contemporary organizing in New York City, examining how a new Muslim left draws on Islamic theology to inform political action and reimagine collective futures. Together, these contributions highlight how Islamic frameworks are mobilized to envision transformative possibilities, linking past struggles, present practices, and future horizons.

Ilgin Nas, Harvard University, presiding

Papers

Hussein Rashid
Muslim Futures, Futurisms, and the Self

Michael McLaughlin, University of Missouri
The Blackman's Infinite Future: Black Muslim Futurities in Muhammad Speaks

Sarah Merchant
The New Muslim Left: Islamic Theology and Contemporary Political Organizing in New York City

Business Meeting
Candace Mixon, Reed College
Kimberly Wortmann

A22-229
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Tantric Studies Unit
Theme: New Books in Tantric Studies
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

Four new works demonstrate the extent to which Tantric studies has broadened its scope and sharpened its methodologies. Tantric studies scholarship today ranges widely across historical periods into the present, employs a variety of methods from textual and linguistic to historical

and cultural, and raises methodological issues for the study of religion. Urban's *The Path of Desire* examines living tantra in present-day South Asia. In *The Serpent's Tale*, Bokartaky-Varma and Foxen examine the tantric symbolism of the serpent across a range of cultural locations. Multilingualism and translation are the themes tracking through Fisher's *The Meeting of Rivers*. And in *Tantra Across the Buddhist Cosmopolis* Payne examines the significance of tantra as a critique of the assumptions of the field of religious studies.

Shaman Hatley, presiding

Panelist

Richard Payne
Hugh B. Urban, Ohio State University
Anya Foxen
Sravana Borkataky-Varma, University of Houston
Elaine Fisher
Business Meeting
Anya Golovkova
Shaman Hatley

A22-212
Hosted by: Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit
Theme: Ontologies of Silence in Ancient Chinese and Indian Thought
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

In Indian and Chinese religious discourses, silence is rarely viewed as a mere absence of sound; it is frequently positioned as a concept related to the ultimate reality. In the *Upaniṣads* and Bhartṛhari's writings, silence serves as the unmanifest ground of both language or reality; Buddhist arguments often frame silence as a signal of the ineffability of ultimate reality or liberation. Daoist texts describe silence as an attunement to the Way or Nature's spontaneity, while early Confucians view "Heaven's silence" as the ultimate expression of effortless efficacy. By bringing together presentations of early Confucianism, Bhartṛhari's linguistic philosophy, Advaita Vedānta, and Chan Buddhism, this panel examines the philosophical and soteriological implications of silence across the Asian religious landscape. Together, the panel reveals the cross-cultural potency of silence as a privileged site for musings about metaphysical problems.

Nan Ouyang, DePaul University, presiding

Papers

Yi Ding, DePaul University
Silence at the Origin of Speech: Paśyantī, Sphoṭa, and the Projection of the World in Bhartṛhari

Yu-Chen Tsui, Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts
A Defining Paradigm: Innovative Uses of the Term mo 默 in Hongzhi Zhengjue's Portrait Encomia

Zoë Slatoff, Loyola Marymount University
The Subtlety of Silence: Mauna from Ethical Practice to Essential State

Zachary Joachim, Denison University
Heaven's Silence in the Mengzi

Business Meeting
Eyal Aviv
Zoë Slatoff, Loyola Marymount University

A22-202
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit and Daoist Studies Unit
Theme: Poetry, Space, and the Making of the Sacred in Daoist Tradition
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This panel examines how poetry functions as a medium through which Daoist sacred space is produced, authorized, and reimagined across time. Spanning the Tang, late Ming, and contemporary digital eras, the three papers argue that poetry does not merely describe sacred landscapes—it actively helps make them. The first paper reads Li Bai's poems on Mount Song as a corpus that links poetic form to the institutional and social life of a sacred mountain. The second explores Ming biographies of Ye Xiaoluan, showing how poetry and imagined mountain spaces legitimize her posthumous identity as a Daoist immortal. The third traces the quotation of Tang poetry in social media posts about Daoist caves, demonstrating how classical verse continues to sacralize space in modern contexts. Together, the papers foreground poetry as spatial practice—bridging text and terrain, memory and authority—and reveal how Daoist sacred space is continually shaped through language, circulation, and lived engagement

Papers

Yiyi Luo, UMass Amherst
Writing Songshan: Li Bai and the Making of Religious Landscape

Yanning Wang
Poetry, Space, and Daoist Identity in the Ming Biographies

Jonathan Pettit
Finding a Plot of Magic Mushrooms: Tang Poetry and Daoist Caves in Contemporary China

Respondent

James A. Benn, McMaster University
Business Meeting
Jingyu Liu, Rollins College
Tobias Zürn, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

A22-228
Hosted by: Study of Islam Unit
Theme: Political theologies of Islam in South Asia
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

The panel invites a discussion on the material, liturgical, and lyrical ways in which Muslim minorities apprehend their predicament through theologies of Islam. Anthropologists, ethnomusicologists, and literary scholars come together to reflect upon the intersecting junctures of political and personal to explore the making, unmaking and re-making of Muslim pasts to speak to the crisis unfolding in Muslim presents, provoking us to ask: amidst rubble and ruin how does one imagine a Muslim future? For the ones mired in loss, martyrdom, destruction, and partition For the ones who are people of God. In focusing on the theological practices, traditions, poetry, commentaries and ethical readings, the panel shares a fragment of how Muslims draw upon, create, and participate to articulate their historical condition, its mythical rendering, its compromises and possibilities.

Zehra Mehdi, presiding

Papers

Shahwar Kibria
Indo-Islamic music in Little Awadh

Meghan Hartman
Stomping on the Resurrection Ground: Urdu poetry and Political Theology

Ankita Choudhary, University of Toronto
Where Mourning Becomes Craft: The Intercessory Life of the Tāʿziya Beyond the Shiʿi Heartland

Respondent

Anand Taneja

M22-200
Hosted by: Ligare: A Christian Psychedelic Society
Theme: Psychedelics in Practice: Spirituality, Community, and Integration
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 3 (Second Floor)

Recently we have seen a dramatic increase in biomedical research involving psychedelics like psilocybin, LSD, MDMA, and ibogaine. These substances have widespread mental health benefits while often bringing about intense spiritual or "mystical-like" experiences. The intensity of the spiritual experience correlates positively with the healing effects. Scientific evidence opens the pathway to medicalized treatments, while local efforts at decriminalization (in Denver, for example) mean that people now feel safe using these substances for mental and spiritual purposes, trends that raise increasingly urgent questions for religious scholars. This panel looks at efforts to provide spiritual support when psychedelics prompt questions with religious significance, especially in situations of spiritual distress or profound but tentative changes in worldview. Contact: coleturn@pts.edu

Megan Holloway, presiding

Panelist

Lisa Gezon, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Jeffrey Breau
Tara Deonauth
Paul Gillis-Smith
Roman Palitsky, Emory University
Caroline Peacock, Emory University

A22-224
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Religion and the Social Sciences Unit
Theme: Re-imagining the Future of Religious Studies Scholarship: A Roundtable for De Gruyter Handbook of Religion and Social Change
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

The roundtable on The De Gruyter Handbook of Religion and Social Change (2026) will convene editors and contributors to discuss how scholars are reimagining the future of religious studies amid major social transformations. The Handbook brings together theoretical, methodological, and empirical case studies from around the world to explore religion's dynamic roles in processes such as urbanization, democratization, media expansion, and social justice movements. Panelists will offer brief reflections on the volume's key claims, its contributions to interdisciplinary "futuring," and methodological lessons for future research, then engage in

dialogue with one another and the audience. The session will showcase the Handbook's comparative scope and provoke discussion on how religious studies can productively envision futures by integrating diverse theories and global evidence.

Victoria Machado, Rollins College, presiding

Panelist

Jeyoul Choi
Rebecca Bartel
Angela Bernardo, Sapienza University of Rome
Dania Tarabishy, University of Florida

A22-220
Hosted by: Nineteenth Century Theology Unit
Theme: Religion and Nationalism
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

This session explores the intersection of religion and nationalism. The first paper contextualizes the resurgence of nationalism in France during the 1890s, examining the interrelations between two movements: L'Action Française and Le Sillon. The second paper discusses Adolf von Harnack's (1851-1930) swift transition from a public supporter of Kaiser Wilhelm II to a defender of the Weimar Republic. It argues that his distinct form of Lutheran *Kulturprotestantismus* provided the theological resources for this political transition, in ways unavailable to many of his contemporaries. The third paper highlights the dynamics of moral social criticism during the transnational, cross-cultural missionary encounters from approximately 1865 to 1900. It examines how missionaries navigated questions of national identity and culture in the complex geopolitical landscape between nation-states.

Sheila Briggs, University of Southern California, presiding

Papers

Charles J. T. Talar
Integral Nationalism and Social Democracy: L'Action Francaise and Le Sillon

Ellen Loucks, Indiana University
Religion and Theologies of Nationalism in the Nineteenth-Century Cross-Cultural Missionary Encounter

Business Meeting
Annette G. Aubert
Matthias Gockel

A22-217
Hosted by: Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit, and Sociology of Religion Unit
Theme: Religion and the Manosphere: Masculinist Futures in Digital Religious Spaces
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

This panel explores the role virtual spaces play in disseminating normative conceptions of masculinity. The manospheres analyzed each trade on a foundational "truth": men are the future because they are our past, but they are threatened in the present. From a wellness influencer-founded new religious movement that seeks to immortalize the male body with AI to a Jewish fitness influencer who asks his followers "if God couldn't satisfy (women who wear makeup and get plastic surgery), why do you think you can?", these papers explore claims about what a "real man" looks like and how he can escape society's feminizing influences. In particular, the papers explore influencers' burgeoning role in shaping the manosphere across technological spaces like Instagram, PragerU, podcasts, and the Telegram app. Indeed, they expose various influencers' and movements' ability to disseminate masculinist ideologies in trojan horses like hunting podcasts and fight clubs.

Papers

Izzak Novak
"Stay paranoid, hunters": Hunting Influencers and/as Normative Masculinity in the Manosphere

Nicole Collins
"Assimilation, Nationalism, and 'True Judaism' in the 'Jewish Manosphere'"

Liz Vukovic
Don't Die: Religion, AI, and Techno-Masculinity

Spencer Kunz, Florida State University
Religion, Masculinity, and Ethnonationalism in American Active Clubs

Business Meeting
Anna Sun, Duke University
Simranjit Steel, University of Memphis

A22-211
Hosted by: Hinduism Unit
Theme: Religious Histories of Hinduism: Memory, Narrative, and Archives
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This panel intervenes in the historiography of Hindu traditions by treating “archive” not as a bounded institutional repository but as a distributed field of authorization that includes liturgical performance, consecrated material forms, vernacular poetics, and embodied charisma. Across four case studies, the papers track how religious pasts are rendered legible and credible through practices that make memory operable: processional reenactment, tactile engagement with burial shrines, the versification of ephemeral women’s devotional speech, and the curation of realized personhood as evidentiary form. By centering the techniques through which religious communities stabilizeand reactivate the past, the panel reframes religious history as an ongoing process of mediation, one that continually negotiates the relation between presence and absence, text and performance, institutional custody and vernacular transmission. The panel thus offers an analytic vocabulary for explaining how Hindu histories are produced across ritual practice, sacred materiality, poetic traditions, and embodied religious authority.

Avni Chag, presiding

Papers

Prathik Murali
The Ascetic in White Robes: Materializing Memory in Temple Festivities

Leena Taneja
Embodied Memory: Materiality and Remembrance at the Samadhi of Rupa Goswami in Vrindavan

Meera Trivedi, Sheffield University
Singing the Archive: Versification as Preservation and Pedagogy

Kirtan Patel, Utah State University
Reading the Satpurush: The Body as Archive in Nineteenth-Century Jain and Hindu Traditions

Respondent

Amy Allocco, Elon University

A22-230
Hosted by: Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit
Theme: Religious Thinkers as Co-Theorists: The Future of Critical Theory on Religion
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This panel asks us to imagine a future of critical theory where religious intellectuals outside the academy are not simply subjects to be studied, but colleagues to think alongside. We hope to challenge the disciplinary norms that treat the academy as the primary creator of and authority on "theory" about religion. What new terms arise, which ideas fall out of favor, and what networks of relationships appear when we treat religious intellectuals as theorists of religion in their own right? This panel does not aim to valorize religious knowledge as somehow more authentic or true, but rather to extend to it the same interest, scrutiny, and care scholars provide to canonical theorists. What does the future of the field look like if we acknowledge that some of the most sophisticated theorists of religion have been studied, categorized, and provincialized as its objects?

Matthew Drew, Northwestern University, presiding

Papers

Pema McLaughlin, Northwestern University
The Extent of All Knowledge: Jamgön Kongtrul and the Epistemic Future of Religious

Matthew King
Tantra, Desire, and Homo economicus in the Tibetan Frontiers of Global Capital

Joshua Brallier, Northwestern University
“We Can’t Read That Yet”: Textual Ethnography, Relational Epistemologies, and Textual Authority in Tibetan Studies Fieldwork

Kali Cape, Georgia State University
Entangled Bodies in Tibetan Great Perfection

Patrick Lambelet, Maitripa College
Transmission, Interpretation, and Contestation: Tibetan Buddhist Intellectuals and the Reframing of Tradition

Constantine Lignos
Choreographing the Cosmos: Tibetan Buddhist Tantric Dance Masters as Performance Theorists

Alina Pokhrel
Bringing Home the Dharma: Decolonial Perspectives and Strategies in Response to Heritage Theft and Possessive Epistemologies

Respondent

Dominique Townsend

A22-201
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit and Ritual Studies Unit
Theme: Rituals in the Machine: AI, Digital Media, and the Boundaries of Sacred Practice
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

This panel examines the entangled futures of ritual and technology, asking how digital systems and artificial intelligence reshape, and are reflexively reshaped by, the sacred. Drawing on case studies ranging from Appalachian serpent handling and Catholic eucharistic practice to electronic health records and online atheist communities, these papers interrogate ritual's resilience and transformation in an age of algorithmic governance. Together they reveal how datafied bodies, networked media, and machine learning do not simply displace traditional ritual logics but generate new sites of moral authority, communal formation, and meaning-making. The panel moves from ethnographic and historical analysis to methodological reflection, with one paper that deploys algorithmic tools to analyze ritual itself—raising pointed questions about what is gained and lost in translation. Across these diverse cases, a shared provocation emerges: as AI increasingly mediates human practice, what counts as ritual, who holds authority over it, and what futures does it make possible?

Wesley J. Wildman, presiding

Papers

Sam Cole-Osborn, Boston University School of Theology
Semantic Alchemy: How We Used Algorithmic Rituals to Study Ritual

Dohyung (Jacob) Cha, Boston University School of Theology
From Classification to Communion: The Limits of Algorithmic Governance and Eucharistic Counter-Ritual

Chase Viscuse, University of Chicago Divinity School
When the Cameras Came to Church: Serpent Handling and the Digital Future of Ritual

Kandace S. Geldmeier
Sacral Logics & Datafied Bodies: Ritual, Interoperability, and Moral Authority in the Electronic Health Record

Joshua Urich
"Emerging from the Pit of Ignorance:" Ritual (De)conversion Among Digital Atheist Communities

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A22-219
Hosted by: Native Traditions in the Americas Unit

Theme: Teaching for a Future of Freedom: Native American and Indigenous Religious Traditions
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This roundtable asks two questions: How might those who teach Native American and Indigenous religious traditions nurture greater respect, more nuanced understanding, more care-full critical thought, and deeper community engagement with Indigenous nations and communities across the Americas, in their teaching? How might teaching *with* Native American and Indigenous religious traditions, instead of *about* them, create the possibility for better understanding the ongoing creation of settler colonial societies, and for imagining and enacting Indigenous and non-Indigenous futures in more responsible and respectful ways? The inseparability of religion and politics in Native American and Indigenous religions, as cites of Indigenous self-determination, are foregrounded in this roundtable. Together, the participants speak to historical, theoretical, ethical and legal case studies, constructing the conversation toward contemporary assets and challenges in pursuing the religious and political flourishing of Indigenous and Native American peoples.

Elisha Chi, University of California, San Diego, presiding

Panelist

Anthony Trujillo
Natalie Avalos, University of Colorado, Boulder
Daniel Sims, University of Northern British Columbia
Timothy Vasko

Respondent

Mélena Laudig
Business Meeting
Brennan Keegan
Felicia Lopez, University of California, Merced

A22-226
Hosted by: Secularism and Secularity Unit and Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit
Theme: Teaching Secularism Today: A Collaborative Workshop on the Pedagogy and Politics of "the Secular"
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

In recent years, theoretical concepts such as "secularism," "secularization," and "secularity" have become increasingly salient categories of analysis across the humanities and social sciences. Yet teaching these frameworks can often feel overly abstract or disconnected from the urgent

questions that animate students' lives. Designed as an interactive and collaborative session, this workshop invites (but does not require) those who attend to bring syllabi, assignments, lecture materials, and in-progress ideas for collective discussion. Working together, we will ask: what pedagogical strategies equip students to critically analyze—and intervene in—the social and political formations that these concepts describe and sustain? How can we as educators enable students to see "the secular" not as a neutral backdrop, but as a historically contingent and contested formation with real effects on bodies, communities, and institutions? Particular attention will be given here to examining how teaching theory can contribute to broader projects of social and political transformation.

Eric Stephen, University of South Florida, presiding
Rafael Vizcaino, DePaul University, presiding

Panelist

Pamela Klassen
J. Barton Scott
Charles McCrary, Eckerd College
Michelle Sanchez
Mona Hassan, Duke University

Respondent

Peter Capretto, Phillips Theological Seminary
Hilary Scarsella

A22-200
Hosted by: African Religions Unit
Theme: The Future of African Religious Studies
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

This is a "meet the author" panel that discusses four recent books on African religions. It interrogates the methodological and theoretical relevance of these books to current and future study of African religions. The recent books include:

Itohan Idumwonyi - *Crashed Realities?: Gender Dynamics in Nigerian Pentecostalism* (Brill 2023)

Ayodeji Ogunnaike - *Forms of Worship: How Orișa Worship Became Religion in Nigeria and Brazil* (Duke University Press, 2026)

Sheila Otieno - *Kin(Ethics): The Politics of Sharing a Public Sphere* (Penn State Univ. Press, forthcoming)

David Ngong, *Senghor's Eucharist: Negritude and African Political Theology* (Baylor University Press, 2023)

Jessie Fubara-Manuel, presiding

Panelist

Ayodeji Ogunnaike, McGill University
Sheila Otieno, Elon University
David Ngong

A22-231
Hosted by: Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit
Theme: The Future of Wesleyan and Methodist Systematic Theology
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This invited Roundtable session will be a live conversation on the topic of the future of Wesleyan and Methodist Systematic Theology. The session will be moderated by Daniel Castelo (Duke) and Charles Austin Rivera (Wake Forest), who will ask questions such as "How does Wesleyan-Methodist theology need to change, given how it has been pursued in the past?" and "Historically, systematic theology has often been structured polemically, articulating 'our' theology over against 'theirs.' What role do you see for systematic theology for shaping Methodist identities in the very diverse and global present and future of our tradition?"

Acknowledging that systematic theology, as a mode of thinking and teaching, has never been the only way to teach Christian doctrine, also to be considered are the promise and/or challenges of this way of teaching in different pedagogical contexts, especially in light of the characteristically Methodist quest to unite "knowledge and vital piety."

Daniel Castelo, Duke University, presiding
Charles Rivera, presiding

Panelist

Rebecca Copeland
Mark Gorman
Lisa Hancock
Sangwoo Kim, Duke University
Maureen Knudsen Langdoc
Douglas Koskela, Seattle Pacific University
Filipe Maia
Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman
Stephen Sours

J.J. Warren, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

A22-208
Hosted by: Evangelical Studies Unit
Theme: The Past as Prologue: How Evangelicals Imagine the Future
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This session examines evangelical visions of the future through a historical lens, tracing their development across key periods from the early American republic to the Civil War era, the Cold War, and into the present. By situating these visions within distinct historical moments, the papers construct a diachronic account that highlights patterns of transformation alongside enduring thematic continuities.

Peter Choi, presiding

Papers

Thomas Whittaker, Fuller Theological Seminary
Imagining the Evangelical Future in the Early American Republic

Jane Anne Tucker, Northern Seminary
The Shared Theocratic Dreams of Confederate Nationalists and Christian Nationalists in Contemporary America

Songzan Xu, University of Cambridge
Contested Visions of "Future China": American Evangelical Eschatology and the Geopolitical Imagination (1970s–2000s)

Ellie Ashby, Harvard Divinity School
The Museum of the Bible: A Site of Memory and Imagined Future

Jenny Wiley Legath, Princeton University
Imagining the Future as an Armed Evangelical Christian

A22-207
Hosted by: Eastern Orthodox Studies Unit
Theme: Theology In Memoriam: Paul Ladouceur Festschrift Roundtable
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

Honoring the legacy of Dr. Paul Ladouceur (1944–2025), a distinguished theologian in Anglophone and Francophone Orthodox Studies, this festschrift roundtable draws on the expansive work of Ladouceur to advance new trajectories in the field of Orthodox Christian Studies. Bringing together theologians, social scientists, and cultural studies scholars, the roundtable will provide engagements with Ladouceur's body of work to consider the future of our field and research possibilities because of his work. Paying close attention to Dr. Ladouceur's work on women's studies and ecumenical dialogue, roundtable panelists will consider how the field can continue and expand his important conversations in theoretical and practical ways that will benefit Orthodox Studies for years to come.

Geoffrey Ready, University of Toronto, presiding

Panelist

Thomas Cattoi, Angelicum Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas
Aristotle Papanikolaou
Sarah Hunt
Gayle Woloschak

A22-210
Hosted by: Gay Men and Religion Unit, Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit, and Religion and Sexuality Unit
Theme: Thinking with Lynne Gerber et al.'s Podcast Series "When We All Get to Heaven"
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

This roundtable brings together a diverse panel of interdisciplinary scholars to celebrate, reflect on, and think with Lynne Gerber, Siri Colom, and Ariana Nedelman's 10-episode podcast series "When We All Get to Heaven" (Eureka Street Productions, 2025). The product of over a decade's worth of rigorous scholarship, "When We All Get to Heaven" looks at how a queer church in San Francisco (MCC San Francisco) faced the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 1990s. It weaves together a rich audio archive of over 1,200 cassette tapes and dozens of oral history interviews. It also incorporates the most recent, cutting-edge scholarship on religion and sexuality. The panel will critically engage with the podcast's major contributions and themes. It will also reflect on the continuing relevance of this history today and on the promise and potential for new forms of audio media to reach broader academic and popular audiences.

Daniel Ballon-Garst, Emory University, presiding

Panelist

Heather White
Anthony Petro
William Stell

Siobhan Kelly, Boston University
Kent Brintnall
Sara Moslener
Dara Delgado

Respondent

Lynne Gerber

A22-238
Hosted by: Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit
Theme: Transmissions: Politics and Theology in Dis/continuity
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1D (Ballroom Level)

The papers on this panel explore the theme of transmission from past to present, tradition to tradition, theology to politics. Transmission is constituted by both continuity and discontinuity, by what is reproduced and by what is not passed on. The first paper locates an early image of Christian supersession in the doubled figures of Jesus and Barabbas, tracking a line of descent from this moment of Christian origins through to contemporary political theological questions of sovereignty and civil war. The second paper reveals a line of continuity from the biblical Eve through to contemporary phenomenology via a discussion of futurity and fall. Another paper asks what specifically Christian problems are transmitted to Islam when Muslim thinkers take up political theology and its European sources. The last paper considers the classic philosophical problem of the communicability of divine revelation, specifically its transmission from past to future generations.

Barnabas Aspray, presiding

Papers

Scott Kirkland, Trinity College, Melbourne
Jesus' Two Bodies: Barabbas and the Christ

Sharon Mar Adams, University of Colorado Boulder
The Birth of the Future: Eve and the Emergence of Human History

Adam Kotsko, North Central College
Political Theology in an Islamic Key: Two Case Studies

Brady DeHoust, Texas A&M University, College Station
"Revelation as a Question of Communicability: Philosophy and the Future of Revelation"

A22-216
Hosted by: Liberation Theologies Unit, Religion and Disability Studies Unit, Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions Committee, and Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee
Theme: Where Do We Go From Here? A Decade of Black Liberation Theology of Disability
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

"Where Do We Go From Here? A Decade of Black Liberation Theology of Disability," commemorates the 10th Anniversary of the first Black Liberation Theology of Disability panel presented at the American Academy of Religion.

This anniversary gathering seeks to honor a historic and generative moment within the guild — one that expanded the discourse of Black theology, foregrounded the lived realities of persons with disabilities, and deepened our collective commitments to justice, embodiment, and liberation. As we mark this milestone, the panel will both reflect on the significance of that inaugural session and critically engage the question before us now: Where do we go from here?

Kendrick Kemp, presiding

Panelist

Monica A. Coleman
Leonard Curry, Xavier University of Louisiana

A22-215
Hosted by: Law, Religion, and Culture Unit
Theme: Whose Possible Future(s): Religion and Subject-making with and through Law
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

Law in all of its modalities is intimately involved in the formation of subjectivity. Law sets expectations, shapes the bounds of propriety, creates and constrains possibilities, and disciplines and punishes. This is true whether law is imposed from the outside by authorities such as the state, cultivated as an internal set of norms and practices, or both. This panel examines the role of law in shaping religious subjectivity and the role of religious subjects in shaping and responding to the law. Panelists will explore the role of California's Alien Land Law of 1913 in shaping Asian American Islam; developmental orthodoxies in education and the forming of the American child; the impact of the asylum process on Korean immigrant religious practices and self-understandings; and the effect of school discipline laws that understand disabled children through the frame of deviance. Collectively, this panel interrogates whose futures the law makes possible.

Silas Allard, Emory University, presiding

Papers

Jacob Barrett, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Good Farmers and Disdainful Children: Developmental Orthodoxy, the Figure of the Child, and American Law

Jaeeun Kim, University of Michigan
Law, Future-Making, and Self-Making in Asylum-Seeking on Religious Grounds

Santiago Pinon, Texas Christian University
Whose Future Counts? Disability, Discipline, and the Moral Status of Children in American Education

Business Meeting
Dana Lloyd, Villanova University
Silas Allard, Emory University

A22-221
Hosted by: North American Hinduism Unit and Yoga in Theory and Practice Unit
Theme: Yoga, War and Necropolitics: The Weaponization of Yoga toward Ideologies of Fascism and Death
Sunday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Building on Achille Mbembe's concept of "necropolitics," this roundtable considers the various historical, colonial, and contemporary appropriations of yoga toward a "politics of death" (Mbembe 2003). Focusing both on yoga as spiritual philosophy and yoga as a psychophysical practice, the panelists in this roundtable interrogate how governmental institutions and far-right movements use yoga in varying ways to advance state and political power and dictate how certain populations become destined for life and others become destined for death and structural violence. Together panelists explore broader topics of yoga as power, the Western white supremacy to conspirituality pipeline, the "Make America Healthy Again" movement, yoga diplomacy, *necropolitical individualism*, Zionist appropriations of *omwashing*, and Brahmanical Hindutva to show how powerful political actors instrumentalize components of yogic practices, meditations, and spiritual philosophies as weapons against oppressed people and, ultimately, themselves.

Steven Vose, presiding

Panelist

Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology

Sheena Sood
Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver
Anjali Rao

A22-233/S22-246
Hosted by: AAR's Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit and SBL's Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible and Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible Sections
Theme: Yanbing Er's Feminism Enchanted: A Review
Sunday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 705 (Street Level)

This session reviews Yanbing Er's book *Feminism Enchanted* and its invitation to literary imagination in times of crisis.

Maia Kotrosits, Harvard Divinity School, presiding

Panelist

Esther Brownsmith, University of Dayton
Colleen Conway
Candace Jordan
Benjamin Lappenga, Dordt College
Jeania Ree Moore

M22-203
Hosted by: Bloomsbury
Theme: Early Career Coffee Hour
Sunday, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 1 (Second Floor)

Are you an early-career scholar interested in publishing your first or second book? Join T&T Clark and Bloomsbury Academic for an informal, drop-in coffee hour.

What to Expect:
• Meet the Editors: Discuss your book proposal directly with commissioning editors in Biblical Studies, Theology, and Religious Studies.
• Network: Connect with fellow attendees, series editors, and editorial board members.
• Publishing Resources & Refreshments: Pick up a helpful publishing goody bag while enjoying hot drinks and light refreshments.

A22-325
Hosted by: Religion and Human Rights Unit
Theme: Advocacy and Struggle for Human Rights Among Religious and Racial Minoritized Groups
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

The papers in this session focus on how members of religiously and racially minoritized groups suffer human rights violations and attempt to claim their rights through legal advocacy, petitioning, interreligious cooperation and in extreme cases, armed resistance. Papers examine the advocacy of Black activists to charge the United States with genocide and the work of leaders and activists in the Global South to expand understandings of genocide; how Buddhist activists work alongside members of other traditions to envision a rights-respecting future for Myanmar in the face of violent Buddhist nationalism; and members of minoritized religious traditions' battles for legal and social recognition in the face of stereotyping and misinformation. The session brings to light tensions and possibilities as the past and future of religion and human rights come together in the experiences of these religious groups.

Carlos Ruiz Martinez, presiding

Papers

Tim Langille, Arizona State University
75 Years Ago Black Activists Accused the U.S. of Genocide: What We Can Learn Today

Ollimatti Peltonen, European Association of Jehovah's Witnesses
Widely known yet often misunderstood: court cases against minority religions in European context

Business Meeting
Laura Alexander, University of Nebraska, Omaha
Christophe D. Ringer

A22-327
Hosted by: Religion and Science Fiction Unit
Theme: After the End: Apocalypse, Authority, and the Moral Imagination in Contemporary Culture
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

In this roundtable, four established scholars will engage in structured conversation around the question of what happens when the theological structures of apocalypse (divine judgment, cosmic conflict, the suspension of ordinary moral order, the radical remaking of the world)

migrate into contemporary popular culture and take up residence there. From Nazi-victory counterfactuals and feminist dystopias to angelic and godlike artificial intelligences, the texts examined here are not merely borrowing religious imagery for decorative effect. They are, the speakers will argue, doing genuine theological work: restructuring moral imagination, redistributing authority, and negotiating the terms on which endings, and what comes after them, can be conceived.

Panelist

Alana Vincent
Marika Rose
James McGrath, Butler University

P22-301
Hosted by: Religious Education Association
Theme: AI, Formation, and the Future of Religious Education
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

What is the future of Religious Education in times of AI and digital technology? How are emerging technologies reshaping spiritual formation, theological education, and religious learning? What wisdom might older theological traditions still offer amid rapid technological change? Who are entering seminaries today, and what kinds of social, economic, and vocational realities are transforming the field? At the same time, what might religious educators be overlooking in an age increasingly shaped by efficiency, optimization, and data?

This session brings together papers responding to these questions from diverse contexts of religious education. Presenters include a professor working with historically minoritized communities in spiritual formation, the Director of Student Data and Research at ATS, a hospital chaplain exploring trauma-informed pedagogy, and a graduate student engaging Gregory of Nyssa and AI-mediated education. Together, these papers invite participants to reflect critically and constructively on the possible futures of Religious Education.

Joung Chul Lee, Kookmin University, presiding

Papers

Marlena Graves
Prompting the Margins: Algorithmic Downward Mobility in Spiritual Formation Pedagogy

Dohyung (Jacob) Cha, Boston University School of Theology
From Optimized Pedagogy to Open-ended Formation: Gregory of Nyssa’s Epektasis on Non-Finalizable Telos of AI-mediated Religious Education

Christopher The, Association of Theological Schools
The Changing Faces of New Seminarians: What the ATS Entering Student Questionnaire (ESQ) Reveals About the Future/s of Theological Education

Garam Han
Meeting the Future in the Body: Trauma-Informed Praxis, Narrative, and the Ecological Learning Space

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A22-313
Hosted by: Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: Animistic Variations: Philosophy and Religion in and beyond the Pacific
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This roundtable session investigates how different types of 'animism' relate to fundamental spiritual realities and well-being in diverse philosophical and cultural traditions. It brings together and promotes engagement with global philosophies of religion beyond the text in the Pacific region. The panellists will address the following questions:

1. How should we conceive of our relatedness to other-than-human beings?
2. How are 'animistic' ideas present in the relational ontologies and epistemologies of Pacific and non-Western philosophies?
3. How are animistic ideas and practices communicated through non-text-based media, and how does this contribute to human well-being?
4. What are some limits of the language/category of 'animism' (e.g. due to colonial its heritage, imperial associations, etc.)?

Michael Mawson, presiding

Panelist

Melodie Bergquist-Turori, NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community
Nathan Samayo
Ann Gillian Chu, University of Leeds

A22-326
Hosted by: Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: Apocalypse, Infrastructure, and Inheritance: Religion and Power in an Age of Crisis
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This panel explores how religious imaginaries—shaped by apocalypse, mediation, memory, and authority—inform contemporary political life across diverse global contexts. Bringing together digital religion, political theology, and ethnographic analysis, the papers examine how religious frameworks interpret crisis, organize collective action, and shape competing visions of sovereignty, democracy, and the future.

Across cases from U.S. Christian nationalist media to the wartime targeting of Iranian energy infrastructure, Indigenous Christian communities in Northeast India, and European debates over Christian heritage and secularism, the panel highlights how religious discourse operates through both material and mediated forms. The papers show how crisis is not only interpreted but materially produced through war, extraction, and media circulation.

Apocalyptic language emerges as a response to these conditions, while invocations of "Christian heritage" reveal how religious memory continues to structure political identity within secular frameworks. Together, the panel demonstrates how religious imaginaries shape contemporary struggles over power, legitimacy, and collective futures.

Scott Culpepper, Dordt University, presiding

Papers

Morgan Kincade, University of Chicago
Claiming Christian Heritage: How European Christian Leaders Struggle to Disentangle Themselves from Nationalist Logics

Ehsan Sheikholharam, Kennesaw State University
John Miller
Petroleum and the Political Theology of Apocalypse

Andrew Ambrose Mackey, Creighton University
Platformed Prophecy: Digital Prayer and the Politics of Christian Nationalism

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A22-302
Hosted by: Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit
Theme: Augustine and the Future
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

Augustine's reflections on memory, time, and eschatology remain rich sources for thinking about how humans relate to the past, present, and future – even as he also troubles standard ways of thinking about temporality. His legacy in political thought in particular has also generated ongoing debate about the degree to which "political Augustinianism" may fund hope for change in the direction of justice and love – or, conversely, enjoins "realist" perseverance. This panel

features papers on Augustine's thought and “the future” broadly construed, including Augustine’s thought on time and temporality, eschatology, emotion, and social political progress.

Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, Princeton Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Abraham Wu, University of British Columbia
'We are the times': Augustinian Memory, Exemplarity, and the Ethics of Expectation

Frederick Simmons
Neither Progressivist nor Realist: Recharacterizing Augustinian Hope Amidst Pervasive Pessimism

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A22-304
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit and Religion in Southeast Asia Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critic: Reading Multiscalar Historical Method and Buddhist Political Theory from Anne Blackburn’s Buddhist-Inflected Sovereignties across the Indian Ocean: The Pali Arena, 1200 - 1550 (University of Hawai‘i Press 2024, paperback 2025)
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

How do premodern Buddhist sources make arguments for Buddhist political theory? From a multiscalar historical analysis, Anne Blackburn’s *Buddhist-Inflected Sovereignties across the Indian Ocean* meticulously examines how royal authority engaged *buddha-sāsana* in specific historical circumstances in Southern Asia in the second millennium CE. This groundbreaking book offers a model for how scholars can rethink Buddhism and politics. With sharp attention to the local production of meaning, it shows the power of researching textual and non-textual forms of evidence at the micro-, meso-, and macro-historical levels. This panel brings together specialists from across Asia to consider the broader implications of the newest work from a leading historian of the Pali arena. This roundtable will offer a lively conversation with the author about how premodern Buddhist sovereigns and would-be sovereigns wielded their power based on Buddhist ideas and ideals, as well as how locally produced Buddhist political theory operated in different contexts.

Alexandra Kaloyanides, presiding
Napakadol Kittisenee, presiding

Panelist

Stephen C. Berkwitz, Missouri State University
James A. Benn, McMaster University
Alexandra Kaloyanides

Napakadol Kittisenee

Respondent

Anne Blackburn

A22-331
Hosted by: Scriptural Reasoning Unit
Theme: Authors Meet Readers: Scriptural Reasoning: Abrahamic Inter-faith Practice (Wiley-Blackwell, 2026)
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This roundtable session will feature a conversation with the contributors to the new book on the practice of Scriptural Reasoning, Maria Dakake, Tom Greggs, and Steven Kepnes. *Scriptural Reasoning: Abrahamic Inter-faith Practice* provides an accessible and practical introduction to a unique form of inter-faith engagement centered on shared sacred text study. Rather than minimizing deep commitments to one's own faith, this approach encourages participants to enter more fully into their own traditions while offering and receiving hospitality across religious boundaries. Focusing on the Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—this book equips students and lay practitioners to participate meaningfully in Scriptural Reasoning (SR) groups, where members of different faiths read and reason together from their respective Scriptures. See their book on the publisher's website, here.

Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Hamline University, presiding

Panelist

Maria Massi Dakake
Tom Greggs

A22-317
Hosted by: Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible Seminar
Theme: Buddhist Poiesis: Roundtable with Jane Hirshfield
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

This roundtable brings poet and essayist Jane Hirshfield into dialogue with scholars of religion to explore how Buddhist thought informs poetic making, how language gives shape to attention and ethical perception, and how literary form becomes a site for the articulation of insight. Bridging creative and scholarly voices, the session reflects on the generative power of language in both contemplative and literary traditions.

Roy Tzohar, presiding

Panelist

Jane Hirshfield , American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Respondent

Nancy Lin, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Laurie Patton, President of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

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A22-339
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit
Theme: Celebrating and Honoring the Work of Carrie Doehring
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This session honors the extraordinary contributions of Carrie Doehring, a leading scholar in the psychology of religion, pastoral psychology, pastoral theology, and chaplaincy; a licensed psychologist; a theological educator; and a Presbyterian minister. Doehring's work has profoundly shaped the field through her commitment to teaching and researching interreligious, socially just, and research-informed spiritual care. Her scholarship has been especially influential in advancing trauma-informed spiritual care, addressing moral injury and moral stress, and exploring spiritual struggle, all while integrating clinical practice with theological reflection. This session celebrates her enduring impact by engaging her intellectual legacy and exploring how her contributions continue to inform contemporary approaches to spiritual care, pastoral theology, and the psychology of religion. In this session, Doehring will present a paper on lamentation and spiritual reflexivity, followed by responses from a panel of scholars who will engage both the paper and her broader contributions to the field.

Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University, presiding

Panelist

Carrie Doehring

Respondent

Zachary Moon, Brite Divinity School
Boyung Lee, Iliff School of Theology
Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Vanderbilt University
Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology

P22-300
Hosted by: Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
Theme: Celebrating Octavia E. Butler
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

20 years ago, the literary world lost a giant. Octavia E. Butler was known as the first African American Woman to gain notoriety as a Science Fiction writer. Known for her acute cultural depiction in her dystopian novels, Butler's worldbuilding brought together politics, religion, and the harsh realities of the complicated decisions we make for our own survival. This panel brings together leading scholars of African American religions and speculative fiction to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Octavia Butler's *Patternmaster,* her first published novel. Themes discussed include the ethical implications of biological engineering, what it means to be human, ethical and unethical uses of power, and community building.

Kayla Renee Wheeler, Xavier University, presiding

Panelist

Tamisha Tyler
Monica A. Coleman
Sakena Young-Scaggs, Gammon Theological Seminary
Michael Brandon McCormack, University of Louisville
Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University, College Station

A22-330
Hosted by: Religious Conversions Unit
Theme: Complex Conversions: Resisting and Navigating Christian Conversion
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This panel's papers approach conversion in the politically fraught nineteenth century as a complex and uneasy transition, during which converts sought to define religious change on their own terms, or, in the case of would-be converts, to reject the offer altogether and arrive at a surer sense of their own religious identity. The first paper uses the writings of Rahel Varnhagen as a case study for considering Jewish women's conversions as a form of religious activity in itself. The second argues Heinrich Heine's conversion was a choice to leave Jewish law and enter into German law (understood as both spiritual and literary) to become a new self. The third paper examines the writings of the Jain monk Vijayānanda Sūri, also known as Ātmārāmajī. It argues that one of his tracts both defended Jain doctrine against missionary critique and articulated a vision of Jain identity that combined theology and anti-colonial critique.

Kathleen M. Self, St. Lawrence University, presiding

Papers

Emily Bogin
Rethinking Assimilation: Jewish Women and Religious Identity

Samyak Modi, University of California, Riverside
The Problem of Evil as Anti-Colonial Critique: Assessing the Problem of Evil in Vijayānanda Sūri's Debates with Christian Missionaries

Leo Franks, University of California at Berkeley
Towards a Legal History of Heinrich Heine's Baptism

Respondent

Eliza Kent, Skidmore College
Business Meeting
Kathleen M. Self, St. Lawrence University
Eliza Kent, Skidmore College

A22-334
Hosted by: Vatican II Studies Unit
Theme: Event, Legacy, and Vision: The Future of Vatican II Studies
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This session facilitates critical reflection on the future of Vatican II Studies at a moment when six decades of scholarship and the passing of the 60th jubilee raises the question of whether the field stands at an endpoint, a continuation, or the threshold of a new era of Vatican II research. Recent major initiatives provide a valuable lens through which to evaluate current trajectories and imagine possible pathways forward. Discussing the *Vatican II: Event and Mandate* (Herder/Peeters); *The Legacy and Limits of Vatican II in an Age of Crisis* (Liturgical Press); *Vatican II After Sixty Years* (Brepols) projects will allow us to assess how new scholarship advances intercultural and intertextual histories and commentaries and new methodological and hermeneutical directions. By placing these initiatives in dialogue, the session explores who will shape the field's future, how it can serve both acaeudemy and society, and which dominant narratives require revisiting or renewal.

Eugene Schlesinger, presiding

Panelist

Catherine E. Clifford
Emmanuel Nathan

Michael Canaris
Business Meeting
Dries Bosschaert
Jaisy Joseph, Villanova University

A22-333
Hosted by: Sociology of Religion Unit
Theme: Forms of Religious Discrimination, Misconduct, and Violence
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

The four papers on this panel addresses various forms of religious discrimination, misconduct, and violence in the global context. “Everyday Insecurity, Religious Life, and Global Narratives” examines the label of “Christian genocide” in Nigeria challenges genocide narratives as analytic defaults in the sociology of religion. “Religious Discrimination as Martyrdom and Erasure” examines how religious discrimination as a discursive regime is operationalized in Mexico’s 2022 National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS). “Reactions to Clergy Financial and Sexual Misconduct” asks the question of how organizational actors evaluate different types of clergy misconduct, and suggests that the way organizational leadership misconduct is perceived has consequences for how that misconduct will be addressed, tolerated, or in extreme cases, even perpetuated. “Global Religious Restriction and Human Flourishing” explores the question of how government and social restrictions on religion impact human flourishing around the globe, focusing on predictors of flourishing under different levels of religious restriction.

Anna Sun, Duke University, presiding

Papers

Oluwatobiloba Ajayi, University of Toronto
Everyday Insecurity, Religious Life, and Global Narratives: How Southwest Nigerians Interpret Violence Beyond the Language of Genocide

Abraham Hawley Suarez
Gerardo Hernández Gómez, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Religious Discrimination as Martyrdom and Erasure: Unveiling Christian Victimhood and Invisible Others in Mexico’s National Survey Data

Carolina Seigler
Reactions to Clergy Financial and Sexual Misconduct: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment

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A22-329
Hosted by: Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit
Theme: Fractured Hegemony: Catholic Decline, State Resistance, and the Moral Ecology of Cuban Healing
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This panel explores shifts in Latin American church-state relations through analyses of Cuban religious experience across the island and its diaspora. The panel begins by reframing the decline of Catholic affiliation in Latin America as a move toward spiritual pluralization rather than secularization, while the subsequent papers delve into the socio-political and therapeutic roles of faith in the Cuban context. Analyzing the Catholic Church's emergence as a moral intermediary between popular discontent and authoritarian state power in Cuba from 2021 to 2026, one case highlights the Church's strategic role in humanitarian aid and resistance. Complementing this, the panel concludes with an exploration of how the Cuban diaspora in Miami utilizes the "moral ecology" of Santería and Catholicism for ritual healing and liberation from displacement-related trauma. Together, these papers illustrate how Cuban religious practices function as vital sites of agency, resistance, and healing amidst systemic crisis and migration.

Justin Doran, presiding

Papers

R. Andrew Chesnut
The End of Catholic Monopoly: Secularization or Religious Pluralization in Latin America?

Petra Kuivala
Between the People and State: The Catholic Church, Moral Engagement, and Popular Discontent in Cuba, 2021–2026

Joryán Hernández, University of Notre Dame
Healing as Liberation: Santería, Lo Cotidiano, and the Moral Imagination of the Cuban Diaspora

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A22-316
Hosted by: Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit
Theme: Future/s of Interreligious Studies: Places of Encounter, Belonging, and Resilience
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Where does interreligious encounter happen, and who participates? This session examines sites of encounter that challenge inherited assumptions about dialogue, belonging, and resilience, asking what conditions enable or constrain connection across religious difference.

Kevin Minister, presiding

Papers

Jen Kilps
Interfaith Infrastructure in a Time of Fear: The Critical Role of Multifaith Networks for Civic Resilience During “Operation Metro Surge” in Minnesota

Sarah Reynolds
Ubong-Abasi Akpan
Elaine Howard Ecklund
Narrating Religious Discrimination in Regulated and Unregulated Spaces

Ryan R. Gladwin
Emma Feyas
Local Peacebuilding and the Future of Applied Interreligious Studies: Lessons from the Alachua County Faith Leaders Alliance

Kristen Tobey
Sun, Sand, and Shared Challenges: New Possibilities for Interreligious Encounter at the Interfaithless Beach Party

Respondent

Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary

A22-308
Hosted by: Class, Labor, and Religion Unit
Theme: Labor Stories Forgotten, Abandoned, Told and ReTold
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

This panel brings together three different papers which explore the relationship between the histories and configuration of labor activism and specific communities. In conversation with the audience, Wedgle looks at how Jewish children’s stories dampened if not erased Jewish women’s activism in the labor movement. Next, Wijoyo interrogates the changing narratives of cooperatives as some succumb to contemporary managerial practices, highlighting the political struggle of worker oriented democracy on a smaller scale. In the third paper, Martinez traces two conflicting narratives of labor in El Salvador, naming competing visions of transcendent utopianism and utopia-in-place. Together, these papers demonstrate how work organizing is a central site of contestation of social power and of the construction of potential alternative social orders.

Kerry Danner, Georgetown University, presiding

Papers

Julia Wedgle, UNC Chapel Hill
Strikes at Storytime: How Children's Literature Transforms Jewish Women's Radical Labor Activism into Capitalist Moral Instruction

Hendrawan Wijoyo
Slow Cancellation of the Cooperative Future?: Agonistic Visions for Cooperative Economics

Juan Martinez Benavides, Drew University
Contesting Utopian Dreamings of Progress through Mutual Aid Cooperativism in San Salvador's Centro Histórico

Business Meeting
Kerry Danner, Georgetown University
Jeremy Posadas, Stetson University

A22-328
Hosted by: Religion, Sport, and Play Unit
Theme: MMA, Religion, and Far Right Politics
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

The growth of white Christian nationalism and its allegiances to the Trump administration in the United States are well documented. This panel offers insight into these phenomena through analyzing the White House's relationship with MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) and the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship). With focuses on violence, embodiment, and hyper masculinity, these papers demonstrate the vital role sport plays in political, social, and religious developments.

Megan Robb, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

Papers

Janice McRandal
Butterfly Guards: UFC White House and the antinomies of women's sporting violence

Cole Cloyd, Arizona State University
Face the Pain: Christian Nationalist Masculinity, Violence, and Mixed Martial Arts.

Cody Musselman, Harvard University

Zachary Smith, Penn State University
Forging Elite Fitness, Forging the Nation: Fitness and Christian Nationalism

Respondent

Tessa Harmon

A22-318
Hosted by: Middle Eastern Christianity Unit
Theme: Mobility, Displacement, and the Production of Ecclesial Authority
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This panel examines how mobility—whether through exile, scholarly travel, or diaspora life—shapes the production and contestation of ecclesial authority in Middle Eastern Christian traditions. Spanning late antique, medieval, and contemporary contexts, the papers argue that displacement is not merely a backdrop to religious life but a generative force that reconfigures theological imagination, institutional legitimacy, and communal belonging. The first paper shows how exiled clerics in Egyptian non-Chalcedonian Christianity transformed displacement into a credential of authenticity, enabling the expansion of orthodoxy through hagiography and epistolary networks. The second analyzes the mobility of the Armenian theologian Mkhitar Gosh, demonstrating how movement between Gandzak and Cilicia fostered theological synthesis while sustaining tensions between homeland and diaspora. The final paper examines the Coptic Synaxarium in the United States, where youth reinterpret hagiography in digital and pedagogical settings. Together, the panel highlights authority as continually reconstituted through movement and reinterpretation.

Mourad Takawi, presiding

Papers

Jason R. Zaborowski, Bradley University
EXILES AND EXPULSIONS FACILITATING THE SPREAD OF NON-CHALCEDONIAN ECCLESIAL DOMINION: UNPLANNED MOBILITY OF NON-CHALCEDONIAN ORTHODOXY

Mena Basta, Claremont Graduate University
Synaxarium After Migration: Hagiography and Youth Formation in American Coptic Orthodoxy

Christopher Sheklian
Mkhitar Gosh and the Armenian Theological Tradition Between Homeland and Diaspora

Respondent

Monica Mitri, University of Southern California
Business Meeting
Daniel Bannoura, University of Notre Dame
Mourad Takawi

A22-310
Hosted by: Daoist Studies Unit
Theme: Mothers and Others: Visions of Female Transcendence in Medieval Daoism
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This panel examines representations of women adepts of high spiritual attainment in a variety of medieval Daoist sources (4th through 13th centuries). It brings together three papers that answer the question of how, absent the egalitarian Celestial Master communal organization, could a woman become recognized as a transcendent within the medieval Daoist ethos. The papers show us a fascinating range of answers, from cases that build on the forms of power available to secular women to those where transcendence is only achieved at the price of dispensing with one's femaleness. All papers, however, underscore the fact that the preconceptions about women's position in society played an important role in how female transcendents were conceptualized. One central tension that comes through in all of the papers is the one between the view of the exemplary woman as a mother and the newly arisen ideal of "leaving the family."

Elena Valussi, presiding

Papers

Sasha Makarova, Harvard University
Wei Huacun: A Case for Motherhood as a Source of Female Empowerment in Medieval Daoism

Gil Raz
Elevating or Demoting the Women: Female Prior Lives in the Scripture of Original Deeds

Tali Hershkovitz
A Reluctant Transcendent: Sun Bu'er (1119–11832) and the Question of Women's Accessibility to the Daoist Path

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A22-314
Hosted by: Hinduism Unit
Theme: New Hinduisms and New Religious Movements

Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Over the past century, religious actors drawing on Hindu traditions have developed new institutions, publics, and transnational networks that further complicate conventional understandings of "Hinduism" as a stable or bounded category. This panel examines how contemporary Hindu movements negotiate changing political, economic, and media landscapes shaped by Hindu nationalism, global wellness markets, and expanding digital publics. The papers highlight the distinctive *styles* of religiosity through which new Hindu formations operate, exploring how religious actors mobilize aesthetic practices, cosmological frameworks, and media strategies to make Hindu worlds meaningful in the present. Case studies include caste-marked Hindu museums that aestheticize Hindutva politics; millennialist movements such as the Brahma Kumaris and Gayatri Pariwar; astrological practice in the World Teacher Trust as a form of lived religion; and global wellness figures connected to ISKCON who translate Hindu traditions into marketable forms of spiritual expertise. Together, the panel illuminates how contemporary Hindu movements bridge everyday life, cosmic imagination, and public culture.

Rupa Pillai, presiding

Papers

Ridhima Sharma
The Tale of Two Museums: Styles of Hindutva in New India

Claire Robison
Thinking Like a Monk in the Hollywood Hills: New Frontiers of Hindu Identity and Practice

Nick Tackes
Apocalypse in Hindu India

Respondent

Drew Thomases

A22-321
Hosted by: Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: New Orientations to Time, Futurity, and Utopia
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

"New Orientations to Time, Futurity, and Utopia" includes papers that revisit and critically re-construct themes that are central to religion, politics, and social transformation. The first paper critically responds to Luke Bretherton's suspicion toward structural analyses of capital by

reading Alasdair MacIntrye against the grain and by introducing Frederic Jameson's utopian thought. The second paper reads Paul Ricoeur's interpretation of Hegel's "absolute knowing" as a practice of hope and forgiveness. The third paper draws on decolonial thought to show how secularism colonizes time and forecloses alternative temporalities.

Molly Farneth, presiding

Papers

Joe Stapleton
Eschatology, Practices, and Utopia: Bretherton and MacIntyre Against Capitalism

Andrew Tebbutt, Institute for Christian Studies
Giving a Reason for Hope: Ricoeur on the “Permanent Value” of Hegel’s Hermeneutic of Religion

Carlos Ramirez-Arenas
Resisting the Secular: Practice, Coloniality, and the Politics of Temporality

Respondent

Joe Stapleton
Andrew Tebbutt, Institute for Christian Studies
Carlos Ramirez-Arenas

A22-300
Hosted by: African Diaspora Religions Unit
Theme: On Katharine Gerbner's Archival Irruptions: Construction Religion and Criminalizing Obeah in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

“In December 1760, Obeah became a crime.” This assertion opens Katharine Gerbner’s *Archival Irruptions: Constructing Religion and Criminalizing Obeah in Eighteenth-Century Jamaica* (2025) The criminalization of Obeah is the centering historical event in this careful study of religion, crime, nation, and race. Through structured discussion with the audience, this roundtable will offer a ranging discussion of large-scale problems in the study of religion. What is a religious tradition and how does it relate to another religious tradition? What does a conversion include and exclude? How does state law decide what is religiously possible? What can the study of religion teach about what archives show about religious experience? How does a nation differ from a religion? Our plan is to host an audience-with-readers conversation about the major conceptual challenges of this historical work.

Kathryn Lofton, presiding

Panelist

Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Harvard University
Spencer Dew
Dianne Stewart
Bradley L. Craig, Boston University
Paul Christopher Johnson
Katharine Gerbner

A22-305
Hosted by: Buddhist Philosophy Unit
Theme: Philosophy of Meditation
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

This panel explores meditations as practices of becoming, investigating how emotion, imagination, and attention are marshaled within distinct Buddhist meditation practices to cultivate specific soteriological, ethical, and epistemic visions of character. Resisting the tendency to ask what "meditation in general" contributes to philosophy, our papers pursue specificity, attending closely to how Buddhist philosophers have theorized these practices within their own frameworks. The first paper examines how macabre visualizations in Indian Buddhist traditions can cultivate "retrofit" emotions that are, despite appearances, fitting and rational. The second investigates vividness (*sphuṭatva*) in works on yogic perception, arguing that vividness and knowledge-hood (*prāmāṇya*) are distinct issues requiring separate treatment. The third argues that the suspension of minding attention (*dran pa*) in Dzokchen breakthrough practice constitutes a distinctive epistemic virtue of radical humility and openness. Together, the papers advance richer, more specific understandings of how Buddhists have theorized about cultivation and transformation.

Sonam Kachru, Yale University, presiding

Papers

Emily Lawson
Mastering Disgust: Macabre Visualizations and Retrofitted Emotions

Davey Tomlinson
The Role of Vividness in Buddhist Philosophy of Meditation

James MacNee, University of Virginia
A Mad Yogi’s Laugh: Longchenpa’s Critique of Mindfulness

Respondent

John Dunne

A22-322
Hosted by: Publicly Engaged Scholarship in the Study of Religion Seminar
Theme: Pluralism in the Public Sphere: The Future of Collaborative Work and Talking Across Differences
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This panel examines publicly engaged scholarship in the study of religion as a critical response to contemporary crises of polarization, mistrust, and democratic fragility. Moving beyond text-centered approaches, it foregrounds pluralism as a lived, relational, and contested process constituted through practices of encounter, narrative, and collaboration across religious and political difference. The session explores how scholars of religion engage communities beyond the academy, cultivate forms of belonging that exceed mere inclusion, and develop sustainable models of partnership and institutional support. Attending to questions of scale, power, and accountability, the panel highlights the importance of praxis—translating scholarly insight into forms of public engagement that are ethically grounded and strategically effective. In doing so, it positions publicly engaged scholarship not as a peripheral activity but as central to the future of the field and its capacity to contribute to more just and pluralistic forms of collective life.

Lucas Johnston, presiding

Papers

Amanda Henderson
Belonging Colorado Project Case Study

Rebecca David-Hensley
Case Study: Values and Public Voice Network

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington
From Handbook to Groundwork: Building Hindu–Christian Relationships through Publicly Engaged Religious Studies

Respondent

Amanda Henderson
Rebecca David-Hensley
Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington

A22-301
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Anglican Studies Seminar
Theme: Practicing Receptive Ecumenism: Engaging Kwok Pui Lan and Ian Douglas' Living Postcolonial Anglicanism: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion (T and T Clark, 2025)
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

An ecumenical book panel on Dr. Kwok Pui lan and Bishop Ian T. Douglas' new anthology, *Living Postcolonial Anglicanism: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion* (T and T Clark, 2025). This is a follow-up to their *Beyond Colonial Anglicanism* (2001), which introduced a post-colonial approach to Anglican history, mission, ecclesiology, and theology. This new volume explores different aspects of the question under the umbrella themes of "postcolonial ecclesiology and theology," "horizons for justice," and "missional and pastoral possibilities."

Session Title: Practicing Receptive Ecumenism: Engaging Kwok Pui Lan and Ian Douglas' *Living Postcolonial Anglicanism: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion* (T and T Clark, 2025)

Panelists: Dr. Elizabeth Gandolfo, Wake Forest Divinity School;

Dr. Hilda Koster, Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology;

Dr. Altagracia Perez-Bullard, Virginia Theological Seminary

Respondents:

Dr. Kwok Pui Lan, Episcopal Divinity School

Bishop Ian T. Douglas, The Episcopal Church in Connecticut, retired

Moderator:

Dr. Joy Ann McDougall, Emory University

Joy McDougall, presiding

Respondent

Kwok Pui-lan, Episcopal Divinity School
Ian T Douglas

A22-323
Hosted by: Quaker Studies Unit
Theme: Quakers, Liberation Theology, and Social Justice
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

These papers provide case studies of twentieth-century Friends' response to colonialism and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Stephen Angell, presiding

Papers

Brian Blackmore
Jim Fussell, Pendle Hill Quaker Center
What Love Requires: Quaker Responses to the HIV/AIDS and Marriage Equality in the 1980s

Josiane Smith, University of Birmingham
From Profit to Prophets: Quaker Wealth and Abolition as a Blueprint for Transformative Giving

Respondent

Jennifer Rycenga, San José State University

A22-320
Hosted by: Nineteenth Century Theology Unit and Religion in Europe Unit
Theme: Religious Culture in Nineteenth-Century Europe: Perspectives and Prospects
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This roundtable examines the state of historical research on religious culture in Europe during its "long" nineteenth century (c. 1789–1918). "Religious culture" is understood broadly, encompassing religion as a type of cultural system and a component of a "religious field" (Bourdieu). It brings together several contributors to the recently published *Handbook of Religious Culture in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (De Gruyter 2025). They will draw on their findings and also on their experiences in researching and writing their respective chapters to reflect on the impact of recent research on scholarly understandings of religion and religion's place in the cultural, political, and social life of nineteenth-century Europe. How has the decline of secularization theory shaped this picture? How have perspectives coming from outside the discipline of history influenced how historians have studied religion and religious culture? What topics are in need of further inquiry?

Michael E. O'Sullivan, presiding

Panelist

Anthony Steinhoff, Université du Québec à Montréal
Jeffrey Zalar, University of Cincinnati
David Meola
Sarah Schaefer

A22-319
Hosted by: New Religious Movements Unit
Theme: Rereading Media and Archives: New Approaches to Analyzing NRM Development
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

The five papers in this panel use innovative research techniques and sources to analyze understudied aspects of the development and spread of new religions. Topics include an examination of how I-Kuan Tao used "polycentric globalization" to spread the movement across Asia, North America, and Europe, an analysis of how media saturation coverage of the 1987 Harmonic Convergence event helped to create the "Spiritual But Not Religious" identity, a study of the role of Norbert Wiener's cybernetics in the development of Scientology's Theta-MEST theory, a study of the religious underground of the 1980s and 1990s using zines and other alternative media available in a Denver Public Library archive, and an analysis of how David Koresh's trips to Israel shaped Branch Davidian theology using sources including Hebrew language newspapers. Taken together, these papers show how the use of lesser-known sources and the examination of operational details can reveal critical information about the development and spread of new religions.

Erin Prophet, East Carolina University, presiding

Papers

Jonathan Cahana Blum
David Koresh's Pilgrimages to Israel: Messianic and Political Perspectives

Andrew Lee, University of Central Oklahoma
From Xerox to P.O. Box: Self-Published Religious Communication and Theorization—a case study from the archives of the Denver Public Library

Rachel Rosenthal Boehm
Norbert Wiener, Cybernetics, and Scientology's Foundational Doctrine

Chi-Chi Liao, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Polycentric Globalization and Transnational Religious Fields: Rethinking Religious Expansion through I-Kuan Tao

Jodie Vann
The "Ohm" Heard 'Round the World: Popular Media Coverage of the 1987 Harmonic Convergence and the Discursive Possibility of "Spiritual, but Not Religious" Identity

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A22-312
Hosted by: Drugs and Religion Unit
Theme: Sacred Drugs in the Sea of Information: The Intersection of Drugs, Religion, and Media Technologies
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

The intersection of religion, drugs, and media technologies is fertile ground for scholarship, yet it has remained relatively underexplored, even with the recent rise of the psychedelic humanities. Phenomena such as online trip reports, the intersection of 60s psychedelic culture and cyber-utopianism, and media portrayals of drug use tied to spiritual experience all indicate subtle yet significant connections between religion, drugs, and media. This roundtable discussion will touch upon explicit manifestations of religion and drugs in media as well as more esoteric phenomena such as psychedelic sex work, drug-inflected spirituality on social media, and the ways in which certain online religious communities gravitate toward drugs and religion. Panelists will also discuss the implications of these topics for the current Psychedelic Renaissance, offering necessary critiques that demonstrate the potential for scholars of religion to contribute to larger interdisciplinary discussions surrounding psychedelics and beyond.

Nathan Springer, presiding

Panelist

Catherine Hartmann, University of Wyoming
Sharday Mosurinjohn, Queen's University
Camden MacKenzie
Emily Lippold Cheney, Harvard Divinity School

A22-309
Hosted by: Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence Unit
Theme: Sacrifice, The Sacred, and Its Political Remainders
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

This panel seeks to reconsider the role of sacrifice for religious and political life. In the last four decades, religious scholars of various stripes have gradually quieted themselves of the once fundamental topic of sacrifice. However, we contend that the elusive logic of sacrifice can help probe the paradoxes of our contemporary moment. We bring together paper presentations that theorize this relation between sacrifice, religion, and the political. In doing so, consider a comparison between bronze age ritual sacrifice and religious revival in rural China, the creation of a spiritual military order in the Sikh tradition, the adequacy or inadequacy of the sacrifice concept for politics amongst the Aché people in Paraguay, and how the political might be connected to the entropic energetics of the cosmos.

Papers

Joshua Hanan, University of Denver
Matthew Bost, Whitman College
From Sacred Cosmic Entropy to Biopolitics: Rearticulating the Sacred through the State and Economy

Aaron Michka
The Eucharist, Excess, and the Politics of the Postconciliar Mass

Mayfair Yang, University of California, Santa Barbara
Engaging with Bataille: How Notions of a "General Economy" and "Sovereignty," can be Reworked for Chinese Religious Environmentalism

Warren Thompson, University of Colorado-Boulder
Sacrifice as Remainder and Concept

Randeep Singh Hothi
A Return to the Ritual of Sacrifice: Creation in the Sikh Tradition

Respondent

Jonathan Sheehan

A22-306
Hosted by: Childhood Studies and Religion Unit
Theme: Safeguarding Our Children: Critical Dialogue on Childhood Protection and Advocacy
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

In recent years, faith communities, religious organizations, and theological discourse have wrestled with notions of childhood advocacy, protections, and safeguarding. This interdisciplinary panel conversation explores these dimensions critically by grappling with

concepts of the “child”, safeguarding measures that promote childhood flourishing, and formal policies designed to nurture and advocate for children’s wellbeing. Together, we ask: “how can our communities protect our children ethically, sustainably, and faithfully?”

Kenya Tuttle, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Tatayana Richardson, Vanderbilt University
Ain't I A Child: Reframing Childhood and the Protection of Children through a Womanist Lens

Claire Princess Ayelotan
When Readings Make Routines: Mark 9:29, Coercive Fasting, and Child Safeguarding Beyond Paternalism

Hilary Scarsella
The Problem Is Not the Children: Adult Formation and the Future of Child Protection in Religious Communities

Kathleen Moore
Birthright Citizenship and Orphan Care: A Historical-Legal and Moral DReading of Sacramento Orphanage v. Chambers (1914)

A22-337
Hosted by: Special Session
Theme: Shifting Landscapes for Religious Studies in Red-State Public Institutions: Civic Centers, Legislative Control, and Classroom Surveillance
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

For public institutions in several states, recent years have witnessed an unprecedented level of government regulation of university matters. Under the banner of countering supposed political indoctrination, legislatures are regulating everything from syllabus design to what topics can be discussed in the classroom. The adoption of new technologies that facilitate public oversight, alongside continued surveillance both on-and off-campus, further this atmosphere of censorship and restriction. Meanwhile, state legislatures have created well-funded centers dedicated to “intellectual freedom” and the study of “civics,” which have quickly hired new faculty and proposed new courses, many of them on topics of religion and theology. This roundtable will bring together professors from a range of states affected by these changes. Each panelist will offer a brief take on some facet of their experience of this current landscape for religious studies, then the bulk of the session will be devoted to conversation of these urgent concerns.

Isaac Weiner, presiding

Panelist

Brandon Bayne
Nathan French
Jeanine Viau, University of Central Florida
Michael Graziano
Joseph Tucker Edmonds
Constance Furey
Joseph Laycock
Rebecca Raphael

A22-311
Hosted by: Death, Dying, and Beyond Unit
Theme: The Future of Death: Mortality, Memorialization, and Meaning-Making
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

Engaging this year's presidential theme of "The Future," this panel interrogates how death, dying, and the afterlife function as sites for "futuring"—critical spaces where we assess and build the horizons for what is yet to be. Topics include the evolution of memorialization in digital landscapes; "hauntologies" and the role of counter-memory in challenging dominant narratives; the aesthetics of mourning; tensions between eschatology and technoscientific futurisms (e.g., transhumanism, cryonics, and AI afterlives); and the capacity of ancient and new traditions to imagine futures beyond despair.

Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, presiding

Papers

Ranana Dine
(Photo)Shooting: Judaism, Violence, and Whether to Gaze at Death

Stephanie Gray
Hospicing Zionism: Counter-Memory and Jewish Futurity

Josh Perez, Iliff School of Theology
Lynn Schofield Clark
Deferring or Denying Death: Upload, Black Mirror, and Mickey 17 as sites of Anthropocene Lament

Mathew Crawford
Speaking for the Dead: Ancient Pseudepigraphal Afterlives and Public AI Griefbots

Business Meeting

Jamie Brummitt

A22-332
Hosted by: Sikh Studies Unit
Theme: The Future of Sikh Studies
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

This panel brings together papers that interrogate the disciplinary boundaries, methodological futures, and epistemic infrastructures of Sikh Studies. Both contributions offer forward-looking interventions: one through a decolonial reconstruction of Sikh intellectual history and literary agency; the other through a critique of AI-mediated authority and a proposal for digital custodianship grounded in Sikh principles. Together, they illuminate how Sikh Studies might evolve in response to colonial inheritances, technological disruption, and shifting modes of knowledge production.

Simran Jeet Singh, presiding

Papers

Prabhsharandeep Singh Sandhu, University of Oxford
The Spacing of Sikh Studies: Language, Experience, and Poetry

Jasjit Singh, University of Leeds
Sikhi and AI: Authority, Form, and Digital Custodianship

A22-303
Hosted by: Bahá'í Studies Unit
Theme: The Impact of the Past on the Present: Some Historical Dimensions of Faith and Collective Memory
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

This panel brings together four historically grounded studies that examine how the Bahá'í community has navigated questions of religious practice, gender, memory, and social action under conditions of cultural tension and political constraint. There is a particular focus here on Iran. From the legacy of Táhirih and the community's cautious approach to hijab under the guidance of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, to the evolving forms of obligatory prayer instituted by Bahá'u'lláh in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the papers highlight how religious law and practice develop in response to social realities while maintaining core spiritual principles. The panel also explores how narratives of sacrifice—especially the 1983 execution of Bahá'í women in Shiraz—are preserved

and reinterpreted through contemporary initiatives that shape collective memory and identity. Finally, it examines how Iranian Bahá'ís have responded to persecution following the Iranian Revolution through strategies of constructive resilience, including efforts such as the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education. Together, the panel offers a nuanced portrait of a community balancing fidelity to religious conviction with adaptive, non-adversarial approaches to social change.

Papers

Siyamak Zabihi-Moghaddam
The Iranian Bahá'í Community and the Question of Hijab: A Historical Examination

Tova Makhani Belkin, University of Galway
Women Martyrs and Collective Memory in the Bahá'í Faith

Omid Ghaemmaghami, State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton
From Nine Rakʿahs to Three Prayers: The Historical Development of Obligatory Prayer in the Bahá'í Faith

Iqan Shahidi
Principled Engagement and Constructive Resilience: The Bahá'í Community of Iran and Alternative Pathways to Social Change

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A22-307
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit
Theme: Time, Futures, and Eternity
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

Lisa Powell, St. Ambrose University, presiding

Papers

Madeline Jarrett, Boston College
Exposing the Lie of Linearity: Crip Time and the Theology of Uncertain Futures

Amanda Ross
Now, Now and Not-Yet: On Time, Eternity, and Questions of Evil Today

Olivia Bustion, Princeton Theological Seminary
A Queer and Trauma-Informed Theology of Hope

A22-324
Hosted by: Religion and Cities Unit
Theme: Urban Ecologies of Healing
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

Although rhetoric about cities often focuses on instances of injustice, suffering, and alienation from the natural world, urban communities also host spaces of healing and flourishing in relation to broader natural and social ecosystems. The papers in this session include an analysis of a fitness gym in San Diego as an urban space of healing and communal flourishing, a proposal for an eco-theology of water rooted in Javanese and Balinese traditions, and a feminist examination of a roadside shrine in Ahmedabad, India as a site of maternal care grounded in healing and everyday protection.

Max Dugan, presiding

Papers

Ashleigh Gibb
Lifting the Weight of Injustice: Exploring the Gym as a Space of Embodied Praxis and Communal Flourishing

Gavin Susantio, Yale University
Eco-Theology of Water in Javanese & Balinese Religions: Cosmological Foundations as Moral Infrastructure

Vaidehi Paneri
Mothers at the shrine: Healing, Care and Protection against Nazar in Urban India.

M22-300
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
Theme: Meeting of the SSCS Board of Directors
Sunday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

Annual meeting of the Board of Directors for the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality. Please send any inquiries to Amy Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer at amaxey@ost.edu.

M22-301
Hosted by: Tutku Educational Travel
Theme: Paul's Maritime Journeys: The Apostle at Sea, Dr. Mark Wilson
Sunday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 3 (Second Floor)

Dr. Mark Wilson presents "'Paul's Maritime Journeys: The Apostle at Sea.

P22-302
Hosted by: Hymn Society in the United States and Canada
Theme: Singing Resistance at the AAR
Sunday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Director's Row H (Plaza Building - Lobby Level)

In this hands-on, voices engaged workshop, join Music that Makes Community Executive Director, C. Onyx Li and Dr. Becca Whitla, from St. Andrew’s College, Saskatoon for a time of singing and theological reflection.

As we have seen at the anti-ICE protests in Minnesota and Chicago, and in many other actions of resistance around the world, song can be a powerful part of protest, helping to hold a community together, to maintain morale, to communicate with others, and much more.

This session presented by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada

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A22-335/S22-344
Hosted by: AAR's Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Unit and SBL's Bible and Popular Culture Section and Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section
Theme: Tina Pippin, The Actual Jesus: A Conversation
Sunday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 705 (Street Level)

This panel reviews SBL President Tina Pippin's "The Actual Jesus" (Cascade Books, 2025).

Joseph A. Marchal, presiding

Panelist

Anna Bowden, Louisville Seminary
Elizabeth Castelli

Tat-siong Benny Liew
Wongi Park
Adele Reinhartz
Ekaputra Tupamahu, Portland Seminary

Respondent

Tina Pippin

A22-442
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and North American Hinduism Unit
Theme: ANARCS and NAH Meeting
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4F (Ballroom Level)

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A22-439
Hosted by: Middle Eastern Christianity Unit
Theme: Encounters Across Difference: Mobility, Language, and Authority
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

This panel explores how Middle Eastern Christian communities navigate religious, linguistic, and political difference through practices of encounter across time and space. Bringing together medieval interreligious debate, modern political solidarities, and ecclesiastical contestation, the papers show how language, power, and institutions shape Christian identities.

The first paper examines eleventh-century disputations between Elias of Nisibis and the Abbasid vizier ʿAli al-Maghribi, arguing that Elias's defense of Syriac offers a theological critique of Islamic conceptions of revelation. The second turns to Palestine, tracing histories of Christian–Muslim solidarity and their relevance for contemporary interfaith engagement in the United States. The third analyzes Palestinian Orthodox contestation of Greek ecclesiastical dominance in the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, highlighting how authority is negotiated within overlapping Ottoman and colonial legacies.

Together, the papers demonstrate that "difference" is an ongoing process shaped through dialogue, struggle, and institutional critique.

Mourad Takawi, presiding

Papers

Cristal Silva McCormick, Austin Seminary
Christian-Muslim Solidarity in Palestine: a Model for Christians-Muslim relations in the U.S. and Beyond

Jack Engelmann, University of Notre Dame
Interreligious Disputation through Linguistic Boundary Maintenance: Elias of Nisibis on the Syriac and Arabic Languages

Samuel Salameh, Emory University
The Greek Monopoly: Palestinian Orthodox Christians under Greek Ecclesiastical Control

Respondent

Daniel Bannoura, University of Notre Dame

A22-412
Hosted by: Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit
Theme: Envisioning an Enlightened Future: Buddhist Foundations for Spiritual Care in Movement Settings
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Buddhist chaplaincy has been variously conceptualized and practiced by a growing field of scholar-practitioners. In addition to contributing to the conceptualization of Buddhist chaplaincy and the formulation of training programs, we see an opportunity to consider how the dharma might not only support individuals and their families in times of acute suffering, but also how dharma might support our contemporary movements for justice and liberation.

While movement chaplaincy has been practiced arguably for generations—though may not have been named as such—no theorization of what Buddhism, per se, might offer our current movements for justice and liberation (beyond common, yet important, skills of accompaniment and bearing witness) have been published.

This roundtable, therefore, is designed to help us begin to explore Buddhist contributions to movement chaplaincy, including phenomenological approaches to dharmic vision/moral imagination/pure perception; ontological frameworks that illuminate the roots of movements, the "heart" of the work (thus breaking the binds of internal conflict found in some movement and justice spaces); and explorations of praxis that integrate such theological approaches with current on-the-ground work in movement spaces.

Jonathan Makransky, presiding

Panelist

Brooke Lavelle
Kali Cape, Georgia State University
Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia

A22-407
Hosted by: Esotericism Unit
Theme: Esotericism and Politics
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Esotericism and politics are frequently intertwined: esotericists have played an active role in political movements and organizations and esoteric concepts and frameworks have served as blueprint for political theorizing. The papers in this session engage the intersection between esotericism and cosmopolitanism, nationalism, conspiracism, and sovereignty.

Timothy Grieve-Carlson, presiding

Papers

Camden Roy, Rice University
Between the Politics of Time and Eternity: Theosophy & Irish Nationalism in the Works of George W. Russell (AE)

Che Pieper
The Playful Style in Digital Paranoia

Ayesha Adamo, Rice University
We'd Jump the Life to Come: TAZ versus Patchwork in the Political Afterlives of Friedrich Nietzsche

Business Meeting
Justine Bakker, Radboud University

A22-416
Hosted by: Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible Seminar
Theme: Five Years of Poiesis: Retrospect and Prospect in the Study of Buddhist Texts and Practices
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 302 (Street Level)

Our seminar investigates the poiesis of language - its capacity to create, bring into existence, and shape worlds, selves, and our shared sense of reality. To better grasp this potential, we approach Buddhist textual engagement primarily as a series of experiments with the possibilities of language, rather than through pre-given textual categories, genre distinctions, or tropes, and examine how such experiments have helped shape both the form and content of Buddhism itself, as well as related traditions.

In the fifth and final year of the seminar, through brief paper presentations and open discussion, members of the steering committee together with past participants will reflect on the trajectory of our work thus far and consider future directions for integrating the analysis of the poiesis of language into the study of Buddhist texts.

Nancy Lin, Institute of Buddhist Studies, presiding

Papers

Natalie Gummer
Rethinking Literature through Buddhist Worldbuilding

Roy Tzohar
Moments of Poiesis in Buddhist Texts

Sonam Kachru, Yale University
Towards Aesthetic Mindfulness

Respondent

Laurie Patton, President of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences
Charles Hallisey
Thomas Mazanec, University of California, Santa Barbara

A22-419
Hosted by: Mormon Studies Unit
Theme: From Menace to MomTok: The Long History of Mormon Media Moments
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

Modern culture seems fascinated with Mormonism. Reality TV shows, Broadway plays, true crime series, and pop music feature a relentless stream of performances by and depictions of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its many varieties. Indeed, the Mormon tradition often serves as a prism through which people can investigate central tensions found throughout society, whether concerning belief, politics, gender, race, or sexuality. And while modern expressions seem particularly suited for the 21st century, this cultural fascination, with its

concomitant lessons, dates all the way back to Joseph Smith and Mormonism's founding. This panel investigates how Mormonism has intersected with the media in a variety of formats throughout time, among different genres, and across the global stage.

Benjamin Park, presiding

Papers

Martin Nykvist
Media Constructions of the Mormon Menace: Religious Othering in Nineteenth-Century Sweden

Morgane Thonnart, KU Leuven
The Stakes of Dry Bar Comedy: A New World of Clean and Family-Friendly Jokes

Lydia Willsky-Ciollo
Bless this Mess: Taylor Frankie Paul and a (New?) Mormon, Maternal Archetype

Respondent

Jennifer Caplan, University of Cincinnati
Business Meeting
Jana Riess

A22-414
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit
Theme: Ghost Stories: Past, Present, and Future
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

The papers in this session explore the lives and afterlives of Jewish spirits and ghosts, selves and past selves, ideas and ideologies. The papers represent a cross-disciplinary and multivocal approach to critical issues in Jewish Studies, including mourning, disability, communication, social and parasocial relationships, transformation, transition, and belonging. By looking at texts and traditions that range from the rabbinic to the hyper-modern this session will offer new and innovative discursive pathways into discussions of identity and personhood.

Emilie Amar-Zifkin, McGill University, presiding

Papers

Sarah Zemelman, Harvard Divinity School
The Animacy of the Rabbinic Dead: Mourning, Disability, and the Politics of Agency

Dustin Atlas
Gossip and the Future of the Dead

Nicole Collins
“I’m the Ghost of Torah Future”: Trans Jews-by-Choice, Olam Ha’Ba, and the Changing Landscape of American Judaism

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A22-408
Hosted by: Ethics Unit
Theme: Immigration and Religious Ethics
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

The second Trump administration has made a furious effort to carry out mass deportations, including the arrests, detention, and deportation of immigrants with legally recognized documents as well as U.S. citizens. Religion has figured prominently in public responses to the new ICE regime. While defenders of these practices in the Trump administration have appropriated Christian theology to defend their positions, religious communities are also responsible for some of the most vociferous opposition to these practices. In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Hispanic Theological Initiative, this panel examines the religious and ethical responses to the Trump administration’s current immigration practices.

Nichole Flores, University of Virginia, presiding

Papers

Rebecca David-Hensley
From Dallas to Denver: Faith Leaders Connecting, Preparing, and Caring for Immigrant Communities in an ICE Age

Maria T. Davila
"We've Done It Once Already!" Speaking with One Voice for Migrant Lives

Bryan Ellrod
Sanctuary as Insular Constitutionalism: Religious Resistance and the Church as a Zone of Exception

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A22-404
Hosted by: Comparative Studies in Religion Unit

Theme: Interreligious Dialogue, Spiritual Practices, and the convergence of scientific research and religious traditions
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

The papers in this session bring together the concepts of interreligious dialogue and comparative studies. The first paper explores how Humanistic Buddhism contributes to reimagining the future of interreligious dialogue in a world marked by polarization and ethical uncertainty placing Yun's *"I Am Buddha"* in dialogue with Kierkegaard's claim that *"subjectivity is truth."*

The second paper explicates the connection between the concept of No-Mind and Jewish Sabbath rituals by reading Jewish texts by Breslov in dialogue with Zen Buddhist texts *Treatise on No-Mind,* the *Diamond Jewel Platform Sutra,* and Dogen *Shobogenzo*.

The third paper investigates how religious traditions and scientific research inform questions of "age of accountability" in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, focusing on rites of passage and theological judgments about when individuals become morally and spiritually responsible.

Massimo Rondolino, presiding

Papers

Jizhang Yi, University of Toronto and Harvard University
Transformative Metaphors: Humanistic Buddhism and the Future of Interreligious Dialogue

Jerome Gellman
What a Buddhist Zen Monk Taught me about Lighting Shabbat Candles

Kev Grane
Faith and Transitions: Religious Notions of Accountability and Gender Affirming Care for Youth

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A22-415
Hosted by: Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit and Sacred Texts, Theory, and Theological Construction Unit
Theme: Kierkegaard and Biblical Hermeneutics
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This panel considers how various frameworks of biblical hermeneutics reveal the motivations of human hearts more-so than they reveal about the biblical text itself. In *For Self-Examination* (1851), Søren Kierkegaard invites his readers to engage with the biblical text with all the interest

and passion that a lover would engage with a letter from one's beloved rather than as an object of impersonal disinterested speculation. The biblical text is then construed as a mirror that one must not look *at* as though observing the mirror itself but must see oneself in the mirror. *How* we relate to the biblical text is constitutive of our desires and therefore of our lived theologies. Considering the existentially and/or politically consequential nature of our various hermeneutical approaches, this co-sponsored session puts Søren Kierkegaard's approach to biblical hermeneutics as found in *For Self-Examination* (1851) into conversation with past, present, and emerging trends in biblical hermeneutics.

Tekoa Robinson, Villanova University, presiding

Papers

Caleb Wachsmuth
Hermeneutic Method as Prejudice: The Theo-Teleological Gaze of the Earnest Interpreter in Kierkegaard and Gadamer

Patrick McCauley, Chestnut Hill College
Seeing Scripture as Mirror: Kierkegaard, Nishitani, and the Transformation of Subjective Identity

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A22-417
Hosted by: Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Latine Religious Imaginaries Against the Carceral State
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

In a political moment defined by mass detention, accelerated deportation, and the militarization of immigration enforcement, this session examines the religious and theological imaginaries that contest the carceral state's hold on migrant life. Papers explore how neoliberal economic logics commodify migrants and incentivize their incarceration, and how Catholic social thought, particularly the work of Pope Francis, offers resources for reimagining economic life around human dignity rather than exclusion. The session moves into the specific spaces of immigration detention, theorizing them as sites where divine presence is actualized through acts of abolition geography and freedom-as-placemaking. Finally, ethnographic research with a Queer Latine congregation reveals how anti-carceral vigils and devotional practices cultivate ethical imaginaries that transform undocumented vulnerability into collective solidarity. Together, these papers illuminate how Latine religious worlds resist the foreclosure of migrant futures and sustain life under conditions of carceral violence.

Hector Varela Rios, Villanova University, presiding

Papers

Caterina Baffa, Boston College
Resources from Pope Francis and Catholic Social Thought for Re-Orienting Economic Factors in Migration Discourse

Hannah Bowman
Abolition geography, heterotopia, and the displaced Reign of God in immigration detention

Steven James, Iliff School of Theology
'We're Still Traumatized': Queer Latine Christian Ethical Imaginaries Against Migrant Carcerality

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A22-437
Hosted by: Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Unit
Theme: MLK in Dialogue with Prathia Hall, Jesse Jackson, and Oscar Romero on Leadership
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1D (Ballroom Level)

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Montague Williams, presiding

Papers

Kyle Brooks, University of San Diego
Of Kings and Queens – Prathia Hall, MLK, and the Cultural Memory of Black Religious Leadership

LaMont Johnson
From Beloved Community to Operation PUSH: Transformational Leadership and the Continuation of Kingian Theology in the Work of Jesse L. Jackson

Rodrigo Recinos, Fordham University
Love That Disobeys: The Witness of Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero

Business Meeting
Montague Williams
Barbara Annette Fears, Howard University

A22-420
Hosted by: Motherhood and Religions Unit
Theme: Motherhood, Religion, and Material Practices: Caring, Nursing, and Grieving
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This session explores the diverse and often overlooked dimensions of maternal experiences in religious contexts through three case studies spanning Moravian-Indigenous encounters, early Sufi practices, and grief in ancient Greece and Rome. These papers challenge normative constructions of motherhood by examining subversive maternal care, the reimagining of breastfeeding as a site of mystical piety, , and the care and grief surrounding infant death in Greece and Rome through the lens of maternal theory.

Pascale Engelmajer, presiding

Papers

Anca Wilkening, University of Pennsylvania
"The Nursing Savior Who Had Several Mothers": Moravian and Indigenous Subversions of Motherhood and Maternal Care

Rebecca Makas
Sufi Motherhood and Reimagining Breastfeeding from "Distraction" to Mystical Piety

Giulia Pedrucci
Infant Death through the Lens of Maternal Theory: Care, Grief, and Material Religion in Greece and Rome

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A22-401
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: Narratives of Religious Transformation
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This session engages in both material and textual archives to investigate the processes of religious transformation. The first paper reads Toni Morrison's *Paradise* as a vision of worldmaking through black maternal religious practice. It read Morrison's own writings to theorize how regard, and self-regard specifically, emerge as religious practice of attunement, care, and attention. The second paper will seek to depict one element of the religious identity of T.S. Eliot's play, *The Cocktail Party*. The author shows that the play is hybrid, combining elements of Eliot's earlier philosophy, Christian love theology, mysticism, and Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras.* The third paper considers the material and textual-archival legacy of Nellie Mae Rowe. Through readings of Rowe's work and oral histories, the paper demonstrates how Rowe utilized

acts of religious creation to invite audiences into practices of improvisation, play, and imagination amid the social realities facing rural Black Southerners in the late twentieth century.

Adam Newman, presiding

Papers

Erica Johnson, Vanderbilt University
(re)turning to Paradise: Toni Morrison and self-regard

Mélena Laudig
Religion at Nellie Mae Rowe's Playhouse

Edward Upton
Patanjali and the Cleft Self in T.S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party

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A22-438
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Hinduism Unit
Theme: New Books in Hindu Studies
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street 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. While all four monographs this year analyze aspects of Hindu traditions, the content and scope of each book is strikingly varied. Spanning diverse locations from Tamil Nadu to Kerala to Gujarat, languages including Sanskrit, Manipravalam, Tamil, Malayalam, and Gujarati, as well as 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

Manasicha Akepiyapornchai
Avni Chag
Leah Lowthorp, University of Oregon
Deborah Neff
Business Meeting
Shana Sippy
Sohini Pillai, Kalamazoo College

A22-402
Hosted by: Buddhism in the West Unit
Theme: New Pasts and Futures in Buddhisms in the West
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

This panel illuminates how practitioners mobilize Buddhist pasts to imagine alternative futures across diasporic contexts. The first two papers trace the overlooked history of Chinese American Buddhist communities and their devotional practices. The first author highlights the role of small private Chinese temples in introducing Buddhism to the United States. The second presenter uncovers the gradual and relational engagement with Buddhism by contemporary adolescent second-generation Asian Americans of Chinese ancestry. The third and fourth papers show how feminist, trans, and nonbinary practitioners reimagine gender, embodiment, and belonging in Buddhist communities. The third presenter analyzes the history of veneration towards Guanyin in the United States to show how she has been embraced by feminist and transgender practitioners. The fourth author examines how trans and non-binary practitioners in the UK Triratna Buddhist Community negotiate the gender norms of both Triratna and UK law.

Adeana McNicholl, presiding

Papers

PETER ROMASKIEWICZ, Independent
Chinese Diaspora Temples: Rethinking Early Buddhist Practice in the United States

Xiandong Shi, University of the West
Growing Up with Buddhism: Second-Generation Asian American Adolescents of Chinese Ancestry and Humanistic Buddhist Youth Programs

Danielle Roth-Johnson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Transcending the Binary: Past and Future Histories of Kuan-yin in the United States

Upayadhi Luraschi, University of Chicago Divinity School
Triratna Futures and the Gender Bind

A22-410
Hosted by: Hindu Philosophy Unit
Theme: Old Texts in New Contexts: Bhartṛhari on Time, Rāmakaṇṭha on the Gītā, Svāmīnārāyaṇa on the Śāstras
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This session brings together three papers exploring ways in which Hindu thinkers developed new positions by recontextualizing older texts and received ideas. The first considers how Bhartṛhari (ca. 5th c. CE) fashioned a coherent philosophy of time, in part by reworking elements drawn from Vedic and Epic texts. The second draws attention to Kashmiri Śaiva interpretations of the *Bhagavad Gītā,* focusing especially on the 10th-century commentator Rāmakaṇṭha. The third examines how Svāmīnārāyaṇa (18th/19th c.) interpreted a well-known reference in the *Mahābhārata* to four *śāstra*s—Sāṃkhya, Yoga, Pañcarātra, and Veda—as indicating mutual complementarity rather than exclusivity or hierarchy.

Papers

Nataliya Yanchevskaya, Princeton University
Word, Time, and Creation: The Temporal Doctrine in Bhartṛhari's Philosophy of Grammar

Sunny Patel, McGill University
Intellectual Differences as Productive: Svāmīnārāyaṇa on Sāṃkhya, Yoga, Veda, and Pañcarātra

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A22-434
Hosted by: Women of Color Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism Unit
Theme: Play the Future: Practicing the Future through Play
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom Level)

What does it mean to practice being in the future? This session will help instructors in higher education engage in understanding the future through practice and play. Through interactive game play participants will be able to create futures in the classroom setting that center hope and liberation and confront oppression, marginalization, and hierarchy.

Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein, presiding
Tamisha Tyler, presiding

P22-402
Hosted by: La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars of Religion
Theme: Presente: Futuring Latina Scholarship, Teaching, and Leadership
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This session centers the legacy of Latina theologies—received as a living tradition that reinterprets the present and imagines the future of faith; recontextualizes theological inheritances

to confront race, colonialism, and the everyday realities of marginalized communities; and subverts hegemonic memories by amplifying silenced stories for collective empowerment. We ask: *How have Latina experiences been reflected in the academy? How do we orient toward the future amid critical reconfigurations in religious studies?*

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Iliff School of Theology, presiding

Panelist

Elsie Miranda
Amirah Orozco
Oscar Garcia-Johnson, Fuller Theological Seminary
Joanne Solis-Walker, Emory University

A22-436
Hosted by: Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee
Theme: Queering Pedagogy at a Time of Crisis: A Roundtable
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 211 (Street Level)

How do we teach LGBTIQ+ subjects effectively, honestly, and safely in today's political climate? Amid ongoing attacks on the study of gender and sexuality in higher education, faculty at all manner of institutions—both public and private, in all regions of the United States—are facing new (and old) challenges as they teach about gender, sexuality, and religion. In this roundtable, professors employed in a range of educational institutions and a variety of sub-disciplines will share strategies that they have developed to promote optimal learning about material at the intersection of queer studies, trans studies, and religious studies. Panelists will discuss facilitating student conversations, choosing texts and assignments, determining how to respond (or not) to current events, and an educator's responsibility to protect all in their classroom. Panelists will also share, if they are comfortable doing so, how they have navigated the challenges, precarity, and ongoing decision-making surrounding one's visibility and self-expression as a queer and/or trans scholar.

Eziaku Nwokocha, Rice University, presiding

Panelist

Samira Mehta
Vivek Joseph, Brown University

A22-400
Books under Discussion

Hosted by: Anglican Studies Seminar
Theme: Reflections on Wisdom, Knowledge, and Faith: New Essays on the Future of Theology and the Episcopal Church, edited by Robert MacSwain and Kelli Joyce (New York: Church Publishing, 2026).
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

For our second Anglican Studies session, respondents will reflect on the recent book, *Wisdom, Knowledge, and Faith: New Essays on the Future of Theology and the Episcopal Church.* edited by Robert MacSwain and Kelli Joyce (New York: Church Publishing, 2026). The focus of the session is to consider directions in Anglican theology today and into the future.

After the panel, there will be a brief Business Meeting for the Anglican Studies Seminar. All are invited to participate!

Allen Shin, Episcopal Diocese of New York, presiding

Panelist

Kelli Joyce, Vanderbilt University
Maxine King, Princeton Theological Seminary
Francisco Garcia, Church Divinity School of the Pacific
Scott MacDougall, The Episcopal Church
Business Meeting
Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Claremont School of Theology

A22-406
Hosted by: Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop and Religion Unit
Theme: Resonant Wounds: Hip Hop, Minor Tonality, and the Theomusicology of Trauma
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

Theomusicology has been defined as “a musicological method for theologizing about the sacred, the secular, and the profane, principally incorporating thought and method borrowed from anthropology, sociology, psychology, and philosophy” (Spencer 1991b, 3). As an interdisciplinary framework, it provides a productive lens for examining music as a site where theological meaning, cultural expression, and embodied experience intersect. Within this framework, Hip Hop can be understood not merely as artistic production but as a medium through which communities articulate suffering, resilience, and spiritual reflection.

Embodied trauma within Black and other minoritized communities often manifests through somatic and psychosomatic conditions such as chronic anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and suicidal ideation. Given its global reach and cultural influence, music offers a powerful arena for examining how trauma is expressed, negotiated, and potentially disrupted.

This panel explores the relationship between minor-keyed Hip Hop music and embodied trauma among Black and minoritized young adults (ages 18–28). Drawing on interdisciplinary methodologies, the papers examine how sonic aesthetics, lyrical narratives, and musical tonality function within theomusicological analysis to illuminate how Hip Hop can serve as a site for articulating trauma, cultivating resilience, and imagining pathways toward healing.

Justin Smith, Azusa Pacific University, presiding

Panelist

Daniel White Hodge
Jon Gill, Gustavus Adolphus College
James Hill, Boston University
Skyler Jay Keiter, Providence College
Victoria Husain, Harvard

A22-435
Hosted by: Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: Revealing New Worlds: Video Games, Apocalypses, and Imagining New Worlds
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

Video games are becoming an ever more important site for the negotiation of complex religious ideas and identities. The papers in this panel consider the ways that apocalyptic imagery in *Disco Elysium*, *Far Cry 5*, and *Binding of Isaac* work in the American context and how *Black Myth: Wukong* fits into the Chinese cultural strategy of Guochao, an active attempt to reshape Chinese self-conceptions. The papers in this session examine how video games and other cultural products help people to reflect upon and navigate major turning points in a culture's life when it seems that the world is falling apart and new one is coming into being.

David Feltmate, presiding

Papers

Whitney Cox
“After the World, the Pale; After the Pale, the World Again”: The Slow Apocalypse of Disco Elysium

Christian Pattavina
Apocalypse at Home; Apocalypse in the Homeland: Biblical Apocalypticism in "The Binding of Isaac" and "Far Cry 5"

Jieyu Liu, University of Colorado, Boulder
Branding Cultural Confidence: Guochao and the Re-Centering of Global Cultural Production

A22-427
Hosted by: Religion in Southeast Asia Unit
Theme: Ritual Innovation, More-than-Human Relationality, and State Power in Vietnam
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

Ritual practices are central to governance. This is clearly visible in Vietnam, where state actors have long used rituals to calm storms, end droughts, deify heroes, pacify invaded lands, and incorporate foreign gods. This panel builds upon recent scholarship on the political, relational, and cognitive dimensions of ritual, offering new insights from a society that is both religiously diverse and highly ritualized. The four papers all examine how ritual actions have served to mediate relationships between people, the state, and powerful nonhuman actors, from the fourteenth century until today. Together, they show that rituals can be effective tools for governance, but they can also be employed to subvert or affect state power in ways that elude or bypass more confrontational modern techniques of advocacy. The insights that emerge from this analysis can inform broader discussions of how rituals mediate relationships between citizens, the state, and physical environments across Southeast Asia.

Levi McLaughlin, presiding

Papers

Cuong Mai
The Earth and the Rivers, the Dead and the Dao: Traces of Court Daoism in Thirteenth- and Fourteenth-century Đại Việt

Nhung Lu, University of Oslo
Praying for the Nation: How a Ritual Innovation Helped Transform Hòa Hảo's Relationship to the Vietnamese State

Aike Peter Rots, University of Oslo
The Lord of the South Sea 2.0: Whale Festivals, Territoriality, and the Politics of Heritage in Twenty-First-Century Vietnam

Sara Swenson, Dartmouth College
The Political Spirituality of Buddhist Charity in Vietnam

P22-400
Hosted by: Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

Theme: SACP Ominbus: Rethinking Dharma, God, Womb, and Gendered Othering
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate AB (Third Level)

The four papers in this panel offers comparative re-readings of well-known philosophical notions of Dharma, God, Womb, and Gendered Othering

The first presentation "Is God really dead in Sāṃkhya? A Naturalist Interpretation of the Turn to Atheism in Early Classical Sāṃkhya" recovers a strand of mystical atheism in early classical Sāṃkhya.

The second presentation "The Womb as Creatio Ex Profundis: The Daoist Primacy of the Eternal Feminine without Counterpart" reads Daoist womb cosmology alongside Geothe's "Eternal Feminine."

The third presentation "Comparative Hermeneutics of Woongnyeo (熊女), Kitsune (狐/キツネ/狐女), and Gumiho (九尾狐): Toward a Transhumanistic Ecofeminism" further elaborates a feminist philosophy of the more-than-human world.

The last presentation "Beyond Religion: The Multifaceted Concept of Dharma in Indian Thought" reveals the socio-political aspects of Dharma (typically translated as religion) in the philosophy of Gandhi, Tagore, and Ambedkar.

Jessica Zu, presiding

Papers

Agnieszka Rostalska
Beyond Religion: The Multifaceted Concept of Dharma in Indian Thought

Geoffrey Ashton
Is God really dead in Sāṃkhya? A Naturalist Interpretation of the Turn to Atheism in Early Classical Sāṃkhya

Eunchul Jung
The Womb as Creatio Ex Profundis: The Daoist Primacy of the Eternal Feminine without Counterpart

Jea Sophia Oh
Comparative Hermeneutics of Woongnyeo (熊女), Kitsune (狐/キツネ/狐女), and Gumiho (九尾狐): Toward a Transhumanistic Ecofeminism

Business Meeting
Minjung Noh

A22-421
Hosted by: Music and Religion Unit
Theme: Sacred Music and Modernity
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1F (Ballroom Level)

This panel explores the implications of commodifying, commercializing, and/or secularizing sacred sounds. Presentations on Buddhist electronic music of the Awakening Music Festival in Taiwan, as well as the contemporary praise and worship music of megachurches in São Paulo, Brazil and the Christian worship music of Hong Kong, uncover the ways in which sacred musics in modernity, with its concomitant, commercialization, globalization and musicoloniality, affect religious music and practice.

Joshua Busman, University of North Carolina At Pembroke, presiding
Charrise Barron, Harvard University, presiding

Papers

Tsz Lok Sit, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
Firing "Aesthetic Bullets": In-tone (Ngaam-jam) and the Linguistic Weaponization of Hong Kong's Worship Wars

Fernando Berwig Silva, Southern Methodist University
Sacrotechnotimbre and the Sound of the Future: Contemporary Praise and Worship Music and the Colonial Ear in Brazil

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A22-429
Hosted by: Scriptural Reasoning Unit
Theme: Scriptural Reasoning (SR) Session: Vocation
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4B (Ballroom Level)

This session will introduce the practice of Scriptural Reasoning (SR), an interfaith study practice that gathers people of different faiths around short scriptural texts from the three Abrahamic traditions. This year, our SR session will consider texts that address the theme of vocation in the Qur’an, the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament.

Kelly Figueroa-Ray, Hamline University, presiding

Papers

Nicholas Adams
NT text TBA

Essam Fahim
Q Text TBA

Business Meeting
Essam Fahim

A22-432
Hosted by: Teaching Religion Unit and Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Teaching With/In Unruly Bodies
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This roundtable begins with the feminist and decolonial idea that embodied knowing is authoritative as a ground to explore the ways textuality can be expanded and exploded through our respective pedagogies. Building on these important feminist and decolonial frameworks that see embodiment as crucial to authority and that imagine a possible future without coloniality, this discussion addresses how our classrooms can be sites fostering rigorous learning and self-reflection in ways that embrace each person's embodied experience and challenge them to 'read' the texts all around, even those without words. Framing the teacher's task as the work of creating desire for comprehension in the student, this panel will compare concrete activities deployed in their humanities classes that reflect a pedagogical reorientation around embodiment and an expansion of the category 'textuality' and will discuss strategies for empowering students and ourselves to imagine different future possibilities.

Panelist

Kate Davis, Alvernia University
Kathryn Phillips
Kirsten Gerdes, Riverside City College
Jo Scott-Coe, Riverside City College

A22-418
Hosted by: Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Unit
Theme: The Future/s of Lutheran Theology: Lost and Found
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

To honor the 2026 Presidential Theme, "Future/s", we ask about "Future/s Lost." How do we wrestle with lost futures within Lutheran theology or because of it? How have Lutheran forms of

settler colonialism, heteropatriarchy, ethnocentrism, racism or violence erased other possible futures? What is remembered, what is not, and why? What is required in the wake of these erasures? Alternatively, what other possible futures, counter-memories, alternatives, minor themes, or forgotten texts or practices in scholarship on Martin Luther or within or against Global Lutheranism might offer us new ways of envisioning the future? Can we learn from paths not taken? And what right do we have to do so? As AAR President Laurel Schneider writes about the theme: "*The muscle of dystopic imagination is well honed these days, and for good reason. But what about other possible futures, past and present? Where is the sensory richness that might enflesh imagination otherwise?*" Again, how might paying attention to these lost futures generate new possibilities, counter-memories, alternative ways of embodiment for Lutheran theological reflection and action?

Tapio Leinonen, University of Eastern Finland, presiding

Papers

Daniella Goldfarb, Marquette University
The Tears of the Patriarchs: An Alternative Vision of Fatherhood and Masculinity in Martin Luther's Lectures on Genesis

Lauren Larkin
Adults Wanted: Dorothee Sölle as Luther's Heir of Christian Freedom and Civic Responsibility

Christopher Ocker, Graduate Theological Union
Transmissions of "Luther" into Lost Worlds

Lois Malcolm
The Architecture of Promise: Lutheran Eschatology and the Recovery of Shared Space

Respondent

Amy Carr, Western Illinois University

A22-426
Hosted by: Publicly Engaged Scholarship in the Study of Religion Seminar
Theme: The Futures of Publicly Engaged Religious Studies Pedagogy: Challenges and Opportunities
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This roundtable examines the challenges and possibilities of publicly engaged pedagogy in religious studies in an era of institutional constraint and political scrutiny. While public engagement is increasingly encouraged within higher education, educators face persistent

obstacles, including ethical concerns around reciprocity and long-term community impact, limited institutional resources, and the marginalization of collaborative and non-traditional scholarly outputs. These tensions extend into the classroom, where instructors must navigate questions of method, purpose, and accountability in community-engaged teaching. Bringing together educators who incorporate public-facing components into their courses, this session reflects on both the difficulties and transformative potential of such work for students, faculty, and community partners. Through brief presentations and an open, participatory discussion, the roundtable fosters collective reflection, resource-sharing, and solidarity. It argues that, precisely amid current uncertainties, publicly engaged pedagogy remains essential to the future of religious studies education.

Joseph Witt, University of Tennessee, presiding

Panelist

Victoria Machado, Rollins College
Lucas Johnston

A22-422
Hosted by: Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit
Theme: The Poetics of Participation: Art, Imagination and the Divine
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This panel explores the intersection of art, poetics, and participatory metaphysics, focusing on how creative expression mediates between visible and invisible realities. Drawing on philosophical, theological, and artistic traditions, it examines how poetic and artistic forms both disclose and complicate participation in transcendent sources of meaning. Particular attention is given to the tension between representation and transcendence, and to the role of imagination, symbol, and aesthetic experience in shaping participatory understanding. This session engages themes of mediation, embodiment, and formation, considering how artistic practices render metaphysical claims experientially accessible whilst resisting reduction to conceptual clarity. In exploring the relationship between poetics, broadly construed, and participation, this panel explores the generative power of the arts to articulate the irreducible through the particulars of human artistic creation.

Jon Thompson, Regent University, presiding

Papers

Steven G. Smith
Participation and Involvement in Art: The Fullness of Formation

Alexander Hampton, University of Toronto

Raphael, Participation, and Poetics: Articulating the Platonic Cosmos

James Smoker, Regent College
Superstition as the Beginning of Participation in Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Jason Joyce
The Incarnational Redress of Participation and Poetics: A Question of Theological Poetics in Weil, Murdoch, and Heaney

Business Meeting
Syed Zaidi, Butler University
Alexander Hampton, University of Toronto

A22-430
Hosted by: Special Session
Theme: The Value of Graduate Study in Religion
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

Amidst the several crises afflicting the academy as a whole and Religious Studies in particular, one question has not been directly addressed: *Why should society as a whole support advanced (graduate) scholarly study of religion?* Have we, as scholars of the field, adequately explained or articulated the value of graduate study in religion as a scholarly benefit and as a benefit even beyond the academy? What, in other words, is the value of advanced graduate study in the field of Religion? This roundtable panel will address this question. It is composed of scholars who work centrally in graduate training in religious studies, in public universities and in private ones, in university divinity schools, and in confessional and non-confessional settings of scholarship. The participants in this panel will offer very brief remarks, followed by a respondent, and then the panel as a whole will take questions from the audience.

Christian K. Wedemeyer, presiding

Panelist

Charles Mathewes
Kathryn Lofton
William Wood, University of Oxford
Oliver Freiberger

Respondent

Richard Rosengarten

A22-431
Hosted by: Study of Islam Unit
Theme: Theology at the dihliz: traversing boundaries in Islamic thought
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

This panel offers a number of case studies in what can be described as Islamic comparative theology, or theology at the *dihliz* (the spaces in-between).

R. David Coolidge, presiding

Papers

Fawaz Abdul Salam, Concordia University, Montreal
Decolonizing Futures: Conceptions of the Good Life in Cree Indigenous and Islamic Worldviews

Siti Rahmatullaili, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
The Tao of Amar Ma'ruf: Reconstructing the "Organic Weltanschauung" of Islamic Ethics

Daniel Watling, Pomona College
"The Rhetoric and Metaphysics of Initiation in Ja'far ibn Manṣūr al-Yaman and Moses Maimonides"

Aliya Farmanali
The Gināns: A Microcosm of Islamic Articulation

A22-428
Hosted by: Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit
Theme: Time, Affect, and Religious Nationalisms
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

In this time when religious nationalisms loom large, public discourse overflows with concern about the impact of political turmoil on our experience of time itself, on how we feel time passing in a frantic rush, coming to a crawl, or coming apart altogether. This panel improvises on the 2026 presidential theme, "FUTURE/S," using the broader category of temporality to explore the role of affect and religion in the development, maintenance, and contesting of religious nationalisms. Presenters will examine the ways in which religious affects shape political action and the horizon of political possibility through theological discourses and aesthetic practices, both in the United States and India.

Marvin Wickware, presiding

Papers

Heather R. Martin
Apocalyptic Imagination: The Deep Story of Christian Nationalism

Magna Mohapatra, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Trails of Rasa: Tracing Hindu Theological Affect Across Postcolonial India

Debbie Brubaker, Boston University School of Theology
Moral Disorientation and Time-in-Between

Business Meeting
Shea Watts
Marvin Wickware

A22-440
Hosted by: Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Unit
Theme: Transhumanism, Conspiracy, and Frankenstein Science: Grasping Legitimacy on the Boundaries of Scientific Inquiry
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

This roundtable discussion will explore how transhumanism must challenge the mainstream scientific consensus without compromising its own legitimacy. However, when scientific progress is too slow, some transhumanists may turn to black market drugs, do-it-yourself gene modification, and even unsanctioned experiments. With the lines of science blurred, will transhumanism fall prey to conspiracy around its motivations for power and questionable methods, similar to those that have plagued Denver for years? This roundtable will therefore explore how transhumanism dances precariously around the boundaries of scientific inquiry, finding itself often entangled and immersed in illegitimate fringe science and speculative conspiritual discourse from the Epstein Files to Reptilian theory.

Calvin Mercer, presiding

Panelist

Tom Berendt, Arcadia University
Joseph Laycock
Nicholas Low
Business Meeting
Seth Villegas
Tom Berendt, Arcadia University

A22-403
Hosted by: Catholic Studies Unit
Theme: Vernacular Theologies in and through Asian Material Catholicisms
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This panel examines how material culture and ritual space function as sources of lived theology in contemporary Asian Catholicism. Drawing on ethnographic research in Asia, the papers explore how devotional objects, ritual gestures, and spatial practices express forms of primary theology (*prima theologia)*--theology as embodied and enacted in everyday religious life.

Across the four papers, material culture ranging from polymer clay miniatures in columbaria and Chinese New Year offerings of incense, fruit, and flowers to rosaries, handkerchiefs, and digital media in charismatic worship reveals how Catholics in Southeast Asia theologize memory, kinship, migration, and sacred space in practice.

Bringing together Asian scholars of theology and the social sciences based in Asia and the United States, the panel draws on ethnographic fieldwork to offer new perspectives on Asian Catholicism. During the session, selected devotional objects will also be displayed to create a more immersive engagement with the material culture discussed.

Papers

Audrey Seah
A “New Creation”?: Material Culture Among Catholics in Singapore’s Columbaria

Leonard Yeo, National University of Singapore
Embodied Memory and Material Devotion: 'Alay' and the Transmission of Catholic Identity among Chinese Filipino Catholics

Jonathan Tan
Remaking Liturgical Space: Ancestral Veneration and Material Devotion in Malaysian Chinese Catholicism

Mark Inigo Tallara
Kabayan Spirit in Place or Out of Space: Reimagining Catholicism in Filipino Charismatic Religious Practices in Hong Kong and Singapore

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A22-405
Hosted by: Contemplative Studies Unit
Theme: Whither the future? Forward-looking Frameworks for Contemplative Research
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

This panel draws on forward-looking methodologies for understanding contemplative praxis. Drawing from a range of traditions, from Indigenous traditions, to Judaism, to Buddhism to Jazz, these papers propose new models for furthering our understanding of contemplative practices and their impacts.

Loriliai Biernacki, presiding

Papers

Yuria Celidwen, University of California, Berkeley
The EofB Scale: An Indigenous Contemplative Measurement

Jes Golden, Indiana University, Bloomington
Matthew Sacchet
Cleaving to the Divine: Devekut, Jewish Mysticism, and the Science of Advanced Meditation

Maria Guarino
“Don’t play what’s there. Play what’s not there.” The contemplative spirituality of Jazz improvisation, musical creativity, and transformational research methods

Namdrol Miranda Adams
The Knower and the Known: Lamrim as Developmental Epistemology and the Its Role in Contemplative Studies

Respondent

Loriliai Biernacki
Business Meeting
Loriliai Biernacki
Michael Sheehy, University of Virginia

A22-411
Hosted by: History of Christianity Unit
Theme: Women, Gender, and the Making of Christian History
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

Recovering women's contributions to the history of Christianity is not merely an additive historiographical exercise; it is a destabilizing one. The three papers in this session each confront, from different angles and contexts, the question of what established historical narratives conceal and what new sources, methods, and interpretive frameworks can reveal.

From medieval hagiography to twentieth-century mission archives to the autobiographical accounts of the first ordained women in a Scandinavian church, the session demonstrates that gender is not a secondary concern in the History of Christianity but a structuring dimension of how history has been written, transmitted, and silenced.

Drawing on archival recovery, translation theory, and gendered historiographical critique, the papers collectively argue that methodological choices are never neutral, that the sources scholars privilege, the voices they amplify, and the frameworks that they apply determine what counts as the History of Christianity and whose experience shapes its future.

Minji Lee, Montclair State University, presiding

Papers

Alexander Maurits, Lund University
Frida Mannerfelt, Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University, Sweden
Complementing and Complicating the Historical Narrative of a Societal and Ecclesiastical Reform: The Case of the First Ordained Women in the Church of Sweden

Grace Morris, Indiana University Bloomington
Genetrix our Mother: Translating Theological Ambiguity and Imagination in The Life of Christina of Markyate

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A22-425
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit
Theme: Works in Progress
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

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

Panelist

Eunil David Cho, Boston University
Business Meeting
Danielle Tumminio Hansen, Emory University
Eunil David Cho, Boston University

A22-441
Hosted by: Yogācāra Studies Unit
Theme: Yogācāra ethics
Sunday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

Yogācāra ethics remains a surprisingly underexplored area in Buddhist studies, especially when compared to the extensive scholarship on Madhyamaka ethics and its philosophical foundations. Yet Yogācāra's distinctive doctrines and texts offer rich and potentially transformative resources for ethical reflection. This panel aims to help remedy this imbalance by examining how Yogācāra philosophical commitments shape, ground, and reconfigure ethical thought and practice. The three papers explore how Yogācāra ethics articulates and enacts the bodhisattva ideal across doctrinal, experiential, and political domains. Each demonstrates how distinctively Yogācāra frameworks—whether in theories of altruism, interpretations of illness, or practices of healing and governance—construe ethics in ways that emphasize its progressive and socially transformative dimensions. The presentations will be followed by a response that engages both the broader theme of Yogācāra ethics and the papers of the panel.

Yi Ding, DePaul University, presiding

Papers

Xingyi Wang, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Is Altruism beyond Good and Evil? Comparing Yogācārabhūmi and Vimalakīrtinirdeśa

Jingjing Li
A Social Ethics of Sickness: A Yogācāra Approach

Ronald S. Green
Healing, Bodhisattva Ethics, and Political Authority: Reconsidering Dōkyō in Nara Japan

Respondent

Javier Hidalgo

P22-401
Hosted by: Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought
Theme: American Journal of Theology and Philosophy Lecture
Sunday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Redstone (Third Floor)

The 2026 AJTP Lecture will be given by the Rev. Dr. John J. Thatamanil, Professor of Theology and World Religions at Union Theological Seminary. Prof. Thatamanil's lecture is entitled "Porous Identities and Permeable Traditions: Towards an Interreligious Public Theology."

P22-403
Hosted by: Association of Practical Theology
Theme: Association of Practical Theology Reception
Sunday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Offsite

Catch up with your APT colleagues and celebrate their achievements at the APT reception. Join us for this come-and-go reception at Stout St. Social, a short walk from the Colorado Convention Center.

M22-528
Hosted by: Northwestern University, Department of Religious Studies
Theme: Northwestern University, Department of Religious Studies Reception
Sunday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Offsite

Northwestern University, Department of Religious Studies alumni, faculty, friends, and current and prospective graduate students are warmly invited to meet, mingle, and learn more about our latest programs and projects. We look forward to seeing you!

M22-513
Hosted by: The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global/ACLS
Theme: The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Fellows and Partners Reception
Sunday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3D (Terrace Level)

Join us for a reception celebrating the research and achievements of alumni and partners of The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies! ACLS is honored to host this gathering on behalf of the Foundation.

Please RSVP by October 19.

M22-402
Hosted by: Oblate School of Theology/Institute for the Study of Contemporary Spirituality
Theme: Oblate School of Theology/Institute for the Study of Contemporary Spirituality Reception
Sunday, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Crystal A (Third Floor)

The Institute for the Study of Contemporary Spirituality (ISCS) at Oblate School of Theology is the only concentrated, integrative program of its kind in the United States offering ATS accredited PhD, DMin, and MA degrees in Contemporary Spirituality. For scholars and people within academia, the ISCS offers three distinct degrees in the field of Contemporary Spirituality, all taught by an internationally renowned faculty. The goal of our degree programs is to convene the academic resources emerging within the growing field of Contemporary Spirituality and make them available to the community of scholars. The ISCS inspires an ongoing and renewed interest in the rigorous study of and publication on Spirituality to benefit the world's understanding of how the deep wells of Christian mysticism can enrich broader global theological and religious scholarship.

M22-520
Hosted by: Australian Catholic University
Theme: Australian Catholic University Reception
Sunday, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Offsite

Join us at the Denver Athletic Club on 22 November 2026 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, for the Australian Catholic University Reception during the Annual Meetings hosted by American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL).

A22-502
Hosted by: Special Session
Theme: Dr. Rachel Elizabeth Harding Celebrating a Life Well Done A Memorial Roundtable
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2A+3A (Ballroom Level)

Coordinated by: Meredith Coleman-Tobias and Malene Minor Johnson

On May 25, 2026, Rachel Elizabeth Harding, Ph.D. – founder of African Diaspora Religions Unit (ADR) at American Academy of Religion (AAR), Ebomi in the Bahian Candomblé temple, Terreiro Pilão de Cobre, and Emerita Professor of Iliff School of Theology - made her transition. This memorial roundtable honors the scholarly and sacred contributions of Dr. Harding by gathering colleagues, mentees and friends to offer reflections, poetry, art, song and statements that capture the fullness of how she navigated academic, sacred and communal spaces. We invite all members of the AAR community to attend.

Meredith Coleman-Tobias, presiding

Panelist

emilie m. townes
Maya J. Berry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Isabel Reis
Malene Minor Johnson
Melanie L. Harris

M22-518
Hosted by: University of Notre Dame
Theme: Notre Dame Theology Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 1A (Terrace Level)

The Department of Theology from the University of Notre Dame welcomes students, alumni, and friends to join us for a reception.

M22-519
Hosted by: University of Oxford and University of Cambridge
Theme: Oxford and Cambridge Joint Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2GH (Terrace Level)

The Universities of Cambridge and Oxford are delighted to invite colleagues, friends, alumni and prospective graduate students to a reception at the AAR and SBL Annual Meetings in Denver. Come hear an update on developments in Cambridge's Faculty of Divinity and Oxford's Faculty of Theology and Religion, and meet current faculty members. Prospective students are warmly welcome to come and learn about the benefits of studying in Cambridge or Oxford. Further information is available at divinity.cam.ac.uk and theology.ox.ac.uk.

M22-507
Hosted by: International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)
Theme: Al Faruqi Memorial Lecture and Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1BC (Ballroom Level)

By Akbar Ahmed (Distinguished Professor and the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University, and the Former Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland)

It was the *ilm*-ethos that Ismail al Faruqi brought with him in his meagre belongings when he arrived in the United States as a Palestinian refugee, having been displaced from his home in Jaffa. At the heart of this vision was Islam's promotion of knowledge or *ilm;* indeed, it is one of the most used words in the Quran.

Like other Muslim intellectuals, Faruqi understood that unless he was able to master Western disciplines and then synthesize them with his own intellectual and historical traditions, people would not have a full grasp of the subject. He launched "The Islamization of Knowledge" -- an ambitious project of publications and conferences which created debate and controversy.

Faruqi's grand project appeared to run out of steam after his premature death, but the principles he had laid down for the Islamization of Knowledge remained valid, and the IIIT, an organization he had helped to create, launched the Integration of Knowledge (IOK) program which has produced relevant literature, books and articles, and comprehensive timetables to run courses.

All those studying Muslim societies need to ask where next and how to proceed? Whether we agree or disagree with him, Ismail Faruqi's work can still encourage us to think and ask questions. At the heart of his questioning and his methodology was the key concept of *ilm (knowledge)*.

M22-530
Hosted by: Brite Divinity School
Theme: Brite Divinity School - President's Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2C (Terrace Level)

A relaxed evening with Brite President Stephen Cady, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Share reception food and drink; spend time in good company; and enjoy a brief update about Brite's current focus and community, as well as its expanding and innovative witness.

M22-523
Hosted by: Brown University Reception
Theme: Brown University Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3C (Terrace Level)

Please contact Religious_Studies@brown.edu with any questions.

M22-501
Hosted by: DU/Iliff Joint PhD in the Study of Religion
Theme: DU/Iliff Joint PhD in the Study of Religion Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Offsite

The DU/Iliff Joint PhD is hosting a reception for faculty, students, alumni, prospective students, and friends from 7pm-9pm on Nov. 22 at Maggiano's Little Italy, 500 16th Street, Ste. 150, Denver. Join us for hors-d'oeuvres and drinks.

M22-508
Hosted by: Princeton Theological Seminary
Theme: Princeton Theological Seminary - Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2EF (Terrace Level)

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M22-509
Hosted by: Princeton University
Theme: Princeton University, Department of Religion, Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3EF (Terrace Level)

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M22-525
Hosted by: Department of Religious Studies, University Of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Theme: UNC-CH Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 2 (Second Floor)

M22-514
Hosted by: Union Theological Seminary
Theme: Union Theological Seminary Reception
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Silver (I.M. Pei Tower - Mezzanine Level)

Please join Union alumni, faculty, students and friends for a social gathering and chance to meet Union's new President, Rev. Dr. Lisa J. Thompson.

P22-500
Hosted by: Societe Internationale d'Etudes sur Alfred Loisy
Theme: Working Papers on Roman Catholic Modernism
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Limestone (Fourth Floor)

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Papers

Elizabeth Huddleston
Clearing Newman's Name: Wilfrid Ward on Newman during the Modernist Controversy"

Jeffrey Morrow
The Critical Exegesis of Marid-Joseph Lagrange, OP and Alfred Loisy. An Initial Study

Taeha An, Vanderbilt University
Rethinking the 'essence' of Religion: Korean theologies of Inculturation and Alfred Loisy's Response to Adolf von Harnack

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A22-501

Hosted by: Films
Theme: Raving in the Ruins of the Future: Film Screening of Sirāt, followed by roundtable
Sunday, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

Oliver Laxe's much-acclaimed feature film *Sirāt* (2025) takes place in an indeterminate but all-too-familiar future, where the outbreak of what might be World War III comes to disrupt an international community of ravers who have gathered in the Moroccan desert to dance. The film asks and leaves unanswered critical questions as to what it means to rave as a religious practice in a world destabilized by political violence, the legacies of colonialism, and the accelerating crisis of stateless refugees. Following a screening of the film, panelists will offer short roundtable reflections from their own areas of expertise, reflecting on three interrelated thematics the film consistently addresses: 1) the discourse of raving as a religious practice; 2) the presence of Islam, and its theologies of spiritual transformation, pilgrimage, and prayer; and 3) the medicinal turn to psychedelics as psychospiritual tools for healing various forms of trauma.

Devin Zuber, presiding

Panelist

Charles Hirschkind
Patricia Kubala, University of California, Berkeley
Devin Zuber

Respondent

Cooper Minister

M22-517
Hosted by: University of Iowa
Theme: University of Iowa Alumni and Friends
Sunday, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Aspen A (Third Floor)

Join the newly formed Classics and Religious Studies Department for dessert and connect with faculty and friends!

M22-503
Hosted by: Enoch Seminar
Theme: Enoch Seminar Reception
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3B (Terrace Level)

Isaac Oliver, oliver.isaac_w@uqam.ca, 309-621-1469

M22-506
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
Sheraton Denver, Windows (I.M. Pei Tower - Second Level)

Every Voice is dedicated to encouraging rich ethnic diversity in Christian Theological Education. For more information, contact Brittany Kim @ brittany.kim@gmail.com.

M22-524
Hosted by: Catholic Biblical Association of America
Theme: CBA Annual Reception
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3GH (Terrace Level)

The Catholic Biblical Association of America and the Catholic Theological Society of America warmly invite members, colleagues, and friends to a joint reception during the 2026 SBL Annual Meeting. Join us for an evening of collegial conversation, light refreshments, and networking as we celebrate shared commitments to scholarship and teaching. A brief program will highlight upcoming CBA and CTSA initiatives, events, and opportunities for scholarly engagement in the year ahead.

M22-531
Receptions/Breakfasts/Luncheons
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
Sheraton Denver, Columbine (I.M. Pei Tower - Terrace Level)

The Department of Religion at Columbia University and the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life invite alumni, faculty, friends, and current and prospective graduate students to join us for a reception. All are welcome.

M22-505
Hosted by: Hebrew Union College Pines School of Graduate Studies
Theme: Hebrew Union College Pines School of Graduate Studies Alumni Reception
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Place Denver Downtown/Hyatt House Denver Downtown, Torreys Peak (Second Level)

Reception with light food and drink (no alcohol)
contact person: Richard Sarason

A22-500
Hosted by: Films
Theme: MOBILIZING THE DEAD: Latin American Migrant-led Movements Re-member the Crucified Body, the docuseries
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

This roundtable introduces a three-episode docuseries titled “MOBILIZING THE DEAD: Migrant-led Movements Re-member the Crucified Body.” The docuseries is a popular bi-lingual resources emergent from a years-long collaborative research project between Latin American immigrant-led movement *Movimiento Cosecha* in the United States and an engaged scholar. MOBILIZING THE DEAD celebrates the Latin American immigrant community’s cultural and religious means to build a movement, popular power, and of struggle. Episodes accompany community members as they mobilize the dead to mobilize hope for resistance, healing, and transformation through online consciousness raising, spiritual, and cultural practices.

Amirah Orozco, presiding

Panelist

Dara Marquez, Movimiento Cosecha
Carlos Castaneda, Movimiento Cosecha
Janna Hunter-Bowman
Joel Mayward, George Fox University

M22-510
Hosted by: Religion & American Culture
Theme: Religion and American Culture Reception
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial E (Third Level)

Join the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture for our annual reception at AAR/SBL 2026. Our reception is a prime opportunity to learn more about the Center's programs, connect with new and familiar peers, further conversations from conference sessions, and enjoy a delightful assortment of refreshments. Whether you are a long-time collaborator of the Center or are just getting acquainted, we invite you to attend this year's reception. Pre-registration is encouraged to reduce wait times at the event and ensure we have ample room for all of our guests.

Contact: raac@iu.edu
RSVP: https://raac.indianapolis.iu.edu/aar-2026/

M22-529
Hosted by: ONE MIND Productions
Theme: THE CINEMATIC FUTURE OF BUDDHISM: Screenings and Filmmaker Dialogue
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3D (Terrace Level)

What role will cinematic experience play in the collective reimagining and practice of modern Buddhism across the globe? Responding to the 2026 conference theme, “Future/s,” this special screening event invites four filmmakers—Edward A. Burger, Lugyal Bhum, Donagh Coleman, and Dhondup T. Rekjong—to present original short-form works that creatively reflect on the cinematic futures of Buddhism. All four shorts will be screened in sequence, followed by a conversation among the filmmakers and an audience Q&A.

This event will dovetail with the ACLS/Ho Buddhist Studies Program reception, providing a space for continued engagement and dedicated conversation among scholars, artists and practitioners envisioning what lies ahead.

RSVP:
Edward Burger
contact@onemindproductions.com

Panelist

Edward A. Burger
Lugyal Bhum, Northwestern University
Donagh Coleman

Dhondup T. Rekjong, Northwestern University

M22-522
Hosted by: Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
Theme: University of Toronto, Department for the Study of Religion Reception
Sunday, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Offsite

The Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto is pleased to invite you to our reception event at the 2026 meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in Denver. We are welcoming alumni, faculty, postdocs, and current and future students to join us at Henry's Tavern (500 16th Street, Suite 184B, Denver) from 8-10pm on Sunday November 22, 2026. Please RSVP to religion.grad@utoronto.ca

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M22-535
Hosted by: APARRI - Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative
Theme: APARRI Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Offsite

Connect with APARRI friends and learn more about our upcoming grant opportunities at the APARRI dessert reception at Reynard Social Spaces, 6th Floor of Thompson Denver, at 1616 Market Street. Please RSVP by November 13 at https://aparri.org/conference-receptions/. To learn more about APARRI, please visit https://aparri.org/.

M22-526
Hosted by: Boston University School of Theology, Department of Religion, and Graduate Division of Religious Studies
Theme: Boston University Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Westin Denver, Augusta (Lobby Level)

Alumni, faculty, and students of Boston University are invited to attend the annual reception for drinks and light bites. Hosted by the School of Theology and the CAS Department of Religion.

M22-500
Hosted by: Drew University
Theme: Drew University Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 2 (Second Floor)

Drew University welcomes students, alum, faculty and friends to the annual reception at this year's AAR/SBL in Denver.

M22-527
Hosted by: Duke University Graduate Program in Religion
Theme: Duke University Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Grand Ballroom 1 (I.M. Pei Tower - Second Level)

Duke University Reception for alumni, faculty, staff, students, prospective students and friends.

M22-502
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
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Crystal A (Third Floor)

Annual reception for the Emory University - Graduate Division of Religion (GDR)

M22-504
Hosted by: Florida State University Department of Religion
Theme: FSU Religion Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 4 (Fourth Floor)

Florida State University Department of Religion Reception.

M22-512

Hosted by: Southern Methodist University
Theme: SMU Perkins/GPRS Alumni and Friends Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Majestic (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

A reception for Alumni and Friends of Perkins to gather outside the scope of AAR and SBL regular programming. Contact Avery Pryer in the Dean's office for any questions.

M22-511
Hosted by: Scottish Universities
Theme: Universities of Scotland Gathering
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Offsite

Closed event. This event is for friends of the Scottish Universities, hosted by the Universities of St Andrews, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh.

M22-516
Hosted by: University of Chicago Divinity School
Theme: University of Chicago Divinity School Reception
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Crestone (Third Floor)

M22-515
Hosted by: University of California Reception
Theme: University of California Religious Studies
Sunday, 9:00 PM - 11:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 1 (Second Floor)

A reception jointly hosted by religious studies departments, programs, and centers in the University of California system (UCSB, UCR, UCD, UCLA, UCI, and UCB)

Monday November 23

M23-100
Hosted by: Regent College

Theme: Friends of Regent Breakfast
Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2A (Terrace Level)

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.

M23-107
Hosted by: Fuller Theological Seminary
Theme: Fuller Seminary Breakfast
Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 2EF (Terrace Level)

Join us for a breakfast gathering at AAR/SBL bringing together alumni, students, faculty, and friends. Alongside President David Emmanuel Goatley and Dean Jeff Keuss, we'll celebrate the questions, formation, and community that shape Fuller's academic life. We'll close our time with shared conversation and space to remember how Fuller has been part of your formation and how it continues to be a place of belonging. Contact Alumni Relations at alumni@thefullerfoundation.org for more details or to register.

M23-101
Hosted by: Restoration Quarterly
Theme: Restoration Quarterly Breakfast
Monday, 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Bluebird 3A (Terrace Level)

Friends of Restoration Quarterly Breakfast

M23-103
Hosted by: Institute for Biblical Research
Theme: Institute for Biblical Research Ethnic Minorities' Breakfast
Monday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Sheraton Denver, Vail (I.M. Pei Tower - Majestic Level))

For information, contact Bo Lim at bolim@spu.edu.

A23-100
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Program Unit Chairs' Breakfast
Monday, 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 2C+3C (Ballroom Level)

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Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

M23-102
Hosted by: Dead Sea Discoveries
Theme: Editorial Board Meeting
Monday, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 612 (Street Level)

Invitation only event for Dead Sea Discovery editorial board members.

A23-101
Hosted by: Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee
Theme: Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee Meeting
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 204 (Street Level)

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A23-132
Hosted by: Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: After Liberalism: The Contested Genealogies and Inheritances of Postliberal Thought in United States Religion and Politics
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This panel examines postliberalism as a contested site of future-making in the United States. While right-wing movements have mobilized postliberal critiques of liberal modernity—

particularly regarding neutrality, individualism, and pluralism—for authoritarian projects, postliberal thought also informs competing visions of anti-nationalist and anti-capitalist futures. Through papers on neo-Reformed Christian nationalism, Catholic integralism, domestic reform, and left-leaning postliberal political theology, this panel reframes postliberalism as a contested religious-political imagination through which people interpret theological and historical traditions to envision life after liberalism. The papers offer different genealogies of postliberal thought and examine how postliberal thought circulates across ecclesial, academic, and digital spaces, shaping narratives about community, authority, and moral order. In doing so, the panel highlights how the ways different strands take up postliberal critique reveal struggles over the nation's future—the future of religion, politics, and democracy.

Lucia Hulsether, presiding

Papers

Joshua Howard, Emory University
From Liberalism's Ashes: Christian Nationalism and Constructing Postliberal Futures through Digital Media and a Gendered Past

Morgan Barbre
"Suppose Such a Colony": Finding Postliberalism in American Domestic Reform

Jackson Wolford, University of Notre Dame
Mission Accomplished: Catholic Integralism as Prophetic Violence

Mat Schramm, Emory University
Mourning Postliberalism's Left Wing

Business Meeting
Candace Lukasik, Harvard Divinity School
Scott Culpepper, Dordt University

A23-106
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit and Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
Theme: Asian American Religions, Science, and Technological Futures
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

We are currently experiencing strikingly rapid developments in technology and science, reshaping global interconnectedness and cultures. As part of the AAR annual theme of Future/s, this session considers perspectives on how the digital world and advancements in technology have influenced Asian American religious sensibilities, especially as a function of digital diasporas.

Helen Kim, presiding

Papers

Weijia Cheng, Boston University
Artificial General Intelligence, the Highest Stage of Racial Capitalism? Reading qntm's "Lena" and "Driver" through the Lens of Asian-American Liberation Theology

Emmanuel De Leon
Maybe Happy Endings? Theologizing Futurity and Finitude on Broadway

David Chao
Rachel Siow Robertson
Pacific Ecotones of Faith: Digital Place, AI, and Gen Z Religion

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A23-119
Hosted by: Gay Men and Religion Unit
Theme: Author-Meets-Respondents Panel: William Stell, Born Again Queer: A History of Evangelical Gay Activism and the Making of Antigay Christianity (Princeton University Press, 2026)
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

In this author-meets-respondents roundtable, four scholars of diverse rank and expertise will engage critically and constructively with William Stell's book *Born Again Queer: A History of Evangelical Gay Activism* and the Making of Antigay Christianity (Princeton University Press, 2026). A groundbreaking history of evangelicalism and homosexuality in the United States, *Born Again Queer* argues that evangelical homophobia used to be much less dominant than it has been in recent years. In this book, Stell uncovers a network of evangelical gay activists who, over the course of the 1970s, nurtured a surprisingly influential gay-affirming minority within evangelicalism. In addition, Stell traces the shifts and tensions in evangelical positions on homosexuality from the 1950s to the present. Panelists will respond to the book's historiographic, methodological, and theoretical interventions in the study of evangelicalism, queer and anti-queer religious movements, gay activism and feminism in the 1970s and 1980s, and sexuality and religion broadly.

Samuel Ernest, Homodoxy, presiding

Panelist

Matthew Sutton
Suzanna Krivulskaya
Daniel Ballon-Garst, Emory University

Kelsey Hanson Woodruff

Respondent

William Stell

A23-115
Hosted by: Confucian Traditions Unit
Theme: Beyond Optimization and Utility: Confucian Self-cultivation and the Spiritual Dimensions of Wellness
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

This panel brings Confucian self-cultivation traditions into conversation with key features of the contemporary American culture of self-optimization and "wellness." Each paper draws on Confucian thought to illuminate modern concerns: Mengzi's reflections on restorative sleep; empirical research on Confucian contemplative practices in college classrooms; early Confucian theories of ritualized substance use as an alternative framing for cannabis and psychedelics; and Neo-Confucian debates on education as either capability formation or moral self-cultivation. Together, the papers demonstrate the interpretive power of Confucian self-cultivation traditions for understanding and critiquing wellness and self-optimization as products of late capitalism. By applying insights from a tradition often presumed conservative or distant from American culture, the panel showcases Confucianism's contemporary relevance and expands theoretical engagement beyond Western critical paradigms. It highlights new avenues for scholarship across units interested in religion, wellness, pedagogy, ritual, and the cultural dynamics of late capitalism.

Matthew Duperon, presiding

Papers

Matthew Duperon
"Neither Poison nor Medicine: a Confucian Ritual Paradigm for Cannabis and Psychedelic Consumption"

Jung Lee
Preserving the Goodness of the Heart-Mind (xin 心): Mencius on the Practice of Restorative Sleep

Judson Murray
Confucian Contemplation, Contemplative Pedagogy, and Student Wellness

Timothy Gutmann, University of Southern Mississippi
Capabilities of Self-Cultivation: Zhu Xi's Educational Thought in the Era of Permanent Reform

HAN SEOK LEE, Seoul National University
Beyond Moral Censorship: Zhu Xi's Inward Gaze (Xingcha 省察) as a response to the Violence of Universalism

Respondent

Bin Song

A23-104
Hosted by: Anthropology of Religion Unit
Theme: Calendars: Critical Ethnographies of Time and Temporality II
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

One of two sponsored sessions featuring ethnographies of time and temporalities, "Calendars" brings together papers examining religious approaches to reckoning the time. The first paper draws on fieldwork in Taiwan and mainland China to examine how the traditional Chinese and modern Gregorian calendrical systems are enacted simultaneously, but mobilized at different times for distinct purposes by members of these religious communities. The second paper examines how Jewish and Muslim tech workers in Toronto, New York, and Tel Aviv weave the language of the corporate workplace into the timing of their religious observances. The third paper draws on fieldwork in a Buddhist temple in Massachusetts to show how Chinese immigrants maintain and strengthen their cultural identity as a community through annual celebrations and calendrical rituals. The final paper examines how the time frames of local deities and human interlocutors work to create authority in divination in the Western Himalayas.

Brendan Jamal Thornton, presiding

Papers

Julia McClenon, US Naval Postgraduate School
Calendars Without Conflict: Ethnographic and Theoretical Perspectives on Temporal Plurality in Chinese Religious Life

Omer Hacker, Columbia University
"As if You Have a Meeting, but with God": Tech Workers and the Commensuration of Sacred Time

Xianfeng Shi, Boston University
Future-Making Rituals: Lunar New Year and Community Formation in an Immigrant Buddhist Temple

Asaf Sharabi, asaf.sharabi@gmail.com
Divination and Performative Accountability: Co-Producing Prophetic Authority in the Western Himalayas

Respondent

Lauren Leve

A23-130
Hosted by: Catholic Studies Unit
Theme: Catholicism with and against the Archival Grain
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

How have archives and archival practices shaped the writing of Catholic histories? Collectively, these scholars foreground their engagement with an array of archival documents or types of archives while also remaining attuned to ways historiographies have ignored religious aspects of archival sources. In highlighting both well-used and understudied archives, these papers showcase a variety of practices of finding "Catholic lives" in the archives across the globe. Uncovered here are overlooked records about Catholics under communist rule in Hungary; a 19th century religious confraternity in the Philippines that historiographies have routinely designated a "political" entity; and an unstudied Vatican collection of letters in which lay people expressed personal views about Vatican II reforms.

Francis Galasi, Case Western Reserve University, presiding

Papers

Alina Williams
Finding Mary's Country: Catholic Archives of Communist Hungary

Philip Conklin
Philippine Confraternities in Global-Historical Context: The Case of the Cofradía de San José

Tracy McEwan, Australian Catholic University
Uncovering Abuse: Archival Evidence of Sexual Harm Experienced by Catholic Women Religious in 19th Century Australia

Respondent

Jennifer Scheper Hughes, UC Riversside
Business Meeting

J. Michelle Molina, Northwestern University
Katherine Dugan, Springfield College

A23-112
Hosted by: Comparative Religious Ethics Unit
Theme: Comparative Religious Ethics and Social Hope
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Liz Bucar, the comparative religious ethicist, recently called feminist activist and chronicler Rebecca Solnit "one of the most important religious thinkers in America right now." Fond of quoting the theologian Walter Brueggemann on the interlocking functions of memory and hope, Solnit is actively looking for "anchors in a deeper past and hope for a kind of stability and a deeper relationship to the old stories and the past." According to Bucar, this constitutes "a theology of tradition" that has the capacity to make strange bedfellows in any number of social reform movements. This panel convenes to test this thesis. Panelists accelerate conversations about social responsibility among religious practitioners and conceive the kinds of spiritual exercises that best prime us to cope with long-term challenges such as climate change, entrenched identity-based animuses, economic disruptions posed by changing technologies like artificial intelligence, and so on.

Papers

Will Livingston, Florida State University
Prospects for a Project-Based Turn in Comparative Religious Ethics

Rebekah Gordon, Transylvania University
Stabilizing Justice: Political Liberalism and Prison Abolition

Ryan Darr
Tools of Wonder

James Waters, Villanova University
Substituting Hope for Knowledge: A Pragmatic Case Against Climate Fatalism

John White
Jenae Nelson
Reimagining Hope as an Intergenerational and Relational Virtue

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A23-116
Hosted by: Contemplative Studies Unit and Religion and Food Unit

Theme: Contemplative Foodways in Vaiṣṇava, Jaina, and Yoga Traditions
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

Food is a powerful analytical category for the study of contemplative traditions, with this panel introducing four new studies of contemplative foodways in Vaiṣṇava, Jaina, and Yoga traditions. It begins in the sixteenth-century, considering how the Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava tradition reinterprets the tāntric practice of offering food to the deity as a *bhakti* practice that serves as devotional contemplation of Kṛṣṇa. The panel then pivots to two papers from Jaina contemplative traditions. The first demonstrates how Jaina contemplative teachings can reinvigorate contemporary debates on faux meat, with the second demonstrating how Jaina contemplative teachings have become entangled in contemporary transnational anti-vegan cognitive dissonance alleviation strategies. The final paper, presented by an engaged public scholar, examines through ethnography how yoga spaces engage with animal and environmental ethics, asking how contemplative concepts and practices inspire awareness of relationality with animals and ecosystems, as well as what yogis consider as "food" in contemplative practice.

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside, presiding

Papers

Eileen Goddard
Cooking for Kṛṣṇa: Bhakti Food Contemplations in Naivedya

Joseph Tuminello, McNeese State University
Faux Flesh and Violent Thought: Jain Contemplative Diet Ethics and Plant-Based Meat

Christopher Miller, Arihanta Institute / Claremont School of Theology
Contemplating Dairy: Jain vegetarian cognitive dissonance alleviation strategies in Jain foodways

Diana Hulet, Arihanta Institute
From Śavāsana to the Slaughterhouse: Yoga, Animals, Food, and Ethical Tensions in Contemporary Contemplative Practice

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A23-125
Hosted by: Native Traditions in the Americas Unit and Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit
Theme: Discovery, Settler Colonialism, American Religion: A Conversation with Tisa Wenger and Timothy Bowers Vasko
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

This panel brings into conversation two new landmark books on religion and colonialism: Tisa Wenger's *Spirits of Empire* and Timothy Bowers Vasko's *Making All the World America*. Together, these books are concerned with the ways Indigenous religions have been produced by, or shaped in response to, colonial powers. At the same time, both books see Indigenous actors as deeply and actively involved in producing the discourse on religion in the Americas.

The books have different historical and geographical foci: Vasko writes about Spanish and British colonialisms in the late fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, while Wenger is interested in American colonialism, in the early United States in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Nevertheless, the shared question in which the authors are interested is at the heart of the study of religion and empire: how are Indigenous and colonial religions intertwined?

Dana Lloyd, Villanova University, presiding

Panelist

Anthony Trujillo
Rebecca Mendoza, Harvard University
Sydney Beckmann
Andrea McComb Sanchez, University of Arizona

Respondent

Tisa Wenger, Yale University
Timothy Vasko

A23-139
Hosted by: World Christianity Unit
Theme: Disruption and Creation - Conversation about female agency and the migration experience in World Christianity
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

How have women served as key agents in the disruption and reconfiguration of World Christianity while moving across transnational and diasporic networks? Pushing beyond eurocentric paradigms, the papers in this panel center female initiative and leadership in generating new forms of religious authority, identity, and community. Importantly, migration and displacement are recast as sites of theological creativity and institutional transformation, not merely of loss and displacement. Women's labor, rooted in everyday practices and relational networks, emerges as the generative space in which theological futures are reshaped and mission itself is reimagined. Spanning various contexts from the Middle East and Asia to the Americas and including indigenous voices, this panel contributes to broader conversations that shift women from the periphery to the center in the making of global Christianities.

Byung Ho Choi, presiding

Papers

Deanna Womack, Emory University
Women and the Future of Middle Eastern Churches in the Américas

HyeLim Yoon, Emmanuel College (University of Toronto)
Reverse Mission of Korean Migrant Women Ministers in White Anglo Congregations

Younghwa Kim, Emory University
Trans-Asian Pieties: Korean Missionary Women in 1960s Pakistan

Preston Iha, Harvard Divinity School
Islands of Disappearance, Oceans of Renewal: Ryūkyūan Women and Indigenous Theological Futurity in Diaspora

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A23-108
Hosted by: Body and Religion Unit
Theme: Embodying Futures: Affect, Biopolitics, and Subject Formation
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This panel discusses how bodies become or are made sites through which religious subjects are formed, governed, and oriented toward particular futures across Jewish, Sufi, Buddhist, Hindu, and disability-theological contexts. The papers analyze reproductive nationalism in contemporary views of a Jewish futurity; Sufi hagiographies as guides for regulating bodily conduct; crip futures and theologies of body amid colonial violence and AI technologies; internal transformation by managing senses and emotions in Buddhist monastic life; and the Mahābhārata's commentary on sensory discipline as the mode of moral formation. Together, these studies advance theoretical conversations on religious embodiment by demonstrating how affect and biopolitics shape religious bodies as epistemic, ethical, and future-oriented formations.

Iva Patel, Augsburg University, presiding

Papers

Rachel Florman, Harvard Divinity School
"#MakeJewishBabies": Trauma, Identity Formation, and Biological Reproduction in the American Jewish Diaspora

Ilgin Nas, Harvard University

Antinomian Saints and Future Bodies: Narrative Audience Formation in the Seventeenth-Century North Indian Hagiography Ḥaqīqat al-Fuqaraʾ

Miriam Spies
Crip Futurity and Disability Theology in the Age of AI: Care, Coloniality, and the Politics of Maiming

Daphne Weber, American Council of Learned Societies
Encounters of an Embodied Kind: Emotion, Conflict, and Subjective Change in a Thai Bhikkhuni Temple

Business Meeting
Iva Patel, Augsburg University
Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College

A23-134
Hosted by: Religion, Media, and Culture Unit
Theme: Entertainment Media and Affective Experience
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial G (Third Level)

The papers in this panel examine the intersections of religion, embodiment, gender, sexuality, and horror cinema. This panel frames horror media as a critical site for reshaping understandings of the sacred by examining the production and transformation of religious meanings through film, gameplay, and folk religious traditions, including examples from Taiwanese and Hong Kong cinema. Recurring themes of ritual violence, supernatural power, black magic, and spirit beings are examined to illustrate the close connections between media and affective experience.

William Chavez, presiding

Papers

J Selke, Lafayette College
The Destruction of the Gendered Body: Magical Transness and the Making of the Modern Horror Film

Gloria I-Ling Chien, Gonzaga University
Encountering Buddhism through Mise-en-scène and Affective Experience in Running on Karma and The Pig, the Snake, and the Pigeon

Christian Pattavina
Digital Ritual and Analog Horror in FAITH: The Unholy Trinity

Brian Collins, Ohio University

Killing to Create: The Energetics of Corpse Magic in Folk Religion and Horror Cinema

Business Meeting
William Chavez

A23-144
Hosted by: Psychology, Culture, and Religion Unit
Theme: Fractured Subjects, Fragile Futures: Psychoanalysis, Religion, and the Politics of Care Across Cultural Contexts
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 4 (Fourth Floor)

This session brings together five interdisciplinary papers that explore the complex entanglements of psychology, religion, and culture through psychoanalytic, theological, and critical frameworks. Across diverse contexts, including biblical texts, Muslim psychotherapy, Korean and Korean American Protestantism, South Korean suicidality, and clinical psychoanalytic narratives, the papers examine how subjects are formed, fractured, and potentially restored within religious and therapeutic worlds. Engaging psychoanalytic traditions such as Freud, Lacan, and object relations theory, the papers show how loss, trauma, and discontent generate not only psychic distress but also possibilities for hope and meaning-making. At the same time, they critically analyze contemporary practices of care, demonstrating how efforts to integrate religious and psychological frameworks can both sustain and constrain subjectivity while reproducing deeper tensions. Together, these papers highlight how care is shaped by competing frameworks and invite reflection on its possibilities and limits in a culturally plural world.

Hee-Kyu Heidi Park, presiding

Papers

Margaret Kamitsuka, Oberlin College and Conservatory
Becoming Discontent: A Freudian Lens on Utopian Hope

Fareah Fysudeen, University of Virginia
Between Tradition and the Talking Cure: Muslim Subjectivity in Islamically Integrated Psychotherapy

AHyun Lee, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Certainty as Care: Purity Culture, Authoritarian Religion, and Sexual Impunity in Korean/U.S. Protestant Contexts

Kate Wiebe, Fuller Theological Seminary
Somatic Memory and (Un)Certain Futures in the Narratives of Jonah and Harry Guntrip

Wonjong Lee, Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto

A23-135
Hosted by: Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit
Theme: Healing Future/s: Diagnosis and Its Consequences
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

What does it mean to name a disease, and what futures does that naming foreclose and enable? This panel examines how the boundary between religious and medical frameworks is drawn, contested, and navigated in healing traditions across historical and cultural contexts, and how those negotiations shape what futures become imaginable for the sick and those who care for them. Drawing on Tibetan medical and religious texts, qualitative interviews with Christians experiencing serious mental illness, ethnographic fieldwork on Vodou in South Florida, and analysis of Korean shamanism from missionary archives to contemporary popular culture, the papers gathered here argue that diagnosis is never merely descriptive. Together, these papers propose that the boundary between religious and medical healing is not a stable divide but a site of ongoing negotiation, one whose outcomes carry real consequences for those whose futures hang in the balance.

William McGrath, New York University, presiding

Papers

William McGrath, New York University
Rainwater on Raw Meat: Diagnosing Leprosy and Other Serpentine Diseases in Tibet

Hannah Waite, University of Leeds
Naming Futures: Recognition, Authority, and the Work of Care

Eugenia Rainey, William & Mary
Narrative Medicine, Silence, and Vodou

Candy Gunther Brown
What Counts as Shamanism? Exorcism, Materialism, and the Future(s) of Shamanism as a Category for Interpreting Korean Religions

Business Meeting
Kristy Slominski, University of Arizona
William McGrath, New York University

A23-133
Hosted by: Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit
Theme: Imagining Haunted Futures from Haunted Pasts
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

Cinema is an act of *haunting*: freezing people, places and ideas on celluloid to later be looped over and over again *ad nauseum*. Viewing film is a dialogue with ghosts from the past that can influence the way we think about and build the future. In this session, panelists analyze horror films and ghost paintings as a method to theorize alternative futures from haunted pasts. Panelists use cinema, television, and art to ask prescient questions regarding postcolonial futures, the uncanny, and moving beyond the religious/secular binary. Together, they use the haunted visual medium as a mediating force between oppressive pasts and the possibility of a more liberative future.

Matthew Konerth, presiding

Papers

Kathryn Reklis
The Haunted Imagination: Shirley Jackson and the Allure of Non-Ontological Spirit

Catherine McCrary, University of Virginia
Biblical Apparitions in an Age of Spiritualism: The Ghost Paintings of James Tissot

Connie Bahng, Boston University School of Theology
Utopian Hauntings: Imagining Post-Colonial Futures in The Wailing (2016) and Exhuma (2024)

Business Meeting
Joel Mayward, George Fox University
Kristian Petersen

A23-131
Hosted by: Religion and Economy Unit
Theme: Infrastructures of Economic Imaginaries: Prosperity, Extraction, and Apocalypse
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate AB (Third Level)

Drawing on new and emerging scholarship in the field of religion and economy, this panel explores the infrastructures through which economic imaginaries are entangled with intimate relations with the material. Papers consider anointed commodities among Nigerian charismatic and prophetic churches; loans, investments, and housing markets in South Korea; providential narratives, spiritual kinship, and media sanctifications of war in Brazil; Muslim halal stand-up comedy circuits in the U.S., Canada, and U.K., and the similarities between geological and

occult practices of petroleum prospecting. In the process, this panel introduces and prompts new sources, archives, and methods for the study of religion and economy today.

Kati Curts, Sewanee: The University of the South, presiding

Papers

Oluwatobiloba Ajayi, University of Toronto
Anointing for Sale: Sacred Commerce, Spiritual Populism, and Symbolic Violence in Nigerian Charismatic and Prophetic Churches

Donghyung Lee, Yale University
Chained to Debt and Distorted Desire: A Sociocultural Analysis of Finance-Dominated Capitalism in South Korea

Timothy Byram
Immediate Futures: The Economy of Judeo-Christian Imagery in Brazilian Evangelicalism

Morgane Thonnart, KU Leuven
Investing in Different Futures: The Case of Muslim Comedy and Philanthropy

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A23-118
Hosted by: Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Intersectionality, Sexual Violence, and the Future of Feminist Theory
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

This panel presents scholarly investigations of the lived experiences of survivors of sexual trauma and violence to foreground explorations of the future of feminist theory in the study of religion. Examinations of intersectional identities inform analyses of temporal colonialism, racialized antagonisms, and embodied attachments.

Fannie Bialek, presiding

Papers

Marisa Hulstine, University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology
"Carnival Strippers" and "A Room of Their Own": Silenced Stories and Responsibility in Conversation with Feminist and Womanist Theologies

Todd Bryant
"We'll sing it at the workbench": Time and History in Pauli Murray's Theopoetics

Hannah Jones, University of Indianapolis
Is There a Future for Feminist Theology?

Shobha Muniyappa
Imperilled in the Purity Culture: Jeevana of Dalit Women's Un/Touchable Bodies

Business Meeting
Amanda Nichols, Independent Scholar
Annie Blazer

A23-122
Hosted by: Jain Studies Unit
Theme: Jain Pilgrimages and Sacred Geographies
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

This panel examines pilgrimage in Jain traditions, a domain marked by material, legal, and experiential complexity. Pilgrimage serves as both a practice and a lens for understanding how religious communities imagine and construct futures amid marginalisation and uncertainty. The panel foregrounds pilgrimage as a site where futures are imagined through environmental stewardship, managerial modernity, legal restructuring, and dispositional cultivation, revealing Jain traditions as adaptive, contested, and generative across India. Drawing on ethnography, archival research, textual analysis, and material culture, it highlights the adaptation of Jain traditions to challenges such as industrialisation, legal reforms, and diaspora mobility. Four papers examine: reclamation of a Jain landscape in Tamil Nadu, and emergence of travel writing from local pilgrimage practices; reinvention of merchant masculinity through contemporary pilgrimage organisation; condensation of colonial-era territorial authority into a guardian deity at Śikharajī; and the possibility of pilgrimage performed entirely through cultivated inner disposition, without a physical journey.

Gregory Clines, presiding

Papers

Christoph Emmrich
Uphill Visions. Redirecting Pilgrimage in Mid-20th to Early-21st Century Tamil Jainism

M. Whitney Kelting
Saṅghpatis and Middle-Class Jain Pilgrimage

Jyoti Agarwal, Emory University
Guardians of the Mountain: From Kingship to Bhomiyā Jī at Śikharajī

Bhumi Shah, University of California, Riverside
Where does the stay-at-home pilgrim go? Pursuit of a Bhāvayātrā

Respondent

Steven Vose
Business Meeting
Ana Bajzelj
Gregory Clines

A23-105
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: Jonathan Anderson's The Invisibility of Religion in Contemporary Art: Responses and Debates
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This panel convenes an introduction and three critical responses to *The Invisibility of Religion in Contemporary Art* (Notre Dame Press, 2025), followed by an author's reply. The book argues that religion and theology, though deeply entangled with modern and contemporary art, have been rendered structurally invisible within dominant art-historical narratives. Respondents engage the work from diverse perspectives, raising questions about interpretive communities, disenchantment, political theology, aesthetic norms, religion's "strangeness," and the status of theology as discourse. The author's response clarifies the concept of multiple interpretive "horizons" and defends a dialogical, non-totalizing approach to theological criticism. Together, the session advances methodological reflection on how religion and theology function within contemporary art studies and explores future directions for scholarship at the intersection of art history and religious studies.

Donato Loia, presiding

Papers

Donato Loia
Toward a Field of Contemporary Art and Religion

Lexi Eikelboom
The Theological Horizon is a Political Horizon

Natalie Carnes
Taboos, Temptations, and Promises: On the Work of Interpretation

Sally M. Promey

What/Where is Religion in Modern and Contemporary American Art?

Jonathan Anderson, Regent College
The Invisibility of Religion in Contemporary Art

Respondent

Jonathan Anderson, Regent College

A23-136
Hosted by: Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Unit
Theme: Judeo-Christian Civilizational Politics After Palestine and Iran
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

Since the second half of the 20th century, the rhetoric of Judeo-Christian civilization has dominated Western international politics. This civilizational discourse was mobilized to support the totalizing construction of enemies from Communism during the Cold War to Islam during the War on Terror and finds its current expression in the imaginary of "Islamo-Leftism," which merges both. In the context of the genocide in Palestine and the war on Iran, this rhetoric appears as violent as ever, while simultaneously showing cracks from the mainstreaming of Islamophobic and antisemitic Christian nationalism. This panel will both interrogate current formulations of the Judeo-Christian in the context of Palestine and Iran, and survey the possibilities for alternative imaginaries emerging from grassroots organizing against the genocide and war.

Santiago H. Slabodsky, presiding

Panelist

Mitri Raheb, Dar al-Kalima University
Atalia Omer
Sarah Eltantawi, Fordham University
Zaynab Shahar
Business Meeting
Santiago H. Slabodsky
Atalia Omer

A23-117
Hosted by: Ecclesiological Investigations Unit
Theme: Navigating Tradition into Ecclesial Futures

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

This panel begins with Hai-Duong Nguyen's "Buddhist-Christian Dialogue... in Vietnam," which examines the gap between the teachings and practice of the Vietnamese Catholic Church's Buddhist-Christian dialogue and proposes a way forward in view of the church's ecclesiological commitments.

In "Decontextualized Continuity," Mena Basta argues that the American Coptic Orthodoxy tradition functions as a decontextualized ancient Christianity that must renegotiate identity, authority, and transmission as it is re-embedded in the U.S.

Also from the Orthodox tradition, Radu Bordeianu posits that technological advances have reshaped relationships, identity, and religious life in Orthodox parishes challenging them to reclaim the irreplaceable value of embodied communion in an algorithm-driven culture in "Virtual Community?"

Finally, in "What Draws Young Men to the Church?," Kati Tervo-Niemelä argues that young men's selective engagements with Christianity in Finland illuminate changing expectations of ecclesial belonging and authority, offering important insights for ecclesiological reflection on generational change and its future.

Britta Meiers Carlson, presiding

Papers

Hai-Duong Nguyen, Villanova University
Buddhist-Christian Dialogue as a New Way of Being Church in Vietnam

Mena Basta, Claremont Graduate University
Decontextualized Continuity: Coptic Tradition and the Future of Diaspora Ecclesiology

Radu Bordeianu, Duquesne University
Virtual Community? The Orthodox Parish in a Technological Age

Kati Tervo-Niemelä, University of Eastern Finland
What Draws Young Men to the Church? Implicit Ecclesiologies and the Future of the Church

Business Meeting
Britta Meiers Carlson
Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education

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A23-126
Hosted by: New Religious Movements Unit

Theme: New Media Technologies and the New Religions of the Spiritual But Not Religious
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

In this proposed roundtable discussion spurred by the New Religious Movements Unit call for a focus on "NRMs and New Media Technologies," three panelists and one respondent ask what considerations the social media-saturated present to those thinking about new religious formations in the United States. In an era in which the rise in non-affiliation with institutional religion has led the sociologist Christian Smith to declare "religion" obsolete, and the increasing visibility of religious/spiritual combining has the religion journalist Tara Burton dubbing the current era one of "bespoke religious identities" and "remixed spirituality," what kinds of insights can focus on some contemporary movements often left out of religion definitions tell us about community, belonging, institutions, belief, and notions of what secular and religious mean?

Benjamin Zeller, Lake Forest College, presiding

Panelist

Sean McCloud
Rachel Carbonara
Mary Hamner

Respondent

Benjamin Zeller, Lake Forest College
Business Meeting
Erin Prophet, East Carolina University
Jeremy Rapport

A23-127
Hosted by: Pentecostal–Charismatic Movements Unit
Theme: Pentecostal Pasts and Futures in US Politics
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

In what ways have scholars accounted for Pentecostals' historical engagement in politics? In what ways can reconsiderations of Pentecostal history and Pentecostals themselves illuminate the present and future of Pentecostal political engagement? This panel offers scholarly reflections on the past impacts, current shape, and future horizons the ways Pentecostals present themselves and act politically. Panelists will consider Pentecostal relationships to the Religious Right, denominationalism, and an enduring utopian strain in religion and politics. Tying these papers together is an enduring concern for the dynamic nature of Pentecostalism and its changing forms in US politics.

Erica Ramirez, presiding

Papers

Leah Payne
Charismatic Authority, Democracy, and the Political Future of Pentecostalism

Gabriel Raeburn
Where Are the Pentecostals in American Political History?

Weston Combs
Zion City: Utopianism in Pentecostal Divine Healing

Business Meeting
Creighton Coleman
Erica Ramirez

A23-124
Hosted by: Liberation Theologies Unit
Theme: Performances of the Future: Liberation Theologies for Different Times
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

Liberation theologies have always been deeply entangled with questions of time and the future: expectation and endurance, kairos and crisis, memory and imagination. Yet, the future in liberation theologies is never presented as a stable goal. It is rather a site for contestation, denunciation of injustice, and annunciation of justice. In the tradition, future-talk is not prediction, but a form of engagement with the "signs of the times." Future-talk analyzes the present moment and demands the advent of a new epoch.

Today, as fascist temporalities harden, as techno-futurist markets market artificial inevitabilities, and as institutions grapple with post-DEI retrenchment, the temporal assumptions underlying liberationist discourse demand renewed interrogation. This session invites scholars, organizers, activists, and practitioners to explore how contested visions of time shape the possibilities and limits of liberation in the present moment.

This panel will also consider critiques of capitalist futurity, including analyses of realized eschatology as realized capitalism; examinations of how progress narratives entrench racial, economic, and ecological violence; and reflections on how AI-driven techno-futurism seeks to replace political imagination with algorithmic inevitability.

Flora Tang, University of Notre Dame, presiding

Papers

Daniella Hobbs, Emory University
"We should occupy Canon Chapel": Time and Space in the Divestment Movement for Palestinian Liberation

Dohyung (Jacob) Cha, Boston University School of Theology
From Financialized Futurity to Algorithmic Eschatology: How Planetary Computation Colonizes Future-Talk through Algorithm Infrastructure

Molly Crawford
Liberating Eschatology: Ignacio Ellacuría's Philosophy of History and the Disruption of Capitalist Temporality

Sarah DeMarais, University of Notre Dame
Reality, Truth, and Transcendence: The Theological Roots of Ignacio Martín-Baró's Liberation Psychology

Business Meeting
Filipe Maia
K. Christine Pae, Denison University

A23-109
Hosted by: Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit
Theme: Playing to Lose: Fun and Games in Buddhist Thought, Practice, and Pedagogy
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This roundtable was prompted by conversation following a generative session on Buddhism and labor at the 2025 annual meeting of the AAR. It seeks to explore one domain that might lie on the other side of Buddhist labor—that is, Buddhist play—using methods well-suited to this material: conversation but also imagination, performance, and games. Following philosopher C. Thi Nguyen's (2020) assertion that games allow us to record and transmit forms of agency, participants will take up play as a metaphor for enlightenment, a means of rehearsing enlightenment, and as a technology for producing and reproducing Buddhist subjectivities, whether fleetingly or enduringly. Bringing to bear a wide set of interdisciplinary methods and teaching experiences, the speakers on the roundtable will share both scholarly reflection on play as practice in Chinese and Japanese Buddhism and concrete strategies for devising and developing games and adding play-based content to one's teaching.

Barbra R. Clayton, presiding

Panelist

Courtney Bruntz, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Melissa Anne-Marie Curley
Victoria Montrose
James Mark Shields, Bucknell University
John M. Thompson

A23-107
Hosted by: Black Theology Unit
Theme: Reading Howard Thurman in Time: Black Theological Interpretation and Media Ecologies
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

This roundtable reintroduces Howard Thurman to Black Theology as both an interpreter and a media strategist of Black theological temporality. Panelists engage Shively Smith's *Reading Howard Thurman: His Practices of Interpretation through Womanist Eyes* alongside Thurman's media world, including radio and television broadcasts, recorded sermons, print meditations, and artistic collaborations. Short media hearings of Thurman's own voice and artistry will serve as launching points for panel reflections and group conversation. The session probes how this media ecology sanctified and disrupted temporal experience for Black communities, interracial and interreligious congregations, and freedom movements with which Thurman claimed kinship. Attending particularly to *The Luminous Darkness* and the 1946 essay "The Fascist Masquerade," panelists treat interpretation as an ethical practice enacted through metaphor and media diversity. In dialogue with social media, artificial intelligence, and current concerns, they consider what forms of Black theological time Thurman's practices enable and where Black and womanist theologies must move beyond him.

Shively Smith, Boston University School of Theology, presiding

Panelist

Terrence Johnson
Chelsea Yarborough
Adam Clark
Kelly Brown Douglas, Harvard Divinity School
Ericka Dunbar, Baylor
Walter Earl Fluker
Business Meeting
Jennifer S. Leath

A23-123
Hosted by: Korean Religions Unit

Theme: Religion and Political Entanglements in Contemporary South Korea: Faith, Power, and Political Crisis under Yoon Suk-yeol
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This roundtable examines how religious communities in South Korea have engaged—and become entangled—with political power in a period marked by heightened polarization and episodic crisis under the Yoon Suk-yeol administration. Tracing developments from Yoon's presidential campaign in 2022 through his tenure in office and the political turmoil surrounding the December 2024 martial law declaration, the roundtable explores these entanglements with respect to the communities most frequently cited in public narratives and discourses: Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, and Shamanism. The roundtable features four presenters, each focusing on one of these communities, along with a presider. Together, the panelists analyze how religious actors have interpreted, negotiated, and contested political authority in a time of crisis, highlighting both convergences and divergences across traditions.

Deberniere Torrey, University of Utah, presiding

Panelist

Timothy Lee, Brite Divinity School
Franklin Rausch, Lander University
Richard D. McBride, Brigham Young University
Liora Sarfati, Tel Aviv University
Business Meeting
Liora Sarfati, Tel Aviv University
Chong Bum (Sean) Kim

A23-121
Hosted by: Islamic Mysticism Unit
Theme: Rethinking Pedagogies on Sufism in the Undergraduate Classroom
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

This roundtable brings together five instructors to reconsider pedagogical strategies for teaching Sufism in the undergraduate classroom. Although *Teaching Mysticism* (Parsons 2011) offers valuable frameworks, its broad comparative scope leaves unresolved the specific challenges of introducing Sufism to American students shaped by gaps in knowledge about Islam and by Protestant-normative assumptions about religion. The presentations highlight practical and reflexive approaches informed by classroom experience: introducing Sufism through the history of religious-studies categories; expanding sensory pedagogies to include visual and sonic forms of Sufi knowledge; inviting students to inhabit Sufi modes of interpretation through creative commentary; adapting "traditional" text-centered methods to modern classroom needs via guided notes and structured annotation; and situating Sufism within medieval philosophy to foreground

experiential epistemologies and female Sufi figures. Together, these perspectives offer strategies informed by lived Islam, aesthetic expression, textual interpretation, and intellectual history to encourage critical and imaginative undergraduate engagement with Sufism.

Panelist

Cyrus Zargar, University of Central Florida
Oludamini Ogunnaike
Anna Bigelow
Aun Hasan Ali
Sophia Arjana
Business Meeting
Syed Zaidi, Butler University
Aziza Shanazarova

A23-137
Hosted by: Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions Committee
Theme: Status of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Committee Meeting
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

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Panelist

Nick Shrubsole
Kendrick Kemp
Audrey Seah
Bob Furtado
Mary Jo Iozzio
Sarah LaRose, Anderson University

A23-114
Hosted by: Comparative Theology Unit and Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit
Theme: Stories of Christian Pioneers of Interreligious Dialogue
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This panel focuses on the new volume *Sacred Encounters: Stories of Christian Pioneers of Interreligious Dialogue.* Some of the contributors to this volume will share some of the elements of their own story, while also reflecting on the process and challenges of writing a short interreligious autobiography and deciding which elements to highlight in remembering one's

process of spiritual and theological development and change through encountering another religious tradition. The panel will offer a taste of the fascinating and very different stories that are brought together in the volume.

Catherine Cornille, presiding

Panelist

Leo Lefebure
Wilhelmus Valkenberg
John Thatamanil
S. Mark Heim

A23-142
Hosted by: Qur'an Unit
Theme: Studies of the Qur'an and its Interpretation
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

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

Papers

Ian Greer, University of Toronto
A Book History of Qur'anic Exegetical Printing in the 19th Century

John Zaleski
Qurʾānic Exegesis and the Future of Humanity: Interpretation of the Divine Exception in Qurʾān 11:106–108

Hadas Hamoutal Bram, Yale University
Sonic Mediations of the Lethal Divine: Tajwīd in the Islamic Discursive Tradition

Respondent

Tariq Jaffer

A23-103
Hosted by: Animals and Religion Unit
Theme: The Future is Multispecies: New Perspectives on the Lives of Devotional Creatures

Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Our forthcoming anthology, *Devotional Creatures: Bugs in Chinese Religions,* investigates the roles played by insects and amphibians in the development of Chinese religionsfrom an animal-centric anthropomorphic perspective, to imagine the "small agencies" at the intersection of animal-human lifeworlds. *Devotional Creatures* presents chapters on frogs, silkworms, ants, centipedes, locusts, and hornets in a wide variety of Chinese religious and historical contexts, from medieval Buddhist monastic regulations, Daoist rituals, and late imperial morality tracts to contemporary popular deity icons. It is our contention that little creatures helped shape ethical codes, omenology, and merit-making. Silkworms, hornets, and centipedes co-created Daoist-inspired popular rituals to control baleful forces. Flies and mosquitoes instigated advances in Buddhist monastery regulations and hygiene. More-than-human religious studies has prompted serious investigation of the impact of nonhuman animals on human religions. Our anthology, too, presses up against the boundaries of this idea to discover its generative force and investigative limits.

Barbara Ambros, presiding

Panelist

Jennifer Eichman
Aaron Reich
Lina Verchery
Stuart Young

Respondent

Wendi Adamek

A23-110
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit
Theme: The Future of Theology in the University: Christian Theology, Normativity, and Religious Studies
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This panel convenes scholars situated in different contexts—private universities, public universities, and divinity schools—with the goal of reflecting on an urgent cluster of questions. How ought one to think about Christian theology as a normative mode of inquiry? What kinds of commitments do Christian theologians bring to their academic work, what constituencies and communities do they serve (and, perhaps, abjure), and what responsibilities do they have? Is a particular kind of normativity peculiar to Christian theology, one that bears comparison to the normativities found in other disciplines? How do other modes of inquiry/fields/disciplines shape

Christian theology, and how do Christian theologians position themselves within and/or in relation to the broad world of religious studies? Now that a quarter of a century has elapsed since the differentiation of "critics" and "caretakers," are there new models for thinking about Christian theology in relation to religious studies?

Hanna Reichel, presiding

Panelist

Jennifer A. Herdt
Paul Dafydd Jones
Natalia Marandiuc
Jonathan Tran, Duke University

A23-113
Hosted by: Comparative Studies in Religion Unit, South Asian Religions Unit and Teaching Religion Unit
Theme: The Future/s of Religious Studies: The View from Teaching South Asian Religions
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This roundtable discusses challenges and future/s in teaching Religious Studies in U.S. higher education through reflections by established educators who teach about South Asian religions and who are experienced with departmental administration. The study of South Asian religions played a formative role in defining Religious Studies as a humanities and social sciences discipline, and in making the field a model in terms of its inclusivity, global representation, and use of the comparative method. How have the contributions of teaching and researching South Asian religions been impacted by the current national discourse, university administrative decisions, departmental developments, and student perceptions, and what does it mean for the profile of Religious Studies generally? Our cross-institutional discussion critically examines current trends in pedagogy such as interdisciplinarity, Westernization, big themes, intercultural competence, and AI within these structural changes, and their challenges and possibilities for Religious Studies in the academy.

Afsar Mohammad, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

Panelist

Jon Keune, Michigan State University
Karen Pechilis
Ravi M. Gupta
Valerie Stoker
Loriliai Biernacki
Business Meeting

SherAli Tareen
Bhakti Mamtora, University of Arizona

A23-111
Hosted by: Religion and Memory Unit and Space, Place, and Religion Unit
Theme: The Land Remembers II: Rocks, Trees, and the Work of Religion
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

This panel explores how landscapes function as active agents of memory, holding and generating layered histories that shape religious imaginations and impact religious communities. Moving beyond accounts of memory as exclusively human practice, these papers attend to the material, ecological, and geological dimensions of remembering inscribed in specific North American landscapes. These include the Grand Canyon, the Hudson River Valley, and nearby Boulder, Colorado. Together, these papers explore how attending to the memory-bearing capacities of land offers fresh directions for the study of religion.

Valeria Vergani, Stanford University, presiding

Papers

Brandi Denison
Haunted Landscapes and Memory in Boulder, Colorado

Laura Simpson
A Walk Along the Hudson: Contested Memories of a Carceral Landscape

Kimberly Fromkin
The Weight of Memory: Deep Mapping Reciprocal Memory in the Grand Canyon

Respondent

Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University

A23-128
Hosted by: Philosophy of Religion Unit
Theme: Utopia and Catastrophe: A Roundtable on "Utopia for Our Century: A Manifesto of Hope" (Yale, 2026) by David Albertson and Jason Blakely
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This roundtable responds to the new book by David Albertson and Jason Blakely, *Utopia for Our Century: A Manifesto of Hope* (Yale University Press, July 2026). Inspired by *Utopia*, Albertson and Blakely reconsider Thomas More's insights and methods, and apply them to our contemporary moment. Amid the decline of liberalism, the crises of late capitalism, and the rise of authoritarianism, utopian politics can resist dystopian fears, challenge the limits of realism, and imagine radically new worlds, even in the face of catastrophe and death. Albertson and Blakely sketch a new theory of utopian politics in dialogue with Augustine and More, but also Dorothy Day, Alasdair MacIntyre, and Erik Olin Wright, among others. Panelists will evaluate the book from diverse perspectives, including philosophy of religion, political theology, and ethnography.

David Newheiser, Florida State University, presiding

Panelist

Marika Rose
Susan Reynolds
Devin Singh

Respondent

David Albertson
Business Meeting
Molly Farneth
Joseph Winters

A23-102
Hosted by: Afro-American Religious History Unit
Theme: Visions for the Field: An Intergenerational Fireside Chat on New Directions in African American Religious History
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

This session showcases emerging scholarship in African American religious history through a series of six short presentations, each organized around primary sources that span archives, film, folklore, and oral history. Together, they expand the geographical, chronological, and methodological boundaries of the field. Topics range from Black Muslim women's institutional life in twentieth-century Boston and the sacred geographies of Black Christian nationalism in Detroit, to Black Catholic vocational education in Delaware, the performance of Christianity by the Mendi Africans in antebellum New England, creolized spiritual practice in Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*, and vernacular preaching in Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men*.

Vaughn Booker, University of Pennsylvania, presiding

Papers

Philip Chivily, Baylor University
A Black Catholic Tuskegee: Archival Memory of Vocational-Religious Education and Futurity at St. Joseph Parish Schools, Wilmington and Clayton, Delaware

Nicholas Shrum, University of Virginia
"'On the Corner of Linwood and Hogarth:' Black Christian Nationalism and Black Zions in America"

Ristina Gooden, Vanderbilt University
Conjuring Otherwise: Zora Neale Hurston's Mules and Men and the Sermonic Life of Black Folklore

Precious Rasheeda Muhammad, Yale University
If Hajj City Could Talk: Long-Lived Black Muslim Women and the Making of Islamic Boston

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M23-104
Hosted by: The Bible Translator (Journal for Bible Translation)
Theme: Bible Translation: Translating Ambiguity, Metaphors and Word Play
Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 12 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

"The Bible Translator" is a journal published by Sage Publishers and specialized in the theory and practice of Bible Translation. This year's event organized by the journal will focus on translating the Bible's literary features. Main presenters will be Professor Knut Heim (Denver Seminary), who will discuss translating intentional ambiguity, Professor Pierre Van Hecke (KU Leuven) on translating metaphors, and Professor emeritus Roy Ciampa (Samford University) on translating word play.

Panelist

Knut Heim, Denver Seminary
Pierre Van Hecke, KU Leuven
Roy E. Ciampa

M23-106
Hosted by: Society for Pentecostal Studies
Theme: The Spirit and the Shape of Story: Narrative Theology in Pentecostal Perspective
Monday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

Papers (25 minutes each)

Panel Discussion (20 minutes)

Open Discussion (30 minutes)

Isaiah Padgett, presiding

Papers

Peter Althouse, Oral Roberts University
'I Love to Tell the Story': The Intersection between Narrative Theology and Biblical Narrative Criticism.

Van Johnson, Tyndale University
Luke the Outsider: a Social Identity Reading of Luke/Acts

John (jack) Levison, Southern Methodist University
Historical Authenticity and Literary Craft in the Book of Acts

Steven Félix-Jäger, Vanguard University
Towards a Narrative Axiology

Hosted by: Tours
Theme: Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Tour
Monday, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Offsite

Join us for a tour of the **Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library,** which serves as a significant site for the study of African American history and culture in Colorado and the broader American West. The facility houses the **Western Legacies Museum**, whose permanent and rotating exhibitions examine Black settlement, community formation, and cultural life, with particular attention to Denver's historic Five Points neighborhood.

In addition to its museum spaces, the library maintains extensive archival collections, including manuscripts, photographs, and oral histories that support scholarly research on African American experiences in the region. Together, these resources offer critical insight into the social, political, and cultural contributions of African Americans in the Rocky Mountain West.

Please note that transportation will not be provided between the Colorado Convention Center and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. The Library, located at 2401 Blake St, is only 1 mile from the Colorado Convention Center. The price of this tour includes a ride share voucher.

A23-141
Hosted by: Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions Committee
Theme: PWD Open Conversations Luncheon
Monday, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

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Nick Shrubsole, presiding

A23-145
Hosted by: Publications Committee
Theme: Meeting for Journal Editors in Religious Studies
Monday, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4B (Ballroom Level)

This meeting is only for editors of journals in religious studies. It is a time and place to gather, share the struggles and joys of journal editing, and find peer support through it. The long-term goal will be to set up a listserv and possibly assist in some programming at AAR meetings and webinars.

S.B. Rodriguez-Plate, APRIL, presiding
Andrea Jain, presiding

M23-105
Hosted by: Journal for the Study of Judaism
Theme: JSJ Editorial Board Meeting
Monday, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 612 (Street Level)

Invitation only event for members of the Journal for the Study of Judaism editorial board.

A23-223
Hosted by: Open and Relational Theologies Unit and Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Unit
Theme: /Thy Nature and Thy Name is Love: Wesleyan and Process Theologies in Dialogue/ – a 25th Anniversary Roundtable

Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

2026 marks the 25th anniversary of Bryan Stone and Tom Oord's *Thy Nature and Thy Name is Love: Wesleyan and Process Theologies in Dialogue* (Kingswood, 2001). Stone and Oord noted in introducing the essays from over a dozen leading scholars, "At the center of this dialogue is the passionate interest on the part of both traditions to communicate the message of God's love" (20). As editors of, contributors to, and scholars from a generation impacted by the volume, invited participants address many themes: revisiting a particular chapter topic; strategies for teaching the volume; changes in theological landscapes in Methodist and Wesleyan traditions and process, open, and relational theologies since publication; critiques of the volume and possible directions for further scholarship and activity. This roundtable offers a meaningful chance for reflection and scholarly conversation spanning approaches to theology and ethics, multinational experiences in Wesleyan and Methodist churches, and generations of scholarship.

Natalya Cherry, Brite Divinity School, presiding

Panelist

Thomas Oord, Northwind Theological Seminary
Bryan Stone
Theodore Walker Jr.
Lisa Asedillo, Pacific School of Religion
Thomas Hermans-Webster, Orbis Books
Filipe Maia
Blair Stowe

A23-222
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit and Space, Place, and Religion Unit
Theme: A/Im/Moral Geographies: Zoning, Infrastructure, Extraction
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Using the framework of moral geographies, this roundtable excavates religion's role in the legal, infrastructural, economic, and environmental systems that produce space. Examining spatial apparatuses that govern the organization, inhabitation, and exploitation of land—including religion, zoning, infrastructure, and resource extraction—this roundtable proposes moral geography as an analytical framework to theorize the religious productions of the built environment in North America and the Pacific. Through seven case studies, the panelists will discuss the racialized religious imaginaries that shape how zoning law categorizes space and authorizes the policing of communities deemed "out of place"; how infrastructural projects across North America and US territories draw upon religious frameworks to justify spatial clearing and ecological exploitation; and how oil and other natural resources take on a religious significance within extractive economies.

Kayla Renee Wheeler, Xavier University, presiding

Panelist

Nicole Carroll
Ari Colston, Princeton University
Michael Yorke
Isaiah Ellis
Laura Snell
Judith Ellen Brunton, Rice University
Lisa Beyeler-Yvarra

Respondent

Kayla Renee Wheeler, Xavier University

A23-214
Hosted by: Contemporary Pagan Studies Unit
Theme: Academic Grimoires: Conversations with Foundational Texts in Contemporary Pagan Studies
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

This session coordinates with the twentieth anniversary special issue of the UPenn journal, *Magic, Religion, and Witchcraft* on the theme, "Meanings of Magic." Specifically the session focuses on foundational texts and their continuing influence on the field.

The Books under discussion:

Aradia, or the Gospel of the Witches by Charles Godfrey Leeland, 1899.

Woman, Church and State: a Historical Account of the Status of Woman through the Christian Ages: with Reminiscences of Matriarchate by Matlida Joslyn Gage, 1893

Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers, and Other Pagans in America Today by Margot Adler, 1979.

Black Magic: Religion and the African-American Conjuring Tradition by Yvonne Chireau, 2003.

We explore how these texts influence scholarship on, theorizing about, and practices within contemporary Pagan and magic-using communities. The format includes deliberate time for audience engagement.

Michael Ostling, presiding

Papers

Chas Clifton
The Persistence of Aradia, or the Gospel of the Witches by Charles Godfrey Leeland, 1899

Laurel Zwissler, Central Michigan University
Mother of Witches: Feminist Witchcraft and Matlida Joslyn Gage

Helen A. Berger, Harvard Divinity School
The Legacy of Marot Adler's Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers and other Pagans in America

Marcelitte Failla, North Carolina State University
Hoodoo as Religion: Reframing an African American Tradition Beyond Magic

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A23-203
Hosted by: Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Asian American Religious Futures
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

In light of this year's AAR Presidential Theme (“FUTURE/S”), this panel explores how Asian American religious traditions, communities, and practices illuminate the study of and attitudes toward the future, raising questions concerning conventional assumptions about futurity, secularity, and possibility. Bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives, the panel considers how Asian American religious actors imagine, narrate, and challenge alternative futures amid racialization, technological change, and shifting political landscapes. By attending to theories and practices of political engagement, theological reflection, intergenerational memory, and ecological development, the panel offers distinctive theoretical and methodological resources for understanding how Asian American religious futures are imagined and contested.

Jesse Lee, Lindenwood University, presiding

Papers

Ren Ito
Against Possibility: Time and Futurity in Asian North American Politics

Justin Tse
Xenia Chan, Augustana University
Animacies as Theodicies: The Possibilities New Materialist Theologies in Asian American Religious Futures

Himanee Gupta, Empire State University
Leaning into the Wisdom of Land to Recaste South Asian Privilege

Heeyoung Jung
Seeds of Another Future: Grandmothers and the Ecologies of Diaspora

Business Meeting
Jesse Lee, Lindenwood University
Helen Kim

A23-211
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit and Queer Studies in Religion Unit
Theme: Author Meets Critics: How (Not) to be Christian, by Brandy Daniels
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

Contemporary feminist and queer theologies often turn to Christian identity and formation as a resource to affirm difference. *How (Not) To Be Christian: Identity, Formation, and the Future* by Brandy Daniels(Fordham University Press, 2026) draws on queer theories of temporality and subjectivity to interrogate this trend and offer another vision. Daniels critically examines the implicit futurity undergirding the methodologies and accounts of formation in prominent feminist and queer theologies, demonstrating how the goal of cultivating difference is effaced: a singular and stable vision of religious identity serves as the telos to which gender and sexual identities must bend. Placing queer theories in conversation with theological anthropology and method, Daniels outlines limits of this approach and (de)constructively considers possibilities of unformation of/for religious identity and theology. A diverse panel of scholars will engage the book, bringing in perspectives from queer studies in religion, black queer theologies, systematics, and political theologies.

Morgan Bell, McGill University, presiding

Panelist

Kent Brintnall
Hanna Reichel
Jason Evans, Princeton Theological Seminary
Ben Menghini, University of Toronto

Respondent

Brandy Daniels

A23-200
Hosted by: African Religions Unit
Theme: Back to the Future? Conceptions of Time in African Religions and Societies
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

In 1969, John Mbiti published his foundational text, *African Religions and Philosophy*,in which he articulated an African conception of time, most notably his controversial assertion that traditional African societies had no concept analogous to the distant "future". In the over 50 years since Mbiti put forward this argument, he and his work have generated spirited debate and critique, particularly about African notions of time and, specifically, his conceptions of "the future". This session addresses questions and pathways raised by Mbiti's landmark work.

Georgette Ledgister, presiding

Papers

Devaka Premawardhana, Emory University
Revisiting John Mbiti's Suspicion of Futurity: Ritual Models of Non-Linear Time

Mathew Kipchumba, McGill University
'No One Remembers!': Qoheleth and John Mbiti's African Cosmology of Time, Land, and Memory

Ayodeji Ogunnaike, McGill University
The Time before Time: Reevaluating Mbiti and African Notions of Sacred Time

Sheila Otieno, Elon University
President For Life: Time, Moral Imagination, and Challenging the Weary Politics of the African Present

Business Meeting
David Ngong

A23-213
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Comparative Religious Ethics Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Persisting in the Good: Thomas Aquinas and Early Chinese Ethics
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial B (Third Level)

This roundtable discusses Peng Yin's *Persisting in the Good: Thomas Aquinas and Early Chinese Ethics* (2026), which investigates the intelligibility of moral language across different

religious traditions. Four scholars of Confucian thought, comparative religious ethics, comparative theology, and political theology will address the book's diagnoses of theologically inflected misconceptions of Chinese ethics; its argument for reunifying metaphysics and ethics to resist the authoritarian co-option of Thomism and Confucianism; its effort to preserve the integrity of specific traditions while asserting the possibility of universal moral inquiry; and its proposed typology of mutual misrecognition, which treats the Other as a Bygone Same, an Idealized Panacea, or an Incompatible Other.

Jonathan Tran, Duke University, presiding

Panelist

CATHERINE CORNILLE, Boston College
Aaron Stalnaker
Charles Mathewes
Kathryn Heidelberger, Berry College

Respondent

Peng Yin
Business Meeting
Rosemary Kellison, Florida State University
Shannon Dunn

A23-229
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Rebecca Carter-Chand's "Christian Internationalism and German Belonging: The Salvation Army from Imperial Germany to Nazism"
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 2 (Fourth Floor)

The Salvation Army arrived in Germany in 1886. After existing on the margins of the German religious landscape while solidifying its role as a social service provider, it proactively shaped its public profile during the Nazi rise to power. Accepted into the Nazi Volksgemeinschaft (ethnonational community) the organization continued limited operations throughout the Nazi period. It returned to its international affiliations after the war and rehabilitated its reputation. In this book, Rebecca Carter-Chand argues that the Salvation Army was able to emphasize different aspects of its identity to bolster and repair its reputation as needed in varied political contexts, highlighting the variability of Nazi practices of inclusion and exclusion. Counter to common hypotheses that minority religious groups are more likely to show empathy to other minorities, dynamics within Nazi Germany reveal that many religious minorities sought acceptance from the state in an effort to secure self-preservation.

Heather Miller Rubens, presiding

Panelist

Kate Temoney, Montclair State University
Andrew Eason, Booth University College

Respondent

Rebecca Carter-Chand
Business Meeting
Benjamin Sax
David Tollerton

A23-215
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Sonia Hazard's *Empire of Print: Evangelical Power in an Age of Mass Media*
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial G (Third Level)

Evangelicals of the nineteenth century were extremely optimistic futurists. This roundtable on Sonia Hazard's *Empire of Print* allows us to consider a vital question: How can the materiality of religion embody millennial promises and people attempt to realize the future? And, what can we learn from these material practices that might be less apparent, less immediate, and certainly less tactile, in mere discourses?

Hazard analyzes the American Tract Society, an evangelical Christian organization in the nineteenth-century United States that dreamed of papering the world. Through their networks, the ATS expended significant effort and capital to realize their imperial, expansive vision across the nation. This roundtable thinks with Hazard and the ATS as co-theorists of the future's material and discursive structures. As Hazard explains, these futurists pioneered religious technologies. We ask, then, how these technologies and their economies continue to ensnare our own visions of connectivity and progress.

Charles McCrary, Eckerd College, presiding

Panelist

Karis Ryu
Michael Baysa
John Modern
Jennifer Graber

Respondent

Sonia Hazard, Florida State University
Business Meeting
Dana Logan, University of North Carolina At Greensboro
Katja Rakow, Utrecht University

A23-208
Hosted by: Buddhist Philosophy Unit
Theme: Buddhist, Social, and Political Philosophy
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

Recently, Buddhist Studies scholars have shown increased interest in intersections between Buddhist thought and practice and contemporary social issues made salient by the current global political climate. This panel illustrates a few ways in which Buddhist philosophical resources in particular might fruitfully be put into conversation with work in contemporary social and political philosophy concerning these same issues. One of the aims of this panel is to add to the small but growing body of this type of work already begun by a handful of scholars of Buddhist philosophy. As interest in this research area increases, it is crucial that scholars begin carefully and intentionally building concrete and specified approaches for doing this kind of work. Therefore, a second aim of this panel is to theorize, constructively critique, and showcase a variety of possible approaches.

Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia, presiding

Papers

James MacNee, University of Virginia
The Grammar of Difference: Limits of Yogācāra in Social Philosophy

Eliot Davenport, Phillips Academy Andover
A Buddhist Account of Misgendering

Audrey Guilbault, University of Chicago Divinity School
Vasubandhu on Sex and Gender

David Simone
Karuṇā & Solidarity: The Brahmavihārā as a Civic Virtue?

Business Meeting
Catherine Prueitt
Constance Kassor, Cuyahoga Community College

A23-202
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit
Theme: Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

In this panel we address the possibility of consciousness among artificial intelligence and the ethical responsibility that may be entailed if they were conscious.

Ruth Tsuria, presiding

Papers

Chang In Sohn, Graduate Theological Union
The Metacognitive Threshold: Embodied-Embedded-Limited (EEL) Framework and the Emergence of Asymmetric Personhood in Artificial Intelligence

Randall Reed
Yes, They Are: A Provocation on AI Consciousness

Daekyung Jung
Artificial Religious Agents as Instrumental Partners: Physical AI, Religious Integration, and Philosophical Implication

R. Anthony Buck
AI: material souls, machine minds, or manufactured mendacities? A Theological and Metaphysical Appraisal of the (Im)possibility of AI Consciousness

Business Meeting
Randall Reed

A23-205
Hosted by: Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit
Theme: Constructive Engagements with Bonhoeffer: Anthropology, Christology, Ecclesiology, and Escatology
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

This session offers constructive explorations of Bonhoeffer’s theological, practical, and ethical legacy, addressing the question, "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" in several future-oriented trajectories: in an examination of Black women's experience of trauma and depressive suffering;

in pursuit of a Christological ecclesiology for a digital age; interrogating eschatology's ontological priority *for* the future; and the future of Bonhoeffer's Christology.

Scott Paeth, presiding

Papers

Rochelle Johnson
Who Is Christ for Black Women Living with Systemic Oppression and Depression? The Black Church, Time, and Bonhoeffer's This-Worldly Christology."

Emily Rock, Yale Divinity School
RE-MEMBERING CHRIST-AS-COMMUNITY: A BONHOEFFERIAN ANALYSIS OF CHURCH IN A DIGITAL AGE

Clement Wen, McMaster Divinity College
Bonhoeffer's "Ontological Priority for the Future"

Jameson Ross, Trinity College Queensland
A Future for Bonhoeffer's Christology?

Business Meeting
Karen V. Guth, College of the Holy Cross
Matthew Puffer, Villanova University

A23-210
Hosted by: Christian Spirituality Unit, Ecclesiological Investigations Unit, and Vatican II Studies Unit
Theme: Difficult Conversations In and As Church
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This panel begins with Kevin Considine's call for a Church with an "orthopathemic imagination" to prioritize the healing of the "sinned-against," in his paper "An 'Orthopathemic' Imagination?" Shifting from the orthopathemic to orthopraxis, Jeannine Hill Fletcher draws on her 2025 book, *Grace of the Ghosts,* to address Catholic complicity in White supremacy and the necessity of reparations. Stephen McNulty similarly explores orthopraxis, but from the perspective of synodality and the positive valuing of *non*-parrhesiastic speech, as a tool for the marginalized, in his paper, "Living with the In-Between." Finally, in "Synodality under Pressure," Pantelis Levakos, invites the difficult but necessary conversations on Christian nationalism. Drawing on political theology and Orthodox conciliar tradition, and engaging Catholic and Anglican synodal contexts, he proposes authentic Synodality requires ascetical resistance to ideological capture.

Cristina Lledo Gomez, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education, presiding

Papers

Kevin P. Considine, Catholic Theological Union
An "Orthopathemic" Imagination? Ecclesial Healing Spaces for "Right Suffering" in a Trauma-Informed Church

Jeannine Hill Fletcher
Institutional Reparation: Listening to the ghosts of the past as a practice for the present

Stephen McNulty, Boston College Clough School of Theology and Ministry
Living with the In-Between: Strategic Ambiguity as a Resource for the Synodal Church

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A23-230
Hosted by: Religion, Media, and Culture Unit
Theme: Digital Futures: Religion Across Media Ecologies
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This panel explores the reshaping of religion across diverse media environments to illustrate how communities experience and represent traditional beliefs. By highlighting how religion plays a key role in creative movements, mediatization, migration, and ritual, the presentations collectively demonstrate the reshaping of religious identity, expression, authority, authenticity, and commodification. Each of the papers explores traditional practices and sacred forms that contribute to the intersections of power, authenticity, and creativity that enable meaning-making in different religious communities such as Islam, Hinduism, and folk religion.

Eunjin Jeon, presiding

Papers

Reyhab Mohmed Patel
Muslim Futurism as a Creative Movement: Fashion, Faith, and Photos

Kai Shmushko, University of Amsterdam
Governmentality through Mediatization of Religion in Communist China: The case of Mazu and Meizhou Island

KwangYu Lee
Migration, Trauma, and Sacred Resilience: Korean Popular Cinema and the Global Rise of K-Culture

Respondent

Sana Patel

A23-225
Hosted by: Religion and Economy Unit and Theology and Continental Philosophy Unit
Theme: Economic and Religious Futures
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

This panel critically interrogates the relationship between financial economics and religion as they bear on futurity and conceptions of temporality. Over the last several decades, discourse on "financialization" has significantly affected the way that a variety of fields theorize capitalism and its history. Religious studies as a field has been less interested in this discourse. This panel asks how logics of finance intersect with theories and histories of religion. Particularly, we are interested in how regimes and structures of power, sovereignty, race, and coloniality have historically been constituted through this intersection. Panelists pursue this from several distinct, yet intersecting, areas of inquiry: through theorizing the philosophical and theological grounds of financial logics; identifying long durée histories of financialization; resituating these theoretical explorations through the lens of Black radical politics and education; and articulating ways that the political and social impacts of financialization extend beyond the Anglosphere.

Jake Sirota, University of Chicago, presiding

Papers

Jake Sirota, University of Chicago
Money and the Signs of the Times: Religion and Temporality in the History of Financialization

Sara-Maria Sorentino
Black Studies Manifestos: Higher Education, Supersessionism, and the Perfection of Slavery

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A23-231
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: Embodiment of Vernacular Orality and Aurality
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

Spanning diverse South Asian religious traditions, the panel brings together four papers that collectively explore how sonic practices are associated with the bodies of the performers and audiences. A nuanced theoretical engagement with questions of embodiment is interwoven

through all four papers. Two papers focus on performance practices of Adivasi communities, examining oral storytelling alongside songs, possessions, puppetry, and visual practices. A third paper examines the biography and “visionary” experiences of a blind Baul musician in Bengal, focusing on musical mastery as associated with a lack of visual faculty. The fourth paper reflects on the embodiment of orality as experienced by the author while working on Kabir's poems.These papers represent diverse, unexamined sonic practices from communities marginalized from mainstream narratives of South Asian religious traditions.

Maharshi Vyas, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill, presiding

Papers

Linda Hess
The Poem in the Body

Brent Horning
The Meat of the Matter: Exponential Interiority and the Unlikely Success of a Blind Baul Musician

Anna Schultz
Sound, Space, and Sovereignty in Thakar Adivasi Intermedial Storytelling

Maharshi Vyas, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill
Sounds as Bodily Accretions: Transformative Roles of Orality and Aurality in Bhīl Adivasi Traditions of India

Respondent

Archana Venkatesan

A23-219
Hosted by: Jain Studies Unit
Theme: Ethical and Moral Cultivation in Jain Thought
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral G (Third Level)

Jain traditions emphasize transforming the self through virtuous conduct informed by right view and knowledge. Across various texts, Jain authors have articulated what ethical cultivation entails, describing and promoting virtuous dispositions and behavior while discouraging harmful ones. This session explores Śvetāmbara and Digambara philosophical, doctrinal, and narrative approaches to ethical cultivation. The first paper discusses *pramāda* (carelessness) in the *Tattvārthasūtra* tradition as a cause of misconduct and an obstacle to ethical cultivation. The second investigates how *bhāvanā* connects ethical practice with transformation of the self in a

treatise by the early modern philosopher Yaśovijaya. The third examines how Bharata's ascent of Mount Kailāsa in Jinasena's *Ādipurāṇa* guides readers toward ethically formative devotion to the Jina. The fourth explores how medieval Śvetāmbara narratives promote lay virtues through positive and negative role models. Together, the papers illuminate processes, obstacles, and literary strategies related to Jain ethical cultivation.

Samyak Modi, University of California, Riverside, presiding

Papers

Ana Bajzelj
Carelessness (Pramāda): Jain Accounts of Failure in Conduct

Alba Rodriguez Juan, University of California, Riverside
From Intention to Being: Ethical Cultivation and Ontological Transformation in Yaśovijaya's Dvātriṃśaddvātriṃśikā

Gregory Clines
Devotion and Ethical Cultivation in Jinasena's "Book of Beginnings"

Anahita Hoose, International School for Jain Studies
The Compassionate Prince and the Murderous Wife: Some Ethical Models in Jain Narrative Literature

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A23-235
Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Ethical Systems at the Breaking Point: Gender, Authority, and Moral Accountability in Religious Communities
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This roundtable explores what happens when ethical systems within religious communities reach their limits. Across traditions, communities confront moments of moral contradiction, internal dissent, or public scrutiny. These situations raise difficult questions: When is accountability embraced, and when is it deferred or reframed? What allows communities to absorb ethical strain without collapsing—or to transform in response? Communities also negotiate competing visions of their futures: whether to preserve existing authority structures, reform them, or imagine alternatives.

Bringing together scholars in ethnography, theology, digital art, biblical studies, and history, this panel examines how religious communities negotiate moral crisis in lived practice. Rather than treating ethical rupture as an abstract problem, the discussion focuses on the everyday processes through which communities manage moral tension. The panel highlights how moments of ethical

rupture are also moments of future-making: as communities struggle over what forms of authority, accountability, and belonging will define their religious futures.

Marie Olson Purcell, Southern Methodist University, presiding

Panelist

Antoinette E. DeNapoli, Texas Christian University
Aixin Aydin
Cindy Dawson
Abel Gomez, San Jose State University
Andrew Lee, University of Central Oklahoma
Rachel Schwaller

A23-209
Hosted by: Chinese Christianities Unit and World Christianity Unit
Theme: Forming Chinese Christianities Across Global Ruptures: Identity, Ideology, and Theological Imagination
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This panel contributes to World Christianity scholarship by examining how Chinese and Taiwanese Christians negotiated ideological pressures, diasporic displacements, and institutional constraints across the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Challenging Western-centric narratives of Christian globalization, the papers collectively foreground non-Western Christian actors as theologians, activists, and institution-builders in their own right. One paper exposes how the Cultural Revolution simultaneously cast Catholicism as subversive in mainland China while enlisting it as a cultural-nationalist ally in Taiwan, revealing how local political regimes shaped distinctly Chinese forms of Christian identity. Another repositions postwar Taiwan as an underexplored site of Chinese Christian diaspora through Chow Lien-hwa's indigenous theology. A third traces CCCOWE's evolving missionary eschatology from apocalypticism toward holistic public engagement within global Chinese Protestantism. The final paper argues that Chinese-language seminaries must critically remap World Christianity curricula to avoid replicating epistemological dependency. Together, these papers advance polycentric understandings of global Christianity from Chinese and Taiwanese perspectives.

Stephanie Wong, Villanova University, presiding

Papers

Boyi Pang, Duke University
Catholicism Ideologized: A Mirror–like History of the Church in Mainland China and Taiwan during the Cultural Revolution

Yu-huei Huang
An Unusual Diaspora: Negotiating “Chinese” Identity in Chow Lien-hwa’s Chinese Indigenous Theology in 1970s Taiwan

Wai Luen Kwok, Hong Kong Baptist University
A Variation of Apocalyptic Anxiety and Eschatological Hope: The Transnational Missionary Ambition of CCCOWE and Its Resonance in Chinese Public Theologies, 1976–2010

Jordan Zhixi Wang, Trinity Western University
Teaching World Christianity and Decolonizing Theological Education in Chinese Seminary Contexts

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A23-201
Hosted by: Anthropology of Religion Unit, Chinese Religions Unit, Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit, and Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit
Theme: From Summoning Thunder and Rain to Calling the Dead: Relationality and Communication with the More-than-Human in Chinese Ritual Practices
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 607 (Street Level)

Chinese religious cosmologies are widely recognized as relational, yet how this relationality is enacted and sustained through practice remains underdiscussed. This panel examines four ritual practices across Chinese religions to investigate how these practices, under the influences of their cosmologies, maintain or reconstruct relationships between human and more-than-human beings. The four papers focus on the relational network embodied in Buddhist rainmaking rituals through Dependent Arising; the ethical response and relational reconstruction of Buddhist rituals to road killings; the communication with natural forces through the Daoist talismanic writing; and the relationship maintained through vocalization in Confucian sacrificial rites. We argue that constructing and sustaining relational existence–weaving humans, deities, natural forces, animals, and the deceased into a network–is a core function of Chinese religious rituals. In an era marked by the modern disenchantment that has severed relationships between humans and more-than-human, these traditions offer vital resources for building a more relational future.

Mark Meulenbeld, presiding

Papers

AIPING CAO, Union Theological Seminary
Dragon King Rainmaking Rituals in a Time of Climate Crisis: Ecological Futures in Chinese Buddhism

JING LIN, Union Theological Seminary

Ritual Responses to Roadkill: Chinese Mahāyāna Buddhist Practices of Animal Care and Ecological Ethics in the Anthropocene

Yaqi Gao
Performing the Efficaciousness: Writing Daoist Talismans in the Practice of Thunder Rites (leifa 雷法)

Jingzhi Pan
"Sacrifice as if Present": Vocalization, Affect, and the Construction of Presence in Confucian Ritual Practice

Business Meeting
Agnieszka Rostalska
Nathan R. B. Loewen

A23-217
Hosted by: History of Christianity Unit
Theme: History of the Present, the Futures of Christianity's Past
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This session interrogates a shared problematic across three papers: how theological knowledge is mediated, interpreted, and reshaped by the structures through which it passes. Moving between the controversies of Late Antiquity and the contemporary deployment of Artificial Intelligence is the humanities, the papers collectively examine what is preserved and what is changed in the transmission of meanings across time, geography, and medium in Christianity. The session draws on reception history, empirical evaluation methodology, and patristic theology to address questions of enduring relevance: the knowledge, tools, and medium that scholars in the History of Christianity use. The session will be of interest to scholars working in patristics, Late Antique Christianity, reception history, gender studies, pedagogy, and the emerging field of AI and religious studies.

Papers

Matthew Pereira, Oklahoma State University
The Future of Chalcedon: Frontier Monks and the Reception of Chalcedonian Christology in the Sixth Century

Eric Araújo, Calvin University
The Future of the Past: Evaluating Large Language Model Reliability in Early Christian Historical Studies

Mary Jett
AI and the New Eunomianism

A23-221
Hosted by: Law, Religion, and Culture Unit
Theme: Home/School: Law, Governance, Futurity
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

Home and school are deeply interlinked concepts in US cultural and legal consciousness. Both are sites of education, subject formation, and moral and legal authority–and both are deeply imbricated in larger legal, political, and religious logics. This roundtable brings together four presentations that complicate settled notions of home and school, showing how these categories themselves are partially produced by layered dynamics of law and governance. Our work on home economics courses, Indian boarding schools, prison museums, and conservative Christian homeschooling reveals how homes and schools become legible *as* homes and schools in the ways they imagine and implement authority, exercise power, and manage the future. While all regionally focused on the United States, these presentations span historical contexts and probe different institutional forms as a way of exploring the home/school as a site linking religious-legal logics to on-the-ground relations of power.

Hennessey Star, presiding

Panelist

Zara Surratt
Chandler Jennings
Laura Simpson

A23-207
Hosted by: Buddhist Critical-Constructive Reflection Unit
Theme: Innovating Tradition: Adapting Buddhist Practices for the Future
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

In an era of profound uncertainty, this roundtable explores "futuring"—the deliberate recalibration of Buddhist tradition to address contemporary suffering. Through the concept of “skillful means,” our roundtable of scholar-practitioners uses a critical-constructive approach to address contemporary suffering beyond a solely academic approach to Buddhism. We demonstrate how the identity of "scholar-practitioner" is deeply relevant to how we shape our collective future.

The session is divided into two parts: In Part One, six panelists provide 5-minute reflections on their specific areas of research and practice, including monastic education reform, clinical healthcare, psychospiritual therapies, digital sanghas, gender equality, and Ambedkarite social justice. In Part Two, our respondent leads a 40-minute internal discussion to synthesize these themes, followed by 10 minutes of audience engagement.

Rachel Pang, presiding

Panelist

Jon Keune, Michigan State University
Lisa Battaglia
Chulthim Gurung
Dixuan Chen, Grinnell College
Jennifer Bright, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto

Respondent

Michael Sheehy, University of Virginia
Business Meeting
Barbra R. Clayton
Melissa Anne-Marie Curley

A23-220
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit and Religion and Disability Studies Unit
Theme: Invisible Disabilities in Jewish Texts: A Transhistorical Conversation
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 201 (Street Level)

While much of the recent engagement with disability studies in Jewish studies has focused on "visible" physical disabilities, this panel brings together three papers which address forms of disability which diverge from this more standard model, exploring how disability frameworks can help us read Jewish texts that treat neurodivergence, speech impairments, and infertility. Working transhistorically to bring together rabbinic, medieval, and modern Jewish texts, this panel suggests that Jewish texts can offer useful challenges to contemporary moral assumptions about how these "invisible" disabilities work.

Ranana Dine, presiding

Papers

Rebecca Epstein-Levi
Hannah, Unmasked: Neurodivergence, Dysregulation, and the Formation of Norms in Berakhot 31

Emilie Amar-Zifkin, McGill University
Moses and the Disappearing Disability: Exegesis and Authority at the Burning Bush

Sarah Zager, St Olaf College
Infertility Time and Crip Time: Temporality and Disability from the Talmud to Modern Jewish Thought

Business Meeting
Andrea Dara Cooper, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Jennifer Caplan, University of Cincinnati

A23-233
Hosted by: Study of Islam Unit
Theme: Islamic ethics and political theology in uncertain times/times to come
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

This panel provides insight into different modes of Islamic ethics and political theology in contexts of social change and instability. The papers explore diverse forms of such responses to uncertainty and precarity: from ritual action and preaching, to legal theory, scriptural hermeneutics, and political mobilization and activism.

Iskander Abbasi, presiding

Papers

Nicole Correri
The Sun Behind the Clouds: Digital Messianic Imagined Futures in Contemporary Western Shi'ism

Fatih Okumus
Sedd al-Zarāʾiʿ and Future-Sensitive Normativity in Mālikī Legal Thought

Simon Wood
Islam as a Religion of Ease: Rashid Rida’s Reading of Qur’an 5:101

A23-224
Hosted by: Reformed Theology and History Unit
Theme: Karl Barth and Judgment
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

This session engages both the logic of judgment in Karl Barth's theology and the way his theology is used as a resource for current political judgments, including of Christian nationalism. Against the background of continuing discussion of the forensic and apocalyptic aspects of Barth's theology of reconciliation, this session highlights 'judgment' in its relation to nothingness (*das Nichtige*), as well as the role of beauty in moral discernment and judgments. Zooming out from these interpretive questions, the way Barth is used to promote or criticize political stances also lends itself to critique and judgment inasmuch as His theology serves to disrupt the legitimating enterprises as "religion."

Sara Mannen, University of Aberdeen, presiding

Papers

Tsz Fung Tin, Emory University
Judgement on das Nichtige through das Nichtige: Karl Barth's doctrine of atonement re-examined

Kristoff Grosfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary
Judgment as Grace: Moral Discernment, Beauty, and Analogy in Karl Barth

Lisa Powell, St. Ambrose University
Judgment of God's Generative Non-willing: Karl Barth on Nothingness and the Cross

Keanu Heydari, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Making Barth Useful? American Reception and the Critique of Religion

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A23-212
Hosted by: Cognitive Science of Religion Unit
Theme: Modeling Religion and the Future(s) of Civilization: Computational Approaches in the Cognitive Science of Religion
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

Modeling Religion (Wildman and Shults) argues that religion has played a critical causal role in past civilizational transformations—and that computational modeling offers new tools for exploring religion's possible futures. This book panel engages the volume's integrative framework, which synthesizes ideological-political, material-social, and cognitive-coalitional theories through computational social simulation.

Respondents assess how formal models clarify the roles of religious worldviews and lifeways in the Neolithic, Axial, and Modern transitions, and how these models illuminate emerging post-supernaturalist futures. Particular attention is given to ethical, epistemological, and socio-political implications of modeling religion amid accelerating secularization, technological change, and global instability.

Aligned with the AAR 2026 theme **"Future(s)"**, the panel explores how computational approaches can support disciplined speculation about multiple possible futures for religion, spirituality, and human civilization—while also interrogating the normative assumptions embedded in such models.

G. Sujin Pak, presiding

Panelist

John Teehan
Edward Slingerland
John Balch

Respondent

Wesley J. Wildman
F. LeRon Shults, University of Agder

A23-232
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit and Study of Islam Unit
Theme: New Directions in Barelvi Studies
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 6 (Fourth Floor)

This panel examines the intellectual, devotional, and political dimensions of the Barelvi *maslak* (orientation) through case studies from colonial India and contemporary India and Pakistan using historical and anthropological approaches. It offers a fresh perspective on the legal thought of Ahmad Raza Khan (1856-1921) while tracing the trajectories Barelvism has taken in postcolonial South Asia. Taken together, the papers challenge binary frameworks often used to describe intra-Sunni debates in the region. Approaches that frame these debates as conflicts between law and Sufism, elite and popular religion, doctrine and ritual practice, or orthodox and heterodox Islam are analytically limiting and risk reproducing broader moral binaries of good

and bad Muslims (Tareen 2020; Mamdani 2004). Such frameworks obscure the historical depth of the Barelvi tradition. Instead, this panel reads legal and theological discourses alongside affective and sensorial dimensions of piety, demonstrating that these domains are mutually constitutive rather than opposed.

Papers

Muhammad Souman Elah, UCLA
Theoretical and Practical Sufism in Ahmad Raza Khan's Works

Rushnae Kabir, University of Pennsylvania
Fortress of Devotion: Eid-e-Milad and the Public Life of Barelvi Islam in Bareilly

Respondent

Nauman Faizi

A23-206
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit
Theme: New Voices in Buddhist Studies
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This omnibus panel brings together promising scholarship by PhD students and postdoctoral scholars 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 Buddhist internationalism between Japan and Burma; the succession crisis at Labrang Monastery that brought institutional transformation instead of decline; Buddhist views of religious war in the *Saddharmasmṛtyupasthānasūtra*; and modern adaptations of Yamāntaka ritual texts.

Amy P. Langenberg, presiding

Papers

Tony Scott, University of Tokyo
Buddhist Internationalism and the World Peace Pagoda: North-South Buddhist Exchange Between Japan and Burma in the Cold War

Darig Thokmay, University of Cambridge
Succession Crisis and Institutional Reinvention: Jigme Wangpo and the Transformation of Labrang Monastery

Alex Meng, University of California, Berkeley
Demons, Morality, and an Allegory for Buddhist “Religious War”

A.N. Brown, Florida State University
Ritual Text Production as Fashioning a Flexible Future: Yamāntaka Practice from Monastic Austerity to Global Lay Practice

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A23-237
Hosted by: Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: No Future?: Religion, Technology and Dystopia
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

In conversation with this year's presidential theme, "The Future," these three papers tackle religious and technological imaginings of what lies ahead. Examining preppers, haunted houses and heavy metal, these three authors stage a conversation about science, technology, and religion in uncertain times.

Papers

Juli Gittinger, Georgia College
"Post-" for whom? What speculative apocalyptic ficton can teach us

Brian Collins, Ohio University
Mars for the Rich: Two Metamodern Heavy Metal Jeremiads Against Technofuturism

M. Stang
Ghosts in the Hell House: AI Evangelism at Liberty University’s ScareMare

Business Meeting
Eden Consenstein, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill
David Feltmate

A23-218
Hosted by: Islamic Mysticism Unit and Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit
Theme: Plotinus Redīvīvus - Honoring Kevin Corrigan
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

Professor Kevin Corrigan is one of the most important figures in Neoplatonism alive today. Professor Corrigan has decided to retire after several decades of mentoring students in the fields of Philosophy (Platonism, Neoplatonism, and Hermeticism), Religious Studies (Christian and Islamic Studies), and Ethics. Furthermore, he has published dozens of volumes in the fields mentioned above. Being one of the top students of the late A.H. Armstrong, Professor Corrigan continues to carry the torch of Neoplatonism through the trans-Atlantic world and engages with important figures who also represent the Platonic tradition in the Islamic World. His colleague, Dr. John Kenny, eloquently gave him the title "Plotinus Revived" (Plotinus Redīvīvus), indicating the closeness of Corrigan's thought with that of Plotinus.

Douglas Hedley, presiding

Papers

Svetla Slaveva-Griffin, Florida State University
From Animating Statues to Animating the Universe: Plotinus on the Intelligible as Living Sacred Space

Michael Lessman
Models of Intelligibility: a case from Jewish Philosophy in the Islamic world

Sara Ahbel-Rappe
Reading the Mystical Visions of Love in Plato's Erotic Dialogues with Plotinus and Rumi

Munjed Murad
Transformation of Self and Encounter with the Non-Human Other in the Mathnawi of Rumi

Aldous Brooks, University of Cambridge
Thomas Traherne's Theme of Want and the Tradition of Platonic Eros

Respondent

John Kenney

A23-238
Hosted by: Religion and Ecology Unit
Theme: Political Ecologies of Justice: Ecological Belonging, Resistance, and More-than-Human Agency
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial E (Third Level)

This panel examines environmental justice through the intertwined lenses of political theology, ritual practice, mobility, and more-than-human agency, foregrounding how ecological crises are entangled with questions of power, belonging, and imagination. Ranging from biblical interpretation and racialized political ecology in readings of Genesis, to mutual aid food-sharing as counter-rituals of radical hospitality, the papers interrogate how communities contest exclusion and reconfigure ecological belonging in everyday life. They further explore alternative modes of dwelling beyond settlement through nomadic lifeways in the western United States, while also analyzing environmental justice struggles in the Matanza–Riachuelo River Basin in Buenos Aires, where religious and cosmological creativity is proposed as a resource for policy innovation. Finally, the panel turns to unexpected solidarities in postwar El Salvador, where alliances between religious and ecofeminist actors emerge through the agency of land itself. Taken together, these papers challenge anthropocentric and state-centered frameworks by emphasizing ecological justice as a dynamic process shaped by ritual, mobility, material relations, and multispecies entanglement.

Kimberly Carfore, presiding

Papers

Matthew Elia
The Political Ecology of Noah's Curse

Katrina Myers, University of Chicago
Commensality as Counter-Ritual: Prefigurative Mutual Aid and the Reconstitution of Ecological Belonging

J.D. Mechelke
Nomadic Life on Public Land: Ecological Futures Beyond Settlement

Ben Wagner, University of Chicago
Reimagining Environmental Justice: Religion and Creative Responses to Crisis in the Matanza–Riachuelo River Basin

Juan Martinez Benavides, Drew University
Reimagining Environmental Resistance through Land Agency and Unlikely Alliances in Postwar El Salvador

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A23-226
Hosted by: Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Unit and Religious Education Association
Theme: Religious Education across Global Contexts: Competing Norms and Educational Futures
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

This session explores how religious education (RE) is negotiated within diverse national and postcolonial contexts shaped by competing norms, legal frameworks, and differing pedagogical approaches. Bringing together case studies from Norway, Germany, France, the United States, and Hong Kong, the session examines how RE curricula and school systems construct understandings of religion, values, and student autonomy. Papers address the persistence of Protestant epistemologies in Norwegian textbooks, the use of the Islamic concept of maqāṣid for values education in German Islamic RE, tensions between parental choice and state authority in French and US alternative schooling, and the shifting role of freedom of conscience in Hong Kong's postcolonial curriculum. Together, these contributions highlight how RE remains a key site where pluralism, governance, decolonization, and citizenship take shape. They also offer insights into new models for more inclusive and reflexive educational futures.

Angela Bernardo, Sapienza University of Rome, presiding

Papers

Tyson Herberger
Decolonizing Religious Education? Protestant Frameworks in Norwegian KRLE Textbooks after Curriculum Reform

Melih Turan, PH Karlsruhe
Integrative contribution of the doctoral project to Islamic religious education: The maqāṣid concept as a key to values education – An integrative approach to religious education and the exploration of values and norms

Carol Ferrara, Emerson College
Religious education in alternative-to-public schools in France and the US: a juxtapositional analysis for considering current and future demand trends

Alexander Fedorov
Freedom of Conscience in Postcolonial Hong Kong's Religious Education: Lessons for Asian Plurality

Respondent

Joung Chul Lee, Kookmin University

A23-236
Hosted by: Gay Men and Religion Unit
Theme: Sacrament and Surveillance: A Discussion of the Binding and Freeing of Gay Men in Contemporary Life
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

Do we accept the terms we are given or break them, transform them? This panel examines the religious construction and constriction of queer, gay, and trans men in three settings: a Catholic ministry for "same-sex attracted" men, the sanctified and pentecostal witness of Black gay men in the 1980s, and the algorithmic production of the Black butch queen. Across philosophical theology, sacramentology, and close readings of film and literature, "Sacrament and Surveillance" considers the places from which contemporary gay/queer/trans men derive their conceptions of freedom—and what happens when they realize that they are, in fact, not free. As these papers make clear, their liberatory journeys might lead them through landscapes of unpredictability and pleasure, surveillance and embodied encounter, Instagram, Catholic liturgies, coconut oil, and cum.

Michael Pettinger, presiding

Papers

Dustin Gavin
Untied (How Does It Feel?)

Niklas Smith-Rodewald
Courage International, Anti-Trans Violence, and the Possibility of Queer Grace

Paul Daniels, Fordham University
You Can Tell a Butch Queen: Predictable Desire and the Internalization of Surveillance Capitalism

Respondent

Niklas Smith-Rodewald
Business Meeting
Michael Pettinger

A23-228
Hosted by: Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Unit and Theology and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Spectral Sovereignties: Haunting, Coloniality, and the Theopolitics of Resistance
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate AB (Third Level)

These papers address futurities that take shape amid colonial spectrality, necropolitics, and racial capitalist dispossession. They engage with efforts to transform futures in ritual work, theological imagination, aesthetic practices, and abolitionist epistemologies.

Marlon Millner, Wesleyan University, presiding

Papers

Nixon Cleophat, Montclair State University
'Haunting' the Nation: MAGA Political Theology, Fanonian Decolonization, and a Pan-Africanist Pneumatology of Liberation

C.A.R. Hawkins Lewis, Northwestern University
"Extractivores" as Prophesied Predators: Indigenous Diagnostics of Anticipatory Haunting and Anti-Extractive Methods

Nathan Wood-House, Alvernia University
Border Renditions: Slave Patrols, Secret Police, and Salvation

Anthony Cole, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Haunted Conversions: Conquest, Doubled Identity, and Unseen Resources in Theologies of Conversion

Emanuel Padilla
In the Shadow of Luis Muñoz Marín: Puerto Rico's Messianic Jíbaro

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A23-227
Hosted by: Religion and the Social Sciences Unit
Theme: Spiritual Resurgence: The "Spiritual but Not Religious" in the Information Age Author-Meets-Critics Panel
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

The growing number of Americans who identify as "spiritual but not religious" (SBNR) has become a central focus in the social-scientific study of religion. Terry Shoemaker's *Spiritual Resurgence: Cultural Transformations and the Spiritual but Not Religious* situates this development within the broader transformations of the Information Age. Shoemaker argues that information overload, ideological polarization, and the entanglement of religion with political and economic institutions have contributed to widespread disillusionment with organized religion while enabling new forms of individualized spirituality. This Author-Meets-Critics panel brings together scholars of contemporary spirituality and religious change to critically engage Shoemaker's analysis. Panelists will explore how digital media, shifting institutional authority, and evolving cultural norms are reshaping spiritual identities and practices, inviting broader discussion about how scholars conceptualize spirituality and religious change in contemporary society.

Rachel Schneider, presiding

Panelist

Andrea Jain
Linda Mercadante
Morgan Shipley, Michigan State University
Rachel Adaiyre

Respondent

Terry Shoemaker, Truman State University
Business Meeting
Rachel Schneider
Sara Williams, Fairfield University

A23-204
Hosted by: Body and Religion Unit
Theme: The Body Religious in Japan: Rethinking Corporeality in Medieval Images and Texts
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

Recent scholarship has increasingly recognized the body as a central problem in the study of religion. The special issues *"The Body Religious in Japan, Part 1"* (2024) and *Part 2* (2025) in the journal *Japanese Religions* brought this perspective into focus by examining how bodies in Japanese traditions functioned as historically contingent media through which religious meaning was articulated. This panel presents new research that extends this discussion. The papers analyze three distinct configurations of embodiment in Japan: the female divine body of Kisshōten (Lakṣmī) as a model of political legitimacy for women; the imperial body ritually aligned with Senju Kannon through devotional practice; and the androgynous body of the *chigo* in *A Long Tale for an Autumn Night*, where desire, gender, and religious revelation converge. Together, the papers demonstrate how bodies served as key loci through which sovereignty, devotion, and doctrinal meaning were articulated in Japanese religion.

Julia Cross, Waseda University, presiding

Papers

Julia Cross, Waseda University
The Goddess on her Throne: Kisshōten as a Model of Female Sovereignty in Premodern Japan

Daniel Borengasser, International Christian University
The King's 1,001 Bodies: Sculpture, Multiplicity and Somaticity in the Hall of Thirty-Three Bays

Or Porath, Tel Aviv University
The Beau and the Bodhisattva: Desire, Gender, and the Sacred in Medieval Illustrated Scrolls

Respondent

Gwendolyn Gillson, Illinois College

A23-216
Hosted by: Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Unit and Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit
Theme: The Problem of Ideology: Toward a Religious Studies Without Guarantees
Monday, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

"Ideology" has always been a dangerous word in religious studies. In its classical formulations, ideology seems to mostly undermine the credibility of religion as a distinctive, or even interesting domain of human behavior, relegating religion to the domain of mere falsity. This has led many scholars of religion to avoid the term altogether, or, in other cases, to deploy it as a blunt instrument in polemical contest against scholarship disparaged as theologically compromised. This roundtable adopts a different approach. Convening a group of scholars whose work engages ideology from different vantage points, we contend that there is more to the concept than its history of use and misuse in our field. Together, we seek to move beyond the tokenization of ideology that has characterized its uptake in religious studies, and to exemplify how a sustained reappraisal of ideology might open neglected trajectories for critical discourse within the field.

Rebecca Potts, Rice University, presiding

Panelist

William Underwood, Oberlin College
Lucia Hulsether
Santiago H. Slabodsky
Esra Tunc, San Diego State University
Samuel Herrmann
Emma Hanlon
Matthew Harris
Erin Runions
Business Meeting
Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina
Lucia Hulsether

Hosted by: Tours
Theme: Sacred Sites Tour: Exploring Denver's Religious Diversity
Monday, 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Offsite

The place that is now Denver was home to the Cheyenne and Arapaho when gold prospectors claimed the territory in 1858. It quickly became a commercial and then governmental capital. Within decades it was a railroad hub and educational center. This crossroads of the Front Range has attracted people from all over the world, who have shaped Denver's religious spaces. This year's sacred sites tour will introduce participants to the intersections and diversities that formed the city. Anticipated sites include a community center for Denver's indigenous population, the Colorado Muslim Society, Temple Emmanuel (Reform Judaism), and the Denver Buddhist Temple. Everyone is welcome. This is a bus tour, but there will be some walking. This tour will depart from and return to the Colorado Convention Center.

Tour guides: David Bains, Samford University & Daniel Sack, Washington, DC

P23-200
Hosted by: Theta Alpha Kappa
Theme: The Future of the Study of Religion and Theology in American Undergraduate Higher Education
Monday, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Capitol 4 (Fourth Floor)

This panel discussion, convened to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for religious studies and theology, will address vital current and future issues in the academic study of religion and theology in undergraduate contexts.

Timothy Gabrielli, presiding

Panelist

Diana Fritz Cates, University of Iowa
Jason King, St. Mary's University
Laurie Patton, President of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences
Andrea Stanton, University of Denver

A23-320
Hosted by: Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: Abolition, Spirit, and the State: Political Theologies of Resistance
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This panel examines how religious practice, theological imagination, and spiritual epistemologies shape movements contesting state violence, racial domination, and carceral power in the United States. Bringing together ethnographic, historical, and theological approaches, the papers challenge assumptions that contemporary left political movements are secular, instead showing how ritual, cosmology, and moral vision function as central modes of resistance and world-making.

The panel spans key sites of struggle, including anti-lynching campaigns in the Jim Crow South, movements to abolish militarized policing infrastructures such as Atlanta's proposed "Cop City," and debates over race, migration, and human dignity amid intensified immigration enforcement. Across these contexts, the state emerges as both a political and moral order, contested through competing theological claims.

By foregrounding abolition as a political and spiritual project, the panel highlights how diverse religious traditions—from Black Protestant critique to Africana and Vodou cosmologies—reconfigure dominant narratives of criminality, sovereignty, and belonging.

Jason Sexton, UCLA, presiding

Papers

Andrew Krinks
"Cop City Will Never Be Built": Political Spiritualities of the Movement to Stop Cop City

Chloe Landen, University of Texas at Austin
Anti-Lynching Activism as Abolition: The Rape Myth and its Combatants

Nixon Cleophat, Montclair State University
From the Color Line to the Border Line: Africana Pneumatology and the Dignity of Immigrants of Color in MAGA-ICE America

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A23-312
Hosted by: Ethics Unit
Theme: Alasdair MacIntyre and the Future of Theology and Religion
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

The work of Alasdair MacIntyre (1929–2025) has occasioned a paradigm shift in philosophical ethics, politics, social theory, and Christian theology. This round-table panel explores MacIntyre's legacy through the lens of critical appreciation: highlighting what elements of his thought can be carried forward to enrich theology and religious studies for the future, while sorting through what could be left behind. Can his synthesis of Marx-friendly critique with virtue ethics and historical consciousness stand as he construed it? Can we separate his communitarian-

friendly, tradition-bound critique of late-twentieth-century society from contemporary postliberal politics? Must understanding "tradition" in a broader context than his broadly Greco-Christian background alter his account of tradition's role in our theoretical and practical knowing? These and similar probing questions will be the subjects of consideration on this panel of scholars who find a definitive future (although not an uncritical one) for MacIntyre's work.

Jarek Jankowski, presiding

Panelist

Emily Dumler-Winckler
Jennifer A. Herdt
Jonathan Tran, Duke University

A23-321
Hosted by: Religion and Public Schools: International Perspectives Unit
Theme: All of the Above: A Look Inside of a High School World Religions Classroom
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

Take a rare look inside a high school world religions classroom, captured in the feature-length documentary, All of the Above. Filmed in a "fly-on-the-wall" style, the film brings intimate, unscripted moments that reveal how students and teachers navigate complex conversations about belief, identity, and understanding in real time.

Accompanied by selected clips from the documentary, a panel discussion will feature perspectives from one of the filmmakers, scholars of religion and education, and K-12 and university religion teachers. Panelists will share personal experiences of learning about religion through the filmmaking process, insights into pedagogical and practical dimensions of teaching religion, and reflections on the challenges and possibilities of engaging high school students in this vital topic.

All of the Above features John Camardella's 12th grade World Religion class in Mount Prospect, Illinois and offers a powerful exploration of how education inspires change, sparks self-discovery, and fosters a more compassionate society.

Kate Soules, presiding

Panelist

Lily Qi
Business Meeting
Kate Soules
Angela Bernardo, Sapienza University of Rome

A23-303
Hosted by: Augustine and Augustinianisms Unit
Theme: Augustine and Creaturely Futures
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

Augustine’s reflections on "the future" remain rich sources for thinking about how humans relate to the past, present, and future – even as he also troubles standard ways of thinking about temporality. This panel features papers on Augustine's thought and “the future” with particularly attention to the created and creaturely aspects of living in time.

Sean Hannan, presiding

Papers

Alden McCray, Grove City College
Beyond Immanence: Augustine’s Beatific Vision and the Dependent Integrity of Creaturely Being

Mareta Hamre
Clinging to a Short Syllable: How Adeodatus’ Temporal Life Pointed Augustine to Eternal Love

Wilco De Vries
The Philosophical and Scriptural Origins of Augustine's Uti-Frui Distinction

Business Meeting
Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, Princeton Theological Seminary

A23-315
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit and Religion in Premodern Europe and the Mediterranean Unit
Theme: Author Meets Respondents: Marc Herman's “After Revelation: The Rabbinic Past in the Medieval Islamic World” (Penn, 2025)
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Granite BC (Third Level)

This session features Marc Herman's *After Revelation: The Rabbinic Past in the Medieval Islamic World* (Penn, 2025). *After Revelation* offers a dynamic new perspective on medieval Jewish legal thought and its integration in the wider Islamic world. Herman demonstrates that Jews were fully conversant in their contemporaries’ ideas about revelation, law, and legal interpretation. Tracing the idea of the Oral Torah from Baghdad to Córdoba to Cairo, *After Revelation* makes plain that medieval Judaism took the shapes that it did largely because of

contact with Islam. Panelists will respond to this book from their own perspectives as scholars of premodern interreligious exchange.

Lora Walsh, presiding

Panelist

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Devorah Schoenfeld
Mourad Takawi

Respondent

Marc Herman
Business Meeting
Lora Walsh

A23-311
Hosted by: Contemporary Islam Unit
Theme: Author-Meets-Respondents Session for Samiha Rahman's Black Muslim Freedom Dreams: Islamic Education, Pan-Africanism, and Collective Care (New York University Press, 2026)
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This author-meets-respondents session will discuss Samiha Rahman's *Black Muslim Freedom Dreams: Islamic Education, Pan-Africanism, and Collective Care* (NYU Press, 2026)and how this book intervenes in the fields of Contemporary Islam, African Diaspora Religions, and the anthropology of religion. In this current moment, in which Black Muslims from Minneapolis to Harlem to Sudan and beyond are being locked up, beaten, exploited, and killed, this session engages Rahman's ethnography as a way to turn attention to the historical and ongoing ways in which Black Muslims in the Tijani Sufi order have imagined and actualized liberatory futures beyond the dominant registers of crisis, exclusion, and dehumanization that have often been associated with Black and Muslim life around the globe. This ethnography invites us to explore the possibilities and challenges of studying the complicated lifeworlds of religious practitioners who inhabit the liminal space between building "futures beyond despair" and adopting "superficial hope".

Panelist

Judith Weisenfeld
Martin Nguyen
Oludamini Ogunnaike
Jauhara Ferguson

Respondent

samiha rahman

A23-304
Hosted by: Buddhism and Caste Seminar
Theme: Buddhism and Caste Beyond Classical South Asia
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

Scholarship on Buddhism and caste typically focuses on classical South Asia and/or looks to Pali literature to reconstruct Buddhist positions on caste. Yet caste discourse moved with Buddhism (and other religions) outside of India, intersecting with the religious discourses of other regions. This roundtable asks what we can learn by expanding our focus to other Buddhist traditions, including those in the Himalayas, Bengal, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan. Together, panelists will cover the intersection of tantric practices, institutions, and discourses with caste hierarchies and the movement of caste categories into East Asia.

Adeana McNicholl, presiding

Panelist

Sravana Borkataky-Varma, University of Houston
Alexander Hsu
Takashi Miura

A23-305
Hosted by: Buddhist Philosophy Unit
Theme: Buddhist Logic, Logic in Buddhism: Formalizations in and of Buddhist Thought
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

Scholars of Buddhism since Stcherbatsky's seminal work have recognized formalized Buddhist reasoning as a distinct form of logic. This panel continue in this tradition, exploring both the logical systems articulated in the Buddhist tradition, as well as using the tools of disciplinary logic to interpret Buddhist ideas. In this way, we aim to put logical systems into conversation in a non-reductive manner, showing how Buddhist and Anglospheric formal logic can be mutually illuminating. Presenters will explore the *Tarkasastra*, a lost Sanskrit text only extant in Chinese, and its treatment of fallacies; connections between intuitionistic logic and Nāgārjuna, especially in his *Vigrahavyāvartanī;* and the "puzzle" of Dharmakīrti's *trairūpya* doctrine, which appears to present both implication and its contrapositive as individually necessary for a valid argument,

even though these are logically equivalent. In this way, these presentations both think about and with logic in Buddhism, as well as Buddhism through logic.

Kin Cheung, Moravian University, presiding

Papers

Brendan Gillon, McGill University
A logical assessment of fallacies identified in the Tarkasastra

Jed Forman, UCSB
Intuitionistic Logic and Buddhism Revisited: Interpreting Nāgārjuna's "No Thesis"

Bertram Liyanage, Temple University
The Trairūpya Puzzle: Intensional Content Beyond Formal Logic

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A23-323
Hosted by: Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
Theme: Cara Rock-Singer's *Gestating Judaism: The Corporeal Technologies of American Jewish Religion*: A Postpartum Conversation
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Cara Rock-Singer's *Gestating Judaism: The Corporeal Technologies of American Jewish Religion* (University of Chicago Press, 2026) employs Jewish technologies such as kinship, rituals, and texts to reveal how individual and collective Jewish bodies are creatively reproduced. The book combines ethnographic fieldwork in the United States and Israel with readings of biblical and rabbinic literature, resulting in a hybrid form Rock-Singer terms ethnodrashy (ethnography plus midrash), to center gendered imaginaries and sexed bodies that have not been normative within the intellectual traditions of either rabbinic Judaism or “the West.” Through immersion in traditionally religious practices like the ritual bath (mikveh) and seemingly secular practices like birth education classes, it becomes clear how reproductive bodies are central to the intellectual, political, and spiritual life of American Judaism. This roundtable will discuss *Gestating Judaism*’scontributions toscience and technology studies, American religion, gender and sexuality studies, political theology, and Jewish studies.

Laura Levitt, Temple University, presiding

Panelist

Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Harvard University
Sarah Imhoff
Janet R. Jakobsen

Donovan Schaefer, University of Pennsylvania

Respondent

Cara Rock-Singer

A23-325
Hosted by: Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit
Theme: Ceci n'est pas une Thangka: Attending to the Unexpected in Tibetan Religious Contexts
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This roundtable invites scholars to examine Tibetan religious phenomena whose actual lives diverge from their ostensible purposes. It takes its start from Magritte's famous provocation, "Ceci n'est pas un pipe" which pushes the viewer to distinguish between the *appearance* of an object (in Magritte's case, a picture of a tobacco pipe) and the *actual* object. Our intention is to move beyond taking Tibetan and Himalayan objects, practices, and ideas at face value, remaining attentive to the unexpected, and finding meaning in the hidden or unforeseen. Together we aim to cultivate sharper attention to the actuality of objects rather than taking them for granted based on mere appearance or assumed function.

Andrew Quintman, presiding

Panelist

Rebecca Bloom
Briana Brightly
Sarah Harding
Constantine Lignos
Ariana Maki, University of Idaho
Gedun Rabsal, Indiana University, Bloomington
Nicole Willock, Old Dominion University

Respondent

Dominique Townsend

A23-314
Hosted by: Indian and Chinese Religions in Dialogue Unit
Theme: Celebrating the Buddha: Festivals, Images, and Ritual Transmission across Buddhist Asia
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

This panel examines the role of festivals, ritual assemblies, and public religious celebrations in shaping Buddhist ritual culture across Asia. Moving beyond doctrinal or philosophical frameworks, the papers foreground ritual performance, visual culture, and communal participation as key mechanisms of religious transmission. Together, the papers trace transregional patterns of ritual adaptation across South, East, and Himalayan Asia. The first paper explores the transformation of large-scale ritual assemblies from India to China through reinterpretations of sacrificial and Buddhist ceremonial traditions. The second paper examines early Buddhist image cults associated with episodes from the Buddha's life, focusing on festivals and image processions as sites of devotional practice. The third paper investigates contemporary syncretic festival culture in Nepal, where Buddhist and Hindu ritual traditions converge in educational and life-cycle rites. Collectively, the panel highlights how festivals functioned as dynamic sites of ritual translation and religious innovation in Buddhist Asia.

Eyal Aviv, presiding

Papers

Zhen Liu, Dali University, China
The Wuzhe Assembly and the Transformation of Ritual Generosity: Transmission from India to China

Dessie Vendova, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Taking the Bodhisattva into Town: Festivals, Image Processions, and the Celebration of the Buddha's Life Story

Miroj Shakya, University of the West
Learning Wisdom: The Mañju Pañcamī Festival in the Kathmandu Valley

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A23-308
Hosted by: Chinese Religions Unit
Theme: Chinese Religious Culture, Digital and Material Approaches
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

In different settings and through varied methodological lenses, the papers in this panel explore how our understanding of Chinese religious cultures is reshaped when attention shifts to material and digital dimensions.

Rongdao Lai, presiding

Papers

Xiaoyu Zhang
A Temporal Pantheon: The Construction, Circulation and Devotional Use of Fasting Calendars in Late Imperial China

RONGHU ZHU
Mirrors, Mobility, and the Shushu Repertoire in Tang Religious Practice

Vesper Long, New York University
Recording Self-Cultivation: Online Lay Buddhist Videos as Experimental Engagement with the Ethical-Religious

Echo Weng, Princeton University
Vulnerability and Healing in Medieval Chinese Buddhism

A23-309
Hosted by: Class, Labor, and Religion Unit
Theme: Divinity Matters: Religion and Labor in South Asia
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

This panel explores the lives and self-understandings of working people in India, with an emphasis on the role of religion in animating their activities and struggles, engaging to various degrees Shankar Ramaswami's *Souls in the Kalyug: The Politics and Cosmologies of Migrant Workers in Contemporary India* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025). The papers examine the vocabularies for interpreting precarity among Muslim migrant workers in Gurgaon; the implications of conceptualizations of divinity among factory workers in Delhi for posthumanist imaginaries; and the understandings of ritual possession practices as work and labor among oracles of the Goddess in Kerala.

Richard Callahan, Gonzaga University, presiding

Papers

Joseph Kimmel
Gods in the "Man–Machine": A Posthumanist Analysis of Shankar Ramaswami's "Souls in the Kalyug"

Shweta Radhakrishnan
Worship, Work, and Ethical Life at the Shrines of Kodungallur Bhagavathy

Respondent

Shankar Ramaswami

A23-319
Hosted by: Religion and Ecology Unit
Theme: Ecological Futures in the Environmental Humanities: Climate Fiction, Ecofeminist Theology, and Indigenous Imaginaries
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

Through foregrounding environmental humanities, this panel explores how narrative, pedagogy, theology, and Indigenous media open up alternative ways of imagining ecological futures beyond dominant techno-optimist or dystopian frameworks. Across literary, educational, theological, and cinematic approaches, the papers examine how environmental crises can be re-narrated as sites of relational possibility and ethical responsibility. From submerged urban imaginaries in contemporary climate fiction, to pedagogical experiments inspired by Donna Haraway, the panel highlights storytelling as a means of cultivating ecological imagination and agency. It further develops decolonial and relational ecofeminist theology through Asian American frameworks of care and interdependence, and extends these insights through Indigenous cinematic practice in Biidaaban (The Dawn Comes), which foregrounds multispecies kinship and sacred land-based futurity. Together, these contributions emphasize that ecological futures are not singular or predetermined, but are actively shaped through practices of imagination, care, and situated forms of ecological knowledge.

Timothy Eberhart, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, presiding

Papers

Ryan Darr
Dystopian Hope on the Water

Kristi Del Vecchio, Oberlin College
Envisioning Eco-Futures though Pedagogies of Climate Fiction

Jea Sophia Oh
Hope for a New Earth/Us: (Re)imagining Asian American Ecofeminist Theology through Planetary Entanglements

Mark S. Cladis, Brown University
Indigenous Ceremony in White Suburbs: Sacred Landscapes, Indigenous Ecology, and Futurity in Biidaaban (The Dawn Comes)

A23-302
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: Engaging the Sacred, Creating, and Healing
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

Religions have long used the arts to support physical and spiritual healing. This includes dance, performance, music, visual arts, and storytelling. The papers in this panel explore different art forms as methods of healing. The first paper employs documentary poetic practices to explore how ordinary believers reinterpret the language of sacrificial suffering in Christian terms as they endure violence. The second paper examines documentary poems that connect biblical narratives with the lived experiences of disabled people, especially those that focus on the "hands of God." The third paper views photography as a form of chaplaincy from an Asian woman's perspective, highlighting dignity, recognition, and community connection. The final paper, inspired by the story of the woman caught in adultery, reflects on how the church often rushes to cast stones instead of showing love, especially regarding sexuality.

Cia Sautter, presiding

Papers

Jessica Radicic
Surviving the Cross: Documentary Poetry and Vernacular Theology from a Family Archive

Rebekah Schultz
The Hands of God are Disabled

Xiao Ma, Union Theological Seminary
Photography as a Form of Chaplaincy

Rebekah Schultz
Unlearning Repentance

A23-331
Hosted by: American Lectures in the History of Religion
Theme: Erasures of Religion and History: Looking Forward from Antiquity (ALHR)
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial E (Third Level)

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Jonathan E. Brockopp, presiding
David Harrington Watt, presiding

Panelist

Annette Yoshiko Reed

A23-326
Hosted by: Vernacular Landscapes and Global Dialogues: Understanding Buddhist Monasticism Seminar
Theme: Ethics, Reform and Social Engagement in Buddhist Monasticism: Part One
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

Bringing together an international cohort of scholars from Bangladesh, Thailand, Canada, and the United States, this roundtable reflects on how Buddhist monastic communities mobilize ethical frameworks, ritual technologies, and disciplinary ideals to shape social life, negotiate authority, and enact religious reform across Buddhist regions. While monastic ethics are often imagined as inward-facing or primarily concerned with internal discipline and maintaining monastic distance from lay society, the contributors discuss ways in which monastic ideals shape public life more broadly. From lineage reconstruction in nineteenth-century Bengal, to robe controversies in pre-modern Myanmar, to ritual technologies that blur lay–monastic boundaries in Vajrayāna communities, to the experiences of female renunciates (thilashin) during the Japanese Occupation of Burma, to contemporary reform movements in Ladakh and the Indian Himalayas, these reflections reveal how monastic actors continually reinterpret ethical norms to address crisis, assert legitimacy, and bring monastic perspectives into debates shaping public spheres throughout Asia.

Papers

Phyumar Lwin
Exploring the Robe Controversy and Monastic Authority in Pre-modern Myanmar

Rory Tasker
Reflections on Temporary Lay Monasticism in Vajrayāna Communities

Rohit Singh, Denison University
Reflections on Monastic Ethics, Social Reform, and the Public Sphere in Ladakh and the Indian Himalayas

Respondent

Sara Swenson, Dartmouth College

A23-301
Hosted by: Artificial Intelligence and Religion Unit
Theme: Experiments in Artificial Intelligence
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This panel shows various experiments that scholars are doing, applying artificial intelligence to Religion and Religious Studies

Theodore Vial, presiding

Papers

Mark Graves
AI Moral and Religious Benchmarks

Jaehwan Kim, Yonsei University
Young Un Kang, Yonsei University
JUCHAN SON, Yonsei University
From Closed Platforms to Open Infrastructures: Agentic AI, Ontology, and Greek Textual Interpretation in Religious Studies

Loye Sekihata Ashton, The InterSapience Project
Co-Intelligence and the Ethics of Alignment: An Interreligious and Comparative Theological Framework for Safe and Sustainable Human–Synthetic Cooperation

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P23-300
Hosted by: Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
Theme: Feminism and Religion: Palestine and Israel
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral C (Third Level)

Looking ahead to a special JFSR issue, this panel features feminist research, reflections, critiques, and activist interventions on religion, Palestine, and Israel, particularly in a time of genocide, nationalism, and authoritarianism.

Sailaja Krishnamurti, Queen's University, presiding

Papers

Sarah Hunt
“Iconoclasm of Place: Land, Memory, and Ecological Violence in Palestine-Israel”

Nami Kim, Spelman College
Feminist Theological Intervention against Transnational Christian Zionism

Faiza Rahman, Dartmouth College
Unveiling the Qawwamun: Sexual Abuse of Muslim Men in the Gaza Genocide

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A23-310
Hosted by: Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence Unit
Theme: Future/s and Overcoming Violence: Minor Religion, Postidentity, and Becoming
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 706 (Street Level)

In response to the 2026 presidential theme FUTURE/S, this session explores how religion shapes and transforms conditions of violence beyond identity-centered frameworks. Rather than approaching religion primarily through the category of “minority,” the panel advances relational, material, and postidentity perspectives that foreground processes of becoming, worldmaking, and critique.
The papers examine how violence is produced, contested, and reconfigured across diverse contexts. Contributions include an analysis of Indigenous-led repatriation practices that reframe museum collections as kin and articulate a non-punitive critique of colonial violence; a study of climate adaptation workshops in the Rocky Mountains that mobilize religious narratives to mitigate conflict over increasingly scarce water resources; and a global history of coffee that traces Islamic and postcolonial networks of solidarity and alternative social imaginaries. These case studies are grounded by a conceptual intervention that develops “minor religion” as a critical analytic for rethinking religion beyond regimes of recognition, governance, and fixed identity.
Together, the panel reframes religion as a dynamic field of relations through which violence is both reproduced and transformed, highlighting how alternative epistemologies and practices open pathways toward more just and sustainable futures.

Janice Poss, Claremont Graduate University, presiding

Papers

Ulrike Ernst-Auga, Humboldt University of Berlin
From Minority to Minor: Genealogy, Postidentity, and Becoming in Religion

Miriam Hamburger, University of California, Santa Barbara
Religion, Rhetoric, Kinship: Repatriation as a Critique of Violence

Mary Keller, University of Wyoming
Reducing the Risks of Future Violence Over Sacred Waters: Religion and Climate Adaptation Planning at the Interface of Indigenous and Rural Settler Communities

Flagg Miller
The Afterlives of Yemeni Coffee in South Africa: On Contributions to Postcolonial Racial Less/ness from the Annals of Oceanic Islamic Indigeneity

Business Meeting
Flagg Miller
Ulrike Ernst-Auga, Humboldt University of Berlin

A23-307
Hosted by: Chinese Christianities Unit
Theme: Gendered Experience in Chinese Christianities: Present Realities and Future Trajectories
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

This panel examines the intersection of Christianity, gender, and political life across twentieth-century Chinese and Taiwanese history. The first paper recovers women's central—though institutionally overlooked—role in Protestant rural reconstruction programs across wartime West China (1937–1945). The second traces Taiwanese Christian broadcaster Eileen Yiyi Chang, whose Cold War-era transpacific activism demonstrated that physical displacement from Taiwan enabled rather than constrained her influence on the island's democratic movement. The third analyzes how Taiwanese churches' responses to the marriage-equality transition (2017–2019) deployed layered theological grammars that narrowed ecclesial futures for LGBTQ+ Christians, proposing an imago Dei-centered alternative in response. Across wartime villages, Cold War airwaves, and contemporary church debates, these papers collectively argue that gender is constitutive to Christian political engagement, and that marginalized actors have persistently labored to reimagine the futures available to them.

Jordan Zhixi Wang, Trinity Western University, presiding

Papers

Aixin Yi, Boston University
Women on the Frontlines: Gender and Christian Rural Reconstruction in Wartime Sichuan

YUN-CHING (Victoria) SHEN
“Three Kingdoms, One Answering Machine”: Taiwanese Christian Women’s Transpacific Political Activism and the Imagination of Democratic Futures during the 1970s and 1980s

SHU-HSIANG WU, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto

Schools of Desire under Legal Change: LGBTQ+ Contestations and Ecclesial Futures in Taiwanese Churches (2017–2019)

Respondent

Kwok Pui-lan, Episcopal Divinity School
Business Meeting
Stephanie Wong, Villanova University
Easten Law, Yonsei University

A23-327
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: Honoring Karen Baker-Fletcher and new book- Power, Resilience, and the Black Madonna: Mamie Till and Mary at the Foot of the Cross
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

This invited session celebrates the remarkable scholarly, pedagogical, and creative contributions of Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher over more than three decades as theologian, professor, mentor, poet, and author. Engaging her most recent publication on Mamie Till alongside her expansive body of work, panelists will reflect on the enduring influence of her womanist theological imagination and transformative impact of her roles within the academy and beyond.

AnneMarie Mingo, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, presiding

Panelist

Cheryl Kirk-Duggan
Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones
Tamara Lewis, Southern Methodist University

Respondent

Karen Baker-Fletcher

A23-316
Hosted by: Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit
Theme: Kierkegaard and Trauma
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

This panel addresses the ways in which Kierkegaard's published and unpublished writings, authorship, performativity, pseudonyms, existentialisms, and religiosity offer paradigms, concepts, and ideas of potentiality and meaning for addressing the histories and legacies and continued and increasing occurrence of trauma in a 21st century world marked by global crises, pandemics, social upheaval, democratic uncertainty, stratification, and persistent violence against marginalized individuals and groups. Meditations on biopolitical traumas of the self, others, and society emerge in Kierkegaard's entire corpus—*Fear and Trembling* and *Sickness Unto Death*, for example—opening the way for religious and philosophical dialogues with psychology, trauma studies, literature, and moral injury; developing strategies for care, pastoral care, and chaplaincy; exploring the epistemic and emotional position of the fragmentary self in relation to the reconciled self, and examining positionality and the reading process from the perspective of the traumatized individual. These papers explore existential, material, and embodied traumas impacting the human condition.

Deidre Green, presiding

Papers

Peter Kline
The Gift of Suffering: Kierkegaard and Traumatophilia

Cassandra Swick, University of Oxford
Trauma and Kierkegaardian Earnestness

Respondent

Vanessa Rumble
Business Meeting
Nigel Hatton
Deidre Green

A23-324
Hosted by: Study of Islam Unit
Theme: Lived Islam at the intersections of diversity and authority
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Agate AB (Third Level)

This panel examines how Islamic practices and identities are formed in relation to multiple forms of social authority. Through case studies from Europe, North America, and South Asia, we examine how Muslims navigate diversity and competing authorities (both religious and secular), as well as how various forms of Islamic authority are enacted, experienced, and contested.

Justine Howe, presiding

Papers

Zainab Rashid, Princeton University
Preaching Islam in Modernity: Competing Forms of Religious Authority

Shehnaz Haqqani
Lived Experience, the Qur'an, and Ethical Negotiation in Muslim Women's Interfaith Marriages

Ulvi Karagedik
Islamic religious education in German-speaking countries under social stress: Education, diversity, and precariousness in times of (global) political tension

Ibrahim Kocyigit, University of Fribourg/Switzerland
Good Diversity, Bad Diversity? Muslim Youth and Multiple Understandings of Religion in Plural Societies

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A23-318
Hosted by: Motherhood and Religions Unit
Theme: Motherhood, Religion, and Material Practices: Altars, Headscarves, Traces, and Embodiment
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

This session explores the intersections of motherhood, material religion, political agency and the negotiation of status through three case studies spanning Latin American devotional practice, transnational maternal activism, and embodiment in early Islam. These papers challenge normative constructions of motherhood by examining Guadalupan *altarcitos* as sites of epistemological authority, headscarves as vehicles of political resistance among South Korean and Argentine mothers, and enslaved African mothers' strategic negotiation of status through sons in early Islam.

Pascale Engelmajer, presiding

Papers

Natalie Readnour
Mothering La Raza: Guadalupan Altarcitos and Epistemological Authority

Wonchul Shin, Villanova University
Headscarves in the Public Square: Transnational Maternal Activism and Material Religious Practice among South Korean and Argentine Mothers of Political Victims

Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union
Futuring Through Sons: Enslaved African Mothers and the Status of Umm Walad in Early Islam

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A23-330
Hosted by: Cultural History of the Study of Religion Unit and Secularism and Secularity Unit
Theme: Post-Secular Attachments: Interrogating the "Post-Secular" in the Interdisciplinary Humanities
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

In recent decades, the term “post-secular” has emerged as a methodology, conceptual investment, and/or posture of critique in the interdisciplinary humanities. Most often, these “post-secular” frameworks have sought to critically interrogate, and potentially even supersede, the putatively secularist logics embedded into twentieth-century scholarly treatments of religion. Yet what differences does this “post-secular turn” name, and what historical, intellectual, and political attachments are at play in its deployment? Papers in this session seek to inquire more deeply into questions like these from a range of perspectives. Presenters will draw on disciplinary conversations taking place in fields such as literary studies, legal theory, decolonial philosophy, and US-American historiography to explore the possibilities, assumptions, and problematics underlying the "post-secular turn" (as well as related "turns") within contemporary academic scholarship. Papers will likewise underscore how this work might better inform scholarly accounts of both religion and the secular today.

Marko Geslani, University of South Carolina, presiding

Papers

Lacey Jones
Paranoid Repair: Literature, Religion, and the Post-Secular Mood

Eric Stephen, University of South Florida
A Post-Secular Supreme Court?: How the Roberts Court Strategically Deploys the Religion-Secular Binary to Advance Christian Supremacy

Rafael Vizcaino, DePaul University
Transmodernity as a Model for a Decolonial Postsecularity

Sonia Hazard, Florida State University
David Hall, Princeton University
One World or Many? The Case of Christian Science and the Problem with the Ontological Turn

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P23-301
Hosted by: National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion (NABPR)
Theme: Producing Public Religious Education in Our Current Time, sponsored by the NABPR
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral A (Third Level)

This event convenes scholars, practitioners, and media producers working at the intersection of religion, public life, and digital humanities to explore how religious knowledge is created, translated, and shared in contemporary public contexts.

The program will open with a featured presentation on the *Healing Our Sacred Lake* podcast, created by Adam DJ Brett, Betty Hill Lyons, and Rebekka King.

Following the presentation, a panel of active podcasters will discuss the practical, ethical, and theoretical dimensions of producing public-facing religious content today.

Podcast panelists include:

1. "Healing Our Sacred Lake" (Haudenosaunee restoration of Onandaga Lake, NY): Betty Hill Lyons, Rebekka King, Adam DJ Brett
2. "Bible Divas" (biblical scholarship, honest public conversation): Angela N. Parker, Anna Sieges Beal, Cynthia Shafer-Elliott
3. "Voice of the Turtle" (welcoming and affirming movement in Baptist life): Brian Henderson, Cliff Vaughn
4. "Spirt & Power" (politics and Pentecostal Christians): Leah Payne

The session is sponsored by the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, NABPR.

Adam Brett, American Indian Law Alliance & United Lutheran Seminary, presiding
Business Meeting
Adam English, Campbell University

A23-313
Hosted by: Graduate Student Committee
Theme: Prospering in the Profession: Finding Success on the Academic Job Market
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This roundtable session addresses the challenges and strategies for navigating the competitive landscape of academia. Participants engage in discussions surrounding the essential skills, experiences, and tactics needed to secure and thrive in academic positions. Topics include crafting compelling application materials, cultivating a strong professional network, and effectively showcasing teaching, research, and service accomplishments among others. With

insights from recent job market entrants working in a variety of academic and institutional contexts, attendees will gain practical advice on navigating the academic job market's nuances and uncertainties. The session aims to empower graduate students and early-career academics with the tools and confidence to navigate the job market successfully, fostering a supportive community of scholars committed to advancing their careers in academia.

Lauren Tassone, Harvard University, presiding

Panelist

Sydney Beckmann
Isaiah Ellis
Mélena Laudig

A23-322
Hosted by: Religion in Europe Unit
Theme: Redrawing Religious Boundaries in Contemporary Europe
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Hyatt Regency Denver, Mineral E (Third Level)

How are religious boundaries being reconfigured across contemporary Europe? This session examines how communities redraw the lines between self and other, world and withdrawal, past and future under conditions of social, political, and ecological strain. Rather than fixed or declining, religious formations emerge here as dynamic boundary-making projects that organize moral responsibility, collective identity, and forms of belonging. Bringing together ethnographic work on Hinduism in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Orthodoxy in Greece, the papers explore how peace-oriented ethics, ascetic discipline, and layered temporal imaginaries generate distinct yet overlapping boundary regimes. These include ethical distinctions between humans and the environment, negotiated separations between monastic and social worlds, and the extension of institutional authority across generations. Together, the papers argue that religious boundaries are not merely defensive but productive: they create new forms of connection, obligation, and endurance that shape possible religious futures in Europe.

Carol Ferrara, Emerson College, presiding

Papers

Halida Donlagic Dapic
Ahimsa and the Ecology of Peace: Hindu Perspectives on War and Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina

Paul Melas, University of California, Los Angeles
Ascetic Performance and World Renunciation on Mount Athos, Greece

Hannah Howard, University of Georgia
Orthodoxy and the Shaping of the Greek National Future

Business Meeting
Tyson Herberger
John McCormack, Aurora University

A23-317
Hosted by: Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit
Theme: The Conservative Playbook: A Lightning Round Session on Right-Wing Rhetoric
Monday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This Lightning Round Session centers on thinking queerly with keywords in right-wing rhetoric and the conservative playbook. Panelists will explore topics including moral panic, wokeism, gender ideology, social contagion, theory, and toxin-free.

Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma, presiding

Papers

Caroline Cunfer, Colby College
(Reverse Moral) Panic! In the Bedroom

Zaynab Shahar
All I Have to Do Is….: "Wokeism" between 90s Hip Hop Thanatologies and Saidiya Hartman's "Unthought" "Wayward" Lives

Adam Herpolsheimer, Temple University
Lightning Round: Gender Ideology; Social Contagion

Emilie Casey, Brite Divinity School
Thinking Queerly about Social Contagion

Calli Micale, Palmer Theological Seminary
Toxin-free

Business Meeting
Wendy Mallette, University of Oklahoma
Siobhan Kelly, Boston University

M23-400

Hosted by: UNP / JPS
Theme: Book Launch: A Qur'anic Commentary on the Torah
Monday, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Silverton Salon 3 (Second Floor)

Book Launch:
Illuminating Scriptural Connections: A Qur'anic Commentary on the Torah (Jewish Publication Society / University of Nebraska Press)
Co-authors Rick Sopher and Abdulla Galadari will present the groundbreaking book where, for the first time, the Torah's fifty-four weekly portions are viewed through the lens of the Qur'an, uncovering both the variations between the two texts as well as the shared stories, prophets, principles, and visions that illuminate a deeper spiritual kinship between Judaism and Islam.

M23-301
Hosted by: World Communion of Reformed Churches
Theme: Receiving Nicaea Today — Reformed Voices in Global Ecumenical Conversation
Monday, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Embassy Suites Denver Downtown, Cripple Creek Salon 1 (Second Floor)

Receiving Nicaea Today — Reformed Voices in Global Ecumenical Conversation
The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) invites scholars and practitioners to engage its landmark volume, Receiving Nicaea Today: Global Voices from Reformed Perspectives (Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2025). Launched at the WCRC General Council in Chiang Mai, Thailand, this nearly 700-page collection brings together 34 contributions from Reformed, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Methodist, Lutheran, and Anglican theologians — with half its authors drawn from the Global South — to critically examine the Nicene Creed as a living confession for the contemporary church.
This event situates the volume within the WCRC's broader theological programme, exploring how the communion's commitments to justice, decolonial theology, ecumenism, and confessional renewal animate its engagement with Nicaea's legacy. The conversation will address themes of creedal hermeneutics, ecclesial governance, and the movement from creed to confessing in worship and mission — across 100+ countries and diverse Reformed traditions.

M23-300
Hosted by: Society for the Study of Christian Universalism
Theme: Three Christian Universalists
Monday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 17 (Plaza Tower - Concourse Level)

No RSVP

Contact Person:
Marilyn Piety, Professor of Philosophy, Drexel University
marilyn.piety@drexel.edu

This session explores the implicit and explicit universalistic themes in the writings of Paul and Gregory of Nyssa and Macrina, showing that such themes were not uncommon in early Christianity. This first paper meditates on both eternal destruction and universal language in Paul, considers the ways in which they can be construed as contradictory, and then provides an account of the self in Paul as polydetermined, to resolve the exegetical conundrum. The second paper argues that for Nyssa and Macrina the mutually attractive force between divine nature and human nature establishes an "argument from necessity" for the eventual restoration of all human beings to goodness.

Marilyn Piety, presiding

Papers

Robin Parry
The Puritan Universalism of Jeremiah White

Mark Lama
Helktikē: Divine Attractive Force in Gregory and Macrina’s On the Soul and the Resurrection

Chris Tilling, St Mellitus College
Reconsidering Paul as a Universalist

Respondent

Lee Barrett

A23-412
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit
Theme: A Nation Within a Nation, a Community Within a Community: Religion, Protest, and Rituals of Futurity
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

Papers examine religions in North America which combined revolutionary thought and religious action, yet in ways that might not be expected and thus not readily legible. Papers span the late eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries along with issues of race, gender, and ideology. Collectively, they argue that the public image of the religious groups does not match the internal views and intentions of those making these transformative acts. Examples include the Haitian Revolution, Black Shakers, and the 1967 March on the Pentagon.

Melissa Borja, presiding

Papers

Rebekah Trollinger
A Community in Critique: Black Shakers of the 19th Century

Meghan Doyle, University of Chicago
“A Magic Rite to Exorcise the Spirits of Murder, Violence & Creephood from the Pentagon”: Ritual Efficacy, Combinative Religion, and the Possibility of Revolution by Metaphysical Means

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A23-408
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit
Theme: Abraham Joshua Heschel’s "The Sabbath" at 75: Pasts and Future/s
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

The papers in this panel revisit and reframe Heschel’s thought through explorations of time, space, disability, politics, and interreligious engagement. The first paper challenges conventional readings of Heschel’s privileging of time over space, arguing instead for a more nuanced account that reshapes our understanding of Heschel’s Zionism as limited and provisional. The second paper extends Heschel’s notion of Shabbat into the realm of Critical Disability Studies, reimagining *menucha* as a form of crip time that resists normative temporal structures and opens liberatory possibilities for neurodivergent experiences. The third paper situates Heschel within a mid-twentieth-century debate on Jewish-Christian relations, reexamining his disagreement with Joseph B. Soloveitchik in light of Cold War anxieties, interfaith politics, and questions of Jewish distinctiveness and cultural integration.

Sam Shuman, University of Virginia, presiding

Papers

Martin Kavka
Space and Time in Abraham Joshua Heschel's Zionism

Laurie Fisher
Shabbat as Crip Time: Viewing Menucha Through an Autistic Lens

Daniel Herskowitz
Is there a ‘Judeo-Christian Tradition’? The Soloveitchik-Heschel Debate on Interfaith Dialogue

A23-410
Hosted by: Men, Masculinities, and Religions Unit
Theme: Beyond Hegemonic Masculinity
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 208 (Street Level)

Drawing on a range of examples from media, politics, and in-depth interviews, these papers explore themes of stability, same-sex desire, and the religious identity of young men in highly secular societies. Taken together, they also bring texture and depth to the multiple masculinities implied by the concept of hegemonic masculinity.

Inspired by the work of R. W. Connell, the concept of hegemonic masculinity has been central to the development of masculinity studies. The concept, which describes how ideal-typical forms of masculinity are defined against both femininity and alternative masculinities, has been usefully taken up in a wide variety of ways, from the analysis of dominant representations of manhood to explorations of the production and reproduction of misogyny and homophobia. However, like all foundational concepts, scholars have also reflected on its origin, development, uses, and misuses. Things panel brings together scholars of religion and masculinity to think beyond—though not necessarily against—hegemonic masculinity.

Cole Cloyd, Arizona State University, presiding

Papers

Kati Tervo-Niemelä, University of Eastern Finland
Reconfiguring Religious Masculinities: Young Men's Christian Orientations in a Nordic Context

Tapio Leinonen, University of Eastern Finland
Stability and Trustworthiness in Global Politics: President Stubb as a Model for Masculinity

Jeremy Posadas, Stetson University
The Heated Rivals: Iconic Disruptors of Toxic Masculinity & Heteronormativity

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A23-402
Hosted by: Contemplative Studies Unit
Theme: Beyond the Human: Sentience, Awareness, and Moral Regard in Contemplative Traditions
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

This panel explores how diverse contemplative traditions have articulated the interconnected concepts of "life" and "awareness" in forms beyond the human being— including animals, plants, elementals, and materials. In bringing attention to how these concepts are engaged in contemplative discourses and practices, the panel advocates for contemplation as a site in which ecological epistemologies and ethics are formed, metabolized, and transmitted. Panelists include scholars working across Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and South American Indigenous traditions, representing methods in text criticism, historical analysis, ethnographic fieldwork, and autoethnographic practice. We aim to convene a diverse range of perspectives on the boundaries of sentience in contemplation in order to open contemplative studies to a pressing future horizon: How might contemplation animate moral concern for beings typically excluded from "the circle of regard"?

Papers

Loriliai Biernacki
The Grammatical Practice of Tantric Nonduality

Devin Zuckerman, University of Virginia
The Natural Freedom of Non-Living Things in a Tibetan Buddhist Rdzogs chen Tantra

Munjed Murad
Rumi on Knowing Cosmic Life, Sentience, and Love

Peter Dziedzic, Harvard University
The Waters as Wayfarers: The Rishi Sufis, Human-Elemental Silsilas, and a Kashmiri Ecopoetics

Michelle Bentsman
Voicing Beyond Humanity: The Audacity of Care in Efficacious Ritual Song

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A23-407
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit and Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Encounters: Dialogue, Antisemitism, and the Israeli-Palestinian Divide
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 708 (Street Level)

In this recently published book, *Encounters: Dialogue, Antisemitism, and the Israeli-Palestinian Divide,* Benjamin Sax argues that in interreligious dialogue most people can disagree on deep theological matters and still remain in community, but when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, conversations often collapse. At the heart of Sax's argument is the recognition that accusations of antisemitism—while sometimes accurate—are often frequently weaponized to

shut down discussion. If antisemitism is used to shut down conversations about whether Israel is an apartheid state, or Israel is a colonial project, or anti-Zionism is a legitimate political or theological position, then, he argues, we simply can't have any reasonable conversations because those positions aren't a priori antisemitic. The book explores when assertions are antisemitic and when they're not. To do this, Sax traces the evolving definitions of antisemitism.

Younus Mirza, presiding

Panelist

Axel Marc Oaks Takacs, Seton Hall University
Marianne Moyaert
Laura Levitt, Temple University
Syed Atif Rizwan
Rebecca Carter-Chand

Respondent

Benjamin Sax

A23-409
Hosted by: Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit
Theme: Convergences: Chicana and Indigenous Futurisms, Ecofeminist Futures
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This session explores the convergences between Chicana and Indigenous futurisms and ecofeminist thought, examining how cultural production, spiritual praxis, and ecological resistance imagine futures beyond colonial constraints. Papers investigate how Chicana futurist art reclaims the domestic sphere as a site of ontological transformation, using *domesticana* aesthetics and Anzaldúa's coyolxauhqui imperative to create new realities through artivism and indigenous ceremony. The session expands to Andean Indigenous futurism, tracing the transterritorial journey of Mama Coca as a sovereign more-than-human elder whose ceremonial migration enacts a radical unbordering of state, body, and ecology. Finally, a decological analysis of slow environmental violence reveals how autoimmune disease and ecological devastation demand integrated frameworks drawing on ecofeminist theology, necropolitics, and decolonial spiritual praxis. Together, these contributions illuminate how embodied, relational, and more-than-human epistemologies generate futures grounded in survival, reciprocity, and collective flourishing.

Patricia Bonilla, presiding

Papers

Anabella Martinez
Debora Kuetzpal Vasquez' Citlali: A Chicana Futurism that Reclaims the Past, Recreates the Present, and Reshapes the Future

Teresa Mateus, California Institute of Integral Studies
The Rebel Hoja's Portal: The Coca Leaf, Transterritoriality, Andean Relationality and Futurism

Maria Alderete, Drew University Theological School
A decolonial and decological calling to survive: When endocrine disruption challenges our theological ethics and spiritual frameworks

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A23-400
Hosted by: Buddhism in the West Unit
Theme: Does "Buddhism and the West" have a future? Redrawing maps and problem-spaces
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

Since its founding as a Consultation in 2008, the AAR's Buddhism and the West Unit has helped establish a subfield at the intersection of Buddhist Studies, American and European Religions, anthropology and history of religions, and critical theory. Yet, existential and analytical questions loom. What work is the category "the West" still doing — and for whom? Should the Unit be re-conceived as "Buddhism Outside Asia," "Buddhism Outside Buddhist Asia," "Global Buddhisms," or something else? Where does it sit, alongside yet distinct from other Units? This roundtable gathers past and present committee members alongside scholars active in the subfield to take stock of where we have been, assess where the field is going, and deliberate about whether our map still corresponds to the territory we wish to study. The conversation aims not only to affirm or generate a name, but to delineate a generative "problem-space," as conceived of by David Scott.

Upayadhi Luraschi, University of Chicago Divinity School, presiding

Panelist

Ann Gleig
Adeana McNicholl
Ralph Craig, Whitman College
Scott Mitchell, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Anna Halafoff
Business Meeting
Adeana McNicholl
Caroline Starkey

A23-415
Hosted by: Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit
Theme: Emerging Scholarship Workshop: Mexican and Mexican American Religions
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1E (Ballroom 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 the word *tlacatecolotl* in the Florentine Codex and *altarcitos* to Guadalupe among Mexican American women. 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.

Justin Doran, presiding

Papers

Kimberly Melgoza
Is It a Devil, Demon, Witch, or None of The Above? The Analysis of Tlacatecolotl in The Florentine Codex

Natalie Readnour
Nuestra Señora de un Poquito de Justicia: Guadalupan Altarcitos and Latina Epistemological Authority

Respondent

Tatyana Castillo-Ramos, Reed College
Daisy Vargas
Business Meeting
Justin Doran
Tatyana Castillo-Ramos, Reed College

A23-418
Hosted by: Sociology of Religion Unit
Theme: Enchantment, Embodiment, and Pluralism in U.S. and Global Contexts
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 113 (Street Level)

The four papers on this panel engage with the important themes of enchantment, embodiment, and pluralism in contemporary religious and spiritual practices. “After Disenchantment: Modalities of Enchantment among Nonreligious Scientists” draws on 104 interviews with physicists and biologists in the US, UK, Italy, and India to examine how scientific practice elicits experiences of wonder, mystery, and “otherness”--and how these experiences can function as pathways into spiritual yearning, especially among nonreligious scientists. “Pluralism in Practice” examines critical questions about the benefits of religious diversity and the role of religious leaders in civil society, drawing on interviews and focus groups with a diverse group of religious leaders in Houston, Texas. “Prenatal Religion and Future-making” examines Taegyo, a traditional Korean prenatal practice, as a form of prenatal religion among Korean immigrants in the U.S. It reflects Korea’s historically hybrid religious traditions, including Confucianism, Buddhism, Daoism, Shamanistic spirituality, and contemporary Christian devotional practices.

Joseph Blankholm, presiding

Papers

Brandon Vaidyanathan, Catholic University of America
After Disenchantment: Modalities of Enchantment among Nonreligious Scientists

Kerby Goff
Josiah Taru, Rice University
Elaine Howard Ecklund
Pluralism in Practice: Religious Leaders’ Appraisal of Religious Diversity in Houston, Texas

Hajung Lee
Prenatal Religion and Future-Making: Taegyo among Korean Immigrants in the United States

Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University
Between the Spirit and the Server: Dating, Desire, and Digital Devotion

Respondent

Joseph Blankholm

A23-416
Hosted by: Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
Theme: Enemies of the Future
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

Religious traditions hold complex relationships with futurity in tension--often mediated by their engagement with science. As part of the 2026 presidential theme of Future/s, this panel considers

ways religious thought is marshaled to critique, resist, or reconfigure emerging technoscientific horizons in modernity.

Allan Furic, presiding

Papers

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University
Robert Saler
Trad Futurism and the Multipolar Dream: Eastern Orthodox Influencers, Conspiracy Theology, and the Technological Paradox of Anti-Modernity

Christopher Howell, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill
Against Modernity: Philip Sherrard and the World of Radical Renunciation

Beatrice Marovich
The Machine and its Enemies: Genealogical Amnesia, Writing, and Anti-tech Resistance

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A23-421
Hosted by: Vernacular Landscapes and Global Dialogues: Understanding Buddhist Monasticism Seminar
Theme: Ethics, Reform and Social Engagement in Buddhist Monasticism: Part Two
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

Bringing together an international cohort of scholars from Bangladesh, Thailand, Canada, and the United States, this roundtable reflects on how Buddhist monastic communities mobilize ethical frameworks, ritual technologies, and disciplinary ideals to shape social life, negotiate authority, and enact religious reform across Buddhist regions. While monastic ethics are often imagined as inward-facing or primarily concerned with internal discipline and maintaining monastic distance from lay society, the contributors discuss ways in which monastic ideals shape public life more broadly. From lineage reconstruction in nineteenth-century Bengal, to robe controversies in pre-modern Myanmar, to ritual technologies that blur lay–monastic boundaries in Vajrayāna communities, to the experiences of female renunciates (thilashin) during the Japanese Occupation of Burma, to contemporary reform movements in Ladakh and the Indian Himalayas, these reflections reveal how monastic actors continually reinterpret ethical norms to address crisis, assert legitimacy, and bring monastic perspectives into debates shaping public spheres throughout Asia.

Renee Ford, University of Virginia, presiding

Papers

MK Long, Dartmouth College
Monasticism Occupied: Thilashin and the Japanese Occupation of Burma (1942-1945)

Rachelle Saruya, Mahidol University
Fencing the Rice Paddies: Creating a Monastic Code of Conduct for Myanmar/Burma's Buddhist Nuns

Respondent

Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University
Business Meeting
Jue Liang, Case Western Reserve University
Renee Ford, University of Virginia

A23-420
Hosted by: Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit
Theme: Fortunate Futures: Tibetan Religious Narratives of Fecundity and Possibility
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

Tibetan Buddhist narratives of decline and degradation are closely linked with the proliferation of Buddhist teachings. Academic discourses also often engage deconstructivist narratives that critique and breakdown systems (gender inequality, language loss, economic and political corruption) without moving toward reinvention. These discourses not only belie a reality of complexity and constant change, but also lead to a sense of hopeless inevitability. Engaging Indigenous Futurism as a critical framework for reclaiming Indigenous agency through embodied, land-based practices of relationality that counter colonial narratives of Indigenous disappearance, this roundtable will highlight concepts, movements, institutions and literary devices that illustrate future-making in Tibetan religious and intellectual traditions. Bringing together scholars from the fields of literature, education, music, anthropology and religion, this roundtable proposes Tibetan narratives of future-making that buttress against grand narratives of decline.

Fnu Suancuoben, University of British Columbia, presiding

Panelist

Tashi Dekyid Monet
Sanggay Tashi, University of Colorado Boulder
Kati Fitzgerald, Otterbein University

Respondent

Nicole Willock, Old Dominion University

A23-405
Hosted by: Hinduism Unit
Theme: Interrogating Hinduism
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 702 (Street Level)

This roundtable invites scholars to look beyond historical and textual explorations of the term Hinduism to examine how communities in South Asia and elsewhere actively negotiate, contest, and reject the term. Five presenters interrogate the category of "Hinduism" through the framing terms Madrasi, Tamil, Bahujan, Adivasi, and Diaspora, foregrounding the situated, contested, and often marginalized perspectives from which communities engage with, rework, or refuse the label. Spanning diverse locations from the Caribbean to South India to Telangana to tribal India to North America, and drawing on textual, ethnographic, and activist methodologies, the roundtable highlights experiences of inclusion and exclusion based on caste identities, vernacular registers of ritual knowledge and devotion, the politics of adopting and rejecting the label Hinduism, and articulations of derivative political terminologies such as Hinduphobia and Hindutva.

Sohini Pillai, Kalamazoo College, presiding

Panelist

Gaurika Mehta
Shiva Sai Ram Urella, Yale University
Maharshi Vyas, University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill
Jason Smith, Mercer University
Sunita Viswanath, Hindus for Human Rights

A23-422
Hosted by: Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit
Theme: LIT Womanism: An Intergenerational 20 Year Retrospective of Living in the Tenets of Womanism Distilled in Deeper Shades of Purple
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 603 (Street Level)

This session is designed as a constructive conversation about method, accountability, mentorship, and movement-building, centering intergenerational exchange among senior, mid-career, and emerging scholars to assess the enduring contributions of *Deeper Shades of Purple* to religious studies, ethics, theology, and social analysis, while also naming its unfinished questions. Together panelists will consider how womanist approaches illuminate contemporary

struggles around anti-Black gendered violence, reproductive justice, ecological crisis, diability justice, queer and trans religious life, and global Black feminisms.

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Vanderbilt University, presiding

Panelist

Renita Weems
Juan Floyd-Thomas
Candace M. Laughinghouse, Gammon Theological Seminary

Respondent

Eboni Marshall Turman, Yale University

A23-413
Hosted by: Religion and Memory Unit
Theme: Memory and the Varieties of Religious Nationalism
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

This panel examines how religious symbols, historical narratives, and collective memory are mobilized in the construction of nationalist projects across diverse contexts. Bringing together case studies that consider Poland, Korea, and the United States, the panelists explore how nations sacralize their pasts—through martyrdom, racial destiny, and providential mission—to legitimize present claims to power and identity. Together, these papers ask how religious imagination underwrites nationalism not only through theology but through the selective crafting of memory, raising urgent questions about whose pasts are remembered, how they are sacralized, and what futures such memories make possible.

Rubina Salikuddin, Bryn Mawr College, presiding

Papers

Andrew Whitworth
“Let Us Paint History”: Religious Visions, Usable Pasts, and Nationalist Futures in the US Capitol Rotunda

Chanhee Heo, Washington University in St. Louis
Beyond Japan: Reviving Korea’s Past Toward Its Future Global Ascendance

Zachary Taylor, University of Chicago
Memory, Martyrdom, and Polish Nationalism: A Theological Critique of the Chapel of Remembrance in Toruń, Poland

Respondent

Matthew D. Taylor, Georgetown University
Business Meeting
Christopher Cantwell, Loyola University, Chicago
Ella Myer, Emory University

A23-411
Hosted by: Moral Injury and Recovery in Religion, Society, and Culture Unit
Theme: Moral Injury and Epistemic Injustice
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

This panel explores foundations, intersections, and applications of moral injury and epistemic injustice and their respective and interrelated uses to describe the ways in which societies implicitly grant privileged groups credibility in describing their own experiences and knowledge production while implicitly denying that same credibility to marginalized groups. Moral Injury illuminates some of the consequences of epistemic injustice, and vice versa, particularly given the tendency of governments and institutions to propagate moral injury and epistemic injustice through conflict, war, racism and racial violence, xenophobia, stigmatization, and pathologization. The papers wrestle with modern discourse on moral injury and epistemic injustice tied to matters of restoration, testimony, mediation, healing, reconciliation, and forgiveness. In exploring connections, affinities, and differences, the papers examine interconnectedness, possibilities for how our individual consciences condition our senses of responsibility, accountability and response, and the ways in which both concepts are evidence that we might envision a hopeful future.

Nigel Hatton, presiding

Papers

Blaize Gervais
The Epistemic Roots of Moral Injury: Phronetic Injustice and the Weaponization of Ignorance

Rosemary Kellison, Florida State University
The Expanded Epistemic Injustice of Rejecting Moral Injury Testimony

Andrew McCoy, Hope College
Moral Injury and the Problems of Forgiveness in the Recent Research of Brett Litz and Judith Herman

A23-419
Hosted by: Theology and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Phenomenology, Secularity, and Spirituality: A Panel on Spiritual Life and Secular Thought by King-Ho Leung
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This roundtable explores the relation between secular philosophy, spirituality, and meaning-making in conversation with King-Ho Leung's *Spiritual Life and Secular Thought: A Phenomenology* (Oxford University Press, 2026). The aim of this session is to develop a conversation on the themes of the book: the definition of "spirituality", secular practices of philosophy as a spiritual exercise, as well as the relation between philosophy and religion. Panelists will be invited to reflect on these themes to open a conversation on our understanding of spirituality and secularity as well as the relation between the study of theology and religious studies, phenomenological analysis, and meaning-making in the contemporary world.

David Newheiser, Florida State University, presiding

Panelist

Alda Balthrop-Lewis, Florida State University
Kevin Hector
Tamsin Jones
Linda Mercadante
Jonathan Tran, Duke University

Respondent

King-Ho Leung, King's College London
Business Meeting
Eleanor Craig
Seth Gaiters, North Carolina State University

A23-404
Hosted by: Contemporary Islam Unit
Theme: Reconfiguring Authority: Mediating Islam across Global Contexts
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

This panel examines how Islamic authority is being reconfigured across diverse global contexts, with attention to media, education, gender, and transregional connections. Rather than treating authority as fixed, our panelists explore how Muslim actors negotiate legitimacy within shifting

social and institutional landscapes. Focusing on the Swahili Coast, one paper analyzes how a female religious figure builds influence through pedagogy and radio, showing how gendered expectations both constrain and enable new forms of authority. Another considers Islamic Studies in African universities, highlighting tensions between inherited scholarly traditions and contemporary academic frameworks, and the resulting negotiations over knowledge and legitimacy. A third expands the discussion to Latin America and the Caribbean, tracing how Muslim identities and authority are shaped through migration, minority positioning, and global networks. Together, these contributions reveal the dynamic, context-specific processes through which Islamic authority is mediated and reimagined across the globe.

Iman AbdoulKarim, Spelman College, presiding

Papers

KD Thompson
Adjacent Authority: Madam Leila's Islamic Pedagogy, Radio Psychology, and Gendered Boundary-Work on Tanzania's Swahili Coast

Rahina Muazu
Between Tradition and the Academy: Islamic Studies in African Universities

Ken Chitwood
The Global Futures of Muslim Lives: Latin American and Caribbean Intersections

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A23-414
Hosted by: Religion and Migration Unit
Theme: Religion and Migration: Exploring Transculturalism
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 712 (Street Level)

This session explores transculturalism as an active process where religious elements are transformed and merged into complex new identities within the "Third Space" of migration. Moving beyond assimilationist models, the unit utilizes multi-sited ethnography to document how Muslim, Christian, and Hindu communities reconstruct traditions across Asia and North America. Case studies investigate how religious institutions adapt to specific political economies, from the "layering" of Islamic communal life in Japan's segmented labor markets to the bi-directional flow of Nigerian Pentecostalism in Texas. By analyzing the "calculus of change," contributors examine what is lost, gained, or reinterpreted—such as the emergence of women as ritual specialists in Hindu Adhiparasakthi communities. Ultimately, the unit demonstrates how religion functions as both a stabilizer and a catalyst for change, grounding global migration trends in the lived theologies and everyday practices of migrants navigating transnational borders.

Sana Patel, presiding

Papers

Ayodeji Abiona, Florida State University
The Texas Connection: Place, Faith and Institution in Nigerian Migration

Easten Law, Yonsei University
Transculturalism in the Sinophone Church: A Comparative Study of Chinese American and Chinese Korean Christian Identity Formation and Belonging

Suraiya Ali, Independent Reseacher
Institutional Contexts and the Formation of Muslim Communities in Postwar Japan

Nanette Spina
Transcultural Belonging: Ethnographic Perspectives on Women's Leadership Forging Hindu Tradition across Borders

Business Meeting
Itohan Idumwonyi, Gonzaga University
Nanette Spina

A23-417
Hosted by: Secularism and Secularity Unit
Theme: Residual Religion and/in the Secular Institutions of Modernity
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

This panel offers a series of approaches that critically rethink the entanglements of religion with law, politics, and culture beyond the inherited secularist logics of past scholarship. Across legal theory, political economy, ethnography, and contemporary art, the papers trace how the religious persists within ostensibly secular domains. One paper reconsiders legal positivism as an "uneasy godlessness" structured by implicit theological commitments, while another reframes capitalism as itself a post-secular formation with profound effects on modern life. A third ethnographically demonstrates how secular governance in India is sustained through "vernacular theodicies" that render bureaucratic uncertainty bearable, and the final paper examines an artistic intervention at a Brazilian museum event to elucidate how secular institutions can absorb ritual critique. Together, these papers underscore how religious formations may continue to operate within putatively 'secular' institutions, systems of thought, and bureaucratic apparatuses as well as the political and lived consequences of those residues.

Eric Stephen, University of South Florida, presiding

Papers

Bryan Ellrod
“The Religious Memory of HLA Hart: Legal Humanities in Religion’s Archive”

Tianrong Lin, University of North Texas, Philosophy & Religion Department
“One must see capitalism as a religion”: The Politics of Economic Theology in Postsecularity

Drake Konow
From Ritual Critique to Secular Harvest: Denilson Baniwa’s Museum Investments

Business Meeting
Eric Stephen, University of South Florida
Rafael Vizcaino, DePaul University

A23-423
Hosted by: Esotericism Unit and Religion and Science Fiction Unit
Theme: The Speculative Religion of Philip K. Dick's "Exegesis"
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1D (Ballroom Level)

For the last eight years of his life, science fiction author Philip K. Dick worked on his "Exegesis"-- a mostly handwritten theological journal in which he sought to explain a series of visionary experiences he underwent in 1974. The ideas he explored and tested found their way into his final novels (including *VALIS* and *The Transmigration of Timothy Archer*), but the "Exegesis" was an experimental playground for trying out different ideas about the nature of reality. This panel brings together scholars of theology, literature, and cognitive science to explore the "Exegesis" in the context of Dick’s life and fiction, as well as the broader contexts of the literary and theological worlds with which he interacted.

Gabriel P. Mckee, New York University, presiding

Papers

Gabriel P. Mckee, New York University
“Infinity, Play Again”: Images of play in Philip K. Dick’s “Exegesis”

Michael Barros
Dick, Decentered

Laurie Jua-Hua Tseng, National Dong Hwa University
How Do Informational Objects Trigger Living Intelligence? Plasmate, Tertiary Memory, and Unthought in Philip K. Dick’s VALIS and Exegesis

A23-401
Hosted by: Catholic Studies Unit and Sociology of Religion Unit
Theme: The U.S. Catholic Diocesan Exorcist Project
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This roundtable presents the institutional context, methodologies, and major findings of *The U.S. Catholic Diocesan Exorcist Project* (2025-2026). This grant-funded work stems from a small group of researchers tasked to discern the number of Catholic exorcists currently operating across 174 major dioceses. Panelist#1 provides project background, initial/failed interview requests, and need to adopt journalism research strategies amidst ecclesiastical resistance. Panelist#2 reports on our social media data collection, training TikTok and Instagram algorithms to provide potential interview subjects based on preselected exorcist-themed videos. Panelist#3 reports on utilizing phone calls and emails to speak with diocesan representatives and their exorcists, showcasing the geospatial map findings of our calling efforts. Two distinguished exorcism scholars then serve as respondents. Such research is integral to the "worldbuilding" study of contemporary Catholic practice. Our mixed-methods approach, made possible through an adaptive and scaffolded practice of data collection, illuminates the struggles that come with researching modern institutions.

Mariangela Carpinteri, presiding

Panelist

William Chavez
Nicole Henry, Stetson University

Respondent

Joseph Laycock
Thomas Csordas

A23-424
Hosted by: Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Unit and Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
Theme: Womb Cosmologies: A Cross-Cultural Conversation
Monday, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 210 (Street Level)

The metaphor and notion of womb have been the focus of inquiry and theorization in many cosmological and philosophical systems. The Chinese classic Daodejing frequently alludes to the metaphor of the womb/vagina as the generative force of the cosmos (mother of all things), e.g., the spirit of the valley and the gate of the obscure she-best. The Arabic term for compassion/mercy raḥama comes from the root raḥm (womb). The Buddhist term for universal Buddha-nature, tathāgatagarbha, is literally the womb (garbha) of the thus-gone/come-one. The three presentations in this co-sponsored panel invite scholars and philosophers to join a cross-cultural conversation about different womb cosmologies, their relations to love ethics, as well as their promises in bringing forth a friendlier future.

Jea Sophia Oh, presiding

Papers

Yeti Kang, University of Chicago
Geschlecht, Khôra, and the Obscure She-Beast: Womb Cosmology beyond the Phallocentric Matrix

Neela Bhattacharya Saxena
Shunyata as Cosmic Garbha/Womb: Tantric Female Imagery, and Their Liberatory Potency

Brianne Donaldson, University of California, Irvine
The Requirement of Mutual Impurity for Women, Embryos and Nonhuman Beings in Jaina Birth Narratives

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M23-500
Hosted by: Israeli Academic and Research Institutions
Theme: Honoring Israeli Scholarship Reception
Monday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 1A (Ballroom 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!

A23-500
Hosted by: American Academy of Religion
Theme: Program Unit Chairs' and Steering Committee Members' Reception
Monday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, Mile High 4A (Ballroom Level)

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Amy Defibaugh, American Academy of Religion, presiding

M23-501
Hosted by: Graduate Theological Union
Theme: The GTU Alumni Reception
Monday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Offsite

All GTU alumni, students, faculty, their friends or guests, and curious scholars 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

Location: Clocktower Cabaret, 1601 Arapahoe Street, Denver, CO, 80202

Tuesday November 24

A24-102
Books under Discussion
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit
Theme: Book Panel: Sarah Coakley, The Broken Body: Israel, Christ, and Fragmentation
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

Natalia Marandiuc, presiding

Panelist

Judith Wolfe
Katherine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary
Willie James Jennings

Respondent

Sarah Coakley

A24-106

Hosted by: Teaching Religion Unit
Theme: Law and Religion as an Interdisciplinary Subject of Teaching and Research
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

This roundtable session emerges from and builds on "Law and Religion: An Interdisciplinary Toolkit for the Humanities Scholar," a two-week institute for higher education faculty funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The panelists include instructors from the Institute whose scholarship substantively engages with law and religion from different disciplinary backgrounds, including history, philosophy of religion, legal studies, and education. The panelists will discuss approaches for proficiently engaging with legal philosophy and legal practice in humanities scholarship; deepening interdisciplinary conversations about the intersections of law and religion today; and exploring opportunities for incorporating law and religion into the humanities classroom, especially at the undergraduate level. This timely conversation addresses the need to engage robust humanistic research and teaching about and informed by law in an era of complex legal, ethical, and moral questions posed by authoritarian politics, technological advancement, complex health disparities, and environmental catastrophe.

Whittney Barth, presiding

Panelist

Dana Lloyd, Villanova University
Isaac Weiner
Leslie Ribovich

Respondent

Joseph Tucker Edmonds

A24-125
Hosted by: Women and Religion Unit
Theme: Recasting Futures: Gender, Authority, and Theological Imagination
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 406 (Street Level)

In collaboration with the AAR/SBL Women's Caucus, this panel asks what kinds of religious futures become possible when women's voices, bodies, and experiences are taken as central to theological reflection. The papers from emerging scholars examine how gendered systems—shaped by patriarchy, colonial legacies, and institutional norms—have regulated authority and silenced participation across diverse contexts, from Malagasy ritual discourse to Catholic sacramental theology and Christian diaconal practice. Rather than treating these structures as fixed, each contribution identifies sites of disruption and reimagining. By centering women's lived and embodied knowledge, the panel explores how ritual, sacrament, and ministry can be

reinterpreted as spaces of both critique and reconstruction. These interventions do not merely recover marginalized voices; they actively recast theological discourse toward futures marked by accountability, mutuality, and expanded forms of participation.

Deborah Fulthorp, presiding

Papers

Eve Schwartz
A Hidden People: Young Women Victims/Survivors of Clergy Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church and Eucharistic Implications.

Rojo Hanitriniala RANDRIANARIMANANA
The Architecture of Silence: Gendered Ritual Authority and the Futures of Women's Agency in Madagascar

Marcie Gibson
The Personal is Political is Pastoral is Prophetic: The Coupling and Uncoupling of Gender and Diakonia, Historical Wisdom for the Future

Sarah Neff, Duke University
"The Boke is Not Yet Performed": Reading for Textual Performance in Julian of Norwich's Long Text

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A24-107
Hosted by: Theology and Religious Reflection Unit
Theme: Self, Space, and the Sacred
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 704 (Street Level)

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Seth Gaiters, North Carolina State University, presiding

Papers

Wesley Snedeker
The Matter of Place in the Formation of Religious Leaders: A New Materialist Account of Regional Difference in Online Theological Education

Olivia Bustion, Princeton Theological Seminary
The Spiritual Care of Queer Abolition Geography

James W. Perkinson
When the Land Says No: Relearning Hallowing From Places of Haunting

Moriah Reichert
Writing the True Self in the Twenty-First Century: Christian Women Memoirists from 2000-2020

A24-124
Hosted by: Religion and Popular Culture Unit
Theme: Strange New Worlds: Religion and Star Trek
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 212 (Street Level)

After sixty years of *Star Trek* and its subsequent spin-off series, films, and other media, Gene Roddenberry's creation has proven that its worlds can be continually generative of new ways of thinking about humanity, religion, and our relationships. The papers in this session explore the ways that fans and religious imaginaries use the ideas in different *Star Trek* franchises for religious reflections in the modern world.

Juli Gittinger, Georgia College, presiding

Papers

Ryan Martin, Oblate School of Theology
"Boldly Going": Star Trek's Vision and the Spirituality of Fandom

Kori Pacyniak, Indiana University - Center for Religion and the Human
The Best Chaplain is a Starfleet Captain: Star Trek, Spirituality, and Fictional Spiritual Directors

Stephanie Gray
Trill as Covenantal Bodies: A Jewish Queer/Trans Theology in Star Trek

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A24-101
Hosted by: Buddhism Unit
Theme: Teaching Korean Buddhism in 2026: Challenges, Strategies, and Future Directions
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

At a moment of unprecedented global fascination with Korean popular culture and religion, this roundtable reveals a persistent pedagogical blind spot: the marginal presence of Korean Buddhism in undergraduate teaching. Despite its historical significance, doctrinal depth, and vibrant contemporary presence, Korean Buddhism remains underrepresented in curricula and methodologically underexamined within the field. This roundtable convenes five scholars from diverse institutional contexts in the United States and South Korea to offer a field-defining conversation on how to teach Korean Buddhism more critically, effectively, and creatively. Carefully reflecting on the current positionality and future directions of the study of Korean Buddhism, the panel foregrounds classroom contents, evaluation, experimentation, institutional constraints, and the broader conceptual frameworks that shape how Korean Buddhism can best be taught.

Sujung Kim, presiding

Panelist

Maya Stiller
Yoonah Hwang, Pepperdine University
Richard D. McBride, Brigham Young University
Seunghak Koh, Seoul National University

Respondent

Jin Y Park, American University, Washington, D.C.

A24-105
Hosted by: Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
Theme: Techno-Futures and Religion
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

How is the relationship between science and religion mediated by technological transformation? How are new futures evoked, elicited, and resisted by advances in technoscience? This panel will consider the triangular relationship between science, religion, and technological change.

Cara Rock-Singer, presiding

Papers

Michael Baysa
Critiquing AI from a Religious History of the Printing Press

Matthew Zaro Fisher, Loyola High School of Los Angeles

From Post-Truth Uncertainty to the New Clarity: The Internet, Epistemic Siloing, and the Technological Future of Science and Religion

Andrea Rota, University of Oslo
Past and Present Imaginaries of the Techno-Ecological Future: Religious Topoi and Utopian Narratives in the Long Sixties and Today

Angel Clark
The Church Has Already Been There: The Techno-Religious Future Already Present

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A24-103
Hosted by: Ethics Unit
Theme: The Family of the Future
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 710 (Street Level)

Stephanie Coontz writes that the so-called "traditional family" is "an ahistorical amalgam of structures, values, and behaviors that never coexisted in the same place." This doesn't mean, however, that our traditions can't help us understand kinship and obligation in a constructive way. Religious ethics can play a role in helping us imagine and recover forms of intergenerational care that address social ills. In keeping with this year's presidential theme and Colorado's legacies—as both the home of Focus on the Family and pioneering LGBTQ+ activism—this panel reconsiders the family, moral responsibilities to future generations, and belonging. Which "family values" are worth embracing? Should the nuclear family be detonated? Do we believe the children are our future?

Russell Johnson, presiding

Papers

Cienna Dumaoal
"The Kind of People That People Come Out Of:" Reproductive Labor, Redemptive Suffering, and Christian Nationalism

Patrick Haley, Princeton Theological Seminary
A Virtue of Queer Kinship: Filial Piety Beyond the Biological Family

Elizabeth McKenney
Idols at the Altar: A Theo-Ethical Critique of the Purity Movement

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A24-100
Hosted by: Arts, Literature, and Religion Unit
Theme: The Religious Aesthetics of the Future
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

The papers explore the aesthetics of the future across different traditions. The first paper examines Frank Wilderson's Afropessimism (2020) as an autotheoretical performance of apophatic faith in a future beyond "the end of the world." The second paper analyzes Moral Re-Armament (MRA) and Shen Yun to assess new religious movements that use seemingly secular theatrical performances to communicate religious messages about a path to a better future. The final paper analyzes tropes and stereotypes originating during slavery, such as the mammy and Jezebel, and their connections to current policies and legislation that threaten our reproductive choices today.

Papers

Andrew Kaplan
Afropessimysticism: Autotheory, Apocalypse, and Apophatic Futurity in Afropessimism

Marie W. Dallam
Religious Theatrical Performance and Visions of the Future

Deirdre Austin
From Liturgical Dance to Pole Dance: Imagining Black Christian Dance Futures

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A24-115
Hosted by: South Asian Religions Unit
Theme: Black and Brown in Babylon
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 404 (Street Level)

The world systems of race, caste, and colonialism have long brought together Black and South Asian peoples and perspectives in conflict and cooperation. However, the same is only intermittently true for the fields of study, especially in the American Academy of Religion, of which they are both subject and object. This panel offers a way forward with reflections on Black and South Asian histories of diaspora, displacement, and devotion, and on the critical theories and methods that accompany and elude their respective fields. It asks what would be possible as a result of thinking these fields together as they oscillate between premodernity and postmodernity, philology and political theory. Papers move geographically between South Asia, the Caribbean, and the Americas, and methodologically between intellectual history, ethnography, and critical theory.

Anand Venkatkrishnan, presiding

Papers

Anand Venkatkrishnan
Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda's Divine Revelations

Jazmin Eyssallenne
Multi-Methods in the Study of the African Diaspora in South Asia

Gaurika Mehta
Plantation Archives/Fugitive Archives: Emancipation, Indenture, and Religion in the Caribbean

Alexander Rocklin, Kenyon College
Hindu in the Making: Racialization and Diasporicate Cultures of Reification and Exchange between Trinidad and the United States

Respondent

Davesh Soneji, University of Pennsylvania

A24-123
Hosted by: Black Theology Unit
Theme: Black Theology Unit Papers Session
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 206 (Street Level)

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Jennifer S. Leath, presiding

Papers

Philip Butler, Iliff School of Theology
Entering Black Time: Internal Galaxies, Self-knowledge x Black AI

A24-111
Hosted by: Comparative Studies in Religion Unit
Theme: Comparative Studies: Texts, Memory, and Liturgy

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 109 (Street Level)

The papers in this session engage in comparative analyses of religious texts, liturgies, and understanding of reality. The papers discuss topics ranging from McGilchrist's hemispheric modes of attention, the conceptualization of divine assembly in ancient Near Eastern religious literature, and the collective worship of Bahá'í communities in conversation with Christian and Islamic liturgy.

David Schones, presiding

Papers

Joël Guzman-Quispe
Priests before the Divine Assembly: Zechariah 3 and Ancient Near Eastern Traditions

Holly Hanson, Mount Holyoke College
Observing change in collective worship as the Baha'i Faith approaches its third century

Respondent

David Schones

A24-110
Hosted by: Christian Systematic Theology Unit
Theme: Hope, Its Absence, and Eschatology
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 402 (Street Level)

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Andrea C. White, presiding

Papers

Linden Abston, Yale University
Black Fugitive Performance as Eschatological Hope

Frederick Simmons
Hope, Eschatology, and the Teleology of the Christian Life

A24-109
Hosted by: Buddhist Philosophy Unit
Theme: New Directions in Buddhist Philosophy
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 103 (Street Level)

This panel explores new work in Buddhist philosophy.

Catherine Prueitt, presiding

Papers

Zicheng Lei
Between Reification and Nihilism: The Fourfold Investigation as Yogācāra Contemplative Method

Bin Liu
From Effable to Ineffable: Debate over the Self-Contradiction of "Supportlessness (Nirālambanatā)" between Yogācāra and Kumārila

Szymon Bogacz, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Right View vs Right Action

A24-112
Hosted by: History of Christianity Unit
Theme: The History of Christianity, National Identity, and the Politics of the Present
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 105 (Street Level)

The history of Christianity actively shapes political life, and political life actively shapes the history of Christianity. The papers in this session examine with particular urgency the conditions under which that history becomes a contested resource for shaping public life. Across three distinct contexts, the American classroom, the genealogy of Christian nationalism, and the wartime formation of religious institutions in Ukraine, the papers collectively ask how the history of Christianity is mobilized, mythologized, and institutionally remade in response to present crises.

Drawing on pedagogy, intellectual history, and qualitative fieldwork, the session addresses questions of enduring relevance about the authority of historical narratives, the entanglement of religious and national identity, and the ways in which the history of Christianity is produced, instrumentalized, and studied. Together, the papers demonstrate that how the past is narrated is

never simply an academic question; it carries direct consequences for political imagination, institutional formation, and the future of public religious life.

The session speaks to ongoing conversations in American religious history, intellectual history, Christian nationalism, political theology, church-state relations, sociology of religion, and the pedagogy of the history of Christianity.

Minji Lee, Montclair State University, presiding

Papers

Matthew Pereira, Oklahoma State University
Teaching Early Christianity in a Politically Polarized America: Pedagogical Challenges and Opportunities at the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

Anna Rosensweig, University of Rochester
The United States of Calvin: How Christian Nationalists Frame the Past to Shape the Future

Valentyna Kuryliak
War as Institution Builder: The Emergence of Interfaith Military Chaplaincy in Ukraine

Business Meeting
Minji Lee, Montclair State University
Roy Fisher

A24-113
Hosted by: Jewish Studies Unit
Theme: Transmissions and Reproductions: Texts, Networks, Politics
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 111 (Street Level)

The papers in this panel examine literary-political questions of circulation and reproduction, considering how formative figures, narratives, and philosophical commitments are repurposed across shifting cultural and ideological landscapes. The first paper explores the literary afterlives of Anne Frank's diary in Philip Roth's "The Ghost Writer," analyzing how her words are appropriated and mediated to (mis)represent twentieth-century Jewish American life. The second paper turns to representations of antisemitism in the postwar period, drawing from archival findings to reconstruct the transnational networks behind "The Plot against the Church" and examining the epistemic anxieties that shaped both its production and the efforts to expose it. The third paper reads Emmanuel Levinas's reflections on Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin's 1961 outer-space orbit to reconsider the phenomenological-political encounter between Martin Heidegger and Levinas, drawing from their divergent reflections on place, technology, and ethics to interrogate the persistence of fascist thinking.

Andrea Dara Cooper, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presiding

Papers

Shirah Lister, University of Virginia
Reuse, reduce, recycle: the repurposing of Anne Frank's words in Philip Roth's The Ghost Writer

CLAIRE MALIGOT
Conspiracies, genealogies of hatred, and epistemic anxieties: Jewish agencies facing the antisemitic libel The Plot against the Church (early 1960s)

Zohar Gitlis, Brown University
Heidegger, Levinas, Outerspace and the Reproduction of Facism

Respondent

Evan Goldstein

A24-114
Hosted by: Religion and Politics Unit
Theme: Trump and the Politics of Prayer: Inside the Spiritual World of His Faith Advisory Team
Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Colorado Convention Center, 107 (Street Level)

This "Authors Meet Their Critics" panel brings together scholars of religion, theology, and politics to discuss *Trump and the Politics of Prayer: Inside the Spiritual World of His Faith Advisory Team*. Focusing on the concluding chapter, "The Politics of Prophecy and Prayer: The Mid-2020s and Beyond," the session asks what the Faith Advisory Team's prayer calls around January 6, 2021, reveal about trajectories of American public life. Panelists will examine four dynamics with ongoing implications: lived political theology enacted through prophecy, intercession, decrees, and warfare prayer; the remaking of prophetic authority from accountable critique to insider validation; the intertwining of faith and fear that can normalize antidemocratic shortcuts; and the transnational export of charismatic nationalism, including influence in Brazil. The authors will respond to critiques and invite discussion on how scholars and civic leaders can interpret, teach, and engage these movements as they evolve today.

Hannah Howard, University of Georgia, presiding

Panelist

Matthew D. Taylor, Georgetown University
Damon Berry, St. Lawrence University

Respondent

Derrick Lemons, University of Georgia
Amos Yong

A24-119
Hosted by: North American Religions Unit
Theme: “The Bible and Evangelical Conspiracism: Genesis 6 and the Nephilim in American Christianity”
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 304 (Street Level)

The story in Gen 6:1–4 of the Nephilim, the offspring of angels and human women, was an important text in the development of apocalyptic Judaism and early Christianity, but its influence began to wane in late antiquity. Until relatively recently, American evangelicals have shown little interest in Gen 6:1–4 and its reception in non-canonical Jewish sources, but toward the end of the twentieth century, partly in response to the appropriation of the Nephilim myth among advocates of the so-called “ancient aliens" hypothesis (e.g., von Däniken; Sitchin), certain evangelicals began promoting a distinctively Christian interpretation of the UFO phenomenon and ufology, and presenting Gen 6:1–4 as the forgotten key to understanding the ancient past and the eschatological future. We will describe this increasingly popular “evangelical Nephilim conspiracy,” elucidate its hermeneutical and epistemological assumptions, situate it within American evangelicalism, and analyze it within the broader context of scholarship on conspiracism and religion.

Seth Whitaker, presiding

Papers

Robert Jones , Penn State University
"The Roots of Evangelical Nephilim Conspiracies "

Ethan Johnson, King University
“‘Not life as we know it’: Aliens, Giants, and the Days of Noah”

Maxwell Kennel, Canadian Institute for Far-Right Studies
“Evangelical Conspiracism in Context: Nephilim Conspiracy Theories, from Depathologization to Critique”

A24-120
Hosted by: Philosophy of Religion Unit

Theme: Being, Becoming, and the Future of Personhood
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 501 (Street Level)

This panel examines the complexities and anxieties around personhood and human identity from a variety of philosophical and aesthetic frameworks. The first paper puts Nietzsche in conversation with Leonora Carrington to think about the possibility of becoming hybrid selves. The second paper rethinks virtue ethics against detractors to show that the self-regarding nature of eudaimonism is not an egotistic defect but a liberative strength. The third paper constructs a dialogue between Buddhist notions of the non-self and emergentist conceptions of personhood. The final paper examines AI as an extimate technology, one that demonstrates what is both close and uncanny to the human.

Joseph Winters, presiding

Papers

Tessa Finley
Becoming What One Is: Nietzsche on Self-Transformation and the Surrealist Challenge of Leonora Carrington

Katarina von Kühn, Princeton Theological Seminary
The Legacy of Eudaimonism: Egoistic Defect or Liberative Strength?

Kevin Schilbrack
The No-Self Teaching and Emergentist Personhood

Yunus Dogan Telliel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Waiting for the Singularity: AI and the Artificial Future of the Human

Respondent

Tessa Finley
Katarina von Kühn, Princeton Theological Seminary
Kevin Schilbrack
Yunus Dogan Telliel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

A24-117
Hosted by: Catholic Studies Unit
Theme: Imagining Catholic Futures
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 507 (Street Level)

How do Catholics anchor into this-worldly futures? This panel explores the evolving landscape of Catholic identity and practice by placing historical narratives in dialogue with ideas about imagined communal structures. These papers explore: how a fictionalized 19th century "Protestant imagination" shaped traumatic realities of Native boarding schools and Magdalene laundries; how the Little Sisters of the Assumption used a transformative model of ministry that challenged cleric-centered social Catholicism through intimate, domestic care for the urban poor, their vision for a future without suffering paradoxically dependent upon a theology of suffering; how virtue of attention is liberative and necessary to think about taking action toward the future; how grassroots agency shaped imagined futures for a Small Christian Communities in Kenya. Together, these papers recover marginalized voices—from women religious to lay African communities—as scenes of imagination of the futures of Catholicism

John Seitz, presiding

Papers

Jay Carney
'We are the people on the ground': Small Christian Communities and Synodality in Catholic Kenya

Hennessey Star
A Bone Filled Catholicism: Protestant Imaginations and Catholic Revelations of Captivity and Abuse in 19th Century Anti-Catholic Literature

Gabrielle Bibeau, Fordham University
Healers of Bodies, Caretakers of Souls: The Little Sisters of the Assumption and the Theological Tension of Social Catholicism

Amanda Bolaños
Attending to the Virtue of Attention: The Historicity and the Futuring of See, Judge, Act in Constant Crisis

Respondent

Katherine Moran

A24-121
Hosted by: Religion and the Social Sciences Unit
Theme: Lived Religion and "Future-Making" in the United States
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 205 (Street Level)

This session examines the role of religion in shaping (and contesting) particular moral and political futures in the United States through ethnography, historical mapping, and discourse analysis. Paper topics include: evangelical Christian mothers in Texas negotiate schooling choices as projects of moral formation amid curricular and legislative battles; the forgotten role of congregations in providing spatial support for LGBTQ+ organizing in the Stonewall-era; and how the discourse of "Christian nationalism" motivates and mobilizes progressive Christian grassroots action. Taken together, the session highlights the concrete ways that religious groups claim social authority, contribute to grassroots social movements, narrate perceived public threats, and build alternative futures in the United States as well as how the work of religious "future-making" is mediated through institutions, infrastructure, media, and activism.

Sara Williams, Fairfield University, presiding

Papers

Marie Olson Purcell, Southern Methodist University
Educating the Future: Evangelical Motherhood and Competing Visions of Schooling in Texas

Heather White
Mapping a Forgotten Infrastructure: Congregations & Stonewall-era Queer Organizing

Charles McCrary, Eckerd College
Lauren Horn Griffin, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Progressive Christian Mobilization and the Discourse of Christian Nationalism

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A24-122
Hosted by: Religions in the Latina/o Americas Unit
Theme: Sacred Landscapes and Secular Shifts: Citizenship and Political Rupture in South America
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 505 (Street Level)

This panel explores the intersection of religious practice and political governance in South America, focusing on how believers navigate nationalism, transition, and instability. Across three distinct national contexts, panelists examine the resilience of faith as a tool for both political advocacy and cultural preservation. In mid-twentieth-century Argentina, Baptist pastors leveraged transnational networks to redefine citizenship and religious freedom under Peronism. In contemporary Brazil, "allegorical ways of seeing" persist beyond the Bolsonaro era, revealing deep-seated political ambivalence through perceptions of divine influence. Finally, in Peru, the enduring traditions of religious brotherhoods like El Señor de los Milagros provide a stable framework of memory and resistance amidst systemic political decay. Collectively, this panel shows how religion does not merely react to political change but actively shapes concepts of sovereignty and communal identity.

Tatyana Castillo-Ramos, Reed College, presiding

Papers

Stephen Di Trolio, Princeton Theological Seminary
Citizenry, Nationalism and Protestant Activism During the Peronist Government in Argentina (1940s-50s)

ASHLEY LEBNER
The Times Have Not (Completely) Changed: Allegory, Divine Difference, and Political Ambivalence in post-Bolsonaro Brazil

Rachaell Diaz
Does God Prevail? Memory, Resistance, and Brotherhoods

A24-118
Hosted by: Hinduism Unit
Theme: Worldliness and Devotion in Regional Hindu Traditions
Tuesday, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Colorado Convention Center, 503 (Street Level)

Hindu devotionalism (Skt. *bhakti*) centers the relationship between deity and devotee, a deeply personal connection that is understood to offer freedom from worldly concerns and their karmic entanglements. Yet devotionalism also entails particular ways of thinking about and being in the world that have contributed to enduring conceptions of self and society in South Asia and its global diaspora. This panel explores the liberatory promises of devotionalism in relation to worldly life, as expressed through the rich linguistic, regional, and religious diversity of Hindu literary traditions. Focusing especially on southern India, it considers the salience of embodied ethics, placemaking, social change, and labor for Śaiva and Vaiṣṇava devotionalism in the second millennium. Individual papers discuss how specific conceptions of devotion are embedded within, and actively respond to, a range of worldly considerations, including public discourses surrounding caste and subalternity, processes of moral self-fashioning, realist theological commitments, and institution-building initiatives.

Eric Steinschneider, presiding

Papers

Shiv Subramaniam
Rāmānuja’s Worldliness

Gil Ben-Herut

Worldliness and Devotion in Harihara's Rakṣā Śatakam

Eric Steinschneider
"Do You Think This Body Lasts Forever?": Condemning Worldliness and Teaching Devotion in the Early Modern Tamil Hinterlands

Janani Mandayam Comar
"Be Careful and Survive": The Body in Gopalakrishna Bharati's Nantaṉār Carittirakkīrttaṉaikaḷ

Respondent

Karen Pechilis
