



Religious Studies News
From the Student Desk Editor
Job Description

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

From the Student Desk is the feature student column of the *RSN* and is published three times per year in the March, May, and October issues. The *From the Student Desk* Editor will:

- Solicit and deliver to the AAR Staff Liaison to Students, articles for the March, May, and October issues of
- *RSN*. The deadlines for submission are:
 - March Issue: January 17
 - May Issue: March 14
 - October Issue: August 15
- Submit articles (not to exceed 800 words), a photo of the writer, and a 50-word current institutional affiliation statement.
- Abide by the *RSN* writing guidelines (see below) and distribute to all authors for compliance.
- Submit a short yearly report to the Student Director.
- Maintain regular contact with the AAR Staff Liaison to Students, the Student Director, the Graduate Student Committee, and *RSN* staff.

Tenure & Selection

The *From the Student Desk* Editor is selected by the current AAR Student Director. All current AAR student members who have been members for at least one calendar year are eligible to serve in this capacity. Previous editing experience is desired. As part of the selection process, candidates will be asked to copyedit a sample column. The term of service is two years from January 1 to December 31.

AAR Staff Liaison to Students:

Margaret Jenkins, Director of Development and Membership - Margaret.Jenkins@aarweb.org

AAR Student Director (2010-2011):

Elizabeth Lawson, Temple University - evlawson@temple.edu

RSN Staff:

Stephanie Gray, *RSN* Editor - sgray@aarweb.org

RSN Writing Guidelines

RSN is not a scholarly journal. It is the newspaper of record for the field. Features should demonstrate an understanding of the field but have a more informal, narrative feel.

Your piece is not a scholarly treatise and therefore you should avoid footnotes, specialized research language, or knowledge of "canonical works" in your subfield. Please don't write as you would for a journal article. Vignettes are good.

Readers want to know something about you as a person, with a story worth sharing. We encourage you to include such information in the piece where appropriate. Also, use sidebars to present related materials or a lot of facts. You will be given a total word count, and the count includes words used in such sidebars.

Separate out from your article related materials or a list of facts. We can include a sidebar or additional webpage to display this material.

As *RSN* is not a journal, but a newspaper, and considering the incredible number of contributing authors, it is impossible to show you each edit as you would expect during a book or journal publishing process. *RSN* reserves the right to edit the piece for content, length, and format; however, after you have submitted the article, you will not be able to proof any further edits. The *RSN* editor will contact the author if there is major editing, rewriting, clarification, and/or amplification involved. We will not be contacting authors for grammar, style, or length edits.

RSN Submission Guidelines

Items needed for complete submission:

- Article meeting specifications discussed in writing guidelines.
- A short biographical paragraph of no more than 50 words. It should include your background, research, teaching commitments, major published work, etc.
- A head shot, electronic of 300 dpi resolution for 2" square space [i.e., at least 600 pixels on the shortest axis].
- Feel free to submit other artwork or photos, audio clips, or video clips. While we can't guarantee that we will be able to include all materials with the article, we will make every effort to do so. If you submit additional photos or images for your article, be sure to provide captions and necessary photo credits. The article shouldn't require the inclusion of such media in case we do not post the materials with the piece.