

**AAR/Luce Summer Seminars in Theologies of
Religious Pluralism and Comparative Theology
Cohort Three, Week One
Working Schedule
May 30–June 7, 2012**

Wednesday, May 30

- 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
7:00 PM– Informal and (Voluntary) Social for Fellows and Instructors

Thursday, May 31

- 8:00 AM–11:30 AM Free time in ATL. Names and locations of local churches are in the “Things to Do in ATL” document for those who wish to attend church.
- 10:00 AM–11:30 AM Meeting of the Instructional Team
- 11:30 AM–1:00 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 1:00 PM–3:30 PM **Introductions of Participants and Lecturers; Clarifying the Goals of the Seminar**
What are the goals of the Seminar? What scholarly questions bring you to this Summer Seminar? What are your teaching obligations and responsibilities and how might your teaching be enriched by the work of the seminar?
- 3:00 PM–3:30 PM Break
- 3:30 PM–3:45 PM A Brief Conversation on Internet Use (Liveblogging, Facebook, etc.)
- 3:45 PM–5:15 PM **Thinking Critically about Taken for Granted Terms: “Religion,” “Religions,” “World Religions,” and “Theology”**
Focal questions: Do persons from other cultures identify their traditions as “religions”? Do they recognize the validity of the secular/religious distinction that western societies take for granted? Do we take these categories for granted when we talk about the relationship between “religions?” categories for granted?
- 5:15 PM–5:30 PM Break
- 5:30 PM–6:30 PM Small Group Conversations
- 6:30 PM–7:30 PM Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 7:30 PM– Free Time

Friday, June 1

- 7:00 AM– 8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 8:00 AM–8:45 AM Guided Meditation (Optional)
- 9:00 AM–10:30 AM **Defining Terms and Approaches: What is Theology of Religious Pluralism?**
- 10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM–12:30 PM **Defining Terms and Approaches: What is Comparative Theology?**
Focal Questions: What is the purpose of comparative theology?
Why do comparative theology?
- 12:30 PM–1:30 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 1:30 PM–3:00 PM Small Group Conversations
- 3:00 PM–3:30 PM Break
- 3:30 PM–5:00 PM Panel Discussion:
What is the Relationship between TRP and Comparative Theology?
Focal questions: Must one of these enterprises precede the other?
Replace the other? Some comparative theologians have called for a moratorium on TRP. Why? Is such a moratorium commendable?
- 5:00 PM–6:00 PM Plenary Conversation/Synthesis
- 6:00 PM– Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

Saturday, June 2

- 7:00 AM–8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 8:00 AM–8:45 AM Contemplative Practice (Optional)
- 9:00 AM–10:30 AM **Jewish Approaches to Religious Diversity**
- 10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM–12:30 PM **Comparative Theology, TRP, and the Academic Study of Religion**
Focal Questions: TRP and comparative theology are committed, theologically engaged fields. What issues are posed by the teaching of these fields? How are these fields related to the larger academic study of religion? What challenges/complications are posed by the teaching of these fields in our various departments and institutions? How do issues of social location (race, gender, class, sexual identity, etc.) bear on TRP and CT?

12:30 PM–1:30 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

1:30 PM–3:00 PM **Buddhist Approaches to Religious Diversity**

3:00 PM–3:30 PM Break

3:30 PM–5:30 PM **Defining Terms and Approaches: Scriptural Reasoning**
Focal questions: What does it mean to read the scriptures of other traditions with persons from those traditions? What can we learn about religious traditions by understanding how they read scripture? Is SR a kind of comparative theology?

5:30 PM–5:50 PM Break

5:50 PM–6:50 PM Small Group Conversation

6:50 PM– Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

Sunday, June 3

7:00 AM–8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

8:00 AM–8:45 AM Meditation/Contemplative Practice (Optional)

9:00 AM–10:30 AM **Rethinking Christian Theology through Buddhism: My Movement into Comparative Theology**

10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM–12:30 PM Small Group Discussions

12:30 PM–2:00 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

2:00 PM–3:30 PM **Islamic Approaches to Religious Diversity**

3:00 PM–3:30 PM Break

- 3:30 PM–5:00 PM **Lived Religious Diversity**
 Focal themes: This session will explore themes such as hybridity, multiple religious identity, interreligious contact and influence, and women’s experiences of lived religious diversity. Can attention to lived religious diversity counterbalance dominantly textualist approaches to these questions with historical and ethnographic perspectives?
- 5:00 PM–6:30 PM Plenary Conversation
- 6:30 PM– Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- Monday, June 4**
- 7:00 AM–8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 8:00 AM–8:45 AM Guided Meditation (optional)
- 9:00 AM–10:30 AM Panel Discussion:
Interreligious Practice and Experience as a Mode of Comparative Theology
 What can comparative theologians learn from the practices and ways of being of traditions not their own? Can experiences of and with the contemplative and ritual practices of other traditions become a resource for and a mode of comparative theology?
- 10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM–12:30 PM **Hindu Approaches to Religious Diversity**
- 12:30 PM–1:30 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 2:00 PM–3:30 PM **Reading Scriptures across Traditions: The Qur’an**
- 3:30 PM–4:00 PM Break
- 4:00 PM–6:00 PM Small Group Conversations: Lingering and Unanswered Questions
- 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 7:00 PM–8:00 PM **Conversation on Teaching with Site Visits**

Tuesday, June 5

- 7:00 AM–8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 8:00 AM–8:45 AM Ignatian Contemplation (Optional)
- 9:00 AM–10:30 AM **Comparative Theology, Autobiography, and Spirituality**
- 10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM–12:30 PM **The Practice of Comparative Theology: Scripture, Reason, and Intertextuality**
Focal questions: What does it mean to read scriptures and the religious texts of other traditions together with those of one's own tradition? How is new meaning generated by such juxtaposition and intertextuality? Might it be possible to employ reason to break down boundaries between traditions?
- 12:30 PM–1:30 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 1:30 PM–5:30 PM Hindu Temple of Atlanta (Depart GA Tech Conference Center Promptly at 1:30 PM. Depart Hindu Temple site promptly at 5:00 PM)
- TWO FIRM RULES:** No photography inside temples (outside photos okay) and no shoes inside temples (socks okay). No sleeveless shirts and no shorts. Please dress modestly.
- 6:00 PM– Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

Wednesday, June 6

- 7:00 AM–8:00 AM Breakfast in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 8:00 AM–8:45 AM Guided Meditation (Optional)
- 9:00 AM–10:30 AM **Reading Scriptures across Traditions: Upanishads**
- 10:30 AM–11:00 AM Break
- 11:00 AM–12:30 PM **Integrating TRP and Comparative Theology: A Christian Theological Experiment**
- 12:30 PM–1:30 PM Lunch in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria
- 1:30 PM–3:00 PM **Plenary Conversation**
Questions/Themes Reported back from Small Groups

3:00 PM–3:30 PM Break

3:30 PM–5:00 PM **Brainstorming about Fellows' Teaching and Research Projects
Planning for Atlanta AAR and for Next Summer in Chicago**

6:00 PM–7:00 PM Dinner in GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center Cafeteria

Thursday, June 7

9:00 AM–12:00 PM Free Time in ATL or Travel Home

*A prayer room has been set aside for anyone who needs privacy.