

Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion 2019-2020 Regional Development
Grant Proposal:

**A Publication Project for an Edited Volume with a Workshop
on Interreligious and Interfaith Studies**

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Project Description

A narrative description of the project detailing how the project promises to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members and the work of the region.

This project, which seeks for the AAR Regional Development Grant, has a double purpose. The first is to publish an edited volume selected from presented papers at the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies sessions in the annual conferences of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion (MAR-AAR) in the period from 2015 to 2019. For this publication, the second is to hold a workshop, which will bring together the authors of selected papers for intensive and collaborative discussion to make a coherent edited volume. As this sort of a publication project neither happened in the MAR-AAR nor appeared in the list of “Successful Grants from Prior Years” informed in the AAR Regional Development Grant website, this project is an innovative regional one, which, as detailed throughout this application, promises to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members and the work of the region.

Background & Rationale:

The idea for this project had arisen from the MAR-AAR annual conference sessions of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies in the past 5 years. In 2014, I had proposed then MAR

Executive Board to add a section of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies into the MAR program units. The proposal articulated a timely need of this section to be a platform of scholarly discourse on interreligious and interfaith dimensions of religious diversity and pluralism that become ubiquitous in the globalized world of today. The MAR business meeting in 2014 put my proposal on the agenda and unanimously approved the section to be a new program unit in the MAR-AAR. Thanks to the encouragement of the MAR Executive Board and the active participation of regional scholars, this new section successfully settled down with total 28 presentations in 5 years from 2015 to 2019.

As the founder and the chair of this section, I have considered its sustainable success. I eventually noted the concept of a “community of scholars” as a key to the sustainable success. A “community of scholars” is a new vision that the MAR leadership in recent years put into practice to re-think existing modes of interaction and engagement in order to build a more engaging community in region.¹ In my experience, one of the practical ways to build such a community of scholars is to have a collaborative work among scholars, and as a best collaborative work, I considered this publication project of an edited volume. By an edited volume to build a community of scholars, I do not mean an editorial work left mostly to a few editors, but a team work that assigns all the contributors a role to actively interact and engage in the entire process of publication from peer review of other papers to selection of publishers. In this sense, the present publication project will be a feasible means to promote, as the MAR leadership envisions, scholarly engagement to build a community of scholars, while being a first step for the sustainable success of the MAR Interreligious and Interfaith Studies section.

Previously I edited two volumes as coherent collections of selected papers from national conferences that I had coordinated.² This editorial experience along with my service as the founder and the chair of the MAR section of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies not only made me qualified for this present publication project but also led me further to think of a workshop

¹ To implement this new vision of a “community of scholars,” the MAR leadership in 2018-2019 received the AAR Regional Development Grant; see, “Successful Grants from Prior Years” informed in the AAR Regional Development Grant website at

https://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Programs_Services/Regional_Dev_Grants/2018%20Midatlantic.pdf

² The two volumes are: Kim, Heon C (ed.). 2013. *A Just World: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on Social Justice*. Newcastle UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing; and Kim, Heon C and John Raines (eds.). 2012. *Making Peace In and With the World: The Role of the Gülen Movement in the Task of Eco Justice*. Newcastle UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

that will make the publication of an edited volume happen in a way building a community of scholars.

A publication workshop is planned to bring together the authors of selected papers from presented papers at the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies sessions in the MAR-AAR annual conferences from 2015 to 2019. This gathering aims for intensive and collaborative discussion among the authors to make a coherent volume. It will be a total 6 hour workshop with two 3 hour sessions during the 2020 MAR-AAR Annual Conference. 5 months earlier from this workshop, as informed below “Timeline,” all the selected papers will be sent to all the authors for peer review; each author will be asked to review others’ papers with comments, and to revise their own papers coherently to other papers. In this way, the peer review period will prepare the authors for in-depth and interactive discussion in the workshop. During the two sessions of the workshop, the authors will share their comments to make a coherent volume. In this face-to-face workshop with in-depth discussion, the authors will get to know one another closely, and this knowing of other scholars would provide a solid start to build a community of scholars.

In short, this publication project of an edited volume will benefit directly the scholarly and professional life of the involved AAR members. Simultaneously, its peer review process and workshop for an edited volume will engender an understanding of peer scholars to foster a dynamic and productive scholarly network in a way benefiting the MAR regional work to build a community of scholars.

Potential Contributors (total 8):

The below is the list of 8 potential contributors for this publication project, whose papers were selected out of total 28 papers presented at the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies sessions in the annual conferences of MAR-AAR in the past 5 years. The selection was carefully made based upon the contents of the papers and the presentations. According to the records I wrote as the section chair, the moderators, the respondents and the audience recognized these selected papers outstanding ones for clarity and originality that promise publication. The below list informs the names of potential contributors and the titles of their presented papers that will be invited to participate in this publication project of an edited volume.

Allison Stickley-Miner, Goucher College, allison.stickley-miner@mail.goucher.edu
Interfaith Engagement: How Theology Can Address Our Differences

Christopher D. Denny, St. John's University, dennyc@stjohns.edu
Sacrificial Multiple Religious Belonging: Vedic and Christian Test Cases

Dutch Hoffman, Union Theological Seminary, bw2496@utsnyc.edu
Queer Paradigms As Prophetic Interreligious and Interfaith Engagement

Heon C. Kim, East Stroudsburg University, heonkim@esu.edu
The Zhuangzi: an Interreligious Reading from an Islamic Perspective

Joyce Ann Konigsburg, Notre Dame of Maryland University, konigsburgj@duq.edu
Anticipating the Pedagogical Necessity for Interreligious Literacy in a Religiously Diverse World

Mark Hoover, Princeton Theological Seminary, mark.hoover@ptsem.edu
A Trinitarian Anabaptist Defense of Interfaith Engagement

Remi Alapo, Unification Theological Seminary, New York, remialapo@aol.com
Building Bridges: the Need for Interreligious Dialogue

Rory D. McEntee, Drew University, rmcentee21@gmail.com
Multiple Religious Belonging or No Belonging? Discernment, Religious Depth, and TWW as Spiritual Practice

Although the titles of these selected papers seem less coherent, this necessitates the workshop that, as proposed above, will bring together the authors of the papers for intensive and collaborative discussion to make a coherent edited volume.

In addition to these 8 contributors, the following three scholars will be considered in case of any withdrawal in the above list.

Esther Parajuli, Union Theological Seminary, ep2737@utsnyc.edu
Exploring the Issue of Purity and Pollution in Multiple Religious Belonging

Nicole Melara, Temple University, nmelara@northampton.edu
Dialogue toward a Global Ethic

Ray Silverman, Bryn Athyn College, Ray.Silverman@brynathyn.edu
An Experiential Approach to Comparative Religion

Statement

A statement on how this project or activities may be adapted to other regional groups or a brief explanation of why this project is region-specific

As noted by far, this project is region-specific in every aspect. Due to the limited space here, the following two points were made as a brief explanation of why this project is region-specific.

First, this project is region-specific in that it will bring together the regional scholars for a collaborative work to publish an edited volume. As indicated in the above part of “Potential Contributors,” all participants in this project are the scholars in the Mid-Atlantic Region of AAR. Also, the completion of this project with a tangible result of an edited volume would draw keen attention from many scholars in the region, and thereby secure the sustainable success of the section of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies in the Mid-Atlantic Region of AAR.

Second, this project is designed to be a practical implementation of the MAR regional work for a community of scholars. Last academic year of 2018-2019, the MAR leadership applied to the AAR Regional Development Grant to generate a regional new vision of a “community of scholars,” which was titled “Community Building Workshop Series: Pathway Forward Towards A More Vibrant, Innovative, and Engaging Community of Scholars in the Mid-Atlantic Region.” Having received the grant, this vision has been implemented in the regional projects, activities and program units to encourage a stronger network of scholars to build a community of scholars. The present project is a practical application of this new vision to the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies section of the MAR-AAR. As noted earlier, this publication project for an edited volume with a workshop will require the participants an active and collaborative engagement in the peer review process and the workshop that will take the entire academic year of 2019-2020. By interactively engaging in the project, the participants will get to know one another, and this knowing of others would be a solid start to build a strong network of scholars toward the actualization of a community of scholars.

Just as the MAR Proposal for the AAR Regional Development Grant 2018 has provided a blueprint for this project, this project hopes to offer an easily adaptable showcase to other program units in the MAR-AAR as well as other AAR regions’ program units. Once successfully completed with a published edited manuscript, this project may also provide many program units in AAR regions a feasible idea to build a more vibrant, innovative, and engaging community of scholars.

Timeline for the Completion of the Grant

A clear timeline for the completion of the grant. Please note that projects are to be completed within one year of award announcement, unless other arrangements have been made with the AAR Executive Office

September 2019: Preparation

- Collect all the papers that presented at the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies sessions in the annual conferences of the MAR-AAR in the period from 2015 to 2019.
- Select among the papers for an edited volume, and make a contact list of the authors as the potential contributors.

October 2019: Contact

- Contact individually the authors in the list to invite with detailed information of this publication and workshop project.

November 2019 – March 2020: Peer Review & Reservation

- Send each author all the papers for peer review and ask them to bring their peer reviewed comments to the workshop.
- Reserve dates, times and places of the two sessions of the publication workshop during the 2020 MAR-AAR annual conference.

March 2020: Workshop (as explained below in “Budget,” the regional grant applied herewith will be spent for this workshop) & Final Revision

- In the workshop with two 3 hour sessions, share the peer review comments to make a coherent volume and discuss the necessary steps for publication (title, table of contents, information about publishers, writing a manuscript proposal, etc); also discuss about the future of the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies section focusing on how to build a community of scholars in this field.
- The author’s final revision of the paper in light of the peer review comments in the workshop by the due of May 1st 2020.
- Make a contact list of publishers.

April 2020 – May 2020: Publishing Process

- Contact to the listed publishers to find a suitable one for this project.
- Write a manuscript proposal based upon the revised final version of each author's paper and in light of the guideline of the publisher.

June 2020 – August 2020: Completion

- Complete a manuscript proposal and submit it to the publisher.
- Complete the manuscript and submit it to the publisher.

Budget

A detailed budget, including office expenses, travel expenses, honoraria, **stipend**, and other expenses. Please note that institutional overhead costs may not be included in this budget.

This publication project of an edited volume with a workshop, which will take the entire period of the grant cycle from September 2019 to August 2020, seeks for “One-Time Funds with Potential for Ongoing Impact.” As noted throughout this application, it is an innovative regional project, which has considerable potential for ongoing impact to the MAR-AAR. The generous support of the AAR Regional Development Grant will determinately help us realize the full potential of this project. We ask the full amount (\$4000) of the grant for:

Stipend for 8 participants in the project:

\$500 for each participant x 8 = \$4000 total

Budget Narrative:

The stipend of \$500 that will be given to each participant is for the attendance in the two sessions of the publication workshop for an edited volume. This amount includes travel expenses, lodging (for the 2019 MAR-AAR Annual Conference, a hotel discounted rate was \$149 plus taxes per night per person at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, New Jersey, the conference site), conference registration fee (\$135 for the 2019 MAR-AAR Annual Conference), and personal needs. Since each participant will join the workshop from diverse areas of the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is hard to calculate exact number of travel expenses, and therefore the stipend is

considered to let the individual participant cover her/his own travel expenses from the stipend. It is also considered that the use of the conference site for the workshop instead of the arrangement of another place will lower the necessary costs (ex: in addition to meals and beverages that will be provided for the conference registers, the meeting room for the workshop will be reserved in the conference hotel at no additional cost), while encouraging the participants to attend conference sessions in their free time from the workshop (this will help increase attendance in the regional meetings that both the MAR-AAR and the AAR continually make every effort).

The stipend would serve to encourage the invited participants to actively engage in this innovative regional project of an edited volume that will take the whole academic year of 2019-2020. The active engagement is one of the primary goals of this project, which lays the foundation of a strong scholarly network to build a community of scholars.