Saturday, 1:00-3:30 PM
Convention Center 321

Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities

What is the status of the job market, within and outside of the academy, for those holding or pursuing graduate degrees in religious studies and theology? In order to encourage graduate students to realistically diagnose and strategically respond to a difficult academic market, the Graduate Student Committee is dedicating this year’s Special Topics Forum to “Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities.” This event will feature panelists who will present on 1) the true state of the job market, 2) strategies for successfully navigating these realities, and 3) how to pursue opportunities both within and outside academia toward the end of vocationally fulfilling employment. Panelists will include grad students, recently hired professors, active search committee members, and PhD’s enjoying extra-academic vocations. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in conversations with the panelists, addressing particular issues and interests. Please join us for what promises to be an important and informative time!

Panelists:
Kristy Slominski, University of California, Santa Barbara
Charles Mathewes, University of Virginia
Maren Wood, Lilli Research Group, Washington, D.C.
R. Marie Griffith, Washington University, St. Louis
John R. Fitzmier, American Academy of Religion
Kate Ott, Drew University
Presider: Matthew Puffer, University of Virginia

Sunday, 9:00-11:30 AM
Sheraton Inner Harbor – Severn II-III

Cultivating Leadership for the New Academy and Civic Engagement: Interrogating Leadership Skills, Styles, and Contexts

The aim of the Leadership Series is to facilitate the personal and professional development of graduate students through leadership development by providing them with resources, strategies, professional networks, and practical skills that will enable them to face new and evolving leadership challenges.

Public Leadership, Private Religion: Community-Based Advocacy and the Role of Religious and Theological Language
Emily Michelle Ledder, Emory University

Taking Initiative: Skills for Making Your Own Leadership Opportunities in Academia
Kristy Slominski, University of California, Santa Barbara

Prophetic Leadership in the Wake of Tragedy
Linwood Blizzard, Boston University

Understanding Leadership Styles in a Multi-Cultural Society
Remi Alapo, UTS - The Interfaith Seminary

Ignatian Pedagogy and the Cultivation of Graduate Student Leaders
Kyle Schenkewitz, Saint Louis University

Presider: Elonda Clay, Lutheran School of Theology
The Student Lounge is open to from Sat.-Mon. 8:00 am-5:00 pm. 1-hour Student Lounge Roundtables will be held throughout the day. Refreshments are often available! This year the Student Lounge is in Sheraton Inner Harbor-Severn II-III.

**SATURDAY in the Student Lounge:**

**9-10 am, Graduate Student Business Meeting and New Member Welcome**
All student members are invited to share their input!

**10-11 am, Digital Tools for Dissertation Writers**
Jennifer Adler, Vanderbilt University

**11am - noon, Employment Beyond the Academy**
Maren Wood, Lilli Research Group
Nathan Schneider, Brooklyn, NY

**4-5 pm, How to Thrive in Grad School: The Tips You Won’t Find in your Departmental Handbook**
Raj Balkaran, University of Calgary

**5-6 pm, Grant-Writing 101: Crafting a Successful Proposal**
Elizabeth Mary Rohlman, University of Calgary

**MONDAY in the Student Lounge:**

**ONLINE ACADEMY SERIES**

**9-10 am, Expanding the Classroom: Online Tools to Enhance Learning**
Justin Tanis, Graduate Theological Union

**10-11 am, Rewarding Online Teaching**
David Walsh, Arizona State University

**11–noon, Blogging to Learn in Religious Studies Classrooms**
John Soboslai and Martha Smith Roberts, UC Santa Barbara

**1-2 pm, Leveraging Web-Based Technologies for Teaching in the Humanities**
Jeremy Kidwell, University of Edinburgh

**2-3 pm, Publishing Your Research Online – for Your Peers and for the Public**
Joseph Blankholm, Columbia University

**3-4 pm, Using Social Media to Develop Your Academic Brand**
Roundtable led by Krista Dalton, Columbia University

**3-4 pm, Tips for Finding Academic Employment: Beyond Publish or Perish**
W. David Hall, Centre College and Devorah Schoenfeld, Loyola University

**4-5 pm, Exploring Pedagogies for Religious Studies Educators Within and Outside of Academia**
James Dennis LoRusso, Emory University
Sabrina Misirlall, Montclair State University

**SUNDAY in the Student Lounge:**

**1-2:30 pm, Publishing Options for Grad Students**
Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University
Aaron W. Hughes, University of Rochester

*Be sure to fill out a feedback form at the end of each event you attend. The Graduate Student Committee appreciates your honest feedback!"