

Special Topics Forum on
**Dehumanized vs. Holistic Scholars:
How Academia Impacts Our Lives**



**Undergraduate Workshops
at Georgia State University**

Saturday, November 21, 4:00- 6:30 pm

Location: Marriott-A702 (Atrium Level)

Presiders:

B. J. Parker, Baylor University

Bhakti Mamtara, University of Florida

Panel Description: Scholars in academia at all levels perform many roles such as teacher, researcher, author, counselor, advocate, and activist, to name a few. In addition to the numerous hats that we wear in the academy, we also juggle personal identities such as being parents, partners, friends, and members of communities. Mediating the pressures of being productive and the desire to maintain one's humanity and beliefs often leaves the individual confused, diminished, and/or fractured. How does one go about incorporating the various components of the self (ethics, beliefs, family, personal and professional goals, etc.) into a balanced whole? What does a "holistic scholar" or "holistic scholarship" look like? Which aspects of the discipline support a holistic self, and which undermine such an ideal? This panel features a range of scholars interested in exploring the tensions, resolutions, and possibilities that lie between the "holistic" and "dehumanizing" poles of our work.

Panelists:

Laine Scales, Baylor University

Brian Palmer, Uppsala University

Donna Yarri, Alvernia University

Joshua Canzona, Georgetown University

Nicholas Werse, Baylor University

Sunday, November 22, 2:00-5:00 pm

Location: GSU Religious Studies Dept.,
17th floor, 25 Park Place

*Meet at 1:30 pm at the AAR Membership Desk
if you would like to walk as a group.*

In coordination with the AAR's Graduate Student Committee, Georgia State University's Religious Studies Department invites undergraduates to attend an afternoon of free workshops on its campus, a 10-minute walk from the Convention Center. The event will start with a session from 2:00-3:15 pm on "**Navigating the Discipline: Understanding and Making the Most of the Study of Religion.**" A **meet-and-greet reception** will follow from 3:15 to 3:45 pm. The event will conclude with a second workshop on "**Applying Skills of Religious and Theological Studies after Undergrad.**" This session will focus on strategies and processes of applying to graduate school—in both religion and other fields. It will also include tips on how to market skills learned in the study of religion to pursue other career opportunities. All undergraduates are welcome to attend these free sessions. For questions, contact kslominski@gsu.edu.

Organizers: Kristy Slominski, Brett Esaki, Molly Bassett, Rupa Pillai

Student Lounge Roundtables - *Sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee*

The Student Lounge, located in *Hyatt-Hanover A (Exhibit Level)* is open to all students from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Drinks are often available! 90-minute roundtables will be held throughout the day on topics related to professional development.

SATURDAY in the Student Lounge

9:00-10:30 am

How to Establish and Maintain a Professional Online Presence

Emily D. Crews, *University of Chicago*

10:30 am - noon

Dealing with The Dossier:

A Proactive Approach to Documenting Your Teaching

Raj Balkaran, *University of Calgary*

1:00-2:30 pm

Conquering Qualifying Exams

Bhakti Mamtora, *University of Florida*

4:00-6:30 pm

See reverse side for panel on

**Dehumanized vs. Holistic Scholars:
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SUNDAY in the Student Lounge:

9:00-9:30 am

***Student Business Meeting
and New Member Welcome***

All student members are invited to share their input!

SUNDAY (continued)

9:30-11:00 am

Making Grading and Assessment Work for You

Joshua Canzona, *Georgetown University*

11:00 am-12:30 pm

**Double-dipping,
or Maximizing Your Time**

Dr. Donna Yarri, *Alvernia University*

1:00-2:30 pm

**Balancing Graduate School with Life:
Work, Life, Identity, and Family**

Andrew Ike Shepardson, *Univ. of Toronto*

Elissa Cutter, *Saint Louis University*

2:30-4:00 pm

Writing in Community:

**How a Writing Group Can Enhance
Your Thesis or Dissertation**

David Cramer, Jenny Howell,

Jordan Rowan Fannin, *Baylor University*

4:00-5:30 pm

Networking Like the Job is in Hand

Candace Mixon, *University of*

North Carolina-Chapel Hill

MONDAY in the Student Lounge:

9:00-10:30 am

**Humility, Solidarity, and Mutuality:
Three Holistic Methodological Goals for
Comparative Religious Study**

Sarah E. Robinson-Bertoni,
Claremont Graduate University

10:30 am – noon

**Alt-Ac Employment:
Hiring from an HR Perspective**

Jessica Lee Ehinger,
St. Peter's College, Oxford

1:00-2:30 pm

The Dissertation Distance Dilemma

Brandon Turner,
Catholic University of America

2:30-4:00 pm

Kickstarter and Pinterest?

**Creating a Web of Support for
Dissertation Writing Through Popular
Social Media Technology**

Michelle Mueller,
Graduate Theological Union

*Thank you for participating in events planned
by the Graduate Student Committee.
Please fill out an evaluation form,
as we appreciate your feedback!*