



Fostering Excellence
In the Study of Religion

A Quarterly Newsletter for AAR Graduate Students
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In This Issue

STUDENT DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS OPEN

The process for nominating the Student Director (SD) was amended slightly at the board meeting last week in Atlanta. Interested candidates for the position of 2012-2013 Student Director (position runs from January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2013) should submit their materials no later than December 1, 2010, to the current Student Director to be reviewed by the Graduate Student Committee, who will then make four recommendations to the AAR Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will select two candidates to be voted on by the AAR membership. Interested candidates must have their coursework completed by the beginning of their term (January 2012), and submit a brief bio, statement and CV (position description and complete submission details available [here](#)). Questions? Please feel free to contact the current Student Director, [Elizabeth V. Lawson](#).

ANNUAL SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

The annual season of regional meetings is quickly approaching and now is the time to prepare. Regional meetings provide great opportunities to present papers, learn about cutting-edge research and meet fellow scholars the field. Plan on attending one (or more) of these excellent events now!

[Eastern International](#)

Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY
May 6-7
Deadline for Proposals: Jan 15

[Midwest](#)

[Mid-Atlantic and New England-Maritimes](#)

Cosponsored by both regions
Hyatt Hotel
New Brunswick, NJ
March 17-18
Theme: "Religion and Embodiment"

[Pacific Northwest](#)

1. [Student Director Nominations Open](#)
2. [Annual Spring Regional Meetings](#)
3. [Pacific Northwest Regional Awards](#)
4. [Purdue Summer Seminar Call for Participants](#)
5. [St. Thomas Summer Seminar Call for Participants](#)
6. [International Dissertation Research Grants](#)
7. [Coalition on the Academic Workforce](#)
8. [Facebook Group Approaching 1000 Members](#)

Augustana College
Rock Island, IL
April 1-2
Theme: "Teaching Religion"
Deadline for Proposals: Jan 2

Eastern Washington University
Spokane, WA
May 13-15
Deadline for Proposals: Jan 24

Rocky Mountain-Great Plains

Iiff School of Theology
Denver, CO
March 18-19

Southeast

Galt House Hotel
Louisville, KY
March 4-6

Southwest

Marriott Hotel, DFW Airport
Irving, TX
March 4-6

Upper Midwest

Luther Seminary
St Paul, MN
April 1-2
Deadline for Proposals: Dec 15

Western

Whittier College
Whittier, CA
March 26-28
Theme: "Current Religious
Thinking"

9. [Spring Conference Announcements Sought](#)

Contact Us

J. Andrew Edwards, SOS Editor
andy.edwards@utoronto.ca

American Academy of Religion
825 Houston Mill Rd. NE
Ste. 300
Atlanta, GA 30329-4205

Tel: 404-727-3049
Fax: 404-727-7959

www.aarweb.org

Pacific Northwest Regional Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals who won awards for their papers at the Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting in May 2010:

- First Prize (undergraduate): **Sarah Christiansen** (University of Lethbridge), "The Secrets of My Prison-House: The Return of Repressed Catholicism in Hamlet"
- Second Prize (undergraduate): **Michael Zosel** (Seattle Pacific University), "The Lord, God of Israel: The Problem of Zionism in Jewish and Palestinian Liberation Theology"
- Graduate Award: **Scott Ables** (George Fox University), "Method, Motivation, and Trinitarian Thinking in Jürgen Moltmann"

SUMMER SEMINAR OPPORTUNITIES

Purdue Summer Seminar on Perceptual, Moral, and Religious Skepticism

Recent PhDs and ABD graduate students in philosophy, theology, psychology, or cognitive science are invited to apply for the 2011 Purdue Summer Seminar on Perceptual, Moral, and Religious Skepticism to be held at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN from June 8th to June 24th, 2011. The seminar will be directed by Michael Bergmann (Purdue) and the guest speakers will be Justin Barrett (Oxford) and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

(Duke).

The topics of the seminar are:

- **EPISTEMOLOGY:** The epistemology of perceptual, moral, and religious belief
- **SKEPTICISM:** Responses to skepticism about perceptual, moral, and religious belief
- **DISAGREEMENT:** Moral and religious disagreement as grounds for unbelief
- **EVOLUTION:** Evolutionary accounts of moral and religious belief as reasons for skepticism

Participants will receive a stipend of \$5,000 from which they will pay for their travel, food, and lodging. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2010. For more information, including information on how to apply, go to: <http://www.knowinginreligionandmorality.com/seminar.html>.

This seminar is funded by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

St. Thomas Summer Seminar in the Philosophy of Religion

Recent PhDs and current graduate students are invited to apply to participate in the 2011 St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology, a three-week long seminar organized by Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers) and Michael Rota (University of St. Thomas). The seminar will be held at the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota, from June 13th to July 1st, 2011. Participants will receive a stipend of \$2900, as well as room and board.

Topics and speakers:

The Fine-tuning Argument

Robin Collins (Messiah College)

John Hawthorne (Oxford)

Bradley Monton (Colorado-Boulder)

Luke Barnes (Dept of Physics, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich)

Evolutionary Explanations of Religious Belief

Justin Barrett (Oxford)

Jesse Bering (Queen's University)

John Greco (Saint Louis University)

Divine Hiddenness

J. L. Schellenberg (Mount Saint Vincent)

Peter van Inwagen (Notre Dame)

The Problem of Evil

Paul Draper (Purdue)

Eleonore Stump (Saint Louis University)

The deadline for receipt of applications is December 1, 2010. For more

information, including information on how to apply, go to:
<http://www.stthomas.edu/philosophy/templeton/project.html>

This seminar program is funded by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

International Dissertation Research Grants

The International Dissertation Research Grants Program is designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located. Grants are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses. (Grant monies may not be used for tuition, computer hardware, or meals.) This is a competitive program: applications will be reviewed by a jury of senior scholars appointed by the AAR President. The Academy will make two \$5,000 grants during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Eligibility

Applicants for International Dissertation Research Grants must have been AAR student members for at least two years and must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree *except* the dissertation. Recipients of International Dissertation Research Grants are not eligible to make subsequent applications. The Academy will make Grants only if there is a sufficiently diverse and rich pool of applicants.

Application Materials

Candidates must submit the following by December 1, 2010:

- a letter of application (no longer than 3 pages) that describes their research project and how support for on-site research is critical for the completion of their dissertation
- *curriculum vitae*
- proposed budget and project timeline
- letter of support from their dissertation supervisor

More details are available [here](#) in the Grants Section of the AAR website.

Coalition on the Academic Workforce

The AAR is a member of the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW), a group of higher education associations, disciplinary associations, and faculty organizations committed to addressing issues associated with faculty working conditions and their effect on college and university students in the United States.

Recently the CAW has been focusing on contingent, adjunct, and part-time teachers and researchers. These are colleagues who are off the tenure-track, including faculty members employed either full- or part-time, graduate students remunerated as teaching assistants or employed in other roles, and researchers and post-doctoral fellows.

As a part of its advocacy effort, the CAW has developed a survey regarding course assignments, salaries, benefits, and general working conditions of contingent faculty members and instructors. We invite all AAR members employed off the tenure-track to take the survey, which will be available until November 30. CAW's website, featuring a link to the survey, is [located here](#).

Facebook Group Approaching 1000 Members

The current membership of the [Student Members and Friends of the American Academy of Religion](#) currently stands at just under 1000. Both *Speaking of Students* and the Facebook group are initiatives of the Graduate Student Committee aimed at increasing awareness of current events of interest to students within the guild. The advantage of the Facebook group is that updates are in real-time, rather than published quarterly. Furthermore, anyone can post an announcement or begin a discussion. In order to augment the services provided to you with your AAR student membership, consider joining this Facebook group today!

Spring Conference Announcements Sought

If you are involved with the coordination of an upcoming student-led conference, please [contact the editor](#) for free publicity in the upcoming edition of *Speaking of Students*. SOS is distributed to each student member of AAR, thus ensuring that your announcement will enjoy a broad readership.