



Fostering Excellence  
In the Study of Religion

A Quarterly Newsletter for AAR Graduate Students  
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## WELCOME TO NEW GSC MEMBERS

The Graduate Student Committee would like to welcome its newest committee members who began January 1:

- **Elaine Padilla** (Drew University)
- **Ben Sanders** (Iliff School of Theology)
- **Kristy Slominski** (University of California, Santa Barbara).

The Graduate Student Committee addresses the needs and concerns of graduate students and promotes their professional development and participation in the American Academy of Religion and the academy as a whole. If you are interested in serving on the GSC in the future, feel free to contact the current Student Director, [Elizabeth V. Lawson](#).

## INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Graduate Student Committee offers its congratulations to the following individuals for winning the 2010-11 International Dissertation Research Grants:

- **Mudgha Yeolekar** (Arizona State University): for research at the Dattatreya temples, main libraries and Audumbar trees within Pune, India
- **Mashal Saif** (Duke University): for research in Sana'a, Yeman and Lahore, Pakistan

The annual grants, designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires them to travel outside of the country in which

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their school or university is located, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses.

If you are interested in applying for a 2011-12 IDRG, applications are accepted between August 16 and December 1. See the [AAR website](#) for more information and keep posted to *SOS* and other AAR bulletins for upcoming announcements.

## Annual Meeting Online Call for Papers opens February 1

Online registration for the 2011 Annual Meeting in San Francisco (November 19-22) opens on February 15, but the OP3 paper proposal system opens earlier on February 1. Be sure to check the AAR website for your program units of interest and their respective calls for papers ([online now](#)). While November may seem far away, preparations are beginning now...so don't be left behind!

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## Spring Regional Meetings Just Around the Corner

The annual season of regional meetings is already upon us. Regional meetings provide great opportunities to present papers, learn about cutting-edge research and meet fellow scholars the field. Click on the relevant link below for more information about registering. *Note: there are still a few more days to submit paper proposals to the Pacific Northwest meeting!*

### [Eastern International](#)

Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY  
May 6-7

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

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

### [Midwest](#)

Augustana College  
Rock Island, IL  
April 1-2  
Theme: "Teaching Religion"

### [Pacific Northwest](#)

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

### [Western](#)

Whittier College

J. Andrew Edwards, *SOS* Editor  
[andy.edwards@utoronto.ca](mailto: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](http://www.aarweb.org)

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

## **ADDITIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCES**

Among other things, spring is the time for graduate student conferences. Here are listed four of such conferences, two of which still have open calls for papers. Even without an opportunity to present a paper, however, attending such events allows one to meet colleagues in the field and sub-field, learn about upcoming publications, and create and sustain working relationships that may last one's career (and even, perhaps, help one land a job!).

### **Religion and Power: Unleashing the Force**

**Indiana University-Bloomington**  
**February 24-25, 2011**

The Religious Studies Department at Indiana University invites papers for a graduate symposium investigating the intersections of power and religion. We want to explore and question this relationship in all its complexities and welcome interdisciplinary interpretations of the subject. The category of power should be considered broadly to include operational energy, people in authority, capacity, coercion, the work of theorists like Foucault, superpowers, spiritual animation of the physical world, physical animation of the spiritual world, and other obvious and obscure iterations of the category.

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### **Crossing Boundaries: Formation, Reception and Interpretation of Religious Texts**

**Concordia University**  
**Montreal, QC**  
**February 24-25, 2011**

This year's conference theme invites proposals, *from both students and faculty*, from disciplines that work in one way or another with the formation, reception and interpretation of religious texts. As a central focus in the Department of Theological Studies at Concordia, *the purpose of this conference is to question the traditional boundaries of religious texts, and to bring together different disciplines, religious traditions, methodologies, and objects of study in a spirit of shared learning and dialogue*. We encourage contributions from all relevant areas of the Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts, and other related community groups. Creative, interactive and PowerPoint presentations are highly encouraged, as are presentations that are pedagogical and "outside of the box".

**Submission Guidelines:** Proposals are to be no more than one page. To facilitate the blind-review process, the name, address, telephone number, e-

mail address, university affiliation and level of study of the presenter(s) must also be included on a separate cover page. No personal information that identifies the potential presenter should be included anywhere else on the proposal, *except on the cover page*. Any special requests or needs for audio-visual equipment must also be indicated on the cover page. **Proposals should be received no later than 11:59pm Eastern time, January 21st, 2011.** Once received, proposals will be evaluated through a refereed, blind-review process, in consultation with the conference selection committee. Notification of acceptances will be emailed by January 31st, 2011. Proposals must be submitted via e-mail to [tsgsa@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:tsgsa@alcor.concordia.ca). Please indicate "conference submission" in the subject line. Submitted proposals should receive a confirmation email within a couple days. Selected presentations will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation, followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. However, it may also be possible to accommodate longer presentations up to an hour. Please indicate how much time will be needed on the proposal cover page. Once confirmed, participants are expected to respect the time limits.

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## **The Seventh Annual Archbishop Iakovos Graduate Students Conference in Patristic Studies**

**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology,  
Brookline, MA  
March 10 -12, 2011**

The Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology is pleased to announce its seventh annual Archbishop Iakovos Graduate Student Conference in Patristic Studies on March 10-12, 2011. The purpose of the conference is to bring graduate students together from the fields of Patristic Studies, Historical Theology, and the History of Christianity in Late Antiquity in a collaborative and theological setting to hear and discuss peer research.

We encourage all doctoral and masters students with research interests in Patristic Studies, Historical Exegesis or Theology, or the History of Christianity in Late Antiquity to submit a paper abstract of approximately 250 words. Topics relating to eastern Christianity, including Syriac-speaking Christianity, are particularly encouraged. Each presenter will have up to 20 minutes to present, followed by a respondent's prepared comments and group discussion. Please send abstracts to Dr. Bruce Beck at [pappaspatristic@comcast.net](mailto:pappaspatristic@comcast.net) by **January 15, 2011**. You will be informed about the status of your paper proposal on or before February 1st. The deadline for completed papers for distribution to your respondent is **March 1st**.

For more information about registration, financial aid and accommodations, please see the official [call for papers](#) online. *Note: there is an important pre-registration deadline of February 1.*

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## **Confessional Commitments in Pluralistic Publics**

**Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture**  
**University of Virginia**  
**Charlottesville, VA**  
**April 15-16, 2011**

What role does religion play in the increasingly pluralistic publics of the United States? What theological, ethical, or cultural sources illuminate the relationships obtaining between religious believers and America's varied social landscape—business, legal, medical, political, academic and otherwise—as it undergoes evolutions involving secularization, deprivatization, globalization, urbanization, etc.? How are we to understand the practices, texts, and discourses of religious individuals and communities inhabiting secular or post-secular life in America? How are these expressions manifested in contemporary institutions and networks? How, particularly, can those working in academic settings negotiate these relationships and teach students who will have to do likewise?

The Virginia Graduate Colloquium invites graduate students to present their research related to these questions on panels moderated by UVa faculty.

Proposals in the form of a 250-word abstract are due **January 22, 2011**. Notifications of acceptance will be made by February 1, 2011. Papers will be presented on April 16, 2011 in a colloquium that will incorporate workshops and presentations on pedagogy in a pluralistic academic environment. Final copies of papers, not to exceed 2000 words, must be received by **April 2**.

For more information, see the complete [call for papers](#) online.

**POSTDOCTORAL OPPORTUNITY IN JAPANESE  
BUDDHISM**

**Shinjo Ito Postdoctoral Fellowship in Japanese Buddhism**  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
**Deadline: February 15, 2011**

With the generous support of the Shinnyo-en Foundation, the Center for Japanese Studies at UC Berkeley is pleased to invite applications for a one-year postdoctoral research fellowship. The term of the appointment is July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. The Fellowship is intended to foster the academic careers of recent Ph.D.'s, providing time to pursue their research. Fellows will deliver a public lecture on their research as part of the Center for Japanese Studies Colloquium Series. Fellows will be provided with office space, library privileges, and a stipend of approximately \$40,000 plus benefits.

Applicants must have their doctoral degrees in hand by June 30, 2011, and must be no more than six years out of their doctorate. Candidates who do not yet hold a Ph.D. but expect to by June 30, 2011, should supply a letter from their home institution confirming their schedule to completion.

Applicants whose research interests are primarily in the areas of Buddhism outside Japan should apply to the Shinjo Ito Postdoctoral Fellowship in Buddhist Studies, administered through the Center for Buddhist Studies,

rather than to the Shinjo Ito Fellowship in Japanese Buddhism.

All application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be postmarked on or before **February 15, 2011**. Awards will be announced in March 2011. For more information, see the department's [postdoctoral page](#) online.

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR LATEST NEWS**

*Speaking of Students* is sent to all student members of the American Academy of Religion. However, this issue has also been sent to 2010 student members who have not yet renewed for 2011. If you would like to continue receiving *SOS*, as well as the many other benefits that come with membership in the AAR, please remember to [renew](#) soon!

## **CONTACT THE EDITOR**

If you are involved with the coordination of an upcoming student-led conference or have some other opportunity for students about which you'd like to spread the word, 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.