



Speaking of Students

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AAR Student Lounge Roundtable

The Graduate Student Committee invites you to share your hard-earned wisdom with other students in the Student Lounge Roundtable series. We are looking for individuals who will be responsible for developing a topic and directing an hour-long conversation or workshop about a practical dimension of graduate studies. A variety of formats are welcome. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Employment
- Non-Academic Employment
- Publishing tips
- Networking skills
- Mentoring relationships
- Job applications (cover letters, CVs, asking for recommendation letters, interview skills)
- Presenting research to the public
- Teaching (online teaching, teaching portfolios, syllabus design, teaching technology, etc.)

Send a brief proposal (~150 words) and a CV to [Rachel Schneider Vlachos](#) by **May 1, 2013**. Please indicate if you are willing to co-present with another graduate student if your topic aligns with another proposal. Roundtable time slots are flexible.

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Account Information

Name: **[fname] [lname]**
Member ID: **[aar_id]**

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[825 Houston Mill Rd. NE](#)

See [examples from last year's meeting](#).

Call for Proposals: GSC Leadership Development Series

The Graduate Student Committee invites individual paper proposals that explore leadership development as well as the intersections of religion and leadership. We are particularly interested in the leadership development of graduate students and the practice, learning, and study of leadership in the field of religion. We encourage proposals that examine the following areas:

- Leadership Development
- Innovative Forms of Academic Leadership for the New Academy
- Public Leadership
- International perspectives on Leadership
- Bridging Pathways for Leadership from Underrepresented Scholar Groups (Differently -abled Persons, Racial Ethnic Minorities, LGBTIQ, and Women)
- Leadership Ethics
- Opportunities and barriers for learning leadership in the fields of Religion and Theology

Presenters may also consider: What are the possible relationships between Religious Studies or Theological Studies and Leadership Studies? How does worldview inform leadership practices? How is the authority of religion invoked in leadership discourses? Is there any connection between leadership and spirituality?

Send a brief proposal (~150 words) and a CV to [Elonda Clay](#) by **May 1, 2013**.

STUDENTS OF COLOR

Subsidies Available for the Annual Meetings

AAR's Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee provides registration waivers to AAR student members of color who are presenting papers at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

If you are a student of color on the AAR Annual Meeting program and who are not receiving institutional support, you are eligible to have your registration fees waived (or reimbursed). To apply for this assistance, please complete the short [questionnaire](#) no later than **May 19, 2013**.

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[www.aarweb.org](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Online Collection of Professional Development Resources

Wondering how to improve your CV? Mystified about the job market? Looking for advice on how to improve your relationship with your advisors? "Religion Scholars in Progress" is a free online collection of professional development resources gathered especially for graduate students within religious studies. It is an effort to bring together the most useful links from the many advice columns and resources available online. It will be updated over time to reflect new materials and evolving student needs. [Visit the collection.](#)

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Pacific Northwest Region

The Pacific Northwest Regional Conference is fast approaching! It will take place at Seattle University from **May 3–5, 2013**. In conjunction with the conference, students are invited to the Student Meet & Greet, an informal gathering taking place on Friday, May 3, 2013 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm at "[Jimmy's](#)," which is located at the Silver Cloud Hotel, 1100 Broadway Seattle, WA 98122. RSVP by emailing your regional student representative [Raj Balkaran](#).

Rocky Mountains and Great Plains

The Department of Religious Studies at the University of Denver cordially invites you to submit paper proposals for the one-day "Religion in the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains" conference, to be held Saturday, **June 22, 2013** at the University of Denver with the support of an AAR Regional Development Grant. For more information, [see the website](#).

Journal of Religion, Identity, and Politics

The students of the joint Ph.D. program in Religious and Theological Studies at the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology invite you to submit articles for publication. The journal is published by graduate students and only publishes graduate student work. Visit [the website](#) for more information.

Southeastern Region

The student membership was active as usual at the annual SECSOR meeting, March 15–17 in Greenville, SC, presenting 67 papers across

the conference's 60 sessions. And in a special session on "Preparing for the Job Market" moderated by Brett McCarty (Duke Divinity School), panelists Sally Holt (Belmont University) and David Rutledge and Tim Wardle (both of Furman University) shared best practices from their experiences on both sides of the job search process. Congratulations to the winners of the AAR and SBL graduate student paper awards, Michael Graziano ("The Supreme Court and Narratives of American Religious History") and Eric Thomas ("The Souls of Black Gay Folk: a Same Gender Loving Postcolonial [Re]velation of 6:9–11").

Mark your calendars for the inaugural Duke Graduate Conference in Theology, to be held **October 4–5, 2013**, at Duke Divinity School. The conference will involve a critical assessment of recent retrievals of tradition(s) in a variety of theological fields. A call for papers and plenary speaker will be announced soon. Please do consider joining us for this event, as one of our primary goals is to foster a sense of collegiality among graduate students from a variety of programs and disciplines. You can contact us at: dukegct@gmail.com.

The 2013 Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture was held April 5-6. Plenary speakers Jeffrey P. Bishop, Andrea C. White, and grad student papers addressed the topic, "Reckoning With Death: Humanity, Mortality and the Ends of Life." More info at [this website](#).

The 12th Annual Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium on "Politics of Religion" was held February 22–24. Keynote speaker, Aaron Hughes spoke on "The Politics of Theory and Method." Details can be found [online](#).

[A symposium on "Death"](#) was held at Georgia State University, Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, December 14–15, 2012.

The Buddhist Studies Group at the University of Virginia hosted "Buddhist Traditions: New Directions," September 14–16. You can stream the conference events by visiting the [Buddhist Studies Group at UVa website](#).

Student Regional Facebook Pages

If you haven't done so already, stay connected with the students in your region by "liking" their facebook page.

[Student Members of the AAR EIR](#)

[Student Members of the AAR Pacific Northwest Region](#)

[Student Members of the AAR and SBL Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region](#)

[Student Members of the AAR Southeast Region](#)

[Student Members of the AAR Upper Midwest Region](#)

[Student Members of the AAR Western Region](#)

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The British Sociological Association-Sociology of Religion Study Group

We are delighted to announce that the 2013 Peter B. Clarke Memorial Prize essay competition is now open. Working in partnership with the Journal of Contemporary Religion, we welcome essay submissions from postgraduates on any aspect of contemporary religion written from a sociological perspective. The deadline has now been extended to **June 15, 2013**. Additional information is [available online](#).

The 59th Annual IRAS Summer Conference

The conference is taking place in Silver Bay, New York **July 27 to August 3, 2013**. The theme is "Scientific, Spiritual, and Moral Challenges in Solving the World Food Crisis." More information about the conference can be found [online](#).
