



# Speaking of Students

American Academy of Religion

In This Issue

## Note from the Student Director, Kristy Slominski



This is a particularly exciting time in the AAR calendar as many of us prepare to attend the Annual Meeting and submit proposals to regional AAR conferences. I am very proud of the wide range of Annual Meeting events organized by the Graduate Student Committee this year, including a panel session of senior scholars on the topic of Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation and our Student Lounge Roundtables Series. Each year, we try to adapt our programming to student needs and interests, so please share your ideas for next year by contacting us or attending our Graduate Student Business Meeting and New Member Welcome on Sunday morning of the conference. I have been very proud of our organization as a whole for taking on issues that especially concern students, including the issues of contingent faculty, alt-ac employment, and mentoring. You are encouraged to use the online program book to explore the many sessions marked "Especially for Students" and "Focus on Employment."

For those attending the Annual Meeting, I'd like to share a few tips:

- Wear comfortable shoes and bring snacks.
- E-mail a scholar in your field and arrange to meet for coffee during the conference.
- Stay for the business meetings after panels and suggest a topic for

## Table of Contents

1. [Note from Kristy Slominski](#)
2. [Annual Meeting Student Events](#)
3. [Regional Meeting Call for Papers](#)
4. [Find AAR Students on Facebook!](#)

---

[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)

---

their next call for papers.

- Introduce yourself to the panelists after a session in your research area.
- Hang out in front of the Book Exhibit. It is amazing how many people you will run into there!
- Talk to publishers about your research to get a sense for which ones might be a good fit.
- Attend the evening receptions to network and enjoy free appetizers.
- Visit the student lounge for a roundtable session on professional development.

For more tips, see the [New Members Guide to the Annual Meeting](#).

## STUDENT EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Graduate Student Committee (GSC) is excited to offer a wide range of programs exclusively for graduate students at this year's Annual AAR/SBL Meeting in San Diego. Headlining this weekend of events is the Special Topics Forum on **Saturday from 1:00–3:30pm**. This year's forum is titled *Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation* and will consider such timely questions as: Are scholars in the academic study of religion "well trained"? For what are students being trained? Through which avenues does scholarly formation take place? How does graduate training shape scholarly identity and career options? How do mentoring relationships factor into graduate training? These concerns relate to the larger task of how we might envision the relationship of graduate training to the rest of the academy and how a critical reevaluation of our current practices of scholarly formation could be used to shape the future of our discipline. Panelists include Thomas Tweed, David Harrington Watt, Kathryn Lofton, Vasudha Narayanan, Deborah Creamer, and Jeff Wilson. We hope that you will join us for what promises to be a lively and insightful conversation.

Throughout the weekend the GSC will also be hosting a series of Student Lounge Roundtables. These roundtables were a great success last year, and we had far more proposals this year than we could fit into the time frame of the conference. This year we are excited to offer eighteen different sessions between Saturday morning and Monday afternoon. Four sessions will address various creative ways to find alternative employment outside of academia. A group of three sessions will consider topics related to striking a healthy balance between work and life as a graduate student, including approaches to time management, how to balance family life with the demands of research and writing, and

healthy eating amidst all the stresses of graduate life. On a related note, three roundtables will discuss specific approaches to effective time management and organizational skills to help graduate students prepare for and complete major research projects. A series of four roundtables will help graduate students navigate their transformation from student to educator by providing tools for effective teaching, designing a successful college course, and teaching with technology. Other roundtables will address topics such as how to secure funding for your research, how to engage the public in your research and teaching, and the role of the mentor in graduate student formation.

The roundtable sessions are not only great opportunities for graduate students to further their professional development in a friendly atmosphere, these sessions also help build a strong community at the annual meeting, which can sometimes be a bit overwhelming. To help build this community, the GSC has secured a Graduate Student Lounge that will be open for the duration of the conference. All of the roundtables will take place in this lounge but please feel free to use the lounge as a place to rest between panels and as a place to meet new colleagues and make new friends. Refreshments will be made available. The Graduate Student Committee hopes that you have a wonderful and rewarding experience at this year's Annual Meeting and that you make the GSC-sponsored events part of your weekend! See you there!

For additional information, including room locations, see the [AAR Annual Meeting Program Book](#).

### **Other Annual Meeting Events of Interest for Students**

#### **Contingent Faculty Reception**

**Saturday - 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

AAR members who work at colleges and universities on a contingent or contractual basis are welcome to meet and greet each other at this reception hosted by the AAR's new Contingent Faculty Task Force. Please RSVP by **Friday, November 7**, by e-mailing Sarah Levine ([slevine@aarweb.org](mailto:slevine@aarweb.org)).

#### **AAR Women's Mentoring Lunch**

**Sunday, November 23, 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

\$13 [preregistration](#) required. Women who are graduate students and new scholars are invited to a luncheon with over thirty womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued. Participants will also have a chance to buy the new

edition of the *Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A to Z* at the discounted rate of \$15! It includes a wide range of advice for female scholars of religion, and it is a good investment for one's future career. The book will also be available in the Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall at the Palgrave MacMillan booth.

### **Roundtable Lunch by the Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession**

**Saturday - 11:45AM – 12:45 PM**

All students and junior scholars who identify outside of normative gender histories and/or sexualities are welcome to join senior scholars for an informal lunch. No fee or preregistration is required, although an optional preregistration link is available on the LGBTIQ Committee's page on the AAR website. Please bring your own lunch; a cash-and-carry station will be available near the room for those wishing to buy their lunches onsite.

### **Western Region Student Meet-up**

**Saturday, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

Bring your lunch and meet other students from the AAR-Western Region (California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam, Pacific Islands) to discuss professional resources in a more informal setting. This is a great chance to network and reflect on cutting-edge research, including yours! Students and recent graduates from all regions are also welcome to attend.

---

### **DEADLINES FOR AAR REGIONAL CALL FOR PAPERS**

Rocky Mountain-Great Plains: **October 31, 2014**

Pacific Northwest: **November 16, 2014**

---

### **FACEBOOK PAGES FOR STUDENT MEMBERS**

Our [Student Members and Friends of the American Academy of Religion Facebook page](#) is available for all members and friends of the AAR. Members can post calls for papers, job listings, requests for more information, forthcoming publications, and more.

If you haven't done so already, stay connected with the students in your region by "liking" the 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 MidwestRegion](#)

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

---