



# Speaking of Students

## 2015 CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSALS

### Call for Panelists for "Dehumanized vs. Holistic Scholars: How Academia Impacts Our Lives"

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?

The Graduate Student Committee invites brief proposals from scholars at all levels for a session that explore the tensions, resolutions, and possibilities that lie between the "holistic" and "dehumanizing" poles of our work. If you have a perspective or experience that you would like to contribute as a panelist for this session, please email your brief proposal (~150 words) and a CV to B.J. Parker at [b\\_j\\_parker@baylor.edu](mailto:b_j_parker@baylor.edu) by **March 2**. *This does not count toward the two-proposal submission limit within the PAPERS system.*

## CALL FOR STUDENT LOUNGE ROUNDTABLE LEADERS

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The Graduate Student Committee invites scholars of religion to share their hard-earned wisdom in the Student Lounge Roundtable Series. We are looking for individuals who will be responsible for leading a conversation or workshop (60–90 minutes) about a topic of practical interest to student members. A variety of formats are welcome. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Online resources and computer programs to aid research, writing, or teaching
- Managing a specific stage of graduate school (courses, exams, thesis, ABD, etc.)
- Research project design or methods (humanities and social sciences)
- Balancing graduate school with other dimensions of life and identity
- Creating or managing an online presence (websites, blogging, online portfolios, etc.)
- Job market (applications, interviews, alt-ac, etc.)
- Publishing (open access vs. peer review; alternative forms of publishing, etc.)
- Teaching (activities, online, technology, controversial issues, etc.)
- Presenting research to the public
- Networking
- Mentoring relationships
- Grant writing
- CV writing
- Leadership
- Identity politics

Please send a brief proposal (~150 words) and a CV to Rupa Pillai at [rpillai@uoregon.edu](mailto:rpillai@uoregon.edu) by **March 2**. Please indicate if you are willing to co-present if your topic aligns with another proposal. Roundtable time slots are flexible. *This does not count toward the two-proposal submission limit within the PAPERS system.*

### **STUDENT ROUNDTABLE REFLECTIONS**

The Student Roundtable sessions at the American Academy of

Religion Annual Meeting in November 2014 touched on a number of topics including getting published, pursuing alt-ac careers, maintaining a healthy work-life balance, time management and organizational skills, and teaching. The presentations on teaching focused on "Effective Teaching" and "Teaching with Technology." Susan Hill left participants with two questions to guide their teaching: "Am I doing the things I loved as a student?" and "In twenty years, what would I like my students to remember from this class?" She advised that excellent teaching stimulates interest in the subject, cultivates thinking skills, and motivates students to learn. Joshua Canzona provided participants with strategies for incorporating new media technologies into the classroom. He cautioned listeners against using technology resources at the expense of class content and learning goals.

The roundtable sessions provide opportunities for professional development and build a strong graduate community. We encourage you to submit proposals for the 2015 AAR Annual Meeting!

### **STUDENT DIRECTOR ELECTIONS**

This year the following regions will be having elections for their student director positions:

- Eastern International Region
- Upper Midwest Region
- Midwest Region
- New England-Maritimes Region

This is a great opportunity to get involved in AAR leadership on the regional and national level because each student director serves as a member of their region's Board of Directors and as a member of the national AAR Graduate Student Committee.

Terms are two years and student directors must remain students during that time. Responsibilities include representing student concerns at regional board meetings and helping with student events at the regional conference and the national Annual Meeting. The election often occurs during the business meeting at the regional conference, although we recommend that you

contact your regional leadership in advance for more specifics about their election procedures.

For more information on these positions, contact your current regional student director or national student director Kristy Slominski, [slominski@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:slominski@umail.ucsb.edu).

### **REGIONAL MEETING DATES**

- **March 5 – 6** Mid-Atlantic
- **March 6–8** Southeast
- **March 13–15** Southwest
- **March 20–21** Rocky Mountains – Great Plains
- **March 20–22** Western
- **March 21** New England-Maritimes
- **March 27–29** Pacific Northwest
- **April 11–12** Midwest
- **April 17–18** Upper Midwest
- **May 1–2** Eastern International

We encourage you to participate in the student paper competitions held at the regional meetings! For additional information, please visit the [AAR Regions webpage](#).

### **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.

You can also stay connected with students and events in your region by "liking" your regional Facebook page:

- [Student Members of the AAR EIR](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR Midwest Region](#)
- [Student Members of the AAR New England-Maritime Region](#)
- [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](#)
- [American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Region](#)