AAR AWARDS NEWS

2013 AAR Book Award Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the AAR Book Award Winners! The Awards for Excellence and Best First Book in the History of Religions recognize new scholarly publications that make significant contributions to the study of religion. The awards honor books of distinctive originality, intelligence, creativity, and importance; books that affect decisively how religion is examined, understood, and interpreted. For more information, please see Book Awards.

The awards will be presented at the AAR's 2013 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on Sunday, November 24, 2013, 8:00–9:30 PM.

Award for Excellence in Religion: Analytical-Descriptive Studies

Anna Fedele, CRIA —Lisbon University Institute

Award for Excellence in Religion: Constructive-Reflective

Jeffrey L. Kosky, Washington and Lee University

Award for Excellence in Religion: Historical Studies

Christian K. Wedemeyer, University of Chicago Divinity
AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching
The Teaching and Learning Committee seeks nominations for the AAR Award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominations of winners of campus awards, or any other awards, are encouraged. Procedures for the nomination process are outlined on the AAR website. The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2013.

The 2013–2014 International Dissertation Research Grants applications process is open. These annual grants, 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, are intended to help candidates complete their doctoral degrees by offsetting costs of travel, lodging, and other dissertation research-related expenses. Deadline: December 1, 2013.

ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Annual Meetings Program Book Is Online!
Online Annual Meetings Program Book! Connect with colleagues, hear about new research, visit the exhibition hall... the Annual Meeting is an event not to be missed! There is still time to register at the Advance Rate and receive a Program Book (you must register for the Annual Meeting by
Women's Mentoring Luncheon — Registration Is Open!
The Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and the Women's Caucus invite women who are graduate students and new scholars to a luncheon on Sunday, November 24, at the Annual Meeting. An annual event, the luncheon invites women to meet with womanist, feminist, and LGBTIQ midcareer and senior scholars such as Traci West, Ellen Armour, and Rebecca Todd Peters; see here for a full list of confirmed mentors. Women will have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored in a context where every question is valued. The lunch costs $10 per person; sorry, no refunds. Registration is limited to 100. Click here to register.

2013 Employment Center Open
To register for the Employment Center at this year's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, post a job ad, view job ads, or upload your CV, go to the new site, jointly operated by the AAR and SBL.

Baltimore Annual Meeting Hotels and Travel Discounts
AAR has negotiated special conference rates at twenty-seven luxurious and convenient hotels for the convenience of meeting attendees. Please note that you can only get the special conference rate by booking through the AAR. Registration is required to reserve a hotel at the specially negotiated rates.

Making your air travel reservations? AAR has arranged for travel discounts with several airlines and a car rental company. Visit the AAR website for the discount codes.

There is lots of information about local transportation, discounts, and other items to make your travel to the Annual Meeting easier. Please see the AAR web site.

Women and Religion Section 40th Anniversary!
What is the future of Women and Religion as a section at the AAR? The Women and Religion Section (W&R) turned 40 and we're looking toward the future. W &R strives to be inter-disciplinary, inter-religious, and radically diverse as it struggles to fully represent and disrupt the very categories by which it is named. Join our social media campaign and tell us what you think! Use #AARWR40 to submit your thoughts (FYI: All posts must be public to be collated via http://tagboard.com/aarwr40 and presented at our AAR annual meeting session in November. For more information check out the Women and Religion Section's web page.
IN MEMORIAM

The field of religion lost two notable AAR members recently. Our condolences go to the many friends and family mourning their loss.

Robert N. Bellah, 1927–2013

Long-time AAR member Robert N. Bellah, sociologist, moralist, communitarian, and Episcopal deacon, passed away on July 30, 2013, at the age of 86. Bellah was the recipient of the 2007 AAR Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.


A celebrated scholar and teacher, Bellah also won the Harbison Award for Gifted Teaching from the Danforth Foundation. In 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Bellah the National Humanities Medal for raising "our awareness of the values that are at the core of democratic institutions and of the dangers of individualism unchecked by social responsibility."

In the September issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, a review essay by Jack Miles on two of Professor Bellah's recent publications will be published. Coming in the December issue of the JAAR, an obituary by Mark Juergensmeyer and a roundtable on the sociology of religion to which Professor Bellah was a contributor.

Bellah's presentation on Religion in Human Evolution at the 2011 AAR Annual Meeting is available on the AAR web site.
Jean Bethke Elshtain, 1941–2013

Jean Bethke Elshtain, long-time AAR member and one of the nation's most prominent and provocative thinkers, died Sunday, August 11, 2013. Elshtain was the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. She was a Guggenheim Fellow, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Phi Beta Kappa Lecturer, and held the Maguire Chair in Ethics at the Library of Congress.


Elshtain photo by Jason Smith

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**IN THE FIELD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Are you interested in the latest happenings in the field of religion? Would you like to post an announcement of an event, award competition, or other news of importance in the field? *In the Field* is your resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education, published online by the AAR.

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**ACADEMIC ABBY: Professional Advice from Your Colleagues**

Do you have a question about life in academe that you are at a loss to answer by yourself but don't feel you can approach your colleagues with it? Ask Academic Abby! Academic Abby is able to answer questions large and small, from dealing with faculty dilemmas, to tenure issues, to work/life balance troubles. Questions can be submitted anonymously through an online form. Members of the AAR Status of Women in the Profession Committee will respond to each question received. The question and answer will be posted on the Status of Women in the Profession web page and issues of Religious Studies News.

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**ASK THE DIVA**
If you are experiencing issues of special concern to LGBTIQ scholars of religion, the Diva can help! What questions do you have about graduate school, career development, teaching, etc.? Questions can be submitted anonymously through an online form. Members of the LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession Committee will respond. Your confidentiality is assured; the answers can be e-mailed to you privately if you wish. With your permission, the questions and answers will be posted anonymously in Religious Studies News.

AAR MEMBER NOTES

Awards and Accomplishments


Books and Major Publications


Other Items of Interest
Maha Marouan, University of Alabama
First issue of an online magazine called US in Cuba created by graduate students in the Gender and Race Studies Department at the University of Alabama. The magazine is the result of a course conducted by Marouan in Havana, Cuba on "Religion, Race and Gender in Cuban Popular Culture." Comments welcome.

Let your AAR colleagues know about your professional milestones! Submit your Member Note online.