2016 Call for Papers Is Open!
The 2016 AAR Annual Meeting Call for Papers is open! Proposals are submitted through PAPERS, the AAR's Program Administration Proposal, Evaluation, Review, and Submission System. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. For help using PAPERS, instructions are available here.

Kecia Ali: New Status Committee Director
Kecia Ali has accepted the position of Status Committee Director to the AAR Board of Directors. This is a new position, designed to allow our "Status of" Committees a more robust representation on the Board. Her term begins this year and will end in 2018. Ali currently holds a faculty position in the Department of Religion at Boston University. Congratulations, Kecia!

AAR Issues Statement on Contingent Faculty Practices
The AAR Board of Directors approved a statement on responsible practices pertaining to contingent faculty in the study of religion. The Academic Relations Committee and Contingent Faculty Task Force contributed to drafting the statement.

AAR AWARDS
AAR Book Awards: Last Call for Nominations
The American Academy of Religion seeks submissions for the annual book awards:
1. Best First Book in the History of Religions
2. Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion (winners in four categories):
   - Analytical-Descriptive Studies
   - Constructive-Reflective Studies
   - Historical Studies
   - Textual Studies

The submission deadline for all book awards is **February 10**. Submission instructions and eligibility requirements are available online. Send submissions to the AAR Executive Office:

Sarah Levine  
Attn: Book Awards  
American Academy of Religion  
825 Houston Mill RD NE STE 300  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Questions and letters of nomination may be sent to slevine@aarweb.org.

**2016 AAR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Are you an AAR member who is passionate about your profession and guild? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm? Do you think AAR membership is an important part of your professional life? If so, the AAR invites you to join the AAR Ambassador Program!

The AAR Ambassador program helps get information out to people about the study of religion and AAR programs. Ambassadors act as a point of contact for the AAR at your institution. It is a great way to volunteer in the AAR without leaving your office. Apply to be a 2016 AAR Ambassador today!

**2016 REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Plan to attend your [2016 regional meeting](#). The following regional meeting registrations are open:

[Eastern International](#)
Early Bird Deadline: **April 15, 2016**

Mid-Atlantic
Early Bird Deadline: **February 6, 2016**

New England-Maritimes
Deadline: **April 2, 2016**

Southeast
Deadline: **February 21, 2016**

Southwest
Deadline: **March 13, 2016**

Open Call for Papers:
Eastern International
Deadline: **February 15, 2016**

**IN THE FIELD**

**Luce/ACLS Grants for Universities: Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs**

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) is pleased to issue a request for proposals for grants to be funded by the new Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs (RJIA). In 2016, ACLS will make three grants of up to $60,000 to promote interdisciplinary collaboration at US-based institutions of higher education with existing strengths in the study of religion (in any humanistic or social science field) and journalism and communications. RJIA is made possible by a grant from The Henry Luce Foundation.

Questions about the program may be submitted to RJIA@acls.org, and the application deadline is **March 29, 2016**.

**2016 NHA Annual Meeting & Humanities Advocacy Day**

**Monday, March 14, 2016 – Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

This National Humanities Alliance yearly event provides opportunities for participants to connect with a growing network of humanities leaders.
from around the country; communicate the value of humanities research, education, programming, and preservation to Members of Congress; explore national humanities policy; and become year-round advocates for the humanities. Sessions and events will be held at George Washington University and on Capitol Hill.

*The AAR is a member of the National Humanities Alliance and a proud sponsor of Humanities Advocacy Day.*

To register, click [here](#).

Want to know more about events, calls, and other opportunities in the field of religion? AAR's [In the Field](#) is an AAR-member resource for news of events and opportunities for scholars of religion and theological education. Check it out!