Annual Meeting Call for Papers

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2007 Member Calendar

Dates are subject to change. Check www.aarweb.org for the latest information.

January
January 1. Annual term of membership begins for the 11,000 members of the AAR, the largest and most inclusive association of religion scholars in the world.
January 19–20. International Connections Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
January 27. Nominations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
January 26–27. History of Religion Jury meeting, Atlanta, GA.
January 31. Marin E. Murry, Public Understanding of Religion Award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/murry.
(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at www.aarweb.org/meetings/meetings.asp.)

February
February 1. Nominations due for Best First Book in the History of Religions award. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/books/rules.asp.
February 3–4. Teaching and Learning Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 3–4. Graduate Student Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 10–11. Academic Relations Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 17. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 23–24. Theological Education Steering Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 23–24. Status of Women in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
February 23–24. Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
(More information on AAR committee meetings can be found at www.aarweb.org/meetings/meetings.asp.)

March
March 23–24. Rocky Mountain–Great Plains regional meeting, Omaha, NE.
March 24–26. Western regional meeting, Berkeley, CA.
March 27. Humanities Advocacy Day, an event organized by the National Humanities Alliance and co-sponsored by the AAR and more than 20 organizations to promote support for the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, see www.nhla.org.
March 30–31, Midwest regional meeting, River Forest, IL.
(For more information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/regions/meetings.asp.)

April
April 1. Notification of acceptance of Annual Meeting paper proposals by Program Unit Chairs.
April 13–14. Upper Midwest regional meeting, St. Paul, MN.
April 27. Executive Committee meeting, San Diego, CA.
April 27. Regionally Elected Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.
April 28–29. Spring Board of Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.
(For more information on regional meetings, see www.aarweb.org/regions/meetings.asp.)

May
Religious Studies News May issue. Spotlight on Teaching Spring issue. Annual Meeting registration materials mailed with ASN.
May 1. Nominations (including self-nominations) for committee appointments requested.
May 4–5. Eastern International regional meeting, Waterloo, ON, Canada.
May 4–6. Pacific Northwest regional meeting, Lethbridge, AB, Canada.
May 15. Registration for the Employment Information Services Center opens.
May 30. Annual Meeting Additional Meeting requests due for priority consideration. (For more Annual Meeting information, see www.aarweb.org/annualmeadd2007/default.asp.)

June
June 15. Membership renewal deadline for 2007 Annual Meeting participants.

July
July 1. New fiscal year begins.
July 15. Submission deadline for the October issue of Religious Studies News. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/publications/rrn.
July 31. Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.

August
Annual Meeting program goes online.
August 1. Change of address due for priority receipt of the Annual Meeting Program Book.
August 1. Research Grant Applications due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/grants.
August 1. Regional development grant applications due to regional secretaries.
August 15. Membership renewal period for 2008 begins.

September
Annual Meeting Program Books mailed to members.
September 8. Executive Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.
TBA. Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

October
Religious Studies News October issue.
October 1–31. AAR officer election period. Candidate profiles will be published in the October RSN.
October 15. Excellence in Teaching award nominations due. For more information, see www.aarweb.org/awards/teaching.
October 21. EIS pre-registration closes.

November
November 1. Research grant awards announced.
November 15. Executive Committee meeting, San Diego, CA.
November 16. Fall Board of Directors meeting, San Diego, CA.
November 16. Chair Workshop at the Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
TBA. Annual Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting. See the Program Book for day and time.

December
December 1. New program unit proposals due.
December 8–9. Program Committee meeting, Atlanta, GA.

And keep in mind throughout the year...
Regional organizations have various deadlines throughout the fall for their Calls for Papers. See www.aarweb.org/regions/default.asp.
In the Field. News of events and opportunities for scholars of religion. In the Field is a members-only online publication that accepts brief announcements, including calls for papers, grant news, conference announcements, and other opportunities appropriate for scholars of religion. Submit text online at www.aarweb.org/publications/fieldsubmissions.
Openings: Employment Opportunities for Scholars of Religion. Openings is a members-only online publication listing job announcements in areas of interest to members; issues are viewable online from the first through the last day of each month. Submit announcement forms online, and review policies and pricing, at www.aarweb.org/openings/submit.asp.
2007 Calendar of Deadlines

- March 1, 2007: Deadline for proposals, participant forms, and abstracts to be received by program unit chairs.
- April 1, 2007: Notification of acceptance (or not) of proposals by program unit chairs. All program participants must renew/establish 2007 AAR memberships in order to participate on the program.
- April 7, 2007: Program unit chair submits request information (Program Book copy, abstracts, participant forms) to AAR executive office online.
- May 30, 2007: Deadline for submission of Additional meeting request forms. Forms are available online at www.aarweb.org/annualmeeting beginning March 15.
- June 15, 2007: Deadline for participants to renew their AAR membership and be preregistered for the meeting. Names of participants not registered will be removed from the Program Book.
- July 31, 2007: Deadline for participants to request audiovisual equipment at the Annual Meeting.
- August 1, 2007: Deadline for AAR members to renew and update their addresses for priority receipt of the Annual Meeting Program Book.
- September 2007: Annual Meeting Program Book mailed to members.

Questions about the Call

The work of the program unit is coordinated by the chair(s) and a steering committee who design the sessions and make the decisions about which proposals will eventually be on the program. Each proposal is carefully referred, usually in a “blind” procedure (i.e., with-out the name of the proposer being provided to the referees). All proposals, abstracts, and completed participant information (as well as any questions you may have) should be sent to the individual(s) named in this Call.

Questions about the Annual Meeting

Concerns of a general nature may be sent to that body’s executive office at the attention of the Annual Meeting Program Director, 825 Houston Mill Road NE, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329; USA; W: 404-273-3049; F: 404-273-7959; annualmeeting@aarweb.org.

Additional Meetings

Organizations, persons, or program units wishing to plan receptions and other meetings before, during, or after the Annual Meeting should go online to www.aarweb.org after March 15, 2007. This Web site will have information regarding guidelines, necessary forms, and costs to request Additional Meeting space at the Annual Meeting and how to announce your event in the Annual Meeting Program Book.

Questions should be directed to Experient, Inc., at 314-997-1500 after March 15, 2007. Written requests can be sent to Experient, Inc., 4 CityPlace DR, Suite 480, St. Louis, MO 63141-7062, or aarconf@experient-inc.com.

The deadline for priority scheduling of Additional Meeting requests is May 30, 2007. Requests after that date will be accommodated as space allows.
GUIDELINES from p. 3

each participant. (A separate participant form is not required when using OP3.) Failure to send in a complete prearranged proposal may disqualify an entry. Units reserve the right to accept prearranged session proposals in full or in part.

Poster Session Proposals
AAR is accepting proposals for poster sessions. A poster session presents research or discourse on a topic by combining graphics and text on a 4’ x 8’ board. The poster session presenter is available during an assigned session time in order to interact on a one-to-one basis with the attending viewing the poster. A well-planned poster communicates its message in a visually and textually powerful way, allowing the audience to grasp the information quickly.

Poster session proposals should consist of a short description of the topic and focus of the research, one abstract, and a single participant form for all involved with the presentation. Submissions will be reviewed and evaluated for acceptance onto the program by members of the Program Committee. Submissions are accepted through the OP3 system. For more information on poster sessions, please visit the AAR Web site at www.aarweb.org.

Wildcard Sessions
To allow for more experimental sessions and the development of new and creative scholarly conversations, the Program Committee is in its second year of a three-year experiment that will offer members direct access to the Annual Meeting program for a limited number of “ wildcard” sessions. Wildcard sessions address an area of interest that does not naturally fall within the purview of any program unit.

You may submit a proposal in response to a wildcard session call or for an entire session (session proposal; presider; list of participants with presentation titles and abstracts, if applicable; etc.) via OP3. Wildcard sessions must be in the 90-minute session format. The Program Committee will review the proposals. If a proposal covers an area that fits within an established program unit, the proposal will be forwarded to the unit for possible inclusion on the unit’s program.

The Program Committee’s decisions will be announced by April 1, 2007.Wildcard sessions are subject to the same policies as other submissions. See page 19 for the Wildcard call for papers.

90-Minute Minutes
The Sunday afternoon schedule for the AAR program consists of three 90-minute sessions to be scheduled as follows: 1:00-2:30 PM; 3:00-4:30 PM; and 5:00-6:30 PM. AAR encourages creative and innovative proposals for these sessions. Some possibilities include: restricting a panel to two 30-minute papers followed by discussion; posting papers in advance to focus on discussion rather than presentation; topical panel discussions; discussion of a book or film; panel on teaching in the field; or workshop-style sessions. The 90-minute format is perfect for hosting specialized conversations on an aspect of the field or “teaching” a topic to the audience.

Abstracts
Along with your proposal and completed participant form, you must submit an abstract of your proposed presentation in electronic format. Even if you are submitting your proposal via surface mail or fax, you must also send one copy of your abstract electronically in addition to the print copies. If possible send the abstract in the body of an e-mail with the subject heading: “Abstract for [your name].” You may also send it virus-free on disk, or via e-mail as an attachment. Please note some program units will not accept attachments.

Use the following guidelines for format:
- WordPerfect, MSWord, RTF, PDF, or ASCII text format.
- For transiterated characters, please describe them to the best of your ability after the text of your abstract, under “Diacritical Marks.” The “Diacritical Marks” portion will not be included in your word count. These can include italics, macrons, under- or over-dots, etc. (i.e., add macrons over the first and second “a” in Yog–ac–ara; put a slash through the “o” in Søren). For non-Western characters, please use universal embedded fonts.
- The abstract should have the exact same title as your paper, followed by your name and then the name of your institution (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name) or city, state, or province.
- The body of the abstract may be no more than 150 words in length. Successful proposals with abstracts longer than 150 words will be shortened.
- Do not use footnotes; any present will be deleted.
- Please scan your abstract for viruses before sending.

Participant Forms
The Program Participant Forms (see page 8) are designed to provide the information necessary to respond to your proposal and to organize the Annual Meeting. It is important that these forms be filled out clearly and completely by the participant. Please use the participant form appropriate for your method of submission (see below). Ensure that the title of your proposal exactly matches the title you use on the participant form in order for the two to be positively matched.

Submission Methods (Specific Guidelines)

OP3
Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract via the Online Paper/Panel Proposal (OP3) system. Please go online to www.aarweb.org for full submission instructions. Separate participant forms are not required with OP3, as your participant information is integrated into the online form. NB: Do not place your name or other identifying marks in the body of the proposal field or abstract field in OP3; this may endanger the anonymous review process of the unit and acceptance of your proposal may be jeopardized.

E-mail
Submit your 1,000-word proposal and 150-word abstract within the BODY of ONE single e-mail. Locate the online “Participant Form for E-Mail Submission” at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form. Be sure you use the exact same title on the “Participant Form for E-Mail Submission” as you do on the e-mailed proposal. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit a copy to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete packet to either one of the co-chairs.

E-mail w/Attachments
Submit your 1,000-word proposal, 150-word abstract, and participant form as attachments in one single e-mail. Please locate the “Participant Form for E-Mail Attachment Submission” at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form; this will require the use of MSWord. If you are unable to use MSWord or the “MSWord Form” online, please locate the “Participant Form for E-Mail Submission” at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for your participant form. Be sure you use the exact same title on the “Participant Form for E-Mail Submission” as you do on the attached proposal e-mail. Proposals received without the participant forms will be disqualified. Participant forms received without proposals or abstracts will also be disqualified.

If you are requested by the program unit to submit a copy to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete proposal to either one of the co-chairs.

Fax
Submit one (1) copy of the proposal, including an attachment (with your name and institution listed). Submit one (1) copy of the participant form. Be certain you include a current e-mail address on your participant form. Notifications of acceptance/rejection will be sent out via e-mail.

1. Use plain white paper, 8.5” x 11” (or A4) with one-inch margins.
2. Do not use institutional or other letterhead.
3. Use a computer and printer, preferably a laser printer. (Handwritten proposals cannot be accepted.)
4. Use the following format:
   a. Type title of proposal.
   b. Below the title, type name of presenter, a comma, and a complete name of institution (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). Or, if you are not affiliated with any school, list city, state, or province. Do not list this information on the other five copies of the proposal.
   c. Type body of proposal double-spaced.

Proposals should not exceed 1,000 words. If you are requested by the program unit to submit copies to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete packet to either one of the co-chairs. Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification regarding your acceptance/rejection onto the program. Submit one (1) electronic copy of your abstract to the same person to whom you are sending your proposal. See above under Abstracts.

Surface Mail
Unless otherwise instructed in the Call it self, submit six (6) copies of the proposal, includ ing (1) copy with your name and institution listed, and five (5) copies which are “anonymous,” (i.e., your name and institution are not listed anywhere on the proposal). You need only submit one (1) copy of the participant form. Be certain you include a current e-mail address on your participant form.

Notifications of acceptance/rejection will be sent out via e-mail.

1. Use plain white paper, 8.5” x 11” (or A4) with one-inch margins.
2. Do not use institutional or other letterhead.
3. Use a computer and printer, preferably a laser printer. (Handwritten proposals cannot be accepted.)
4. Use the following format:
   a. Type title of proposal.
   b. On one copy of the proposal, below the title, type name of presenter, a comma, and a complete name of institution (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). If you are not affiliated with any school, list city, state, or province. Do not list this information on the other five copies of the proposal.
   c. Type body of proposal double-spaced.

Proposals should not exceed 1,000 words. If you are requested by the program unit to submit copies to both co-chairs or steering committee members, follow the instructions listed. If no one person is specified, send your complete packet to either one of the co-chairs. Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification regarding your acceptance/rejection onto the program. Submit one (1) electronic copy of your abstract to the same person to whom you are sending your proposal. See above under Abstracts.
Academic Teaching and the Study of Religion Section
Joseph A. Favazza, Stonyhill College, sfavazza@stonyhill.edu; Fran Grace, University of Redlands, fgrace@redlands.edu.
The Academic Teaching and Study of Religion Section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. We are committed to selecting proposals that join innovative teaching practice with the scholarship of teaching and learning, and creating sessions that model and foster experiential and active learning. Noting that preference will be given to presentations featuring interactive formats, we encourage proposals in these areas: 1) Teaching and Learning "Street Fair" (posters, exhibits, and/or interactive "teach-ins" that excite or educate others about a breakthrough moment in the classroom or a great course); 2) For a possible joint session with the Buddhist Critical–Constructive Reflection Group, examples of contemplative practices and teaching within a course that successfully advance learning outcomes or course goals; 3) Mentoring undergraduate research as a teaching practice (e.g., success stories, strategies, pedagogical issues); 4) Teaching on the "edge of ecological apocalypse" (pedagogies, courses, and assignments that interrelate religious and environmental studies); 5) Embodied pedagogies and postmodern narratives (e.g., sacred or liminal times and spaces (e.g., yoga, calendrical events, rital performance, music, borders as sacred space); and 6) Assessment "success stories" that demonstrate the achievement of identified outcomes in courses, programs, and departments, and that are translatable into other contexts. In addition, we invite proposals for a "topics in teaching" luncheon to be co-sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Selected presenters will lead a round-table luncheon conversation on the topic (e.g., teaching disasters, teaching beyond your comfort zone, teaching World Religions, teaching without syllabus or contract, etc.). NOTE: Be sure to indicate clearly which area of the call your proposal will address.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:** E-mail

**KEY TO SYMBOLS:**
- [ ] = Surface mail
- [ ] = Fax
- [ ] = OP3
- [ ] = E-mail
- [ ] = E-mail with attachment

**SECTIONS**

**Arts, Literature, and Religion Section**
Jennifer Geddes, University of Virginia, jf2g@virginia.edu; S. Brent Plate, Texas Christian University, bplate@tcu.edu.
The Arts, Literature, and Religion Section invites proposals for papers and/or pre-arranged sessions on the following topics: arts and literature of China; the relationship between words and images in the study of religion; postcolonial readings; adaptations from book to film; photography and religion; architecture and literature; blasphemy; John Steinbeck; Asian–American women's writings; the arts and literature of travel and migration; writings and images of the missions; environmental writing, especially dealing with the desert and the ocean; border art, especially between the United States and Mexico; photography and painting of the American West (Ansel Adams, Georgia O'Keeffe, Albert Bierstadt, etc.); artistic and literary movements in the Pacific Rim; visual and literary afterlives of the Psalms (for a possible co-sponsored session with SBL's Psalms Section); visualization of torture in pictures of crucifixion, martyrdom, and public punishment (for a possible co-sponsored session with Christian Systematic/Theology Section); Ursula Le Guin, particularly on the relation between her work and Daoism (for a possible co-sponsored session with the Daoism Section). Please send proposals to both program units when responding to a joint call for papers.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:** E-mail

**Buddhism Section**
Janet Gyato, Harvard University, jgyato@hbs.harvard.edu; Charles Hallisey, University of Wisconsin, c.hallisey@wisc.edu.
In anticipation of the special focus on China at the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Buddhism Section invites panel proposals that thematize the place of China within the various scholarly landscapes concerned with the study of Buddhism across Asia and beyond. Proposals focusing on the contours of Buddhist studies in China itself are also welcome. Fully or partially formed panel proposals on other topics are welcome as well, as are individual papers, which will be accommodated in one omnibus panel. The section especially invites proposals for sessions that take advantage in creative ways of the new format offered for the annual program. The section also invites panel proposals on the following themes and topics: methods for the study of women and Buddhism; new technologies in teaching about Buddhism; macrohistorical and macroregional approaches to the study of the history of Buddhism; responses to Western science by Buddhists; Buddhism and film; categories of difference in Buddhist monasticism (e.g., forest/village, discipline/poetry, book/discipline of meditation); notions of Buddhist offerings and social systems; miraculous events and superhuman beings in Buddhism. The section invites all interested in proposing presentations to consider the section's discussion board at the AAR's PUCS system to coordinate efforts and interests with others. The section's chairs and steering committee can also offer assistance in filling out panel proposals or offering advice on any issue related to proposals.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Christian Systematic Theology Section**
Cynthia L. Rigby, Austin Theological Seminary, crigby@austinseminary.edu; Michael Decker, Florida Atlantic University, mdecker@fau.edu; Gerard Loughlin, Durham University, gerard.loughlin@dur.ac.uk.
General Theme: Sin, Grace, and Redemption. We invite constructive (not merely historical) proposals on a wide range of approaches relating sin, grace, and redemption. Sessions may be organized around the following themes: 1) The place of "the law" in the dynamics of sin, grace, and redemption; 2) The compatibility of Eastern and Western approaches to "sin," "grace," and "redemption"; 3) The necessity or redundancy of "atonement" for "redemption"; 4) The difference that the perspectives of sinner and sinned against make to the understanding of sin, grace, and redemption; 5) The helpfulness or unhelpfulness of "sin" as a theological category; 6) The relationships between grace and nature, grace and justice, and/or grace and vengeance; and 7) The visualization of torture in pictures of crucifixion, martyrdom, and public punishment (for a possible co-sponsored session with the Arts, Literature, and Religion Section). Proposals from Chinese scholars, or scholars working on Chinese Christian theology, are especially welcome. For planning purposes, our projected theme for 2008 will be "Christian Doctrine and Judaism."

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Comparative Studies in Religion Section**
Tracy Pintchman, Loyola University Chicago, tpintch@luc.edu; Selva J. Raj, Albion College, raj@albion.edu.
The Comparative Studies in Religion Section provides the opportunity for significant cross-traditional and/or cross-cultural inquiry. We seek proposals that provide occasion for comparative inquiry seriously engaging two or more religious traditions around a common topic and that also critically engage on the methods tools employed in the inquiry. While we accept individual paper proposals, we strongly encourage group proposals either in the form of thematic paper sessions (maximum four presenters, a presider, and a respondent) or as panel sessions (maximum six presenters). Thematic paper session proposals must include both abstract and individual paper proposals. Panel proposals must include a two-page abstract and a list of the panel members.

The steering committee reserves the right to add individuals to any group proposal. Proposals must be made through the online system unless alternative arrangements have been made with one of the co-chairs well in advance of the deadline. The 2007 meeting includes a focus on contributions of Chinese scholars and scholarship in the study of religion. Therefore, session organizers are strongly encouraged to consider such scholars and scholarship in their proposals. Themes proposed for the 2007 meeting, with organizers identified in parentheses where appropriate, are as follows: 1) Global indigenous movements (Kay Read, kaya.read@gmail.com); 2) Encounters in ethnography today (Karen Pechilis, kpechilis@du.edu); 3) Religion and material culture; 4) Notions of intentionality (Katherine Jones, jonekt@umich.edu); 5) Methodological issues in teaching comparative religions; 6) Religion and popular culture; and 7) Twins and twinning (Kimberly Patton, kimberly_pattton@barnard.edu). Additional proposals for comparative panels and sessions are encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Ethics Section**
Jane Hicks, St. John Fisher College, jhicks@sjfc.edu.
The Ethics Section invites proposals providing ethical analyses from all religious traditions and diverse ethical methodologies in response to the following themes: 1) Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment (co-sponsored with the Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group). 2) States as cultural and demographic flow from Latin America and Asia. What are the ethical issues raised by immigration and its impact on the encounter of cultures? (co-sponsored with the Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group). 3) Globalization (co-sponsored with the Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group). 4) Earth as a common heritage (co-sponsored with the Latino/a Religion, Culture, and Society Group). 5) Religious and political issues in teaching comparative religions; 6) Religion and popular culture; and 7) Twins and twinning (Kimberly Patton, kimberly_pattton@barnard.edu). Additional proposals for comparative panels and sessions are encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

(continued on next page)
History of Christianity

Nathan Rein, Ursinus College, nrein@ursinus.edu. Teresa Shaw, Claremont Graduate University, teresa.shaw@cgcu.edu.

The History of Christianity Section seeks to present innovative and engaging research on the history, culture, and development of Christianity from its origins to the present, while at the same time promoting interdisciplinary dialogue among the fields of history, ritual studies, art history, anthropology, and historical theology.

We seek proposals for individual papers or entire panels on the following topics: saints and sainthood; exegesis in the history of Christianity; the history of Christianity in China and the Chinese diaspora; and “folk” belief and “superstition.” We will consider proposals on other topics as well. Papers should be conceived for an effective 20-minute presentation. All proposals must be submitted online via OP3 and will be evaluated in anonymous peer review by the section steering committee.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3

North American Religions

Kathleen Flake, Vanderbilt Divinity School, kathleen.flake@vanderbilt.edu. Phillip Goff, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, pgoff@iupui.edu.

The North American Religions Section seeks to advance the study of religions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico by promoting innovative scholarship across disciplinary and national boundaries. Thus, we host sessions based on their potential to foster critical and comparative discussions on themes that are inclusive of a variety of peoples, traditions, and regions. In recognition of the locale of our next meeting, the section welcomes especially proposals on borders (especially Mexican-American and Pacific Rim) and religion in time of war. Other potential topics for sessions include secularism(s), the religious “right” and “left,” and the family (marriage, children, sexual norms, and adoption, including international adoption). More generally, we seek proposals that revisit the survey course on religion in America, consider the relation between history and ethnography in the study of North American religions, or offer critical reflections on keywords in the study of American religion. To spur interactive sessions, we seek proposals for round tables, debates, visual and musical performances, workshops, and other appropriate formats, as well as more traditional presentations.

Regardless, we encourage all presenters to eschew the conventional format and to consider teaching or simply talking their ideas and arguments, not merely reading their papers aloud.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3

Philosophy of Religion

Thomas A. Carlson, University of Santa Barbara, tcarlson@religion.ucsb.edu. Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles, jprabhu@calstatela.edu.

The Philosophy of Religion Section invites proposals for individual papers, paper sessions, and panels related to the following topics: Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit; the thought of Franz Rosenzweig; Charles Taylor’s Gifford Lectures (“Living in a Secular Age”); the two St. Paul in Asian Badiou, et al.; China and the philosophy of religion; Wittgenstein on silence and the mystical (a session to be co-sponsored with the Mysticism Group in homage to D. Z. Phillips). We also welcome proposals on topics not explicitly listed here. PLEASE NOTE: Proposal submissions will not be accepted by any means other than the OP3 system.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3

Religion and the Social Sciences

Douglas A. Hicks, University of Richmond, dhicks@richmond.edu.

The steering committee of Religion and the Social Sciences especially invites proposals in relation to the following themes: 1) Political economy and the voice of religion; 2) Psychology of moral imagination: resources for facing environmental crisis (for possible joint session with Person, Culture, and Religion Group); 3) Border crossings, immigration, and religious intersections in Mexico/Southern California (for possible joint session with Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change Consultation); 4) Psychologies and theologies of human development; and 5) Religion and food: understandings from the social sciences and religious/theological studies. We also welcome other paper or panel proposals that fit with the section’s purpose: to support scholarship at the intersection of the social sciences (including psychology, sociology, political sciences, economics, and cultural studies) and religious or theological studies. Topics may include: the study of religious and theological questions through specific social scientific methodologies, the contribution of religious studies to innovative approaches to the work of social scientific disciplines, and comparative assessments of current issues by humanities-based and social scientific methodologies. Submissions for presentation, a paper or panel proposal must explicitly state its author’s methodology(ies).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3

Religion in South Asia

Patrim G. Patil, Harvard University, ppatil@fas.harvard.edu. Tazim Kassam, Syracuse University, tkassam@syr.edu.

We invite proposals for fully developed papers or paper sessions on any aspect of religion(s) in South Asia: textual, ethnographic, religious, historical, cultural, pedagogical, comparative, etc. We will also consider individual paper proposals, but strongly encourage everyone to submit complete paper or panel sessions when possible. Interdisciplinary approaches and multitradition perspectives are encouraged. Specific topics suggested by RISA members include: A Review of Religions of South Asia: An Introduction (Jack Lellwellyn, jllwellyn@missouristate.edu); encounters in ethnography today (Karen Pechulis, kpechil6@email.deu.edu); religion and reform writers in post-colonial India and Hindu-Muslim encounters: shared spaces and ideological constructs (Prabhavathi Reddy, prereddy@vermont.net); religious buildings: changing uses and competing claims (Leslie C. Orr, oorr@cornell.edu); satire, humor, and character in South Asian religions/visual culture (Paul Courtwright, rephotoninja@mac.com); South Asia and the tsunami/natural disasters: South Asia: past–9/11: prosperity and the transformation of sacred space; South Asian religious through its art and architecture; reading novels religiously; illness as religious experience; and curatorial studies, preservation, and RISA.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3

Study of Islam

Nelly Van Doorn-Harder, Valparaiso University, NellyVanD@valpo.edu. Omid Safi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, omid@email.unc.edu.

The Study of Islam Section encourages paper proposals in all areas of Islamic studies. Successful proposals will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication, as well as innovative examination of Islamic practices and texts. As always, we welcome submissions dealing with any aspect of the Qur’an, Islamic law, philosophy, jurisprudence, Sufism, rituals, gender and sexuality constructions, engagement with modernity, teaching Islam, interfaith, and other areas of general interest. Furthermore we encourage proposals dealing with Shi’ism and within and across these areas. In addition, we also invite more specific panels on the following themes: 1) Islam in North

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: OP3
America. Especially solicited are proposals focusing on Islamic movements and expressions in California. 2) Islam in Europe: topics concerning movements and symbolic expressions of identity (clothing, etc.) are welcome. 3) Youth: networks, culture, and organizations such as MSA. 4) Teaching Islam through the arts: poetry, films, music, novels, etc. 5) Muslim approaches to the Bible. 6) In view of the 2007 AAR focus on China, all topics on Islam in China or Chinese Muslims (including those in countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia) are welcome. We welcome both “paper sessions” and “panel sessions.” A “paper session” has individually listed proposals and abstracts, whereas a “panel session” is organized around a theme. Since our review process is an anonymous one, we especially ask that organizers pay attention to issues of diversity (ethnic, gender, age, discipline, etc.). In order to assure coherence in the proposal, feel free to utilize the Study of Islam listerv to solicit other proposals on the theme you are putting together. Finally, we encourage new formats to present the papers, poster sessions, and using audiovisual material. Submissions via OP3 system unless unforeseen technical difficulties arise.

**Study of Judaism Section**

Aryeh Cohen, University of Judaism, aryeib@uji.edu, Martin Kavka, Florida State University, mkavka@mail.fsu.edu

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) The discourse of authenticity and/or heresy; 2) Judaism and American political discourse, in honor of the centenary of Abraham Joshua Heschel; 3) Judaism and the ethics of warfare; 4) New approaches in Jewish feminist scholarship; 5) Halakhic reasoning and legal theory; 6) Theodicy (for a session to be co-sponsored with the Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group); and 7) The formulation and function of vows, oaths, contracts, and/or curses in the period of formative Judaism and Christianity (for a session to be co-sponsored with the SBL, Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section). As always, we aim to present panels at the AAR that display a wide diversity of methodological and historical subfields in the study of Judaism, and welcome all paper and panel proposals that help meet this aim.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Theology and Religious Reflection Section**

Kwok Pui Lan, Episcopal Divinity School, kplauk@eds.edu, Jong Rieger, Southern Methodist University, jrieger@mail.smu.edu

Theology, gender, and science (issues such as theology and neuroscience as they pertain to race, gender, and class); 3) Interreligious dialogue and geopolitical realities; 4) Theology, liberalism, and progressive Christianity; 5) Theology of the military; and 6) Theology and love. Additionally, the Theology and Religious Reflection Section welcomes paper and panel proposals which address the intersections of theological and religious reflection with philosophical and political issues, and with questions of literary, cultural, and critical theory.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Women and Religion Section**

Jung Ha Kim, Georgia State University, jung@langate.gsu.edu, Laurie Zoloth, Northwestern University, lzoloth@northwestern.edu

The Women and Religion Section invites papers and panels from a variety of religious traditions that explore the role of women in text, history, ritual, (contemporary) culture, and organizational life. This year we are focusing on four themes that will locate our session in the light of the Southern Californian venue of the 2007 conference; in light of the last joint meeting with colleagues from SBL; in light of the culture of the gaze on the body; and in light of women and Chinese religions. Possible topics include: women’s bodies as sites of science, exchange, and meaning; women and religion in the movies; the gaze on the body; “California Girls”; women in Bible and other sacred scriptures; Chinese religions and women; Chinese women in the American religious imagination; and women in religion and in the emerging science (neuroscience, genomics, stem cell research, fertility research.) Panels that feature both junior and senior scholars and papers that demonstrate new ways of presenting information are strongly encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**GROUPS**

**African Religious Groups**

Samuel K. (Kip) Eloliob, Emmanuel School of Religion, eloliok@em.edu, Laura Grillo, Pacifica Graduate Institute, lgrillo@paciﬁca.edu

Papers are invited on the following themes: 1) The material and economic dimensions of religions in Africa today; 2) (Re)conceptualizations of indigenous religious ideas across ethnic and cultural boundaries in Africa; 3) Religion, violence, and conflict in Africa — dynamics and responses. In the evaluation of proposals, the committee will give preference to scholarly and constructive papers that are likely to solicit discussion. In keeping with the 2007 international focus, we welcome submissions from Chinese scholars. Submission via OP3 is preferred, but e-mailed submissions are acceptable.

**Afro-American Religious History Group**

Moses N. Moore, Arizona State University, mosesmoo@hotmail.com, Anthea Butler, University of Rochester, anthea.buoler@rochester.edu

The Afro-American History Group invites panel proposals or papers on the following themes: The history of African-American religion in the West, including such themes as westward migration, African Americans and Mormonism, Native Americans, borderland issues, Mexico, and the African Diaspora and religious traditions. Panels that also focus on historic aspects of African-American religion (movement, events, or persons) in California are also encouraged. Papers or panels that cover the following anniversaries: the African-American religious experience in Jamestown (2007 marks the 400th anniversary of the landing in 1607); and the commemoration of the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. Panels for book and/or film discussions are also encouraged.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Anthropology of Religion**

J. Shawn Landres, Synagogue 3000/ UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, shwarer@landres.com, Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College, rebecca.norris@merrimack.edu

We invite proposals from across anthropological and religious reflections on globalization, postcolonialism, and postmodernism in conversation with Asian and African-American experiences; and 2) Proposals that address the complexity of “Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment,” since San Diego is a city of massive cultural and demographic flow from Latin America and Asia. We also welcome 3) Proposals on the origins of the AAR/SBL split marking the history, struggle, and vision of the ANARS/SBL Asian American Hermeneutics groups. Especially of interest are proposals pairing senior/junior scholars discussing changes and trajectories in the study of Asian North American religion, theology, and Biblical studies; and 4) Proposals that push the boundaries of theory and research in Asian North American religions.

**Asian North American Religion, Culture, and Society Group**

Su Yon Pak, Union Theological Seminary, spak@nyc.edu, Anne Joh, Phillips Theological Seminary, annie.joh@petu.edu

We welcome 1) Interdisciplinary theological and religious reflections on globalization, postcolonialism, and postmodernism in conversation with Asian and African-American experiences; and 2) Proposals that address the complexity of “Native, Immigrant, or Refugee? Cultural Identity in a Shifting Environment,” since San Diego is a city of massive cultural and demographic flow from Latin America and Asia. We also welcome 3) Proposals on the origins of the AAR/SBL split marking the history, struggle, and vision of the ANARS/SBL Asian American Hermeneutics groups. Especially of interest are proposals pairing senior/junior scholars discussing changes and trajectories in the study of Asian North American religion, theology, and Biblical studies; and 4) Proposals that push the boundaries of theory and research in Asian North American religions.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

(continued on next page)
Augustine and Augustinianisms Group

Robert P. Kennedy, St. Francis Xavier University, rkennedy@sfu.ca. Kim Paffenroth, Iona College, kimpaffenroth@msn.com.

Papers are invited on the following two themes: 1) Augustine and psychology: We seek papers on any aspect of this topic, including Augustine’s understanding of the self; psychoanalytical interpretations of Augustine and his work; the influence of Augustinian concepts in later thought. 2) Augustine and Empire: Papers dealing with the place of North Africa within the Roman empire, Augustine’s attitude(s) towards the Roman empire or imperial aspirations generally, and Augustine’s influence, supposed or real, on later empires all would be welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Bioethics and Religion Group

Aline H. Kalbian, Florida State University, akalbian@fsu.edu. Swasti Bhattacharyya, Buena Vista University, bhattacharyya@bvu.edu.

Inspired by San Diego’s proximity to Mexico, we invite papers on the theme “Bioethics and Bordersland.” Topics might include health care and immigration reform; the duty to care for the vulnerable; the notion of the stranger in medicine; global epidemics that transcend national borders; and ethical issues particular to immigrant populations both in the United States and abroad. We encourage diverse methodological, textual, historical, and social approaches, as well as cross-cultural, class, and gender analyses. Special consideration will be given to proposals that attend to religious texts and practices. We also invite proposals for a joint session with the Women and Religion Section on “Gender and the Ethics of Gamete Donation.” Papers on any topic in bioethics and religion will also receive consideration.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Black Theology Group

Stacey Floyd-thomas, Texas Christian University, sfloyd-thomas@tcu.edu. Stephen G. Ray, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, sray@ltsp.edu.

The Black Theology Group seeks papers and/or panel proposals on issues of methods and sources in the ongoing development of black theology. We are particularly interested in proposals that engage world religions (especially, but not limited to, Buddhism and Hinduism) from a black theological perspective.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

PARTICIPANT FORM 2007
(PREARRANGED SESSION)

The session organizer or chair must fill out this form in its entirety.

Names and institutions will appear in the Program Book as indicated below (please include city name if more than one school or campus bears the name). If you are not affiliated with an institution, list city, state, or province.

(Please print in blue or black ink.)

Session Organizer Contact Information

Name

Institution

Mail Address

City State/Province Postal Code Country

Office Phone Home Phone E-mail

1. PROPOSED THEME of SESSION:

2. PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal:

2b. OTHER PROGRAM UNIT to which you are submitting this proposal, if any. Please place a number in the order of your preference, if any, of program unit acceptance:

3. PLANNED PARTICIPANTS for this session, in order of appearance:

Presider:

Panelists:

Respondent:

4. AUDIOVISUAL REQUIREMENTS for the entire session (note number needed):

   __ Slide Projector w/Screen & Carousel
   __ Extra Carousel(s)
   __ Overhead Projector w/Screen
   __ Extra Screen
   __ VCR or DVD Player with Monitor (circle one)
   __ Cassette or CD Player (circle one)
   __ Computer: Windows  Macintosh  Internet
   __ LCD Projector w/Screen
   __ Other:

   Audiovisual requests must be submitted at the same time as your proposal. Late requests cannot be accommodated. The executive office makes every attempt to honor the AV requests of our members. Unusual requests should be cleared through the appropriate program unit chair, with the executive office to confirm the availability of the equipment or setup of space.

5. SCHEDULING NEEDS due to religious observance, if any:

NOTE: No individual may participate on the program more than two times.

Also available at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for download
EDITORIAL OBSERVATIONS

In honor of the long history of joint meetings between the AAR and SBL, we invite proposals exploring Bonhoeffer’s use and exegesis of biblical texts, including, but not limited to, the Psalms. Such proposals might also explore Bonhoeffer as pastor, preacher, and/or theologian. The release of the newly translated volumes (13 & 16) of Bonhoeffer’s pastoral letters and time in London could be of particular import in this work. We also invite proposals exploring this question: does the current resurgence of religion, particularly conservative Christianity in America, call for renewed engagement with Bonhoeffer’s “religion-less” interpretation? Finally, we invite proposals for a possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Genocide, and Holocaust Group on the use of Bonhoeffer’s life and theology in post-Holocaust (and postgenocide) interface dialogues.

Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group

Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg College, hale@augsburg.edu. Lisa Dahill, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, ldahill@trinitylutheranseminary.edu.

In both group meetings between the AAR and SBL, we invite proposals exploring Bonhoeffer’s use and exegesis of biblical texts, including, but not limited to, the Psalms. Such proposals might also explore Bonhoeffer as pastor, preacher, and/or theologian. The release of the newly translated volumes (13 & 16) of Bonhoeffer’s pastoral letters and time in London could be of particular import in this work. We also invite proposals exploring this question: does the current resurgence of religion, particularly conservative Christianity in America, call for renewed engagement with Bonhoeffer’s “religion-less” interpretation? Finally, we invite proposals for a possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Genocide, and Holocaust Group on the use of Bonhoeffer’s life and theology in post-Holocaust (and postgenocide) interface dialogues.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Buddhist Critical–Constructive Reflection Group

John Makransky, Boston College, makransk@bc.edu. Roger Jackson, Carleton College, rjackson@carleton.edu.

This group explores how modern academic study of Buddhism may inform Buddhist understandings today, and how Buddhist understandings may help address contemporary problems in society, philosophy, and religion. We invite paper or panel proposals on the following:

1) Buddhist perspectives on a contemporary issue — for example, how feminism and Buddhism inform each other; or how Buddhism and ecological awareness inform each other; or how Buddhism and a current social problem inform each other.

2) A Buddhist theme reconsidered in its relevance to our time — such as karma, liberation, emptiness, or universal compassion.

3) For a co-sponsored session with the Academic Teaching and Study of Religion Section, we also invite papers on how contemplative practices may help fulfill pedagogical goals of courses, with examples.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Buddhist Philosophy Group

John D. Dunne, Emory University, jdunne@emory.edu. A. Charles Muller, Toyko Gakuen University, acmuller@jj.cm-net.wu.jp.

The Buddhist Philosophy Group, while accepting individual paper proposals, seeks mainly to sponsor tightly integrated group presentations. Topics might center on the content or interpretation of a specific philosophical problem, but they might also address methodological issues such as methodology. Panels may likewise focus on a recent publication central to the field or a classical text of particular importance. Panels or sessions that use a diversity of methods to address a thematic issue within a regional focus are also encouraged. Potential topics raised by group members include: contemplative practice and philosophy; a typology of philosophical categories; ineffability; debate; tathāgatagarbha; perception; reflexive awareness; dignity; again China; what is Buddhist philosophy—emic and etic accounts; trikāya theory; and eighth-ninth century Sino-Tibetan philosophy. Other topics are also welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Also available at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet for download

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= Fax

= OP3

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

January 2007 RSN • 9
Chinese Religions Group

Daniel B. Stevenson, University of Kansas, dlester@ku.edu. James Robson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, robson@umich.edu.

We invite proposals related to all aspects of religious thought and practice in China and Chinese religious communities. For 2007 we welcome proposals in the following areas: religious policy and practice in China (including the status of Christian and Islamic traditions, and the politics of “popu- lar superstition” and “heretical movements”); religious ramifications of civil service exam culture; digital resources for the study of Chinese religions (prospects and impact on future scholarship); ritual discourses in China and their implications for current ritual theory; negotiating multiple religious obligations; and Dumbang studies. With Chinese contributions to the study of reli- gion as the international focus for 2007, we are especially interested in programs on the history, organization, and methodological disposition of religious studies as a discipline in Chinese academic institutions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Christian Spirituality Group

Arthur Holder, Graduate Theological Union, aholder@gtu.edu. Wendy M. Wright, Creighton University, wwright@creighton.edu.

We welcome proposals that explore the relationship between the academic study of Christian spirituality and its practice, as well as proposals that employ multidisciplinary perspectives. We particularly invite proposals on the following themes: 1) Christian spirituality and the phenome- non of multiple religious belonging (e.g., Bede Griffiths, Abhishiktananda. Intermonastic experience, etc.); 2) The Psalms in Christian spirituality; 3) The spirituality of Chinese or Chinese-American Christians; and 4) For a co-sponsored session with the Religion and Ecological Group: Christian spiritual prac- tices for a sustainable ecology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Religious Ethics Group

Aaron Stahlaker, Indiana University, astahlak@indiana.edu.

We encourage submissions that actively comp- are and contrast positions or trajectories from diverse religious thinkers or groups, rather than merely reporting views from indi- vidual traditions. This year, in collaboration with the Confucian Traditions Group, we invite papers that analyze the unusual promi- nence of studies of Chinese thought, especially early Confucianism, in the development of comparative religious ethics, pointing out both distinctive contributions and possible limitations of this trend. We also solicit inte- grated sessions, as well as individual proposals, on substantive topics in comparative religious ethics. Themes of particular interest include comparative approaches to moral psychology and moral agency; problems of relativism and normative argument in comparative ethics; and analysis of how comparative inquiry changes and/or makes claims on its practi- tioners.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Studies in Hinduisms and Judaisms Group

Kathryn McMlymond, Georgia State University, kmclymond@gsu.edu.

This group seeks to bring together scholars of Hinduism and Judaism to generate responsi- ble and insightful comparative conversations with the intention of developing alternatives to the Christian-based paradigms that have tended to dominate the academic study of religious ethics. Paper proposals on any topic will be considered for acceptance, but for the 2007 sessions we particularly invite papers on the following themes: 1) Kabbalah, Hindu mysti- cism, and new religious movements; 2) Practices and teaching related to hair; 3) iconography and iconoclasm; and 4) Women’s laments. Proposals for individual papers as well as full panels are encouraged. Presenters need not have expertise in both Hindu and Jewish traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Comparative Theology Group

Deepak Sarma, Case Western Reserve University, deepak.sarma@case.edu. Tracy Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University, ttiemeier@lmu.edu.

Comparative Theology Group seeks pro- posals exploring CT in multiple tradi- tions. Full, multiperson proposals pre- ferred — steering committee is willing to host. Topics include further theorization of comparison; CT as theological; CT’s theories, methodologies, precedents, genealogies; is CT inevitably Christian? vs. Euro-American dominant paradigm; CT’s audience; multiple religious identi- ties; oral traditions; creeds, dogmas; truth claims; retribut/pro-con; translation prob- lems; Eastern Orthodoxy, Eastern reli- gions; CT, Chinese, Japanese religions; Benedict XVI, Islam, apologetics; Christian-Jewish dialogue as CT; ortho- praxy; Taoist, Western liturgy; mysticism and spiritual practices; hagiology; Frisina’s Unity of Knowledge and Action; liberal theologies, world religions; feminist critiques; Altruism in World Religions (Neuner/Chilton); freedom; and nature-affirming/denying religions. Online sub- mission only; thematic sessions (four + respondent); panels (five + respondent). Themes: abstract + paper proposals; panel: abstract + names.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Confucian Traditions Group

Keith Knapp, Citadel, keith.knapp@ citadel.edu. Michael Puett, Harvard University, puett@fas.harvard.edu.

We invite proposals concerning any aspect of Confucianism. Topics of interest include: empirical approaches (sociological or anthropological) to the study of Confucianism; Neo-Confucian ideas about evil; what is a Confucian? the for- mation of the Confucian classics; and what is at stake in Confucianism as a reli- gion? In collaboration with the Comparative Religious Ethics Group, we invite papers that analyze the prominence of studies of early Confucianism in the development of comparative religious ethics. We also encourage panels in the new 90-minute format, which can take the form of a symposium on a particular text, pedagogy, or a specific author. Since the international focus of next year’s meet- ing will be Chinese contributions to the study of religion, please think about including Chinese scholars in your panels.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Ecclesiastical Investigations Group

Michael A. Fahey, Boston College, michael.fahey@marquette.edu. Gerard Mannion, Liverpool Hope University, manning@hope.ac.uk.

1) Communion and Otherness: Contemporary Challenges of “Impaired Communion.” Communion as an ecu- menical challenge between churches and an ecclesiastical challenge within churches, with a focus on constructive proposals for the present. We also invite papers criti- cally assessing recently published studies such as Zizioulas’s Communion and Oneness. 2) “The Church and Its Many Asian Faces.” Papers exploring questions pertaining to Asian ecclesiology, incultura- tion, and interreligious dialogue, with a specific focus upon ministry and authori- ty. We particularly welcome papers addressing relevant ecclesiastical themes in relation to the AAR 2007 theme of China. Also welcome are: historical treat- ments of the churches in and of Asia and their influence upon the wider Christian community. Papers exploring shared inter- ests with comparative theology, feminist, or social scientific aspects of Asian ecclesi- ology are also invited.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Checklists

Prearranged Paper/Panel Session Proposals

Proposal being sent via proper method

- Current 2007 memberships for all participants including presider

- Completed Prearranged Session Participant Form listing all participants including presider (not necessary in OP3)

- Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)

- For paper sessions: individual abstracts for all participants

- For panel session: single abstract for the entire session

- Abstract(s) in an electronic format (150 words or fewer)

Individual Proposals

Proposal being sent via proper method

- Current membership for 2007

- Completed Participant Form (not necessary in OP3)

- Proposal (1,000 words or fewer, double-spaced)

- Abstract, in an electronic format (150 words or fewer)
Evangelical Theology Group

John R. Franke, Biblical Theological Seminary, jfranke@biblical.edu. Wyndy Corbin Reuschling, Ashland Theological Seminary, wcorbin@ashland.edu.

The Evangelical Theology Group is accepting paper and panel proposals for the following themes in 2007: 1) Evangelical traditions and tradition. Proposals are welcomed that explore the diversity of evangelical expression (confessional/theological, cultural/ethnic, emergent, etc.) and its relationship to the idea of a unifying evangelical tradition. 2) Evangelicals in Southern California. Proposals may explore how geographic, cultural, and social factors have shaped evangelical interaction with the racial, ethnic, and religious communities of the area. 3) For a co-sponsored session with the Wesleyan Studies Group: Hospitality to the dispossessed. Papers are invited which explore a theology of immigration, treating topics such as social action in immigrant communities, negotiating dual cultures, and the interface between established Christian communities and newly arrived immigrants.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection Group

Rosemary P. Carbine, College of the Holy Cross, rcarbine@brynmaстер.edu, M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University, mghamner@syr.edu.

Paper and panel proposals are invited that critically and practically engage feminist theory and religious reflection. Preference is given to proposals with substantial feminist theoretical argument and with attention to cross-cultural perspectives, especially China studies. We solicit both papers and panels particularly on the following topics: 1) Pedagogy and power: teaching toward transformation in feminist/womanist theory and theology (co-sponsored with Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group); 2) Reconceptualizing divine and human power: engagements especially but not only with Catherine Keller; and 3) Tragedy, irony, and other alternative genres for feminist theories and theologies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Gay Men’s Issues in Religion Group

Donald L. Boisvert, Concordia University, dbb@alcor.concordia.ca.

The Gay Men’s Issues in Religion Group explores the intersections of gay male experience and religion. This year we are interested in the role religion plays in the catastrophes over U.S. immigration and the social construction of racial/ethnic “others”; how does this relate to the (religious) constructions of gay men as sexual/gender “others”? Similarly, we are interested in the construction of religious “others”—noninstitutional forms of spiritual practice as well as gay male contributions to pagan and neopagan or “nature” religions. Finally, we encourage papers on the historical trajectory from “gay” to “queer”, what does the shift toward queer sensibilities portend for religion and ethics? We also welcome paper and panel proposals on topics not listed here and from all religious traditions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Hinduism Group

Timothy Lubin, Washington and Lee University, lubin@wlu.edu. Vijaya Nagarajan, University of San Francisco, nagarajan@usfca.edu.

We invite session proposals for the 2007 meeting on any aspect of Hinduism. Interdisciplinary and comparative proposals are also welcome, but individual paper proposals cannot be accepted. Proposals must be made through the online system. Topics proposed at the meeting: religion of the “backward” moves forward (Christian Novetzke); trees and forests (Eliade); global gurus (Joanne Waghorne); Hindu reform movements (Diana Dimitrova); Hindu activist critique of the Hinduva (Koenraad Elst); Hindu “Orientalism” (Sushil Mittal); effects of tourism (Jim Lochtefeld); Bhagavata-Purana (Ishamah Theodor); and Hindu ascetic traditions (Ramdas Lamb). Proposals on other topics are of course welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Indigenous Religious Traditions Group

Jualyne E. Dodson, Michigan State University, dodsonj@msu.edu. Ines M. Talaman, University of California, Santa Barbara, talaman@religion.ucsb.edu.

We welcome papers and panels devoted to three particular areas: 1) Shamanism in indigenous practices focusing on types, forms, and meanings of shamanistic expression in several regions of the world, including Australasia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. 2) Chinese scholarship on indigenous traditions including work by Chinese scholars on indigenous traditions in China and other places and critique of such work. 3) Rethinking the study of indigenous religions in contemporary society examining epistemological, hermeneutical, and methodological innovations for scholarship on indigenous religions. In general, we encourage papers and/or panels that interrogate the concept of indigenous religion rather than report on indigenous practice. What would be the criteria of indigenous religion for China or Australasia? Or, can settler traditions become indigenous?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Islamic Mysticism Group

Vincent Cornell, Emory University, vcornell@emory.edu. Carl Ernst, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, cern@unc.edu.

The Islamic Mysticism Group solicits paper and panel proposals for the 2007 AAR Annual Meeting, especially in relation to the following topics: narrative and storytelling in Islamic mysticisms; practical and engaged Sufism; reformist and legal aspects of Islamic mysticism; neo-Platonism and Islamic mysticism; the nature of a Sufi order (e.g., the Qadiriyya); Islamic mysticism and the arts (including film and communication media); and Sufism and psychology. Proposals dealing with Islamic mysticism in China are especially welcome in view of the AAR emphasis on China in 2007.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Japanese Religions Group

Paula Araú, Carleton College, panari@carleton.edu. Jay Ford, Wake Forest University, jayfordin@wfu.edu.

We invite panel and individual proposals related to all aspects of Japanese religious practice and thought, both historical and contemporary. For 2007 we welcome proposals relating to the following topics: 1) Use of visuals (images, videos, etc.) in teaching Japanese religiosity; 2) How migration (both people and traditions) has changed Japanese religion; 3) The impact of Japanese translations of “law” and “religion” on the study of religion and legal debates about religion; 4) Material culture and practices; 5) Chinese views of Japanese religions (in conjunction with the AAR focus on Chinese scholarship); and 6) Exile in Japanese religious history.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

SMU/PERKINS SCOLL OF THEOLOGY

January 28–30, 2008

Albert Outler and the Wesleyan Spirit

A scholarly conference on the occasion of the centennial of the birth of Albert Cook Outler

T his conference for scholars, pastors, church and academic professionals, and laity will bring scholars from throughout the globe to Southern Methodist University where Albert C. Outler (1908-1989) studied and taught generations of clergy and academicians. Outler was among the most important figures in the Wesleyan scholarship and a leading theologian of the Methodist tradition and the ecumenical movement. This conference will critically examine Outler’s work and assess his contributions to Wesleyan, Christian, Protestant theology, ecumenism, and the church.

A Call for Papers is available at perkins.smu.edu

Proposals are due March 16, 2007.

For more information contact:
Gary MacDonald, director of Advanced Ministerial Studies
Southern Methodist University
Perkins School of Theology
P.O. Box 750133
Dallas, TX 75275
macdonal@smu.edu 214.768.3161

Call for Papers

January 2007 RSN • 11
Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group

Andrew Burgess, University of New Mexico, aburgess@unm.edu, Marilyn Piety, Drexel University, mpiety@drexel.edu.

The Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group invites proposals for papers on the topic of “Kierkegaard and Religious Pluralism.” The call should be understood broadly so that it includes topics as diverse as Kierkegaard’s attitude toward religions other than Christianity; the employment of Kierkegaardian themes in understanding other religious traditions; the interpretation of Kierkegaard from the perspectives of other religious traditions; and the use of Kierkegaard’s writing as a resource for interreligious conversation. There will also be a prearranged panel, co-sponsored with the Schleiermacher Group, on Kierkegaard’s relation to Schleiermacher.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Latin/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group

Carmen Marie Nanko-Fernandez, Catholic Theological Union, cnanko@ctu.edu, Benjamin Valentin, Andover Newton Theological School, bvalentin@ants.edu.

The Latin/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group invites papers and/or panel proposals on the following thematic: Varieties of Latin/o Religious Experience and Expression. This session wishes to explore and/or engage with the distinct forms of religions and/or religious traditions found among U.S. Latin/o/as. It is especially interested in engagement with “non-Christian” religious practices and communities. A second session will be an invited panel meant to honor the work of Latino theologian Orlando Espín on the occasion of his 60th birthday. This panel session will also explore the implications of his lifetime of work for ongoing development of U.S. Latin/o/a theologies.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Law, Religion, and Culture Group

Robert Yelle, University of Memphis, robertyelle@hotmail.com.

We invite paper and panel proposals on any aspect of the cultural, historical, critical, and comparative study of the intersections of law and religion, including legal categories in religious traditions, the treatment of religion within legal traditions, and human rights and freedom of religion and belief. We especially encourage proposals on the following themes: the cross-cultural translation of the categories of “law” and “religion,” the ways in which such translations have influenced the study of religion — especially religions other than Christianity — and the impact of law on conceptions of religion around the world.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Lesbian-Feminist Issues and Religion Group

Julie J. Kilmer, Olivet College, jkilmer@olivetcollege.edu, Elizabeth A. Say, California State University Northridge, elizabeth.say@csun.edu.

We invite proposals on the following topics: 1) LFIR is interested in facilitating a panel conversation on the subject of intergenerational understandings of lesbian/queer identity. If you are interested in participating, suggest what you might contribute to such a panel. 2) The effect of sexual orientation on immigrants and immigration. 3) Lesbian identity in the work of Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherrie Moraga, or other Chicana lesbians. 4) Pagan groups/neopagans in contemporary lesbian circles. 5) Scholarship from political settings outside of the United States that encourages global conversations about lesbian issues in religion. We also encourage thoughtful, well-developed ideas on any range of topics falling under the rubric of lesbian-feminist issues in religion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Mysticism Group

June McDaniel, College of Charleston, modaniel@cofc.edu, Laura Weed, College of Saint Rose, weedl@strose.edu.

We focus on the comparative, philosophical, theological, psychological, historical, theoretical, cross-cultural, and transnational nature of mysticism, religious experience, and spiritual practice. Creative, imaginative, and scholarly proposals with a clear methodology are invited for 2007 on 1) Asceticism, love, and knowledge; 2) Mystical body, mystical sense in tantra (co-sponsored with the Tantric Studies Group); 3) Mysticism and yoga (co-sponsored with the Yoga Consultation); 4) Wittgenstein on silence and the mystical; in memory of D. Z. Phillips (co-sponsored with the Philosophy of Religion Section); and 5) Mysticism and the arts: mystical paintings, poetry, and handbooks.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Member ID Number

You can find your membership ID number on any of the official paperwork that comes from the AAR. The top line of the address label has your ID number. It is a single letter followed by five (5) numbers (e.g., Z12345).

If you are a 2006 or 2007 member, the label on this Call for Papers has your ID number on it. If it is not there, please go to www.aarweb.org/ membership and you can request to have your ID number e-mailed to you immediately.
Native Traditions in the Americas Group

Michael McNally, Carleton College, mcmnally@carleton.edu. Kenneth Mello, University of Vermont, Kenneth.Mello@uvm.edu.

We invite individual papers and group proposals on any aspect of Native Traditions in the Americas. In light of meeting in San Diego, we encourage proposals in the following areas: 1) Religious ideas and associations with water, including the transmission of religion and culture via water and waterways (especially, but not limited to, proposals that focus on the Pacific, California, and Mexico); 2) Militarization of native lands and impact on religions and cultures; 3) Consequences of missionization in contemporary native spiritual communities; 4) Connections between U.S. Native, Mexican indigenous, and Chicano/a religious/spiritual traditions; 5) Methodology for teaching native religious traditions; and 6) Native religious traditions and song/music/chant/dance. Proposals must be submitted electronically, preferably via OP3, but may be submitted via e-mail attachments to both co-chairs.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

New Religious Movements Group

Douglas E. Cowan, Renison College, University of Waterloo, dcowan@uwatc.ca.

The New Religious Movements Group invites proposals on the following topics: 1) New religions in Latin America, including the emergence of North American Protestantisms; 2) Changes in the conceptualization of “mainstream” versus “marginal” religious traditions as these relate to the study of new religions; 3) Religious innovations and creativity; and 4) Other aspects of new religions study. For our joint session co-sponsored with the Western Esotericism Group, we invite proposals on the exchange and innovation of esoteric ideas in new and emergent religions. Since the conference will be held in San Diego, proposals that focus on new religions in America and the “metaphysical heartland” of California in particular are especially welcome. Proposals for the co-sponsored session should be sent to both groups.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Nineteenth-Century Theology Group

Garrett Green, Connecticut College, garrett.green@conncoll.edu.

1) Nineteenth-century interpretations of early Christianity session: historical and rhetorical analysis of classic nineteenth-century constructions of the Christian origins of the personae of Jesus and Paul, accounts of Jesus’s relation to Judaism, etc. Focus is on 1840–1914. Proposals by scholars of earlier Christianity are also welcome. Organizer: Lori Pearson, lpearson@carleton.edu. 2) Religion and politics in nineteenth-century theology and philosophy of religion session: explorations of the political dimensions of the work of classic nineteenth-century thinkers, or analyses of the relation between “the political” and “the religious” in a particular thinker’s work, etc. Organizer: Ted Vial, TVial@ufl.edu. 3) Joint session with Société internationale d’études sur Alfred Loisy revisionist Roman Catholic scholarship on Christian origins during the Modernist period (1890–1914) — e.g., A. Loisy, L. Duchesne, P. Buttrill, A. Hourin, E. Buxaunier, Mgt. Le Carmus. Organizer: David Schiedewitz, David.Schiedewitz@marymount.edu.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Person, Culture, and Religion Group

Kathleen Bishop, Drew University, kibishop@andual.com. Pamela Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, coopertlp@tltp.edu.

Proposals are invited on 1) Multiple selves and subjects: multiplicity, unity, and hybridity in psychological and religious conceptions of identity (e.g., explorations from constructivism, trauma theory and identity, postcolonial theories of hybridity); 2) Negotiating religious pluralism: psychological resources for understanding (e.g., psychology-of-religion explorations of issues re: immigration, xenophobia, mestizaje, hybridity, religions in America: where pluralities flourish/cluster); 3) Seeing white(ness): religious and psychological reflections on the psychopatholog(ies) of invisibility/privilege; 4) Chinese religious conceptions of psyche, self, and healing; and 5) Psychology of moral imagination: resources for environmental crisis (co-sponsored with Religion & the Social Sciences Section); See also SBL Psychology and Biblical Studies Section. PCR also welcomes proposals on other themes dealing with psychology, culture, and religion. For more info: PCR Web site http://home.att.net/~pcr-aar.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Platonism and Neoplatonism Group

Willemien Otten, Utrecht University, uottens@bse.uu.nl. Gregory Shaw, Stonehill College, gshaw@stonehill.edu.

1) Foundations of Neoplatonism — Papers are invited to explore the sources of classical neoplatonic theory and practice. These sources may include but are not limited to Platonic, Pythagorean, Aristotelian, Stoic, Gnostic, and Hermetic writings. The question to be addressed is how these traditions are given expression by neoplatonic authors and what distinguishes them as neoplatonic. Are there distinctly neoplatonic principles and, if so, what are they? 2) Expressions of New Age Neoplatonism — It has been argued that Neoplatonism has been a primary influence on New Age authors from Helena Blavatsky to contemporary Wiccans. In what sense are New Age beliefs and practices Neoplatonic? Is Neoplatonism today being given authentic expression and new life or have contemporary authors and practitioners misappropriated and/or misunderstood classical neoplatonic literature?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Practical Theology Group

Bonnie Miller-McCune, Vanderbilt University, bonnie.miller-mccune@vanderbilt.edu. James Nieman, Hartford Seminary, jnieman@hartsem.edu.

The Practical Theology Group engages practical theology and religious practices, especially critically on religious tradition and practice, and explores issues in particular sub-disciplines of practical theology and ministry. In particular, we invite papers and panel proposals on the following topics: 1) How prayer, worship, or liturgy provide occasions for shaping political attitudes, stances, and activism; 2) The role and use of narrative in pastoral practice or practical theology more generally; and, in light of the meeting location in southern California, 3) Practical theological perspectives on immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons and their communities. Preference will be shown to proposals that demonstrate practical theological methods and examine the theologies embedded in/visible in practice. Encourage proposals respect diverse beliefs, moral claims, and political commitments.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group

Eddie S. Glaude, Princeton University, eglaude@princeton.edu. David Lambeth, Harvard University, david_lambeth@harvard.edu.

We invite proposals for papers on: 1) Gender/sexuality and pragmatist theories of agency; 2) In light of the conference’s location in San Diego, CA, we invite papers to take up the question: what can pragmatism say about immigration?; 3) William James, John Dewey, and New Age religiosity; and 4) The work of Richard Bernstein. In addition to these areas of interest, we welcome proposals on other topics relevant to pragmatism and empiricism, as well as panel proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

Religion and Disability Studies Group

Katharine Sonderegger, Virginia Theological Seminary, ksonderegger@vt.edu. Robert Sherman, Bangor Theological Seminary, rsherman@bts.edu.

We invite papers that examine the contributions of disability studies to the full range of fields within religious studies. For example, what does a disability lens contribute to ethical deliberations about euthanasia? How does disability theory fit in with liberation theology? What might a deaf culture perspective bring to emphasis on listening within meditation, proclamation, counseling, or spiritual direction? We invite papers that look at issues of methodology in relation to religion and disability studies. Many current studies focus on ethnography. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this, and what other methodological approaches might be appropriate? How important is participation of people with disabilities in doing research and designing research methodology?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA: 

(continued on next page)
Religion and Ecology Group

David Barnhill, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, barnhill@uwosh.edu, John A. Grim, Forum on Religion and Ecology, grim@religionandecology.org.

The Religion and Ecology Group invites proposals relating especially to connections between religions, cultures, and environments. We encourage thematically coherent sessions, panels, and individual papers related to the following themes: Christian spiritual practices and ecology; Christian eco-theology; 40 years after Lynn White's Thesis; religion, environmental issues, and possibilities of a sustainable China; issues related to California: suburbanization, boundaries, immigration, or environmental movements; globalization, free trade, and the Pacific Rim; oceans and spiritualities of place; religious ethics of water in dry places; an ethic of the sea: responses to the loss of fisheries and ocean pollution; science, technology and religion; and epistemology: sustainable campuses or theological schools: spiritual values and practices; and rituals that reconnect with nature. Visit our AAR Web site: www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/2007/UCS/religionandecology.org and www.religionandnature.com for more details, and information for organizing sessions. For additional information or questions, contact co-chairs listed above.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group

Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University, amir.hussain@lmu.edu, John Lyden, Dana College, jlyder@dana.edu.

We seek proposals related to: 1) Media and all issues in the study of teaching and training of religion, film, and visual culture; 2) The use of semiotics and critical theory in the study of visuality and image; 3) Ritual aspects of film, and the filming of rituals; 4) Use of sound and music in film; 5) Documentary films about religion, and hermeneutical issues arising from the relation of filmmakers to subjects filmed (e.g., “creative work” vs. “filmed reality”), and including how documentaries may reveal/conceal bias, especially when used to teach about religion; and 6) Films on China or Chinese religions, Southern California, or Latino/a culture. We also welcome panel proposals on topics or recent books in the field, as well as co-sponsorship with other units.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Group

Oren Baruch Stier, Florida International University, oren@fiu.edu, Katharina von Kellenbach, St. Mary's College of Maryland, kvonkellenbach@smcm.edu.

We invite individual papers and/or complete panel proposals, from any methodological perspective, on the following topics: 1) The use and usefulness of audiovisual testimony for religious, ethical, and theological approaches to the Holocaust and other genocides, especially in light of the meeting's proximity to the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's archives; 2) Theology in the aftermath of catastrophe, including the Holocaust, genocides, slavery, and natural disasters (papers may or may not be comparative); and 3) A possible co-sponsored session with the Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group on the use of Bonhoeffer's life and theology in post-Holocaust (and postgenocide) interfaith dialogues. We are especially interested in innovative presentation formats and alternative panel proposals that feature constructive, critical, and/or reflective approaches.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group

Nelson Maldonado-Torres, University of California, Berkeley, nm@berkeley.edu. Jeanette Reedy Solano, California State University, Fullerton, jsolano@fullerton.edu.

The Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group invites submissions of proposals on the following topics: 1) Religion, ("illegal") migration, displacement, coalition building, and the struggle for immigrant rights in the Americas; proposals on the Chinese immigrant experience will be given special attention for a possible co-sponsored panel with the Religion and Migration Consultation Group, but other proposals will be considered as well; 2) Recent religious developments in Mexico: issues of race and/or religious diversity; 3) Religion and the body: recent developments in reproductive rights; 4) Discovering the divine in the dust: religion and film from Latin America and the Caribbean (for a possible co-sponsored panel with Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group); 5) Sacred sites as big business: the economics of religious tourism.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Media, and Culture Group

Sean McCloud, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, spmccloud@email.uncc.edu. Gordon Lynch, University of Birmingham, G.A.Lynch@bham.ac.uk.

The Religion, Media, and Culture Group invites individual paper and panel submissions that further our theoretical, empirical, and historical understandings of the intersections between religion, media, and different forms of cultural production and consumption. Although we encourage submissions in all areas, in 2007 we are especially interested in: 1) California as a site of media production, distribution, and consumption, as well as the state's iconicographic significance in national and international media; and 2) Theorizing media and religion: exploring how key concepts and writers in cultural and social theory might usefully inform debates in this field. We welcome innovative presentation formats and session structures that utilize a full range of media in order to encourage discussion.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University, ibell@bu.edu, Suzanne J. Crawford, Pacific Lutheran University, suzanne.crawford@plu.edu.

The Religions, Medicines, and Healing Group invites proposals for papers addressing religious worldviews, beliefs and/or practices, and understandings of medicine/health traditions, in relation to aging and/or becoming an elder. We particularly welcome theoretical inquiry. We also invite proposals for a joint session with the Danist Studies Consultation on Danist understandings of, and approaches to, healing. Minority and women scholars are encouraged to submit proposals.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Politics, and the State Group

Barbara A. McGraw, Saint Mary's College of California, bcmgraw99@mac.com, Andrew Murphy, Valparaiso University, andrew.murphy@valpo.edu.

In addition to receiving proposals that are generally within the purview of the group, we are interested in the following: 1) How can religion (including political theology; whether conservative or progressive) contribute to public life, politics, and/or conceptions of democracy without undermining the separation of church and state? 2) What is the “common good” and how can religion contribute to a conception of the “common good” that is not majoritarian and therefore takes account of a pluralism that includes small minorities? 3) Religion, democracy, and foreign policy. 4) Over the past several years, there have been a number of challenges from the margins of pluralism. How have issues involving pagans and the state, both here and abroad, contributed?

NOTE: Please send all inquiries to both chairs. Thank you.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group

Jon Pahl, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, jpa@ltsp.edu, Marla J. Selvidge, University of Central Missouri, selvidge@cmu.edu.

For group proposals or questions regarding the 2007 session please contact either of the co-chairs listed above. The Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group is soliciting papers in the following areas: children, youth, and war; religions and transnational economies in conflict (globalization); literatures, images, and/or the material culture of peace-making; and religious aspects in conflict over immigration, sanctuary, and place. We encourage the use of Power Point presentations to supplement the papers. The group is seeking to co-sponsor with another group or section during the 2007 session.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Ritual Studies Group

Donna Lynn Seamone, Acadia University, donna.seamone@acadiau.ca, Scott Haldeman, Chicago Theological Seminary, thaldemane@ctchicago.edu.

Proposals welcomed on: 1) Theorizing participants in rites: Agents? Actors? Subjects? or Others?; 2) Rites “as if”; ethical issues related to the doing rites of “others” and/or participating in their rites; 3) Economics and rites: exchange of material wealth, roles of owners and beneficiaries of sacred space/objects, rites in relation to larger economic structures and dynamics; 4) How rites change and make change; 5) Rites on the Web; and 6) The state of the field: classic theories in need of revisiting and reevaluating and/or new questions confronting the study of ritual and theoretical proposals to address them. Proposals for full panels on other timely issues in the ritual studies are welcomed. All proposals should attend to theory and method in the study of ritual.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

Surface mail = F
Fax = F
OP3 = OP3
E-mail with attachment = E
Roman Catholic Studies Group

Vincent J. Miller, Georgetown University, millers@georgetown.edu. Daniel Speed Thompson, Saint Mary's University, dthompson@indiana.edu.

The group welcomes proposals for papers or sessions on any topic concerning theological, historical, and cultural studies of Catholicism. Session proposals may be edited. Particular interests include: Catholicism in the Southwest, transnational Catholicism, geographical/other borders. Catholicism in the immigration debate. Catholicism in China/Pacific Rim. (Suggestions for Chinese scholars are encouraged.) The Chinese Rites controversy, inculturation. The Chinese Catholic Association. Relations with Islam, Benedict's Regensburg address — theological, cultural, and media studies (for a possible joint session with Study of International Relations in World Freedom). Catholicism and the body, [PJH’s Theology of the Body — reception, use, critique. Broader considerations of the Catholic body in belief, imagination, representation, and practices, including gender, labor, sex, marginalized/invisible bodies, ecoclesiology-community and individualism. Possible author/critics panel on Schleiermacher’s Jazz Age Catholicism.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Schleiermacher Group

Brent Sockness, Stanford University, bsockness@stanford.edu.

This fourth and last session in our group’s four-year reexamination of Schleiermacher’s magnum opus, The Christian Faith, will be devoted to the work’s prolegomena (props. 1–31). Proposals are invited on any aspect of Glaubenslehre’s introduction, e.g.: Schleiermacher’s theory of religion and treatment of the religions; his use of “Lehnsätze” in determining Christianity’s “essence”; the epistemological status and two-fold value of properly dogmatic statements; his decisions concerning the selection and organization of dogmatic materials; the (contested) role of the prolegomena within the Glaubenslehre as a whole; etc. In addition, the Schleiermacher Group co-sponsoring with the Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group a prearranged panel on Kierkegaard’s relationship to Schleiermacher.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Science, Technology, and Religion Group

Greg Peterson, South Dakota State University, greg.peterson@sdstate.edu. Lisa Steenmark, San Jose State University, lsteenmark@csus.edu.

The Science, Technology, and Religion Group is seeking papers on 1) Bonobos and theological anthropology/primateology, exploring questions of human nature and/or community and moral formation (sponsored jointly by the Animals and Religion Consultation); 2) Global warming: science, ethics, and policy in theological perspective; and 3) Intersections between the Bible, science, sex, and gender identity. (Certain biblical and theological positions on sex and gender identity seem to be opposed to those of evolutionary psychology, genetics, and neuroscience. This session seeks to trouble such oppositions, identify the overlaps, and trace possible intersections - and oppositions - in these discourses. To be co-sponsored with SBL’s Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible Group.) Papers and panel proposals dealing specifically with science, religion, and public policy or theology and technology will also be considered.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Scriptural Reasoning Group

Randi Rashkover, York College of Pennsylvania; rashkover@ycp.edu. Scott Bade, Barenaked Science, University of Scranton, badenracy26@creativeminds.net.

Scriptural Reasoning Group gathers Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinkers for the study of scriptural texts that speak to themes of contemporary importance. Papers should examine brief scriptural passages (drawing on both textual scholarship and reception history) and suggest how they address contemporary readers’ concerns. Participants will be asked to circulate drafts in advance and revise their papers in conversation with each other. At least one session will include text study in small groups. We invite paper or panel proposals in the following areas: 1) Women and scripture; 2) Law; 3) War; 4) Creation (Genesis 1, John 1, and Surah 2:50-30); and 5) SR theory. We will unconditionally welcome panel proposals to include speakers from at least two of the three religious traditions represented in scriptural reasoning.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Theologians and Continental Philosophy Group

Ellen Armour, Vanderbilt Divinity School, ellen.armour@vanderbilt.edu. Bruce Ellis Benson, Wheaton College, b Ellis.benson@wheaton.edu.

We invite proposals that explore work done by Giorgio Agamben, the commonplace of testimony or witness, science, nature, and/or embodiment (from a continental perspective), and visual culture.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

* New Program Unit *

Sacred Space in Asia Group

Steven Heine, Florida International University, heine@fiu.edu. Pamela D. Winfield, Meredith College, winfield@meredith.edu.

In keeping with the geographical focus on China in 2007, the Sacred Space in Asia Group solicits papers from a wide variety of historical and methodological perspectives especially on the following topics: 1) Wutaishan past and present; 2) The Silk Route, including not limited to Dunhuang cave-shrines, Xuanzang and other pilgrims, Xi’an then and now, Tang dynasty, Islam and other influences, traders and raiders, and emerging scholarship on Silk Route music; and 3) Chinese sacred spaces: framing forms and fieldwork (for a possible co-sponsored panel with the Anthropology of Religion Group). Full panel proposals, innovative programming ideas (e.g., film, audio, interactive media) and individual papers on other topics related to sacred space in China or Asia are welcome. Initial inquiries may be addressed to panel chairs.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group

Frances Garrett, University of Toronto, frances.garrett@utoronto.ca. Kurtis Scharff, University of Virginia, ks6hb@virginia.edu.

In light of the 2007 AAR Annual Meeting’s focus on China, the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group invites papers or panels focused on Tibetan religion in China or the interface between Tibetan and Chinese religions. We are also seeking papers for a panel to be co-sponsored with the Buddhist Philosophy Group, the Buddhism Section, or other groups or sections as relevant. The mission of the Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Group is to create an environment that promotes conversation between different approaches to the study of Tibetan and Himalayan religions.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Tillich: Issues in Theology, Religion, and Culture Group

Robson B. James (University of Richmond, and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond), 7914 Alvarado RD, Richmond, VA 23229, USA; rjames@richmond.edu. Paul Tillich’s thought on: 1) Theories of international relations and globalization, with possible attention to recent books by Mark L. Taylor, Ronald H. Stone, and Lon Weaver (possible co-sponsored session with the Religion, Political, and the State Group); 2) Scriptural sources for Tillich’s thought, including: Is Tillich a biblical theologian? 3) Issues of pluralism, inclusivism, and exclusionism — culturally as well as theologically; and 4) Tillich’s relationship with Judaism or Buddhism, including persons and thought. Tillich-related papers on other themes will be seriously considered, with specific themes for sessions determined by the merit of the proposals received. A winning student paper will receive the $300 Annual Tillich Prize.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

E-mail Notifications

Remember to include an e-mail address on your proposal. If you do not use e-mail, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with appropriate postage for the country from which the program unit chair will send the notification about your acceptance/rejection onto the program.

* Call for Papers *

Proposals on other continental figures or topics are also welcome.

SUBLMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

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Religious Studies News

90-MINUTE SESSIONS
Sunday afternoons will be scheduled with three 90-minute time slots to allow for more intense scholarly explorations on a topic. See page four for more information.

Wesleyan Studies Group
Sarah Lancaster, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, smcormick@nts.edu, K. Steve McCormick, Nazarene Theological Seminary, smcormick@nts.edu.

The group is open to any proposals providing historical or constructive engagement with the Wesleyes or Wesleyan/Methodist traditions. This year we particularly solicit papers in these areas: 1) Celebration of the tercentenary of Charles Wesley’s birth. Papers are invited which explore Charles Wesley’s contribution to the Wesleyan movement, especially how his hymns provide a theological understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ. 2) For a co-sponsored session with the Evangelical Group: hospitality to the disposessed. Papers are invited which explore a theology of immigration, treating topics such as social action in various immigrant communities, different experiences of first- and second-generation immigrants, negotiating dual cultures, and the interface between established Christian communities and newly arrived immigrants.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Western Esotericism Group
Allison P. Coudert, University of California, Davis, acoudert@ucdavis.edu. Wouter J. Hanegraaff, University of Amsterdam, w.j.hanegraaff@uva.nl.

The Western Esotericism Group invites paper proposals, from various disciplinary perspectives, dealing with Western esoteric currents and their various cultural ramifications. Theme of preference: “Esotericism and Transgression.” Western esoteric currents are not infrequently depicted as “transgressive” with respect to the religious, social, and political standards of main-stream culture. Forms which did that image take on, and what reasons may account for it? Proposals will be welcome that address the topic either from a general, theoretical point of view and/or by study-specific historical cases. Preferred theme for panel co-sponsored with the New Religious Movements Group: “Exchange and innovation of esoteric ideas in new and emergent religions.” Given the location in San Diego, proposals focusing on America, and more specifically California, are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

World Christianity Group
Dale T. Irvin, New York Theological Seminary, dirvin@att.net, Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University, pp50@georgetown.edu.

The World Christianity Group seeks to explore intercultural, interconfessional, and interreligious dynamics of Christianity as a world religion, bringing into conversation scholars in church history, Christian mission, theology, sociology of religion, non-Christian religions, new religious movements, and comparative religion. The group welcomes proposals on 1) China in world Christianity, with attention to the long history of Christianity in China, as well as the manner in which China has figured as a trope in other regional experiences of world Christianity; 2) Gendered perspectives on World Christianity, with special attention to methodological concerns; and 3) Local border-crossings and hybridity, especially concerning Christianity and other religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Animals and Religion Consultation
Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University, lhobgood@southwestern.edu. Paul Waldau, Tufts University, paul.waldau@tufts.edu.

The Animals and Religion Consultation encourages proposals in the following areas: the place of animals and environmental ethics in a sustainable China, with a focus on religious resources; animals and food in religious traditions; animals and human health; animals as divinities; the role of zoos and religion; religious responses to mass extinction; the place(s) of animal protection activism in/as religion; animal consciousness/intelligence in religion and religious ethics; animal philosophy; and religious/ethical engagement with human nature and/or current human/moral formation, with Science, Technology, and Religion Group.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation
Tom Ogletree, Yale University, togletre@yale.edu. Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary, gstassen@fuller.edu.

The Biblical/Contextual Ethics Consultation integrates study of scriptural teachings in their social/ethical contexts with critical study of contemporary social/ethical contexts. We seek insights from ethical disciplines for self-critical awareness of assumptions that influence scriptural interpretation, and insights from scriptural disciplines for self-critical awareness in ethics. In 2007 we call for papers that offer “Critical Reflection on the Prophetic Calling,” combining studies of scriptural texts with the challenges of a contemporary public witness by committed Jewish, Christian, or Muslim agents. Topic for the session: “Critical Reflection on the Prophetic Calling.” Please direct queries about the call to Tom Ogletree.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:
Call for Papers

Childhood Studies and Religion Consultation
Marcia Bunge, Christ College, Valparaiso University, marcia.bunge@valpo.edu; Barbara Pitkin, Stanford University, pitkin@stanford.edu.

We invite proposals in any area of childhood studies and religion but especially welcome papers on: 1) Children and sacred texts: children’s relation to sacred texts in the world’s religious traditions, e.g., children’s access to, use of, and responses to sacred texts; sacred texts and children’s religious formation; children’s scriptures; children’s memorization of sacred texts as spiritual practice; reading sacred texts with children; images of children in sacred texts. 2) Women and children (co-sponsored with the Women and Religion Section): children in feminist religious thought and practice in a variety of traditions; e.g., religious reflection before and after parenthood; the politics of childrearing; how parenthood reshapes religious ideals; sexual justice/liberation for women and children; feminist spiritual practices and children; and spirituality of childhood and parenting.

Submissions accepted via:

Christianity and Academia Consultation
David S. Cunningham, Hope College, cunningham@hope.edu.

This consultation explores issues at the intersection of Christian theology and higher education. Papers are invited on such topics as: theological accounts of academic freedom; the declining role of denominations in church-related institutions; issues surrounding institutionally sponsored worship and worship spaces; the challenges for non-Christian faculty at church-related institutions, and the converse; fundamentalism(s) on campus; the postmodern student (visual culture, embodied spirituality, personal spirituality), "incridulity toward metanarratives"; the perception and reception of theology among other academic disciplines; the role of external funding in shaping the theological orientation of institutions; and the idea of a "theology of administration" for church-related colleges and seminaries. We prefer papers that move beyond mere description and that endeavor to analyze the issues from a theological perspective.

Submissions accepted via:

Contemporary Islam Consultation
Rosalind Gwynne, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, rgwynne@utk.edu; Richard C. Martin, Emory University, cmartinr@emory.edu.

The consultation welcomes proposals for both individual submissions and organized thematic panels, in all areas that broadly fall under the rubric of contemporary Islam, referring to the period of the last two centuries. Among the themes suggested from the floor at the business meeting in 2006 were intra-Islamic dialogue; center, periphery, and globalization; the contributions of recently deceased notable figures, such as Montgomery Watt and Clifford Geertz; and the academic study of religion in predominantly Muslim societies. The consultation invites coprosoponymy, with other units of panels on comparative themes (Islam and migration, and Islam in colonial-postcolonial contexts) where they have been proposed, as well as panels and papers that engage members of the AAR who are not Islamic studies experts.

Submissions accepted via:

Contemporary Pagan Studies Consultation
Wendy Griffin, California State University, Long Beach, agriffin@csub.edu.

We invite papers that address issues of either "Dagan Borderlands" or "Pagans and the State: Here and Abroad." For the first, we seek especially contributions that concern the interfaction intersection of paganism and mainstream religion; pagan liminality; pluralism, polytheism; and/or international paganism in different contexts; and cultural appropriation or borrowing (e.g., loan words, concepts, and practices). For the second, we are considering legal challenges; political environment; paganism and policy; communities in conflict; and pagans and the military. Papers on all these topics may include theoretical, empirical, theological, or other perspectives. We also welcome papers on other themes dealing with contemporary pagan studies.

Submissions accepted via:

Coptic Christianity Consultation
Lois Farag, Lutheran Seminary, lfarag@luthersem.edu.

1) Coptic Material Culture: We invite papers on Coptic material culture in its variety of expressions. Topics could address themes in archaeology, art history, iconography, sculpture, textiles, architecture, cinematic expressions, textual, or other methods not explicitly mentioned. Proposals in any historic period including the modern era are encouraged. Innovative research work is welcomed.

2) Coptic Martyrdom: We welcome papers on the theme of martyrdom in the Coptic Church. These themes should address martyrdom in its plurality of expressions such as spiritual or physical suffering, death, ascetic martyrdom, or confessors. We urge presenters to investigate the topic of martyrdom through the centuries, including the modern era.

Submissions accepted via:

Cultural History of the Study of Religion Consultation
Richard Jaffe, Duke University, richard.jaffe@duke.edu; Tisa Wenger, Arizona State University, tisa.wenger@asu.edu.

The consultation seeks papers concerned with historical inquiry into the construction of the category of "religion" in various social and cultural contexts, and their relationship to the academic study of religion. We strive for sessions that represent diverse cultural/geographic locations.

Submissions accepted via:

Daoist Studies Consultation
Jonathan Herman, Georgia State University, jherman28@gsu.edu; Louis Komjathy, Pacific Lutheran University, komjathy@plu.edu.

The Daoist Studies Consultation invites panel and/or paper proposals on the following topics: 1) Daoism, medicine, and healing (co-sponsored with the Religion, Medicines and, Healing Group); 2) Daoist ritual; 3) Daoism and American literature; 4) Daoist studies: states of the field; and 5) Cross-cultural interpretations of Daoism. We also welcome proposals on different topics. Please submit panel and paper proposals via the OP3 system no later than March 1, 2007. If you have any questions or additional suggestions, please contact the co-chairs at the above e-mail addresses.

Submissions accepted via:

Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation
Kathleen Garces-Foley, Marymount University, kgarces-foley@marymount.edu; Christopher Moreman, St. Francis Xavier University, F: 902-867-3610, cmoreman@sfu.ca.

The Death, Dying, and Beyond Consultation invites proposals for presentations addressing all aspects of dying, death, and the dead, and from any methodological approach. Our theme for the 2007 AAR is "Continuing Bonds with the Dead: What role do the dead have in individual lives and the community?" In addition to this main theme, and in keeping with the international theme of the AAR, we also invite proposals addressing death in the Chinese context. Further, as always, all proposals are encouraged even if they do not fall squarely within the parameters of the themes above. Please include in your proposal a description of your presentation style, as it is our hope to have dynamic, engaging presentations paired with conversation among audience and presenters.

Submissions accepted via:

Liberal Theologies Consultation
Christine Helmer, Harvard Divinity School, chelmer@hds.harvard.edu.

Papers are welcome that address the question of how social, political, and/or religious praxis is dialogically related to the constructive-theological work of liberal theologies. Considerations of praxis should draw upon concrete experiences with social action; theological reflections can include theoretical, conceptual, historical, constructive, and interdisciplinary aspects. A specific emphasis on the topic of praxis and liberalism as it is understood in different religions is especially welcome. Papers are also invited that critically and constructively reflect on the intersection between liberal theologies and inter-religious dialogue. Topics can include the postcolonial/liberation critiques of classical liberalism's Christian-centrism, constructive theological reflection on liberalism and religious pluralism, liberalism's contributions to the comparative study of religion, comparative theologies, and/or a theology of religions.

Submissions accepted via:

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail
= Fax
OP3 = OP3 online system
E-mail with attachment
= E-mail

January 2007 RSN • 17
**New Program Unit**

**Mormon Studies Consultation**
James McLaughlin, Western Carolina University, jmlaughl@wcu.edu. Grant Underwood, Brigham Young University, grau@byu.edu.

The Mormon Studies Consultation invites paper proposals for its inaugural session, “Mormon Studies in the Academy.” We are particularly interested in presentations that examine the range of topics, disciplines, and methodologies that can be brought into dialogue with Mormonism as it is studied in an academic environment. Possible topics include:
1) Launching Mormon Studies courses and programs; opportunities and challenges;
2) What can Mormon Studies learn from Jewish Studies, Catholic Studies, etc.; What new perspectives and approaches might Mormon Studies bring to these more established fields;
3) How might the Mormon “case study” enrich religious studies curricula;
4) The survey course on Mormonism: topics, texts, and methodologies;
5) Inventing the introductory textbook on Mormonism.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

jmclachlan@wcu.edu
tjoord@nnu.edu

**Pentecostal Charismatic-Movements Consultation**

James K. A. Smith, Calvin College, jksmith@calvin.edu. Amos Yong, Regent University, ayong@regent.edu.

The Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements (PCM) Consultation seeks proposals for fully developed panels or papers on the following themes: 1) New trajectories of PCM theory and research; and, in light of the San Diego locale of the meeting, 2) Latin American/Latin immigration, transnational, and diasporic PCM. We are interested in directions of research that feature new methods and theoretical approaches to the school development of Christian renewal movements past and present, as well as those which focus on aspects including but not limited to the Latin American nations in the recent Pew ten-country survey on PCM’s. Within the above rubrics, papers/papers may explore PCM relation to and influence in areas such as civil/human rights, environmental policy, politics, gender, politicalization, social reform, and war and peace.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Open and Religious Theologies Consultation**

Thomas Jay Oord, Northwest Nazarene University, tspoor@nnu.edu.

Theme: What God does, chooses not to do, or cannot do.* Open and relational theologies are distinguished from other theological movements by their claims about God’s power. But significant differences exist among open and relational theologies with regard to how best to conceive of divine power. These differences affect how one approaches the problems of evil, eschatology, creation, prayer, human responsibility, religious pluralism, spiritual formation, etc. We invite papers that use resources from scriptures, theological traditions, science, and philosophy to explore what God does, chooses not to do, or cannot do.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Religion and Colonialism Consultation**

Mark Elmore, New York University, mark.elmore@nyu.edu. Caleb Ellenbein, University of California, Santa Barbara, cbe@umail.ucsb.edu.

In recent decades, a putative return of religi - on has led to reevaluation of the secularization thesis. We request proposals examining an important framework for this reevaluation: relations between religion and state in postcolonial contexts. How did colonialism transform relations between the state and religious formations? How did independence movements further transform this relationship? How have specific colonial and governmental developments (legal, educational, economic, etc.) affected these relations? How have developments in postcolonial societies affected the way colonizing societies understand the state/religion nexus? In addressing these questions, we hope to form a panel representing historically and contextually diverse forms of colonialism, including Asian, Latin American, neocolonialism, and globalization. We are especially interested in papers/paper panels with a strong theoretical content accessible to a broad listening audience.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Religion and Sexuality Consultation**

Marie Marquardt, Agnes Scott College, womanand@agnesscott. Jennifer Saunders, Denison University, saunders@denison.edu.

This consultation seeks to create a forum in which scholars exploring religion and migration engage in conversation across boundaries of methodology, religious tradition, and region. We welcome papers on migrants within and across national borders, and in all regions of the world. Potential topics include: 1) Migration and the Chinese religious diaspora (co-sponsored with Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group); building on the 2007 AAR China focus by exploring the role of religion in settlement processes and transnational network formation for Chinese migrants. 2) Religion on the move: migration, displacement, and identity—examining the role of religious narratives and practices for migrants’ identity construction (race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality). 3) Religious objects and migration: the transnational movement of visual and material culture.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Religion in Europe Consultation**

Robert E. Alvis, Saint Mary’s School of Theology, ralvis@stmaryseminary.md. Andrii Krawcuhl, University of Sudbury, akrawchu@sympatico.ca.

The Religion in Europe Consultation promotes the interdisciplinary study of religion relating to the social, cultural, and political evolution of Europe. We invite proposals on any aspect of religion connected to Europe in any historical period and encourage submissions from various disciplines, including political science, history, sociology, anthropology, law, philosophy, and theology. This year we seek papers on the following themes: 1) Evolving religious perceptions and concepts of “Europe” (the West); 2) Migration, minorities, and the challenges of conformity/nonconformity to established religious and/or political systems and values in Religion and Empire, religious interpretations/critiques of the political order, and/or religious dimensions of liberal democracy; and 3) Secularization, secularization, and the implications for religious communities. Proposals that don’t correspond to these themes will also be considered.

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:**

**Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change Consultation**

Joe Pettit, Morgan State University, morganprof@yahoo.com. Melissa Rogers, Wake Forest University, rogersm@wfu.edu.

We seek paper and panel proposals on interdisciplinary research between religious studies and public policy. We encourage proposals on all aspects of this subject. We are especially interested in proposals addressing: 1) Racial inequality. How could interdisciplinary research between religious studies and public policy influence current debates about racial inequality? 2) Immigration. How might attention to public policy debates on immigration improve...
religious discussions/debates on the topic as found in such things as denominational statements, scholarly work, or sermons (for possible co-sponsored session with the Religion and the Social Sciences Section)?

3) Government funding of faith-based organizations. In particular, what are the implications of David Kuo’s Tempting Faith: An Inside Story of Political Seduction for scholarship and public policy on government support of faith-based organizations?

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Rethinking the Field Consultation

Bradley L. Herling, Boston University, blherling@bu.edu

Rethinking the Field invites proposals (especially from graduate students) for panels that reflect on established and emerging subfields within the study of religion. Past sessions have investigated philosophy of religion, religion and literature, religion and ecology, and liberal theology. For the coming year, we are particularly interested in sponsoring panels on sociology or anthropology of religion, religion and science, and subfields within biblical studies, though all proposals are welcome. The consultation is committed to innovative and interactive forms of programming: proposals from prospective conveners (a maximum of two for any given panel) should justify the choice of the selected discipline and include a plan for a program that varies from the standard paper-response format. Senior participants may be included as part of the panel.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

* Wild Program Unit

Space, Place, and Religious Meaning Consultation

Jeanne Halgren Kälde, University of Minnesota, jkailde@umn.edu.

This consultation seeks paper proposals from scholars of diverse traditions, religions, and time periods, who explore the function of religious space and/or place as a constitutive component of religious systems. We seek papers that employ methodologically innovative approaches to understanding the relationships between space and religious meaning. We are particularly interested in how space and place function in the development of individual and community religious memory, in the growth and direction of religious or ecclesiastical social structures, in the interpretation of texts, and in the development of religious practices. We encourage submissions that take a comparative approach across traditions or time periods, or that can be paired with other submissions to suggest enlightening comparisons or disjunctures.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation

Johnny B. Hill, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, jhill@lpts.edu.

The Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Consultation invites paper proposals that examine the intersection between King’s vision of the beloved community and the political, cultural, and economic dimensions of globalization. King’s understanding of the beloved community should be a global ethic with a deep concern for the plight of the poor and powerless serves as a core theme of reflection. On the 40th anniversary of the Poor People’s Campaign, the consultation will also consider papers that treat this important juncture in King’s work and the impact of globalization on the poor.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Yoga in Theory and Practice Consultation

Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, ckeychappell@lmu.edu; Stuart Ray Sarbacker, Northwestern University, s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu.

The consultation seeks papers on the topic of Yoga in Theory and Practice from a variety of perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, history of religions, philosophy and theology, and cultural studies. Contacts are listed for potential joint proposals. Submissions should be made through OP3. Christianity and yoga (Cleo Kears, ckears@uad.edu); freedom and submission in guru traditions (Lola Williamson, willdill@mall菩ps.edu); modern meditational yoga (Lloyd Pfuhler, lloyd@truman.edu); celebrating Gerald Larson’s Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophy yoga volume (Knut Jacobsen, knut.jacobsen@ronalddoh.nu); gender in yoga (Laura Corn nell, lauren@greenyoga.org); yoga in early modern India (Andrew Nicholson, ajnichol son@notre.ccsunnybrook.ca); definitions of Yoga and religion (Jim Laine, laine@macalester.edu); W. David Smith’s The Self Possessed (Stuart Sarbacker, s-sarbacker@northwestern.edu); mysticism and yoga (with the Mysticism Group), and; the categories of ‘yoga’ and ‘tantra’ (with the Tantric Studies Group).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Wildcard Sessions

Wildcard sessions address an area of interest that does not naturally fall within the purview of any program unit. Members are invited to submit fully developed proposals for an entire session (session proposal; presider; list of participants with presentation titles and abstracts, if applicable; etc.). Sessions must be in the 90-minute session format. The Program Committee will review the proposals. If a proposal covers an area that fits within an established program unit, the proposal will be forwarded to the unit for possible inclusion on the unit’s program.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:

= Surface mail

= Fax

= OP3

= E-mail

= E-mail with attachment

Call for Papers

January 2007 RSN • 19

The New Program Unit

The Holy Child: Traditions of the Infant and Child Jesus

Kristi Upson-Saia, Occidental College, upsonsaia@oxy.edu.

Although long neglected by modern scholars, historically the childhood of Jesus has been considered supremely important to understanding Jesus’s identity and Christian piety. This session seeks to address the significance of these traditions and depictions of the young Jesus, from birth to childhood. We welcome proposals in the following areas: 1) Literary traditions of the young Jesus, including stories of his birth, sojourn in Egypt, and childhood adventures; 2) Liturgical devotions to the young Jesus (e.g., the Infant Jesus of Prague); 3) Artwork and figurines depicting the infant and/or young boy; 4) Traditions surrounding relics from Jesus’s infancy (e.g., holy prepuce).

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Is Humanism a Dead Topic in the Study of Religion?

W. David Hall, Centre College, wdaavid.hall@centre.edu; Glenn Whittenhouse, Florida Gulf Coast University, gwhittenhouse@gcu.edu.

Various strands of post-Enlightenment thought shaping current study of religion and theology have suggested that humanism is imperialistic, inappropriate, or passe. This session addresses the issue of whether or not humanism is still a viable subject and/or methodological perspective in the study of religion and theology. Topics of particular interest are the history of the humanistic enterprise, humanistic impulses in the various religious traditions, what humanism might offer in light of current religious conflicts around the world, and/or whether the recent proposal for a theological humanism might offer hope for future directions in the study of religion and theology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

The Religion Major and Liberal Education

Timothy M. Renick, Georgia State University, renick@gsu.edu.

With the rapid growth of the major in religion, the unique and evolving place it occupies in the modern academy, and significant changes in the national and global contexts in which Americans view religion, there is a need to reassess the relationship between the goals of the concentration and those of liberal education. Papers for this special session — part of an AAR/Temple Foundation initiative — will discuss challenges to the major and successful responses: How can the religion major better prepare students to meet the needs of liberal education, the professions, and society? Papers that discuss challenges, strategies and innovations at individual institutions, as well as those which examine these issues more broadly, are encouraged.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Religion, Theology, and Music

Theodore L. Trost, University of Alabama, trost@bama.ua.edu. Philip Stetlzfus, St. Olaf College, intztp@solah.edu.

We invite papers on the religions and theological dimensions of music. Our particular emphasis will be upon theoretical, methodological, or philosophical approaches to the study of musical phenomena, relating to the following themes: 1) Religious or theological themes in popular music; 2) Music as an expression of religious experience; 3) Theologies of music (using historical, systematic, constructive, or liberationist materials); 4) The role (or lack thereof) of music in theologies of art or “theological aesthetics”; and 5) World music as it relates to world religions.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

(continued on next page)
Religious Implications of Extreme Longevity
Calvin Mercer, East Carolina University, mercer@ecu.edu.
Calls for dialogue and debate about the implications for society of extreme longevity — the indefinite extension of healthy human life — are being heard from several quarters (e.g., President’s Council on Bioethics, Hastings Center, leading scientists). A 2006 panel addressed general implications of extreme longevity for the world’s religions. This proposed panel will extend that conversation by focusing attention on the eschatological visions of religions and how those visions might be impacted by the development and widespread use of radical life-extension technology.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED VIA:

Have You Renewed Yet for 2007?
Please check your membership status at www.aarweb.org/members only.
If you need to renew, you will find a link on that page. Or, if you prefer, you can mail or fax us the form at right.

Don’t miss these important benefits:
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• Journal of the American Academy of Religion
• Religious Studies News
• Spotlight on Teaching
• AAR Membership Directory
• Annual Regional Meetings
• Employment Information Services
• Research Grant Programs
• Publications for Scholars in Religion

The AAR Public Understanding of Religion invites nominations and self-nominations for the Martin E. Marty Award for Contributions to the Public Understanding of Religion.

The award is intended to bring greater recognition to scholars whose relevance and eloquence speaks not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. For nomination details, see www.aarweb.org/awards/marty nominations.aspx or mail the name of the nominee, her or his affiliation, and any supporting information by January 31, 2007, to Marty Award, AAR, 825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30329.

Religious in Southeast Asia
Sor-Ching Low, Trinity University, sorching.low@trinity.edu.
Calling for papers on religions and religious developments in Southeast Asia. Special interests focus on interstices and points of contact between art and religion, traditions and modernity, theory and ethnography; small and big traditions; and religious identity and national identity. Textual, performative, and comparative approaches are welcome. Interdisciplinary approaches and multireligious perspectives are encouraged. Individual papers or thematically formed panels will be considered.

Submissions Accepted Via:

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Election Results
President: Jeffrey Stout
President-Elect: Emilie Townes
Vice President: Mark Juergensmeyer

The American Academy of Religion is pleased to announce the results of the elections for 2007.
A total of 1,948 votes were cast.
Religious Foundations of Western Civilization
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
*edited by Jacob Neusner*

Introduces students to the major Western world religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—their beliefs, key concepts, history, as well as the fundamental role they have played, and continue to play, in Western culture.

Contributors include: Jacob Neusner, Alan J. Avery-Peck, Bruce D. Chilton, Th. Emil Homerin, Jon D. Levenson, William Scott Green, Seymour Feldman, Elliot R. Wolfson, James A. Brundage, Olivia Remie Constable, and Amila Buturovic.

Jacob Neusner is research professor of religion and theology, and senior fellow of the Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

CA7-9780687332021. Paper, $39.00

“This book provides a superb source of information for scientists and scholars from all disciplines who are trying to understand religion in the context of human cultural evolution.”

— *David Sloan Wilson*, Professor, Departments of Biology and Anthropology, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York

“This is the right book at the right time. Globalization, religious revivalism, and international politics have made it more important than ever to appreciate the significant contributions of the Children of Abraham to the formation and development of Western civilization.”

— *John L. Esposito*, University Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Saint Mary’s Press College Publishing Division Announces Three Outstanding New Texts!

We’re actively seeking proposals for undergraduate books in theology and religious studies!

Please be in touch if you now have or are considering writing a manuscript for a primary or supplementary textbook in undergraduate theology and religious studies. Our list of titles under contract is growing by leaps and bounds and we welcome your contribution!

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A Message from the President

Dear AAR Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the American Academy of Religion. At the outset, I would like to thank all of you who have committed yourselves to the intellectual and professional work of the Academy during this year. Never have I worked with a group of colleagues so dedicated to the voluntary work that is involved in the many activities and committees of the Academy.

I extend a special vote of thanks to the search committee, chaired by Hans Hillerbrand, that was charged with finding a new Executive Director. The search committee devoted countless hours to this task over the course of many months. This was both time-consuming and rewarding work. I also want to thank all of you who agreed to let us speak with you about this position and who offered such insightful perspectives on the structure, purpose, and future of the AAR. The AAR has evolved to a new level of complexity and excellence under the leadership of Barbara DeConcini. Assessing these productive years and looking ahead with all of you was an important process.

The Academy is fortunate to have been able to hire Jack Fitzmier as our new Executive Director. Jack’s background at Gordon Conwell Theological School, Princeton University, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Claremont School of Theology give him both the academic and administrative background to be an effective leader at this crucial juncture in the life of the Academy as we approach the first independent annual meeting in 2008. He is familiar with both religious studies and theological studies and will enable the AAR to maintain a “big tent” for the whole span of scholarly discussions in the Academy. In addition, Jack is simply a delightful person with whom to work. We are lucky to have him.

When I assumed the presidency in Philadelphia in November of 2005, we were concluding what was the largest ever annual meeting with 9,982 attendees, 1,200 more than the previous high in Atlanta in 2003. As you will see in this report, the enrolled membership in the Academy has grown by some 2,000 in the past ten years. This year, the AAR Program Committee approved 19 new program units that explore old and new areas of scholarly inquiry from Coptic Christianity to Comparative Ethics to Science, Technology, and Religion. Our program units, in general, have received more proposals than ever before.

The study and analysis of religion is indisputably important in the world in which we live today. Religious and theological studies are integral to the curriculum of more than 2,000 colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Our survey of undergraduate departments also tells us that the study of religion is on the upswing in colleges and universities. There are more religion majors across the board than ever before and more students taking courses in religion.

As a learned society and professional association of teachers and research scholars, the American Academy of Religion has over 9,500 members, most of whom teach in more than 1,500 colleges, universities, seminaries, and schools in North America and abroad. The Academy is dedicated to furthering knowledge of religion in all its forms and manifestations. This is accomplished through Academy-wide and regional conferences and meetings, research support, publications, professional development and outreach programs, and member services.

Within a context of free inquiry and critical examination, the AAR welcomes all disciplined reflection on religion — from both within and outside of communities of belief and practice — and seeks to enhance its broad public understanding.
Dear AAR Colleagues and Friends,

I write this message for our Annual Report with a deep appreciation for the Academy’s past and with a keen sense of excitement about the challenges that lie before us. This looking backward and forward, I suppose, is not surprising given the recent transition in the Academy’s Executive Office.

My predecessor in the Executive Director’s chair, Barbara DeConcini, graciously spent much of her organizing me, thus making me aware of the AAR’s budgets and grants, committees and task forces, staff positions and job descriptions, and about the relationships we have with a large number of other scholarly and professional societies. To be sure, these facets are important in their own right. But taken together they form something larger and far more impressive. During Barbara’s tenure the AAR grew from a modest organization into a complex institution: membership increased from approximately 6,000 members to nearly 10,500; annual meetings expanded; a staff of four became a staff of six; and financial condition developed very nicely with net assets growing from some $400,000 to nearly $10 million; and even the office space grew, from an apartment-turned-business-space in student housing to the beautiful Luce Center. I can assure you that this maturation of our AAR is real, not imagined. It stands as a testimony to Barbara’s able leadership and an icon of the tremendous growth of our field. This is all to say that by all sorts of measurable indicators, the AAR is very healthy.

As the Academy continues to grow in size and scope, it is important that the AAR stand-alone meeting not be misunderstood as a gesture in favor of any single approach to the study of religion. The AAR must make ever clearer its mission to welcome critical reflection from all scholarly vantages and perspectives, from both within and outside of living faith traditions.

What is more, enhancing the AAR’s international connections is increasingly important for the work of religion scholars and the flourishing of the field itself in today’s interconnected world.

To diversify the Academy’s leadership and nurture leaders for the future.

At the same time that colleges and universities are decreasing their historical support of scholarly societies, the AAR’s growth and ambitious programming need more dedicated and competent volunteers to provide intellectual and strategic leadership. As the field’s contours continue to change and succeeding generations of scholars and teachers join the Academy, it is important to nurture and cultivate new cadres of leaders, both regionally and Academy-wide, and to foster greater racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the field and the Academy. To remain vital, the AAR must regularly review organizational structures to assure access and openness to change, as well as continuity and tradition.

To prepare for the AAR’s centennial in 2009.

The forthcoming AAR centennial offers the opportunity to strengthen the institutional memory of the Academy and to take steps to maximize continuing leadership and service in the field far into the future.

To enhance the financial security of the AAR.

The AAR’s continued striving toward excellence as the leading scholarly and professional association in the field of religion is related to the financial resources available to imagine and undertake these and other emerging objectives.

The Academy’s good health allows us the freedom to think imaginatively about the opportunities that are coming into view. The growth of our guild over the last ten years is remarkable, and our Academy has kept pace. This fall our membership hit record highs, and every indicator suggests that the Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting will be the largest we have held. This growth enables enlarged conversations and a diversity of methodological perspectives that are exciting. Our programming — both in the expansion of program units and the addition of professional programs — will also follow suit. Larger publics — both scholarly and general — are taking new interest in the study of religion. Thoughtful people are learning what many of us have already discovered: Religion is not merely one aspect of our cultures, it is one of the most important aspects of our cultures. In an age of religious interest, fervor, dissent, and even violence, our Academy is very well positioned to contribute to the public understanding of religion.

In 2009 our Academy will reach a remarkable milestone — the 100th anniversary of its founding. Plans for our centennial observances will involve our membership in some sustained reflection about future directions, and will involve us all in seeking support for those new initiatives.

I think the future of the American Academy of Religion is bright, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Jack Fitzmier
Executive Director

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The following is a list of new AAR committees and task forces.

New AAR Committees and Task Forces

Graduate Student Committee

At its April 2006 meeting, the AAR Board granted the Student Task Force standing committee status, making it the Graduate Student Committee (GSC). The GSC addresses the needs and concerns of graduate students and promotes their professional development and participation in the AAR and the academy as a whole. The GSC has developed as the result of the Board’s initiatives in the 1990s to be more intentional in including student members in the formal planning and structure of the AAR. To achieve this goal, the Student Director has been elected to the Board of Directors to serve as the committee’s designated representative.

Task Force on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in the Profession

At its April 2006 meeting, the AAR Board approved the creation of the Task Force on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in the Profession. The LGBT Task Force recommends policies and practices to assure that LGBT persons have full access to and academic freedom within the Academy; the Task Force also develops programs to enhance their status in the profession.

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Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

Anthony B. Pinn, Rice University

Deanna A. Thompson, Hamline University

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Governance and Structure

STRATEGIC PLAN, from p.23

1. To attract new members to the AAR.

The notable growth of the AAR membership over the past ten years still leaves many scholars and teachers in the field of religion unaffiliated with the AAR. Both the field and the Academy will be stronger and intellectually richer if these colleagues choose to join our ranks.

2. To enhance the role of the AAR in the profession.

As a professional association, the AAR includes among its primary responsibilities collecting and analyzing data about the field; monitoring trends in the profession that affect individuals and departments (e.g., the increasing use of adjunct teachers, the erosion of tenure, the growing corporate culture of universities are decreasing their historical support of scholarly societies), the AAR’s growth and ambitious programming need more dedicated and competent volunteers to provide intellectual and strategic leadership. As the field’s contours continue to change and succeeding generations of scholars and teachers join the Academy, it is important to nurture and cultivate new cadres of leaders, both regionally and Academy-wide, and to foster greater racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the field and the Academy. To remain vital, the AAR must regularly review organizational structures to assure access and openness to change, as well as continuity and tradition.

3. To enhance the identity of the AAR within the larger scholarly community.

As the field of religion continues to develop and to change its contours, there is growing interest and need to relate the field to the larger society. At the same time, we have not yet made a thoroughly convincing case for our field within the liberal arts setting, among college and university administrators and colleagues.

4. To clarify the identity and mission of the AAR vis-à-vis other scholarly societies in religion, holding stand-alone annual meetings beginning in 2008.

Currently the number of scholarly societies dedicated to the study of religion is growing, and on a global scale. Some have a general focus; others very specific areas of interest. In order to ensure a fruitful interaction with these societies, it is important that the AAR have a clearly defined identity and mission of its own.

5. To foster scholarly interaction among all approaches to the study of religion, including the ethical and theological perspectives that arise within particular religious traditions. Our objective is to welcome reflection from within and among particular religious traditions into our conversation.

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Religious Studies News

A Message from the Executive Director
Standing Committees

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Emilie M. Townes, Yale Divinity School

Finance
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Robert D. Flanigan, Spelman College
Eugene V. Gallagher, Connecticut College
Margaret Healy, Rosemont College
Linda A. Moody, Mount St. Mary’s College

Graduate Student
Kimberly Rae Connor, Academy Series, University of San Francisco
Susan E. Henking, Teaching Religious Studies Series, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Jacob Kinnard, Religion, Culture, and History Series, Iliff School of Theology
Kevin Madigan, Texts and Translations Series, Harvard Divinity School
Charles Mathewes, JAHR, University of Virginia
Anne E. Monius, Texts and Translations Series, Harvard Divinity School
James Wetzel, Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series, Villanova University

Public Understanding of Religion
Sarah Pike, Chair, California State University, Chico
Michael Barkun, Syracuse University
Shaun Allen Casey, Wesley Theological Seminary
Colleen McDannell, University of Utah
Gustav Niebuhr, Syracuse University
Ronald F. Thieman, Harvard Divinity School

Regions
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Corrie Norman, Taylors, SC

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Concordia University, Laurie Lamoureux Sches
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Fordham University, Ann M. Michaud
Fuller Theological Seminary, Kristen Oh
Graduate Theological Union, Whitney Bauman
Harvard University, Ryan Overby
Illiff School of Theology/University of Denver, Stephanie Yuhas

Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession
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Miguel A. De Lo Torre, Iliff School of Theology
Laura E. Donaldson, Cornell University
Zayn Kasam, Pomona College
Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Moravian Theological Seminary
Daisy L. Machado, Lexington Theological Seminary

Status of Women in the Profession
Alice Wells Hunt, Chair, Vanderbilt University
Mary C. Churchill, University of Colorado, Boulder
Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Texas Christian University
M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University
Stephanie Y. Mitchem, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Karen Pechlis, Drew University

Teaching and Learning
Eugene V. Gallagher, Chair, Connecticut College
Tazim Kassam, Spotlight Editor, Syracuse University
Sheila E. McGinn, John Carroll University
Paul Myhre, Wabash Center
David C. Ratke, Lenoir-Rhyne College
Timothy M. Renick, Georgia State University

Ad Hoc Committees, Task Forces, and Juries

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Jason Steuber, Glasgow University

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John R. Fitzmier, Chair, American Academy of Religion
Carol S. Anderson, Kalamazoo College
Linda L. Barnes, Boston University
Francis X. Clooney, Harvard Divinity School

Religion and Disabilities
Kerry Wynn, Chair, Southeast Missouri State University
Kent A. Eaton, Bethel Seminary
Mary Jo Iozio, Barry University
E. Rachel Magdalene, Augustana College

Religion in the Schools
Diane L. Moore, Chair, Harvard Divinity School
Ann Marie B. Baehr, South Dakota State University
Betty A. DeBerg, University of Northern Iowa
Richard Heyduck, Northeast Texas Community College
Stephanie McAllister, Brookline High School
Lynne Westfield, Drew University

Theological Education
Carey J. Gafford, Acting Chair, American Academy of Religion
Daniel O. Aleshire, Association of Theological Schools
Larry Golemon, University of Northern Iowa
David H. Kelsey, Yale University
Paul C. H. Lim, Vanderbilt University
Daisy L. Machado, Lexington Theological Seminary

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AAR Membership Trends, 1996–2005

International Connections

In keeping with the goal of enhancing its international dimension, the American Academy of Religion reaches out to scholars worldwide. Between 2000 and 2005, international membership as a percentage of total membership registered modest but steady growth, from 11.9% to 14%. The international focus of our Annual Meeting — Africa in 2006, China in 2007, and South Asia in 2008 — will continue to expand the AAR’s global scope.

Growth of International Membership, 2000–2005

Members

Membership Trends

AAR membership has grown substantially since 1996, with 2005 membership figures over 30% higher than at the beginning of this ten-year period. Indeed, in 2005, the AAR experienced a watershed event, passing the 10,000 member mark for the first time in its history. A small decline in membership in 2000 (probably related to the dissolution of Scholars Press and, with it, the joint AAR/SBL membership on a single form) was reversed in 2001. Regular members account for approximately 64% of the total membership, while student members make up approximately 30%; retired members comprise the remainder. AAR memberships run for the calendar year.

Reinventing the Environment, 2006

The AAR is committed to awareness of environmental issues as they affect our operations. While providing our staff with benchmarks for strengthening this commitment, the following report is meant to bring our Board and membership up to date on progress made by the executive office.

Sustainability Initiatives

In 2006, the AAR participated with leaders from more than a dozen national disciplinary associations to consider how sustainability education can create a better future. Sustainability education produces graduates who are knowledgeable about and engaged in the solutions to society’s social, economic, and environmental challenges. The U.S. partnership for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development organized this stimulating meeting, which was sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, and University Leaders for a Sustainable Future.

The AAR can contribute significantly to the sustainability efforts — from creating new textbook opportunities and teaching workshops, to making statements of support for the Decade and finding ways to hold environmentally friendly meetings. This initiative will continue, and member involvement will be critical for its success.

Reducing and Reusing

The AAR strongly encourages an environmental commitment among its employees. Products that can be reused are retained and restored to inventory. Most of its staff members print routine office communications (if they must print them at all) on the unused sides of fax transmissions or other discarded materials. The AAR has provided many of its employees with PDAs, portable flash drives, and laptop computers, minimizing the waste of printing materials that can better be carried in electronic format.

Recycling

The AAR participates in all available Emory University Recycling programs, including white paper, colored paper, and magazine/newspaper recycling. On its own, the AAR collects and recycles aluminum cans, and plastic bottles that can be used by employees. Toner cartridges are returned to the manufacturer for recycling.

Alternative Transportation

As a university affiliate, the AAR is eligible for the Emory University Alternative Transportation Program. Two AAR employees participate in one or more alternative transportation programs, including carpooling, using public transportation, and bicycling. One staff member sold his car and now uses a scooter as his only motorized transportation. Additionally, the AAR encourages its employees to telecommute as necessary, and has set up IT infrastructures to make it easier for them to do so; several AAR employees telecommute at least one day a week. AAR employees who are enrolled in alternative transportation programs rely on the Emory University fleet of cars to run errands during the day. Where possible, these vehicles are called on for office errands as well.

Committee on the Environment

An AAR employee sits on Emory University’s Committee on the Environment, whose charge is to review capital projects for their environmental impact and to make policy recommendations. The committee has three primary goals:

1. Ensure that environmental values are represented in Emory’s strategic plans and policies.
2. Embed environmental standards in individual capital projects and processes.
3. Improve communications with campus and surrounding communities.
Annual Meeting

The AAR Annual Meeting is large both in size and in complexity, from the number of registrants, sessions, and exhibitors to the number of special workshops and conferences of related scholarly organizations. It is the largest scholarly conference on religion and, for the four days of the conference, the largest religion “bookstore.” In 2006, the AAR program structure comprises 15 sections, 65 groups, two seminars, and 24 consultations for a total of 106 program units. Plenary lectures, arts gatherings, business meetings, professional development sessions, and a whole range of special events for various constituencies enhance the program. Twenty-six scholarly organizations have formal ties with the Academy, and some 193 others hold their meetings at the AAR conference.

Annual Meeting Registration by Affiliation, 2001–2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AAR</th>
<th>ICE</th>
<th>Total Registrants</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>2,721</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>7,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4,195</td>
<td>3,096</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>6,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4,279</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>6,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3,987</td>
<td>3,015</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>6,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4,228</td>
<td>3,119</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>7,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Meeting Sessions by Program Unit, 2001–2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Unit</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Program Units

In September 2005, the Program Committee approved the following 19 new program units for 2006:

- Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities
- Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity
- Biblical/Contextual Ethics
- Buddhist Critical–Constructive Reflection
- Buddhist Philosophy
- Christianity and Academia
- Comparative Religious Ethics
- Comparative Theology
- Coptic Christianity
- Especially for Graduate Students
- Practical Theology
- Religion in Europe
- Religion, Public Policy, and Political Change
- Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective
- Science, Technology, and Religion (expansion of Religion and Science Group)
- Signifying (on) Scriptures
- Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- World Christianity
- Yoga in Theory and Practice

Related Scholarly Organizations

The American Academy of Religion welcomes opportunities to cooperate with organizations whose missions are similar to our own. The Board has formally recognized the following organizations:

- African Association for the Study of Religions
- Association of Practical Theology
- Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- Christian Theological Research Fellowship
- European Society of Women in Theological Research
- Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Hermetic Academy
- International Bonhoeffer Society
- International Institute for Field Being
- International Society for Chinese Philosophy
- Karl Barth Society of North America
- La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars
- North American Association for the Study of Religion
- North American Paul Tillich Society
- Person, Culture, and Religion
- Polanyi Society
- Schleiermacher Society
- Société internationale d’études sur Alfred Loisy
- Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
- Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
- Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
- Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
- Society of Christian Philosophers
- Søren Kierkegaard Society
- Theta Alpha Kappa

2007 Regional Meetings

- **Eastern International**
  - May 4–5, 2007
  - University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University
  - Waterloo, ONT, Canada
- **Mid-Atlantic**
  - March 1–2, 2007
  - Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys
  - Baltimore, MD
- **Midwest**
  - March 30–31, 2007
  - Dominican University
  - River Forest, IL
- **New England–Maritimes**
  - Instead of holding a regional meeting in 2007, the region will co-sponsor conferences proposed by regional members.
- **Pacific Northwest**
  - May 4–6, 2007
  - University of Lethbridge
  - Lethbridge, AB, Canada
- **Rocky Mountain–Great Plains**
  - March 23–24, 2007
  - Hilton Garden Inn
  - Omaha, NE
- **Southwest**
  - March 3–4, 2007
  - Westin Hotel, DFW Airport
  - Irving, TX
- **Upper Midwest**
  - April 13–14, 2007
  - Luther Seminary
  - St. Paul, MN
- **Western**
  - March 24–26, 2007
  - The Graduate Theological Union
  - Berkeley, CA

Future AAR Annual Meeting Dates and Sites

- **2007**
  - San Diego, CA, November 17–20
- **2008**
  - Chicago, IL, October 25–28
- **2009**
  - Montréal, QC, Canada, November 7–10
- **2010**
  - Atlanta, GA, October 30–November 2
- **2011**
  - San Francisco, CA, November 18–21

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AAR’s book series, published by Oxford University Press, are thriving. Over the past year four new titles were published and eight new titles were contracted. Oxford also publishes JAAR, which introduced a new cover design with the March 2006 issue. Back issues of JAAR can be accessed online through ATLAS, JSTOR, and Project MUSE. The Academy has also published one issue of Spotlight on Teaching (Reflections on a Teaching Career in Religion) and four issues of the field’s newspaper, Religious Studies News.

Series and Editors

Academy Series
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American Studies
College of Professional Studies
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Publications Committee Chair
Francis X. Clooney, S.J.
Harvard Divinity School
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Cambridge, MA 02138
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E-MAIL: fclooney@hds.harvard.edu

Recently Published Monographs


Monographs under Contract


Margaret Kamitsuka. Feminist Theology and the Challenge of Difference.


Susanne Mrozik. Virtuous Bodies.

Tania Oldenhage. Parables for Our Time: Rereading New Testament Scholarship after the Holocaust.

Jeffrey L. Richay. Teaching Confucianism.

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Manuel A. Vasquez, University of Florida

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Jace Weaver, University of Georgia

Judith Weissenfels, Vassar College

William J. Werphebowski, Villanova University

Elliot R. Wolfson, New York University

Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University

Glenn E. Yocum, Whittier College
Grants & Awards

Research Grant Awards 2006–2007

Collaborative
Edward E. Curtis, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Resisting Black Gods of the Metropolis: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century
Collaborators:
Stephen W. Angell, Earlham School of Religion
Marla Frederick-McGathery, Harvard University
Clarence E. Hardy III, Dartmouth College
Kelly Eileen Hayes, Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis
Sylvester A. Johnson, Florida A&M University
Kathryn Lofton, Reed College
Omar M. McRoberts, University of Chicago
Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College
Carolyn Mosley Rouse, Princeton University
Nora Lynne Rubel, Connecticut College
Danielle Brune Sigler, Austin College
Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College
Religious Games and Toys: Exploring the Serious Side of Play

Individual
Linda L. Barnes, Boston University School of Medicine
Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University
Paying God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine
Heidi Campbell, Texas A&M University
Exploring How Religiosity Shapes Media Use & Interaction in a Global Information Society in Israel
Frances Garrett, University of Toronto
Organization and Analysis of Digital Editions of Tibetan Religious and Medical Histories
R. Marie Griffith, Princeton University
Holy Sex: Christians and the Sexual Revolution, from the Kinsey Reports to True Love Waits
Karline McLaren, Bucknell University
Envisioning Hinduism: Raja Ravi Varma and the Visual Canon
Donald S. Poulo, Jacksonville State University
The Anti-Heretical Efforts of Peter of Verona: An Investigation into the Lived Religion of the Medieval Italian Laity
Megan H. Reid, University of Southern California
Judging Race and Religion: Pierre Cabestan and African American Muslims in Early Twentieth-Century Cairo
Safia Mendez Uddin, University of Vermont
Speaking the Same Language: Muslim and Hindu Veneration of Bonhobby
Archana Venkatesan, St. Lawrence University
Embodying Memories: Performance and Ritual Culture at the Vishnu Temple of Alvar Tirunagari, South India
Michael J. Zogry, University of Kansas
Playing or Praying? The Cherokee Aneto Ceremonial Complex and the Performance of Cultural Identity

Excellence in Teaching Award
The American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Teaching both recognizes the importance of teaching and honors outstanding teaching in the field. We congratulate this year’s winner:
Patricia O’Connell Killen, Pacific Lutheran University.

Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award
The Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion, established in 1996, recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public understanding of religion. The award goes to those whose work has a relevance and eloquence that speaks not just to scholars, but more broadly to the public as well. The contribution can be in any medium (e.g., books, films, TV, public speaking), as long as it is based on scholarship in religion. We congratulate this year’s awardee:
Andrew M. Greeley, professor of sociology, Arizona State University, and research associate, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.
Outreach

Government Relations

The AAR has arranged for two panels to take place at the Library of Congress during the 2006 Annual Meeting. Both are co-sponsored by the AAR and the Library. The first, “Writting the Story of America’s Religious Origins,” has the additional co-sponsorship of the National History Center, and the second, “Legislating International Religious Freedom,” has the additional co-sponsorship of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

In order to highlight the value of religion expertise to government officials and others in Washington’s public policy community, several 2006 AAR forums have been opened to the public. Among these are the panels at the Library of Congress and the Annual Meeting plenaries with author Karen Armstrong and with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Last year the AAR joined with the American Association of University Professors and with the PEN American Center in an ACLA lawsuit to prevent U.S. government officials from barring foreign scholars from the United States solely because of views those scholars express. The suit has drawn coverage in the Agence France Presse, Associated Press, Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, Chronicle of Higher Education, Fox News, International Herald Tribune, Knight Ridder Newspapers, Le Monde, New York Times, Reuters, and Wall Street Journal. At this 2006 Annual Report went to press, the AAR learned that the State Department had finally rendered a decision in the case of Farih Ramadan, Professor of Islamic Studies at Oxford University, denying him a visa.

In November 2005, the AAR held several educational sessions for FBI agents on topics involving religion and violence. Another round of sessions is slated for November 2006, when an additional panel of AAR members is scheduled to speak at a forum at FBI headquaters.

Several sessions were also presented in November 2005 to an audience of government directors of prison chaplaincy programs on issues involving free exercise of religion by inmates. Since that time, the AAR has responded to several participant requests for referrals to scholars with specific expertise.

In March, a number of AAR delegations met with Congressional staff to advocate funding for the humanities, especially with respect to the academic study of religion. The AAR is organizing more than a dozen delegations for similar meetings in November 2006.

Media Relations


The Profession

Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities Online Career Guide

The AAR has published a Career Guide for Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. Available online at www.aarweb.org/about/board/rem/careerguide, the guide covers the career lifespan, from graduate school to post tenure, and includes a chapter for administrators considering hires. Readers may participate in an online discussion board.

The Job Market in Religion

The AAR administers the Employment Information Services (EIS) for the field, providing opportunities for communication between employing institutions and candidates through Openings Online and the EIS Center at the Annual Meeting.

Openings Online appears monthly, offering the most comprehensive listing available of faculty and administrative positions for religion scholars. Candidates can conduct searches of the positions based on a variety of criteria, including the location of the position and the employer’s preferred sub-specialty. They can choose to see particular ads to their personalized “My Openings” Web page.

The EIS Center serves hundreds of interested scholars and employers by centralizing information about position announcements and candidate qualifications onsite at the Annual Meeting. Candidate CVs are available both onsite at the EIS Center and online throughout the hiring season. The center facilitates the interview process by providing semi-private space in the Interview Hall, arranging access to private interview rooms, administering a message center for communication between job candidates and employers, and mounting programs on career development.

At the 2005 EIS Center, 126 institutions conducted interviews for a total of 148 positions. The total number of registered candidates was 513, and the ratio of positions to candidates was 1:3.47.

Each year, statistics are kept on the use of the EIS Center. Candidates and jobs registered with EIS do not represent all jobs in religion, nor even all jobs advertised in Openings. They do, however, provide some indicators about the state of the job market (See chart of trends in Position Openings and Applicants showing data from 2003 through 2005).

EIS also collects data on the outcome of searches conducted at EIS. In April of each year, all employers and candidates who were registered for the previous year’s EIS Center are requested to complete a survey about the search experience. Employers are asked to submit information about whether the position was filled, whether the appointee was interviewed at the EIS Center, and the rank, position type, education, and gender of the appointee. Candidates are asked about their overall experiences of the job search process and whether they received an offer. Analysis of the resulting data reveals the types of jobs offered and the kinds of candidates chosen to fill those positions. Results from the 2004 and 2005 surveys can be found on the EIS Web site at www.aarweb.org/eis.

Trends in Position Openings and Applicants

All candidates and employers registered for the EIS Center are required to select job classifications from a provided list. Candidates select the classifications that they consider to be their specialties, and employers select the classifications that best fit the description of the available position. The chart at right compares the candidates’ primary choices to those of the employers. Because the chart covers only the primary choices, when drawing conclusions from these data it is important to note that many jobs fall under classifications that candidates are less likely to use to describe their primary field, but might well select as a secondary or tertiary specialization (World Religions, for example).

Additional data, including secondary and tertiary classifications and job data for the period 1990–2002, is available upon request from Shelly Roberts at sroberts@aarweb.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Registered On-site</td>
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<td>Preregistered</td>
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<td>Christian Studies</td>
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<td>Judaism</td>
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<td>South Asian Religions (general or not listed separately)</td>
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<td>World Religions</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>148</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Data Analysis**

**Subfields with the most positions**

- Islam (13)
- New Testament (13)
- Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (12)
- Catholic Theology (7)
- East Asian Religions (7)
- History of Christianity/Church History (7)
- North American Religions (7)

**Most common primary subfields of candidates**

- New Testament (71)
- Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (69)
- Christian Theology: Systematic/Constructive (44)
- Christian Ethics (26)
- Early Christianity/Church History (25)
- Islam (25)
Leadership Workshops

At the 2005 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the Academic Relations Committee sponsored a workshop titled Enlarging the Pie: Strategies for Managing and Growing Departmental Resources. Forty-four participants discussed the following topics:

- Defining a Resource and Determining the Local Environment
- Growing Funds and Physical Space
- Growing Faculty and Students
- Budgeting and Financial Management
- Growing Links to Other Departments

The workshop leaders were:

- Timothy Renick, Georgia State University and Richard M. Carp, Appalachian State University.
- Session Leaders were:
  - Tom Coburn, Naropa Institute
  - Zayn Kassam, Pomona College
  - Tom Kasulis, Ohio State University
  - John Raines, Temple University
  - Dianne Stewart, Emory University
  - Deanna Thompson, Hamline University

In Washington, D.C., the Academic Relations Committee will sponsor a workshop on Personnel Issues: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. The workshop will be led by Betty DeBerg, Northern Iowa University, and Chester Gillis, Georgetown University. Joining them as a panelist is Daniel Aleshire, executive director of the Association of Theological Schools. Breakout sessions will be led by DeBerg, Gillis, Aleshire, and members of the Academic Relations Committee (Richard Carp, Appalachian State University, L. DeAnz Lagreguent, St. Olaf College, and Chun-Fang Yu, Columbia University).

Regional seminars are being planned for 2007 to address how to prepare for and navigate the intricacies of the academic job hunt. Topics to be addressed will be where to look for positions, construction of a curriculum vitae and teaching portfolio, writing the application letter, preparing for interviews, and negotiating salary and benefits.

Regions are being offered the seminars to be held the next few years at their meetings.

Virtual Teaching & Learning Center

Under the guidance of the Committee on Teaching and Learning, this online resource consolidates the many curricular and pedagogic resources developed by the AAR over the years, and makes them more widely available and usable in digitized form. Originally this project was called the Virtual Teaching & Learning Center, but the committee changed the name to Teaching and Learning Resources to better reflect the service. The online data bank gathers important teaching tools in one searchable online location, so that scholarly contributions to teaching are available to the entire field. The Web site is constantly being updated, and its redesign will both change the look and make it easier to navigate.

Undergraduate Survey

The American Academy of Religion is in the process of surveying the 1,100+ universities and colleges that offer religion courses on the undergraduate level. For the first time, the AAR is using the Internet to gather the data. This longitudinal project will compare how religion courses and faculty have changed since the 1999–2000 academic year, when the first such survey was completed. We will be reporting various relationships by affiliation and aggregate numbers regarding religion majors, courses, departmental characteristics, and enrollment. The surveys are part of the signature program of the Lilly Endowment funded Strengthening College and University Programs in Religion and Theology (SCUR) initiative. Data collection is continuing as response rate has been low. Data analysis begins in Fall 2006.

Community College Survey

The American Academy of Religion collaborated with the Community College Humanities Association in a study of how religion is taught at community colleges. The study determines what religion courses are being taught and whether they are required, how many different courses are offered, and a snapshot of the faculty teaching the courses.

The data will be used to develop programming for this constituency of the Academy. Currently, there are about 140 community college members of the AAR. Consultations with community college members will be conducted at the Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting, and possibly at a few regional meetings.

Of the colleges responding, about 40 percent indicate they teach religion courses. The courses most taught, in descending order, are:

- Introduction to Religion/World Religions/Comparative Religion
- Bible (Old/New Testament; Survey of the Bible)
- Christianity (Life of Jesus, History of Christianity)
- Eastern Religions (Asian Religions, Buddhism, Hinduism)
- Other (Life, Death and Dying; Women and Religion; Latter Day Saints; Black Church in America; Anthropology of Religion; Religion in the United States)
- Judaism
- Islam

Enrollment trends for religion courses at community colleges are reported to be steady (5%) or rising (58%). Respondents report that religion is taught primarily in Humanities or Social Science Departments. Only three colleges reported a free-standing Department of Religion/Religious Studies, and fourteen reported combined religion and philosophy departments.

Religion courses are part of an Honors Program in 14% of respondent colleges, and 3% offer a degree program in religion. In these latter colleges, the average number of majors for the 2003–2004 academic year was 7.8.

AAR also collected information on faculty appointments and degrees. Of the 964 reported as religion faculty members, 266 (28%) are full-time, while 698 (72%) are on adjunct or part-time appointments. For philosophy faculty (1741), 29% are full-time, and 71% are on adjunct or part-time appointments. The highest earned degrees reported for full-time religion faculty are: Ph.D. (42%), M.A. (48%), and M.Div. (10%). For part-time religion faculty, the highest earned degrees reported are: Ph.D. (18%), M.A. (43%), and M.Div. (31%).

The degree fields for full-time religion faculty span a broad range:

- Philosophy (35%)
- Religion (20%)
- English (12%)
- Social Sciences (8%)
- Humanities (7%)
- Theology (6%)
- History (6%)
- Other (5%)

For adjunct and part-time religion faculty, religion was the top degree field:

- Religion (34%)
- Philosophy (26%)
- Theology (15%)
- History (10%)
- Social Sciences (4%)
- English (4%)
- History (3%)
- Other (6%)

The Department

Theological Programs Initiative

In 2005 the AAR conducted seven Theological Programs Initiative (TPI) consultations. During these sessions, participants responded with a plethora of comments, suggestions, and personal insights regarding the Academy, theological schools and programs, and what new programs, publications, workshops, and Annual Meeting opportunities we might offer. At the broadest level, several all-encompassing ideas emerged in nearly every context.

The need to address the theory vs. praxis tension, to remedy the fragmentations of the theological school course of study, and to understand diverse subject matters. One of the dichotomies that scholars in theological education recognize is that their concern to train students for service in ecclesial settings often pulls faculty in directions counter to their scholarly guilds and professional needs.

There was a general consensus that graduate theological education should focus on biblical studies, history, and theology, and their application within and to practical theology. Currently, no scholarly forum for this dialogue exists in theological schools.

The need to accommodate interdisciplinary and interreligious conversations between and across several disciplines, between different understandings of God, and between different institutional settings, theological perspectives and approaches. No national forum is available for this type of dialogue regarding theological education, as it is for theological administrators. Such a forum would be guided by a common educational endeavor rather than by guild-specific disciplines. The convening of seminars and workshops was urged.

The need to narrow the divide between religious studies and theology (the analytical vs. the confessional, critical skepticism vs. passionate engagement), between evangelicals and liberals, between doctoral producers and doctoral consumers, between different communities, and between theological schools and the ecclesial bodies they serve.

Following the consultations, we created the Theological Education Steering Committee to give leadership to the TPI. The committee is made up of nine seasoned, distinguished faculty and administrators from theological schools in the U.S.

Daniel Aleshire, Association of Theological Schools
Larry Golenson, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
David Kelsey, Yale University Divinity School, emeritus
Paul C. H. Lim, Vanderbilt Divinity School
Daisy Machado, Lexington Theological Seminary
Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary
Kathleen Talvacchia, Independent Scholar
John Thatamanil, Vanderbilt Divinity School
Barbara Brown Zikmund, Catholic University of America
Carey J. Gifford, American Academy of Religion (Staff Liaison)

This committee’s charge is to meet the scholarly and professional needs of theological educators by creating programs and services that bring theological studies into the wider conversation of the Academy, thereby enriching the work of theological educators.
Independent Accountant’s Report

To the Finance Committee
American Academy of Religion
Atlanta, Georgia

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the American Academy of Religion as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of activities and net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the American Academy of Religion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the American Academy of Religion as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The additional information on pages 16 and 17 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

August 14, 2006

Jones and Kolb, Certified Public Accountants

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<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<th>Total 2005</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>6,168,211</td>
<td>6,178,747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>949,744</td>
<td>1,187,795</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$ 8,217,955</td>
<td>$ 8,466,542</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$ 9,426,037</td>
<td>$ 9,440,511</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REVENUES AND GAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership dues</th>
<th>$ 693,545</th>
<th>$ 639,545</th>
<th>648,925</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>42,500</td>
<td>42,500</td>
<td>167,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARP dues</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,648</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>1,058,131</td>
<td>1,058,131</td>
<td>907,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment information services</td>
<td>172,025</td>
<td>172,025</td>
<td>171,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Label sales</td>
<td>55,297</td>
<td>55,297</td>
<td>49,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising and publications</td>
<td>20,668</td>
<td>20,668</td>
<td>17,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>3,918</td>
<td>1,329</td>
<td>4,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book sales</td>
<td>18,588</td>
<td>18,588</td>
<td>25,457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>43,561</td>
<td>43,561</td>
<td>37,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luce Center rental income</td>
<td>112,508</td>
<td>112,508</td>
<td>109,729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>149,105</td>
<td>32,062</td>
<td>181,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>357,436</td>
<td>(357,436)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues and gains</td>
<td>$ 2,684,782</td>
<td>(280,195)</td>
<td>$ 2,404,587</td>
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January 2007 RSN • 33
EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Total 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and publications</td>
<td>$141,382</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$135,429</td>
<td>$167,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member services</td>
<td>377,204</td>
<td>346,696</td>
<td>307,193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional development services</td>
<td>312,159</td>
<td>304,994</td>
<td>277,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>External relations</td>
<td>358,220</td>
<td>482,467</td>
<td>389,122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual meeting</td>
<td>986,585</td>
<td>934,826</td>
<td>600,444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luce Center expenses</td>
<td>145,880</td>
<td>146,477</td>
<td>146,435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administration</td>
<td>427,865</td>
<td>373,339</td>
<td>276,826</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>94,207</td>
<td>119,274</td>
<td>60,698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expenses 2,843,502

Change in net assets before investment gains (158,720) (280,195) (438,915) 70,023

Investment gains 148,184 42,144 190,328 146,132

Change in net assets (10,536) (238,051) (248,587) 216,155

Net assets Beginning of the year 6,178,747 1,187,795 1,100,000 8,466,542 8,250,387

Net assets End of the year $ 6,168,211 $ 949,744 $ 1,100,000 $ 8,217,955 $ 8,466,542

Cash flows from operating activities
Change in operating activities $ (248,587) $ 216,155

Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:

Depreciation 69,410 69,225
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments (190,328) (146,132)
Change in marketable securities (8,535) (10,542)
Increase (decrease) in receivables 75,483 246,578
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses 67,033 31,296
Increase (decrease) in accrued vacation 51,940 9,260
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue 115,140 60,853

Total adjustments 98,656 265,741

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (149,931) 481,896

Cash flows from investing activities

Acquisition of equipment (23,664) (8,938)
Purchase of marketable securities (354,234) (130,581)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities (377,898) (139,519)

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents (527,829) 342,377

Cash and cash equivalents Beginning of the year 1,351,647 1,009,270

Cash and cash equivalents End of year $ 823,818 $ 1,351,647

[Note: Audit reports are accompanied by many pages of footnotes, giving further information and describing the accounting methods used. Please contact the AAR for these footnotes.]

Distribution of Expenses

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The American Academy of Religion deeply appreciates our loyal and generous contributors.

The Academy expresses our gratitude to the foundations that have supported our work during the last several years. Special appreciation goes to the boards and executive staffs of the following.

The Ford Foundation, Inc.
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AAR’s development activities are a crucial part of our programs and services. Members and friends’ generous contributions to the Academy Fund year after year help support programs and important initiatives for religion scholars and the field. We are grateful for all contributions from members and nonmembers alike, whether these gifts come to us through membership renewals, Annual Meeting registrations, direct mail solicitations, or spontaneous gestures of generosity. Most donors do not restrict their gifts, though the AAR also welcomes contributions directed to specific programs. Since membership dues accounted for less than 30% of our annual budget, all contributions to the Academy Fund have a meaningful impact.

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