

American Academy of Religion Graduate Student Committee

2015 Handbook

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DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Student Committee (GSC) is a working group of the AAR Board of Directors charged with addressing the needs and concerns of graduate students and promoting their professional development and participation in the American Academy of Religion and the academy as a whole. The GSC oversees some of the "Especially for Students" programming for the Annual Meeting as well as numerous other programs and services for students at the regional levels.

MEMBERS

The GSC is comprised of ten regionally elected Student Directors and the nationally elected Student Director of the AAR, who chairs the committee. Each regionally elected member will serve a two-year, non-renewable term on the GSC, beginning with his or her regional election.

Current Members	Role	Terms
Kristy Slominski (chair)	AAR Student Director	Jan. 2011-Dec. 2015
Cristina Richie	NEMAAR Student Director	Oct. 2013-Oct. 2015
Bhakti Mamtora	Southeast Student Director	March 2014- March 2016
Joshua Schachterle	RMGP Student Director	March 2014-March 2016
B. J. Parker	Southwest Student Director	March 2014-March 2016
Dan Randazzo	Mid-Atlantic Student Director	March 2014-March 2016
Rupa Pillai	PNW Student Director	May 2014-May 2016
Brian Hillman	Midwest Student Director	Nov. 2012-Jan. 2015
Chase Laurelle Way	Western Student Director	March 2014-March 2015
Gwendolyn Gillson	UMW Student Director	April 2013-April 2015
Aaron Ricker	EIR Student Director	May 2013-May 2015
Elizabeth Hardcastle	AAR Staff Liaison	

Chair: The GSC will be chaired by the Student Director, who will be responsible for preparing meeting agendas, running meetings, communicating with the Staff Liaison, and overseeing the work of the committee. The Student Director is elected by AAR membership and also serves on the AAR Board of Directors.

Secretary: Responsible for taking notes during committee meetings and distributing the meeting minutes.



Regional Student Directors: Beginning 2012, one graduate student will be elected per region to serve the dual role of Regional Student Director and GSC member. Regional Student Directors are voting members of their regional Board of Directors, responsible for representing the student members of the region and coordinating student activities, as defined by region. Student activities vary by region, and may consist of, but are not limited to, organizing mentoring lunches for students, chairing a Student Section, hosting student workshops, coordinating student social events during the regional meeting, or managing a regional student Facebook page. As a member of the GSC, the Regional Student Director is also responsible for taking part in GSC meetings, organizing student events for the AAR Annual Meeting, and helping to develop student resources for the AAR.

Staff Liaison: The Staff Liaison is a member of the Executive Office Staff of the AAR, assigned to a specific committee to assist them with fulfilling their charge as specified by the Academy's Board of Directors and By-Laws. The Staff Liaison assists the committee with budgetary needs, programming and productivity, and anything that will enhance the service of the committee to the AAR at-large.

MEETINGS

The GSC usually holds four to five official meetings per year, however that number may be adjusted if needed. Each meeting lasts between one and three hours. The Chair will email the agenda for the meeting in advance. Each member must let the Chair know prior to the meeting if there is business that needs to be added to the agenda. In addition to other items on the agenda, members will be responsible for presenting updates on their regional and committee work.

Orientation: The GSC will host an orientation with new GSC members during Spring. This orientation should include the AAR Student Director, another available member of the GSC, the Staff Liaison, and all newly elected Regional Student Directors. The orientation should cover the following information: a role description for the oncoming Regional Student Directors; an overview of the GSC handbook; plans for the student events at the next Annual Meeting; and plans for pairing up the oncoming GSC members with current members for the completion of committee task and projects. The coordinating of GSC committee work will be done on a yearly basis and subcommittees usually cover each of the student events at the Annual Meeting (e.g., Special Topics Forum, Student Lounge Roundtables). During the orientation, information will also be gathered from each newly elected member regarding the student events at their region.

Mandatory In-Person Meeting: The final meeting of the year is an in-person meeting held **Friday of the AAR Annual Meeting**. This is the only time during the year that the entire committee meets face-to-face, so it is important that all members plan to arrive at the Annual Meeting on time for the Friday meeting. All other meetings are held using WebEx.

WebEx: WebEx is an online video conferencing tool. If your computer does not already have a video camera, contact the staff liaison. For each meeting, you will receive an email with the meeting time (**in Eastern Time**), meeting link, phone number, and login information. If you have never used this program, it is recommended that you ask the staff liaison to set up an introductory meeting for you to become acquainted with it.



Steps for Entering a WebEx Meeting

- 1) Several minutes before the meeting, click on the link emailed to you.
- 2) Log in using your name and the password emailed to you.
- 3) Activate your webcam by clicking on the camera icon by your name.
- 4) View the most images of other participants by closing the chat feature.
- 5) Using a cell phone or Skype, call the phone number for the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT EVENTS

One task of the GSC is to lead student programming during the Annual Meeting. Some events that the GSC has hosted in the past include: 1) Special Topics Forum; 2) Student Lounge Roundtables; 3) Business Meeting; 4) Pre-conference Workshops; 5) Leadership Series; 6) Beyond the Boundaries Series.

Special Topics Forums (STF): The GSC is allotted one session that they may use as they choose. In 2011 and 2012, this was used for panels on “Retooling for the New Job Market” and “The Human Side of the Job Search,” respectively. An additional session is possible if the GSC co-sponsors with another committee.

Student Lounge Roundtables: The Student Lounge is a meeting room for students to use during the Annual Meeting to relax, mingle, and partake in light refreshments. The GSC has also decided to use that space to host roundtable discussions on topics of interest to graduate students, such as teaching, dissertation writing, funding, publishing, and other aspects of professional development and graduate life. The GSC usually issues a separate Call for Roundtable Leaders.

Business Meeting and New Member Welcome: Each year, the GSC has tried to organize an event during the Annual Meeting to meet with graduate students to gather feedback and introduce them to ways of getting involved with the AAR. In 2012 the GSC hosted a Business Meeting at the end of their Special Topics Forum. This replaced the Student Town Hall Meeting that they hosted in 2010 and 2011. Since 2013, this has been separated from the STF and given its own time slot.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Occasionally the GSC is asked to co-sponsor a pre-conference workshop by the Wabash Center or other organization.

Leadership Series: Initiated in 2013 by the Student Director, the aim of the Leadership Series is to facilitate the personal and professional development of graduate students through leadership development by providing them with resources, strategies, professional networks, and practical skills that will enable them to face new and evolving leadership challenges. The Student Director issued a separate Call for Papers and hosted the event in the Student Lounge.

Beyond the Boundaries (BTB) Series: The AAR is committed to fostering the public understanding of religion. Inspired by this goal, the GSC organized evenings of public talks “off campus” during the 2010-2012 Annual Meetings. Student members presented their research in these evening sessions designed to move discussions of religion out of the traditional academic setting of the Annual Meeting and into the community.

GSC TIMELINE

Late Nov.	Annual Meeting, with GSC In-Person Meeting on Friday: Review our events and begin to plan events for next Annual Meeting.
Dec. 10th	Submit our Calls for Papers by December deadline: Submissions are due in early March. Also compile feedback from the Annual Meeting.
Jan.-March	GSC WebEx Meeting: review previous Annual Meeting feedback; continue to plan events for next Annual Meeting; review regional student programming and open Student Director positions
March -May (varies by region)	Regional Conferences: Includes elections for new Student Directors, student programming, and often a regional board meeting for current Student Directors.
April 1st	Submit Final GSC Events to PAPERS System by April 1st.¹ Also create handout of GSC events. Send rejections to those not selected.
May-June	GSC WebEx Meeting and/or Orientation: review Annual Meeting events, introduce new members, review regional meetings
Sept. – Oct.	GSC WebEx Meeting: check in regarding needs for Annual Meeting. Submit any copies needed to the AAR (200 evaluation forms).

¹ Request that info goes on separate Student Events page AND integrated in time slots in the Program Guide. Request room sizes, required technology, and preferred time slots. STF is best on Sat. if 2.5 hours needed or on Sunday if 1.5 hours needed. BTB is best Sat. and Mon. evenings because of the big receptions Sun. night. Student Lounge is best in a room with a large meeting table and at least 20 chairs.

Summary of Important Events:

- Late November Annual Meeting & In-Person GSC Meeting
- Mid-December deadline to submit our CFP
- Regional Conferences
- April 1st deadline to submit our finalized GSC events
- Winter, Spring, and Fall GSC Web-Ex Meetings
- Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall SOS Newsletter submissions

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Since the GSC represents a large portion of AAR members, we are often approached by other committees or related organizations for joint projects. For example, in 2011 the Sustainability Task Force and the Teaching and Learning Committee reached out the GSC regarding future programs. The ATLA and the Wabash Center have also worked with us. Other examples of committees that the GSC might partner with in the future include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Relations
- Career Services
- International Connections
- Public Understanding of Religion
- Publications
- Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession
- Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession
- Status of Women in the Profession
- Theological Education Steering Committee

AAR STUDENT RESOURCES

In addition to the programming offered at the Annual Meeting, Regional Student Directors are responsible for developing student programming at the regional level. Several AAR committees have also consistently reached out to student members, including the Status of LGBTIQ Persons in the Profession, the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, the Status of Women in the Profession, and the Committee on Teaching and Learning.

Services for Students:

- Annual and Regional Meetings
 - Students are encouraged to submit paper proposals and are occasionally invited to serve on committees (see Appendix B). Advanced graduate students have also served as section chairs at the regional level.
- *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
 - All AAR members receive copies of *JAAR*. Students are also encouraged to submit articles for consideration, which are subject to the same “double-blind peer review process” as faculty submissions. At this time, *JAAR* does not accept book reviews written by student. An award is given approximately every 2 years to the best student article published in *JAAR*.
- AAR Job Postings and Employment Center
 - Connects graduate students to employers and serves as a site for job interviews during the AAR. They also conduct studies of trends in the Religious Studies job market.
- AAR Syllabi Collection
 - Now hosted on the Wabash website
- Mentoring Lunches during the Annual Meeting
- Student section on the AAR website
 - Contains updates on Annual Meeting student programming, as well as ideas for campus activities and articles on funding, publishing, jobs, and the stages of the education process.
- Facebook groups: national “Student Members and Friends of the American Academy of Religion” and regional groups.
- *Speaking of Students* (SOS)
 - A quarterly e-newsletter with the latest student announcements.
- *From the Student Desk*
 - A column featured regularly in AAR’s publication *Religious Studies News*. Students are encouraged to submit essays regarding a variety of topics concerning graduate student life.
- International Dissertation Research Grants Program
 - Designed to support AAR student members whose dissertation research requires travel outside of the country in which their school or university is located. Grants are for \$5,000.

APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

AAR = American Academy of Religion

GSC = Graduate Student Committee

CFP = Call for Papers

PAPERS = AAR's online system for submitting paper proposals

STF = Special Topics Forum

BTB = Beyond the Boundaries

EST = Eastern Standard Time

SOS = *Speaking of Students* e-newsletter

RSN = *Religious Studies News*

JAAR = *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

SWP = Status of Women in the Profession Committee

REM = Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Professional Committee

LGBTIQ = Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, & Queer Persons in the Profession

Acronyms for AAR Regions

AAR-EIR = Eastern International Region

AAR-MAR = Mid-Atlantic Region

AAR-MW = Midwest

AAR-UMW = Upper Midwest

AAR-RMGP = Rocky Mountain-Great Plains

AAR-PNW = Pacific Northwest

AAR-WR = Western (*prior to 2012 the region was called WECSR because it belonged to Western Commission for the Study of Religion, which has since dissolved.*)

NEMAAR = New England-Maritimes

SECSR = Southeast (*belongs to the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*)

SWCRS = Southwest (*belongs to Southwest Commission on Religious Studies*)

Acronyms for Organizations Related to the AAR

SBL = Society of Biblical Literature

SSSR = Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

ACLS = American Council of Learned Societies

ATLA = American Theological Libraries Association

ATS = Association of Theological Schools

FTE = Fund for Theological Education

IAHR = International Association for the History of Religions

NHA = National Humanities Alliance

CSSR = Council of Societies for the Study of Religion

CSR = Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

RSOs = Related Scholarly Organizations
AASR = African Association for the Study of Religions
APT = Association of Practical Theology
CAHS = Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
CISMOR = Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions
CTRF = Christian Theological Research Fellowship
COV&R = Colloquium on Violence and Religion
CCSC = Consortium of Christian Study Centers
ESSWE = European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism
ESWTR = European Society of Women in Theological Research
EPS = Evangelical Philosophical Society
HIARPT = Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought
IACSR = International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion
IBS = International Bonhoeffer Society
ISCP = International Society for Chinese Philosophy
KBSNA = Karl Barth Society of North America
NAASR = North American Association for the Study of Religion
NAPTS = North American Paul Tillich Society
PCR = Psychology, Culture, and Religion Group
SIEAL = Société internationale d'études sur Alfred Loisy
SACP = Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
SBCS = Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
SHCS = Society for Hindu-Christian Studies
SARTS = Society for the Arts in Religious and Theological Studies
SSCR = Society for the Study of Chinese Religions
SSCS = Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
SCP = Society of Christian Philosophers
SKS = Søren Kierkegaard Society
TAK = Theta Alpha Kappa
TFTTF = Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

APPENDIX B: STEERING COMMITTEE POLICY

Quoted from the AAR Program Unit Chair Handbook, 2010-2011

IV. Program Unit Leadership

“Ordinarily, students may not chair program units. If a program unit wishes to nominate a student, a compelling written rationale must accompany the nomination, further the student must have completed their qualifying exams and be ABD. Similarly, students may serve on steering committees only if they have met the above qualifications.”

APPENDIX C: PAST ANNUAL MEETING GSC EVENTS

2015 Graduate Student Business Meeting/ New Member Welcome

Presider: Kristy Slominski, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

Like most “business meetings” at the Annual Meeting, this one is open to all and is an opportunity to share your ideas and feedback. What events would you like to see the Graduate Student Committee plan in the future? What are your main concerns as a student member within the American Academy of Religion? How can the Graduate Student Committee better represent student needs? This is also an opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about student resources and initiatives. You will have an opportunity to meet the regionally elected student directors who serve on the Graduate Student Committee and represent students on their regional board of directors. This is also a great opportunity to network with other student members and to learn tips for making the most of your Annual Meeting experience and AAR membership.

2015 Special Topics Forum:

Dehumanized vs. Holistic Scholars: How Academia Impacts Our Lives

B. J. Parker, Baylor University and Bhakti Mamtora, University of Florida, Presiding

Scholars in academia at all levels perform many roles such as teacher, researcher, author, counselor, advocate, and activist, to name a few. In addition to the numerous hats that we wear in the academy, we also juggle personal identities such as being parents, partners, friends, and members of communities. Mediating the pressures of being productive and the desire to maintain one’s humanity and beliefs often leaves the individual confused, diminished, and/or fractured. How does one go about incorporating the various components of the self (ethics, beliefs, family, personal and professional goals, etc.) into a balanced whole? What does a “holistic scholar” or “holistic scholarship” look like? Which aspects of the discipline support a holistic self, and which undermine such an ideal? This panel features a range of scholars interested in exploring the tensions, resolutions, and possibilities that lie between the “holistic” and “dehumanizing” poles of our work.

Panelists:

Laine Scales, Baylor University

Rosemary Radford Ruether, Graduate Theological Union

Brian Palmer, Uppsala University

Donna Yarri, Alvernia University

Joshua Canzona, Georgetown University

Nicholas Werse, Baylor University

2015 Student Lounge Roundtable Series

- *How to Establish and Maintain a Professional Online Presence*
Emily D. Crews, University of Chicago
- *Dealing with The Dossier: A Proactive Approach to Documenting Your Teaching*
Raj Balkaran, University of Calgary
- *Conquering Qualifying Exams*

Bhakti Mamtora, University of Florida

- *Making Grading and Assessment Work for You*
Joshua Canzona, Georgetown University
- *Double-dipping, or Maximizing Your Time*
Dr. Donna Yarri, Alvernia University
- *Balancing Graduate School with Life: Work, Life, Identity, and Family*
Andrew Ike Shepardson, Univ. of Toronto and Elissa Cutter, Saint Louis University
- *Writing in Community: How a Writing Group Can Enhance Your Thesis or Dissertation*
David Cramer, Jenny Howell, Jordan Rowan Fannin, Baylor University
- *Networking Like the Job is in Hand*
Candace Mixon, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- *Humility, Solidarity, and Mutuality: Three Holistic Methodological Goals for Comparative Religious Study*
Sarah E. Robinson-Bertoni, Claremont Graduate University
- *Alt-Ac Employment: Hiring from an HR Perspective*
Jessica Lee Ehinger, St. Peter's College, Oxford
- *The Dissertation Distance Dilemma*
Brandon Turner, Catholic University of America
- *Kickstarter and Pinterest? Creating a Web of Support for Dissertation Writing Through Popular Social Media Technology*
Michelle Mueller, Graduate Theological Union

2015 Undergraduate Workshops at Georgia State University

Sunday, 2:00-5:00 pm

GSU Religious Studies Department, 17th floor, 25 Park Place

Meet at 1:30 pm at the AAR Membership Desk if you would like to walk as a group.

Organizers: Kristy Slominski, Brett Esaki, Molly Bassett, Rupa Pillai

In coordination with the AAR's Graduate Student Committee, Georgia State University's Religious Studies Department invites undergraduates to attend an afternoon of free workshops on its campus, a 10-minute walk from the Convention Center. The event will start with a session from 2:00-3:15 pm on "Navigating the Discipline: Understanding and Making the Most of the Study of Religion." A meet-and-greet reception will follow from 3:15 to 3:45 pm. The event will conclude with a second workshop on "Applying Skills of Religious and Theological Studies after Undergrad." This session will focus on strategies and processes of applying to graduate school—in both religion and other fields. It will also include tips on how to market skills learned in the study of religion to pursue other career opportunities. All undergraduates are welcome to attend these free sessions.

2014 Graduate Student Business Meeting/ New Member Welcome

Presider: Kristy Slominski, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

Like most “business meetings” at the Annual Meeting, this one is open to all and is an opportunity to share your ideas and feedback. What events would you like to see the Graduate Student Committee plan in the future? What are your main concerns as a student member within the American Academy of Religion? How can the Graduate Student Committee better represent student needs? This is also an opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about student resources and initiatives. You will have an opportunity to meet the regionally elected student directors who serve on the Graduate Student Committee and represent students on their regional board of directors. This is also a great opportunity to network with other student members and to learn tips for making the most of your Annual Meeting experience and AAR membership.

2014 Special Topics Forum: Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation

Presider: Adam D. J. Brett, *Syracuse University*

Panelists:

Thomas A. Tweed, *University of Notre Dame*

David Harrington Watt, *Temple University*

Kathryn Lofton, *Yale University*

Vasudha Narayanan, *University of Florida*

Lester Edwin J. Ruiz, *Association of Theological Schools*

Jeff Wilson, *Renison University College, University of Waterloo*

Graduate training is one of the foundations of our academy. It shapes individual scholars, academic structures and expectations, and conceptual categories and methods within scholarship. This panel considers the following: Are scholars in the academic study of religion “well trained”? For what are students being trained? Through which avenues does scholarly formation take place? How does graduate training shape scholarly identity and career options? How do mentoring relationships factor into graduate training? What innovative methods and “best practices” have been developed by those doing the training and those experiencing the training? To what extent does this training take into account the conditions of graduate life? These concerns relate to the larger task of how we might re-envision the relationship of graduate training to the rest of the academy and how a critical re-evaluation of our current practices of scholarly formation could be used shape the future of our discipline.

2014 Student Lounge Roundtable Series

- *Preparation and Skills for Alternative Employment*
Emily R. Mace, Harvard Square Library and Jessica Lee Ehinger, St. Peter’s College
- *Networking for Non-Academic or Alternative-Academic Employment*
Laura Alexander, University of Virginia
- *Sharing Your PhD: Using the ‘Religion in North Carolina Digital Collection’ to Explore Creative Approaches to Doctoral Formation*
Kenneth Woo, Duke Divinity School
- Western Region Student Meet-up

- *The Promiscuous Term Paper: CV Building through Effective Use of Seminar Papers*
Cristina S. Richie, Boston College (replacement found)
- *From Advisor = Mentor to Color Matching: Questioning Common Assumptions About Mentoring in Religious Studies & Theology*
Elonda Clay, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- *Effective Teaching: What We Know From Research on Learning*
Susan Hill, University of Northern Iowa
- *Teaching with Technology: Practical Advice and Best Practice*
Joshua Canzona, Georgetown University
- *Managing Your Thesis: Tools Toward Empowerment*
Raj Balkaran, University of Calgary
- *On My Own: Transforming Our Role from Graduate Student to the Student Transformer*
Joel E. Stoker, Arizona State University
- *Designing a Successful College Course*
Susan Hill, University of Northern Iowa
- *Partnering Communities and Universities: The Transformative Power of Community-Engaged Research, Scholarship, and Teaching*
Sara Williams, Elizabeth Whiting Pierce, and Barbara A. B. Patterson, Emory University
- *The Ethics and Politics of Queer Identity in the Field*
Stephanie Bilinksy, Arizona State University
- *Dollars and Cents: Making Sense of Funding Education and Academic Research*
Dustin Benac, Duke Divinity School
- *Eating Disorders, Food Issues, and Managing Graduate School*
Maria Junntila Carson, Syracuse University
- *Time Management: The Coveted Key to a Healthy Work-Life Balance*
Christine Atchison, Kingston University
- *Seeking Sanity: Balancing Graduate Work with Marriage, Children, and Employment*
Brandon Turner, Catholic University of America
- *Priorities, Preparation, and Process: Time Management for the Rest of Us*
Thomas J. Whitley, Florida State University

2013 Graduate Student Business Meeting/ New Member Welcome

Presider: Elonda Clay

Students comprise one third of the membership of the AAR. Join us for our business meeting, a forum where you can offer your suggestions, hear about new initiatives led by the Graduate Student Committee, and meet national and regional student directors. Topics include how you can serve as a committee member and networking strategies that can maximize the annual meeting's potential for your professional development. New members are invited to drop by for

conversation and useful information!

2013 Special Topics Forum: Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities

Matthew Puffer, University of Virginia, Presiding

Panelists:

Kristy Slominski, University of California, Santa Barbara

Charles Mathewes, University of Virginia

Maren Wood, Lilli Research Group, Washington, D.C.

R. Marie Griffith, Washington University, St. Louis

John R. Fitzmier, American Academy of Religion

Kate Ott, Drew University

What is the status of the job market, within and outside of the academy, for those holding or pursuing graduate degrees in religious studies and theology? In order to encourage graduate students to realistically diagnose and strategically respond to a difficult academic market, the Graduate Student Committee is dedicating this year's Special Topics Forum to "Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities." This event will feature panelists who will present on 1) the true state of the job market, 2) strategies for successfully navigating these realities, and 3) how to pursue opportunities both within and outside academia toward the end of vocationally fulfilling employment. Panelists will include grad students, recently hired professors, active search committee members, and PhD's enjoying extra-academic vocations. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in conversations with the panelists, addressing particular issues and interests. Please join us for what promises to be an important and informative time!

2013 Student Lounge Roundtable Series

- *Digital Tools for Dissertation Writers*
Jennifer Adler, Vanderbilt University
- *Employment Beyond the Academy*
Maren Wood, Lilli Research Group, Washington, D.C.
Nathan Schneider, Brooklyn, NY
- *How to Thrive in Grad School: The Tips You Won't Find in Your Departmental Handbook*
Raj Balkaran, University of Calgary
- *Grant-Writing 101: Crafting a Successful Proposal*
Elizabeth Mary Rohlman, University of Calgary
- *Publishing Options for Graduate Students*
Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University
Aaron W. Hughes, University of Rochester
- *Tips for Finding Academic Employment: Beyond Publish or Perish*
W. David Hall, Centre College
Devorah Schoenfeld, Loyola University, Chicago
- *Exploring Pedagogies for Religious Studies Educators Within and Outside of Academia*

James Dennis LoRusso, Emory University
Sabrina MisirHiralall, Montclair State University

- *Expanding the Classroom: Online Tools to Enhance Learning*
Justin Tanis, Graduate Theological Union
- *Rewarding Online Teaching*
David Walsh, Arizona State University
- *Blogging to Learn in Religious Studies Classrooms*
John Soboslai, University of California, Santa Barbara
Martha Smith Roberts, University of California, Santa Barbara
- *Leveraging Web Based Technologies for Teaching in the Humanities*
Jeremy Kidwell, University of Edinburgh
- *Publishing Your Research Online—for Your Peers and for the Public*
Joseph Blankholm, Columbia University
- *Using Social Media to Develop Your Academic Brand*
Krista Dalton, Columbia University

2013 Leadership Series: Cultivating Leadership for the New Academy and Civic Engagement: Interrogating Leadership Skills, Styles, and Contexts

Elonda Clay, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, Presiding

The aim of the Leadership Series is to facilitate the personal and professional development of graduate students through leadership development by providing them with resources, strategies, professional networks, and practical skills that will enable them to face new and evolving leadership challenges. The Leadership Series is also open to new scholarship and research on the practice, learning, and study of leadership and civic engagement in the field of religion.

- *Public Leadership, Private Religion: Community-Based Advocacy and the Role of Religious and Theological Language*
Emily Michelle Ledder, Emory University
- *Taking Initiative: Skills for Making Your Own Leadership Opportunities in Academia*
Kristy Slominski, University of California, Santa Barbara
- *Prophetic Leadership in the Wake of Tragedy*
Linwood Blizzard, Boston University
- *Understanding Leadership Styles in a Multi-Cultural Society*
Remi Alapo, UTS - The Interfaith Seminary
- *Ignatian Pedagogy and the Cultivation of Graduate Student Leaders*
Kyle Schenkewitz, Saint Louis University

2013 Wabash Co-Sponsored Session: New Paradigms in Evolving Learning Contexts: Navigating Changes in Teaching Religion and Theology

Sponsored by the GSC, the SBL Student Advisory Board, and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

Paul Myhre, Wabash Center, Elonda Clay, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago,
Patrick McCullough, University of California, Los Angeles, Presiding

The academic professions of religion and theology are currently facing multiple yet interrelated trends: growth in online education, increased preferences for part-time or adjunct faculty, and increasing student diversity. Instructors will need to acquire flexible teaching skills that are relevant to emerging academic contexts. This session discusses the pertinent need for graduate students to identify and acquire or improve necessary instructor competencies which include but are not limited to: diversifying instructional methods and teaching tactics for online or blended teaching, active learning techniques, and re-imagining pedagogical situations to address students' needs. Panelists will share their classroom experiences and knowledge of emerging instructional strategies, discuss their motivation for becoming adaptive instructors, and reflect on the application of emerging instructional competencies within university, college, and theological school contexts. Participants will be introduced to a variety of instructional strategies and be able to apply insights from the session to address changing teacher expectations.

2012 Student Lounge Roundtable Series

- *How to Organize a Graduate Student Conference*
Christina McRorie, Philip Lorish, and Kristopher Norris, University of Virginia
- *Academic Employment is More Hopeful Than It Seems*
Matthew Hill, Spring Arbor University
- *An Effective Drug-free Antidote to Chronic Stress: Mindfulness Meditation*
Fitri Junoes, The University of Hong Kong
- *Demystifying Comprehensive Exams*
Jennifer Adler, Vanderbilt University and
Theresa Yugar, Claremont Graduate University
- *Building Classroom Community: Engaging Students & Powerful Pedagogy*
Joshua Canzona, Georgetown University
- *Distance Education: Challenges & Rewards*
Jon Jordan, Reformed Theological Seminary

2012 Special Topics Forum: The Human Side of the Job Search

Steven Barrie-Anthony, University of California, Santa Barbara and
Almeda Wright, Pfeiffer University, Presiding

Panelists:

Andrea Dickens, Ohio State University
Mohammad Hassan Khalil, Michigan State University
Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University
Nathan Schneider, Religion Dispatches

Ann Taves, University of California, Santa Barbara
Sharon Welch, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Several AAR panels in recent years have addressed the disheartening state of the job market in religious studies, especially the statistical and logistical aspects. This panel will build off of those previous discussions by wrestling with the complex and difficult human issues that arise from looking for work in this atmosphere, what many of us experience but rarely discuss in open forums. The Graduate Student Committee is therefore dedicating this year's Special Topics Forum to "The Human Side of the Job Search." The event consists of three parts. First, a former president of the AAR will offer her thoughts on the state of the job market. Next, a panel of graduate students looking for work, those who have recently found work in both academic and nonacademic settings, and professors who have overseen hiring, will discuss this process through the lens of their personal experience. Panelists will touch upon the implications of the job search for relationships with colleagues and with mentors, the politics of the process from top-down and bottom-up, so forth – in short, what does it mean to be human in this process? Finally, the group will break off into smaller, separate, round-table discussions led by the panelists so we can all discuss the human complexity that this job market entails and chart constructive pathways forward. Please join us for what promises to be an important and informative time!

2012 Beyond the Boundaries Public Lecture Series

Sunday, November 18, 2012

Religion and Politics Session

- *The Secularist Movement: An Overview of the Lobbying and Legal Efforts of America's Organized Nonbelievers.* Blankholm, Joseph. Columbia University.
- *Religious Liberty, Partisan Politics, and Catholic Fissures.*
Joshua Canzona, Catholic University of America.
- *President Obama, Historically Black Churches, and Public Discourse about Same-Sex Marriage.* Jermaine McDonald, Emory University.
- *Race, Morality, and U.S. Politics.*
Rima Vesely-Flad, Sarah Lawrence College.

Monday November 19, 2012

Religion and Economics Session

- *Morality and Spirituality: The Missing Link for Economic Development in the 21st Century.*
Greg Kame, University of South Africa.
- *Legislating Pluralism: Faith-Based Prisons and the Privatization of Morality.*
Brad Stoddard, Florida State University.

- *Seeing Buddha, Selling Buddha: The Economy of Buddhist Imagery in the US.*
Peter M. Romaskiewicz, University of California-Santa Barbara.

2012 Wabash Center Pre-Conference Workshop

Friday - 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Cosponsored by the Wabash Center, the GSC, and the SBL Student Advisory Board

Open to graduate students who are teaching or may in the near future teach, this workshop focuses turning one's teaching philosophy into effective lesson planning and design. Participants will submit by October 1 a one-page teaching philosophy statement and a sample syllabi from a course they have taught, want to teach, or that has been taught in their department. Intentional reflection on the context of teaching and the student learners at its core will lead to practical classroom strategies for the participant's own context. Instructional experts will present and lead discussion. Because one's teaching philosophy is a crucial element to any job interview, graduate students involved in teaching will surely not want to miss this opportunity.

2011 Student Lounge Roundtables

- *Finding a Delicate Balance in Graduate Studies: Trans-cultural Conversations*,
Leah Payne (Vanderbilt University) and Tim Lim (Regent University), Presiding
- *"I can hold up TWO books as I hop on a ball... But that is not all! Oh, no. That is not all!"*:
Balancing Family and Work in the Academic World,
Beth Stovall (St. Thomas University) and Jon Stovall (McMaster University), Presiding
- *Preparing for Teaching*, Ryan Cumming (Loyola University), Presiding
- *Tricks of the Trade: A Roundtable for Students Seeking Acceptance into Ph.D. Programs*
Elaine Padilla (New York Theological Seminary), Presiding, with panelists Monica A. Coleman (Claremont School of Theology), Dwight L. Hopkins (University of Chicago), Dhawn Martin (Drew University), Peter Phan (Georgetown University), and Joanne Rodríguez (Hispanic Theological Initiative)
- *Creating Syllabi Your Students Will (Really!) Use*, Kristy Slominski (UCSB) and Amy Tiilikainen (The Catholic University of America), Presiding
- *Teaching Portfolios: From the Classroom to the Job Market*, Leanna Fuller (Vanderbilt University) and Joshua Canzona (The Catholic University of America), Presiding

2011 Student Town Hall Meeting: Stepping Stones: Finding Your Footing in the Academy

Saturday, November 19, 1:00–3:30 pm

2011 Special Topics Forum: Retooling for a New Job Market

Monday, November 21, 1:00–3:30 pm

Ben Sanders, Iliff School of Theology/University of Denver and Kristy Slominski, UCSB, Presiding

Panelists:

Tim Renick, Georgia State University, chair of former AAR Job Placement Task Force

Jeremy Posadas, Austin College

Eleanor Moody-Shepherd, Dean of New York Theological Seminary

Jeffrey Kuan, Dean of Drew Theological School

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, ATLA director

In light of the economy's impact on employment opportunities in religious studies, the Graduate Student Committee is dedicating this year's Special Topics Forum to "Retooling for a New Job Market." This event will consist of two parts: the first will feature a panel of recently hired professors, professors who have been active on search committees, and a representative from the nontraditional (i.e. non-professorial) job market. The second part of this event will be a forum in which attendants will have the opportunity to engage in smaller, separate, round-table conversations with the panelists. Each panelist will lead a conversation aimed at addressing particular issues, such as how to prepare for interviews, how to creatively market yourself, how to market your skills for non-professional jobs, and more!

2011 Beyond the Boundaries Public Lecture Series

Saturday, November 19, 2011

American Religious and Spiritual Innovation: Marketing, the Law, and Marriage

6:00-8:00 pm at the California Institute of Integral Studies, Room 307

Steven Barrie-Anthony, Presiding

- *"I am a Mormon" and "I am a Scientologist": Recent Marketing Efforts in Mormonism and Scientology*, Donald Westbrook, Claremont Graduate University
- *Circulating Religion, Owning Belief: Intellectual Property in the American Spiritual Marketplace*, Andrew Ventimiglia, University of California, Davis
- *Redefining Religion through the Lens of Interfaith Marriage*, Erika B. Seamon, Georgetown University

Monday, November 21, 2011

Intersections of Spirituality, Healing, and Medicine

6:00-8:00 pm at the California Institute of Integral Studies, Room 207

Steven Barrie-Anthony, Presiding

- *The Public Space of Spirituality: Emerging Health Care Models*, Elizabeth Gordon, Graduate Theological Union
- *Death and Pregnancy: Religion, Ritual and the Hospital*, Kandace Geldmeier, Syracuse University

- *Social Defeat and Korean Shamanism*
Connor Wood, Boston University

APPENDIX D: PAST GSC MEMBERS

Adam D. J. Brett	EIR	May 2013-May 2015
Daniel Cochran	UMW	April 2013-April 2015
Sarah Riccardi	Midwest	Nov. 2012-Nov.2014
Sarah Robinson	Western	March 2014-March 2015
Raj Balkaran	PNW	Sept. 2012-Sept. 2014
Matthew Puffer	Southeast	March 2012-March 2014
Gil Rosenberg	RMGP	March 2012-March 2014
Rachel Schneider Vlachos	Southwest	March 2012-March 2014
Scott Singer	Mid-Atlantic	March 2012-March 2014
Elonda Clay	Student Director/Chair	Jan 2012-Dec 2013
Ben Sanders	<i>appointed</i>	Jan 2011-Dec 2013
Steven Barrie-Anthony	<i>appointed</i>	Jan 2010-Dec 2012
Almeda Wright	<i>appointed/Chair</i>	
Elaine Padilla	<i>appointed</i>	Jan 2009-Dec 2011
Elizabeth Lawson	Student Director	Jan 2011-Dec 2012