

California

Hawaii

Pacific Islands

Guam

Nevada

Arizona

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

WESTERN REGION

ANNUAL MEETING

<http://www.aarwr.com/>



PROGRAM

March 17-19, 2017

**University of the West
1409 Walnut Grove Avenue
Rosemead, California 91770**



American Academy of Religion Western Region

*California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii,
Guam, and the Pacific Islands*

Welcome to the University of the West!

Dear AAR Members and Colleagues, welcome to the University of the West for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. This year's program has admitted approximately (185) papers in 24 Program Units.

The host for the 2017 meeting is the University of the West. Thank you to Fo Guang Shan (Buddha's Light Mountain) order, as the founders of UWest, as well as Dr. Stephen Morgan, University President. If you see Dr. Stephen Morgan, be sure to thank him for the time and energy put into ensuring the success of this year's conference.

Directions to each session have been marked with helpful signs, pointing you to your place of interest. If, for any reason, you are having trouble finding your place of interest, please contact the conference manager – Joseph Paxton – via email, Joseph.Paxton@cst.edu, or via cell phone, (480) 600-3727. It is requested that text and email be used as primary modes of communication for information, directions, and accommodations. If you are a unit chair, please call directly if you are experiencing technical difficulties and need immediate assistance.

There are 3 primary buildings which will host our conference session. AD – administration building, ED – education building, and the auditorium. Registration can be found in Ken Locke Hall on the 2nd floor of ED. Please review the map enclosed to find your respective building. The map can be found after the “thank you” page below.

In addition to our individual unit sessions, we invite you to join us for a Saturday morning Keynote address by Crystal Blanton. This will be held in the auditorium from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. The University of the West will host a \$7, **cash only**, meal for both Saturday and Sunday. Meals are to be purchased by the attendee. The cafeteria offers generous seating with a beautiful view, perfect for collegial conversations and connecting with scholars from around the world. Bevaris (dining services) will provide a vegan option, and all meals will be buffet style or “hot-off-the-grill” (made to order). The Saturday night presidential address will be held in the auditorium, and presented by Dr. Dorothea Kahena Viale.

Sunday Afternoon Business Meeting

In preparation for next year, we will hold our annual business meeting Sunday afternoon in Ken Locke Hall from 12:45 – 2:00 p.m. All attendees are invited to come, and box lunches will be provided. We will discuss administrative and organization details for the upcoming 2018 conference at the Institute for Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA.

Acknowledgements

The American Academy of Religion, Western Region (AAR/WR) would like to express its thanks to the many people who came together to make this year's meeting possible. We begin with the University of the West, which has shown such generosity, not only through sharing its campus, but also by making other appreciated contributions.

University of the West, Rosemead, CA

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the founders of the University of the West, the Fo Guang Shan. In addition, we extend our thanks to the University President, Dr. Stephen Morgan for his support in hosting this year's regional conference. Many thanks to Dr. Peter M. Rojcewicz, the Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jane Iwamura, faculty chair of the Religious Studies Department, and the Rev. Dr. Victor Gabriel, faculty chair of the Buddhist Chaplaincy Department, for their invaluable support. We would also like to thank the facilities crew, including Ricky Tan and Julio Segura, and Bevaris catering for their onsite hospitality, organization, and assistance. Finally, we would like to thank Rev. Monica Sanford for her collaboration with the conference manager, assisting in the fine details of this year's conference. On behalf of the board of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region, thank you!

AAR, Western Region Officers

Jonathan Lee, Vice-President and Program Chair

Joseph Kim Paxton, Conference Manager

Charles Townsend, Regional Coordinator

Dorothea Kahena Viale, President

Hester Oberman, Past-President

We also thank all of our presenters, unit chairs, and attendees for supporting the AAR/WR, each other, and the advancement of scholarship in our region.

University of the West

UWest is a private, non-profit, accredited university in Rosemead, California, just ten minutes east of Los Angeles. UWest was founded in 1991 by Venerable Master Hsing Yun of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist order. It is one of five worldwide universities and colleges in the Fo Guang Shan Consortium. UWest offers certificate, bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees and enrolls 350+ students on a tranquil 11-acre campus. Undergraduate and graduate students at UWest enjoy small class sizes and personal attention.



Mission

The mission of UWest is to provide Whole Person Education in a context informed by Buddhist wisdom and values and to facilitate cultural understanding and appreciation between East and West.



Values

Belonging to a university community founded on Humanistic Buddhist principles means:

- Becoming people of strong CHARACTER who behave ethically, cultivate awareness of self and others, and develop wisdom.
- Practicing COMPASSION and working with others to relieve suffering and promote equality.
- Building a sustainable COMMUNITY by embracing diversity and achieving harmony through common purpose.

University of the West is committed to graduating students with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their educational, professional, personal, and spiritual goals and to perpetuate these values as the cornerstones in creating a better world – Character, Compassion, and Community.

President's Message

On behalf of the entire University of the West community, I am pleased to welcome you to our campus. It is our privilege to host the American Academy of Religion Western Regional Conference. We hope our peaceful environment encourages productive and inspiring sessions for the successful pursuit of your agenda. As UWest celebrates its 25th Anniversary year, it is appropriate to recognize and highlight our many strengths and historical traditions. As a university founded on Buddhist wisdom and values, we celebrate the strength of our religious studies programs and welcome the opportunity to join with the larger community of scholars to continue to pursue the important work at hand. Welcome to University of the West. We are delighted to have you.



Students

UWest has a uniquely diverse student body. Approximately half of students are international, mostly from East Asia, and half are domestic, mostly from Southern California. Students from UWest come from over 40 countries and over 30 U.S. states to study together. UWest offers degrees in Buddhist chaplaincy, business administration, English, liberal arts, psychology, and religious studies.



Buddhist Ecumenism

Another unique feature of UWest is the diversity of Buddhists living, working, and studying together on campus. Laypeople and monastics from all three major branches of Buddhism – Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana – come together here, often for the first time. Monks and nuns in many colored robes are a common sight. UWest is also part of an interfaith consortium of graduate schools including: Claremont School of Theology, Academy for Jewish Religion, Bayan Claremont, and the Indic Foundation, enabling students of the five great world religions to cross register and study together.

Religious Studies



The Religious Studies Department was founded in 1991 and currently offers an MA in Religious Studies and a PhD in Religious Studies. Students in either degree can concentrate in Buddhist Studies or Comparative Religious Studies. **Dr. Jane Iwamura** serves as faculty chair of the department and welcomes AAR-WR attendees and presenters to campus.

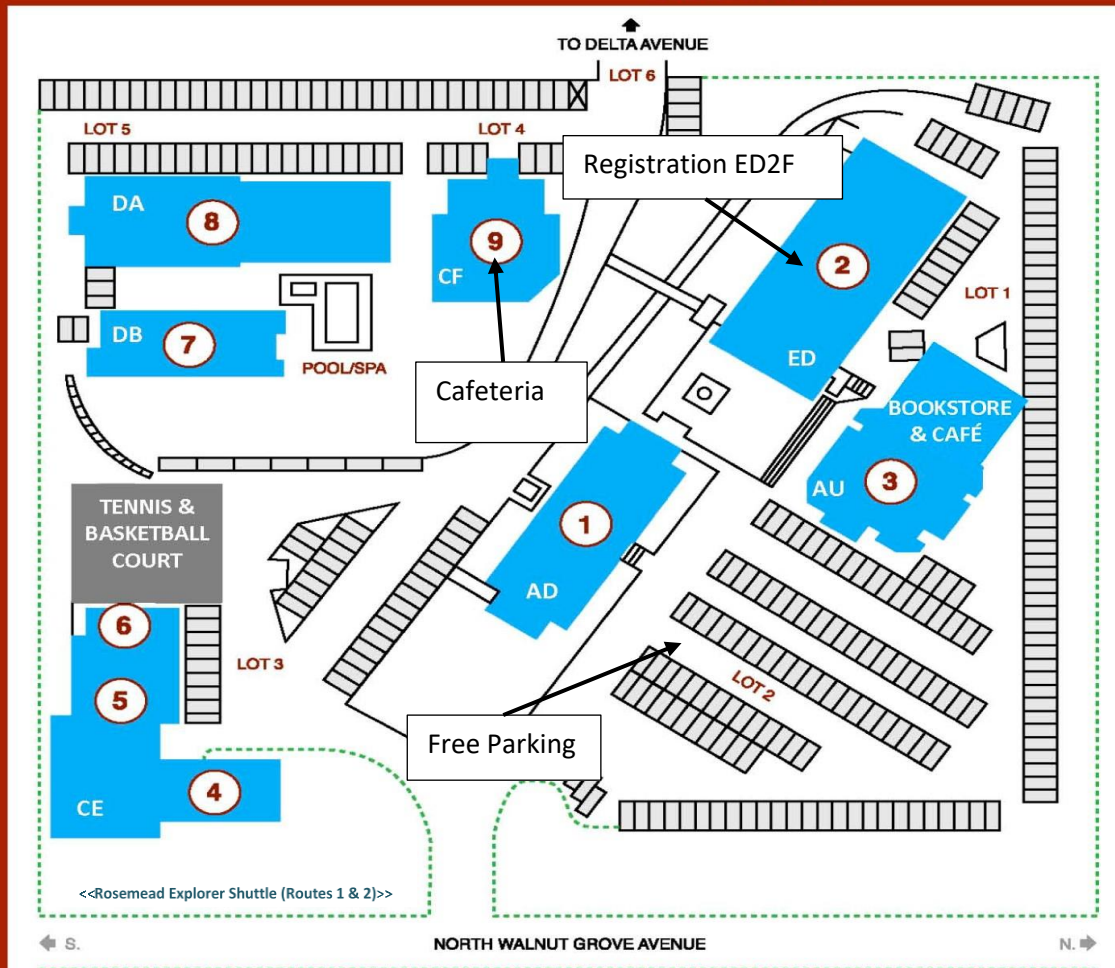
Buddhist Chaplaincy



The Buddhist Chaplaincy program was founded in 2008 and became its own department in 2012. It currently offers one of only four accredited MDiv in Buddhist Chaplaincy degrees in the country as well as a first-of-its-kind Doctor of Buddhist Ministry (DBMin). **Rev. Dr. Victor Gabriel** serves as faculty chair and welcomes the AAR-WR conference to campus.



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 WWW.UWEST.EDU



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|---|--|
| <p>1 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (AD)
 1st Floor – Offices
 2nd Floor – Offices & Classrooms</p> <p>2 EDUCATION BUILDING (ED)
 1st Floor – Library
 2nd Floor – Locke Hall, Business Dept.,
 Meditation Room, Business Dept.,
 Student Community Resource
 Center Offices (SCRC)</p> <p>3 AUDITORIUM (AU) & BOOKSTORE/CAFÉ
 CONTINUING EDUCATION BUILDING (CE):</p> | <p>4 - Classroom CE-101
 5 - General Services Office
 6 - Maintenance Shop</p> <p>7 DORMITORY B (DB)</p> <p>8 DORMITORY A (DA)
 - Resident Aid - Ext. 190</p> <p>9 CAFETERIA BUILDING (CF)
 1st Floor – UWest Student Association (UWSA),
 Weight room, recreation room, student
 kitchen, study room
 2nd Floor – Dining Hall</p> |
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**WESTERN REGION
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION
Annual Meeting
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University of the West
Rosemead, California**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17

10:00-3:00 AAR-WR Board Meeting – Ken Locke Hall
4:00-6:00 Registration – Lobby of Ken Locke Hall (see map for details)
**4:00-6:00 Women’s Caucus Event (Room AD 208) - Intersectionality, Solidarity, and Mindful
Attention: A Presentation and Discussion about De-humanization, Dignity, Community
Sustainability, and Ultimately Flourishing**

Presenters: Special Guest Diana Winston, Director of the Mindfulness Education at UCLA’s Mindful Awareness Research Center (MARC), Co-author (with Susan Smalley, PhD) of “Fully Present: The Science, Art, and Practice of Mindfulness” (2010), and Sarah Robinson-Bertoni, Ecology and Religion Co-Chair and Women’s Caucus Chair and Liason to the Board, American Academy of Religion, Western Region.

This global, national, and local historical moment presents particular challenges, which may be transformed and engaged actively through cultivating understanding of intersectionality, solidarity, and mindful attention. With respect to our Buddhist hosts at the University of the West and the broader AAR Western Region conference theme of “Religion, Race, and Racism,” this interactive presentation will offer time for quiet reflection, active discussion, and scholarly engagement with aspects of this historical moment that call for moral leadership. The tri-partite themes can contribute toward navigating a moral compass toward greater respect for human dignity, ecological wholeness, and attentiveness to those most marginalized and victimized. As much of Women’s Studies in Religion has shown, scholarship is not value-free, but rather can be part of a larger arc of work toward worthwhile goals of compassion, justice, and the inextricably linked health of all human beings and our irreplaceable, living world, prioritizing the need to attend to the concrete, lived realities of those who suffer most.

Please RSVP to Sarah Robinson-Bertoni: sarahrobinsonbertoni@gmail.com. The AAR Western Region Women’s Caucus event is free and welcomes people of all genders to participate in this restorative work. Registration will be available at the door, but RSVP by March 11 is much appreciated.

**6:00-10:00 Queer Caucus Event - Queer View – Religion and Identity, FREE EVENT
West Hollywood City Council Chambers
(625 N. San Vicente Blvd.)**

Join the American Academy of Religion’s Queer Studies Caucus for an interactive program featuring the short films: *My Mother’s Orphan*, Directed by Melissa Perez;

Transmormon, Directed by Torben Bernhard; and *The HomoFiles*, Directed by Kimberly Esslinger. The short film program will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with the directors and scholars as well as feature a Q&A. The film festival will conclude with a screening of the film *A Sinner in Mecca*, Directed by Parvez Sharma.

Parking will be available in the 5-story West Hollywood parking structure at a discounted rate.

To RSVP, please email queerstudies.aarwr@gmail.com or visit www.aarwr.com/queer-caucus.html to stay up to date with the program. Co-Sponsored by the Queer Studies Caucus of the American Academy of Religion Western Region, the City of West Hollywood, the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of West Hollywood, the American Academy of Religion Western Region, the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, Hollywood NOW, and Muslims for Progressive Values.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 18

7:00-8:30 Registration – Lobby of Ken Locke Hall

First Session (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Buddhist Studies 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room AD 205

Buddhism, Race, Gender, and Self-Identity

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Gregory L. Bock, University of Texas, Tyler
"Buddhism, Racism, and Forgiveness"

Nevada Drollinger-Smith, Arizona State University
"Polluting Females: Buddhist Women as a Zone of Danger to the Integrity of the Burmese Race"

Adeana McNicholl, Stanford University
"Racial Formation in American Buddhism: Approaches to the Theorisation of Black Buddhist Discourse"

Jed Forman, University of California, Santa Barbara
"The Self and the Non-Other: The Individual and Power in Tibetan Buddhism"
Juyan Zhang, University of Texas, San Antonio

"The Creation of Avalokiteśvara: Exploring his Origin and Metamorphosis in the Northern Āgamas"

Ethics 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room AD 206

**Dr. King's Ethics & Their Relevance to the Black Lives Matters Movement – How MLK's and BLM's
Ethics of Racial Justice Compare**

Moderator: Chad Bogosian, Clovis Community College

Valerie Miles-Tribble, American Baptist Seminary of the West
"Reality of the Dream"

Timothy Murphy, Claremont School of Theology
"Diverging Audiences and Emphases: Martin Luther King and Black Lives Matter"

Shawn Bawulski, Grand Canyon University
"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Evangelicalism on Racial Injustice"

Indigenous Religions 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room ED 209

Indigeneity & the Latter Day Saints: Relations and Representations

Moderator: Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara

Cristina Rosetti, University of California, Riverside
"Lamanite Past and Spectral Present: The Constructions of Lamanite Identity and
Redemption of the Dead"

Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Native Americans, Homosexuals, and Women and the Making of Mormon Heroes:
Identity Formation and Border Management in Orson Scott Card"

Troy Mikanovich, Redge Bendheim, and Savannah Johnston, Claremont Graduate
University
"The Performance of Indigenous Identity: Contested Reclamation at the Polynesian
Cultural Center"

Latina, Latino, and Latin American Religion 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room AD 204

Politicization of Faith: Lived Religion in the U.S. and Latin America

Moderator: Thomas G. Evans, Claremont Graduate University

Jorge N. Leal, University of California, San Diego

"Community Building through Prayer and Social Action: The Case of St. Matthias Parish

Amanda Rodriguez Espinola, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Faith Diplomacy: Brazil, Pentecostalism, and New Media"

Kristian A. Diaz, University of Denver

"From the Outside Looking In: Salvadoran Faith in a Transnational World"

Religions of Asia 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room AD 215

**The Impact of Colonialism, Semi-Colonialism, and Religious Difference in the Formations of
Community, Space, and Austerity of Asian Religions**

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

Jeongyun Hur, Claremont School of Theology

"Ancestor Rite, *Au Xie*, Controversy Between Christianity and Karen Community"

Julia McClenon Barnecllo, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Clash of Temporalizations: Chinese-Religious and Daoist Conceptions of Time in the
Face of the Western Clock"

Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology

"Tapas: Heat Purification through Hindu and Jain Austerity"

Philosophy of Religion 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room ED 300B

Philosophical Approaches to Jewish and Christian Scriptures

Moderator: Paul Rodriguez, Claremont Graduate University

Shigemi Tomita, Kanto Gakuin University

"Gender Roles and the Use of Reason to Obtain Knowledge of Conditions before the
Fall"

Casey Crosbie, Claremont School of Theology

"Race & Violence in the Bible: Using the Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt to
Deconstruct Racial Conflict in the Book of *Joshua*"

Stephen R. Munzer, University of California, Los Angeles

"Sinlessness and Impeccability in Hebrews 4:15"

Religion, Literature, and Film (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room ED 307

On the Racialized and Ritualized Edge of Becoming

Moderator: Emmanuelle Patrice, Antioch University

Eliezer Rolón Jeong, Claremont School of Theology
"The Impossibility to Not Think About It: Foregrounding Race and Religion in Alfonso Cuarón's Children of Men"

Jennifer M. Matheny, University of Kent, Canterbury
"Non-heroic Origins: Rahab, Bilbo and Mikhail Bakhtin"

Emmanuelle Patrice, Antioch University
"A Skeleton Key of Ethnocentric Hypocrisy within Analogous Spiritual Heritages"

Jon R. Stone, California State University, Long Beach
"The Perpetuation of Structural Racism in Apocalyptic-Themed Films"

Religion and the Social Sciences 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Room ED 309

Narrative and Religion, Race, and Racism

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"From the Acorn to the Grove: Inclusiveness and Inter-being for a New Global Narrative"

Nancy O. Meyer, Claremont Graduate University
"The Weight of the Mythic Imagination: Story-telling and Race"

Shannon Frediani, Claremont School of Theology
"Race, Religion, Power and Competing Narratives: Legacies of Legitimizing Violence and Collective Meaning Making"

**SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 19
(10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)**

Keynote (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)

Auditorium



Speaker: Crystal Blanton

Title: "The Intersection of Race, Religion, Oppression, and Culture in Today's Times"

Bio: Crystal Blanton is a social worker, activist, writer, priestess, mother and wife from the Bay Area. She has a Masters in Social Work from California State University East Bay and has an undergraduate degree in Psychology. She has worked in the field of social work in many different capacities for the last 18 years and currently works as the manager of a program that delivers mental health services to underserved foster children.

Blanton is a board member for the Solar Cross Temple and the 2015 Keeper of the Light for the Pagan Alliance. She is the author of, *Bridging the Gap and Pain and Faith in a Wiccan World*. She is the editor of the *Shades of Faith and Shades of Ritual anthologies*, and co-editor of *Bringing Race to the Table; Exploring Racism in the Pagan Community*. She writes for the *Wild Hunt*, *Sage Woman*, and the *Daughters of Eve* blog on the Patheos site. She is the founder of the 30 Day Real Black History Challenge and website, promoting understanding and reflections of the experiences of Black people throughout history.

Blanton is passionate about the integration of community, spirituality and healing from our ancestral past, and is an advocate for true diversity and understanding. She works within her own spiritual community by facilitating and participating in discussions on topics of social justice, diversity, leadership, and the use of restorative justice practices to empower the community voice.

Abstract: Religion has always played a major role in the socio-political climate of the time and our role in modern society. The impact of religious practices has helped to shape how people engage in the world and with one another. There is a clear intersection that connects our individual and shared experiences of race, oppression, culture and religion, yet it is often disregarded in the religious narratives of the overculture. While these dynamics have existed for hundreds of years, today's times have brought them to the limelight in a clear and undeniable way. Our communities are in crisis, and a need for togetherness and healing has become even more prevalent.

Some of the work on the next juncture of social change has to include a hard look at how religion includes or excludes people of color, those from different cultural

understandings, and directly connects to how we see and experience power as spiritually dynamic beings. Are we actively look at the needs of our marginalized folks or are we existing within the comfort of religious structures and ideology that does not include the voices of the oppressed? How does religion play a role in the empowerment of Black and Brown people today, even within the largely Eurocentric construct of our society?

Drawing on the research of current social science studies, culturally relevant data, and experiences of People of Color, we will explore some of the ways that religion has served as a gatekeeper to racial politics, oppression, religious intolerance and racism in modern times. Diving into the concepts of cultural awareness, transgenerational trauma, systemic oppression and marginalization within religious communities gives us a clear opportunity to gain insight into the ways we can improve our religious and spiritual communities together. Exploration of the specific cultural needs of people of color, and the racial divide that exists within our modern community can also bring us to a place of working for collective healing.

Second Session (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Asian American Religious Studies 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room AD 215

Film Session & Discussion: Waking in Oak Creek

Discussant: Charles M. Townsend, University of California, Riverside

Moderator: Thien-Huong Ninh, Cosumnes River College

Goddess Studies 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room AD 204

Re-visioning Women: Narratives for a New World

Moderator: Lauri Ramey, California State University, Los Angeles

Jan Pepler, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"Aphrodite as Great Mother of Love"

Cindy Caldwell, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"Mary Magdalene as a New Face of God"

Jeannette Kiel, California Institute of Integral Studies
"A Goddess in My Image: A Filipina-Black Mestiza's Ecofeminist Spiritual Reflection"

Komal Agarwal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Dehli
"Looking Beyond the Disrobing: Humanizing and Immortalizing Draupadi Today"

Pagan Studies 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room AD 205

Inclusiveness Issues in Paganism

Moderator: Dorothea Kahena Viale, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Joan DeArtemis, Independent Scholar
"Racism in Modern Paganism"

Dorothea Kahena Viale, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
"Pagan Imagery"

Graduate Student Professional Development/Pedagogy 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room AD 206

Teaching through the Challenge: Pedagogy for Changing Cultural Contexts

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

Jonathan Lee, San Francisco State University
"Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty and Graduate Students"

Melissa James, St. Leo University
"Teaching Ethics to Sailors: Meeting the Growing Challenges and Opportunities of Teaching Military Personnel and Veterans"

Philip Boo Riley, Santa Clara University
"Community-based Learning and Teaching: Solidarity in Silicon Valley"

Queer Studies in Religion 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room ED 209

Exploring Queer Astrology, Embodiment, and Mysticism

Moderator: Marie Cartier, California State University, Northridge; University of California, Riverside

Chris Doggett, California Institute of Integral Studies
"From Perv to Shamaness: An Autoethnography of Gay Mysticism"

Dylan Perese, Harvard University

"Looking Up to Look Within: Queer Astrology and the Art of Meaning-Making, 1969 - Present"

Luccia Rogers, Independent Scholar

"Bathrooms, Bodies, Belief, Ballyhoo: How Transfolks' Basic Biological Needs Triggered Puritanical Paranoia to Become the Latest Front in the Culture Wars"

Religion and the Arts 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room ED 300B

Transversing the Color-Line of Religious Utopianism in Pop Culture

Moderator: Al Silva, University of California, Santa Barbara

Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University

"The Blackness of Art and the Whiteness of Atheism: Greydon Square's Underground Hip Hop in the Age of Unbelief"

Matthew Harris, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Noise from Nowhere: Utopia and the Call to Disorder"

Matthew Linder, National University

"Gospel Gangstaz's Holy Hip Hop Response to Systemic Racism"

Robert Peach, Graduate Theological Union

"Losing Whiteness by Finding the Way Underground: White Engagement with the Hip-Hop Underground through Berkeley's The Way Christian Center"

Religion and the Social Sciences 2 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room ED 309

Social Justice and Religion, Race, and Racism

Moderator: Nicholas Grier, Claremont School of Theology

Ineda P. Adesanya, Graduate Theological Union

"Seeking Home: A Spiritual Response to the Resurgence of Overt Racism in America"

Ivan Paz, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

"The Myth of Ontological Sinfulness: How the notion of inherent sinfulness contributes to the scapegoating of ethnic minorities"

John Freese, Claremont School of Theology

"The Dependent Origination of Whiteness: An Analysis of Racial Formation in the United States from a Buddhist Perspective"

Women and Religion 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Room ED 307

Discussion of How Rosemary Radford Ruether's Works Have Impacted Her Students and Colleagues in Honor of her 80th Birthday

Moderator: Emily Silverman, Graduate Theological Union

Lunch (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.)

Lunch in Cafeteria \$7.00 (Cash Only)

Cafeteria

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Unit Chairs Meeting and Lunch, Ken Locke Hall

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Queer Caucus Lunch, Ken Locke Hall

Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Catholic Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 300B

Globalizing, Resisting, and Integrating Catholicism(s)

Moderator: Kolby Knight, University of California, Santa Barbara

Kristine Gunnell, University of California, Los Angeles Center for the Study of Women
"Seton Institute and the Historical Roots of Vincentian Systemic Change"

Haewon Yang, Claremont Graduate University
"From Buddhist-Confucian Integration to Catholic-Confucian Integration: Religious Faith of Park Wansuh (1931-2011)"

Alexander Grudem, Independent Scholar
"Reading Flannery O'Connor's *The Artificial Nigger* in 21st Century America"

Islamic Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room AD 205

Islam and Race in America

Moderator: Abdullahi Gallab, Arizona State University
Mohammad Rahman, Old Dominion University
"#BlackInMSA: Intersection of Muslimism and Race in America"

Anthony A. Lee, University of California, Los Angeles
"Abdul I-Baha's Encounter with the Race Issue in America"

Marie Brown, California State University, Long Beach
"Separation of Race and Religion: The Unspoken Promise of the 1st Amendment"

Hend Gilli-Elewey, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
"Questions of Race and Ethnicity in Medieval Islamic Guidebooks on Buying Slaves"

Graduate Student Professional Development 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room AD 206

Graduate School, Tenure-Track, Tenure, and Beyond: Creating Critical Academic Portfolios in a Diverse Scholarly Culture

Moderator: Jonathan Lee, San Francisco State University
Melissa James, St. Leo University
"Scholarship on Wheels: Expanding Scholarship and Experience to find Work Outside of the Academy"

Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University
"A Junior Faculty Member's Journey: Theoretical and Practical Lessons Learned Developing an Academic Portfolio"

Chase L. Way, Claremont Graduate University
"The Politics and Pedagogies of Social Justice: Understanding the Academic Portfolio as a Site of Identity Formation"

History of Christianity 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room AD 204

Special Film Session: *The Rule*

Moderator: Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University
Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno with Bongiorno Productions
"The Rule"

Nineteenth Century (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room AD 215

Race and Identity in the Nineteenth Century: Constructing and Responding to Racism

Co-Moderator: Christina Littlefield, Pepperdine University

Co-Moderator: Matthew Crabb, Graduate Theological Union

Shawn Varghese, University of Texas, Dallas

“Comparative Religions at the World’s Fairs: A ‘Racialized’ History”

April Makgoeng, University of Southern California

“‘God Made Adam White’: Race and Ethnicity in the *Juvenile Instructor*, 1866-1900”

Tanya Hart, Pepperdine University

“‘The Curse of Ham’ and Nineteenth Century Constructions of Race in the U.S.”

Anthony S. Parent Jr., Wake Forest University

“‘If I am Black’: Veterans, Christianity, and Colonization, 1770-1830s”

Psychology, Culture, and Religion 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 309

Intention and Misinterpretation of Scripture: Cultural Analyses and the Psychology of Race

Moderator: Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute

Andreas Gacs, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Practical and Theological Implications of Shame and Guilt: Race, Gender and Sensuality (inclusive of LGBTQIA) through the lens of performance poetry”

Leyla Ozgur Alhassen, University of California, Berkeley

“Satan, Race and Racism in the Qur’an”

Stephanie Zajchowski, Pacifica Graduate Institute

“Cultural Collisions and Racial Constructions through the Image of the Whore of Babylon”

Joint Session: Queer Studies in Religion and Buddhist Studies (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 209

Queering Buddhist Studies

Moderator: John Erickson, Claremont Graduate University

Gregory Price Grieve, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

"Two Truths: Mindful Media Practices and the Queering of Buddhist Self-Fashioning in the Virtual World of Second Life"

Amber Bemak, Southern Methodist University

"Queering Time – Cinematic Disruptions and Meditative Experience"

Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Claremont Graduate University

"Outlawed Performance in Female Ordination: How Buddhist Nuns are using Queer Theory"

Xinlu Li, Southeast University

"Stigma and Discipline in Queering Buddhists in China"

Womanist/Pan-African 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 307

Telling Truths, Speaking Knowledge(s)

Moderator: Sakena Young-Scaggs, Arizona State University

Delisa Foxanne Perry, Biola University

"Experiencing the Real *an sich*: Womanist Theology, Epistemology, & Religious Pluralism"

Ebony Janice Moore, Starr King School for the Ministry

"The Testimony Service and The Social Justice In Beyonce's Lemonade"

Jungeun Park, Claremont School of Theology

"Another Beginning of Solidarity and Resistance: From Sexually-scarred Women's Lived-Experiences"

Fourth Session (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Ecology and Religion 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room ED 309

Eco-Justice, Traditional Religious Ecologies, and Solutions to the Environmental Crisis

Moderator: Sarah Robinson-Bertoni, Santa Clara University

Matthew Jones, Fuller Theological Seminary

"On Holy Ground: A Native American Theological Approach to Combating Environmental Racism"

Patrick Wallace, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Great World House, and Ecology"

Jonathan Dickstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

"The Strong Case for Vegetarianism in Classical Yoga"

Rosalyn Carlos, Pacifica Graduate Institute

"The Willful Neglect of Urban Ecologies by the Ecological Movement and its Roots"

Ethics 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room AD 206

Topics in Racial Reconciliation and Forgiveness

Moderator: Gregory Bock, University of Texas, Tyler

Ian Peebles, Biola University

"Tearing The Veil: On Du Boisian Double Consciousness from a Neo-Kingian Perspective"

Jeff Cervantez, Crafton Hills College

"What If I Can't Forgive? The Limits of Forgiveness"

Marilyn Batchelor, Claremont Graduate University

"The Ethical Reformation of A 20th Century Dr. Martin Luther King: Through a 21st Century Lens of Reconciliation"

Goddess Studies 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room AD 204

Rewriting the Goddess: Modern Interpretations

Moderator: Lauri Ramey, California State University, Los Angeles

Kathrine Christy, Rutgers University, Camden

"'Against Her Will:' Rape as Foundational Principal of the Homeric Universe"

Monica Mody, California Institute of Integral Studies

"The Borderlands Feminine: A Feminist, Decolonial Framework for Rewriting the Goddess in South Asia/Transnational Cultures"

Robert Guyker, Independent Scholar

"Mediating Goddesses: The Divine Feminine in Digital Cultures"

Nazia Islam, Claremont School of Theology

"Re-writing Radha in the Diaspora: Empowering Second Generation South Asian Women"

Through Folk Narratives”

Indigenous Religions 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room ED 209

Representatives and Representations in Native North America

Moderator: Brian Clearwater, Occidental College

Miriam Hamburger, Occidental College

“Native Americans, the New Age, and Art as Resistance”

Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Jesus was a Mayan Freemason: The Legacy of 19th Century Representations of Mesoamerica”

Brian Clearwater, Occidental College

“Chaining Yourself to a Bulldozer and Other Acts of Prayer”

Islamic Studies 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room AD 205

Islam, Space, Difference, and Power

Moderator: Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

Bethany Elias Jenner, Arizona State University

“Gendered Space and Female Empowerment in the Women's Mosque of America”

Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach

“Yemeni Women, Religion and War”

Jessica Grace P. Howell, California State University, Long Beach

“The Coup, the Purge, and Erdoğan's Insatiable Thirst for Power”

Jusuf Salih, University of Dayton

“How Religion Divides People: The Bosnian Example”

Latina, Latino, and Latin American Religion 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room AD 215

Traditions of Resistance: Liberation and Transformation in the Americas

Moderator: Daisy Vargas, University of California, Riverside

Ezekiel Stear, Pasadena City College

"A Bribe, a Bottle, and Bartolomé: The Transmodern Turn in También la lluvia"

Cristina Carter, Florida State University

"The Venezuelan Goddess Maria Lionza: How African Healing Rituals Are Replacing Western Medical Practices"

Citali Sosa, Pierce College

"Conservative Values and Catholicism: Mexican Californios in the late Nineteenth Century"

Special Session: "How To Be A Sanctuary" (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room ED 300B

Participatory Workshop

Moderator: Marie Cartier, California State University, Northridge; University of California, Irvine

Abstract: This is a participatory workshop designed to help participants understand what it means to "be a sanctuary" for someone who is being bullied or harassed. We will roleplay how to "ice out" the harasser and stand in solidarity with the person bullied. Dr. Cartier has peace-keeper training and has worked with ACT UP and other organizations. These techniques are ones she also teaches to her students—especially in light of our recent "election."

Women and Religion 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Room ED 307

Race and Racialized Politics within Women's Religious Community and Fiction

Moderator: Sara Frykenberg, Mount Saint Mary's University

Alex Devora, University of Arizona

"Comparing the Portrayal of Women and Minorities in Philip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' and C. S. Lewis's 'The Chronicles of Narnia'"

Lisa M. Davidson, University of Toronto

"Nourishing the Body, Disenfranchising the Spirit: Commensality at an Intercultural Church in the Toronto Eastside"

Caroline Kline, Claremont Graduate University

"Negotiating Agency: Reflections and Experiences of American Mormon Women of Color in Oral Narratives"

Laura Porceddu

Reception (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)

Ken Locke Hall

*All conference attendees are invited. We hope to see you there!

Presidential Address (7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Auditorium

Speaker: Dorothea Kahena Viale, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Title: "Rethinking Our Purpose in the Coming Years"

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 19

8:00-9:15 Registration – Lobby of Ken Locke Hall

8:00-9:00 Women's Caucus Breakfast – Ken Locke Hall

First Session (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Goddess Studies 3 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room AD 204

Pop Culture and the Goddess: Seeing the Feminine through the Mainstream

Moderator: Angela Sells, Pacifica Graduate Institute

Linda Velasco, San Francisco State University

"Católicos, Clitorises, and Castration: The Case of Inez Garcia, 1974-1977"

Janet Bubar Rich, Independent Scholar

"Guinevere, the Quintessential Other in the Arthurian World, Seeks Authenticity"

Maggie Mendenhall, Pacifica Graduate Institute

"The Borg of Star Trek: An Embodiment of the Feminine Divine"

Joyce McCart, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"Chasing Aphrodite: Removing Hubris from the Sacred"

History of Christianity 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room ED 307

Special Book Review Session: Debating Christianity in Jack Miles's Landmark *Norton Anthology of World Religions*

Moderator: Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University

Jack Miles, University of California, Irvine
"Debating Christianity and/in The Norton Anthology of World Religions"

Ivan Strenski, University of California, Riverside
"Debating Christianity and/in The Norton Anthology of World Religions"

Islamic Studies 3 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room AD 205

Islam and Construction of Muslim Identity

Moderator: Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach

Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University
"Sufism and Sufi Orders in the New World"

Brendon Newton, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Traditionalism and Anti-Traditionalism in the Discursive Construction of American Muslim Communal Identities"

David Simonowitz, Pepperdine University
"Assistance from God and Imminent Victory: On Interpretations and Contextualizations of a Qur'anic Verse in Islamicate Exegesis and Visual Culture"

Sana Patel, Carleton University
"The Children Ask, 'Who Am I?': Examining the Construction of Muslim Identity Among Young South Asians in Toronto"

Jewish Studies 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room ED 209

Elie Wiesel, In Memoriam, and the Porous Frontiers of Judaism

Moderator: TBD

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College
"Elie Wiesel's *Night*: Godwords"

Carole Lambert, Azusa Pacific University
"Remembering Elie Wiesel, My Professor at Boston University"

Nathan Fisher, University of California, Santa Barbara
"The Messianic and Mystical Roots of Jewish Terrorism"

Psychology, Culture, and Religion 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room ED 309

Seeing Oneself and the Other: Approaches to Understanding Culture

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Samantha Gupta, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"A Different Way of Being White: Anti-Racist White Identity Development and Cultures"

Rachel Lugn, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"Religious Descriptions of Appearance as an Impetus for Racism"

Cherrish Hardy, Azusa Pacific University
"The Epistemology of Testimony as it Relates to Race and Self-Worth."

Religions of Asia 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Room AD 215

**Race, Trans-Religious Experience, and Resistance to Colonial Models of Study in the Religions of Asian
and their Diasporas**

Moderator: Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology

Prea Persaud, University of Florida
"Creole Religions: A Critique of the Study of Hinduism in the Caribbean"

Philip Deslippe, University of California, Santa Barbara
"Yoga and the Racial Formation of South Asians in the United States"

Kainat Bashir, University of Hawaii, Manoa
"Mariology in Pakistan: The Rivers of Faith"

Explorations in Ecclesiology and Race

Co-Moderator: Raymond Carr, Pepperdine University

Co-Moderator: David Hunsicker, Fuller Theological Seminary

Daniel Lee, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Carnal Ecclesiology: Wyschogrodian Proposals to Docetic Abstractions”

Jessica Wong, Azusa Pacific University

“Jesus, the Icon of God: Toward a New Visual Theology”

Andrew C. Wright, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Practicing Peace and Becoming White? Peace Church Ecclesiology and the Abiding White Theo-Aesthetic Regime”

David Hunsicker, Jr., Fuller Theological Seminary

“Stanley Hauerwas’s Post-Christendom Ecclesiology and the Black Church: A Critical Dialogue”

Second Session (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Screening of “As She Is Film: An Inquiry into the Origins of Feminine Nature” and Q & A with filmmaker

Moderator: Angela Sells, Pacifica Graduate Institute

Discussant: Kim Carfore, California Institute of Integral Studies

Filmmaker: Megan McFeely, Independent Filmmaker

“As She Is Film: An Inquiry into the Origins of Feminine Nature”

Christians Engaging the Religious and Racial “Other”

Moderator: Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University

Austin Richards, Arizona Christian University

“Is 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 an Anti-Jewish Interpolation?”

Inseo Song, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Luther on Islam and the Turks in the Sermons"

David M. Houghton, Fuller Theological Seminary
"The Role of Protestantism in the Creation and Perpetuation of American Individualism"

Dominique Robinson-Coleman, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Watching Black Men Die: How Sacred Suffering Birthed Prophetic Voice"

Islamic Studies 4 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room AD 205

Conversations on Violence and the Muslim Community

Moderator: Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach

Alain Gabon, Virginia Wesleyan College
"The French Jihad from Mohammed Merah to November 13"

Ivan Strenski, University of California, Riverside
"The Doris Dialogues: Conversations in a Time of Islamophobia"

Zubair Ahmed, Freie Universität, Berlin
"Orientalism and the Forgotten Semite"

Abdullahi Gallab, Arizona State University
"ISIS and Young Hyphenated Muslims of the Diaspora"

Jewish Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room ED 209

The Festival of Purim: Traditional and Not Readings

Moderator: Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College

Roni Cohen, Tel Aviv University, Israel
"Cursed be Haman?: Haman as a Victim in the 14th Century Parody *Massekhet Purim*"

Daniel Karoly Dobos, Pazmany Peter Catholic University, Hungary
"A Jewish Carnival during the Lenten Period? Jonah Rapa's Humorous Argument on Christian Festivals"

Katie McGinnis, University of Missouri
"Between the Occident and the Orient: Zionism and the Construction of Ethnic Identity at the Tel Aviv Purim Carnival"

Victoria Ballmes, University of California, Santa Barbara
"The Hanged Man: Narrative Resistance and Anti-Christian Polemic in the Roman Empire"

Joint Session: Psychology, Culture, and Religion and Religion and the Social Sciences

(11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room ED 309

Institutional and Internalized Racism

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Philip Butler, Claremont School of Theology

"Medical Mistrust & Mathematical Traditions: An Epigenetic Case for Black Participation in S.T.E.M."

Nalya Rodriguez, University of California, Berkeley

"The Religion of Violence: Understanding the Normalization of Violence through Social Media in Salvadoran Society"

Gabriel Sea, Pacifica Graduate Institute

"Who's Your Daddy?—Psychological Aspects of the Divergent Views on Racism in Contemporary Spiritual Communities Descended from the Norse Allfather"

Philosophy of Religion 3 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room ED 307

Unmodern, Non-Christian Contributions to Philosophy of Religion

Moderator: Paul Rodriguez, Claremont Graduate University

Sean Butler, Claremont Graduate University

"Broadening the Scope of Philosophy of Religion and Theology"

Zayin Cabot, California State University, East Bay

"Shamans, Talismans, Madness, and Philosophia of Religions"

Religion in America 1 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room AD 215

Literature, Myth, and Invented Religion

Moderator: Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara

Christopher Woznicki, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Bigger, Better, Whiter: Cultural Identity Formation in the San Fernando Valley
(1900-1960) and Ecclesial Entailments"

Olivia Jean Happel, Pacifica Graduate Institute
"Religion, Marginality, and Steinbeck: An Examination of Religious Expression in
American Literature"

Chase L. Way, Claremont Graduate University
"Kermit of Arabia: Muscular Christianity, Orientalist Fiction, and Kermit Roosevelt's
Public Narration of Postmodern Covert Identity"

Wildcard Session 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Room AD 206

Varieties of Religious Investigation

Moderator: Jonathan Lee, San Francisco State University

Maria Fee, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Theaster Gates: Plate Convergences as Symbolic Act of Acceptance"

Celine Gomez, Mount Saint Mary's University
"Santeria as a Source of Liberation from Cuban Colonialism"

Cari Myers, University of Denver; Iliff School of Theology
"Buffalo Bill's *Wild West Show* at The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Class"

Alexander E. Massad, Fuller Theological Seminary
"Another Revealed Religion?: Abraham Kuyper's Jealous Aversion to Islam"

Lunch (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)

Lunch in Cafeteria \$7.00 (Cash Only)

Cafeteria

12:45 – 2:00 p.m. – Business Meeting, Ken Locke Hall

*All members of the AAR/WR are welcome to attend. Box lunches provided.

Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Race and Racism in Asian American Religious Lives

Moderator: Jeongyun Hur, Claremont School of Theology

Tyler Araki, Brite Divinity School

"White Christians, Black Lives Matter, and the Role of the Asian Americans"

Therese Ignacio Bjørnaas, Graduate Theological Union

"Can you believe she is Filipino: Colonial representations of Filipino beauty"

Girim Jung, Claremont School of Theology

"Asia as Symbol: Korean American Identity and Subversive Religious Narratives"

Tanya Storch, University of the Pacific

"Buddhist Pedagogy and Issues of Religion, Ethnicity, and Race"

Rethinking Totalities: Philosophical and Theological Perspectives

Moderator: Eva Braunstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

John Becker, Claremont School of Theology

Timothy Snediker, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Catholic Analogy, Cannibal Ontologies: On the Possibility of a Decolonization of Thought"

Matthew R. Petrussek, Loyola Marymount University

"Encountering without Essentializing: How Pope Francis Helps Us Go Beyond the PostColonial Critique of Discourse about the 'Other'"

Buddhist Engagement with Caste, Colonialism, Ethnocentrism, and Ritual

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

David Belcheff, Glendale Community College

"Cultural Translation and Textual Interpretation: Reflections on the Engaged Buddhisms of Uchiyama Gudō and B. R. Ambedkar"

Igor Kokhan, La Sierra University

"The Symbolic Expression of the Caste System in Newar Buddhist Image Consecration Rituals"

Lixia Dong, University of Arizona

"A Study of Korean Chonsu-kyong (천수경) Apocrypha, Sutra or Ritual Manual?"

Patrick Lambelet, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Other Worlds, Inner Worlds, and Unexpected Convergences: On Conversations between Buddhism and Science"

Ecology and Religion 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 309

Ecopsychology, Eco-dreaming, and Facing Real and Imagined Dystopias

Moderator: Kim Carfore, California Institute of Integral Studies

Andrea Slominski, Pacifica Graduate Institute

"Eco-Dreaming a New Mythos: Polytheism's Inevitability for Human Survival in a Post Climate Change World"

Claire Polansky, California Institute of Integral Studies

"Wrestling With God: A Revaluation of Values and the Creative Will to Power of Zion"

History of Christianity 4 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Room ED 300B

The Construction of Race and Its Discontents

Moderator: Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University

Paul Gleason, University of Virginia

"Classifying 'The Chief Parts of the World': Race and Religion in 17th century Encyclopedias"

Nathan Womack, University of California, Riverside

"Healing the Land: A Examination of Evangelical Responses to Racial Violence in the United States"

Joshua Beckett, Fuller Theological Seminary

"The Elusiveness of Genuine Encounter: Renarration, Reconstitution, and Reconciliation?"

On Global Islam

Moderator: Abdullahi Gallab, Arizona State University

Anna Capati

“The Role of Islam and Race in the Politics of Philippine Sovereignty”

Muneeza Rizvi, University of California, Davis

“Theologizing Politics: Global Sectarianism and Shia Identity in London”

Anthropology of Adjacency, Truth-Making, and Cultural Disarmament

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

Stafford Betty, California State University, Bakersfield

“Secular Evidence of an Afterlife: Its Implications for Religion”

James M. Arcadi, Fuller Theological Seminary

“What is Sacred Scripture? A Philosophical Exposition of a Barthian Discussion”

Aizaiah Yong, Claremont School of Theology

“Cultural Disarmament: Reconciliation and Restorative Justice”

California, Race, and the Body

Moderator: Jason Sexton, California State University, Fullerton; University of California, Berkeley

Jonathan Russell, University of Southern California

“Come and Fill This Space: Religious Colonization and the Clash of Racial Spatial Imaginations on Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles”

Matthew Jones, London School of Theology

“Educating the California Body: Contact Hypothesis and Christian Hysteria in LA Schools”

Michel Sunhae Lee, University of Texas, Austin

“A Day for ‘All Sorts of Wickedness’: Purity and Sabbath-Keeping in California (1851-1900)”

Jessica Knippel, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Holy Heavens and Hells: How California is always Hotbed for New Religious Communities”

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