

**\*California\***

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**

**WESTERN REGION**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

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



# Claremont Graduate University

**PROGRAM**

**March 13-15, 2020**

**Claremont Graduate University**

**150 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Claremont, CA 91711**



# *American Academy of Religion Western Region*

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

## **Welcome to Claremont Graduate University!**

Dear AAR Members and Colleagues, welcome to Claremont Graduate University for the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. This year's program has admitted nearly 160 papers in 24 Program Units.

The host for the 2020 meeting is Claremont Graduate University. Thank you to Jason Sexton, Nicola Denzey Lewis, Deja Darrington, and multiple department chairs in the graduate departments of CGU for your generosity and gracious hospitality. If you see anyone from CGU, be sure to thank them 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](mailto:joseph.paxton@cst.edu). 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.

### **Sunday Afternoon Business Meeting**

In preparation for next year, we will hold our annual business meeting Sunday afternoon in Burkle 14 from 12:45 – 2:00 p.m. All attendees are invited to come, and lunch will be provided. We will update members on policy revisions, news, discuss administrative and organization details, and provide preliminary details of the upcoming 2020 conference at the Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California.

### **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 Claremont Graduate University which has shown such generosity, not only through sharing its campus, but also by making other appreciated contributions.

**Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA**

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Claremont Graduate University and all members of the Claremont Graduate University community. Special thanks to the following for their generous endorsements:

- Patrick Mason
- John Erickson
- Brian Clearwater

And thank you to our conference organizers:

- Nicola Denzey Lewis
- Deja Darrington

On behalf of the board of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region, thank you!

**AAR, Western Region Officers**

Jason Sexton, President

Anna Hennessey, Vice President and Program Chair

Joseph Kim Paxton, Conference Manager

Brian Clearwater, Regional Coordinator

Abdullahi Gallab, Past-President

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

# University Avenue



\*Burkle Building – 2

\*ACB Building - 14

\*Stauffer Hall - 10

\*Albrecht Auditorium – 10

\*Des Combes Quad – 11

**WESTERN REGION**  
**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**  
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**Claremont Graduate University**  
**Claremont, CA**

**FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE, MARCH 13**

**9:30am-Noon Women's Caucus Event – Navajo Changing Women: The Creative Process and the Art of Navigating the Psyche - Burkle 26**



**Presenter:** Odette Springer

**Bio:** Odette is a writer, filmmaker, and classically trained musician. In her depth psychological work, she uses tools such as active imagination, dreams and mythology as ways to awaken the creative spirit. Her dissertation *Changing Woman: Calling The Feminine Home* focuses on trauma and the creative process.

**The Event:** The Navajo deity Changing Woman is Earth, the Feminine Creator, spirit, breath, and voice. As the central figure of the Kinaaldá, a ritual marking the point in the life of the female who can now bear children, Changing Woman facilitates the rite of passage for young women. She represents the process of creation, always in flux. The cyclical aspect of her nature not only endows her with the power of rejuvenation, but it also defines her as a figurehead of the Earth Goddess. As a symbol of equanimity and balance, she models the integration of opposing--often destructive--forces in the psyche.

Western psyche is informed by binary and scientifically-oriented modes of knowing, while Native Navajo tradition is in relationship with nature, informed by intuition. In a healthy psyche, these paradigms co-exist and inform one another. We explore the creative process and the difficulty of navigating the opposing energies within our psyche following the guidance of the myth of Changing Woman.

The AAR Western Region Women's Caucus event is gender-inclusive, free and welcomes all people of goodwill to participate in this imperative restorative work. Registration is available at the door, but RSVP is encouraged and much appreciated.

The event is free. Please RSVP to Yuria Celidwen – [celidwen@hotmail.com](mailto:celidwen@hotmail.com).

**12:00-5:00 AAR-WR Board Meeting – The Board of Trustees Room**

**7:00-9:30 Queer Caucus Event - Queer View 2020 – “More Than Just a Bar: Lived History, Religion, and Gay Bars”**  
**Location: Burkle 16**

Join Us for a screening of the recently released documentary *San Diego Gay Bay History* and a follow-up Q and A with director Paul Detwiler moderated by Dr. Marie Cartier.

*San Diego Gay Bay History* documents the rise of the gay bar, the significance of the growing LGBT communities in those spaces, and the people who flourished despite the prejudice and demeaning treatment. Narrated by AAR Western Region’s own Dr. Marie Cartier, the film focuses on the landscape of the growing LGBT community in San Diego with the rise of the Gay Bay scene and includes interviews with activists, participants, and local LGBT members. The film traces the development of the gay bar as a community institution in San Diego, from post-WWII to the present. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2018 FilmOut San Diego LGBT film festival. The film highlights the significance that Southern California played in being a vanguard in establishing a thriving LGBT community.

Attendees will have the chance to view never before seen archival footage of the gay bar scene in San Diego post-WWII to the present and take part in an interactive discussion on the important role gay bars played in the development of the modern LGBTQ movement.

The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to [queerstudies.aar@gmail.com](mailto:queerstudies.aar@gmail.com)

#### **SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 14**

**8:00-5:30 Registration – Burkle Hall**

**First Session (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)**

**Ecology and Religion 1 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)**

**Burkle 12**

#### **Sacred Passages and Human-Nature Rituals of Belonging**

Moderator: Matthew Hartman, Graduate Theological Union

Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute  
"Mictlan: Our Shared Home. Funerary Rites and Ethics of Belonging  
in Indigenous precolonial Mexico"

Julie Bongers, University of California, Santa Barbara  
"Salmon's Run 4 Us / Our Run 4 Salmon: Joining their Journey to Celebrate our Fellow Beings Rites of Passage"

Marla Morris, Georgia Southern University  
"Metaphors of the Desert: The Ecology of Death"

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

**Burkle 14**

**Women's Ordination and Education in Buddhist Traditions**

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Swati Chawla, University of Virginia  
"From Illiteracy to the Ph.D. Degree: The newly-minted Geshemas of Tibetan Exile"

Brianna K. Morseth, Dharma Realm Buddhist University  
"The Yogācāra Bhikṣuṇī: (Self-)conscious imagery in the Yogic poetry of Chan nuns"

Lisa Liang, Dharma Realm Buddhist University  
"Physical Rites of Buddhist Women in the Gaṇḍavyūha Sūtra"

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

**Burkle 16**

**Religious Traditions and Decolonial Rituals of U.S. Latinxs & Latin Americans**

Moderator: Jacob Perez, Pacific School of Religion

Nancy Quiñones, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
"21st Century Church Practices: Embedded Colonial Ritual Domination"

Saul Barcelo, Claremont School of Theology  
"Rituals and Resistance amongst the Zapatistas"

**Psychology, Culture, and Religion 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)**

**Burkle 24**

**The Process & Experience of Scripturalization**

Presiding: Nicola Denzey Lewis, Claremont Graduate University

Moderator: Tammi J. Schneider, Claremont Graduate University

Rebekah Call, Claremont Graduate University  
"Revelation and Church Structure: the Effect of the 1890 Manifesto on Individual Revelation in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints"

James W. Yuile, Claremont Graduate University  
"Scripturalization of Performance: Understanding the Rhapsodic Experience of Hesiod  
via the Hindu Śruti"

G. Jorge Medina, Claremont Graduate University  
"The Dead Sea Scrolls' Community Rule (1QS) as Scripture"

Eugene Staples, Claremont Graduate University  
"Three-Point Perspective--Susanna: Exceptional Challenges to the Male Gaze"

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**Education and Pedagogy 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)**

**Burkle 26**

**Transforming the Classroom, Transforming the Student: The Transformative Power of Pedagogy**

Moderator: Peter Romaskiewicz, University of California, Santa Barbara

Aizaiah Yong, Claremont School of Theology  
"Exploring Practices of (Self)Compassion in Multiracial Identity Development"

Shannon Frediani, Starr King School for the Ministry  
"Utilizing Pedagogy for Disrupting White Supremacy"

Sarita Tamayo-Moraga and Olivia Hill, Santa Clara University  
"Departmental Obligations in the Personal Transformation of Religious Studies Majors at  
a Jesuit University"

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**Womanist/Pan-African Studies 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

**Deeper Shades of Ritual, Rites, and Meaning – Examining Womanist Justice Consciousness**

Moderator: Valerie Miles-Tribble, Graduate Theological Union

Nikia Robert, Claremont School of Theology  
"Womanist Criminal Justice Ethic"

Sakena Young-Scaggs, Arizona State University  
"Liminal Space: A Necessity in Rituals and Rites of Passages for Africana Women"

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

**Stauffer 110**

**Ethical Reflection on the International Influence of Rituals**

Moderator: Owen Anderson, Arizona State University

Diana Kim, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"The Rite of BTS: What a K-Pop Phenomenon Means to Christian Faith"



Lu Zhang, University of Arizona

“Discovering the Ritual Meaning of Neo-Confucianism: A Religious Reading of Zhou Dunyi’s Self-Cultivation Theory”

Philip King, Fuller Theological Seminary

“The Troubles of Embodying Peacemaking: Applying the Rite of Eucharist to Construct a Means of Peacemaking in Contemporary Northern Ireland Sociopolitical Conflict”

**Religion, Literature, and Film 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)**

**ACB 108**

**Profane and Nonsecular Paths towards Immanent and Transcendent Duty**

Moderator: Emmanuelle Patrice, Saybrook University

Mugdha Yeolekar, California State University, Fullerton

“What can South Asian films teach us about religion, gender identity, and social justice? Some reflections on Kunku—a 1937 Marathi film”

Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

“Eleanor, Chidi, and the Buddhist Notion of No-Self in ‘The Good Place’”

Chantal Noa Forbes, California Institute of Integral Studies

“The Chasing Hunt: transcendence, immanence, and the zone of proximity in the Kalahari Desert”

**SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 14  
(10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)**

**Keynote (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)**

**Albrecht Auditorium**



**Speaker:** Reggie Williams

**Title:** "Cultural Ideals as Practices of Exclusion"

**Bio:** Dr. Reggie Williams book *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* (Baylor University Press, 2014) was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title in 2015, in the field of religion. The book is an analysis of exposure to Harlem Renaissance intellectuals, and worship at Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist on the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, during his year of post-doctoral study at Union Seminary in New York, 1930-31.

Dr. Williams' research interests include Christological ethics, theological anthropology, Christian social ethics, the Harlem Renaissance, race, politics and black church life. His current book project includes a religious critique of whiteness in the Harlem Renaissance. In addition, he is working on a book analyzing the reception of Bonhoeffer by liberation activists in apartheid South Africa.

Dr. Williams received his Ph.D. in Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2011. He earned a Master's degree in Theology from Fuller in 2006 and a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from Westmont College in 1995. He is a member of the board of directors for the Society for Christian Ethics, as well as the International Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society. He is also a member of the American Academy of Religion and Society for the Study of Black Religion.

**Second Session (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

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

**Burkle 12**

**Rites of Passages, Identity, Religious Pluralism and Philosophy**

Moderator: Abdullahi A. Gallab, Arizona State University

Arshad Munir, University of Gujrat, Punjab, Pakistan

“Rites of Passage in Ethnic Pakistan: Transition from accused to Innocent”

Adam Tyson, University of California, Riverside

“Religious Pluralism and the Philosophy of Wahdat al-Wujud in Şeyh Bedreddin’s Revolt”

Jessica Grace Howell, University of California, Long Beach

“Navigating Identity & Coming Out: The Intersectional Experiences of LGBTIA+ Muslims”

Wael Hegazy, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Salience of Saintliness in Islam”

**Buddhist Studies 2 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

**Ordination and Other Rites of Passage in Buddhist Traditions**

Presenter: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Naresh Man Bajracharya, College of the Holy Cross

“Ten Passages of Life in Newār Buddhism”

Lu Huang, Temple University Ordination in 17th century China: Ouyi zhixu 藕益智旭’s

“Shifting between Bhikṣu and Novice”

Thomas Newhall, University of California, Los Angeles

“How Can a Ritual Change One’s Identity? A Look at Daoxuan’s Theories of the ‘Essence of the Precepts’ in Relation to Buddhist Monastic Ordination”

Michel Mohr, University of Hawaii

“Negotiating the Great Transition: Transference of Consciousness in Contemporary Tibetan Buddhism and Some of Its Philosophical Implications”

Dermott Walsh, Loyola Marymount University

“How to Ordain a Zen Buddhist Monk: Eisai and the Problem of the Vinaya in early Japanese Zen”

**Intersectionality, Coalition Building, LGBTQIA+ Identity and Birthing Equality**

Moderator: Marie Cartier, California State University, Northridge

Telaireus Herrin, Claremont Graduate University  
“Coming Out Black, Gay, and Christian: The Intersectionality of Race, Sexuality, and Faith”

Kori Pacyniak, University of California, Riverside  
“Queering the Liminal: Christian Transgender and Non-Binary Rituals”

John Erickson, Claremont Graduate University  
“‘Stepsons and Stepdaughters’: Chosen Communities, Religion, Faith, and LGBT Liberation “

**Disaster and Rites of Passage**

Moderator: Casey Crosbie, Scripps College

Katherine Kunz, Praktische Theologie Universität Basel  
“Leaving Home: Rites of Passage and the Refugee Experience”

Casey Crosbie, Scripps College  
“Avoiding ‘Disaster’: How Status Quo Communities Choose to Appreciate (or Reject) the Marginal”

Sarah Holden, Humboldt State University  
“A Symbol of Hope: An Ethnographic Analysis of Religion and Disaster following the Camp Fire”

***Valuing Lives, Healing Earth: Re-visiting the Significance of Rosemary Radford Ruether in Twenty-first Century Scholarship on Real Lives***

Moderator: Yuria Celidwen, Pacific Graduate Institute

Panel Contributors: Lilian Dube (editor), University of San Francisco; Theresa Yugar (editor), California State University; Sarah Robinson-Bertoni (editor), Pacific Lutheran University; Rosalind Hinton (contributor), Ph.D., Independent Scholar, Member of the 1000 Women in Religion Wikipedia Project of the Women’s Caucus, American Academy of Religion, Consultant with Julep Consulting, Creator of online exhibitions (laoutland.wp.tulane.edu and nolajewishwomen.tulane.edu), With

recorded or video streaming vignettes from book contributors: Frederique Apffel-Marglin, Prof. Emerita, Smith College, Founder & Director, Sachamama Center for Biocultural Regeneration, Pamela Brubaker, Sylvia Marcos, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Teresia Mbari Hinga (editor), Santa Clara University

**Religion, Science, and Technology 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

**Shifting Experiences of Space and Time**

Moderator: Melanie Dzugan, Fuller Theological Seminary

Matthew Zaro Fisher, Marymount California University  
“The Smartphone as a Rite of Passage: Why Technology Will Change the Face of Religion”

Mitchel E. Hickman, California State University, Long Beach  
“The Virtual Rite of Character Creation”

Toni Batchelli, VP of Engineering, Peerspace.com  
“Startup Founding as a Rite of Passage in Silicon Valley”

Reed Metcalf, Fuller Theological Seminary  
“Baptism, Dirty Feet, and Pilate’s Hands: The Neuroscience of Christianity’s Cleansing Rites”

**Philosophy of Religion 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 110**

**Rites, Essentialism, and Racial Identity**

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

Heejun Yang, Claremont Graduate University  
“The Danger of Essentialism in the Rites of Passage”

Mario Orospe Hernández, Arizona State University  
“The Sacred and the Holy: Towards a Genealogical Clarification of Two Theological Categories Behind the ‘Primitive Ambiguity’ of Sacredness”

Nathan Placencia, Los Angeles Valley College  
“Will There Be Races in Heaven? Toward a Practical Account of Racial Identity”

Sheela Pawar, California State University, Dominguez Hills  
“Getting a Grasp on the Religious and the Secular: Rituals and Routines”

**Religion in America 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**ACB 108**

## **“Secularism”**

Moderator: Konden Smith Hansen, University of Arizona

Alexander Zamusinski, University of California, Riverside

“Rites of Passage in American Secular Communities: A Case Study of the Los Angeles Sunday Assembly”

Tessa Harmon, University of California, Riverside

“Curating ‘Secular’ Mindfulness-Based Interventions in American Public Schools”

Heather Burrow, Claremont Graduate University

“Year-focused Coming of Age Rites Replace Body-focused Puberty Rites in Protestantism”

**Lunch (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.)**

### **Lunch**

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**1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Unit Chairs Meeting and Lunch (Burkle 12)**

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Queer Caucus Lunch (Burkle 16)**

**Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Islamic Studies 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 12**

### **Islamic Law, Prophetic Tradition, and Education**

Moderator: Sophia Pandya, University of California, Long Beach

Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

“The Politics of Hudud in Islamic Law”

Neimeh Mousa, Arizona State University

“The Sunna and Prophetic Tradition in Islam”

Sarah Risha, Arizona State University

“Educational Curriculum in the Qur’an”

**Buddhist Studies 3 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

### **Resistance and Muslim Women**

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Wenwen Zhou, University of the West

“Solitude as a Passageway to Liberation”

J. Jeffrey Franklin, University of Colorado, Denver  
"The Reception of the Lotus Sūtra in Nineteenth-Century Europe and How It Shaped Reception in the West Today"

Jongmyun Kim, The Academy of Korean Studies  
"Trends in Research on Korean Buddhist Rituals"

**Philosophy of Religion 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 16**

**Technology, Existence, and Consuming Religion**

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

Aaron Berg, Claremont Graduate University  
"Recovering the incalculable in the world age of technology"

Rachel Nelson, University of Birmingham, UK  
"Existence: A Rite of Passage into Wisdom of Self"

Chris Morales, University of California, Santa Barbara  
"Friends and Future Selves: Existential, Ethical, and Political Dimensions of Friendship in R.W. Emerson"

Samantha Kang, University of California, Santa Barbara  
"Imagining an Otherwise: Lofton's Consuming Religion as Philosophy of Religion"

**Goddess Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 24**

**Wicca, and Gender Theory: Pedagogy Workshop – How to incorporate Engaged Learning Experiences**

Organizers: Marie Cartier, California State University, Northridge and Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Claremont Graduate University

How does one incorporate Feminist and Gender Theory to Goddess Studies to make it relevant, fun, and productive for students? How does one bridge the gap between praxis and academics? How do you create safe spaces in classrooms when engaging in material that has been deemed heretical, witchcraft, and the remnants of past women's empowerment movements? Have you struggled with how to incorporate any material that is being labeled as reactionary, subversive, non-conforming? Then this is the panel for you.

The Goddess Studies Pedagogy Workshop is just the space for this. The Pedagogy Workshop will explore how to create a curriculum which provides spaces for academic, lived praxis, and the non-traditional. Using the case study of Dr. LeBoeuf and Dr. Cartier's integration of Goddess Studies in the classroom this workshop will explore how to use mixed medias and incorporated engaged learning techniques.

Dr. LeBoeuf will talk about her Goddesses Around the World course and the projects that were effective in creating engaged learning outcomes. The panel will include participating in the ritual that was used in the course performed by Dr. Cartier. Dr. Cartier is an ordained priestess in the Temple of Isis/ Fellowship of Isis and has been a practicing Wiccan for over 40 years.

The purpose of this panel will be in constructing new pedagogical methods for created courses that are heavily in engaged learning experiences. The workshop portion will include syllabi construction, in classroom activities, ways to move away from the term paper, and how to arrange on-site field trips.

**Women and Religion 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 26**

**Re-narrating Power in Experience**

Moderator: Sara Frykenberg, Mount St. Mary's University

Respondent: Brooke Nelson, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Amol Nimsadkar, Tata Institute of Social Science

“The Role of Navayana Buddhism for Women Emancipation: Understanding the Lived Experiences of Buddhist Women in Maharashtra”

Jennifer Dunatov, Mount Saint Mary's University

“Right Relationship in the Birth Experience: Ethics, Vulnerability and Empowerment”

**Religion and Social Sciences 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

**Religious Pluralism and Diversity**

Moderator: Valentina Cantori, University of Southern California

Troy Mikanovich, Claremont Graduate University

“Interreligious Rites and the Performance of Interreligion at the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions”

Arnab Chakraborty, University of Southern California

“Diversity as the Mission: A New Strategy of Managing Difference in a Multiracial Evangelical Church”

**Asian American Religious Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 110**

**Understanding Death, Progression of the Theravada Tradition, and Religious Transnationalism**

Moderator: Albert Shannon G. Toribio, University of California Santa Barbara

JungEun Park, Claremont School of Theology

“When Human Flesh turns into Ashes: Death in the Experience of Asian Americans”



Thien-Huong Ninh, Cuesta College  
"Refugees and Resistance: Sacred Rituals among Vietnamese Catholics in the U.S. and Germany"

**Catholic Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**ACB 108**

**Questioning Boundaries of Participation: Eucharist and Ordination**

Moderator: Eva Braunstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

Renato Aguila, Graduate Theological Union  
"Ecology and Communion: A Renewed Understanding of the Eucharist"

W. Ezekiel Goggin, Skidmore College  
"Freedom and the Fate of the Gift: Hegel and Marion on Eucharistic Presence"

Peter Kang, St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
"(Un)binding the Body: Catechesis, Mystagogy and the Hóros of Sacramental Life"

**Fourth Session (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Religion and the Arts 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 12**

**Art, Culture, and Rites of Passage**

Moderator: Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University

Olivia Happel, Pacifica Graduate Institute  
"Rose Ceremonies, Home Towns, Fantasy Suites, and Falling in Love: Rites of Passage in the Bachelor Franchise"

Josiah Baker, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"A Vanishing Distinctive: Spirit Baptism in Pentecostal Identity Formation and Hymnody"

Daniel Lai, Seattle Pacific University  
"A Comparative Study of Japanese Zen Buddhism Architecture and Catholic Architecture"

Steven Zepeda, Independent Scholar  
"'Savi's Workshop' as a Rite of Passage in Galaxy's Edge"

**Indigenous Studies 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

**Special Roundtable on Indigenous Cultural Appropriation: Rites and Rituals in and out of Context**

Moderator: Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute

Panelists: Sierra Ed, University of California, Berkeley  
Ceclia Titiziano, Graduate Theological Union  
Juan Francisco Cristóbal, University of California, Los Angeles  
Brian Clearwater, Independent Scholar

**Religions of Asia 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 16**

**Rites of Passage in East Asian Traditions of Abortion and  
Medicinal Healing**

Moderator: Nancy Martin, Chapman University

Ryan Luna, California State University, Long Beach  
“The Healer Inoculated: An Exploration of Mimetic Agents of Inoculation and  
The Transformation Cycle of the Student/Practitioner of Chinese Medicine”

Carina Roth, University of Geneva  
“Mizuko kuyō and the Ritual Commemoration of Abortions in Japan”

SeungGyeong Ji, University of Minnesota  
“Women’s Stories in Cheondoje (A way to sky): Buddhist Abortion Ritual as Rite of  
Passage in South Korea ‘#TacoTrucksatEveryMosque: Resisting Identity Boundaries and  
Redefining Solidarity”

**Psychology, Culture, and Religion 3 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 24**

**Therapeutic Approaches to Rites of Passage**

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Thomas Davis, California State University, San Bernardino  
“The Catholic Psychoanalytic Psychology of Social Work: Rites of Passage in Liber  
Sanctificarum”

Malachi Gillihan, California Institute of Integral Studies  
“The Future is Virgin: Rites of Passages in the Healing of Sexual Abuse”

Jessie J. Thomas, San Diego State University  
“Life with God and Humans: Experiential Elements in Rites of Passage”

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

**Burkle 26**

**Identity, Roles, and Ritualization**

Moderator: Sara Frykenberg, Mount St. Mary’s University

Respondent: Michelle Mueller, Santa Clara University

Katharine Cloward Smith, Claremont Graduate University  
"Modest Maidens: Attitudes and Practices Regarding Modesty among Mormon and Muslim Young Women"

Kate McEachen, University of Southern Queensland  
"Becoming Tripitaka: Passing and the Rite of Passage in 'The New Legends of Monkey'"

Andrea Slominski, Independent Scholar  
"Riting Regency: Maiden, Householder, Regent, Wise Woman"

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**Religion and Social Sciences 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

**Social Scientific Approaches to the Study of Religion**

Moderator: Rebecca Sager, Loyola Marymount University

Elizabeth Shimada, University of Southern California  
"The Center of It All: How Black Women Intersect their Christian and Social Selves"

Mehdi Ali, University of Southern California  
"Evolving Orthodoxies: Western Islamic Discourses on Same-Sex Sexual Relationships"

Gabe Veas, The Los Angeles School of Mentorship  
"Mentoring Lineages as a Rite of Passage: Understanding How Protégés Publicly Compete to Appropriation the Roles, Traditions, & Ethics of Religious Mentors"

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**Pagan Studies 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 110**

**Rites of Passage Across Paganism**

Moderator: Dorothea Kahena Viale and Jeffrey Albaugh

Bran Stigile-Wright, Graduate Theological Union  
"Rejecting the Good or Responding to God(s)? Narrativizing Transness in American Heathenry and Evangelicalism"

Ashley Starr-Morris, Claremont Graduate University  
"Witchcraft for Sale?: Commodification and Reclamation of the Modern Witch"

Lorne Greene, Eastern Washington University  
"A Pagan Eschatology: What We Talk About When We Talk About Death"

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**Catholic Studies 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**ACB 108**

**Justice at the Margins: Inclusive Liturgical Practices**

Moderator: Justin Claravall, Graduate Theological Union

Porsia Tunzi, Graduate Theological Union  
"Catholic Marriage Preparation When Inclusivity and Justice Are Considered"

Hannah Bowman, Mount Saint Mary's University  
"Rites of Unbinding' in Liturgy and Restorative Justice"

**Black Caucus (5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)**

**Burkle 16**

**TBD**

Moderator: Sakena Young-Skaggs, Arizona State University

Speaker: "TBD"

**Reception (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)**

**Des Combes Quad**

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

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

**Albrecht Auditorium**



Speaker: Jason Sexton, University of California, Los Angeles

Title: "The Black Church and the Future of Black California."

Bio: His scholarly work has been published in academic journals like *Theology*, *International Journal of Public Theology*, *Religions*, *Ecclesial Practices*, *Journal of Theological Studies*, and in journals of missiology and criminology. Contributions in religious studies led to his elected role as the current President of the largest, most diverse regional body of the American Academy of Religion, the Western Region. And his contributions to California studies led to his appointment as the recent Editor of the UC Press-published journal, [Boom California](#). He serves on the boards of several scholarly organizations, and his academic writing has been published by presses like Routledge and Bloomsbury, while

his popular writing has appeared in the *LA Times*, *Zocalo Public Square*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, HarperCollins, among others.

Prior to joining the California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA, he was the Interim State University Associate Dean of Academic Programs and a Visiting Fellow at the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion.

### **SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 15**

**8:00-9:00 Women's Caucus Breakfast – (Burkle 26)**

**8:00-9:15 Registration – Burkle Hall**

#### **First Session (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

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

**Burkle 12**

#### **Sacred Space, Ritual, and Reform in Religions of Asia**

Moderator: Nancy Martin, Chapman University

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont School of Theology  
"Risen by Smoke: Hinduism's Death Ritual of Antayesti"

Ingyu Park, Seoul National University  
"The Initiation Ceremony of New Religious Movements in Korea:  
A Transition from Ritual Community to Faith Community"

Taesoo Kim, University of Missouri  
"Sacred Spaces and Sacred Ritual in Daesoon Thought"

Tejpaul Bainiwal, University of California, Riverside  
"Harmandir Sahib: The Gurdwara as a Religious, Political, and Social Institution"

**Education and Pedagogy 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

#### **New Views and Novel Approaches to Religion and Education**

Moderator: Sarita Tamayo-Moraga, Santa Clara University

Jisujo T. Gauthier, University of the West  
"Discerning Skandhas, Embodied Theologies, and Zen in the Classroom"

David Flores, University of California, Los Angeles  
"Forgotten Narratives of Chicana/o Movement History: Religion and Spirituality"

Peter Romaskiewicz, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Varieties of Contemplative Pedagogy and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning”

**History of Christianity 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Burkle 16**

**Exploring the Edges: Non-Sacramental Rites of Passage Throughout Christian History**

Moderator: Dyron B. Daugherty, Pepperdine University and David M. Houghton, Fuller Theological Seminary

Alec Sixta, California State University, Long Beach  
“Sex, Conversion, and Augustine”

Panayotis “Otis” Coutsoumpos, Jr., Claremont Graduate University  
“The Doubt of Certainty: How Kierkegaard Views Existence, Doubt, Certainty, and Faith”

**Psychology, Culture, and Religion 4 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Burkle 24**

**Liminality, Revelation, and Rites of Passage**

Moderator: Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara

Cooper Kent, University of San Diego  
“One-Dimensional Bible Study: Reinforcing Hegemony in an Evangelical Rite of Passage”

Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara  
“Anticipating Special Communication: A General Theory of Semiotic Arousal”

Shelby King & Brett Land, University of California, Santa Barbara  
“The Hook of Revelations: Conspiracy Theory and the Sacred Power of Secrecy”

**Joint Panel: Religion, Literature, and Film and Religion and the Arts 1**

**(9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Burkle 26**

**Rites of Passage, Religion, and YA Literature**

Moderator: Emmanuelle Patrice, Saybrook University

Steven Vredenburg, Fuller Theological Seminary  
“Becoming the ‘Queen of the Sea’”

Heather M. Wetherholt, Arizona State University  
“Punk Rock Jesus-The Social Justice Savior”

Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University  
“The Rose that Grew from Concrete: Tupac Shakur, Literary Capital, and Religious Rites of Passage”

Tamisha Tyler, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"Lose Your Mother: Mother/Daughter Relationships as a Rite of Passage in Black Women's Speculative Fiction"

**Womanist/Pan-African Studies 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

**Politics and Ritual in African, Afro-Diasporic, and Indigenous Rites of Passage**

Moderator: Ineda Adesanya, Graduate Theological Union

Ayanna Grady-Hunt, Graduate Theological Union  
"Ritual, Rite of Passage, and Political Agency: The Impact of Afro-Diasporic and Indigenous Women's Public Spirituality from the Haitian Revolution to Standing Rock to Ferguson"

Gideon M. Mbui, Graduate Theological Union  
"No Mere 'Cut': Towards a More Redemptive Assessment of the Rite of Male/Female Circumcision Among the Tania/Ameru People of Upper-Eastern Kenya"

Keyona Saquile Lazenby, Pacific School of Religion, Graduate Theological Union  
"Rituals of Remembrance"

**Pagan Studies 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Stauffer 110**

**Rites, Myths, and Paganisms Across History**

Moderator: Dorothea Kahena Viale and Jeffrey Albaugh

Murtagh A. anDoile (Armando D. Marini), Independent Scholar  
"Proto-Pagans: Precursors of the Modern Pagan Movement - Seeking the Themes of Myth and Magic in the American Experience (1850 to 1975)"

Jeffrey Albaugh, Independent Scholar  
"Contemporary Paganisms as an Expression of American Religion"

Dorothea Kahena Viale, Cal Poly Pomona  
"Avoiding What Has Destroyed Monotheistic Religions"

**Jewish Studies 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**ACB 108**

**Rites of Passage in the Jewish Life-Cycle**

Moderator: Alexander Marcus, Grinnell College

Karoly Daniel Dobos, Jewish Theological Seminary / Budapest University of Jewish Studies / Pázmány Péter Catholic University  
"Repercussions of Near-Death-Experiences in an Ancient Jewish Apocalypse"

Rabbi Iris Yaniv, Oranim Academic College of Education  
"Humanistic Secular Bar and Bat Mitzvah Ceremonies in Israel"

Karen Goodman, Independent Scholar  
"Dancing in Yiddish: Jewish Wedding Dances from Eastern Europe"

Varvana Redmond, University of Warsaw, Poland  
"The Evolution of the Mikvah Narratives: Theory and Practice"

**Second Session (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Islamic Studies 3 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 12**

**Islam, Women, and Violence**

Moderator: Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

Samantha Hill, Arizona State University  
"The Intersection of Islam, Women, and Sexual Violence Prevention"

Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach  
"Sufi and Salafi Women in Harar"

Abdullahi A. Gallab, Arizona State University  
"ISIS: Birth and Death of a Twentieth Century Violence"

Christina Saoud, California State University, Long Beach  
"Agency and Resistance Among Refugee Arab Women"

**Indigenous Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

**Dreams, Nature, and the Feminine Divine**

Moderator: Cecilia Titiziano, Graduate Theological Union

Leon Aliski, Pacifica Graduate  
"White Buffalo Calf Woman: Sacred Teachings and Rites"

Odette Springer, Studio School  
"Changing Woman: A 21st Century Model for Equanimity and Balance"

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

**Burkle 16**

**Marxism and Rites of Passage: Political Economy, Ideology, and Nationalism**



Presenter: Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

Joshua A. Mendez, Claremont Graduate University  
"Ritual and Political Economy: Althusser's Materialist Theory of Ideology"

Kody Leland Bartley, Claremont Graduate University  
"Economic Practices as Ritual in the Early Christian Community"

Anisha Ahuja, Claremont Graduate University  
"Ritual and Anti-Rites: Indian Classical Dance, Nationalism, and Imperialism"

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**Religion and Social Sciences 3 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 24**

**Book Panel: Religion and Rites of Passage**

This book session focuses on religious, nonreligious, secular, and sacred dimensions in how art and imagery are used in the contemporary rituals of birth as a rite of passage.

Moderator: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Book: Imagery, Ritual, and Birth. Ontology Between the Sacred and the Secular (2018)

Author: Anna Hennessey, University of California Berkeley

Panelists: Valentina Cantori  
Meghan Tiller  
Anthony Swieringa

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**History of Christianity 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Burkle 26**

**Rites Across World Culture in the History of Christianity**

Moderator: Dyron B. Daugherty, Pepperdine University and David M. Houghton, Fuller Theological Seminary

Matteo Poiani, Université de Strasbourg  
"Cyrillona: A Syriac Borders-Breaker and Theology-Maker of the Fourth Century"

Pamela Stevens, Graduate Theological Union  
"Perpetual Data Storage as a Rite of Suspended Passage: Mass Exhibitions of Sambenitos in Churches in Sixteenth Century Spain and the Spanish America"s

Benita Y.H. Lim, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"Finding Balance and Harmony in the Partaking of the Eucharist for the Singaporean Chinese Christian"

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**Asian American Religious Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 106**

## **Spirituality and Immigrant Life, Buddhism in Incarceration Camps, and American Sikh Identity**

Moderator: Irene Ludji, Claremont Graduate University

JungJa Joy Yu, Hanyang University, South Korea

“The Spirituality of Marginality: Experiences of Korean immigrant Women Leaders in North America”

Carol Beckett, Occidental College

“Marking Time and Making Identity: Rites of Passage Events and Festivals in the Creation of Japanese American Buddhist Community Life in the Incarceration Camps”

Philip Deslippe, University of California Santa Barbara

“Re-Caste-ing the Model Minority: Religious Literacy, Public Advocacy, and Sikhs in America After 9-11”

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### **Ethics 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Stauffer 110**

#### **Rites of Passage within Christian Communities in the United States**

Moderator: Joshua Beckett, Fuller Theological Seminary

Sheryl Johnson, Graduate Theological Union

“Donating as a Rite of Passage: Economics and Church Membership”

Joshua Abrego, Christian Life College

“Christian Ethics and Embodiment: Embodied Simulation of Biblical Narrative as an Approach to Theological Imagination”

Travis Darnold, San Jose State University

“Smith, Deception, and Christian Marriage: How Our Hearts Have Been Co-Opted By The World”

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### **Religion in America 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**ACB 108**

#### **New Religious Movements and New Movements within American Religion**

New Religious Movements are an increasingly popular lens by which scholars look at complex topics within American Religion. This panel looks at fundamentalist Mormons, the People’s Temple, and new approaches to muscular Christianity by way of feats of strength ministries in relationship with the overarching conference theme “rites of passage.”

Moderator: Cristina Rosetti, University of California, Riverside

Michelle Mueller, Santa Clara University

“Adam is God, and Jesus Was Married: Mysticism and Gnosticism in Mormon Fundamentalist Spirituality”

Katherine Klapperich, Mills College

“Creating Community Despite the Demagogue: A Case Study of The Peoples Temple”

Kimberly Diaz, University of California, Riverside

“Crisis of White Christian Manhood: Feats of Strength Ministries in Contemporary United States”

**Lunch (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)**

**Lunch**

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**12:45 – 2:00 p.m. – Business Meeting, Burkle 14**

\*All members of the AAR/WR are welcome to attend. Lunch is provided for the first 40 attendees.

**Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Psychology, Culture, and Religion Discussion Panel on Miscarriage (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 12**

**Miscarriage: Exploring Liminal and Dislocated Spaces of Passage**

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Discussants: Joseph Kim Paxton, Claremont School of Theology  
Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute  
Greg Yanke, Arizona State University  
Greg Hoenas, Claremont School of Theology

**Jewish Studies 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Burkle 14**

**Rites of Passage in Jewish Histories and Futures**

Moderator: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Alexander Marcus, Grinnell College

“Aramaic Incantation Bowls from Sasanian Mesopotamia: The Belated Initiation of a Jewish Studies Sub-Field”

Rabbi Elihu Gevirtz, Independent Scholar

“The Kabbalah of Brit Milah (Jewish Circumcision of Boys): Rite of Passage to an Ethical Life”

Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Graduate Theological Union

“The Varieties of Judeo-Pagan Identity and Ritual Experience”

Carrie Sealine, Graduate Theological Union  
"Genealogy of a Neopagan Ritual: The Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram as a Site of  
Jewish/Christian Esoteric Intersection"

# Save the Date!

**\*California\***

**\*Pacific Islands\***

**\*Nevada\***

**\*Hawaii\***

**\*Guam\***

**\*Arizona\***

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

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**\*Host Institution TBD\***

**PROGRAM**

**Date TBD**

**Location TBD – Northern California Area**

**Address TBD**

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