

California

Hawaii

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

WESTERN REGION

ANNUAL MEETING

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



PROGRAM

March 19-21, 2021

**Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709**



American Academy of Religion Western Region

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

Welcome to the Graduate Theological Union!

Dear AAR Members and Colleagues, welcome to the Graduate Theological Union for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. This year's program has admitted nearly 124 papers in 25 Program Units.

The host for the 2021 meeting is Graduate Theological University. Thank you to Dr. Rita Sherma, Sephora Marks, and multiple department chairs in the graduate departments of GTU for your generosity and gracious hospitality. If you see anyone from GTU at the virtual conference, be sure to thank them for the time and energy put into ensuring the success of this year's conference.

Zoom links for each session will be provided in EventBrite around February 15, 2021. If, for any reason, you are having trouble finding your Zoom room, please contact the conference manager – Joseph Paxton – via email, Joseph.Paxton@cst.edu, or via cell phone, (480) 600-3727. We will have a Virtual Hospitality Team (VRT) on standby. If you need help, we will be here. The contact information for our VRT is forthcoming but will be listed here as well. I (Joseph Paxton, CM) will be unavailable Sunday, March 21, from 10:30am PT – 1:00pm PT. If you need assistance please contact the VRT (information forthcoming). If you are a unit chair, please call directly if you are experiencing technical difficulties and need immediate assistance.

Saturday Morning - 1000 Women in Religion Wiki Project Editathon

Link [here](#)

Join us in our effort to address gender bias on Wikipedia by improving the coverage of women in religion on Wikipedia. This special panel will be on Zoom at – forthcoming – from 11:15-12:45pm.

At this workshop, which is being held during 2021 AAR/WR annual meeting on Saturday March 20th 11:15 to 12:45, participants will sign up as wiki-editors, create their personal user page, learn the basics of editing and make their first wiki-edits. We can also help

you to start a new article about a woman who is not on Wikipedia but should be included.

Our worklist will focus on: women scholars of religion, especially BIPOC scholars. Participants are also welcome to work on women from any religious, spiritual or wisdom tradition who are not on the worklist. There will be plenty of time for questions and time for hands on assistance. No need to be a technological expert!

Saturday Evening Reception Breakout Rooms

Kick back, relax, grab a drink and enjoy the perfectly catered food of your own home for our reception! We will begin with an introduction from our President who will announce the paper award winners. Then, we will continue to enjoy drinks, network, and have fun conversations with colleagues in our breakout rooms.

Each breakout room will have its own Zoom link for you to join. The breakout rooms are organized as follows:

1. How to Publish – Rev. Dr. Emily Silverman
2. Meet the Author – Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble
3. Meet the Author – Dr. Konden Smith
4. Meet the Author – Dr. Souad Ali
5. How to Get Involved in AAR-WR Leadership – Dr. Hester Oberman
6. Scholarship and Self-Care – Dr. Yuria Celidwen
7. Scholars of Color – Rev. Dr. Marlene Ferreras
8. Networking + Business Card Exchange – Room host TBD

A short description for each breakout room will be added on page 18 of the program guide. We hope this will be a helpful space for you to make connections, have conversations, and get the most out of this year's conference!

Sunday Morning – Special Roundtable: The 2020 Indian Farmers' Protest

This discussion will revolve around the current farmer protests in India against the neoliberal deregulation of the agriculture market. This deregulation caused uproar in the country and mobilized farmers across India, with the leadership coming from the Farmers unions of Punjab, the "bread basket of India." The discussion focuses on the cause of mobilization, the sociopolitical contexts of the protest, media representation, the role of religion in the movement, and any outcomes that have occurred by the time.

Sunday Afternoon Business Meeting

In preparation for next year, we will hold our annual business meeting Sunday afternoon in the Zoom Room (link forthcoming) from 12:45 – 2:00 p.m. All attendees are invited to come. We will update members on policy revisions, news, discuss administrative and organization details, and provide preliminary details of the upcoming 2022 conference at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sunday Afternoon Graduate Student Professional Development

The Graduate Student Professional Development unit is pleased to present a special round table discussion on COVID-19: Unique Challenges, Unique Opportunities. Dr. Sawyer, La Verne University, Dr. Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Dr. Oberman, University of Arizona, will present special presentations to help graduate students consider graduate student and professional development in the midst of the pandemic!

To learn more and get in touch with our Student Director, James Berry (and regional student representatives in your geographic region – NorCal, SoCal, Arizona, Nevada; more information can be found on our webpage), please email the unit chair jsberry73@gmail.com.

What to do if an unwanted participant “Zoom Bombs”

In the unlikely event that we have an unregistered and unwanted participant “Zoom Bomb” a panel, look to the session moderator. Private message them, if they are not already aware of the disruptive participant. The moderator, who is also the host, can simply click on the participant, which will populate by clicking the “participants” icon on the bottom, and click, “remove participant.” If, however, you are in a room where the moderator does not have room privileges to remove an unwanted participant, email (joseph.paxton@cst.edu) or call (480-600-3727) the conference manager immediate. Joseph will generate a new zoom room, email this to the moderator and the moderator will distribute to all participants through a private message and the session can resume as scheduled.

Acknowledgements

The American Academy of Religion, Wester 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 Graduate Theological Union and the organizational assistance of Sephora Marks and GTU hosting of Dr. Rita Sherma.

AAR, Western Region Presidential Line

Anna Hennessey, President

Emily Silverman, Interim-Vice President and Program Chair

John Erickson, Vice-President and Program Chair Elect

Joseph Kim Paxton, Conference Manager

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.

WESTERN REGION

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

Annual Meeting

March 19-21, 2021

Graduate Theological Union

Berkeley, CA

FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE, MARCH 19

10:00-Noon Virtual Women's Caucus Event - Women's Wisdom and the Ways of Resilience

Presenter: **Delores Mondragón** is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. She/Her/Ella identifies as a Two-Spirit Chickasaw Chicana military veteran, grandmother, and student of Native American and Indigenous Religious Tradition. Lola is a community drum-keeper, singer, and a graduate student at UC Santa Barbara in the Department of Religious Studies.

Dr. Yuria Celidwen is of Nahua and Maya descent from the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. She co-chairs the Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit at the AAR-WR. Her academic work is on the intersection of Indigenous Studies, Cultural Psychology, and Contemplative Studies. She focuses on the experience of self-transcendence and its manifestation as compassion. Her focus is Indigenous Contemplative Traditions of the World. www.yuriacelidwen.com

Women have a remarkable capacity for strengthening support systems and empower our communal spaces in times of crisis. Women heal, restore, recover, and nourish through and in community. Women transmit knowledge and recontextualize traditions offering new ways of relating with an ever-changing and increasingly challenging environment.

This Women's Caucus Event explores contemplative practice as a way to reconnect and rely on the image of the female divine to discover restoring strategies to adapt and cope with ecological demise, health crisis, and systemic and structural threats. We come together to discuss how to approach the process of restoration and its integration in our works as grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunties, friends, and scholars of religions. By creating communities of care and support, we stand as an act of resistance in the struggle for justice.

Moral injuries and the striving towards liberation from them, through rematriation, is central in healing subsequent generations. Through the resurgence of rematriating Indigenous Two-Spirit ways of being and knowing, we are able to embody knowledges and learn to respect, appreciate, and legitimize knowledges and Peoples often silenced through passive denial and indifference. How can we shift from only bringing Indigenous knowledges into the academy for mostly foreign consumption and shift instead towards an active engagement in building relationships of reciprocity with

Indigenous and Native American communities? How can we move from practices where leaders and others believe that land acknowledgement is enough to quell communities whose genocide has not allowed full contextualization for their state of despair, resurgence, or acquisition of lands stolen to house academic institutions? How are we complicit in colonization and what can we change to support the resurgence of rematriating ways of being?

The AAR Western Region Women's Caucus event is gender-inclusive, free and welcomes all people of goodwill to participate in this restorative work.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81982500110?pwd=ZVg1bGVjMWJKNHlHbzF5eFlvWW5kQT09>

For inquiries please contact [Dr. Yuria Celidwen](#)

12:00-3:00 Virtual AAR-WR Board Meeting

6:00 Queer Caucus Event – More Than Just a Bar: Lived History and Religion

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.

RSVP – <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsc-gqDkqE9H-5sV9i8UGB1OzRDR4-NZ>

Zoom Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87922241669>

Meeting ID: 879 2224 1669

Email inquiries – queerstudies.aarwr@gmail.com

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 20

8:00-5:30 **Registration – [Online](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138867190505) or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138867190505>**

First Session (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Asian American Religious Studies 1 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Religious Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Religion as Basis for Political Grounding, Educational Tool, and a Means for Reconciliation

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

(2) Shirley Lung, Johns Hopkins University
“Taiwanese American Protestants and COVID-19: How COVID-19 Reorients Political Attitudes”

(2) Tejpal Singh Baniwal, University of California, Riverside
“Sikhi, Seva, and Sarbat Da Bhalla: Sikh American Resilience Through the COVID-19 Pandemic “

(3) Jae Yang, Fuller Theological Seminary
“An Asian American Trinitarian Response to COVID-19 Induced Racism”

(4) Brianne Donaldson, University of California, Irvine
“Unifying, Globalizing, and Translating the “Practical Nonviolence” of Jainism Through the Pandemic Responses of North American Jains”

Catholic Studies (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Contemplating Solitude and Healing

Moderator: Eva Braunstein, University of California, Santa Barbara
Justin Claravall, Graduate Theological Union

(2) Robyn Boeré, St. Andrews University
“Healing Practices and End-of-Life Care: Applying Balthasar’s and Rahner’s Theologies of Children”

(2) Ryan L. Kelley, Independent Scholar
“Fleeing the Disturbances of the World in Origen’s in Exodum Homiliae 3”

(3) Alexander Grudem, Veritas Preparatory Academy

“Sounding Out Story in Solitude: Self Care in the Theology of Henri Nouwen”

Christianity 1 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Ecumenism in Challenging Times

- Moderator: Dyron Daughrity, Pepperdine University and Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University
- (2) Justine McLendon, Grand Canyon Theological Seminary and College of Theology
“The Chips Have Fallen: Neo-Calvinism and the Possibilities of Evangelical Ecumenism”
- (2) Dyron Daughrity, Pepperdine University
“A History of the Evangelical Movement: From November 2020 to Today” (A response to McLendon)
- (3) Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University
“Evangelical Ecumenism and Sacramental Ontology” (A response to McLendon)

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

Interreligious Responses to COVID and Climate Crisis

- Moderator: Matthew R. Hartman, Graduate Theological Union
- (1) Charles Forbes, California Institute of Integral Studies
“Humans of Faith: A Jewish Epistemology for a Time of Global Crisis”
- (2) Heeyoung Jung, Claremont School of Theology
“How Can We Reclaim the Classical Worldview for Loving All of Creation after COVID-19? Arguing for the Connection Between Capitalism, Poverty, and Hunger, Focusing on Poor Women and Children”
- (3) Max Sovine, California Institute of Integral Studies
“Helping the Dying Find Peace and Embrace Mortality through the Healing Power of Nature”
- (4) Nandini V. Katre, California Institute for Human Sciences
“Embracing the Diversity of Humanity and Nature in the Oneness of Existence: A Vedic Approach to Life sustaining Life”

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

Raising the Power of Our Voices in the Public Square: What’s Next?

- Moderator: Moderator: Valerie Miles-Tribble, GTU-Berkeley School of Theology
- (2) Ineda Adesanya, Graduate Theological Union

“Power at the Intersection of Spirituality and Social Justice – Womanist Lens”

(2) Leslie Bowling-Dyer, Graduate Theological Union
“Care-consciousness and Black Religious Women’s Activism in Era of Trumpism Politics”

(3) Erika Gault, University of Arizona
“Forms of Religious-digital Activism: Digital Technology, Black Religion, and the Ongoing Challenges of Social and Economic Justice”

(4) Valerie Miles-Tribble, GTU-Berkeley School of Theology
“Navigating Two Pandemics: Virulent Racism and the Unveiled COVID Disparities”

(5) Sakena Young-Scaggs, Stanford University
“Futuring our Past: Afrofuturism and Womanist Visioning of Black Humanity”

Latinx Religions and Spiritualities 1 (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

***Decolonizing Academia: Poverty, Oppression, and Pain* (Fernwood Publishing, 2018) by Clelia O. Rodríguez**

Moderator: Marlene Ferreras and Jacob Perez

Panelists: (1) Jacob Perez, Pacific School of Religion
(2) Yara González-Justiniano
(3) Yohana Junker
(4) Israel Rodriguez

Overview: Clelia O. Rodríguez’s *Decolonizing Academia* confronts the racialized structure of academia and invites the next generation of Latinx scholars to participate in dismantling the systemic oppression that is academia. In poignant and poetic work, Rodríguez demonstrates how people of color, particularly women, are silenced and methodically erased in the production of research and in the process of tenure track positions.

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

COVID-19, Hermeneutics, and Abundant Events

Moderator: Jay Potter, Loyola Marymount University

(2) Shin-Young Park, Graduate Theological Union
“Social Distancing and Open Narratives in the time of COVID-19: The Philosophy of Postmodern Pandemics”

(2) Casey Crosbie, Scripps College
“Conservative Epistemologies and COVID-19 or ‘What can we really know about Covid anyway?’”

(3) Mariah Terey Cushing, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary
“Hans-Georg Gadamer’s Contribution to Interreligious Hermeneutics: The Intersection of Philosophy and Interreligious Studies”

(4) Mario Orospe, Arizona State University
“Beyond the Sacred and the Holy: Towards a decolonial lexicon of abundant events”

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 20
(10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)

Virtual Keynote (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)



Speaker: Dr. Rita Sherma

Title: “Love Never Fails”: The Power of Nonviolence in a Time of Planetary Neglect & Negligence

Abstract: The talk will touch upon the interconnected network of oppressions that lead to major crises we face as a planetary community, and bring in a wide and transcultural understanding of ahimsa (often inadequately translated as “non-violence”) as a hermeneutical vehicle to navigate these waters.

Bio: Professor Rita D. Sherma holds a PhD in Theology & Ethics, and an MA in Women’s Studies in Religion from Claremont Graduate University. She is the Director of the [Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies](#), Chair of the Theology & Ethics Department, Core Doctoral Faculty, and Co-Chair of the [Sustainability 360 Initiative](#) at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), Berkeley. Dr. Sherma has published widely, with six books in print and numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. She is Editor-in-Chief of the [Journal of Dharma Studies](#), the Associate Editor of Springer’s multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*, and on the Editorial Board of the AAR’s publication, *Reading Religions*. Her published books include [Contemplative Studies and Hinduism: Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, & Worship](#) (2020); [Swami Vivekananda: His Life, Legacy, and Liberative Ethics](#) (2020); *Woman & Goddess in Hinduism: Reinterpretations & Reenvisionings*, (2011), and *Hermeneutics & Hindu Thought*, (2008). A pioneer in the field of Critical Sustainability Studies, Professor Sherma serves on the Advisory Board of the Yale Forum

on Religions & Ecology, and has recently produced a 35-chapter new co-edited volume, *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Springer, 2021), as well as *Ecology & Indian Philosophy* (2022). Has contributed to numerous publications on Interreligious Studies including, most recently, to the *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies* (forthcoming).

Second Session (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Christianity 2 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Church in the Pandemic Age

Moderator: Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University, and Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University

(2) Pamela Stevens, Graduate Theological University, Berkeley
“Contagion at Barking Abbey: Recasting Plague From Curse to Charisma in Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History* as a Prescription for Contemporary Marginalization”

(2) Kimberly Diaz, University of California, Riverside
“Chaos Averted: Muscular Christianity as a Unique Form of Healthy-Mindedness”

(3) Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University
“Is the Past a Prescription for the Present?” (A response to Stevens)

(4) Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University
“The Latest Manifestations of Muscular Christianity” (A response to Diaz)

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

Indigenous Mythologies for Times of Turmoil

Moderator: Yuria Celidwen, Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science

(1) Leon Aliski, Independent Scholar
“I Shall See You Again: White Buffalo Calf Woman: Sacred Teachings and Rites”

(2) Odette Springer, Studio School
“Changing Woman: A 21st Century Model for Equanimity and Balance”

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

Virtual Gallery Exhibition and Talk: Birth, The Sacred, and Marginalized Communities

Co-Curators: (1) Tamisha Tyler, Fuller Theological Seminary

- (2) Anna Hennessey, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion
- (3) Joyce del Rosario, Pacific School of Religion

Overview: Religion and the Arts Virtual Gallery Exhibition will show a variety of sacred art images used to empower marginalized communities, and especially mothers, in their experiences of birth and mothering. As part of our virtual “gallery talk,” we will discuss the realities facing low-income families and women of color in the births of their babies and the raising of their children. Utilizing theories from religious studies scholars such as Arisika Razak, we will examine how positive images of the Black body are important to pregnant women and young mothers from African American communities. We invite participants to comment on the images and contribute to the gallery talk.

Queer Studies 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Lights, Camera, LGBTQIA+: Depictions of LGBTQIA+ Identity in Popular Culture

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

(2) J Selke, University of California, Riverside
“A Transgender Satan, No More: The Hypermasculinization of the Baphomet Figure in *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*”

(2) John Erickson, Independent Scholar
“Stepsons and Stepdaughters: Chosen Communities, Religion, Faith, and LGBT Liberation”

Psychology, Culture, and Religion 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Religious Responses to COVID-19

Moderator: Casey Crosbie, Claremont Graduate University

Jessica Chapman, Claremont School of Theology
“Living Human Narratives: A Womanist Clinical Pastoral Theology on Mistreatment in Healthcare and COVID-19”

Wan-Ting Tsai, Graduate Theological Union
“Communion Online? Protestant Liturgical Adaptation in Response to Coronavirus”

Religion, Literature, and Film 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

Global Affairs and Spiritual Plights in Identity, Community, and Environment

Moderator: Chantal Noa Forbes, California Institute of Integral Studies

(2) Ashley Starr-Morris, Claremont Graduate University
“Blindspotting and COVID: The Gentrification of Racism”

(2) Chantal Noa Forbes, California Institute of Integral Studies
“Reclaiming Spiritual Identity in Native Place – Indigenous food sovereignty and the ontology of dwelling in GATHER”

(3) Emmanuelle Patrice, Saybrook University
“Biohazard Armageddon: Biohazard Armageddon: The Zeitgeist of Fear and Hysteria”

Special Panel 1 – Wiki Project (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)

1000 Women in Religion Wiki Project Editathon

Moderator: Emily Silverman, Independent Scholar

Panelists: TBD

Overview: Did you know that only 18% of the biographical subjects and 9% of the editors on Wikipedia are women? [WikiProject 1000 Women in Religion](#) is a major initiative of the [American Academy of Religion](#) and [Society of Biblical Literature](#) (AAR/SBL) Women’s Caucus. The project aims to address the under-recognized work of cis and transgender women in the world’s religious, spiritual and wisdom traditions by adding 1,000+ women in religion onto Wikipedia.

At this workshop, which is being held during 2021 AAR/WR annual meeting on Saturday March 20th 11:15 to 12:45, participants will sign up as wiki-editors, create their personal user page, learn the basics of editing and make their first wiki-edits. We can also help you to start a new article about a woman who is not on Wikipedia but should be included.

Our worklist will focus on: **women scholars of religion, especially BIPOC scholars.** Participants are also welcome to work on women from any religious, spiritual or wisdom tradition who are not on the worklist. There will be plenty of time for questions and time for hands on assistance. No need to be a technological expert!

Join us in our effort to address gender bias on Wikipedia by improving the coverage of women in religion on Wikipedia.

Lunch (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.)

Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Unit Chairs Meeting and Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Virtual Queer Caucus Business Meeting Lunch -
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839011247>

Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

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

Moderator: Cecilia Titiziano, San Francisco University

(1) Sierra Ed, University of California at Berkeley
“Native Appropriation and Space, Indigeneity, and Culture”

(2) Delores Mondragón, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Striving towards Resurgence in the face of Moral Injury: Indigenous Identity and Ceremonial Appropriation”

(3) Yuria Celidwen, Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science
“Master Plants and Monster Medicine: Appropriation of Indigenous Healing Practices”

Islamic Studies 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Gender, Sexuality, Islam, and Resistance

Moderator: Abdullahi A. Gallab, Arizona State University

(1) Arshad Munir, University of Gujrat, Punjab, Pakistan
“Rites of Passage in Ethnic Pakistan: Transition from accused to Innocent”

(2) Adam Tyson, University of California, Riverside
“Religious Pluralism and the Philosophy of Wahdat al-Wujud in Şeyh Bedreddin’s Revolt”

(3) Jessica Grace Howell, University of California, Long Beach
“Navigating Identity & Coming Out: The Intersectional Experiences of LGBTIA+ Muslims”

(4) Christina Saoud, California State University, Long Beach
“Modes of Othering in Islam: Homosexuality, Religious Diversity, and Peaceful Dialogues”

Ethics 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Contemporary Explorations in Christian (Theological, Social, and Ecclesial) Ethics

Moderator: Joshua Beckett, Fuller Theological Seminary

(2) Barbara Anne Kozee
“A Christian Theo-ethic Response to Abolition”

(2) Porsia Tunzi
“Building the Beloved Community: COVID-19 as a Place of Convergence in Christian Social Ethics”

(3) Sheryl Johnson

“Disaster Capitalism? U.S. Ecclesial Economic Ethics in the Time of COVID-19”

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

(Re)Considering Women’s Power in Myth and Community

Moderator: Brooke Nelson, California State University, Dominguez Hills
Carly Lynch, Santa Clara University

Responding: Sara M. Frykenberg, Mount Saint Mary’s University

(1) Janice L. Poss, Claremont Graduate University
“Women In/side Religion: Heroines of Grace”

(2) Claudia Hall, Independent Scholar
“Embracing the Archetypal Feminine as a Model for Ministry: Leading by Loving in Times of Deepest Crisis.”

Education and Pedagogy 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Pedagogy in a Time of Crisis

Moderator: Sarita Tamayo-Moraga, Santa Clara University

(2) Mariska Lauterboom, Graduate Theological Union
“Re-imagining Religious Pedagogy in the Time of Crisis: Viscerality and the Third-Space”

(2) Shannon Frediani, Starr King School for the Ministry
“Utilizing Pedagogy for Disrupting White Supremacy”

(3) Cara Judea Alhadeff, Jews of the Earth/Western Institute for Social Research
“A Guide to Critical Pedagogy (in case you are Perplexed-A Nod to Maimonides)”

Religion, Science, and Technology 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

COVID-19 and American Religious Experience

Moderator: Melanie Dzugan, Fuller Theological Seminary

(2) Aaron Grizzell, Graduate Theological Union
“Religious Experience in Myth, Symbol, and Conceptual Metaphor”

(2) Greg Cootsona, California State University, Chico
“Negotiating Science and Religion in America during COVID-19”

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

Moderator: James Berry, Claremont Graduate University

(2) Dane Sawyer, University of LaVerne
“Academia and its Alternatives: One Person’s Experience”

(2) Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Projects, Passions, Peers, and Play: Kindergarten in the College Classroom”

(3) Hester Oberman, University of Arizona
Title forthcoming

Fourth Session (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Religion in America 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

American Civil Religion, Sacrifice, and Reconciliation

Moderator: Josiah Baker, Fuller Theological Seminary

(2) Sara Jaye Hart, Humboldt State University
“American Civil Religion, Patriotism, and Pluralism”

(2) Brennan Duck, Humboldt State University
“Civil Religion and Shared Risk”

(3) Roman Sotomayor, Humboldt State University
“Unequal Risk and Stratified Sacrifice”

Religion and the Social Sciences 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

A Social Scientific Perspective on COVID-19 and Religious Communities

Moderator: Valentina Cantori, University of Southern California

(2) Meghan Tiller, University of Southern California
“The Christiapitalism of COVID -19”

(2) Victoria Price, Graduate Theological Union
“Dūrḡa the COVID-19 Destroyer: Navratri During a Global Pandemic”

(3) Anthony (AJ) Swieringa, University of Southern California
“Sacred Space Online: Struggles of Legitimization During a Pandemic”

(4) Kelly Colwell, Graduate Theological Union
“Virtual Church Community during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

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

Pandemic Responses and Race and Religion Across History and The Contemporary World in Religions of Asia

Moderator: Nancy Martin, Chapman University

- Panelists:
- (1) Lauren Nippoldt, University of California, San Diego
“First Responders: Sikh Seva and COVID-19 Response to Marginalized Communities”
 - (2) Tejpal Singh Baniwal, University of California, Riverside
“Model Minority Privilege and Brown Silence: Sikh Americans and the Black Lives Matter Movement”
 - (3) Brianna Donaldson, University of California, Irvine
“Unifying, Globalizing, and Translating the “Practical Nonviolence” of Jainism through the Pandemic Responses of North American Jains
 - (3) Bennett DiDente Comerford, Harvard University
“Race and Religion in Nineteenth-Century Bengali Satirical Drama: The Case of Michael Madhusudan Datta (1824-1873)”

Ecology and Religion 2: Book Panel (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

A Conversation with Author Devin Zuber on *A Language of Things: Emanuel Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination*

Moderator: Matthew R. Hartman, Graduate Theological Union

Panelists: Jeremy Sorgen, University of Virginia
Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico
Evan Berry, Arizona State University

Responder: Devin Zuber, Graduate Theological Union

Overview: In *A Language of Things*, Devin Zuber offers a critical attempt to restore the fundamental role that religious experience could play in shaping nineteenth-century American approaches to natural space. By tracing the ways that Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, and Sarah Orne Jewett, among others, variously responded to Swedenborg, Zuber illuminates the complex dynamic that came to unfold between the religious, the literary, and the ecological. *A Language of Things* situates this dynamic within some of the recent “new materialisms” of environmental thought, showing how these earlier authors anticipate present concerns with the other-than-human in the Anthropocene. This special book panel will engage various scholars of religion in conversation with the author.

Pagan Studies 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Contemporary Witchcraft in the Age of COVID-19, and Saving Our World Through the Arts, Spiritual Intelligence

Moderator: Dorothea Kahena Viale, Cal Poly Pomona

Respondent: (1) Dorothea Kahena Viale, Cal Poly Pomona
“Saving Our World Through the Arts Breakthroughs”

(2) Jeffrey Albaugh, Independent Scholar
“Solitary Confinement: Religious Practice in Contemporary Witchcrafts During the Covid-19 Pandemic”

Buddhist Studies 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Buddhism and Healing

Moderator: Alison Jameson, University of Arizona

(1) Victor Thasiah, California Lutheran University
“Revolutionize Yourself: The Healing of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh in Wild Nature”

(2) Alina Pokhrel, University of California, Riverside
“We may become carriers of the virus, we don’t have to be carriers of fear”: Unfinished Healing, Reparation, Restoration

(3) Han Xiao, University of Quebec at Montreal
“A Case Study of a Chinese Buddhist Meditation Group on WeChat during Covid-19”

Goddess Studies 1 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Woman as Goddess: Ecopsychology and the Divine Mother in Hinduism’s Divine Feminine

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

(1) Rachele Syed, Graduate Theological Union
“The Principle of Nurturance: Grounding a Śākta Eco-Praxis”

(2) Zipei Tang, Graduate Theological Union
“Divine Mother in Sri Aurobindo's Integral Philosophy”

(3) Charissa Jaeger-Sander, Graduate Theological Union
“Fierce but Benevolent: A Theological Analysis of Theodicy in God the Mother as Revealed in the *Devī Māhātmya*”

Virtual Reception (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)

Paper Awards + Breakout Rooms

Grab a drink and dinner and join us for some fun, a chance to network, and connect at AAR-WR's Annual Reception.

1. How to Publish – Dr. Emily Silverman
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. Publishing can be very difficult. If you are beginning to think about or attempting to publish for the first time, attend this session for tips, pointers, and insights from Dr. Silverman.
2. Meet the Author – Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. Book title and information forthcoming
3. Meet the Author – Dr. Konden Smith
 - a. Zoom Link – <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/7318082797>
 - b. Book title: Frontier Religion: Mormons and America
4. Meet the Author – Dr. Souad Ali
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. Book title and information forthcoming
5. How to join AAR-WR Leadership: Open Positions and Regional Service – Dr. Hester Oberman
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. Description: join this breakout room if you have ideas and are interested in serving scholars and students in the region. Here, Dr. Oberman will discuss open positions and ways you can become involved to grow your CV while also providing leadership and service to our great region!
6. Navigating Scholarship and Self-Care – Dr. Yuria Celidwen
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. Dr. Celidwen will facilitate a conversation that will help attendees to think about and re-consider their approach to scholarship and self-care, especially in the context of the COVID pandemic.
7. Students of Color Mixer – Dr. Marlene Ferreras
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. This will be an open conversation facilitated by HTI (Hispanic Theological Initiative) and FTE (Forum for Theological Exploration) scholar, Dr. Marlene Ferreras. This space will give scholars of color a chance to network and engage in open discussion to broadly discuss what it means to be a scholar of color.
8. Business Card Exchange – TBD
 - a. Zoom Link – (forthcoming)
 - b. In this breakout room, participants will each be given time to share their name, research interests, and contact information with the room. The goal of this room is to create a space for scholars to network and grow their scholarship beyond this conference.

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

Anna Hennessey



Speaker: Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

Title: Birth, Art, Trauma and Catalonia: The Eternal Return as Cultural Identity

Bio: Anna Hennessey researches the topics of birth and genesis in the humanities, and recently published her first book *Imagery, Ritual, and Birth: Ontology Between the Sacred and the Secular* (Lexington Books, an Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield, December, 2018). Currently a Visiting Scholar with the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion (BCSR) at the University of California, Berkeley, Anna is working on her second book, which pertains to how art about birth and genesis interacts with cultural identity, especially in the context of Catalonia and Catalan art. An author of numerous articles, chapters, and book reviews, Anna is also Associate Editor of *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions* (Springer). She writes for a general audience as well and has published essays with the [Institute of Art and Ideas](#), [Counterpunch](#), and the [San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper](#), among others. A birth activist, Anna is the Founder of [Visualizing Birth](#), a website that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary and is devoted to providing positive imagery to use in birth as a rite of passage. Anna holds a PhD in the History of Chinese Religions (UC Santa Barbara), an MA in Art History (UC Santa Barbara), and a BA with a double major in Philosophy and Romance Language (New York University). She lives in San Francisco with her husband Toni, their two children, Kieran and Montserrat, and their dog Fergie.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 21

8:00-9:00 Virtual Women's Caucus Breakfast

8:00-9:15 Registration – [Online](#) or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/138867190505>

First Session (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Asian American Religious Studies 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Religious Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Call for Solidarity, Postcolonial Critique, and Theological and Practical Responses

Moderator: Irene Ludji, Claremont Graduate University

(1) Hanna Kang, Graduate Theological Union
"Punisher, Healer, or Sufferer? Toward a Theological Response to Marginalization in Times of Pandemic"

(2) Sunku Kang, Claremont Graduate University
"COVID-19 and Physical Solidarity"

(3) Miseon Choi, Claremont School of Theology
"An Invitation to Boundaries: From A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective"

Jewish Studies 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Responding to Collective Trauma

Moderator: Oren Yirmiyah, University of California, Berkley

(1) Rachel Colwell, Grinnell College of Music
"Making Music History: The Precarity of Jewish Inclusion in Narratives of Tunisian *Ma'lūf*"

(2) John Lafferty, Independent Scholar
"Speech From The Whirlwind: Resilient Religious Breakthrough of Post-exilic Jews"

(3) Ilana Goldstein, Independent Scholar
"*Gam Zeh Ya'avor*: Experiencing Days of Commemoration During the COVID-19 Crisis"

(4) Joshua Krug, New York University
"Nebuchadnezzar as a Symbol of Collective Trauma"

Joint Session: Ecology and Religion and Religion, Literature, and Film (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

The Emergence of Spiritual Ecology in *My Octopus Teacher*

Moderator: Chantal Noa Forbes, California Institute of Integral Studies

Respondents: Laura Michetti, California Institute of Integral Studies
Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco
Ezekiel Fugate, California Institute of Integral Studies
Matthew Hartman, Graduate Theological Union

Overview: The **Ecology and Religion** unit and the **Religion, Film, and Literature** unit will co-host a roundtable discussion that explores themes presented in the newly released environmental documentary *My Octopus Teacher*, currently screening on Netflix. Roundtable respondents will address how this film interprets the meaning of sustainability by fostering the emergence of spiritual ecology in times of spiritual emergency.

My Octopus Teacher follows documentary filmmaker Craig Foster. Following a physical, mental, and emotional breakdown, Craig commits himself to skin dive daily in the Great African Kelp Forest off the West Coast of South Africa. Here Craig sets out to explore this underwater world by applying the art of tracking that he learned from the First Peoples of the Kalahari Desert to navigating the kelp forests. Craig meets a female Octopus with whom he forms a unique relationship, tracking with her daily for the duration of her life. Through this journey, Craig comes to learn what it means to engage in a phenomenological spiritual ecology and what it means to form an integral part of our sacred environment.

<https://seachangeproject.com/myoctopusteacher/>

Ethics 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)

Interdisciplinary Methodologies for Religious and Ecological Ethics

Moderator: Tim Langille, Arizona State University

(1) Travis Darnold

“Annas, Taylor, and the Unmerciful Servant; Or, Why It Is A Mistake to Blame Tools for Failures”

(2) Aaron Grizzell, Graduate Theological Union

“The Purposiveness of Nature in Immanuel Kant and Howard Thurman”

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

Cognition and Culture

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Julia McClenon, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Finding Freedom Through Fate: Agency and Modern Uses of the Traditional Chinese Calendar”

Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Anticipating Special Communication: A General Theory of Semiotic Arousal”

Second Session (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

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

Islamic Law, Prophetic Tradition, and Education

Moderator: Sophia Pandya, University of California, Long Beach

(1) Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University
"The Politics of Hudud in Islamic Law"

(2) Neimeh Mousa, Arizona State University
"The Sunna and Prophetic Tradition in Islam."

(3) Sarah Risha, Arizona State University
"Educational Curriculum in the Qur'an,"

(4) Sundus Jaber, Claremont School of Theology
"Muslim Lifestyle Rituals: An Introduction for Chaplains and Spiritual Care Providers"

Jewish Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Creating and Sustaining Community Bonds

Moderator: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

(1) Alexander W. Marcus, Yale University
"Better One Spicy Pepper than a Full Basket of Gourds': Popular Culture and Cultural Memory in Rabbinic Babylonia"

(2) Oren Yirmiya, University of California, Berkeley
"The Trope of Escapology: Harry Houdini's Jewish Legacy in Jack Kirby and Michael Chabon's Anti-Fascist Superhero Literature"

(3) Benjamin Steele-Fisher, University of California, Davis
"The Mask of the Other: Philosophies of Alterity in an Age of Alienation, Death, and Doom"

(4) Ryan Quandt, University of South Florida
"Rabbi Gamaliel Masked: On Silencing and Reconciliation"

Womanist Pan-African Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Global Perspectives

Moderator: Valerie Miles-Tribble, Graduate Theological University; Berkeley School of Theology

(1) Ayanna Grady-Hunt, Graduate Theological Union
"Birthing Community at the Banks of Osun: Embracing Orisa as an Environmental Paradigm"

(2) Keyona Saquile Lazenby, Graduate Theological Union
"Reclaiming Rituals and Earth Honoring Identities"

(3) Gideon M'Imwonyo Mbui, Graduate Theological Union

“Hummingbirds Urgently Needed! Espousing a Change-agent Disposition for Individual and Collective Healing”

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

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

Moderator: Angela Dane, Meridian University

Workshop Organizers: (1) Marie Cartier, PhD, California State University, Northridge
(2) Anjeanette LeBoeuf, PhD, Independent Scholar and Permanent Contributor to FeminismandReligion.com

Overview: 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.

Religions of Asia 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Roundtable Discussion – Religion, Revolution, and Farming: The 2020 Indian Farmers’ Protest

Moderators: (1) Tejpaal Singh Baniwal, University of California, Riverside
(2) Gurbeer Singh, University of California, Riverside

Panelists: (1) Harjeet Singh, University of Calgary/Organizer

- (2) Ronki Ram, Panjab University
- (3) Harbani Kaur, Activist
- (4) Anita Lal, Poetic Justice Foundation
- (5) Inderpal Grewal, Yale University
- (6) Navyug Gill, William Patterson University/Activist
- (7) Amrit Deol, University of California, Merced
- (8) Michael Nijhawan, York University

Overview: This discussion will revolve around the current farmer protests in India against the neoliberal deregulation of the agriculture market. This deregulation caused uproar in the country and mobilized farmers across India, with the leadership coming from the Farmers unions of Punjab, the "bread basket of India." The discussion focuses on the cause of mobilization, the sociopolitical contexts of the protest, media representation, the role of religion in the movement, and any outcomes that have occurred by the time.

Education and Pedagogy 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

Pedagogy and the Disrupted Classroom and Text

Moderator: Peter Romaskiewicz, University of California, Santa Barbara

- (1) Katia Moles, Santa Clara University
"An Engagement Strategy to Enhance Student Collaboration for Synchronous Online Classes"
- (2) Adriana Weise, Northern Arizona University
"Examining Introductions to Religion Textbooks for Implicit Bias"
- (3) Sarita Tamayo-Moraga, Santa Clara University
"Pedagogy for the Common Good: Investigating Religious Attitudes to Public Health Orders in the Virtual Classroom"

Philosophy of Religion 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)

The Common Good, Subjectivity, and Ecological Thought

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, University of LaVerne

- (1) Charles Conway, Independent Scholar
"The 'Common Good' Revisited"
- (2) Olga Louchakova-Schwartz, University of California at Davis
TBD
- (3) Dane Sawyer, University of La Vern
"Emptiness, and Ecology: A Study of Satre and Buddhist Ethics and Metaphysics"

(4) Jay Potter, Loyola Marymount University
"Looking to the Mountain: Intra-active subjectivities and ethical decision making in Native American and New Materialist philosophies"

Lunch (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)

Lunch

12:45 – 2:00 p.m. – Business Meeting

*All members of the AAR/WR are welcome to attend.
Zoom link – forthcoming

Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Islamic Studies 3 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Islam, Women, and Violence

Moderator: Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

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

(2) Sophia Pandya, University of California, Long Beach
"Sufi and Salafi Women in Harar"

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

(4) Bethany Elias Jenner, Arizona State University
"These Doors Are Always Open: Virtual Alternative Muslim Spaces During the Pandemic"

Jewish Studies 3 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Difficult Ethical Decisions

Moderator: Alexander W. Marcus, Yale University

(1) Daniel Z. Stein, Independent Scholar
"Pilgrimage and Memory in Jacob Seifter's Holocaust-Era Memoirs of Galicia"

(2) Cara Judea Alhadeff, Western Institute for Social Research
"Jewish Ecological Thought: Sacred Activism as Biophilia"

(3) Judith Maeryam Wouk, Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute

"Jezebel and Ethical Decisionmaking"

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

Workshop on Virtual Research in the Social Sciences of Religion

Moderator: Meghan Tiller, University of South California

- (1) Valentina Cantori, University of Southern California
"Ethnography in an Age of Social Distancing: Beyond Face-to-Face Interaction"
- (2) Guilia Mezetti, Università Cattolica di Milano
"Navigating Online Interviewing Netnographies in COVID Times"

Buddhist Studies 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Buddhist Transformations in China and the U.S

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

- (1) Constance Chen, Loyola Marymount University
"In the Spirit of Equality": Buddhism and the Quest for Social Justice in Late Nineteenth-Century United States
- (2) Lu Zhang, University of Arizona
"In between Order and Disorder: the "Three Sages of Tiantai" in the Writing of Chan Historiographies in Song China"

Religion in America 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Religious Resistance and Conflict

Moderator: Konden Smith Hansen, University of Arizona

- (1) Josiah Baker, Fuller Theological Seminary
"The Topography of Sanctity at the George Floyd Memorial Site in South Minneapolis"
- (2) Jem Jebbia, Stanford University
"The Wheatland Hop Riot: Race, Labor, and Interreligious Resistance in the Progressive Era"
- (3) Diana Coleman, Northern Arizona University
"Righteousness, Resentment, and Religion in this Time of Plague"
- (4) L. Nelson Leonard, University of Texas at Austin

“Here and In-between: Examining Intersections of Race and Religion through the Lens of Adoption”

Catholic Studies 2 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)

Anita M. Caspary, IHM and the Crisis of The Immaculate Heart Community of California

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

Discussant: Susan Maloney, SNJM, and Anna Hennessey, University of California, Berkeley

Overview: Anita M. Caspary, IHM (1915-2011), is the only woman in U.S religious history to hold the positions of Mother General of a Catholic order of nuns and president of an inclusive ecumenical community. Caspary and the IHM sisters embraced the renewal of Vatican II and revised their religious rule, decentralized authority, reevaluated their ministries, and introduced new prayer practices. These reforms angered Vatican officials who demanded they be rescinded. In 1969, under Caspary’s bold leadership, 400 Sisters of the Immaculate Heart (IHMs) order rejected the dictates of church officials, relinquished their vows and created a new inclusive community of women and men. Of such significance was Caspary's role in the renewal of Catholic religious life for women, she was featured on the cover of Time magazine (February 23, 1970). During the 1960s this decision became a cause célèbre (<http://www.anitacaspary.com>). Thriving and located in Los Angeles, California the Immaculate Heart Community for its 50th anniversary cooperated in the production of the film *Rebel Hearts* which was selected for the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. Segments of the film may be shown during this session.

Dr. Susan M. Maloney, SNJM, former president of the AAR/WR and former board member of AAR national is currently writing a biography of Anita M. Caspary. She published and lectures extensively on the history of the IHMs. Dr. Maloney is a member of NUNS on the BUS a social justice lobby initiated by progressive Catholic sisters committed to social justice.

Dr. Anna Hennessey is the current president of AAR/WR and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. She is the author of [*Imagery, Ritual, and Birth: Ontology Between the Sacred and the Secular*](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018)

In this virtual conversation Maloney and Hennessey will begin the session with a discussion of Caspary’s background, 2) the role religious faith played in this conflict with ecclesiastical authorities and 3) the significance of this historic event for both the Catholic church, religion and the larger society. This will be followed with an open Q and A for all zoom participants.

See also [*Witness to Integrity: The Crisis of the Immaculate Heart Community of California*](#), Anita Caspary’s award winning book (Liturgical Press 2003).

Save the Date!

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ANNUAL MEETING

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Date

TBD

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV 89154