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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**

**WESTERN REGION**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

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

**INSTITUTE OF  
BUDDHIST STUDIES**



**PROGRAM**

**March 23-25, 2018**

**Institute of Buddhist Studies  
2140 Durant Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94704**



## *American Academy of Religion Western Region*

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

### **Welcome to the Institute of Buddhist Studies!**

Dear AAR Members and Colleagues, welcome to the Institute of Buddhist Studies for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. This year's program has admitted approximately 150 papers in 24 Program Units.

The host for the 2018 meeting is the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Thank you to Scott A. Mitchell, Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs; David Matsumoto, President; Sayaka Inaishi; Helen Tagawa; Munir Jiwa for your generosity and gracious hospitality. If you see anyone from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, 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), or via cell phone, (480) 600-3727. It is requested that text and email be used as primary modes of communication for information, directions, and accommodations. If you are a unit chair, please call directly if you are experiencing technical difficulties and need immediate assistance.

#### **Sunday Afternoon Business Meeting**

In preparation for next year, we will hold our annual business meeting Sunday afternoon in the Lobby from 12:45 – 2:00 p.m. All attendees are invited to come, and lunche will be provided. We will update members on policy revisions, news, discuss administrative and organization details, and provide preliminary details of the upcoming 2019 conference at Arizona State University.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The American Academy of Religion, Western Region (AAR/WR) would like to express its thanks to the many people who came together to make this year's meeting possible.

We begin with the Institute of Buddhist Studies, which has shown such generosity, not only through sharing its campus, but also by making other appreciated contributions.

**Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA**

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Institute of Buddhist Studies. In particular:

Scott A. Mitchell, Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs

David Matsumoto, President

Sayaka Inaishi

Helen Tagawa

Munir Jiwa

and all members of the Institute of Buddhist Studies community.

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

**AAR, Western Region Officers**

Jonathan H.X. Lee, President

Abdullahi Gallab, Vice President and Program Chair

Joseph Kim Paxton, Conference Manager

Brian Clearwater, Regional Coordinator

Dorothea Kahena Viale, 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.

# Wisdom is Compassion

The Institute of Buddhist Studies offers a range of graduate-level degree and certificate programs in the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition.

Our diverse student body and our approach to Buddhist education prepare students to be thoughtful and creative leaders in a complex and changing world. Our graduates go on to doctoral study at major universities, become priests and monastics, and serve as Buddhist chaplains.

## Degree Programs

Master of Arts  
Master of Buddhist Studies  
Master of Divinity

## Certificate Programs

Kyōshi Certificate Program  
Certificate in Buddhist Chaplaincy  
Certificate in Buddhism and  
Contemporary Psychology  
Certificate in Theravada  
Buddhist Studies  
Certificate in Sōtō Zen Buddhist Studies

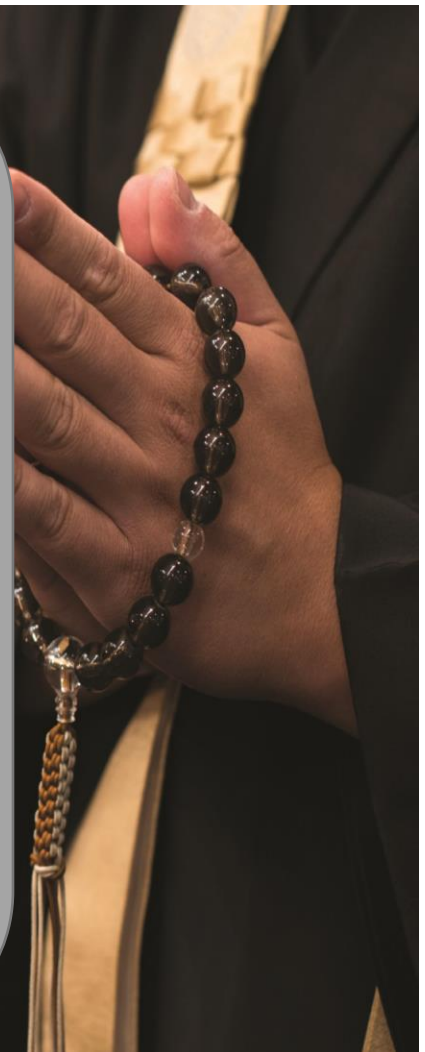
## Faculty & Research Fellows

Daijaku Judith Kinst  
David Ryoe Matsumoto  
Scott A. Mitchell  
Richard K. Payne  
Seigen H. Yamaoka  
Harry Gyokyo Bridge  
Gil Fronsdal  
Taigen Daniel Leighton  
Korin Charlie Pokorny  
Natalie E.F. Quli



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**FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE, MARCH 23**

**9:30-Noon      Women’s Caucus Event - Writing Workshop - Encountering and Doing Justice to Environments Internal and External, Known and Othered (Room 130)**

You are warmly invited to a writing retreat. For this lightly facilitated workshop, you are invited to bring an idea, proposal, draft, or paper to develop. There will be time for contemplative practice, conversation, writing, and informal snacks. Although all projects are welcome, participants will consider issues of solidarity, social justice, environmental justice, religion/science, feminist science, ecofeminism, and ecological feminisms in relation to the study of religion and theologies.

The AAR Western Region Women’s Caucus event is free and welcomes people of goodwill of all genders to participate in restorative work. Registration will be available at the door, but RSVP by March 20 would be much appreciated. Please RSVP to [Sarah Robinson-Bertoni](#).

**12:00-5:00      AAR-WR Board Meeting – Conference Room 229**

**8:00-10:00      Queer Caucus Event - Queer View – “Performance As Activism” FREE EVENT  
Location: First Congregational Church of Berkeley  
2345 Chanting Way Berkeley, CA 94704**

You’re invited to this year’s Queer Caucus event featuring one of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Sister Unity, and California drag icon, Eartha Madre for a performance using queer ritual as spiritual activism. A Q&A will follow the performance.  
RSVP – [queerstudies.aarwr@gmail.com](mailto:queerstudies.aarwr@gmail.com)



**Sister Unity**

**Eartha Madre**

(Photo Credit – Leo Garcia)

**SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 24**

**Registration Begins at 8 am at the LOBBY**

**First Session (8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)**

**Women and Religion 1 (8:30-10:00 a.m.)**

**Room 130**

**Kindness, Community, and Action**

Moderator: Sara Frykenberg, Mount Saint Mary's University

Nan Cano, Independent Scholar with the Immaculate Heart Community  
"Immaculate Heart Women: Institutional Kindness."

Brittany Zoe Walker, Florida State University  
"Commodification of Intimacy: The New Form of Hospitality?"

Robin L. Owens, Mount Saint Mary's University  
"Women, Religion and Kindness Reconsidered."

Susan Maloney, Independent Scholar  
"An Immaculate Heart Woman: Anita M. Caspary, IHM, and Individual Kindness."

Jennifer Owens Jofre', Graduate Theological Union  
"Gendered Expectations of Kindness at a Catholic Parish: A Case Study."

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

**Room 135**

**Interreligious Tensions and Resistance**

Moderator: Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach

Jessica Howell, California State University, Long Beach  
"Reflections on Turkish History: Reactions to the Purge"

Chase L. Way, Claremont Graduate University  
"An Islamic Theology of Libraries: Reading the Restoration of the University of Mosul's Library as Anti-ISIS Resistance."

Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach  
"Hizmet Women in the Aftermath of Turkey's Purge: Gender and Family Dynamics."

**Womanist Ways of Kindness**

Moderator: Valerie Miles-Tribble, American Baptist Seminary of the West

Keyona Saquile Lazenby, Pacific School of Religion, Graduate Theological Union  
"Lovingkindness- Reconstructing the Strong Black Women Narrative"

Marilyn A. Batchelor, Claremont Graduate University  
"Black Women: Conquering Through Kindness"

Ebony Janice Moore, Starr King School for the Ministry – Graduate Theological Union  
"Hip-Hop Womanism through the Lens of Black Girl Ritual Behaviors"

**Perspectives on World Religions, Religious Diversity, and Inter-Religious Encounters**

Moderator: Philip Boo Riley, Santa Clara University

Joung Chul Lee, Pacific School of Religion  
"Pedagogy of the We (Multiplicity): A Model of Interreligious Education in Theological Education"

Moles, Katia, Santa Clara University  
"Pedagogical Strategies for Fostering Inclusivity and Constructive Conflict in Religious Studies Classrooms"

Konden Smith, University of Arizona and Philip Boo Riley, Santa Clara University  
"Engaging the World Religions Paradigm in Different Institutional Settings: Large Public University and Small Private Liberal Arts College"

**Processing Happiness, Anger, and Grief:**

**How Religion Helps (or Harms) the Human Ability to Cope and Thrive**

Moderator: Casey Crosbie, Claremont School of Theology

Terri Daniel, San Francisco Theological Seminary  
"Loss and Trauma as a Path to Spiritual Awareness: Applying Fowler's Stages of Faith Development to the Grief Journey"

Alexis Clark, University of Arizona  
"Literature Review on Neurotheology: How Religion affects the Brain"

Alex Jensen, California State University

“Tracing Moral Injury in US Wars and Implications for Modern Day Military Chaplaincy”

Girim Jung, Claremont School of Theology

“When Kindness isn’t enough: The Psychological Effects of Patriarchy and Sexism in Confucianism and Korean Immigrant Churches”

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

**Room 133**

**U.S. Indigenous Theologies as Decolonial Options**

Moderator: Joseph Drexler-Dreis, Saint Mary’s College of California

Collin Harris, Saint Mary’s College of California

“Abandoning Christo-centrism as an Approach to Indigenous Theologies”

Savannah Williams, Saint Mary’s College of California

“The Importance of Intersectionality When Dismantling the Terror of Modernity”

Symone Williams, Saint Mary’s College of California

“The Blues Beats Salvation: Theological Reflection from the Blues as a form of Indigeneity”

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

**Room 229**

**On the Religious Press**

Moderator: Christina Littlefield, Pepperdine University

Christina Littlefield, Pepperdine University,

“F.D. Maurice and the Little Paper for ‘Dockworkers that Inspired Future Social Gospel Muckrakers”

Falon Opsahl, Pepperdine University,

“W. D. P. Bliss: The Vision of Christian Socialism that ‘Shaped the Left Wing of the Social Gospel Movement”

Ken Waters, Pepperdine University,

“Alexander Campbell, The Christian Baptist, and the ‘Biblical Case for Pacifism and Abolition”



**SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 24**  
**(10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)**

**Keynote (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.)**

**Kodo, Room 201**



**Speaker:** Jane Naomi Iwamura, the University of the West

**Title:** “Meditations on Loving-kindness”

**Bio:** Jane Naomi Iwamura is Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at University of the West. Dr. Iwamura's research focuses on Asian American religions, race and popular culture in the United States (with an emphasis on visual culture). Her publications include *Virtual Orientalism: Religion and Popular Culture in the U.S.* (Oxford 2011) and the co-edited volume, *Revealing the Sacred in Asian and Pacific America* (Routledge 2003). She has also written on Japanese American lived religions, as well as on the intersection of religion and Asian American literary production.

**Abstract:** In an age of inflammatory rhetoric, political anger, and growing tribalism, one may ask, “Whither kindness and human decency?” Measures in contemporary American society attempt to address the need to cultivate the impulse to look beyond oneself: compassion cultivation programs, “pay-it-forward” organizations, and kindness initiatives in schools. But what are the limits of these secular initiatives and how can a religious studies perspective enhance these efforts? Exploring the deep structures of kindness, specifically from the Buddhist perspective of loving-kindness, coupled with a critical understanding of our social environment may provide a path forward in enacting a more sustained environment in which social justice and compassion may thrive.

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

**Religion and the Social Sciences 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**Room 130**

**Narrative and Religion, Race, and Racism**

Moderator: Hester Oberman, University of Arizona

Jem Jebbia, Stanford University

“Contemporary College Chaplaincy: Crossing Boundaries, Promoting Activism.”

Jessica R. Chapman, Claremont School of Theology

“Cultural Compassion in Chaplaincy Education to Offer New Practices of Addressing Religious, Racial, and Ethnic Difference in Spiritual Care.”

Yuria Celidwen, Pacifica Graduate Institute

“Radical Compassion: Passionate Altruism for Social Transformation.”

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

**Room 135**

**Panel 1: “Nurturing Agency and Embracing Kindness amidst Academic Competition: A Roundtable Discussion of Professional Development Strategies for Graduate School and Beyond”**

Chair 1. Chase L. Way, Claremont Graduate University

Chair 2: Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University

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

**Room 131**

**Buddhism and (Un) kindness: Text, Context, Ritual**

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dawn Neal, Institute of Buddhist Studies

“Kindness and Discord in Theravāda Buddhist Literature”

Richard K. Payne, Institute of Buddhist Studies

“Subduing Demons: The Shingon Yamantaka Abhicāra Homa”

Igor Kokhan, La Sierra University

“Uncaring or Benevolent? The “Wrath” of the Wrathful Deities in Newar Buddhism”

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego

“Loving Kindness as an Ethical Precept: The Case of Aung San Suu Kyi and the Rohingyas”

**“Life’s a Drag: Queer Identify, Religion, and Performance”**

- Moderator: Marie Cartier, California State University, Northridge; University of California, Irvine
- Michelle Mueller, Santa Clara University  
“Explicitness is Godliness: The sacredness of televised eroticism for Polyamory's bisexual feminist reality television stars”
- Perry Guevara, Dominican University of California  
“Christological Drag: From San Francisco to the Seventeenth-Century Long Lyric Poem”
- Danielle Dempsey, University of California, Riverside  
“New Age of Sin: Exploring Pop Francis’s Condemnation of Contemporary Gender Theory”

**Contesting Kindness**

- Moderator: Paul Rodriguez, Claremont Graduate University
- Robin Leheitner, Claremont Graduate University  
“Nietzsche on Kindness”
- Tim M. Allen, University of St. Andrews, Scotland  
“Kindness and the Turn Towards Patience”
- Tal-Hi Bitton, George Washington University  
“Does Ethical Responsibility Require Kindness? Levinas’s Kenotic Subject Antecedent to Kindness”
- Stephen Quarles, Graduate Theological Union  
“Kindness as the Impossible Possibility: Levinas and the Relationship With the Other”

**Climate Change Justice, Ethics, and Economics Toward Kindness**

- Moderator: Sarah Robinson-Bertoni, Santa Clara University
- Sheryl Johnson, Graduate Theological Union  
“Truth, Reconciliation, Climate Justice: Applications of Truth and Reconciliation Processes to Climate Debt and the Climate Crisis”

Myoung-Ho Sin, Graduate Theological Union  
“A Triune Approach of Ecology, Economy and Theology to Face Climate Change with Respect and Kindness”

Porsia Tunzi, Pepperdine University  
“A Cultural Revolution of Kinship: Pope Francis’ Solution to Our Ecological Crisis”

Elizabeth Allison, California Institute of Integral Studies  
“Toward a Feminist Ethic of Care for Climate Change”

**Religions of Asia 1 (11:15 – 12:45 p.m.)**

**Room 229**

**Kindness: Interdisciplinary Explorations in Hindu Approaches to Ecology**

Moderator: Rita Sherma, Graduate Theological Union

Nimisha Nair, Graduate Theological Union  
“The Place of the Ritual Imagination in Kindness: Liturgical Perspectives on Hindu Ecology”

Cogen Bohanec, Graduate Theological Union  
“A Template for Hindu Ecotheology: Ethical, Epistemic, and Ontological Reflections on Kindness”

Parameshwaran Ramakrishnan, Graduate Theological Union  
“Healing Trauma through Kindness and Compassion: An Ecopsychological Study of Rama’s Grief from the Araṇya Kāṇḍa Forest Section) of Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa”

Pravina Rodrigues, Graduate Theological Union  
“Kindness to Self, Society, and the Earth in Yoga: Ethical and Mindfulness Considerations from the Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali”

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

**Kodo (Room 201)**

**Reflections of Kindness in Horrific, Sinful, and Monstrous Imagery**

Moderator: Emmanuelle Patrice, Antioch University Los Angeles

Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University  
“‘Get Out’: Kindness Rhetoric in Horror Films”

Emmanuelle Patrice, Antioch University, Los Angeles  
“Seeing Through the Spirituality of an Existential Monster: Kindness, Monstrosities, and *Hannibal*”

Jon R. Stone, California State University, Long Beach  
“Martin Scorsese, the ‘Gangster Priest’ of American Cinema: More Sin and Redemption on the Silver Screen”

**Lunch (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.)**

**Lunch**

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

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Queer Caucus Lunch (Room 229)**

**Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

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

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**Room 135**

**Kindness and Mysticism in the Christian Tradition**

Moderator: David Houghton, Fuller Theological Seminary

Rachel Wheeler, University of Portland

“Hidden Kindness: Strategies of Spiritual Care and Communication in the Christian Desert”

Andrew K. Lee, Graduate Theological Union

“Love Mysticism Vis-à-Vis the Second Crusade: Searching for Kindness in the Complicated Bernard of Clairvaux”

Travis Stevens, Pacific School of Religion

“Mysticism and Kindness: Richard of St. Victor’s Violent Love as Preparation for Caritas”

George Faithful, Dominican University of California

“Kind to be Cruel to be Kind: Theodicy in the Poetry of St. John of the Cross”

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

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**Room 131**

**Representing Kindness—Rethinking Kindness**

Moderator: Emily Silverman, Graduate Theological Union

Kathryn Phillips, University of California, Riverside

“Impudent Woman or Holy Virgin: Gendered Readings of Thecla.”

Brooke Nelson, Marymount California University

“Mommy Dearest: Bad Mothers in Patristic Era Literature.”

Colleen S. Harris, Pacifica Graduate Institute

“Beatified, or Betrayed? Problematizing Images of Archetypal Feminine Kindness in Dante’s Commedia.”

Irene Plunkett, Chabot College

“And yet she persisted: Sarah Orne Jewett’s Righteous Anger and a Feminist, Spiritual Call to Kindness in Action.”

Lilith Acadia, University of California, Berkeley

“St. Augustine’s Consolation: The Religious Origin of the Contemporary Consent-Based Definition of Rape.”

**Latina, Latino, and Latin American Religion Unit 1 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Room 229**

**Voices from the Margins: Practices of hope and resistance**

Moderator: Lauren Frances Guerra, University of California, Los Angeles

Jacqueline Caraves, University of California, Los Angeles

“My Existir es Resistir: Trans Latinx Experiences with Spirituality as a form of Self-Preservation”

Melisa Ortiz Berry, Claremont Graduate University

“Padre on Shifting Sands: Ramon Ortiz and the Mexican-American War”

Michael Jimenez, Azusa Pacific University

“When Theologians Read Che: A Study in Biography as Theology”

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

**Room 132**

**Finding Kindness in the Humanities**

Moderator: Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University

Steven Félix-Jäger, Pentecostal Theological Seminary

“Material Culture in the Prosperity Gospel”

Adan Alejandro Fernandez, University of Southern California

“Consumer-Driven Models of Worship and Teleology: The Prosperity Gospel of American Worship and Sacred Music”

Jennifer Matheny, University of Kent, Canterbury

“Forgiveness in Community: Places of Becoming in J. Mallozi’s and P. Mullie’s Dark Matter-Rebirth”

Dirk von der Horst, Mount Saint Mary’s University

“Listening and Liberation: Why and How Did Dorothee Soelle Hear God’s Pain in Brahms’ First Piano Concerto?”

**The Ethics of Anger**

Moderator: Chad Bogosian, Clovis Community College

Joshua Beckett, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Only the Wrathful God Can Help: Toward a Reassessment of Divine Anger and Human Kindness”

Matthew Jones, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Flames of Love: Protest, Poetry, and Theologies of Compassionate Anger in the Public Sphere”

Wonchul Shin, Emory University

“Thriving Anger in Resistance: Anger as a Moral Virtue for the Flourishing of the Oppressed”

**Buddhist Kindness in Practice**

Moderator: Alison Jameson, University of Arizona

Karen Villanueva, Institute for Contemporary Buddhist Ministry

“Mantra and Meditation in Hospital Chaplaincy: Transmitting Love, Kindness, and Compassion Through Sound to Ease Fear”

Brianna Morseth, Dharma Realm Buddhist University

“Who am I? Kind Questioning of the So-Called Self: Huàtóu Meditation Increases Neuroendocrine Oxytocin Expression on Chan Buddhist Monastic Retreat in Taiwan”

Jaakko Takkinen, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Kindness and Compassion in Tibetan Medical Ethics”

Scott Mitchel, Institute of Buddhist Studies

“Mid-Century Modern: race and religion in the construction of modern American Buddhism”

**Fourth Session (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Muslims and the “Other”**

Moderator: Soud Ali, Arizona State University

Murad, Brandeis University

“[Re]Interpreting Hate: The Epithet of “Apes & Pigs” in the Qur’an & Muslim-Jewish Polemics.”

Jinan Bastaki, United Arab Emirates University  
"Helping the oppressed' vs. 'brotherhood' as the underpinnings of Islamic asylum ethics."

Anna Capati, California State University, Long Beach  
"Individualism and the Young Filipina Revert: How Conversion/Reversion in the Philippines Reorients the Self in a Collectivist Society."

**Religions of Asia 2 (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)**

**Room 229**

**Kindness: Symbols and Actuality in the Religious Experiences  
of Buddhism, Daoism, and Chinese Culture**

Moderator: Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology

Keng Chan, Graduate Theological Union  
"Three Female Religious Figures Symbolizing Kindness and Protection in Chinese Context: Kuan Yin, Ma Tsu and Virgin Mary"

Monica Sanford, Claremont School of Theology  
"Chaplains in America: Right Livelihood for a 'Religion of Kindness'"

John Freese, Claremont School of Theology  
"Daoist Internal Alchemy as a Model for Understanding the Buddhist Monastic Three-fold Training Precepts, Concentration and Insight"

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

**Room 203**

**Inherent Kindness in Mother/Earth-Loving Pagan Religions**

Moderator: Michelle Mueller, Santa Clara University

Heaven Walker, California Institute of Integral Studies  
"Isis and Asherah: Ancient Mothers of Civilization"

Jeffrey Albaugh, Independent Scholar  
"Acts of Contemporary Pagan Kindness: Compassion, Conflict, and American Expressive Individualism"

Felicity Grove, Independent Scholar  
"Interfaith Environmentalism in Northern California"

Dorothea Kahena Viale, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
"Respecting Our Mother Under the Current Administration"



**Kindness, Engagement, and Disengagement**

Moderator: Konden Smith, University of Arizona

Khrystyne Wilson, Arizona State University

“The Gift of Spiritual Tourism: Viewing Spiritual Volunteering through Mauss’ The Gift”

Leonard McMahon, Graduate Theological Union

“Religion, Democracy, and the Practice of Truth”

Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Recreational Re-creation: Decoupling and the (Un)Kindness of Satirical, Allegorical, and Mythopoeic Worldmaking”

**Arts and Agency: Toward a Radical Theology of Kindness**

Moderator: Roy Whitaker, San Diego State University

Tamisha Tyler, Fuller Theological Seminary

“An Economy of Grace”

Jeannette Kiel, California Institute of Integral Studies

“Spiritual-Ecofeminist-Activist-Art Connections: A Reflection on How Activist Art Can Inspire Collaboration and Connection”

Dwight Radcliff, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Return of the Jedi: the Resurgence of Prophetic Hip Hop amidst a Decline in Kindness and Increase in Blindness”

Jessi Knippel, Claremont Graduate University

“Empathy Prophets: Art, Religion & Creative Non-Violence a Case Study”

**Kindness as the Impossible Possibility: Levinas and the Relationship With the Other: New Paths Within  
Philosophy of Religion: Childbirth, Divine Hiddenness, and Emotional Contagion**

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne

Anna Hennessey, Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Graduate Theological Union

“Social Ontology and Childbirth in a Philosophy of Religion”

Wesley Simmonds, Westmont College

“The Problem of Divine Hiddenness Proceeding From Theistic Belief as a Deductive *Atheological* Argument”

Alec Sixta, California State University, Long Beach  
“Inescapable Contagion: The Nature of Emotion in Religious Violence”

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

**Room 135**

**Sustenance for Ecology: Literatures and Material Practices on Behalf of Kindness**

Moderator: Laura Pustarfi, California Institute of Integral Studies

Gordon Gilmore, Graduate Theological Union  
“Brooding through Cleaving: A Trinitarian Model for Interreligious Ecology Through an Augustinian Lens”

Irene Ludji, Claremont Graduate University  
“In Vitro Meat: An Ethical Opportunity to Rethink Kindness between Human and Non-Human Animal?”

Matthew Hartman, Graduate Theological Union  
“Toward Creative Sustainability: Comparative Theology, Reciprocal Responsibility, and Climate Ethics”

Leyla Ozgur Alhassen, University of California, Berkeley  
“Environmental Destruction and Kindness in the Qur’ān”

**Reception (5:45 – 6:45 p.m.)**

**LOBBY**

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

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

**Kodo, Room 201**



Speaker: Jonathan H. X. Lee, San Francisco State University

Bio: Lee is an associate professor of Asian American Studies. He received his doctorate in religious studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2009.

Title: “Memory, Genocide, and the Ethics of Identity”

This talk is a reflection on collective trauma, lost, memory, and life in the aftermath of genocide among Cambodian refugees in America. It is a story about finding oneself through historical awakening and the connection between the living and the dead. It is a tale of life after human *unkindness*.

**SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 25**

**8:00-9:00 Women's Caucus Breakfast – Room 203**

**8:00-9:15 Registration – LOBBY**

**First Session (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Islamic Studies 3 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Room 130**

**Islam, Gender, and Sexuality**

Moderator: Abdullahi Gallab, Arizona State University

Farida Belkacem, European University Institute, Italy

“How do ‘Western Vocal Muslims’ respond to society debates on same-sex marriage?”

Nayawiyyah Muhammad, Claremont Graduate University

“Ecofeminist Applications of Contemporary Islamic Discourses on Women, Gender and Ecology.”

Marie Brown, California State University, Long Beach

“Islam and the LGBTQ Community—Exploring the Crossroads.”

Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

“Muslim Women Preachers in the Sudan: the Politics of Gender and Religion.”

**Ethics 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Room 132**

**The Ethics of Anger**

Moderator: Gregory L. Bock, The University of Texas, Tyler

I Sil Yoon, Graduate Theological Union

“The Value of Expressing Anger in the Practice of Restorative Justice in the Treatment of Crimes against Stateless Women”

Beena Kallely, Graduate Theological Union

“Transformation of Passion as Compassion”

David Corner, California State University, Sacramento

“Anger and Individuation in Zhu Xi: A Reconstruction”

Chad Bogosian, Clovis Community College

“What’s So Bad about Anger (Or So Good About Forgiveness)? A Christian Assessment of Nussbaum”

**Joint Session: Rel. & Social Sciences & Psychology, Culture & Religion (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)      Room 131**

**Special Topic**

- Moderator: Philip Butler, Claremont School of Theology
- Nayoun Cho, Claremont School of Theology  
“Jerusalem as the Space of the Establishment in Micah 4”
- Rehana Kaderali, Starr King School of Ministry  
“Beyond Ideas of Right and Wrong’: Meeting Anger with Kindness in Seconds”
- April Jackson, Claremont School of Theology  
“Dear Momma, the Black Madonna and Child: Black Women, Raising Black Boys on Allah, Jesus, and Hip-Hop”

**Pedagogy and Religion 2 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)      Room 133**

**Teaching World Religions, Religious Diversity, and Inter-Religious Encounters**

- Moderator: Philip Boo Riley, Santa Clara University
- Shannon Frediani, Claremont School of Theology  
“What Does Modeling Kindness Entail While Teaching Intersectionality and Religion or Interreligious Studies?”
- Sarita Tamayo Moraga and Cameron Heon, Santa Clara University  
"Pedagogical Practices for Turning Reactivity and Rigidity into Empathy, Stability, and Flexibility in a First Year Religious Studies Course"
- Sheela Pawar, California State University, Dominguez Hills  
“Teaching Cruelty and Kindness”
- Jessica L Tinklenberg, Claremont Colleges Center for Teaching and Learning  
“Teaching Kindness, Learning Compassion: How We Talk About Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the World Religions Classroom”

**Asian American Religious Studies 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)      Room 229**

**Kindness through Care and Resilience**

- Moderator: Thien-Huong T. Ninh, Cosumnes River College
- Minhwan Song, Claremont School of Theology  
“Kindness, Jeong, and Cultivation of Caring in Korean American Christian context”
- Joyce del Rosario, Fuller Theological Seminary  
“Resistance through Resilience: A Theological Look at Postcolonial Filipino American Theology Through Psychological Findings”

Shin Young Park, Graduate Theological Union  
"Beauty of Resiliency and Seeing beyond the Colors"

**Religion, Science, and Technology 1 (9:15 – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Room 135**

**Digital Kindness**

- Moderator: Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University  
Margaret Meloni, University of the West  
"Can Virtual Compassion Lead to Real Compassion?"  
Hannah Pheasant, Graduate Theological Union  
"Empathy in the Digital Sphere"  
Piero Scaruffi and Jinxia Niu, Independent Scholars  
"Peace Technology"  
Paula Thompson, Graduate Theological Union  
"Unkind Spaces: Cyberspace, Islamophobia and Social Interaction"

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

**Room 203**

**Sacred Challenging Topics in the Abrahamic Tradition**

- Moderator: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Karoly Daniel Dobos, Pazmany Peter Catholic University of Hungary  
"Confronting Sacred Challenging Topics by Cultural Translation: A Case-Study of Yehuda Aryeh Modena's Proposal for De-Mythologizing the Religious Other"  
Sophia Avants, Claremont School of Theology/Academy of Jewish Religion  
"The Recalcitrant Disputant: Rabbinic Strategies for Building a Community of Care"  
Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
"Iterations of One: The Shema in the Synoptic Gospels and Qur'an"

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

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

**Room 132**

**Womanist InGathering**

- Moderator: Sakena Young-Scaggs, Arizona State University

**Latina, Latino, and Latin American Religious Studies 2 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Room 203**

**Faith in the Borderlands: Negotiating Latinx Religious Expression**

Moderator: Daisy Vargas, University of California, Riverside

Gabriela Perez, Harvard Divinity School

“Manifesting Kindness at the Feast Day of Saint Sebastian in El Monte, California”

Roberto Mata, Santa Clara University

“Even the City of God has Walls?”: An Unhoused Latinx Reading of the New Jerusalem in the Apocalypse of John”

Cesar Eduardo Medina Gallo, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

“Formation and Expansion of a Mexican Cult in the U.S.: The Case of Toribio Romo”

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

**Room 130**

**Recent Studies in the Northern Treasure Tradition (Jangter) of Tibetan Buddhism**

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Jay Valentine, Troy University

“Revisiting Obsolete Historiographies – The Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Patriarchs of the Northern Treasure Tradition”

Katarina Turpeinen, University of California, Berkeley

“Tales of Realization – The Role of Narratives in Rindzin Gödem’s Dzokchen Anthology”

Michael Burroughs, Independent Scholar

“Preserving the Branches of the Northern Treasure Tradition – The Life and Works of Garwang Dorjé (1640-1685)”

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**Religions of Asia 3 (11:00 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Room 229**

**Locating Hindu and Buddhist Forms of Kindness Through Studies of Tragedy, Phenomenology, and Philanthropy**

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Graduate Theological Union

Purushottama Bilimoria, Graduate Theological Union

“Of Empathy via Tagore’s Artwork on Grief, Sorrow, & Compassion”

Olga Louchakova-Schwartz, University of California, Davis; Graduate Theol. Union

“Transmutation of the Affect in Buddhist Metta (Loving Kindness)”

Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology

“The Philanthropic Intensity of ‘Amma the Hugging Saint’”

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

**Room 135**

### **Ecospiritual Ethics**

- Moderator: Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco
- Elizabeth McAnally, Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale  
"Loving Water: Reflections on an Integral Water Ethic"
- Laura Pustarfi Reddick, California Institute of Integral Studies  
"It's Complicated: Kindness and Relational Paradigms in Ecological Ethics"
- Becca S. Tarnas, California Institute of Integral Studies  
"Light from an Invisible Lamp: The Ecospiritual Vision of J .R. R. Tolkien"
- Lilly Falconer, California Institute of Integral Studies  
"The Weight of Power from Below: Cargo, Zapatismo, and the National Indigenous Congress of Mexico"

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

**Room 133**

#### **Kindness as Modes of Healing, Adaptation, and Empowerment**

- Moderator: Jeongyun Hur, Claremont School of Theology
- Angeli Li, Loma Linda University School of Religion  
"Spiritual Practices as Healing Agents for First and Second Generations of Asian American Women"
- David Eng-Wong, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"Ancient Echoes of Assimilation and Acculturation: Philo of Alexandria and the Asian American Religious Experience"
- Thien-Huong Ninh, Cuesta College  
"Money, Marianism, and Miracle: The Vietnamese Catholic Community in Silicon Valley"

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

**Room 131**

#### **Missionizing and Kindness -- At Home and Abroad**

- Moderator: Cristina Rosetti, University of California, Riverside
- Michel Sunhae Lee, University of Texas, Austin  
"Not Resting from Labor: Alternate Meanings of the Sabbath in Late 19th-c. Minority and Majority Religious Practice"
- Christine L. Murphy, University of California, Santa Barbara  
"The Whitest, the Richest, the Buddhist: How America's 1% Appropriated the Tradition of Renunciation"

Hannah R Waits, University of California, Berkeley  
"Embracing Diversity: American Evangelicals and Power in the Postcolonial World"

**Lunch (12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)**

**Lunch**

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

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

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**Third Session (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

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

**Room 229**

**Traditions in the Contexts of World Religions and  
Inter-Religious Encounters: Tradition-Specific Perspectives**

Moderator: Philip Boo Riley, Santa Clara University

Bat Sheva Miller, Jonathan Homrighausen, and Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union

"Text Through Three Pairs of Eyes", Engaging Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Study of Women in Scripture."

Leigh Miller, Maitripa College

"Developing Buddhist Curriculum of Kindness for Ministry and Chaplain Programs"

Peter Romaskiewicz, University of California, Berkeley

"Rebuilding Religion: Threshold Knowledge and Its Value to Asian Survey Courses

Maha Elgenaidi Islamic Networks Group

"Escaping Essentialism: Educating Objectively About Islam in a Time of Islamophobia"

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

**Room 130**

**Historical Visions of Christian Kindness**

Moderator: David Houghton, Fuller Theological Seminary

Andrea Vestrucci, University of California, Berkeley

"Can a Sentiment be Commanded?: Christianity and Normativism in the Erasmus-Luther Querelle"

David M. Gides, Ivy Tech Community College



“Bonhoeffer, Kirchenkampf, and the Sermon on the Mount: A Cautionary Tale for Theological Responses to Contemporary Political Tyranny”

James Berry, Claremont Graduate University

“Weaponized Benevolence: Robert Pierce, World Vision International, and Evangelical Charitable Engagement in the Early Cold War”

Christopher L. Schelin, Vrije Universiteit

“To Punch Nazis or Shake Hands with the Klan: Clarence Jordan’s Pacifism as a Realistic Answer to White Supremacy”

**Islamic Studies 4 (2:15 – 3:45 p.m.)**

**Room 131**

### **Historical Islam**

Moderator: Soud Ali, Arizona State University

Toslina Khatun, King's College London

“Trade and Commerce between the Middle East and Central and East Asia during the period of Early Islam.”

Sami Al-Daghistani, Columbia University and University of Oslo

“Economic Benevolence and Islamic Intellectual History.”

Abdullahi Gallab, Arizona State University

"Dr. Hassan/Sheikh Hassan al-Turabi (1932-2016): The Last of the Islamists."

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

**Room 203**

### **Envisaging Goddesses of Love and Compassion**

Moderator: Kahena Viale, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Angela Sells, Meridian University, Petaluma

Roland Mullins, Florida State University

“Sanskrit vidyādhārī literature and the personification of kindness-as- feminine”

Celine Gomez, Mount Saint Mary's University

“Guadalupe and Yemayá: A Comparison of Latina Goddess Images”

# Save the Date!

**\*California\***

**\*Pacific Islands\***

**\*Nevada\***

**\*Hawaii\***

**\*Guam\***

**\*Arizona\***

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**PROGRAM**

**March 2-3, 2019**

**Arizona State University**

**Tempe, AZ 85281**