

Western Region

California
Pacific Islands
Nevada

Hawaii
Guam
Arizona

GRACE, MERCY, & ATONEMENT

**Exploring Artistic, Ritual, and
Social Action Through Forgiveness**

Welcome

Dear AAR Members and Colleagues, welcome to the Virtual 2022 Annual Meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. Amidst the struggles of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, this year's program has admitted nearly 100 papers.

I am very thankful for the academic staff and administrators at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, especially Dr. Roberta Sabbath, for all of their diligent work to plan this conference that was originally slated to be in person at UNLV. On January 14, 2022, the Board of Directors voted to move the conference to a virtual format due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

For those of you whom I have not had an opportunity to meet, either in person or virtually, my name is Jacob Perez, and I am the Conference Manager for the AARWR. I graduated last year with a Masters in Theological Studies from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and I currently work as a Marketing Director in the hospitality industry. While a student, I served briefly on the Board as the Northern California Student Representative.

I am very grateful to JP Paxton, formerly the CM and now serving on the Board as Regional Representative for Hawaii/Pacific Islands, for steering me in the right direction for this role. I know I echo everyone in the Region who has attended a conference in the past when I say that I have big shoes to fill! I'm also especially grateful for our VP & Program Chair, John Erickson, for walking through this journey of organizing the conference logistics, his patience with me and commitment to the Region. Finally, I would not have even had the opportunity to be in this position if it were not for our Past President, Anna Hennessey, getting me involved with leadership two years ago. I am grateful to consider her both a mentor and friend and incredible leader for this Region.

A new development for this year's virtual conference is that the AARWR will provide Region-hosted Zoom links for each session to help increase accessibility for all panels and participants. Closer to the event, a link with all of the Zoom links for each panel will be sent to the Region. Volunteers will also be identified who will "open the door" for Panelists, Moderators, and Attendees.

But most of all, should you have any questions or issues during the conference or need help finding your way around the Zoom-verse, please don't hesitate to email me at jacobmatthewperez@gmail.com or, for a more immediate response, text me at 707-514-6011.

Sincerely,
Jacob Perez, MTS (he/his)
Conference Manager, AARWR

NOTE: All Times Listed in this program are Pacific Daylight Time (UTC -7)

Grace, Mercy & Atonement

Exploring Artistic, Ritual and Social Action Through Forgiveness

A year after the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, racial, social, and economic injustice and awakening, and the election of a new United States President, this year's theme focuses on the role of grace, mercy, and atonement and the role religious and religious studies plays to help us all better understand the artistic, ritualistic, and social action experienced by many through the act of forgiveness. The theme is a ways to analyze the relationships between religions and the concept of forgiveness, especially after not only a tumultuous year both politically and socially, but also understand how we can chart a path forward, together, with grace and mercy.

Tumult is not a new concept for marginalized communities—such as Latinx, Black people, LGBTQI persons, women, Indigenous persons, and the disabled in the U.S. and throughout segments of the world but oftentimes contemporary society asks them to forgive and forget the pain, trauma, and real horrors of history for the sake of “forgiveness.” We can learn from the history of religion that the act of forgiveness is oftentimes used to propel religious and theological ideals forward but ultimately, people are told to forgive in order to move on from pain, struggle, and hurt. As religions become increasingly engaged with the problem of forgiveness, grace, and mercy, we see different traditions engage with the concept of forgiveness through artistic, ritualistic, and social actions.

The murder of George Floyd led to riots across the United States and the pain experienced both opened generational wounds of structuralized and systemic racism and oppression while we still grapple with the understanding of grace, mercy, and atonement even today. After years of workshops and Zoom webinars aimed at teaching people to be more woke, has the world forgiven and forgotten the pain inflicted by so many different sources in 2020 for the greener pastures and the hope that many experienced on January 20, 2021?

In addition, after all we have and continued to experience both politically and socially, is forgiveness possible and do some individuals even deserve it? How have grace, mercy, and atonement been understood in different religious traditions? How central are they to religious discourse? Where are the areas of overlap and particularity? Is forgetting a performative ritual or, if forgetting is a religious ritual, is it therefore a sacred act? What will we try to forget from 2020 (or before) and what must we never forget in order to keep memory alive?

John M. Erickson, Ph.D.
Vice President & Program Chair, AARWR

Business Meeting

Sunday, March 20 @ 12:45 p.m.

In preparation for next year, we will hold our annual business meeting on Sunday afternoon, from 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The virtual Zoom link will be sent in advance closer to the Conference. 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 2023 Conference.

AARWR

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Susan M Maloney, Honorary Board Member (non-voting)

Jacob Perez, Conference Manager (non-voting)

Friday, March 18

Pre-Conference

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Women's Caucus

AARWR Women in Religion Wiki Project Edit-a-thon

Join Here: <https://tulane.zoom.us/j/93829764987?pwd=QzlBdUdLbFBnK1psUEgwaDI4VTVldz09>

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 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

At this workshop, which is being held during the 2022 AARWR annual meeting on Friday, March 18, 2022 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., participants will sign up as wiki-editors, create their personal user page, learn the basics of editing, make Wiki stubs, and make their first wiki-edits. We will talk about using Wikipedia in the Classroom.

If you have time, sign up for a Wikipedia account here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:CreateAccount> (Consider concerns about anonymity when choosing a "username.")

Take a quick look at our work list and tasks for the Women in Religion Project (formerly the 1000 Women in Religion Project) here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_1000_Women_in_Religion

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!

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. AARWR Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Queer Caucus Meeting

Queer View 2022: In the Wake of Anti-Queer Legislation

This year's *Queer View* will be a gathering of solidarity, of awareness, of education, and of activism. Please join us as we discuss the most recent legislations that are happening across America stripping fundamental rights and safety of millions of LGBTQ+ members and their families. We will be holding space to process what these bills mean and how we can move forward in opposition in solidarity and strength.

Join John Erickson, Marie Cartier, and Anjeanette LeBoeuf as they provide the space and tools for us to move forward.

Queer View, as always, is free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 19

First Session (8:30 - 10:00 a.m.)

Women and Religion

Analyzing Models of Response:

Trauma and Atonement, Magical Realism, and Pedagogy for Solidarity

Moderator: Sara Frykenberg, Mount Saint Mary's University

Panelists:

Ellen Garner Steinke, Fuller Theological Seminary, "The Influence of Predominant Christian Atonement theology on Initiation and Perpetuation of Intimate Partner Violence."

James Garrison, Baldwin Wallace University, "Black Bodies That Matter: Black Girl Magical Realism."

Sarah Robinson and Theresa Yugar, Pacific Lutheran University and California State University, Los Angeles, respectively, "From the Editor's Desk to the Classroom: *Valuing Lives and Healing Earth* Amplifying Global Voices, Facilitating Scholarly Solidarity, and Fostering Student Engagement."

Islamic Studies

Egyptian Women, Harari Women, Islamist Violence, and Engaged Learning

Moderator: Dr. Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University

Panelists:

Dr. Souad T. Ali, Arizona State University, "Early Feminist and Women's Movements in Egypt."

Dr. Sophia Pandya, California State University, Long Beach "Harari Women Navigate the Sufi/Salafi Divide."

Dr. Abdullahi A. Gallab, Arizona State University, "Ali Othman M. Taha and his Islamist Advocacy of Violence."

Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, "To Teach Like a Prophet: Community Engaged Learning with a Theological Twist."

Education and Pedagogy

Embodiment, Connection and Transformation in our Pedagogies

Moderator: Peter Romaskiewicz, University of California, Santa Barbara

Panelists:

Majhabeen Dhala and Sheryl Johnson, Graduate Theological Union "Taking bell hooks on Zoom: Embodying Feminist Pedagogy in a Graduate Theological Classroom"

Sasha Eros and Sarita Tamayo-Moraga, Santa Clara University "Practicing What We Learn: Experiential Learning and Zen"

Michael Broyles, Northland Pioneer College "Religious Studies and Rural Community College Education"

Psychology, Culture, and Religion

Cognition & Culture

Moderator: Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara

Panelists:

Ryan Lemasters, Western Michigan University, "'Religion' in the Age of Cognitive Science: A Philosophical Analysis on the Cognitive Science of Religion."

Kevin Whitesides, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Boundary Objects and Cultural Attractors: The Dynamics of Shared Discourse."

Carmen Callizo-Romero, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Let the past go and look forward to the future. Youth's religiosity and temporal thought during the pandemic."

Womanist / Pan-African Studies

"Womanism & Collective Meaning-Making of Faith, Freedom Fighting, and Forgiveness"

Moderator: Erika Gault, University of Arizona

Panelists:

Ayanna Grady-Hunt, Graduate Theological Union, "The Divine Black Woman in Art and Media: An Akoben for Justice"

Annanda Barclay, Stanford Health Care Center for CPE/Stanford Memorial Church, "Wealth Versus Wealth: The Phenomena of Moral Injury in Tech"

Saturday, March 19

Keynote (10:15 - 11:00 a.m.)



Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher

“Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit: Lives of Resilience”

Karen Baker-Fletcher is the author of *Sisters of Dust, Sisters of the Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation*, (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Fortress Press, 1998), *Dancing With God: Womanist Reflections on the Trinity* (Louisville, Kentucky: Chalice Press, 2006) and several other books and articles on systematic theology, womanist theology, eco-womanist theology, African American theology, faith, and freedom. She is Professor of Systematic of Theology at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and a member of St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX.

Saturday, March 19

Second Session (11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

Womanist / Pan-African Studies

“What does It Mean to ‘Do the Work Your Soul Must Have’ in Afrofuturistic Roles and Global Context of Underdevelopment?”

Moderator: Sakena Young Scaggs, Stanford University

Panelists:

Keyona Saquile Lazenby, Graduate Theological Union, “Spiritual Liberation – The Ancient Way, and the Ways of Old”

Larry J Morris III, Christian Theological Seminary, “Keep Baby Girl Alive: A Black, Queer, Womanist-Ally Hermeneutic (Judges 11:34-40)”

Philosophy of Religion

Rhetoric, Being, Time, Rebirth and Identity

Moderator: Dane Sawyer, Ph.D.

Panelists:

Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Entertaining a Rhetorically Persuasive Philosophy of Religion”

Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne, “Deconstructing Being: Sartre’s Nothingness and Whitehead’s Perishing”

Anna M. Hennessey, Graduate Theological Union, “Cyclical Time, Rebirth and Catalan Identity in the Art of Eugènia Balcells”

Catholic Studies

Discussion with Susan Maloney: The Life and Work of Anita Caspary

Moderator: Samantha Kang, University of California, Santa Barbara

Over the past several decades, Dr. Susan Maloney has been a central figure in the study and research of the late Anita Caspary, IHM (1915-2011), the only woman in U.S. history to be the Mother General of a Catholic Order of Sisters and President of an inclusive ecumenical community. In this session, Dr. Maloney will discuss her research and provide participants ample opportunity to ask questions about the fascinating life and work of Anita Caspary.

Religion and the Social Sciences

Approaches to the Social Scientific Study of Religion

Moderator: Valentina Cantori

Panelists:

Meghan Tiller, University of Southern California, “Social Media’s Impact in Forming New Religious Movements: Deseret Nation.”

Kirk Sandvig, Ph.D., Independent Scholar, “The Power of Choice in American Religiosity.”

Kelsey Cooper, UC Santa Barbara, “Transnational Bodies: Confronting Heterosexism in Afro-Atlantic Religious Communities.”

Arnab Chakraborty, University of Southern California, “Empowering Social Selves: Making Diversity Meaningful through Everyday Interactions.”

Graduate Student Professional Development Roundtable

Reframing Graduate Student “Professional Development:” Movements Toward Equity, Social Justice, and Mercy

This roundtable seeks to reframe professional development around the graduate student's well-being and community building. How can establishing healthy boundaries foster professional growth? Who does it hinder? How can faculty support vulnerable graduate student populations that (continually) transgresses optics and performative activism? What is community building in regards to the graduate student's self-preservation and prosperity? Four panelists will lead the discussion and encourage attendees to contribute their own thoughts and questions.

Kimberly Diaz

PhD Student, Religious Studies
University of California Riverside

Kathryn Phillips

Krieger Visiting Scholar, Religious Studies
Defiance College

Danielle Dempsey

Mount Allison University

Jessica Rehman

PhD Candidate, Religious Studies
University of California Riverside

Saturday, March 19

Second Session (11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

Buddhist Studies

Buddhism and Forgiveness

Moderator: Jake Nagasawa, University of California, Santa Barbara

Panelists:

Pannarathana Gonadeniye, University of the West, "Forgiveness in Buddhism"

Srinanda Unalloye, University of the West, "Techniques for practicing forgiveness depicted in Buddhist discourses of Subduing Hatred" (Āghātavinaya Sutta)

Mu-Lung Hsu, Arizona State University, "Engaging Suffering: Free Funeral Service Societies and an Engaged Buddhist Path in Contemporary Myanmar"

Ecology and Religion

Interreligious and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate

Moderator: Matthew Hartman, Graduate Theological Union

Panelists:

Avalon Jade Theisen, Arizona State University, "Interfaith Climate Action"

Heeyoung Jung, Claremont School of Theology, "Asian Ecofeminism for their Intersectional Suffering and Reconciliation"

David Urtecho, Loyola Marymount University, "Psyche, Symbol, Ecology: Harmonizing Human-Ecological Consciousness"

Co-Sponsored Session: Queer Studies in Religion and Disabilities Studies

What Does It Truly Mean To Be An Ally

Facilitators: Anjeanette LeBoeuf, John Erickson, Elizabeth Staszak, Marie Cartier

Are you looking for ways to support the queer community? Has Covid-19 and lockdown brought up issues about accessibility and mobility? Do you want to know how to advocate for yourself and others? Are you looking to become an ally? Are you wanting to do more?

The Disabilities Studies Unit and the Queer Studies Unit are putting together a workshop to explore what it means to be an ally for communities that have largely been overlooked, ostracized, and mistreated. This workshop will focus on the rhetoric, actions, and experiences that can be helpful and harmful to both the queer community and the disabled community. We will also ask and hopefully answer questions like, "What does it mean to create a safe and inclusive space? Why does language matter?" This workshop will provide participants a quick history lesson about these groups, the struggles that have had to be fought against, and how together we are facing the current landscape.

Lunch (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

- Unit Chairs Meeting & Lunch

- Queer Caucus Lunch

Saturday, March 19

Third Session (2:15 - 3:45 p.m.)

History of Christianity

Forgiveness and Social Justice

Moderator: Chair Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University

Panelists:

Christopher Schelin, Starr King School for the Ministry, "Forgiving Trumpism in the Nondual Political Theology of Marshall Davis."

Dylan Parker, Fuller Theological Seminary, "Christian Forgiveness as a Distinct Contribution in Social Justice."

Religion and the Arts

This panel puts together graduate students in Art from the University of Nevada Las Vegas to discuss gender, religion. Using sculpture, performance and installation art Aaron Cowan looks at presentations of masculinity in dominant culture.

Video artist Keeva Danielle Lough examines the way transgender medical narratives are tied to religious dogma, and finds ways of subverting Biblical narratives through a queer gaze. Lyssa Park's large-scale fiber works and tapestries examine gendered expectations of women in Korean culture. Laurence Myers Reese explores Jewish spirituality through a transgender lens, questioning the binaries of gender that have been often tied to religion.

These artists, though different in practice and form, investigate the role of religion in the presentation of gender, identity, and spirituality.

Buddhist Studies

Buddhism, Forgiveness, and Self-Care

Moderator: Alison Jameson, University of Arizona

Panelists:

Moggallana Sraman, University of the West, "A Survey on Regeneration of Oneself and Forgiveness"

Riveraine Walters, University of the West, "Forgiveness from the Earth: A Buddhist Eco-Ministry Approach to "Non-Self Care"

Thomas Calobrisi, Institute of Buddhist Studies "American Karma: Mindfulness, Dharma, and Social Justice in the Writings of Jon Kabat-Zinn"

Ethics

Religion and Justice: Ethical Perspectives on Forgiveness, Tolerance, and Liberation

Moderator: Mahjabeen Dhala and Sheryl Johnson

Panelists:

Aaron Grizzell, Graduate Theological Union, "Mothering in Liberation Movements."

Leocadie Lushombo, I. T., Jesuit School of Theology, "The Challenges of Forgiveness and Reconciliation: How Grace Restores When Religion Annihilates."

Dane Sawyer, University of La Verne, "Guilty Innocent: Sartre and Derrida on Innocence and Guilt."

Ha Yeon Shin, University of Arizona, "The Paradox of Apostasy in Shusaku Endo's Silence: A Road to Tolerance through the lens of Rodrigues and Kichijiro."

Jaeha Woo, Claremont School of Theology, "A Liberationist Interpretation of Vicarious Atonement."

Goddess Studies

The Feminine Divine, Images of the Maternal, and Goddess Worship Across Culture and Time

Moderator: Anna Hennessey, Graduate Theological Union

Panelists:

Deidre Nicole Green, Utah Valley University, "Reconciling with Finitude"

Galen Gorelangton, University of Nevada, Reno, "Kannon and Amida as Feminine Divine / Exploring a Posthumanist Ethics of Care"

Dilsa Deniz, Harvard Divinity School, "The Shaymaran: Introduction of the Lost Goddess of Kurdistan"

Angela Dane, Meridian University, "The Final Girl in Horror Films: Reclamation of the Dark Goddess"

Saturday, March 19

Fourth Session (4:00 - 5:30 p.m.)

Asian American Studies

Buddhism in the East and West: Healing, Forgiveness, and Cyber-sanghas

Moderator: Albert Shannon G. Toribio, UC Santa Barbara

Panelists:

Elaine Lai & Chenxing Han, "Reconciliation, Refuge, Regeneration: Weavings from Buddhist Asian America"

Ramesha Jayaneththi, PhD, Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany, "Concept of Forgiveness in Buddhism and its practice in Asian societies"

Xiao HAN, University of Quebec in Montreal "Virtual Karma, Cyber-sanga: Mapping out Digital Chinese Diasporic Buddhists in Montreal during the Pandemic"

Pagan Studies

Visions of Inspiration and Creativity

Moderator: Jeffrey Albaugh

Panelists:

Jeffrey Albaugh, "The Conflict Between: Contemporary Pagans, Divine Inspiration, and Participation in Late-Stage Capitalism"

Dr. Dorothea Kahena Viale, "The Role of Storytelling and Dance in creating Pagan Culture"

Coffee and Business Card Exchange

Facilitator: Anna Hennessey, Graduate Theological Union

Grab a cup of coffee and join Anna Hennessey, AARWR's 2021-2022 Past President, for a business card exchange! This is a fun networking opportunity during which we will swap research backgrounds and contact information. Scholars and students will have the possibility of meeting others in their fields or who share similar interests. We look forward to seeing you!

Saturday, March 19

Evening Session (5:45 - 6:45 p.m.)

5:45 - 6:45 p.m.

Virtual Reception & Paper Award Presentation

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Presidential Address, Emily L. Silverman, Ph.D.

Presidential Address

Kohenet, Dr. Emily L. Silverman



From Resilience to Reclaiming

This talk will explore my journey working on the theology for spiritual resistance and resilience of Jewish women of the Holocaust to becoming an ordained Kohenet Hebrew Priestess, an embodied spiritual leader. My scholarly work sheds light on what we can learn about resilience in these uncertain times, including our present collective angst related to war in Ukraine. I will be retrieving, reclaiming, and rebirthing subjugated teachings, which can be helpful to many of us.

Kohenet Dr. Emily Leah Silverman has been a visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and a lecturer at San Jose State University. She is a sought after speaker on the Feminist Theology of Spiritual Resistance and has spoken at a number of universities including Florida International University, Pepperdine University, and Assumption University. Her books include *Edith Stein and Regina Jonas: Religious Visionaries in the Death Camps* (Routledge). She organized and co-edited *Voices of Feminist Liberation: Writing in Celebration of Rosemary Radford Ruether* (Routledge).

Silverman has authored a number of articles on Edith Stein and Rabbi Regina Jonas, the first ordained Woman Rabbi, as well as on the topic of Kohenet (Hebrew Priestess). She is an ordained Kohenet (Hebrew Priestess) and has received ordination from the Hebrew Priestess Institute.

Presently, she is working on a co-edited book on Subjugated Voices and Religion (Equinox) and is researching the connection between women, political ideologies, and survival during war. She is examining her own family story of holocaust survivors in a new research book project called "The Four Tannenbaum Sisters of Czernovitz Bukovina: The Monarchist, The Communist, The Humanist, and The Zionist." On a personal note, Silverman's father was born in Zastavna, Bukovina which is now in Western Ukraine. He was delivered by an Ukrainian midwife.

Silverman was also past President of the AARWR (2015-16) and Unit Founder and Past Chair of AARWR Jewish Studies Unit (2007-13).

Sunday, March 20

Morning Session (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Women's Caucus

First Session (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.)

Jewish Studies

Intersecting Cultures: Jewish-Christian-Roman

Moderator: Alexander Marcus, Yale University

Panelists:

Ken L. Hanson, University of Central Florida, "The Woman Caught in Adultery in Luke and John"

Zev Garber, Los Angeles Valley College, "Effects of Forgiveness for Supersessionism: Formatting Both Sides"

Rabbi Daniel Z. Stein, Graduate Theological Seminary, "Redemptive Mourning: The Sages' Seder at Bnei Brak and the Productive Act of Memory"

Religion in America

Religious Meanings and Sociopolitical Realities

Moderator: Josiah Baker, Fuller Theological Seminary

Panelists:

Heather Wetherholt, Arizona State University, Punk Rock Jesus - The Social Justice Savior for the Unaffiliated

Kirk Sandvig, Chapman University, "The Power of Choice in American Religiosity"

Shelby King, University of California, Santa Barbara, "The Pentagon Papers and the Totemic Power of the TOP-SECRET"

Coffee and Business Card Exchange

Facilitator: Anna Hennessey, Graduate Theological Union

Grab a cup of coffee and join Anna Hennessey, AARWR's 2021-2022 Past President, for a business card exchange! This is a fun networking opportunity during which we will swap research backgrounds and contact information. Scholars and students will have the possibility of meeting others in their fields or who share similar interests. We look forward to seeing you!

Co-Sponsored Session: Religion and Arts & Jewish Studies

Slavery and Shoah: Exploring the role of memory and the arts as a tool for conversations about forgiveness

Roundtable Co-chairs: Tamisha Tyler and Roberta Sabbath

Through two dance performances, representing the African American and Jewish communities respectively, we are able to ask questions on how the arts can facilitate spaces of remembrance, contemplation, and questions regarding the contexts and actions surrounding the idea of forgiveness. How has the idea around the action of forgiveness played out for survivors of Holocaust or Shoah and peoples under enslavement? As the role of forgiveness in each of these events are complex, how do we understand the role of the arts to help us navigate these liminal spaces? As a roundtable, guests will have access to a curated page of art and other short thought pieces centered around these two performances. By opening access to these works ahead of the conversation, guests are able to have the opportunity to engage and offer rich insights based on the act of performance and curation. As a roundtable, this session will not serve as a traditional presentation format but will be based on the level of the participation of those in attendance. The roundtable will feature guests from each of the units, in conversation with the UNLV artists, (who are both UNLV faculty). Guests will have the opportunity to join into the conversation.

Panelists:

OFF THE CHAIN: PARTS I AND II

Vikki Baltimore-Dale: Choreographer and Director

SHOAH SURVIVOR PROJECT

Cathy Allen: Choreographer and Director

Shahab Zargari: Filmmaker

Shoah Survivor Project:

https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/english_fac_articles/239/

Off the Chain: Part I and II

https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/dance_fac_articles/2/

https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/dance_fac_articles/3/

Sunday, March 20

First Session (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.)

Psychology, Culture & Religion

Psychology & Religion

Moderator: Kevin Whitesides

Panelists:

Gabe Veas, The Los Angeles School of Mentorship, “The Fight for Equality & the Psychology of Anger: The Intersection of Hashtags, Politics, & Religion”

Alexandr Zamuşinski, University of California, Riverside, “Religious Leaders with No Faith: how The Clergy Project participants handle their apostasy in relation to their parents”

Thomas Davis, California State University, San Bernardino, “The Catholic Psychoanalytic Theology of the American Social Work Profession”

Sunday, March 20

Second Session (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Queer Studies in Religion

Saving Grace: COVID-19, Satanism, and Religious Community

Moderator: John M. Erickson, Ph.D.

Panelists:

J. Selke, University of California, Riverside, "The Devil Will Save You from Poverty and the Coronavirus: Father Graham's Satanic Faith Healing and Prosperity Gospel as Christian Inversion"

Buddhist Studies

Buddhist Virtues Across Time and Space

Moderator: Alina Pokhrel, University of California, Riverside

Panelists:

Vaishali Gaidhani, University of the West, "Understanding the concept of 'khanti' = patience by comparing the two Jataka stories 'khanti-vādi Jātaka' and 'Sarabhangā Jātaka' with reference to the Pali texts"

Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Ethical Permanence in Impermanent Ontologies"

Lu Zhang, University of Arizona, "Interpretation and Misinterpretation, Converting Taoist Patriarch Zhang Boduan in the Chan Historiography"

Xiao Han, University of Quebec in Montreal, "Virtual Karma, Cyber-sangha: Mapping out Digital Chinese diasporic Buddhists in Montreal during the Pandemic"

Religions of Asia

Moderator: Adam Tyson, University of California, Riverside

Respondent: Nancy Martin, Chapman University

Panelists:

Eileen Lucille Goddard, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Self-Formation, Selflessness and Humility in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism"

Leena Taneja, Zayed University, "The Theology of Grace in the Bhakti Vaishnava Tradition"

Elizabeth Miller, University of California, Riverside, "Real Presence: Machik Labdrön and Ecologies of Media"

Sikh Studies

Exploring Sikh Activism: Justice, Mercy, and Solidarity

Moderator: Tejpal Singh Bainiwal, UC Riverside

Panelists:

Jasmine Kaur, "Forgiving the Unforgettable"

Simran Kaur-Colbert and Navkiran Chima, "bakhshis & Sikh Womanist Activism in American Higher Education"

Ecology and Religion

Mythology and Ritual in Faith and Place-Based Traditions

Moderator: Charles Forbes, California Institute for Integral Studies

Panelists:

Jonathan Anderegg, Oregon State University, "Remembrance over Reconciliation: Questioning the Responsibility to Forgive after Ecological Tragedy"

Dilsa Deniz, Harvard Divinity School, "Reya Heqi (Kurdish Alevism) and the Nature: An Interconnected Relationship Based on Respect"

Jessica Beaudette, Arizona State University, "Maasi Lion Warriors: Integrating Ritual into Wildlife Restoration Programs"

Jewish Studies Session

Culture in Motion: Experience and Performance in Contemporary Jewish Life

Moderator:

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Lawrence Reese, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, "Made in the Image of...: 'Transgender Jewish Art'"

Elizabeth Tauba Ingenthron, Graduate Theological Union, "To Forgive or to Understand: Emma Goldman's Anarchic Teaching for Today"

Sunday, March 20

Lunch (12:30 - 2:00 p.m.)

12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

All members of the AARWR are welcome to attend

Third Session (2:15 - 3:45 p.m.)

Religion, Literature, and Film

Exploring the Role of Ritual in Fostering Healing, Reconciliation, and Community Resilience.

Moderator: Chantal Noa Forbes

Panelists:

Chantal Noa Forbes, Ph.D., Randolph-Macon College, "Forests and Priests, a story of land-based reconciliation between humans and trees in Ethiopia"

Elaine Lai co-presenting with Cahron Cross, Stanford University, "Collectively Reimagining the Awakening Narrative, from the Buddhist Community at Stanford (BCAS)"

(Rabbi) Daniel Ross Goodman, Ph.D., "Universität Salzburg, Ritual as a facilitator for action and communal cohesiveness in literature and film"

Religion, Science, and Technology

Patterns of Knowing in Global Societies

Moderator: Greg Cootsona, California State University, Chico

Panelists:

Viktor J. Tóth, Fuller Theological Seminary, "The Final Ethical Thing to Do"

Jason S. Sexton, UCLA, "Sustainable Cities: Seeking Common Ground Between Theology and Science for Just Transitions"

Latinx Religions & Spiritualities

Moderator: Jacob Perez, AARWR Conference Manager

Jon Garcia, University of Southern California, "There Will Be Blood: Hispano Ritual and Atonement in 1800s New Mexico"

Disabilities Studies

The Power of Language, Narratives, and Policy within Religious and Disabled Communities

Moderator: Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Saint Louis University

Respondent: Elizabeth Staszak

Panelists:

Galen Gorelangton, University of Nevada, Reno, "Theological Ableism: Rhetorical Tropes of Disability and Evil"

Sophia Fowler Gallaudet by Marissa Hull, UC Riverside, "She Shone Brightest as a Mother": A Counter Biography of the "Mother of the American Deaf"

Philip Deslippe, UCSB, "Defective Heathens in the Land: Asian Religions, Disability, and Immigration in the US"

History of Christianity

Forgiveness: A Theological Reflection

Moderator: Chair Dyron Daugherty, Pepperdine University

Panelists:

Jaeha Woo, Claremont School of Theology, "God Who Asks for Our Forgiveness."

James Berry, Claremont Graduate University, "Salvation and Blood-Stained Bibles: Christian Forgiveness in the Face of Atrocity."

Jae Yang, Fuller Theological Seminary, "Pannenberg, Mimesis, and the Subversion of Violence."

Joey Alan Le, Regent University, "Beauty and Dignity: The Means and End of Forgiveness."

Cassandra Swick, Arizona State University, "A Kierkegaardian Model of Christian self-forgiveness."

Sunday, March 20

Third Session (2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.)

Jewish Studies

Iterations of Forgiveness through a Jewish Lens

Moderator: Alexander Warren Marcus

Panelists:

Sophia Avants, Independent Scholar, "Never Forget: Reading Rabbinic Ritual Purity through Bourdieu's habitus"

Harel Newman, The Johns Hopkins University, "Forgiveness when sincerity is not enough: Jankélévitch, Derrida, Cavell, Sontag"

Samantha L C Kang, UC Santa Barbara, "'Forgiveness forgives because it forgives...': Jankélévitch on Grace"

Clément Labi, University of Luxembourg, "Forgiveness and Laughter in Freud and Levinas"

Goddess Studies Workshop

Website Creation and Virtual Goddesses for the American Academy of Religion, Western Region

Workshop Organizers:

Angela Dane, PhD, Meridian University

Anna Hennessey, PhD, Graduate Theological Union

This is a hands-on workshop during which time participants will not only discuss and brainstorm how the American Academy of Religion, Western Region's Goddess Studies unit can create a website for the unit but will actually work together to develop the site in real time.

Dr. Angela Dane, longtime Goddess Studies unit co-chair, has previously worked on the creation of a website for the unit and would like to see the project come to fruition. In addition to her academic work, Dr. Dane is a professional drummer for Atrocity Girl, an all-female hard rock band in Seattle, as well as owner of Atrocity Drums, a company devoted to empowering girls and womxn through the teaching of drumming skills. Dr. Dane's creativity and talent support the unit's goal of creating a powerful website that will showcase scholarly and artistic work devoted to Goddess Studies.

Dr. Anna Hennessey has written extensively on the importance of goddess representations and the feminine divine for women, including in her 2018 book, *Imagery, Ritual, and Birth*. In addition to her academic work, Dr. Hennessey is the founder and creator of visualizingbirth.org, and the co-founder of the San Francisco Birth Circle (sfbirthcircle.com), both of which utilize goddess imagery to empower women and families during pregnancy and birth.