

**SECSOR Call for Papers**  
**2020 Annual Meeting**  
**University of Georgia**  
**Athens, GA**  
**February 28-March 1, 2020**

**CONFERENCE THEME: “Rapid Religious Cultural Change”**

(“Why do religious beliefs at times change very quickly and what kinds of societal impacts do these changes have?”)

<https://secsor.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SECSOR-2020-Theme.docx>

**Please submit all paper proposals through the “SECSOR 2020 Annual Meeting Proposal Form” available at [www.secsor.org](http://www.secsor.org). Each member is limited to one proposal, although a member can indicate a second choice of sections on the submission form.** Presenters are responsible for copying any handouts. All program participants must pre-register for the meeting.

**Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2019**

**AAR and SBL Graduate Student Research Award Paper Submissions**

Graduate students in the Southeast Region whose proposals are accepted for the program are invited to submit completed papers to be considered for the AAR or the SBL Graduate Student Research Award. Papers dedicated to the conference theme are encouraged but not mandatory. Completed papers should reflect original student research and be an appropriate length for presentation (approximately 12 double-spaced pages, standard font). No paper over 14 double-spaced pages will be considered; one submission per student. On a cover page, please include your contact information and whether you are submitting for the AAR or the SBL award. Completed papers are to be emailed to Anne Blue Wills ([anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu)) no later than January 15. Questions may be directed to Anne Blue Wills ([anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu)).

**Undergraduate Research Paper Submissions**

Students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by SECSOR. Open to all topics, the sessions will be composed of the papers considered the best submissions by an interdisciplinary committee. Students should submit completed papers that reflect original student research of an appropriate length for presentation (approximately 12 double-spaced pages). No paper over 14 double-spaced pages, regular size font, will be considered; one submission per student. On a cover page, please include contact information for the student and for the faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Papers in Word or PDF format are to be emailed to [secsor.undergraduate.section@gmail.com](mailto:secsor.undergraduate.section@gmail.com) no later than December 15. All undergraduate papers are automatically considered for the Undergraduate Paper Prize. Questions may be directed to Steven A. Benko ([benkos@meredith.edu](mailto:benkos@meredith.edu)).

## **SBL Regional Scholar Award**

SBL members presenting to one of the SBL sections who have defended their dissertation between March 2016 and March 2020 are encouraged to apply to be considered for the SBL Regional Scholar Award (<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regionalscholars.aspx>). For more information on the requirements for consideration, please contact Annie Tinsley: ([annietinsley14@gmail.com](mailto:annietinsley14@gmail.com)).

### **AAR: Bible and Modern Culture**

Bible & Modern Culture I welcomes papers related to “Religion, Evolution, and Science in the Classroom” and especially solicits any presentations related but not limited to the 1925 Scopes “Monkey Trial” held in Dayton, Tennessee (Tennessee v. Scopes)

Bible & Modern Culture II is an Open Call session, but will focus particularly and broadly on the theme of “The Bible and Cultural Change.” Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For questions, contact Brian Mooney ([brian.mooney@jwu.edu](mailto:brian.mooney@jwu.edu)) or Sam Murrell ([murrells@uncw.edu](mailto:murrells@uncw.edu)).

### **AAR: Black Cultures in the Study of Religion**

In light of this year’s theme, “Rapid Religious Cultural Change,” the Black Cultures and the Study of Religions group is calling for papers related to black religion, digital media, and social change. Papers might consider how past and current trends in the use of digital media have influenced the cultural production, circulation, and consumption of black religion. Papers might also consider how the use of various forms of digital and social media have forced a reckoning with a range of socio-political issues and done so along intersecting axes of race, gender, sexuality, ability, age etc. within black religious communities. How has the idea of the ‘religious message’ been impacted by the immediacy of digital medium from televangelism, religious websites, hashtag activism, online faith communities, web-based radicalization, to religious marketing campaigns and ads? Or, how has the consumption of digital media, broadly, impacted how individuals engage religious space? Additionally, submission might consider how technology inspires and at times facilitates the rapid dissemination of religious culture as it has been observed with Santería in the Americas, televangelism in Jamaica and Africa, islamisation in Africa and Europe, and historically with the spread of black religious protest via radio and print media (maybe this last one works). Papers should also be open to how artists, activists, and everyday folks – especially those outside of positions of religious authority – have used digital media to explore, construct, create or articulate alternative perspectives and practices of black religion. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For questions, contact Michael Brandon McCormack ([b.mccormack@louisville.edu](mailto:b.mccormack@louisville.edu)) and Timothy Rainey II ([timothy.rainey.ii@emory.edu](mailto:timothy.rainey.ii@emory.edu)).

### **AAR: Constructive Theologies**

The Constructive Theologies section invites proposals for papers in the following areas.

1. Constructive theological discussions that deal with the conference theme of rapid religious cultural change. Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, theological accounts of social and cultural transformation, themes of interruption, disruption, promise, and hope in modern and postmodern theology, theological interpretations of secularization, and theological responses to Rod Dreher's *The Benedict Option* (2017).

2. Open call for papers in constructive theology.

Constructive Theologies also invites proposals for the following co-sponsored session:

3. A joint session between *Constructive Theologies*, *Philosophy of Religion*, and *Women, Gender and Religion* dealing with race, sex and radical change. For this session, we encourage papers that consider the topic from a variety of approaches and perspectives. Our aim is to bring together scholars from diverse backgrounds to engage in a multidisciplinary conversation.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Questions may be directed to Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College ([icurran@ggc.edu](mailto:icurran@ggc.edu)) or Jason Smith, Belmont University ([jason.m.smith521@gmail.com](mailto:jason.m.smith521@gmail.com)). For the joint session with Philosophy of Religion, and Women, Gender and Religion, questions may also go to Wesley N. Barker ([barker\\_wn@mercer.edu](mailto:barker_wn@mercer.edu)); Dawson, Steve ([dawson.s@lynchburg.edu](mailto:dawson.s@lynchburg.edu)); and Laine Christine Walters Young ([laine.c.walters.young@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laine.c.walters.young@vanderbilt.edu)).

### **AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society**

Ethics, Religion, and Society (2 sessions) Themes: Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) Disability/chronic illness, ethics, religion, and rapid transformation; (2) Religious pluralism/inter-religious dialogue, ethics, and rapid transformation. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Direct any questions to Sally Holt, Belmont University ([sally.holt@belmont.edu](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu)) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College ([mstoltzfus@ggc.edu](mailto:mstoltzfus@ggc.edu)).

### **AAR: History of Christianity**

Proposals for papers or complete panels are invited on the following topics: 1) Reacting, Refracting: Eschatological, Apocalyptic, or Millennial Christianities in Response to Change; 2) Christianity and Technology, including but not limited to media technology, technology of the self, and technology studies (co-sponsored with Religion, Culture, and the Arts); 3) Why Teach and/or Study the History of Christianity in an era of rapid religious change? In the current educational context, students have little personal exposure to religious traditions, but are preparing to enter a religiously pluralistic world that is sometimes roiled by conflicts rooted in religious difference. What topics and/or controversies do faculty highlight in their teaching that engage students' critical skills? How do faculty prepare students to interpret religious commitment deftly and empathetically?; and 4) open call. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Questions should be directed to Section Co-Chairs Anne Blue Wills [anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu) and Douglas Clark [douglas.h.clark@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:douglas.h.clark@vanderbilt.edu).

(An additional session will feature a Readers' Review with Rebecca Falcasantos [Florida State University] and pre-arranged panelists. Professor Falcasantos's book on changes in public ritual life in late antique Constantinople will be published in early 2020. Panelists will offer their comments on the book, and Professor Falcasantos will respond. Session will include time for audience Q & A.)

**AAR: Islam**

All papers related to Islam will be considered. Special consideration will be given to proposals that critically explore this year's theme 'religion as rapid change' broadly conceived. This section also invites submissions that consider the intersections between religion and political change, revolution, and turbulence, as one definition of rapid change. How is religion employed, appropriated and re-appropriated to call for political change in the Muslim world and beyond? When does religion become a catalyst which agitates for political change and when does it entrench existing power structures? We also invite submissions that look at Islam and the digital age as another definition of rapid change – rise of Shiism, Salafism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, or rise of Sufi orders both in the global north and south. Additionally, the Islam section invites papers that address questions related to Islam and power, resistance, and dominance as yet another definition of rapid change while maintaining a focus on the theoretical framework of postcolonialism and decoloniality. Proposals may focus on any theory, practice, institution, region, text, or any time period. Papers with an interdisciplinary approach are encouraged. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For questions, contact Roshan Iqbal (riqbal@agnesscott.edu) or Hadia Mubarak (Mubarak.hadia@gmail.com).

**AAR: Judaism**

The Judaism section welcomes proposals to any one of our three sessions in the following areas: (1) Second Temple Judaism: Open Call; (2) Judaism in Late Antiquity: Open Call; (3) Contemporary Judaism: Open Call. We will consider proposals from a wide range of methodological approaches but will give preference to essays engaging the topic of religious change and its connection to sudden cultural innovations throughout society. Themes could include but are not limited to: rapid religious changes that have supported/resisted political shifts; the influence of theology/social innovations on rapid religious cultural change; rapid religious change attending new beginnings or abrupt endings that come about in social life. Essays may approach this topic by way of historical case studies, literary criticism, history of scholarship, comparison, social theory, or any other appropriate avenues. Please submit proposals for 20 minute papers. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Please contact Dr. Amanda Walls (ansmith@uga.edu) and/or Giancarlo Angulo (gangulo@fsu.edu) with any questions.

**AAR: Method & Theory in the Study of Religion**

The Method & Theory section invites proposals for two open sessions—submissions must concern either (i) a methodological issue (i.e., problem or proposal) in the history of the field or in current scholarly work in the study of religion or (ii) examine a topic of theoretical interest or importance, whether understanding theory as critique (as in literary theory or critical theory) or an explanatory framework aiming to identify religion's causes or function. Book review panels (i.e., author meets critics), focusing on current work that examines either (i) or (ii) above, are also possible. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Questions can be sent to Vaia Touna, University of Alabama (vaia.touna@ua.edu).

### **AAR: Philosophy of Religion**

In keeping with the conference theme, the Philosophy of Religion section welcomes paper submissions that engage the conference theme of **Rapid Religious Cultural Change**, especially those that engage the theme in relation to the following topics. 1. **Negotiating Normative Discourse and Radical Change**. 2. **Contemplative Practices as Inquiry: Eastern Resources in American Contexts**. This is a joint session with the Religions of Asia and Religions in America sections. Presenters might consider issues such as: philosophical inquiry as contemplative practice, the transmission of Asian contemplative practices to the West as spiritual innovation, and/or the transmission of Asian contemplative practices to the West as cultural appropriation and commodification. Papers focused on contexts in the southeast US are especially welcome. 3. **Sex, Race, and Radical Change**. This is a joint session with the Constructive Theology and Women, Gender, and Religion sections. For this session, we encourage papers that consider the topic from a variety of approaches and perspectives. Our aim is to bring together scholars from diverse backgrounds to engage in a multidisciplinary conversation. 4. **Open call**. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For questions, contact **Wesley Barker** ([barker\\_wn@mercer.edu](mailto:barker_wn@mercer.edu)) or **Stephen Dawson** ([dawson.s@lynchburg.edu](mailto:dawson.s@lynchburg.edu)).

### **AAR: Religion & Environmental Justice (Previously Religion & Ecology)**

We are excited to receive proposals to present a range of research on topics related to Religion and Environmental Justice. All topics will be considered, particularly those addressing the following themes:

#### 1) Rapid Religious and Environmental Change

With our conference theme of Rapid Religious Change, we invite proposals that examine periods of dramatic religious innovation in response to environmental change. In recent American experience, three such periods come to mind: 1) Native American religious transformations (e.g. the ghost dance resistance movement) in response to forced removal from the land, and environmental change brought about through the colonization of the West; 2) Religious transformations in the 1960s/1970s in response to an awakening of ecological consciousness involving new religious movements, Eastern religious influences, black power, feminism of various currents, back to the land, communes, earth day and ecological movements, revolutionary politics, psychedelic culture and hippies, 3) Contemporary Ecological Resistance Movements drawing on indigenous relationships to the earth, as well as Deep Green ecological value systems that respond to both localized assaults on the environment by commercial and political entities, and to the mounting evidence of imminent life system collapse (e.g. the precipitous decline in insect populations; desertification, rapidly melting ice and warming oceans; the plastification of the world's waterways and our bodies as microplastics saturate every tropic level of life; the environmental impact of human-sourced disasters such as oil spills and nuclear plant meltdowns).

We welcome proposals that examine these and other instances (historical, contemporary, international) of religious change in response to rapid ecosystem deterioration. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Submissions should indicate Religion and Environmental Justice. Please send questions to Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)), and Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu)).

## 2) Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice Pedagogy

For a joint session with Teaching & Learning Religion, we invite proposals that explore the theoretical, methodological, ethical, and socio-political dimensions of teaching about religion and environmental justice. What are the curricular and possibly extra-curricular purposes of such courses? How are the concepts of environmental justice, religion and the relationship between the two theorized and presented to students? How are environmental justice courses related to environmental justice activism, organizing, and movements? What teaching methods and assignments are most productive in terms of achieving the learning goals for environmental justice courses? What role might service learning and community-based research play in this regard? What other kinds of assignments are most helpful? Should and by what means can environmental justice courses help to bridge the gap between university education and public discussions about environmental issues and societal efforts to advance policies that replenish ecosystems? We invite scholars, activists and scholar-activists to submit proposals to present their ideas about environmental justice pedagogy as a socially embedded educational practice.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Submissions should indicate joint session with Teaching & Learning Religion. Please send questions to Jodie Lyon ([lyon@uga.edu](mailto:lyon@uga.edu)), Carole Barnsley ([cbarnsley@transy.edu](mailto:cbarnsley@transy.edu)), Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu)), and Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)).

## 3) Mediated Environments

Co-sponsored with Religion, Culture, and the Arts, we invite proposals related to religion and the mediation of environment, including, but not limited to, the experience of nature mediated by technologies (media technology, technology of the self, etc); ways in which religion may serve as a mediator of environment or environment may serve as a mediator of religion; and pop culture representations of nature/the environment (e.g. popular films, music, new television streaming series). Assuming that there is no such thing as an “unmediated” or “immediate” relationship to the world, proposals which probe different types of mediation, how we distinguish those types from one another, and how they shape our social, policy, and practical relationships to the natural world are welcome.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Submissions should indicate joint session with Religion, Culture, and the Arts. Please send questions to Meredith Ross ([mr09@my.fsu.edu](mailto:mr09@my.fsu.edu)), Timothy Burnside ([tb14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tb14e@my.fsu.edu)), Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu)) and Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)).

## 4) Race and Resistance to Eco-Social Catastrophe

For a joint session with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion, we invite proposals under the title “Race and Resistance to Eco-Social Catastrophe.” The aim of this session is to bring together scholars and community organizers to explore efforts to contest racial oppression, economic impoverishment, and environmental degradation. We invite proposals that explore how racism and religion provide justification for the harm done to communities of color by eco-social catastrophes, including major environmental events. Consider, for example, Pat Robertson’s claim that the 2010 earthquake in Haiti resulted from revolutionaries making a “pact to the devil,” as well as ruinous social and environmental conditions resulting from economic practices and government policies. We welcome proposals focused on the role religious organizations are playing in efforts to educate, organize, and mobilize communities to fight against eco-social injustices. How do the practices of racialization, as theorized, for example, by Barbara

Fields and Karen Fields in *Racecraft*, operate to naturalize and justify eco-social catastrophes? What role do religious ideas play in this regard? Do they naturalize and/or sacralize eco-social degradation, for example, by affirming that global warming is a natural and/or divinely sanctioned phenomenon? Or do they challenge the social, economic, and political agents, ideas, and institutions—the anthropogenic causes—responsible for eco-social injustices? What role do prophetic religious traditions, African Diaspora practices, and indigenous ways of knowing play in this regard? What resources are there within and beyond religious traditions to develop an eco-justice spiritual practice? How might academics and organizers work more closely together? We are especially interested in proposals that examine specific examples of the above from the greater southeast region and to bring together scholars, activists, and the public to learn from each other and explore the possibilities for building a broader movement for eco-social justice.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Submissions should indicate joint session with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion. Please send questions to Michael Brandon McCormack ([b.mccormack@louisville.edu](mailto:b.mccormack@louisville.edu)), Timothy Rainey II ([timothy.rainey.ii@emory.edu](mailto:timothy.rainey.ii@emory.edu)), Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu)), and Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)).

### **AAR: Religions of Asia**

1. In conjunction with the 2020 theme, “Rapid Religious Cultural Change” we solicit proposals on how change and adaptation occurs in Asian religious communities, practices, and performances.
2. We especially welcome panel proposals from graduate seminars covering the religions of Asia. Graduate students would be grouped together to present papers in reflection of a shared or similar seminar topic.
3. Contemplative Practices as Inquiry: Eastern Resources in American Contexts. This is a joint session with the *Religions of Asia* and *Religions in America* sections. Presenters might consider issues such as: philosophical inquiry as contemplative practice, the transmission of Asian contemplative practices to the West as spiritual innovation, and/or the transmission of Asian contemplative practices to the West as cultural appropriation and commodification (e.g., yoga and/or mindfulness). Papers focused on contexts in the southeast US are especially welcome.
4. Open call. We welcome proposals that focus on any religious tradition that is practiced in Asian contexts, including, but not limited to: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and other indigenous religions of Asia.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. If you have questions regarding the Religions of Asia section, please contact Lisa Battaglia, Samford University ([lbattagl@samford.edu](mailto:lbattagl@samford.edu)) and Kendall Marchman, University of Georgia ([kendallmarchman@uga.edu](mailto:kendallmarchman@uga.edu)). Please direct questions regarding Religion and Philosophy to Steve Dawson, University of Lynchburg ([dawson.s@lynchburg.edu](mailto:dawson.s@lynchburg.edu)).

### **AAR: Religion Culture & the Arts**

All papers related to Religion, Culture, and the Arts will be considered. Special consideration will be given to papers or panels related to the following themes: (1) Religion and new media; (2) Religion and performances and/or representations of sexualities; (3) Arts and literature of Georgia and/or the South. (4) Co-sponsored with the History of Christianity section, Religion, Culture, and the Arts calls for proposals

related to Christianity and technology, including, but not limited to, media technology, technology of the self, and technology studies. (5) Co-sponsored with the Religion and Ecology section, Religion, Culture, and the Arts calls for proposals related to religion and the mediation of environment, including, but not limited to, the experience of nature mediated by technologies (media technology, technology of the self, etc); ways in which religion may serve as a mediator of environment or environment may serve as a mediator of religion; and pop culture representations of nature/the environment. Assuming that there is no such thing as an “unmediated” or “immediate” relationship to the world, proposals which probe different types of mediation, how we distinguish those types from one another, and how they shape societal thinking, public policy, and everyday interactions with the natural world are most welcome. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://seccor.org/>. For questions, contact Meredith Ross (mr09@my.fsu.edu) or Tim Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu).

### **AAR: Religions in America**

Papers in all areas related to Religions in America will be considered, however special consideration will be given to the following themes: (1) Religion and the southeast, particularly pertaining to the conference theme surrounding rapid change over time; (2) Religion, the State, and surveillance; (3) Papers that engage with Melissa Wilcox’s idea of “religionfuck” as outlined in *Queer Nuns: Religious Activism and Serious Parody* to question assumptions about religion in the United States; (4) In a joint session with the Religions of Asia and Religions in America sections. Presenters might consider issues such as philosophical inquiry as contemplative practice and the transmission of Asian contemplative practices to the West as spiritual innovation. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://seccor.org/>. For questions, contact Jamil Drake (jdrake@fsu.edu), Andy McKee (am13ag@my.fsu.edu), or Haley Iliff (hi12@my.fsu.edu).

### **AAR: Secularism, Religious Freedom & Global Politics**

Proposals from any disciplinary or methodological perspective on topics related to secularism, religious freedom, and global politics are welcome. We are especially interested in proposals related to (1) the relationship between secularism and the conference theme of religious change; (2) the relationship between secularism and masculinity; (3) the rhetoric of "civilization" within discussions of religious freedom and secularism; (4) the rhetoric of religious freedom within populist movements; (5) secular discourses of civility and offense. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://seccor.org/>. For questions contact Finbarr Curtis (fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu) or Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

### **AAR: Teaching & Learning in Religion**

The Teaching and Learning Religion section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. For the 2020 meeting, we are seeking the following:

(1) In keeping with the theme of rapid religious change for the 2020 meeting, we invite proposals for a panel discussion on teaching religion to “religious nones.” What are the pedagogical challenges and opportunities involved with teaching an increasing number of students who identify as non-religious?

(2) For a joint session with Religion & Ecology, we invite proposals on "The Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice Pedagogy." We welcome proposals that explore the theoretical, methodological,



ethical, and socio-political dimensions of teaching about religion and environmental justice. What are the curricular and possibly extra-curricular purposes of such courses? How are the concepts of environmental justice, religion and the relationship between the two theorized and presented to students? How are environmental justice courses related to environmental justice activism, organizing, and movements? What teaching methods and assignments are most productive in terms of achieving the learning goals for a course? What role might service learning and community-based research play in this regard? What other kinds of assignments are most helpful? To what extent should and by what means can environmental justice courses help to bridge the gap between university education and public discussions about environmental issues or between societal efforts to articulate and implement policies and practices that replenish ecosystems? We invite scholars, activists and scholar-activists to submit proposals to present their ideas about environmental justice pedagogy as a socially embedded educational practice.

(3) For a roundtable discussion we propose the topic of “Teaching in the Age of Trump.” Up to 10 participants are invited to apply to engage in a roundtable discussion of ideas for engaging a wide variety of students (across the political spectrum, religious to not religious, Christian or not, different racial backgrounds etc). Participants should apply and plan to bring one or more of the following to discuss: a syllabus, an in class exercise, an at home assignment, or a pedagogical philosophy for teaching. The roundtable is intended to be hands on with respect to sharing ideas about teaching difficult themes. Applications should be abstract length giving some indication of the course from which the work comes from.

(4) Finally, as an open call, we invite submissions for both individual papers and multiple-person sessions or panels. We value explanations and analysis of innovative teaching activities, critical reflection on successes and failures in the classroom, and research related to pedagogy and religion. Graduate students, as well as seasoned professors, are encouraged to submit proposals. Successful proposals in previous years have dealt with topics such as teaching introductory courses, using pop culture to help students understand religious concepts, and approaching controversial topics in the classroom.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For more information on the Teaching and Learning section, contact co-chairs Jodie Lyon ([lyon@uga.edu](mailto:lyon@uga.edu)) and Carole Barnsley ([cbarnsley@transy.edu](mailto:cbarnsley@transy.edu)).

## **AAR: Women, Gender & Religion**

1. **Roundtable Gender and Sexuality Scholarship in Religious and Theological Studies.** This session seeks to have a roundtable of area scholars pertaining their recently published scholarship or works in progress. Scholars will be invited to present, and/or be selected based on their ability to support a conversational format around a theme. Any scholar is welcome to apply to be a part of this panel as part of an open call for papers.
2. **The United Methodist Decision.** This call seeks to collect papers offering perspectives and approaches to the issue of gender, sexuality, and “the Church,” paying particular attention to the current moment of the recent decision of the United Methodist Church to advance a stance of declaring homosexuality to be incompatible with Christianity and to enforce this view at the levels of clergy ordinance and sacramental oversight. Papers need not deal directly with the UMC, but

must fit into the broader theme of change/lack of change and the difficulty thereof regarding gender, sexuality, and “the Church.”

3. **Sex, Race, and Radical Change.** This is a joint session with the *Constructive Theology* and *Women, Gender, and Religion* sections. For this session, we encourage papers that consider the topic from a variety of approaches and perspectives. Our aim is to bring together scholars from diverse backgrounds to engage in a multidisciplinary conversation.

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. Please send questions to Laine Christine Walters-Young ([laine.c.walters.young@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laine.c.walters.young@vanderbilt.edu)) and LaToya Leary ([lleary@fsu.edu](mailto:lleary@fsu.edu))

### **SBL: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament**

For the 2020 SECSOR meeting, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section invites proposals for two “open call” sessions and one joint session with Archeology and the Ancient World. For the “open call” sessions, we will consider all topics germane to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies. With the exception of the joint session (see below), proposals for the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament “open call” sessions are to be submitted using the submissions form at <https://secsor.org/> AND to the section chairs: David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)) and Clinton J. Moyer ([moyercj@wfu.edu](mailto:moyercj@wfu.edu)). The subject line on the email submission should read, “SECSOR 2020 Proposal, Open Session, TITLE.”

In addition to the “open call” session, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section will sponsor an invited session on Deuteronomy’s centralization ideal and social vision.

In general accord with the governing theme of rapid religious and cultural change, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament section and Archeology and the Ancient World are accepting proposals for a joint session that will engage the following prompt: What can be said about the dynamics of cultural change in the southern Levant in the Iron Age (1200 to 500 BCE)? Discussions may consider case studies arising from specific excavations or general surveys. Presentations are expected to discuss implications for understanding the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Joint session proposals are to be submitted using the submissions form at <https://secsor.org/> AND to the joint session chairs David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)), Clinton J. Moyer ([moyercj@wfu.edu](mailto:moyercj@wfu.edu)), Alan Todd ([atodd1@coastal.edu](mailto:atodd1@coastal.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)). The subject line on the email submission should read, “SECSOR 2020 Proposal, Joint HB/OT & ASOR Session, TITLE.”

### **SBL: New Testament**

The New Testament section for the 2020 SECSOR conference invites paper proposals for four sessions: (1) two sessions for papers dealing with the meeting’s global theme, “Rapid Religious Cultural Change,” and (2) two “open call” sessions for papers germane to any area of NT studies. For those interested, [www.secsor.org](http://www.secsor.org) contains a link to a document containing a full description of the meeting’s global theme. As this theme pertains to NT research in particular, the New Testament section particularly encourages proposals on the following topics: (1) NT conversion accounts, (2) Gentile inclusion in the people of God, (3) the Kingdom of God, (4) openness to women in earliest Christianity, (5) eschatology and apocalyptic, (6) Jesus and patriarchy, (7) anti-Roman sentiment in the NT, (8) NT ethics, and (9) crucifixion. Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/>. For questions regarding these sessions,

please contact the New Testament Section co-chairs: Eric Thurman ([etthurman@sewanee.edu](mailto:etthurman@sewanee.edu)) and Alexander Thompson ([alexander.thompson41@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.thompson41@gmail.com)).

### **ASOR-Member-Sponsored Section: Archeology & the Ancient World**

In general accord with the theme of rapid religious and cultural change, the ASOR and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study groups are accepting proposals for a joint session that will engage the following: What can be said about the dynamics of religious and cultural change in the southern Levant in the Iron Age (1200 to 500 BCE)?

**There will be one invited session.** The focus topic will be Deuteronomy's centralization and social vision.

### **Paper proposals are also invited for the following sessions:**

- 1) **Field Reports** on ongoing excavations and
- 2) **Discussions of material remains that will explore/address in some way the theme of sudden cultural and religious change.** Ideally papers will address the intersection of the biblical text with the material record. For this session we are particularly interested in papers that focus on the rapid changes which occurred in Israel during the 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century under the centralization programs of Hezekiah and Josiah

Submit your proposal under the submissions tab at <https://secsor.org/> and send to the groups chairs: David B Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)), Clinton Moyer ([moyercj@wfu.edu](mailto:moyercj@wfu.edu)), Alan Todd ([atodd1@coastal.edu](mailto:atodd1@coastal.edu)) and Rachel Nabulsi ([rnabulsi@ggc.edu](mailto:rnabulsi@ggc.edu)).