

**Call for Papers – AAR/SBL Southeast Region 2022 Annual Meeting
Florida State University**

Conference Theme: “New World Coming—Religion, Imagination & Possibility.”

March 11-13, 2022

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form [here](#). Each member is limited to one proposal, although a member can indicate a second choice of sections on the submission form. All program participants must be pre-registered for the meeting.

Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2021

AAR and SBL Southeast Region 2022 CFP

STUDENT AWARDS

AAR-SE Graduate Student Award

Graduate students who wish to be considered for this award should submit a paper of no more than 12 pages to the section in which they wish to present, no later than January 15.

SBL-SE Graduate Student Award

Graduate students who wish to be considered for this award should submit a paper of no more than 12 pages to the section in which they wish to present, no later than January 15.

AAR/SBL-SE Undergraduate Student Award

Papers submitted to the undergraduate section of SECSOR by the December 15 deadline are eligible for the undergraduate award.

SBL Regional Scholar Award

This is an award given by SBL, but the process begins at the Regional Meeting. The SBL Regional Coordinator, along with other persons of his or her choosing, evaluate each applicant's presentation at the regional meeting and determine whether to nominate the applicant to the Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee. Information about the award can be found [here](#) or by contacting the SBL-SE Regional Coordinator, [Doug Hume](#).

SESSIONS

AAR: Africana Religions

(1) *Panel – “Africana Imaginaries: Religion and the Building of Worlds”:*

This panel will highlight empirically-grounded studies that examine how the embodied, enplaced, material, and performative aspects of Africana religions, broadly construed, build, sustain, redirect, or reconstruct richly habitable worlds—whether to decolonize society, defend human rights, ground political orders, privilege certain forms of knowledge, resist oppression, valorize alternative identities, or achieve other goals.

(2) *Panel – “Gender, Sexuality & Social Imaginaries—in Africana Religious Contexts”*: A resurgence in homophobia, misogyny, and transphobia has occurred across the globe, impacting Africa and the African diaspora. This panel will document the range of gendered and sexual identities in Africana communities and how such identities relate to Africana religions—in ways mutually enhancing, neutral, or tense. We welcome contributions from multiple disciplinary perspectives and about all times and places in Africa and its diaspora.

(3) *Panel – “Method & Possibility in the History and Ethnography of Africana Religions”*: The study of Africana religions has been innovative in pioneering new research methods in religious studies generally, especially with regard to ethnography and oral history. This panel will feature scholars willing to critically explore the relationship in their research between their methods and findings—or between the methods and findings of other scholars—to enhance a discipline-wide conversation about new possibilities for research.

(4) *Roundtable – “Re-Imagining the Teaching of Africana Religions: Unity in Diversity”*: Scholars of Africana religions may imagine that their approaches, questions, and topics in teaching about religion—in Africa, African America, the Caribbean, Europe, and/or elsewhere in the African diaspora—span the larger field of Africana religions. Yet, our subfields vary widely in orientation. We seek participants willing to examine overlaps, differences, and inventive methods in the teaching of Africana religions.

Other Proposals – We will also consider alternative proposal for panels and roundtables. Please contact the co-chairs with your thoughts! Mary Nyangweso (East Carolina University) – wangilam@ecu.edu; Joseph Hellweg (Florida State University) – jhellweg@fsu.edu

AAR: Bible and Modern Culture

(1) *Joint session with New Testament*. For a joint session with the New Testament (SBL) group, we are interested in papers that address what the New Testament might contribute to current political debates (immigration, health care, truth/propaganda), studies of the use of the NT among contemporary “imagined communities”; the use of the New Testament in popular discourse in the age of alternative truths; and the role of the scholar in contributing in this public square.

(2) *Open Call*. Business meeting.

(3) *“Imagining faith in the Bible.”* This call broadly requests proposals which explore the interplay of imagination and faith in the Bible, when belief goes beyond (but does not necessarily exclude) reason and experience.

Send proposals or inquiries to Dr. Samuel Murrell (murrells@uncw.edu) or Prof. Brian Mooney FRMS (brian.mooney@jwu.edu).

AAR: Black Cultures in the Study of Religion

The Black Cultures and the Study of Religion group issues a call for papers that imagine Black futures. In line with the conference theme, *“New World Coming – Religion, Imagination &*

Possibility,” papers should explore how Black religious thought and practices foster notions of utopia, dystopia, or something else. Papers might also address the interplay of secular or areligious Afrofuturism and/or Afro-pessimism with Black religious ideas of an alternative reality. Please send papers to the section co-chairs Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack b.mccormack@louisville.edu and Shari C. Madkins shari.madkins@emory.edu

AAR: Constructive Theologies

(1) *General Call: Theology and the Imagination*. Constructive theology, regardless of tradition, is a fundamentally creative enterprise. There can be, then, no theology without imagination and perhaps vice versa. In keeping with this year’s conference theme of “Religion and Imagination,” the Constructive Theologies section invites proposed papers that engage this relationship between imagination and theological construction, broadly construed. Given the breadth and depth of our imaginative capacity, we welcome papers from a wide swath of theological perspectives and on topics that engage the imagination from any number of angles. Papers submitted under this call might address topics such as:

- The art and theology of Ashon Crawley found in *The Lonely Letters* (Duke University Press, 2020) and *Blackpentecostal Breath: The Aesthetics of Possibility* (Fordham University Press, 2016).
- Fresh engagements with major works on theology and imagination such as David Tracy’s *Analogical Imagination*, Garrett Green’s *Imagining God* (Eerdmans, 1989) Gordon Kaufmann’s *Theological Imagination* (1981, Westminster Press), or (more recently) Willie James Jennings’s *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (Yale University Press, 2010).
- Papers or full panels that engage one particular piece of media--a movie, TV series, book series, etc.--from a theological perspective.
- The intersection of imagination and spiritual practice found in works like, but not limited to, Sarah Coakley’s *God, Sexuality, and the Self* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and *The New Asceticism* (Bloomsbury, 2015).

(2) *Joint Session with Constructive Theologies and Philosophy of Religion: Global/Critical Theologies and Philosophies of Religion*. Though the disciplines of constructive/systematic theology and philosophy of religion have tended to be populated primarily by the work of Christian thinkers neither's methods or tools are necessarily limited to one particular religious tradition. As such, the Constructive Theologies and Philosophy of Religion sections invite proposed papers for a joint session focused on exhibiting contributions from non-Christian religious traditions. Papers may address traditional theological/philosophical loci or propose alternative concepts and categories. Some examples of topics papers might consider include, but are not limited to: Islamic doctrines of God; metaphysics in Neopaganism; Jewish soteriology or eschatology; Shinto religious epistemology; and Buddhist ontologies. These topics are simply examples of the kind of topics which authors are invited to consider and not a definitive or exhaustive set. Papers should be conceptually rigorous as constructive or synthetic pieces rather than simply historical or evaluative.

(2) *Joint Session with Ethics, Religion and Society: Theological and Ethical Reflections on Spiritual Practices*. Topics are open but proposals that address the theological and ethical imagination in spiritual practices, the role of spiritual practices in the treatment of anxiety, depression, and other psychological disorders, and spiritual practices and addiction recovery in

12-step and other frameworks are especially encouraged.

Questions may be directed to Jason Smith, Tougaloo College (jason.m.smith521@gmail.com), Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College (icurran@ggc.edu), and Aaron Davis, Union Presbyterian Seminary (aaron.davis@upsem.edu). For the joint session with Ethics, Religion, and Society, questions may also be directed to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu). For the joint session with Philosophy of Religion questions may also be directed to Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com).

AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society

Themes: Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) Ethical imagination, spiritual practice, and recovery in a COVID-reduced world; (2) Imagining ethical transformation at the intersection of religion, race and politics. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals through the on-line process. Direct any questions to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu).

A joint session with Theology on theological and ethical reflections on spiritual practices. Topics are open but proposals that address the theological and ethical imagination in spiritual practices, the role of spiritual practices in the treatment of anxiety, depression, and other psychological disorders, and spiritual practices and addiction recovery in 12-step and other frameworks are especially encouraged. Questions may be directed to Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College (icurran@ggc.edu), Jason Smith, Tougaloo College (jason.m.smith521@gmail.com), Aaron Davis, Union Presbyterian Seminary (aaron.davis@upsem.edu), Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu).

AAR: History of Christianity

We invite proposals for panels or individual papers on the following topics: (1) Episodes of religious innovation, including but not limited to heretical movements. “Innovation” can describe transformations in belief, practice, and/or tools (including theological and liturgical creativity in light of the COVID-19 pandemic). (2) Imagined pasts and futures in the history of Christianity, including recreations of golden ages, “strong times,” *illud tempus*; or anticipations of imagined futures (perfect or otherwise). (3) Religion, imagination, and literature (cosponsored with Religion, Culture, & the Arts), including, but not limited to, fantasy and other genre fiction. (4) Open call. If you have questions, please contact co-chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College (anwills@davidson.edu) or Douglas Brown Clark, Louisville Seminary (douglas.brown.clark@gmail.com).

AAR: Intersectionality in Religion (formerly Women and Religion)

(1) *Reimagining Biblical and Religious Studies: Narrative, Critique and Practice*. This is an invited panel of the following scholars: Musa W. Dube, professor of New Testament, Candler School of Theology; Herbert R. Marbury, associate professor of Hebrew Bible, Vanderbilt Divinity; Carolyn Medine, professor in Religion Dept and African American Studies, University

of Georgia; Raj Nadella, Samuel L. Cartledge Associate Professor of New Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA; Roger S. Nam, acting professor of Hebrew Bible, Candler School of Theology; Tina Pippin, Wallace M. Alston Professor of Religion and Bible, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; and M Andrae Tong, Assistant Professor of Early Christian Scriptures (NT), Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta. Each panelist will give a 10-minute presentation and engage in Q&A and dialogue. Florence Egbeyale, co-chair (fae19@my.fsu.edu) and Mitzi Smith, chair (smithm@ctsnet.edu).

(2) *Joint Session of Intersectionality & Religion and Environmental Justice*. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and worsened unjust environmental conditions impacting communities of color and poor communities. Environmental justice issues are profoundly intersectional. Race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, and/or religion mutually impact and complicate the lived realities of individuals and communities of color and how they experience environmental injustice. How does a critical intersectional approach to religion (e.g., theologies, sacred texts, and rituals) help us to analyze and understand communities of color adversely impacted by environmental injustice? Conversely, how do environmental justice issues and our intersectional identities encourage us to think about religion, religious ideas, sacred texts, and rituals differently so that religion inspires (rather than inhibits) intersectional activism? How did and do religious organizations work together to build coalitions to address the pandemic and improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions of life? How can religious ideas, texts, practices, and communities help us re-envision a more just post-COVID world? We are interested in proposals exploring the ways that religion (e.g., theologies, sacred texts, and rituals) facilitates or complicates the formation of intersectional environmental justice movements, how intersectionality contributes to (or informs) sharing/borrowing of religious ideas about the environment, the emergence of new models of leadership and activism, and new visions of a flourishing future for all. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the AAR/SBL SE website. Submissions should indicate joint session with Intersectionality and Religion. Please send questions to Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) Florence Egbeyale (fae@my.fsu.edu), Mitzi Smith(smithm@ctsnet.edu), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

(3) *Intersectionality and Religion Open Call centering imagination*. We invite proposals that explore imagination as contextual or culturally determined and the impact on religious studies and religion of normalized universalist assumed understandings of imagination that center whiteness. How does intersectional trauma inform or impact religious imagination or how we imagine God, sacred texts, and community? What is the significance of contextual imagination in the religious studies curriculum and classroom? We especially welcome imaginative critical re-readings of texts, narratives, and readers (religious and civic) that address the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, and/or citizenship status. We encourage papers that explore the impact of post-pandemic stress, rage, and trauma on religious imagination and sacred narratives. Graduate students and scholars who employ womanist, feminist, and/or queer interpretative approaches are encouraged to submit proposals. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the SECSOR website: secor.org. Please send questions to Florence Egbeyale, co-chair (fae19@my.fsu.edu) and Mitzi Smith, chair (smithm@ctsnet.edu).

AAR: Islam

(1) *Imagining Islamic Identity*. In keeping with the 2022 AAR-SE theme of “Religious Imaginations: Narrative, Critique and Practice” we invite proposals exploring different imaginings and reimaginings of Islamic identity in contemporary and historic contexts.

We seek papers presenting research into the social and political contexts, actors, and institutional forces that shape and reshape identity in Islamic contexts. Such research might focus on formulations of:

- Gender, sex, and sexual identities
- Identity in intersectional spaces
- Identity in Sufi imaginations
- Legal identities in the postcolonial state
- Ritual as an identity marker
- Arab, *ajamī*, and language-based identities

Other topics of research might include – but are not limited to:

- Identity formation through interreligious and sectarian encounters
- Identity formation through devotional practice
- Islamic law and the categorization of Muslim/non Muslim identities
- Identification of the human self inside Islamic ethics
- The relationship between identity and geography, migration, or political affiliation
- The effects of empire on identity formation
- Blackness and brotherhood in Islam
- Challenges facing North American Muslim communities

Please contact section chairs Ariela Marcus-Sells (amarcussells@elon.edu) and Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu) with any questions.

(2) *Joint Session with Islam: Shared Narratives, Convergences, and Divergences*

We are excited to initiate fresh deliberations on shared narratives of the Near East for a co-sponsored panel with the Islam Section on ‘Convergences and Divergences between Judaism and Islam’. With renewed interest in the reception history of the Bible and Qur’an, we invite proposals that explore literary and hermeneutical convergences between the two scriptures. Proposals can explore themes such as:

- Bible stories and the narrative correspondence between the Qur’an and the Hebrew Bible
- Jewish/Biblical subtexts of the Qur’an
- Hebrew and Arabic as sister languages?
- Modern Exegetical Issues in Islam and Judaism

In accordance with the AAR-SE’s theme, we are also interested in papers that explore the way “shared narratives” have been imagined in the religious consciousness of, Islam and Judaism such as:

- Imagining shared spaces in the Hebrew Bible and the Qur’an
- Jewish patriarchs (Adam; Abraham; Moses; etc.) in the Hebrew Bible and Qur’an
- Feminist readings of the Qur’an and the Torah/Hebrew Bible

- Satan and Demons in Islam and Judaism

We are also interested in exploring lived experiences and practical issues active inside Jewish and Muslim communities such as:

- Geomancy and Amulet making in Islamic and Jewish material culture
- Responses to Modernity: the Personal and the Public in Jewish and Islamic law
- Rituals in Islam and Judaism: Similarities and Dissimilarities

When submitting proposals for the joint panel please mark one section as the primary choice and other as the secondary choice. Questions regarding proposals should be emailed to the chairs both of sections. Islam section chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells (amarcussells@elon.edu) and Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu). Judaism section chairs: Amanda Walls (awal@uga.edu) and Giancarlo P. Angulo (gpa15@my.fsu.edu).

NOTE: We will consider proposals relating to these themes from either Islamic or Jewish perspectives. Presenters need not demonstrate expertise in both traditions.

AAR: Judaism

(1) The Judaism section invites submissions to any of the following three sessions: (a) Second Temple Judaism: Open Call; (b) Judaism in Late Antiquity: Open Call; and (c) Contemporary Judaism: Open Call. We welcome proposals from a wide range of methodological approaches. Particularly, we encourage proposals that explore the way that texts actively imagine Judaism, by (re)defining Jewish identity, (re)writing Jewish history, or mapping the contours of Jewish ideologies. Please submit proposals for 20-minute papers. Please contact Amanda Walls (awal@uga.edu) and/or Giancarlo Angulo (gangulo@fsu.edu) with any questions/concerns.

(2) *Joint Session with Islam: Shared Narratives, Convergences, and Divergences*
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When submitting proposals for the joint panel please mark one section as the primary choice and other as the secondary choice. Questions regarding proposals should be emailed to the chairs both of sections. Islam section chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells (amarcussells@elon.edu) and Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu). Judaism section chairs: Amanda Walls (awal@uga.edu) and Giancarlo P. Angulo (gpa15@my.fsu.edu).

NOTE: We will consider proposals relating to these themes from either Islamic or Jewish perspectives. Presenters need not demonstrate expertise in both traditions.

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, 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 works examining either (i) or (ii) above, are also possible. Questions can be sent to Vaia Touna, University of Alabama (vaia.touna@ua.edu).

AAR: Philosophy of Religion

(1) The Philosophy of Religion section seeks proposals that reflect the 2022 conference theme of "New World Coming: Religion, Imagination, & Possibility." We are especially seeking those that engage the following topics:

(2) Narrative and Knowledge: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Religious Imagination

(3) Philosophy of Religion in Calamitous Times

(4) *Joint Session with Constructive Theologies: Global/Critical Theologies and Philosophies of Religion.* Though the disciplines of constructive/systematic theology and philosophy of religion have tended to be populated primarily by the work of Christian thinkers neither's methods or tools are necessarily limited to one particular religious tradition. As such, the Constructive Theologies and Philosophy of Religion sections invite proposed papers for a joint session focused on exhibiting contributions from non-Christian religious traditions. Papers may address traditional theological/philosophical loci or propose alternative concepts and categories. Some examples of topics papers might consider include, but are not limited to: Islamic doctrines of God; metaphysics in Neopaganism; Jewish soteriology or eschatology; Shinto religious epistemology; and Buddhist ontologies. These topics are simply examples of the kind of topics

which authors are invited to consider and not a definitive or exhaustive set. Papers should be conceptually rigorous as constructive or synthetic pieces rather than simply historical or evaluative.

(5) *Joint Session with Africana Religions: Africana Philosophy and Religion*. We seek proposals from scholars of religion interested in the philosophical, theological, and/or ethical dimensions of Africana and African indigenous religions as well as philosophers and theologians interested in Judaism, Islam, Buddhist, and Christianity in Africa and the African diaspora.

(6) *Joint Session with Religion and Nature: Reimagining Home/Ecos/Oikos*. We invite papers for a joint session that explores the concept of home/ecos/oikos. During the pandemic we saw many instances of “wildlife” returning to urban areas, giving rise to reflections on the nature (or lack thereof) of the spaces we inhabit. Meanwhile, the United Nations estimates that more than 200 million persons are refugees in search of a home, while human actions are destroying animal habitats and leading to mass species extinction. These and related phenomena give rise to thinking about how we understand the idea and lived reality of home. How do philosophical and religious traditions imagine home and organize relations within and beyond the home? Who does and does not belong to the space we designate as home? How do economics and consumerism imagine (or fail to imagine) our relationship to nature and the homes/habitats of other beings with whom we share Earth ecos? What resources do philosophical and religious traditions provide to imagine home in ways that might inform critiques of the dominant way of home-life and to build a way of home-life that supports a healthy future?

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission. Direct questions regarding the Philosophy of Religion section to Hollis Phelps (phelps_h@mercer.edu) and Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com/ nholmes@fmuniv.edu). Questions about the joint session with Constructive Theologies may also be directed to Aaron Davis (aaron.davis@upsem.edu), Ian Curran, (icurran@ggc.edu), and Jason Smith (jason.m.smith521@gmail.com). Questions about the joint session with Africana may also be directed to Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu). Questions regarding the joint session with Religion and the Environment may also be directed to Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu) and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

AAR: Religion & Nature

(1) *Religious Imagination and the Environment*. We invite papers that explore the role the religious imagination and religious imaginaries have played and are playing in shaping our ideas about and efforts to build a healthy ecological future. How do different religions and spiritual traditions imagine nature and our relationship to nature? What resources do they provide for us to engage critically with the dominant human-nature relationship and to imagine replenishing ways of relating to nature? We are also interested in proposals that explore the relationship between the religious imagination and the world’s oceans. Recent events, such as an oil spill off the coast of Israel and toxic run-off in Florida spilling into the Gulf of Mexico, exemplify the devastating impact of human activities on ocean ecologies and marine life. How might the religious imagination inspire and guide us to undertake actions that restore the vitality of ocean ecologies? Please send questions about the call for this session to Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu) and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

(2) *Joint Session with Philosophy of Religion - Reimagining Home/Ecos/Oikos*. We invite papers for a joint session that explores the concept of home/ecos/oikos. During the pandemic we saw

many instances of “wildlife” returning to urban areas, giving rise to reflections on the nature (or lack thereof) of the spaces we inhabit. Meanwhile, the United Nations estimates that more than 200 million persons are refugees in search of a home, while human actions are destroying animal habitats and leading to mass species extinction. These and related phenomena give rise to thinking about how we understand the idea and lived reality of home. How do philosophical and religious traditions imagine home and organize relations within and beyond the home? Who does and does not belong to the space we designate as home? How do economics and consumerism imagine (or fail to imagine) our relationship to nature and the homes/habitats of others on whose existence we depend? What resources do philosophical and religious traditions provide to imagine home in ways that might inform critiques of the dominant way of “home life” and to build a way of “home life” that supports a healthy future? All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the SECSOR website: secsor.org. Submissions should indicate they are for a joint session with Philosophy of Religion. Please send questions about the call for this session to Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu), Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com), Hollis Phelps (phelps_h@mercer.edu), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

(3) *Joint Session with Intersectionality and Religion*. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and worsened unjust environmental conditions impacting communities of color and poor communities. Environmental justice issues are profoundly intersectional. Race, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, and/or religion mutually impact and complicate the lived realities of individuals and communities of color and how they experience environmental injustice. How does a critical intersectional approach to religion (e.g., theologies, sacred texts, and rituals) help us to analyze and understand communities of color adversely impacted by environmental injustice? Conversely, how do environmental justice issues and our intersectional identities encourage us to think about religion, religious ideas, sacred texts, and rituals differently so that religion inspires (rather than inhibits) intersectional activism? How did and do religious organizations work together to build coalitions to address the pandemic and improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions of life? How can religious ideas, texts, practices, and communities help us re-envision a more just post-COVID world? We are interested in proposals exploring the ways that religion (e.g., theologies, sacred texts, and rituals) facilitates or complicates the formation of intersectional environmental justice movements, how intersectionality contributes to (or informs) sharing/borrowing of religious ideas about the environment, the emergence of new models of leadership and activism, and new visions of a flourishing future for all. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the AAR/SBL SE website. Submissions should indicate joint session with Intersectionality and Religion. Please send questions about the call for this session to Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) Florence Egbeyale (fae@my.fsu.edu), Mitzi Smith (smithm@ctsnet.edu), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu)

AAR: Religion Culture & the Arts

Religion, Culture, and the Arts solicits all papers or complete panel proposals related to Religion, Culture, and the Arts. Interdisciplinary submissions both within and beyond the typical scope of Religious Studies are welcome and encouraged. Special consideration will be given to papers or panels on the following:

1) Religion and the aesthetics of otherwise possibilities, particularly thinking with Ashon Crawley’s *Blackpentecostal Breath* (2016); 2) Producing and policing “strange religion,”

superstition, fanaticism, and the paranormal; 3) Destruction, rebirth and reworld: utopia and apocalypse in religious imagination; 4) Religion and the performances and materiality of gender, sex, and sexuality, with particular attention to queer theory; 5) Religion, imagination, and literature (cosponsored with History of Christianity), including, but not limited to, fantasy and other genre fiction. For questions, please contact Timothy Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu) and Anderson Moss (am5vt@virginia.edu).

AAR: Religions in America

Papers in all areas related to Religions in the Americas will be considered, however, special consideration will be given to the following themes: (1) Religion, immigration, and movement; (2) Religion and gender, sex, and sexuality; (3) Religion and (un)freedom; (4) Papers dealing specifically with the meeting's 2022 theme "New World Coming—Religion, Imagination & Possibility." All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the AAR Southeast website: seacor.org. Please send questions to Haley Iliff (hiliff@fsu.edu), Sierra Lawson (sielaw@live.unc.edu).

AAR: Religions of Asia

(1) In conjunction with the 2022 theme, "Religion & Imagination: Narrative, Critique & Practice," we solicit proposals on the role of imagination in Asian Religions. That is, how does imagination construct, mimic, and complicate reality within Asian religious paradigms?

(2) We especially welcome panel proposals from graduate seminars from universities in the southeast covering the religions of Asia. Graduate students would be grouped together to present papers in reflection of a shared or similar seminar topic.

(3) 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.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. If you have questions regarding the Religions of Asia section, please contact Kendall Marchman (kendallmarchman@uga.edu).

AAR: Secularism, Religious Freedom & Global Politics

The Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics section invites proposals on religious freedom within secular institutions across the globe. Following the conference theme of imagining new worlds, we welcome papers on subjects including: (1) Secular apocalypses (such as in ecological or economic catastrophes/utopias); (2) Secularism and colonialism (especially imagining postcolonial, decolonial, or anticolonial futures); (3) The intersection between religious freedom and free speech (including censorship in different global contexts or the imagination of "cancel culture"). In addition to these themes, we welcome papers on all aspects of secularism, religious freedom, and global politics. Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. For questions contact Finbarr Curtis (fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu) or Jesse Lee (jjl17b@my.fsu.edu).

AAR: Teaching & Learning in Religion

The Teaching and Learning Religion section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. For the 2022 meeting, we are seeking paper proposals on the following topics:

(1) For graduate students and newly-minted instructors: “What my mentors never taught me about teaching: a presentation of lessons learned, mistakes made, and surprising successes.”

(2) “Reimagining the classroom.” Lessons from the pandemic pivot to online teaching, reflections on things that should be revised as schools return to face-to-face instruction, or bold ideas for the redesign of religious studies courses.

(3) For a possible joint session with Religions of Asia: “Religion, orientalism, and imagination: reimagining religion as defined by practice rather than belief in the classroom.”

(4) For a possible joint session with Interfaith Religious Dialogue: “Imaginative ways of talking about difficult topics in the classroom modeled on interfaith and interreligious encounters.”

(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.

For more information on the Teaching and Learning section, contact co-chairs Jodie Lyon (lyon@uga.edu) and Carole Barnsley (cbarnsley@transy.edu).

ASOR Member Sponsored : Archeology & the Ancient World

Alan Todd – Chair

Rachel Nabulsi- Co-Chair

Session 1: ASOR Member-Sponsored Section: Archeology & the Ancient World

The ASOR Member-Sponsored Session “Archaeology and the Ancient World” invites paper proposals centered around discussions of material remains that will explore in some way the theme of SECSOR this year: “Religion, Imagination, and Possibility”. This session is particularly interested in material remains from the broad area of the Mediterranean, Levant, and Near East, from the Neolithic to the Persian Periods. Proposal submissions should consider the following questions: “What do material remains tell us about imaginative thinking in the Ancient World?” and “How do representations of religious figures, symbols, humans, creatures, and deities help us understand how ancient peoples understood their cosmos?” All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the SECSOR website *and* sent to the group Co-chair: Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “SECSOR 2022 Proposal |Archaeology and the Ancient World ASOR Member-Sponsored Session”

Session 2: ASOR Member-Sponsored Section: Field Reports and Related Scholarship

The ASOR Member-Sponsored session on field reports and related scholarship invites paper proposals centered on field reports and related work from recent archaeological digs (within the past 5 years) and located within the broad area of the Mediterranean, Levant, and Near East. Due to the dramatic reduction of active digs in 2020 which may extend in to the 2021 dig season, this session welcomes not only field reports, but also reports on laboratory analysis of dig finds and conclusions drawn from work done in earlier years (prior to COVID). Reports on preparatory

work – surveys and planning – for upcoming digs is also welcome! All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the SECSOR website *and* sent to the group Co-chair: Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “SESCOR 2022 Proposal | Field Reports ASOR Member-Sponsored Session.”

Session 3: Chairman’s Address for ASOR Member-Sponsored Sessions

Dr. Alan Todd, Coastal Carolina University

Title of Address: TBA

Additional information: Pending

Session 4: Joint Session: HB/OT and ASOR member-sponsored session. In accord with the governing theme of “New World Coming: Religion, Imagination, and Possibility”, the ASOR members group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session that will focus upon the **prophetic imagination**. As noted in our conference theme: “The Latin root of the word, “imagination” ... imago, evokes what we typically mean by art and poetry as well as religion. The word implies that the act of representation is itself creative... in ways that can both trouble and console.” This idea lends itself well to application to the prophetic material of the Hebrew Bible, which contains some of the most beautiful language and powerful imagery to be found throughout the Ancient Near East. This session encourages proposals related to a wide variety of prophetic themes and imagery. Presentations are expected to discuss implications for understanding the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, particularly in its Ancient Near Eastern context. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the SECSOR website *and* sent to the group chairs: David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com), Clinton Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “SESCOR 2022 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR.”

SBL: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group invites proposals for the annual SBL-SE/AAR-SE meeting. With the exception of the joint session (see below), proposals are to be submitted through the SECSOR website AND to the group’s chairs: David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com) and Clinton J. Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu). All topics germane to the study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament will be considered. The subject line on the email submission should read, “SBL-SE 2022 Proposal, SESSION, TITLE.”

Joint Session (with ASOR). In accord with the governing theme of “New World Coming: Religion, Imagination, and Possibility”, the ASOR members group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session that will focus upon the **prophetic imagination**. As noted in our conference theme: “The Latin root of the word, “imagination” ... imago, evokes what we typically mean by art and poetry as well as religion. The word implies that the act of representation is itself creative . . . in ways that can both trouble and console.” This idea lends itself well to application to the prophetic material of the Hebrew Bible, which contains some of the most beautiful language and powerful imagery to be found throughout the Ancient Near East This session encourages proposals related to a wide variety of prophetic themes and imagery. Presentations are expected to discuss implications for understanding the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, particularly in its Ancient Near Eastern context. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the SECSOR website *and* sent to the group chairs: David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com),

Clinton Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “SESCOR 2022 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR.”

SBL: New Testament

In light of the conference theme of *Religion and Imagination: Critique, Narrative, Practice*, the New Testament group issues the following call for papers for four sessions: (1) one session for papers related to the conference theme, (2) papers for a joint session between the NT group and AAR: Bible and Modern Culture group, and (3) two open sessions for papers in any area of NT studies.

For the special session on the conference theme, papers will be given special consideration if they deal with “Imagination and the New Testament.” Possible topics include (1) the ways that the NT imaginatively engages the Jewish Scriptures or the wider Greco-Roman milieu, (2) the imaginative use of the NT in the history of interpretation, or (3) reading the NT in relation to imagining post-pandemic life.

For the joint session with the Bible and Modern Culture group, we are interested in papers that address what the NT might contribute to current political debates (immigration, health care, truth/propaganda), studies of the use of the NT among contemporary ‘imagined communities’, the use of the New Testament in popular discourse in an age of alternative truth, and the role of the scholar in contributing in this public square.

Alex Thompson (alexander.thompson41@gmail.com)

Eric Thurman (etthurma@sewanee.edu)

Jonathan Groce (jonathan.charles.groce@emory.edu)

SBL: Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls group welcomes any papers that relate to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Different methodologies and approaches are encouraged as ways to assess the contribution of the scrolls to our understanding of ancient Judaism. We particularly encourage papers to explore the Dead Sea Scrolls in ways that resonate with the conference theme “New World Coming-- Religion, Imagination, and Possibility” by addressing topics such as apocalypticism, prophecy, or utopian thought in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Papers by women and members of minoritized communities are encouraged. Please contact Matthew Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu), or Douglas Hume (doug.hume@pfeiffer.edu) with any questions/concerns.

SBL: Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section focuses on the New Testament Apocrypha as well as the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. For the 2022 AAR and SBL Southeastern Regional Meeting, we invite proposals for the following sessions: (1) Papers approaching these texts in relation to the conference theme of “New World Coming - Religion, Imagination and Possibility.” How does imagination inform the creation of these texts? For more information on the conference theme, see the [AAR SBL-SE Website](#); (2) Papers engaging the current state of parabiblical studies and the role of these texts for understanding Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity; and (3) An open call for papers in any area of apocryphal or pseudepigraphal studies. For questions regarding the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section, contact the

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section Chair, Kathy Barrett Dawson
(dawsonka15@ecu.edu).

AARSE/SBLSE: Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by AAR-SE and SBL-SE. 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; footnotes should be converted to endnotes to ensure proper length; one submission per student. Undergraduate students can only submit papers for presentation in the undergraduate sessions; their papers will not be considered for other sections.

On a cover page, please include contact information for the student and a faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Proposals will not be accepted after December 15, 2021 and should be submitted through the [online submission form](#) as a PDF attachment. All undergraduate papers are automatically considered for the Undergraduate Paper Prize. Questions may be directed to Steven A. Benko at AARSBLSE@gmail.com.