

“New World Coming — Religion, Imagination & Possibility”

***March 11 – 13, 2022, Online
(All Events Scheduled in Eastern Time)***



Florida State University Heritage Museum in Dodd Hall, Home of FSU's Department of Religion

Host: Department of Religion, Florida State University

***Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13th.
On that day, clocks in the Eastern US will advance one hour.
Sunday's program takes that change into account.***

*There's a new world coming
And it's just around the bend
There's a new world coming
This one's coming to an end*

*Yes a new world's coming
The one we've had visions of
Coming in peace, coming in joy
Coming in love*

– “Mama” Cass Elliott

AAR/SBL Southeastern Regions Annual Conference 2022

Program Chairs:

Hollis Phelps, Mercer University & Alexander Thompson, Tennessee Wesleyan University

Program: Hollis Phelps, Mercer University & Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

Technical Managers:

Kurt Rockenstein & Matthew Strange, College of Arts & Sciences, FSU

Conference Co-Organizers:

Matthew Goff & Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University

The co-organizers wish especially to thank the following for their generous help and support:

Dean Sam Huckaba, College of Arts & Sciences

Martin Kavka, Chair, Department of Religion

Members of the Board, AAR/SBL Southeastern Regions

Our Plenary Session Speakers & Presiders

Our Event Presiders & FSU Graduate Student Zoom Room Moderators

Heather Athey, Director, Media & Communications, College of Arts & Sciences



We dedicate this conference to the lasting memory of ...



Richard Rubinstein (1924 - 2021)

Florida State University Professor Emeritus of Religion, author of *After Auschwitz: Radical Theology and Contemporary Judaism* (1966), and leading thinker in post-Holocaust and “Death of God” theology



Jorge Johnston-Diaz (1968 - 2022)

Former FSU graduate student in religion & co-plaintiff in the 2014 lawsuit that resulted in marriage equality in the State of Florida



Lucas Brandon (1998 - 2021)

FSU religion doctoral student, scholar of early Christianity, and ray of light in FSU’s Department of Religion

Key Information – for Participants

1. Zoom Technical Support & Communication Contact Information

For Assistance email: as-help@fsu.edu

For Assistance call: [850-645-9459](tel:850-645-9459)

For Information email: as-tech@fsu.edu

For General Questions or the Passcode email: rel-events@fsu.edu

Stay Tuned for Program Updates & Announcements from: rel-conference@lists.fsu.edu

2. Access to File Sharing via SharePoint

If you want to present or share files during your presentation, please upload them to the appropriate folder, matched by date, session (time slot), and event at the following links

To Upload Files

- For non-FSU users (and FSU users@my.fsu.edu):
 - https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aeFArppHeeWCH6S
- For FSU-users@fsu.edu:
 - https://fsu.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/coas/religion/EpoLmEZxolxCj1RuY_YfrFIB7e1thUaLw43e0o_KqatIDA?e=YI4e64

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- For ALL users to access files:
 - https://fsu.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/coas/religion/EpoLmEZxolxCj1RuY_YfrFIBt_nFaprHhRNGfmF91BSwhg

3. Virtual Book Fair

During the conference, you can browse and shop for books at our virtual book fair!

Access it here: (<https://religion.fsu.edu/secsor-conference/book-room>).

There you will find virtual bookstores from the following presses:



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AAR Invited Undergraduate Papers Panel

SBL/AAR Invited Panel: Textual Analysis

AAR Nature & Religion I, II
AAR Philosophy of Religion I, II, III
AAR Religion, Culture & the Arts I, II
AAR Religions in America I, II, III
AAR Religions of Asia I, II
AAR Secularism, Religious Freedom & Global Politics I
AAR Teaching & Learning Religion I, II

Section-Reviewed

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AAR Constructive Theologies I, II, III, IV
AAR Ethics, Religion & Society I, II
AAR History of Christianity I, II
AAR Religion and Intersectionality I, II
AAR Islam I, II (***Featured Roundtable***), III
AAR Judaism I
AAR Method & Theory in the Study of Religion I, II

ASOR Member-Sponsored Events I, II, III, IV, V

SBL Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha I, II
SBL Bible and Modern Culture I
SBL Dead Sea Scrolls I
SBL Hebrew Bible/Old Testament I, II, III
SBL New Testament I, II, III, IV

Undergraduate Papers Panels I, II, III, IV

*** FRIDAY, MARCH 11 ***

Pre-Conference Meetings: All AAR & SBL Members May Attend!

- 2:15 – 2:45 p.m.: **AAR/SBL Southeastern Regional Joint Business Meeting**
Presider: Kathy Barrett Dawson, East Carolina University
Zoom Moderators: M. Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu) & J. Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)
- 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.: **AAR Southeastern Regional Business Meeting**
Presider: Hollis Phelps, Mercer University
Zoom Moderator: J. Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)
- 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.: **SBL Southeastern Regional Business Meeting**
Alexander Thompson, Tennessee Wesleyan University
Zoom Moderator: M. Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu)

Welcome, Orientation & Awards Presentation

- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.: Martin Kavka, Chair, Dept. of Religion, Florida State University
Kathy Barrett Dawson, Chair, AAR/SBL-SE, East Carolina University
Matthew Goff & Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College
Zoom Moderators: M. Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu) & J. Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)

Conference Panels, Roundtables & Plenaries

Session I

Friday, 4:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

AAR: Africana Religions I

Theme: Teaching Africana Religions Across Disciplines in One Religion Program

Presider: Leslie Ribovich, Transylvania University

Zoom Moderator: Beth Ann Williams (bwilliams10@fsu.edu)

- Leslie Ribovich, Transylvania University – *Designing a Course on African American Religions*
- Carole Barnsley, Transylvania University – *Infusing Africana Religions Across the Curriculum*
- Sydney Tye, Independent Scholar, Recent Transylvania University Alum – *How My Undergrad Education Prepared Me for Grad School in African American Religions*
- Xaylen Lanier, Transylvania University – *A Religion Major's Perspective on Africana Religions in the Religion Program*

AAR: Religions in America I

Theme: Religion as a Socio-Rhetorical Tool

Presider: Sierra Lawson, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Zoom Moderator: Samantha McLoughlin (sm18n@my.fsu.edu)

- Rosamond C. Rodman, Georgia State University Perimeter College – *Names Are the Turning Point of Who Will Be Master*
- E. Harold Breitenberg, Jr., Randolph-Macon College – *America as Experienced, Interpreted, and Imagined by A. Maude Royden*
- Jacob Barrett, University of Alabama – *Negotiating Authority: Marjorie Taylor Greene and the Governance of Belief Claims*

AAR: [JOINT] Constructive Theologies I & Philosophy of Religion I

Theme: Global/Critical Theologies and Philosophies of Religion

Presider: Aaron Davis, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Zoom Moderator: Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

- Kamal Ahmed, Princeton University – *Omnisubjectivity in the Islamic Tradition*
- J. R. Hustwit, Methodist University – *Mereology as Salvific Cosmology*
- Jason Exar Cabitac, Emory University – *Ritual and Harmony: Confucian Practices for a more Humane World*
- Dylan Bailey, Fordham University – *Grasping the Paradox: Zen Buddhism on Subjective Understanding*
- Stephen Dawson, University of Lynchburg – *Taking Places: Religious Inquiry as an Experiential, First-Order Ethical Practice*

AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society I

Theme: Religion, Violence & Race

Presider: Sally Holt, Belmont University

Zoom Moderator: James Waters (jww18b@my.fsu.edu)

- Nathan Moats, Hillsborough Community College – *A Thomistic Just Rebellion Analysis of the U.S. Capital Insurrection*
- Mark Ellingson, Interdenominational Theological Center – *How Neurobiology and Evolution Can Help Us with Ethical Transformation About Race and Religion*
- Ross Moret, Florida State University – *Rage and Radicalization Among White Evangelicals*



AAR: Method & Theory in the Study of Religion I

Theme: The State of Publishing in the Method & Theory

Presider: Vaia Touna, University of Alabama

Zoom Moderator: Tommy Woodward (twoodward@fsu.edu)

The panel and open discussion will focus on the state of publishing in method and theory. It invites three scholars to discuss their experience as former and current editors of the journal, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*.

- Aaron Hughes, University of Rochester
- Mitsutoshi Horii, Shumei University
- Steven Ramey, University of Alabama

SBL: [JOINT] New Testament I & Bible and Modern Culture I

Theme: The New Testament in Modern Imagination

Presider: Samuel Murrell, University of North Carolina Wilmington

Zoom Moderator: Florence Egbeyale (fae19@my.fsu.edu)

- Arthur Wright, Central Baptist Theological Seminary – *A Political Prayer: Praying Lord's Prayer in Caesar's Empire*
- Stuart Langley, Scholar at Large – *Why Evangelicals Should Vote Liberal*
- Stetson Glass, Bangor University – *Performing as a Pentecostal: Biblical Performance Criticism in Light of Pentecostal Hermeneutics*
- Jeff Cockrell, Liberty University – *Paul's Use of τέλος in Romans 10:4 and Its Importance in Understanding the Unity of All Races*

SBL: Dead Sea Scrolls I

Presider: Emily Olsen, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Arya Adityan (aadityan@fsu.edu)

- Carmen Palmer, Stetson University – *Appearances Can Be Revealing: Physiognomic Representations and Generative Memories within the Dead Sea Scrolls and Beyond*
- Jason Tatlock, Georgia Southern University – *Suffering Messianism and the Dead Sea Scrolls*
- Alana Zimath, Florida State University – *Good vs. Bad Angels: Examining Angelic Sources of Astronomical Knowledge in the Book Jubilees*
- Matthew Goff, Florida State University – *Are We Post-Pseudo-Jubilees Yet?*

ASOR: Member-Sponsored Event I: Chairman's Address

Presider: Rachel Nabulsi, Georgia Gwinnett College

Zoom Moderator: Randy Garcia (rjg20@my.fsu.edu)

- Alan Todd, Coastal Carolina University – *Teaching about Archaeology without Doing Archaeology?*

AAR Invited Undergraduate Papers Panel

Theme: Islamic Ethics

Presider: Steven Lane, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Delaney Burlingame (dab21@my.fsu.edu)

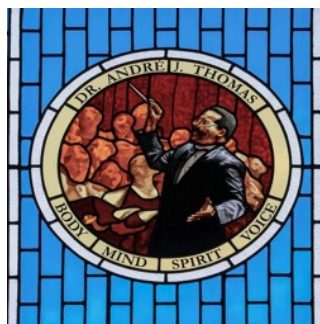
- Sara Boles, Florida State University – *Islamophobia, Islamophilia, and Critique*
Faculty sponsor: Ross Moret
- Jackson Cheplick, Florida State University – *ISIS and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage Sites*
Faculty sponsor: Ross Moret
- Catherine Medina, Florida State University – *Abrogation of the Sword Verse in the Status Quo*
Faculty sponsor: Ross Moret
- Alison Roush, Florida State University – *Queerness and the Qur'an*
Faculty sponsor: Ross Moret
- Holly Zeyl, Florida State University – *Dynamic Sexual Norms in Islam*
Faculty sponsor: Ross Moret

Undergraduate Papers Panel I

Presider: Christy Cobb, Wingate University

Zoom Moderator: Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)

- Allison Barbee, Wingate University – *What Did Judas Do? A Re-Examination of the Life, Death, and Legacy of Judas Iscariot*
Faculty sponsor: Christy Cobb
- Anne Katherine Edwards, Meredith College – *Who's in Charge Here? How Traditional and Feminist Scholars Explain the Story of Jesus and the Canaanite/Syrophoenician Woman*
Faculty sponsor: Shannon Grimes
- Charlie Evans, University of Tennessee, Knoxville – *Tolle superbiam: divitiae non nocebunt: Community, Renunciation, and the Fall of Rome: Wealth in the Pelagian Controversy*
Faculty sponsor: Christine Shepardson
- Hallie Milstein, Elon University – *Jewish Identity and Wall Street: Challenging and Legitimizing Capitalist Systems*
Faculty sponsor: Geoffrey Claussen



Plenary Address I: SBL Keynote

Friday, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Musa Dube

**Professor of New Testament
Candler School of Theology
Emory University**

***“Prophets and Professors of the Bible at
the Crossroads: Eco-Criticism,
Pandemics, and Pedagogy Reimagined”***

**Presider: Matthew Goff, Florida State University
Zoom Moderator: Arya Adityan (aadityan@fsu.edu)**

Prof. Dube draws on scholarship and teaching on the Bible to inform and mobilize scholars, students, and the public to think and act critically in the face of the linked challenges of global warming and international public health threats. With the erosion of ecosystems and the intrusion of populations into previously uninhabited areas, new pandemics are emerging while coastal and insular populations find themselves under threat by rising sea levels. Students and scholars of religion across the globe find themselves touched by both dynamics, but we are not without the resources to respond. Our teaching of Biblical Studies can play a key role in turning these tides by helping us to reimagine our roles in doing so.



Florida State University's Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, Westcott Building

* SATURDAY, MARCH 12 *

Session II

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

AAR Invited Panel I: Africana Religions

Theme: Performing Gender & Imagining Performance in Africana Religions

Presiders: Beth Ann Williams, Florida State University & Joseph Hellweg, FSU

Zoom Moderator: Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)

- Beth Ann Williams, Florida State University – *Church Agency: Christian Women's Networks as Means of Empowerment in East Africa*
- Chris Conzone, Florida State University – *Women, Healing, and Ritual: Embodied Power in Brazilian Candomblé*
- Mary Nyangweso, East Carolina University – *African Music, Afrobeat & the Ethical Sustenance of Musical Imagination: Recognizing Afrocentricity in African-Based Beats*
- Paul Niell, Florida State University – *The Virgin and the Ceiba Tree: Sacred Pathways and Urban Sanctity at Regla, Cuba*

AAR: Constructive Theologies II

Theme: Imaginative Approaches to Religious Community

Presider: Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College

Zoom Moderator: Nicholas Austin (nsa14@my.fsu.edu)

- Jenn Carlier, Emory University – *Finding God in the Basement*
- Joan Hedrich Wooten, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary – *The Wounded Body Politic: Religious Communities' Contribution to Civic Healing*
- C. J. Owens, Lee University, *Spirit of Anamnesis: Despair and Imagination in Eucharistic Perspective*
- Aaron Brian Davis, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC – *Saintly Bodies: Modeling an Ecclesiological Soteriology*

Business Meeting, Jason Smith, Tougaloo College



AAR: Teaching & Learning Religion I

Theme: Open Panel

Presider: Jodie L. Lyon, University of Georgia

Zoom Moderator: Amanda Brown (anb17e@my.fsu.edu)

- Elizabeth Pope & Emily McKendry-Smith, University of West Georgia – *Undergraduate Students' Perspectives of Interfaith Supports on a College Campus*
- Carole Barnsley, Transylvania University – *Teaching Religion in Practice*
- Hisham Qureshi, University of Georgia – *Content Analysis Study of Online Material Published by Leading American Higher-Education Public Research Institutions to Identify Solutions in Support for On-Sampus Religious Diversity and Spirituality*
- Brooklyn Aaron, Georgia State University – *From the Classics to the Contemporary: Teaching Islam through a Classical Education Approach*

AAR: Islam I

Theme: Imagining Religion in Islamicate Eurasia

Presider: Ariela Marcus-Sells, Elon University

Zoom Moderator: Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

- Samaneh Oladi Ghadikolaie, Virginia Commonwealth University – *Reimagining Women's Religious Activism*
- Azadeh Vatanpour, Emory University – *The Yarsan Environmental Identity: eco-spirituality and its role in the preservation of the Zagros Mountain landscape*
- Mendim Akiti, Florida State University – *The Emergence of Shi'a Islam in North Macedonia*

AAR History of Christianity I

Theme: Early Christianity

Presider: Douglas Clark, Wofford College

Zoom Moderator: Randy Garcia (rjg20@my.fsu.edu)

- Dennis Lutero, Trinity School for Ministry – *Romans 1: Revisiting Campbell's Prosopopoeia and Habakkuk 2:4*
- Steven D. Collier, McAfee School of Theology – *Luke's Imagination in the Passion Narrative: One Source or Two?*
- Zachary Camp, Lee University – *Catechesis in the Early Church*

AAR: Nature & Religion I

Theme: Home and Who Belongs

Presider: Mark D. Wood, Virginia Commonwealth University

Zoom Moderator: Casey Aldridge (cja21@my.fsu.edu)

- Katherine Tarrant, University of Virginia – *Imagining "Our Common Home": 'Laudato Si' and the Language of Belonging*
- James W. Waters, Florida State University – *Christian Animism and Religious Environmental Ethics: A New Discourse for the Field*

- Annie Rose O'Brien, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – *Dirty Metaphors: Soil, Waste, and the American Sacred*
- Michael Stephens, Johnson & Wales University – *The Spirituality of Gardening with Native Species*

SBL: New Testament II

Theme: Imagination and the New Testament

Presider: Alex Thompson, Tennessee Wesleyan University

Zoom Moderator: Emily Olsen (etolsen@fsu.edu)

- Scott Storbakken, Columbia Biblical Seminary – *Revelation 21-22: Following an Enochic Eschatological Imagination*
- David Z. Blackwell, University of Edinburgh – *The Rending of the Veil in the First Gospel*
- David Stark, Kearley Graduate School of Theology – *(Re)imagining Adam: Differing Trajectories of Reception in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15*
- Caleb S. Cooke, Duke Divinity School – *The Greco-Roman Literary Elite and Q: An Alternative Reading of Luke's Preface*

ASOR: Member-Sponsored Event II

Theme: Symbolic Thinking Across Cultures in the Ancient Near East

Presider: Rachel Nabulsi, Georgia Gwinnett College

Zoom Moderator: Jesse Lee (jjl17b@my.fsu.edu)

- David B. Schreiner, Wesley Biblical Seminary – *A Prototype? Comparing the Letter-prayers of Sin-iddinam and Hezekiah*
- Jordan Barr, Florida State University – *"Death Will Not Separate Us": Ruth's Loyalty Oath (Ruth 1.17) in Light of Judahite Burial Practices*
- Julianne Burnett, Asbury University – *Allusions of Execration: A Comparison of Egyptian Execration Ritual with Exodus 15:1-18 and 32:15-20*

Undergraduate Papers Panel II

Presider: Florian Pohl, Emory University

Zoom Moderator: Matthew Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu)

- Stewart Zelnick, Emory University – *Nationwide Anti-Mosque Activity: How Muslim Communities Protect Their Right to Religious Exercise Under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA)*
Faculty sponsor: Florian Pohl
- Simon Velasco, Florida State University – *U.S Foreign Policy, the Evangelical Far Right and the Spanish speaking South American Evangelical Left from 1968-1974; Missions, Praxis, and Money*
Faculty sponsor: Michael J. McVicar
- Grayson York, Clemson University – *The Enabling of Neo-Orientalism in Contemporary French Political Discourse via Laicity*
Faculty sponsor: Mashal Saif

Session III

Saturday, 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

AAR Invited Panel II: Africana Religions

Theme: Vodou Reworked and Replayed: Memory, Performance, and Transformation in Haitian Popular Culture and Art

Presider: Lenny Lowe, College of Charleston & Vincent Joos, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)

- Tim Lomeli, Florida State University – *History, Identity, and Vodou in Kettly Mars' L'Ange du patriarche*.
- Mehdi Chalmers, Florida State University – *Poetry as Double-Vision: Marasa Speech and Sacred Aesthetics of Freedom in Jeudi Inéma's Anthology, 'Le Jeu d'Inéma'*
- Libby Fowler, Florida State University – *Haitian Vaudou and Female Agency in the works of Yanick Lahens and René Depestre*

AAR: Religions of Asia I

Theme: Community, Aesthetics, Narrative

Presider: Kendall Marchman, University of Georgia

Zoom Moderator: Guanxiong Qi (gq19@my.fsu.edu)

- Timothy Loftus, Temple University – *Ambedkar's Saṅgha: The Ground for Ambedkarite Buddhist Ethics*
- James Newel, Independent Scholar – *Meher Baba of Ahmednagar and the Aesthetics of Religious Experience*
- Eliot Davenport, University of Virginia – *Ambā: A Story of Sex, Gender, and Transformation in the Mahābhārata*

Business Meeting

AAR: Philosophy of Religion II

Theme: Philosophy of Religion, Narrative, Knowledge, & Myth

Presider: Hollis Phelps, Mercer University

Zoom Moderator: Nicholas Austin (nsa14@my.fsu.edu)

- Casey Aldridge, Florida State University – *The 1956 Conversion of Ernst Bloch: Reimagining Concrete Utopia contra the Concretization of (Stalinist) Myth*
- Steven Smith, Millsaps College – *Dramatizing & Religious Heightening*
- Alan McGill, Georgia Gwinnett College – *Myth as the Bearer of Possible Worlds: Where Doctrine Should Fear to Tread*
- Blessing Emmanuel, University of Georgia – *From Imago Dei to Imago Hominum: Imagination, Human Enhancement, and the Case for Human Flourishing*

AAR: Teaching & Learning Religion II

Theme: Panel Discussion: *Teaching Religion on the Ground: A Profile of Teaching in Religion Departments*

Presider: Carole Barnsley, Transylvania University

Zoom Moderator: Samantha McLoughlin (sm18n@my.fsu.edu)

- Joshua Patterson, SoundRocket Research

AAR Constructive Theologies III

Theme: Imaginative Approaches to Theory and Method

Presider: Jason Smith, Tougaloo College

Zoom Moderator: Arya Adityan (aadityan@fsu.edu)

- Adam C. English, Campbell University – *Making Theological Progress with David Deutsch's Theory of Explanations*
- Wesley R. Simmonds, Duke University – *Refining Social Ontology as a Diagnostic of the Christian Racial Imagination*
- Royce Anderson, Unaffiliated – *Imagination, Creativity and Analogical Thinking in Theory Construction: Theology and Science*
- Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College – *Greening Garrett Green: The Theological Imagination and the Mountain of God*

AAR: Method & Theory in the Study of Religion II

Theme: Religious Studies Beyond the Discipline

Presider: Russell T. McCutcheon, University of Alabama

Zoom Moderator: Matthew Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu)

This panel and discussion focus on the relevance of the skills gained in Religious Studies classes—skills that prepare students for a wider variety of futures than may at first be apparent to both them and their professors. The panelists—all holding PhDs in the study of religion—will discuss their experience creating successful professional futures for themselves, with an eye toward making practical recommendations that Departments of Religious Studies can adopt to better serve their B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students.

- Andrew Ali Aghapour (PhD UNC) is Consulting Scholar of Religion and Science at the National Museum of American History; he is also a comedian and artistic producer.
- Shannon Trosper Schorey (PhD UNC) is a writer, editor, and scholar in the tech industry; as Senior Communications Specialist, her work at Red Hat focuses on emerging and cloud technologies.
- Thomas Whitely (PhD FSU) worked in university administration before transitioning to politics; since 2018 he has served as the Chief of Staff for John Dailey, the mayor of Tallahassee, Florida

SBL: New Testament III

Theme: Gospels and Acts

Presider: Eric Thuman, Sewanee: The University of the South

Zoom Moderator: Randy Garcia (rjg20@my.fsu.edu)

- Steve Marquardt, Emory University – *Framing the Pauline Mission: On Acts 13:4–12 as a Programmatic Passage*
- Carrie Wood, Regent University – *The Son of Man Rising from the Sea*
- Marlene Reid, University of Aberdeen – *John's Imaginative Disclosure of Rhetorical Parallels in the Dialogue of John 4:4-43*

Business Meeting

ASOR/SBL: [JOINT] ASOR Member-Sponsored Event III and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Event I

Theme: Between God and Man: Relationships in the Biblical Text

Presider: Dave Schreiner, Wesley Biblical Seminary

Zoom Moderator: Alana Zimath (arz18@my.fsu.edu)

- Florence Egbeyale, Florida State University – *Standing Outside the “Game of Honor”: Reconceptualizing קָלָל in light of Hagar-Sarah’s Relationship in Genesis 16:4*
- Jonathan Ahlgren, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – *Allegiance to David: Implicit Characterization in 1 Samuel 25*
- Stephen Smith, Belhaven University – *Enemy Quotations that Attack God: An Investigation into the Rhetorical Function of a Motif in the Hebrew Psalter*
- Ethan C. Jones, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary – *Where the Centaur Walks: Re-imagining the Psalms as Poetry*

AAR Invited Panel III: Pedagogy

Theme: Qualitative Methods: A Conversation about Pedagogy

Presider: Beth Ann Williams, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Daniel da Silva Anana (dd211@my.fsu.edu)

This panel reconvenes a mixed graduate/undergraduate research methods course to explore, with faculty advisor Beth Ann Williams, how students chose the approaches that they did for their thesis projects.

- Emily Sarra, Florida State University
- Isabella Frazier, Florida State University
- Skylar Berlin, Florida State University
- Chris Conzone, Florida State University



Diversity Lunch

Saturday, 1:30 p.m. – 2: 30 p.m.

Presider: Annie Tinsley, Shaw University

Zoom Moderator: LaToya Leary (lml16b@my.fsu.edu)

Presidential Addresses

Saturday, 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Wesley Barker – President AAR-SE

Associate Professor of Religion, Mercer University

***“Rethinking Embodiment in a Post-Truth World:
Asymmetry, New Materiality,
and the Ethics of Sexual Desire in Irigary”***



Mark Proctor – President SBL-SE

Independent Scholar &
Host of *Stories of the Waiting Room* Podcast

***“Treasures Old & New:
Matthean Creativity in the Parables Discourse”***

Presider: Kathy Barrett Dawson, Chair, AAR/SBL-SE, East Carolina University

Zoom Moderator: Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)



Façade of Dodd Hall, Home of FSU's Department of Religion

Session IV

Saturday, 4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Featured Event: AAR: Islam II

Theme: Omar ibn Said Roundtable

Presider: Ariela Marcus-Sells, Elon University

Zoom Moderator: Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

- Carl Ernst, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Mbaye Lo, Duke University
- Youssef Carter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Hinasahar Muneeruddin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Yasmine Flodin-Ali, University of North Carolina
- Karlee Bergendorff, Duke University
- Brian Rusch, Duke University



Omar ibn Sayid (1770-1864)

Respondent

- Dr. Adam Gaiser, Florida State University

AAR: Religions in America II

Theme: Imaginings and Experiences of Religion

Presider: Haley Iliff, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Samantha McLoughlin (sm18n@my.fsu.edu)

- Lily Zwaan, Graduate of Candler School of Theology – *Super Smash Bros Melee: Play and Possibility*
- Nathan Springer, Georgia State University – *Released into the Imagination: Evaluating the Influence of Terence McKenna*
- Paul J. Palma, Regent University – *The Problem of Gender Distinction: Dress Codes, Ministry, and the Order of Creation in TransAmerica Classical Pentecostalism*

AAR: Religion and Intersectionality I

Theme: Reimagining Biblical and Religious Studies: Narrative, Critique and Practice

Presider: Mitzi J. Smith (Columbia Theological Seminary)

Zoom Moderator: Florence Egbeyale (fae19@my.fsu.edu)

- 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 Department 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
- 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.

AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society II

Theme: Spiritual Practice, Healing and Transformation

Presider: Mike Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College

Zoom Moderator: Casey Aldridge (cja21@my.fsu.edu)

- James L. Rowell, Flagler College – *Hope, Ethics and Universal Realism*
- Preston Hill, Richmond Graduate University – *Attachment Theory and the Cry of Dereliction: Toward a Science-Engaged Theology of Atonement*
- Mike Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College – *Spiritual Practice and Addiction Recovery*

AAR: Religion, Culture, and the Arts I

Theme: Narratives of the Fantastic

Presider: Anderson Moss, University of Virginia

Zoom Moderator: Timothy Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu)

- Kevin Hogg, Mount Baker Secondary School – *Bruising the Heads of Satan and Ophion: Revenge through Serpent Stories in Paradise Lost*
- James L Rowell, Flagler College – *Lucas and Tolkien*
- Brett Patterson, Clemson University – *Graceful Fantasies: Narration, Theological Exploration, and the Imaginative Fiction of Gene Wolfe and Connie Willis*
- Darian J. Shump, Florida State University – *Frog in a Well: Umwelt and the Limits of the Human in Uchōten kazoku*

SBL: Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha I

Theme: Book Panel – *Sex, Violence, and Early Christian Texts*, edited by Christy

Cobb & Eric Vanden Eykel (Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, forthcoming 2022)

Presider: Kathy Barrett Dawson, East Carolina University

Zoom Moderator: Alana Zimath (arz18@my.fsu.edu)

- Christy Cobb, Wingate University – *The Pursuit of Celibacy in Early Christianity: Sexual Violence, Slavery, and Willfulness in the Acts of Andrew*
- Eric Vanden Eykel, Ferrum College – *Assaulting the Virgin: Reassessing Salome's 'Examination' of Mary in the Protoevangelium of James*
- Midori Hartman, Albright College – *Sexual Violence, Martyrdom, and Enslavement in Augustine's Letter 111*
- Jenny Collins-Elliott, University of Tennessee – *Guardians of Chastity and Companions in Suffering: The Didactic and Rhetorical Function of Rape Threats in Ambrose of Milan*

- Stephen L. Young, Appalachian State University – *Divinely Naturalizing Violence against Women: The Son of God's Rape of Jezebel in Revelation*

Response: Kathy Barrett Dawson, East Carolina University

Business Meeting

ASOR/SBL: [JOINT] ASOR Member-Sponsored Event IV and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament II

Theme: Sacred Place, Space, and Time in the Ancient Imagination

Presider: Rachel Nabulsi, Georgia Gwinnett College

Zoom Moderator: Tommy Woodward (twoodward@fsu.edu)

- John Baker, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – *Renowned City, Once Mighty in the Midst of the Sea: The Impact of Tyrian Melqart Worship on Phoenician Imperialism*
- Allison Wattenbarger, Duke University – *Impossible Geographies: Plotting the Four Rivers of Genesis 2*
- Nicholas J. Campbell, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – *Mixed Sowing and Plowing: An Agricultural Defilement View*
- Jim Wilson, Asbury University – *How to Make God Your BFF: Intersections between Deuteronomy and Evolutionary Biology*

Undergraduate Papers Panel III

Presider: Joshua Spoelstra, Piedmont University

Zoom Moderator: William Perez (wgperez@fsu.edu)

- Emily Wilbourne, Elon University – *Negotiating Religion, Tradition, and Modernity in Post-19th Century Korean Seungmu Dance*
Faculty sponsor: Pamela Winfield
- Nicholas Horn, Elon University – *Gods, Gurus, and Ghouls: Jain and Hindu Bhakti in Medieval Tamil Literature*
Faculty sponsor: Amy Allocco
- Isabel Jones, Piedmont University – *Blessed Are the Poor: Social Class in the Law of Moses and the Code of Hammurabi*
Faculty sponsor: Joshua Spoelstra



Plenary Address II: AAR Keynote

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



J. Lorand Matory

**Lawrence Richardson Distinguished Professor
Department of Cultural Anthropology
Duke University**

***“Slavery in the Heart of Freedom:
Race, Romance, and Religion
through the Lens of BDSM”***

**Presider: Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
Zoom Moderator: Beth Ann Williams (bwilliams10@fsu.edu)**

The Enlightenment’s insistence on the freedom, individual rights, equality before the law, and the bodily integrity of the citizen co-occurred with the height of the Atlantic slave trade, with its grotesque torture of the Black body. Yet the Enlightenment’s promises were no panacea, not even for the new white citizen. Unmoored from hereditary station and its networks of guaranteed esteem, mutual assistance, and transcendent meaning, the citizen seeks relief from the relentless competition for personal worth in religion, romance, and their anachronistic symbols of conquest, domination, and surrender.

This lecture focuses on white US American BDSM, the Afro-Atlantic religions, and Trumpism as parallel, but ethically divergent, forms of nostalgia for compulsory hierarchy and solidarity in an age of compulsory self-sufficiency and competition. BDSM is a religion that, like other religions, rests on nostalgia for archaic and violently enforced forms of hierarchy and offers the option of release from the under-recognized emotional burdens of freedom and equality. For its part, Trumpism demonstrates the ambivalence of the middle rank—whites and wannabe-whites--under conditions of status precarity. Their movement is both a slave-like rebellion against their class superiors and the worship of a violent Messiah who would return them to a time free of Black and brown competition.

Section Chairs’ Dinner

Saturday, 8:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

**Presiders: Wesley Barker, Mercer University & Hollis Phelps, Mercer University
Chairs: Lenny Lowe, College of Charleston & Alex Thompson, Tennessee Wesleyan
Zoom Moderators: M. Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu) & J. Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)**

*** SUNDAY, MARCH 13 ***

Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13th. On that day, clocks in the Eastern US will advance one hour. This program takes that change into account.

Session V

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SBL/AAR Invited Panel: Textual Analysis

Theme: Scripture off the Page: Re-Imagining Religious Studies through Performance

Presider: Emily Olsen, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Tommy Woodward (twoowward@fsu.edu)

- Matthew Goff, Florida State University – *Listening to Lost Voices: Singing, Teaching, and Studying in the Dead Sea Scrolls*
- Panayotis League, Florida State University – *Scriptural Satire or Sonic Sacrilege? The Curious Case of Mamouzelos*
- Ray Person, Jr., Ohio Northern University – *Word Selection in Conversation, Oral Traditions, and Textual Transmission of the Hebrew Bible*
- Shem Miller, University of Mississippi – *The Oral World of the Dead Sea Scrolls*
- Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University – *Somatic Scripture in Song: Indigeneity & Islam in Ivory Coast, West Africa*

AAR: Philosophy of Religion III

Theme: Philosophy of Religion & Imagination

Presider: Nathaniel Holmes, Florida Memorial University

Zoom Moderator: Timothy Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu)

- Kevin Scott Smith, Liberty University – *The New Humanity Coming: Pragmatism, Imagination and Innovation in Metaphysical Religion*
- Andrew Irvine, Maryville College – “True Construction”: *Revealing Imagination*
- Benjamin Shaw, Liberty University – *Ethical Epistemology: The Moral Significance of Human Persons and the Art of Interpretation*

AAR Religion and Intersectionality II

Theme: Intersectional Embodiment, Sacred (Con)Texts, and Wholistic Shifts

Presider: Florence Egbeyale, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: LaToya Leary (lml16b@my.fsu.edu)

- Tierney Jordan, McAfee School of Theology – *The Millennial Womanist Preacher: Transforming Technology and Digital Sacred Space*
- Tsharre Sanders, Columbia Theological Seminary – ‘Who Said It Was Simple’: *Providing Spiritual Care for Black Queer & Lesbian Women*
- Hanna Thorpe, Emory University – *Bodies and Bake Sales: Christian Ambivalence Towards Dieting*

AAR: Religions of Asia II

Presider: James Newell (Independent Scholar)

Zoom Moderator: Guanxiong Qi (gq19@my.fsu.edu)

- Shao-cheng (Michael) Sun, The Citadel – *China's Cultural Soft Power Strategy and the Confucius Institutes*
- Kendall Marchman, University of Georgia – *Anxiously Awaiting the Pure Land: Suicide Narratives in Pure Land Literature*

AAR: [JOINT] Islam III and Judaism I

Theme: Shared Narratives, Convergences, and Divergences

Presider: Beena Butool, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Randy Garcia (rjg20@my.fsu.edu)

- Tom Block, Independent Scholar – *Sufism and Hasidism: The (Shared) Tales They Tell*
- Joshua Joel Spoelstra, Piedmont University – *Noah's Ark and the Flood in Judaism and Islam: A Bi-optic Perspective of Salvation and Sacred Space*
- John Miller, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – *Of Parrots and Honeybees: Spinozist Prophetologies and the Neo-Rationalist School of Qur'anic Hermeneutics in Iran*

Respondent

- Dr. George R. Wilkes, Chair, Jewish Law Association; Affiliated Lecturer, Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow; Director, Project on Religion and Ethics in the Making of War and Peace, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

SBL: New Testament IV

Theme: Paul's Letters and the Rest of the New Testament

Presider: Jonathan Groce, Emory University

Zoom Moderator: Alana Zimath (arz18@my.fsu.edu)

- Olivia Fain, Duke University – *The Christ Gift: An Analysis of Gift Language in Ephesians 4:1-16*
- Zachary Skarka, University of Birmingham – *New Test Passages from Colossians*
- Christopher David Marsh, Dallas Theological Seminary – *Intoning a Multiethnic Social Imaginary: Reviewing Colossians 1:12–20 as a Hybridized Song Form*
- Scott Ryan, Claflin University – *Subjecting and Confining: The Language of Conflict and Romans 1–11*

ASOR/SBL: [JOINT] ASOR Member-Sponsored Event V and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament III

Theme: Frameworks of Understanding Prophecy

Presider: Dave Schreiner, Wesley Biblical Seminary

Zoom Moderator: Skylar Berlin (seb20dm@my.fsu.edu)

- Mary Dance Berry, Duke University – *Social and Divine Justice: A Comparative Examination of American Evangelical and African Biblical Interpretations of Amos*

- Eun-Keun Kim, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – *A Study of the Theological Framework of Judges 17-21*
- F. Downing, Valdosta State University – *Jeremiah As A Model of Prophetic Imagination*

Undergraduate Papers Panel IV

President: Ariela Marcus-Sells, Elon University

Zoom Moderator: Ross Moret (rmoret@fsu.edu)

- Katherine Grant, Elon University – *Social Network Analysis of Christian Identity Hate Groups*
Faculty sponsor: Megan Squire
- JoyceLyn Bentley, Elon University – *Mythmaking and the NOI: Writing Their Own Story*
Faculty sponsor: Ariela Marcus-Sells
- Kelsey Gallo, College of Charleston – *Intermonastic Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition*
Faculty sponsor: Elijah Siegler
- Allen Duggar, College of Charleston – *Let Every Land Their Tongues Employ: Ritualized Democracy among Shape Note Singers*
Faculty Sponsor: Lenny Lowe



Westcott Building, Florida State University

Session VI

Sunday, 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

AAR: Constructive Theologies IV

Theme: Book Panel – Rachel S Baard, *Sexism and Sin-Talk: Feminist Conversations on the Human Condition* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019)

Presiders: Aaron Brian Davis, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Zoom Moderator: Skylar Berlin (seb20dm@my.fsu.edu)

- M. Sydney Park, Samford University
- Jennifer Carlier, Emory University
- Michelle Panchuk, Murray State University

Respondent

- Rachel S. Baard, Union Presbyterian Seminary

AAR: History of Christianity II

Theme: Imagination and Possibility: Three Moments

Presider: Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College

Zoom Moderator: Alana Zimath (arz18@my.fsu.edu)

- Jeff Schmoll, Wake Forest University – *The Status Quo and the Resistance: Cyril and Nestorius*
- Erika Tritle, Coastal Carolina University – *Substance and Metaphor: Blood, Flesh, and Faith in Fifteenth-Century Castile*
- Joseph Carnes Ananias, Duke Divinity School – *The Once and Future Bondage of the Will: Luther's Understanding of Libero Arbitrio as an Innovation in Theological Anthropology*

AAR: Religions in America III

Theme: Legality, Empire, and Religion

Presider: Haley Iliff, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Amanda Brown (anb17e@my.fsu.edu)

- Nicholas Austin, Florida State University – *'To Go and Fight for Uncle Sam': Analyzing Divisions within the Latter-Day Saint Movement during the Mexican War*
- Paul A. Anthony, Florida State University – *Patterns and Practices: Media, Religion, and the 2008 FLDS Child-Custody Raid*
- Leah Robinson, Pfeiffer University – *Born Perfect or A Boy Erased?: Christian Theology and the Ex-Gay Movement in the USA (1973-2020)*

AAR: Nature & Religion II

Theme: Imagining a Different World

Presider: Jefferson Calico, University of the Cumberlands

Zoom Moderator: James Waters (jww18b@my.fsu.edu)

- Andrew Stern, North Carolina Wesleyan College – *Caring for “Our Common Home”:
Laudato Si’ and the Catholic Ecological Tradition*
- Brady McCartney, University of Florida—*Imagining Zion: Latter-day Saint Prepping for
Eco-social Utopia*
- Michael Stephens, Johnson & Wales University—*The Spirituality of Gardening with
Native Species*

AAR: Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics I

Theme: Religious Freedom and Global Politics On (and Under) the Ground

Presider: Jesse Lee, Florida State University

Zoom: Guanxiong Qi (gq19@my.fsu.edu)

- Mark D. Wood, Virginia Commonwealth University – *The Colonial and Post-Colonial
Religious Imagination*
- Kerry Mitchell, Indiana University – *A Tale of Two Cities (of the Dead): How Green-
Wood and Evergreens Cemeteries Face their own Mortality*
- Finbarr Curtis, Georgia Southern University – *Freedom versus Truth at the Scopes Trial*

AAR: [JOINT] Religion, Culture, and the Arts II and Africana Religions II

Theme: Decolonial Art, Practice, and Materiality

Presider: Timothy Burnside, Florida State University

Zoom Moderator: Arya Adityan (aadityan@fsu.edu)

- Victoria Basug Slabinski, University of Virginia – *Beyond Colonial Visibility and
Imperial Forgetting: Approaching the Philippines’ Past through Gina Apostol’s
Insurrecto*
- Punam Madhok, East Carolina University – *The Multifarious Temple Art of Jayavarman
VII and the French Orientalist Interest in Cambodia*
- Humberto Perez, Florida State University – *In the Presence of the Divine: Statues as
Vessels of Divinity*
- Brian C. Smithson, University of Virginia – *Decolonizing Religious Tourism: Praising
Gods and Monarchs in a West African Festival*

SBL: Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha II

Presider: Kathy Barrett Dawson, East Carolina University

Zoom Moderator: Emily Olsen (etolsen@fsu.edu)

- Carrie Cifers, University of Virginia – *Re-Imagining Identity Through National
Narratives: The Representational Ethics of Israelites and Other(s) in Jubilees and
Josephus’s Judean Antiquities*
- Brett Miller, Spring Hill College – *Matt 25:31-46 in Light of the Enochic Writings*

Women’s Caucus

Sunday, 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Presider: Wesley Barker, Mercer University

Zoom Moderator: Chris Conzone (cconzone@fsu.edu)