

# CALL FOR PAPERS: AAR/SBL-SE\*

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING, MERCER UNIVERSITY

**Conference Theme: Migration(s)**  
**March 10-12, 2023**

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form [here] at relse.org. 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, 2022**

### **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 Member–Sponsored 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.

#### **Regional Undergraduate Student Award**

All undergraduate papers emailed to [RELSERegion@gmail.com](mailto:RELSERegion@gmail.com) by the December 15, 2022 deadline are eligible for the undergraduate award. See full instructions below.

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### **SESSIONS**

#### **AAR: AFRICANA RELIGIONS**

Co-chairs: Mary Nyangweso, [wangilam@ecu.edu](mailto:wangilam@ecu.edu); Joseph Hellweg, [jhellweg@fsu.edu](mailto:jhellweg@fsu.edu)

Inspired by the Conference theme of “Migration(s),” the Africana Religions Section invites proposals for papers related to the following:

(1) *Panel: “Africana Religions in Transforming the Public Sphere”*: Ritual practices and ideologies stand as alternative constitutions of social life. The authority of ritual experts therefore moves beyond ritual contexts, often permeating the political. Such constitutions, as a result, parallel the legal apparatuses of nation-states, offering religious practitioners viable options beyond state domination. The panel describes the extent and limits of such cases.

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\*The term SBLSE designates an organization of members of the Society of Biblical Literature who reside in Southeastern Region of the US. SBLSE does not have any formal relationship with the Society of Biblical Literature; nor is the Society of Biblical Literature held responsible or liable for members in the region with regards to SBLSE.

(2) *Panel: “Africana Religious Mobilities”*: This open panel on contemporary Africana religions pursues migration as both a metaphoric and literal reality for religious practitioners. The movement of ideas, persons, and practices across cultures and periods characterizes religious communities in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America, wherever African Diasporic populations thrive. Panelists will examine why and how.

(3) *Panel: “Black Atlantic Religious Migrations”*: Many phenomena join Black Atlantic religions and migrations, both across the Atlantic and elsewhere in the African Diaspora. Through space and time, practitioners of Bwiti, Candomblé, Palo, Santería, Vodou, as well as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other religions in Africa and beyond have inspired and reflected migrations. This panel will use these realities to rethink religious boundaries.

(4) *Panel: “Mobile Activism in the Africana Diaspora”*: Racism in Europe and the US – against African, African American, and Afro-Caribbean populations on both sides of the Atlantic – has mobilized demonstrations and protests across the African Diaspora. Panelists will explore continuities and contrasts across the global Say Her Name and Black Lives Matters movements, especially in their ethical and religious terms and dimensions.

Please contact Mary Nyangweso ([wangilam@ecu.edu](mailto:wangilam@ecu.edu)) and Joseph Hellweg ([jhellweg@fsu.edu](mailto:jhellweg@fsu.edu)) to ask any questions that you may have.

### **AAR: BIBLE AND MODERN CULTURE**

Co-Chairs: Chair: Sam Murrell, [murrells@uncw.edu](mailto:murrells@uncw.edu); Brian Mooney, [brianm\\_14@hotmail.com](mailto:brianm_14@hotmail.com)

The Bible and Modern Culture Section invites proposals on the following:

(1) *Panel: “Showdown in Dayton: The Scopes Trial Revisited and Reimagined”*: Papers are welcome which deal with any aspect of the landmark 1925 Scopes trial in Dayton TN. The trial was a pervasive major media event and has had a lasting, significant impact on religion and science in America.

2) *Panel: “The Restless Soul in Motion and Migration”*: Papers are solicited which focus on migration in religion, taken in the broadest sense (physical, metaphorical, religious, symbolic, or spiritual). Presentations on other topics related to Bible and Modern Culture are also solicited and most welcome.

### **AAR: BLACK CULTURES AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION**

Chair: Shari Madkins, [shari.madkins@emory.edu](mailto:shari.madkins@emory.edu)

This year’s theme explores “Migration(s).” The Black Cultures in the Study of Religion section calls for papers that explore how black religion transgresses boundaries and establishes itself outside conventional “religious” boundaries. For example, how do black religious commitments like pursuing liberation and black self-determination transform black and non-black sacred spaces? How do these principles defy black religion’s hold – especially the black Christian liberation traditions – by grounding movements that eschew associations with Christianity or other formal religious institutions? Looking to our theme, how does black religion represent what

Thomas Tweed refers to as “confluences of organic-cultural flows?” Paper proposals could also consider the ways non-black religious communities appropriate black religious expression or black theologies. Should such appropriation ever be viewed as reverse migration - in other words, can non-black communities engage blackness and black religion generatively or constructively and not merely through colonization or exploitation?

## **AAR: CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGIES**

Co-Chairs: Ian Curran, [icurran@ggc.edu](mailto:icurran@ggc.edu); Aaron Davis, [aaron.davis@upsem.edu](mailto:aaron.davis@upsem.edu); Jason Smith, [jason.m.smith521@gmail.com](mailto:jason.m.smith521@gmail.com)

(1) *Panel: Theologies of Migration*: Constructive theological engagements with the conference theme of “Migration(s).” Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, the role of place-making, placelessness, and nomadism in theologies, liturgies, or spiritualities, as well as to attendant theological reflections on positionality, relationality, movement, becoming, and flow, “dwelling” and “crossing” (as in the writing of Thomas Tweed), spatial, temporal, and intellectual peregrinations, and themes of dynamism and interdependence arising from process thought and theorists like Michael Serres, Bruno Latour, Isabelle Stengers, and Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari.

(2) *Panel: Global Constructive Theologies*: Constructive/systematic theology has typically been populated by thinkers working from within various Christian traditions, but there is nothing about the area which limits the deployment of its tools to just one religion. As such, the Constructive Theologies Section invites paper proposals exhibiting creative approaches to doctrine hailing from non-Christian religious traditions. Papers may address traditional theological loci or propose alternative concepts and categories. Example paper topics include, but are not limited to: Islamic doctrines of God, Jewish eschatology, Hindu soteriology, the theological anthropology of Native American religions (e.g., Crow religion), and Shinto hamartiology. These topics are merely examples which authors are invited to consider and should not be taken as a definitive or exhaustive set. Papers should be conceptually rigorous and constructive or synthetic pieces rather than simply historical or evaluative.

(3) *Panel: Theological Reflections on Apocalypse and Eschatology*: In keeping with the “unprecedented times” in which we live, the Constructive Theologies Section invites papers that reflect on the theological categories of eschatology or apocalypse. Proposals can engage these categories with a constructive, systematic, or ethical focus and, as ever, we especially encourage in-depth engagements with sources beyond traditional Western perspectives. Proposals might consider, but are not limited to, responding theologically to states of exception, war, climate collapse, plague, revolution, holocaust, or other forms of revelatory cataclysm. Papers might also focus on utopian visions of the future or alternative visions of the afterlife. Finally, proposals responding to David Bentley Hart’s *Tradition and Apocalypse: An Essay on the Future of Christian Belief* or to other recent books on the theological value of apocalyptic thinking are also welcome.

## **AAR: ETHICS, RELIGION, AND SOCIETY**

Co-chairs: Sally Holt, [sally.holt@belmont.edu](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu); Michael Stoltzfus, [mstoltzfus@ggc.edu](mailto:mstoltzfus@ggc.edu)

Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) Migrations between religion, sexuality, and ethical transformation in inter-religious and cross-cultural contexts; (2) Addiction recovery as ethical/spiritual practice in 12-step, recovery dharma, and other frameworks. 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](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu)) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College ([mstoltzfus@ggc.edu](mailto:mstoltzfus@ggc.edu)).

## **AAR: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

Co-chairs: Anne Blue Wills, [anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu); Douglas Brown Clark, [clarkdh@wofford.edu](mailto:clarkdh@wofford.edu)

We invite proposals for panels or individual papers in any aspect of the history of Christian traditions, and especially proposals related to the topic of "Migration(s) in the History of Christianities." These could include Christian histories of literal mass movements of human beings through migration, immigration, or refugee status, including missionary and intercultural connections through Syriac Christianities or modern (post-)colonial encounters, as well as connections to human rights, oppression, and crisis theologies. Suggested topics also include forms of figurative/metaphorical boundary-crossing or movements, understood in terms of human diversities like ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, or in terms of theological heterodoxies or transitional moments. If you have questions, please contact chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College ([anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu)) or Douglas Brown Clark, Wofford College ([clarkdh@wofford.edu](mailto:clarkdh@wofford.edu)).

## **AAR: ISLAM**

Co-chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells, [amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu); Beena Butool, [sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

(1) *Panel*: In keeping with the 2023 AAR-SE theme of "Migration(s)" we invite proposals addressing movement and boundary crossings among Muslim populations and in Islamic society, thought, and history. Such research might focus on:

- The forced relocations of enslaved or colonized populations
- The migration and resettlement of populations due to trade, war, or climate change
- The development of peripatetic learning networks
- The creation and maintenance of ethnic identities
- The transmission of knowledge and culture
- Legal traditions focused on migration and settlement
- Contests of authority between settled communities and more recent arrivals

- Tensions between national and transnational identities
- Conversion
- Language and translation

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

- Foodways and culinary traditions
- The movement of the soul and migration through invisible and imaginal realms
- Transnational Sufi organizations
- Maintaining or crossing gender boundaries
- The flow of wealth through inheritance or remittances
- Kinship and romantic relationships
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Please contact section chairs Ariela Marcus-Sells ([amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu)) and Beena Butool ([sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)) with any questions.

(2) *Joint Session with Judaism*: Both Jews and Muslims have experienced migration, genocide, and exodus in the past especially in the last hundred years. We are excited to initiate fresh deliberations on shared narratives of the Near East for a co-sponsored panel with the Judaism Section. In keeping with the 2023 AAR-SE theme of “Migration (s)” we invite proposals exploring the convergences and divergences between Judaism and Islam in their experience of migration and dislocation. Papers can address any time period and be as specific or broad in their coverage of experiences of migration. Some possible topics might include (although applicants need not be limited by) the following:

- Location and dislocation in the Iberian Peninsula
- Trade crossroads between Jews and Muslims in Africa, Asia, the Middle East
- Hebrew and Arabic in migrant communities
- Politics of Mosques and/or Synagogues in diaspora
- Meaning of migration for Jewish and Muslim communities
- Muslims and Jewish immigrants inside America
- Cultural disruptions for Muslims and Jews in Diaspora
- Migrant Muslims and Jews and/or their anxieties for the second generation
- Islamic and Jewish material culture
- The Private versus the Public in Jewish and Islamic law
- Upholding rituals as immigrants: experiences of Muslims and Jews
- Conversion to host religion or culture
- Interreligious encounters between Islam and Judaism occasioned by migration
- Challenges and Prospects of Interfaith dialogue
- Mysticism for Jews and Muslims in Diaspora

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

When submitting proposals for the joint Islam-Judaism session, please mark one section as the primary choice and other as the secondary choice. Questions regarding proposals should be emailed to the chairs of both sections. Islam section chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells

([amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu)) and Beena Butool ([sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)). Judaism section chairs: Amanda Walls ([awal@uga.edu](mailto:awal@uga.edu)) and Emily Olsen ([etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu)).

## **AAR: JUDAISM**

Co-chairs: Amanda Walls, [awal@uga.edu](mailto:awal@uga.edu); Emily Olsen, [etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu)

The Judaism section invites submissions to any of the following three sessions: (1) Second Temple Judaism: Open Call; (2) Judaism in Late Antiquity: Open Call; and (3) Contemporary Judaism: Open Call. We welcome proposals from a wide range of methodological approaches and historical settings.

We especially encourage proposals that consider case studies or employ heuristic models relating to the theme of migration. Topics might include, but are not limited to: literal, metaphorical, and esoteric migrations; personal socio-cultural transformations attending migration; concepts of self and Other as encountered within a context of migration/foreignness.

Migrations have provided significant impetus for theological reflection, identity construction, political propaganda/protest, and much more throughout Jewish history. While each session is an open call, we particularly encourage proposals that explore the way that migrations have impacted Jewish identity, history, or ideology. Preferred proposals will shed light on how experiences of migration have shaped Jewish ideologies and identities. Please submit proposals for 20 minute papers. Please contact Amanda Walls ([awal@uga.edu](mailto:awal@uga.edu)) and/or Emily Olsen ([etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu)) with any questions/concerns.

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

When submitting proposals for the joint Islam-Judaism session, please mark one section as the primary choice and other as the secondary choice. Questions regarding proposals should be emailed to the chairs of both sections. Islam section chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells ([amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu)) and Beena Butool ([sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)). Judaism section chairs: Amanda Walls ([awal@uga.edu](mailto:awal@uga.edu)) and Emily Olsen ([etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu)).

### **AAR: METHOD AND THEORY IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION**

Co-chairs: Vaia Touna, [vaia.touna@ua.edu](mailto:vaia.touna@ua.edu), Russell McCutcheon, [russell.mccutcheon@ua.edu](mailto:russell.mccutcheon@ua.edu)

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](mailto:vaia.touna@ua.edu)).

### **AAR: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**

Co-chairs: Hollis Phelps, [phelps\\_h@mercer.edu](mailto:phelps_h@mercer.edu); Nathaniel Holmes, [nhomesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:nhomesjr@yahoo.com)/  
[nholmes@fmuniv.edu](mailto:nholmes@fmuniv.edu)

The Philosophy of Religion section seeks proposals that reflect the 2023 conference theme of “Migration(s).” We are especially seeking papers on the following topics:

- 1) Philosophy of Religion & Migrations (e.g., Migrations of Philosophical Concepts, i.e., the origins of philosophical concepts and migrations into various cultural contexts; Origins of Meditation and the Americanization of Meditation; Migrations of Religious Ideas Across Cultures).
- 2) Philosophy of Religion from Non-Christian Perspectives
- 3) Comparative Philosophy of Religion/Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Religion
- 4) Non-Dualisms
- 5) Evil and Suffering (e.g., Evil Thinking/Evil Thoughts; Climate Change & Human Suffering; Problem of Evil and Experimental Philosophy of Religion)

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission. Direct questions regarding the Philosophy of Religion section to Hollis Phelps ([phelps\\_h@mercer.edu](mailto:phelps_h@mercer.edu)) and Nathaniel Holmes ([nhomesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:nhomesjr@yahoo.com)/  
[nholmes@fmuniv.edu](mailto:nholmes@fmuniv.edu)).

## AAR: RELIGION AND NATURE

Co-chairs: Jefferson Calico, [jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu); Mark D. Wood, [mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)

(1) *Open Call*: The Religion and Nature section invites proposals that explore the intersection of religion and nature and the way religious traditions mediate and impact the relationship between humans and the more-than-human world. All proposals will be considered.

(2) In keeping with this year's conference theme of Migration(s), we are interested in proposals that reflect on dwelling and crossing, making homes and moving across boundaries to find and establish new homes and new relationships with the natural world.

In *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*, Amitav Ghosh explores the world-transforming impact of colonization on humans and the more-than-human world. For the Indigenous people of the Banda islands, the original source of the global trade in nutmeg, "the landscapes of their islands were places of dwelling that were enmeshed with human life in ways that were imaginative as well as material," and thereby of profound spiritual meaning and value. In contrast, for the European colonialists, "the trees, volcanoes, and landscapes of the Bandas had no meaning except as resources that could be harnessed to generate profit.... From this perspective," he adds, "as many Indigenous voices have reiterated again and again, the present phase of the planetary crisis is not new at all: rather, it represents the Earth's response to the globalization of the ecological transformations that were set in motion by European colonization of much of the world."

Religion and the natural world are constantly reshaping and being reshaped by disruptions, movements, and migrations. How do human and more-than-human people, religions, stories flow through, about, and in the natural world? In addition to the impact of globalization and colonialism on both nature and religion, other examples might include:

- the religious dimensions of climate-induced migration and climate refugees;
- patterns and disruptions of animal migrations;
- boundary-crossing practices of soul journeying, shape-shifting, shamanism, and entheogens;
- and the ways that religious nationalisms make use of the natural world to imagine and create sacred "homelands."

We invite proposals on these and other related topics.

Inquiries and questions should be directed to Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu](mailto:jefferson.calico@ucumberland.edu)) and Mark D. Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)). All proposals should be submitted through the submission link on the Southeast Region website: <https://relse.org/>

(3)) *Invited Panel on Religion, Protest, and Grassroots Activism against Pipeline Development in Virginia*. The panel will feature activists, clergy, academics, and other expert voices from Appalachia who have been involved in organizing and resisting several pipeline projects in

Virginia. So, the panel will spotlight environmental and religious intersections of activism in Virginia as well as across the Appalachian region.

### **AAR: RELIGION, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS**

Co-chairs: Timothy Burnside, [tb14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tb14e@my.fsu.edu); Anderson Moss [am5vt@virginia.edu](mailto:am5vt@virginia.edu)

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.

All papers pertaining to Religion, Culture & the Arts will be considered. Special consideration will be given to papers or panels on the following:

- (1) Religion and “trash culture,” including but not limited to: romance novels, reality TV, horror, magazines, pornography, game shows, B-movies, and “kitschy” material objects
- (2) Aesthetics of Religion and African American Culture in the Great Migration
- (3) Sexuality, Gender, and the study of Religion, with particular attention to Queer Theory
- (4) Afrofuturism, Indigenous Futurism, and religio-racial constructions of temporality
- (5) The conference theme on Migration(s)

For questions, please contact Timothy Burnside ([tb14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tb14e@my.fsu.edu)) and Anderson Moss ([am5vt@virginia.edu](mailto:am5vt@virginia.edu)). Please submit all abstracts through the RELSE website as well as the Religion, Culture, and the Arts submission form [here](#).

### **AAR: RELIGIONS IN AMERICA**

Co-chairs: Haley Iliff, [hiliff@fsu.edu](mailto:hiliff@fsu.edu); Sierra Lawson, [sielaw@live.unc.edu](mailto:sielaw@live.unc.edu)

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 2023 theme “Migration(s).” All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the AAR Southeast website: [relse.org](http://relse.org). Please send questions to Haley Iliff ([hiliff@fsu.edu](mailto:hiliff@fsu.edu)), Sierra Lawson ([sielaw@live.unc.edu](mailto:sielaw@live.unc.edu)).

### **AAR: RELIGIONS OF ASIA**

Chair: Kendall Marchman, [kendallmarchman@uga.edu](mailto:kendallmarchman@uga.edu)

(1) In conjunction with the 2023 theme, “Migration(s),” we solicit proposals on topics of migration considered broadly in relation to Asian Religions. While migration is often applied to the structured movement of human and non-human groups, we also encourage considerations of the personal, ethereal, and perhaps even disembodied dynamics of migration displayed in Asian religions.

(2) 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.

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

If you have questions regarding the Religions of Asia section, please contact Kendall Marchman ([kendallmarchman@uga.edu](mailto:kendallmarchman@uga.edu)).

### **AAR: SECULARISM, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND GLOBAL POLITICS**

Co-chairs: Finbarr Curtis, [fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu); Jesse Lee, [sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)

The Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics section invites proposals on religious freedom within secular institutions across the globe. Following the conference theme of migration, we welcome papers on subjects including:

- (1) Global politics of migration and borders
- (2) Rhetoric of religious freedom and "civilization"
- (3) Secularism and colonialism (especially imagining postcolonial, decolonial, or anticolonial futures across boundaries)
- (4) Secular conceptions of space and time
- (5) The intersection between religious freedom, free speech, and offense.

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](mailto:fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu)) or Jesse Lee ([sbb13h@my.fsu.edu](mailto:sbb13h@my.fsu.edu)).

### **AAR: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN RELIGION**

Co-chairs: Jodie Lyon, [lyon@uga.edu](mailto:lyon@uga.edu); Carol Barnsley, [cbarnsley@transy.edu](mailto:cbarnsley@transy.edu)

The Teaching and Learning Religion section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. We invite submissions for both individual presentations and multiple-person sessions or panels on any aspect of teaching religion, including:

- (1) Explanation and analysis of innovative teaching strategies
- (2) Critical reflection on successes and failures in the classroom
- (3) Research into the scholarship of teaching and learning

Proposals that address this year's theme of "migration(s)" are particularly encouraged, but our call is open to submissions on any pedagogically focused topic.

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: INTERSECTIONALITY**

Co-Chairs: Mitzi Smith, [smithm@ctsnet.edu](mailto:smithm@ctsnet.edu); Florence Egbeyale, [fae19@my.fsu.edu](mailto:fae19@my.fsu.edu)

(1) Call for Papers 1: Open call

(2) Call for Papers 2: We invite papers that engage the intersection of coerced or voluntary immigration/immigrants, linguistic racism, sacred texts and/or religion. How do language, racism, and religion intersect? The idea of a standard English language is a social construct. Lippi-Green (*English with an Accent*, 2012, p. 67) argues that “standard language ideology (SLI) is a bias toward an abstracted, idealized, homogenous spoken language which is imposed and maintained by dominant bloc institutions and which names as it model the written language, but which is drawn primarily from the spoken language of the upper middle class.” A standard language ideology is connected to linguistic hegemony that is achieved when those who cannot meet the standards are convinced that their failure results from the inadequacy of their own language, which is linked to self-identity. H. S. Alim and G. Smitherman (*Articulate While Black*, 2012, p. 171) write that “Whites can exercise power through overt (obvious) and covert (hidden) racist practices. The fact that it is the language and communicative norms of those in power, in any society, that tend to be labeled as ‘standard’, ‘official’, ‘normal’, ‘appropriate’, ‘respectful’ and so on, often goes unrecognized, particularly by members of the dominating group. White Mainstream English and White ways of speaking become the invisible—or better, inaudible—norms of what educators and uncritical scholars like to call academic English, the language of school, the language of power, or communicating in academic [and religious] settings.” Immigrants and/or Black peoples are often forbidden or discouraged from using their native language or a hybrid tongue. When Black peoples and immigrants are encouraged or compelled or taught to understand their language, identity, and culture through a white gaze, their value, sense of self, and worth are negatively impacted. April Baker-Bell states that “to eradicate Black Language is to eradicate Black people’s ways of knowing, interpreting, surviving, being, and resisting in the world (*Linguistic Justice* 2020, 25). The same can be said for immigrants. In what ways are religion and/or sacred texts complicit in linguistic racism?

(3) Invited Panel: This is an invited panel of doctoral students and scholars who will respond to April Baker-Bell’s book *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity and Pedagogy* (New York: Routledge, 2020).

## **SBL MEMBER-SPONSORED SECTION: HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT**

Co-Chairs: David Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)); Shane Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu))

(1) The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group is accepting paper proposals for the 2023 annual meeting. The agenda shall include two joint sessions with the southeast region of ASOR in addition to two open sessions. All topics germane to the study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament will be considered. Proposals for the open sessions must be submitted via the online submission forms found at [relse.org](http://relse.org). In addition, please send an abstract in an email to both David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)) and Shane M. Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)). Emails should include the abstract and the subject line should read “2023 RELSE Proposal.” Information on proposals for the joint sessions can be found below.

*(2) Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR member-sponsored session: Human Migration*

In accordance with the governing conference theme of migration, the ASOR members group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session that will focus upon human movements. As noted in the conference theme: "...mass movements of entire populations...are transformative not only for those who leave but also for the places they go and the people and places they leave behind." From the Bronze Age Collapse, to the settlement of the tribes of Israel in Canaan, from Assyrian displacements, to return from the Babylonian Exile, text and archaeology offer a wealth of possibilities for constructive study of mass movement. The biblical text also recounts the profoundly meaningful nature of the migration of individuals and the spiritual impact of these transitions. Such texts offer a more emotional aspect of the massive change caused by migration. Migration may be instigated as punishment (Adam and Eve, Cain, Noah), as promise (Abraham, Ezra), or prompted by great need (Ruth, the Patriarchs), but typically reveals both the longing for home and the hope for a better future. Proposals related to this more individual aspect of migration, and particularly the mark this has made upon the biblical text, are also welcome.

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the RELSE website *and* sent to the group chairs: David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)), Shane Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)) Please include in the title "RELSE 2023 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR."

*(3) Joint Session: HB/OT and ASOR member-sponsored session: Migration of Ideas and Material Culture*

This joint session welcomes proposals related to the movement of ideas and material culture across regions and between peoples during the biblical period. In the process of migration, objects and ideas are often altered to better suit their new "home" and sometimes lose old function and meaning to acquire new ones. Once powerful Egyptian symbols become merely decorative. Pottery gains value by the distance it was traded. Flood stories reflect the cosmology and theology of the people telling them. Gods take on new characteristics to function in their new homes. How do these adaptations and changes help us understand the peoples and cultures who embraced these and other "new things"? 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 RELSE website *and* sent to the group chairs: David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)) Shane Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)) Please include in the title "RELSE 2023 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR."

**SBL MEMBER-SPONSORED SECTION: NEW TESTAMENT**

Co-Chairs: Eric Thurman ([etthurma@sewanee.edu](mailto:etthurma@sewanee.edu)); Jonathan Groce ([jonathan.charles.groce@emory.edu](mailto:jonathan.charles.groce@emory.edu)); Annie Tinsley ([antinsley@shawu.edu](mailto:antinsley@shawu.edu))

In light of the conference theme of Migration(s), the New Testament group issues the following call for papers in four sessions: one session for papers related to the conference; one session on

“The Bible and Contemporary Contexts;” and two open sessions for papers in any area of NT studies.

(1) For the session on the conference theme, papers will be given special consideration if they treat aspects of migration—“crossings and transitions, hardship and promise, beginnings, ends and the intervals in between”—in the New Testament. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Paul’s travels around the ancient Mediterranean, the heavenly “Son of Man” traditions in the Gospels, and early Christians as a “diaspora” community in 1 Peter and Revelation.

(2) For the session “The Bible and Contemporary Contexts,” papers for this new session will be given special consideration if they explore how readers use biblical texts, characters, or themes to make sense of and engage matters of contemporary interest. We especially welcome papers related to the conference theme, addressing issues like the migration of life into the digital sphere, immigration, or emerging refugee crises

3) We invite paper proposals related to any area of NT Studies

For questions regarding these sessions, please contact the NT Section co-chairs: Eric Thurman ([etthurman@sewanee.edu](mailto:etthurman@sewanee.edu)), Jonathan Groce ([jgroce@emory.edu](mailto:jgroce@emory.edu)), and Annie Tinsley ([antinsley@shawu.edu](mailto:antinsley@shawu.edu))

### **SBL MEMBER-SPONSORED SECTION: APOCRYPHA AND PSEUDEPIGRAPHA**

Chair: Kathy Barrett Dawson ([dawsonka15@ecu.edu](mailto:dawsonka15@ecu.edu))

The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section focuses on the New Testament Apocrypha as well as the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. For the 2023 Southeastern Regional Meeting, we invite proposals for the following sessions:

(1) Papers approaching these texts in relation to the conference theme of “Migration.” How does the theme of migration, which incorporates both mass physical and geographical migration of humans and non-humans along with personal and socio-cultural transformations as well as more esoteric migrations, inform the creation of these texts? For more information on the conference theme, see [www.relse.org](http://www.relse.org).

(2) Papers engaging the current state of parabiblical studies and the role of these texts for understanding Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity.

(3) An open call for papers in any area of apocryphal or pseudepigraphal studies.

For questions regarding the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section, contact section chair, Kathy Barrett Dawson ([dawsonka15@ecu.edu](mailto:dawsonka15@ecu.edu)).

### **SBL MEMBER-SPONSORED SECTION: DEAD SEA SCROLLS**

Co-Chairs: Matthew Goff ([mgoff@fsu.edu](mailto:mgoff@fsu.edu)); Carmen Palmer ([cpalmer4@stetson.edu](mailto:cpalmer4@stetson.edu))

For the 2023 Dead Sea Scrolls section of RELSE, we invite papers dealing with any topic pertaining to the Dead Sea Scrolls, though especially welcome papers relating to the topic of migration as experienced within the Dead Sea Scrolls and/or the sectarian movement affiliated with them. This discussion could relate to spatial concepts of migration, such as those of the Exodus or the Exile, or other metaphorical migrations, including, but not limited to, "migrations" across other types of boundaries (relating to sectarian, spiritual, citizenship, or other). For questions regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls Section, contact section co-chairs Matthew Goff ([mgoff@fsu.edu](mailto:mgoff@fsu.edu)) or Carmen Palmer ([cpalmer4@steson.edu](mailto:cpalmer4@steson.edu)).

## **ASOR MEMBER-SPONSORED SECTION**

**Chair: Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com))**

### Session #1: 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 the last several years, 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 RELSE website and sent to the group Chair: Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)) Please include in the title “RELSE 2023 Proposal | Field Reports ASOR Member-Sponsored Session.”

### Session #2: Joint HB/OT and ASOR member-sponsored session on Human Migration

In accordance with the governing conference theme of migration, the ASOR member's group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session that will focus upon human movements. As noted in the conference theme: “...mass movements of entire populations...are transformative not only for those who leave but also for the places they go and the people and places they leave behind.” From the Bronze Age Collapse to the settlement of the tribes of Israel in Canaan, and from Assyrian displacements to the return from the Babylonian Exile, text and archaeology offer a wealth of possibilities for constructive study of mass movement.

The biblical text also recounts the profoundly meaningful nature of the migration of individuals and the spiritual impact of these transitions. Such texts offer a more emotional aspect of the massive changes caused by migration. Migration may be instigated as punishment (Adam and Eve, Cain, Noah), as promise (Abraham, Ezra), or prompted by great need (Ruth, the Patriarchs), but typically reveals both the longing for home and the hope for a better future. Proposals related to this more individual aspect of migration, and particularly the mark this has made upon the biblical text, are also welcome. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the RELSE website and sent to the group chairs: David B. Schreiner ([dbschreiner@gmail.com](mailto:dbschreiner@gmail.com)), Shane Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi

(rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2023 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR Member-Sponsored.”

### Session #3: HB/OT and ASOR member-sponsored session on Migration of Ideas and Material Culture

This joint session welcomes proposals related to the movement of ideas and material culture across regions and between peoples during the biblical period. In the process of migration, objects and ideas are often altered to better suit their new “home” and sometimes lose old functions and meaning to acquire new ones. Once powerful Egyptian symbols become merely decorative. Pottery gains value by the distance it was traded. Flood stories reflect the cosmology and theology of the people telling them. Gods take on new characteristics to function in their new homes. How do these adaptations and changes help us understand the peoples and cultures who embraced these and other “new things”? 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) Shane Thompson (sthompson@ncwc.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2023 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR Member-sponsored.”

### **REGIONAL UNDERGRADUATE PAPER SECTION**

Chair: Leah Robinson, [leah.robinson@pfeiffer.edu](mailto:leah.robinson@pfeiffer.edu)

Undergraduate students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by AAR-SE and SBL-SE Members. 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, 2022 and should be emailed to [RELSERegion@gmail.com](mailto:RELSERegion@gmail.com) as a PDF attachment. All undergraduate papers are automatically considered for the Undergraduate Paper Prize. Questions may be directed to Leah E. Robinson at [RELSERegion@gmail.com](mailto:RELSERegion@gmail.com).