

**Call for Papers: AAR-Southeast  
2024 Annual Meeting, College of Charleston**

**Conference Theme: “Tensions”  
March 1-4, 2024**

Towering live oaks draped with Spanish moss line the colorful streets of Charleston, South Carolina, making it a booming tourist destination celebrated for its rich food, art, and architecture. But within this lowcountry mecca sits a dark past and complicated present: Charleston stands as the US hub for the transatlantic slave trade, a history too often erased in carriage and plantation tours. It is place of profound tension and contradiction.

Like Charleston, the places, the traditions, and the peoples that we study – even our discipline itself – are subject to perennially opposing forces. Pulled between the local and the global, romantic visions and untidy realities, resistance and acquiescence, the material and the spiritual, public and private, and the secular and profane, we and our research subjects live in a constant state of tension.

As we invite you to join us in Charleston for the 2024 meeting, we invite you to consider the theme of tension as it relates to your areas of study. What are the sources of tension for us or our research subjects? In what ways is the tension productive? How do we and/or our research subjects navigate these tensions with or despite religion? We encourage multidisciplinary proposals, as well as proposals from underrepresented scholars and graduate students.

Please contact conference coordinators Drs. Lenny Lowe [lowelj@cofc.edu](mailto:lowelj@cofc.edu) and Brennan Keegan [keeganbl@cofc.edu](mailto:keeganbl@cofc.edu) with any questions.

**Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2023**

**Submissions Link:** <https://forms.gle/W3ftCpNH7ytW39aw6>

All section panels will be held March 2 and 3, 2024. For consideration, please submit a paper title and 300-word abstract to both the above link and by emailing the section chairs directly. Only one proposal will be considered by each applicant, but you may indicate first and second choice for possible units.

**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, 2023 deadline are eligible for the undergraduate award. See full instructions below.

## **Jump to Unit**

Africana Studies  
Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha  
ASOR Sponsored: Ancient World  
Black Cultures in the Study of Religion  
Constructive Theologies  
Dead Sea Scrolls  
Ethics, Religion, and Society  
History of Christianity  
Intersectionality  
Islam  
Judaism  
Method & Theory in the Study of Religion  
New Testament  
Old Testament/Hebrew Bible  
Philosophy of Religion  
Religion and Nature  
Religion, Culture, and the Arts  
Religions in America  
Religions of Asia  
Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics  
Teaching & Learning in Religion  
Undergraduate Student Papers

### **Africana Studies**

Chairs: Lenny Lowe ([lowelj@cofc.edu](mailto:lowelj@cofc.edu)) and Joseph Hellweg ([jhellweg@fsu.edu](mailto:jhellweg@fsu.edu))

- 1) “Doubling, Mirroring & Redundancy in Africana Religions: Duplication as Ritual Resolution?” The various cultures, spaces, and practices that constitute African and African-inspired religions are replete with striking instances of doubles, from doubled souls and divine twins to mirror worlds and linguistic redundancy – as well as the pairings that occur in dreams, divination, spirit possession, totemism, shape-shifting, and in encounters with ancestors and other powerful forces. The Africana Religions Section invites paper proposals that explore instances of such doubling as they appear in the objects, practices, stories, art and language of Africana religions. What gives rise to these doubles and redundancies? To what ambivalences and tensions do they respond? What possibilities do they create? What theoretical models, existing or not, do these doubles elicit?
- 2) “Religions in Tension: Ritual & Ethical Pluralism in the Black Atlantic and Its Diasporas” Scholars of Africana religions increasingly recognize religious pluralism as a significant force across Africa and its diasporas. Nolte, Ogen & Jones (2017), for example, have studied the coexistence of Christianity, Islam, and Indigenous religions in Nigeria. Meanwhile, African Initiated Churches and Vodou have long integrated various

influences. This panel invites reflections on such diversity, whether internal to ritual practice and ethical reflection or characteristic of communities practicing multiple religious currents side by side. We seek papers exploring how Africana religionists manage diverse inspirations, either by reconciling them or by maintaining productive tensions between them. We also encourage submissions on the religious dimensions, broadly construed, of ostensibly *non*-religious domains, such as the arts, economics, public health, state politics, etc.

### **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 2024 Southeastern Regional Meeting, we invite proposals for the following sessions:

- 1) Papers approaching these texts in relation to the conference theme of “Tensions.” How does the theme of Tensions between canonical and non-canonical writings indicate the diversity of the communities that produced apocryphal and pseudepigraphal writings? In what ways can the tensions of ancient times relate to the local and global tensions that exist in the twenty-first century?
- 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;
- 4) Joint CFP with the Philosophy of Religion Section. For this joint session, we invite papers that address either of two topics: A) What might be the relationship between philosophical inquiry and scripture? Can we appeal to scripture for philosophical claims and exploration; and B) Philosophical Themes in Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal literature.

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

### **ASOR Member-Sponsored: Ancient World**

Chairs: Shane M. Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), John Thames ([jthame@clemsun.edu](mailto:jthame@clemsun.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com))

- 1) Tensions within Archaeology of the Ancient World. In accordance with the governing conference theme of tensions, the ASOR Member-Sponsored session invites proposals related to tensions within the field of Archaeology of the Ancient World. Suggested areas of focus may include discussions surrounding the conservation and repatriation of artifacts, cultural tensions between archaeological teams and local populations, and

differing approaches to dig methodology, past and present. Broadly related proposals are also welcome.

- 2) Joint CFP with Old Testament/Hebrew Bible: 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. 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. Reports on preparatory work – surveys and planning – for upcoming digs are also welcome!

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the AARSE website *and* sent to the group Co-Chairs: Shane M. Thompson ([sthompson@newc.edu](mailto:sthompson@newc.edu)), John Thames ([jtthame@clemsun.edu](mailto:jtthame@clemsun.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)) Please include in the title “RELSE2024 Proposal | Field Reports ASOR Member-Sponsored Session.”

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

Interested in serving on the committee for the Black Cultures unit? Please contact Lenny Lowe ([lowelj@cofc.edu](mailto:lowelj@cofc.edu)) or Brennan Keegan ([keeganbl@cofc.edu](mailto:keeganbl@cofc.edu)). Interested in submitting a paper proposal for the 2024 meeting?

- 1) All papers related to the theme of “tensions.”
- 2) Open Call.

### **Constructive Theologies**

Chairs: Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College ([icurran@ggc.edu](mailto:icurran@ggc.edu)) or Royce Anderson, Independent Scholar ([toroyce@gmail.com](mailto:toroyce@gmail.com))

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

- 1) Constructive theological discussions that deal with the conference theme of "tensions." Proposals might consider perennial tensions in constructive and systematic theology, such as the tensions between the material and the spiritual, unity and diversity, the church and the world, faith and reason, sin and grace, the cataphatic and apophatic in theological language, the present state of things and the hoped-for, eschatological future, or any other theologically relevant tension in Christian doctrine, ethics, or spirituality. Proposals exploring tensions between and within theological traditions outside of Christianity are welcome as well.
- 2) Explorations on the topic, at the core of theological anthropology, of “what does it mean to be human -- to be a person?” Traditionally, theological anthropology has focused on issues such as sin and free will, arguing from various individualistic, materialistic, and dualistic perspectives; from Christian and non-Christian traditions; and across different

historical, disciplinary, religious, cultural, and ideological contexts. In the biblical tradition, the starting point has been Genesis 1:26 on the *imago dei*. This has led to doctrinal discussions of, for example, *homo adorans*, *exitus et redivus*; *theosis*; Christology; faith, justification, and salvation; scripture, doctrine, and tradition; and death. The more modern concept of *homo sapiens* implies that all members of our species are human. Many cases of intergroup conflict, however, demonstrate that groups typically “dehumanize” others who are identified as “them.” The role and practice of religions within societies influences issues such as morality and philanthropy; and impacts social movements like black liberation theology, womanist issues including abortion politics, and politics at the local, national, and international levels. Our contemporary ecological crisis has also raised the question of the relationship between humanity and the rest of nature for theological anthropology. Papers are invited on the concept of “personhood and being human” that include, but are not limited to, the topics above.

3) Open call for papers in constructive theology.

Submit proposals through the Google Docs paper submission form. Questions may be directed to Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College ([icurran@ggc.edu](mailto:icurran@ggc.edu)) or Royce Anderson, Independent Scholar ([toroyce@gmail.com](mailto:toroyce@gmail.com)).

### **Dead Sea Scrolls**

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

- 1) Enslavement, Subjugation, and Liberation in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This year, in light of the conference theme “Tensions,” the group especially welcomes proposals dealing with enslavement in the Dead Sea Scrolls, whether physical or metaphorical.
- 2) We also welcome papers that deal with issues relating to oppression, liberation from enslavement, or methodological frameworks such as liberationist approaches. Themes such as exodus, exile, and others are also in view.
- 3) The Dead Sea Scrolls group welcomes any papers that relate to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Papers by graduate students, women, and members of minoritized groups are encouraged.

### **Ethics, Religion, and Society**

Chairs: 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))

Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged:

- 1) Tensions related to ethics, reproductive and gender regulation, and public/private spiritual practice.
- 2) Ethical tensions in multi-faith families, parenting, marriages, and communities.

- 3) Ethics, censorship, and freedom from religion in education and politics.
- 4) The role of ethical/spiritual practices in addiction recovery and other chronic health issues.

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)).

### **History of Christianity**

Chairs: Anne Blue Willis [anwillis@davidson.edu](mailto:anwillis@davidson.edu) and Douglas Brown Clark [douglas.brown.clark@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.brown.clark@gmail.com).

History of Christianity invites three kinds of proposals, for panels or individual papers:

- 1) We invite proposals related to the conference theme of “Tensions,” controversies, conflicts, or injustices, from early Christian arguments about creeds, heresy, orthodoxy, Christology, and gender/marriage, to early modern reformations and colonial encounters, to Christianity and slavery in South Carolina, to the “creative tension” of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birmingham Campaign, to contemporary local/national/international tensions over Christianity and gender/race/sexuality.
- 2) We invite proposals related to the process of writing biography in the field of the history of Christianity.
- 3) Open call, for any aspect of the history of Christianity.

If you have questions, please contact chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College ([anwillis@davidson.edu](mailto:anwillis@davidson.edu)) or Douglas Brown Clark, Wofford College ([clarkdh@wofford.edu](mailto:clarkdh@wofford.edu)).

### **Intersectionality**

Chairs: Florence Egbeyale ([fae19@fsu.edu](mailto:fae19@fsu.edu)) and Angela Parker ([parker\\_an@mercer.edu](mailto:parker_an@mercer.edu)).

- 1) Intersectionality and the Tensions of living in Post-Roe World. In light of the 50th anniversary of Roe and the repeal of Roe, society is living in the tension of conversations around reproductive justice. The Intersectionality panel invites proposals that center on abortion, reproductive ethics, and womb ethics in conversation with the study of religion. We especially welcome critical re-readings of texts, narratives, and readers (religious and civic) that address the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, sexuality, and/or citizenship status. We encourage papers that explore the impact of living in a post-Roe world and all the stresses, rages, and traumas that such living entails. Graduate students and scholars who employ womanist, feminist, and/or queer interpretative approaches are encouraged to submit proposals.

- 2) Intersectionality and Charleston, SC Tensions: Recognizing that the city of Charleston, SC lives in the tensions of the Denmark Vessey-planned slave revolt of 1822 (wherein he was a member of the newly formed AME church that would morph into Mother Emanuel AME Church) and the June 17, 2015 shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church that killed 9 African American church members, the Intersectionality Section invites papers that engages the themes of identity, religious thoughts, and myriads of tensions which often attend the interaction between the two subject matter in the past and contemporary times. More so, in recognition of the fact that Christianity steeped in white supremacy holds different stands of freedom and liberation, and concerns subsist on how religious scholars dialogue with others across this tension as well as on how religion can transcend intersectional identities, this session welcomes papers that critically engage the role of religion in ways that expand the current discourse of intersectionality and the tensions as represented in various historical events in Charleston, SC. We encourage papers that explore the impact of living in a post-Roe world and all the stresses, rages, and traumas that such living entails. Graduate students and scholars who employ womanist, feminist, and/or queer interpretative approaches are encouraged to submit proposals.
- 3) Intersectionality and Religion Open Call Addressing Tensions. We invite proposals that engage tensions in conversations related to intersectional concerns of class, gender, race, ethnicity, status etc. How do representations in sacred text convey tension on contemporary readers? Is trauma or violence generated through engagement with these texts in modern times and how is that possible? We welcome proposals that explore the question of affect in tension-filled sacred narratives. Graduate students and scholars who employ womanist, feminist, queer interpretive approaches are encouraged to submit proposals.

All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the AAR/SE website: [relse.org](http://relse.org). Please send questions to Florence Egbeyale, co-chair ([fae19@fsu.edu](mailto:fae19@fsu.edu)) and Angela Parker, chair ([parker\\_an@mercer.edu](mailto:parker_an@mercer.edu)).

### **Islam**

Chairs: Ariela Marcus-Sells ([amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu)) and Beena Butool ([sbeenabutool@gmail.com](mailto:sbeenabutool@gmail.com))

- 1) In a now classic essay, “Map is not Territory,” Jonathan Z. Smith suggested that theological uniformity was both a product and symptom of empire and encouraged scholars of Religious Studies to examine moments of theological *incongruity* as culturally and intellectually productive. In keeping with the 2024 AAR-SE theme of “Tensions” the Islam Group invites paper proposals that apply Smith’s insights to the study of Muslim pasts, presents, and (imagined) futures. How have theological, epistemological, and worldview differences, whether between different groups of Muslims, or between Muslims and non-Muslims, generated new forms of cultural thought and political action? And when have attempts to portray conformity masked the



presence of difference and discontinuity? Papers addressing these questions will be considered from all subfields and methodological approaches.

- 2) Additionally, we are very interested in receiving panel proposals from scholars working on Islam in South Asia. Regardless of the region specified, topics could be broad ranging and include any angle or topic related to Islam in South Asia.
- 3) Scholars are invited to propose their own panel topics on topics besides Islam in South Asia.

Please contact section chairs Ariela Marcus-Sells ([amarcussells@elon.edu](mailto:amarcussells@elon.edu)) and Beena Butool ([sbeenabutool@gmail.com](mailto:sbeenabutool@gmail.com)) with any questions.

### **Judaism: Tensions and Divides Among and Within Jewish Communities**

Chairs: Tyler Kelley ([tyler2@uga.edu](mailto:tyler2@uga.edu)) or Emily Olsen ([etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu))

- 1) The Judaism section welcomes any submissions related to ancient and medieval Judaisms. This year's theme of "*tensions*" encourages us to focus on the ways that tension has exerted productive, disruptive, and destructive influences on both Judaism and the study of Judaism. Tension has long been a major feature of Judaism's relationship with other cultures and religions (Hellenism, Christianity) and has also had an abiding impact on internal Jewish debates and developments (Hillel & Shammai, Karaites, Sabbatianism). Understanding these tensions can provide valuable insight into the ways that Judaism has navigated and grappled with both internal and external conflict.
- 2) Given this year's theme, our section especially welcomes papers that explore Jewish identity and community formation, sectarian Judaisms, debates on the Parting of the Ways, and meta-studies on the tensions that have existed within the academic study of Judaism. However, prospective participants may submit any paper on ancient and medieval Judaism.

We encourage early career scholars and graduate students to submit papers and participate in this session. Please contact Tyler Kelley ([tyler2@uga.edu](mailto:tyler2@uga.edu)) or Emily Olsen ([etolsen@fsu.edu](mailto:etolsen@fsu.edu)) with any questions.

### **Method & Theory in the Study of Religion**

Chair: Vaia Touna, University of Alabama ([vaia.touna@ua.edu](mailto:vaia.touna@ua.edu))

The Method & Theory section invites proposals for two open sessions. Submissions must concern either:

- 1) A methodological issue (i.e., problem or proposal) in the history of the field or in current scholarly work in the study of religion



- 2) 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.
- 3) Book review panels (i.e., author meets critics) focusing on current works examining either (1) or (2) above, are also possible.

Questions can be sent to Vaia Touna, University of Alabama ([vaia.touna@ua.edu](mailto:vaia.touna@ua.edu)).

### **New Testament**

Co-Chairs: Eric Thurman ([etthurma@sewanee.edu](mailto:etthurma@sewanee.edu)); Annie Tinsley ([antinsley@shawu.edu](mailto:antinsley@shawu.edu)); Zach Eberhart ([zechariah.eberhart@point.edu](mailto:zechariah.eberhart@point.edu)).

In light of the conference theme of “Tensions,” the New Testament (NT) group issues the following call for papers in four sessions: one session for papers specifically related to the conference theme of “Tensions” and three open sessions for papers in any area of NT studies. We encourage proposals from underrepresented scholars and graduate students.

- 1) For the session on the conference theme, papers will be given special consideration if they treat aspects of “Tensions” in the NT. Possible topics include but are by no means limited to: Christological/theological tensions between specific texts/authors, tensions between Judaism/Hellenism/Hellenistic Judaism and how these inform our understanding of the NT, methodological and multidisciplinary tensions, canonical tensions, tensions that arise while teaching the New Testament in a modern context, and other areas of tension (broadly defined) within New Testament studies.
- 2) We also 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)), Annie Tinsley ([antinsley@shawu.edu](mailto:antinsley@shawu.edu)) and Zach Eberhart ([zechariah.eberhart@point.edu](mailto:zechariah.eberhart@point.edu)).

### **Old Testament/Hebrew Bible**

Chairs: Shane M. Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), John Thames ([jthame@clemsun.edu](mailto:jthame@clemsun.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com))

- 1) Joint CFP with ASOR Member-Sponsored Session: 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. 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. Reports on preparatory work – surveys and planning – for upcoming digs are also welcome!

- 2) **Methodological Tensions in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies.** In accordance with the governing conference theme of tensions, the ASOR members group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session that will focus upon tensions surrounding OT/HB studies. As noted in the conference theme: “the places, the traditions, and the peoples that we study – even our discipline itself – are subject to perennially opposing forces. Pulled between the local and the global... the material and the spiritual, public and private... we and our research subjects live in a constant state of tension.” Proposals for this session may address methodological tensions in the field, including but not limited to how approaches to scholarship are shaped by religious or secular worldviews, textual versus archaeological or historical emphasis, and political orientations.
- 3) **Joint CFP with ASOR-Sponsored Group Ancient World: Cultural, Religious, and Political Tensions.** In accordance with the governing conference theme of tensions, the ASOR members group and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session related to the expression of tensions within the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near Eastern world. Special emphasis is encouraged on how biblical and ancient Near Eastern texts reflect tensions at important junctures of culture, religion, and politics. For example: rural versus urban life and values in the cultural sphere, local versus centralized power structures in the political realm, and monotheism versus syncretism in religious life. 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 AARSE website and sent to the group Co-Chairs: Shane M. Thompson ([sthompson@ncwc.edu](mailto:sthompson@ncwc.edu)), John Thames ([jtthame@clemsun.edu](mailto:jtthame@clemsun.edu)), and Rachel Nabulsi ([rachelnabulsi@gmail.com](mailto:rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)) Please include in the title “RELSE 2024 Proposal | Joint Session HB/OT and ASOR.”

### **Philosophy of Religion**

Chairs: Hollis Phelps ([phelps\\_h@mercer.edu](mailto:phelps_h@mercer.edu)) and Nathaniel Holmes ([nholmesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:nholmesjr@yahoo.com)/[nholmes@fmuniv.edu](mailto:nholmes@fmuniv.edu)).

The Philosophy of Religion section seeks proposals that reflect the 2024 conference theme of “Tension(s).” We are especially seeking papers on the following topics:

- 1) Proposal related to the Conference Theme: Philosophy of Religion & Tensions (e.g., Conflicting religious cultural values; Evil, suffering, & faith in God; Ideologically motivated reasoning/beliefs, polarization in society & religion as a conduit of such beliefs; The role of religion in current political debates, etc.)
- 2) Philosophy of Religion from Non-Christian Perspectives; Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion
- 3) Philosophy, Religion, Science, AI, Transhumanism, & Ethics

- 4) For a joint session between the Philosophy of Religion Section and the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section, we invite papers that address either of these two topics: A) What might be the relationship between philosophical inquiry and scripture? Can we appeal to scripture for philosophical claims and exploration? and B) Philosophical Themes in the Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal Writings.
- 5) Any proposals in the area of Philosophy of Religion (including new directions or neglected topics in Philosophy of Religion and/or specific philosophers, theologians, or social and political figures whose ideas contribute to or impact the study 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 ([nholmesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:nholmesjr@yahoo.com)/ [nholmes@fmuniv.edu](mailto:nholmes@fmuniv.edu)).

### **Religion and Nature**

Chairs: Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](mailto:mdwood@vcu.edu)) and Jefferson Calico ([Jcalico70@gmail.com](mailto:Jcalico70@gmail.com))

The Religion and Nature section seeks papers on the following topics:

- 1) OPEN CALL to research on religion and nature. We invite papers that address any aspects of the theoretical and practical relationship between religious traditions and nature.
- 2) In response to our AARSE 2024 conference theme “Tensions,” we invite papers that explore the tension of meanings and symbols, communities, identity, and power at the intersection of religion, nature, and ecojustice in the low country region, especially in the context of the history of Black and Indigenous struggles to maintain and gain control over and protect land and life.
- 3) We also invite papers that focus on local and networked community efforts to protect ecosystems in the broader Southeast region. These might focus on issues such as food sovereignty; protecting the Weelaunee Forest, where the Atlanta Police Department is building a training center; addressing rising seas and flooding and environmental polluting industries; and efforts to build infrastructures (e.g., tree planting; bike and walking paths; car-free zones); or local knowledge production and particular religious communities -- that support a just transition to sustainable and healthy cities for all residents. What role are religious leaders, activists, and scholars of religion playing in the work of addressing and solving complex socio-environmental challenges and imagining and building healthy ecosystems?

We invite you to submit your research and join us for an energizing gathering in Charleston, S.C., in spring 2024.

### **Religion, Culture, and the Arts**

Chairs: Timothy Burnside ([tb14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tb14e@my.fsu.edu)), CJ McCrary ([cjm3wv@virginia.edu](mailto:cjm3wv@virginia.edu)), and 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) Meditations on Religion and the Arts in Black Studies broadly construed in the works of scholars such as: Ashon Crawley, Anthony B. Pinn, Hortense Spillers, Sylvia Wynter, Frank B. Wilderson, R. A. Judy, J. Cameron Carter, Fred Moten, or Calvin Warren
- 3) Camp, Drag, and Gender Performances, especially thinking in the wake of anti-LGBTQ+ legislature in the U.S.
- 4) Reading between the lines: new horizons in religion, media, the scholarly practices of reading, and the tensions between artistic encounters and religious meaning making.
- 5) DIY Aesthetics and Religion on-the-ground, especially thinking with subversive, underground, and countercultural artistic/religious productions.
- 6) Papers engaging with the conference theme of “Tensions.”

For questions, please contact Timothy Burnside ([tb14e@my.fsu.edu](mailto:tb14e@my.fsu.edu)), CJ McCrary ([cjm3wv@virginia.edu](mailto:cjm3wv@virginia.edu)), and Anderson Moss ([am5vt@virginia.edu](mailto:am5vt@virginia.edu)).

### **Religion in America**

Chairs: Timothy Burnside ([tburnside@fsu.edu](mailto:tburnside@fsu.edu)) and Jacob Barrett ([jacbar@unc.edu](mailto:jacbar@unc.edu)).

We are especially interested in scholarship that considers:

- 1) Religion, policing, and incarceration.
- 2) Affect and Materiality in American Religion.
- 3) Rethinking Religions in the Americas: what happens when we recast “Religions” in the “Americas”?
- 4) Publics and Privates of Gender and Religion, especially thinking with the current anti-LGBTQ+ legislature in the US.
- 5) Papers pertaining this year’s theme of “Tensions.”

Papers in all areas related to Religion in the Americas will be considered. For questions, please contact Timothy Burnside ([tburnside@fsu.edu](mailto:tburnside@fsu.edu)) and Jacob Barrett ([jacbar@unc.edu](mailto:jacbar@unc.edu)).

### **Religions of Asia**

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

- 1) In conjunction with the 2024 theme, “Tensions,” we are calling for proposals that address this topic as it manifests in Asian religions. We encourage broad perspectives in thinking

about tension, but suggest proposals consider it in the following areas: caste and class, apologetics and polemics (i.e., differing doctrinal positions), post/de-colonialism, sex and gender dynamics, divinity and humanity.

- 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.

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.

### **Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics**

Chairs: Finbarr Curtis ([fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu)) or Jesse Lee ([jjlee@fsu.edu](mailto:jjlee@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 tensions, we welcome papers on subjects including:

- 1) Legal tensions over religious freedom;
- 2) Religion and sexual regulation;
- 3) Religious nationalism;
- 4) The intersection between religious freedom and free speech (including censorship in different global contexts or the imagination of "cancel culture").
- 5) 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 ([jjlee@fsu.edu](mailto:jjlee@fsu.edu)).

### **Teaching and Learning Religion**

Chairs: Jodie Lyon ([lyon@uga.edu](mailto:lyon@uga.edu)) and Carole 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 "tensions" 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) and Carole Barnsley (cbarnsley@transy.edu).

### **Undergraduate Student 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 Biblical Studies 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, 2023 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).