

**Call for Papers: AAR-Southeast
2025 Annual Meeting, Florida Memorial University**

**Conference Theme: “Transitions”
March 7-9, 2025**

Miami is a place in transition. From the influx of people from all over the world and the displacement of Miami natives due to raising cost of living to Miami becoming the new tech hub and the “it” city in the USA, Miami Dade County is in a space of transition. We do not yet know what Miami will become in the near future, but we know it is no longer the same. What will the future bring?

Religious traditions, institutions, and are facing a time of transition. Sacred spaces are transitioning from churches, mosques, temples, synagogues to the online environment, nature, or no space at all. Religious identities are in transition. Even the place of religious, biblical, theological, and ethical studies in academia is in a state of transition. What will it look like in the near future? How do we address the transitions of our time in religion and society as well as our individual lives? Transitions engender liminal spaces in which we seek to define ourselves or even find ourselves as we embark on new journeys, horizons, and chapters of life. What resources are available from our perspective traditions to help us navigate the transitions in which we find ourselves today?

As we invite you to join us in Miami for the 2025 meeting, we invite you to consider the theme of transition as it relates to your areas of study. We encourage multidisciplinary proposals, as well as proposals from underrepresented scholars and graduate students.

Please contact conference coordinators Drs. Nathaniel Holmes nholmesjr@yahoo.com or the AAR, Southeast Executive Committee relsereligion@gmail.com with any questions.

Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2024

Submissions Link: <https://forms.gle/EmMhVja83FiL2gPx5>

For consideration, please submit a paper title and 300-word abstract to the above link. 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 by the December 15, 2024 deadline are eligible for the undergraduate award. See full instructions below.

Africana Studies

Chairs: Ridwan Balogun (rsb22@fsu.edu), Lenny Lowe (lowelj@cofc.edu), and Joseph Hellweg (jhellweg@fsu.edu)

1. “Warming Up for Change: How Religion & Ritual Are Preparing for Climatic Transitions”:

During the last several decades, rapid climate change, political instability and global economic inequality have set in motion a number of significant shifts in populations. In 2024, geopolitical unrest is reaching a crescendo, and the future will no doubt look very different for people around the globe. The Africana Religions Section of AAR Southeast is calling for papers that examine the role of local and global religions in the transitions underway both in Africa and in the African Atlantic world. In what ways does religion serve to help communities navigate, challenge or even initiate transitions related to these global changes?

2. “Crossing Boundaries: Religion, Space & Mobility”:

Population movements conspicuously characterize the world today, across political borders, global and regional waterways, and social and economic boundaries. Tweed and van Gennepe have long focused our attention on how religious tropes, narratives, and processes help foster and manage such transitions. We therefore call for papers that explore the role of religions in diasporas, migrations, resettlements, and other forms of mobility, in both Africa and its global diasporas. We invite contributors to consider space metaphorically as well as geographically and local trajectories as well as regional and global ones.

3. “Liminal Ventures: Bodies, Places, and Ritual Practice”

In Africana religions, bodies, and/or their representations, join worlds. Spirit mediums broker relations between the visible world and invisible powers. Shapeshifters traverse boundaries between human and animal realms. And representations of bodies—masks, sculptures, architecture, etc.—are cosmic intersections. We therefore call for papers that consider how bodies mirror and mediate transitions, whether in spiritual, economic, politics, or human-rights related terms, and/or how bodily management in performances rooted in dynamics of gender, race, reproduction, and sexuality, enhances human, animal, or material agency.

4. Open call for papers that investigate transitions in Africana religions in other ways

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Chair: Kathy Barrett Dawson (dawsonka15@ecu.edu) and Joshua Spoelstra (jspoelstra@piedmont.edu).

The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section focuses on the New Testament Apocrypha as well as the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. For the 2025 Southeastern Regional Meeting, we invite proposals for the following sessions:

- 1) In keeping with the conference theme, “Transitions,” this section invites papers that explore the transition between canonical and noncanonical texts. The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha are canonical in some faith traditions while not in others. Issues that may be addressed include

(among others) the so-called criteria for canonicity; the composition and convictions of reading communities who deem texts as canonical or deuterocanonical; the profitability of the noncanonical corpora for biblical studies and textual interpretation; and/or the transition (or dramatic [re]developments) of persons, themes, religious praxes, etc. across the spectrum of texts canonical, deuterocanonical, and noncanonical;

- 2) Open call: We welcome papers on any topic related to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. Interdisciplinary studies and investigations utilizing various methodological perspectives are encouraged, as well as thematic and linguistic examinations of Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal texts;
- 3) The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section is holding a joint session 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; and
- 4) The Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha Section is also holding a joint session with the Dead Sea Scrolls Section that will focus on “Conflict in Transitions: Marking Sectarian Shifts and Doctrinal Heresies.” Papers related to ideologies and/or theologies in Judaism or early Christianity that were deemed heretical are welcome.

For questions regarding the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section, contact the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section Chair, Kathy Barrett Dawson (dawsonka15@ecu.edu) or the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section Co-Chair Joshua Spoelstra (jspoelstra@piedmont.edu).

ASOR Member-Sponsored: Ancient World

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

- 1) CFP: 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! All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the RELSE website *and* sent to the group Co-Chairs: Shane Thompson (sthompson@ncwc.edu), John T. Thames (jththame@clemsun.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2025 Proposal | Field Reports ASOR Member-Sponsored Session.”

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- 2) CFP: ASOR Member-Sponsored Session: Transitions within Archaeology of the Ancient World.

In accordance with the governing conference theme of transitions, this ASOR Member-Sponsored session invites proposals related to transitions within the field of Archaeology of the Ancient World. Suggested areas of focus may include cultural and technological shifts in the

ancient world, discussions surrounding the conservation and repatriation of artifacts, and differing approaches to dig methodology, past and present. Broadly related proposals are also welcome. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the RELSE website *and* sent to the group Co-Chairs: Shane Thompson (sthompson@ncwu.edu), John T. Thames (jtthame@clemsun.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2025 Proposal | ASOR Member-Sponsored Session.”

Black Cultures in the Study of Religion

Interested in serving on the committee for the Black Cultures unit? Please contact Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com) or Brennan Keegan (keeganbl@cofc.edu). Interested in submitting a paper proposal for the 2025 meeting?

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

Constructive Theologies

Chairs: Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College (icurran@ggc.edu) or Royce Anderson, Independent Scholar (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 "transitions." The Christian vision of the world is classically marked by a transition, instantiated in the death and resurrection of Jesus, from an old to a new creation, and conversion to the Christian faith embodies a transition from an old to a new way of life. Proposals might therefore address transitionary, liminal moments in the journey of the spiritual life, in various doctrinal loci, in theological movements or the development of theological ideas, or in the dynamic forces of church and society. Proposals that explore theological transitions outside of the Christian tradition are welcome as well.

2. For a joint session with Philosophy of Religion, we invite papers that address theological and philosophical perspectives on panpsychism or, more broadly construed, the presence of mind or spirit in the world. Papers might engage with the recent revival of panpsychism in analytic philosophy, as exemplified in the work of David Chalmers, Galen Strawson, and Philip Goff, might address the role of panpsychism in eco-philosophy, such as in Freya Matthews' *The Ecological Self* and *For Love of Matter*, or might explore theological versions of panpsychism, such as Joanna Leidenhag's *Minding Creation* or David Ray Griffin's *Unsnarling the World-Knot*. We also welcome papers that treat related issues like panentheism, the immanence of God in creation, the theory of emergence in the philosophy of science and the philosophy of mind, or scientific discoveries about intelligence in animals. Perspectives are encouraged from multiple, Western and Eastern, religious and theological traditions, as well as from various branches of philosophy.

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) or Royce Anderson, Independent Scholar (toroyce@gmail.com).

Dead Sea Scrolls

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

For the forthcoming conference in Miami, the Dead Sea Scrolls section invites papers for two sessions that correspond to this year's theme, Transitions.

- 1) The first session is a co-sponsored session with Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, on the topic "Conflict in Transitions: Marking Sectarian Shifts and Doctrinal Heresies."
- 2) The second session invites papers that engage with general transitions in Dead Sea Scrolls scholarship, such as new methods, trends toward different interests, and exploration of other contemporary approaches that may assist ongoing Dead Sea Scrolls scholarship, broadly speaking.
- 3) Finally, the section welcomes other papers that address any aspect of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran.

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) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu)

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

- (1) Transitions related to moral imagination, changes in reproductive and health care regulation, and emotional stability;
- (2) The role of ethical/spiritual practices in mental health and addiction recovery;
- (3) Any relevant topic that addresses how spiritual and moral transitions might empower change in our collective response to ecological/environmental destruction.

All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals through the on-line process. Direct any questions to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu).

History of Christianity

Chairs: Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College, (annwills@davidson.edu); Dan Mills, Georgia Institute of Technology (smills63@gatech.edu); Philip Tite, University of Virginia (vtt4gs@virginia.edu); Jerry Kou, Florida State University (jk23k@fsu.edu); and Jessica Ontek, Florida State University (Jontek@fsu.edu)

History of Christianity invites proposals related to the theme of "Transitions and Transformation in the History of Christianity": A) We invite proposals on the topic of transitions and conflicts within the history of global Christianity. Topics are invited that consider how Christian traditions

historically may have adapted to future shifts related to new technology, environmental changes, migration patterns, economic impacts, and political movements, with a focus on the intersections of conflict zones and religious transformations. B) We invite proposals on the topic of transitions and teaching in the history of Christianity. Papers are especially welcomed that address challenges in the classroom by offering effective pedagogical strategies that respond to the pandemic, political conflicts, and technological innovations that have impacted student experiences. C) Open call, for any aspect of the history of Christianity.

If you have questions, please contact chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College (anwills@davidson.edu), Dan Mills, Georgia Institute of Technology (smills63@gatech.edu), Philip Tite, University of Virginia (vtt4gs@virginia.edu), Jerry Kou, Florida State University (jk23k@fsu.edu), or Jessica Ontek, Florida State University (Jontek@fsu.edu)

Intersectionality

Chairs: Florence Egbeyale (fae19@fsu.edu) and Angela Parker (parker_an@mercer.edu).

1. Navigating Rage and Trauma - Intersectionality and the Transitions in a Changing Miami

In this panel focused on navigating rage and trauma, Miami-Dade County, the Intersectionality panel invites papers that address reflect on either (1) lack of abortion access or (2) transgender and/or non-binary harassment. Even though Miami-Dade is considered progressive, the State of Florida is still repressive regarding abortion access and driver's license policies. The Intersectionality section invites proposals that center on these issues 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 world in transition with 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. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the SECSOR website: secsor.org. Please send questions to Angela Parker, chair (parker_an@mercer.edu).

2. Navigating Identities - Intersectionality and 1980 Miami Race Riots

In 1980 Miami was the site of the then most violent race riots in our nation's history. An all-White male jury acquitted four Dade County Public Safety Department officers of beating a Black insurance salesman to death after a traffic stop. Thereafter, riots broke out resulting in 18 deaths and an estimated \$100 million in property damages. As AAR convenes exactly 40 years later with a theme that engages "Transitions," the Intersectionality Section invites papers that engages the themes of transitions, religious thought, and navigating identity in the midst of a city that is in flux. More so, in recognition of the fact that religions often steeped in white supremacy holds different stands of freedom and liberation, and concerns exist on how religious scholars dialogue with others while in the midst of transition, 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 Miami, FL. Graduate students and scholars who employ womanist, feminist, and/or queer interpretative

approaches are encouraged to submit proposals. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the SECSOR website: secsor.org. Please send questions to Angela Parker, chair (parker_an@mercer.edu).

Islam

Chairs: Beena Butool (sbeenabutool@gmail.com) and John Miller (johnlmil@email.unc.edu).

In keeping with the 2025 AAR-SE theme of “Transitions,” the Islam section invites proposals addressing:

- 1) Transitions in social, economic, and political thought and practice in Muslim communities, whether in the “West” or in the world at large.
- 2) We are particularly interested in transitions related to authority — whether that authority is inscribed in texts, persons, bodies, institutions, or in social action and activity. Transitions in authority may manifest in resistance, rebellion, legal debate, or speech acts — or in the reimaginings of conventional/historical understandings of such categories as race, gender, identity, and community.

Diverse disciplinary approaches are welcomed from across the social sciences and humanities. Papers may consider both how Muslims self-represent and exert agency as well as how Muslims are read and imagined, particularly in polyconfessional or polyethnic social contexts.

Please contact section chairs Beena Butool (sbeenabutool@gmail.com) and John Miller (johnlmil@email.unc.edu) with any questions.

Call for papers for a special joint panel sponsored by the Religion and Nature and Islam sections

Al-Mizan - A Covenant for the Earth: Islam is poised to become the world’s largest religious community and is geographically distributed among many of the earth’s most fragile and endangered environments. Released in February 2024, *Al-Mizan* puts forward a comprehensive Islamic perspective on nature and seeks to interpret Islamic theology and ethics to address the environmental crisis. Now is the time to discuss this important document and its reception. What are the contributions, controversies, and questions that it raises? For a joint session with the Islam and Religion & Nature sections, we invite proposals that discuss any and all aspects of *Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth*.

Please contact Islam section chairs Beena Butool (sbutool@fsu.edu) and John Miller (johnlmil@email.unc.edu) and/or Religion & Nature section chairs Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu) with any questions.

Jewish Studies

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

Session 1: Judaism in Transition

As a religion with a more than 3,000 year history, Judaism has experienced numerous transitions as it has continuously adapted to a changed and changing world. These transitions have included the negotiation between forms of monotheism and polytheism in the Iron Age, responses to the Babylonian destruction and Persian return, the implications of Greek thought and culture in the Hellenistic era, the various adaptations of Diaspora communities, the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism following the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the rise and impacts of both Christianity and Islam, and the transition to the Modern era with its concomitant Haskalah and emancipation, among many others. This session of the Judaism section invites papers to contemplate any of these transitional moments in Judaism, exploring the changes and adaptations that have allowed Judaism to continue to flourish throughout its long history.

Session 2: New Testament & Judaism Joint Session

The first and second centuries of the common era represent a transitional period within the world of Hellenistic Judaism. On the one hand, the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE ushered in the formative years of Rabbinic Judaism, which ultimately rose to become the dominant framework of Judaism throughout the late antique world and into the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the emergence of Christianity with its connections to both Graeco-Roman and Jewish spheres of tradition, represented an additional outgrowth of the Hellenistic Jewish world. This session invites papers that engage with the Hellenistic Jewish world as a transition point in very broad terms—this can include particular features of the Hellenistic World before the first century CE that may have contributed to these transitions (e.g., views of the Jerusalem temple), the negotiation of Jewish identity between Hellenistic and Rabbinic Judaism (e.g., limits and form of the scriptural canon), and the impact of and appropriation of Hellenistic Jewish thought (e.g., Philo) in the New Testament and Early Christian literature.

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

Method & Theory in the Study of Religion

Chair: Vaia Touna, University of Alabama (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 or
- (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).

New Testament

Co-Chairs: Zach Eberhart (zechariah.eberhart@point.edu) or Scott Ryan (sryan@claflin.edu).

In light of the conference theme of “Transitions,” 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 “Transitions,” one joint session with Jewish Studies, and two 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 treating aspects of “transition” in the study of the NT will be given careful consideration. Possible topics include but are by no means limited to: historical transitions (e.g., Jesus’s ministry to that of the apostles, imminent eschatology to establishing ecclesial governance, canonization of scripture, et al.), theoretical transitions (e.g., orality to literacy, particular to universal and systematic theology, et al.), methodological transitions (e.g., allegorical and anagogical to scientific, historical-critical to narrative, et al.), and other areas of transition (broadly defined) within New Testament studies.

2) Joint CFP with Judaism section: The first and second centuries of the common era represent a transitional period within the world of Hellenistic Judaism. On the one hand, the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE ushered in the formative years of Rabbinic Judaism, which ultimately rose to become the dominant framework of Judaism throughout the late antique world and into the Middle Ages. On the other hand, the emergence of Christianity with its connections to both Graeco-Roman and Jewish spheres of tradition, represented an additional outgrowth of the Hellenistic Jewish world. This session invites papers that engage with the Hellenistic Jewish world as a transition point in very broad terms—this can include particular features of the Hellenistic World before the first century CE that may have contributed to these transitions (e.g., views of the Jerusalem temple), the negotiation of Jewish identity between Hellenistic and Rabbinic Judaism (e.g., limits and form of the scriptural canon), and the impact of and appropriation of Hellenistic Jewish thought (e.g., Philo) in the New Testament and Early Christian literature.

3) Finally, for our two open sessions, we also invite paper proposals related to any area of NT Studies.

For questions regarding these sessions, please contact the NT Section co-chairs: Zach Eberhart (zechariah.eberhart@point.edu) or Scott Ryan (sryan@claflin.edu).

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

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

1) CFP: HB/OT Session: Transitions in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies

In accordance with the governing conference theme of transitions, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a session that will focus upon transitions surrounding OT/HB studies. Proposals for this session may address all aspects of transitions 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. All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form located on the RELSE website *and* sent to the group Co-Chairs: Shane Thompson (sthompson@ncwu.edu), John T. Thames (jtthame@clemsun.edu) and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2025 Proposal | Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

2) CFP: HB/OT Session: Cultural, Religious, and Political Transitions

In accordance with the governing conference theme of transitions, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group are accepting proposals for a joint session related to the expression of transitions 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 transitions at important junctures of culture, religion, and politics. For example: rural to urban life and values in the cultural sphere, local to centralized power structures in the political realm, and monotheism to syncretism in religious life.

Another important element here is transitions over time. How does the understanding of scripture shift with the changes wrought by the passage of centuries? 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 Co-Chairs: Shane Thompson (sthompson@ncwu.edu), John T. Thames (jtthame@clemsun.edu), and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com) Please include in the title “RELSE 2025 Proposal | Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.”

Philosophy of Religion

Chair: Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com/ nholmes@fmuniv.edu).

The Philosophy of Religion section seeks proposals that reflect the 2025 conference theme of “*Transitions*.” We are especially seeking papers related to the Conference Theme:

- 1) Conversions (e.g., Converting from one religion to another; Ideological Conversions; Conversion/Non-Conversion & Interreligious/Interfaith Dialogue)
- 2) Paradigm Shifts in Philosophy, Theology, Ethics, and Politics.
- 3) Philosophies of Immortality/Afterlife in the World Religions (Theistic & Non-Theistic Traditions); The influences of A.I. & other Technologies on Understandings of Immortality/Afterlife.
- 4) For a joint session between Philosophy of Religion and Constructive Theologies on Panpsychism.
- 5) 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.

- 6) *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 Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com/nholmes@fmuniv.edu).

Religion and Nature

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

- 1) **OPEN CALL:** The Religion and Nature section invites proposals that address the intersection of religion and nature and the ways that religious traditions mediate and impact the relationship between humans and the more-than-human world. All proposals will be considered. We encourage you to submit proposals that addresses any aspect of the theoretical and practical relationship between religious traditions and nature.
- 2) **Transitions and Eco-Futurism:** The Axial Age was a transitional period during which new religious ideas and practices arose. Similarly, the contemporary ecological crisis is a period of transition challenging many of the religious assumptions of the Anthropocene. It creates a liminal space in which new theologies and types of praxis can arise for the Ecocene. In response to our AARSE 2024 conference theme “Transitions,” we invite proposals that explore the religious visions of Eco-Futurism. What are the new mythologies, theologies, identities, types of praxis and ritual emerging in this age of environmental transition that reshape the human relationship with nature?
- 3) **Black and Native Spiritualities:** This will be the first AAR Southeast Annual Meeting to be held at an HBCU. In honor of this historic institution and the ancestors who struggled to open the doors to higher education to persons of color, we invite proposals that explore the earth-based practices and spiritualities of Black and Native communities. We are interested in historical and contemporary examples of spiritualities that support relationships between these communities and the natural world, and that may offer glimpses of a more sustainable way of life.
- 4) **Religion, Militarism, and Ecocide:** One of the principal causes of ecological devastation is militarism, not only through the direct impact of military operations but also through the consumption and pollution of the air, water, land, and biodiversity. The US, for example, maintains more than 800 bases around the world, with fleets of ships and submarines patrolling the oceans, and is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation, including in the United States. What do religious traditions say about militarism and its impact on nature? How might they help or hinder us from taking seriously that wars are always wars against nature and that militarism in all forms is one of the principal obstacles to transitioning to a society that replenishes nature? We invite papers that consider these and related questions and especially research that focuses on the impact of militarism on specific ecosystems, and the role of religions in relationship to these situations.
- 5) **Contemporary Eco-Justice in Florida:** South Florida is facing a range of serious and potentially devastating ecological alterations, alterations that disproportionately negatively impact minoritized communities and threaten to force large scale relocation of entire populations. Rising sea-levels, industrial waste, disruption of agricultural seasons, waste incinerators, gas and oil burning plants, and forms of development and gentrification are significantly impacting the health

of the land, air, and water, and biodiversity and consequently the health and wellbeing of minoritized communities. We encourage proposals related to inter-religious coalitions and the grass-roots activism of religious communities and organizations that are drawing attention to and working to address issues of environmental justice.

Contact Religion and Nature Chairs Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu) and Jefferson Calico (Jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) with any questions about the call.

Call for papers for a special joint panel sponsored by the Religion and Nature and Islam sections:

Al-Mizan - A Covenant for the Earth: Islam is poised to become the world's largest religious community and is geographically distributed among many of the earth's most fragile and endangered environments. Released in February 2024, *Al-Mizan* puts forward a comprehensive Islamic perspective on nature and seeks to interpret Islamic theology and ethics to address the environmental crisis. Now is the time to discuss this important document and its reception. What are the contributions, controversies, and questions that it raises? For a joint session with the Islam and Religion & Nature sections, we invite proposals that discuss any and all aspects of *Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth*.

NOTE: When submitting proposals for the joint panel, please mark one section as the primary choice and the other as the secondary choice. Contact Islam section chairs Beena Butool (sbutool@fsu.edu) and John Miller (johnmil@email.unc.edu) and/or Religion & Nature section chairs Jefferson Calico (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu) with any questions about the joint panel.

Religion, Culture, and the Arts

Interested in serving on the committee for the Religion, Culture, and the Arts unit? Please contact Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com) or Brennan Keegan (keeganbl@cofc.edu). Interested in submitting a paper proposal for the 2025 meeting?

- 1) All papers related to the theme of "transitions."
- 2) Open Call.

Religion in America

Chairs: Jacob Barrett (jacbar@unc.edu) and Mackenzie Oglesby (mco268@unc.edu).

Religion in America accepts submissions from all papers or complete panel proposals related to Religion in America broadly conceived. Interdisciplinary submissions both within and beyond the typical scope of Religious Studies are welcome and encouraged. All papers pertaining to Religion in America broadly conceived will be considered. We are especially interested in scholarship that considers:

1. Gender, Sexuality, and Religion: how do conversations about gender and sexuality help us understand religion in America?

2. Affect and Materiality, including but not limited to: space and place, material culture, sound and musicology, perception and sensorium, religious “things”, etc.
3. Rethinking Religion in America: what happens when we recast “Religion” in “America”?
4. “Transitions” in Scholarly Approaches to Religion in America: what methods, theoretical frameworks, or objects of study are helping move the subfield forward during this time of transition in the field at large?
5. Papers pertaining to this year’s theme of “Transitions” at large

Papers in all areas related to Religion in the Americas will be considered.

Religions of Asia

Interested in serving on the committee for the Religions of Asia unit? Please contact Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com) or Brennan Keegan (keeganbl@cofc.edu). Interested in submitting a paper proposal for the 2025 meeting?

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

Secularism, Religious Freedom, and Global Politics

Co-chairs: Finbarr Curtis, fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu; Spencer Kunz, smk23b@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 transitions, we welcome papers on subjects including:

1. Global politics of migration and borders.
2. Religious/political discourse shifting to occupy new media (e.g., the internet)
3. The erosion or construction of clear boundaries between “secular” and “religious” matters (especially in geographic/physical space).
4. How contemporary politics alter what it means to be “secular,” “religious,” or to possess “religious freedom.”
5. Tensions between religious freedom and other forms of freedom (ie., the religious freedom to discriminate).
6. 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) or Spencer Kunz (smk23b@fsu.edu).

Teaching and Learning Religion

Co-Chairs: Jodie Lyon (lyon@uga.edu) and Carole Barnsley (cbarnsley@transy.edu).

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

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

For our more specific call on the theme of “Transitions,” we invite submissions on the topic of “AI in the Religion Classroom.” Papers may address the philosophy behind the use of AI, the concerns about the use of AI, the practicalities of using AI, and above-all the recognition that AI is here and how might we as teachers and scholars adapt to this new technology.

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

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, 2024 and should be emailed to 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.