

Skylight

News and Notes from the GTU

Spring 2019

Solidarity Across Difference

**Newhall scholars embody
an interreligious approach
to Women's Studies**

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Gregory E. Sterling**
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GTU VOICES



"The GTU has created a unique space for students like myself to find a fusion of the development of the intellect and the spirit, each supporting the growth of the other. Though my time at the GTU is not yet finished, I already feel the process of transformation well underway. As such, I feel better prepared to actively participate in the academic, professional, and social worlds that exist well beyond the walls of the academy."

Laura Dunn

"The GTU has fostered my approach of putting new breath into the classical methods of biblical interpretation from the angle I know best. . . . It has given me the possibility to comfortably work in the liminal space between the old and the new, the classical and the modern. From both a scholarly and identity point of view, I feel I am given a voice and a community to which I belong. For this opportunity, I am forever grateful to the GTU."

Eric Sias



"I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had to be a teaching assistant at the GTU. I have been able to practice more concrete skills, such as lecturing, marking assignments, creating syllabi, and processing tricky classroom dynamics with skilled educators, delving into the challenging field of fair assessments and making difficult choices about how to include material that represents important and diverse themes but is also focused and relevant."

Sheryl Johnson

"I believe theology should go beyond its traditional boundaries by seeking dialogue with other fields and across faith traditions in order to find interdisciplinary solutions to the challenges of the twenty-first century. I am convinced that finding common ground between economy, ecology, and science is possible, and that religion can serve in bringing together people from different countries, industry sectors, and academic fields. I am thankful that the people of the GTU share the commitment to serving society and making the world a little better."

Myoung-Ho Sin



GTU Voices is a new blog celebrating the spiritual and scholarly diversity of our community. Read more at www.gtu.edu/voices. Your donation can help our students pursue their dreams. Please give to our Spring Scholarship Campaign at www.gtu.edu/springdrive



Skylight

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Graduate Theological Union

2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
510-649-2400
www.gtu.edu

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On the Cover:
Sheryl Johnson and Mahjabeen Dhala

Photo by Laura Dunn

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My immersion into the intellectual and spiritual life at the GTU over these past months has highlighted for me the rich and complex nature of our educational mission. The Graduate Theological Union brings together multiple institutions representing diverse traditions and practices in a collaborative community that values the distinct contributions of each.

The influential Quaker educational theorist and UC Berkeley alum Parker Palmer has suggested that a learning community with diverse perspectives, ideas, and experiences can “give rise to a larger truth” if conflict is negotiated “compassionately, with forgiveness, and in a generative manner.” Palmer continues, “In creative conflict, we can all win because we can all have our hearts and minds [and I would add souls] stretched.” By its very nature the GTU generates the kind of creative and compassionate conversations found at the heart of a truly transformative education. The collective commitment to work together amid diversity is important to sustain in our culture of polarization and fractionalization. The GTU can serve as a model of the institutional collaboration so desperately needed.

The GTU is unique in that it is both an independent, degree-granting graduate institution as well as the hub of a consortium of schools and seminaries. In recent years, our accrediting agencies have raised the concern that the GTU’s governance structure divided decision-making authority between the GTU Board of Trustees and the Council of Presidents of the member schools. At its February 2019 meeting, the GTU Board addressed this concern by voting to approve revisions to the GTU bylaws as well as a new Common Agree-



Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann

“By its very nature, the GTU generates the kind of creative and compassionate conversations found at the heart of a truly transformative education.”

ment between the GTU and its member schools.

These important votes, by overwhelming majorities, were the culmination of many years of work by professional and volunteer leaders of the GTU and its member schools, both past and present. The changes create a more independent governance structure for the GTU as mandated by our accreditors, while maintaining the collaborative relationships that are foundational to the GTU. The votes of the GTU board, and the forthcoming votes by member school boards regarding the Common Agreement, will move us into compliance with best practices and accepted standards of governance for nonprofits and higher education institutions.

At the same time, the GTU and its member schools have worked diligently to preserve the unique consortial arrangement that makes the Graduate Theological Union such a compelling center of inter-religious and ecumenical learning. The critical partnership between

the GTU, the member schools, and the affiliate institutions—as embodied in our common library, cross-registration of courses, and our joint PhD and master’s programs—will be reinforced by a new financial model that will create greater stability, sustainability, and support for our sacred mission.

I am deeply grateful to all who contributed to the progress we have made in strengthening our consortium. The changes underway and the good will demonstrated throughout the process provides a solid foundation upon which to build our future together.

Solidarity Across Difference



As an interreligious team leading the GTU's Women's Studies in Religion seminar, Mahjabeen Dhala and Sheryl Johnson illustrate what solidarity across difference can look like.

By Jennifer W. Davidson

When Mahjabeen Dhala and Sheryl Johnson participated in the GTU's Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) seminar as doctoral students last spring, they found it an exceptional experience. "I think what I valued most was having the chance to form community and develop our own scholarly interests in a supportive, challenging, and empowering community of co-learners," said Sheryl, a PhD candidate in the department of Theology and Ethics.

Her colleague concurs. "Undoubtedly, the WSR seminar was one of the most memorable classes I have taken during my MA and doctoral work at the GTU," said Mahjabeen, who holds an MA in Islamic Studies (2017) from the GTU and is now pursuing a doctorate in Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation. "It was a holistic learning experience where students from diverse backgrounds engaged complex theoretical work intellectually, emotionally, and even physically."

Now, these two student-scholars have been awarded a prestigious Newhall Fellowship to teach the same Women's Studies in Religion seminar in Fall 2019, becoming the first international, interreligious team to lead the course.

Since its establishment in 2006, the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program has enabled students in degree programs at the GTU and its member schools to incorporate an emphasis on women's studies into their work in religion or theology. As part of WSR's commitment to provide students with opportunities for professional development, the steering committee seeks to identify outstanding doctoral students who might teach in the program. When Mahjabeen and Sheryl were invited to apply for a Newhall Fellowship to teach the WSR seminar, their experiences as students in the course led directly to their desire to teach the course together, "We simply could not pass up this opportunity," Mahjabeen declares.

Sheryl is also enthusiastic. "The chance to partner with Mahjabeen is incredible. We bring such different life experiences and academic perspectives; yet, we have such solidarity for and commitment to understanding one another and growing through that experience. It's amazing to be able to teach a course that is not only *about* feminist theory but is really grounded in feminist pedagogy, so that we are also self-reflective about academic institutions and the classroom space itself."

“Giving students a chance to engage directly with visibly Muslim female voices is powerfully unique, especially given the current climate in the United States.”

—Mahjabeen Dhala



Mahjabeen and Sheryl’s varied life experiences and faith traditions make them exceptional candidates for teaching the seminar. Born in India, Mahjabeen has been a religious motivational speaker for most of her life and has traveled to several continents engaging with Muslim women of all ages situated in various socio-economic climates. For her final project as a student in the WSR seminar, Mahjabeen designed a five-day pilgrimage to Iraq, which she then led in June 2018. Later that summer, she took a women’s studies course in Tehran that “when combined with the WSR seminar at the GTU, gave me a broad overview of the methods used in women’s studies in both the east and the west.”

A native of Canada, Sheryl double-majored in religion and women’s studies for her undergraduate degree. She brings a global perspective to women’s studies, drawing on her experience participating in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and her work with the World Student Christian Federation, a global federation of student Christian groups that connects two million members in more than 90 countries.

Even as Mahjabeen and Sheryl engage their work as doctoral scholars, they continue to seek out opportunities as global leaders. Sheryl recently participated in the Bartimaeus Institute, an annual gathering of scholars and activists in the Ventura area of Southern California. This year the focus was on land and indigenous experiences, a topic close to Sheryl’s heart and a part of her former work in Canada with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. With KAIROS she worked to help Canadian churches and communities participate in Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission and engage issues of indigenous rights.

Mahjabeen recently returned from India where she spoke nine times in three different community centers across Mumbai. There, she brought together young female Muslim artists

and helped to raise 100,000 INR through an exhibition of their work. The proceeds were donated toward the relief of Yemini refugees.

Sheryl and Mahjabeen are keenly aware of the benefits that the Women’s Studies in Religion course provides for students across the GTU. “The WSR seminar provides lenses of analysis that can be brought to any other course, religious organization, social movement, or life situation,” says Sheryl. “Sex, gender, and sexuality are so prominent in these areas, yet we don’t always focus on it explicitly or pay attention to how it is operating.”

Mahjabeen concurs: “The course also gives students opportunities to engage in power analysis and to learn forms of analysis that connect to other expressions of privilege and marginalization, which are often intersectional with gender and sex.”

“It’s transformative to engage with women scholars of religion and theologians that we may not otherwise encounter,” says Sheryl.

“And specifically,” Mahjabeen adds, “giving students a chance to engage directly with visibly Muslim female voices is powerfully unique, especially given the current climate in the United States.”

As a Muslim and a Christian teaching the course together, Mahjabeen and Sheryl know “the two of us cannot represent everything from our respective traditions,” says Sheryl. “But we hope we will be able to practice and demonstrate ways that different concepts we encounter in class will resonate differently based on different contexts and experiences. Through our teaching together, we can also offer a picture of what solidarity across difference can look like.”

Since its inception, the Women’s Studies in Religion program has graduated far more women than men. These numbers are evident in the classroom, where it is common for

**“It’s amazing to be able to teach a course that is not only about feminist theory but is really grounded in feminist pedagogy.”
—Sheryl Johnson**



there to be only one or two men taking the WSR seminar. “I think one of the common misperceptions of women’s studies in religion is that it only addresses concerns of women,” Mahjabeen explains, “or that it has no larger implication on matters of social and economic justice for the community as a whole.”

“Similarly,” Sheryl adds, “I think people believe men or gender non-binary people wouldn’t be welcome, or that they would not have important insights to bring to the discussion about how sex and gender operate in our world and religious communities. Related to that is the worry that women’s studies in religion is only concerned about gender in isolation, and that it is really only for white/straight/able-bodied women.”

Nonetheless, the Women’s Studies in Religion course at the GTU takes a global, intersectional, critical approach that decenters the white, North American, and European narrative of feminist movements, troubles the category of gender, and foregrounds local particularity and solidarity-in-diversity through coalition building and brave dialogue. “Women’s experiences, defined broadly as well as with specificity, deeply inform knowledge production in the scholarship we address in class,” remarks Mahjabeen.

Mahjabeen and Sheryl are committed to pedagogical approaches that are participatory, multi-sensory, embodied, and process-focused. “We look for opportunities to be reflective on the classroom experience itself,” Sheryl says. “We want to pay attention to the ways certain dynamics we are studying in the wider culture may also be present in the classroom. These micro-dynamics can be important windows into understanding larger systems.”

“I always enter a classroom ready to learn, regardless of whether I am taking the class or teaching the class,” adds Mahjabeen. “I believe in making room in one’s mind and heart for new paradigms, new ways of understanding. And to accomplish this, we need to strive to provide a safe, nonjudg-

mental, amicable space for sharing experiences and facilitating active learning.”

“Yes,” Sheryl continues, “and sometimes that means engaging content that some people might not think of as worthy of scholarly exploration, like popular culture or popular religious practices. But when we unpack these practices intentionally and critically, it’s amazing what comes into view about larger systems and theories that are at play.”

The Women’s Studies in Religion seminar is not the only opportunity GTU students will have to take a class from these two powerful scholars. Mahjabeen Dhala will be teaching “Introduction to Islam” at Church Divinity School of the Pacific this summer, where she will particularly include readings that highlight the experiences and perspectives of Muslim women. And Sheryl Johnson will teach another Newhall course, “Faithful, Ethical Fundraising?” in spring 2020 that will explore aspirational economic ethics and ideals of social justice that are not fully lived up to in progressive North American churches, while also providing practical tools for fundraising and finance in religious contexts.

When it comes to the WSR seminar, both women are eager for the opportunity to weave together their scholarly, personal, and professional passions—and to provide the space to invite students to do the same. Mahjabeen concludes: “I think this combination will effectively demonstrate the feminist pedagogy of student-centered learning, maybe especially because the teachers are also students. In this course in particular, the feminist approach of incorporating student experiences will be transformatively applied in an interreligious setting that is truly the signature feature of the GTU. We can’t wait!” ♦

Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson is chair of the GTU’s Women’s Studies in Religion program and associate professor of theology and worship at American Baptist Seminary of the West.



GTU

Flora Lamson Hewlett
Library

News



In the past twelve months, the GTU library has renovated several new academics spaces, including multiple classroom and conversation spaces and a new digital learning lab. We're pleased to announce that we have also created for the GTU community on the library's main floor, a new **Prayer and Meditation Space**. The space is designed to feel comfortable for students, faculty, and staff from any of the diverse religious traditions at the GTU. "As members of our community make use of the space, we hope it will enhance the religious and interreligious experience that is a hallmark of GTU education," said GTU President Daniel Lehmann.



Since 1993, the GTU library's annual "**Reading of the Sacred Texts**" lecture has provided fresh insights into the words that shape our sense of the sacred. Our 27th annual lecture on March 13 featured dancer **Carla DeSola**, who drew on more than 40 years of performing sacred dances in a range of liturgical and social justice gatherings. DeSola showed how she choreographs and dances a biblical story or text, using prayer and improvisation and integrating body, soul, mind, and spirit with the music to illuminate the movement behind the word. Other recent speakers at this annual lecture have included Dr. Barbara Green, SJ (2018), Dr. Stephen A. Crist (2017), Dr. Rita Sherma (2016), and Venerable Thepo Rinpoche. See an archive of past lectures at www.gtu.edu/reading-sacred-texts.



Did you know that the library offers a number of **services to alumni of the GTU and its member schools**? The GTU provides alumni with free, lifetime access to the American Theological Library Association's **ATLA for Alums** database, an essential online resource for sources in religion and theology. To set up your account, fill out the form on this page: www.gtu.edu/library/alumni. Alumni in the Bay Area can purchase a borrowing card for \$30 per year, allowing them to check out books from our collection. If you aren't in the area, but would like to access items from the GTU collection (perhaps a copy of your own thesis or dissertation?), talk to your local public library about InterLibrary Loan (ILL). We are happy to mail items from our collection to a library near you.

Find out more at www.gtu.edu/library



Charting an Unexpected Course

The journey that led GTU Alumnus of the Year Gregory E. Sterling to become Dean of Yale Divinity School began with a question: Where can I do the most good with my life?

By Doug Davidson

When the GTU's alumnus of the year, Dr. Gregory E. Sterling (PhD, '90), was considering doctoral programs more than three decades ago, there were two schools at the top of his list: the Graduate Theological Union and Yale University. Eventually, he chose to attend the GTU. "The GTU offered a range of resources among the constituent schools and Cal that was inspiring," he remembers. "The intellectual energy generated by the people and resources in Berkeley was, and is, palpable and intoxicating."

Ironically, Sterling's decision to attend the GTU didn't close the door to a connection with Yale. Since 2012, the GTU alumnus of the year has been the Dean of Yale Divinity School, where he also serves as Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament. "I had no idea when I got to Berkeley what course my life would take," he says. "I like to say that God has a wonderful sense of humor."

A New Testament scholar with a specialty in Hellenistic Judaism, Sterling has focused his academic work on the writings of Philo of Alexandria, Josephus, and Luke-Acts, as well as on the interactions between Second Temple Jews and early Christians. He is author or editor of eight books, most recently serving as coeditor of *Scripture and Social Justice: Catholic and Ecumenical Essays* (Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2018). Sterling was the general editor for the Philo of Alexandria Commentary Series (E.J. Brill), and, for twenty years, was editor of the Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Series (University of Notre Dame Press).

Before coming to Yale, Dr. Sterling taught theology for

more than twenty years at the University of Notre Dame, and was named the first dean of its independent graduate school in 2008. Sterling says his decision to focus on school administration over his own scholarship was a pragmatic

"The intellectual energy generated by the people and resources in Berkeley was, and is, palpable and intoxicating."

issue: "I asked myself: Where can I do the most good with my life? Is it in my scholarship or is it in shaping an institution? And I finally decided my life would have a greater impact by shaping institutions—and maintaining scholarship, but not devoting myself exclusively to it."

Sterling takes pride in what has been accomplished during his tenure as dean at each school. At Notre Dame, he helped diversify the graduate school's student population and worked to improve student funding and professional development. During his deanship at Yale Divinity School, the school has tripled faculty representation from underrepresented groups, added new programs, revised its curriculum, and is now beginning work toward the design of a "living village," an innovative sustainable housing project.



Sterling with current GTU doctoral student (and Yale Divinity School graduate) Pam Stevens and GTU alumna Janet Ruffing (PhD, '86) at the 2017 YDS Commencement.

While his responsibilities as dean take much of his time, Sterling maintains a love of teaching, and tries to teach at least one course each year. During 2018-19, he co-taught a course in the fall and is teaching another in the spring. “I don’t want to quit teaching,” he says with a smile. “When I walk into the classroom, it’s like a holiday, a break. It’s really fun.”

Reflecting on his time as a doctoral student, Dr. Sterling celebrates the interreligious nature of the GTU, and the wealth of faculty resources. He highlights three scholars in particular who were most influential during his time at the GTU, and with whom he remain friends. Father John R. Donahue, a New Testament scholar at the Jesuit School of Theology, was a mentor and priest to Sterling in Berkeley, and later became a faculty colleague at the University of Notre Dame. David Winston, former director of the GTU’s Center for Jewish Studies, introduced Sterling to the world of Philo of Alexandria, “a world that has become my own and has dominated my professional career.” Finally, Sterling acknowledges the profound influence of Eric Gruen, retired professor of the classics and history at UC Berkeley. “To these three mentors, I owe thanks not just for the years at Berkeley but to friendships that have now extended well over thirty years and have shaped my life. . . . I hope my life and my career is my thanks to John, and to David, and to Eric.”

“I am grateful that we learned how to argue with one another in and outside of seminars, and then go have lunch with one another as friends. That’s a lesson that needs to be repeated in our society.”

Sterling also celebrates his relationships with other doctoral students. “In exceptional learning institutions, learning is always horizontal as well as vertical—and that was certainly the case for me at the GTU and UC Berkeley.” He remembers with appreciation both formal classroom discussions and conversations over coffee with colleagues in the program. “I am grateful that we learned how to argue with one another in and outside of seminars, and then go have lunch with one another as friends. That’s a lesson that needs to be repeated in our society.”

Dr. Sterling sees the flexible nature of the GTU’s doctoral curriculum as serving students best when they have a clear sense of their own goals. “I really cherished the freedom I had as a GTU student. The unstructured nature of the program allowed me to make my way on a path that was my own.”

During his time as dean at Yale Divinity School, Dr. Sterling has encouraged several YDS graduates to pursue doctoral work at the GTU, including Pamela Stevens, who began the GTU doctoral program in 2017 after earning her master’s at YDS. Stevens notes, “While I was a student at YDS considering PhD programs, Dean Sterling encouraged me to embrace the opportunities available to me at the GTU, including the ability to take charge of my own program and the ability to take courses at UC Berkeley, which was a big part of his own experience.”

Sterling notes that the GTU offers students the flexibility to pursue an almost unlimited variety of options, but such freedom isn’t well suited to every doctoral student. “Unless it’s changed a lot, I think to thrive at the GTU, you need to know what you want. No one’s going to take you by the hand and lead you around. You really need to have an idea. You can change your mind—that’s fine. But you need to be able to approach people and figure things out. So I think it takes somebody who is a self-starter, somebody who will thrive in an environment where the intellectual stimuli is coming from a lot of different directions. The GTU is not at all monolithic; it’s not in any way uniform.”

For Greg Sterling, the freedom to chart his own path as a GTU student has led him in directions he never would have expected. “I am deeply grateful for my experience at the GTU and for all the people who have shaped the GTU through their own lives and contributions. And I am grateful for the role of the GTU in opening up a life far richer than I had imagined.” ♦

Doug Davidson is director of communications at the GTU.

Member Schools Announce New Partnerships

San Francisco Theological Seminary and Church Divinity School of the Pacific are celebrating new institutional relationships that promise to offer increased opportunities for their students and the wider GTU.



On February 25, 2019, **San Francisco Theological Seminary** (SFTS) announced it is entering into a partnership with the University of the Redlands in Redlands, CA. SFTS will remain on its San Anselmo campus and will form the core of a new graduate school of theology at the University of the Redlands.

In a letter to the SFTS community, President Jim MacDonald wrote, “We are very excited about the opportunities this new relationship creates for students from all walks of life. We remain committed to educating persons for transformational ministries of peace, healing, and justice as we pursue these new pathways of possibility.” With this new partnership, SFTS becomes the third GTU member school to affiliate with a university, joining the **Jesuit School of Theology** (Santa Clara University) and **Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary** (California Lutheran University). You can read the full announcement from SFTS at <https://sfts.edu/pathways/>



On March 4, 2019, **Church Divinity School of the Pacific** (CDSP) announced a new alliance with Trinity Church Wall Street of New York City that will “foster CDSP’s growth, deepen its impact, and promote the development of future leaders of the church.” Under the new agreement, Trinity will provide support to enhance CDSP’s “rigorous academic and spiritual preparation for people who will lead the global church.”

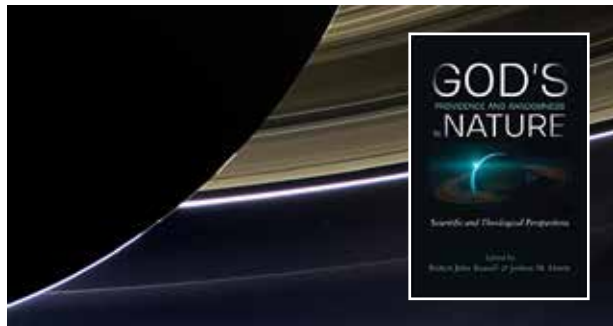
Over time Trinity will work with CDSP faculty to enhance the school’s curriculum with content from other disciplines, including increased emphasis on managerial and business skills to help pastors and laity lead the church effectively in a changing world. Read the announcement from CDSP at <https://cdsp.edu/news/>



GTU

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

News



The conference papers of **CTNS's SATURN (Scientific and Theological Understandings of Randomness in Nature) Program** are now available as *God's Providence and Randomness in Nature: Scientific and Theological Perspectives*, Robert John Russell and Joshua M. Moritz, eds. (Templeton Press, 2019). The October 2014 conference was funded by a grant from Calvin College through their Randomness and Divine Providence Program. Topics include the problem of evil, miracles, creation of the universe, free will, evolution, and the multiverse.



The Russell Family Research Fellow in Religion and Science for 2019 is **Dr. Joshua M. Moritz** (GTU, 2011) for his work on the vital role of science in youth ministry. National survey data shown that a perceived clash between faith and science has been a major factor influencing the decisions of youth to abandon the Christian faith in college. The interaction of science and theology should thus be a top priority for youth education. An interactionist approach that treats both theology/Scripture and science as true sources of authority is needed.



In its 17th year, **Theology and Science** continues to offer thoughtful, cutting-edge research and reflection on a wide variety of topics in the field of science and religion. This year's issues include theme articles on "Should We Send Messages to Extraterrestrials" and "Longevity Research." **Ted Peters's "Playing God with Frankenstein"** was the most read article in 2018, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and relating it to current ethical questions in the field of bioethics, such as human genome editing and what Peters calls the "transhumanist impulse." To subscribe (and become a CTNS member), visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/pricing/journal/rtas20>.



Over the past two years CTNS's **Braden Molhoek** has presented work on the intersection of science and religion in a variety of settings. He presented at the Saskatchewan Center for Science and Religion on transhumanism, artificial intelligence (AI), and the implications on Christianity of life elsewhere in the universe. Braden also explored elements of his dissertation involving original sin, evolution, and friendship at a science and religion conference in Oxford. **The Notre Dame Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing** held a grant capstone conference in London about science and virtue where Braden spoke on issues of injustice in academic publishing and graduate education. Last summer he was a panelist on theological anthropology at the first meeting of the **Christian Transhumanist Association**. In March Braden took part in an Army Ethics Symposium that included a discussion of transhumanism and AI on large-scale combat operations.

Find out more at www.gtu.edu/ctns



Discover “Sustainability 360”

By Rita Sherma and Devin Zuber

A multilayered GTU initiative brings the transformative power of religion into the field of Sustainability Studies

The term *sustainability* refers to efforts that serve current human needs while also leaving a legacy of healthy ecosystems, strong global economies, and just, compassionate, societies for future generations. In recent years Sustainability Studies has become an academic field that is increasingly interdisciplinary, incorporating research from the STEM and Design fields. However, knowledge systems embedded in the transformative power of religion have *rarely* been engaged.

The GTU’s Sustainability 360 Initiative seeks to address that need, bringing the academic study of religion and theology into conversation with other disciplines in the field of Sustainability Studies. Co-chaired by Dr. Rita D. Sherma, Director of the GTU’s Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies, and Dr. Devin Zuber, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Religion, and Literature, Sustainability 360 aims to be an incubator for cutting-edge research and projects that operate at the intersection of Sustainability Studies and religion within pluralist, multireligious contexts.

Since Fall 2016, the Sustainability 360 Initiative has sponsored numerous conferences, courses, lectures, publications, and workshops—and is working toward offering a graduate certificate in Sustainability Studies. Co-chair Devin Zuber notes, “The GTU has long been known as a place that seeks to make a tangible difference for the greatest good, by serving as the place ‘where religion meets the world.’ Sustainability 360 wants to help GTU be a place where reli-

gions—in the plural—are meeting the planet. Climate change poses an acute series of challenges, and we think that by approaching sustainability from the ‘deep time’ perspective offered by the world’s diverse spiritual traditions, we can develop more planetary modes of thinking and being.”

Dr. Rita Sherma agrees that the GTU is uniquely equipped for such work. “The diversity of religions represented by GTU also embodies variegated cultural knowledge systems. The intersection of these epistemologies—embedded in the spiritual, moral, cultural, and ethical frameworks of diverse religions—provides a rich matrix for new methods of research and teaching on Sustainability Studies. Such integration catalyzes innovative research methods and models that assimilate *interreligious*, interdisciplinary engagement on sustainability, helping to engender a new direction in our relationship with the biosphere and with one another.”

One of the first major public activities undertaken by Sustainability 360 was a three-day workshop at the GTU and UC Berkeley, featuring former GTU professor (and eco-theologian) Dr. Marion Grau. This special event, co-organized by Devin Zuber and GTU doctoral candidate Yohana Junker, was part of a larger research network on religion and ritual, based at the University of Oslo. The Berkeley workshop focused on how different conceptual frameworks for ritual (and religion) allowed for fruitful dialogue with recent turns in the so-called

“new materialisms” of environmental philosophy, and its attention to other-than-human beings. A follow-up workshop is being planned for Fall 2019, again cohosted by GTU and UC Berkeley, with the specific goal of producing a new collection of scholarly essays on this emergent field.

In April 2017, the GTU convened a comprehensive two-day conference on *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses*. Organized by the Center for Dharma Studies, the international conference featured 60 scholars from diverse disciplines and religions, including faculty from across the GTU consortium, and also provided GTU students opportunities to present in tandem with eminent scholars. An edited volume of the conference’s papers is pending publication, while a second conference, *Sustainable Societies II: Economic and Environmental Justice*, is planned for April 2020.

In May 2018, Sustainability 360 joined with the Center for Religion and the Arts (CARE) to host a lecture and discussion by renowned environmentalist Dr. Carolyn Merchant of UC Berkeley. Dr. Merchant has long been a collaborator with GTU faculty and doctoral students, having worked closely with Rosemary Radford Ruether (Emerita, Pacific School of Religion) and Marion Grau (now at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo), and served on doctoral dissertation committees of many GTU students.

One such student was Dr. Whitney Bauman (PhD, ’07), now an associate professor in the department of religious studies at Florida International University. As a doctoral student, Bauman helped direct the GTU’s Theological Roundtable for Environmental Ethics and Spirituality (TREES), which served for many years as a vibrant student-led forum for religion and ecology. He recalls: “In its heyday, TREES allowed us to bring amazing scholars to Berkeley, including such people like John Huber, Mary Evelyn Tucker, and Fritjof Capra. It was an essential formative context that directly led to my GTU dissertation project with Rosemary Reuther, Marion Grau, and Carolyn Merchant.” While Sustainability 360 has more expansive concerns in a time of climate change, it is excited about doing some in-house “recycling” of the dynamic energy that TREES brought to the topic of religion and the environment.

In September 2018, Sustainability 360 was a collaborator at Gov. Jerry Brown’s *Global Climate Action Summit*, where Rita Sherma convened an interreligious symposium in partnership with the NorCal MLK Foundation. Under the rubric of the Initiative, Dr. Sherma lectured on “Sustaining



“By approaching sustainability from the ‘deep time’ perspective offered by the world’s diverse spiritual traditions, we can develop more planetary modes of thinking and being.” —Devin Zuber

Societies—Restoring Nature” at the *CIIS Conference: 1968 Revisited*.

In partnership with the GTU Center for the Arts and Religion (CARE) and UC Berkeley’s Botanical Garden, Devin Zuber offered the first of a series of lectures in the botanical garden’s famous redwood grove in November 2018. His lecture, “Talking with the Trees: John Muir’s Nature Spirituality” was held in conjunction with CARE’s Fall 2018 exhibition, “Gestures to the Divine: Works by Hagit Cohen.” Zuber suggests, “Since Sustainability 360 sees the aesthetic (be it painting, poetry, or other art forms) as a central place where religion and sustainability concerns can fruitfully intersect, the initiative plans on continuing to partner with CARE and UC Berkeley.” Sustainability 360’s Fall 2018

event calendar concluded with Dr. Rita Sherma’s presenting on the initiative at the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.

In January 2019, GTU President Daniel Lehmann traveled to India with Ajay and Mira Shingal, who established the Center for Dharma Studies. They visited Govardhan Ecovillage (GEV, Maharashtra, India), which won the UN World Tourism Organization’s Sustainability Award in 2017. Describing his experience at the Govardhan Ecovillage, President Lehmann noted, “The cutting-edge sustainability technology, the organic farming methods, the educational programs, and the beautiful Hindu temples and gardens create a unique environment for fusing deep religious wisdom and practice with a contemporary, comfortable retreat center.” Lehmann reported that discussions are underway about the possibility of a jointly sponsored conference on religious perspectives on sustainability that would take place at the Ecovillage in 2021.

Rita Sherma sums up the importance of the initiative in this way: “Sustainability 360 differentiates itself from other efforts at the nexus of religion and ecology by integrating these areas, while also escalating the engagement of religious cultures with the various sectors and fields of human endeavor engaged by Sustainability Studies. As we consider the work of encouraging social, economic, ecological and cultural justice—the “Pillars of Sustainability”—we believe the engaged study of the world’s diverse religious wisdom can make a profound contribution to planetary flourishing.” ♦

Dr. Rita D. Sherma and Dr. Devin Zuber are co-chairs of the GTU’s Sustainability 360 Initiative.

Since its founding in 2015, the GTU's Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies (CDS) has welcomed students with a rich tapestry of research interests and diverse backgrounds and religions. By Fall 2019, CDS faculty will advise more than sixteen students, including ten PhD and six MA students, in various concentrations such as Hindu Studies, Comparative Theology, and Yoga Studies. At this time, it is worthwhile to take a step back and note the achievements of the Center's first cohort of PhD students, who began their doctoral programs in 2016.



Cogen Bohanec is an adjunct professor of Asian Humanities & World Religions at American River College in Sacramento. He was invited to present his paper on animal ethics at the national AAR Annual Meeting in Denver, Fall 2018; presented at AAR Western Region; and published articles in the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* and in the *Journal of Dharma Studies* (pending). His chapter in the edited volume *Prayer, Worship, Ritual, and Contemplation in the Hindu World* is forthcoming (Routledge, 2019).



Presidential Scholar **Laura Dunn** is a recipient of the Chan Writing Award, a Newhall Fellow, on the Steering Committee of the AAR Proposed Program Unit in "Critical Studies in Asceticism," and has published articles in *Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology* (Vol. 4:2, 2018) as well as *Journal of Dharma Studies* (Vol. 1: 2, 2019), where she also serves as managing editor. She is also a recipient of the Interreligious Collaborative Research Grant for a study on trauma-informed yoga.



CDS Programs Coordinator and PhD Candidate **Pravina Rodrigues** is a Newhall Fellow who served on the organizing committee and presented at the GTU Sustainability Conference in 2017. She is associate editor of the upcoming *Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdisciplinary Responses* edited volume (a joint project of CDS and GTU Sustainability 360), where her conference paper will be published (Springer, 2019). She is also a recipient of the Interreligious Collaborative Research Grant for a study on trauma-informed yoga.



Parameshwaran Ramakrishnan, MD, is a clinical chaplain and psychiatrist whose research interests intersect at the nexus of contemplative studies and neuroscience. He is a Newhall Fellow, a presenter (for the third time) at the AAR Annual Meeting in 2018, and a published author with articles in the *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* and *Indian Journal of Psychiatry* among others. He is pursuing his certification in Supervisory Chaplaincy at Stanford Medicine.

Congratulations to our inaugural cohort for setting a high bar for incoming CDS students! Find out more at www.gtu.edu/cds



GTU

The Richard S. Dinner
Center for Jewish Studies

News



Building community is at the heart of our work at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies (CJS). This year, we are delighted to welcome our second cohort of recipients of our **Jewish Community Fellowship**. This fellowship provides tuition for a single course in Jewish studies to Jewish educators or Jewish community professionals. Since the fellowship's inception in 2017, we have welcomed 15 community scholars. It is our hope that rigorous study of classical Jewish texts and ideas will enable them to better serve their broader commitments to the Jewish community.



CJS students are engaged in an array of fascinating research projects. MA student **Aya Baron** (pictured) is writing a thesis using feminist and folklorist analysis to highlight the role of women as central figures in the production of rabbinic narrative and Jewish collective memory. PhD student **Susan Aguilar** is writing a rich study of Jewish participation in urban processions in medieval Spain and the insights we can garner regarding medieval Jewish-Christian relations. PhD student **Jay Siskin** is writing an illuminating study of medieval vernacular and Hebrew texts that shed light on the social position of Jews in medieval France. Each of these projects adds nuance to our understanding of Jewish self-definition, and definition by others, throughout Jewish history.



This spring, the CJS is hosting an exciting array of public programming. On April 7-8, we will host our second annual **Jewish Educator's Workshop with Dr. Miriam Heller Stern**. This year's workshop will consider what this political moment demands of Jewish educators. To RSVP, email cjs@gtu.edu. We are also delighted to once again co-sponsor the annual **Taubman Lecture Series at The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life** on April 9th, 11th, and 16th. This year's lecturer is former GTU-CJS Koret Chair **Naomi Seidman** (pictured) who will offer three talks on the topic of Freud's Jewish languages. Finally, we will host another **CJS Alumni Gathering** on May 6. Alums who would like to join the steering committee for this event can email cjs@gtu.edu.



The CJS continues to cultivate enlivening programming in collaboration with the GTU's Center for Islamic Studies as a part of the **Madrassa-Midrasha program**. On April 28, we are pleased to co-host a conversation about the Hebrew Bible and Qur'an with masters of these texts, **Todd Lawson** and **Robert Alter**. The Madrassa-Midrasha program is also sponsoring a course this semester on **Aesthetics in Judaism and Islam** taught by **Francesco Spagnolo** and **Carol Bier** (pictured).

Read more at www.gtu.edu/cjs



Caring for the Community

A conversation with
Anthony Makana Paris (MA, '11)

By Laura Dunn

Recently, we caught up with GTU/JST alum, **Anthony Makana Paris (MA, '11)** in Honolulu to learn how he uses his GTU experiences and education to serve the Native Hawaiian community. Born and raised in Hawai'i, Makana calls himself a true connoisseur of learning, having also studied engineering at MIT and law at the University of Hawai'i. Makana has served as a farmer and fisherman, as a teacher, minister, and lab specialist, as Vice Chair of 'Aha 2016, and currently as president of the Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club. A former advisor to the Hawai'i Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee, Makana works across the islands as an entrepreneur, consultant, and research analyst for the Iron Workers Stabilization Fund.

What motivated you to attend the GTU?

I wanted to lay foundational written works for the study of Hawaiian Catholicism. I grew up in it, but there is no *palapala*—no written papers outside of old sermons and homilies. I wanted to articulate foundational principles and methods to the approach of Hawaiian Catholic theology.

I found that a lot of young Native Hawaiians were struggling with being Christian or religious of any sort because they felt that religion—especially Christianity—was in conflict with their cultural identity. I asked myself, “What has happened to the narratives we Hawaiians tell ourselves to be more human—more *kānaka*?” I would look at elders and they didn't have this problem. This problem was manifesting in younger people.

How did you address Native Hawaiian issues all the way in Berkeley?

I remember some colleagues in school would say to me, “You don't seem like a Catholic.” And I would say: “I am Hawaiian Catholic.” Someone asked, “If you are using all this Hawaiian language to express your spirituality, then what are you doing here?”

I chose to be Catholic, but the Divine made me Hawaiian. I understand my *kuleana*—the privileges I have—which call me to care for my home and for Native Hawaiians in particular. That

has been my true north—what I believe I am supposed to do. As Mother Teresa said, if you want to bring peace to the world, go back home and love your family. So with the best of preparation that I received from our ancient society and from that of today, I wanted to make sure I was prepared to do that.

Did your experience at the GTU influence your decision to go to law school?

When I taught in Hawai'i, I realized there was a problem with curricula support, financing, materials, and facilities, so I wanted to work through decision-making structures to help alleviate these problems. In my journey to gather intellectual tools, such as science and engineering at MIT and theology and philosophy at GTU, I asked myself, “What's the other major language that affects society today?” I saw in boardrooms that when a lawyer would say “no” to our proposed solutions to a problem, everyone would acquiesce, and I thought, “Wait a minute. How can we find a solution?”

I currently work in policy, law creation, and analysis. I set out knowing I was not going to work in litigation, because I could go into court and have one transaction, or I could learn how to adjust the system to increase societal well-being and flourishing, as well as to address social injustice. ♦

Laura Dunn is a third-year GTU doctoral student and a Native Hawaiian

ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders

A Sacred World Music Festival coming to the GTU in September 2019

By Lydia Webster

A sacred world music festival is coming to the GTU in September 2019, thanks to a unique initiative jointly conceived by several GTU faculty members and a recent graduate. Sponsored by GTU's Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE), *ResoNation: Sacred Sound Beyond Borders* aims to present and explore music that celebrates and heals the human spirit and transcends borders.

"With this sacred music festival, we hope to reach out from 'Holy Hill,' and open up what we do at the GTU to the wider Bay Area," explains GTU alumna and festival producer Eleanor Shapiro (PhD, '18). "I am proud of this institution, what it stands for, and what it has to offer."

Drawing on her experience as producer of the Berkeley-based Jewish Music Festival before its hiatus in 2015, Dr. Shapiro has brought together a diverse planning committee for the GTU festival, including faculty, students, and staff with experience as spiritual leaders and musicians within various religious traditions. The committee hopes to draw on the spiritual vitality of the Bay Area to create an inclusive event with performances, participatory workshops, and educational forums. The inaugural concert for the festival's first edition is being planned for Saturday evening, September 14, at a local venue. On Sunday, September 15, a community music day for all ages will take place on the campus of the Pacific School of Religion. Workshops and concerts by Bay Area artists and organizations will cultivate a space for spiritual exploration through sound for followers of all faiths and none.

The festival is a partnership between multiple GTU member schools and centers and is being planned in collaboration with the University of Cal-



***"The GTU is the perfect place to celebrate our differences in ways that illuminate, entertain, and engage people."
—Eleanor Shapiro***

ifornia, Berkeley. Rev. Dr. Doniel Mark Wilson, director of the UCB Gospel Choir, is serving on the planning committee, with Dr. Cynthia Cox, chair of the UCB Department of Music, serving as an advisor.

Eleanor Shapiro's idea for a music festival showcasing the religious diversity that epitomizes the GTU came to her as she was listening to GTU president Rabbi Daniel Lehmann speak of the need for new outreach initiatives. After fifteen years of work with the Jewish Music Festival, an outreach program of the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Shapiro had seen how that event nurtured the nascent revival of klezmer music and became a way for local and internationally known artists to connect. Over time it created a sense of community for those who returned year after year. And for many, it was their

main connection to the JCC.

While Shapiro initially imagined a GTU festival of sacred music, two GTU faculty members—Dr. Rita Sharma, director of the Center for Dharma Studies (CDS), and Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, director of digital learning and a liturgical scholar—had previously been envisioning an academic conference focused on "sacred sound." A coordinating committee came together in September 2018 to bring the two ideas together.

Stefan Andrea Waligur, a musician and GTU doctoral student currently teaching a Newhall course on "Sacred Sound in World Religions," serves on the festival planning committee. He believes, "The GTU offers an ideal intersection of world traditions of sacred sound. For scholars and practitioners alike, this festival represents an exciting exploration of a new paradigm that unites the academy with practice. It's time."

Shapiro's hope is that a GTU sacred world music festival will counter the hopelessness generated by the current political climate. "Our aim is to embrace difference, rather than fear it," she explains. "As the most comprehensive center for the graduate study of religion in North America, the GTU is the perfect place to celebrate our differences in ways that illuminate, entertain, and engage people."

The planning committee is seeking to raise the funds necessary to allow the community music day to be a free public event. For more information, or to make an online contribution, please visit www.gtu.edu/resonation or contact Dr. Eleanor Shapiro at eshapiro@gtu.edu. ♦

Lydia Webster is assistant curator at CARE's Doug Adams Gallery and a member of the ResoNation planning committee.



GTU

Center for Islamic Studies

News



GTU PhD students **David Coolidge** (pictured), **May Kosba**, and **Paula Thompson** have all had their papers accepted for **10th Annual International Islamophobia Conference** at the University of California, Berkeley, on April 15-21. CIS has long been a cosponsor of this annual event. Find more details at www.irdproject.com. CIS will also be hosting a student symposium in coordination with the conference in April.



Presidential Scholar and PhD student **Mahjabeen Dhala** received an award for best student paper at the American Academy of Religion Western Region conference in March for her paper entitled "Fatima, Resisting Prejudice, Breaking Norms: Understanding Muslim Women's Agency Through Religiosity." Mahjabeen also presented a series of public lectures on Women in the Quran in India this February.



MA student Huzaifa Shahbaz (pictured) has been a lead researcher on the project, "The Global Rise of Ethno-Nationalism and Demagoguery," at the Haas Institute, UC Berkeley. The research findings are intended to be released in a publication this semester.

GTU alum **Dr. Mohammad Waqas Sajjad** (PhD, '18) participated in the Yale Modern South Asia Workshop on February 1-2, 2019, where he presented a chapter of his dissertation titled "Social Media and the Deobandi-Barelvi Polemics."



CIS alum Sammy Aziz Rahmatti (MA, '15) is serving as one of the **Muslim Spiritual Care** Volunteer Coordinators at Stanford Health Care. If you are interested in spiritual care volunteering or want to learn about Sammy's experience in the CPE program, please contact him for more information: sammy.rahmatti@gmail.com

For more information, visit www.gtu.edu/cis

GTU and Wiley to Partner for *TEACHING THEOLOGY & RELIGION*

The GTU is pleased to announce a new partnership with John Wiley & Sons to begin overseeing publication of the journal *Teaching Theology & Religion* in 2020. Since its establishment in 1998, *Teaching Theology & Religion* has served as a leading voice in theological education in the United States and around the world. For the previous 22 years, the journal has been published by Wiley in partnership with the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.

Dr. Uriah Kim, dean and vice president for academic affairs, celebrated the GTU's role in this new collaboration. "Given the GTU's leadership in developing innovative pedagogy in the fields of theology and religion and Wiley's openness to taking the journal in a direction closely aligned with the GTU's work, this partnership makes perfect sense."

The new partnership will bring with it a new editor and editorial board. *Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero*, director of digital learning and lecturer in theology and educational technology at the

GTU, has been appointed by Wiley as the new editor of *Teaching Theology & Religion*. "Kyle was the first person to come to mind as we considered leadership for this new endeavor," said Kim. "He is a creative and emerging scholar and practitioner in theological education and brings the necessary vision and skills."

Schiefelbein-Guerrero has already been busy establishing a new editorial board and a renewed vision for the journal. "I am excited to be the next editor of this prestigious journal," he reflected, "and I want to keep the journal aligned with the GTU's strengths in theological education." Schiefelbein-Guerrero has established "Four I's" that will serve as foci for the journal's content: "The journal will be interreligious, interdisciplinary, international, and integrated with technology." In addition to continuing to include longer articles on various pedagogical issues, book reviews, and "In the Classroom" essays about concrete practices, the revised journal will include a new section reviewing developments in learning technology. ♦

GTU Hosts Consultation on Interreligious Education



Participants at the consultation on “Current and Future Directions in Theological Education,” January 15, 2019. Front Row (l-r); Munir Jiwa, GTU; Boyung Lee, Illiff School of Theology (previously at PSR); Deborah Flemester Mullin, Columbia Theological Seminary; David Mellott, Lancaster Theological Seminary. Back Row (l-r); Ken Walden, Gammon Theological Seminary; Christian Scharen (GTU alum), Auburn Seminary; Uriah Kim, GTU; Heida Hadsell, Hartford Seminary; Stephen Graham, Association of Theological Schools; Rachel Mikva, Chicago Theological Seminary; Teresa Delgado, Iona College; Michael Gilligan, Henry Luce Foundation. (Not shown: Judith Berling, GTU)

On January 14-16, 2019, the Graduate Theological Union hosted a regional consultation on the theme of interreligious theological education as part of a larger study of “Current and Future Directions in Theological Education.” The three-year project, designed to cultivate sustained reflection and conversation on theological education at the field level, is funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, and overseen by Lancaster Theological Seminary. Given its leadership in interreligious theological education, the GTU was an outstanding choice to host this particular event.

Three GTU faculty members were among the presenters at the consultation. Dean Uriah Kim’s presentation

on interreligious theological education and institutional change articulated some of the challenges the GTU has faced in developing and implementing its current PhD

curriculum, which was reorganized in 2016 to maximize interreligious engagement. Dean Kim noted that the GTU’s work in building an interreligious educational community and curriculum is truly unprecedented, making the GTU a trailblazer in its initiative to move into previously uncharted pedagogical territory.

Dr. Judith Berling shared findings that emerged out of her own Luce-funded project, “The Current State of Interreligious Learning in Higher Education.” Looking at

“How do we understand, approach, and explain ‘interreligious’ in a context in which the boundaries between ‘religions’ are increasingly fluid?”
—Dr. Judith Berling

the GTU through the lens of the Luce project brought up questions for Dr. Berling, such as, “How do we understand, approach, and explain ‘interreligious’ in a context in which the boundaries between ‘religions’ are increasingly fluid?” It also illuminated the need to cultivate “a new generation of faculty with the interreligious training” to teach courses like “Sacred Texts” that exist at the cross-section of many religious traditions. Dr. Berling noted that, “The most successful programs to date are those that have made a commitment, from the leadership down through the faculty, recognizing that success will require some level of institutional transformation. That is indeed a big challenge, but it is also an opportunity to position the school as a leader in this emerging field.”

Dr. Munir Jiwa, founding director of the GTU’s Center for

Islamic Studies, presented in a session focused on interreligious education and public engagement. Dr. Jiwa highlighted the ongoing partnership between the Center for Islamic Studies and the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at UC Berkeley, as well as the GTU’s Madrasa-Midrasa Project, a collaborative public education effort between the Center for Islamic Studies and the GTU’s Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies.

Reflecting on the consultation, Dean Kim restated his belief that the GTU provided the ideal location for such an event, as the GTU’s diverse community engages with one another daily both inside and outside of the classroom “to apply wisdom and knowledge from diverse religious traditions” in order to “make a positive impact on the world, to tend to the spiritual needs of their communities, and to pursue truth.” ♦



GTU

Center for the Arts & Religion
Doug Adams Gallery

News



In February, CARE Director **Dr. Elizabeth S. Peña** and GTU faculty member **Dr. Kathryn Barush** (pictured) presented papers at the **College Art Association’s 107th annual conference** in New York City. This conference featured more than 300 sessions on a wide range of art-related topics. As part of the session on Religious Object and Modern/Contemporary Audiences, Dr. Peña discussed the display of Hindu and Buddhist sacred objects in museum contexts, and Dr. Barush (who was session co-chair) spoke on the ways in which religious relics and souvenirs have been incorporated into contemporary art.



CARE Assistant Curator **Lydia Webster** is teaching “Gallery 101” this semester, where she is instructing students on best practices in coordinating and implementing art gallery exhibitions. At the culmination of this class, students will co-curate **CARE’s second annual Bay Area MFA Show** (“Community, Identity, Ritual”) featuring the works of newly graduated Master of Fine Arts students from five Bay Area institutions—UC Berkeley, San Francisco Institute of the Arts, California College of the Arts, San Francisco State University, and Mills College. Students in Lydia’s class are learning the principles of exhibition design, outreach, and visitor experience.



In early March, CARE inaugurated **an exciting new partnership with Cal Performances** with a 3-day program surrounding *XENOS*, a dance performance by Akram Khan. A cohort of CARE members, GTU students and faculty, and others participated in four events designed to advance artistic literacy. Programming included a workshop on “The Exploration of Spirituality and Storytelling in Dance,” a public forum preceding the performance of *XENOS* at UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall, and a gathering in the Doug Adams Gallery the following day to celebrate and reflect on the experiences. CARE looks forward to exploring more music, theater, and dance with Cal Performances!

Read more at www.gtu.edu/care



Art @ the GTU



Sacred Sounds and Left Coast Chamber Ensemble in Residence

Doug Adams Gallery, Center for the Arts & Religion
2465 LeConte Avenue
Through May 24 (T-Th, 10am-3pm)

This semester, CARE's Doug Adams Gallery is hosting a **musical residency featuring the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble** to accompany its **"Sacred Sounds" exhibition**. Throughout the spring, the Left Coast will present concerts, workshops, open rehearsals, and special events. There's something for everyone—initial events have included an opening reception with short concert featuring harpsichord, cello, and baroque flute; an open rehearsal of new music for viola and electronics; and an all-ages story-telling event. Thanks to a City of Berkeley Civic Arts Grant, all events are free to the public! A full list of events can be found on the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble website (<http://www.leftcoastensemble.org/residency/>).



The related exhibition features musical objects and art borrowed from the archives of the GTU, DSPT, and SFTS. Visitors can see 15th-century choir music on giant sheets of vellum (calfskin), a 19th-century melodeon, a Gregorian choir book that belonged to famed British Arts and Crafts movement pioneer William Morris, and an array of album covers from the GTU library's large collection. You can even stop at the Listening Station to play old favorites and learn new tunes!





Love's Evangelist: An Exhibition of Broadsheets & Photographs

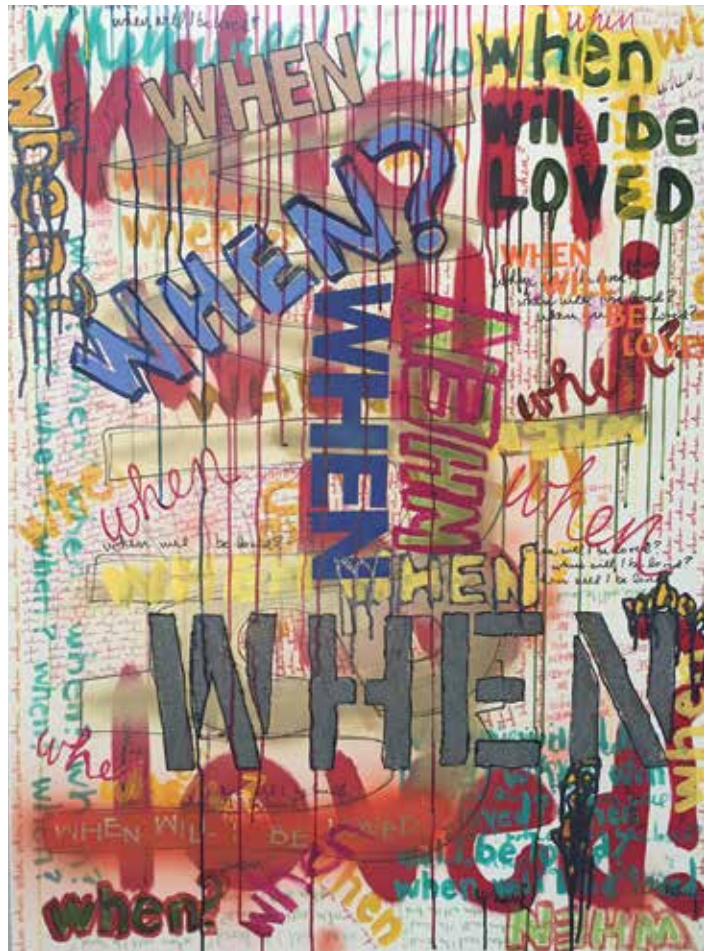
Blackfriars Gallery, Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology
2301 Vine Street
(M - F, 9am-5pm)

This exhibition features digital images and prints by Sandra Tasca (DSPT MTS, '16), inspired by letters written by St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) during the last ten years of her life. Using digital images taken while in Siena for the Feast of St. Catherine, Tasca invites viewers to meditate on passages from St. Catherine's letters, making the wisdom of this medieval mystic available to a contemporary audience.

Blane Ellis: Technicians of the Sacred and Sacred Places, Sacred Texts, Sacred Acts: Reflections on Religious Ways

Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Through May 31 (all library hours)

In the tradition of sacred architecture, light has long been a symbol of the Divine or the unknowable. In his photography, Blane Ellis captures the effects of light in sacred spaces, evoking the transcendent. Accompanying Ellis's photographs in this exhibition are a display of objects from the GTU's Special Collections ("Sacred Places, Sacred Texts, Sacred Acts: Reflections on Religious Ways"), which add to the photographer's work by connecting sacred places to texts and ways of life.



Extraordinary Callings: Holy & Queer Resistance in the Lutheran Church

Badè Museum of Biblical Archaeology
1798 Scenic Avenue
March 25 - July 22 (Mondays 10am-2pm).

Extraordinary Callings features the stories of individuals whose seminary training and ordained ministries in the Lutheran tradition have been supported by Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and predecessor organizations that have sought to affirm and support LGBTQIA+ Lutheran leaders and allied congregations and ministries. The story begins in the early 1990s when two San Francisco congregations extended calls to pastors who were openly gay or lesbian, and continues in the ministries of many others who have realized their calls through the support of ELM. The exhibition is hosted by the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) at PSR, and Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM).

**Find out more at
www.gtu.edu/events/exhibitions**



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“My research lies at the intersection of a number of different disciplines within religious studies and the environmental humanities—from environmental justice and philosophy, to critical race theory and postcolonial studies. So the access to so many fields of study and faculty resources through the member schools and centers of the GTU is truly unparalleled.”

—Matthew Hartman
PhD student in Ethics

Your gift to the GTU Scholarship Fund supports student-scholars who make a difference in our world.

Give online at www.gtu.edu/springfund or mail your donation to Office of Advancement, GTU, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley, CA 94709.

Upcoming Events

What Has Science to Do with Youth Ministry?

CTNS Russell Research Fellowship Conference
with Joshua Moritz

Saturday, April 13, 1:00 pm

Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Rd, Berkeley

intra•sonant

Interactive music with the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble

Friday, April 26, 2019, 4:00 and 8:00 pm

Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Beyond Trigger Warnings: Toward a Trauma-Informed Pedagogy for the Graduate Classroom

WSR Chair Lecture with Jennifer W. Davidson

Tuesday, April 30, 11:00 am

Bade Museum, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

2019 GTU Commencement Exercises

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4:00 pm

Zaytuna College, 2401 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

“Seduced into Eden” with Avivah Zornberg

Tuesday, May 14, 9:30 am

Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

For more events, visit www.gtu.edu/events