

GTU Dean's Newsletter



Whenever I visit Korea, I do so with mixed emotions. The flight takes about thirteen hours from San Francisco to Seoul, giving me plenty of time to brace myself for the joys and disappointments of visiting Korea as a Korean American. On the one hand, I feel completely at home. Surrounded by faces that look like mine, I am able to exhale freely, letting go of the psychological burden of being a perpetual foreigner in the United States. In Korea, I can easily pass for native Korean, blend in as “one of us” – if I do not open my mouth, that is. However, I usually get “caught” once they hear my Korean. I don’t know what it is, but they just know that I’m not from Korea, and thereby, I am not really one of them. I feel as though I am subjected to shibboleth tests depending on the situation or the individual.

According to Judges 12:6, forty-two thousand Ephraimites were killed because they pronounced the word shibboleth different from the way the Gileadites did. This difference revealed different origin or identity. When I go to Korea, I notice that Koreans are overly nice to foreigners, especially white people, because they want to be generous hosts and welcoming of those who look different. But they are not so nice to those who are almost like them, but not quite. They quickly shift their posture and reprimand or lecture the proper ways of doing and speaking, as Koreans would.

I do not attempt to pass as an American in the United States, even though I have every right to claim my American identity. However, with my heavy Korean Bronx accent and my obvious external features, I don’t try hard because I know too well who is considered a real American according to the long history of identity politics in the United States. I am heartbroken that the ideal and value of celebrating differences and embracing multiple peoples to forge an American identity and story, even with all its imperfection and hypocrisy, has been tossed aside in recent years for the realpolitik of identity that attempts to give profit and advantage to certain groups of people at the expense of others. The politics of identity has serious ramifications. Some people feel it more than others. Who controls the test? Who is subjected to the test? And what arbitrary shibboleth will be used? We all negotiate and navigate our identity wherever we go.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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Center for the Arts & Religion Events

New music by students from Oakland School for the Arts

Wednesday, April 3 | 5-7PM

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble musicians perform new compositions by students from [Oakland School for the Arts](#) (OSA). Student composers will also perform in some of the new works. Music was written and developed as part of LCCE's [Music From the Inside Out](#) (<http://www.leftcoastensemble.org/education/>) workshop series at OSA.

FREE. Limited availability. [RSVPs](#) (<http://www.leftcoastensemble.org/residency/>) opening soon.

Between Art and Faith: Brown Bag Lunch talk with Nate Klug

Friday, April 5 | 12-1PM

CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series features presentations by recent CARE/GTU grant recipients, students, faculty, and staff. These are informal presentations, so please bring your sack lunch! In honor of National Poetry Month, this month's speaker is Arlington Community Church Pastor and poet, Nate Klug.

"After one has abandoned a belief in God," wrote Wallace Stevens in the middle of the 20th century, "poetry is that essence which takes its place as life's redemption." In 2019, how and when does Stevens' assertion hold true? We will examine several recent poems that remain ambivalently invested in questions of the spirit. And we'll talk about the tensions that can arise between faiths and art-making of many kinds.

Free & open to the public.

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble open rehearsal

Wednesday, April 17 | 1-2PM

In preparation for Left Coast Chamber Ensemble's micro opera *From the Field*, about the art and milieu of pioneering photographer Dorothea Lange, Left Coast will offer open rehearsals at the Gallery. Music by Christopher Stark; starring soprano Nikki Einfeld and featuring cellist Leighton Fong and violinist Anna Presler. Enjoy this early preview event - more open rehearsals will be scheduled for May 2019.

intra•sonant

Friday, April 26 | 4PM & 8PM

intra•sonant is an interactive experience between audience and performers. Composer [Amadeus Regucera](#) and Left Coast's flutist and [Feldenkrais practitioner Stacey Pelinka](#) will interweave sound, movement, and meditation. Your movements will shape the music, and we will guide you in adding sounds to the composition we invent together. We have yet to find out where this experimental journey will take all of us, so please bring your curiosity. Dress comfortably. Chairs will be provided, or bring a mat if you are interested in lying on the floor.

No late arrivals.

[RSVP for 4PM](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intrasonant-tickets-54301631642) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intrasonant-tickets-54301631642>)

[RSVP for 8PM](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intrasonant-tickets-54312693729) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intrasonant-tickets-54312693729>)

From the Dean of Students

GTU Commencement

The GTU Commencement is May 9 at 4pm Zaytuna College, 2401 LeConte. A reception follows the ceremony at 2465 LeConte. Common MA and Doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU Commencement Ceremony should report to for robing and procession instructions by 3:15pm. Faculty are asked to arrive by 3:30pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU Dean of Students, kkook@gtu.edu, 510-649-2464 for information. We look forward to celebrating our accomplished graduates.

Modern Language Exam

The next modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, May 22, 1:00pm to 4:45pm in the Dinner Board Room. Register by May 8 with Sean Albrecht, Student Affairs Office Manager, salbrecht@gtu.edu, 649-2400.

Summer Modern Language Study at the GTU

GTU summer language study opportunities are an excellent summer activity. These courses focus on developing researching and writing facilities in the language, and provide good preparation for the GTU Modern Foreign Language Exams. The course ends with an opportunity to take a language proficiency exam with the possibility of certifying for the GTU common MA and doctoral degree program requirements. French, German and Spanish courses will be offered July 8 through August 2 from 9am to noon. Tuition is \$690, due the Friday before the courses begins, payable to the GTU. To reserve a spot, contact John Seal **BY JUNE 14**, GTU Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.

Celebration of 2019 GTU Graduates of Color and International Student Graduates

Hosted by the GTU Member School Student Services Offices. Wednesday, May 1, 4:30pm, PSR Chapel.

Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

CIS is pleased to cosponsor the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project's 10th annual conference at UC Berkeley, April 19-21. As part of the conference, there will be a series of evening keynote lectures from April 15-18. Dr. Jiwa will be presenting the keynote on April 15. Please check the CIS and IRDP websites for details: <https://irdproject.com/about/>

Congratulations to GTU PhD students David Coolidge and Paula Thompson who will presenting papers at the conference. We are grateful to Paula who continues to serve at the Coordinator for the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at the Center for Race and Gender at UCB.

CIS and CJS are please to cosponsor a lunchtime Madrasa-Midrasha event with Dr. Vicki Spencer of University of Otago in New Zealand, titled: The Fine Line Between Toleration and Intolerance. Dr. Aranoff and Dr. Jiwa will be the respondents. Tuesday April 16, 12:30-2pm. GTU Library Boardroom.

Library Workshops

All workshops take place in the Collaborative Learning Space in the library. Please RSVP to kschiefelbein@gtu.edu if you plan to attend.

Flipping the Classroom

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have all the “lecturing” happen as homework, and spend the face-to-face class time as discussion and group work? This workshop looks at the idea of “flipping” the classroom to allow more interactivity in the residential course.

Monday, April 1, 10 to 11:30 am

Monday, April 29, 2:30 to 4 pm

Student Assessment with Moodle Quizzes

Quizzes are still a popular way of assessing students’ progress throughout a course. Quizzes can also provide opportunities to teach students interactively through various types of feedback. This workshop looks at Moodle’s Quiz module to design traditional and developmental quizzes.

Monday, April 15, 2:30 to 4 pm

Web Conferencing and Moodle’s Wikis: Engaging Groups

In this workshop learn how to successfully facilitate a synchronous web conference through Zoom. Wikis have also become a popular way of working collaboratively in a quick way. Moodle’s built-in wiki module can provide a great way to get students to work in groups to draft documents and workshop ideas.

Monday, April 1, 2:30 to 4 pm

Teaching with Social Media and Information Literacy

Social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become very popular in the last decade, but are they effective as classroom tools? Join this workshop to discuss opportunities for including social media in residential and online classrooms. Specific attention will be paid to teaching students information literacy skills when working with online sources.

Monday, April 22, 2:30 to 4 pm

Game Theory and Teaching

In the last couple of years, “gamification” has become an important component in education. This workshop introduces participants to the interaction and mechanic aspects of game theory to construct educational games.

Monday, April 8, 2:30 to 4 pm

Writing and Researching From Home

Are you finishing coursework and planning on leaving the bay area to write your comps, thesis or dissertation? Learn how to access online library resources and reciprocal borrowing programs, from wherever home is.

Thursday, April 18, 2 pm

Center for Theology & the Natural Sciences Events

"What has Science to do with Youth Ministry?: Why Theological Engagement with the Natural Sciences is Vital for Effective and Impactful Youth Ministry"

The 2019 Russell Family Research Fellowship with Joshua M. Moritz

Wednesday, April 10 @ 7 PM | GTU Dinner Boardroom (2400 Ridge Rd.) | Free & Open to the Public

Saturday, April 13 | GTU Dinner Boardroom | Registration Required (http://www.ctns.org/jkr_fellow_pay.html)

"CRISPR Babies and Beyond: The Broad Range of Applications and Implications of CRISPR Gene Editing Technology"

A CTNS Public Forum with Arvin Gouw

Wednesday, April 24 @ 7 PM | GTU Dinner Boardroom (2400 Ridge Rd.) | Free & Open to the Public

Women's Studies in Religion Events

2nd Annual WSR Chair Lecture:

Beyond Trigger Warnings: Toward a Trauma-Informed Pedagogy

Tuesday, April 30, 11–12:30 PM | Bade Museum (1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley)

Trauma can have pervasively negative effects on our ability to learn. While primary schools have been increasingly focused on creating trauma-informed approaches in the classroom, graduate theological schools have not been so proactive. In this lecture, Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson (ABSW) will share her current research into how to create a trauma-informed pedagogy for the graduate-level classroom.

Weaving Faith Into Action For Real!

Lunch & Workshop

Thursday, April 4, 12:30–2:30 PM | GTU Dinner Boardroom (2400 Ridge Rd.)

HOW do we embody the change we want to see? HOW do we unite theological principles with sustained action in our lives and work? The process of moving from theory to action is possible and deeply needed in our complex world. In this two-hour introductory workshop, BePresent Consulting and Wisdom & Money will share stories and practices that enable us to weave our values into personal, organizational, and communal movement for social and spiritual transformation. Presenters include:

Lillie P. Allen, Creatrix of Play, BePresent Consulting, and Member, Board of Directors, Wisdom & Money
Rose Feerick, Co-Director and Member, Board of Directors, Wisdom & Money
Nancy M. Thurston, BePresent, Inc., and Member, Board of Directors, Wisdom & Money
Margherita Vacchiano, BePresent Consulting Consortium

All are welcome! For more info, contact Sheryl Johnson (wsr@ses.gtu.edu).

Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies Events

12th Annual John E. Boswell Lecture

Peace Be Still: Rev. James Cleveland and The Paradox of Peace in the Modern Civil Rights Movement

A Lecture by Johari Jabir

Thursday, April 11th, 6:30 PM | Bade Museum (1789 Scenic Ave)

Rev. James Cleveland was a singer, pianist, composer, conductor, preacher, pastor, entrepreneur, and founder of the Gospel Music Workshop (GMWA). Cleveland's 1963 release, "Peace Be Still" is a song about peace but it is not a peaceful song. My talk will use this paradox and its Civil Rights context to historicize the queerness in Black working class religious culture. Popular memory of Rev. Cleveland is mired in the public secret of his sexuality. Yet, Cleveland's legacy is larger than his identity as it offers to us lessons of accompaniment, and a *sankofa* spirituality in the service of social medicine.

This event is free and open to the public; reception will follow Dr. Jabir's lecture.

Pacific Coast Theological Society Spring Meeting

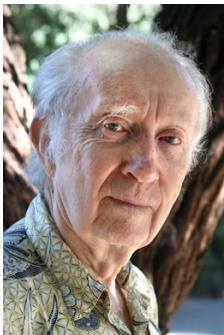
“John B. Cobb, Jr., and His Legacy”

Friday, May 3, 1:30–8:30 PM & Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 PM | Classroom B | the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (2451 Ridge Rd.)

We are excited to have John B. Cobb, Jr. (Claremont, Emeritus) join us for a series of papers surrounding his work and broad interests. He will give a public lecture Friday evening and be presented the Patricia Codron Award for Lifetime Achievement. Cobb is a defining figure for Process theology and philosophy, a co-founder of the Center for Process Studies at Claremont, and a provocative voice with interdisciplinary interest in areas such as biology, ethics, economics, and the environment. The Meeting papers will engage some of these topics.

Friday afternoon begins with a paper by Philip Clayton (Claremont), entitled “Emergentist Panpsychism.” This is followed by the paper, “Hindu Process Theology of Radical Immanence” by Rita Sherma (GTU, Center for Dharma Studies). Saturday morning starts with a paper by Ann Woods (GTU, PAOI) called “Running the Good Race with Cobb: A Race to Create a Sustainable Christian Eco-Ethics.” Lastly, a panel discusses a paper by Ted Peters (GTU, CTNS) entitled, “Demythologizing the Myth of Economism for Earth’s Sake: John Cobb, Richard Norgaard, and the Common Good” with respondent, Richard Norgaard (UCB, Emeritus), and joined by Ann Woods.

The papers will be posted on the PCTS website (<http://pcts.org/meetings/2019/Spring.html>) as they become available. These should be read ahead of time, as the papers are not read aloud at the gathering. Instead, the time is spent responding to each paper through engaging in multidisciplinary, in-depth discussion.



FREE PUBLIC LECTURE BY JOHN B. COBB, JR.

Friday, May 3, 7:00 PM | Tucson Common Room | Church Divinity School of the Pacific (2451 Ridge Rd.)

John B. Cobb, Jr., will share his story within the intersection of interdisciplinary interests and frank observations of current events.

The Friday afternoon paper session will be followed by cocktails and dinner. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. Information about registration and fees can be found on the PCTS website (<http://www.pcts.org/register.html>). Fees may be paid in advance electronically or in person at the meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. PCTS has a long and distinguished history that pre-dates the establishment of the GTU. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in theology, broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year, \$22.50 for students. Visit www.pcts.org for additional details.

Professional Development Program Workshops

April 3rd | 11am | Student Lounge

Annual Teaching Lecture with Dr. Racine

April 10th | 11am | Student Lounge

Teaching Theology and Religion Today, with Deena Aranoff

April 3rd | 2:30pm | CLS

Balancing Teaching and Scholarship, with Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

April 17th | 11am | Student Lounge

Scholarship Resources: A Workshop for Doctoral Students, with Denise Morita

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Rhiana E. Wiggins, IBS, *HONORS*

Brent Beavers, IBS, *HONORS*

Jacob Good, JST-SCU

Luke Bruggeman, JST-SCU, *HONORS*

Eunsoo Cho, SFTS

Imran Ghani, CIS, *HONORS*

Pietro Bartoli, JST-SCU, *HONORS*

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Han Woori, REPR

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Insoo Kim, THEO

Advanced to Candidacy

Nancy S. Gutgsell, HIST

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Stephen King, SPRT

KyungRae Kim, THEO

Doctoral Student Committee Election Results

Doctoral Council:

Christina Atienza, HCSR

(Kai LeFranc, THEO)

Student Advisory Committee:

Hanna Kang, HCSR

Jennifer Lehmann, SATX

Carmelo Sorita, SATX

Porsia Tunzi, HCSR

(Thomas Calobrisi, HCSR, Mahjabeen Dhala, SATX
continue)

Student Rep to Library Committee:

Gordon Gilmore, THET

AAR Liaison:

Sheryl Johnson THET

SBL Liaison:

Grace So, BIBL



Graduate Theological Union

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students. Send submissions to Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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