

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



The global religious landscape will change significantly in the next forty years. The Pew Research Center projects that by 2060, the percentage of Christians will remain 32% of the world population, but the percentage of Muslims will increase from 24% to 31% of the world population. There will also be a major shift of where Christians will live, with 42% Christians living in Sub-Saharan Africa (increase from 26%) and 9% living in North America (down from 12%).

The religious landscape in North America is continuing to shift due to the rise of nones, the decline of Christians, and increase in the non-Christian immigrants. These demographic changes will continue to increase the religious diversity of its population, creating more religious identities and communities than ever before. In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, one-in-five U.S. adults in the United States were raised in interfaith homes. Moreover, according to Judith Berling's report on the Current State of Interreligious Learning in the United States, "An increasingly diverse society has given rise to increasingly diverse classrooms. This is a universal pedagogical challenge." The success and sustainability of the GTU and other theological schools in North America in the next decades will depend on solving the pedagogical challenge of interreligious engagement.

Normally the faculty is built for the previous generation or at best the current generation of students. It's natural that there are pedagogical gaps between the instructors and the students, especially when the student body changes in ways the faculty were not prepared to address. Moreover, for most faculty no amount of professional development will adequately prepare them to fill the gaps created by the technological advancements and the need for interreligious engagement. It'd be unfair and unrealistic to expect the current faculty to do so. It would be wise for the GTU to increase its support to enable the faculty to do what they do best, research and teach. However, the GTU should also invest its resources in mentoring and other soft skills that cannot be duplicated by machines and establish that as one of the three major components of the faculty's responsibility, on par with research and teaching. I would also recommend the GTU invest in a collaborative learning space for students to explore how to deliver or communicate religious wisdom, knowledge and practices using technology, as well as forming cohorts of students from different religious traditions for interreligious engagement and collaboration through common projects.



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



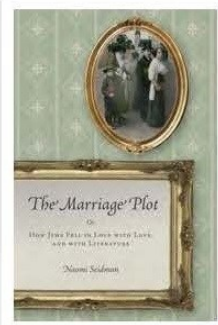
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THURSDAY
MARCH 22
2018

FIRST ANNUAL

BORSCH-RAST BOOK LECTURE

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION CHAPEL
1798 SCENIC AVENUE, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIASTARTS AT
6:30PM**DANIEL BOYARIN & JUDITH BUTLER JOIN**

BORSCH-RAST PRIZE-WINNER

NAOMI SEIDMANTO SHARE PERSPECTIVES ON SEIDMAN'S
AWARD-WINNING BOOK***THE MARRIAGE PLOT, OR,
HOW JEWS FELL IN LOVE WITH LOVE,
AND WITH LITERATURE*****DANIEL BOYARIN**Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman
Professor of Talmudic Culture, UC Berkeley**JUDITH BUTLER**

Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley

**NAOMI SEIDMAN**Koret Professor of Jewish Culture, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
Winner of the Inaugural Borsch-Rast Book Prize

GTU.EDU/BORSCH-RAST



CARE News & Events

Religion and Resistance, on view through May 24, 2018

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery
2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley
Free admission; open to the public

Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10am-3pm
Open the first Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm- March 3, April 7, May 5

Exhibition catalogs are available! Renew your CARE membership or receive a copy for \$25 + tax. Visit the gallery or email care@gtu.edu to receive your copy.

GTU Writing Group

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Mondays, 9am-1:30pm through May 15

Feel free to bring light snacks or water.

Wifi and outlets available!

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Guest Speaker:

Jennifer Owens-Jofré (GTU Doctoral Student, Interdisciplinary Studies)

Friday, March 2, 12-1pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Lay Leadership of Latina Catholic Women: A Case Study

This presentation will reflect on the role of Latina women at a Catholic parish in Los Angeles as lay leaders in their community, as well as their approach to faith-based community organizing. In particular, we will explore the place their devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe takes in facilitating their leadership in the parish and in the wider community.

Informal presentations- bring your sack lunch!

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

Thursday, March 15, 4:30pm with guest speaker Alla Efimova (KunstWorks)

"Ghosts and Demons," a newly acquired work by Ed Aulerich-Sugai (1950-1994).

The Japanese-American artist's work is a unique visual testimony of living with HIV/AIDS over a decade of intense creative effort.

After gathering in the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive lobby at 4:30pm, check in with a Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) staff member for a complimentary ticket. *Your Eventbrite RSVP does not include admission to BAMPFA. Please check in with a CARE staff member upon arrival to receive your complimentary museum admission ticket. Thank you!* Graduate Theological Union students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome.

BAMPFA is located at 2155 Center Street, between Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue, in downtown Berkeley
| bampfa.berkeley.edu

Yoga in the Gallery

Wednesday, March 21, 12-12:45pm

Looking for a break during your work week? We offer a 45 minute yoga class in the gallery the third Wednesday of each month. Come in your work clothes to stretch, meditate, and prepare yourself for the second half of the work-day. Don't worry! Mats are provided. Instructed by CARE Programs Manager, Lily Manderville.

Request for Proposals: Impacts of Technology on Human Relationships

INSTITUTE OF
BUDDHIST STUDIES



**HENRY LUCE
FOUNDATION**

The [Institute of Buddhist Studies](#), with the support of the [Henry Luce Foundation](#), invites proposals from scholars of religion from across the academic disciplines and theologians from diverse traditions to participate in a three-year research initiative and series of meetings addressing the impacts of technologies on human relationships.

Thirteen scholars of religion and theologians will receive grants of \$10,000 each to support individual research projects on technologies and interpersonal presence. Grantees will gather yearly to share and hone their research and its applications, explore opportunities for collaboration, and take advantage of significant Silicon Valley and media resources.

The detailed request for proposals is [available here](#).

The deadline for the submission of application materials is *May 7, 2018*.

Please address any questions about the program or the application process to Program Director Dr. Steven Barrie-Anthony: stevenba@shin-ibs.edu, [\(510\) 500-9722](tel:5105009722).

American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting



*American Academy of Religion
Western Region*

*California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii,
Guam, and the Pacific Islands*

The Annual Meeting of the AAR Western Region will be held at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704). The meeting will take place from March 23rd to the 25th. GTU faculty, students and alumni from across the consortium will have a strong presence at this year's meeting. For information on presenters, see the [conference program](#). For information on registration and housing see the AAR Western Region's [webpage](#).

Asia Project Spring Forum

Asia Project Spring Forum: New Voices of Asia and Oceania

When: March 19th (Monday) 2018 @ 12:30-2:00 pm

Where: Dinner Board Room

***Please RSVP at asia-project@ses.gtu.edu by Thursday, Mar. 15.**

Asia Project cordially invites the GTU community to its semi-annual student colloquium. This event is open to the public and free lunch (delicious Asian cuisine!) will be served. More than 30 people - faculties and students - participated in past forums.

Presenters:

THOMAS CALOBRISI

The *Buddha* from Pātan and the Colonial Resident: Amṛtānanda and Brian Houghton Hodgson, 1822-1835"

YOON KYUNG KIM

"Subaltern Characters: Agents for Social Change in 2 Kings 7:1-20"

Respondent:

DIANDRA CHRETAİN

Women's Studies in Religion Events

International Women's Day

**Hip Hop for Change: Hip Hop Performance, Talk and Q & A with Dr. Charity Clay |
Tuesday, March 8 5:15-6:45 PM**

Celebrate International Women's Day with acclaimed hip hop performer and sociology professor Dr. Charity Clay! Food will be provided (with vegan options). The CARE Doug Adams gallery will also be open at this time, featuring the social justice focused exhibit "Religion and Resistance." All are welcome!

**GTU Student Lounge/ CARE Gallery (2465 LeConte Ave. Berkeley, CA)
Contact Sheryl Johnson (wsr@gtu.edu) for more information!**

GTU Art- Making & Discussion Group

Mondays: March 5, April 2 & May 7 12:30-2 PM | CARE Doug Adams Gallery

The GTU Women's studies in Religion program is hosting a brand new series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjolholm. No art experience/skill whatsoever required! The focus is on finding balance in our busy lives and forming community with other students. Each session will feature a different theme and a different creative project, but we would like people to commit to all three sessions, ideally. The series is co-sponsored by the Center for Art & Religion. All are welcome regardless of gender identity or expression. **To register contact Sheryl Johnson (wsr@gtu.edu)**

Library Workshops

Course Design Workshops for March

***Collaborative Learning with VoiceThread and Moodle's Discussion Forums* UPDATED!**

This workshop introduces participants to using group and class discussions in residential and online courses. Defining and assessing successful discussions will be the primary focus, including using VoiceThread Moodle's Forum module.

Monday, March 5 & Friday, March 9

***Web Conferencing and Moodle's Wikis: Engaging Groups* NEW!**

In this workshop learn how to successfully facilitate a synchronous web conference. 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, March 19 & Friday, March 23

RSVP to Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero (kschiefelbein@gtu.edu)

Library News

Fun Facts

Did you know the library has student lockers? They are free and available for the semester. Inquire at the circulation desk.

We have two reservable group study rooms. The rooms can be reserved for 2-hour blocks. To reserve a room, visit or call the circulation desk, 510-649-2500.

Did you miss the Zotero workshop? We have a Zotero workshop recording available on the Library Workshops page. Zotero is a great, free tool for managing your citations and saving you time when writing. Available for Windows, Mac, or Linux computers.

Beauty of Ink

The current library art exhibit, *Beauty of Ink*, runs through May 24. To coincide with the exhibit, free calligraphy workshops are being offered by artists whose work is on display. The March workshop is full, but if you are interested in attending the April or May workshop, contact Ron Nakasone at rynakasone@sbcglobal.net. The workshops are from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the library's Collaborative Learning Space. Enrollment is limited to six participants per class.

26th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts: April 4

We are delighted to announce that Barbara Green, OP will be giving the 2018 *Reading of the Sacred Texts*. The title of Barbara's lecture is "Can We *Do* That? Reading of the Sacred Texts as they Read Us." How—with what legitimacy, rationale, skill, and effect – can we address fresh questions to our sacred texts? Join us on Wednesday, April 4, at 7pm in the GTU Dinner Board Room. A reception precedes the lecture at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

Federal Student Loan Exit Counseling

All graduating students who have borrowed Federal Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans are *required* to complete a Loan Exit Interview prior to graduation. Exit counseling is not only for graduates. Any student who has borrowed a federal loan is welcome to attend.

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

**Graduate Theological Union
Library Computer Classroom**

11:00am-12:15pm

The federal Student Loan Exit Counseling session will be presented by Sun Ow, from Great Lakes Higher Education and will provide a comprehensive and personal approach to help you understand your responsibilities as a borrower and discover strategies that will help you to manage your federal student loans, such as, options for affordable repayment, deferment, temporary postponement and potential loan forgiveness. After the one-hour discussion, there will be a fifteen (15) minute Q&A to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and benefit from the questions of other student borrowers.

At the end of the session you will be asked to provide information that will be included as part of your loan records, to include, names, addresses and phone number(s) for your next of kin, two references who live in the United States, and your future employer (*if known*). You will also need your driver's license number, if you have one. **Laptops are welcome** but *not* required to complete the online option (www.studentloans.gov) of the mandatory exit interview. **Hardcopy forms will also be provided.** To complete the online option you will need your verified FSA ID (Username and Password).

A hardcopy of your federal student loan history from the ***National Student Loan Data System*** (NSLDS) and an information packet will be provided to students who register by **Wednesday, March 28.**

**To register, please send an email to finaid@gtu.edu
on or before Wednesday, March 28.**

From the Dean of Students

Doctoral Student Elections

Make sure to vote for Doctoral Student representatives between March 15-23. Be on the lookout for your eballot and cast your important vote.

GTU Commencement

May 10, 4pm, Zaytuna College Sanctuary

Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Spring Graduation is April 2.

Professional Development Program Events

PDP Events in March:

Excellence in Teaching—Senior Faculty Lecture, with Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.
March 7th | 11 am | Student Lounge

Contexts and Skills for Teaching, with Judith Berling
March 21st | 11 am | Student Lounge

RSVP to Yohana Junker (yjunker@gtu.edu), Professional Development Program Coordinator

Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

CIS is pleased to announce that Carol Bier, Historian of Islamic Art and CIS Research Scholar, will be presenting a lecture on **March 5** at the Hillside Club in Berkeley (2286 Cedar Street) on **Impressions of Uzbekistan: From Remnants of the Old Silk Road to Seismic Modernism**, followed by discussion and refreshments, co-sponsored by the Center for Islamic Studies. For more info: <http://bhweb.wixsite.com/hillsideclub/firesidemeeting>.

Carol will also present a paper in Tbilisi, Georgia, on **A Woman's Work: Phyllis Ackerman and the Study of Textiles**, at the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies.

Congratulations to Carol who has recently published numerous works, including:

[Reframing Islamic Art for the 21st Century](#), published in *Horizons in Humanities and the Social Sciences* 2/2 (2017), https://works.bepress.com/carol_bier/89/

[Algorithmic Aesthetics: Redefining Traditional Islamic Art](#), published in the Proceedings of the Bridges Conference (2017), https://works.bepress.com/carol_bier/92/

Also, from the Bridges (Art-Math) Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, last summer, Carol's report on the mathematical art exhibitions: <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/WsQ4ABtGaWtJBsSrKwes/full>

The Center for Islamic Studies is delighted that [Dr. Mark Fathi Massoud](#), associate professor at UC Santa Cruz and Mellon Visiting Scholar at the GTU/CIS, will present "Building an Islamic Rule of Law," based on his research in Somalia. The event will be held [on Tuesday, March 20, 12:30-2pm](#) at the GTU Library Board Room. Lunch provided. For more information, please contact Rania Shah: rshah@gtu.edu

In loving memory of our dear friend, author and artist, **Mamade Kadreebux**, CIS is honored to continue showcasing his art works and books through the spring and summer at the CIS. For viewing, please contact Rania Shah: rshah@gtu.edu

Francisco J. Ayala Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Events

March 7-10, Russell Family Fellowship in Religion and Science with Ron Cole-Turner

Thursday, March 8, 7pm, Fellow's Public Forum

"The Human Surprise: The Unexpected Science of our Origins and Why It Matters for Theology"

Over the past decade, scientific discoveries have suggested a new and surprising view of the origins of today's human family. The classic "Out of Africa" story, prominent among scientists from the mid-1990s until just recently, held that "modern" Homo sapiens emerged as a distinct species about 200,000 years ago and spread around the world, replacing all previous forms of humans. This view has been called into question by several recent developments, such as DNA studies that show widespread interbreeding between various forms of ancestral humans, including Neanderthals. Just since 2017, researchers have published unexpected discoveries suggesting that modern humans come into existence not in a flash but in many small modifications stretching back further than we once thought. The human story is a tale of multiple hominin lineages overlapping in time, with periods of separation followed by interbreeding. As more discoveries are made, how will our view of ourselves change in the future? Building on the 2016 book, *The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and the Science of Human Origins*, this talk will discuss what these new scientific findings suggest for Christian theology, centering on our need for redemption and our understanding of Jesus Christ as incarnate in this complex hominin lineage.

Free and open to the public

Dinner Board Room, Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA
Saturday, March 10, 1pm-5pm, Fellowship Conference

"New Perspectives on Human Origins: Three Challenges for Christian Theology"

Over the past decade, scientific and technical advances have transformed our understanding of human evolution. Paleogenomics (the recovery, sequencing, and analysis of genomic DNA from ancient individuals) provides powerful tools for retracing the steps of our evolutionary past. Newly discovered species such as Homo naledi point to multiple hominin lineages living simultaneously. New findings and advanced analysis of tools and cultural artefacts from Neanderthals and other early humans tend to undermine our confidence in any cultural "big bang" that separates behaviorally modern humans from our earlier ancestors. Many of these findings are summarized in the 2016 book, *The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and the Science of Human Origins*. Discoveries since 2016 point to ever greater complexity in the story of human origins, with more precise details but less definitional clarity or simplicity in basic concepts and categories, such as the species Homo sapiens. These discoveries directly challenge three classic Christian theological ideas: (1) Human uniqueness and the "image of God", (2) human "fallenness" and the meaning of redemption, and (3) human diversity and unity. Addressing this challenge, even if only in a provisional way that keeps the door open for more discoveries and more revisions in our view of our origins, is beneficial for any theology that seeks to understand the core themes of the Christian faith, centered in Christology, in light of the best available insight into creation.

[*The End of Adam and Eve: Theology and the Science of Human Origins*](#) (E-Book) is available free at [TheologyPlus](#).

For more information please visit the [Conference Page](#).
Registration Required. [Register here](#).

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Patrick J. Murry, JST-SCU

Oral Comprehensive Passed

I Sil Yoon, ETHC, Distinction

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Sean Gross, ETHC

Levi Checketts, ETHC

Yoon Kyung Kim, BIBL

Advanced to Candidacy

Hyun Ho Peter Park, BIBL

Seung Hyun Yoo, THEO

Nathaniel Michon, CHSR



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

GTU Office of the Dean
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440
Fax: 510-649-1417