

GTU Dean's Newsletter



As the academic dean, I have the pleasure and privilege of reviewing all dissertation proposals as well as Newhall Fellowship, travel and research grant applications. I also review all common MA thesis proposals and statements of purpose for doctoral program applicants. In all, I read over two hundred concisely written proposals that articulate creative ideas, experimental and adventurous projects, and novel, interesting questions our students are committed to exploring. I am fortunate to be privy to their thinking and enthusiasm, which also provides me with a bird's-eye view of latest trends and changes in methods, disciplines, and questions related to theological education and research.

This bird's eye view also allows me to see connections between the various projects our students are doing, often independent of each other. By good fortune, I attended a gathering organized by a GTU doctoral student of about sixteen people, who are involved in preserving and promoting the knowledge, wisdom and practice of indigenous religions. Among them were spiritual leaders of three indigenous tribes from three different corners of the world, all of whom are well known in their circles. This student has been working on identifying world leaders and organizations that are focused on raising consciousness of the value of preserving indigenous knowledge and connecting them with spiritual leaders and wisdom keepers leading the same effort. He hopes to create a network that supports these long marginalized voices and includes them in Western academy and institutions.

This effort reminded me of another group of doctoral students who are working to establish a concentration/center in esoteric studies at the GTU. These students reject the separation of this discipline into "Western" and "Eastern" domains. Instead, they insist on "the historically primordial and ongoing perpetuation of an interreligious and international dialogue among the diverse human practices comprising the esoteric spiritual practices..." Their hope is that comparative scholarship will show "the global phenomenon of esotericism." Another group of students wishes to create a doctoral seminar on critical interdisciplinarity and research methods that is available on a regular basis. Using the Newhall fellowship, these fellows are working towards a syllabus that will teach advanced doctoral students how to integrate non-Western knowledge domains, epistemologies, and methodologies into their own research.

I could not help but smile when I connected these dots. This is certainly a perk of being the GTU Academic Dean.



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



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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. Join us in 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. To research a place in a course, register through the Continuing Education option in the SONIS registration system by June 14, or contact John Seal, GTU Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.

GTU Trustees Reception

Wednesday May 8 | 5 PM | Dinner Boardroom | GTU Library (3rd Floor) |

2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

A GTU tradition, this event honors the graduates with a reception and opportunity for their advisors or committee chairs to share their students' insightful and fascinating work with the greater GTU community. Please join us for this rewarding and joyous event!

GTU Member & Affiliate School Commencement Information

American Baptist Seminary of the West

Saturday May 18 | 2 PM—5 PM

First Church of Christ, Scientist

2619 Dwight Way Berkeley, CA 94704

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Saturday May 25 | 11 AM

St. John's Presbyterian Church

2727 College Avenue Berkeley 94704

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Friday May 24 | 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

CDSP Campus

2451 Ridge Road Berkeley CA 94709

Pacific School of Religion

Sunday May 26 | 4 PM

PSR Chapel of the Great Commission

1789 Scenic Avenue Berkeley CA 94709

**Dominican School of Philosophy
and Theology**

Saturday May 25 | 1 PM

Second Church of Christ, Scientist

1521 Spruce Street Berkeley, CA 94709

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Saturday May 25 | 9:30 AM

First Presbyterian Church

72 Kensington Road San Anselmo, CA 94960

**Jesuit School of Theology—
Santa Clara University**

Saturday May 25 | 3 PM

All Souls Parish

2220 Cedar Street Berkeley, CA 94709

Starr King School for the Ministry

Thursday May 16 | 7 PM

First Unitarian Church of Oakland

685 14th Street Oakland, CA 94612

Institute of Buddhist Studies

Friday May 24 | 10 AM

Jodo Shinshu Center

2140 Durant Avenue Berkeley CA 94704

GTU Commencement

Thursday May 9 | 4 PM | Zaytuna College
2401 LeConte Avenue Berkeley CA 94709

Reception to follow at the GTU Administration Building
2465 LeConte Avenue Berkeley CA 94709 | 1st Floor Student Lounge

The ceremony will be livestreamed. Follow the link below to view the ceremony:

<https://youtu.be/b6ukKPRCDFY>

MA Graduates

Pietro Bartoli

*Lived Faith and Official Religion: Lessons from
Social Justice Catholics*
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara Univer-
sity

WITH HONORS

Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)

Suheyla Cetin

*The Importance of Muslim Chaplains on Univer-
sity and College Campuses for the Well-Being of
Muslim Students in the United States*

Center for Islamic Studies
Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Brent A. Beavers

*No-self, Five Aggregates, and a Fearless Heart
in the Interruption of Transgender Othering in
Healthcare*

Institute of Buddhist Studies

WITH HONORS

Daijaku J. Kinst (Coordinator)

Eunsoo Cho

*Oppression, Liminality and Communitas: the
Spirituality of Transnational Korean Women
Immigrating to and from Korea*

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Daeseop Yi (Coordinator)

Luke A. Bruggeman

*Aesthetics of the New "High" Culture: Pragma-
tism and the Language of Conversion in Ram
Dass's Psychedelic America*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara Univer-
sity

WITH HONORS

Kathryn Barush (Coordinator)

Austin Conley

*Evagrius and Dogen: A Contemplation Compari-
son*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara Univer-
sity

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

MA Graduates, Cont'd

Anne-Marie Fowler

Different Infinities: Modeling an Ethic of Jubilatic Debt Forgiveness

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

WITH HONORS

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

Imran Hyder Ghani

A Promenade of Memories: Reading Resistance and Revival in the Historiography of Maulānā Ḥakīm Sayyid 'Abdul Ḥayy al-Ḥasanī

Center for Islamic Studies

Center for Islamic Studies

WITH HONORS

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Jacob S. Good

Setting the Stage: Japanese Theater and Filmic Expression as Pilgrimage

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Kathryn Barush (Coordinator)

Heather Nicole Hayes-Haigh

Recognizing our Interconnectedness: Investigating an Ingredient of Moral Agency

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

WITH HONORS

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (Coordinator)

Seungkee Jang

Queer Jesus: Intersectionality of LGBTQ Asian Immigrant Clergy

San Francisco Theological Seminary

WITH HONORS

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (Coordinator)

Rachel Meyer

Queering the Market God: On Eschatology and Desire

Pacific School of Religion

Andrea Bieler (Coordinator)

Nimisha Nair

Eco-Theology and Ethics in Advaita Vedānta

Center for Dharma Studies
Rita D. Sherma (Coordinator)

Francis Kemakolam Okorafor

The Driving Force of Desire and Determination, Non-thinking, and Death of the Deluded Self in

The Cloud of Unknowing and Hakuin's Wild Ivy

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Wendy Farley (Coordinator)

Han Byul Park

Concerning the Spiritual in "The Life of Jesus" by

Kim Ki-Chang

Pacific School of Religion

Rossitza Schroeder (Coordinator)

Hameem Rahman

In Search of True Enlightenment: A Comparative Study of Ghazālīan and Kantian Ethics

Center for Islamic Studies

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Haroutioun Shernezian

Saints in the Liturgical Life of the Armenian Orthodox Church

Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute

John Klentos (Coordinator)

Rhiana E. Wiggins

The Buddhist Teachings of Impermanence as Heuristic Means: Transforming Fear and Denial of Death and Dying

Institute of Buddhist Studies

WITH HONORS

Daijaku J. Kinst (Coordinator)

ThD Graduates

Horacio R. Da Valle

Latino/a Personal Identity: A Postmodern Critique of the Modern Self
Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

Moakumla Longchar

Reclaiming Naga Ethical Principles through Narrative Preaching
Homiletics
Linda L. Clader (Coordinator)

PhD Graduates

Evan Hershman

Jesus as Teacher in the Gospel of Mark: The Function of a Motif
Biblical Studies
Jean-François Racine (Coordinator)

Jeanyoun Kim

Gendered Ideologies of Merit and Service: A History of San Francisco National Training School, 1891-1934
History
Randi J. Walker, (Coordinator)

KyungRae Kim

Not Puppet, but Human: a Defense of Human Freedom against Arguments for Theological and Scientific Determinism
Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Robert J. Russell (Coordinator)

Stephen M. King, O.F.M. Conv.

Prisms of Perfection: The Vita Icon Images of Saint Francis of Assisi as Revelatory and Transformative of Franciscan Spirituality
Christian Spirituality
William J. Short, O.F.M. (Coordinator)

Sarah Kohles, O.S.F.

Women at the Window: A Feminist Reading of Sisera's Mother (Judges 5:28-30), Michal (2 Sam 6:16-23), and Jezebel (2 Kgs 9:30-37)
Biblical Studies
Gina Hens-Piazza (Coordinator)

Henry S. Kuo

Remembering the Church's Catholicity: Reformed Ecclesiology, Dangerous Memory, and Confessional Identity
Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Marion Grau (Coordinator)

Andrew T. Lewis

Trinitarian Clearing: Space, Breath, Non-Representation
Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

César Melgar

Prophetic Exegesis in the War Scroll (1QM 10-12)
Biblical Studies
LeAnn Flesher (Coordinator)

PhD Graduates, Cont'd

Kijung Nam

*John Wesley's Editing of Pseudo-Macarius's
Spiritual Homilies: A Redactional Study Focus-
ing on the Theme of the Spiritual Senses*

Christian Spirituality
Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Stephan J. Quarles

*Cruciform Knowledge of God: The Cross,
Apophysis, Soteriology, and Michel Foucault's
'History of Madness*

Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Jennifer Christine Owens-Jofré

*"She Walks with Us": Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Mariology, and Ministry*

Interdisciplinary Studies
Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)
Deborah Ross

Mohammad Waqas Sajjad

*For the Love of the Prophet: Deobandi-Barelvi
Polemics and the Ulama in Pakistan*

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion
Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)

Hyun Ho Park

*Breaking the Vicious Cycle of Slander, Labeling
and Violence: Intergroup Conflict, Recategori-
zation, and Identity Construction in Acts 21:17-
23:35*

Biblical Studies
Jean-François Racine (Coordinator)

Effendi Kusuma Sunur

*Information and the Human Soul: a Dialogue
between Thomistic Metaphysics, Information
Theory and Contemporary Philosophies*

Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Michael J. Dodds, O.P. (Coordinator)

I Sil Yoon

*The Impact of Theological Foundations of Restorative Justice for the Human Rights Protections of
North Korean Stateless Women as Victims of Human Trafficking*

Ethics and Social Theory
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (Coordinator)

**Congratulations to these students on their hard work
and outstanding achievements!**

Women's Studies in Religion Events

Unlearning Social Constructions of Race and Gender: What Hip Hop Can Teach Us About Trauma and Healing

A lecture by Dr. Charity Clay, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Crime & Social Justice Program at Xavier University

Monday, May 6 | 12:30 - 2 PM | GTU Student Lounge (1st Floor, 2465 LeConte Ave.)

This presentation focuses on understanding how social constructions created to marginalize people based on racialized and gender categories result in fractured relationships within and among people grouped by these categories. It will use critical analysis of Hip Hop culture to unpack what we have learned about ourselves and others, how we've been traumatized and traumatize others, and how we can begin the process of healing.

Lunch will be provided! All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Sheryl Johnson—wsr@ses.gtu.edu

Center for Islamic Studies News

Congratulations to alum Sarah Mohr for her recent publication in the *Journal of Religion & Society*, "Liberation Psychology from an Islamic Perspective: Some Theoretical and Practical Implications of Psychology with a Telos of Justice."

Congratulations and gratitude to all our CIS students, visiting and research scholars, faculty and staff for their excellent work during the academic year 2018-2019. Special congratulations to graduates in Islamic Studies: Waqas Sajjad (PhD), Suheyra Cetin (MA), Imran Ghani (MA), Hameem Rahman (MA), and Bilal Ansari (DMin, PSR).

Ramadan Mubarak to all those observing the holy month (approx. May 6 to June 5). May it be a time of spiritual reflection and fulfillment. We will be hosting iftaars and several events throughout Ramadan and the summer. Please visit the CIS/GTU events page for details.

Center for the Arts & Religion Events

Brown Bag Lunch Talk with Olga Yunak

Friday, May 3 | 12-1pm

Join us in the gallery for our monthly Brown Bag. This month, we'll hear from GTU Doctoral student Olga Yunak, who'll tell us about her recent research trip to Russia, partially funded by a CARE grant. Bring your sack lunch!

Rinconcito

Sunday, May 12 | 3-4pm

Enjoy a complete performance of Nicolas Benavides' *Rinconcito* for strings and guitar along with a composer Q&A! Nick will take questions and discuss the work as well as his journey as an emerging composer.

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble Open Rehearsals

Wednesday, May 8; Friday, May 10; Monday, May 13 & Thursday, May 16 | 1-2pm

In preparation for our 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!

Library News

SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS

Summer hours begin after Memorial Day:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:30am-5pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30am-7pm

Saturday: 11am-6pm

Sundays: Closed

Pacific School of Religion and the Center for LGBTQ & Gender Studies in Religion (CGLS) Summer Session 2019

Fifty years after the **Stonewall Riots** in New York City, Pacific School of Religion is proud to support leading-edge scholarship that celebrates the lives, relationships, and spiritual insights of LGBTQ people. These summer session courses are designed for the Certificate of Sexuality & Religion program but they are open to students from any program and also the wider public for continuing education (CEUs). Distance students may join remotely via Zoom

Homosexuality & The Christian Tradition

Instructor: Bernard Schlager | June 3 - 14 | Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This course offers an historical overview and survey of attitudes toward homoeroticism and homosexuality in ancient, medieval, and modern Christianity in the West and present-day American Christianities. Several key figures, texts, and movements will be considered and analyzed with a view toward understanding and interpreting their impact on contemporary debates.

Queer / Christian Theology

Instructor: Jay E. Johnson | June 17 - 28 | Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Beyond apologetic arguments for more inclusive Christian faith communities, what kind of positive contributors can LGBTQ-identified people make to the ongoing evolution of Christian theological ideas? This course invites an exploration of classical Christian ideas with the insights and strategies drawn from a variety of queer theorists. We'll consider ways in which this kind of exploration illustrates how Christianity itself is inherently queer and how this queerness can shape movements for social change and transformation

Call for Papers: Institute of Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Symposium

The Science and Technology of Buddhism *Call for Papers*

Deadline for submissions: June 15, 2019
Symposium: October 17, 2019

The 2019 Graduate Student Symposium at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, funded in part by the BDK/Numata Foundation, will focus on how science and technology have shaped Buddhism historically and in the present, globalized world. Technological innovation has a direct impact on how Buddhism is practiced, transmitted, and understood whether through developments in print technology in pre-modern Asia or the material analysis and Multi-Spectral Imaging (MSI) of Tibetan and Sanskrit manuscripts. How has the intersection of science and technology impacted Buddhism? What technologies in the past altered the way Buddhism spread across Asia or from Asia to the West? What impact are current scientific debates and digital technologies such as smart phones, tablet computers, and artificial intelligences having on how Buddhism is practiced or understood?

Current graduate students are encouraged to submit an abstract and paper title for consideration. Topics may include: the development of print technologies in Asia; the impact of early modern global transportation or communication networks on Buddhism's spread outside Asia; the relationship between technology and practice either historically or contemporarily; case studies on how Buddhists use technology for propagating the dharma; case studies on current debates on the appropriateness of validity of scientific studies on Buddhism, meditation, or mindfulness practices; or other related topics.

Dr. Courtney Bruntz, Assistant Professor of Asian Religions at Doane University, will serve as keynote speaker. Dr. Bruntz's work focuses on tourism and economics in mainland China, including the use of new media technology and robotics by Buddhist monastics. She is co-editor of the forthcoming book from University of Hawaii Press, *Buddhist Tourism in Asia*.

Graduate students at any stage of their program are encouraged to submit paper proposals. Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Thomas Calobrisi (tclobrisi@ses.gtu.edu). Please include your academic affiliation with your submission. The deadline for submission is June 15, 2019. Applicants will be notified about their submission by July 15, 2019.

Student Award Recipients

Student Travel Grant Recipients for AY 18-19 Cycle #2

The following students received travel grants for their presentations at the AAR Western Region Annual Meeting and other comparable national and international conferences. Congratulations to these students!

Thomas Calobrisi

Andrew Lee

Mahjabeen Dhala

Leonard McMahan

Hannah Faustino

Kevin Mellis

Matthew Hartman

Carrie Sealine

I Sil Yoon

2019 Borsch-Rast Dissertation Grant

The following doctoral candidates have received the first iteration of the Borsch-Rast Dissertation Grant. Congratulations to these students!

Aline Lewis

Nathan Michon

Dissertation Title:

Dissertation Title:

“Passionate Reading: The Spirituality of Reading and the Body of Christ in St. Augustine’s *Confessions*, St. Theresa of Avila’s *La Vida*, and Dorothy Day’s *Spiritual Autobiographies*.”

“The Sound of One Hand Healing: Innovation and Adaptation in Contemporary Japanese Buddhist Chaplaincy.”

GTU Multimedia News

Over this semester, the GTU has been proud to host lectures by **Dr. Timothy Wadkins** (Professor, Canisius College) and **Dr. Eboo Patel** (President & Founder, Interfaith Youth Core) as part of the Borsch-Rast Lectureship Series and the Surjit Singh Lectures on Comparative Religion respectively. Their fascinating and engaging presentations are now available to be viewed on the GTU’s website.

The links & URL addresses are provided below:

2019 Borsch-Rast Lecture: <https://www.gtu.edu/news-events/events/lecture-address/borsch-rast>

2019 Borsch-Rast Lecture: <https://www.gtu.edu/multimedia>

The Graduate Theological Union Cordially Invites You to:

A Lecture & Tour of the Oakland California Mormon Temple



Originally constructed in 1962 and dedicated in 1964, the Oakland California Temple is undergoing renovation and will be rededicated this year. The temple will be open to the public following the completion of the renovations. On Tuesday, May 28 at 4 PM, a lecture on Mormon

temples will be given by Bob Rees and a tour of the temple will be provided free and open to the public at a later date. This is a rare and great opportunity interreligious exploration and engagement!

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 | 4 PM
Collaborative Learning Space | GTU Library
2400 Ridge Road | Berkeley, CA 94709

Honorable Mentions

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Justin Staller, SPRT

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Blaise Cirelli, ART

Jaesung Ryu, THET

Pasesa Sapolu, BIBL

Keng Fan Chan, REPR

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Sarah Kohles, 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

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

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