

# GTU Dean's Newsletter

## FROM THE DEAN



Twenty years ago I started my doctoral studies at the Graduate Theological Union. It took me six years of full-time study to earn the degree Doctor of Philosophy, and for those six years, my life revolved around it. I am thankful that through the generosity of the GTU, various foundations and churches, and the Federal Government, I was able to finance my program. Even with such a robust support, I still had to work part-time throughout my studies and incurred a good amount of debt, not to mention a heavy sacrifice from my wife. It really does take a village to produce a scholar. I wish everyone who earns a doctorate has a full-time job or two waiting for them at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, that is not the case, and I don't need to remind the

woeful state of the job market for humanities doctorates. In my case, I had applied for approximately thirty openings during the last two years of my study, received three campus interviews, and in the end one job offer. I was fortunate to end up with a full-time job. But even if my doctorate didn't lead to an academic job after a long and arduous journey, I am quite certain that I would not have any regret pursuing a doctorate in biblical studies. And I'd do it all over again at the Graduate Theological Union.

Some might object to my conclusion since it's based on the fact that I have benefited well from earning a Ph.D. from the GTU. In an article entitled "No Regrets," (1) based on a new report from the Council of Graduate Schools, Colleen Flaherty summarizes that, to many people's surprise, given the tight job market, a large majority of Ph.D.s surveyed said they would pursue a doctorate in the same field if they had to do it all over again. The survey doesn't ask whether they would do their doctorate in the same school or not. It'd be interesting to see how the GTU alumni would respond. Perhaps we could design a survey for our alumni, including this question, during this academic year as part of the doctoral program review we will conduct. It was four years ago when the program was last reviewed, and although several fundamental challenges remain, we addressed some of the issues highlighted in the study. We look forward to evaluating the doctoral program in the next several months so that we can continue to improve it.



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

1. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/10/18/large-scale-humanities-phd-tracking-effort-finds-theyd-do-it-all-over-again-if-given>



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Distinguished Faculty Lecture . . . . . 2

GTU Alumni Reception at AAR/SBL . . . . . 3

Voter Registration . . . . . 4

Student Awards & News from Dean of Students . . . 5

Society for Phenomenology of Religious Experience . . 6

CTNS & WSR events . . . . 7

Asia Project & PSR CLGS Events & News . . . . . 8

Library News & Workshops, CIS News . . . . . 9

CARe & CDS Events . . . . 10

Honorable Mentions . . . 11

**The Graduate Theological Union Presents:  
The 43rd Annual  
Distinguished Faculty Lecture**

**Follow the Women:  
Freeing Dialogue**



**Dr. Marianna Farina, C.S.C.** is Professor of Philosophy and Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology and a Core Doctoral Faculty member at the Graduate Theological Union. Her lecture focuses on how women's voices challenge and re-interpret our understanding of interreligious dialogue. The perspectives that emerge have far-reaching implications for the theology and practice of dialogue.

Respondent: **Dr. Rita Sherma** (Director, Center for Dharma Studies)

Tuesday, November 13 2018 | 6:30 p.m.

Pacific School of Religion | Chapel of the Great Commission

1798 Scenic Avenue (at Le Conte) | Berkeley, CA 94709

*Public reception immediately following lecture in the*

*Badè Museum, Pacific School of Religion*

*Two co-curricular units will be offered for students in the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program.*



Graduate  
Theological  
Union

*cordially invites all alumni, faculty, staff, current  
and prospective students, and friends to the*

# GTU Reception

**Saturday, November 17 - 7 - 10 pm**

**Crystal Ballroom, Salon C**

**Embassy Suites Downtown, 1420 Stout Street, Denver**

*during the annual meetings of*

## **AAR/SBL**

**The American Academy of Religion  
and Society for Biblical Literature**

**November 17-20, 2018    Denver, Colorado**

Prospective students, please RSVP ([admissions@gtu.edu](mailto:admissions@gtu.edu)) so we can welcome you!

# Voter Registration Information

## *Are you already registered to Vote?*

To find out if you are currently registered to vote, visit the Secretary of State's Check Status of Your Voter Registration (<https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>) web page. If you are not registered to vote, please follow the steps below.

## *California Online Voter Registration*

To register to vote in California using the online voter registration, visit <https://registertovote.ca.gov/#mainCont>

## *Completing a Paper Voter Registration Form*

Paper voter registration applications are available at your county elections office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles offices, or U.S. post office. In California, the deadline to register to vote for an election is 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the 15th calendar day before an election. Your voter registration application must be filled out completely and either postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election. Individuals may call the Secretary of State's toll-free Voter Hotline at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) for your county elections official's contact information or to request a registration form to be provided by mail. Paper Voter Registration forms are also available in the display rack adjacent to the GTU Financial Aid Office.

### General Election - November 6, 2018



Election Date	Voter Registration	Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request	Completed Ballots, Including Vote-by-Mail Ballots
November 6, 2018, General Election  7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	<p><a href="#">Online</a> or Postmark by October 22, 2018</p> <p>or</p> <p>You can "<b>conditionally</b>" register and vote at your county elections office after the 15-day voter registration deadline.</p>	Must arrive by October 30, 2018	<p>Personally delivered ballots: Must be delivered by close of polls on November 6, 2018;</p> <p>Mailed ballots: Must be postmarked on or before November 6, 2018, and received by your county elections office no later than November 9, 2018.</p>

The National Mail Voter Registration Form ([http://www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/register\\_to\\_vote.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx)) can be used to register U.S. citizens to vote, to update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address or to register with a political party.

Other states offer online registration, for more information go to: [http://www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/contact\\_your\\_state.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/contact_your_state.aspx)

# Student Travel Grant Award Winners

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the 2018 National Meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for Biblical Literature in Denver, CO and other comparable national conferences. Each has received a Student Travel Grant Award from the GTU Dean's Office.

Congratulations to these students!

Paul Blankenship  
Laura Dunn  
May Kosba  
Mariska Lauterboom

Andrew Lee  
Aline Lewis  
Shin Young Park  
Laura Jean Torgerson

## Chan Essay Prize Winner

Congratulations to **Katie Kilby**, who was awarded the Chan Prize for 2018. Katie is a MA/MDiv student affiliated with the Pacific School of Religion. Her essay is entitled "Evangelical Alienation: A Marxist Approach to Understanding the Seeker Church Model."

Since 1989, the Chan competition's purpose has been to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, and constructive) reflection on the year's topic. This year, students were able to submit papers on the topic: "Religion and Economics"

## From the Dean of Students Office

***Intent to Graduate forms*** for Spring 2019 graduates are due on Wednesday, January 15 to the GTU Dean's Office for MAs, and for PhD/ThDs, submit to Fredonia Thompson. Forms are available on the web site at <https://www.gtu.edu/students/gtu-commencement>

### ***Mid-Year Orientation for First Year Doctoral Students***

There will be a required mid-year "orientation" for doctoral students who started in the program during fall semester, 2018. The orientation will be Wednesday, January 23, 2019 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Dinner Board room. A tasty lunch will be provided!

### ***January Biblical Hebrew and Greek Exams***

Register for the Biblical Hebrew and Greek language exams by December 14. Contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Secretary, [ftompson@gtu.edu](mailto:ftompson@gtu.edu). The Biblical Hebrew and Greek exams will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9-10, 2019, respectively, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

# Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience

## Phenomenology and Religious Experience

Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience Lab

Friday, February 1, 2019, 10-4 pm with a lunch break

Diner Room, the GTU Library building

Prof. Olga Louchakova-Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D. (GTU, PAOI, and JST)

Vincent Pastro, DMin (JST and the Instituto Hispano)

For questions, email : [info@sophere.org](mailto:info@sophere.org), or directly to [olouchakova@gmail.com](mailto:olouchakova@gmail.com)

Join us for the first research Lab organized by the Society for the Phenomenology of Religious Experience. To be useful in the world of today, contemporary theology must capture the “essence” of the divine and human activity in the world in the scientific sense introduced by phenomenology. Scholastic philosophy and systematic theology is no longer an academically privileged supporter of theology in the interpretation of the universe. In its place, this workshop suggests that phenomenological philosophy and method, with its focus on human subjectivity, becomes the unique and transcendent partner, as it were, in the interpretive dialogue.

In the first part of the lab, we will focus on distinctions between phenomenology as philosophy, theological phenomenology, and the phenomenological method which can be applied to the studies of religious experience. We will also review first person and second person approaches in phenomenological research, and time permitting, use some introspective exercises which help to understand religious experience.

In the second half of the lab, we will focus on the question of relationship between phenomenology and theology. Time permitting, we will review the “seasons” of good and bad phenomenology in the history of theology, and the impact of phenomenology on religious leadership in different religious denominations and schools of thought. Methodological thinking phenomenology-style offers understanding that is more satisfactory than the traditional scholastic metaphysics in giving meaning to contemporary human experience; this is especially so with regard to human experience of social justice, understanding of normativity and ethics, and in burning issues such as migration. A phenomenological eco-theological approach is especially important because it captures the essences of a subject’s immediate and holistic perception of the environment.

No prior experience in phenomenological research necessary. The lab is conducted in the format of the graduate seminar, meeting everybody on the grounds of their own available knowledge and experience. The lab will also serve as an introduction to the class on similar topics tentatively planned by PAOI and JST for the Fall 2019.

## Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

### *The Person, the Self, the Sciences: CTNS Public Forum with Fr. George Griener*

Wednesday, November 14 | 7pm | GTU Dinner Boardroom

Classical Anthropology—creation, the human being in the image of God, sin, death, grace and redemption—was framed in a pre-scientific age. Evolution— and neuroscience elicit a radical re-telling of the narrative for a coherent understanding of our place in the cosmos. Please join Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology, **Fr. George Griener** for a public forum to discuss the theological implications of the modern sciences for notions of personhood and the self. The forum is free and open to the public.

## Women's Studies in Religion Events

### *GTU Art-Making & Discussion Group*

Friday, November 9 | 13:30-2 PM | Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 LeConte Ave

***Are you looking for community?*** The GTU Women's Studies of Religion program is hosting a brand new series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjöholm. No art experience/skill whatsoever required! The focus is on finding balance in our busy lives and forming community with other students. This series is co-sponsored by the Center for the Arts & Religion. All are welcome regardless of gender identity or expression. Register by email to [wsr@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wsr@ses.gtu.edu)

### *An Explorer's Guide to Julian of Norwich*

Monday, November 12 | 12:30-2 PM | GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Ave

In 1373, Julian of Norwich received sixteen *Revelations of Divine Love* and recorded them in the first book ever written by a woman in the English language. Her work is an astounding contribution to Christian theology. Thomas Merton called Julian “one of the most wonderful of all Christian voices.” It is a voice we need to hear. **Veronica Mary Rolf**, medieval scholar and award-winning author of two books, will shed light on Julian's themes, including her mystical theology of the motherhood of God. She will also explore the deeper meaning of Christ's promise to Julian (and to each one of us) that “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and thou shalt see that all manner of thing shall be well.” Please bring your lunch! All are welcome.

# Asia Project Events

## *Sharing Ignatian Spiritual Exercises with Other Religions*

A Lecture and Conversation with Dr. Erin M. Cline,

Associate Professor of Theology at Georgetown University

Lecture: Monday, November 12 | 5-7 PM | GTU Dinner Boardroom

Conversation: Tuesday, November 13 | 6:45-8 PM | Gesu Chapel | Jesuit School of Theology

In this lecture, Dr. Cline presents her new book, *A World on Fire: Sharing Ignatian Spiritual Exercises with Other Religions*, and entertains questions and discussion. She discusses the question of *why* the Spiritual Exercises should be adapted for members of other religions, exploring different theological justifications for this practice, as well as the more difficult question of *how* the full and complete Exercises would best be adapted for those of other faith traditions. Giving close attention to the specific challenges involved in giving the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises to those from non-Abrahamic traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Dr. Cline takes up the challenge of sharing the gifts of the Exercises even with those who are not theists. This event is co-sponsored by the GTU Asia Project and the Jesuit School of Theology

**Dr. Erin M. Cline** specializes in Chinese philosophy and comparative philosophy and religion with a particular focus on early Chinese ethical, religious, and political thought. She is the author of three books and currently working on a fourth on Chinese philosophy and parenting. In addition to her work in the Theology Department at Georgetown, Dr. Cline is an Associate Member of the Philosophy Department, a member of the Asian Studies faculty, and a Faculty Fellow at the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs.

## Pacific School of Religion

### Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies News

The LGBTQ Religious Archives Network (LGBTQ-RAN), a program of PSR's Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) has unveiled a long-awaited new website: [www.lgbtqreligiousarchives.org](http://www.lgbtqreligiousarchives.org).

When you look at the new home page you will immediately note eye-catching visuals that illustrate the major elements of the website. A brief video is available to first-time users that gives an overview of LGBTQ-RAN's mission and work. LGBTQ-RAN's two-fold purpose – (1) to preserve LGBTQ religious history, and (2) to support educational efforts – is more clearly delineated with the parts of the website devoted to each of these purposes.

Enjoy exploring the new website!!



# Library News and Workshops

## *Library News*

**Library Guides and Tutorials:** Now that we've finished our fall workshop series, you may still want to catch up with the content. Visit [libguides.gtu.edu](http://libguides.gtu.edu) to see the full list of guides or link provided on the library homepage. Our most popular guides include: *Getting Started with Library Research*, *Biblical Exegesis*, and the *Zotero* tutorial.

**Library Room Reservations:** By popular demand, we've made the group study rooms reserveable online from [gtu.edu/library/policies/reservations](http://gtu.edu/library/policies/reservations). They've been recently upgraded to be smart rooms, so you can collaborate, practice your presentations, or video chat.

## *Library Workshops*

### *Assessment with Rubrics and Moodle's Gradebook*

Performing concrete assessment is an important part of a course. One important tool is the grading rubric. This workshop provides ideas for creating rubrics, adding them to Moodle, and using Moodle's gradebook to do all the math for assessment.

Monday, November 5, 10-11:30 AM | Tuesday, November 6, 2:30- 4 PM

# Center for Islamic Studies

As part of a Luce funded project, CIS will be leading a discussion/workshop at the AAR in Denver on Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts. A report/publication will be available later in November.

Congratulations and our gratitude to Dr. Nargis Virani, CIS Visiting Scholar, for her service as Chair of the AAR's Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.

Congratulations to Carol Bier, CIS research scholar and Islamic art historian, who was just elected as an honorary member of the International Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry.

CIS students will be holding a series of discussions on the current exhibition on Contemporary Muslim Fashions at the de Young Museum, and the current exhibition by Salma Arastu, *Seeking Oneness* at the GTU library. Please see [gtu.edu/cis](http://gtu.edu/cis) for more details.

CIS is delighted to host Dr. Bernard Adeney-Risakotta, GTU Alum and Professor at the ICRS in Indonesia. Dr. Adeney-Risakotta will be presenting on his new book, *Living in a Sacred Cosmos: Indonesia and the Future of Islam*. The event will be held on Thurs, Nov 29, 5-7pm at the GTU Library Board Room, and co-sponsored by New College Berkeley. Please see [gtu.edu/cis](http://gtu.edu/cis) for details.

# Center for the Arts & Religion

**Talking with the Trees:** On **Thursday, November 1**, please join us at **10am** in the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley Redwood Grove (<http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/rentals-redwood-grove>). Dr. Devin Zuber (CSS/GTU Associate Professor of American Studies, Religion, and Literature) will deliver a talk on John Muir's nature spirituality and how Muir's "language of trees" anticipated current scientific insights into the ways that trees can communicate with one another. This lecture is presented in connection with our Fall 2018 exhibition, *Gestures to the Divine: Works by Hagit Cohen*. Free for GTU students, faculty and staff! Please sign up for tickets online (<https://41780.blackbaudhosting.com/41780/Talking-with-the-Trees-John-Muir-Nature-Spirituality>).

**Brown Bag Lunch:** Join us from **12pm-1pm** on Friday, **November 2**, for a Brown Bag Lunch with Louise Victor. Her talk, "The Life of Lines" will examine the many ways artists have used lines to describe their worlds. Every first Friday of the month, CARE hosts an informal talk by a GTU student or faculty member who has been the recipient of a CARE Grant, giving them the opportunity to share their research with the GTU community.

**Third Thursdays at BAMPFA:** On **November 15**, beginning at **4:30pm**, Dr. Devin Zuber (GTU/CSS Associate Professor of American Studies, Religion, and Literature) will be responding to the exhibition, *Peter Hujar: Speed of Life*. Every Third Thursday of the month, gather in the lobby of the UC Berkeley Art Museum to receive complimentary museum admission and to hear a short talk on a current exhibition by GTU staff, faculty and students. Find more information and sign up on [Eventbrite](#).

**GTU Co-Working Group:** The gallery will be open every **Monday** from **9am-1pm** through December 10 for the GTU's Co-Working Group. Take advantage of the gallery's meditative environment and treat yourself to a quiet sanctuary to study in. Free wifi, outlets and snacks provided!

**Meditation in the Gallery:** Every **Thursday**, from **2-3pm**, join GTU MA student Quang Le in a mindfulness meditation session. Quang has taught meditation for eight years, in Vietnam, Thailand, the United States, and Canada. Since 2007, he has been a disciple of the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. Mindfulness meditation has been shown to increase well-being and reduce stress and anger. This opportunity is available for all GTU students, faculty and staff.

# Center for Dharma Studies

## *Symposium on Semiotics of Visual Culture & Textual Hermeneutics in Indian Traditions*

Saturday, November 10 | 9:30 AM—5:30 PM | GTU Dinner Boardroom

# Honorable Mentions

## MA/MABL

Hameen Rahman, CIS

## Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Andrew Younan, THET

## Oral Comprehensive Passed with Distinction

Pravina Rodrigues, THET

## Recipient of the 2018 Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality's Founder's Prize

Leonard McMahon, HCSR



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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