

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
AAR/SBL/ASOR**

**American Academy of Religion
Society of Biblical Literature
American Schools of Oriental Research**

<http://pnw-aarsbl.org/>

Fall Issue

September 2013



**Regional Meeting
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
May 9-11, 2014**

NEW REGISTRATION FEES

The following registration rates are in effect beginning in 2014:

Fully Employed: \$75.00
Partially/Under Employed: \$50.00
Student (with valid ID): \$25.00
Late Registration: additional \$10.00

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 27-29, 2015: Marylhurst University, Portland, Oregon

2016: University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

2017: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

Information will be available in the Spring 2014 Newsletter. You may also access this information on our website in February 2014.

OPENING FOR PROGRAM UNIT CO-CHAIR

Religion and Society is looking for a volunteer for the position of co-chair beginning in 2014. If you are interested, please contact one of the current co-chairs, Kevin O'Brien (obrien@plu.edu) or Bruce Hiebert (brucehiebert@shaw.ca).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AT THE REGIONAL MEETING

The use of audio-visual equipment (computers, projectors, etc.) at our meeting location this year is very costly, i.e., starting at **\$250/day for each** projector. Therefore, we cannot accept any requests for audio-visual equipment with the exception of these two Program Units: ASOR and Arts and Religion. You are welcome to bring your own projector/laptop with you if AV equipment is essential to your presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Ardy Bass (bassa@gonzaga.edu).

Visit our Facebook Page and LinkedIn Group!!

There are now more ways to connect with members in our Region. Feel free to post comments, ask questions, announce special panels, seminars, etc. on any of these social media sites.

Here is the link to our Facebook page. Right now we have 21 members; once we have 25 members Facebook will assign a web address for us, so please click away! (Copy and paste address into browser):

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/edit/?id=106370882810766&tab=public§ion=address&view#!/pages/Pacific-Northwest-Region-of-the-AAR-SBL-ASOR/106370882810766>

We have 46 members in our Group on LinkedIn. The link for our group is:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Pacific-Northwest-Region-AAR-SBL-5112328?trk=my_groups-b-grp-v

There is also a Facebook page for graduate students in the Region, set up by the Region's AAR Student Director, Raj Balkaran: Student Members of the AAR Pacific Northwest Region

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Student-Members-of-the-AAR-Pacific-Northwest-Region/147895852040469?ref=stream>

CALL FOR PAPERS 2014

Paper proposals will be submitted through Oxford Abstracts (OA). A link to the OA site will be posted on the PNW Region's webpage (<http://pnw-aarsbl.org/>) by October 15, 2013.

OA will open for submissions on October 15, 2013 and close on January 21, 2014. Acceptance letters will be sent by February 1, 2014.

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION

The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context

General Description

This joint session will bring together teacher-scholars from five different units (Asian and Comparative Studies, Study of Islam, Special Topics: Mormon Studies, New Testament and the World of Early Christianity, and Hebrew Bible) in the PNW AAR/SBL region in order to discuss common teaching challenges. The purpose of this session is to generate a cross-disciplinary conversation on teaching and learning.

Call for Papers

We are inviting higher-education professionals who teach at the undergraduate level to reflect on the intersection of their disciplinary expertise and teaching experiences and submit a paper proposal (500-700 words).

Presentation Questions

Participants have to consider and address in depth at least two of the following questions:

1. What are the challenges and strategies of teaching a religion with sacred texts that are usually viewed through multiple layers of interpretation?
2. What are the challenges and strategies of teaching a religion with sacred texts that are usually written in languages inaccessible to a wide audience?
3. What are the challenges and strategies of teaching a religion with sacred texts in a liberal arts context versus a research university, or versus a seminary?
4. What are the challenges and strategies of teaching a religion with sacred texts to a generation of students that are more accustomed to reading webpages than ancient documents?

Guidelines

1. Please submit your proposals directly to the chair(s) of the unit for which you are interested in presenting.
2. Please keep in mind that you will have twenty minutes for your presentation.
3. Please keep in mind that there is a possibility of a travel/lodging stipend for your presentation. Details on funding will be available in late October. Please check the regional website for updates on funding.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (ASOR)

Description of the goals and rationale

The program unit is affiliated with the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), whose mission is to initiate, encourage and support research into, and public understanding of, the peoples and cultures of the Near East from the earliest times. As such, the unit is concerned with:

- Fostering original research, archaeological excavations, and explorations
- Encouraging scholarship in basic languages, cultural histories and traditions of the ANE

- Offering opportunities for all levels of scholarship, especially students, to share their research

Chair

Roger W. Anderson, Independent Scholar, currently working on the final excavation report for Early Bronze Age Tell el Hesi (rwander48@comcast.net)

Call for Papers

The Pacific Northwest Region of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Archaeology and Languages of the Ancient Near East invites submission of paper topics for the annual regional meeting. Papers detailing original research, archaeological excavations, and explorations in all aspects related to ancient Near Eastern archaeology and basic ancient Near Eastern languages are welcome.

Undergraduate and graduate students and independent scholars are especially welcome to present dissertation and paper research in either category.

ARTS AND RELIGION**Description of the goals and rationale**

The Arts and Religion section provides a space for interdisciplinary exploration of religion through the arts (in broad contexts). We invite multiple perspectives, embodied passionate scholarship, and rich discussion of the vital role arts have played and continue to play in attempts to create meaning of the human condition, and to address the enduring questions posed by the world's religions and spiritual traditions.

Co-Chairs

Susan G. Carter, Marylhurst University and The California Institute of Integral Studies
(scarter@marylhurst.edu)

Louise M. Pare, Center for Women in Global Community, Independent Scholar (Impare849@aol.com)

Call for Papers

The arts have always played a part in world religions and spiritual traditions through the use of image, symbol, ritual, music, percussion, dance, poetry, theatre, storytelling (myth and folklore), architecture, and geomancy. This program unit welcomes individual papers or panel proposals on any topic, from ancient to contemporary, which explore the arts and religion. Papers exploring traditional institutionalized religions as well as world spiritual traditions (including indigenous and oral traditions) are welcome. Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website.

ASIAN AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES**Description of the goals and rationale**

To promote scholarship in non-Western areas of religion and theology and to assess various comparative methods of investigation.

Chair

Nick Gier, University of Idaho (ngier@uidaho.edu)

Call for Papers

Abstracts of papers on topics in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Asian and Comparative Studies will also be participating in the special joint session, The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context (see the full description above), and invites proposals for this session.

HEBREW BIBLE

Description of the goals and rationale

Since the Biblical Hebrew texts are part of the larger category of “biblical texts,” the rationale for the Hebrew Bible session falls naturally within the mandate of the SBL, the central purpose of which is “advancing the academic study of biblical texts and their contexts as well as of the traditions and contexts of biblical interpretation.”

The primary goal of the Hebrew Bible session is to foster study and interaction in the field, more specifically:

- To promote academic dialogue between scholars in the Pacific Northwest Region.
- To showcase and promote research in the Hebrew Bible.
- To advance the quality of research and writing in the area of Hebrew Bible by mentoring and recommending work for publication.
- To provide mentoring and opportunities for graduate students to present their work to the Hebrew Bible session, thus incorporating new scholars into the greater goals of the SBL.

Chair

Antonios Finitis, Pacific Lutheran University (finitisak@plu.edu)

Call for Papers

1. Hebrew Bible Research Group on Clothing 2014-2016

The Hebrew Bible unit announces the creation of a research group on the topic of clothing in the Hebrew Bible. The goal of this group is going to be the sustained examination of the multivalent importance of clothing in ancient Israel. This group will work closely over the course of three years in the manner of a think tank. Each member of the group will undertake the investigation of a topic that s/he will select. Each member will share her/his research with the rest of the group for peer review, brainstorming and feedback. The members of this group will meet during the Pacific Northwest SBL/AAR/ASOR meeting. The minimum commitment time to this research group is two years.

If you are interested in participating during the 2013-14 academic year please send an email to the above address by December 1, 2013. Please include in your email the tentative title and a 200-300-word description of your project. Thank you.

2. The Challenges of Teaching Religions with *Sacred Texts* in a Contemporary Context

General Description

The Hebrew Bible program unit will be participating in the special joint session, The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context (see the full description above), and invites proposals for this session.

3. General Call

We welcome papers on any topic related to Hebrew Bible, with priority given to papers that deal with language and linguistics, wisdom literature, and prophetic literature. Early proposals are especially welcome, with the goal of organizing a panel discussion for a regional scholar's recent work and/or organizing a thematic topic session. Graduate students are required to send full copies of their papers for consideration. Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND NORTH AMERICAN RELIGIONS

Description of the goals and rationale

This program unit invites both historians of Christianity and scholars studying North American religions to present their research and engage in collegial discussion of their work. Review panels of selected new works in these fields are also included in the sessions. The section seeks to develop an ongoing dialog and network among participants.

Co-Chairs

Charles J. Scalise, Fuller Theological Seminary (cscalise@fuller.edu)

Brenda Llewellyn Ihssen, Pacific Lutheran University (ihssenbl@plu.edu)

Call for Papers

Papers are welcome in any area of the History of Christianity and North American Religions. Proposals are especially invited on the following themes:

1. Papers that contribute to a joint discussion with the Mormon Studies group.
2. Papers related to the history and practice of North American religions.
3. Papers reflecting current research in the history of Christianity (any era).

Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website; questions about the session can be directed to the co-chairs, Charles J. Scalise and Brenda Llewellyn Ihssen.

NEW TESTAMENT AND THE WORLD OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Description of the goals and rationale

This program unit provides an opportunity to discuss topics in New Testament and related interdisciplinary studies, such as Hebrew Bible and Early Christianity, as well as topics relating to Hellenistic Religions and related literature. While the name of the program unit has recently changed (from New Testament and Hellenistic Religions), the focus of the unit has not, as we strive to be inclusive of a wide range of topics of interest to the study of early Christian writings and the world in which they developed.

Co-Chairs

Amy M. Donaldson, Independent Scholar (amy.m.donaldson@gmail.com)

Kent L. Yinger, George Fox Evangelical Seminary (kyinger@georgefox.edu)

Call for Papers

We welcome papers reflecting the research endeavors of Pacific Northwest scholars in the fields of New Testament and the World of Early Christianity. All topics relevant to these fields are invited. Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website. We are also interested in conducting a book review panel for a book by a participant in the New Testament and the World of Early Christianity section that has been published in the past year. Book suggestions may be sent directly to the chairpersons.

New Testament and the World of Early Christianity will also be participating in the special joint session, The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context (see the full description above), and invites proposals for this session.

RELIGION AND SOCIETY

Description of the goals and rationale

The Religion and Society section creates a space for the interdisciplinary analysis of religion, ethics, social science, and current events in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Our goal is to make space for academic presentations and for significant dialogue about them.

Co-Chairs

Bruce Hiebert, University Canada West (brucehiebert@shaw.ca)

Kevin J. O'Brien, Pacific Lutheran University (obrien@plu.edu)

Call for Papers

All topics related to ethics, contemporary social issues, and social scientific perspectives on religion are welcome. We encourage papers offering academic perspectives on current events and recurring themes in our session's discussions: war and violence, religion and ecology, religion and science, and religion and memory. We especially invite papers on religion and neuroscience for a special session to be held jointly with the Theology and Philosophy of Religion section. Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website.

SPECIAL TOPICS: MORMON STUDIES

Description of the goals and rationale

This special topic of Mormon Studies promotes the exploration of a wide range of topics relating to Mormonism. This section seeks to provide scholarly inquiry into Mormon history, culture, belief and practice, theology, scripture, and the role of Mormonism in contemporary politics. This section encourages the study of Mormonism from multiple disciplines and methodologies. This section will better equip those in the academy to teach on the subject of Mormonism and actively promotes opportunities for interfaith dialogue.

Co-Chairs

Kirk Caudle, Brigham Young University-Idaho (caudlek@byui.edu)

Susanna Morrill, Lewis & Clark College (smorrill@lclark.edu)

Call for Papers

Papers are welcome in any area of Mormon Studies. We encourage papers from multiple disciplinary and methodological perspectives and especially invite proposals on the following themes:

- 1) Papers that consider the history and culture of Mormonism, especially those that discuss the social and religious impact of women and minorities.
- 2) Papers on the development of Mormon beliefs and practices, scripture, ethics, and theology.
- 3) Papers related to interfaith dialogue between Mormonism and other Christian (and non-Christian) faith traditions.
- 4) Papers related to Mormonism and contemporary politics.
- 5) Papers that consider the place of Mormon Studies within the academic study of religion
- 6) Papers that place Mormonism within the larger context of North American culture and religions. We are hoping to create a joint session with the History of Christianity and North American Religions Section.

Special Topics: Mormon Studies will also be participating in the special joint session, The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context (see the full description above), and invites proposals for this session.

STUDY OF ISLAM

Description of the goals and rationale

The Study of Islam program unit fosters intellectual exchange and collaboration among regional scholars working in any area of Islamic Studies. In addition to research panels, we host an annual roundtable devoted to a topic of current pedagogical concern, and we have launched an annual film series. We welcome papers from academics at any career stage.

Co-Chairs

Josie Hendrickson, University of Alberta (jnhendri@ualberta.ca)

Paul Powers, Lewis & Clark College (ppowers@lclark.edu)

Call for Papers

1. General

We encourage proposals for papers or full panels investigating any aspect of historical or contemporary Islam, including but not limited to Islamic texts, practices, law, history, and theology. For the 2014 meeting, we especially welcome proposals related to pilgrimage. All proposals should be submitted electronically.

2. Pedagogy Panel

We also seek participants for our annual pedagogy roundtable, focused this year on teaching modern Islam. If you are interested in participating in the pedagogy roundtable, please contact co-chair Josie Hendrickson by e-mail (jnhendri@ualberta.ca) rather than submitting a proposal through the online system. Specialists as well as interested non-specialists are welcome.

3. The Challenges of Teaching Religions with Sacred Texts in a Contemporary Context

This year, our unit will also be participating in a joint session on the challenges of teaching religions with sacred texts in a contemporary context. The full call for this special session is included above. Proposals related to Islam should be submitted through the online submission system to the Study of Islam unit.

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

Description of the goals and rationale

The Philosophy of Religion and Theology section exists to provide a forum for scholars to critically examine politics, scriptures, ethics, history, art, literature and/or culture from explicitly philosophical and theological perspectives. We welcome diverse perspectives and encourage the collegiality of frank and open dialogue between and among disciplinary areas.

Co-Chairs

Mari Kim, Independent Scholar (marikim@me.com)

Michael Zbaraschuk, University of Washington-Tacoma (mzbara@uw.edu)

Call for Papers

The Theology and Philosophy of Religion section welcomes proposals for papers or panels concerning any aspect of theology and/or the philosophy of religion. Proposals that address one or more of the following topics are especially encouraged:

- a) Emotion and Epistemology; the place of affect in knowledge/knowing
- b) Apocalypticism and Environmental Theories/Theologies
- c) Trauma and Religion, Theologies of Trauma, Religious Reflection on Trauma
- d) Evolutionary Anthropologies
- e) Pedagogy and Teaching Religion Panel
- f) Historical Theology (The Theology and Philosophy of Religion section will coordinate with the History of Christianity section in jointly presenting a session of historical theology papers if there are enough submissions)
- g) Religion and Neuroscience (The Theology and Philosophy of Religion section will coordinate with the Religion and Society section in jointly presenting a session if there are enough submissions)

Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website to the chairpersons, Mari Kim (marikim@me.com) and Michael Zbaraschuk (mzbara@uw.edu). If the presenter would prefer to avoid a

particular time due to religious observance (e.g., Friday night or Sunday morning) please include this information in the proposal and we will do our best to accommodate all requests.

WOMEN AND RELIGION

Description of the goals and rationale

This section explores the lives of women in religion from antiquity to the modern era. It is a forum for the inquiry into literary and material culture of the activity and presence of women in religion and the history of interpretation. It is also a forum for how female and gender related issues are portrayed in sacred texts.

Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Goldstein, Gonzaga University (goldstein@gonzaga.edu)

Valarie Ziegler, DePauw University (vziegler@depauw.edu)

Call for Papers

AAR: We invite individual papers or panels on any aspect of the study of women and religion. This section especially welcomes proposals that facilitate cross-disciplinary and/or religious traditions in the study of women. Papers exploring feminist pedagogy are also welcome.

SBL: We invite proposals on women in religious literature including, but not limited to, ancient Greek and Roman, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Asian religions. Proposals should be submitted electronically at the region's website.

SBL REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SBL members presenting a paper at the meeting may wish to be considered for the Regional Scholars Program.

To qualify as a candidate for this award, the applicant must be either ABD or no more than 4 years past receipt of the Ph.D.

Applicants should inform Ardy Bass, SBL Regional Coordinator, **at least two weeks** prior to the meeting that he or she intends to apply for the award.

The applicant must present a paper at the SBL regional meeting, and then submit the paper and a complete CV (both in electronic and hard copy) to the Regional Coordinator after the meeting.

If selected as a winner by the National Society's Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee, the winner receives \$1,000 in support of attendance at the Annual SBL Meeting, and will be honored at the Regional Scholars Dinner at the Annual Meeting. The winner is also strongly encouraged to submit a proposal to the Annual Meeting in the year following his or her selection.

For more information, contact Ardy Bass (bassa@gonzaga.edu).

SNAIL MAIL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

The region does not keep its own list of snail mail and email addresses. We obtain them from our respective national offices. If you or someone you know is a member of AAR, SBL, and/or ASOR but do/does not receive notices by snail mail or email from the region, that is because your/her/his addresses are not up to date in the respective national office. Please, forward this email on to them and have them contact the organization to make the appropriate corrections.

**2014 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
AAR/SBL AND ASOR**

Awards for outstanding student papers in the fields of Biblical Studies and Religious Studies:

- two (2) \$100 awards for winning graduate papers
- two (2) \$100 awards (1st Place) and two (2) \$50 awards (2nd place) for winning undergraduate papers

Submissions must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- no more than 5,000 words (including footnotes) for undergraduate papers
- no more than 7,000 words (including footnotes) for graduate papers
- in 12-point font and double-spaced
- formatted according to either JAAR or JBL guidelines
- free of clerical or grammatical errors

Submissions should include:

- one paper copy
- one electronic version in standard word processing format, without author information (submit author information in a separate file)
- a brief letter of support from a Pacific Northwest Region AAR, SBL, or ASOR faculty member
- name, home mailing address, social security number/social insurance number, educational institution, graduate or undergraduate status

Submit electronically by March 15, 2014 to:

Timothy Hyun, Faith Evangelical Seminary (thyun@faithseminary.edu)

Awards will be announced at the Pacific Northwest AAR/SBL and ASOR Regional Meeting in 2014, at the University of Calgary. Students need not be present to win.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013–2014

President: Jack Levison, Seattle Pacific University (jlevison@spu.edu) (SBL)
Vice-President: Susan Carter, Marylhurst University (scarter@marylhurst.edu) (AAR)
Past President: Jim Wellman, University of Washington (jwellman@u.washington.edu) (AAR) –
1-year term; serves on Nominating Committee
Executive Secretary/Regionally Elected Director: Ardy Bass, Gonzaga University
(bassa@gonzaga.edu) (SBL) – 3-year term; one-term renewal (second term)
Secretary-Treasurer: Amy Donaldson, Portland, Oregon (amy.m.donaldson@gmail.com) (AAR)
– 3-year term; one-term renewal (first term)
ASOR Representative: Roger Anderson, Mukilteo, Washington (rwander48@comcast.net) – 3-
year term (first term)
AAR Regional Student Director (RSD): Raj Balkaran, University of Calgary
(rbalkara@ucalgary.ca) (first term 2013)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Brenda Llewellyn Ihssen, Pacific Lutheran University (ihssenbl@plu.edu) (2011–14) –
first term
Eric Cunningham, Gonzaga University (cunningham@gonzaga.edu) (2013–2016) – second term
John Harding, University of Lethbridge (john.harding@uleth.ca) (2012–2015) – second term
Michael S. Heiser, Logos Bible Software (mheiser@logos.com) (2012–2015) – first term
Antonios Finitsis, Pacific Lutheran University (finitsak@plu.edu) (2013–2016) – first term
Gloria London, Tall al-‘Umayri Teachers’ Institute (glondon@earthlink.net) (2013–2016) – first
term
Jim Wellman, University of Washington (jwellman@u.washington.edu) (past President serves
one year)

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Coordinator: Timothy Hyun, Faith Evangelical Seminary (thyun@faithseminary.edu)

REGIONAL SCHOLARS COMMITTEE (SBL)

Chair: Ardy Bass, Gonzaga University (bassa@gonzaga.edu) (SBL, Executive Officer)
Kent Yinger, George Fox Evangelical Seminary (kyinger@georgefox.edu) (Program Unit Co-
Chair, New Testament and the World of Early Christianity)
Amy Donaldson, Portland, Oregon (amy.m.donaldson@gmail.com) (Program Unit Co-Chair,
New Testament and the World of Early Christianity)
Elizabeth R. Hayes, Fuller Theological Seminary (erussell.hayes@gmail.com) (Hebrew Bible)
Roger Anderson, Mukilteo, Washington (rwander48@comcast.net) (Archaeology of the Ancient
Near East)