

DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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Perseverance. Dedication. Hope. Inspiration.

This month, we celebrate our graduates. **Thirty-six** (36!) students managed, during the most challenging year most of us have ever known, to bring their graduate programs to successful completion. Kudos to these stalwart scholars!

To our **twenty** new Doctors of Philosophy: congratulations on this amazing achievement. It is *always* hard to bring dissertations over the finish line. You did it with severely reduced library access, while limited to Zoom meetings with your advisor and missing those all-important in-person coffee breaks with fellow students. You focused on your work despite the global pandemic and everything else. I have enormous admiration for your accomplishment.

Sixteen students earned Master’s degrees this year. Our MA program is an extremely rigorous one, so it’s no easy feat even in “normal” times. That you completed your degree during this difficult year is testimony to your focus and energy. These qualities will serve you well as you pursue your goals.

Some of you worked steadily through your program without a hitch; others had some digressions. Whatever your path may have been, you did it! Bravo!

While the spotlight is on these 36 new GTU graduates, we can’t forget that “it takes a village.” These graduations were made possible by our dedicated GTU faculty, who continued to advise and support students, all the while bearing their own pandemic-era burdens. Thanks to these faculty members for their diligence and their kindness. Associate Deans Arthur Holder and Wendy Arce were absolutely instrumental in helping students track their academic milestones, bringing about these happy results. We are beyond grateful for their expertise and encouragement. The library staff supported student research with their superb on-line service, curbside pickup, and limited library access. Staff from admissions, financial aid, student services, facilities – the entire GTU team worked to support student success. Thank you.

Class of 2021, you have managed to triumph despite the crucible of the past year. I can’t help but think that this experience will equip you to fulfill the GTU’s mission of “translating scholarship into solutions with impact.” Congratulations!



Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD

Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Announcements

Academic Accomplishments

Comprehensive Examination Proposal Approved

Jennifer A. Lehmann, SATX

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Zulunungsang Lemtur, THET, Distinction
Yong Park, THET



Modern Foreign Language Exam

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | Modern Language Exam

The Modern Language Exam will be conducted remotely via Zoom. Sign-ups for the exam close two weeks before the exam (**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**).

Please contact Fredonia Thompson (fhompson@gtu.edu) to sign up!



Summer Language Study 2021

July 6 - 30, 2021 | **Time: 9AM– Noon** | Tuition: \$750

Instructors:

French - Emily Linares (Emily.linares@berkeley.edu)

German– Marion Gerlind (marion@gerlindinstitute.org);

Spanish - Hanna Kang (hkang@ses.gtu.edu)



The GTU offers intensive summer language courses in French, German, and Spanish, designed to prepare students for the modern foreign language exam. The courses focus on grammar, building vocabulary, and translation practice for three hours a day over four weeks and culminate with a modern foreign language exam to meet a program requirement.

To reserve a spot in one of the courses, register through the Continuing Education option in the **Sonis registration system by JUNE 1**.

Contact Registrar John Seal (jseal@gtu.edu) if you have trouble with the registration process.

Chan Essay

Fall 2021 Topic: “**Identity and Practice Across Religious Boundaries**”

The Chan Essay Prize is an annual award of \$2500, established in 1987 by the Lionel Chan Family Endowment. To enter, GTU students should submit an original essay, a term paper for a course, or a chapter of a thesis or dissertation, with an introduction and conclusion to frame it as an independent essay. The evaluating criteria are as follows:

- **Genre:** Within the specific genre (essay, term paper, chapter of a larger work), does the entry exhibit excellence?
- **Topic:** How well does the work engage the topic?
- **Creativity/Contribution:** Given the audience of the genre, how much of an original or creative contribution is made by the paper? Does it offer fresh insights or simply rehash materials already available?

The topic alternates from year to year. In odd-numbered years (Fall 2021), the topic will be: "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.)." In even-numbered years (Fall 2022), the topic will be "Religion and Economics."



Deadline: Submissions are due in the GTU Dean's Office **no later than 5PM on WEDNESDAY, September 15, 2021.**

Email your submission to warce@gtu.edu (Wendy Arce, Associate Dean of Students)

Student Travel Grants

Student Travel Grants: GTU Doctoral students may apply for travel grants to national conferences. Applications are **due by September 15, 2021.**

For more information, visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants>



Fall 2021 FAQs

Thanks to the 66% of faculty and the 52% of students who participated in the recent survey about coming back to campus! While we keep a close eye on the changing health guidelines, the GTU is working with the consortium to ensure the safest return-to-campus possible.

Will my classes be on-line or in-person? Some courses will continue to be presented in fully remote format, while others will be offered in-person. Other courses will have a hybrid format, with some students in the classroom while others participate from home. We don't yet know which courses will have which format...stay tuned as plans develop over the summer.

Will I need a vaccination? UC Berkeley and some GTU member schools are requiring that students, faculty, and staff demonstrate proof of full vaccination in order to return to campus. The GTU has yet to make that decision; over the summer, please check the website for the latest updates.

Will I be able to use the library? The library will be open to the maximum hours and occupancy permitted by health regulations.

Will GTU events happen in-person? We hope so! Again, all current health regulations will be followed, so masks may be required, there may be limits on crowd size, events may be held outdoors, etc. For indoor events with limited seating, live streaming will be in effect so people can view from home.

**The last Coffee Hour with the Dean will be held on
May 21, 2021**

**Coffee Hour with the Dean will be suspended during the Academic
break and will resume in September 2021**



Coffee Hour with the Dean

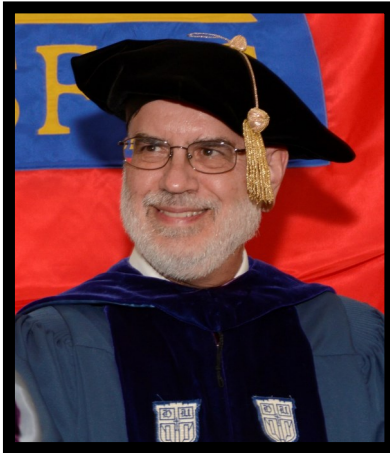
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 9-10am (PT)
Join Interim Dean Dr. Elizabeth S .Peña
on Zoom for a casual coffee hour

- ❖ MA & Certificate students – 2nd Tuesday of the month
- ❖ PhD students – 4th Tuesday of the month

Faculty and Staff can join either coffee hour

Zoom Meeting ID: 543 910 5370

Hear Dr. Arthur Holder in the “Faith and Imagination” Podcast



Arthur Holder is a priest of the Episcopal Church and also a historian and professor of Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, where for many years he served as dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs. His current research explores how medieval Christians imagined what it means to see God and become like God – theological subjects that inform several branches of Christianity, including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On this episode of the Faith and Imagination podcast, we talked about the implications of these doctrines in the medieval period and in our own.

On Seeing and Becoming Like God — the Long Christian History, with guest Arthur Holder

Interview by Matthew Wickman, Founding Director, BYU Humanities Center.

Click [here](#) to hear the podcast!

Rev. Ineda P. Adesanya to Receive Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award

The ABCUSA Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations received nominations for the Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award in early 2021. The Committee voted to recognize Rev. Ineda P. Adesanya, Associate Minister of Spiritual Life at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Ca.

The Award is given to an individual for “sustained performance or special achievement” in “the cause of ecumenism.” The award will be presented during a virtual presentation, which will be shared through the 2021 online Biennial Mission Summit, Thursday, June 24, to Saturday, June 26, 2021.

Rev. Ineda P. Adesanya is currently a PhD student at the GTU.



Read more about Rev. Ineda P. Adesanya and the award by visiting:
<https://www.abc-usa.org/2021/04/rev-ineda-p-adesanya-to-receive-luke-mowbray-ecumenical-award/>

Mary E. McGann Receives 2021 GTU Excellence in Teaching Award

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU) is pleased to announce that Dr. Mary E. McGann, RSCJ, Adjunct Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, is the recipient of the 2021 GTU Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Excellence in Teaching Award is given annually to recognize a member of the GTU's core doctoral faculty for exemplary embodiment of interreligious sensitivity and commitment, interdisciplinary approach to religious studies, and creative and effective classroom pedagogical methods and performance.

"In her twenty-five years of teaching at the GTU, Mary McGann has encouraged countless students to understand and appreciate the power of religious ritual," said Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. "Her work in the classroom is enriched by her extensive experience as a musician, an ethnographer, and a leader of congregational prayer. The selection committee agrees with the doctoral students in the Religion and Practice department who noted in their nomination statement that, 'Dr. McGann's engagement with justice issues and liturgy from gender to race to culture to environmental justice inspires students to bring liturgical questions into all aspects of life.'"

Dr. Elizabeth Peña, Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, added her enthusiasm for Dr. McGann's selection, saying, "Dr. McGann is an invaluable member of the GTU community, and we are thrilled to be able to recognize her with this year's award. She is well known for her generosity and open-mindedness, as well as for her ability to find common ground with both students and faculty colleagues."

Dr. McGann has served on the faculty at the GTU since 1996, and has been a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty since 2002. Currently on the faculty of the Jesuit School of Theology, she likewise taught at the Franciscan School of Theology during its affiliation with GTU. She is currently teaching the doctoral seminar in Religion and Practice.

She earned her PhD in Worship and the Arts from the Graduate Theological Union, with studies in Ethnomusicology at University of California, Berkeley. Prior to that, she earned two Master of Arts Degrees, one in Liturgy and Music from the University of Notre Dame and one in Religious Studies from LaSalle University, as well as a Bachelor of Music degree from Manhattanville College.

After her studies at Notre Dame, she served for nine years as Director of Music and Liturgy at Loyola University, Chicago.



Dr. McGann's research and teaching interests include the intersection of ecology and liturgy, the inculturation of Christian worship, spirituality of the Earth, women and worship, ritual studies, ethnographic research methods, and a special research focus on the intersection of Christian rituals with the global crises of food and water. Her most recent book, published in 2020, is titled *The Meal That Reconnects: Eucharistic Eating and the Global Food Crisis* (Liturgical Press).

Although she has taught for many years, Dr. McGann says that the challenges and enjoyment of teaching are always new – new students, new literature, new questions, new local and global challenges. This past year's virtual learning, for example, stretched her classroom across an unprecedented three continents.

Creating an environment, in person or online, in which students are at the center is key, she said: their interests, engagement with each other, and sense of purpose and responsibility for what they have learned.

Dr. McGann described her teaching as being always grounded in an awareness of, and responsibility for, the whole planetary community of life, whose magnificence and diversity, as well as whose crises and deep vulnerability contextualize all learning.

"Coming to know who we are within a great cosmic story," she said, "and discerning our responsibilities toward the future of life on our planet, are foundational for all scholarly pursuit."

The GTU Excellence in Teaching Award, formerly known as the Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award, was instituted in 2003, and was funded until 2016 through the annual generosity of the Sarlo Family Foundation. Previous winners include Rebecca K. Esterson (2020), Arthur Holder (2019), Jean-François Racine (2018), Barbara Green, OP (2016), and Munir Jiwa (2015).

Congratulations, Dr. McGann!

See Previous Winners – link to: <https://www.gtu.edu/gtu-excellence-teaching-award>



What is your role at the GTU?

I serve as the Director & Associate Professor at the Shingal Center for Dharma Studies, Department Chair of Theology & Ethics, and Core Doctoral Faculty in all four Departments. In addition, I am Co-Chair of Sustainability 360 (with Professor Devin Zuber), and this initiative is a humanities incubator, leading research and projects that operate at the intersection of Sustainability Studies, Religion, Theology, and the Social Sciences, within pluralist, interreligious, interdisciplinary contexts.



CDS 2016 & 2018 PhD Students with Dr. Rita D. Sherma

You are now in your sixth year on faculty here. What are your impressions?

Before coming to GTU, I served as faculty in Religion at University of Southern California (USC), and prior to that, other research universities. GTU was and continues to be a breath of fresh air in its embrace of a values-centered education, of the multiple ways of knowing and understanding, as well as its support for scholarship that creates a bridge between rigorous academic research and faith-based epistemologies. Most of all, my colleagues and the dedicated staff at GTU are the most marvelous, warmly supportive, intellectually vibrant, open-minded individuals I have known in my professional life!

What are you working on these days beyond teaching?

I am publishing the 35-chapter edited volume titled *Religion & Sustainability: Interreligious Resources, Interdisciplinary Responses* (Springer)—with contributions from many of our GTU faculty and alumni. Another important project is a series of books that I am editing on Contemplative Studies; the first volume is out and three more are forthcoming. At the AAR, I am Co-Founder and Vice President of DANAM (Dharma Academy of North America, the first academic forum for Dharma Studies, with annual conferences held concurrently with the AAR’s Annual Meeting), and Vice President of the Society of Hindu-Christian Studies. I serve on the Board of the Yale Forum for Religion and Ecology, and Academic Advisory Board of the Climate Action Assembly Initiative of the Parliament of the World’s Religions, which is endorsed by the United Nations Environment Program.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Explore the Red Rocks of Sedona and the landscape of the Southwest with my partner, and paint (oils, water, and acrylics). Painting on the right is “Breakers” on the California Coast (oil on canvas).



Meet an Affiliate

New College Berkeley

Q&A with
Susan S. Phillips, Ph.D.
Executive Director



What's the history of New College Berkeley?

New College Berkeley was founded in 1977 with the aim of offering graduate-level courses for Christians serious about their faith, but not called to professional ministry. We began offering courses for lay people in the late 1970s, spent about fifteen years offering graduate-level courses and our own Masters degrees, and then in the early 1990s transitioned into a multi-faceted ministry of graduate-level teaching through the Graduate Theological Union, spiritual formation programs primarily through churches, and conferences and seminars that reach beyond Berkeley. Many of our courses engage students from the GTU seminaries, congregations in the area, and U. C. Berkeley. We are also one of the oldest ministries in the Consortium of Christian Study Centers, a collegial membership organization of study centers serving the thought-life of their neighboring universities and the Christian students who attend them. Currently, our spiritual formation programs are expanding to include groups particularly designed for undergraduates, graduate students, seminarians, and some groups especially for people in particular demographics, such as young parents, People of Color, and several affinity groups.

How long has New College Berkeley been a GTU affiliate?

The NCB joined the GTU in 1992.

Why is this relationship important?

Prior to becoming an affiliate of the GTU, students from the seminaries and the university were enrolling in our courses, so we welcomed the opportunity to officially join the Consortium, donate our library to the whole, and accept all the students who wished to be in our programs. We have much appreciated our nearly thirty years of participation in the interfaith consortium of the GTU! The GTU students in our classes bring diverse theological perspectives and commitments to the classroom, and the interaction between them, the university students, and the participants from local congregations creates a rich and lively learning experience for everyone. Our faculty benefit from the library, the community, and the students at all levels (some Ph.D. students have sought our participation on their committees). Our non-GTU students have discovered the GTU's many resources, especially special lectures and events, which have stretched the scope of their theological reflection.

What are some of the exciting efforts New College Berkeley is planning?

We're currently expanding our spiritual formation programs and, having seen the benefits of online learning, are extending our programs to people across the U. S. and in other countries who wish to participate. The GTU has been immensely helpful in offering tutorials on remote learning technologies and practices. The Spiritual Exercises, spiritual direction groups, and retreats will have online components. The annual Berkeley Palmer Lectureship brings cutting-edge, Christian, biblical scholarship to contemporary issues (this year, climate change and migration), and we've seen the benefit of offering it broadly through live-streaming. Focusing our undergraduate and graduate formation programs demographically has also proven beneficial, and we will do more of that.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!

GTU Class of 2021 Graduates will be celebrated online

Please check GTU social media for the unveiling of the 2021 Commencement website! (Coming soon)

MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES

Jeffrey Michael Adams

Arcana in Plain Sight: The Influence of Emanuel Swedenborg's 'New Christianity' on Maurice Nicoll's Esoteric Christianity

Pacific School of Religion
James F. Lawrence (Coordinator)
Devin P. Zuber

Mark Andrew Brustman

Hypotheses for the Pre-Islamic Calendar

Starr King School for the Ministry
WITH HONORS
Ghazala Anwar (Coordinator)
Som Pourfarzaneh

Katherine Van Gilder Dickinson

Range of Chaplain Engagement with Prisoners

Pacific School of Religion
Aaron Brody (Coordinator)
Kamal Abu-Shamsieh
Liz Milner, Chaplain Services

Christopher Dunford, Jr.

Radical Acceptance as a Shin Buddhist Theology of Liberation for LGBTQ+ Peoples

Institute of Buddhist Studies
WITH HONORS
Daijaku J. Kinst
David R. Matsumoto (Coordinator)

Harumichi Fukaya

Across the Sea: A Study of Tenrikyo's North American Mission before World War II

Institute of Buddhist Studies
Scott A. Mitchell (Coordinator)
David Matsumoto

Felicia Clare Good

Now is the Time for Intercommunion: An Invitation for Catholics

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
WITH HONORS
Mary E. McGann, R.S.C.J. (Coordinator)
Paul A. Janowiak, S.J.

Elea Ingman

The "Divine Mission of America": Herem and American Christian Colonization in Sitka, AK

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology
WITH HONORS
Bryan Kromholtz, OP (Coordinator)
Aaron Brody
Uriah Kim

Kamran Nihal Khan

Demonizing Islam with Islam: Political Motives and the Proliferation of Anti-Islamic Rhetoric

Center for Islamic Studies
Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)
Judith Berling

MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES (CONT'D)

Mary Kathleen Kilby

Retrieving Ricoeur: Toward a Poetic Narrative Theology

Pacific School of Religion
WITH HONORS

Susan Abraham (Coordinator)
Yohana A. Junker, Claremont School of Theology
Filipe Maia, Boston University

Thomas Ethan Lowery

Bricoleurs Religieux: Suburban Lived Religion in Sacred/Secular Modes

Church Divinity School of the Pacific
WITH HONORS

Jennifer Snow (Coordinator)
Jerome P. Baggett

Patrick Francis McIlhone

A Contested Legacy: John Brown in American Art

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Kathryn Barush (Coordinator)
Devin P. Zuber
Yohana A. Junker, Claremont School of Theology

Yae In Min

Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola Suitable for Koreans: Focusing on Korean Han with the Inspiration of the Liberative Model

San Francisco Theological Seminary, University of Redlands
Wendy Farley (Coordinator)
Bede J. Healey, Incarnation Monastery

Taqwa Mahrani Surapati

Human Suffering in Perspective: Understanding Islamic Teachings on Life and Death

Center for Islamic Studies
Kamal Abu-Shamsieh (Coordinator)
Munir Jiwa

Margaret Anne Warner

Beauty Ever Ancient and New: Inculturating the Roman Rite in the Twenty-first Century United States

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Paul A. Janowiak, S.J. (Coordinator)
Mary E. McGann, R.S.C.J.

Ping-Chung Wong

Augustine's Development of the Virtues as a Response to Neoliberalism

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)
John Klentos

Benjamin Woollard

Mirrors of Glory: Humanity and Creation According to Gregory of Nyssa

Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute
John Klentos (Coordinator)
Thomas Cattoi



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES

Paul Houston Blankenship

Soul Woundedness

Christian Spirituality

Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM (Coordinator)
Arthur G. Holder
Wendy Farley
Tanya Marie Luhrmann, Stanford University
Lawrence Cohen, University of California, Berkeley

Cogen Bohanec

Process and Dialectic in Hindu Thought: Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Systematic Theology and Ethics

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Rita D. Sherma (Coordinator)
Purushottama Bilimoria
Ravi M. Gupta, Utah State University
Abhishek Ghosh, Grand Valley State University

Thomas Ross Calobrisi

Beyond Belief: How a French Text on Indian Buddhism Changed American Culture

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religions

Scott A. Mitchell (Coordinator)
Devin P. Zuber
Erik C. Braun, University of Virginia

Keng Fan Chan

Culture and Devotion at the Service of Mission: A Study of Catholic Women's Domestic Religious Practices in Macau

Religion and Practice

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)
Kathryn Barush
Mary E. McGann
João Eleutério, Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Mahjabeen Dhala

The Sermon of Fatima: Retrieving the Female Scholar-Activist Voice Amidst Patriarchal, Secular, and Sectarian Biases

Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)
Judith A. Berling
Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University

Woori Han

A Transformative Homiletic for the Contemporary Assemblies of God of Korea: Insights from the Hermeneutics and Theology of Paul Ricoeur and St. Bernard Clairvaux

Religion and Practice

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)
Paul A. Janowiak, S.J.
Shauna K. Hannan
Dohaw Huh, Keimyung University

Sheryl Heather Elizabeth Johnson

"All the believers had everything in common" (Acts 2:44): Ecclesial Economic Ethics in North American Mainline Protestant Churches

Theology and Ethics

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (Coordinator)
Filipe Maia, Boston University
Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Bellarmine University

Beena Poulose Kallely

A Theology-Informed Restorative Justice Model for Addressing Domestic Violence in India

Theology and Ethics

Marianne Farina, C.S.C. (Coordinator)
William O'Neill, S.J.
Angana P. Chatterji, University of California, Berkeley

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES (CONT'D)

Ahmed Mahmoud Khater

The Development of Islamic Law in the West: The Legal Operational Principles of Western Fiqh Councils

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions

Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)
Marianne Farina, CSC
Hatem Bazian, University of California, Berkeley

Insoo Kim

Christological Dimensions of Spirituality and Praxis: A Journey for Rediscovering the Relationship of Doctrine with Spiritual Practice through Patristics and Contemporary Thought

Theology and Ethics

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)
Wendy Farley
Ted Peters
Karen Feldman, University of California, Berkeley

Mariska Lauterboom

Decolonizing Christian Religious Education through a Ritual-Based Visceral Pedagogy in Maluku, Indonesia

Religion and Practice

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)
Joung Chul Lee, Yonsei University
Sylvia Tiwon, University of California, Berkeley

Aline Gram Lewis

Passionate Reading: The Spirituality of Reading and the Body of Christ in Augustine's Confessions, Teresa of Avila's La Vida, and Dorothy Day's Spiritual Autobiographies

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Arthur Holder (Coordinator)
Susan S. Phillips
Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, University of California, Berkeley

Zachary Markwith

And When I Love Him: The Ḥadīth al-Nawāfil and the Formation of Sufism

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religions

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)
Arthur G. Holder
Cyrus A. Zargar, University of Central Florida

Ki Wook Min

Eschatological Trinity and the Contemporary Sciences: A Trinitarian Understanding with Quantum Physics and the Special Theory of Relativity

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Robert J. Russell (Coordinator)
Ted F. Peters
Lisa Fullam
Kirk Wegter-McNelly, Union College

C. Alixandr Ortiz-Roberts

The Agency of Daughters in the Hebrew Bible

Biblical Studies

Aaron Brody (Coordinator)
LeAnn Snow Flesher
Kristine Henriksen Garroway, Hebrew Union College

Pravina Leo Rodrigues

Upside Down, Inside Out: A Śākta Mnemopraxial Methodology for Comparative Theology

Theology and Ethics

Gabriella Lettini (Coordinator)
Alison M. Benders
Swamini Svatmavidyananda Saraswati,
Ashra Vijnana Gurukulam

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES (CONT'D)

Jaesung Ryu

Grace and Nature in John Wesley and Thomas Aquinas

Theology and Ethics

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)
Christopher M. Hadley
Filipe Maia, Boston University

Myoung-Ho Sin

Homo Oikos Sacralis: Redefining Human Being in the Face of the Environmental Crisis

Theology and Ethics

Robert J. Russell (Coordinator)
Ted F. Peters
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
Richard B. Norgaard, University of California, Berkeley

Harley Jay Siskin

Jews Talking Funny: The Re-presentation of Jewish Speech in Old French

History

Deena N. Aranoff, (Coordinator)
Naomi Sheindel Seidman
John L. Hayes, University of California, Berkeley

Kristin Gill Stoneking

A Multifaith Pedagogy for Peace: Experiential Learning in Multifaith Residential Communities through Comparative Theology and Nonviolence

Interdisciplinary Studies

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)
Munir Jiwa
Michael N. Nagler, University of California, Berkeley



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES!

Newhall Fellowships 2021 - 2022

Kelly Colwell, Pastoral Curiosity: Grounded Theory and Research Skills for Ministry (Jim Lawrence)

Gordon Gilmore, Mutual Aid and the Church (Sam Shonkoff)

Hye Hyun Han, Sacred Teaching for Human Suffering (Kirsi Stjerna)

John (Rick) Heller, US Religion and Politics (Devin Zuber)

Hanna Kang, Theology in the Age of Migration (Eduardo Fernandez)

May Kosba, MA-1000 Research and Methods (Wendy Arce)

Reem Kosba, Religion and Fashion: The Politics of Dress (Kathryn Barush)

Jennifer Lehmann, Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (Rebecca Esterson)

Zulunungang Lemtur, Tribal Christian Theology (Marianne Farina)

Grace Ma, Introduction to Biblical Greek (Rebecca Esterson)

Gideon M. M'Imwonyo Mbui, Constructive African Drumbeat Theology and Liberative Ethics (Gabriella Lettini)

KyoungDeuk Min, Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible (Julian Gonzalez)

Sanghyun Park, Religion and Politics in Global Perspective (Gabriella Lettini)

Emily Pothast, Sound as Sacred Presence (Kathryn Barush)

Nicholas Preuninger, Biblical Preaching (Shauna Hannan)

Carmelo Sorita, Jesus and the Son of Man Problem, Or: Who/What Did Jesus say "the 'Son of Man'" Is? (Eugene Eung-Chun Park)

Pamela J. Stevens, Interfaith Material Biographies (Arthur Holder)

Rachelle Syed, "Greening" Interreligious Dialogue: Approaching Ecological Sustainability Dialogically (Dialogue and Sustainability) (Rita Sherma)



From the Library

In-Library Reservations

<https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-reservations>

We have increased the length of stay and frequency of our in-library study appointments. Patrons may now browse the stacks while maintaining social distance from other people in the building. Currently, in-library reservations are only available for GTU students, faculty, and staff, but others may reserve and pick up books via our curbside pickup service. When you **open the link above**, you will see a blue box at the bottom of the page, *Reserve Seats (LibCal Reservation System)*. Click on the box and it will take you to a page where you can make your in-study appointment. Eight, three-hour, in-library reservations can be made per week.

[Here is a video about what to expect when the library re-opens](#)



Note that the link is in the process of being updated to reflect the longer in-library appointments and new policy allowing patrons to browse the stacks.

Curbside Pickup Update

To request curbside pick up, please visit <https://www.gtu.edu/curbside>.

This link also has information about UCB's curbside pickup service.



Scanning Services for Article and Book Chapters

We continue to provide scanning services for GTU library cardholders to support distance learning.

If you cannot find an online copy of an article or a book chapter and the library owns a physical copy, staff will scan the article or book chapter and email it to you. Allow at least 3 business days for requests to be processed.



Check the GTU library's online resources for supplementary materials you can use. General questions about appropriate use of library materials that may be under copyright should be directed to Jeffrey Jackson jjackson@gtu.edu (GTU) or Stephanie Miller stephanie_miller@redlands.edu (SFTS) in the Library.

To complete a scanning request form and for more information about scanning services, click on this link: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-scanning-services>

Library Services for 2021 Graduates

Library staff wish all upcoming graduates of the consortium congratulations and success in the future! Note that the library offers services to alums.

See <https://www.gtu.edu/library/alumni> for more information.



Center for the Arts & Religion

May Art Window

While the Doug Adams Gallery is out of use, we have been using our beautiful ground floor window (2465 LeConte Ave. Berkeley) to highlight some of the Bay Area's talented artists of color!

This May, don't miss the last *Art Window* of the semester, with UC Berkeley MFA student Biz Rasam ! Biz was born in Kabul, Afghanistan and moved to the United States at a young age. His artwork seeks to humanize the Afghan culture, something he sees a great need for, particularly in the wake of 9/11. His ambition to represent the Afghan-American experience has led him to pursue an MFA at UC Berkeley

Biz's May exhibition will feature artwork inspired by 14th-century Islamic miniature painting. His latest research has focused specifically on the miniatures of Persian painter Kamāl ud-Dīn Behzād. Many of the subjects Biz draws out in his own work focuses on battle scenes and depictions of religious worship, as he finds these to be the most relevant topics to Afghan life today.

Learn more! gtu.edu/artwindow



By UC Berkeley MFA student Biz Rasam

Center for Dharma Studies

Dr. Rita D. Sherma Presentation



Dr. Rita D. Sherma, Director and Associate Professor at the Center for Dharma Studies, will be presenting at several events for Earth Week, including a presentation at the Collaborative Symposium on Climate Action titled *Spirituality and Ecology: Religious Wisdom for the Future* jointly sponsored by the **World Congress of Faiths** and the **Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR)**, on April 29th.

This collaborative seminar will explore the shared contributions that religious traditions can make toward healing of the Earth by ensuring environmental sustainability and a vision of inclusive justice for all the peoples of our common home. The PoWR's Climate Action Task Force is a member of the Civil Society Organizations affiliated with the **United Nations Environment Program**.

Congratulations Charissa Jaegar-Sanders

Congratulations to CDS PhD student **Charissa Jaegar-Sanders** for the AAR's acceptance of her paper *Webs and Wombs: An Interreligious Dialogue Regarding Divine Immanence* for presentation at the Open and Relational Theologies Unit of the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2021!! Charissa is a doctoral student in Theology and Ethics (Comparative Theology), and Assistant to the THET Department. She is interested in engaging in theological discourse between the Christian and Hindu faiths using an inter-religious, dialogical, and philological lens.



GTU Sustainability 360 Conference

CDS is proud to have co-sponsored, with GTU Sustainability 360, *Sustainable Societies Conference II: Visions for a Viable Future – In a Time of Covid & Climate Calamity*. The conference was very well attended, with over a hundred participants. An edited volume of the visionary papers from the event—edited by Dr. Rita Sherma, Dr. Devin Zuber, and Matthew Hartmann—is forthcoming. Videos of the presentations and conference info. are available at: <https://www.gtu.edu/events/sustainable-societies-conference-ii-visions-viable-future-time-covid-climate-calamity>

Center for Islamic Studies

Announcements

Henry Luce Foundation COVID-19 Community Partnerships Grants

CIS is pleased to share that we will continue to host public programming to learn from and share the work of community organizations in their frontline work during the pandemic as part of the GTU Henry Luce Foundation COVID-19 Community Partnership Grants.



We are delighted to announce a dedicated webpage related to the grant, with deep gratitude to all the community partners, GTU colleagues, students and faculty, and the steering committee for all their work. We gratefully acknowledge the Henry Luce Foundation for their leadership and generous grant in making this work possible and to Dr. Munir Jiwa for leading the project. For project information and related events, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/lucecovidrelief>

CIS is pleased to share that **Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala** will be giving a series of international lectures and keynote presentations online this May and throughout the summer on “Career and Motherhood” (Tanzania, **May 7th**), “The Tradition of Fasting in World Religions” (The World Federation of KSIMJ, United Kingdom, **May 8th**), and “Foundational Women in the Qur’an” (The Salam Center, UK, **July 9th**). For more information, please contact mdhala@gtu.edu

CIS is planning to host a series of public conversations this summer and throughout the next academic year on **Race and Religion**, on topics including: white supremacy, global ethnonationalism, racism, militarism, poverty, trauma, health, spiritual care, identity and belonging, equity and justice. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please email: mjiwa@gtu.edu



Congratulations and gratitude to CIS students, visiting and research scholars, faculty and staff for their excellent work and achievements during the academic year 2020-2021.

Special congratulations to graduates in Islamic Studies: Kamran Khan (MA), Taqwa Surapati (MA), Ahmed Khater (PhD), Mahjabeen Dhala (PhD), Zachary Markwith (PhD).

CIS gratefully acknowledges and congratulates Nosizwe Breux-Abdur-Rahman, GTU doctoral student, for her participation in online workshops and webinars at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery.

Congratulations to **Carol Bier, CIS Research Scholar**, for her publications:

- ◆ “Marāgha,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3 (Leiden: Brill)
- ◆ “Geometry in Art,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3 (Leiden: Brill)
- ◆ “Professor Pope and Dr. Phyllis Ackerman: Carpets and the Study of Persian Textiles,” *Festschrift for Prudence Oliver Harper* (Brepols)
- ◆ “India *in situ*: Textile History and Practice - A Team Approach,” *Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium Proceedings*, co-authored (Boston)



Center for Jewish Studies

Fall 2021 Rabbinics Course

Distinguished Stanford University Professor Charlotte Fonrobert to Teach CJS Fall 2021 Rabbinics Course

We are pleased to announce Dr. Charlotte Fonrobert, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford University, will teach "Introduction to Rabbinics" for the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the GTU during the Fall 2021 semester.

Professor Fonrobert specializes in Talmudic literature and culture, and her interests include: gender in Jewish culture; the relationship between Judaism and Christianity in Late Antiquity; discourses of orthodoxy versus heresy; connections between religion and space; and rabbinic conceptions of Judaism with respect to Greco-Roman culture. The course will take place on **Thursdays, 9:40am-12:30pm PT.**



Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

Russell Family Research Fellowship in Religion and Science

Saturday, September 25, 2021

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) is pleased to announce that the 2020-2021 Russell Family Research Fellowship with Dr. Kirk Wegter-McNelly has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 25th.

The topic will be “Engaging Hypotheticals: Groundwork for the Study of Theology in a Secular Academic Context”.

More information can be found on the conference website, <https://www.ctns.org/research/russell-fellowship>.

You may address questions to Melissa Moritz at mmoritz@gtu.edu.



Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology (BJRT)

BJRT Special Call for Book Reviews

While the acceptance period for article submissions has passed and we are in the review process for Volume 7 of the BJRT, we are opening a special period for Book Review submissions.

This is a great opportunity if you have recently read an important work you would like to review, or have a book review you just need to polish a bit.

Visit the BJRT website (bjrt.gtu.edu) for submission guidelines.

Please submit book reviews by Friday, May 21st to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.



Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

Interfaith Prayer Service for National Day of Prayer on May 6

The interreligious Chaplaincy Program is inviting students, faculty, and staff to a virtual prayer service for the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 6 at 11:30AM (PT)**.

This online event will highlight blessings, songs, prayers, and ceremonies from a variety of world religious traditions.

The service will begin promptly at 11:30AM Pacific Time with the Muslim call to prayer. On-time arrival is appreciated. Attendees are asked to please bring to the meeting a 4-foot piece of yarn or ribbon for a prayer string ceremony. For additional information and a Zoom link, [please visit the event page](#).



Madrasa-Midrasha

Psychoanalysis in Judaism and Islam

Wednesday, May 19 | 12:00PM (PT)

The Madrasa-Midrasha program is delighted to invite you to a conversation on “Psychoanalysis in Judaism and Islam” on Wednesday, May 19th at 12pm PT. Presenters include Dr. Naomi Seidman of the University of Toronto, and Dr. Omnia El Shakry of UC Davis.

For more info and to register, please visit our event page:

<https://www.gtu.edu/events/madrasa-midrasha-psychoanalysis-judaism-and-islam>

Haas Student Summer Research Grant Recipients

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Haas Student Summer Research grant:

- **Jennifer Springsteen** for the project “God’s Co-Creators: Spirituality, Childbirth and Mothering”
- **Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur- Rahman** for the project “Examining African/Black and Jewish Experiences from a Diasporic Lens”
- **Reem Kosba** for the project “Jewish influence on Women’s dress and Fashion in Egypt”
- **Paula Thompson** for the project “Countering Violent Extremism, Zionist Organizations and the Myth of ‘Muslim Antisemitism’”
- **Mia Trachtenberg** and **Sakinah Alhabshi** for the joint project “Healing as Practiced by Jewish and Muslim Chaplains”

Congratulations!

GTU-UCB Faculty Colloquia

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is grateful to Dr. Deena Aranoff and Dr. Munir Jiwa for their leadership in hosting the year-long GTU-UCB faculty colloquia on themes in Jewish and Islamic Studies. We extend our gratitude to all the faculty who participated.

Walter and Elise Haas Foundation

The CJS and CIS at GTU gratefully acknowledge the Walter and Elise Haas Fund for making possible the collaborative work of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program.



Women's Studies in Religion

Urgency for Intersectional Justice: Amplifying Women's Studies in Religion as a Faith-Driven Pathway

2021 Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble



Tuesday, May 11, 2021 | 4:00 - 5:30PM
Online (Free) | Zoom link [here](#)

This lecture is aimed to focus a positive light on Women's Studies as a pathway or focus area of specialization that many graduate schools might have; yet are we under-utilizing this opportunity, even at the GTU?! Across theological education, emphasis on Women's Studies in Religion can become a path to attract diverse voices to raise new lenses of scholarship, ministry, and justice praxis.

As the outgoing chairperson of GTU-WSR, I want to raise some observations about credible contributions that Women's Studies in Religion could offer if amplified to encourage women and (men) to examine intersectional disparities and non-traditional approaches.

I suggest that faculty and students can be more intentional to forge pathways that take seriously the justice issues continually raised by intergenerational and interfaith voices beyond binary presumptions that inhibit identities and otherwise, limit the authenticity of diversity and equity.

TO REGISTER (or for more information), contact wsr@ses.gtu

Pacific School of Religion: The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

CLGS Lavender Lunch: Sexuality, Gender, and Power in Traditional IFÁ Religion and Its Diasporic Renditions with Qyasùúrù Ifáwàrìnwa

Tuesday, May 11 | 12:15pm - 1:15pm (PT) | Online

Join via Zoom [here](#)



CLGS Jewish Queeries Series Event: GenderQueering Hebrew with Rabbi Noa Sattath

Thursday, May 13, 2021 | 1:00pm - 2:15pm (PT) | Online

Join via Zoom [here](#)

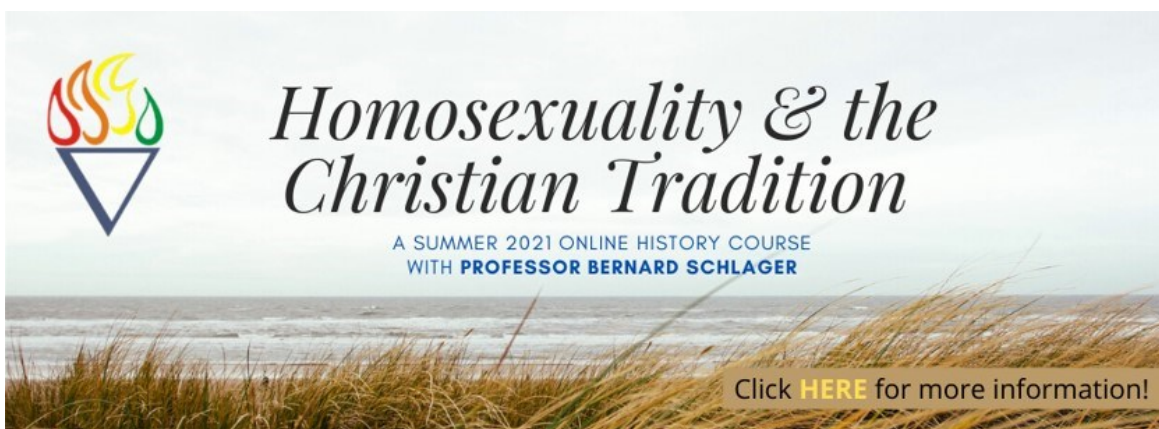


CLGS Queer and Latinx Faith Conversation: Cristosal: Advancing Human Rights in Central America

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 | 2:00pm - 3:15pm (PT) | Online

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link for this event!

CLGS/PSR Summer 2021 ONLINE Course: Homosexuality and the Christian Tradition with Profess Bernard Schlager



GTUx

Now Available: *Greening Spirituality, a GTUx Original*

What if the Earth was your spiritual teacher? In this free GTUx Original, Drs. Rita Sherma and Devin Zuber explore the varied ways in which the natural world has been imagined and experienced through embodied practices and creative acts throughout American history, including consideration of Native American and Dharma traditions, the elemental potencies of wilderness (and wildness), and the way that the sanctification of natural spaces has come to resemble a form of civic religion.

Get started today at gtu.edu/x

Also available: *The Spirit of Justice*, led by Dr. David Kyuman Kim, who serves as a guide to answering our most pressing questions about justice and public life in this GTUx Original which is part intellectual and religious history, part call to action.

The Lure of Power, led by Drs. Deena Aranoff, Valerie Miles-Tribble, Elizabeth Peña, and Devin Zuber will be coming in May. [Sign up to get notified!](#)

GTUx

COMING SOON



For students!

Stay Tuned

DIALCARE

A short term therapy option coming soon!



**The newsletter is taking a break and
will return in September**

The Dean's Newsletter

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the Graduate Theological Union Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty, MA students, and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second to last Friday of the month to

dmagallanes@gtu.edu

Diana Magallanes, Assistant to the Interim Dean

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