

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 7

APRIL 2015

RELIGION AT BERKELEY?



Dr. Arthur Holder

Academic Dean
and Vice President
of Academic
Affairs

Most residents of the Bay Area will recognize the familiar tagline of a local dairy company whose radio spots feature the question: "Farms

in Berkeley?" It's true, we don't usually think of this city as a bucolic pastureland, and yet there are grocery coolers full of products labeled Berkeley Farms.

Some people may be equally surprised to learn that there is religion here—and not just at the GTU. Our neighbors on the other side of Hearst Avenue have long been in the forefront of the study of religion, but awareness of their contributions has been somewhat limited because there is no Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. There is an undergraduate major, but the faculty offering courses in the field are drawn from several different departments. Generations of GTU students have learned how to find them, and GTU faculty

have often collaborated on research projects with university colleagues at the university. But until recently there has been no single focal point for the study of religion there.

Happily, that changed in 2013 with the launch of the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion (BCSR). The center's website describes its mission as follows: "The University of California, Berkeley has unique strengths that make possible a broad, critical inquiry about religion. Berkeley does not have a department of religion, and so the dozens of distinguished research faculty whose work concerns religion have always been based within their home departments. To more fully address questions about religion, the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion has been organized in the College of Letters and Science, with the support of the Deans of Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences, to bring these scholars together and to support, organize and enrich the study of religion on our vast campus."

I would encourage all GTU students and faculty to sign

up for the BCSR email list by filling out the simple online form at the not-so-simple URL <http://berkeley.us7.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=73257a2449c2b9a9453be6b7f5&id=1fe330e60a> and to "like" the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion on Facebook. Once connected with BCSR, you will learn about upcoming lectures and events of interest at the university (and some GTU events too because they often help to publicize things happening on this side of the street).

The reason that the GTU is in Berkeley is because the leadership of our member schools long ago recognized the critical importance of studying religion in an interdisciplinary context. We are fortunate indeed to enjoy the benefits of cross-registration and reciprocal library privileges with what many people have called the world's premier public university. Thanks to our friends at the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion, the connections between our two institutions are now even stronger.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CSST EVENT: 2
RINKU SEN TALK,
2015 SINGH LEC-
TURE & PERFOR-
MANCE

CJS EVENTS, 3
CARE EVENT,
GTU COM-
MENCEMENT &
RECEPTION

PSR 2015 TOL- 4
SON SCHOLAR
LECTURE, PCTS
MEETING

SUMMER MODERN 5
LANGUAGE
STUDY & EXAM,
AAR CAREER
WORKSHOPS,
SAC FORUM

CIS NEWS & 6
EVENTS, FILING
DEADLINE

FINANCIAL AID 7
DEADLINES,
CTNS LECTURE

HONORABLE 8
MENTION

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION PRESENTS A DISCUSSION WITH RINKU SEN



Rinku Sen

Rinku Sen, President and Executive Director of Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation and the Publisher of the award-winning news site Colorlines comes to PSR for a conversation and lecture. Race Forward brings systemic analysis and an innovative approach to complex race issues to help people take effective action toward racial equity through research, media, and practice. Sen's cutting edge book *Stir it Up*, read widely by community organizers and taught on campuses across the country, theorized a model of community

organizing that integrate a political analysis of gender, class, poverty, sexuality, and other issues. Sen's second book *The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization* told the story of Moroccan immigrant Fekkak Mamdouh, who co-founded the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York in the aftermath of September 11 and is currently being made into a film.

Rinku is the Co-Chair of the Schott Foundation for Public Education and sits on the boards of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United,

Working America, and the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity. A highly sought-after keynote speaker for colleges Sen has spoken at Harvard, Brown, University of Michigan, Penn State, and was the Commencement Speaker at Antioch New England.

Center for Spiritual and Social Transformation
 Tuesday, May 12, 2015
 Reception @ 6 p.m.
 MUDD 100.
 Talk @ 7 p.m. PSR Chapel
 1798 Scenic Ave
 Berkeley CA 94709



Dr. Anantanand Rambachan

2015 SURJIT SINGH LECTURE ON COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND CULTURE — NEW VENUE

“Interreligious Relations as Friendship: Mahatma Gandhi and Charles Freer Andrews”

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan

**Friday, April 10th, 2PM
 Doug Adams Gallery
 1798 Scenic Avenue,
 Berkeley, CA 94709**

**2:00 – 2:30 Reception
 2:30 – 3:00 Indian Classical Dance Performance (co-sponsored by CARE)
 3:00 – 4:30pm Lecture and Q&A**

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and the Reverend Charles Freer Andrews (1871-1940) shared an extraordinary relationship. From 1914, until his death in 1940, Andrews worked closely with Gandhi in the Indian independence move-

ment and in the service of India. Their relationship blossomed quickly and remains an illuminating example of friendship across traditions. This lecture examines the shared commitments that brought this remarkable Hindu and Christian pair together, as well as the challenges and risks of their friendship.

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan is Professor of Religion at Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, where he has been teaching since 1985. A native of Trinidad, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He is the author of several books including *Accomplishing the Accomplished*, *The Limits of Scripture*, *The Advaita Worldview: God, World and Humanity*, and *Not-Two: A Hindu Theology of Libera-*

tion (forthcoming). The British Broadcasting Corporation transmitted a series of his lectures around the world. For over twenty years, Professor Rambachan has been involved in the field of interreligious relations as a Hindu participant and analyst. He was a guest participant in the last four General Assemblies of the World Council of Churches, and he is a regular participant in the consultations of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue at the Vatican and an educator on interfaith issues in Minnesota.



Rina Mehta

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS



Calendrical Convergence: Passover, Easter, and the Sacred Season
Monday, March 30th, 2015
at 12:30pm. HEDCO Room,
2465 LeConte Avenue

Please join us for an informal panel discussion of the Jewish and Christian holiday calendars.
 Moderated by: Rabbi Stephen Pearce
 Featuring: His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, Sr. Barbara Green, and Dr. Deena Aranoff.



‘Sing-Now!-To God’: Miriam and Moses.
Lecture by
Avivah Zornberg

Monday, April 27, 2015
9:00 am, Easton Hall
2401 Ridge Road



The history of Miriam, the prophetess who speaks enviously of her brother Moses, offers an intimate glimpse of the tensions between brother and sister, both leaders, both prophets. Midrashic material will illuminate this mysterious relationship.

CARE: NEWS & EVENTS

Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education (CARE)
an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union
 Presents

Trivia Night
at the Museum

Co-sponsored by the Badè
 Museum of
 Biblical Archaeology

Thursday, April 23 | 5:30-7:30pm
Doug Adams Gallery

Join us for an evening of trivia (art, archaeology, and religion), including refreshments! Take a study break and invite your friends to build a team to win a prize. Free admission.

More information found online www.care-gtu.org



GTU GRADUATES RECEPTION

The GTU Board of Trustees and Office for Institutional Advancement hosts a reception for all GTU common MA and Doctoral graduates and their families and guests the night before commencement, **Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in courtyard and Common Room on the CDSP campus.**

The GTU Advancement office will be contacting graduates with details about the event in April. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information please contact Christopher Cox, Associate Director of Development, 510-649-2531, email ccox@gtu.edu



THE GTU COMMENCEMENT IS MAY 7 AT 4PM IN THE PLTS CHAPEL. A RECEPTION FOLLOWS THE CEREMONY OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL. COMMON MA AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS PLANNING ON PARTICIPATING IN THE GTU COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY SHOULD REPORT TO GIESY HALL FOR ROBING AND PROCESSION INSTRUCTIONS BY 3:15PM. FACULTY ARE ASKED TO REPORT TO GIESY HALL BY 3:30PM. CONTACT KATHLEEN KOOK, GTU DEAN OF STUDENTS, KKOOK@GTU.EDU, 510-649-2464 FOR INFORMATION.



Hatem Bazian

PSR PRESENTS "THINKING THROUGH DE-COLONIZATION: UN-REFORMING ISLAM AND CONTESTING EUROCENTRIC EPISTEMIC STRUCTURES" WITH 2015 TOLSON SCHOLAR, DR. HATEM BAZIAN

The PSR Tolson Fellowship is a one-semester visiting professor position in which the instructor represents scholarship in a non-Christian religion and comes from a country in which that religion either was founded or is dominant.

The 2015 Tolson Scholar is Dr. Hatem Bazian, co-founder, senior faculty member, and Academic Affairs Chair at Zaytuna College. He holds a simultaneous appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley.

Join us for this Tolson Scholar Lecture on April 13th in the Badè Museum. The reception begins at 6pm, and Dr. Bazian will speak at 7pm.



PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING: APRIL 17-18 "THEOLOGIES OF RELIGIONS: INTER-RELIGIOUS & COMPARATIVE"

You are cordially invited to attend the Spring Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, April 17 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m.–noon in Classroom "B" at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

"Theologies of Religions" is an apt topic as witnessed by current headlines. How does a religious tradition reflect on a world filled with other religions? Papers on the topic range from assessing this question in general and in comparative terms. Highlighting this Meeting is the giving of the "PCTS Codron Award" for leading theological scholarship given in memorial for the beloved scholar and PCTS member, Patricia Codron.

The Friday afternoon session begins with a paper by Doug McGaughey (Willamette University) entitled "Studying Religion: More and Less than Mapping Territories" with a response by Herman Waetjen (SFTS). This is followed by a panel session for Kristin Johnston

Largen's book. The panel of respondents includes Sharon Burch (Interfaith Counseling Center), Moses Penumaka (PLTS) and Daren Erisman (GTU). Saturday morning, the paper entitled, "Shariradhari and Grandhsahib: Incarnation in Christian and Sikh faith traditions" by Moses Penumaka (GTU) is discussed. Lastly, Daren Erisman (GTU) closes the Meeting with his paper, "ISIS, the Western Media, and the End Times: What we all might learn from a comparative study of the theologies of religions for Islam and Christianity" with respondent Cathy Hampton (GTU). As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website (www.pcts.org/meetings/2015/Spring.html) and texts should be read ahead of time.

**Free Public Lecture Friday Evening, April 17 at 7pm:
"A Life of Reflection Filled with Activities"**

Doug McGaughey (Willamette University) has spent a lifetime traversing between two continents exploring the bounds of

philosophical theology. Please join us Friday evening, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP, as he shares his theological autobiography. He will be moving to Germany this coming year.

Note that the Friday afternoon session is followed by cocktails and dinner. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon. Registration fees are located on the PCTS website (www.pcts.org/register.html) and may also be paid at the Meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. It has a long and distinguished history, and its founding pre-dates the establishment of the GTU. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in the theological endeavor broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year and \$22.50 for students. Go to www.pcts.org for further information.



Kristin
Johnston Largen
recipient of the PCTS
Codron Award
for her book:
*Finding God among
Our Neighbors.*



Doug McGaughey

SUMMER MODERN LANGUAGE STUDY AT THE GTU

GTU summer language study opportunities are an excellent summer activity. These courses focus on developing researching and writing facilities in the language, and provide good preparation for the GTU Modern Foreign Language Exams. The course ends with an opportunity to take a language proficiency exam with the possibility of certifying for the GTU common MA and doctoral degree program requirements.

The French course will be offered July 21 through August 15 from 9am to noon, the German course will be offered July 13 through August 7, 10am-1pm, and the Spanish course is scheduled for July 13 through August 7 from 9am to noon. Tuition is \$650. GTU students can register via WebAdvisor through the Continuing Education module starting May 1. For registration questions, contact John Seal, GTU Consortial Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.



MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM
THE NEXT MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMINATION IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1:00PM TO 4:45PM IN THE DINNER BOARD ROOM. REGISTER BY MAY 6 WITH WENDY ARCE, STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE MANAGER, WARCE@GTU.EDU, 649-2400.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION: CAREER SUPPORT WORKSHOPS FOR PHD STUDENTS

There will be a series of professional development and career workshops sponsored by the American Academy of Religion to be held April 18th and 19th 2015.

These workshops have been created to address some of the anxieties and concerns that many graduate students experience when entering the job market with a PhD. They are designed to provide both emotional and practical support for PhDs looking to change their lives by increasing economic opportunity and entering into a new, healthier, more sustainable and hopefully happier relationship with academia and the private sector.

Envisioning Academic Alternatives **Saturday April 18** **9:30 am-12:30 pm**

This will be a workshop for graduate students and PhDs in Religious Studies, Humanities or Theology that will help them identify their skills and consider a range of possible career options that can fit holistically into wider life strategies, while also focusing on creating new and healthy relationships with academia.

Career Transitions for Religious Professionals **Saturday April 18** **2pm-5pm**

This will focus on career transitions and job skills for religious professionals, exploring the unique skill sets that religious professionals have and can contribute in a variety of professional environments.

PhD Transitions Over 40 **Sunday April 19** **10am-1 pm**

This will provide an overview of the specific circumstances that people over 40 with a PhD face in making career transitions, either into or outside of academia.

These workshops will be held in downtown San Francisco at the Golden Gate University Campus. The registration fee to secure a place is \$25, and people can register for the event and find out more information through our event website at www.phdlifetransitions.com. The facilitators will be Dr. Amy Hale and Dr. Jeffery Yergler from Golden Gate University. For information please contact us at phdlifetransitions@gmail.com.



**SAC FORUM:
UPCOMING
CHANGES IN THE
DOCTORAL
PROGRAM**
APRIL 14, 2015
12:30-2PM
GTU STUDENT
LOUNGE
2465 LE CONTE
AVE.
BERKELEY

CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES: NEWS & EVENTS



FILING DEADLINE
MONDAY, APRIL
6, BY 4:00PM IS
THE DEADLINE
TO FILE
DOCTORAL
DISSERTATIONS,
MA THESES,
MABL
CERTIFICATION
OF ORAL
EXAMINATION
FORMS, AND CJS
CERTIFICATE
REQUEST FORMS.

**Saturday, April 4,
8AM-7PM**
"Forging Islamic Authority:
Navigating Text and Con-
text in the Modern World."
**Second Annual Zaytuna
College Conference on
Higher Education.** Co-
sponsored by the Center for
Islamic Studies.
**Location: Zaytuna College,
2401 Le Conte Ave.,
Berkeley, CA 94709**
(zaytuna.org/)

Monday, April 6, 7:30PM
"Encountering the Silk
Road in Western China:
Then and Now." Lecture
and discussion with CIS
Visiting Scholar Carol Bier
inspired by her recent travels in
western China (eastern Turke-
stan), addressing perplexities she
encountered with regard to ge-
ography and the environment,
ethnicity and identity, religion
and the arts along ancient trade
routes.
**Location: The Hillside Club,
Berkeley CA**
(www.hillsideclub.org).

Wednesday, April 8, 6:30PM
"Aesthetics and Politics of
Exhibiting Muslims Artists
in New York City."
Lecture by CIS Director Dr.
Munir Jiwa.

**Location: Levinthal Hall,
Stanford Humanities Cen-
ter, 424 Santa Teresa Street,
Stanford, CA 94305.**
**Monday, April 13, 6PM Re-
ception, 7PM Lecture**
"Thinking Through De-
Colonization: Un-
Reforming Islam and Con-
testing Eurocentric Epis-
temic Structures." Tolson
Lecture by Dr. Hatem Bazi-
an. Co-sponsored by the Center
for Islamic Studies.

**Location: Badé Museum,
Pacific School of Religion,
1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley,
CA 94709.**

**Tuesday, April 14, 12PM-
2PM**
"Roads to Paradise: Escha-
tology and Concepts of the
Hereafter in Islam." Lecture
by Dr. Todd Lawson, Pro-
fessor Emeritus at the Uni-
versity of Toronto.
Co-sponsored by the Center for
Islamic Studies.
**Location: Dinner Board
Room, Flora Lamson
Hewlett Library, Graduate
Theological Union, 2400
Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA,
94709.**

**Saturday, April 18, 11AM
(repeated at 1PM)**
"Geometric Patterns in Is-

lamic Art." An illustrated
lecture by CIS Visiting
Scholar Carol Bier

one of many programs offered as
part of the inaugural National
Math Festival in Washington
DC, sponsored by the Mathe-
matical Sciences Research Insti-
tute (Berkeley) and the Institute
for Advanced Study (Princeton)
in cooperation with Smithsonian
Institution. The festival is
"dedicated to discovering the
delight and power of mathemat-
ics in everyday life." Location:
Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur
M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington, DC.
[http://www.mathfest.org/
schedule/](http://www.mathfest.org/schedule/)
[http://www.mathfest.org/
sessions/geometric-patterns-in-
islamic-art-3/](http://www.mathfest.org/sessions/geometric-patterns-in-islamic-art-3/)
[http://www.mathfest.org/
sessions/geometric-patterns-in-
islamic-art-4/](http://www.mathfest.org/sessions/geometric-patterns-in-islamic-art-4/)

**Thursday, April 23 – Sunday,
April 26**
Sixth Annual International Con-
ference on the Study of Islam-
ophobia. Co-sponsored by the
Center for Islamic Stud-
ies. [http://crg.berkeley.edu/
content/islamophobia](http://crg.berkeley.edu/content/islamophobia)



GTU LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Art Exhibition
CircumNavigators
Christel Dillbohner and
Danae Mattes
April 30 – August 15, 2015

The Spring Library Exhibition
features the works of Danae
Mattes & Christel Dillbohner;

both are very accomplished
Berkeley artists. Join us for
an opening reception for the
artists on Thursday, April 30,
from 6pm to 8pm at the Flora
Lamson Hewlett Library,
Graduate Theological Union,
2400 Ridge Road, Berke-
ley. Interval at the Atrium at

7pm. The exhibition is made
possible by the Jane Dillen-
berger Fine Arts Endowment
and is free and open to the
public during library
hours. For more infor-
mation, contact Caryl Woulfe
at 510-649-2541 or visit
www.gtu.edu.

2015-2016 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

Financial Aid Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are available online at: www.gtu.edu/admissions/financial-aid. Financial Aid Applicants: please find your deadline date below and visit the GTU Consortial Financial Aid website for instructions on how to complete and submit the 2015-16 Financial Aid Application and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To reach the Financial Aid Office with a question, please email finaid@gtu.edu or call the us at 510-649-2469.



Common MA Students affiliated with:

ABSW Wednesday, April 1
 CIS Wednesday, April 1
 CJS Wednesday, April 1
 IBS Wednesday, April 1
 PAOI Wednesday, April 1
 SFTS Wednesday, April 1
 SKSM Wednesday, April 1
 All prospective graduates who have borrowed federal student loans during the course of their program are required to complete Loan Exit Counseling prior to graduation.

The Consortial Financial Aid Office, in partnership with each of the member schools, makes every effort to support student borrowers in preparing for successful student loan repayment. **The Financial Aid Office will host two 45 minute Loan Exit Counseling**

sessions presented by Abril Hunt from Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) on Thursday, April 23. After each presentation there will be a 15 minute Q and A to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. Be prepared to complete your mandatory Exit Counseling form to provide names, addresses and phone numbers for your next of kin, two references who live in the US and your future employer, if known. Please RSVP to finaid@gtu.edu no later than Friday, April 10 to receive your personalized loan repayment packet which will include your NSLDS federal loan history.

**Thursday, April 23
 Pacific School
 of Religion:
 Chapel classroom, PSR 6
 2:30pm-3:30pm or
 4:00pm-5:00pm**

STUDENT
 SATISFACTION
 SURVEY
 BE ON THE LOOKOUT
 FOR A SURVEY FROM
 THE DEAN OF
 STUDENTS IN APRIL.
 WE DO THIS EVERY
 OTHER YEAR TO
 LEARN FROM YOU
 ABOUT YOUR
 EXPERIENCE IN THE
 PROGRAM SO WE CAN
 ASSESS AND IMPROVE.
 COMPLETING THE
 SURVEY MAKES YOU
 ELIGIBLE FOR A
 RANDOM DRAWING
 OF A \$100 GIFT
 CERTIFICATE WITH
 AMAZON.COM. THA
 NK YOU IN ADVANCE.

CTNS LECTURE "MORE THAN INFORMATION: A CHRISTIAN CRITIQUE OF A NEW DUALISM"

Dr. Noreen Herzfeld, 2015 J.K. Russell Research Fellowship in Religion and Science

Thursday, April 23, 7pm, Dinner Board Room, Public Forum Lecture, Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, April 25, 1-5pm, Dinner Board Room, Research Conference

In light of quantum theory and advances in computer science many scientists have posited that information, rather than matter, forms the bedrock of the universe. Thus it follows that the essence of our selves as human

beings is the information housed in the neural connections of our brain, information that, in principle, could be reproduced digitally. Such a "cybernetic immortality" forms one of the bases of a new transhumanist vision, yet it introduces a new Cartesian dualism that separates mind from body, locating the self wholly in the mind. This contrasts with the traditional Christian understanding of humans as created in the image of God (*imago dei*), an image found not just in our mind, but also in our embodied agency and our relationships. We are neither just a mind nor just a body, but a mind

that is both part and product of our human body, and embedded within the larger environment of the physical world and human culture. Our knowledge, functioning, and self-understanding are shaped and acquired by and through our bodies. Further, without a body we cannot feel emotion and thus have neither human-like intelligence nor compassion. My claim is that the dreams of transhumanism fail to capture the full nature of what it means to be human and are illusory hopes for an immortality of our own making. Instead any hope for immortality is best

found, as Reinhold Niebuhr noted, beyond the scope of history. Further, this new dualism leads us to grandiose delusions—what Niebuhr called "the sin of pride" -- regarding what we can accomplish in the here and now, delusions that are harmful to both our sense of self and our capacity to love one another.

For more information or to register please contact, Melissa Moritz at melissam@ctns.org

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

Cogen Bohanec
Jeffrey Dodge
Claire McNamara
Anne Clarke*
Hillary Martinez
Iveth Cuellar*
Miriam Attia
*with honors

PHD STUDENTS

Comprehensive Exams Proposal Approved

Henry Kuo, THEO

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Lauren Guerra, ART
Marla Porter, BIBL*
*with distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Beth Anderson, SPRT
Lawrence Fraher, ART
Khalia Jelks-Williams, LITG
John B. King, THEO
Shijung Shim, IDS

Oral Dissertation Defended

Lisa Webster, IDS
Kyle Butler, THEO
José E. Balcells, BIBL
Ashley Bacchi, HIST
Daniel Robinson, HIST

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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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 Angela Muñoz, amunoz@gtu.edu.