

GTU Dean's Newsletter



Office of the President and Dean



Members of the GTU Community:

As you are aware, I have stepped into the role of Interim President, while continuing to serve as Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, following the resignation of Rabbi Daniel Lehmann. Looking ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to nonetheless recall words he shared in an op-ed published by *JWeekly*:

“...At the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, we believe that religion can be a source of hope, and a way of fostering engagement across differences at a time when we are in desperate need of bridges, rather than walls.”

As we embark on the GTU's next chapter, in the coming months it is my priority to continue the vital work of building such bridges.

Through the active fostering of philanthropy and strategic partnerships, as well as thoughtful, continued investment in academic innovation and ingenuity, I look forward to partnering with the Board of Trustees, Councils of Presidents and Deans, as well as our wider community, in continuing to strengthen a GTU culture of bridge-building that provides a safe, productive and creative environment to support the extraordinary and inspiring scholarship that takes place on our campus every day.

Thank you for being a part of this special community, and for your contributions to making it a true home for interreligious life, learning, and leadership.

Peace and blessings,

Uriah Kim, PhD.

President (Interim)
Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies

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From the Associate Dean of Students

Upcoming dates to save and events to join!

Doctoral Student Elections

It's time to elect doctoral student representatives on various committees. Make sure to send your nominations by **March 6th** and be on the lookout for your e-ballot to cast your important vote!

SAC Spring Forum - Focus on the Community Garden

Wednesday, **March 11**, 2020, at 12 noon - 2 pm
Easton Courtyard (across the street from the GTU Library)

PDP Workshops

Wednesday, **March 4**, Workshop on Diversity Statement, led by Dean Ruth Meyers

Wednesday, **March 18**, Workshop on Conference Proposals and Abstracts, led by Dr. Kathryn Barush

Canceled—Doctoral Community Lunch

Wednesday, **March 18**, 11:45 am-12:45 pm. *This event has been canceled.*
Meet up with faculty and student colleagues and enjoy excellent food and conversations.

Interconnecting Boundaries: Women, Democracy, and Religion

Friday, March 20, 2020, at 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, GTU Dinner Board Room

REMINDER—Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Spring Graduation is April 1st!

THE BERKELEY JOURNAL OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY IS HIRING!

WANTED: Department Editors and Peer Reviewers. For more information, contact: bjrt@ses-gtu.edu with the subject line: BJRT STAFF OPPORTUNITIES. For specific questions, please email Ayanna Grady-Hunt at agrady-hunt@ses.gtu.edu.

Save the Dates! GTU Reception & Commencement 2020

GTU Graduates' Reception, Wednesday, **May 13**, 5 pm, GTU Dinner Board Room

GTU Commencement, Wednesday, **May 14**, 4 pm, Zaytuna College Sanctuary

Canceled—The Third Annual Borsch-Rast Lecture

This event has been canceled.

Virginia Burrus (PhD, 91)

Bishop W. Earl Ledden Professor of Religion, Syracuse University
 GTU's 2017 Alumna of the Year



“Ancient Christian Ecopoetics: Cosmologies, Saints, Things”

March 19, 2020

6:30 pm

The Flora Lamson Hewlett Library

Richard S. Dinner Board Room | 3rd floor

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

Reception to follow

Virginia Burrus will present on themes from her award-winning book, “Ancient Christian Ecopoetics: Cosmologies, Saints, Things” at the GTU’s Third Annual Borsch-Rast Book Lecture on Thursday, March 19, 2020. A response will be offered by fellow **GTU alum Douglas Christie** (PhD, '88), Professor and Chair of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

“Virginia Burrus’s work represents the best of what we have come to expect from GTU graduates: rethinking traditions with a critical eye and a loving heart for the sake of making the world a better place—or, in this case, daring to hope that in the future there will be a world at all.” - Arthur Holder, former GTU Dean

Library Workshops

All face-to-face workshops will be held in the Collaborative Learning Space (CLS). Online workshops held in Zoom. For the complete list, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-workshops>

Doing Library Research from a Distance

Will you be away from the Bay Area, but want to continue to do library research? Maybe you are finishing your coursework and will be writing from home? Learn about options for accessing electronic sources and print wherever you are:

Thursday, March 12th at 10am in Collaborative Learning Space

Finding Primary Sources

Learn about the primary sources for biblical and theological research and how to access them in both print and digital formats:

Monday March 2nd 1pm in CLS

Tuesday March 3rd 11am in Zoom use meeting ID 510-649-2501

2020 READING OF THE SACRED TEXTS LECTURE

Save the date! All are invited to the 28th annual GTU Reading of the Sacred Texts lecture on **Tuesday, March 31, at 7pm**. This year's speaker is Dr. Kathryn Barush, Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union and the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. Her lecture, **'Shield, help, & bring to joy': Pilgrimage through sacred song**, explores the healing, protective, and mnemonic capacity of music as used in the context of religious pilgrimage. A reception precedes the lecture at 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. More information can be found on the GTU website: <https://www.gtu.edu/events/28th-annual-reading-sacred-texts-shield-help-bring-joy-pilgrimage-through-sacred-song>. We hope to see you there!

Digital Learning Workshops

Designing Engaging Online Presentations: Effective Visual Design

Thurs, March 5th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)

Friday, March 6th 10:00am-11:00am (Collaborative Learning Space)

It is difficult to produce effective online lectures and presentations with boring and text-heavy PowerPoint slides. Effective visual design enhances the delivery of your learning content and helps make the content clearer for the learner. This workshop discusses how to create effective presentations and lectures so that students can "see what the instructor is trying to say."

Overview of VoiceThread

Thursday, March 12th, 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)

Friday, March 13th, 10am-11am (Collaborative Learning Space)

VoiceThread is a great tool for enhancing student engagement and collaboration in the online classroom. It is a slideshow tool that provides both the instructor and students with the virtual space to have meaningful asynchronous discussions through audio or video. This workshop provides an overview of how to create both video and PowerPoint lectures on VoiceThread, develop collaborative activities for your students, and use VoiceThread for student assignments.

Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

Unless otherwise noted, all CARE events take place in the Doug Adams Gallery, located on the first floor of 2465 LeConte Ave., Berkeley.

Brown Bag Lunch Talk with Matthew Hartman

Friday, March 6 | 12-1PM

CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series features presentations by recent CARE/GTU grant recipients, students, faculty, and staff. Our March talk will be given by 2019 Spring CARE Grant recipient **Matthew Hartman** (PhD, GTU), who traveled to Cork, Ireland in June 2019 to give a paper at the Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.

His paper, *The Historical Relations of Our Ecological Crisis: Theology, Colonialism, and Capitalism's Logics*, draws on art, literature, and film to challenge the concept of the Anthropocene and its increasingly dominant cultural narrative in describing the current era of climate change. Matt will explore the alternative concept of Capitalocene, which highlights the intertwining nexus of theology, capitalism, and colonialism to engender new religious thinking and creative artistic renderings.

Second Sundays in the Gallery

Sunday, March 8 | 1-4PM

Every second Sunday of the month, the Doug Adams Gallery will be open from 1-4pm. If you can't make it during the week, this is a great time to stop by, see our current show, *AFTER/LIFE*, and chat with the curator!

Rituals for dealing with death and remembrance reflect a wide spread of beliefs. *AFTER/LIFE* presents two such expressions in the contemporary arts community. The lives of artists Ed Aulerich-Sugai and Mark Mitchell, both affected by HIV/AIDS, reverberated in radical acts of love. Aulerich-Sugai succumbed to AIDS-related complications while Mitchell's life was saved by antiretroviral drugs.

Aulerich-Sugai's legacy is lovingly preserved by his surviving former partners who carefully uphold his place in the community's collective memory. His work is represented in *AFTER/LIFE* by his large-scale paintings series, *Figures*, created in the final year of his life. The melancholy, almost translucent nudes appear weightless on canvas, suspended between life and death.

Mitchell chose to express love for his community by designing exquisite custom-made burial garments for his friends. Mitchell's creamy, luscious, fluid garments are suspended from the gallery ceiling. Using antique sewing techniques with obsessive details, Mitchell fashioned dresses and gowns to adorn his friends in their afterlives.

HIV/AIDS and Ministry: Then and Now

Thursday, March 12 | 5-7PM

Join CARE for a panel discussion presented in conjunction with our Spring 2019 exhibition, *AFTER/LIFE*, which features the work of Ed Aulerich-Sugai and Mark Mitchell. Both of these innovative and inspiring artists were affected by HIV/AIDS, leading to Ed's death in 1994.

Our diverse group of accomplished panelists will discuss spirituality, ministry, and community in the days when AIDS was first recognized and in more recent times.

Moderated by Dr. Bernard Schlager (Executive Director, CGLS), our panelists are: Bishop Yvette A. Flunder (City of Refuge UCC), Rabbi Jane Litman (Jewish Roundtable, CLGS and Rabbi, Chico Havurah), the Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski (Interim Pastor, Island United Church UCC, Foster City and AIDS activist), and Steven Tierney (Professor Emeritus, counseling psychology, California Institute of Integral Studies, and Clinical Director, Seeds of Awareness, Oakland).

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

Thursday, March 19 | 4:30-5:30pm

Berkeley Art Museum and Film Archive, 2155 Center St, Berkeley

Every Third Thursday of the month, gather in the lobby of BAMPFA to receive complimentary museum admission and to hear a short talk on a current exhibition given by a member of the GTU community.

Our March talk is given by **Rev. Gideon M. M'Imwonyo-Mbui** (GTU PhD student, Theology and Ethics), on the exhibition *Rosie Lee Tompkins: A Retrospective*. Rosie Lee Tompkins (1936–2006) is widely considered one of the most brilliant and inventive quilt-makers of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Her reputation has grown to the point where her work is no longer considered solely within the context of quilting, but celebrated among the great American artistic achievements of our time. *Rosie Lee Tompkins: A Retrospective* is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of the artist's work to date, featuring approximately seventy quilts, pieced tops, embroideries, assemblages, and decorated objects. It reveals Tompkins to be an artist of extraordinary variety, depth, and impact.

Center for Islamic Studies (CIS)

- ◆ **Mahjabeen Dhala**, GTU presidential scholar and doctoral student and CIS program coordinator will be speaking at the Sunday morning worship at the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco on March 1, 2020 to mark the beginning of Women's History Month.
- ◆ The CIS is delighted to host a **Student Symposium** highlighting the research of its upcoming graduates. Details soon to follow!

The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

Upcoming Events

- 3 March 2020:** A CLGS/PSR **Worship Celebration** of the Metropolitan Community Church **MCC Clergy and PSR Community**
11:10am | PSR Chapel | 1798 Scenic Avenue | Berkeley, California 94709
- 10 March 2020:** A CLGS Lavender Lunch
Rev. Carla Roland Guzmán: *Latinx and LGBTQ: Challenges to Belonging in Mainline Churches*
Co-Sponsor: Church Divinity School of the Pacific
12:10pm | PSR D'Autremont Dining Hall | 1798 Scenic Avenue | Berkeley
- 12 March 2020:** A CLGS/GTU Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) Panel Discussion
HIV/AIDS Ministry: Past and Present
Bishop Yvette Flunder, Rabbi Jane Litman, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Bernard Schlager, and Koshin Steven Tierney
Co-Sponsor: The CLGS Jewish Roundtable
5:00pm | The Doug Adams Gallery | 465 Le Conte Avenue | Berkeley
- 7 April 2020:** A CLGS Lavender Lunch
Dev Cuny: #Born Perfect
12:10pm | PSR D'Autremont Dining Hall | 1798 Scenic Avenue | Berkeley


GTU | Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

**Living Into our Shared Humanity:
Exploring the Religious Significance of Astrobiology
Dr. Adam Pryor
2020 Russell Family Fellow in Religion and Science**



Public Forum

**Playful Encounters of the Third Kind:
How Science and Religion Dialog Intersects with
Interfaith Advocacy**

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 7pm

Dinner Board Room, Hewlett Library, Graduate Theological Union

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California

This event is free and open to the public.

Research Conference

**What If We're Not Alone:
Considering the Significance of Non-Intelligent Alien Life
for Constructive Christian Theology**

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 1-5pm

Dinner Board Room, Hewlett Library, Graduate Theological Union

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California

Respondents: Braden Molhoek, Hyung-Joo Lee, Jamie Fowler, and Ted Peters

Registration is required for the Saturday Conference.

For more information see: ctns.org/research/russell-fellowship

To register please see: <https://www.ctns.org/research/russell-fellowship/conference-registration>

Questions?: Please write to: mmoritz@gtu.edu.

INTERCONNECTING BOUNDARIES: Women, Democracy, and Religion

GTU Asia Project & Women's Studies in Religion Joint Student Conference

Friday, March 20, 2020
8:30am - 3:00pm
Dinner Board Room, GTU Library

Program

Breakfast : 8:30 - 9:00am

Session 1 - Women: 9:00 - 10:30am

Moderator: Marinda, KengFan Chan

Mahjabeen Dhala: The Sermon of Fatima: A Critique of Religious and Political Leadership from the Perspective of Women and Justice

Hye Hyun Han: The Body as a Political Space: Sexual Objectification of Comfort Women

Keyona Saquile Lazenby: Spiritual Democracy - The Politics of Patriarchy

Break: 10:30 - 11:00am

Session 2 - Democracy: 11:00am - 12:30pm

Moderator: Mariska Lauterboom

Sheryl Johnson: Majority Rules?: Democratic Processes and Minoritized Religious Leadership in the United Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Barbara Anne Kozee: Queer Migrations in the Age of Trump

Wan-Ting Tsai: The PCT's Social-Political Involvement in Twentieth Century Taiwan: A Review and Response

Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30pm

Session 3 - Religion: 1:30 - 3:00pm

Moderator: Brianna Deutsch

Christina M. Atienza: Postcolonial Christology as Starting Point for Interreligious Dialogue in Asia: A Response to Peter Phan's *The Joy of Religious Pluralism*

Woori Han: A Practical Application of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux's Concept of Love: Preaching Designed to Deepen the Spiritual Maturity of Members of Yoido Full Gospel Church (Assemblies of God of Korea)

All are welcome to attend this conference featuring a variety of student papers! Breakfast and light lunch will be served!

Please RSVP at Marinda Chan at asia-project@ses.gtu.edu and Sheryl Johnson at wrs@ses.gtu.edu.

Kathryn Barush

28th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts

‘Shield, help, & bring to joy’: Pilgrimage through sacred song

Abstract: This lecture explores the healing, protective, and mnemonic capacity of music as used in the context of religious pilgrimage. In the 12th century, Godric, known as ‘the Hermit saint of Finchale’, gave up his life as a merchant seaman to embark on a lengthy pilgrimage. He eventually settled in Durham, England, where he befriended wild animals and lived an ascetic and contemplative life. He had mystical visions that prophesized the murder of Thomas Becket, to whom he served as an advisor. At another time, the Virgin Mary gave Godric a hymn to be used when healing or protection was sought. The music was recorded on paper and bound into manuscripts at points where his vision is recounted.

Recently, Guy Hayward and Will Parsons, who co-founded the British Pilgrimage Trust in 2014, have been traveling with Godric’s Marian hymn and others, singing the songs in community as part of interreligious ritual praxis. Art historical and ethnographic methods are employed in order to posit a trans-temporal approach to Victor and Edith Turner’s idea of *communitas-through-culture*, which serves to highlight the integral role of music in translating the pilgrimages of the past into the present. Music, I argue, can be understood as ‘Canterbury water’ for the 21st century.



MARCH 31, 2020

RECEPTION 6:30

LECTURE 7:00

**Graduate Theological Union
Dinner Board Room
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, California**



photo of pilgrim staffs ©Will Parsons

Kathryn Barush is the Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union and the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. She received her doctorate in the History of Art from the University of Oxford and has held previous positions at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC and at the Yale Center for British Art. She is the author of *Art and the Sacred Journey in Britain, 1790 – 1950*. Her book, *Imaging Pilgrimage: Contemporary Art as Embodied Experience* (London: Bloomsbury Visual Culture), is forthcoming.



GTU

Sponsored by the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library.
For more information call 510-649-2541.

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Edward Stewart, THET
Victoria Price, HCSR, Honors
Brian Johnson, HCSR
Saad Akbar, ISLM, Honors

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Bright David, THEO
William Zanganeh-Lester, IDS
Gordon Gilmore, THET
Matata Mukengeshayi, HCSR

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Matata Mukengeshayi, HCSR
Linna Gunawan, REPR
Christina Atienza, HCSR
Pamela Stevens, REPR

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Jennifer Fernandez, THET
Hannah Pheasant, ART
Elaine Belz, ART



Graduate
Theological
Union

The Dean's Newsletter

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students. Send submissions to:
Melissa Haddick, Executive Assistant to the President (interim) and Dean's Office, mhaddick@gtu.edu

GTU Office of the Dean

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