

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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“[April, come she will.](#)” In this song, Simon & Garfunkel may have been musing on the moods of love, but their quick recitation of months echoes the cadence of the Spring semester. Once April comes, we are headed very quickly toward the finish line – the end of the Spring semester, the close of the academic year, commencement.

While we may be eager to get there (summer break!), we may also feel overwhelmed by what we hope to accomplish in this limited time. In my case, this semester is my final one as Interim Dean and VP for Academic Affairs. I am indeed eager to hand things over to our incoming Dean, Dr. Jennifer Davidson, but there’s quite a lot I’d like to do first, working with the Dean’s Office staff and with the GTU faculty. Can we get the annual revisions to the Academic Catalog underway? Yes! Can we prepare an updated draft of the Faculty Handbook? I hope so!

Projects like these fill my to-do list along with the regular work that makes this time of year so busy. While there is a certain satisfaction in checking the “done” box, these activities form part of a bigger, more meaningful picture. “April, come she will.” As the final months of the academic year rush by, how can I best contribute to the GTU? How can I use my time productively and wisely?

Each of us -- students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, Board members, friends – represents an important part of the GTU community. With encouragement and patience, let’s help each other through this busy, exciting time.

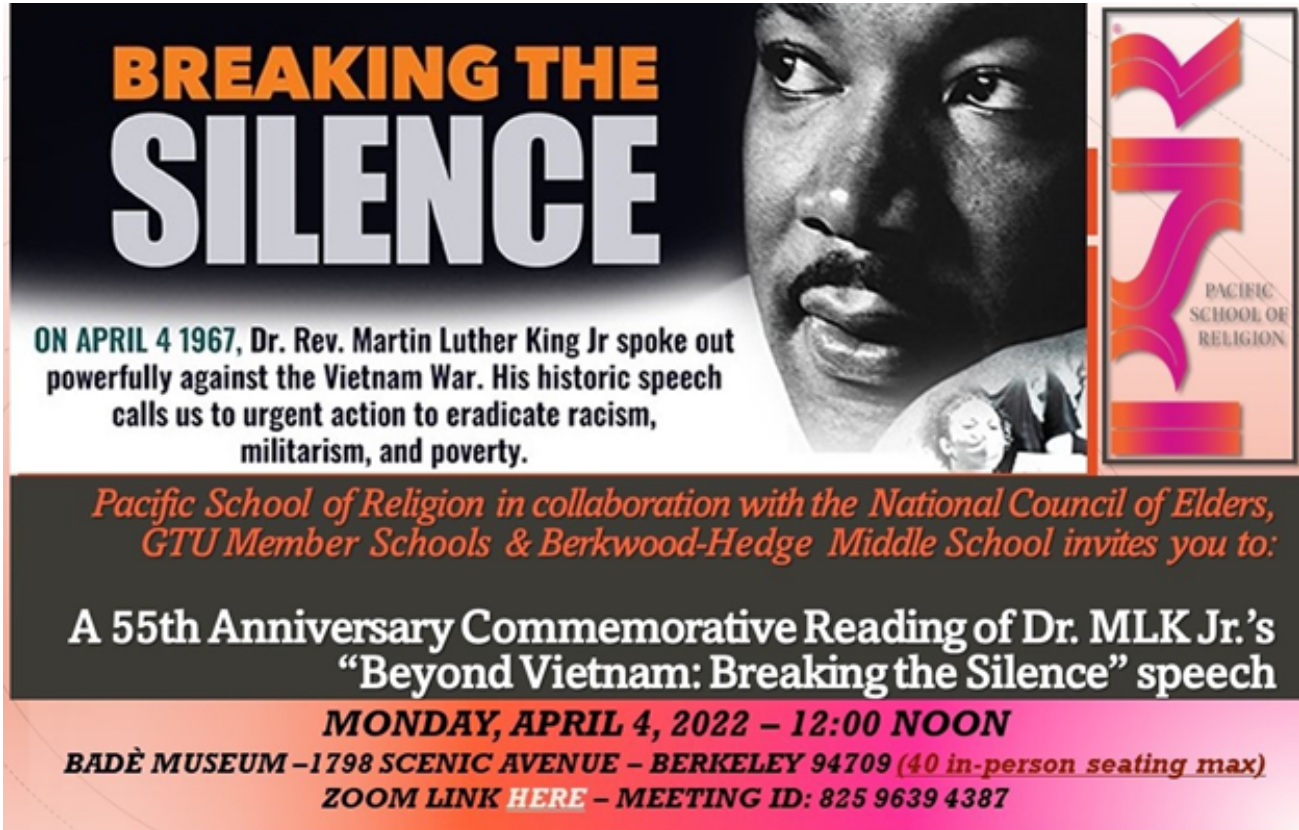


Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD
Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The 55th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's “Beyond Vietnam: Breaking the Silence” Speech

Monday, April 4 | 12:00 Noon (Pacific)

Badè Museum 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkely



**BREAKING THE
SILENCE**

ON APRIL 4 1967, Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr spoke out powerfully against the Vietnam War. His historic speech calls us to urgent action to eradicate racism, militarism, and poverty.

Pacific School of Religion in collaboration with the National Council of Elders, GTU Member Schools & Berkwood-Hedge Middle School invites you to:

**A 55th Anniversary Commemorative Reading of Dr. MLK Jr.'s
“Beyond Vietnam: Breaking the Silence” speech**

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 – 12:00 NOON

BADÈ MUSEUM – 1798 SCENIC AVENUE – BERKELEY 94709 (40 in-person seating max)

ZOOM LINK HERE – MEETING ID: 825 9639 4387

[Join via Zoom](#)

Later that afternoon, there will also be a nationwide webinar on April 4 at 7 pm EDT where well-known advocates will be joined by grassroots organizers who will read the speech. It promises to be an inspiring program. A moderated panel discussion will follow the readings offering perspectives about the relevance of Dr. King's speech to peace and justice work today.

To register for the national webinar go to: <https://bit.ly/kingbreakingsilence2022>

To find more information please go to: <https://kingandbreakingsilence.org>

The 2022 Surjit Singh Lecture

Friday, April 8 | 6 pm (Pacific) in-person and livestream

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Alice Drysdale Sheffield Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, will be presenting the 2022 Surjit Singh Lecture entitled **The Virgin Mary as Warrior: Marian models of women's religious experience in colonial Latin America.**



[Learn more about Dr. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra](#)

The historiography of women's piety in Latin America usually focuses on discrimination and dominant colonial ideologies of religious passivity. Yet a study of Mariology suggests that Hebrew Bible models of Mary were not only numerous (Song of Songs, Book of Wisdom, Ruth, Judith, Yael) but deeply contradictory, creating enough room for women to gain and wield immense religious power. This talk explores these contradictions to find surprising forms of religious experience that challenge our understanding of Marianism and the power of women in Latin American colonial societies.

The event will be hybrid with a limited in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Contact Sabrina Kennedy at skennedy@gtu.edu if you would like to attend in person.

Starting in 1991, the annual Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture builds upon the GTU's tradition of ecumenical theological education and dedication to interreligious dialogue and understanding. Each year, the endowed lectureship brings to the GTU a distinguished scholar to address religion and culture from a cross-cultural perspective. Learn more about past Singh Lecturers, or view past lectures [here](#).

[Register to attend here](#)

Berkeley Palmer Lectureship

In search of god, identity, and home with/in others

Dr. Uriah Kim, President of the Graduate Theological Union and John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies

Friday and Saturday April 29 - 30 | 7 - 8:30 pm (Pacific)

Join us as Dr. Kim reflects on his faith journey, scholarship, and diasporic experience, engaging with a third type of relationship in the Bible that reminds us that no matter how comfortable we may feel in our country of residence or strongly we identify with it, we need to pay attention to our own diasporic situation to fully understand our relation to God and to those who are different from ourselves.



STUDENT SEMINAR with Dr. Kim for students, staff, and faculty of UCB and GTU

Friday April 29 | 2:00 pm (Pacific)

In-person and livestream / Dinner Board Room of the GTU Library

[Register to attend here](#)

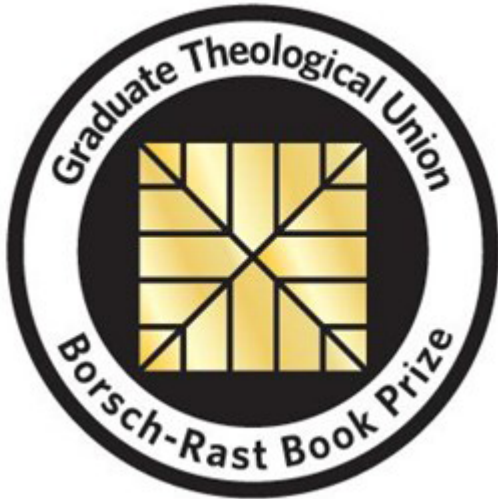
PLENARY SESSION with Dr. Uriah Kim

Saturday April 30 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm (Pacific)

In-person and livestream / First Presbyterian Church Berkeley

[Register to attend here](#)

Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship



The Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship of the Graduate Theological Union has as its purpose the encouragement of the writing and publication of theological scholarship by GTU graduates and current faculty. The endowment for the Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship comes from the sale of Trinity Press International, a venture dedicated to the publication of scholarly and often interdisciplinary theological studies. The prize and lectureship honor the joint example and collaboration of Frederick Houk Borsch (1935-2017) and Harold W. Rast (1933-2004).

Hal Rast, after years as a senior editor at Fortress Press, was the founding director and editor of Trinity Press International, where he championed significant theological and religious studies. Fred Borsch was chair of Trinity Press International's Board of Governors and then its Advisory Board. Borsch was also (1972-1981) the Dean and President of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and among the founders of the Graduate Theological Union Library. This prestigious prize of \$10,000 will be awarded on an annual basis.

Nominations must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office using the [online nominations form](#). Nominations are open again, with a due date of May 19, 2022. This is for books published in 2021.

For Eligibility Guidelines, Award Process and Timeline, Criteria for Prize, and Rules and Conditions, please visit [The Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship](#).

Announcements



NEW at the GTU Consortium

Chaplaincy Group Kickoff Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 1 • 4PM
AT THE GTU LIBRARY & ZOOM
MEETING ID# 956 7745 6690

Interested in chaplaincy, improving your chaplaincy skills, or perhaps connecting with other students from the GTU member schools? Come and join us. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas.

Questions? Contact Mary-Rose at MEngle@ses.gtu.edu

APRIL PDP WORKSHOPS

Newhall Fellows' Luncheon
with the 2021 Excellence in
Teaching Awardee
Dr. Mary McGann

Wednesday, April 6 | 12:30 to 2 PM
GTU Dinner Board Room

Mock Interviews for
Teaching Jobs

Wednesday, April 20 | 11 AM to 12 Noon
Zoom: 978 6840 4257

RSVP cmotupalli@gtu.edu

ALL GTU STUDENTS:

PIZZA LUNCH WITH SUSIE HOGANSON


A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 12 NOON - 1 PM

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS FOR
A THRIVING GTU COMMUNITY

GTU DINNER BOARD ROOM

Get ready for IN-PERSON commencement!

A poster for the Graduate Theological Union Commencement Exercises. The background is a dark, semi-transparent image of graduates in gowns and caps. At the top, a circular logo with the letters 'GTU' and a stylized leaf design is visible. The text is centered and reads: 'SAVE THE DATE', 'GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION', 'COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES' (in large orange letters), 'FOR THE CLASSES OF 2020, 2021, & 2022', 'SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022', '4 PM ONWARDS', and 'FIRST CHURCH BERKELEY'.

GTU

SAVE THE DATE

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

**COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES**

FOR THE CLASSES OF
2020, 2021, & 2022

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022
4 PM ONWARDS
FIRST CHURCH BERKELEY

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Nicole de Leon, ART
Hanna Kang, REPR
Zulunungsang Lemtur, THET
Laurent Okitakatshi Odjango, SATX
Shin Young Park, THEO
Pamela Stevens, HCSR

MA Capstone Defense

Ellie J. Martin, HCSR, Honors
Hanitra Ralaiaisedy, THET

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Grant Barnes, THET
Donghwi Kim, THET, Distinction

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Eunyeong Grace Ma, SATX
Gideon M. Mbui, THET

Advanced to Candidacy

Raphael D. Mkuzi, HCSR

Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals

submit by **(Noon)** for May's Doctoral Council is **Monday April 25th, 2022**

Modern Foreign Language Examination

Wednesday, May 25 | 1:00-4:45 pm [Register here](#)

Library News

Vanessa Zoltan
29th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts
Sacred as an act; not a thing
APRIL 6, 2022, 5:15 PM



Vanessa will be discussing the components of treating something secular as if it were sacred. She will then lead the audience in a sacred reading of a secular text. Her talk will be followed by a Q&A.

[Register via Eventbrite](#)

[View the Facebook Event](#)

Vanessa Zoltan is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. She is trained as an atheist chaplain and is CEO and Founder of Not Sorry Productions, which produces the podcasts Harry Potter and the Sacred Text, Hot & Bothered and The Real Question. She runs pilgrimages and walking tours exploring sacred reading and writing. She is also the author of *Praying with Jane Eyre*; *Reflections on Reading as a Sacred Practice*.

Sponsored by the Flora
Lamson Hewlett Library



Library Updates

The GTU library is now open to all valid cardholders, which includes Alumni Borrowing cards. If you aren't sure if your card is expired, or if you want to renew your card, we can do that for you online. Alumni cards are \$30 per year and if you are in the Bay Area, it's a great way to keep borrowing books. Visit the library website and chat a librarian between 9am-4pm (pacific time) and we can update your account or answer any questions you may have about research.

Electronic Resources access for Alumni

You can get access to the ATLA Religion Database for Alumni for free, no matter where you live. This is separate from the Borrowing card, and gives you access to our largest database for theological journal materials. Fill out the form on this page: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/alumni> and we will send you a username and password to gain access.

Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning Department provides workshops to help instructors teach in hybrid and remote formats. All workshops will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00 pm.

If instructors cannot attend these workshops but still want to receive help with hybrid and/or remote learning, they are encouraged to reach out to Diandra Erickson, Director of Digital Learning, to schedule an appointment.

Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom. Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing derickson@gtu.edu to receive the Zoom link.

Below is a list of workshops taking place in April. The full workshop list can be found [HERE](#).

Assignments and Assessment in Moodle: Grading Methods in Moodle

Tuesday, April 5 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Thursday, April 7 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

When grading in Moodle, instructors enter numerical grades for assignments by default. However, Moodle offers several additional grading methods that can help instructors perform better assessments of students, including rubrics, checklists, and marking guides. This workshop will provide an overview of these various assessment options and how they can be beneficial for tracking student performance in the course and providing student feedback.

Moodle's Intermediate and Advanced Features

Tuesday, April 12 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Thursday, April 14 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Moodle contains several highly effective features for remote learning that are under-utilized. This workshop introduces instructors to Moodle's advanced features to help produce more creative and engaging remote content for students. More specifically, this workshop will cover the following:

- “Scenario-Based Learning” and problem-solving activities
- Group collaboration
- Moodle's accessibility features
- Activity completion and conditional activities
- Moodle's Workshop/Peer-Review activity

Overview of Panopto

Tuesday, April 19 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Thursday, April 21 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Panopto is a robust and user-friendly video platform that provides extensive recording and editing features. Both instructors and students can use Panopto to create high-quality videos produced directly in Moodle. This workshop will cover the basics of Panopto, including creating and editing videos, adding quizzes to videos, and using Panopto for student presentations and assignments.

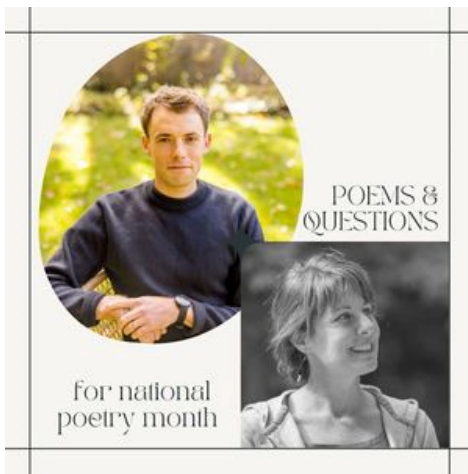
Universal Design for Learning: Developing Diverse Online Learning Content

Tuesday, April 26 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

Thursday, April 28 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online

When teaching, it is important to acknowledge that different students learn in different ways. Some students are audio learners, visual learners, kinesthetic/tactile learners, and more. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an educational framework that focuses on “increasing access and reducing barriers to student learning” (CAST.org). This workshop will discuss how UDL can help provide strategies for delivering remote learning content in various ways that can help accommodate a diverse set of learning styles in the online classroom.

Center for the Arts and Religion



Poems and Questions for National Poetry Month

Friday, April 15 | 1:00-2:00 pm (Pacific) | Online

Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, “Live the questions.” Join Nate Klug and Sarah Gridley for an hour of sharing poems and conversation, as they consider the unique spiritual questions, and ways of questioning, that poetry can open up.

Sarah Gridley is the author of four books of poetry: *Weather Eye Open* (California), *Green Is the Orator* (California), *Loom* (Omnidawn), and *Insofar* (New Issues). She is in her second year of a master’s in theological and religious studies at John Carroll University.

Nate Klug is the author of two books of poetry: *Anyone* (Chicago) and *Hosts and Guests* (Princeton). He is a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

[Register here!](#)

Creatives’ Cove Spring Forum

Thursday, April 21 | 5:00-6:00 pm (Pacific) | Collaborative Learning Space OR Online

Join us either in the Collaborative Learning Space in the Hewlett Building (2400 Ridge Road) or online, for an evening of community and creativity. The Creatives’ Cove student group invites you to bring along your latest creative endeavors to share and discuss. We welcome artists, makers, creators, writers, and thinkers of all stripes to create together an environment of liberative affirmation.

The GTU Creatives’ Cove student group is envisioned as a shelter for academic creatives—whether currently engaged as students, staff, or faculty. Here, both accomplished and wannabe artists convene to create art within a welcoming atmosphere that’s devoid of judgment, lofty expectations, and stringent rubrics! Whatever your current station along the artistic spectrum, we hope you can join in this greatly noble life-giving endeavor of justice-oriented relationship building. So come, let’s sing, knit, bake, crochet, color, draw, speech-make, humor-ize, and dance, among myriad other creative outlets!

Karibuni sana / Welcome all!

If you’d like to learn more about the Creatives’ Cove, and what we do, or to contribute your creative work to share in the Dean’s Newsletter, please reach out to any of the leadership team: [Lydia](#), [Charissa](#), and [Mbûûi](#).

“We Are the Creatives’ Cove”

In solidarity we here gather,
 Of single accord here we come;
 Us all at once together,
 With hearts open and warm.
 Here to create in Love,
 We are the Creatives’ Cove!

With arms spread with care,
 All for creative labors steady;
 Dream for truer circles we dare,
 As now gather’d we come ready.
 To forge lastin’ bonds of Love;
 We are the Creatives’ Cove!

From diverse “stations” converg’d,
 Bear tidings of untamed joy;
 In deepest spirits of Love submerg’d,
 Resist every divisive ploy.
 As revel we in the arts of Love;
 We are the Creatives’ Cove!

On this truth our hopes we ground,
 “Interlocked strands hold stronger”;
 Our vision as one naught to cloud,
 The resolve to hold a little longer.
 Hemmed within the circle of Love;
 We are the Creatives’ Cove!

This blessed commune in haste conjoin,
 Tap the copious blessings untold;
 As hearts and hands we herein join,
 And in breathless awe now behold.
 The wonders of abiding in Love;
 We are the Creatives’ Cove!

Penned by Mwaambi G Mbûti
 PhD Student, GTU
 March 26, 2022



Swami Punitavati Ammaiyar, Anamalai

CARe workshop

The Life of Lines

Instructed by Louise Victor

Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 | 1 - 3pm (Pacific) | Zoom



Lines embody in their very formation past memory, present action, and future potential. Lines move, grow, meander, wander, search, and make connections between diverse elements. Think of maps, the thread of Ariadne, paths through the forest, constellations, borderlines, timelines, and the lines in the palm of your hand -- lines form part of our daily lives and environment, delineating both time and space. Join us for a lively discussion of the ways in which lines play a significant part in your life!

Learn more and sign up at www.gtu.edu/careworkshops

“Draw Me After” with poet Peter Cole

Friday, April 29 | 12:00-1:00 pm (Pacific) | Online



In tandem with CARe's Doug Adams Gallery Online exhibition [Draw me after you: a visual Song of Songs](#), join poets [Peter Cole](#) and Nate Klug for a discussion on poetry, spirituality, and the Song of Songs. Peter will also read from his forthcoming book of poems, *Draw Me After* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2022).

MacArthur Fellow Peter Cole is one of the foremost Jewish poets and translators in the English-speaking world. Born in 1957 in Paterson, New Jersey, he has lived in Jerusalem for much of the past four decades. He is the author of five books of poems and many volumes of translation from Hebrew and Arabic. Cole's most recent collection, *Hymns & Quilms: New and Selected Poems and Translations*, was published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux in 2017. Last year, he had a volume out, *On Being Drawn*, a collaboration with artist Terry Winters, and a new poetry collection, *Draw Me After*, is forthcoming next year (also with FSG).

Nate Klug is the author, most recently, of *Hosts and Guests* (Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets, 2021). He works as a Congregationalist minister and lives in Massachusetts.

[Sign up for this free, public event here!](#)

Geografías Paralelas: Coronado, Fernandez, Arceo

Friday, April 29th 2022 to Friday, August 26th 2022



Geografías paralelas, "parallel geographies," is an exhibition of artworks by the artist collective PESARE. Formed of three artists who migrated to the USA as young adults from Latin America and the Caribbean, PESARE seeks to create transcendence with equilibrium and balance by basing their work on their multicultural and bilingual experiences.

[René Arceo](#) (Mexican), [Pepe Coronado](#) (Dominican), and [Sandra C. Fernandez](#) (Ecuadorian) met during the early 2000's through mutual art acquaintances and worked together on various projects. Their diverse backgrounds, cultural influences, and interests allow for a rich interaction on issues of immigration, sociopolitics, and history.

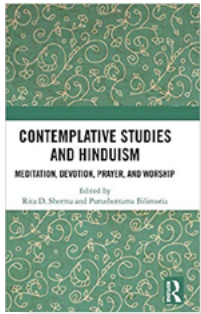
The exhibition will be available to view online from April 29 at www.gtu.edu/geografias-paralelas

Center for Dharma Studies

Congratulations, CDS PhD student Victoria Price!

Victoria joins the GTU Communications Department as a Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

Dr. Rita D. Sherma's new article "Critical Interreligious Interdisciplinary Theological Reflection: Methodological and Hermeneutical Considerations for Interreligious Studies," will be published in the forthcoming [Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies](#) (Georgetown Univ. Press, 2022).



CDS has received a multi-year grant for The Contemplative Studies & Dharma" Project from the Uberoi Foundation. The project includes courses, videos, interviews, and books.

The first book in the series, [Contemplative Studies & Hinduism: Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship](#), has been published by Routledge.

CDS is also involved in the multi-institution, interreligious *Shared Sacred Story Project*, supported by a grant from the Fetzer Institute.

Dr. Rita D. Sherma's co-edited volume, *Hinduism and Tribal Religions* (with Jeffery Long, et al) has just been published as part of the multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*.

The Conversation invited Dr. Rita Sherma to take part in an interview which has recently been published and syndicated, titled ["Can Religion & Faith Combat Eco-despair?"](#)



Welcome to CDS Alum Dr. Laura Dunn, new Co-Editor-in-Chief of the [Journal of Dharma Studies: Asian and Transcultural Religion, Philosophy, & Ethics](#). After many years of stellar work as Managing Editor, she joins Dr. Rita Sherma and Dr. Debashish Banerji at the helm of JDS. Dr. Thomas Calobrisi, GTU & IBS alum, is the journal's new Managing Editor.



Arising from CDS' Dharma & Sustainability Project, a new GTUx Original, [Ecospirituality: Environmental Pathways to Healing](#), will be launched in April 2022. In this GTUx Original, Dr. Rita Sherma is joined by several guest speakers, including Dr. Kate Barush and Rev. Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble, to lead a discussion about how healing the innate connections between humans and their ecosystem requires new definitions of the relationships between ecology, therapy, spirituality, and sustainability.

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Comparative Approaches in Jewish and Islamic Studies

Wednesday April 27 | 1:30 pm (Pacific) | Online



The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies & the Center for Islamic Studies
Madrasa-Midrasha Program

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is made possible by the generous support of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund

COMPARATIVE APPROACHES IN JEWISH & ISLAMIC STUDIES

PANELISTS: APRIL 27TH, 2022 | 1:30 PM PT

JERUSHA TANNER RHODES
Associate Professor of Islam & Interreligious Engagement, Union Theological Seminary

NOA BAR-GABAI
Part-time Faculty in the Swig Program for Jewish Studies & Social Justice, University of San Francisco

MODERATORS:

MAHJABEEN DHALA
Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program & Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, GTU

DEENA ARANOFF
Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies & Senior Lecturer in Medieval Jewish Studies, GTU

To register for this Zoom Webinar please visit:
gtu.edu/events/madrasa-midrasha-comparative-approaches-jewish-and-islamic-studies

Please join us for a special Madrasa-Midrasha Program webinar “Comparative Approaches in Jewish and Islamic Studies.” This Zoom webinar features featuring Jerusha Rhodes (Islam, Social Justice and Interreligious Engagement Program (ISJIE) at Union Theological Seminary) and Noa Bar-Gabai (Swig Program for Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco). [Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

Madrasa-Midrasha | Summer Institute 2022

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is excited to present its 2022 Summer Institute “Sacred Texts: Language, Application, Performance.” The Summer Institute will consist of a series of workshops from May 31 – June 3 that will focus on language, textual, and calligraphy studies, as well as a film screening and discussion.

[Visit the Summer Institute webpage](#) for additional info, including a forthcoming registration link.

2022 Haas Summer Interreligious Research Grant! now accepting applications

The deadline is Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.

[visit the webpage](#) for additional information.



Madrasa-Midrasha Program Interreligious Research Grants

The Walter & Elise Haas Fund has provided funding to the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program to support research grants for GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam.

- Grants range from \$250 to \$500 for individual projects and \$500 to \$1000 for joint projects.
- Student(s) must be in the GTU MA or PhD degree program focusing on Jewish Studies and/or Islamic Studies and/or have registered for a CJS or CIS class this academic year.
- Proposed projects must be interreligious, or relevant to interreligious work. Projects that address both Judaism and Islam will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted to the Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala (mahdhala@gtu.edu) by **Tuesday, April 5th, 2022**.

For more info, please visit gtu.edu/news/summer-2022-interreligious-research-grants-madrasa-midrasha-program.

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies & the Center for Islamic Studies

Madrasa-Midrasha Program



Center for Islamic Studies

Congratulations to CIS Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala for giving the following upcoming talk:

Saturday April 9 | 2:00 pm (Pacific) | Online

Stanford University as part of Stanford Global Studies (SGS) professional development institute, [Religion, Politics, and Global Challenges](#), which is designed for K-14 history and social science educators and supported by Stanford Graduate School of Education's Center to Support Excellence in Teaching (CSET). Dr. Dhala will present her paper, "Female Theologians and Activists in Early Islamic History"

Congratulations to CIS Director Dr. Munir Jiwa

For his participation on the panel, Rifts and Revelations: How Religion Has Shaped Pandemic Responses in the United States, an online event by the Othering & Belonging Institute, UC Berkeley. For further resources and video, please see: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/rifts-and-revelations>

Ramadan Mubarak

To all those observing the holy month. For various resources and online programs, please visit [CIS/GTU](#) webpages for details.



Center for Jewish Studies

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

CJS Language-Study, Travel, and Research Grant

Applications for the CJS Language-Study, Travel, and Research Grant for intensive language-study and research is **Wednesday, April 6**. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled at the M.A. or Ph.D. level at CJS. Grants will help students pay expenses incurred in summer research. Such expenses include tuition for language or other study programs, travel to language programs or research sites, as well as accommodations.

To apply, students must submit a curriculum vitae, proposed budget, and proposal letter explaining the relationship between the proposed summer program and ongoing academic interests. Applications must be submitted electronically to both cjs@gtu.edu and daranoff@gtu.edu. Please email with any questions.

Please join CJS for these upcoming events:

Comparative Approaches in Jewish and Islamic

Wednesday April 27 | 1:30 pm (Pacific) | Online

Join us for a Madrasa-Midrasha Program webinar featuring Jerusha Rhodes (Islam, Social Justice and Interreligious Engagement Program (ISJIE) at Union Theological Seminary) and Noa Bar-Gabai (Swig Program for Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco).

[Learn more and Register.](#)

Between Storytelling and Ritual: Jewish Culture in the Making

Thursday May 19 | 5:30 pm (Pacific) | Online



Join us for a webinar featuring CJS adjunct faculty member Maggid Jhos Singer. The event will explore Judaism's storytelling traditions, especially as they offer a counter balance to the fast-paced, digitally-dominated modern life.

[Register Here](#)

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

Chaplaincy Highlight – Training Muslim Chaplains in Malaysia

Wednesday April 27 | 5:00 pm (Pacific) | Online

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program will feature two Malaysian chaplains who just concluded chaplaincy training in Malaysia. Dr. Diana Katiman and Dr. Nor Jannah Nasution Raduan will share their experience of providing care to diverse religious and ethnic communities. In addition, Rev Ted Hodge and Tahara Akmal will share their supervision of Malaysian students. Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh will moderate the discussion.

[Register Here](#)

New Chaplaincy Group at the Consortium – Kick-Off Meeting

Friday April 1 | 4:00 pm (Pacific) | Online

The planning committee invites students enrolled in the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program and those interested in Chaplaincy to a kick-off meeting to discuss Chaplaincy.

Zoom ID: 956-7745-6690

For more information, contact Mary-Rose at MEngle@ses.gtu.edu

National Day of Prayer at the GTU

Thursday May 5 | Noon (Pacific) | Online

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program will observe the National Day of Prayer with an all-inclusive program where people of all backgrounds will be welcomed and affirmed.

More information will be available soon.

Full-Time Faculty Across the Consortium and
Members of Core Doctoral Faculty are invited to:

Submit your proposal for GTUx by April 29th

Apply at: gtu.edu/gtux-proposals

Faculty members whose proposals are selected will receive a
\$1,000 honorarium

Explore Our New GTUx Originals at gtu.edu/x



The Arbaeen Pilgrimage

Deeply embedded in Shia history, thought, ritual practice, sacred memory, culture, arts, and literature, Arbaeen symbolizes a counter-narrative, a stand for justice, a performance of pain, support for oppressed minorities, and a beacon of hope for the marginalized.



Ecospirituality

The Earth is being devastated before our own eyes, primarily due to the unsustainable economic, ecological, societal, geopolitical, cultural, and ethical decisions of human civilization. While there are many who ignore or even profit from our unsustainable consumption, there are little sustainability efforts that rely on technology and even the shared wonder about nature shared by the world's multiple religious traditions.



The Institute of Buddhist Studies

Buddhist Spiritual Care for Our Times

Thursday, April 28 | 4:00-5:00 pm (Pacific) | Online

For more information and to register click [here](#)



BUDDHIST SPIRITUAL CARE FOR OUR TIMES

Join ministry and chaplaincy alumni from the Institute of Buddhist Studies as they discuss the challenges and gifts of spiritual care during the COVID pandemic

REV. BLAYNE HIGA
Minister, Honpa Hongwanji
Mission of Hawaii

REV. JO LAURENCE
Palliative care chaplain,
Providence Home Services

REV. TRENT THORNLEY
Executive Director, SF Night
Ministry

THURSDAY APRIL 28 2022
4-5PM PST

MODERATED BY CHAPLAINCY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR
CHENXING HAN

REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK

Women's Studies in Religion



WSR SPEAKS WITH THE REV. DR. BOYUNG LEE ABOUT KOREAN FEMINIST THEOLOGY

April 11, 2022 from 12-1pm PT

ZOOM

[Click Here to Register](#) or check out our [FB page: GTU Women's Studies In Religion](#)

Join us for a discussion with the Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Practical Theology at ILIFF School of Theology in Denver, Colorado



Women's Studies in Religion 2 Co-Curricular Units

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

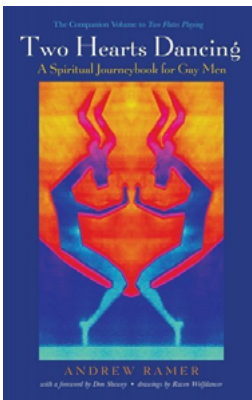
Is Your Faith Community Safe for Trans Folks?

An Online Conversation

A CLGS Lavender Lunch with our Trans* Seminarians Leadership Cohort

Tuesday, April 5 | 12:15-1:15 pm (Pacific) | Online

[Join via Zoom](#)



Two Hearts Dancing: A Conversation About Gay Men's Spirituality

A CLGS Jewish Queeries Series event



with Maggid Eli Andrew Ramer, Rabbi Jay Michaelson, and Bernie Schlager

Thursday, April 7 | 1:00-2:15 pm (Pacific) | Online [Join via Zoom](#)



Out in the Pulpit: The Lived Experience of Lesbian Clergy in Four Protestant Mainline Denominations

A CLGS Lavender Lunch with Dr. Pamela Pater-Ennis



Tuesday, April 12 | 12:15-1:15 pm (Pacific) | Online [Join via Zoom](#)

The 15th Annual | 2022 CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture with Professor Rolf Nolasco



Lecture Title: Queer Bodies: Colliding, Expanding, Flourishing

Thursday, April 21 | 6:30-8:15 pm (Pacific) | Online

[PRE-REGISTER HERE](#)

Wilmette Institute



Navigating the Urgent Transition Toward Sustainability

The science says that the affluent are the most responsible for the existential challenges of climate change, the biodiversity crisis and pollution threats and that we must turn the corner in this decade before these crises lead to catastrophe. Governments have already, in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other texts, mapped out a plan forward. The failure is in implementation due to the power of vested interests, corruption, materialist ideologies and the lack of political will faced with the necessary material sacrifices. A just transition, motivated by ethical and spiritual values at the grassroots, is foundational for building a more meaningful and sustainable social order offering a positive way forward through the turmoil of the inevitably difficult process.

Register for Zoom Talk <https://bit.ly/GTU-WI-Dahl>

Wednesday, April 6 at 1pm PT



Speaker: Dr. Arthur Dahl



Host: Dr. Rebecca Teclemariam-Mesbah



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 and MA and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second-to-last Friday of the month to skennedy@gtu.edu
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the Interim Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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