

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|----|
| From the Dean..... | 1 |
| Announcements..... | 4 |
| Academic Achievements/ Deadlines..... | 6 |
| Library News..... | 8 |
| CARe..... | 9 |
| CIS..... | 11 |
| CJS..... | 13 |
| ICP..... | 14 |
| WRS..... | 16 |
| Member Schools News | |
| PSR GLCS..... | 20 |

Moon to Mars

My partner Doug and I stayed up late one night last month so we could watch the live launch of Orion for the Artemis 1 mission from Cape Canaveral, Florida. ([You can watch a replay of takeoff on the NASA YouTube channel.](#)) The Artemis mission (named after the twin sister of Apollo) is the NASA mission that will take astronauts back to the moon to establish a basecamp there and eventually allow for human exploration of Mars.

Just a couple of weeks before the launch, we had the privilege of seeing the Artemis 1 Orion spacecraft on the launch pad on a visit to Kennedy Space Center. Learning again about the space program on that visit was inspirational and uplifting for me. And I began writing this newsletter article in my imagination while I was still standing in the Space Center, dwarfed by the massive 363-foot [Saturn V rocket](#) suspended above our heads. (That's 60 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.)

The physical scale of the spacecraft is only outmatched by the scale of imagination, skill, and fortitude that is on display in the space program. From the Apollo missions to the space shuttle missions and now the Artemis mission, these projects are decades in the making. And they faced astounding challenges and some very public setbacks—some of which were devastating and fatal. Even so, the space program persists because of the dedication of so many people who held the vision, endured, and persisted. On that visit last month, my heart was ready to hear those stories of resilience.

Our celebration of the [GTU's 60th anniversary](#) has similarly fed my spirit this year. I draw strength from the vision of our founders and from the dedication of those who came before us. And I give thanks for our community members today who continue to envision new possibilities and devote their imaginations and skill so that the GTU can thrive. And I dream about what may be decades from now. What will be our moonbase? What will be our Mars? And what can we do now, I find myself wondering all the time, so that the beloved ones decades from now will be able to draw strength from our courage, imagination, and fortitude?

Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD
Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Kathryn Barush Awarded the 2022 Borsch-Rast Book Prize



The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Kathryn Barush, Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion, has been awarded the sixth annual Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship for her 2021 publication, *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts).

In her acclaimed book, Dr. Barush explores contemporary artworks created after pilgrimage experiences, which are intended to act as a catalyst for the embodied experience of others. Each chapter focuses on a contemporary artwork that links one landscape to another—from the Spanish Camino to a backyard in the Pacific Northwest, from Lourdes to South Africa, from Jerusalem to England, and from Ecuador to California, ultimately comprising the first full-length study to engage contemporary art that has emerged out of the embodied experience of pilgrimage.

“Dr. Barush invites readers to see with fresh eyes the forms and roles of pilgrimage in contemporary society,” said Dr. Judith Berling, a member of the Borsch-Rast selection committee, Professor Emerita of Chinese and Comparative Religions, and former Dean at the GTU. “The interdisciplinary approach of *Imaging Pilgrimage* explores often ignored dimensions of religious pilgrimages and focuses our attention not solely on verbal explanations but on how the material aspects of pilgrimage express meanings to those who experience them.”

[Learn more about Dr. Kathryn Barush](#)

Stay tuned for more information on Dr. Barush’s Spring Lecture!

Borsch-Rast Book Prize Honorable Mention Dr. Stephen R. Shaver

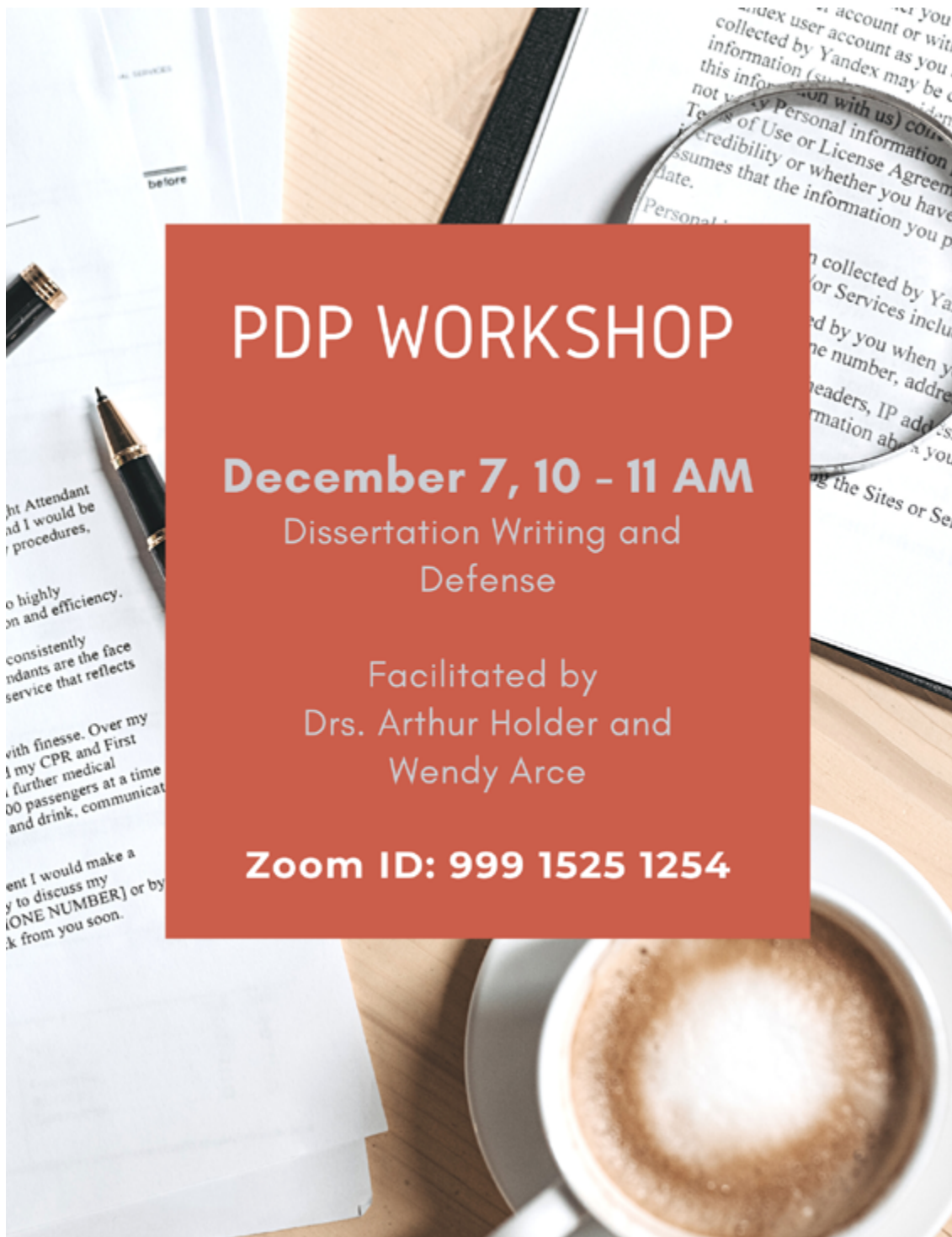


The Borsch-Rast selection committee awarded an Honorable Mention to GTU alum Dr. Stephen Shaver for his book *Metaphors of Eucharistic Presence: Language, Cognition, and the Body and Blood of Christ* (Oxford University Press, 2021), which exemplifies the standards of providing new perspectives on a theological or religious issue through creative and innovative scholarship.

Stephen R. Shaver is an Episcopal priest and liturgical theologian whose research interests include liturgical language, eucharistic theology, and the intersection between sacramentality and human cognition. Since 2018 he has served as rector of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa, California. *His book Metaphors of Eucharistic Presence: Language, Cognition, and the Body and Blood of Christ* brings together the fields of cognitive linguistics and liturgical theology to propose a new approach to the ecumenically controversial issue of eucharistic presence and is a revision of his GTU Ph.D. dissertation in Liturgical Studies from 2017. He is currently at work on a new research project on children in Anglican worship.

“Drawing creatively on the discipline of cognitive linguistics, Shaver shows how a generous reading of supposedly conflicting metaphors for Christ’s presence in the communion rite can actually enrich understanding across denominational lines,” said Dr. Arthur Holder, former GTU Dean and a member of the Borsch Rast Book Prize Selection Committee. “His book is a fine model of the interdisciplinary and ecumenical approach to scholarship valued at the GTU.”

Announcements



PDP WORKSHOP

December 7, 10 - 11 AM
Dissertation Writing and
Defense

Facilitated by
Drs. Arthur Holder and
Wendy Arce

Zoom ID: 999 1525 1254



ATTN: FIRST YEAR STUDENTS
**MID-YEAR
ORIENTATION**

FEB 8, 12 NOON - 1:30 PM
DINNER BOARD ROOM
QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHAI AT CMOTUPALLI@GTU.EDU

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Lwan May Oo, THET

James David Smith, REPR

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Sung Woo Cho, REPR

Rachelle Elizabeth, THET, Distinction



Advanced to Candidacy

Sewon Jang, REPR

January Biblical Hebrew and Greek Language Examination

The Biblical Hebrew exam is scheduled for **Wednesday January 11, 2023**

The Biblical Greek exam is scheduled for **Thursday January 12, 2023**

Students must sign-up by **Friday December 9, 2022** contact Fredonia Thompson
ftompson@gtu.edu for the sign-up form.

Intent to Graduate form for Spring 2023

Deadline is Saturday Friday January 13, 2023

MA Intent to graduate form <https://forms.gle/xrtAJRuXYfXGpbwM6>

PHD Intent to graduate form <https://forms.gle/VtQ4P6RJuBMNkQKYA>

Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals

submit by **(Noon) for February Doctoral Council is Monday January 23, 2023**

Deadline to Register for the Modern Foreign Language Examination

Students must register by **Wednesday February 8, 2023**

[Register Here](#)

Fall 2022 Student Awards

Chan Essay Prize

On behalf of the Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee, the Dean is pleased to announce **Emily Pothast** as the winner of this year's 2022 Chan Essay contest for her paper entitled

“Magic, Money, Ink, and Blood: Mediating the Social Body in the Case of Simon of Trent.”



Student Travel Grant Winners

Students who have papers accepted for the program of the Annual Meeting of the AAR, SBL, or other comparable national meeting or conference may compete in the GTU's Student Travel Grant competition. Winners are given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award. The Dean is happy to announce grant recipients for this semester are:

Hye Hyun Han

Matthew Hartman

Reem Kosba

Leah Macinkas-Le

Emily Pothast

Victoria Price

Library News

We Invite You to a Library Re-opening Party!



After a semester-long closure of the first floor of the GTU library, we want to welcome the GTU community back with a re-opening party.

During the week of January 23rd-27th, we will have tours and re-orientations to familiarize yourself with the library, and a **party on Thursday January 26th from 4-6pm**, to bring everyone together. Come to the library to reconnect with colleagues and classmates—families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Scan the QR code below to register on Eventbrite.



Center for the Arts and Religion

Holiday Membership Appeal

The Holidays are approaching, and now's the perfect time to think about gifting a CARE membership to the art lover in your life!

As a reminder, when you gift a CARE membership, your recipient will receive the following great benefits:

Free admission to members-only previews and receptions

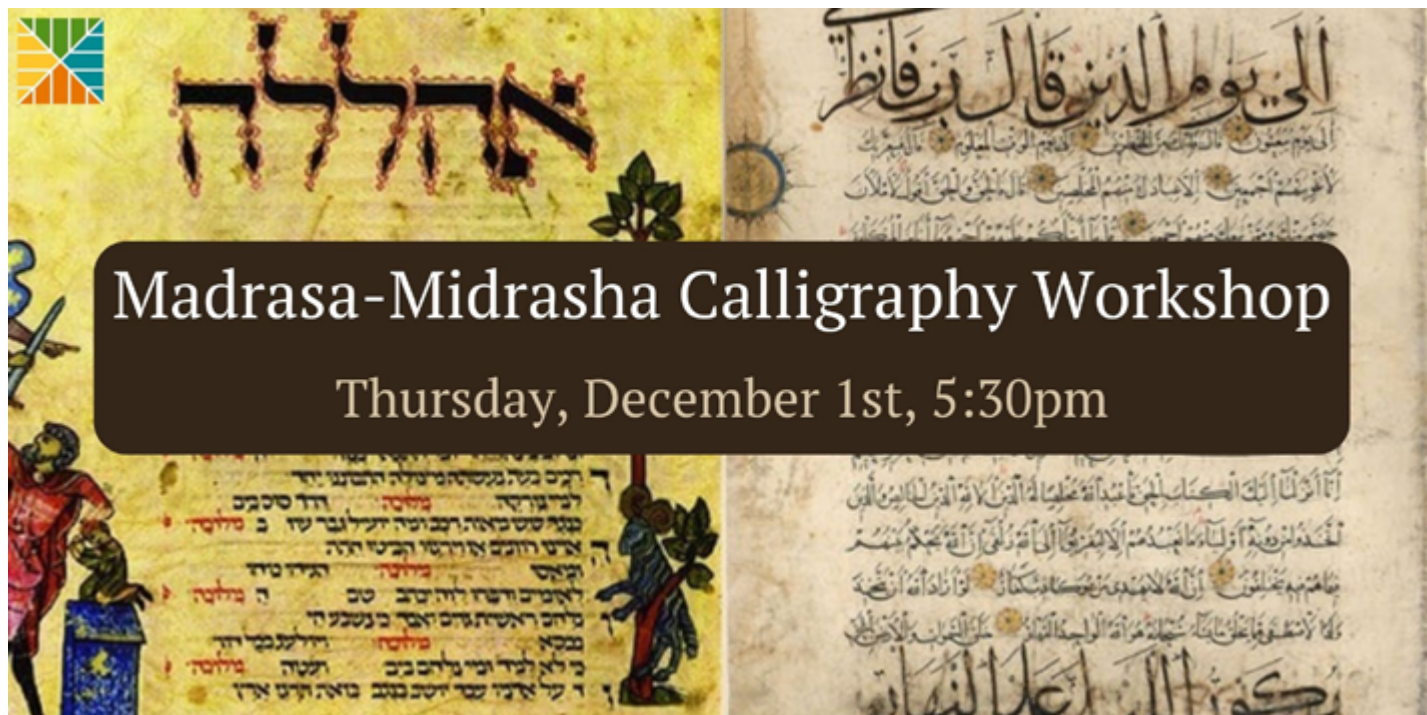
- Invitations to special lectures, parties, and tours
- Discounts on selected local arts-related programs
- Monthly updates via the CARE Members' newsletter
- Membership to the [North American Reciprocal Museum Association](#), giving you and a friend free admission to over 1000 museums around the country, many in the Bay Area
- A beautiful exhibition catalog from one of CARE's past exhibitions of your choice Gift a CARE membership at www.gtu.edu/supportcare

End-of-year Creatives' Cove Celebration

Tuesday, December 13 | 5:15-6:30pm | 3rd floor Staff Lounge, Hewlett Building, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley



Join us to celebrate the end of the semester with other academic creatives! There will be refreshments, cookie decorating, and a chance to share your artistic pursuits with like-minded students, faculty, and staff. All are welcome!



Madrasa-Midrasha Calligraphy Workshop

Thursday, December 1st, 5:30pm

Tuesday, December 1 | 5:30pm | Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

We were delighted to host the Madrasa-Midrasha Calligraphy Workshop for an evening of interactive Hebrew and Arabic calligraphy. The workshop was co-sponsored by the GTU's [Center for the Arts & Religion \(CARE\)](#) and featured presentations by Peretz Wolf-Prusan and Arash Shirinbab moderated by Carol Bier. It was a wonderful evening of calligraphy, snacks, and socializing—thank you to all who participated!

[Please visit the event page for more info and to register.](#)

Best wishes from the Madrasa-Midrasha team to all students as they prepare for the final weeks of the Fall 2022 semester. Heartfelt gratitude to the Haas Fund, all our advisory board, presenters, participants (in person and virtual), multi-campus faculty, and the GTUx team for an amazing semester of events and conversations. And thank you, Matt Hartman, for your valuable assistance!

We look forward to returning with more events, collaborations, and student grants in Spring 2023.

Center for Islamic Studies



.....

Congratulations to doctoral student Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman on receiving a Newhall Fellowship Award to teach a spring 2023 class: Race, Religion, Belonging.

[More information here](#)



.....

Congratulations to doctoral student Jibreel Delgado on being named the CARE 2022 Research Scholar for his doctoral work at the intersection of religion and literature.

[See the award announcement here](#)



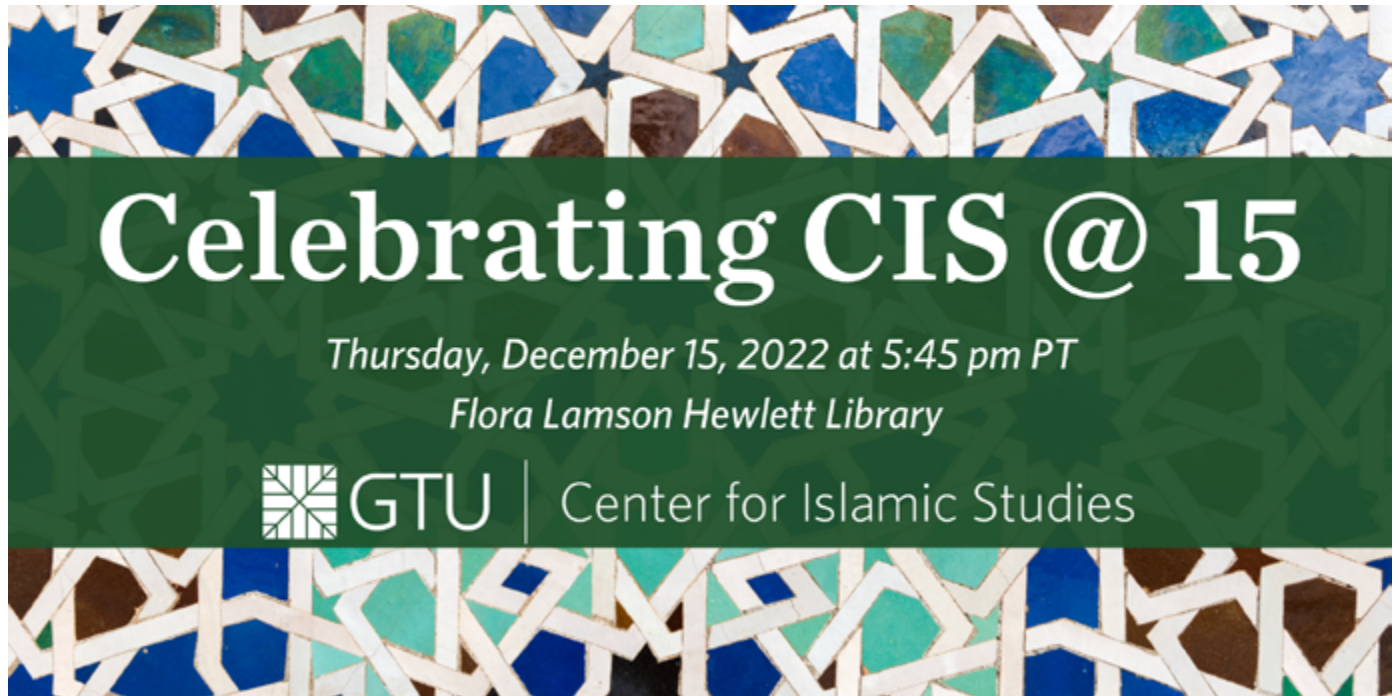
.....

Congratulations to CIS research scholar Carol Bier for the three book reviews she has written for the journal, *Textile History*, and entries for *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd edition, on “Ornament” and “Geometry.”



.....

Congratulations to CIS Director Munir Jiwa who has been invited to co-lead a New Directions graduate students seminar in spring 2023 on Religion and Health, through the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion. Dr. Jiwa has also received a faculty award from the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, for research and public engagement events on race, religion, health, justice, and belonging, with a focus on African American Muslim leadership.



The CIS is delighted to invite you to join our CIS 15th Anniversary Celebration on December 15 at 5:45 pm PT, where we will hear about the extraordinary achievements of our students, graduates, faculty and visiting scholars, followed by a reception.

[Register Here](#)

Center for Jewish Studies

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

CJS is grateful for the generous support of the Taube Family Foundation, which recently pledged \$300K to the GTU in a multi-year gift to support the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program as well as the creation of a GTUx content series focused on Jewish life and culture, developed in collaboration with CJS faculty. [Read more here in the announcement.](#)

Spring 2023 Welcome Lunch

Tuesday, January 31 | 12:30pm | Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library,
2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

Please join us for our CJS Spring Welcome Lunch to kick off the new semester. Our lunch hour will begin with a talk by Professor Francesco Spagnolo, Curator of The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at UC Berkeley. The event will be held in-person in the GTU Library's Dinner Boardroom; a light lunch will be provided. Registration information is forthcoming.

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

2022-2023 Motwani Jadeja Hindu Chaplaincy Fellows

The ICP is pleased to announce a recent award from the Motwani Jadeja Foundation (MJF) for the first Motwani Jadeja Hindu Chaplaincy Fellowships for study at the Hindu Community Institute (HCI) and the GTU. The announcement also celebrates the establishment of a “pathway to Hindu chaplaincy,” which is first-of-its-kind and combines the Counselor of Hindu Tradition (CHT) course by HCI with the GTU’s Interreligious Chaplaincy Program.

[Read more here](#) from the award announcement release and [click here](#) to read about the fellowship recipients.

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Motwani Jadeja Hindu Chaplaincy Fellows!

Taube Family Foundation Gift

We are also grateful for a major gift from the Taube Family Foundation to support the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program at the GTU. In addition to continuing the Taube Family Fellows program, which provides tuition funding for students affiliated with the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the GTU, this generous multi-year gift will also allow for the expansion of faculty positions, new course offerings, public programs, and community outreach.

[Read more here](#) from the pledge announcement.

The GTU Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Network (GTU-SCCN)



Meet and network with other spiritual care and chaplaincy students and staff across the GTU-member schools! Expect a lightly guided informal conversation among like-minded persons focused on spiritual care, building relationships, and enjoying good company. This is about getting to know each other.

For more information and zoom link contact Mary-Rose “Janani” Engle MEngle@ses.gtu.edu

Women's Studies in Religion



WSR SPEAKS WITH

DR. DIANDRA ERICKSON

moderated by Rev. Keyona Saquile Lazenby

**A CONVERSATION ON ENGAGED PEDAGOGIES:
WOMANIST AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES**

Thursday, December 8, 2022 | 12 - 1pm PT | Zoom

Join us for a discussion with Dr. Diandra Erickson, GTU Associate Dean of Teaching, Learning and Assessment moderated by Rev. Keyona Saquile Lazenby, GTU PhD student and ordained Interfaith Minister.

[Register here](#) and check out our [Facebook page!](#)



Women's Studies in Religion

2 Co-Curricular Units



Women and Religion | Friday, April 28, 2023

Call for papers on the theme: *Embracing Women's Bodies as Intersections of Identities, Theologies, and Justice Roles*

Submission Requirements

Who: This graduate student conference is open to students at all stages of programs at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and its member schools.

What: Please submit a paper proposal that includes a title, an abstract (150 words), and an overview (1,500 words). Please use 12-point, Times New Roman or Arial font, double space your proposal, and follow the 9th Edition of the Turabian Manual of Style.

Proposals focusing on gender and religion from any GTU discipline will be considered. Topics include but are not limited to feminist theologies, womanist theologies, mujerista theologies/Latina feminist theologies; theologies from the perspectives of Indigenous women, Asian-American feminist theologies, queer/trans theologies; gender issues in sacred texts, ritual, liturgy, history, or the practice of religion, environmental and disability justice themes; the role of women in a particular religious tradition; considerations of the Divine Feminine, Feminine Deity, and the Sacred Feminine; approaches to philosophy of religion that highlight feminist concerns; and ethics from feminist, womanist, mujerista/Latina feminist, Asian-American feminist, or Indigenous perspectives.

When: All proposals must be submitted to Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu no later than the CFP deadline, **Jan 31, 2023**. The committee will contact you by **March 16, 2023** to notify you of its decision. If your proposal is accepted, please be prepared to share a copy of your paper with your moderator and fellow panelists by **March 31, 2023**.

Where: This conference will take place in the Dinner Board Room, on the 3rd floor of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library.

Please direct any questions to WSR Program Coordinator Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu

Submission Form

To be considered by the WSR committee, please email this completed submission form, as well as the paper proposal with the title, abstract, and overview, to wsr@ses.gtu.edu no later than Jan 10th 2023 at 5pm Pacific Time. Late materials will not be considered.

Student Name: _____

Email: _____

Program: _____ Year in Program: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Statement of Student Consent

I certify that all the above and attached is correct and true. By submitting a proposal to the WSR Steering Committee, students grant permission for the use of this proposal for promotion on the GTU website, possible journal publication, and/or the Women's Studies in Religion newsletter. All participants in the conference will supply a final electronic copy of the paper no later than **31 March, 2023** at 5 pm Pacific Time.

Student Signature

Date

Berkeley Art and Interreligious Pilgrimage Project

BAIPP Update - we were busy at the American Academy Religion Conference in Denver, CO! The conference kicked off with an hour-long informational session at the GTU booth with the director, Dr. Kathryn Barush and advisory board member Dr. Cogen Bohanec. Later, Dr. Barush gave a 6 minute 'PechaKucha'-style presentation about the project at the GTU reception, including some news and updates.

Sunday, Nov. 20th was a Ritual Studies Unit panel and discussion on recent books in pilgrimage studies with Dr. André Brouillette, SJ (Boston College, author of the Pilgrim Paradigm), Dr. Marion Grau (author of Pilgrimage, Landscape, and Identity), and Dr. Barush. Prof. John Eade (University of Roehampton/University of Toronto, and author of Contesting the Sacred) was the respondent. On Monday Dr. Barush participated in a session on art as pilgrimage in the time of the pandemic and addressed how BAIPP pilgrimages can help with health and well-being.

Be sure to sign up for our mailing list at <https://pilgrimage.gtu.edu/about/> for quarterly updates & new routes!

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



A CLGS Lavender Lunch with Shannon TL Kearns
In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture
Tuesday, December 13 | 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm (Pacific Time) | ONLINE

[Join via Zoom](#)



A CLGS Jewish Queeries Series event with Rabbi Denise Eger
Queering Hanukah
Thursday, December 22 | 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm (Pacific Time) | ONLINE

[Join via Zoom](#)



The GTU Dean's Office wishes you a safe & joyful Winter Break!



*Happy
New Year*



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 Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
www.gtu.edu | 510-649-2442