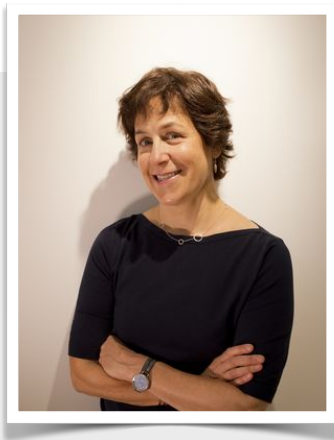

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year - greetings to returning faculty and students, and to the more than 35 new students enrolled in our PhD, MA, and Certificate programs! It is this vibrant group of scholars and teachers that makes the GTU community what it is. Your wide-ranging interests, diverse faith traditions, and varied cultures enrich the interreligious, interdisciplinary work we do at the GTU.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to rest and re-energize over the summer. On the GTU campus, the summer stillness was punctured by the rustle of packing tape and the thud of boxes. By August, the offices and gallery in the North Building were packed and ready to be relocated to the library building, now referred to as the **Hewlett Building** in recognition of the many functions it now houses.

The library staff graciously welcomed the newcomers by making space for student services (Admissions, Financial Aid) on the 2nd floor while other offices (Registrar, Student Life, Associate Deans, Center for the Arts & Religion) moved to the 3rd floor. This coming year, as alterations get underway to create permanent office spaces, the library itself will be consolidated on the 1st floor.

It's bittersweet to leave the North Building (as the Director of the Center for the Arts & Religion, I am sorry to leave our beautiful Doug Adams Gallery!), but we are glad the building will be home to our UC Berkeley colleagues, as their Goldman School of Public Policy settles in. We look forward to the camaraderie of being in the Hewlett Building with so many GTU coworkers and collaborators, and with the library, which remains the beating heart of the GTU.

Thanks for your patience as we all navigate these ongoing changes. As we approach the GTU's 60th birthday (next year!), we must work together to ensure our sustainability, support our scholars, and strengthen our community.



Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD

Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

COVID-19 Updates

For the most up-to-date COVID information, please see www.gtu.edu/coronavirus-resources-gtu

[GTU Student Vaccination Policy](#) | [Hewlett Building Entrance Policy](#) | [City of Berkeley COVID testing](#)

[City of Berkeley COVID vaccinations](#)

FALL 2021 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS (Updated: August 20, 2021)			
School/Center	Full vaccination required for in-person classes	Full vaccination required for in-person activities	Face masks required for in-person classes/activities
To cross-register for in-person classes within the GTU consortium, students must provide proof of vaccination to the registrar of the member school hosting the course. Students cross-registering at UC Berkeley will receive information on uploading their vaccination verification to the UC Berkeley Tang Center after their completed cross-registration form is turned in.			
GTU	Yes, GTU students should send proof of vaccination to vaccine@ses.gtu.edu . Read the GTU student vaccination policy .	Yes, be prepared to show ID card and proof of vaccination for entry.	Yes
GTU library	N/A	Yes, be prepared to show GTU library card and proof of vaccination for entry.	Yes
BST	Yes, BST students should send proof of vaccination to vaccine@ses.bst.edu	No decision has been made at this time.	Yes
CDSP	Yes. CDSP students should contact registrar@cdsp.edu for information about submitting proof of vaccination. GTU students cross-registered for CDSP courses must provide proof of vaccination to their school or the CDSP registrar and must check in at the Welcome Center for access to the classroom.	Yes. All visitors to campus must check in at the Welcome Center and show proof of vaccination.	Yes
DSPT	No	No	Yes
IBS	Yes. Learn more.	Yes	Yes
JST-SCU	Yes. JST students should send proof of vaccination to William Troche, wtroche@scu.edu	Yes	Yes
PLTS-CLU	Yes. PLTS student vaccination cards are uploaded at Cal Lutheran. Students should contact Leslie Veen, lveen@plts.edu	Yes	Yes
PSR	Yes. PSR students should send proof of vaccination to registrar@psr.edu	Yes, be prepared to show proof of vaccination for entry	Yes
SFTS-Redlands	Yes. For more info, contact chandra_ramirez@redlands.edu	Yes	Yes
SKSM	Yes (note: no in-person classes in Fall 2021)	Yes	Yes

Announcements

GTU
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

September Workshops

Writing workshop for International Students
Sep 8, 2021, 10 - 11 am
Facilitated by Alyssa Moore

Orientation to the Doctoral Council
Sep 15, 2021, 10 - 11 am
Facilitated by Dr. Thomas Cattoi
&
Mark Guevarra

Excellence in Academic Writing
Sep 29, 2021, 10 - 11 am
Facilitated by Dr. Ted Peters

All workshops will be held on Zoom
Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257

RSVP: cmotupalli@gtu.edu



GTU

**DialCare®
Mental Wellness**

Let's talk about
mental health.

DialCare Mental Wellness is a safe, secure and private way for graduate students and staff to seek help from state-licensed mental health professionals via virtual and telephonic counseling sessions.

Our mental health professionals work with a number of conditions, and consultations are available in both English and Spanish.

**HAVE YOU
REGISTERED YET?**

DialCare is a free mental health service for all GTU students.

Contact Chai at cmotupalli@gtu.edu if you haven't received your registration email.

Virtual Co-Working Groups are meeting every Monday and Wednesday, 9 am - Noon

Please contact Chai at cmotupalli@gtu.edu if you would like to participate!

ALL GTU STUDENTS:

SAVE THE DATE

FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH
A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ON OCT 13, WEDNESDAY, 12 NOON - 1 PM

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

MA/MABL

Sakurako Iwagami, HCSR
Adriel Ramirez, HCSR

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Abraham M. Addam, HCSR
Grant B. Barnes, THET
Erika Katske, THET
Donghwi Kim, THET
La Hkawng, SATX
Andrew Lee, SPRT

Oral Examination

Leslie Bowling-Dyer, CRLG, Distinction
Robert David Coolidge, HCSR, Distinction
Uijin Jung, HCSR

Advanced to Candidacy

Ineda Pearl Adesanya, SPRT
Kelly Colwell, REPR
Hye Hyun Han, HCSR
Matthew Hartman, THET
Zulunungsang Lemtur, THET
Grace Eunhye So, BIBL
Paula Thompson, HCSR

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Ki Do Ahn, IDS
Blaise Cirelli, ART
Laura Dunn, HCSR
Sanghyun Lee, THEO
Eric Sias, BIBL

Students! The deadline to submit your defense is **Friday, September 17** and the deadline to file is **Friday, October 1**.

Best Dissertation Proposal Award

Grace Eunhye So, *“Become as I am, for I also have become as you are (Gal 4:12)”*:
Paul’s Rhetorical Use of Ethos in Galatians.

Borsch Rast Dissertation Prize Winners

Zulunungsang Lemtur, *Reclaiming Community – Reclaiming Democracy: Tribal Explorations in Indian Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding*.

Christina Atienza, *Who do you say that you are? Mapping Identity and Mission of U.S. Catholic Sisters Using Comparative Theology of Christian and Buddhist Religious Life*.

Congratulations, award winners!

Modern Language Exam

Wednesday, September 29 | 1-4:45pm

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered again this semester using remote modalities. The exam is offered in Chinese, French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish, depending on interest and need. Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need student's help to secure the examiner. Please visit <https://www.gtu.edu/students/academic-milestones> for more information.

Please register with Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator (ftompson@gtu.edu) no later than **September 15**.

GTU Welcome Reception

Wednesday, September 22 | 4-5pm

The GTU Dean's Office cordially invites all members of the GTU Consortial Community, new and returning MA and PhD students, faculty, and staff to a virtual GTU Welcome Reception. Please join us online in celebration of the new academic year!

Interim Dean Dr. Elizabeth Peña will present a brief program introducing new faculty and visiting scholars and an opportunity to socialize together!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gtu.zoom.us/j/93110723994>

Meeting ID: 931 1072 3994; Passcode: 415212

Bring your beverage of choice for a toast!




**YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR
VOICE.
BE HEARD.**

If you're eligible to vote in California, exercise your privilege by
September 14 for the very important recall election

Fall 2021 Student Awards

Newhall Fellowship

Applications due Friday, November 12, 2021 by 5pm

Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students to collaboratively teach or conduct research with faculty mentors. Newhall awards offer an opportunity to work closely with professors whose interests and approaches parallel the student's on projects that often would not be possible under other circumstances. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching). Applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office.

Learn more and apply now!

Student Travel Grants

Applications due Tuesday, September 14 by 5pm

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 will be given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting or conference. Because travel remains restricted, this grant can also be used to cover registration costs incurred for presenting your paper remotely. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee are responsible for selecting recipients for this award.

Get more information and apply online!

Chan Essay Prize

Applications due Wednesday, September 15 by 5pm

The Chan Essay Prize is an annual award of \$2500, established in 1987 by the Lionel Chan Family Endowment. To enter, GTU students should submit an original essay, a term paper for a course, or a chapter of a thesis or dissertation, with an introduction and conclusion to frame it as an independent essay. This semester's topic is "Identity and Practice Across Religious Boundaries".

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

Staff Homecoming Luncheon



On Thursday, August 12, members of the GTU staff were invited to a celebratory welcome-back lunch in the GTU’s Hewlett Building. For the occasion, the typically off-limits terrace was open, and we enjoyed basking in Berkeley’s August sun, taking in the stunning views of Oakland, San Francisco, and the Golden Gate Bridge. We were laden down with food upon arrival, catered from the delicious Back Forty Texas BBQ. Some of us enjoyed veggie burgers while others chowed down on ribs and grilled chicken. There was a sense of celebration in the air, as well as a feeling of community and togetherness that has been so difficult to achieve over the past long year and a half.

It was wonderful to be able to chat with co-workers face-to-face – and even unmasked! – about how we’ve been doing, and the small triumphs and joys we’ve been able to achieve during our time working remotely. As the GTU transitions into our newest phase of operations, it was heartening to be surrounded by colleagues, all of whom are committed to taking the GTU forward into what comes next with humor, perseverance, and good cheer. Here’s to the wonderful staff and faculty members that make the GTU what it is!

[Pictured here, from L-R: **Theresa Nelson**, Head of Advancement; **Elizabeth S. Peña**, Interim Dean; **Lydia Webster**, Assistant Curator, Center for the Arts & Religion; **Mahjabeen Dhala**, Director, Madrasa-Midrasha Program; **Sam Shonkoff**, Taube Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies; **Kamal Abu-Shamsieh**, Director, Interreligious Chaplaincy]

Student Spotlights

Every month, the Dean's Newsletter will feature a selection of incoming students representing a range of GTU departments. Welcome to all!



Eve Krahe Billings, PhD EDAC

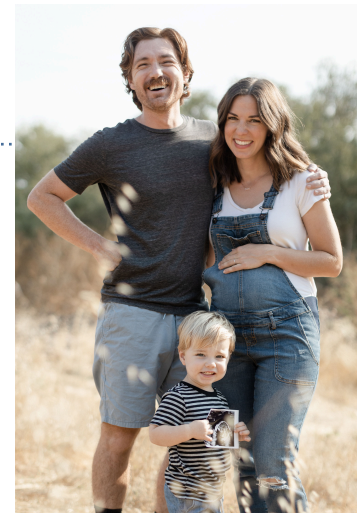
MA Program Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

Returning to the GTU and the Center for Jewish Studies to finish the MA I started 15 years ago feels like coming home. Thesis positioning is Midrashic: a commentary on the banishment from the Garden of Eden via Derrida's Hospitalité/Hostilité and libertarian thinking around freedom and the individual.

Sophie Callahan

PhD Program Religion and Practice

I live on a farm in the East Bay, pastoring an intentional Christian community that practices hospitality, sustainability, and creativity. After attending college in San Diego, I received my M.Div. from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. I am interested in the intersection of spiritual formation and ethical living.



Somanjana Chatterjee

MA Program Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

California based writer, editor, activist, thought-leader. Initiator to various projects in the sphere of media, education and community engagement, building coalitions around shared values and goals. Currently serving as a Board Member, Silicon Valley Interreligious Council, and Diversity Ambassador for India Currents media platform.

Earl Dippre

MA Program Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

I received my Bachelors degree in Religious Studies from Humboldt State University in 2014. My central interest in the study of religion is how different faiths interact with the ineffable nature of the human experience and the universe at large.



Justin Grosnick

PhD Program Theology and Ethics

After working at the State Department for several years, I became a Jesuit 7 years ago. Thanks to my students at Georgetown and Loyola Chicago, I've been inspired to begin studying Hindu thought and practice. I spent the last two years in Siberia teaching and working in a school/parish.



Albert Honegan

PhD Program Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Albert is returning to the GTU to pursue doctoral studies after receiving his MA in Biblical Languages in 2020. He plans to build on his studies of religion and language while focusing primarily on Christian music as a means of intercultural ecumenical dialogue.



Sara Ivanhoe

PhD Program Religion and Practice

Sara Ivanhoe is the Founding Director of YogaUSC and a Lecturer teaching "Sleep for Peak Performance." Teaching since 1995, she completed four 500-hour teacher training programs, and has been the spokesperson for "Weight Watchers," "Yoga for Dummies," and "Crunch Yoga." She partnered with Oprah Magazine to co-create the wellness series "Just Breathe." Sara also serves as the Yoga and Meditation Strategist for Glo.



From the Library

GTU Joins JSTOR as Contributor



The GTU's Special Collections and Archives are participating in a pilot project with other California institutions to share their unique collections on JSTOR. Part of an Open Community Collections Pilot, six of our online collections are now accessible on the JSTOR platform, thanks to the work of David Stiver, Special Collections Librarian.

The collections available for view on JSTOR are [Center for Women and Religion](#), [Religious Leaders in California](#), [Remembering Theological Education in the Sixties](#), [Right On](#), [The Pacific Coast Theological Society](#), and [Tower of Religion and Temple of Peace 1938-1940](#). Each provides insight into religious activities at the GTU and throughout the Bay Area.

The purpose of the project is to provide broader access to primary sources from a variety of libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies for researchers on a single site. We encourage you to check out some of the hidden gems!

Account Login Changes (And Electronic Resources Access)

- How to login to Library Resources? We have made logging in more secure. The first time you log in, you will create a PIN that gives you full access to ebooks, online journals, and your account- from anywhere! Chat us if you have trouble setting up your PIN. For students who do not know your Student ID number, please look in your registration system.

Service Changes

- Hybrid Reference Desk: To support students worldwide and in Berkeley, we are introducing a hybrid reference desk. The Ask-a-librarian chat will be available every weekday, 9 am- 4 pm (Pacific time), plus in-person hours on some days. Online research appointments are available daily in Zoom. See: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help>
- Curbside pick-up continues. If you don't feel comfortable coming into the building or do not have your ID, we can bring the books out to you. No reservations are needed; request the books in the catalog, and when you are notified by email that they are on the hold shelf, park at the green curb in front of the building between 10 am and 5 pm and call the circulation desk. Someone will bring the books out to you.
- Scanning for distance students and faculty: For individuals not near the Bay Area, we can scan articles and chapters from the shelf. And for everyone who is here, the book scanner will be available in the library again.

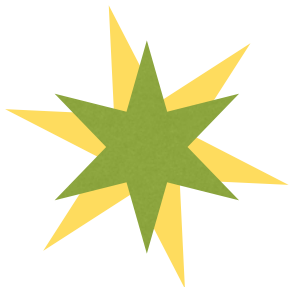
- Workshops, Tutorials, and Orientations: We will be offering these live online and pre-recorded.
- Visit the Library workshops page for the links. If you don't see what you are looking for, just ask; we can always meet with you by appointment to help.
- The Seminar B room will be reservable online again. As this is a small enclosed space, we are limiting it to one person at a time to have a space for you to practice a presentation, take a Zoom meeting, or online interview.
- Lockers are available starting Sept. 6th. Students, instructors, and visiting scholars can reserve a free locker for the semester. Visit the circulation desk to sign up.

Collection changes

- We have added many new databases and electronic collections in the past year, including ProQuest Dissertation and Thesis Database, Kotar Digital Library, ArtStor, Oxford Bibliography of Biblical Studies, LGBTQ+ Source, Digitalia Hispanica, and more.
- More ebooks! There are more ebooks in our collection than ever before, all available via our Summon search, and it's not just newly published books; we've purchased electronic copies of some of our most highly used titles, such as the Biblical commentaries.
- If you are in the Bay Area, you have access to the libraries at UC-Berkeley and the 11 million items in their collections. They will reopen their libraries on Aug. 25th.
- Don't see the book that you want? Use the Suggest a Purchase form on the homepage. We can usually get ebooks within a few days if they are available from our vendors.
- Coming soon, big changes in the library building- we will be moving books around, some collections will be taken out for digitizing, and there will be a lot of action and noise.

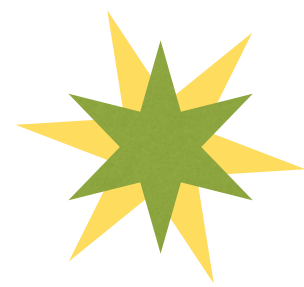
For instructors

- Class instruction sessions & customized tutorials are available. We can come to your classroom, you could bring your class to the library, we can meet live in Zoom, or the librarians can prerecord a lesson for you to post in your class space.
- Course reserves: we will have both electronic and print reserves this Fall, and we are happy to continue scanning print items for your Moodle Course Space. Please fill out this form: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/course-reserves>
- New to teaching at the GTU? Set up an online appointment with a librarian to get an introduction and talk about all the services we can offer you and your students.



Contact us!

- The library homepage is: [gtu.edu/library](https://www.gtu.edu/library)
- Email the reference librarians: library@gtu.edu
- Or chat with us from the library homepage or Moodle on weekdays



Center for the Arts & Religion

Fall Workshops

This semester, CARE is offering two online arts and religion workshops. Each topic is covered by two 2-hour-long workshops. Open to students and community members alike, each workshop pair carries a \$100 fee. CARE workshops are open to all - no experience in either of the fields necessary!

GTU students, please note that these are not credit-earning workshops.

Learn more and sign up for workshops now!

Poetry as a Spiritual Technology

Instructed by Rev. Nate Klug

Saturday, October 9 & Saturday, October 16 | 10am-12pm (PT)

The Power of the Center: Pictorial Space as Dynamic Force

Instructed by Louise Victor

Saturday, November 6 & Sunday, November 7 | 1-2pm (PT)



Embodied Virtue: Self-sacrifice of the Bodhisattva in Early Buddhist Narrative and Art with Dr. Dessi Vendova

Thursday, September 30 | 12-1pm | Online

CARE's Post Doctoral Fellow in East Asian Art & Religion, Dr. Dessi Vendova, will give our first event of the semester, a presentation of her recent work on the life of the Buddha. This talk had to be postponed last semester, so if you missed it then, don't miss it now!

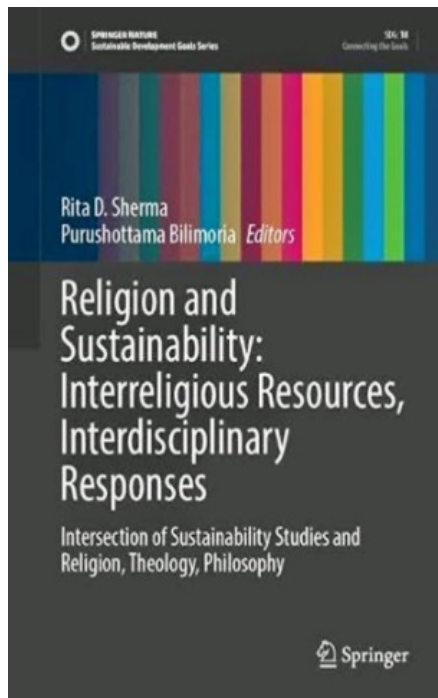
Visual representations of the Buddha Shakyamuni's extended biography have a ubiquitous presence at early Buddhist sites such as stupas and rock-cut cave temples and played an important part in the spread of Buddhism. This phenomenon started in India, and spread and developed far beyond, with a significant and revolutionary impact on the cultures it reached. This talk will focus on narrative and visual depictions of previous life stories (*jataka*) in which the Bodhisattva (the-Buddha-to-be) performed extreme acts of generosity that involved acts of bodily self-sacrifice.



Sign up now!

[Image credits, from top to bottom: Kathranne Knight, "Two", color pencil on paper, 30"x40", Fidelity Investment Art Collection; Henri Matisse, "The Conversation"; Schist slab showing one of the Buddha's previous lives as King Sibi saving a dove, Gandhara, ca. 2nd-3rd c. CE. The British Museum]

Center for Dharma Studies



New book from GTU Sustainability 360 ready for pre-order!

Religion and Sustainability: Interreligious Resources, Interdisciplinary Responses © 2021 | Springer Nature

Part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Series

- Prof. Rita D. Sherma & Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria (Editors)
- Associate Editor: Pravina Rodrigues, PhD
- Congratulations to GTU Faculty, Alums, & Students who contributed to the volume.
- Much appreciation to Robert J. Russell, Valerie Miles-Tribble, Thomas Cattoi, Leah Macinskas-Le, Moses Penumaka, Myoung-Ho Sin, William O'Neill, Thomas Calobrisi, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Cogen Bohanec, Aaron Grizzell, Colette Walker, and Yohana Junker, for their excellent contributions to this volume.
- A special note of gratitude for the expert editorial work of Dr. Pravina Rodrigues.
- Adds the beneficent principles of religions, theologies, and religious philosophies to the discourse of the discipline of Sustainability Studies
- Brings together scholars on the much debated issue of social, economic, and environmental justice from the viewpoint of religion, theoethics, and theopraxis.
- Argues that humanistic elements, particularly ritual, art & aesthetics, can help enable sustainable ways of thinking, feeling, and acting.

Berkeley Journal of Religion & Theology

Open Positions

The BJRT has several open volunteer positions, including Peer Reviewers and Department Editors. If you have any interest in serving on the BJRT Editorial Board or have any questions, please email Managing Editor Matthew Hartman (mhartman@ses.gtu.edu).

A reminder that the BJRT also accepts Book Reviews on a rolling basis. If you would like to submit a book review for consideration, please consult the BJRT website for guidelines (bjrt.gtu.edu) and email submissions to: bjrt@ses.gtu.edu

Center for Islamic Studies

The Center for Islamic Studies extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, faculty, visiting scholars and staff for the academic year 2021-2022!

As we begin the new academic year in these continued challenging times, we are grateful for our beloved GTU community and partnerships, and we look forward to meeting in person when possible while continuing to collaborate and learn together online. Prayers and wishes for everyone's good health, safety and a blessed academic year.

Luce Foundation COVID-19 Relief Grant

The CIS has been honored to lead a grant made to the GTU last year from the Henry Luce Foundation as part of its initiative to provide support for community and faith-based responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate effects on Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities in the Bay Area. To highlight the work being led by communities of color, the CIS will be hosting a series of webinars to continue learning from and with our community partners and leaders. The CIS will be facilitating conversations on religion, race, and justice, and partnering with colleagues at the American Academy of Religion. We gratefully welcome your participation. For more information please visit the [GTU-Luce Covid-19 project](#) webpage, [GTU events](#) webpage, or contact Dr. Munir Jiwa at mjiwa@gtu.edu

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program joins the GTU community in welcoming new and returning students and faculty, and in thanking the GTU staff for ensuring that our learning forges on safely despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Madrasa-Midrasha will be sharing the work of this year's recipients of the Walter and Elise Haas Student Research grant on the Madrasa-Midrasha page of the GTU website in September. We invite you to [take a virtual look at their exciting research here!](#)

We are also delighted to be hosting public events around Psychoanalysis, Activism through Art, and Religious Law and Diaspora during the 2021 Fall semester. Registration and further details about these events will be shared closer to the time.

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

A Strigilated Universe: The Cosmogonic Significance of Primordial Gravitation Radiation

Wednesday, September 22 | 5-6pm (Pacific Time) | Online

In 2015, for the first time ever, scientists announced the detection of gravitational waves spun out into the universe by the merger of two black holes. Numerous detection events have since been recorded, and upgrades continue to increase experimental sensitivity. There is one important class of gravitational waves, however, that still eludes scientists: the so-called primordial gravitational waves likely to have been produced in the earliest moments of our universe. Observation of these waves—the gravitational equivalent of the cosmic microwave background, though significantly older—could reveal much about the origin of the visible universe. In this presentation I review these developments and discuss their implications for our understanding of how the visible universe began. I also discuss a related tension in the construction of theories of the early universe that sheds light on the challenge of doing physics on “the whole.”

Engaging Hypotheticals: Groundwork for the Study of Theology in a Secular Academic Context

Saturday, September 25 | 1-3pm (Pacific Time) | Online

The 2021 Annual Russell Family Research Conference will be lead by Russell Family Research Fellow Dr. Kirk Wegter-McNelly.

The study of religion in the secular academy is dominated by the “religious studies” approach, which situates theological ideas within their social context and privileges the cornucopic variety of lived religion over more systematized expressions of religious thought. In religious academic contexts the sociological and psychological dimensions of religion often take a back seat to theological explication of scripture and tradition. One possibility elided by this dichotomy is the study of theological ideas and traditions from a secular perspective.

In this talk, Dr. Kirk Wegter-McNelly will explore the potential fruits of treating theological claims not from a confessional perspective as products of “faith seeking understanding” but from a secular perspective as hypotheses to be investigated alongside those of science. Dr. Wegter-McNelly’s analysis hinges on the notion that hypotheses worthy of our consideration are not always testable hypotheses.

Conference respondents and schedule to be announced!

Both of these events are free and open to the public. To register for either, please email Matt Hartman, mhartman@gtu.edu. Registration required.

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



CLGS Lavender Lunch: Queering Wesley, Queering the Church with Keegan Osinski

ONLINE | Tuesday, 14 September | 12:15pm - 1:15pm (Pacific Time)

[Join us on Zoom!](#)

CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversations: Mental Health Care and Latinx Theology/Activism with Professor MT Dávila

ONLINE | Thursday, 16 September | 12pm - 1:15pm (Pacific Time)

[Join us on Zoom!](#)



CLGS Jewish Queeries Series: "Post-Gay": How Queer Values Benefit All People with Rabbi Joshua Lesser

ONLINE | Thursday, 30 September | 1pm - 2:15pm (Pacific Time)

[Join us on Zoom!](#)

Women's Studies in Religion

Program Coordinator Position Announcement

Current GTU students! Are you looking for work-study that will offer mentorship and skills that will open up additional opportunities after graduation? WSR is looking for a new program coordinator to provide clerical and project oversight.

Learn more and apply!

Please email WSR Steering Committee Chair, Dr. Ashley Bacchi, ashleylb@sksm.edu with any questions.

Green the Church National Virtual Summit



GTC 2021 Summit Honorary Chair
Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Interfaith Power & Light Board Chair
Pastor Emeritus, Providence Missionary
Baptist Church, Atlanta GA



2021 National Virtual Summit
Green Lessons from Black Wall Street
Infrastructure, Agriculture, Energy, and Equity
...for the people had a mind to work - Nehemiah 4:6c
October 10 - 13, 2021
REGISTER NOW
General registration @ \$100 is available from August 15th - Sept 30th
Late registration will be available @ \$125 from October 1st- 10th



"Sankofa"
"Go back to the past and bring forward that which is useful."



GTC 2021 Summit Honoree
Ms. Veronica Kyle
Statewide Outreach Director at Faith in Place, Adjunct Professor and CoFounder of the EcoWomanist institute



"Sankofa"
"Go back to the past and bring forward that which is useful."

CDF Committee Members (2021-2022)

Awards Committee

- Christopher Hadley (JST)
- Mary McGann (JST)

Doctoral Council

- Thomas Cattoi (JST)
- Kathryn Barush (GTU/JST)
- Student reps: Mark Guevarra and Charissa Jaeger-Sanders

Faculty Representative to GTU Board of Trustees

- Rita Sherma (GTU/CDS) (2020-2023)

Human Subjects Protocol Reviewers

- Jerome Baggett (JST)
- Munir Jiwa (GTU/CIS)
- Mary McGann (JST)

Faculty Council (Class of 2018-2020)

- Class of 2022: Shauna Hannan (PLTS), John Klentos (GTU/PAOI), Julia Prinz (JST), Sam Shonkoff (GTU/CJS)
- Class of 2023: Jerome Baggett (JST), Ron Burris (BST), Scott MacDougall (CDSP), Susan Phillips (GTU/NCB)

Admissions Committee/Reviewers

- HCSR: Peter Choi (GTU/NHS), Marianne Farina (DSPT), John Klentos (GTU/PAOI)
- REPR: Valerie Miles-Tribble (BST), Eddie Fernández (JST), Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (SFTS)
- SATX: Sharon Jacob (PSR), Jean-Francois Racine (JST), Matthew Thomas (DSPT)
- THET: Anselm Ramelow (DSPT), Robert Russell (GTU/CTNS), Anh Tran (JST)

Appointments and Review Committee

- Ruth Meyers (CDSP)
- Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (PLTS/CDSP)

Grievance Committee

- LeAnn Snow Flesher (BST)
- Bryan Kromholtz (DSPT)
- Sam Park (BST)
- Scott Mitchell (IBS), alternate

Department Chairs

- HCSR: Jim Lawrence (PSR/CSS)
- REPR: Jennifer Davidson (BST)
- SATX: Rebecca Esterson (GTU/CSS)
- THET: Rita Sherma (GTU/CDS)



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 **lwebster@gtu.edu**

Lydia Webster, Executive Assistant to the Interim Dean

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