

The GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN

My wife and I drove down to Los Angeles last week to drop off our son for his college orientation. His campus was bustling with sound and movement, with senior students dancing and singing to welcome the new students. The next day I attended the orientation for the new GTU doctoral students. There was no music blasting or spontaneous dancing, but I could sense the same level of excitement and energy on my campus. Our new students are anxious to start their program, and the rest of the GTU community are also ready and eager. However, we begin the fall semester with a heavy heart because not much has changed since my letter in the May issue. In particular, the moral and political standards so many people in the past have sacrificed for and fought to establish are being questioned and sabotaged by some people who have the means and power to participate, shape, and change the public discourse, policies and regulations. The latest and extremely alarming incident that displays the bankrupt leadership in this country was evident in the Charlottesville attack. Some leaders actually compared white supremacist and Neo-Nazis groups with progressives and liberals and implied that there was no difference between two opposing camps that clashed at Charlottesville.

Truth matters. Jesus said, "You will know the truth (*aletheia*), and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Truth and freedom are directly connected. We firmly believe that truth has the power to transform lives, advance human conditions, and liberate people from oppressions. The word *aletheia* means "opposite of lie" (Liddell and Scott), yet it feels strange and is alarming that some of our public leaders willfully wish to confuse the opposing concepts. Moreover, it is reasonable to expect people to accept the truth, facts, and evidence when they are presented to them. Apparently not! We have some leaders in government, faith communities, and education who ignore, deny, or undermine the truth, facts, and evidence. They always seem to have an "alternative truth" to deny the truth, no matter how unreasonable and fantastic that may be.

As we welcome new students and ready ourselves for another semester of learning, we need to remember our calling as scholars. Let me borrow from the script we use to confer doctoral degrees at the GTU: we are part of the esteemed ranks of centuries of scholars and thinkers who have committed their lives to learning, to the pursuit, profession, and transmission of truth, and to the advancement of human and humane civilization.

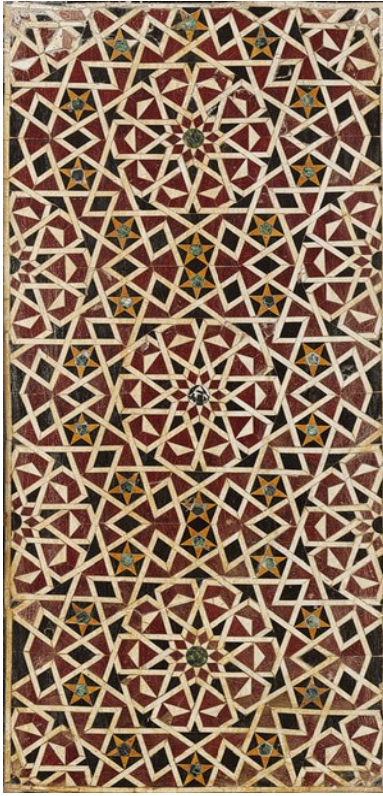
GTU WELCOME RECEPTION, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 4PM

The GTU Dean's Office invites all members of the GTU Consortial Community to a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, **September 20th, 4pm** in the GTU Student Lounge and Doug Adams Gallery (1st floor of the GTU building at 2465 LeConte Avenue). At 4pm, there will be a brief program to introduce new faculty and visiting scholars. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have questions or need additional information, contact the GTU Dean's Office at warce@gtu.edu or 510/649-2440.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NOTE FROM DEAN KIM, WELCOME RECEPTION.....	1
NEWS/EVENTS FOR CIS, CJS & CTNS, CHAN PRIZE	2
CARE EVENTS, NEWHALL APPLICATION.....	3
CIS NEWS/EVENTS, FACULTY COMMITTEES, FILING DEADLINE, LIBRARY NEWS/EVENTS.....	4
SOPHERE CONFERENCE & CFP, TRAVEL GRANT DEADLINE, PDP NEWS/ EVENTS.....	5
MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM, DEFENSE DEADLINE, INTERFAITH KINDNESS AND COMPASSION SERIES, HONORABLE MENTION...	6



CIS News and Events

Center for Islamic Studies welcomes all new and returning students, instructors, and visiting scholars for the academic year 2017-2018. We are honored and grateful to have Professor Mark Massoud, Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies at UC Santa Cruz as a Mellon Visiting Scholar, and Dr. Jessica Chen, PhD in Islamic Studies from Stanford University, working on Muslim-Buddhist dialogue while at the CIS/GTU. We are delighted that Carol Bier, Historian of Islamic Art, will continue her work with the CIS/GTU as Research Scholar, and also delighted that Dr. Kei Takahashi from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan will continue to be a visiting scholar in Islamic Studies at CIS/GTU through September.

CIS is delighted to share that Carol Bier is traveling in Uzbekistan through Sept 15 with a group of textile specialists focusing on craft, architecture and technology. Selected works by Carol Bier can be viewed at: https://works.bepress.com/carol_bier/. Congratulations!

Dr. Munir Jiwa, CIS Director, was nominated and accepted to serve as a faculty representative on the GTU Board of Trustees, and as a faculty member of the UC Berkeley Religious Diversity Cluster at the Haas Institute. Congratulations!

In celebration of its 10th year anniversary, CIS is delighted to present an exhibition at the GTU library this September through January 2018, on the theme of Knowledge and Diversity. The exhibition will highlight students, faculty and visiting scholars works in Islamic Studies at the GTU, along with showcasing art works and public programs. For more information, please see www.gtu.edu/cis and/or contact Rania Shah, CIS program coordinator: rshah@gtu.edu

Congratulations to CIS on receiving a Henry Luce Foundation grant for 2017-2018 to help support programs and conferences during the CIS 10th anniversary. CIS/GTU is deeply grateful to the Henry Luce Foundation for its tremendous support over the years.

CIS wishes a blessed journey to all those making the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. We wish our Muslim colleagues, families and friends Eid al-Adha Mubarak. May this be a time of greater understanding, unity, and peace.

GTU Diversity: A Welcoming Reception for Students, Faculty, and Staff of Color and International Students, Faculty and Staff

The student services offices of the GTU consortium are hosting this reception to celebrate the beginning of the academic year and a new journey. September 14, 4:30-6pm, Bade Museum, PSR.

Chan Prize Competition Deadline September 15, 2017

Students interested in submitting papers for the Fall 2017 Chan Prize in Religion and Economics Essay contest must do so by **Friday, September 15, 2017 at 5pm** in the GTU Dean's Office. The Chan competition's purpose is to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical, constructive) reflection on the topic of "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.)." For more detail on the criteria of the essay competition, please see the 2017 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 97) — there is no application form.

CJS Events

Midrash and Mayhem September 5th, 2017 - 12:30pm

A Luncheon event featuring Dr. Andrew Ramer, sponsored by the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the GTU. The event will be held in the GTU Student Lounge, first floor of 2465 LeConte Ave, Berkeley.

CTNS Events

Thursday, Sept. 28, 7-8:30pm, GTU Board Room

CTNS Student Showcase

Come hear about the work GTU students are doing in science and religion. Presentations by: Austin Eikenberry, Ki Wook Min, and Robert Russell discussing Hun Cho Yu's 2017 GTU Dissertation. Free and open to the public. For more information contact ctnsinfo@ctns.org. Presented by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences ~ www.ctns.org

Pacific Coast Theological Society Fall Meeting

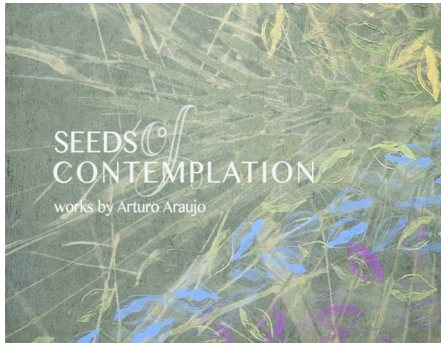
November 3-4

Theology, Transhumanism, and Artificial Intelligence
CDSP Classroom B

Papers from Brian Green, Levi Checketts, Arvin Gouw, Braden Molhoek
Public Lecture by Mark Graves

Papers are expected to be read ahead of time. Registration Required. For more information, visit the meeting's website <http://www.pcts.org/meetings/2017/Fall.html>

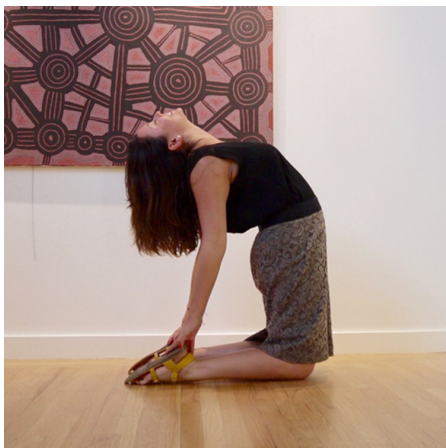
CARE News and Events



Opening Reception
Tuesday September 5 | 5-7pm
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery
Live Music with Cascada de Flores!
Seeds of Contemplation: Works by Arturo Araujo, will now be on view September 5th - December 8th, 2017.

GTU Writing Group in the Gallery
Mondays, 8:30 am- 1:30 pm.
Open to all GTU students!

Trivia Night in the Gallery
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery
Thursday September 7 | 5-7pm
Topics: Art & Religion
Pizza, Beer, and prizes! Join us for an evening of fun and games! Free and open to all incoming and returning Graduate Theological Union students. Member schools and affiliates are welcome!



Yoga in the Gallery
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery
Wednesday, September 20th, 12-12:45pm
Looking for a break during your week?
We offer a 45-minute yoga class in the gallery the third Wednesday of each month. Come in your work clothes to stretch, meditate and prepare yourself for the second half of the workday. Don't worry! Mats are provided.

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA
Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive
Wednesday, September 20th, 12-12:45pm
Dr. Schroeder will speak on the painting, "The Annunciation According to Mikey Piñero (Cupcake and Paco)" by Martin Wong, 1984. This work is in the exhibition "Martin Wong: Human Instamatic." A CARE staff member will meet you in the lobby to check in and receive your visitor's pass.



Newhall Applications Due
Friday, November 10, 2017

Newhall Awards are competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Core Doctoral Faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Awards are given for fall, spring, or both semesters, but the application process takes place only in the fall (in order to give faculty and students time to submit courses for next year's Course Schedule). The 2018-2019 Newhall Award Application form is available on the GTU webpage. (Near the top of the GTU homepage click on "Current Students." Once on the Students module, scroll down to the "Professional Development" section to find the link.) The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. (You can also find it in the Doctoral Program Handbook on p. 95-96.) Complete applications are due in the GTU Dean's Office by **5pm Friday, November 10**; these must come from the student and the professor for a project involving both. Award amounts depend on the number of appointments made, but are generally at least \$3000 per semester.

GRADUATION FILING DEADLINE

September 29, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline to file completed and approved copies of theses and dissertations or certification of oral examinations forms for MABL candidates for GTU approval of degree on October 20, 2017. This is also the deadline for certificate requests for CJS and CIS certificate students.



Faculty Committees for 2017-18

Please see below the Committees of the Core Doctoral Faculty for 2017-2018. These can also be found through the “Faculty” module under the subheading “Other Information.”

Awards Committee

Randi Walker (PSR)
Devin Zuber (CSS)

Appointments and Review Committee

Ted Peters (CTNS)
Naomi Seidman (GTU/CJS)

Grievance Committee

Anselm Ramelow (DSPT)
Bernard Schlager (PSR)
Annette Weissenreider (SFTS)
Daijaku Kinst (GTU/IBS) - Alternate

Doctoral Council

Jim Lawrence (CSS)
Eugene Ludwig (DSPT)

Library News

GTU LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE: October 4th

Mark Your Calendars! The annual LIBRARY BOOK SALE in honor of St. Jerome (patron saint of librarians) will be held on Wednesday, October 4, from 10am to 3pm in the Henry Mayo Newhall Plaza at the entrance to the library. There will be thousands of books to choose from. Most hardbacks \$2 / Most paperbacks \$1. In case of rain, the sale will be held in the new Collaborative Learning Space (formerly known as the Computer Lab).

For more information about the book sale or art exhibits, contact Caryl Woulfe at 510-649-2541 or cwoulfe@gtu.edu.

ANNOUNCING SUMMON!

This new search combines GRACE, our databases, our LibGuides, and freely available open source resources into a single search engine. Try it out and let us know what you think. Summon is linked from our library homepage: <http://gtu.edu/library>

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

Re-introduction to the Library: September 7 (11am)& 16 (1pm)

Did you miss library orientation? Maybe its been a while since you've dived into research. Come for a re-orientation to the library resources.

Zotero (with Beth): September 6 (2pm @ SFTS), 8 (10:30am), 16 (2pm), 18 (2:30pm), 28 (11am online) & 29 (2pm @ SFTS)

Learn to use this free citation management software to organize your research. It integrates with Microsoft Office to create an alphabetized bibliography in your choice of style, including Turabian. Bring your laptop!

Biblical Exegesis (with Naw San): September 13 (2-3:30pm) & 19 (11-12:30pm)

Writing an exegesis paper can be a daunting task but a rewarding process. Learn to use both print and online resources for biblical exegesis available through the GTU library and on the internet.

Course Design Workshop Series: This series is designed to guide faculty and doctoral students through current issues in pedagogy and technology. Please see the library website for session descriptions.

Student Assessment with Quizzes: September 11 or 15

Please **RSVP** to kschiefelbein@gtu.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS: Phenomenology in Dialogue: Religious Experience and the Lifeworld

SOCIETY FOR PHENOMENOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE (SOPHERE) Second Regional Berkeley Meeting, January 26-27, 2018

Location: Graduate Theological Union, Jesuit School of Theology, Patriarch Athenagoras Institute - <http://sophere.org/conferences/regional-conferences/>

Paper submissions directly pertinent to the theme are particularly encouraged, but papers on any area of current research in phenomenology of religious experience and related studies will be considered for inclusion in the program. Completed papers will be given strong priority. Detailed abstracts will be considered; a short *curriculum vitae* should accompany abstracts. Papers should be no more than 4500 words/30 minutes reading time. Please format papers for anonymous review and send with a cover letter to conference@sophere.org

The conference is divided into two main sections: critical issues in the phenomenological research of religious experience, and the phenomenology of religious experience in various domains of the lifeworld, such as ministry, preaching, corporate world, health practices, and pastoral and clinical counseling.

In the first section we welcome contributions which advance research of religious experience by articulating the areas of special reflection, as well as the area of new and visionary problematic. How do we thematize the problem of religious experience? How does the traditional phenomenological first-person authority play itself out in the phenomenology of religious experience? Should phenomenological research of religious experience be in dialogue with natural science research? What are the spheres, regions and horizons in which we can understand religious experience? How do traditional topics of phenomenological philosophy, such as the ego, subjectivity, embodiment, or intersubjectivity, relate to the study of religious experience? We invite these and other questions to be treated not only in light of classical phenomenological scholarship, but also within interpretive and critical approaches; we also welcome contributions from the perspectives of theological phenomenology such as, for example, perspectives connected with the work of Schleiermacher or Troeltsch, French phenomenology, and the phenomenology of life.

In the second section, we would like to read papers which discuss the positioning of religious experience in various lifeworlds/ How do religious realities manifest across different traditions and practices? What regional ontologies of knowledge create the contexts for successful phenomenological research of religious experience? How can phenomenology clarify the role of religious experience in the world of business, in emergent theologies of hope, or in healthcare? SOPHERE collaborates with the De Gruyter Academic Publishers Open Theology open access journal. The conference papers will be considered for publication in a special topical issue. **Deadline for submission: December 1, 2017**

All inquiries to conference@sophere.org

GTU Student Travel Grant Cycle #1

Deadline Sept. 15, 2017

Mark your calendar! The first cycle deadline to compete for a GTU Student Travel Grant is **Wednesday, September 15, 2017 at 5pm** in the GTU Dean's Office. GTU doctoral students who are presenting papers at the AAR and SBL Annual Meetings along with other comparable national conferences and meetings before January 31, 2017 are eligible to apply for the first cycle. Additionally, the GTU Student Travel Grant Application form must accompany supporting materials (proof of acceptance to conferences and paper abstract). It is available through the GTU Dean's Office and the GTU webpage. For more information, please consult the 2017 Doctoral Program Handbook (p. 97), call the GTU Dean's Office (649.2440), OR email warce@gtu.edu.

Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award from 2016-2017

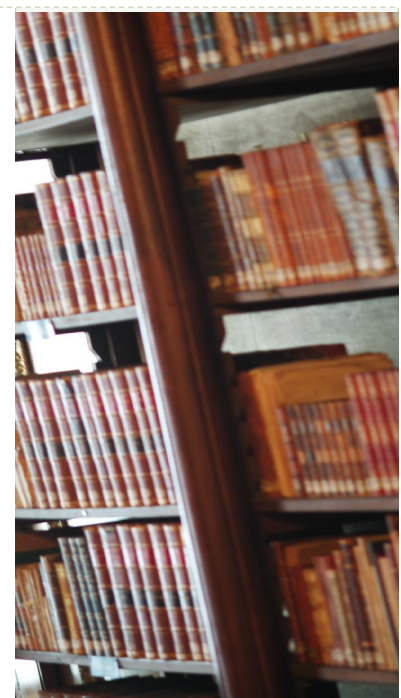
Congratulations to: Jiyoung Ko, Christian Spirituality, writing the dissertation "Destruction and Creation *ex nihilo*: Mary of Bethany's, Margery Kempe's, and Dorothy Day's Spiritualities of Nonconformity from the Perspective of Lacan's Ethics of Desire"

Professional Development Program News and Events

The PDP is excited to announce its new schedule for the 2017-2018 year. September's workshops are: Orientation to Doc Council and Dissertation Proposal (September 5, 11am, Dinner Board Room), Comprehensive Exam Panel (September 11th, 11am, GTU Student Lounge), and Dissertation Workshop (September 19th, 11am GTU Student Lounge). For more information, visit www.gtu.edu/students/prodev where you can also find links to helpful resources.

Orientation to Doctoral Council and the Dissertation Proposal

If you are planning to propose your dissertation in 2017-2018 you are strongly encouraged to attend this event, led by Dean of Students Kathleen Kook, with student member Levi Checketts. September 5, 11am – noon, Dinner Board Room, GTU Library. We will hold an additional session in early spring. Contact Kathleen Kook, kkook@gtu.edu with questions.



CALL FOR PAPERS: AAR Western Regional Conference March 23-25, Berkeley, CA

This year's conference theme is Religion and Kindness. The deadline for submitting proposals is Monday, October 1st 2017—via email to unit chairs. Visit www.aarwr.com/call-for-papers.html for details. Contact Prof Abdullahi Gallab, Program Chair, with any questions.

Modern Language Exam

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered **Wednesday, September 27, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.** in the Dinner Board Room in the GTU Library. The exam will be offered in French, German, and Spanish, and in Italian and Modern Hebrew if there is interest. Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, GTU Academic Secretary, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need to student's help to secure the examiner. Please register with Amberly Vincent, Student Affairs Office Manager (649-2400) (avincent@gtu.edu) no later than September 13.

Facilitated Interfaith Kindness and Compassion Series

Now in its second year at the GTU!

This group meets to build friendship, understanding, and appreciation between students of all religious and wisdom traditions. Our focus is on shared values of love, kindness, friendliness, and compassion.

Participants are guided in interfaith kindness and compassion meditation (derived from the Buddhist traditions), for the purpose of personal exploration. Discussion afterwards offers the opportunity to clarify how kindness, compassion, peace, joy, and forgiveness are important in your own spiritual life, and to learn how these beautiful qualities of the heart emerge for others as well.

This group meets Monthly. Our first meeting is 12:45pm-1:45pm Tuesday, September 12 at the Hedco seminar room in the LeConte Building of the GTU. For more information, contact dneal@ses.gtu.edu.

Honorable Mention

PHD Students Advanced to Candidacy

Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Interdisciplinary Studies

Effendi Sunur, Systematic and Philosophical Theology

MA/MABL

Philipos Ghaly, SKSM, Honors

Christina M. Atienza, JST

Sophie Vener, CJS, Honors

Glennis Lamm, CJS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Sukhun Huh, THEO

Rondall Reynoso, ART

Austin Eikenberry, THEO

Leituala F. Malieitulia, HIST

Amin Tejpar, CHSR

Jamie Fowler, THEO

Ahmed Khater, CHSR

Aline Gram, SPRT

William Lester, IDS

Michaela Eskew, ART

Oral Comprehensive

Hyun Ho Park, BIBL

Yohana Junker, ART, Distinction

Zachary Markwith, CHSR

Sean Albrecht, BIBL

Todd, Oswald, IDS

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Khalia Jelks-Williams, LITG

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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu.



Grow in Knowledge
Thrive in Spirit
Unite in Solutions

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