

GTU Dean's Newsletter



The long-awaited inauguration of Rabbi Daniel Lehmann as the eighth president of the Graduate Theological Union took place on a warm evening of October 24th at the International House at UC Berkeley. If President Lehmann had delivered his inaugural address a year ago, I believe it would have been very different from the one he presented. After spending the last fifteen months learning about the GTU and its diverse constituents, exploring and experimenting with many “outside the box” ideas, and listening to multiple voices and spirits on Holy Hill, President Lehmann eloquently articulated the “Pathways to the Future of the GTU.” I doubt he would have been able to craft such a clear vision of the GTU a year ago. In his address he expounded four pathways that will lead the GTU to a sustainable and vibrant future in the next decade or so, namely:

- Pathway #1 - Leading Interreligious Innovation
- Pathway #2 - Advancing Professional Opportunity and Impact Through Applied Interreligious Engagement
- Pathway #3 - Facilitating the Interreligious Spiritual Quest
- Pathway #4 - Championing GTU: Global Theological University

I invite everyone to read President Lehmann’s reflection, which is featured in the new issue of *Skylight* and has been posted on the GTU website as a series of blogs, starting with this one: <https://www.gtu.edu/news/dynamic-pluralistic-community-interreligious-innovation>.

For me, because I have heard and also read President Lehmann’s plan before, what resonated most during the inauguration was when representatives from various constituencies offered their blessings. The following blessing was read on behalf of the GTU alumni, which spoke to my heart more than others, including the one I actually read:

“GTU graduates represent the institution’s history as well as its impact on the world; having been molded by the life and scholarship we experienced on this Holy Hill, we have moved on to fields of scholarship and service, equipped with skills and perspectives that are much needed in a complex global society. On behalf of the GTU alumni, may you be blessed with an appreciation for the GTU’s heritage and a clear vision for its future, so that the good work that began during our time as GTU students will continue in this new era, with appreciation for the GTU’s vital role in the world today.”

These words made me reminisce about my days as a doctoral student when I experienced the GTU’s heritage through “the life and scholarship” on Holy Hill and ruminate over my desire to contribute to assuring the GTU’s vital role in the world for another fifty years. No doubt President Lehmann is the primary architect, but it is up to all of us – alumni, students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees – to build the GTU for its future.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Associate Dean of Students	2
Event: The 44th Annual GTU Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Dr. Munir Jiwa	3
WSR, “Passion Led Us Here: Mentoring Night”	4
SAC Fall Forum on Mental Health	4
Lunch & Workshop: “Strengthening Democracy”	5
Public Lecture, “Eco-Dao,” Distinguished Asian Theologian Dr. Heup Young Kim	6
Library News	7
Digital Learning Workshops	7
CLGS Events	8
CTNS Public Forum with Dr. Levi Checketts	8
CARE Events	9
CIS News	10
Public Talk by a Candidate for Director of Interreligious Chaplaincy Program	10
GTU Alumni Reception at 2019 AAR National Meeting	10
Honorable Mentions	11

From the Associate Dean of Students

2020 CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology** (BJRT) is the peer-reviewed journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. The mission of the BJRT is to be an international and diverse forum of original, cutting-edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that reflects the GTU's endeavor to be a nexus for "where religion meets the world."

To this end, the editors of the BJRT invite scholars from various backgrounds and institutions to submit articles and book reviews for inclusion into the journal. The BJRT strongly encourages creative scholarship from different religious and theological traditions and methods that reflects the mission of the BJRT. The deadline for submissions for the next issue (Vol. 6, no. 1) is: **March 1, 2020**

Instructions for Submissions and Style Guide for authors and reviewers are available on the BJRT website (bjrt.gtu.edu). For more information, please e-mail the managing editor at: bjrt@ses.gtu.edu

SAC Forum on Mental Health

Wednesday, November 6th, 12noon to 2:00pm

GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley
The Student Advisory Committee invites all Doctoral students to come together for a forum on mental health in grad school. Pizza will be provided!

Brown Bag Lunch with the GTU President

**Wednesdays, November 20th; December 18th
12:30pm in the President's Office**

Come and get to know President Danny Lehmann during our information Brown Bag Lunches! Please bring your lunch and join Danny for informal conversations in the President's Office.

NEWHALL FELLOWSHIP **Applications Due!**

To be considered by the Awards Committee, the application and supporting materials are all due no later than **Friday, November 8, 2019, 5:00 PM in the Dean's Office**. Late materials will not be accepted. See online form at:
<https://www.gtu.edu/newhall-fellowship>

Summer Ethical Leadership Fellowship for Seminary Students

FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) is now accepting applications or its 2020 Seminary program.

FASPE Business is a fully-funded, two-week fellowship program in professional ethics and ethical leadership that begins by examining the actions and choices of German religious leaders and communities of faith in enabling Nazi policies. It then draws on this historical example to help Seminary Fellows both grasp their role as influencers in their field and in their communities as well as identify and confront the ethical issues currently facing religious leaders and organizations. The program takes place in Germany and Poland at the sites of Nazi actions, allowing Fellows to benefit from the power of the place and immersive, contextual learning.

DETAILS:

Program Dates: June 12-26, 2020.

Fully-funded: All program costs are covered, including travel, lodging, and food.

Interdisciplinary: FASPE Seminary Fellows travel with Fellows in the FASPE Medical program.

Itinerary: Fellows will travel to Berlin, Krakow, and Oswiecim (the location of the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz).

Eligibility: FASPE Seminary applicants must either be enrolled in graduate school preparing for work as a religious leader at the time of application or they must be working as clergy with a relevant graduate degree received between May 2018 and January 2020. Those applying as students may be studying at a seminary, divinity school, rabbinical school, Muslim chaplaincy program or other graduate program related to religious OR theological training.

FASPE programs are non-denominational. Candidates of all nationalities, religions, and backgrounds are encouraged to apply. **Applications due by December 30, 2019.**

To learn more about FASPE and to apply, please visit:
<http://www.faspe-ethics.org/how-to-apply/>

For a list of previous Fellows, please visit <http://www.faspe-ethics.org/fellows-by-year/>

The Graduate Theological Union Presents The 44th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture:

“Liberal Inclusion or Liberal Conversion?”

Islamophilia, Islamophobia, and Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts”



Dr. Munir Jiwa

Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Anthropology, Founding Director of the Center for Islamic Studies (CIS) will be this year's speaker.



Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake

Faculty Associate, Pacific School of Religion (PSR) will be the respondent.

Drawing on works in anthropology, critical theory and decolonial studies, this lecture examines the “particular” and unquestioned Euro-American liberal values and norms assumed to be “universal.” How do the regulatory effects and violence of civilizing, disciplining and securitizing missions in the name of liberal and secular modernity remake Islam and Muslims, and how are these reproduced and challenged in academia especially in the current political climate?

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 | 6:30 PM

Pacific School of Religion, Chapel of the Great Commission
1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

Reception to follow at PSR’s Badè Museum



Wednesday, November 13th

5-7pm

Location: GTU Dinner Board Room,
3rd Floor, wheelchair accessible

**Dinner will be provided with plenty of
vegan/vegetarian options!**

Questions? wsr@ses.gtu.edu



Women's Studies in Religion

Passion Led Us Here: Mentoring Night

Join Students, Staff, & Faculty for Food & Facilitated Conversation

All are welcome, regardless of gender identity or expression, but we especially welcome those who identify as women, femme, and/or non-binary. Facilitated discussions will consider topics such as addressing sexism, financial sustainability, publishing, careers outside of religion/the academy, classroom dynamics, and more. Participants can choose which conversation(s) to take part in.

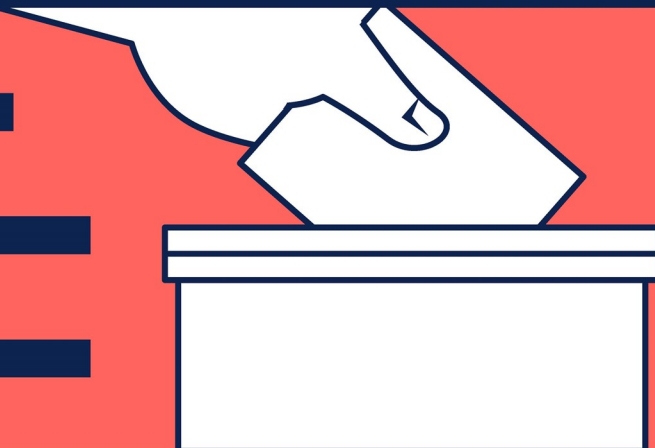
Also, come to learn about the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program and ways to be involved in our programming!

SAC FALL FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH

The Student Advisory Committee invites all Doctoral students to come together for a forum on mental health in grad school. Pizza will be provided!

Wednesday, November 6th at 12noon to 2:00pm

GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley



CAN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOSTER
DEMOCRATIC VALUES?

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

Tuesday, November 19 from 12:30-2pm
GTU Dinner Board Room. All are welcome!
Hosted by the GTU President's Office and the
Practicing Democracy Project
Facilitators: Sheryl Johnson and Aizaiah Yong

COME TO OUR LUNCH & WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS,
LEARN, & SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVES

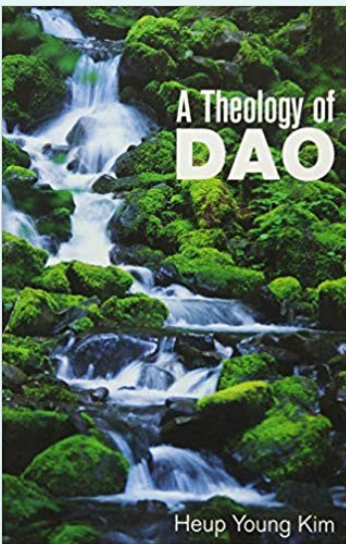


LEARN MORE: [HTTP://PRACTICINGDEMOCRACY.COM](http://practicingedemocracy.com)



“Eco-Dao: An Ecological Theology of the Dao”

Public Lecture by Dr. Heup Young Kim, Distinguished Asian Theologian in Residence at GTU



In continuation of his first lecture, Dr. Kim will explain fundamental insights for his formulation of ecological theology of the Dao (namely, Ecodao), as an application of Theodao in this age of ecological crisis and technology. In and through an in-depth dialogue with Confucianism and Daoism, this lecture will focus on Neo-Confucian notions of anthropocosmic vision, the Great Ultimate (*Taiji* with yin-yang relation), vital force (*qi*, homologous to *ruach* and *pneuma*), and inclusive humanism. It will further illuminate remarkable similarities between Eco-Dao and the papal encyclical *Laudato si'*.

Heup Young Kim (GTU PhD, 1992) is the Distinguished Asian Theologian in Residence at the GTU in Fall 2019. He is Professor Emeritus of Theology at Kangnam University, former Moderator of the Congress of Asian Theologians, and President of Korea Forum for Science and Life, South Korea. He has published extensively in the area of East Asian constructive theology, interreligious dialogue, religion and science, and ecology, including *Wang Yang-ming and Karl Barth: A Confucian-Christian Dialogue*, *Christ and the Tao*, and a *Theology of Dao*.



Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 4 PM

GTU Library | Richard S. Dinner Boardroom
2400 Ridge Road | Berkeley, CA 94709

A reception will proceed the lecture. Open to the Public!

Library News

Library Art Exhibit

Stop by the library to view the current exhibit, "Standing on Holy Ground: Metropolitan Community Churches and LGBTQ-Affirming Religion: A CLGS Exhibition," on display through February 28. This exhibition includes a sampling of items from the <https://clgs.org/research/clgs-archives-project/> which are currently being processed and will eventually be housed at the library. Including artwork, photographs, denominational publications, and news reports, this exhibition provides the viewer with the opportunity to explore – and to celebrate! – a denomination which was one of the first to embrace and affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people as beloved children of the Divine.

All are invited to the opening reception, **Tuesday, November 5, from 4-6pm.**

The exhibition is made possible by the Jane Dillenberger Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

Free and open to the public during library hours.

Thanksgiving Week Library Hours

The library will be closed from 12:00 pm Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29. We will **reopen** on Saturday, November 30, at 11:00 am.

Digital Learning – Workshops

Collaborative Learning with Moodle and Voicethread

Wed. Nov. 6th 2:30-3:30pm

Thur. Nov. 7th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)

Discussions forums are one of the more common tools that instructors use to provide collaborative activities for their students on Moodle. However, a discussion forum is only one out of many effective ways to provide interactive and collaborative learning for your students. This workshop introduces participants to various collaborative learning activities that Moodle and Voicethread have to offer for both in-class and online courses.

Assignments and Assessment with Moodle's Gradebook

Wed. Nov. 13th 2:30-3:30pm

Thur. Nov. 14th 1:30-2:30pm (online via zoom)

Performing concrete assessments is an important part of a course. This workshop discusses how to use Moodle's Gradebook for assessment and use rubrics in Moodle.

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

November Events

2-3 November 2019: CLGS Jewish Roundtable Retreat:

Jewish and Queer-Raised: A Gathering for the Next Generation
PSR Campus

7 November 2019: CLGS Jewish Roundtable Queeries Series

Report from the *Jewish and Queer-Raised: A Gathering for the Next Generation* Retreat
6:30pm | PSR's Badè Museum

12 November 2019: CLGS Lavender Lunch with Revs. Doretha Flournoy and Jim Mitulski

Ministry in the Metropolitan Community Church
12:00 noon to 1:15pm | Small Dining Room, PSR's D'Autremont Hall

15 November 2019: Fall Badè Museum Lecture

Megan Cifarelli, PhD, Professor of Art History, Manhattanville College
Discovering Others: Can We Find Non-Binary Gendered Individuals in the Archaeological Record of the Ancient Near East?
CLGS, Cosponsoring Organization
5:30pm to 7:30pm | PSR's Badè Museum

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS)

CTNS Public Forum with Dr. Levi Checketts

“Through a Techno-Mirror Darkly:
Created Co-Creators, AI and Consciousness Uploading”

Tuesday, November 5, 7pm | Dinner Board Room, GTU Library, 3rd floor

Free and open to the public



Levi Checketts is an adjunct professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Holy Names University and an adjunct assistant professor of Organizations and Responsible Business at St Mary's College of California. He is the 2018 Charles H. Townes Fellow at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, and was the recipient of an award for excellent graduate paper at the 2017 Society for Philosophy and Technology conference in Darmstadt, Germany.

Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

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

Brown Bag Lunch with Roslyn Sholin

Friday, November 1 | 12-1pm

CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series features presentations by recent CARE/GTU grant recipients, students, faculty, and staff. These are informal presentations, so please bring your sack lunch! Our November talk will be given by Roslyn Sholin, entitled *The Museum of You is Open, What's on Display?* Roslyn is a creative director, budding archivist, historian and curator. This talk explores her exhibition *My Attic, Your Story: An Immigrant's Journey* held in 2017 at the **Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto**. Roslyn describes what happened when she inherited a house that had been in her family for 80 years. As she examines how family history and world history are inextricably linked, and how objects can enrich a storytelling tradition, she invites

participants to consider their own family artifacts. How will you tell your story for the next generation?

WSR Art Group

Friday, November 8 | 12:30-2pm

The GTU Women's Studies in Religion program is hosting a series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjolholm. No art experience/skill whatsoever required! The focus is on finding balance in our busy lives and forming community with other students. This series is co-sponsored by the Center for the Arts & Religion. All are welcome, regardless of gender identity or expression. Each session will feature a different theme and a different creative project, but we would like people to commit to all sessions, ideally. Please email wsr@ses.gtu.edu to register.

Second Sundays in the Gallery

Sunday, November 10 | 1-4pm

For the run of our Fall exhibition, the gallery will be open on the second Sunday of the month. Please stop by for a chance to see the show and to talk to the exhibition's curator! As always, if you want to visit the gallery outside of normal opening hours, please email care@gtu.edu and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

Thursday, November 21 | 4:30-5:30pm

This event is held at BAMPFA | 2155 Center St. Berkeley

Every Third Thursday of the month, gather in the lobby of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive to receive complimentary museum admission and to hear a short lecture on a current exhibition. November's talk is given by BAMPFA Chief Preparator Kelly Bennett, who will be guiding us through the exhibition she helped install, *Hinges: Sakaki Hyakusen and the Birth of Nanga Painting*.

Center for Islamic Studies (CIS)

Congratulations to CIS research scholar **Carol Bier** who will be a featured speaker at the International Symmetry Congress in Kanazawa, Japan, November 25-30. She has organized a double session on geometry and Islamic art and her paper addresses "The Aleppo Minbar: Symmetry and Islamic Aesthetics." Her paper has been accepted in the Japanese journal, *Forma*, published by the Japanese Society for the Science of Form.

<http://www.symmetry2019.org/NotableParticipants.html>

<http://www.symmetry2019.org/Program.html>

Carol Bier will be delivering a lecture at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, November 16, 2:00pm on "Laughable Tales and Salacious Affairs: How the Founding of the Legion of Honor Led to the Study of Persian Art." Congratulations Carol! The lecture is free and open to the public.

<http://www.ancientartcouncil.org/program/11-16-19>

Munir Jiwa will be giving the 44th Annual GTU Distinguished Faculty Lecture, titled, "Liberal Inclusion or Liberal Conversion: Islamophilia, Islamophobia, and Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts." Tuesday, November 12th, PSR Chapel, 6:30pm. A reception will follow in the Badè Museum.

Munir Jiwa will be moderating the AAR panel by the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, titled, "Islamophobia: White Supremacy, Ethno-Nationalism, and the Academy." AAR San Diego, Saturday, November 23, Convention Center-20A (Upper Level East), 5:30-7pm, followed by CREM reception, 7:00pm-8:30pm, Convention Center-7A (Upper Level West). All welcome!

Public Talk

by a Candidate for the
Director of Interreligious Chaplaincy
Program

**"Establishing the Interreligious
Chaplaincy Program at the GTU:
Opportunities and Challenges"**

November 11th at 1:30 pm

GTU Library, main floor

Collaborative Learning Space

ANNUAL MEETINGS 2019

November 23-26

AAR



**GTU Alumni Reception @ 2019
AAR National Meeting**

**OMNI SAN DIEGO HOTEL
Grand Ballroom C (Fourth Level)**

**Sat Nov. 23, 2019
7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

Please join us!

Honorable Mentions

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Laura Dunn, HCSR

Advanced To Candidacy

Mahjabeen Dhala, SATX

Insoo Kim, THEO

Jinseok Kim, IDS

Cristoffr A. Ortiz-Roberts, BIBL

Jaesung Ryu, THET



Graduate
Theological
Union

The Dean's Newsletter

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

GTU Office of the Dean

2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
www.gtu.edu

Phone: 510-649-2442