

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



Two months ago, my wife and I visited the Legion of Honor's exhibition entitled "Gods in Color: Polychromy in the Ancient World." We were astonished to see the Greek statues in their vibrant colors rather than the all-too-familiar "classical" monochrome. We all know in our head that the ancient artists used colors in their works and there is plenty of evidence for this. Yet how is it that when we look at them in their original colors, they look strange and inferior? In one of the introductory panels, "Neoclassical Art and the Myth of Monochrome Sculpture," it says, "The concept of a classical art of pure white marble statues and architecture, which became the paradigm for artists working in the Renaissance and Neoclassical eras, drew upon the discovery of ancient works whose painted colors were faded and lost." In eighteenth century Europe, what is beautiful or ideal (simplicity/monochrome and symmetry) was firmly established, and that would influence how we view those artists or works that did not emulate or resemble the aesthetic qualities of the monochrome sculpture from ancient Greece. I would like to point out the obvious: the power and influence of Western epistemology is so pervasive and ingrained that the more accurate representation of Greek statues look unfamiliar and inferior compared to their so-called "ideal" representation.

My dissertation was unusual for biblical studies in that rather than focusing on the text, I focused on the dominant assumptions of the discipline of biblical studies. In particular, I critiqued the use of the concept of "nation" (which was developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe) by biblical scholars when studying ancient Israel. I argued that by understanding and re-constructing ancient Israel in the image of the modern European nation, we were supporting the vast array of covert cultural confirmations of Western imperial values and epistemology. I was always grateful to my dissertation committee for allowing me to pursue a research project that would have been discouraged by many other programs and committees. At the GTU, like other programs, we do participate in the acquiring and adding knowledge to the monuments established and shaped by the Western history, scholarship, and epistemology. But we also give our students opportunities and means to examine and critique the dominant assumptions of one's discipline if they choose to do so.



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



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Inaugural Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship Awarded



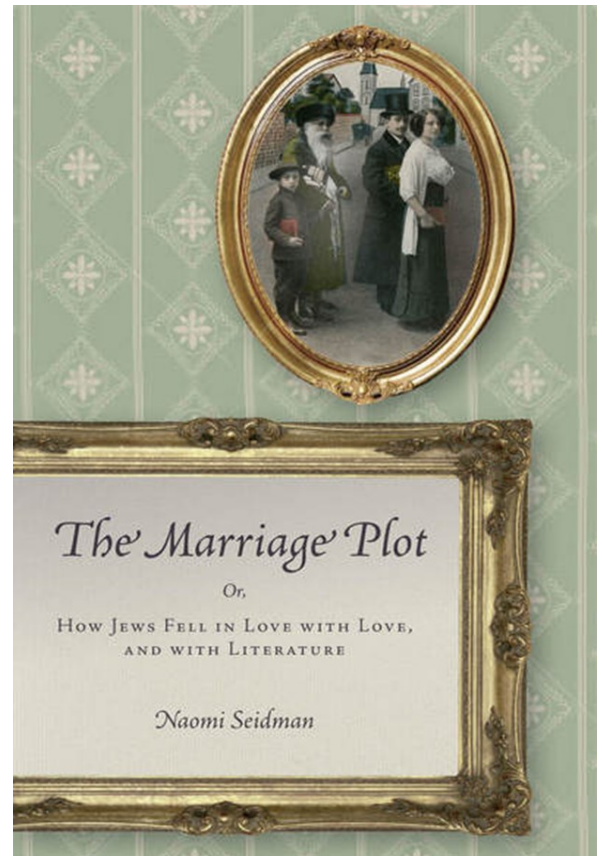
Dr. Naomi Seidman with GTU Dean Uriah Kim

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Naomi Seidman, Koret Professor of Jewish Culture at the GTU's Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, has been awarded the inaugural Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship for her 2016 book, *The Marriage Plot, Or, How Jews Fell in Love with Love, and with Literature* (Stanford University Press).

The Borsch-Rast Prize and Lectureship was established to encourage innovative scholarly publications by GTU graduates and current faculty, and offers a \$10,000 annual award. The endowment for the Borsch-Rast Prize and Lectureship comes from the sale of Trinity Press International, a venture dedicated to the publication of scholarly and often interdisciplinary theological studies. The prize and lectureship honor the joint example and collaboration of Frederick Houk Borsch (1935-2017) and Harold W. Rast (1933-2004).

Members of the selection committee heralded Dr. Seidman's work for its profound exploration of Jewish cultural attitudes toward love, sex, and marriage. In announcing Seidman's receipt of the award, GTU Dean Uriah Y. Kim stated, "Naomi Seidman's *The Marriage Plot* is a worthy choice as the inaugural winner of the Borsch-Rast Prize, which is among the most generous book awards in the field of religion and theology. Dr. Seidman has set a very high bar for future winners to meet." In accepting the award, Dr. Seidman spoke of the deep gratification she has experienced not only in receiving the award but in hearing from readers from the GTU community whose opinions she cherishes. "My book is about the challenges to community of secularization and modernization, and (despite the title) about the bonds that connect us to one another beyond the nuclear family, on which modern society rests so much weight," Seidman said. "At the Graduate Theological Union, all of us have been part of a radical experiment, of what it might mean to imagine community beyond the boundaries of religion and ethnicity, and I've been gratified to feel myself embraced by this community over the past twenty-some years."

Dr. Kathryn Barush, assistant professor of art history and religion at the Jesuit School of Theology-Santa Clara University and the Graduate Theological Union, was awarded an honorable mention for her book, *Art and the Sacred Journey in Britain, 1790-1850* (Routledge). GTU Dean Uriah Kim heralded Barush's book as "an illuminating and erudite study that will lead you to consider going on a sacred journey with your feet, mind, and spirit."



CARe News & Events

Religion and Resistance, February 6 -May 24, 2018

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery
 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley
 Free admission; open to the public
 Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
 Thursdays, 10am-3pm

Opening Reception: Religion and Resistance

Tuesday, February 6, 5-7pm
*Exhibition catalogs will be available at
 the reception!*



DOUG ADAMS GALLERY
 FEBRUARY 6 - MAY 24, 2018

Brown Bag Lunch Series:

Cultural Immersion in Sweden: Art, Science, and Religion in 18th Century Scandinavian Contexts

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Friday, February 2, 12-1pm. Bring your sack lunch!

Guest speaker: CARE Fall 2017 Grant Recipients/MDiv students from the Pacific School of Religion and Dr. Devin Zuber

You're invited to join the **GTU Writing Group** Mondays from 9:00am-1:30pm in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery beginning January 29! Laptops, phones, and refreshments are welcome. CARE's Doug Adams Gallery is located at 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Yoga in the Gallery

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

Wednesday, February 21, 12-12:45pm

Open to all levels.

Looking for a break during your work 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. Hosted by Lily Manderville (RYT-200 and CARE Programs Manager)

Third Thursdays at BAMPFA *special date February 22!

The UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

2155 Center Street

Berkeley, CA 94720

Thursday, February 22, 4:30pm

Guest speaker: Dr. Judith Berling

Receive a complimentary ticket the third Thursday of each month to visit the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive and hear a short talk by a GTU faculty member about an artwork on display. A CARE staff member will meet you in the lobby to check in and receive your visitor's pass.

Lecture at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Luther Against Luther

Scripture and anti-Semitism: Past Realities and Future Remedies

With **Brooks Schramm** (United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, PA)
and **Kirsi Stjerna** (PLTS, GTU, Berkeley, CA)

Luther's specific type of early modern anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in his interpretation of the Christian Bible and especially in his attempt to defend the Old Testament as an exclusively Christian book. The lecture invites a close look at key elements of Luther's overall biblical hermeneutics and the ways in which his approach set him on an unavoidable collision course with Jewish ways of reading scripture, which in turn led him to make inflammatory and demeaning claims against the Jewish people. In the spirit of critical understanding, the lecture moves beyond necessary repudiation of such claims and suggests pathways forward that offer opportunities for building new hermeneutical friendships.

Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Fellowship and refreshments

9:30 a.m. – Lecture

10:40 a.m. – Worship

12:00 p.m. – Lunch in Breakout Groups

1:00 p.m. – Concluding hymn in Ubuntu

Register at PLTS.edu/events by March 1st to reserve a seat. To ensure everyone has a great experience, we are limiting registration to 100 participants. The cost is \$20 per person and free for PLTS/GTU students who register in advance. If space is available, registration is \$30 at the door. For more info on registration, contact Jane Phillips (jphillips@plts.edu); for more information on the program, contact Kirsi Stjerna (kstjerna@plts.edu).

Call for Papers for Women's Studies in Religion

Graduate Student Conference

The GTU's Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program (WSR) has issued a call for papers for its upcoming graduate student conference to be held Friday, April 13, 2018. The conference is open to students at all stages of programs at the GTU and its member schools. Proposals with a focus 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; 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.

Paper proposals must be submitted to Sheryl Johnson at wsr@ses.gtu.edu no later than February 28, 2018. Those who submit proposals will be notified of the committee's decision by March 16, 2018. Students whose proposals are accepted must be prepared to share copies of their paper with their moderator and fellow panelists no later than March 31, 2018.

GTU Library News

Library Workshops

We are offering a number of beneficial workshops this month including Biblical Exegesis, Top Time-Saving Tips for Library Research, and the very popular Zotero Citation Management Workshop. Please visit the [workshops tab](#) on the library website for details. Some of these workshops will be recorded for later viewing; a recorded version of the Zotero workshop is already posted.

New Top-down Scanner

The Library recently acquired a ST6000 Top-Down Book Scanner. Located next to the public printer and workstations, the ST6000 is an excellent alternative to the Xerox machines—images are captured in full color, books or journal issues do not have to be pressed onto the glass or crushed under the lid. The scanner detects hand movements, so the process is as fast and as simple as turning the page. Please stop by the reference desk for a quick hands-on demonstration.

Huddle Boards and Marker Kits

If you've been around the second floor of the library recently, you may have seen the new mobile whiteboards. These boards can easily be rolled anywhere in the library. Try them for mapping-out group projects, practicing for the foreign language exams, brainstorming thesis topics, or a bit of extra privacy. *Please, do not use your own markers.* Appropriate marker kits and erasers are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

Summon Search

There is a new search-engine in town called Summon. It is designed to execute a combined search of the contents of the GRACE catalog, article databases, tutorials and guides, and open access resources available online. It's built to be efficient, as you can search all that the GTU library has to offer, in one place. We are happy to show you how it works. Ask a librarian on chat, email library@gtu.edu, phone 510-649-2501, or visit!

New Art Exhibit

The newest library art exhibition, *Beauty of Ink*, opens on February 1 and runs through May 24. The exhibition features Asian, European, and US based artists. The current exhibition is the 18th season for the Art of Ink in America Society. The opening reception is February 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the library's new collaborative learning space; the exhibit and opening are free and open to the public. In addition, four calligraphy workshops will be offered during the course of the exhibition. Dates and workshop presenters follow: February 7, Thich Giac Thien (Vietnamese); March 7, Ronald Y. Nakasone (Chinese-Japanese); April 4, Debra Self (Modern-Abstract); and May 2, Arash Shirinbab (Arabic-Persian). Workshops are free, and run from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the library. Those wishing to participate in any of the workshops should contact Ron Nakasone at rynakasone@sbcglobal.net. Due to space limitations, participation is limited to 6 per workshop.

GTU Asia Project Spring Forum

Asia Project Spring Forum: *New Voices of Asia and Oceania*

When: March 19th (Monday) 2018 @ 12:30-2:00 pm

Where: Dinner Board Room

Asia Project cordially invites the GTU community to its semi-annual student colloquium. This event is open to the public and **free lunch** (delicious Asian cuisine!) will be served. More than 30 people - faculties and students - participated in past forums.

Center for Islamic Studies News

In loving memory of our dear friend, author and photographer, **Mamade Kadreebux**, we are honored to showcase his works at the CIS this spring. The GTU library will also be exhibiting some of Mamade's photography recently featured in the CIS 10th anniversary exhibition. **Please see gtu.edu/cis for more details.**

The CIS will be sponsoring academic and community events for Black History Month and beyond. **Please see gtu.edu/cis for more details.**

Professional Development Program Events

Spring Orientation to Dissertation Proposal and Doc Council

February 7th | 11 am | Student Lounge
with Kathleen Kook.

Annual Teaching Lunch: "Balancing Subject Matter Expertise and Breadth When Assigned to Teach a General Course,"

February 21st | 11 am | Student Lounge
with Michelle Mueller, Ph.D.

Strategies for Writing,

February 28th | 11 am | Student Lounge
Jennifer Owens-Jofré, Ph.D. Candidate.

Ignite Institute at Pacific School of Religion

[SUMMIT: Financial Sustainability & Community Innovation in the Church](#)

Friday, February 23 @ 5:30pm to Saturday, February 24 @ 5:30pm PST
Pacific School of Religion | Berkeley, CA

This Summit is part of a **3-part program series** from the [Ignite Institute at PSR](#) to support faith leaders in establishing financial sustainability by **taking a community-based business from idea, to proposal, to reality.**

The Summit invites clergy and lay leaders to hear from successful faith-based businesses, and to participate in an intensive workshop to brainstorm ideas for their own community- and faith-based businesses. The 2nd and 3rd programs in the series, lead by [Manuel Maqueda](#) of [Kumu](#), will support participants in developing a business model (*Bootcamp Program*) and in preparing to launch their business (*Accelerator Program*).

All Early-Bird registrants (by February 2) for the Summit will receive a discount toward the Bootcamp!

Details on the Summit's agenda, speakers, workshop leaders, costs and lodging are available in the registration link.

From the GTU Dean of Students

Spring Forum 2018: Improving Community Life at the GTU.

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is sponsoring this opportunity for doctoral students to bring forward their ideas for community life. Whether you're celebrating Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, or Single's Awareness day, join your fellow students and have your voice heard. Lunch and chocolate provided. Wednesday, February 14, 12:30-2:00pm, GTU Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Avenue, 1st Floor.

Modern Language Exam

The next Modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, February 28, from 1PM to 4:45PM in the Dinner Board Room. Register by February 7 with Amberly Largusa, Student Affairs Office Manager, alargusa@gtu.edu, 649-2400.

Doctoral Student Elections

A call for nominations for student elections will be coming to you via email very soon. Think about who would make excellent members of the Student Advisory Committee, Doctoral Council, and other excellent opportunities to participate and be of service. Nominate and vote when the opportunity comes. Nominations will be due to yjunker@gtu.edu by February 28, and elections will be held March 12-16.

The **deadline** to file completed and approved copies of Theses/Dissertations or Certification of Oral Examination Forms for MABL Candidates for spring graduation is **April 2**.

Prospective and Admitted Students Week

The GTU welcomes prospective students to visit during our third **Prospective and Admitted Students Week**, March 19-23, 2018, for a customized visit to:

- Sit in on up to three classes
- Visit our award-winning library
- Meet with professors, students, admissions staff, financial aid, and more
- Explore the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, next door
- Walk around our beautiful neighborhood and visit the member schools
- Explore the beauty of the Bay Area or the excitement of San Francisco

Sign up at www.gtu.edu/admissions/prospectivestudentsweek
or email admissions@gtu.edu for more information.

Honorable Mentions

MA/MABL

Christian Suba, JST-SCU

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Ineda Adesanya, HCSR

Nancy Gutsell, HIST

Marvin Wiser, BIBL

I Sil Yoon, ETHC

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Sarah Kohles, BIBL

Nathaniel Michon, CHSR

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Lawrence Fraher, ART

Christopher Hansen, THEO

Robert Peach, IDS

Advanced to Candidacy

Christopher Harrison, ETHC

Justin Lipscomb, IDS

Ki Wook Min, THEO

Tod Oswald, IDS

Cecilia Titizano, THEO

Todd Whelan, IDS

Special Mention

Yohana Junker, ART

Recipient of the

2018 Rubem Alves Award for Theopoetics

For more info, go to

gtu.edu/news



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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

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