

GTU Dean's Newsletter



A project that I have been working on for over three years will finally be published in about a month. The *T&T Clark Handbook of Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics* is an edited volume that contains the writings of thirty-nine contributors. During the process, I was sharing some frustration with a colleague about working with multiple contributors and must have said something like, "Rather than doing my own research, I am cleaning up someone else's work." (I may have used another word for work.) My colleague asked me why people choose to work on editing someone else's research when they could spend their time and energy doing their own scholarship. It is true that I was not producing my own original work, but I believed the project was important to the development of biblical studies in general and particularly because it showcases Asian American biblical scholars. I felt an obligation to manage the project to make sure such an important contribution to the field would be completed.

I was often asked this same question when I spent six years editing a journal. Editors invest their time, energy, expertise, and patience (a lot of it) as a way to contribute to the development of their academic field, showcasing scholars and their research. Here at the GTU, we have several editors who work for such benefits. Here are some examples:

Rita Sherma and Purushottama Bilimoria are Editors in Chief of *Journal of Dharma Studies*. This is not only the flagship journal of the Center for Dharma Studies, but is also the primary journal in the field of Dharma Studies. Currently, *JDS* is the only academic journal published by an eminent global publisher that gives primacy to the thought, values, and praxis of Dharma traditions that are now global in scope.

Theology and Science is the quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union. **Robert Russell and Ted Peters** are the editors.

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology was established in 2015 by GTU doctoral students, led by newly minted **Dr. Henry Kuo** as its founding editor. It is a diverse forum for the type of cutting-edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that characterizes the GTU.

Scott MacDougall, CDSP faculty, is Co-editor in Chief of *Anglican Theological Review*, which has been the unofficial journal of the seminaries of the Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada for over ninety years.

The editorial staff and board of *Reflective Practice* are filled with GTU professors and doctoral students.

I am sure that I have missed some journals and editors amongst you. Please do let me know who you are and what wonderful work you do in your field.



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



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Center for the Arts and Religion Events

Friday, March 1, 12-1pm – Brown Bag Lunch with Erik Ehn. Join us in the Doug Adams Gallery for our monthly Brown Bag Lunch Series. This month, we will be hearing from GTU student Erik Ehn. Bring your sack lunch and come ready to discuss!

Saturday, March 2 – Monday, March 4, various times - Residency around Akram Khan's *XENOS*. As part of CARE's new partnership with UC Berkeley's Cal Performances, we are very pleased to announce an exciting opportunity to get involved with British-based, Bangladeshi choreographer Akram Khan's dance performance, *XENOS*. Sign up to be part of the cohort that will participate in four events over the weekend, from a pre-performance panel discussion and hands-on workshop, culminating in a post-performance reflection and celebration. For more information and to RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploration-of-spirituality-and-storytelling-in-dance-tickets-56067480343>

Friday, March 8, 12:30-2pm – Women's Studies in Religion Art-making Workshop with Karen Sjöholm. The GTU Women's Studies in Religion program is, once again, hosting a series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjöholm. 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. Registration is limited to 10 participants. To register, please email: wsr@ses.gtu.edu

Thursday, March 14, 5-7pm – Annual Dillenberger Lecture. This year's lecture will feature Erin Averett (Associate Professor of Archaeology at Creighton University), who will be giving the talk, "Playing the Part: Masks and the Performance of Identity in Iron Age Cyprus". Masks of many types were used in the ancient Mediterranean for a variety of purposes, from ritual performances to theatrical plays. The island of Cyprus is well known for its abundance of masks depicting primarily bulls and bearded males. Although these distinct masks have been the subject of focused studies as well as broader investigations on Phoenician and Punic masks, there has been no comprehensive and diachronic overview of this important corpus contextualized within its Cypriot setting. This talk reevaluates the evidence for masking rituals in Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Cyprus through close analysis of archaeological contexts to reconstruct masked performances. Although many of the masks reveal similarities to Levantine examples, the present evidence suggests a dynamic interplay of local and foreign customs between the two regions. The richness of masks on Cyprus, however, underscores the long tradition of masking on the island and allows us to reconstruct partially the social and religious significance of masking ceremonies. At the end of the Bronze Age through the era of the autonomous city-kingdoms, masks likely functioned as symbolic objects used in constructing social identities and can be associated with restricted groups, likely even the kings, practicing rituals at key sanctuaries. This link between masking rituals and the kingdoms becomes more apparent when the evidence for masks abruptly comes to an end in the late fourth century. Masking rituals flourished with the royal kingdoms and appear to have dramatically ended with the incorporation of Cyprus into the Ptolemaic kingdom. In the Hellenistic and Roman periods, a different mask tradition related to the Greek theater appears on the island.

Thursday, March 21, 4:30pm – Third Thursdays at BAMPFA with Michelle Summers. Every Third Thursday of the month, receive a complimentary ticket to the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive and hear a short talk by a GTU faculty member on an exhibition or artwork. Graduate Theological Union students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome! Gather in the BAMPFA lobby to receive your free ticket.

Library Events

27th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts

“In God we live and move and have our being: A Dancer’s Exploration of Sacred Texts”

By Carla De Sola

March 13, 6:30 PM Reception, 7 PM Lecture | Dinner Boardroom, GTU Library

Drawing upon her lifetime of work introducing sacred dance in a variety of settings, De Sola will recount how she draws inspiration from biblical sacred texts, sacred texts from nature, and the urgings of our life. She draws upon prayer and improvisation, integrating body, soul, mind, and spirit to illuminate what she envisions as the movement behind the word. Her presentation will include both lecture and demonstration, as well as video excerpts of her dances, including simple experimental movement prayers. Sr. Martha Ann Kirk will introduce De Sola and moderate Q & A following the lecture.

A pioneer in liturgical dance, **Carola De Sola** has a Diploma from the Julliard School, Department of Dance, and an MA in Theology and the Arts from PSR & GTU. She founded the Omega Liturgical Dance Company at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York in 1976 and currently directs Omega West Dance Company in the Bay Area. De Sola taught classes through the PSR and the Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) from 1990 until 2017 and has offered workshops and created liturgical dances for most of the GTU member schools.

Professor of Religious Studies at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, **Sister Martha Ann Kirk** holds a Th.D. in Theology and the Arts from the GTU. She first studied with De Sola while getting her MA from Fordham University in 1976. Her first of seven books, *Dancing with Creation: Mexican and Native American Dance in Christian Worship and Education* (1983), was written as part of her studies at the GTU.

Artist Reception for

Technicians of the Sacred by Blaine Ellis

Thursday March 21, 6—8 PM | GTU Library

“In the tradition of sacred architecture, light has been a symbol of the transcendent, a metaphor for the unknowable. Sacred space becomes a visual theology, a scripture in light, which I then interpret through the medium of photography. These images in silver become a meditation, which expresses man’s attempts at self-definition through matter, form, and luminosity.” - Blaine Ellis

Ellis’s exhibition will be open February 15—May 31. Accompanying the exhibition in the display cases is “Sacred Places, Sacred Texts, Sacred Acts: Reflections on Religious Ways,” curated by David Striver, GTU Archivist. The exhibition is made possible by the Jane Dillenberger Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

Library Workshops

Course Design Workshops in the Collaborative Learning Space:

Game Theory and Teaching

In the last couple of years, “gamification” has become an important component in education. This workshop introduces participants to the interaction and mechanic aspects of game theory to construct educational games.

Monday, March 4, 10 to 11:30 am

Student Assessment with Moodle Quizzes

Quizzes are still a popular way of assessing students’ progress throughout a course. Quizzes can also provide opportunities to teach students interactively through various types of feedback. This workshop looks at Moodle’s Quiz module to design traditional and developmental quizzes.

Monday, March 11, 10 to 11:30 am

Teaching with Social Media and Information Literacy

Social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become very popular in the last decade, but are they effective as classroom tools? Join this workshop to discuss opportunities for including social media in residential and online classrooms. Specific attention will be paid to teaching students information literacy skills when working with online sources.

Monday, March 18, 10 to 11:30 am

Flipping the Classroom

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have all the “lecturing” happen as homework, and spend the face-to-face class time as discussion and group work? This workshop looks at the idea of “flipping” the classroom to allow more interactivity in the residential course.

Monday, April 1, 10 to 11:30 am

Library News

Grammarly

After evaluating the trial of Grammarly last semester, we have decided to maintain the subscription. Information for accessing Grammarly is located in your Moodle Dashboard. Grammarly’s online writing assistance and plagiarism tools encourage polished grammar, better overall wordsmithing, and a professional writing style.

Digital Learning Lab Now Open

The computer workstation has the Adobe Creative Suite to edit videos, create digital artifacts, and digitize scanned documents. The lab is behind the bound periodicals on the lower floor of the library, next to Dr. KSG's office. You can reserve the room for two-hour increments on the library website.

From the Dean of Students

Special Updates:

There is now a Prayer-Meditation Space on the main floor of the library near the Collaborative Learning Space.

The LeConte exam room known as M-3, where one might experience the joy of taking an oral comprehensive exam or a dissertation defense, is now set up for video conferencing via Zoom or Skype. This is especially helpful for including an outside reader from a distance in the conversation.

Doctoral Community Lunch, March 20, 11:45am-12:45pm. Meet up with faculty and student colleagues, and welcome visiting admitted doctoral students. Excellent food and company.

Doctoral Student Elections

Make sure to vote for Doctoral Student representatives between March 11-22. Be on the lookout for your eballot and cast your important vote.

GTU Commencement

May 9, 4pm, Zaytuna College Sanctuary

Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Spring Graduation is April 1.

Professional Development Program Workshops

Careers in Libraries, with Beth Kumar and Naw San Dee, March 6, 11am, Student Lounge

Dissertation Writing Workshop, March 13, 11am, Student Lounge

Excellence in Teaching Annual Lecture with Jean-Francois Racine, March 27, 11am, Student Lounge

Asia Project Spring Forum

The Asia Project at GTU cordially invites GTU students and faculties to the Spring 2019 Student Colloquium. Presentations will feature issues related to "Asian and Oceanic culture and religion" and free lunch (delicious Asian cuisine!) will be served.

March 18th (Monday) 2019 @ 12:30-2:00 pm

Dinner Board Room

For any inquiries or reservation, please contact the program coordinator, Marinda Chan at Asia-project@ses.gtu.edu.

Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

Congratulations to the following CIS/GTU students and alums:

Dr. Mohammad Waqas Sajjad,

GTU PhD alum, participated in the Yale Modern South Asia Workshop, Feb 1-2, 2019, where he presented a chapter of his dissertation titled "Social Media and the Deobandi-Barelvi Polemics".

Mahjabeen Dhala

Will be presenting a paper titled "Fatima, Resisting Prejudice, Breaking Norms: Understanding Muslim Women's Agency Through Religiosity," at the Women and Religion panel at the AAR/WR conference in Arizona State University, Tempe on March 2, 2019.

Sammy Aziz Rahmatti

CIS alum, Sammy Aziz Rahmatti is serving as one of the Muslim Spiritual Care Volunteer Coordinators at Stanford Health Care. If you are interested in Spiritual Care Volunteering or want to learn about his experience in the CPE program at Stanford Health Care in Stanford, CA, please contact Sammy for assistance and more information: sammy.rahmatti@gmail.com

CIS will be hosting its annual student symposium in two parts this March and April and in coordination with the annual Islamophobia Studies conference. Details forthcoming on the CIS webpage.

Women's Studies in Religion Program Events

GTU Art-Making & Discussion Group

Friday, March 8, 12:30—2 PM | Doug Adams Gallery (2465 LeConte, 1st Floor)

Are you looking for community? The GTU Women's Studies in Religion program is hosting a series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjöholm. 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 with the Center for the Arts & Religion. All are welcome regardless of gender expression. To register please contact Sheryl Johnson at wsr@ses.gtu.edu.

GTU Women and Religion Conference: New Women's Movement(s)

Friday, April 12

For more information on this upcoming event please contact Sheryl Johnson at wsr@ses.gtu.edu.

2nd Annual WSR Chair Lecture: Beyond Trigger Warnings: Toward a Trauma-Informed Pedagogy

Tuesday, April 30, 11—12:30 PM | Bade Museum (1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley)

Trauma can have pervasively negative effects on our ability to learn. While primary schools have been increasingly focused on creating trauma-informed approaches in the classroom, graduate theological schools have not been so proactive. In this lecture, Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson (ABSW) will share her current research into how to create a trauma-informed pedagogy for the graduate-level classroom.

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Events

"Climate Colonialism, Climate Justice, and Hope for the Future From the World's Religions"

A CTNS Public Forum with Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
Wednesday, March 20, 7pm
Dinner Boardroom, GTU Library
Free and open to the public.

Climate justice may be the foremost moral challenge of the 21st century. Humankind – or rather parts of us – are threatening Earth's capacity to regenerate and support life, including human life. Race and class dimensions of the climate crisis are haunting and daunting. While caused primarily by high-consuming people, climate change is wreaking death and destruction first and foremost on impoverished people who also are disproportionately people of color. How are we to face this crisis with courage, wisdom, agency, and hope? What does religion bring to this question? This presentation aims at interdisciplinary and inter-religious inquiry into these burning questions.

Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda is Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University and Church Divinity School of the Pacific and a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the GTU.

"What has Science to do with Youth Ministry?: Why Theological Engagement with the Natural Sciences is Vital for Effective and Impactful Youth Ministry"

The 2019 Russell Family Research Fellowship with Joshua M. Moritz
Wednesday, April 10, 7pm, Fellow's Public Forum (Free and open to the public).
Dinner Boardroom, GTU Library
Saturday, April 13, Research Conference (Registration required)
Dinner Boardroom, GTU Library

"CRISPR Babies and Beyond: The Broad Range of Applications and Implications of CRISPR Gene Editing Technology"

A CTNS Public Forum with Arvin Gouw
Wednesday, April 24, 7pm
Dinner Boardroom, GTU Library
Free and open to the public.

Honorable Mentions

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Leah Macinkas-Le, SATX

Mariska Lauterboom, REPR

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Austin Eikenberry, THEO, Distinction

Ahmed Khater, CHSR, Distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Jennifer Fernandez, THET

Sheryl Johnson, THET

Aline Gram Lewis, HCSR

Andrew Younan, THET

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Effendi Sunur, THEO

Stephan Quarles, THET

Hyun Ho Park, BIBL

Henry S. Kuo, THEO

Jeanyoun Kim, HIST

Cesar Melgar, BIBL

Andrew Thomas Lewis, THEO



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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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