

GTU Dean's Newsletter

FROM THE DEAN



When I was a teenager, I was completely into fast cars. I religiously read car magazines from cover to cover and memorized the 0-60 mph times for cars I fantasized driving. When my mother was looking for a family sedan, I somehow convinced her to buy the Buick Grand National. It helped that she didn't know anything about cars. A 1985 Grand National had a 3.8 liter V6 engine with a turbo charger, producing 200 horsepower, with a very impressive 0-60 mph time of 5.0 seconds. It was fast enough to compete with iconic American muscle cars like the Camaro Z28, Mustang GT, and even the mighty Corvette. But I had no idea back then that it got only 16 miles per gallon on average. Would I have given up the opportunity to drive a Grand National had I known how terrible the gas mileage was? I doubt it, even if I had known about the connection between car emissions and global warming.

Last year I bought a "family" car with a nod from my wife, who thinks that any car is fine as long as it takes you from point A to point B. She doesn't understand what there is to love about engine noise and exhaust sound. I tell her that I get as much pleasure from hearing and feeling a powerful engine and finely-tuned exhaust pipes as I get from Beethoven's fifth symphony (okay, I exaggerate). The 2013 BMW 328i has a 2.0 liter 4-cylinder engine with a turbo charger, producing 240 horsepower, with a 0-60 mph time of 5.7 seconds. It gets around 27 mpg on average. Many automakers are now using turbo technology (a lot better than what it was in the 80's) to boost power while shrinking the size of engine in order to reduce the fuel consumption. It's amazing how my current "family" car is just as powerful as the one from 1980's yet gets a far better gas mileage. But I know that no matter how much technological advancement automakers make, they cannot stop emissions of harmful gases as long as cars depend on petroleum fuels. Under a new bill introduced in California this year, if it were to pass, every new car sold in California starting in January of 2040 will be an emission-free vehicle. What we all need to do is clear and I know what kind of vehicle I need to get next, but it won't be easy to give up the sound of that exhaust pipe.



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



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2018 Distinguished Faculty Lecture



"Follow the Women: Freeing Dialogue"

By Dr. Marianne Farina, CSC

Professor of Philosophy and Theology

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Tuesday, November 13th, 2018

Pacific School of Religion | Chapel of the Great Commission

1798 Scenic Avenue (at Le Conte), Berkeley, CA 94709

A response will be offered by Dr. Rita Sherma, director of the Center for Dharma Studies. Reception will follow at the Bade Museum.

Newhall Fellowship Deadline Approaching

Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students in collaborative teaching or research with faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Newhall awards offer a wonderful 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 Newhall applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching). **Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office no later than Monday, November 12, 2018.** For more information on the Newhall Fellowship and how to apply, go to <https://www.gtu.edu/newhall-fellowship>.

Professional Development Program Workshops

October 1st 2:30pm | October 2nd 10am | Collaborative Learning Space—GTU Library (CLS)

Bridging the Research Gap, with Beth Kumar

October 10th | 2:30pm | CLS

Doing Library Research from a Distance, with Beth Kumar

October 16th | 10am | CLS

Effective Presentations at Professional Conferences, with Beth Kumar

Center for Dharma Studies Announcements



Global Climate Change leading to extreme weather and disruption to planetary life inspired the **Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS)** during **September 12th-14th in San Francisco**, convened by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Dr. Rita D. Sherma, Director of GTU **Center for Dharma Studies** co-organized a day-long conference for GCAS, and spoke on the event’s Plenary Panel.

The conference was convened in collaboration with the Nor-Cal MLK Foundation (Aaron Grizzell, Director), an institutional partner of the GCAS. University of San Francisco was a collaborator on this event.

The conference was titled: ***The Ethics, Religion, and Climate Change Roundtable: Ecological Restoration & Economic Justice: Responses from America’s Religions & Communities***, held on Thursday, September 13th. GTU PhD student David Coolidge (CIS) presented, and Dr. Devin Zuber (CSS) spoke at the event on “Aesthetics in a time of Climate Change.”

GTU’s presence at the event was in joint purpose with leaders from across the world, from diverse fields, who came together to increase their commitment to engaging climate change.

News from the Dean of Students

Doctoral Community Lunch, October 17, 11:45am-12:45pm, Dinner Board Room

All doctoral students and faculty are encouraged to come together for lunch before the Department Colloquia and faculty meetings. Hosted by the Student Advisory Committee.

Doctoral Student Forum hosted by the Student Advisory Committee

A conversation with President Daniel Lehmann. An opportunity to hear from Rabbi Lehmann about his vision for the GTU, and a chance for him to learn more about the student experience and concerns. October 31, 2-3:30pm, Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte, 1st floor.

Proof readers needed.

If you would like to proofread papers and help support international students, there are a few openings for paid proofreading positions. Please contact Kathleen Kook to express your interest, kkook@gtu.edu

CARe Events



Gestures to the Divine: works by Hagit Cohen is on view in the Doug Adams Gallery until Thursday, December 13. Gallery hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am-3pm.

On **October 3, 4:30-5:30 PM**, please join us in the Doug Adams Gallery for a book release party celebrating the release of “*Gestures to the Divine: reflections on eco-spirituality*”, an exhibition catalogue created in con-

juncture with the Fall 2018 Exhibition, *Gestures to the Divine: works by Hagit Cohen*. This catalogue features high quality prints of Hagit’s work, as well as seven essays on the theme of eco-spirituality, written by GTU students and faculty members.

October 5 - 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! Free & open to the public. On October 5, Dr. Rossitza Schroeder (Associate Professor of Art and Religion, CARe/PSR) will be discussing Gentile Bellini’s 1480 portrait of Sultan Mehmed II. "This summer, I traveled to London in order to meet with members of the curatorial and conservation staff at the National Gallery which is in possession of Gentile Bellini's 1480 portrait of Sultan Mehmed II. I have been studying the portrait for three years tracing its sources to Byzantine and Italian religious art. It is displayed today at the Victoria and Albert Museum in a gallery with other works that reveal intense artistic interactions among people of various faith traditions. The image has sustained significant restorations and I had to be certain that what we see today is what Gentile painted in the 15th century. My conversations with the curator of Renaissance Art and a conservator who had examined the portrait with contemporary technology and methods confirmed that in spite of several significant interventions it still bears the distinct stamp of Bellini's hand."

October 18 – 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. GTU students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome. BAMPFA is located at 2155 Center Street, between Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue, in downtown Berkeley. For more information, visit bampfa.berkeley.edu On October 18, Dr. Rossitza Schroeder will discuss the exhibition “*Old Masters in a New Light: Rediscovering the European Collection*” Please note, your Eventbrite RSVP does not include admission to BAMPFA. A CARe staff member will meet you in the BAMPFA lobby to check in and distribute visitor passes.

Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology

Call for Papers

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology (BJRT) is the GTU's peer-reviewed academic journal. Founded in 2015, it aims to publish original, cutting-edge research in subjects within religious studies, theology, and philosophy that reflect the scholarship done on Holy Hill. The journal is issuing a Call for Papers for the next issue, Vol. 5, no. 1, to be published in June 2019. Submissions are due by February 1, 2019 to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu. For more information regarding the journal, the style guide, and instructions, please visit the BJRT's new website at bjrt.gtu.edu. The BJRT also has a few books for review; please consult the website for more details.

The BJRT is also inviting interested students to join the peer-review board of the journal as peer-reviewers. Students need to be Ph.D. or Th.D. students at the GTU or in the S.T.D. program at JST-SCU. Interested students should e-mail the managing editor with their fields of expertise and interests. The journal also currently has a need for a department editor in Theology & Ethics; Sacred Texts; and Religion and Practice departments. Interested students who have peer-reviewed for the journal or are members of the peer-review board are especially welcome to express their interest to the managing editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.

For more information, please visit the BJRT website at bjrt.gtu.edu or contact the managing editor by e-mail.

Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

The Center for Islamic Studies is delighted to host a meet and greet afternoon tea with Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub on Tues, Oct 2 at 2:30pm at the CIS. All welcome. For more information, please contact Mahjabeen Dhala: mdhala@gtu.edu

As part of our joint **Madrassa-Midrasha program**, CIS and CJS look forward to welcoming you to the following events:

Sacred Memories: Reflections on Holy Days in Judaism and Islam Wed, Oct 3 at 12:30 in the GTU Student Lounge. Speakers: GTU PhD Presidential Scholar Mahjabeen Dhala and Rabbi Chai Levy.

Good Faith, Bad Faith. Thurs, Oct 25 at 5:30 in the GTU Dinner Boardroom at the Flora Lamson Hewitt Library. A plenary on theism and atheism in the modern age. We will hear from Scott Shay on his recent book, *In Good Faith, Questioning Religion and Atheism*. **Panelists include Filipe Maia**, Assistant Professor of United Methodist Studies, Leadership, and Theology at PSR, **Deena Aranoff**, Faculty Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, and **Ali Ataie**, Professor at Zaytuna College. For more info go to <https://www.gtu.edu/events/madrassa-midrasha-good-faith-bad-faith>.

Women's Studies in Religion Events

Passion Led Us Here: Mentoring Night

Join Students, Staff, and Faculty for an Evening of Food and Facilitated Conversations.

All are welcome, regardless of gender identity or expression. Facilitated discussions will explore topics such as addressing sexism, work/school/life balance, financial wellness—participants can choose which conversations to take part in.

Conversation Facilitators will include: Tanisha Sparks (self-care), Karen Sjöholm (creative practices), Julie Rubio (work/life balance), Elizabeth Pena (careers outside of academia/religious organizations), and Sheryl Johnson (finances).

Also, come to learn about the Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) Certificate Program and ways to be involved in WSR programming this year.

Date: Wednesday, October 10 from 5-7 pm.

Location: GTU Dinner Boardroom (2400 Ridge Road, 3rd Floor)

Dinner will be provided

Questions? wsr@ses.gtu.edu



GTU

Women's Studies
in Religion

Pacific School of Religion Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies Events

CLGS HARKNESS LECTURE: "Knowing the Soul of the Stranger: Trans Identity, Religious Community, and Making a Place for God." With Professor Joy Ladin

Thursday, October 4th 2018, 6:30pm | PSR Chapel

Please join the Pacific School of Religion and the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion for a talk given by acclaimed author, poet and scholar Dr. Joy Ladin. She will present the annual Georgia Harkness Lecture. Dr. Joy Ladin holds the David and Ruth Gottesman Chair in English at Stern College of Yeshiva University. She is the first openly transgender professor at an Orthodox Jewish university.

Professor Joy Ladin combines personal experience and biblical interpretation to explore how the perspectives of transgender people and other "hyper-minorities" – people seen as profoundly different from most members of their communities – can help us to understand the difficult relations between God and humanity that we see in much of the Hebrew Bible. Focusing on the Book of Numbers, Professor Ladin argues that the recurring conflicts between the Israelites and the God enshrined at the center of their camp resemble those experienced by human hyper-minorities and their communities. Despite God's centrality to the Israelites' lives, God is always seen by the Israelite community, as different in ways that are often hard to accommodate or understand. From this perspective, God's insistence that the Israelites identify with "strangers" (gerim, resident aliens and converts) – by remembering that they "know the soul of a stranger" and experienced estrangement in Egypt – offers a communal spiritual practice that helps us to make a place, in our communities and in our lives, for the ultimate stranger, God.

Library News

LIBRARY ART EXHIBITION

"I have constantly searched for meaning and have arrived at one word, *Oneness*, which I am seeking constantly through my paintings, sculptures and poetry." - Salma Arastu. The upcoming library exhibition, ***Salma Arastu: Seeking Oneness***, will run from October 11, 2018 – January 11, 2019. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and will include a talk by the artist. Admission to the exhibit and reception is free and open to all. Salma Arastu has almost 40 solo shows to her credit, and sees her work as inspired by the spirit of the divine. Over the past more than thirty years she has created images with continuous, lyrical line and a variety of re-purposed materials in an effort to express joy in the universal spirit that unites humanity. The exhibition is made possible by the Jane Dillenberger Fine Arts Endowment Fund.

GROUP STUDY ROOMS UPGRADE

We have upgraded the group study rooms located on the lower level of the library. They are now equipped with big screens and webcams, so you can work together with colleagues, wherever they are. You can reserve the rooms online in two hour blocks. To make a reservation, visit <https://www.gtu.edu/library/policies/reservations>.

REFERENCE ASSISTANCE

Have a research question? Ask a librarian via chat - 6 days a week. You'll find a chat box on every library webpage (<https://gtu.edu/library>), in your Moodle class space, and in Summon- our library search engine. Of course, you can still reach us by phone (510-649-2501), by email (library@gtu.edu) or stop by the reference desk!

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual library book sale on September 25. We hope you were able to find some useful treasures to add to your personal libraries.

Library Workshops

Upcoming Course Design Workshops (all in the Collaborative Learning Space):

Content Delivery through PowerPoint, VoiceThread and Online Sources

Learn the ins-and-outs of creating presentations for VoiceThread through PowerPoint, YouTube and other platforms, including storyboarding and editing your content. Ideas for incorporating video into your courses will also be discussed.

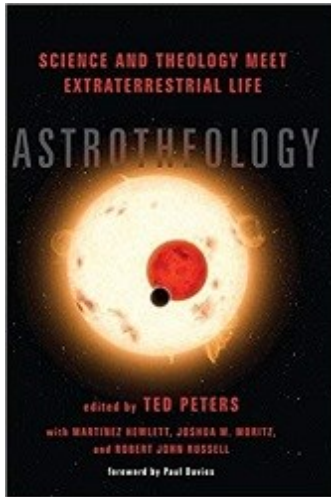
Monday, October 1, 10:00 to 11:30 am | Tuesday, October 2, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Collaborative Learning with VoiceThread and Moodle's Discussion Forums

This workshop introduces participants to using group and class discussions in residential and online courses. Defining and assessing successful discussions will be the primary focus, including using VoiceThread Moodle's Forum module.

Monday, October 15, 10:00 to 11:30 am | Tuesday, October 16, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Events



***Astrotheology* Book Launch**
Tuesday, October 30, 6pm
Free and open to the public. Captioned for the hearing im-
paired.

CTNS will be hosting a book launch for *Astrotheology: Science and Theology Meet Extraterrestrial Life* (edited by Ted Peters, Joshua Moritz, Robert Russell and Martinez Hewlett), on Tuesday, October 30th, at 6pm, Dinner Board Room, Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA. Reviews by Grace Wolf-Chase, Adler Planetarium, Carol Jacobson, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Martinez Hewlett, University of Arizona. RSVPs to mmoritz@gtu.edu appreciated.



Public Forum on Neuroscience and Anthropology with Fr. George Griener
Tuesday, November 13, 7pm
Dinner Board Room, Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA
Free and open to the public

As Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology, Fr. Griener teaches courses in History of Theology (18th and 19th centuries), Karl Rahner's Philosophy of Religion, Theology of Suffering, God of Jesus Christ and Theological Anthropology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. Fr. Griener is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Historical Society, and the Catholic Theological Society of America. He has recently published an article titled "The Theology of Suffering in a Narcissistic Culture." His social-political concerns find expression through Amnesty International, the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, and the Catholic peace organization, Pax Christi.

GTU Alumni Reception @ 2018 AAR National Meeting, Denver, CO

GTU Alumni Reception

Saturday, November 17, 2018
 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Embassy Suites Downtown
 Crystal Ballroom, Salon C
 1420 Stout Street
 Denver, CO 80202



Pacific Coast Theological Society

Christian and Muslim Perspectives on Death, Dying, and Eschatology

The Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) will take place on Friday, October 26, 1:30–8:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 27, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in Classroom B at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The papers for the Fall Meeting will explore questions related to Christian and Muslim perspectives on death, dying, and eschatology. Friday afternoon will begin with a paper by Kamal Abu-Shamsieh (GTU) focusing on four elements of the ethics of care based on the end of life experience of the Prophet Muḥammad, with Bryan Kromholtz, OP (DSPT) responding. This will be followed by a paper considering the form and role of the Christian funeral sermon by Shauna Hannan (PLTS), with Purushottama Biliomorria (CDS) responding. Saturday morning will begin with a paper by Christopher Hadley, SJ (JST) that investigates aspects of eschatology in contemporary theology, with Gareth Jones (Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong) responding. A second paper may be added to the session.

The papers will be posted on the PCTS website (<http://www.pcts.org/meetings/2018/Fall.html>) as they become available. These should be read ahead of time, as the papers are not read aloud at the gathering. Instead, the time is spent responding to each paper through engaging in multidisciplinary, in-depth discussion.



FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Friday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.

Tucson Common Room,

Church Divinity School of the Pacific:

Julie Rubio (JST) and Kamal Abu-Shamsieh (GTU) will discuss ethical questions raised by the issue of assisted dying or “death with dignity” from Muslim and Christian ethical perspectives.

Note that the Friday afternoon paper session will be followed by cocktails and dinner. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9:00 for coffee and light refreshments. Information about registration and fees can be found on the PCTS website (<http://www.pcts.org/register.html>). Fees may be paid in advance electronically or in person at the meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. PCTS has a long and distinguished history that pre-dates the establishment of the GTU. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in theology, broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year, \$22.50 for students. Visit www.pcts.org for additional details.

Honorable Mentions

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Keng-Fan Marinda Chan, REPR

Oral Comprehensive Passed

Sukhun Huh, THEO

Advanced to Candidacy

Stephan Quarles, Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Mohammad Waqas Sajjad, CHSR

MA/MABL

Heather Nicole Hayes-Haigh, PLTS

Suheyra Cetin, CIS

Seungkee Jang, SFTS

Francis Okorafor, SFTS

Nimisha Nair, CDS

Han Byul Park, PSR



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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