

# GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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Heading into the second month of the Fall 2021 semester, I am glad and grateful to report on a smooth start to the year. Many thanks to Marie Lucero, Matata Mukengeshayi, Chang In Sohn, and Thanh Vo, who served as kind and efficient door monitors. While making sure that all who entered the Hewlett Building were fully vaccinated (and masked) GTU community members, they greeted us with warm welcomes when we entered and said goodbye with well wishes when we left. Thank you!

Now, the library staff will take on the job of responding to the Hewlett Building doorbell, checking vaccination status and GTU ID. Let's remember to have our documents at-the-ready as our library colleagues help to ensure our collective health and safety.

There's no doubt that It IS nice to see each other in 3D and to have casual in-person conversations, unmediated by our computer screens. On the other hand, our pandemic experience has demonstrated the possibilities that the virtual world offers. A peek at the [GTU October calendar](#) shows a wide variety of events, ranging from lectures to symposia to celebrations – all accessible with Zoom links. We can attend as our schedules allow, without allocating time for travel, parking, or putting on shoes.

Last year was about hunkering down and doing our best with on-line classes, meetings, and activities while we waited for COVID-19 to abate. It was wrenching to limit ourselves but setting policy was straightforward in a pre-vaccine environment. Now, it sometimes feels like we're living that old expression, "two steps forward, one step back." We're so very fortunate to have the vaccine; yet the rise of the Delta variant, the absence of vaccinations for kids under 12 (though that might change soon!), the number of adults who refuse to be vaccinated and the related malicious misinformation that is promulgated in the media, all contribute to a complex situation.

As the GTU takes those "two steps forward," we will continue to be guided by the "critical thinking, ethical frameworks, compassionate values, and spiritual foundations" outlined in our mission statement.

*Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD*  
*Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

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## Dean Search

As you all know, I am the *Interim* Dean. Now it's time for the GTU to have a regular, non-interim Dean who can help guide us forward! This is an internal search, which means that we are looking for candidates from within the GTU consortium. The application deadline is October 15; prospective candidates should send a CV and cover letter (addressing the questions listed in the [job announcement](#)) to [deansearch@gtu.edu](mailto:deansearch@gtu.edu).

I will chair a search committee that truly represents the GTU consortium. The committee includes a student, a rostered faculty member, a consortial member of the Core Doctoral Faculty, a member of the Council of Deans, a GTU Trustee, a member school president, and a member of the GTU Executive Leadership Team.

The committee will review applications and conduct interviews, in the strictest confidence. A finalist will be presented to the Core Doctoral Faculty and to the Council of Deans for consultation. The finalist will then participate in a Zoom "town hall" event to talk with members of the GTU community.

We look forward to a smooth transition to a new Dean this summer!

*Elizabeth Stein*

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## COVID-19 Updates

For the most up-to-date COVID information, please see [www.gtu.edu/coronavirus-resources-gtu](http://www.gtu.edu/coronavirus-resources-gtu)

[GTU Student Vaccination Policy](#) | [Hewlett Building Entrance Policy](#) | [City of Berkeley COVID testing](#)

[City of Berkeley COVID vaccinations](#)

## Announcements

### PDP WORKSHOPS

**October 6, 10 - 11 AM**

Student Panel on  
Comprehensive Exams  
Proposal

**October 20, 10 - 11 AM**

Dissertation Writing and  
Human Subjects Protocol  
Facilitated by  
Drs. Wendy Arce &  
Chaitanya Motupalli

**Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257**

RSVP: [cmotupalli@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupalli@gtu.edu)

NEW  
GTU Student Group

## INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT

Join us in forming  
a new student-led peer discussion and networking group  
focused on articulating one's faith and listening to one another  
in the context of global religious and spiritual pluralism.

Our first organizational and planning meeting will be held at  
**St. Margaret's Courtyard, CDSP**  
October 6, Wednesday, at 5 pm.

For more information, including a Zoom link,  
contact Chai Motupalli at  
[cmotupalli@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupalli@gtu.edu)  
or Spencer Hatcher at  
[shatcher@cdsp.edu](mailto:shatcher@cdsp.edu)

*Virtual Co-Working Groups are  
meeting every Monday and  
Wednesday, 9 am - Noon*

Please contact Chai at  
[cmotupalli@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupalli@gtu.edu) if you  
would like to participate!

ALL GTU STUDENTS:

## SAVE THE DATE

FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH  
A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ON OCT 13, WEDNESDAY, 12 NOON - 1 PM

## Academic Achievements & Deadlines

### *Dissertation Successfully Defended*

Vanessa Hawkins, IDS

Kai Daniel Moore, THEO

Todd Whelan, IDS

William Zangeneh-Lester, IDS

### *MA Thesis Defense*

Susan Jones, HCSR

Quang Dai Le, HCSR

Mark Levin, THET

### *Comprehensive Proposal Approved*

Raphael D. Mkuzi, HCSR

### *Oral Examination*

Jennifer Ayn Lehmann, SATX

### *Advanced to Candidacy*

Christian Suba, HCSR



## AAR-SBL conference

### *Save The Date!*

The 2021 GTU Alumni Reception will be held virtually this year on Monday November 22 at 5pm (Pacific). Details to follow by email.

And look ahead to the upcoming AAR-WR, in March of next year. We encourage GTU Consortium participation! The deadline for Call for Papers has been extended to October 15, 2021. [Take a look at all of the units.](#)

## From the Registrar's Office

Intersession 2022 Registration and Spring 2022 Early Registration will be available via SONIS from Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

# From the Library

## Curbside Pickup Information

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Welcome! The library has reopened to the GTU and UC-Berkeley communities, but some individuals may be unable or choose not to come in. This sheet describes how to pick-up books without entering the building.

1. Search the library catalog (start at [gtu.edu/library](http://gtu.edu/library)) to find a book.
2. Next, use the Request button. You will be asked if you want to pick up the item in Berkeley or at the SFTS Branch in San Anselmo.
3. You will get an email when your item is ready for pick-up, but you can also see the status of your request in your patron account. Generally, it takes a day for your items to be pulled.

Once you are notified, come to the library during weekday open hours (listed below) or during our curbside-only hours: Sundays 1pm –5pm. If you are in a car picking up, you can park at the green curb in front of the building, and remain in your car. If you are on foot, remain in the plaza near the benches, do not stand in front of the door.

Call (510)649-2500 when you are outside and give your name so items can be retrieved from the hold shelf, checked out to your account, and brought out to you.

### *GTU Main Library in Berkeley (2400 Ridge Rd.)*

#### Library Building Hours

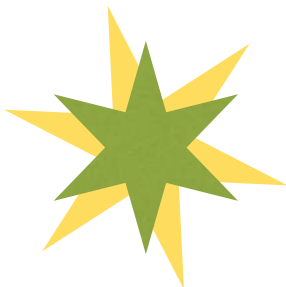
Mondays – Thursdays: 9 am – 6 pm

Fridays: 9 am – 5 pm

*Please see the website for holiday closures*

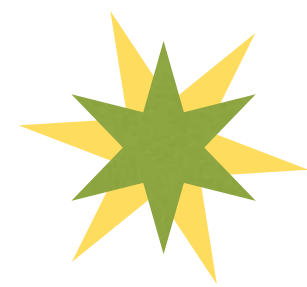
#### Curbside pick-up only hours

Sundays: 1 pm – 5 pm (the building will not be open)



#### *Any question? Contact us!*

- The library homepage is: [gtu.edu/library](http://gtu.edu/library)
- Email the reference librarians: [library@gtu.edu](mailto:library@gtu.edu)
- Chat with us from the library homepage or Moodle from 9am-4pm weekdays



## Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning Department will provide workshops this Fall to help instructors teach in hybrid and remote formats. All workshops will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm, starting on September 21.

If instructors are unable to attend these workshops but still want to receive help with hybrid and/or remote learning, they are encouraged to reach out to Diandra Erickson, Director of Digital Learning, to schedule an appointment.

Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom. Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing [derickson@gtu.edu](mailto:derickson@gtu.edu) to receive the Zoom link.

### Fall 2021 Workshop List for October

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#### *Facilitating Student Discussions in Concurrent Hybrid Courses*

Tuesday, October 5 | 11am

Wednesday, October 6 | 11am

One of the major challenges of Concurrent Hybrid Learning is student interaction and collaboration. As a result, many instructors express concern about cultivating productive student discussion and community building between in-person and remote students. This workshop will address this significant issue and discuss how to create a functional and cohesive classroom environment for both in-person and remote students.

#### *Overview of VoiceThread*

Tuesday, October 19 | 11am

Wednesday, October 20 | 11am

VoiceThread is an excellent product for enhancing student engagement and collaboration in the remote classroom. It is a slideshow tool that provides both the instructor and students with the virtual space to have meaningful asynchronous discussions through audio or video. This workshop provides an overview of how to create video and PowerPoint lectures on VoiceThread, develop collaborative activities for students, and use VoiceThread for student assignments.



## Fall 2021 Student Awards

### Newhall Fellowship

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*Applications due Friday, November 12, 2021 by 5pm*

Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students to collaboratively teach or conduct research with faculty mentors. Newhall awards offer an 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 awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching). Applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office.

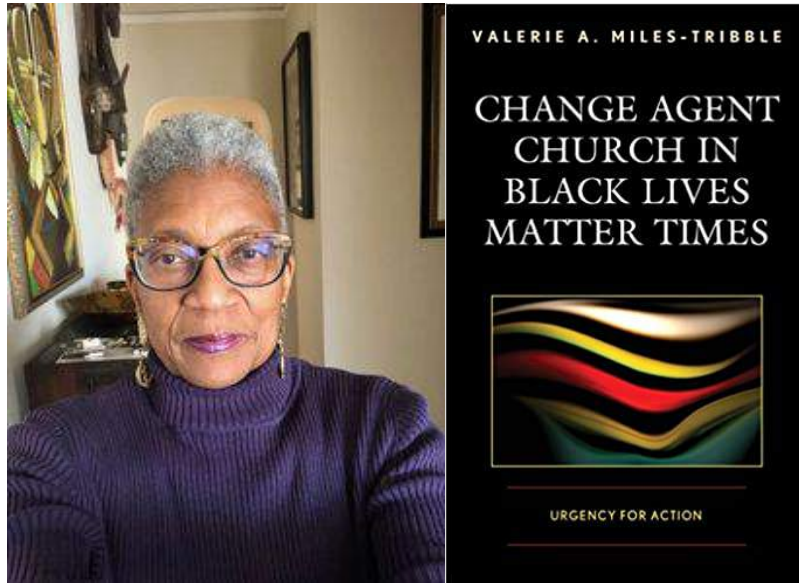
### Fun at the Beloved Community Students' Union picnic

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## 2021 Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble

*Wednesday, November 17 | 6pm (Pacific) | Online Event*



Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble will present the 46th annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture titled, “Our Pedagogical Charge: Weaving Hope and Justice into the Gossamer-thin Fabric of Religious Democracy” on November 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM PST.

Each November, the GTU faculty honors a [distinguished professor](#) who embodies the scholarly standards, teaching excellence, and commitment to ecumenism that define the GTU. Nominations are made by GTU faculty and are then considered by the Council of Deans, which selects the lecturer.

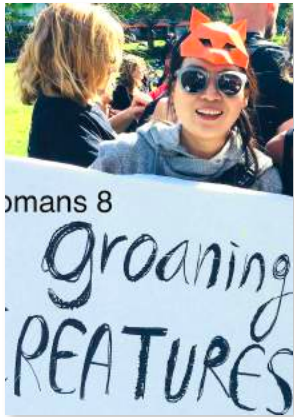
Dr. Miles-Tribble is Associate Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Practical Theology at Berkeley School of Theology (BST) and is a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty. She is also the Chair of the Women’s Studies in Religion Steering Committee. Her book *Change Agent Church in Black Lives Matter Times: Urgency for Action* was published by Lexington Books/Fortress Academic in 2020.

**Sign up now!**



# Student Spotlights

Every month, the Dean's Newsletter will feature a selection of incoming students representing a range of GTU departments. Welcome to all!



## Rev. Kim Tae Eun

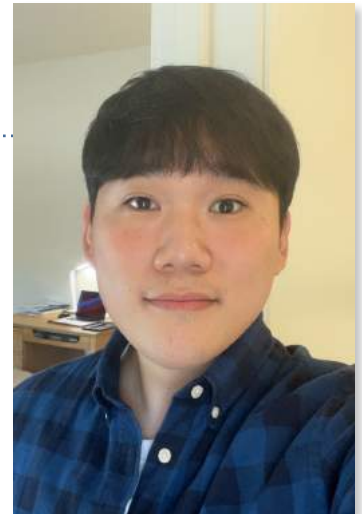
PhD Program Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

My calling to be a pastor and an artist led me to biblical studies with questions, "How does 'the word of God come alive among us?'" "What is the Bible?" My context of PC(USA) has shown me that people read the same Bible differently. I hope my research invite people to sit around and discuss together

## Yea-In Min

PhD Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Hello, my name is Yae-In Min. I'm from Korea. I finished my master's program at GTU, and I'm grateful to continue my studies on the doctorate at the same school. My focus is on Christian spirituality, particularly interested in contemplative spirituality and spiritual direction. I look forward to meeting you.



## Javney Mohr

PhD Theology and Ethics

I am from the west coast of Turtle Island (Canada). For the last decade, I have had the honor to pursue graduate studies and work based in Latin America alongside La Vía Campesina and community-led anti-mining struggles. My research is informed by the traditions of liberationist theologies, critical pedagogy, and decoloniality. Oriented by the notion of 'justice as love made public,' my inquiry lies in the role of solidarity and sacredness in movement struggle and its proposition as critical praxis.



## Wilson Enow Ngema

PhD Program Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

I was born on April 25, 1979. I am a Catholic priest incardinated in the Diocese of Buea, Cameroon, now in residence at St. Theresa's Church, Oakland CA. I graduated last May from the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, with an STL and a Master's degree in Theology.



## Chandra Easton

MA Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Greetings. I am teacher of Buddhadharma and a translator of Tibetan language. I am currently focusing on the twenty-one expressions of Tara, the female Buddha of Compassion, and the application of her enlightened activities in our modern lives with respect to justice and liberation.

## Raya M. Hazini

MA Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

I have a BA and MA in Religious Studies Early Church History. As a fifth generation practicing member of the Bahá'í Faith. At GTU I will be studying interreligious studies. My goal is to research successful passive martyrdom within the infancy of Islam and the Bábí/Bahá'í Faith.



## Center for the Arts & Religion

### Poetry as a Spiritual Technology

*Saturday, October 9 & Saturday, October 16 | 10am-12pm (Pacific) | Zoom*

Instructed by Rev. Nate Klug

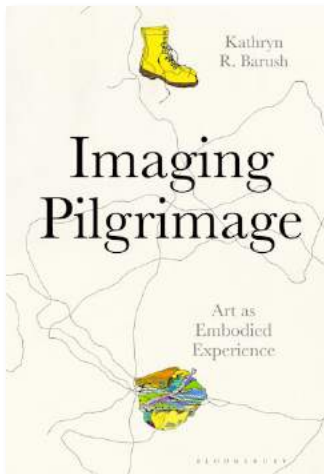
This is a workshop for those who want to sharpen the way they relate to language and sharpen the way their language relates them to God. We'll learn from older writers like John Donne and the poets of Kabbalah, and from contemporaries like Sandra Lim, Kaveh Akbar, and Mary Szybist.

Doubt, devotion, political resistance, erotic love – all will be taken up, sometimes in the same poem. Each workshop will combine close reading and discussion with time for our own writing, guided by prompts from the instructor.

#### **Sign up now!**

Open to students and community members alike, each workshop pair carries a \$100 fee. CARE workshops are open to all - no experience necessary! GTU students, please note that these are not credit-earning workshops.

### Celebrating Dr. Barush's *Imaging Pilgrimage*



*Friday, October 22 | 12pm-1pm | Online Event*

Join CARE in celebrating the release of Dr. Kathryn Barush's newly published book, *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience*.

While place-based pilgrimage is an embodied practice, can it be experienced in its fullness through built environments, assemblages of souvenirs, and music? *Imaging Pilgrimage* explores contemporary art that is created after a pilgrimage and intended to act as a catalyst for the embodied experience of others. Each chapter focuses on a contemporary artwork that links one landscape to another—from the Spanish Camino to a backyard in the Pacific Northwest, from Lourdes to South Africa, from Jerusalem to England, and from Ecuador to California.

#### **Sign up now!**

## Landscapes and Inscapes: A Pilgrimage through Art

*Thursday, October 14 | 6-7:30pm | Online*

Dr. Kathryn Barush explores the idea of installation art as an embodied experience of pilgrimage.

From the earliest centuries to today, humans have mapped one sacred landscape onto another to engender an experience of closeness to their ancestors, to their homeland, or to the divine. It is a practice that crosses cultures and time – from the Jain mandalas linked to far-away Mount Meeru to seven-circuit labyrinths in turf and stone. Such kinetic, synesthetic, and haptic artistic expressions have taken on a particular urgency in this time of pandemic as travel was curtailed and loved ones were far out of reach. This talk will explore the idea of installation art as an embodied experience of pilgrimage that helps foster a sense of connection and *communitas*.

**Sign up now!**



**Joseph Caroff**  
Last Temptation of Christ, The  
Lithograph  
26.5 x 13 in  
1988

## Reel Religion: The Bible, Movies, and the Blackfriars Gallery Movie Poster Collection, a Wise Habits Event

*Thursday, October 21 | 5:30-6:30pm*

Blackfriars Gallery is proud to have one of the largest collections of first-edition, vintage, lobby, and kiosk posters, along with ephemera from movies related to Biblical themes. The fruit of a decades-long endeavor by Michael Morris, OP (+2016), this collection has exhibited at both the national and international museums and university campuses.

Fr. Chris Renz, OP, Director of the Blackfriars Gallery, will host Richard Lindsay and Ryan Parker, GTU alumni and former students of the late Fr. Michael Morris, OP, in a discussion about the posters and the many facets of this project.

**Sign up now!**



## Center for Dharma Studies

### Congratulations to Dr. Laura Dunn!

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Congratulations to Dr. Laura Dunn, of the Center for Dharma Studies, who has earned her PhD in Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion, in September 2021! Dr. Dunn is the winner of the 2019-2020 Outstanding Dissertation Award for her proposal entitled, “Visualizing Power: The Image of Shakti in Modern Day Trika Tantra.” Dr. Dunn, a Presidential Scholar, and winner of the Chan Essay Prize, has been affiliated with the GTU’s Shingal Center for Dharma Studies, since 2016, as a member of its first PhD cohort. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Dharma Studies* (Springer, flagship journal of CDS), after four highly successful years overseeing the Journal as Managing Editor.

The expertise of GTU’s Dr. Kathryn Barush in Art History and Religion, Rita D. Sherma in Hindu theology, and Dr. David Lawrence’s (University of North Dakota) deep knowledge of Indian philosophy supported the complex & interdisciplinary approach of Dr. Dunn’s dissertation. Her dissertation is the first academic study of a unique American branch of the modern Trika movement that has roots in Ganeshpuri, India. Regarding her doctoral project, Dr. Dunn notes that,

|| The Trika is a form of Shakta-Shaivism (divine bi-unity). Most of its theo-praxis centers on the Triune Divine Feminine—all immanent as aspects of the Supreme Shakti—the entryway to luminous Divine Consciousness (Shiva). Contemplative visualization of Shakti is undertaken in order to attain liberated consciousness. These visualizations employ embodiment and the senses, which are not rejected in Trika, but understood as manifestations of Shakti within the self, channeled towards the realization of the presence of the Divine within human experience. This study focuses on the Trika image of Shakti and the visualization practices associated with her form in a contemporary American context. The project interrogates the manner in which practitioners attempt to understand Trika and know themselves through the metaphors of a culture different from their own. The project applies an iconological, rather than iconographical approach to explore the ‘meaning’ of images in different cultural and conceptual spaces, transformations imbued by cultural dynamics, and constructive theo-praxis in a new context. The project is situated at the intersection of two fields — Hindu Studies and Visual & Material Culture Studies.

## Center for Islamic Studies

The Center for Islamic Studies extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, faculty, visiting scholars and staff for the academic year 2021-2022!

As we begin the new academic year in these continued challenging times, we are grateful for our beloved GTU community and partnerships, and we look forward to meeting in person when possible while continuing to collaborate and learn together online. Prayers and wishes for everyone's good health, safety and a blessed academic year.

## Madrasa-Midrasha Program

### Psychoanalysis in Judaism & Islam

*Wednesday, October 13 | 12pm (Pacific) | Zoom*



This event will feature Naomi Seidman (Chancellor Jackman Professor of the Arts, University Toronto) and Omnia El Shakry (Professor of History, University of California, Davis), and will be moderated by Mahjabeen Dhala. This event is a Zoom webinar; **please visit the event page** for more information and to register.

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is delighted to present the amazing work of our Haas Summer 2021 Student Research Grant recipients. The grants support GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam. We would like to thank the Walter and Elise Haas Fund for their generous support to the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha collaborative research.

With much enthusiasm from colleagues, The Madrasa-Midrasha Program will continue to lead the GTU-UCB series of faculty colloquia for the academic year 2021-2022, with proposed areas of focus including pedagogy, Jewish education and Islamic education, spiritual care, health care, and chaplaincy, Antisemitism and Islamophobia, and addressing questions of diversity, equity, justice and inclusion.



## Congratulations Dr. Sulaiman Mappiasse

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Congratulations and a warm welcome to **Dr. Sulaiman Mappiasse, a Fulbright Scholar from Indonesia** who will be at the CIS/GTU through February. His research focuses on how religious educators, practitioners, and researchers in America understand and practice interreligious education at schools, universities, and society. More specifically, he looks at how they define, experience, and practice interreligious education, what goals they have achieved, what challenges they have faced, and what support they have received for interreligious education. We are grateful and delighted that Dr. Sulaiman has chosen the GTU as his host institution as a Fulbright Scholar.

## Congratulations Carol Bier

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Congratulations to CIS Research Scholar, Carol Bier, who presented a paper, “**Patterns in Oriental Carpets: Symmetry, Structure, and Knowledge**,” at the international conference (via Zoom) on “Symmetry, Structure, and Information,” organized by the International Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry as part of a larger summit of the International Society for the Study of Information (in Sept).

CIS is also delighted to share that Carol has submitted the illustrated entry, “**Ornament**,” for *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Her entry on “**Geometry in Art**” has now been accepted for publication by reviewers and editors. Earlier this year, her entry on “**Maragha**” was published online - [https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/encyclopaedia-of-islam-3/maragha-COM\\_36215?s.num=98&s.start=80](https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/encyclopaedia-of-islam-3/maragha-COM_36215?s.num=98&s.start=80). Congratulations Carol!

## Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program

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CIS is pleased to share that Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program, will be presenting at the Imamia Medics International’s North America Conference to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from 29-31 October. The conference theme this year is “MEHDI – Medicine, Equity in Health, Diversity, and Inclusion.” Dr. Dhala’s keynote speech is titled, “**The Right to Rest: Claiming Women’s Wellbeing**” and she will also be a contributor on the panel on “**Social Justice in North America: Shia Identities in the Time of Change.**”



## David Coolidge, GTU PhD Candidate

CIS is pleased to share that David Coolidge, GTU PhD Candidate, will be presenting, **“Shi’i Muslim Chaplains in Higher Education”** at the same conference. David will also be presenting at the ICCNC on “28<sup>th</sup> of Safar – Demise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).” For more information: <https://iccnc.org/events>

## GTU-UCB Madrasa-Midrasha Faculty Colloquia

The **GTU-UCB Madrasa-Midrasha Faculty Colloquia**, co-led by CJS/CIS, will be meeting throughout the academic year to share their research with a particular focus on teaching/pedagogy, comparative/interreligious/intersectional work (and limits, politics, possibilities), and engaged scholarship. Congratulations and gratitude to the faculty. GTU gratefully acknowledges the Haas Fund for making this possible.

## CIS Events

The CIS is delighted to share that we will be holding a monthly Zoom gathering where **students, scholars and faculty in Islamic Studies** will be presenting their research. Tentative dates are Oct 15, Nov 12, and Dec 10 at 4pm. Please see the GTU calendar and [CIS events webpage](#) for details.

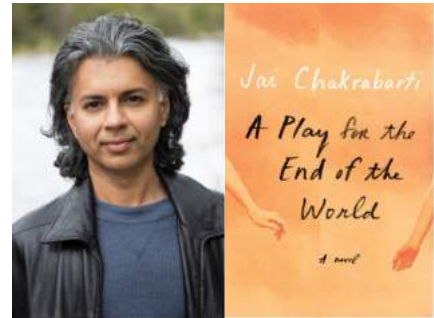
# The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

## A Play for the End of the World

Wednesday, October 6 | 12pm (Pacific) | Zoom

CJS is pleased to present two events this October that celebrate new books featuring conversations with the authors.

On Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> join CJS and the Shingal Center for Dharma Studies at 12pm PT for a conversation between Jai Chakrabarti and Dan Schifrin about Chakrabarti's dazzling debut novel, *A Play for the End of the World*. The book, which takes place during the Warsaw Ghetto and 1970s India, is a provocative exploration of the role of art in times of political upheaval, and a moving reminder of the power of the past to shape the present. Chakrabarti and Schifrin will discuss the intersections of Indian and Jewish culture, and the complicated ethics of literary channeling vs. cultural borrowing. [Please see the event page for more info and registration link for this webinar.](#)



## Forget Prayers, Bring Cake

Thursday, October 28 | 12pm (Pacific) | Zoom



Then on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> join CJS and and The Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco in hosting author (and CJS alum) Merissa Nathan Gerson for a conversation with Oakland-based author and astrologer Jessica Lanyadoo about Gerson's new book *Forget Prayers, Bring Cake: A Single Woman's Guide to Grieving*. A book needed now more than ever, *Forget Prayers, Bring Cake* is for people of all ages and orientations dealing with grief of any sort—professional, personal, romantic, familial, or even the sadness of the modern day. This book provides actions to boost self-care and self-worth; it shows when and how to ask

for love and attention, and how to provide it for others. It shows that it is okay to define your needs and ask others to share theirs. In a moment in which community, affection, and generosity are needed more than ever, this book is an indispensable road map. This book will be a guiding light to a healthier mental state amid these troubled times. [Please see the event page for more info and registration link for this webinar.](#)

## CJS Learning in the Sukkah, Fall 2021



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## Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

### Transhumanism as Contemporary Idolatry: A Jewish Critique

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*Wednesday, November 17 | 5pm | Zoom*



Join CTNS for a Public Forum with Dr. Hava Samuelson, Regents Professor of History, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies, and Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism at Arizona State University.

This event is free and open to the public. To register, please email Matt Hartman, [mhartman@gtu.edu](mailto:mhartman@gtu.edu). Registration required.

# Berkeley Journal of Religion & Theology (BJRT)

The BJRT is in the final publishing stages for its first issue of Volume 7, which will include distinguished lectures given at the GTU as well as a special project section with student essays from the Koret Fellowship in Interreligious and Intercultural Facilitation. Be on the lookout for publication announcements soon!

Volume 7, Issue 2 will include article submissions which are still going through the Peer Review process; it will be published by the end of year.

## Open Positions

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There are multiple positions on the BJRT editorial team currently open or opening in the coming semester:

- ◆ Peer Review Board – The BJRT Peer Review Board is made up graduate students and established scholars who review articles in the Journal’s double-blind review process. Reviewers are typically assigned no more than 2 articles per volume. The Peer Review Board is comprised of volunteer positions. Department Editors – Department Editors facilitate the Peer Review process, deciding which articles to submit to reviewers based on matching research interests and expertise and coordinating communication with Peer Reviewers. Department Editors are volunteer positions.
- ◆ Copy Editor – The Copy Editor is part of the Executive Editorial Board and is in charge of final edits and formatting accepted lectures, articles, book reviews, and special projects according to the BJRT Formatting Guide. The Copy Editor position comes with a stipend.
- ◆ Managing Editor – The Managing Editor facilitates the publishing process for the BJRT, making final editorial decisions and bringing BJRT volumes to publication. The Managing Editor position comes with a stipend.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please email current Co-Managing Editor Matthew Hartman, [mhartman@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:mhartman@ses.gtu.edu).





The Faith Leaders Working Group (FLWG) of the Bay Area chapter of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) warmly invites students, staff, or faculty at the GTU to get involved with the work it is doing to build relationships between the PPC and religious communities in our area.

Adopted in April, the mission of the statewide FLWG, which the Bay Area chapter shares, is as follows:

The California Poor People's Campaign Faith Leaders Working Group supports the California Coordinating Committee and regions in advancing the Poor People's Campaign [12 Fundamental Principles](#) and addresses the five interlocking injustices [of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism] from a faith-based moral center in faith communities and beyond.

**We do this by:**

- Engaging in theological reflection, direct action, and organizing;
- Supporting the development of faith working groups in new regions by partnering with existing & aligned organizations and growing our coalition of faith communities;
- Coordinating the work of regional Poor People's Campaign Faith Leaders Working Groups across the state;
- Encouraging and supporting one another by developing a culture of collaborative care and resilience grounded in a profound respect for a diversity of beliefs and identities.

The global, interfaith, highly intersectional principles and [demands](#) of the PPC are deeply consonant with those of the GTU and of our member schools. Check out the PPC and if you are interested in learning more or becoming involved—whether with the FLWG or with the PPC in general—feel free to be in touch with Prof. Scott MacDougall ([smacdougall@cdsp.edu](mailto:smacdougall@cdsp.edu)), who attends the FLWG meetings and could connect you with it or to another body in the PPC that matches your interests.

**Forward together, not one step back!**





## The Dean's Newsletter

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the Graduate Theological Union Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second-to-last Friday of the month to **skennedy@gtu.edu**  
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the Interim Dean

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### Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
www.gtu.edu | 510-649-2442