

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



The Holy Mystery of Our Complexity

After nine months of being in my new position as dean (hmm, nine months), I have recovered enough from the Whirlwind of Everything New that I have been able to begin finding my daily rhythm again with prayer, scripture and spiritual reading, journaling, and meditation. (Exercise, I see you on the horizon!)

The other morning, I began my day reading Henri Nouwen's *Bread for the Journey*, and I saw a connection between personal life and institutional life that felt like a grace-filled invitation. In a reflection titled "The Ways to Self-Knowledge," Nouwen writes:

"Know yourself" is good advice. But to know ourselves doesn't mean [only] to analyze ourselves. Sometimes we want to know ourselves as if we were machines that could be taken apart and put back together at will. ...Solitude, silence, and prayer are often the best ways to self-knowledge. Not because they offer solutions for the complexity of our lives but because they bring us in touch with our sacred center, where God dwells. That sacred center may not be analyzed. It is the place of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.

"Know yourself" in the context of higher education is called "Self-Study." And it is the process we are earnestly engaged in at the GTU—first with WSCUC and currently with ATS, our accreditors. We are doing a lot of analyzing ourselves this year (and into next)—looking at data, trends, processes, handbooks, curricula—as we "attempt to completely understand ourselves and explain the full meaning of our lives to others" (to borrow a phrase from elsewhere in Nouwen's reflection).

We can get caught up in this process of self-analysis and may lose sight of what is sacred about the mystery of our life together at the GTU. I don't mean to suggest an either/or here. (That's why I inserted the word "only" in the quote above.) In this season of self-study, we need to analyze ourselves in all the ways I mentioned. *And* we would do well to also cultivate personal and communal practices that will bring us in touch with our sacred centers (pun intended)—the holy mystery of our complexity.

In our wholehearted effort to know and explain, may we also be led to moments of deep gratitude for that which cannot be analyzed, taken apart, or put back together. For the More than We Can Know, let us give thanks.

Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD

Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Announcements

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

STUDENT ELECTIONS

2023 SCHEDULE

Nominations opened on

March 20

Deadline to submit nominations

March 31, 5 pm

Voting period

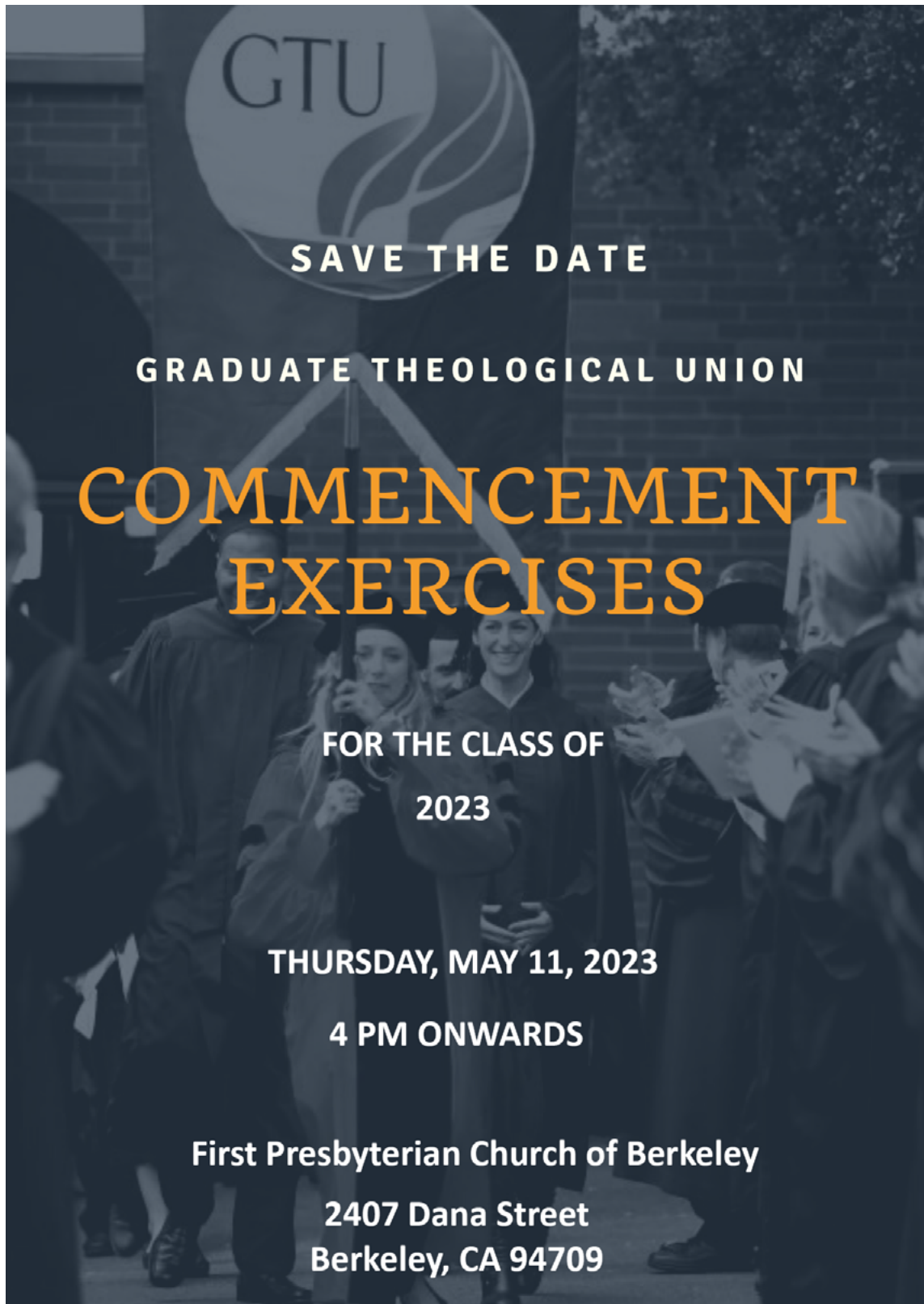
April 10 - 21

Results out on **April 25**

For any questions, please contact

cmotupalli@gtu.edu

APRIL PDP WORKSHOPS**GTU***Professional Development Program***Creating an Impressive
Curriculum Vitae***Facilitated by Dr. Eric Sias***Apr 5, Wednesday, 10 - 11 am****ZOOM ID: 999 1525 1254****Beyond FB and Insta:
Social Media Presence***Facilitated by Victoria Price***Apr 19, Wednesday, 10 - 11 am****ZOOM ID: 999 1525 1254**

A dark, semi-transparent background image showing a group of graduates in gowns and caps. In the upper left, a circular logo with the letters 'GTU' and a stylized leaf design is visible. The text is overlaid in white and orange.

SAVE THE DATE

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

**COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES**

**FOR THE CLASS OF
2023**

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

4 PM ONWARDS

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
2407 Dana Street
Berkeley, CA 94709

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

MA Capstone Defense

Julie Carpenter, SATX
Jonathan Croes-Lanspeary, HCSR, HONORS
Laura Prickett, REPR, HONORS

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Charissa Jaeger-Sanders, THET

Advanced to Candidacy

Abraham Markos Addam, HCSR
Kwangsuo Choi, REPR
Sanghyun Park, THET



Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals

Submit by noon on April 24, 2023.

Modern Foreign Language Examination Registration

Submit by May 10, 2023.

[Register here](#)

Library News

The Graduate Theological Union's Flora Lamson Hewlett Library has launched a new online exhibition

[The Spirit of the Tarot: The Search for God's Picturebook.](#)

The launch supports the 2023 Reading of the Sacred Text lecture, presented by Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis entitled, "Divining Freedom: Queer Reconceptions of the Tarot Deck" on March 22. A recording of the wonderful talk should be up soon on the GTU Library website (gtu.edu/library) under News and Events.

The exhibition explores the religious and spiritual aspects of the Tarot over the past 500 years. From a game, the cards became a way to perceive the future and a tool for meditation and personal development. Features include a variety of Fools in many decks, the growth of the occult applications of the Tarot, how Tarot cards can be relics, and the developments of the Tarot since the 1960s and 1970s.

Prompted by the current exhibition, some additional Tarot resources have been added to our Special Collections, reflecting the worldwide interest in Tarot as a form of multi-purpose meditative, cultural, and spiritual tool. These include both books and Tarot decks, which can soon be accessed as an archival collection at the library.

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



Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning Department provides workshops to help instructors teach in hybrid and remote formats. The workshop list for April and May are below.

If you cannot attend these workshops but still want to receive help with hybrid and/or remote learning, please reach out to Diandra Erickson, Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, to schedule an appointment. Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom.

Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing derickson@gtu.edu, and you will receive a Zoom link.

Overview of VoiceThread

Wednesday, April 5th, 1 pm (via Zoom)

Thursday, April 6th, 1 pm (via Zoom)

Universal Design for Learning: Benefits and Strategies

Wednesday, April 26th, 1 pm (via Zoom)

Thursday, April 27th, at 1 pm (via Zoom)

Overview of Assignments and Grading Methods in Moodle

Wednesday, May 3rd, 1 pm (via Zoom)

Thursday, May 4th, at 1 pm (via Zoom)

Center for the Arts and Religion

Art Break with glass artist Jim Stickney

Thursday, April 20 | 5:00 - 6:00 pm (Pacific)

Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley



Join us for an informal talk and hands-on learning experience with GTU alum [Rev. Jim Stickney!](#) Jim will be showing examples of his work, demonstrating glass cutting and soldering techniques, and letting us get a feel for the art making process ourselves.

Come learn more about this “translucently unique” medium, from a master glass worker!

Refreshments will be provided.

CALL FOR SCHOLARS

Does your area of interest include foundational myths, stories, or beliefs? Do you have an interest in the relationship between such stories and patriarchy?

CARe is once again working with artists Gabriella Willenz and Julia Vogl on an expansion of their audio artwork that deals with the story of Eve and Adam.

In creating a multi-sensory installation for the new Doug Adams Gallery, the artists are planning a new video piece based on the notion that the story of Eve and Adam doesn't stand alone but is part of a web that is seen in multiple faith traditions.

Please contact Gabriella and Julia to share your knowledge and become part of the EVE & ADAM project!

info@juliavogl.com & gabiw85@gmail.com



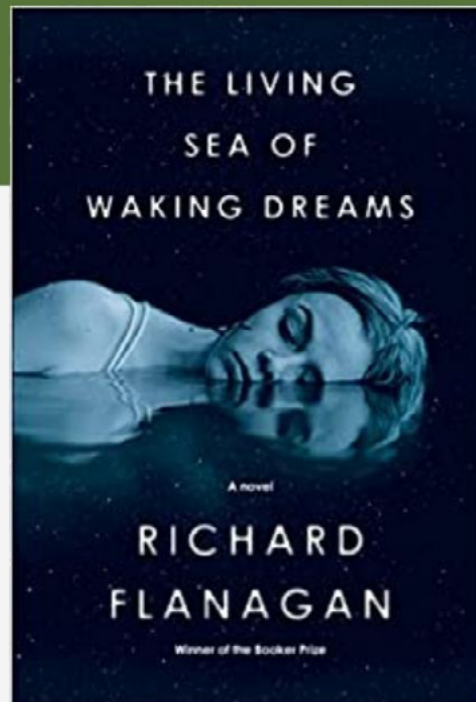
A climate fiction reading group meeting once a month to discuss a literary work at the intersection of climate, religion, and culture.

CLI-FI BOOK CLUB

Discussing:

Next Gathering:
Wed, Apr. 12th
3pm PT
Location TBD (Zoom Option)

For more info email:
Matt Hartman
mhartman@ses.gtu.edu



Madrasa-Midrasha Program



GTU

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies &
The Center for Islamic Studies

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Sacred Celebrations



Rabbi Dorothy Richman

Rabbi Emerita,
Congregation Beth Shalom



Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, PhD

Director, Interreligious Chaplaincy
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology

Monday, April 24 at 12:30 PM
3rd Floor Board Room, GTU Library

Join us as we celebrate the messages of Passover and Eid-al-Fitr.

gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is made possible by
the generous support of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund

[Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

Haas Summer Interreligious Research Grant – Each year we offer summer research grants for students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam, funded through generous support by the [Walter & Elise Haas Fund](#). See the flier below, and please [visit the webpage](#) for additional information. **The deadline to apply has been extended to April 15th, 2023.**



Madrasa-Midrasha Program Interreligious Research Grants

The Walter & Elise Haas Fund has provided funding to the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program to support research grants for GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam.

- Grants range from \$250 to \$500 for individual projects and \$500 to \$1000 for joint projects.
- Student(s) must be in the GTU MA or PhD degree program focusing on Jewish Studies and/or Islamic Studies and/or have registered for a CJS or CIS class this academic year.
- Proposed projects must be interreligious, or relevant to interreligious work. Projects that address both Judaism and Islam will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted to the Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala (mahdhala@gtu.edu) by **April 15th, 2023**.

For more info, please visit:
gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha/student-grants



Graduate
Theological
Union

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies &
the Center for Islamic Studies
Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Center for Islamic Studies

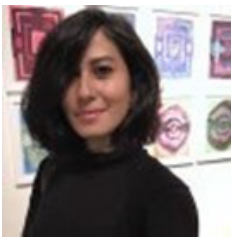


Our gratitude to Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman, GTU doctoral student and Newhall fellow, for her ongoing participation in the Race, Religion and Belonging working group at the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion.



Our gratitude to GTU PhD student Sundiata Al Rashid, Amir of Lighthouse Mosque for his extraordinary leadership in bridging academia with the larger public. He will be leading and participating in several upcoming events: Care not Deaths Noise Demo and Vigil at Santa Rita Jail, April 1 | 1pm (more info, contact: jlindsay-poland@afsc.org or joy@restoreoakland.org).

Living Intentionally presents a Health Conscious Conversation at Lighthouse Mosque, 6:30pm, followed by iftar (breaking of the fast) at Lighthouse Mosque; and Unity Eid Celebration at 9am on either April 21 or 22, San Pablo Park, Berkeley.



Congratulations to GTU PhD candidate and Presidential Scholar, Reem Kosba, who will be presenting her research at the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) conference in Minneapolis, MN, April 21-23.



Congratulations to Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program, who will be presenting a paper at the upcoming conference on Joy, titled, "Joy in the Qur'an: Faith, Community, and Social Justice," GTU Dinner Board Room on April 26, and also presenting the Women's Studies in Religion Chair lecture on April 28 at 3 pm, GTU Dinner Board Room.



Congratulations to CIS research scholar Carol Bier. The monthly international Zoom seminar on Persian Velvets hosted her presentation on “Seeing What We Are Looking At [when examining Persian velvets],” drawing upon the digital images she recently placed with the Danish Royal Collections in Copenhagen. Carol is also among a roster of international speakers invited to a conference organized by the Tang Center for Silk Road Studies at UC-Berkeley, “Nexus of Knowledge: Science, Medicine, and Technology on the Silk Roads Her paper will address “Interlacing Textile Technologies across Asia.” April 27-29, UC Berkeley.



CIS gratefully acknowledges Dr. Ahmed Khater, CIS/GTU scholar, for offering an ongoing series of public engagement classes and lectures at UC Berkeley and at Berkeley Law School, as well as presentations and events throughout Ramadan, cosponsored by the CIS. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/events/group/cis>



CIS gratefully acknowledges Dr. Eby Shabudin, CIS/GTU visiting scholar, for offering a course on Values Based Leadership at the Walnut Creek Mosque, and for his ongoing leadership and mentorship bridging diverse communities, cultures and faiths.



Congratulations to CIS Director, Munir Jiwa, who will be co-leading three seminars in April on Religion and Health, as part of the New Directions Seminar, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion. Congratulations also for his recent participation at the UC Berkeley, Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry (CICI) inaugural symposium, Borders and Crossings: Contemporary Arts and Techniques of Migration, and for his upcoming participation in the CICI event on Migrancy and Narrativity, cosponsored by GTU on April 12. More details: <https://cici.berkeley.edu>



In anticipation of Eid al-Fitr (~April 21), CIS wishes Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating, with prayers for good health, peace and blessings.

Center for Jewish Studies

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

Positionality and Jewish Biblical Scholarship

Friday, April 21 | 12:30 pm (Pacific)

Holbrook 134, 1798 Scenic Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709



Biblical Studies is a highly fragmented field, with some scholars insisting on the significance of positionality, “the notion that personal values, views, and location in time and space influence how one understands the world,” while others claim that objective, historical-critical perspectives offer the only proper lens through which the Bible should be studied. How might the history of Jewish biblical scholarship over the last two centuries shed light on this dispute? Marc Zvi Brettler, Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Judaic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University, addresses such questions in this event co-sponsored by JST and the Bade Museum.

[Register Here](#) to attend in person.

[Register Here](#) to attend by Zoom.

Are Psychedelics Theologically Significant for Judaism?

Thursday, April 27 | 9:00 am (Pacific)



To what extent have altered states of consciousness been theologically significant for Jewish theology and practice? In what ways, if at all, have ingestions of psychoactive substances transformed Jewish theology? And how might this all relate to contemporary Jewish experiments with psychedelics? In this panel, such questions will animate discussion among leading scholars of Jewish mysticism. Through considerations of historical, phenomenological, and hermeneutical dimensions of Jewish theology, these scholars will reflect together on the cultural significance of Jewish psychedelia today. This event is a Harvard Divinity School program, and is co-sponsored by CJS. Panelists include: Sam Shonkoff, Melila Hellner-Eshed, and Jay Michaelson.

[Register Here](#) for this Zoom Webinar

CJS Tuition Fellowships

CJS is excited to announce a new tuition fellowship for M.A. students in the academic year of 2023-2024. M.A. students in the first year of the program at CJS are eligible for a fellowship that will cover up to 2 courses. To apply for the fellowship, please submit a 250-word essay in which you describe the focus of your graduate studies and how advanced Jewish study at the GTU serves your broader academic and/or personal aspirations.

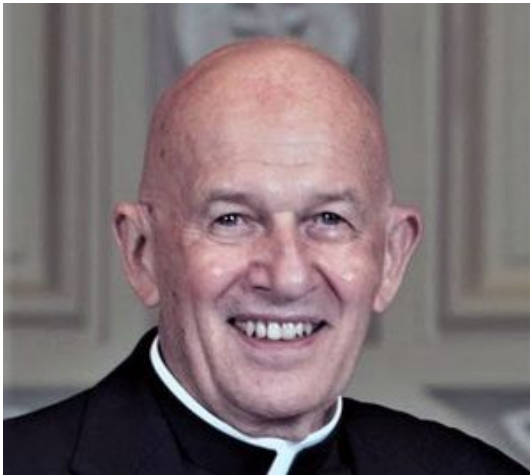
Applications for Fall 2023 must be submitted by email to CJS Director Deena Aranoff (daranoff@gtu.edu) by Monday, May 1, 2023.

For more information visit [CJS Scholarships & Awards](#)

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

Theological Reflection Across Religious Traditions: The Turn to Reflective Believing

Wednesday, April 12 | 9:30 - 11:00 am (Pacific)



Theological/spiritual/philosophical reflection in chaplaincy is a tool to address meaning-making. The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program is privileged to host Professor Edward Foley, author of *Theological Reflection across Religious Traditions*, to discover more inclusive ways of reflecting on experiences in ministry and religious living. Dr. Foley is an internationally renowned teacher, preacher, liturgical scholar, and the Duns Scots Professor Emeritus of Spirituality at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Registration Required /Free Webinar / Open to all!

[Register Here](#)

Chaplaincy Hour

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program hosts a weekly virtual meet and greet for chaplaincy students, faculty, and former and prospective students interested in the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program at the Graduate Theological Union. Contact kshamsieh@gtu.edu or mhartman@gtu.edu to get the zoom link and password.

Thursdays: 12:30 pm

Chaplaincy Career Opportunities

United States Air Force needs AF chaplains at Travis AFB. The ICP invites all GTU MDiv students and graduates to apply for the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program and complete the chaplaincy certificate while serving in the USAF. Contact the ICP director at kshamsieh@gtu.edu for more information.

Latter-day Saints/Mormon Studies

Joy: Community, Inclusion, and Social Justice

Wednesday, April 26 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Pacific)

GTU Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

The GTU will host an interfaith conference entitled, "Joy: Community, Inclusion, and Social Justice" from 9 am to 5 pm on April 26 in the Dinner Board Room. This is a hybrid event and registration will be available through Eventbrite. Plenary speakers include Amy Hollywood (Harvard Divinity School) and Mary Clark Moschella (Yale Divinity School). There will be 12 speakers from the GTU community speaking from their different traditions and disciplines on the place of joy in religious thought and practice.

[Event Details](#)

Women's Studies in Religion



You are invited to join us for....

The Women's Studies in Religion Student Conference 2023
WSR Chair Lecture: Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala

Place: GTU Dinner Boardroom
 Time: Friday April 28, 2023 - From 9:30am-5:30pm

The GTU Student Conference will celebrate Interreligious and Interdisciplinary voices and scholarship on issues involving Women and Religion. The day will come to a close with the highlight of the ***WSR Faculty Chair Lecture given by Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala*** and the awarding of the ***WSR Certificates*** followed by a reception. The event will be in person only. Besides rich scholarship, the day will include snacks, lunch, and wonderful WSR giveaways ie. T-shirts, lunch bags, and books for all attendees. All genders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Panel 1
Women Practicing Their Faith
 Faculty Presider: Dr. Kirsi Stjerna
 Presenters: Lisa Calvez, Zeinab Vessal,
 Raya M. Hazini, Yanan Lu

Panel 2
Women Empowering Each Other
 Faculty Presider: Dr. Diandra Erickson
 Presenters: Anne Kallin Zehren,
 Mina Yi, Amanda Kairys

Panel 3
Women Making Meaning
 Faculty Presider: Dr. Deidre Green
 Presenters: William Klein,
 Casey Averbook, Katy Dickinson

Panel 4
Divine Female Power
 Faculty Presider: Dr. Paula Arai
 Presenters: Olivia Tabert,
 Charissa Jaeger-Sanders, Letesa Isler

Chair Lecture: 3:15-4:15 pm & Reception - 4:30 pm-5:30

Register for the Conference through the Eventbrite [Here](#)
 Click [Here](#) to see Conference Schedule!

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology

The BJRT is pleased to present [Volume 8, Issue 1](#), published in March 2023!

The issue is available to purchase on the BJRT website, and once again contains important contributions from scholars working at the intersection of religious and theological studies, including:

The 2022 Borsch-Rast Lecture given by Dr. Ashley Bacchi (SKSM) and responses by Erich Gruen (UC Berkeley) and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Harvard Divinity School)

Articles by Tamanna Ali (The Islamic College, London), Jonah Mac Gelfand (GTU Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies), Pamela Stevens (GTU), and K. Lauriston Smith (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Book Reviews of Francis Clooney's *Reading the Hindu and Christian Classics: Why and How Deep Learning Still Matters* (University of Virginia Press, 2019), Joseph Drexler-Dreis's *Decolonial Love: Salvation in Colonial Modernity* (Fordham University Press, 2019), and Marcia Pally's *Evangelicals and Right-Wing Populism: How Did We Get Here?* (Routledge, 2022).



BJRT 2023 CALL FOR PAPERS

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2023

The BJRT is now accepting submissions for articles and book reviews for Volume 9

For more visit bjrt.gtu.edu

The BJRT has extended its submission deadline for articles and book review requests for Volume 9. The submission deadline is now April 15th.

Please visit our website at bjrt.gtu.edu for more information as well as the BJRT Style Guide. This is a great way to gain experience with an academic journal and convert a term paper or writing project into a published article, and contribute to the discourse of current scholarship in your field by writing a book review.

The BJRT is looking for candidates to serve in editorial roles for Volume 9 that come with modest stipends. If interested, please send an email to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Making Anglican Theology Anglican: A Faculty Book Celebration

Thursday, April 13 | 8:00 pm (Pacific)



On Thursday, April 13, at 8 pm Pacific Time, CDSP will celebrate the publication of Dr. Scott MacDougall's new book, *The Shape of Anglican Theology: Faith Seeking Wisdom*, at an event that can be attended either in person or by livestream.

Dr. MacDougall, associate professor of theology, will discuss the themes and content of his book with the Rev. Ellen K. Wondra, PhD, research professor emerita of theology and ethics at the Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation.

Those wishing to attend the gathering in Berkeley are warmly invited to join us at 7:45 p.m. for dessert and coffee preceding the conversation, which will take place in the Tucson Common Room at CDSP. We will begin promptly at 8 p.m. No RSVP is required.

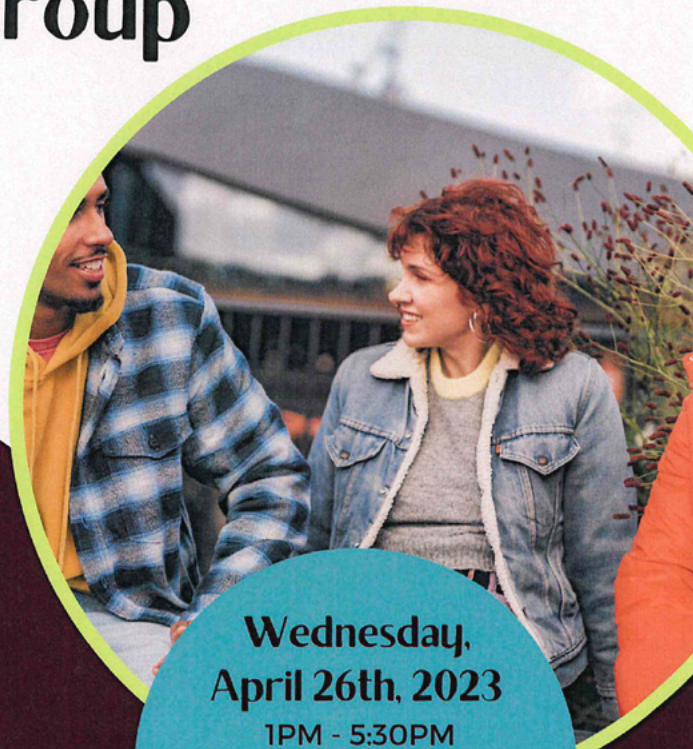
For more details and the Zoom link visit [CDSP](#)

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Wading in the Water: A Chaplain Support Group



An afternoon event to provide connection, support and rest for Chaplains who have served during Covid-19.



Take an afternoon for rest:

- Gather with other local chaplains
- Connect one-on-one
- Share experiences of serving during Covid-19 in a facilitated group
- Spend solo time in nature

"Nature reminds me that healing is natural. My body, spirit, and mind want to heal and I need to create the space and time to do that."

-Andrea Quijada

**Wednesday,
April 26th, 2023**

1PM - 5:30PM

\$40

**Montgomery Chapel
5 Richmond Rd.
San Anselmo, CA**

REGISTER TODAY!

**San Francisco
Theological Seminary**

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) at Pacific School of Religion

Exploring Fe, Familia, Igualdad Resources: Gender, Sexuality and the Bible with CLGS' Latinx Coordinator Rev. Dr. Carla Roland Guzmán"

Thursday, April 13 | 1:30 - 2:30 pm (Pacific)

CLGS' Latinx Roundtable coordinator presents the work and resource "Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible" in this informative session for activists, clergy and laity wanting to do faith organizing within Latinx religious communities. These resources are available free of charge and can be downloaded from our website www.fefamiliaigualdad.org. The resources can function together with the available curriculum or used individually.

[Event Details](#)

Called to This: Voices of Trans and Nonbinary Students Preparing for Religious Leadership

Thursday, April 13 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm (Pacific)

With today's increasingly hostile attitude toward trans and nonbinary people, it is vital that we lift up the voices of those who are doing the work of trans liberation and religious leadership. Join the students of the Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort for a panel discussion that will address the joy and challenges of religious leadership for trans and nonbinary leaders. This webinar will be facilitated by Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw, a faculty member of the Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort.

[Event Details](#)

Queer AAPI Spiritual Movement Building in Real Time! A conversation with Tahil Sharma

Tuesday, April 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm (Pacific)

Join the AAPIRT Roundtable Coordinator Maij Vu Mai (they/he) and guest speaker and comrade Tahil Sharma (he/him) for a live conversation on how Queer AAPI folks can engage in and cultivate radical queer AAPI spiritual movement building spaces in real time!

[Event Details](#)

The 16th Annual | 2023 CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture: Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey Speaks on The Big Lie and Its Old Hatred.

Thursday, April 20 | 4:00 pm (Pacific)



Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology of Meadville Lombard Theological School located in Chicago. Dr. Lightsey will lecture on “The Big Lie and Its Old Hatred.” While its primary focus will be the lives of Black queer women, this lecture will spotlight why all persons who believe in freedom and liberation must see this old hatred as a danger to all humanity.

[Event Details](#)

EST Souls A’Fire 8 Conference

Saturday, April 22 | 12:00 pm and Sunday, April 23 | 11:00 am (Pacific)

Our African-American Roundtable is hosting the 8th Souls A’Fire Conference online. The first SAF conference was 20 years ago 2003. SAF will take place on April 22 and 23 featuring previous “Souls A’Fire Fellows” who will reintroduce their original papers on Black Queer Theology to see if their ideas have stood the test of time and continue to have relevance to the Black Church today.

[Event Details](#)

Talmudic Reflections on Gender Diversity with Dr. Max Strassfeld and Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman

Thursday, April 27 | 1:00 pm (Pacific)

How does Judaism look when we center nonbinary narratives, rather than treat them as anomalies? How do gender taxonomies represent complex rabbinic ideas about culture, practice and Jewish law? Is it possible to reclaim these texts in a liberatory way? Join Max Strassfeld and Jane Litman in a discussion of the possibilities and limitations of trans Talmud.

[Event Details](#)

New College Berkeley

Berkeley Palmer Lecture - The Mystery of the Divine Economy

Saturday April 22 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm (Pacific)

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 94704

Dr. Choi will examine "The Mystery of the Divine Economy," inviting us to perceive the presence of the Mystery amidst our life together, in solidarity with the invisible, voiceless and displaced persons in today's world.

Jin Young Choi, PhD, is professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She is the author of numerous books, including *Postcolonial Discipleship of Embodiment: An Asian and Asian American Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*.

Co-sponsored by New College Berkeley and First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. This annual lectureship, established in honor of the Reverend Earl F. Palmer, brings the lens of biblical scholarship to issues of concern to the university, the seminary, and the church.



Jin Young Choi, PhD

[Register Here](#)

Students and faculty at the GTU and UC Berkeley are also invited to an intimate conversation with Dr. Choi on Friday, April 21, 2023, from 1-3 p.m at the GTU Library.

[Event Details](#)

Wilmette Institute



The Bahá'í Faith and an Evolving Framework for Action



Dr. Robert Stockman **Justin Scoggin** **Ymasumac Marañón Davis**

 **Wilmette Institute**

Tuesday, April 4 | 4:00 pm (Pacific) 7:00 pm (Eastern)

This presentation will begin with a review of basic information about the nature of the Bahá'í Faith, its founders, and its scriptures. Three Wilmette Institute staff—Robert Stockman, Justin Scoggin, and Ymasumac Marañón Davis—will explore the principles and beliefs about individual and collective development, and conclude with an overview of what Bahá'ís are learning in their efforts to serve humanity through community building, public discourse, and social action.

For more details and the Zoom link visit [Wilmette Institute](https://www.wilmetteinstitute.org).



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 Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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