

# GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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### Update on Accreditation

Yesterday, the Reaccreditation Steering Committee was pleased to share with GTU community members the final version of the Graduate Theological Union Institutional Report submitted to the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

The final version of the Institutional Report is the result of numerous drafts based on consultations with the GTU community, including the faculty council, student advisory committee, two community forums, rostered and in-residence faculty, staff, core doctoral faculty, the council of deans, consortial council, academic committee of the board of trustees, the executive committee of the board of trustees, and the whole board of trustees. Redlined versions of drafts were distributed so constituents could easily track changes and revisions. The final version included two essays composed at the end of the community review process – essay 2, “Compliance with Standards,” and essay 8, “Conclusion.”

The Institutional Report is one crucial part of the reaccreditation process with WSCUC. Outside reviewers will read the report over the next few months before our Offsite Review (OSR) Video Conference on April 6, 2023. The primary purpose of the OSR is to share with the institution the lines of inquiry that will be pursued during the Accreditation Visit. Institutional representatives that attend the OSR Video Conference include the executive leadership team and the accreditation liaison officer.

This report will be distributed to GTU community members again in fall 2023 before the WSCUC onsite Accreditation Visit in October.

The Reaccreditation Steering Committee has embarked on our self-study process for our second accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The self-study is directed by six subcommittees composed of students, trustees, staff, faculty, and administrators. For more information about the ATS self-study process and ATS standards, you can visit the [ATS website](#).

While it is a lot of work for us, the GTU is fortunate to be accredited by two accrediting agencies. As ATS reminds us in its Self-Study Handbook, accreditation is a voluntary relationship we engage in with our peers. The standards we seek to hold ourselves accountable are our standards that we affirm through our voluntary relationship of accountability. We are privileged to devote our time, energy, and resources on a self-study process that helps us identify our strengths and challenges and encourages us to plan for continual improvement.

*Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD*  
*Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

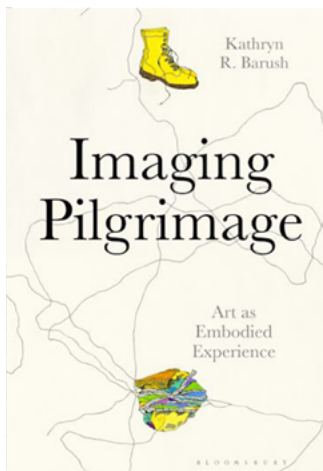
# The Sixth Annual Borsch-Rast Lecture

With Dr. Kathryn Barush,  
 Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr.  
 Associate Professor of Art  
 History and Religion



**Friday, March 3 | 5:00 pm (Pacific)**

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to host Dr. Kathryn Barush, Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion, as the sixth annual Borsch-Rast Lecture for 2021 publication, ***Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience*** (Bloomsbury Visual Arts).



In her acclaimed book, Dr. Barush explores contemporary artworks created after pilgrimage experiences, which are 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, ultimately comprising the first full-length study to engage contemporary art that has emerged out of the embodied experience of pilgrimage.

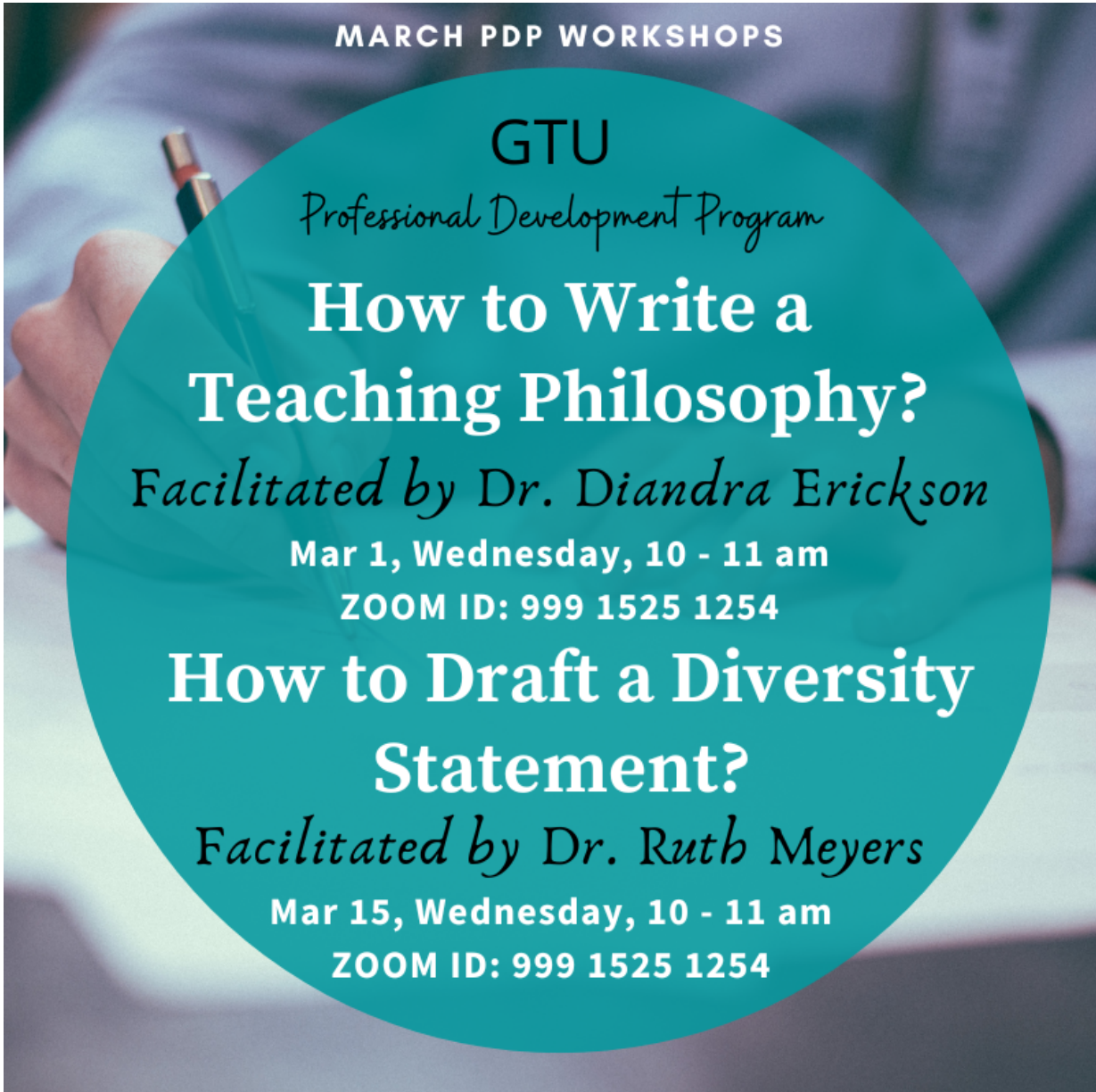
[Learn more about Dr. Kathryn Barush](#)

The event will be hybrid with an in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Contact Sabrina Kennedy [skennedy@gtu.edu](mailto:skennedy@gtu.edu) if you would like to attend in person.

[Register here for virtual attendance](#)

## Announcements

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MARCH PDP WORKSHOPS

GTU  
*Professional Development Program*

**How to Write a  
Teaching Philosophy?**  
*Facilitated by Dr. Diandra Erickson*  
Mar 1, Wednesday, 10 - 11 am  
ZOOM ID: 999 1525 1254

**How to Draft a Diversity  
Statement?**  
*Facilitated by Dr. Ruth Meyers*  
Mar 15, Wednesday, 10 - 11 am  
ZOOM ID: 999 1525 1254



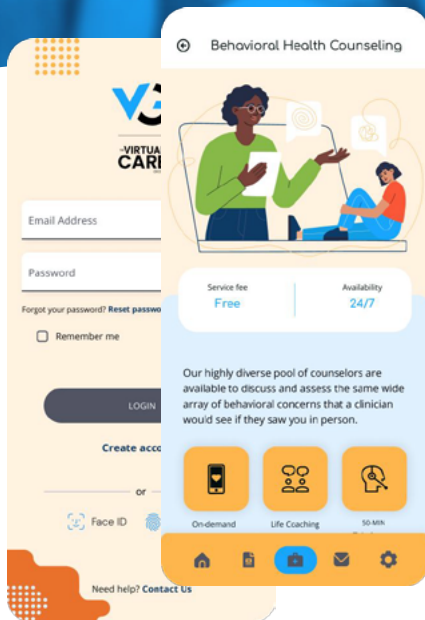
Graduate  
Theological  
Union

As a Graduate Theological Union student,  
you have free, unlimited access to doctors,  
therapists + on-demand crisis counseling.

## Getting Started is Easy.

Register at [thevirtualcaregroup.com/gtu](https://thevirtualcaregroup.com/gtu)  
to speak to a therapist today!

Please use zip code **94709** when prompted.



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Please email [care@thevirtualcaregroup.com](mailto:care@thevirtualcaregroup.com)  
with any questions or concerns.

# Spring Forum

hosted by the Student Advisory Committee



We invite you to join  
us to discuss your  
hopes for student life  
at the GTU library

In-Person at the  
Dinner Board Room &  
Online via Zoom  
933 3970 7986

March 15, 2023  
5 - 6:30 PM

# Academic Achievements & Deadlines

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## *MA Capstone Defense*

Jaeseol Lee, THET

## *Comprehensive Proposal Approved*

Mark Guevarra, THET

## *Advanced to Candidacy*

Hyung-Joo Lee, THET  
Eunjoo Kim, IDS

## *Dissertation Successfully Defended*

Hye Hyun Han, SATX  
Jihoon Lee, HIST  
Raphael Mkuzi, HCSR



## *Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals*

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Submit by noon on March 27, 2023.

## *Intent to Graduate form for Spring January 2023*

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[MA Intent to graduate form](#)

[PHD Intent to graduate form](#)

# Library News

What makes a text sacred? Each year the GTU Library examines a fresh insight.

## Divining Freedom: Queer Reconceptions of the Tarot Deck with Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis

Online: Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm (Pacific time)

[Register Here](#)

Ruth West,  
*Thea's Tarot*



Tarot decks can be seen as a mirror, reflecting back insights about ourselves and even offering glimpses of the future. The illustrations and interpretations of traditional cards, however, are rooted in a white, patriarchal, heteronormative mindset; for those who do not fit this mold, this can obscure their meaning and limit their liberative potential.

Enter: queer artists who have re-envisioned these decks, with new, enlivening meanings and beautifully illustrated images that reflect a queer sensibility and a drive towards justice. How does “queering” the tarot help point our way to greater freedom and deeper spiritual insight?

Rev. Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis is an assistant professor and director of the Social Transformation program at United Theological Seminary. He earned his PhD from the GTU and a DMin from San Francisco Theological Seminary.



The Reading of the Sacred Texts Lecture is co-hosted by the GTU Library and GTUx.

<https://gtu.edu/library> <https://gtux.gtu.edu>



Graduate  
Theological  
Union

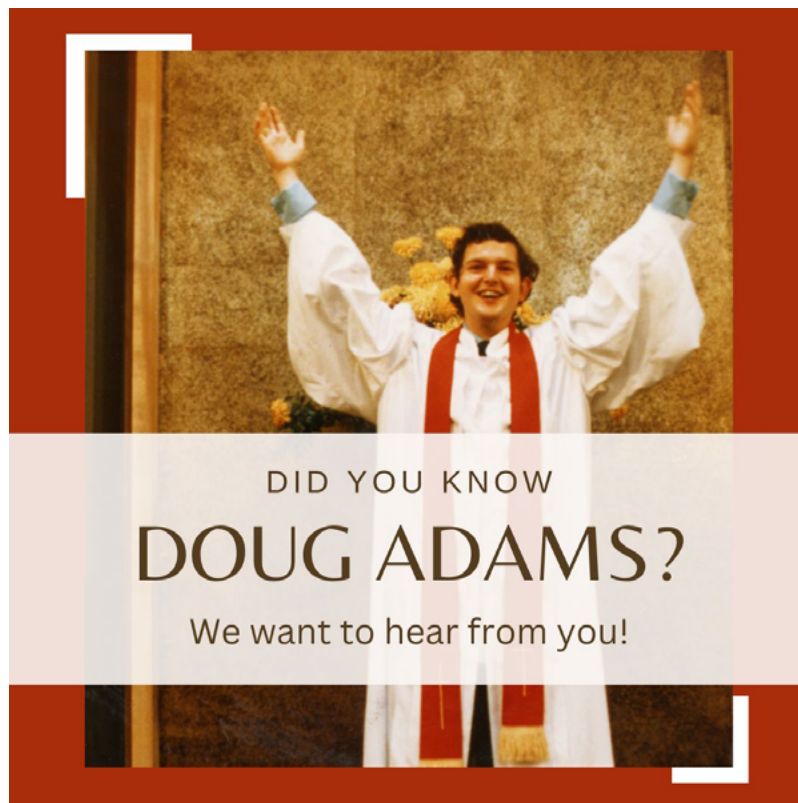
## Center for the Arts and Religion

On **Thursday, March 16**, join us for an afternoon of events activating our two exhibitions in the GTU Library. From 4:30-5 pm, take part in an exclusive CARE members-only behind-the-scenes scoop of the architecture exhibition in the library entryway from CARE Director Dr. Elizabeth S. Peña. Then, from 5-6 pm, join us for a tour and talk with the student artists of *Reconnecting: Celebrating the art of GTU students and alums*.

Not yet a CARE member but want to come to the curator's talk, and get a host of other great benefits? Support the arts! Become a CARE member today: [www.gtu.edu/supportcare](http://www.gtu.edu/supportcare)

### *A Time to Dance: Celebrating the Legacy of Doug Adams*

In Fall 2023, we will be unveiling CARE's inaugural exhibition in our new Doug Adams Gallery, celebrating the life and legacy of our founder, Doug Adams. Included as part of this exciting show will be a timeline of key events in Doug's life, photos, reflections, and interviews with people who worked and studied with him.



If you have something you'd like to share, please be in touch with CARE Curator Lydia Webster, [lwebster@gtu.edu](mailto:lwebster@gtu.edu)



SPRING 2023

# WRITING PRIZE

**DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 20 | 9AM**

The Center for the Arts & Religion Writing Prize recognizes a paper that incorporates artwork, themes, and/or content from a current or upcoming Doug Adams Gallery exhibition.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All currently enrolled GTU students

## PRIZE AMOUNT

\$250

## REQUIREMENTS

Papers must demonstrate direct relevance to the exhibition and excellence in writing.

Papers should be 1200-1500 words in length

The prize winner must present the paper at an Art Break public lecture.

## WHAT CAN I WRITE ABOUT?

You have a choice of four exhibitions on which to write a paper:

*Draw Me After You: a visual Song of Songs*

*Geografías Paralelas: Coronado • Fernandez • Arceo* (forthcoming)

*Reconnecting: Celebrating Student and Alum Art*

*Library Entryway Exhibition*



[care@gtu.edu](mailto:care@gtu.edu)



[www.gtu.edu/caregrants](http://www.gtu.edu/caregrants)

Center for the Arts & Religion  
Doug Adams Gallery

# CARe Grants



Spring 2023 applications now open!

**DEADLINE**

Monday, March 20 | 9am (Pacific)

**UP TO \$2000**

awarded to GTU students,  
faculty, & staff in support of  
projects that center on religion  
& the arts

**LEARN MORE**

[gtu.edu/caregrants](https://gtu.edu/caregrants)

# Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Our best wishes to communities preparing to enter the sacred seasons of Ramadhan and Passover. Please visit the [Madrasa-Midrasha Program website](#) for information on upcoming programming.

Haas Summer Interreligious Research Grant – The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the 2022 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 is Monday, April 3rd, 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](mailto:mahdhala@gtu.edu)) by **Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**.

For more info, please visit:

[gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha/student-grants](https://gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha/student-grants)



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

## Center for Islamic Studies

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Congratulations to Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman, GTU doctoral student and Newhall fellow, who will be presenting a paper at the AAR Western Region, titled, “The Life of the Prophet Muhammad as a Role Model for the Role of Religion in Contemporary Civil and Human Rights Discourses,” UC Davis, March 25.



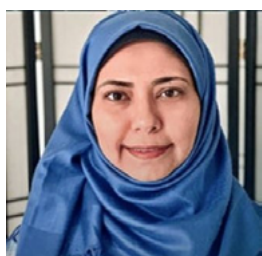
Congratulations to Faisal Azar, CIS MA student, who will be presenting a paper at the AAR Western Region, titled, “Prophet Muhammad’s Madina Pact as a Civil Rights Document,” UC Davis, March 25.



Congratulations to Jibreel Delgado, GTU doctoral student and current CARE research scholar, for being accepted to the Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues Summer Program, Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies. Granada Spain, June 2023.



Congratulations to Dr. David Coolidge for his publication in the journal, *Religions*, “One Out of Many: The Civic and Religious in American Muslim Life.”



Congratulations to Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program, for her work with the 2023 Wabash cohort for Early Career Faculty in theological education, for presenting (virtually) at the Qur’an Study session organized by the Muslim chaplain at MIT, and co-chairing the Ethics Unit at the upcoming AAR Western Region conference, UC Davis March 24-26.



Congratulations to CIS research scholar Carol Bier who has submitted her research slides on Persian velvets to the Danish Royal Collections where they will be made available for research. We are also grateful to Carol for leading a monthly interdisciplinary global Zoom seminar on Persian velvets bringing together museum curators, conservators, art and fashion historians, and an engineer.



CIS is delighted to share that Dr. Ahmed Khater, CIS/GTU scholar, is offering public engagement classes on the Islamic Sciences at UC Berkeley as well as presentations and events throughout Ramadan, cosponsored by the CIS. Dr. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/events/group/cis>



CIS is delighted to welcome Dr. Eby Shabudin as a GTU visiting scholar for 2023-2024. Dr. Shabudin will be working on developing courses and completing his manuscript on Leadership from an Islamic Perspective.



Congratulations to CIS Director, Munir Jiwa, who presented on religion, race and health as well as on religious pluralism in the US, at the Othering & Belonging Institute's annual faculty retreat on Feb 10 at UC Berkeley, where he serves as a faculty on the Religious Diversity Cluster.



**Ramadan Mubarak** (~March 22-April 21) to all those observing the holy month. For various resources and online programs, please visit [CIS/GTU webpages for details.](#)

# Center for Jewish Studies



This event will feature a number of distinguished scholars from UC Berkeley, Stanford, UC Davis, and more. Please see the schedule, panel themes, and speakers below and visit the conference event page for more info.

### 9:00-10:30 - Flesh

Panelists: Daniel Boyarin (UC Berkeley); John Efron (UC Berkeley); Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford)  
 Chair: Sam S.B. Shonkoff (GTU)

\*10:30-10:45 - BREAK\*

### 1:30-3:15 - Here & There

Panelists: James Nati (JST, Santa Clara University); Francesco Spagnolo (The Magnes, UC Berkeley); Sarah Levin (UC Berkeley); Masua Sagiv (UC Berkeley)  
 Chair: Ethan Katz (UC Berkeley)

\*3:15-3:30 - BREAK\*

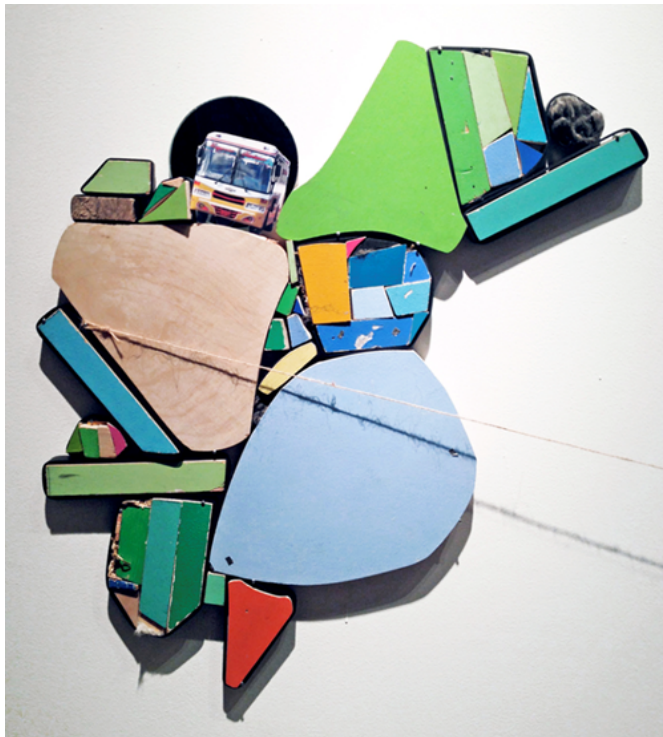
### 3:30-5:00 - Corpora

Panelists: Sam S.B. Shonkoff (GTU); Sven-Erik Rose (UC Davis); Naomi Seidman (University of Toronto)  
 Chair: Deena Aranoff (GTU)

## Berkeley Art and Interreligious Pilgrimage Project

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Project director Kathryn Barush traveled to the [College Art Association Conference](#) in NYC from Feb. 14 – 18 to present a paper on contemporary artist [Gisela Insuaste's](#) 2012 pilgrimage-performance walking talking seeing being: love, labor and faith on 14th St (Vacuum Story Pt 1), which tells her family's story of immigration from Ecuador to NYC. The presentation was part of a panel on [The Art of Walking](#), curated by Prof. Judith Rodenbeck (Associate Professor and Chair of Media & Cultural Studies, UC Riverside).



Gisela Insuaste, *vacuums en camino por el cielo y la tierra (mapping)*, 2012-2013; Repurposed wood, vacuum cleaner rubber belts, Ecuadorean wool, silver pushpins, tape, string, paper, photographs, mirrors, wood shavings, found material, Dimensions variable

BAIPP has a number of 2023-24 pilgrimages in progress, which have release dates staggered throughout the year.

Participating GTU faculty members include Dr. Devin Zuber (presenting a Mt. Tamalpais eco-pilgrimage) and Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala (a pilgrimage for Ashura Eve). We are also planning an in-person and online musical pilgrimage collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Peña and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.

Be sure to check out our new [Featured Artist section](#), including art from Dharmata foundation's Sweetwater Hermitage in Big Sur for Losar (Tibetan New Year).

### Follow Us:

For updates about launches and events, subscribe to our mailing list!

[Subscribe](#)

### Get Involved:

We are always looking for route guides, curators, and mappers! We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Email us at [pilgrimage\\_project@gtu.edu](mailto:pilgrimage_project@gtu.edu)

# Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

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## **Changes: New Admission and Program Requirements**

The ICP will no longer require students to complete one unit in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) starting in fall 2023. Current chaplaincy students can complete a unit of CPE or eight chaplaincy courses. The change allows the ICP to meet the requirements for states' authorization for online education. In addition, incoming students must have a bachelor's degree as a prerequisite for admission instead of a master's degree.

## **ICP Jewish Studies Fellowship**

The ICP welcomes applications for the 2023 Jewish Chaplaincy Fellowship. The scholarship covers partial tuition for the Certificate in Interreligious Chaplaincy and is made available through a generous gift from the Taube Family Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture.

To apply: visit [ICP Jewish Studies Fellowship Application](#)

## **Virtual Chaplaincy Lectures – Spring 2023**

### **Chaplains of the Book**

Jewish and Muslim chaplains will come together to participate in this day of learning and dialogue

Wednesday, March 15 | All day program

Hartford International University – Hartford CT

[Register here](#)

### **Caring for the Elderly in the Jewish Community**

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 | 12:30 am – 1:30 pm

A joint Interreligious Chaplaincy Program and The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies virtual program will focus on the dynamics of caring for adults in hospices and hospitals and the internal diversity of the Jewish cultural and religious contexts. Rabbi Beliak will share his experience as a "frontline" chaplain responding to the spiritual and psycho-social needs of diverse minority populations, building trust and connection during stressful interactions, and discerning the needs of a family is a delicate challenge. Made possible by a grant from Taube Philanthropies [Register here](#) /Free Webinar / Open to all!



## **Theological Reflection Across Religious Traditions: The Turn to Reflective Believing**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Edward Foley

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

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. [Register here](#)/Free Webinar / Open to all!

## **Chaplaincy Hour**

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program hosts a virtual weekly 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](mailto:kshamsieh@gtu.edu) or [mhartman@gtu.edu](mailto:mhartman@gtu.edu) to get the zoom link and password.

Thursdays: 12:30 pm

# Latter-day Saints/Mormon Studies

## Future Directions in Latter-day Saint Theology: Christology, Scripture, and Immanence



Adam S. Miller



Rosalynde Frandsen Welch



Joseph M. Spencer

**Friday, March 17 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm (Pacific)**

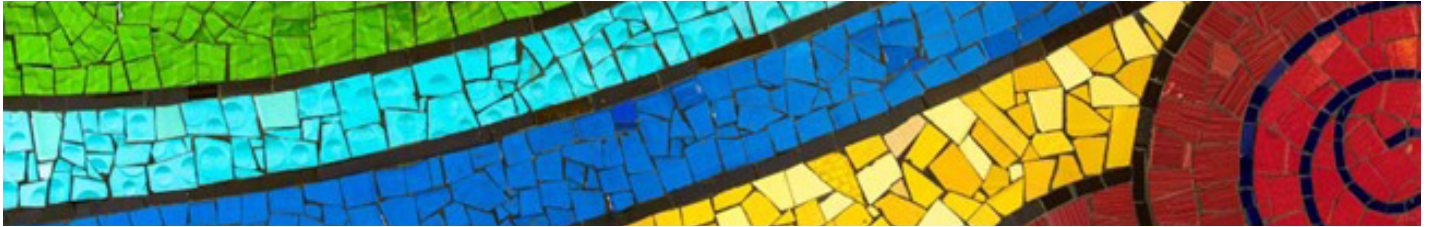
GTU Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709

In the Library's Dinner Boardroom, GTU will hold a panel presentation entitled, "Future Directions in Latter-day Saint Theology: Christology, Scripture, and Immanence," hosted by Assistant Professor of Latter-day Saints/Mormon Studies Dr. Deidre Green. The panel will include Adam Miller, Joseph Spencer, and Rosalynde Welch. Adam Miller is professor of Philosophy at Collin College, a prolific author, and co-director of the Latter-day Saint Theology Seminar. Joseph Spencer is assistant professor of Ancient Scripture at Brigham Young University, a prolific author, and co-director of the Latter-day Saint Theology Seminar. Rosalynde Welch is the associate director of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at Brigham Young University.

[Register here](#)

# Women's Studies in Religion

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**The GTUx Series on "Women's Bodies and The Sacred" features a panel organized by the Women Studies in Religion Certificate Program.**

The series has been filmed and will soon be available. WSR will be organizing sessions for students to respond to the panel's presentation in the future. The panel represented an Interreligious perspective:

Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala – Islamic Tradition

Dr. Naomi Seidman – Jewish Tradition

Dr. Leslie Bowling Downing – Christian Tradition

Dr. Rita Sherma – Hindu Tradition

Dr. Paula Nesbitt - Sociology of Religion

“Women’s Bodies and The Sacred” will be available in March in conjunction with Women’s Month! Be on the Watch for MORE INFO soon!

**WSR to Host GTU Student Conference on Women and Religion!**

**Last CALL for SUBMISSION of Papers! The deadline has been extended to March 15th!! See the [WSR website for more information.](#)**

JOIN OUR WSR EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE INFO ON WSR EVENTS and EVENTS Related to Women’s Studies in Religion!

Contact the Program Coordinator, Diane Saunders at [wsr@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wsr@ses.gtu.edu) to join or if you have any additional questions.

For Information on the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program see our webpage at

<https://www.gtu.edu/projects/wsr>

# San Francisco Theological Seminary



JOIN US for a conversation about Calvin, the character and legacy of the Reformation(s), and the modern world, with Prof. Ward Holder and other experts, on the occasion of the publication of Holder's recent book, *Calvin and the Christian Tradition: Scripture, Memory, and the Western Mind*.

## PANELISTS

Ward Holder (St. Anselm's College), author of *Calvin and the Christian Tradition: Scripture, Memory, and the Western Mind* (Cambridge 2022) and *Reinhold Niebuhr in Theory and Practice: Christian Realism and American Politics in the Twenty-First Century* (Lexington 2019)

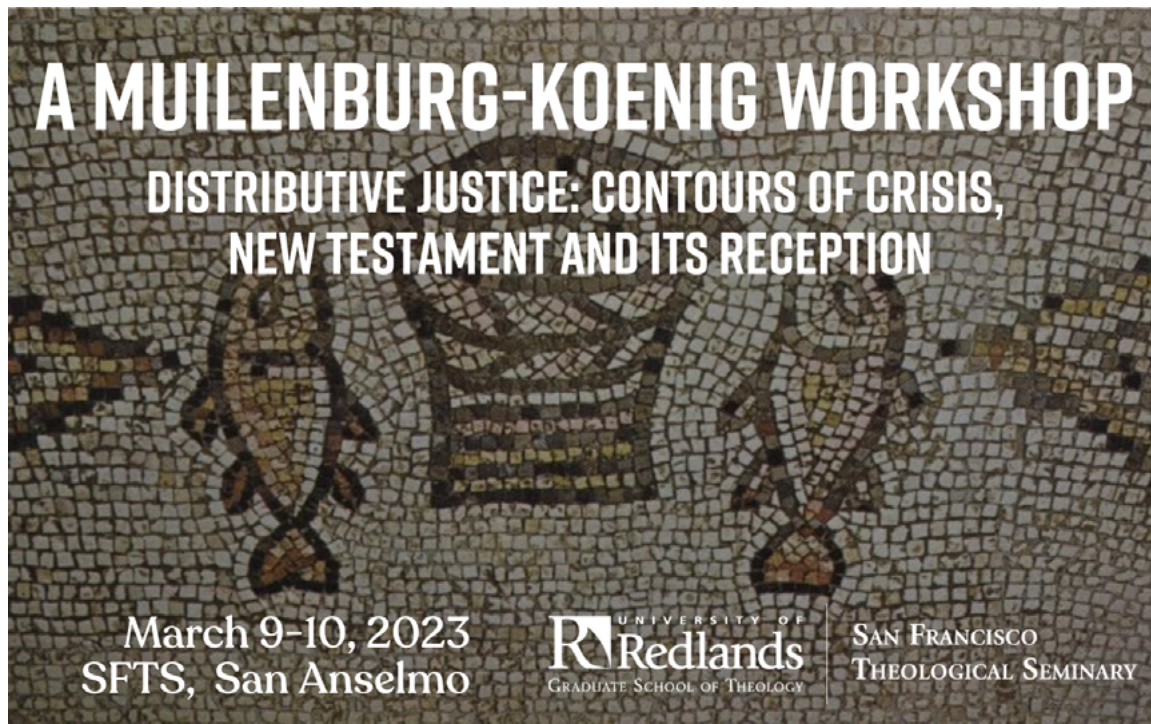
Barbara Pitkin (Stanford), author of *Calvin, the Bible, and History: Exegesis and Historical Reflection in the Era of Reform* (Oxford 2020)

Christopher Ocker (San Francisco Theological Seminary, University of Redlands), author of *The Hybrid Reformation* (Cambridge 2022)

Ethan Shagan (University of California, Berkeley), author of *The Birth of Modern Belief* (Princeton 2018)

Kirsi Stjerna (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary/Graduate Theological Union), editor of *Women Reformers of Early Modern Europe* (Fortress 2022) and author of *Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith* (T&T Clark 2020)

[RSVP here](#)



The purpose of this workshop is to explore the ancient contours and later global legacies of distributive justice (and injustice) in the Bible from a range of disciplinary perspectives. This will involve examining New Testament passages in their Jewish and Roman contexts, as well as critical study of the imperialist uses of such texts and the derivative legacies of transmission, interpretation and re-appropriation. To accomplish this purpose, the workshop will bring together both scholars of New Testament and scholars in other fields (literature, political science, Islam, the natural sciences, medieval history), to show how a broad study of the New Testament/Early Christianity bears on contemporary issues related to unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, such as poverty, climate change, identity, and violence.

[RSVP here](#)

# The Institute of Buddhist Studies

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*The Institute of Buddhist Studies Presents*

## THE 2023 TAITETSU UNNO MEMORIAL LECTURE



**"Beyond Transcendence Back to  
Earth: A Challenge to Religions in  
our Time of Global Crisis"  
With Dr. Ruben Habito  
March 31, 2023**

For more information visit <https://www.shin-ibs.edu/event/2023unno/>

# Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



**Dr. Anthony Bateza**

## 2023 LUTHER LECTURE

**"The Precarious Power  
of a Strongly Worded Letter:  
Political Correspondence,  
Lutheran Theology, and  
Civic Participation"**

**Wednesday,  
March 22nd**

10:00 AM PACIFIC



**p | t | s** PACIFIC LUTHERAN  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**California Lutheran**  
UNIVERSITY

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

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### **From Convent to Seminary: The Journey of a Black Latino Caribbean Queer Lesbian” with Lenia Pacheco Salas**

**Thursday, March 2 | 1 - 2:15 pm**

Lenia (she/her/ella) was born in Cuba and came to the USA with a religious catholic order, the Sister Missionaries of Charity of Mother Theresa of Calcutta (a contemplative branch of the order).

After seven years in the convent, Lenia realized that the convent wasn't the place that God wanted her to be. While it was a very difficult decision to leave the convent, she felt that doing God's will was more important. After leaving the convent and moving to Miami, Florida, Lenia began exploring her sexual orientation. This exploration led her to explore the definition of the word “queer,” which ended up being a word that she identifies with.

This Queer Latinx Faith Conversation will continue Lenia's story from Convent to acceptance to seminary. Join us for our first online CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation of 2023.

### **I Came Here Seeking a Person: An Online CLGS Lavender Lunch with Bill Glenn**

**Tuesday, March 14 | 12:30 - 1:30 pm**

In this online CLGS Lavender Lunch Bill Glenn reads from – and comments upon – his recently-published book *I Came Here Seeking a Person* (Paulist Press, 2022). This book is a spiritually-focused memoir: from Bill's childhood in a Midwestern Irish Catholic family in the 50's and 60's; through almost ten years as a member of the Jesuit Order; to his subsequent life as a sober, out gay man – detailing his complex journey of faith over the span of 74 years.

### **One More Mountain to Climb: the Past, Present and Future of LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent**

**Tuesday, March 21 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

Pioneers Wilhelmina Perry and Ronald Moore, co-founders of the LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent will share their experience on the necessity for forming the organization, particular issues they faced throughout the years, and what they see as the future for the organization. If you organize within faith communities and/or have an interest in the intersection of religion and queer identity, you don't want to miss this conversation!

For more information visit [CLGS events](#).





## 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](mailto:skennedy@gtu.edu)  
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the 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](http://www.gtu.edu) | 510-649-2442