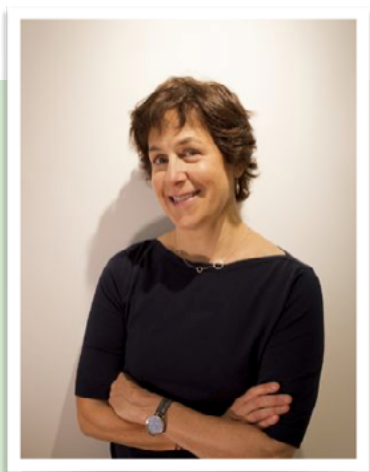


# GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



## Inside This Issue

From the Dean.....	1
Announcements.....	6
Academic Achievements/ Deadlines.....	9
Master of Arts Graduates.....	11
Doctor of Philosophy Graduates.....	13
Member School Commencements.....	17
Library News.....	18
CARE.....	19
CIS.....	23
CJS.....	24
ICP.....	26
WRS.....	28

In just a few days, we'll be awarding 38 degrees to students whose intelligence and persistence carried them to success during challenging and stressful times. Many did most of their research and writing isolated at home, meeting with advisors by Zoom only; some completed their work over the past few months, gingerly stepping out for in-person meetings or library visits.

Even in ordinary times, finishing a dissertation is a very hard-won accomplishment. It's *extraordinary* that 24 GTU students managed to do so during a pandemic. The 14 new Masters of Arts worked their way through one of the most rigorous MA programs around. Kudos!

Student success was supported by the GTU "village," with so many GTU staff members working toward this goal. Graduates' dissertations and theses were made possible by the steadfast efforts of the library staff. The librarians' creativity and diligence made graduate research possible even during the height of the pandemic. Thank you, library!

I would like to recognize the professors and advisors who brought students to this moment. Associate Deans Holder and Arce provided exemplary guidance, shepherding students to completion. Faculty mastered on-line teaching and advising, while juggling their own pandemic-era concerns, such as caring for elderly parents or managing the at-home schooling of young children. Our 38 graduates are a testament to their dedication and service.

I am personally deeply indebted to Dr. Holder and Dr. Arce; it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with them as the Dean's Office "triumvirate." I am also grateful to President Kim for allowing me the opportunity to serve the GTU as Interim Dean. I wish everyone a wonderful summer, and I look forward to reading future newsletter columns written by our incoming dean, Dr. Jennifer Davidson!



*Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD*

*Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## Dr. Deidre N. Green Named Assistant Professor of Latter-day Saints/Mormon Studies at the GTU



I am so pleased to announce that Dr. Deidre N. Green has been named Assistant Professor of Latter-day Saints/Mormon Studies at the GTU! She will be joining the GTU Rostered Faculty in time for the Fall 2022 semester, at which time I think our faculty and students will quickly see why the Search Committee members agreed that Dr. Green's research aligns well with the interests and needs of our community.

A feminist theologian, activist-scholar, and global scholar of religion grounded in Mormon Studies, Dr. Green will bring a fresh perspective to the GTU. Faculty colleagues and students from across the consortium will find many areas of mutual interest to explore, including feminist theology, the interpretation of sacred texts, the philosophy of religion, gender and power, and trauma studies. She has described her work as “addressing theology *in extremis*, seeking for wisdom on the nature of God and human existence in some of the richest, yet most overlooked, places.”

Dr. Green will teach her first GTU course in Fall 2022. “Forgiveness and (its) resistance” (CERS-5100) will consider power dynamics, trauma, and other facets of forgiveness from religious perspectives.

Dr. Green earned a PhD in Religion and an MA in Continental Philosophy from Claremont Graduate University, after receiving an MA in Religion and Feminist Studies from Yale Divinity School and a BA in Philosophy from Brigham Young University. She holds a certificate in Africana Studies from Claremont and another in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery from Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Green is the author of *Jacob: A Brief Theological Introduction* (Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2020), *Works of Love in a World of Violence: Kierkegaard, Feminism, and the Limits of Self-Sacrifice* (Mohr Siebeck, 2016), and the forthcoming *Latter-day Saint Perspectives on Atonement*, co-edited with Eric D. Huntsman (University of Illinois).

The Assistant Professor of LDS/Mormon Studies position comes to the GTU thanks to a partnership with the Bay Area Mormon Studies Council (BAMSC). In addition to being a member of the GTU's Rostered Faculty and participating in all aspects of the life of the GTU academic community, Dr. Green will be presenting “firesides” and participating in events with the BAMSC community. We are grateful to the BAMSC for this collaborative opportunity.

Dr. Green will join us in Berkeley in August, following a summer of research in the Kierkegaard archives at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. I know that you will join me in extending a very warm welcome!

To learn more, visit the [GTU website](#) and check out the [GTU course schedule](#).

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

## GTU's 5-Year Strategic Vision

---



### **See what's new with the GTU strategic plan!**

For GTU 2.0 updates [click here](#)

### **Stay up-to-date with what's happening at the GTU**

Check the [GTU Events calendar](#) for upcoming town hall meetings

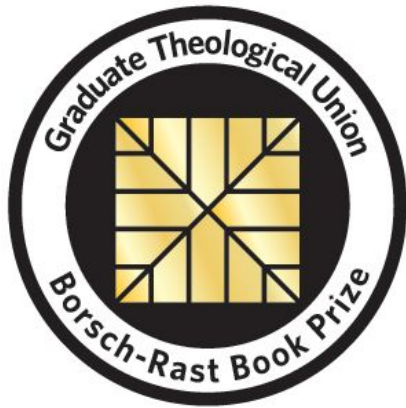
Subscribe to [GTU News](#)

Follow the [Library alterations blog](#)

# Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship

---

**Deadline, May 19**



The Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship of the Graduate Theological Union has as its purpose the encouragement of the writing and publication of theological scholarship by GTU graduates and current faculty. The endowment for the Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship comes from the sale of Trinity Press International, a venture dedicated to the publication of scholarly and often interdisciplinary theological studies. The prize and lectureship honor the joint example and collaboration of Frederick Houk Borsch (1935-2017) and Harold W. Rast (1933-2004).

Hal Rast, after years as a senior editor at Fortress Press, was the founding director and editor of Trinity Press International, where he championed significant theological and religious studies. Fred Borsch was chair of Trinity Press International's Board of Governors and then its Advisory Board. Borsch was also (1972-1981) the Dean and President of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and among the founders of the Graduate Theological Union Library. This prestigious prize of \$10,000 will be awarded on an annual basis.

Nominations must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office using the [online nominations form](#). Nominations are open again, with a due date of May 19, 2022. This is for books published in 2021.

For Eligibility Guidelines, Award Process and Timeline, Criteria for Prize, and Rules and Conditions, please visit [The Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship](#).



The Trustees, Faculty, Staff and Students  
of the  
Graduate Theological Union

announce

**THE 2022 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**

*Saturday afternoon, May Seventh  
Two thousand and twenty-two at four o'clock*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY  
2330 Durant Ave  
Berkeley, California 94704



# Announcements

## 2022-2023 Student Election Results

The GTU governance structure calls for student representation on various standing committees. This ensures that students have a say in decisions affecting their academic lives. After completing a month-long election process, I am happy to announce the results of this year's student elections. But first, let me thank all those who have participated in this process, especially the nominees: **Kali Tanikella, Keyona Lazenby, Ron Boyer, Wilson Ngema, Justin Grosnick, Vivian Wells, Chang In Sohn, Jieun Yoon, Rachele Elizabeth, Javney Mohr, Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman, and Joby Joy**. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the student representatives that have completed their term this year: **Mark Guevarra**, on the Doctoral Council, **Lwan May Oo** and **Pamela Stevens** on the Student Advisory Committee, **Jennifer Lehmann** on the Library Committee, **Grace Eunhye So** as the SBL Liaison, and **Ayanna Grady-Hunt** and **Erika Katske** on the Grievance Committee. Thank you for your committed service! Now, here are the results for this year:



**Keyona Lazenby**  
 REPR  
 Doctoral Council



**Javney Mohr**  
 THET  
 Student Advisory Committee



**Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman**  
 HCSR  
 Student Advisory Committee



**Justin Grosnick**  
 THET  
 Library Committee

*Congrats!*



**Joby Joy**  
 SATX  
 SBL Liaison



**Jieun Yoon**  
 SATX  
 Grievance Committee



**Rachele Elizabeth**  
 THET  
 Grievance Committee

Sincerely  
 Chaitanya Motupalli



**GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION**

# **SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY 2022 (REMOTE)**

The GTU offers intensive summer language courses in French, German and Spanish, designed to build a foundation for reading comprehension and translation. The courses focus on grammar, building vocabulary, and translation practice for three hours a day over four weeks. The course culminates with a modern foreign language exam, giving the students an opportunity to fulfill their program requirements. Tuition is \$750.

Dates: **July 5 - July 29, 2022**      Time: **9 AM - 12 Noon**

Instructors:

French: Emily Linares, [Emily.linares@berkeley.edu](mailto:Emily.linares@berkeley.edu)  
German: Marion Gerlind, [marion@gerlindinstitute.org](mailto:marion@gerlindinstitute.org)  
Spanish: Hanna Kang, [hkang@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:hkang@ses.gtu.edu)

*To reserve a spot in one of the courses, register through the Continuing Education option in the Sonis registration system BY JUNE 1. Contact registrar John Seal, [jseal@gtu.edu](mailto:jseal@gtu.edu), if you have trouble with the registration process.*

GTU  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

# JOB TALK & SMALL TALK

Workshop Facilitated by:  
Drs. Elizabeth Peña  
and  
Wendy Arce

MAY 4, WEDNESDAY  
11 AM - 12 NOON  
ZOOM: 978 6840 4257

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



# Academic Achievements & Deadlines

---

## *Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed*

Linna Gunawan, REPR  
Geoffrey Nelson-Blake, REPR  
David Patrick Harry, HCSR

## *Advanced to Candidacy*

Uijin Jung, HCSR  
Donghwi Kim, THET  
Reem Kosba, HCSR



## Modern Foreign Language Examination

---

Wednesday, May 25 | 1:00-4:45 pm [Register here](#)

## Chan Essay

---

### Fall 2022: "Religion and Economics."

The Chan Essay Prize is an annual award of \$2500, established in 1987 by the Lionel Chan Family Endowment. To enter, submit an original essay, a term paper for a course, or a chapter of a thesis or dissertation, with an introduction and conclusion to frame it as an independent essay. The evaluating criteria are as follows:

**Genre:** Within the specific genre (essay, sermon, term paper, chapter of a larger work), does the entry exhibit excellence?

**Topic:** How well does the topic engage?

**Creativity/Contribution:** given the audience of the genre, how much of an original or creative contribution is made by the paper? Does it offer fresh insights or simply rehash materials already available?

The topic alternates from year to year. In even-numbered years (Fall 2022), the topic will be "Religion and Economics." In odd-numbered years (Fall 2023), the topic will be: "Identity and Practice across Religious Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc.)."

**Deadline:** Submissions are due in the GTU Dean's Office **no later than 5PM on THURSDAY, September 15, 2022**

Email submissions can be sent to: [skennedy@gtu.edu](mailto:skennedy@gtu.edu) (Sabrina Kennedy, Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs ) or complete the [Fall 2022 Chan Essay Prize Form](#).

## Student Travel Grants

---

Student Travel Grants: GTU Doctoral students may apply for travel grants to national conferences. Applications are due by **September 15, 2022**.

For more information, visit: [GTU Student Travel Grants](#)

# Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

## Master of Arts Graduates

### **Dennis Abraham**

*Ancient Syriac Spirituality: An Invaluable Resource for the Mar Thoma Syrian Church's Diaspora Communities*

Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
Ruth A. Meyers (Coordinator)  
John Klentos

### **Derek William Eldridge**

*Anarchic Order: A Christian Anarchist Vision of Pastoral Authority in Episcopally Ordered Churches*

Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
Scott MacDougall (Coordinator)  
Joseph Boenzi, S.D.B.

### **Sakinah M. Alhabshi**

*Spiritual Wellbeing and Resilience During a Prolonged Crisis: An Analysis and Integration of Contemplation-Based and Action-Based Practices from an Islamic Perspective*

Center for Islamic Studies  
WITH HONORS  
Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)  
Kamal Abu-Shamsieh

### **Jonah Mac Gelfand**

*Hasid of Whom?: Conceptualizing Leadership in Neo-Hasidism*

Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies  
WITH HONORS  
Sam S. B. Shonkoff (Coordinator)  
Rebecca K. Esterson  
Ariel Evan Mayse, Stanford University

### **Jonathan Drake**

*Qanon's Digital Soldiers: The Formation of a Counter Identity*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
WITH HONORS  
Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)  
Rebecca K. Esterson

### **Sakurako Iwagami**

*How Japanese Buddhist Communities Attract People Who Are Spiritual but Not Religious*

Institute of Buddhist Studies  
Scott A. Mitchell (Coordinator)  
David Ryoe Matsumoto

# Master of Arts Graduates (cont'd)

**Susan Garcia Jones**

*There Are Black People in the Future: A Womanist Reading of Octavia Butler's Dawn for Movement and Social Justice Values*

Pacific School of Religion  
Sharon R. Fennema (Coordinator)  
Valerie Miles-Tribble

**Sok Jin Kim**

*Reconsidering The Akedah in Genesis 22 and the Faith of Sarah in The Akedah*

Pacific School of Religion  
Aaron Brody (Coordinator)  
LeAnn Snow Flesher

**Mark E. Levin**

*Ernst Haeckel's Attempt to Integrate Science and the Spiritual*

Graduate School of Theology,  
University of Redlands  
Wendy Farley (Coordinator)  
Sam S. B. Shonkoff

**Ellen Jane Martin**

*Faith in Food: How the Slow Food Movement Is Sacralizing Our Cuisine*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
WITH HONORS  
Jerome P. Baggett (Coordinator)  
Mary E. McGann, R.S.C.J.

**Hanitra N. Ralaiarisedy**

*Trinitarian Love and Justification: The Double Gift*

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
Alison M. Benders (Coordinator)  
Ted F. Peters

**Adriel Ramirez**

*Defining Love through the Bhagavad Gītā: A Caitanya Perspective*

Center for Dharma Studies  
Rita D. Sherma (Coordinator)  
Graham Schweig

**Daniel Garner Tate**

*Grief as Pathway to Transformation and Growth*

Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
Mark C. Hearn (Coordinator)  
Rebecca K. Esterson

# Doctor of Philosophy Graduates

**Ki Do Ahn**

*Uri-Sung (We-ness) Approach of Pastoral Care for Korean Immigrant Converts to Christianity: Exploring the Evolution of the Korean Concept of Self through Experiences of Immigration to the United States and Conversion to Christianity*

Interdisciplinary Studies

Laurie Garrett-Cobbina (Coordinator)

Kamal Abu-Shamsieh

Judith A. Berling

Allen Kim, International Christian University

**Blaise Cirelli**

*Dante in Conversation with Contemporary Theorists: Insights for the Western Secular Cognoscenti*

Art and Religion

Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)

Anselm Ramelow, O.P.

Drew Dalton, Dominican University

Brenda Schildgen, University of California, Davis

**Kelly Marie Colwell**

*Co-Creating Virtual Community: A Grounded Practical Theology of Mission for San Francisco Bay Area Congregations in the United Church of Christ during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Religion and Practice

Jennifer W. Davidson (Coordinator)

James Lawrence

Thomas Reynolds, Toronto School of Theology

**Bright Singh David**

*Economic Trinity and Emergent Complexity: Dynamic Relationality within the Divine Life*

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Ted F. Peters (Coordinator)

Robert J. Russell

Gregory Love

Lou Ann Trost, San Jose State University

**Amanda L. de Joinville**

*Earthly Vessel, Heavenly Bodies: Transformative Processes Underlying Ancient Wall Painting and Analytical Psychology*

Art and Religion

Thomas Cattoi (Coordinator)

Kathryn Barush

Christopher J. Renz, O.P.

Christopher Hallet, University of California, Berkeley

**Nicole Marie De Leon**

*Marianne Moore, the Infinite in the Finite: A Pilgrimage Through Word and Image*

Art and Religion

Kathryn Barush (Coordinator)

Naomi Seidman, University of Toronto

Lyn Hejninian, University of California, Berkeley

# Doctor of Philosophy Graduates (cont'd)

**Laura Malia Dunn**

*Visualizing Power: The Image of Śakti in Modern Day Trika Tantra*

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religions  
Rita D. Sherma (Coordinator)  
Kathryn Barush  
David Peter Lawrence, University of North Dakota

**Nancy Snowden Gutsell**

*The Science-Religion Interface in Seventeenth- and Nineteenth-Century English Contexts: Natural Theology, Inductive Experimentation, and Scientific Societies*

History  
Christopher Ocker (Coordinator)  
Lisa Fullam  
Anselm Ramelow, O.P.  
Massimo Mazzotti, University of California, Berkeley

**Annie Vanessa Hawkins**

*Hush Harbor Pedagogy: Transgressing Imaginary Racialized Borders using Womanist Emancipatory Practical Theology to Investigate Pedagogical Formation*

Interdisciplinary Studies  
Jennifer W. Davidson (Coordinator)  
Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.  
Laurie Garrett-Cobbina  
Khalia J. Williams, Candler School of Theology

**Uzma Fatima Husaini**

*The Centrality of Link Transmission (Isnād) in the Preservation of Qur'anic Orthoepy, Orthography, and Variant Readings and Recensions*

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion  
Munir Jiwa (Coordinator)  
Judith A. Berling  
Omar Qureshi, Zaytuna College

**Hanna Kang**

*Latinxs with an Asian Face: A Theological Reflection on Asian Latinx Mestizaje*

Religion and Practice  
Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)  
Susan S. Phillips  
Denis Woo Sun Kim, Sogang University

**Jiyoung Ko**

*Destruction and Creation Ex Nihilo: Mary of Bethany's And Margery Kempe's Spiritualities of Nonconformity from the Perspective of Lacanian Ethics of Desire*

Christian Spirituality  
Arthur G. Holder (Coordinator)  
Julia Prinz, V.D.M.F.  
Sophia Park, S.N.J.M, Holy Names University  
Ali Chavoshian, The Wright Institute



# Doctor of Philosophy Graduates (cont'd)

## **Sanghyun Lee**

*Modern Atheism and the Mechanistic Worldview: Understanding the Rise of Modern Atheism in Relation to the Development of the Mechanistic Worldview*

Theology and Ethics

Michael J. Dodds, O.P. (Coordinator)

Ted F. Peters

Yoo Shin Kim, Pusan National University

## **Zulunungsang Lemtur**

*Reclaiming Community-Reclaiming Democracy: Tribal Explorations in Indian Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding*

Theology and Ethics

Marianne Farina, C.S.C. (Coordinator)

John Hilary Martin, O.P.

Toshimenla Jamir, Nagaland University

## **Cassie Lipowitz**

*Polyphony And Divine Perplexity: Rūmī's Pedagogy of Storytelling in the Mathnawī*

Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion

Judith A. Berling (Coordinator)

Devin Zuber

Alan Williams, University of Manchester

## **Kai Daniel Moore**

*The Scandalous Body of Christ: Flesh, Power, and the Queerness of the Cross*

Theology and Ethics

Jay Emerson Johnson (Coordinator)

Dorsey Blake

Lisa Isherwood, University of Winchester

## **Laurent-Bernard Okitakatshi Odjango**

*Not a Slave, but a Beloved Brother in the Flesh and in the Lord: The Construction of Koinonia-Space in the Letter to Philemon*

Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

Jean-François Racine (Coordinator)

Deena Aranoff

Carlos Noreña, University of California, Berkeley.

## **Shin Young Park**

*From Abyss to Glory: A Theo-Aesthetic Inquiry into the Self and the Other, and a Response to Postmodern Nihilism*

Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Anselm Ramelow, O.P. (Coordinator)

Justin Gable, O.P.

David C. Schindler, Pontifical John Paul II Institute

# Doctor of Philosophy Graduates (cont'd)

## Ismael Ruiz Abaunza

*Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Educators in Catholic Schools: How Synodality Can Help the Church Rectify Violations of Human Rights*

Theology and Ethics

Lisa Fullam (Coordinator)

George E. Griener, S.J.

Bryan Massingale, Fordham University

## Eric J. Sias

*The Blood of Christ as a Ritual Detergent: Romans 3:24–26a through the Lens of the Purification Offering of Leviticus*

Biblical Studies

Barbara Green, O.P. (Coordinator)

Jean-François Racine

Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology

Naomi Seidman, University of Toronto

## Pamela June Stevens

*A Textile Memory: The Garment of Shame of a Sixteenth-Century Englishman Suspended in the Cathedral of Mexico City ca. 1560-1667 by the Holy Office of the Inquisition*

Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Arthur G. Holder

Ruth A. Meyers

Todd P. Olson, University of California, Berkeley

## Colette L. Walker

*The Mystical-Utopian Turn in Modern Art: Spiritual, Social, and Transcultural Dimensions in The Work of Arthur Wesley Dow, Johannes Itten, and Rabindranath Tagore*

Art and Religion

Devin P. Zuber (Coordinator)

Rossitza B. Schroeder, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Linda Dalrymple Henderson, University of Texas, Austin

Gregory P. A. Levine, University of California, Berkeley

Debashish Banerji, California Institute of Integral Studies

## Todd Whelan

*Beneath the Dome of St. Paul: Jews and Indians in the Protestant Imagination of the British Atlantic World, 1649-1738*

Interdisciplinary Studies

Naomi Seidman (Coordinator)

Deena Aranoff

Elena A. Schneider, University of California, Berkeley

David Henkin, University of California, Berkeley

## William Zangeneh-Lester

*Strength Overlooked: Towards Anti-Hegemonic Pluralism and a Community College Interfaith Movement*

Interdisciplinary Studies

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J. (Coordinator)

Thomas Cattoi

Tammy L. Montgomery, Los Rios Community College District

# Member School Commencements

## **Berkeley School of Theology**

*Saturday, May 21 | 2:00 pm (Pacific)*

## **Church Divinity School of the Pacific**

*Saturday, May 21 | 10:30 am (Pacific)*

[For more information please visit Commencement 2022](#)

## **Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology**

*Saturday, May 21 | 1:00 pm (Pacific)*

## **Institute of Buddhist Studies**

*Friday, May 20 | 10:00 am (Pacific)*

## **Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University**

*Saturday, May 21 | 3:00 pm (Pacific)*

## **Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University**

*Saturday, May 21 | 10:00 am (Pacific)*

[For more information please visit PLTS Commencement](#)

## **Pacific School of Religion**

*Sunday, May 22 | 4:00 pm (Pacific)*

## **San Francisco School of Theology, Graduate School of Theology, University of Redlands**

*Saturday, May 21 | 10:00 am (Pacific)*



# Library News

---

## Library Access and Alterations

If you've been in the GTU library in Berkeley recently, you may have noticed (and heard) the building alterations. Up to now, most of the work has been on the third floor and basement levels. Here is what you need to know about the summer access to the first and second floor.

First, if you are going to be in Berkeley this summer, the library will be open, but will not be quiet. Some collections will be temporarily located elsewhere (or boxed up) for their protection and may take longer to retrieve. If you want to see the architectural drawings of our new space, they are on display on level one.

**We intend to temporarily close the lower level on July 1st.** Yes, you can still check out the books from the first floor, but you will need to request these items from the online catalog. For your safety and the safety of our staff, there will be no access to this floor.

**What this means for you:** The stacks are open for browsing now, and we recommend starting to think about your summer research agenda and begin checking out books. Students and Faculty can have 100 books checked out. Reference librarians can help with finding materials, both in person and on chat and zoom by appointments. This summer, Level 2 (the level you enter on) will be open, and the reference collection, scanners, and computers will be available. And our electronic resources are available; in fact, we have been buying more eBooks and journals than ever.

If you want a quiet place to study this summer, consider using the SFTS branch library in the North Bay (San Anselmo), or the libraries of UC-Berkeley. We expect loud noises will be coming from the lower level. Full project information is available here:

<https://www.gtu.edu/news/library-alteration-plan-and-updates>

In summary: The lower-level book stacks will be closed for browsing this summer, but you can request books be pulled for you. If you like to browse, come now, and get stacks of books for your summer research plans. Level 2 (the upper level) will be open for studying this summer, although it might be noisy.

Questions:

**Ask-a-librarian chat:** From the library website <https://www.gtu.edu/library>

**Email:** [library@gtu.edu](mailto:library@gtu.edu) **Zoom:** by appointment

**Or visit us** in Berkeley or San Anselmo!

P.S. If you aren't in the Bay Area, we have reciprocal borrowing programs with other libraries in the United States and Canada. Chat us to learn more about borrowing near you.

# Center for the Arts and Religion

---

CARe is delighted to announce two exciting upcoming events with our **Dance Scholar in Residence, Dr. Alexander H. Schwan**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Theater Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, and Visiting Scholar at the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion.

Alexander H. Schwan is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Theater Studies at Freie Universität Berlin with a research focus on spirituality, religion, and dance. He is also a Protestant theologian and an ordained pastor in the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, Germany, with education in pastoral care and healthcare chaplaincy. Alexander has been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has held visiting fellowships at Princeton University and Harvard University.

Join Dr. Schwan on campus this month first for an intimate Art Salon to discuss spirituality and resilience in contemporary dance -- then come back to participate in a dance workshop centered around movement and healing, facilitated by Dr. Schwan and Natan Daskal, a core faculty member of the Talmapa Institute.

## Investigating Spirituality and Resilience in Contemporary Dance

*Wednesday, May 11 | 5:00-7:00 pm (Pacific) | Collaborative Learning Space, Hewlett Building, 2400 Ridge Rd. Berkeley OR Zoom*



Parallel to the spiritual turn in humanities – the recent trend in cultural and social studies to analyze and theorize topics of spirituality and connectivity in the context of multiple secularities – the field of contemporary dance practices has seen a similarly growing interest for spiritual components of movement practices. Increasing in number and intensity, young dancers and choreographers in Europe, Asia, and the US address issues of spirituality in an unconventional way. This spiritual dimension of contemporary dance is often connected to a new

consciousness for vulnerability, resilience, and resistance. Spirituality in contemporary dance motivates and fosters resilience on an individual, social, and ecological level. With a deliberately wide and nonesoteric understanding of spirituality as a reflected connectivity in the largest possible sense, the research project investigates the impact of the spiritual turn on contemporary dance, and how this turn reinvigorates the ethical responsibility of dance.

Please either register for the online version [here](#), or email [lwebster@gtu.edu](mailto:lwebster@gtu.edu) to let us know you plan to attend in person. Reading materials will be provided prior to the event.

## Grief, Healing, and Dance

*Monday, May 30 | Time TBD | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,  
2368 LeConte Avenue, Berkeley*

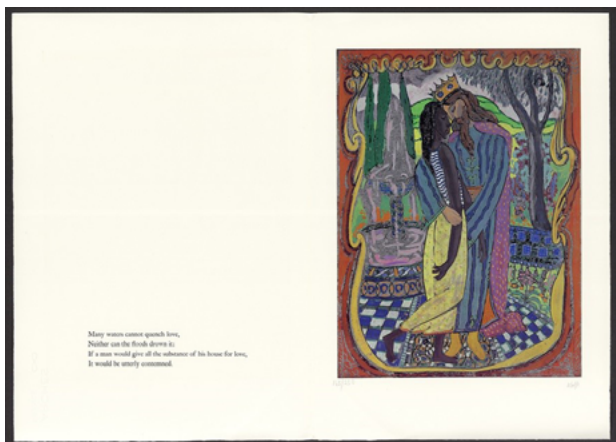
This workshop will explore grief and healing through the medium of dance. We will be led by Natan Daskal, a core faculty member of the Tamalpa Institute, in movement of our own, as well as discussion as to the importance of movement in the process of grieving.

Natan Daskal's background in theater, dance, design and fine arts combine with his love of nature, dedication to social justice, and commitment to personal development under Tamalpa Institute's approach to learning and living artfully. He has taught movement and the expressive arts to children, youth, and adults in diverse settings. Natan is a member of Tamalpa's core faculty, and has extensive teaching experience working directly with Anna Halprin as her teaching assistant in public workshops and classes. Natan studied ballet at the Joffrey School in New York City, received his BFA in Communication Design at Parsons the New School for Design, and received his MA in Education at Goddard College where he studied the intersection of somatics, creativity, and community education for more information visit [natandaskal.com](http://natandaskal.com)

Many thanks to GTU student Jess Jones, Director of the Berkeley Institute of Religion for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for hosting us!

## "Love Strong as Death": The Song of Songs in Contemporary Art and Music

*Thursday, May 12 | 12:00-1:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*



In conjunction with CARE's Doug Adams Gallery Online exhibition, [Draw me after you: a visual Song of Songs](#), join Dr. Arthur Holder for an exploration of the arts, love, and death.

The biblical Song of Songs has often been interpreted as poetry about divine love. It is also unquestionably and universally human because its luminous celebration of love is constantly tinged with the shadow of death and defeat. Nowhere is this more evident than in the brave confession of faith that stands as the text's climax: "Love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave."

In this interactive online event, we will explore some of the ways in which contemporary artists and musicians have used the Song of Songs to engage these great themes of love and death.

[Register here](#)



## Creatives' Cove artist spotlight:

"Annamalai"

by Swami Punitavati Ammaiyar

I am become thee mountain  
Between the city and the sky  
I am become the stony peak  
The gentle grass  
Where seasons pass  
And whirling birds go by  
I am become as ancient as  
The rocks that fall to dust  
As young as some who jump and run  
Who live like sun and rain and rust  
And all the creeping climbing things  
Who chirp and cry and sweetly sing  
And bring me to that stretch of time  
Where stars will turn and fade  
They ring like bells in the temples of night  
Where shattered souls were made  
And breathing breaking dying  
We find all that remains  
Is light which shows all things as one  
And makes us all the same

Swami Punitavati Ammaiyar (Eleanor Schnarr) (GTU MA student, CSS) is an artist, poet, and mystic. Her research at the GTU centers around the historical conversation between the yogic theology of Śaiva Siddhanta and the mysticism of Emmanuel Swedenborg. She is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is currently doing field research and meditating in Thiruvanamillai, Tamilnadu, India.

The GTU Creatives' Cove student group is envisioned as a "big tent" shelter for academic creatives—whether currently engaged as students, staff, or faculty. Here, both accomplished and wannabe artists convene to create art within a welcoming atmosphere that's devoid of judgment, lofty expectations, and stringent rubrics.

If you'd like to learn more about the Creatives' Cove, and what we do, or to contribute your creative work to share in the Dean's Newsletter, please reach out to any of the leadership team: [Lydia](#), [Charissa](#), and [Mbûûi](#).

## Madrasa-Midrasha Program



The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is excited to present its [2022 Summer Institute “Sacred Texts: Language, Application, Performance.”](#) The Summer Institute will consist of a series of workshops from May 31 – June 3 that will focus on language, textual, and calligraphy studies, as well as a film screening and discussion.

[Register here](#) for the Summer Institute. The application fee is \$300 which covers programming and meals for the weeklong series of workshops; a limited number of scholarships are available for students enrolled in CJS/CIS/ICP/MM courses. Please email MM Program Director Mahjabeen Dhala ([mahdhala@gtu.edu](mailto:mahdhala@gtu.edu)) for more info.

### Madrasa-Midrasha Faculty Colloquia Public Forum

*Wednesday May 11 | 9:30 - 11:30 am (Pacific) | Webinar*

This event is the final event of the semester for the ongoing Faculty Colloquia gatherings and is free and open to the public. The gatherings consist of professors in Islamic and Jewish Studies from the GTU and UC Berkeley, and the event will feature short reflections and conversation about their ongoing research. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

### Congratulations to the following students for receiving a 2022 Haas Summer Interreligious Research Grant:

Faisal Azar	Laura Miller	Omar Naisan
Raya Hazini	Raphael Mkuzi	

To learn more about their projects, [please visit the grant’s webpage](#).

# Center for Islamic Studies

---

## Madrasa-Midrasha Faculty Colloquia Public Forum

*Wednesday May 11 | 9:30 - 11:30 am (Pacific) | Webinar*

This event is the final event of the semester for the ongoing Faculty Colloquia gatherings and is free and open to the public. The gatherings consist of professors in Islamic and Jewish Studies from the GTU and UC Berkeley, and the event will feature short reflections and conversation about their ongoing research. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

## Congratulations to CIS research scholar Carol Bier

for her upcoming public lecture via Zoom for the Legion of Honor in San Francisco: “Arts of Royalty in Sasanian Iran.” This event takes place May 14 at 2pm and is free and open to the public.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Congratulations and gratitude to CIS students, visiting and research scholars, faculty and staff for their excellent work and achievements during the academic year 2021-2022. Special congratulations to graduates in Islamic Studies for 2022:

Dr. Uzma Husaini (PhD), “The Centrality of Link Transmission (Isnād) in the Preservation of Qur’anic Orthoepy, Orthography, and Variant Readings and Recensions”

Sakinah Alhabshi (MA with Honors), “Spiritual Wellbeing and Resilience During a Prolonged Crisis: An Analysis and Integration of Contemplation-Based and Action-Based Practices from an Islamic Perspective”

CIS wishes Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating Eid Al-Fitr and prayers for good health, peace and blessings.



# Center for Jewish Studies

---

## CJS Graduation Reception

*Friday May 6 | 10:30 am (Pacific)*

Please join us for our [CJS Graduate Reception](#) where we will celebrate the scholarly and communal contributions of our 2022 graduates. Graduates are invited along with their families to this casual celebration that will include a light brunch. Our program will include the opportunity for graduates to present their research and ideas to the group. The CJS Graduate Reception will be held outdoors on the West (Scenic Rd.) Side Landing of the GTU Library.

Please RSVP by sending an email to [cjs@gtu.edu](mailto:cjs@gtu.edu).

## Madrassa-Midrasha Faculty Colloquia Public Forum

*Wednesday May 11 | 9:30 - 11:30 am (Pacific) | Webinar*

This event is the final event of the semester for the ongoing Faculty Colloquia gatherings and is free and open to the public. The gatherings consist of professors in Islamic and Jewish Studies from the GTU and UC Berkeley, and the event will feature short reflections and conversation about their ongoing research. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

## Between Storytelling and Ritual: Jewish Culture in the Making

*Thursday May 19 | 7:00 pm (Pacific) | Webinar*



For centuries, the record of Jewish life has been limited to a small set of written texts. How then did such a small group of people establish, maintain, and evolve its rich and resilient culture? Largely through story telling and especially story telling in the form of ritual.

This talk by adjunct faculty member Maggid Jhos Singer will explore Judaism's storytelling traditions, especially as they offer a counter balance to the fast-paced, digitally-dominated modern life.

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



## Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

### The Ethical and Social Implications of AI in Asia

*Monday May 9 | 3:00 pm (Pacific) | Hybrid event | CLS Hewlett Building*



Levi Checketts is an associate professor of religion and philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University. A 2018 graduate of the GTU and recipient of the Charles H. Townes Fellowship, his research focuses on Catholic social ethics and new technologies. He leads a committee on AI concerns from an Asian perspective for the Pontifical Council for Culture and serves as Networking Fellow for AI and Faith. He has a forthcoming two-volume edited work, *Theology and Technology*, from Wipf and Stock and is currently writing a book on AI epistemology and the preferential option for the poor.

This is a hybrid event. GTU faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend in person in CLS. If you want to attend virtually, [please register through this link](#).

### CTNS Celebration of Dr. Robert Russell's Retirement

*Thursday May 19 | 5:00 pm (Pacific)*

Outdoor Terrace & Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library,  
2400 Ridge Road Berkeley, CA 94709,



Join the Graduate Theological Union in celebrating 40 years of visionary leadership from Dr. Robert Russell, who recently announced his retirement as Ian G. Barbour Professor of Theology and Science and Director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS). A celebration of Dr. Russell will be held on Thursday, May 19, from 5 - 7 pm (PT) in the GTU Boardroom and adjacent Outdoor Terrace. Colleagues, former students, and others will be invited to share their appreciation of Dr. Russell. More information will be forthcoming at [gtu.edu](http://gtu.edu).

"My 40 years at CTNS have been filled with immense academic and personal blessings, from working with tremendous graduate students to developing CTNS publications and creating research and teaching grants," Dr. Russell said. "The culmination of this work has been the creation of the Ian G. Barbour Professorship in Theology and Science and establishing CTNS as an internal and permanent program of the GTU in 2016."

Founded in 1981 as an Affiliate of the GTU by Dr. Russell, CTNS became an Academic Center of the GTU in 2016. CTNS promotes the creative mutual interaction between theology and the natural sciences through research, teaching, and public service. During his tenure as CTNS Director, Dr. Russell taught and supervised the work of 35 doctoral students and hundreds of seminary students, established the Ian G. Barbour Chair in Theology and Science, created two Fellowship programs, and co-founded the peer reviewed journal *Theology and Science*.

[In-person Registration](#) Link (Due to the City of Berkeley Covid-19 Protocols, in-person participants must show either proof of vaccination or an approved accommodation from a medical professional. Also, the unvaccinated must wear a mask inside)

[Virtual Registration Link](#)

[Read more from the GTU's announcement of Dr. Russell's retirement.](#)

# Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

---

## **Indonesian International Visitor Leadership Program**

**Friday May 20**

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program will host a group of Indonesian Imams and scholars in the US as part of the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. GTU President Dr. Uriah Kim and Dr. Hamza Yusuf, president of Zaytuna College, will welcome the Indonesian delegation. The program is part of the ICP outreach to affirm religious diversity and interfaith and intrafaith collaboration.

## **ICP Participates in Chacruna's Religion and Psychedelics Forum**

ICP Director Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh participated in a panel discussion titled "The Emerging Field of Psychedelic Chaplaincy." The Chacruna Institute of Psychedelic Plant Medicines organized the April 22-24 conference and was co-sponsored in part by the GTUx. The panel featured Rev. Caroline Peacock, Director of Spiritual Health at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Rachel Peterson, Psychedelics and Religion Program Director for the Riverstyx Foundation, and Dr. Jamie Beachy, co-director of Naropa University's Center for Psychedelic Studies.



## Explore Our New GTUx Originals at [gtu.edu/x](http://gtu.edu/x)



### The Arbaeen Pilgrimage

Each year millions of Shias from around the world gather in the ancient city of Najaf in Iraq to perform the Arbaeen pilgrimage. Deeply embedded in Shia history, thought, ritual practice, sacred memory, culture, arts, and literature, Arbaeen symbolizes a counter-narrative, a stand for justice, a performance of pain, support for oppressed minorities, and a beacon of hope for the marginalized.



### Ecospirituality

The Earth is being devastated before our own eyes, primarily due to the unsustainable economic, ecological, societal, geopolitical, cultural, and ethical decisions of human civilization. While there are many who ignore or even profit from our unsustainable consumption, there are little sustainability efforts that rely on technology and even the shared wonder about nature shared by the world's multiple religious traditions.

## Coming in May:



### Psychedelics and Religion

Dr. Sam Shonkoff and a panel of experts examine the relationship between the ways that contemporary research and ancient wisdom traditions navigate the terrain of sacred plant narratives and how current theoretical frameworks and spiritual traditions may inform one another.

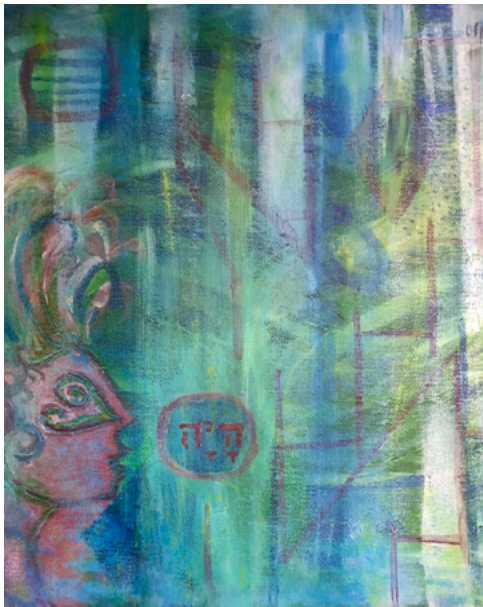
## Women's Studies in Religion

---

Graduate  
Theological  
Union

### Women's Studies in Religion

Welcoming Experience, Passion, & Vulnerability:  
A Pedagogy of Flipped Scripts  
Dr. Ashley L. Bacchi



"To Become" by Bacchi

May 10, 2022  
5-6:30 pm PT

ZOOM

Click [Here to Register](#)

or

Check out our

[FB page: GTU Women's Studies  
in Religion](#)

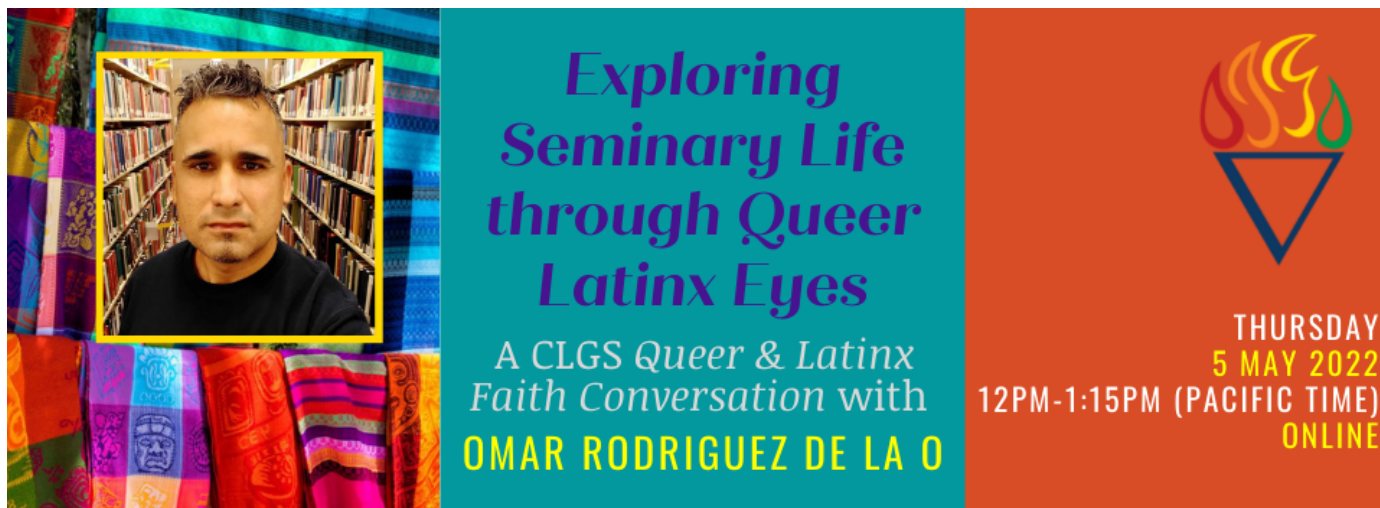
2 WSR Co-Curricular Units

Join us for the 2022 WSR Faculty Chair Lecture &  
Student Certificate Conferral!

Dr. Bacchi, Assistant Professor of Jewish History & Ancient Mediterranean Religions at SKSM, will discuss how Wo/men's Studies in Religion invites us into active listening & dialogue which can help create more inclusive and justice-seeking methodological approaches by welcoming experience, passion, & vulnerability into the classroom. She will share her intersectional feminist pedagogical approach which centers on literary, historical, & cultural contexts to support students in creating their own flipped scripts.

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

---



**Exploring Seminary Life through Queer Latinx Eyes**

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation with  
**OMAR RODRIGUEZ DE LA O**

**THURSDAY  
5 MAY 2022  
12PM-1:15PM (PACIFIC TIME)  
ONLINE**

[Join via Zoom](#)



**Love Is My Sanctuary**

A CLGS Lavender Lunch with **Unoma Azuah** | Friday, 6 May 2022 @ 12:15pm | **ONLINE**

[Join via Zoom](#)





## 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 Interim Dean

---

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

---

2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
[www.gtu.edu](http://www.gtu.edu) | 510-649-2442