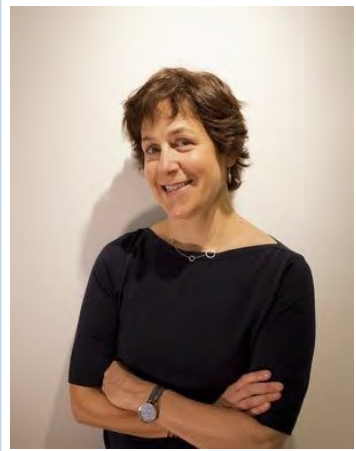

DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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When we left the GTU campus on Friday, March 13, 2020, most of us expected to be back in a few weeks, at most. Instead, our absence has stretched out over an entire year. I could list so many dreadful things about this year that we've endured, but instead I am peering around the corner and wondering about what the next year will look like. Which hard-won pandemic skills – Zooming, bread baking – will we continue? Which old habits will we revive, which ones will remain dormant?

I'm uplifted by the blooming of both daffodils and vaccination programs. Despite these hopeful signs, the Spring semester will continue as it began, with all courses and events conducted remotely. Many of us had hoped to celebrate Commencement in person this May, but it's too soon for safety; on-line Commencement planning is already underway. For the Fall semester, we plan to return to campus in a hybrid mode, assuming public health officials approve. We'll be testing out the technology to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for faculty and for students, whether in the classroom or tuning in from home.

I know many of you join me in longing for the casual conversations, the fortuitous encounters, and the friendliness of campus life. To that end, I encourage everyone to get vaccinated when your turn comes around! Let's make the GTU community COVID-safe.

Elizabeth S. Peña

Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD

Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academic Accomplishments

MAMABL

Mark Brustman, HCSR, Honors
Katie Dickinson, THET
Patrick McIlhone, ART
Taqwa Surapati, ISLM
Margaret Warner, LITG
Ping-Chung Wong, HCSR

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Uijin Jung, HCSR
Zulunungsang Lemtur, THET

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Keng-Fan Chan, REPR
Woori Han, REPR
Mariska Lauterboom, REPR
Pravina Rodrigues, THET
Myoung-Ho Sin, THET
Paula Thompson, HCSR, Distinction



Important Reminder

The deadline to file completed and approved thesis/dissertation will be **April 1, 2021**.



Coffee Hour with the Dean

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 9-10am PST
join Interim Dean Dr. Elizabeth S. Peña
on Zoom for a casual coffee hour!

- ❖ MA & Certificate Students –
2nd Tuesday of the month
- ❖ PhD Students –
4th Tuesday of the month

*Faculty and Staff can join either
coffee hour

Zoom Meeting ID: 543 910 5370

Financial Aid Announcements

MA Students Financial Aid Deadline



The priority deadline for MA students to apply for Financial Aid is **March 1, 2021**

Citizens and Eligible Non-Citizens affiliating with a member school:

- Submit the [FAFSA](#) and [GTU Financial Aid Application](#). Applicants must include both the GTU's school code, G01207, and the corresponding code for their member school
- All students (including international students) please contact your member school for information regarding applying for institutional aid

Citizens and Eligible Non-Citizens affiliated with a GTU Center:

- Submit the [FAFSA](#) and [GTU Financial Aid Application](#).

International Students affiliated with a GTU Center:

- Must complete and submit the [GTU Financial Aid Application](#) and copies of all foreign and domestic bank statements for the most current three-month period

*Members of religious orders must provide a letter of support from their superior.

Academic Year	Submit GTU Financial Aid Application and FAFSA	Using Tax Year Information
2021-2022	March 1, 2021	2019

Exit Loan Counseling

All prospective graduates who have borrowed federal unsubsidized and Graduate Plus loans during the course of their program are **REQUIRED** to complete online Exit Counseling prior to graduation. Please visit studentaid.gov to complete exit counseling. You must sign in with your FSA user ID and password.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a phone or Zoom appointment, please contact us by email us at finaid@gtu.edu or phone (510) 649-2469.

Federal Work-Study Job Announcement

Reading is the foundation for learning and success in life. Yet, only 31% of California's 4th-graders read at grade level. If you are eligible for Federal Work-Study, apply for an Online Literacy Tutor position with Reading Partners to ensure elementary students have access to vital literacy supports that can put them on the path to becoming university students like you in the future!

Tutoring takes place Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm through May 2021. Applications will be accepted through early March 2021 for the current school year. Successful tutors will be offered positions in the 2021-22 academic year as well. Want to learn more? Check out [this quick video](#), or contact Reading Partners SFBA operations coordinator at: sfbaoperations@readingpartners.org or (650) 458-7696. Please visit www.readingpartners.org for more information.

GTU Commencement



**This photo was from our microsite for the Class of 2020*

GTU Commencement Update

By: Wendy Arce

Associate Dean of Students

The GTU Commencement occurs once a year, usually on the second Thursday in May, and is open to the public. The event abounds with academic regalia, music, admittedly, a few speeches, and time to introduce each graduate to the community where the graduate receives a diploma and is invested in the hood of their degree.

Sadly, however, this year as well, due to the pandemic-related guidelines and restrictions, we will not conduct the GTU Commencement Exercises in person. Instead, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class through a microsite that will be hosted on the GTU website.

We hope that the microsite will allow us to give glimpses into the amazing diversity of the GTU academic community and also the splendid work done by the graduates. A Graduation Program will be created and distributed electronically. At a later point in time, a printed copy of the program will be mailed to the graduates.

We are grateful for your continued support and understanding.



Announcements

GTU 2.0 Community Townhall

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 | 3:00-4:30pm (PST)

Please join the GTU President's Office for an open forum and community town hall to share your thoughts and feedback on GTU 2.0, moderated by GTU President Dr. Uriah Kim and the Executive Leadership Team.

Read more about GTU 2.0 [here](#)

To request Zoom access, please reach out to Melissa Haddick (mhaddick@gtu.edu), Executive Assistant to the President.

New GTU SONIS Webpage

By John Seal, GTU Consortial Registrar

The old domain and address (gtusonis.net) has been de-activated and replaced by gtusonis.jenzabarcloud.com. This new address is where GTU MA, PhD, and certificate students will register for classes, where GTU advisors can check information for students in the GTU MA, PhD and certificate programs, and where the master course schedule for all GTU member schools, centers, and affiliates will be housed. Please update your bookmarks accordingly, as the gtusonis.net domain has now gone offline and will not automatically forward to the new address.

The online Course Schedule will only be accessible via gtusonis.jenzabarcloud.com.

Please note that the old domain and address was deactivated effective **February 23, 2021**.



GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

STUDENT ELECTIONS

2021 SCHEDULE

Nominations will open on
February 15, 9 am

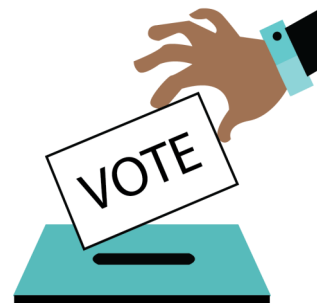
Deadline to submit nominations
March 12, 5 pm

Voting period
March 13 - 26

More details coming soon...

For questions, please contact:
cmotupalli@gtu.edu

NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN
through March 12, 5:00pm



Voting period for the doctoral student body will be March 13 –26

From the Library

28th Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts

Kathryn Barush

‘Shield, help, & bring to joy’: Pilgrimage through Sacred Song

Once upon a time, in medieval England, the Virgin Mary appeared to a nature-loving hermit named Godric and gave him a song to sing in times of crisis...for joy, for protection, for health. Come join us to hear the story of Godric and how we might think of pilgrimage song and chant as a holy relic and sacred souvenir.

Dr. Barush will draw on her fieldwork with the British Pilgrimage Trust to discuss the continuing resonances of Godric's song today. The program will include the world-premiere of an arrangement of the ancient melody by musician and GTU PhD candidate Stefan Waligur with vocalists Paul Kircher and Mary Beth Lamb.



Dr. Kathryn Barush



Photo of pilgrim staffs ©Will Parsons

**March 10, 2021
5:15pm (PST)**

Register via Eventbrite

**CLICK HERE TO GO
TO THE REGISTRATION PAGE**

Kathryn Barush is the Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union and the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. She received her doctorate in the History of Art from the University of Oxford and has held previous positions at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC and at the Yale Center for British Art. She is the author of *Art and the Sacred Journey in Britain, 1790 – 1950*. Her book, *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience* (London: Bloomsbury Visual Culture), is forthcoming.

Sponsored by the [Flora Lamson Hewlett Library](#).
For more information, please call (510) 649-2541

SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Dr. Sam S. B. Shonkoff



What is your role at the GTU?

I am the Taube Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies in the GTU’s Center for Jewish Studies. I teach primarily on modern Jewish theology and culture.

You are now in your second year on faculty here. What are your impressions so far?

I marvel consistently at how GTU combines top-notch academic studies of religion with genuine spiritual care and concerns. This combination is hard to find in individual scholars, let alone institutions. But I see it every day here, among students and faculty alike. There is a full-fledged commitment to asking the most critical and challenging questions, while also staying in touch with a sort of raw humility and fascination before the complex traditions we study. These are ideal conditions not only for intellectual productivity, but for intellectual community and spiritual growth. I am so grateful to be here.

What are you working on these days beyond teaching?

I just recently published a volume with my colleague Ariel Mayse at Stanford, entitled *Hasidism: Writings on Devotion, Community, and Life in the Modern World*. This latest addition to the Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought offers the most comprehensive Hasidic anthology to date. I am also currently completing my monograph on the twentieth-century German-Jewish philosopher Martin Buber’s representations of Hasidism. In other news, I am in the process of launching a Jewish theology concentration within our Theology & Ethics Department and I am cultivating a new partnership between the GTU and the UC Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics (stay tuned!).

What do you like to do outside of work?

Family and friends are the best. I love hiking and backpacking, especially now that I’m back in glorious California (holy moly). My spouse and I also got a “covid dog” a few months ago, and it’s been beautiful to explore my first-ever close relationship with a non-human animal. Last and admittedly least, the Warriors are so fun to watch this season.





What’s the history of Newbigin House?

Newbigin House began as a ministry of City Church San Francisco over a decade ago, offering a fellowship program for lay Christians seeking a deeper understanding of why they believe what they believe. The goal was to create a study center bringing the rich resources of the academy as well as the church into constructive dialogue in one place. Eight years ago, we began partnering with seminaries to offer contextualized theological education. Our graduates have gone on to study at seminaries like CDSP, Fuller, Pittsburgh, Princeton, Union in New York, Wesley, and Western.

How long has Newbigin House been a GTU affiliate?

After several years of exploratory conversation, we became an affiliate in the summer of 2020.

Why is this relationship important?

It’s easy for those of us who work in academia and congregational ministry to find ourselves in echo chambers, where we lose touch with people who see the world through a very different lens than us. At the GTU, we have found an incredibly generous spirit of mutual respect and openness to learning from one another. We’re more confident than ever that our shared commitment to interreligious learning and exploration will strengthen distinctive religious communities like those we strive to serve.

What are some exciting things happening at Newbigin House today and as you look to the future?

We’re excited about the surge of interest we’re seeing from laypersons and clergy in doing deeper theological reflection. This year, we have over 130 participants in various tracks of our fellowship, with folks from over 16 U.S. states and seven different countries. We’re also grateful to have some incredible partnerships with world-class teachers coming to us from diverse places. We’re particularly excited about the list of fantastic guest speakers coming to us in the next few months—people like Canon Stephanie Spellers (Episcopal Church), Khyati Joshi (author of *White Christian Privilege*), Scott MacDougall (our GTU colleague at CDSP), Paul Lim (Vanderbilt), and the TikTok sensation/Bay Area entrepreneur known as “Your Korean Dad,” who has been likened to Mr. Rogers. In the months and years ahead, we look forward to doing even more in collaboration with our colleagues at the GTU.

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

ICP Coordinates Panel Discussions with European Scholars

On February 17th the GTU's [Interreligious Chaplaincy Program](#) coordinated a panel discussion with representatives of the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Several GTU faculty and a delegation of visiting scholars participated in a virtual panel discussion as part of the State Department's initiative on Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Freedom: A Regional Project for Europe and Eurasia. GTU panelists included Dr. Sam Shonkoff of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, Dr. Munir Jiwa of the Center for Islamic Studies, Dr. Christopher Hadley of the Jesuit School of Theology, Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program, and Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh of the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program.

The panelists introduced the GTU to the guests and described the GTU's academic programs. Panelists and guests then broke into small groups where they discussed the moral and philosophical basis of religious life in the United States, the historical origins of religious freedom, and religious life and diversity in America. They raised questions about the separation of church and state and its relevance in modern American society, discussed religious-based conflicts in the Middle East and Europe, and examined the impact of religion on political, social, and academic life in the United States.



Are you ready for the academic job search?

- Jobs in religion and philosophy
- Jobs in religion and ethics
- Assistant professor jobs

PDP Workshop with Dr. Henry Kuo,
 GTU Alum and Visiting Assistant Professor of
 Theology and Ethics at Greensboro College

March 17, 2021, 10:00 – 11:00am

Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257

RSVP: CMotupalli@gtu.edu

PDP Workshop on

**How to Teach About/Include Issues
 of Racial Justice in
 Any Course**

*Facilitated by: Dr. Randall Miller,
 GTU Alum and Managing Director of Programs
 at the Center for Environmental Health*

March 3, 2021 | 10:00 – 11:00am

Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257

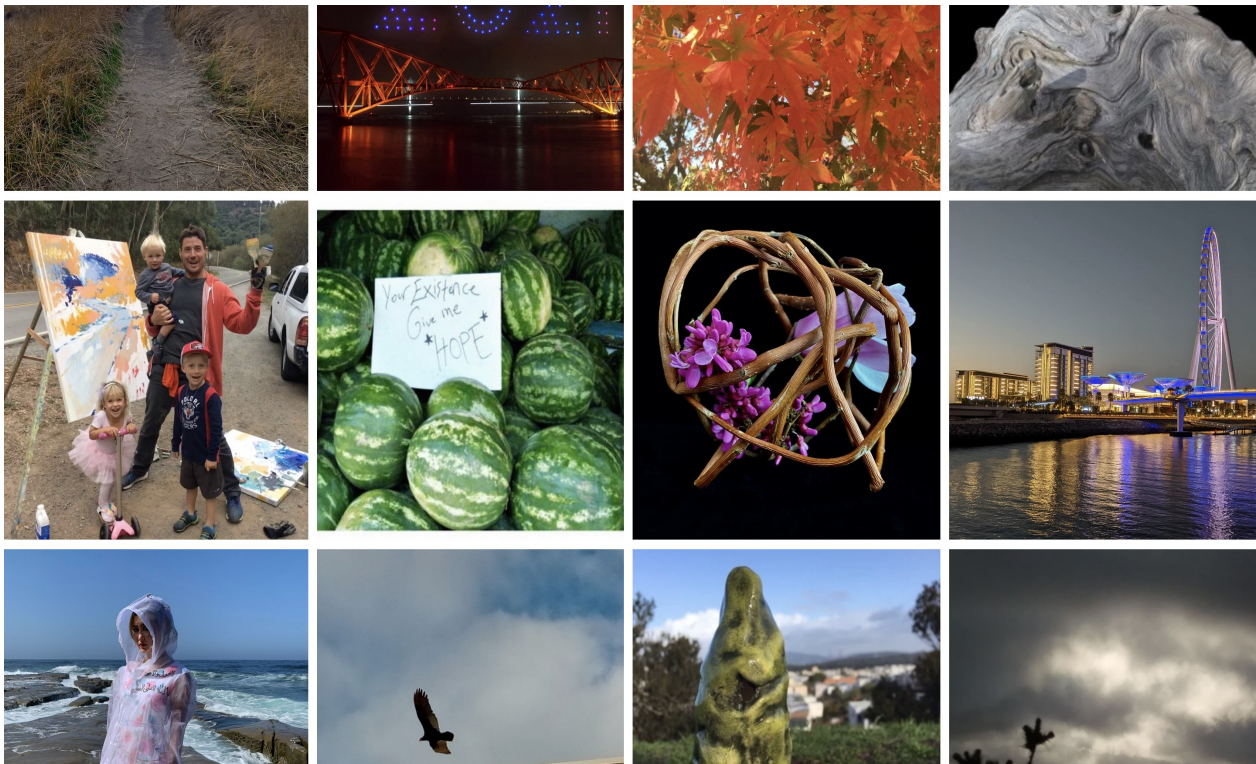
RSVP: CMotupalli@GTU.edu

Center for the Arts & Religion

Turning the Page: CARE artists look toward the future

VIEW ONLINE NOW!

Last year was like no other; it was truly disorienting and difficult. This exhibition lets the images do the talking. Here we have gathered together artists from CARE's past and invited them to share an image that captures their hopes for 2021. The photographs included look to the future, while incorporating the lessons learned and hardships weathered over the last year. Take a moment out of your day to browse through the collected photographs and ponder your own hopes for 2021 and beyond.



.....

Save the Date

Monday, March 8 | 5:30-6:30pm (PST)



Women's Studies in Religion is partnering with the GTU's Center for the Arts & Religion and the newly established Center for Climate Justice and Faith at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to bring you a two-part event to celebrate both International Women's Day (March 8) and Earth Day (April 22). The events will focus on the role of the arts in both gender justice and climate justice. Check the GTU [calendar](#) and social media for more information!

Center for the Arts & Religion

February Art Window



"Breonna Taylor was Murdered by Police", Tahirah Rasheed (2021)



Catch February's *Art Window* exhibit in its final week!

Don't miss your chance to see the powerful Neon work of Oakland-based artist Tahirah Rasheed, currently installed in the ground-floor window of the GTU North Building. Under mentorship from Neon artist Meryl Pataky, Rasheed's piece was born from a collaboration between two arts collectives [See Black Womxn](#) and [She Bends](#). It seeks to lift up and literally illuminate the voices and stories of Black women.

Titled *Breonna Taylor was Murdered by Police*, this piece serves to remind us that, almost a year after her death, justice has still not been seen by the family of the 26-year-old emergency technician who was slain by Louisville police officers as she lay sleeping in her bed. At night, the Neon light casts the whole street in a blood red glow, in keeping with the deep, painful anger held by so many in the wake of this senseless killing. That dazzling red light also, however, conjures equally raw feelings of an abiding love. Above all, Rasheed's work serves as a reminder that Breonna Taylor may be gone from this world, but she is far from forgotten.

Center for the Arts & Religion

Art Window

This month, we welcome Oakland-based artist Tracy (茜茜) Ren to our rotating exhibition, Art Window. Stop by the GTU North Building on 2465 LeConte Ave. to see March's installation!

Tracy (茜茜) Ren is a multidisciplinary artist, maker, and curator based in Oakland, CA. She works with an architectural and object-oriented visual language through a first generation Chinese-American lens to extract levels of both personal and collective knowing and feeling through spirit, the subconscious, and the everyday.

In the making of sculpture, photography, and installation, she examines the ways in which we simultaneously and reciprocally create, activate, and are held by one another through architectural spaces, structures, and motifs, as well as symbols, rituals and everyday objects. The materials she uses reflect her subject; clay is turned to often for its ubiquitous presence in our everyday lives, its sensitivity to touch, and the alchemical nature of the ceramic process. Within her most recent work, she pairs these inclinations with an engagement in a variety of research methods to navigate the loss and reclamation of her family's history, to break bread with ghosts.

Combatting Racism & Sexism with Hellenistic Art

Dr. Ashley London-Bacchi (Assistant Professor of Jewish History and Ancient Mediterranean Religions, Starr King School for the Ministry)
Thursday, March 11 | 12:00-1:00 pm (PST) | Online

The weaponization of Greek and Roman art and architecture for white supremacist ideologies need to be combated. Nineteenth and twentieth century reception history white-washed the diversity of the Hellenistic Mediterranean to align with views of the ideal world order, one molded by a sense of racial and gender superiority.

Join Dr. Ashley London-Bacchi of Starr King to learn more about art history as a powerful tool for combating the racism and sexism, because offers much-needed context that has often been lost or distorted. This allows people to make informed decisions about how they will engage with those symbols and the power they will or won't allow them to hold.

The Hellenistic period in particular breaks down gender role assumptions that have been placed upon the ancient Mediterranean to substantiate claims against women and power. I propose that a more widespread understanding of the Hellenistic Period may similarly work to dismantle racist and sexist ideologies that similarly undergird these white supremacist groups.



Please email care@gtu.edu to register for this free, online event!

Center for the Arts & Religion

CARe Workshops

This Spring, CARe is offering an array of online workshops covering a wide variety of themes in the arts and religion. Each topic is covered by two 2-hour-long workshops. Open to students and community members alike, each workshop pair carries a \$100 fee. CARe workshops are open to all - no experience in any of the fields necessary!

GTU students, please note that these are not credit-earning workshops.

On the Edge: The Wonder, Beauty, and Wisdom of Illuminated Manuscripts Tuesday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 3 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm (PST)

Instructed by Louise Victor

Hybrid animals, humanoid figures and micrography, populate the pages of the most beautiful books ever seen. From the imposing to the whimsical, Illuminated Manuscripts arguably have shaped the forms of visual and textual storytelling that we see today. Join us as we immerse ourselves in the wonder of this brilliant world of text and image.

The Spirituality of Spontaneity

Friday, March 12 and Friday, March 19 | 2:30 - 4:30 pm (PST)

Instructed by Rev. Kit Novotny

After a year-long repetitive rut of groundhog days, come refresh your soul together in virtual-community as we explore the spirituality of spontaneity. Our time together will be grounded in the wisdom and exercises of improvisational comedy, and other traditions. Play, laughter, and holy foolishness is profoundly healing - something we all need these days!

ReMapping the Pandemic Body

Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28th | 5:00 - 7:00 pm (PST)

Instructed by Michelle Summers

This online movement workshop seeks to re-narrate the pandemic experience on and through the body. Together we will consider terms like contagion, masking, and social distancing to recuperate them in our bodies through positive rather than negative association. We will play movement games, explore bodily tasks, and practice meditation/breathing exercises.

For all three workshops, please link to gtu.edu/artwindow



Center for Dharma Studies

GTU Sustainable Societies Conference II



[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Sustainable Societies Conference II Zoom Webinar

Conference Sessions:

PLENARY SESSION A: Visions for a Viable Tomorrow: Imagining Planetary Vitality

Rita D. Sherma | The Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies, GTU
Whitney Bauman | Florida International University
Devin P. Zuber | Center for Swedenborgian Studies, GTU

PLENARY SESSION B: Visions for a Viable Tomorrow: The Arc of Justice

Valerie Miles-Tribble | Berkeley School of Theology, GTU
John Grim | Forum on Religion and Ecology, Yale University
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda | Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, GTU

SESSION II: Healing from a Pandemic: Ecopsychology & Ecospirituality

Peter Kahn | University of Washington
Bron Taylor | University of Florida
Debashish Banerji | California Institute of Integral Studies
Craig Chalquist | California Institute of Integral Studies

SESSION III: The Ethics & Justice of Ecological Consciousness: Local & Global Perspectives

Elizabeth Allison | California Institute for Integral Studies
Christopher Key Chapple | Loyola Marymount University
Stephanie Kaza | University of Vermont
Munir Jiwa | Center for Islamic Studies, GTU
Emily Silverman | Independent Scholar
Cecilia Titizano | University of San Francisco

REGISTER HERE

Center for Dharma Studies

Recently Sponsored Event



On February 26th, we welcomed Dr. Arturo Escobar, Dr. Michal Osterweil, and Dr. Kriti Sharma for a panel discussion on their forthcoming book from Bloomsbury, UK: *Designing Relationally: Making and Restor(y)ing Life*. Professor Arturo Escobar is known internationally for his development of the theory of the Pluriverse. He has explained this central concept in several books including *Pluriversal Politics*, where he “engages with the politics of the possible and how established notions of what is real and attainable preclude the emergence of radically alternative visions of the future.”

The new work that this event foregrounded, *Designing Relationally: Making and Restor(y)ing Life*, asks the question, “If we took seriously the premise that all things are radically interdependent, what would we design and create in our world — here in the midst of the intersecting and escalating social and ecological crises of the 21st Century — and how?”

This was a sustainable event that was recently sponsored by CDS and is an early session of *Visions for a Viable Future: In a Time of COVID19 & Climate Calamity (GTU Sustainability Conference II)*.



Panelists: Dr. Arturo Escobar (top left); Dr. Michal Osterweil (top right); Dr. Kriti Sharma (bottom left); Dr. Clive Dilnot (Respondent) (bottom right)

Center for Islamic Studies

Congratulations Carol Bier

Congratulations to **Carol Bier**, CIS/GTU research scholar, for her participation in The Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery which hosted the online workshop, "**Geometry: Education, Art, and Research**" February 19-21.



CIS is delighted to share that on **March 5**, Carol will be presenting a lecture, "**Mathematics and the Divine in Islamic Art**" as part of a series on "Making the Invisible Visible," organized by the Society for Asian Art (Asian Art Museum). She has also prepared a study guide on the topic available on the CIS [webpage](#).

CIS Upcoming Events

CIS will be hosting several events during March **Women's History Month** and beyond, and we are especially delighted and grateful that **Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala** will be leading and presenting at these events. Please visit the GTU [calendar](#) and CIS [webpage](#) for details.

CIS is pleased to share that in addition to the spring 2021 course, **COVID-19 and Precarious Life**, co-taught by Dr. Munir Jiwa and Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala, we will be hosting public programming related to the course and to learn from community organizations in their frontline work during the pandemic as part of the GTU Henry Luce Foundation COVID-19 Community Partnership Grants. Please visit the GTU [website](#) and CIS [webpage](#) for details.

Dr. Munir Jiwa is honored to participate in the March 19 conference led by CDS Director **Dr. Rita Sherma**, "**Visions for a Viable Future: Sustainable Societies Conference II**," held concurrently with the AAR/WR annual conference. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Sherma for her vision and leadership.

Madrasa-Midrasha

Summer 2021 Interreligious Research Grants

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is pleased to announce research grants for GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam, made possible by the Walter & Elise Haas Fund.



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.
- Students 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 Dahla (mahdhala@gtu.edu) by **Monday, April 5, 2021**.

Please [visit the announcement page](#) for more info.



Center for Jewish Studies

CJS Series of Conversations

Please join us for "conversations@cjs," a series on critical topics in the field of Jewish Studies. These online events will feature presentations from distinguished scholars along with facilitated dialogue and conversation.

Please visit the [CJS Public Events page](#) for registration links and additional information.



conversations@cjs

DIMENSIONS OF TIME AND SPACE IN RABBINIC LITERATURE

Thursday, Feb. 25th @ 12pm PST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Charlotte Fonrobert, *Stanford University*

Richard Hidary, *Yeshiva University*

Deena Aranoff, *GTU*

Sam Shonkoff, *GTU (facilitating)*

HOMELAND, EXILE, AND DIASPORA: CONTEMPORARY JEWISH REFLECTIONS

Thursday, Mar. 18th @ 12pm PST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Daniel Boyarin, *UC Berkeley*

Jill Hammer, *Academy for Jewish Religion*

Susannah Heschel, *Dartmouth College*

Sam Shonkoff, *GTU (facilitating)*

REVELATION AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH THEOLOGY

Thursday, Apr. 22nd @ 12pm PST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Michael Fishbane, *University of Chicago*

Sam Shonkoff, *GTU (facilitating)*

For more info, please visit the [CJS Events Page](#).

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies
GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION • BERKELEY, CA

Spring 2021

Center for Jewish Studies

Inaugural Lecture for the Taube Family Chair in Jewish Studies



Thursday, April 29, 2021 | 12:00pm

- ◆ Introductory words by Tad Taube and GTU leadership
- ◆ Inaugural lecture by Taube Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Sam Shonkoff: “Gender in Martin Buber’s Hasidic Tales”
- ◆ Response by Dr. Judith Plaskow (Manhattan College)

For more information, please contact Matthew Hartman (mhartman@gtu.edu)



GTU DOCTORAL STUDENT
Spring Forum
We Are Still Here!

Organized by the Student Advisory Committee

MARCH 11, 2021, 5:00 - 6:30 PM
ZOOM ID: 931 3961 3317

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

CLGS Lavender Lunch: Queer Palestinian Solidarity with Tarek Abuata

ONLINE | March 9, 2021 | 12:15pm - 1:15pm (PST)

Click [here](#) to register for this Lavender Lunch and to learn more about Tarek Abuata



CLGS Jewish Queeries Series: Maurice Sendak in Queer Jewish Context with Golan Moskowitz

ONLINE | March 11, 2021 | 1:00pm - 2:15pm (PST)

Click [here](#) for a Zoom link for this event!



Souls a' Fire 7 Online Conference

ONLINE | March 13 & 14, 2021

Join us for CLGS' Souls a' Fire 7 Conference | An Online Gathering for Black Queer Theology

Register for Day One [here](#) and/or Day Two [here](#)

For more information, please visit soulsafire.org

CLGS Queer and Latinx Faith Conversation: Communities of Faith and Justice with Revs. Liza Muñoz, Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, and Daniel Vélez-Rivera

ONLINE | March 17, 2021 | 2:00pm - 3:15pm (PST)

Click [here](#) for a Zoom link for this event!

CLGS Lavender Lunch: Beefcake Theology: The Formation of Gay Male Spiritual Discourse in Midcentury Softcore Pornography with Richard Lindsay (GTU Alumnus)

ONLINE | March 30, 2021 | 12:15pm - 1:15pm (PST)

Click [here](#) for a Zoom link for this event!



Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

The Doctrine of Atonement of Extraterrestrial Life

CTNS Public Forum on Zoom, Tuesday, April 20, 2021 | 5:00pm

Dr. Junghyung Kim, Assistant Professor, Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary, Seoul

If extraterrestrial intelligent life (ETI) exists, in my judgement, one of the greatest challenges to Christian faith will concern the doctrine of atonement. In fact, there are diverse models of atonement in the history of Christian thought. It will be very interesting to see which model of atonement could survive the discovery of ETI, and which models turn out too anthropocentric and geocentric to be tenable. This thought experiment on the premise of the future discovery of ETI, I believe, will shed light on several uncritical prejudices underlying traditional Christian doctrines and help reconstruct a Christian theology of atonement for an age of science, even if the premise never becomes true.

This event is free and open to the public. To register, please email mmoritz@gtu.edu.

Russell Family Fellowship in Religion and Science

Regretfully, we are postponing the 2021 Russell Family Fellowship events for several months due to unforeseen circumstances.



Social Science Research Council

Early-Career Fellowships in Religion and the Public Sphere

Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal

The [Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal \(RSDR\) Fellowship](#) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) aims to bring knowledge of the place of religion and spirituality into scholarly and public conversations about renewing democracy in the United States. These fellowships are offered by the SSRC Program on Religion and the Public Sphere with the support and partnership of the Fetzer Institute.

Applications are due **April 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m. Eastern time**. Apply online by visiting the SSRC Fellowships and Prizes webpage [here](#)

Additional Fellowship Activities:

The fellowship includes participation in an interdisciplinary workshop upon the completion of RSDR-funded research. These workshops will focus on fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on key research topics, writing for multiple audiences, public communication strategies, and cohort building.

Participants will be expected to contribute at least one essay to the SSRC's flagship web forum on religion and secularism, [The Immanent Frame](#).

To Apply:



Applications must be submitted through the SSRC's online application system no later than **5:00 p.m. Eastern time on April 6, 2021**. Applications will consist of a research proposal, a short application form, a curriculum vitae, and a letter of reference. Apply by visiting the SSRC webpage [here](#).

Digital Learning Workshops and Consultations

The Digital Learning Department provides workshops during the Spring semester to help instructors and doctoral students with online teaching. All workshops will take place on **Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00am-12:00pm.**

If instructors are unable to attend these workshops but still want to receive training, they are encouraged to reach out to Diandra Erickson, Director of Digital Learning, to schedule an appointment. The Director is available for one-on-one and small group consultations.

Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom. **Please RSVP for each workshop** by emailing derickson@gtu.edu to receive the Zoom link. Below is a list of workshops that will be offered in March.

Strategies for Facilitating Effective Zoom Synchronous Sessions

Thursday, March 4th, 11am

Friday, March 5th, 11am

Community Building and Collaborative Learning in a Remote Course

Thursday, March 11th, 11am

Friday, March 12th, 11am

Moodle's Intermediate and Advanced Features

Thursday, March 18th, 11am

Friday, March 19th, 11am



Sign-up for any of the above workshops by clicking on the RSVP icon and to receive the Zoom ID

Mormon Studies at GTU

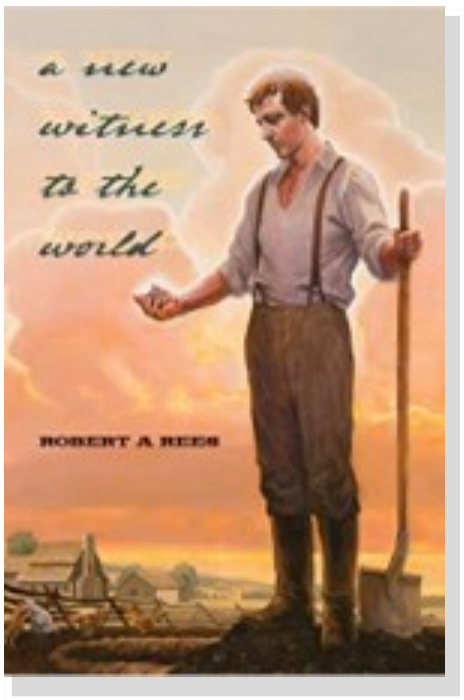
Humanity Rising

Professor Robert Rees, Director of Latter-day Saint/Mormon Studies at GTU, is involved in a global forum called Humanity Rising that has been zoomcasting almost daily since last spring. Sponsored by Ubiquity University and nearly 350 partnering organizations and reaching a daily audience of between 12,000-15,000 viewers, Humanity Rising "represents a movement of people and organizations coming together to take counsel on how to leverage the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic into an opportunity for human renewal and increased resilience to future challenges." According to Jim Garrison, President of Ubiquity University, "The goal of the Summit is to create an international coalition strong enough to transform conversations that matter into actions that make a difference."

Many of the nearly 200 sessions broadcast so far include content and themes that focus on religious and interreligious issues. These include Rees's "The Vanishing Garden: Religion and the Fate of the Earth," the first of which, featuring climate change and environmental specialists from the Christian, Jewish and Buddhist traditions, was broadcast on December 4, and the second of which, featuring perspectives from the Hindu, Muslim and Indigenous traditions, will be broadcast on March 12. A third session is in the planning. Rees reports that GTU faculty have provided invaluable suggestions in planning these sessions.

Members of the GTU community interested in registering for Humanity Rising, viewing past sessions, and even proposing new programs can do so at: <https://humanityrising.solutions/>. The sessions, broadcast live globally, can be seen **M-F from 8:00-9:30am (PST)**.

Publication



By Common Consent Press recently announced the publication of *A New Witness to the World: Reading and Re-reading the Book of Mormon*, by Robert Rees, GTU Visiting Professor and Director of Latter-day Saint/Mormon Studies. A collection of more than five decades of scholarly research and publication, *A New Witness* explores the theological dimensions and literary richness of what Latter-day Saints consider a New World scripture.

Teaching Theology & Religion

GTU Celebrates First Full Year With *Teaching Theology & Religion*

Two years ago, GTU and John Wiley & Sons partnered to bring *Teaching Theology & Religion*, a leading journal in theological education in the United States and around the world, under the direction of GTU. This new relationship brought about a renewed mission of the journal by aligning the journal's foci on theological education with the GTU's core strengths.

Under the leadership of co-editors Drs. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero (PhD '15) and Rebecca Esterson, each issue of volume 23 (2020) was dedicated to one of the journal's four "I's of theological education: interreligious, interdisciplinary, international/intercultural, and integrated modalities.

Interreligious: The first issue featured a number of contributions from members of the GTU, including an introductory piece by Dr. Judith Berling, an early leader of GTU's interreligious commitments. This issue also highlighted a current student's Newhall-funded class that engaged sacred sound in the world's religions.

Interdisciplinary: The second highlighted a recent Wabash Center project by PSR Dean Susan Abraham about formation in the post-modern seminary. Her piece was accompanied by three responses. Additional articles addressed additional approaches to interdisciplinarity, such as decision-based learning, ethnographic methods, and meditation.

Intercultural and international: The third issue included a special editorial by Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble, in which she connected her recent book *Change Agent Church in Black Lives Matter Times* to specific pedagogical practices in religious and theological education. Other contributions introduced unique ways to incorporate intercultural aspects to the curriculum, including through bridge-building, analyzing the TV show *90 Day Fiancé*, and participating in a "human books" project.

Integrated modalities: The fourth issue directly addressed pedagogical matters brought about by the coronavirus pandemic and featured a special article by Dr. Mary Hess about how to navigate teaching amid such crisis. Two articles highlighted innovated approaches to Islamic Studies, and other piece lifted up practices of storytelling.

The new volume year (2021) brought with it a change in leadership as Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson (PhD '11) took over for Esterson as co-editor. This is not the first time Schiefelbein-Guerrero and Davidson have worked together on pedagogical matters; while the former was still Director of Digital Learning at GTU, they envisioned possibilities for how the consortium could engage doctoral students in formative teaching experiences.

Call for Journal Contributions

As the co-editors ready the first issue of this year, they encourage all members of the wider GTU network to contribute to the journal: full articles (4000 to 7000 words), In the Classroom essays about concrete teaching practices (up to 3000 words), Teaching Tactics on a specific repeatable practice (400 words), or reviews. Submissions are made through the online portal:

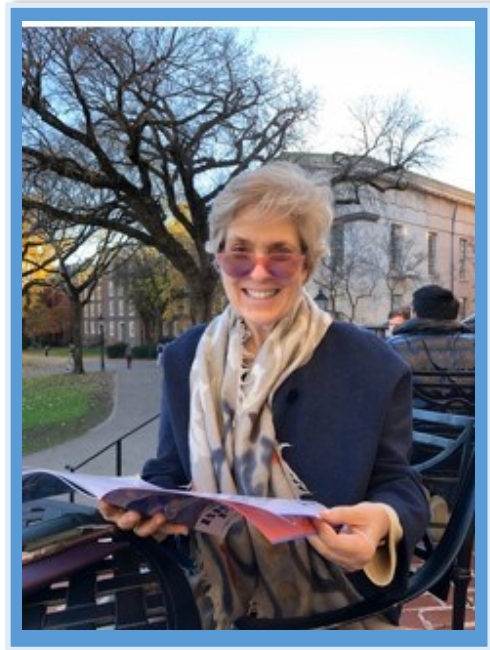
<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ttr> (which includes style and formatting information).



The Dean's Office Spring Lectures

Surjit Singh Lecture
Monday, April 5th, 12:00pm (PT) | Online

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU) is pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Barkey, Haas, Distinguished Chair of Religious Diversity and Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, will be presenting the 2021 Surjit Singh Lecture.



Dr. Barkey is the director of the Center for Democracy, Toleration and Religion, located at Social Science Matrix and the co-director of the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion. She is also one of the curators of the traveling Shared Sacred Sites exhibition. Her most recent work relates to issues of religious diversity and coexistence, with particular research on the question of shared sacred sites.

Her lecture will be entitled "Navigating Topographies of Belonging and Difference: Contemporary Shared Sacred Sites in the Mediterranean."

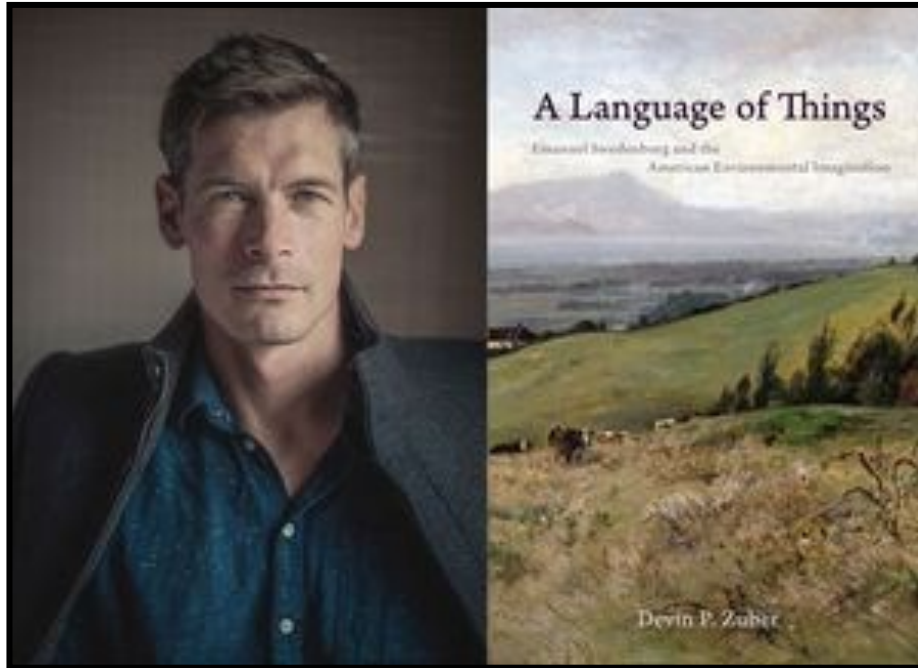
Started in 1991, the annual Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture builds upon the GTU's tradition of ecumenical theological education and dedication to interreligious dialogue and understanding. Each year, the endowed lectureship brings to the GTU a distinguished scholar to address religion and culture from a cross-cultural perspective. Learn more about past Singh Lecturers, or view past lectures [here](#).

Please register for this event on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-surjit-singh-lecture-by-dr-karen-barkey-tickets-136333803075>



The Dean's Office Spring Lectures

Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship
Thursday, April 22nd, 5:00pm (PT) | Online



The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Devin Zuber, Associate Professor of American Studies, Religion, and Literature at the GTU, has been awarded the fourth annual Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship for his 2019 monograph, *A Language of Things: Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination* (University of Virginia Press).

In his award-winning book, Dr. Zuber examines the impact that Scandinavian scientist-turned-mystic Emanuel Swedenborg made on American culture, literature, and approaches to nature. By tracing the ways that Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Muir, and Sarah Orne Jewett, among others, responded to Swedenborg, Dr. Zuber illuminates the complex dynamic that came to unfold between the religious, the literary, and the ecological in nineteenth century culture. Her lecture will be entitled "Navigating Topographies of Belonging and Difference: Contemporary Shared Sacred Sites in the Mediterranean."

Dr. Zuber will be in conversation with Dr. Timothy Morton, Rita Shea Guffey Professor of English at Rice University.

Please register for this event on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-borsch-rast-lecture-tickets-135744969859>





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, MA students, and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second to last Friday of the month to

dmagallanes@gtu.edu

Diana Magallanes, Administrative Assistant to the Interim Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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