

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

THE GTU AT AAR AND SBL

Every year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, several thousand scholars of religion gather for the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. When these meetings convene in Atlanta this year on November 21-24, the GTU will be well represented as usual. These two scholarly organizations are by no means the only ones that attract people from the GTU, but they probably do cover the widest range of disciplines and fields within theology and religious studies.

The AAR and SBL program books list the names of at least 20 GTU faculty, 12 doctoral students, and dozens of graduates among the presenters and presiders at various sessions. Many more of us will be there to hear the papers, browse the book exhibits, attend business meetings, and work the scholarly networks. Quite a few of our graduate students will be interviewing for jobs in the Employment Information Services Center.

A highlight of the meetings will be the GTU Reception on Saturday evening, when many of our graduates will join current students and faculty to hear about recent developments at the GTU and to honor our Alum of Year, Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado (PhD in Systematic and Philosophical Theology, 2001) who is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Miami.

Among all the other interesting things involving GTU folks going on at the AAR and SBL, I am especially pleased to note that this year's recipient of the AAR Excellence in Teaching Award is our alum Judith Bishop (PhD in History, 2004), Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Mills College.

I have been attending AAR/SBL meetings for over twenty-five years now, and every time I go I am reminded forcefully of the communal dimensions of research and scholarship. As scholars we are always part of a community (in AAR/SBL parlance, a "section," "group," or "consultation") upon whom we depend and to whom we are accountable for the knowledge we seek to discover, publish, and teach. I hope to see you at these annual meetings in Atlanta, and in all those other places where scholars of religion gather.

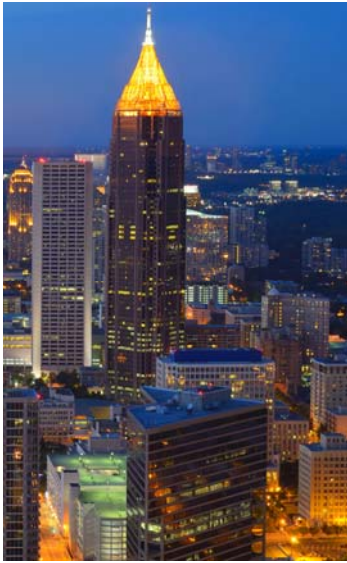
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE, NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 7PM

Dr. William O'Neill, Associate Professor of Social Ethics at Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (JST-SCU) will deliver the 2015 Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Thursday, November 5, 2015, 7:00pm at the PSR Chapel. The Distinguished Faculty Lecture is entitled "A Terrible Beauty: Reimagining Human Rights." In nonwestern usage, "rights talk" is less talk about individual rights than the talk that rights make possible, such as the victims' testimony in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Here rights become "a mouth to tell of suffering," letting us see and redress the suffering and passion of the world. The response will be given by Dr. Marianne Farina, Associate Professor of Philosophy & Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT). Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception in the Doug Adams Gallery across the courtyard from the PSR Chapel.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

GTU RECEPTION AT AAR/SBL, PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.....	2
CARE NEWS AND EVENTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS.....	3
LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS, GTU GRADUATE FAIR.....	4
CIS NEWS AND EVENTS, GTU/HSI EVENT.....	5
CHAN PRIZE AND TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS.....	6
CJS EVENT, NEWHALL APPLICATION DEADLINE, BERKELEY JOURNAL FOR RELIGION AND THEOLOGY CALL FOR PAPERS AND STAFF.....	7
HONORABLE MENTION, BERKELEY REP TICKETS.....	8



GTU RECEPTION AT AAR AND SBL

Join the GTU faculty, students, and administration at our GTU Reception at this years' AAR and SBL annual meetings. Prospective doctoral students interested in meeting GTU faculty and students are encouraged to RSVP to Andrea Sheaffer, Director of Admissions, so we can welcome you.

Westin Peachtree Plaza
Savannah Ballroom A
210 Peachtree St NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
Saturday, November 21, 2015
7:00- 10:00 pm

RSVP: asheaffer@gtu.edu

PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS AND EVENTS, NOVEMBER 6-7TH, 2015

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

"Three Conversions of a Theologian and the Ways they have Helped Transform - and Complicate - Constructive Theological Work." Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Fuller Theological Seminary) shares his theological autobiography Friday evening, November 6 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP.

Note that the Friday afternoon session is followed by cocktails and dinner. Saturday morning, the group will convene at 9 a.m. for coffee and light refreshments. The open discussion session follows and finishes by noon. Registration fees are located on the PCTS website (www.pcts.org/register.html) and may also be paid at the Meeting.

PCTS is a professional society dedicated to the exchange of views on topics germane to the theological endeavor. It has a long and distinguished history, and its founding pre-dates the establishment of the GTU. Membership is open to scholars and students interested in the theological endeavor broadly defined. Dues are \$45 per academic year and \$22.50 for students. Go to www.pcts.org for further information.

"THEOLOGY, SCIENCE & THE HUMAN PERSON"

You are cordially invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on Friday, November 6 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. – 12p.m. in Classroom "B" at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

The papers for the Fall 2015 Meeting examine aspects of theological anthropology while incorporating scientific perspective. Highlighting this Meeting is the giving of the "PCTS Codron Award" for leading theological scholarship given in memorial for the beloved scholar and PCTS member, Patricia Codron.

Pictured left, the recipient of the PCTS Codron Award is Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Fuller Theological Seminary) for his book: *Creation and Humanity: A Constructive Christian Theology for the Pluralistic World*, Volume 3 of Kärkkäinen's five volume systematic theology.



The Friday afternoon session begins with selected chapters from Kärkkäinen's book with respondent Robert J. Russell (Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences). This is followed by a paper by Braden Molhoek (GTU) entitled "Revitalizing the Originals: Reinhold Niebuhr's Original Sin and Original Righteousness in Light of Theology and Science" with a response by Brian Green (Santa Clara University). Saturday morning begins with the paper, "The Neuroscience of Wesleyan Soteriology" by Alan Weissenbacher (GTU) and respondent Arvin Gouw (UC Berkeley and Stanford). Lastly, Mark Graves (Fuller Theological Seminary) closes the Meeting with his paper, "Shared Spirituality Among Human Persons and Artificially Intelligent Agents" with Andrew Porter (GTU/CTNS) responding. As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website (<http://pcts.org/meetings/2015/Fall.html>) and texts should be read ahead of time.

THE 2013 PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY
BY **AYAD AKHTAR**
DIRECTED BY **KIMBERLY SENIOR**

DISGRACED

PERFORMANCE & POST-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 | 7pm
Berkeley Repertory Theatre | Roda Theater | 2015 Addison Street, Berkeley

Graduate Theological Union Panelists Include:
MUNIR JIWA NAOMI SEIDMAN SOM POURFARZANEH

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EVENTS

Nov. 4th Public Speaking and Stage Presence Workshop

Dr. Jerome Baggett and Dr. Deena Aranoff
(GTU student lounge, 1pm)
Learn helpful strategies for improving stage presence and speaking skills while presenting at conferences or lecturing/teaching.

Nov. 11th Navigating the Job Search

Dr. Kate Barush and Dr. Kathleen Kook
(GTU student lounge, 10am)
Gain helpful information on multiple facets of the job search ranging from applications to interviews



Stephanie H. Brown

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley

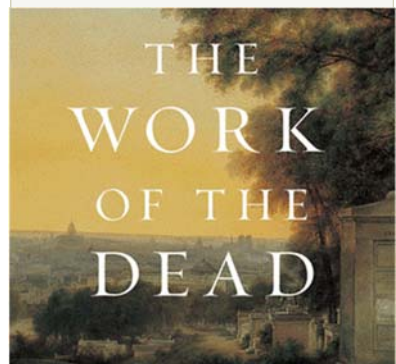
Living on the Edge of Empire: Edomite Households in the First Millennium BCE

Stephanie H. Brown will be presenting the data collected from two domestic structures at the excavation site of Busayra, in southwest Jordan. Because households embody society and reproduce its values at the most fundamental level, household archaeology has the ability to inform us about larger social, economic, political, and religious trends. Brown will use household archaeology to understand daily activities in the Edomite capital city.

Friday, November 6, 2015
12-1pm | Doug Adams Gallery

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Center for the Arts, Religion, and Theology
Doug Adams Gallery
178 S. Bancroft Avenue, Berkeley



CARE NEWS AND EVENTS

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Friday, November 6, 2015
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery | 12pm
Living on the Edge of Empire: Edomite Households in the First Millennium BCE
Stephanie H. Brown (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley)

Stephanie H. Brown will be presenting the data collected from two domestic structures at the excavation site of Busayra, in southwest Jordan. Because households embody society and reproduce its values at the most fundamental level, household archaeology has the ability to inform us about larger social, economic, political, and religious trends. Brown will use household archaeology to understand daily activities in the Edomite capital city. CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series is held the first Friday of every month through December 2015 in the Doug Adams Gallery.

A Little Bit of Geek and Hero in All of Us

"Rise of the Fellowship" Film Screening and Q&A
Friday, November 6, 2015
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery | 4:15pm
Guest Speaker: Cole Matson (Ph.D. Candidate, Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, University of St. Andrews)

Randall Dooley is a geek. His three best friends are geeks, too. All of that changes when he hears of The Lord of the Rings online gaming competition in Orlando, Florida. Finally! Meaning in life! "Rise of the Fellowship" is a buddy-comedy written in honor of online gamers and The Lord of the Rings. Full of Tolkien references and good-hearted parody, "Rise of the Fellowship" will appeal to Tolkien fans and gamers alike, as well as anyone who's never been part of the in-crowd.

"Disgraced" Performance & Post-Performance Discussion

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Berkeley Repertory Theatre | 7pm
We are pleased to announce another collaboration between the Graduate Theological Union, CARE, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. On Wednesday, November 18, GTU faculty members Munir Jiwa, Naomi Seidman, and Som Pourfarzaneh will lead a panel discussion following the performance of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Disgraced* at the Berkeley Rep. Written by novelist and screenwriter Ayad Akhtar, *Disgraced* has been described as a "combustible powder keg of identity politics," that explores Islamophobia, the role of religious faith, and the challenges of being Muslim in post-9/11 America. Save 20-50% on *Disgraced* at Berkeley Rep, an engrossing and combustible drama that probes the complexity of identity, the place of faith in today's world, and the hidden prejudices still alive in liberal society. Winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize. As a friend of the Graduate Theological Union, you can save 20% (50% if you're under 30!) on the November 18 performance. Just use the code THEOLOGY online and save! Co-sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union and Berkeley Rep.

The Art of Memory: Music, Art, & Literature

Friday, November 20, 2015
CARE's Doug Adams Gallery | 5pm
Featuring a performance by the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble playing an original composition by John MacCallum. Followed by a panel discussion with John MacCallum, guest artist Anne Tait, and Thomas Laqueur, author of *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains*. Co-sponsored by the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion (BCSR) and the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.



LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS

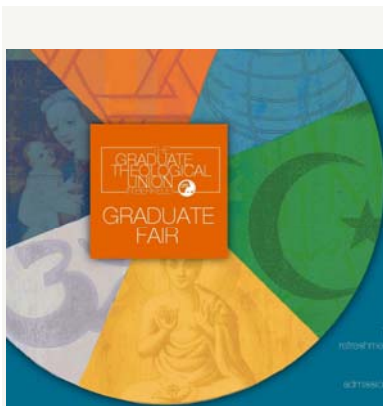
Reminder: We now have a reference librarian available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday, in addition to weekdays. The fall reference desk hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday 10am-4pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 10am-7pm; and Sunday 1-4pm. Additional hours by appointment. You may also contact a librarian by calling (510) 649-2501 or sending an email to Library@gtu.edu.

Our website has recently been updated. Check it out! <http://gtu.edu/library>.

New Library Art Exhibit December 1, 2015

A new art exhibit will be on display in the library beginning December 1. The exhibit will include holy cards, rosaries, holy water, personal reliquaries, a Coptic textile cross, tarot cards, and more. Additional information to come in the December Dean's newsletter.

First Year Doctoral Students: Mark your calendar for January 27, 12:30-2pm for the Mid-Year Orientation and Lunch. We will meet once again in the Dinner Board Room of the GTU Library.



GTU GRADUATE FAIR

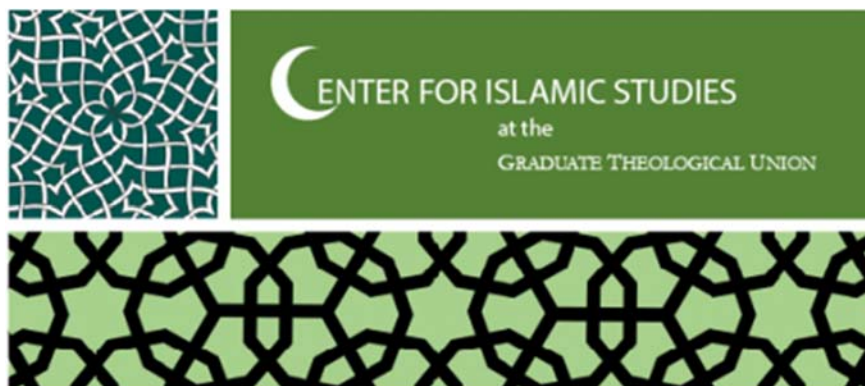
The Graduate Theological Union invites you to our annual Graduate Fair on Sunday, November 8, 2015, from 2:00-4:30pm in the Dinner Board Room at the GTU Library. Learn more about the GTU and its programs through faculty and student panels and discuss program options with Admissions staff. All interested in the Master of Arts programs at the GTU or its member schools are welcome to attend. Current GTU students who bring interested friends will receive a \$10 gift card to Nefeli Café, Menchie's frozen yogurt, or Amazon!



Plan to stay for the whole event, if you're available. There will be faculty and student panels, refreshments, and time for conversation with admissions representatives from the various schools within the GTU consortium. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andrea Sheaffer and the GTU Admissions staff at admissions@gtu.edu.

GTU/HSI EVENT

GTU Dharma Studies will be offering Mindfulness & Other Meditation Methods, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at the Dharma Studies Offices (The Annex Building, 2452 Virginia Street, middle entrance door), with light snacks, starting Wed., November 4th. For more information, please email Professor Rita Sherma (rsherma@gtu.edu) and Professor Purushottama Bilimoria (pbilimoria@gtu.edu) or call (510) 649-2579.



CIS NEWS AND EVENTS

Congratulations to CIS visiting scholar, Dr. Nargis Virani, who has been named Chair of the Committee on the Status of Racial & Ethnic Minorities in the Profession at the American Academy of Religion.

Dr. Nargis Virani is leading an educational and cultural trip to Morocco between Nov 1-9, 2015, and a second one as the Study Leader for Harvard Business School to India between Nov 12-24, 2015. For more details: nalivirani@gmail.com

Congratulations to CIS visiting scholar Carol Bier, who delivered a paper on "Geometry: Drawing from the Islamic Tradition," at an international conference in Catania, Sicily, on "Mathematics Education for the Future" (published in the proceedings). She also gave a talk for students in the cultural heritage program in Friuli at the University of Udine on "Geometric Patterns in Islamic Art." For more info: www.gtu.edu/cis

CIS Lecturer Dr. Som Pourfarzaneh, CJS Director Dr. Naomi Seidman, and CIS Director Dr. Munir Jiwa will be lead a panel discussion following the performance

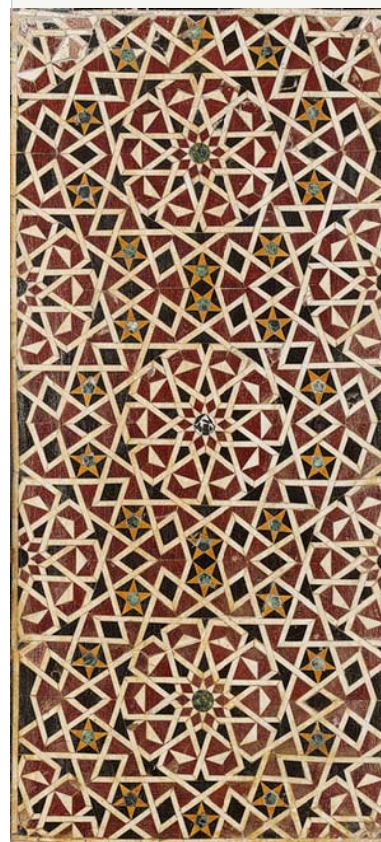
of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Disgraced* at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, in partnership with GTU and CARE. Wednesday, November 18. Contact Christopher Cox for more info: ccox@gtu.edu

CIS Director Dr. Munir Jiwa, will be participating on the Theology and Religious Reflection Section Panel at the AAR on the theme: "Opportunities and Challenges of Teaching Islamic Studies in Theological Seminaries." Saturday, Nov 21, 9am-11:30am, Marriott Marquis M106-107.

Congratulations to Dr. Ahmed Zildzic who has just been named Associate Professor of Islamic Culture and Civilization in the Department for Oriental Philology (Arabic, Persian, Turkish) at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are very grateful to Dr. Zildzic for his service to the CIS as Visiting Scholar and Lecturer, and for directing the Islamic Manuscripts Project at the GTU library (2014-2015).

Job Opportunity with JST-SCU

Lisa Fullam, Associate Professor of Moral Theology at JST-SCU, is looking for a GTU doctoral student to help coordinate events and initiatives associated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science for Seminaries Grant starting in February 2016. Sean Gross, a Ph.D. Candidate in Ethics and Social Theory, presently holds this position. He will assist in facilitating the transition to the role through May 2016. Please contact Lisa Fullam directly at lfullam@jstb.edu with any questions. To apply, email Lisa with a cover letter and current CV.





COFFEE IN LE CONTE

On the second floor of the GTU LeConte building there is a new Keurig coffee machine for student, staff, and faculty use. A team led by Naomi Seidman, Kathleen Kook, Chris Moreland and Wendy Arce came up with this initiative to further improve student quality of life, keep students energized during class, and to encourage more people to use the student lounge on the first floor of the building. Please help our staff by keeping the machine clean.



CHAN PRIZE RECIPIENT

Congratulations to fifth year Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Studies area, Sungrae Kim whose paper entitled, "Two Models of Peace: Peace of Westphalia and Ming Tai-tsu's 'On the Three Teachings'" was selected for the 2015 Chan Prize. Since 1989, the Chan competition's purpose is to reward the thoughtful, creative work of students who are seeking authentically to bring together theological (including ethical, Biblical,

constructive) reflection on the year's topic (which alternates). The topic for 2015 was Identity and Practice Across Boundaries: exploring a particular concept, theme, or practice in two or more religions, e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, etc. (Next year the topic will be Religion and Economics.)

2015-2016 CYCLE #1 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the 2015 AAR/SBL Conferences in Atlanta, GA, and other comparable national conferences (listed in that order). Each has received a Student Travel Grant Award from the GTU Dean's Office.

Richetta Amen "A Womanist Interpretation of the Lukan Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24) Using the Amended Parable Theory of Octavia E. Butler";

Beth Anderson "Christian Spirituality Education Re-Imagined: Piloting a Highlander-Inspired Course";

Jin Sook Kim "Performing Gender and the Death Drive: A Lacanian Interpretation of Gender Practice";

Henry Kuo "The Dangerous Memory of 1965: Immigration Legislation as Asian American Ecclesiological Challenge" and "The Dangerous Memory of Accra: Hope for a Unified Reformed Response to the Ecological Crisis";

Daniel London Responding to two papers "No Thing Outside: Affirming an Interconnected Reality to Reverse Patterns of Violence within Whiteheadian-Girardian Paradigm" and "An Unfathomable God: Mimesis, Apocalypse, and the Process Theology of Catherine Keller";

Daniel Moceri "We Overcome the Wound Together: A Trans-Disciplinary System Approach to Healing Moral Injury";

Mauricio Najarro "Hematological Linguistic and Itinerant Practice: Spirituality and Tradition in Teresa of Avila" and Codependence and Familiar Idolatry: Liberation, Critique, and the Demands of Compassion in Catholic Discourse";

Fanny Abraham "The Ritual Problem in 1 Corinthians 5";

Philip Erwin "The Artist Speaks: Dio Chrysostom's Defense of Images in his Twelfth Oration";

Hyun Ho Park "Minjung in the Sinking of the Sewol Ferry: A Reading of Luke 10:25-42 from Minjung Theology's Perspective" and "Stigmatization, Violence, and the Symbolic World: Death of Stephen, Khmer Rouge Genocide, and April 3rd Jeju Massacre";

Carl Bear "Models for Constructing Liturgical Theologies of Congregational Singing";

Reem Javed "Role Models: A Bridge for Religious Imagining";

Daekyung Jung "Positioning Oneself in Between the Heaven and the Earth: A Korean-Confucian Theological Reflection on Rituals";

Justin Staller "Refining Apocalyptic: Modes of Eschatological Rhetoric in the Revelation of John."

FIFTY YEARS OF CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS: THE GAINS AND THE CHALLENGES WITH FR. JOHN PAWLIKOWSKI

Fifty years have passed since the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the Vatican II statement on interreligious relations that shifted the Catholic Church's perception of its relationship with Judaism and the Jewish People. While not all points of tensions have been removed, the relationship is now viewed through a fundamentally positive lens. The gains of the last half century will be highlighted and the remaining challenges will be discussed at this talk.

Thursday, November 5th 2015 | 12:30pm GTU Dinner Board Room
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94709



NEWHALL APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

The 2016-2017 Newhall Awards (competitive awards for GTU doctoral students engaged in collaborative teaching or research with GTU Faculty mentors) proposals are due in the GTU Dean's Office by **5pm, Friday, November 13**. Complete proposals include the [Newhall Award Application form](#) available on the GTU webpage and must come from the student, and the professor and student for a project involving both. The form contains all guidelines and criteria the Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee use to select award recipients. If you have questions, please contact the GTU Dean's Office (amunoz@gtu.edu or 649-2440).

BERKELEY JOURNAL OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

CALL FOR PAPERS AND CALL FOR STAFF

The Berkeley Journal of Religion and Theology (BJRT) is a new, peer-reviewing journal of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley that is managed by GTU doctoral students under the supervision of the GTU consortial faculty. The mission of the BJRT is to be an international and diverse forum of original, cutting-edge scholarship in religious studies, philosophy, and theology that reflects the GTU's endeavor to be a nexus for "where religion meets the world."

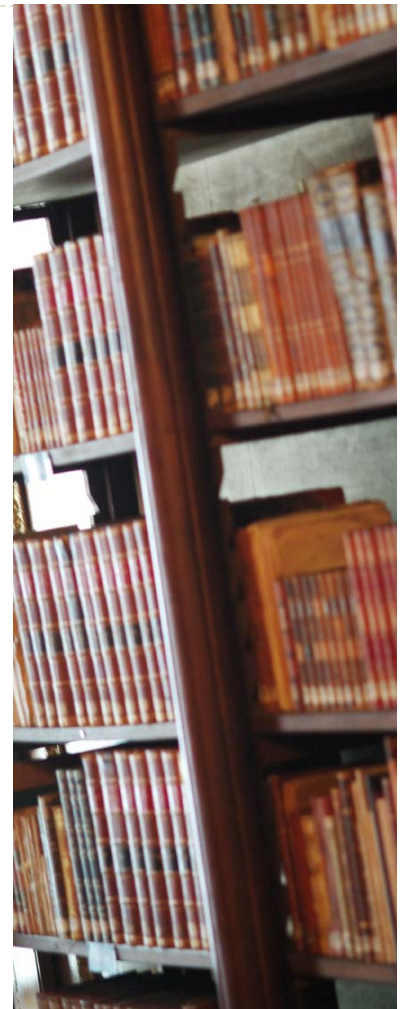
To this end, the editors of the BJRT invite scholars from various backgrounds to submit articles and book reviews for inclusion into the journal. The BJRT strongly encourages creative scholarship that reflects the mission of the BJRT. The deadline for all submissions for the next issue (Vol. 2, no. 1) is **February 1, 2016**. Instructions for Submissions and Style Guide for authors and reviewers are available on the BJRT website (<http://gtubjrt.wix.com/bjrt>). For more information, please e-mail the chief editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.

The editors warmly invite doctoral students from across the GTU consortium (Ph.D. and S.T.D.) to join the journal staff. This is an opportunity to go "behind the scenes" and see how an academic journal works. We hope this will not only be an opportunity for the world to see the fine work being done at the GTU, but also an opportunity for professional development for doctoral students.

The hope is for the staff to be assembled in preparation for peer-review to begin on February 1, 2015, when the first submissions will be due. The following positions are open (# openings):

- Book Review Editor (1)
- Production Editor (1)
- Area Associate Editor (1 per area)
- Associate Editors (Peer Reviewers)
- Faculty Advisory Council*

For more detailed information on the positions and instructions for how to "apply", please visit the BJRT website: <http://gtubjrt.wix.com/bjrt>. Positions will remain open until filled. For more information, please e-mail the editor at bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.



THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the GTU Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events (lectures, conferences) focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students.

Send submissions to
Angela Muñoz,
amunoz@gtu.edu.

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

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2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA
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<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440
Fax: 510-649-1417
E-mail: amunoz@gtu.edu



HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Jeffrey Austin Salzwedel, JST*

* approved with honors

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Jiyoung Ko, SPRT

Oral Comprehensive Exams Passed

Elekosi Lafitaga, BIBL

Abdel Ali, CHSR

Warren Harasz, ART

Diandra Chretien, BIBL

Robert Peach, IDS*

* passed with distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

Dae Kyung Jung, THEO

Meredith Massar Munson, ART

Se Hoon Park, SPRT

Seumaninoa Puaina, BIBL

Stephen Shaver, LITG

Rachel Wheeler, SPRT

JOIN GTU AT THE BERKELEY REP, NOVEMBER 18!

GTU Students: Don't miss your **final chance to order discounted tickets to GTU Night at the Berkeley Rep on Wednesday, November 18**, featuring the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Disgraced*, followed by a panel discussion featuring GTU faculty. Berkeley Rep has reserved a block of excellent seats for GTU students—but **tickets must be reserved through the GTU no later than Wednesday, November 4**. Contact Christopher Cox in the GTU advancement office (ccox@gtu.edu, 510-649-2531) to reserve your spot. Student tickets will be \$15 or less—final price will be determined by the group size. Reserve your ticket today and we'll see you on the 18th!