

# GTU Dean's Newsletter



It is required by the accrediting agencies to do a periodic review of each program we offer. During the last academic year we formed a committee consisting of faculty, students, and staff to do a self-study of the PhD program. We shared the report with the faculty, staff, trustees, and students and received their feedback. Once we finished the report, we invited two external reviewers to assess the doctoral program based on our self-study and their review of data and documents pertinent to the program. Moreover, they were on our campus on September 26<sup>th</sup> to interview the faculty, doctoral students, and staff in order to facilitate their review of our program.

It has been five years since the last time we did a review of the doctoral program and the external reviewers from 2014 opened their report with the following remark:

*The Graduate Theological Union's Doctoral Program is a vital part of the ecology of theological education in the United States. The members of the visiting team believe that a rigorous and high quality doctoral program in the Bay Area is an indispensable contribution both to the region and the nation. The resources of the GTU—faculty size and diversity, library resources, and the interreligious institutes affiliated with the GTU—are remarkable and unparalleled. No joint doctoral program of comparable scope exists anywhere else in the country. Put simply, GTU's doctoral program is a treasure, one deserving of the robust support of its member schools and external donors.*

I am very proud of this description of the GTU's doctoral program, which recognizes the value of our unique contribution to theological education in North America. The program has been supported by generations of scholars, students, staff and donors for almost sixty years, and I am hopeful that it will continue to shape, inspire and empower theological thinkers and doers who will make transformative impacts on countless communities and individuals and positive differences for the common good for generations to come.

In the 2014 report, while affirming the value and success of the GTU doctoral program, the external reviewers also identified serious issues with the program, which are well-known in the GTU community. Although several fundamental challenges remain, I am confident that in the past five years we addressed some of the issues highlighted in the 2014 report. We need to wait about two weeks before we receive the 2019 report, but I am certain that they will agree that our PhD program is in a better shape and the GTU is in a better position than in 2014.



Uriah Y. Kim, PhD.  
 GTU Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
 John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies



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# You are invited!

Celebrate the Inauguration of **President Daniel L. Lehmann**



All GTU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends  
are invited to join in celebrating the inauguration of  
**RABBI DANIEL L. LEHMANN**  
Eighth President of the Graduate Theological Union

**Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 5:30 pm**

International House at University of California, Berkeley  
2299 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley  
Reception to follow

**For more information:**  
[gtu.edu/inauguration2019](http://gtu.edu/inauguration2019)



**Register online at:**  
[gtu.edu/inauguration-registration](http://gtu.edu/inauguration-registration)

# From the Associate Dean of Students

## Scholarship Opportunities

### 2019-2020 Bernard Osher Scholarship Fund

We are now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 Bernard Osher Scholarship fund! These tuition-restricted scholarships are designed to support doctoral students who have financial need, show academic promise and are committed to their doctoral studies. Students must apply for GTU Financial Aid prior to October 10<sup>th</sup> in order to be eligible. Students must also fill out the online application form, submit a cover letter and CV. For more information and details on how to apply, visit:

<https://forms.gle/1KqwLqNib3n5yZ7e8>. **The application deadline is Tuesday, October 15th at 11:59pm.** Contact the Associate Dean ([warce@gtu.edu](mailto:warce@gtu.edu)).

### 2020 Ida J. Thornton and the Distinguished Scholars Fund Tuition Scholarship

This year we will grant \$2000 awards to five doctoral students who enroll in our pilot course (RA-4190, Embodied Ecofeminism and the Arts) offered in partnership between the Center for Arts and Religion and the Holy Women Icons Project on the Big Island of Hawai'i. This \$2000 tuition restricted award will be applied to the recipients' Spring 2020 tuition costs if they enroll and participate in the week long January intersession course. Recipients must pay for their own transportation to the Big Island of Hawai'i and the \$1000 cost of shared lodging and all meals. Please note that the cost of airfare, lodging and food will be factored into the recipients' cost of attendance for their financial aid package. Students must apply for GTU Financial Aid prior to October 10<sup>th</sup> in order to be eligible and must contact the financial aid office if they would like their cost of attendance adjusted accordingly. Students must also fill out the online application form, submit a cover letter and CV. For more information and details on how to apply, visit:

<https://forms.gle/9WWfBRnYVqv6chGz5>. **The application deadline is Tuesday, October 15th at 11:59pm.** Contact the Associate Dean ([warce@gtu.edu](mailto:warce@gtu.edu)).

### Grants for Interreligious Engagement

Promoting GTU's commitment for interreligious scholarship and for translating "scholarship into solutions with impact," we invite teams of two (the team members should be from two different religious backgrounds and one of the team members needs to be from a Christian background) to apply for grants that will enable the team to create workshops on interreligious engagement. In this pilot program, the selected teams will work in partnership with a church in Lafayette, CA and redesign its programs for children from pre-school to 5th grade to provide access to the broader community as they encourage and foster a degree of spirituality or religious sensitivity. These grants are open to both GTU MA and PhD students. The total amount per workshop is \$1000 (split between each team member). The grant total will depend on how many workshops the team creates. **Applications are due by 5pm on Thursday, October 10, 2019.** For more information and to apply, visit: <https://forms.gle/27Fipw9sYXSEnzaEA>.

# From the Associate Dean of Students, Continued

## Doctoral Community Lunch

**October 16th at 11:45am-12:45pm**  
**GTU Library, Dinner Board Room**

All doctoral students and faculty are encouraged to come together for lunch before the Department Colloquia and faculty meetings. Please join us! This lunch is hosted by the GTU Dean's Office and the Student Advisory Committee.

## Doctoral Student Forum Hosted by the Student Advisory Committee

**Save the Date!** Please just us for the Fall Doctoral Student forum (with Pizza!) on **Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>** from 12:30-2pm in the GTU Student Lounge. The topic is still to be determined.

## Brown Bag Lunch with the GTU President!

Come and get to know President Danny Lehmann during our information Brown Bag Lunches! Please bring your lunch and join Danny for informal conversations in the President's Office on the following **Wednesdays at 12:30pm: October 23, November 20, and December 18.**

## Public Talks by Candidates for the Director of Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

**"Establishing the Interreligious  
Chaplaincy Program at the GTU:  
Opportunities and Challenges"**

**October 23** (Wednesday)

**October 28th and November 11th**  
(Mondays)

## Proofreaders Wanted

We are looking for proofreaders who have:

- Experience and success with editing papers or publications;
- Knowledge about criteria for successful academic writing;
- Good written English communication skills;
- Ability to communicate suggested edits clearly, orally and in writing.

The primary purpose of this position is to provide proof reading services of academic papers for international students in the GTU PhD program, for Research Readiness Review (RRR) and to meet requirements during the "coursework" phase of the doctoral program, and the wage is \$ 15.59 per hour. For more details, please contact the Director of Student Life, Chaitanya Motupalli: [cmotupali@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupali@gtu.edu)

## GTU Alumni Reception @ 2019 AAR National Meeting

**ANNUAL MEETINGS 2019**

November 23-26

**AAR**



## GTU Alumni Reception

**OMNI SAN DIEGO HOTEL**  
**Grand Ballroom C (Fourth Level)**

**Sat Nov. 23, 2019**  
**7:00 PM-10:00 PM**

# Women's Studies In Religion (WSR) Presents:

## Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems, PhD

Renowned biblical scholar, author, academic administrator, ordained minister, and womanist wisdom griot will be in the Bay Area and we are honored that Dr. Weems agreed to gather for a reflective conversation with GTU female students as well as community practitioners in ministry. JOIN US for this insightful and rare opportunity!



### Monday, October 14, 2019

Reception at 6 PM

Remarks at 6:45-8 PM

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

**REGISTRATION:** Please RSVP to free event!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rev-dr-renita-j-weems-phd-speaks-at-graduate-theological-union-tickets-73315469543>

**Special Thanks** to Dr. Uriah Kim, GTU Dean & Vice President, Academic Affairs and to GTU Consortial Co-SPONSORS: Women's Studies in Religion (WSR), American Baptist Seminary (ABSW) and WOCIM/RISE Network Mentorship Grant, Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley (SCU/JSTB), Pacific School of Religion (PSR), Pacific Lutheran Theological School (CL/PLTS), Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM), and Center for Black Church Studies at SFTS / Univ. of Redlands, Professor Yolanda Norton, Eugene Farlough Chair.

## New Religious Movements Conference

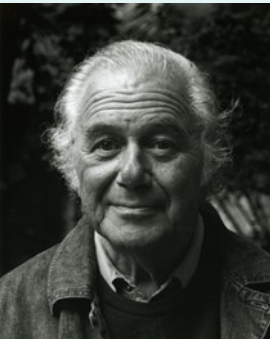
### Andrea Jain, Keynote Speaker on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

#### “New Religions @ the GTU: Theories, Practices, Peoples”

Students and faculty of the New Religious Movements concentration at the GTU will host “*New Religions @ the GTU: Theories, Practices, Peoples.*” Speakers will explore themes including but not limited to: innovation and creativity within established traditions; authority and authenticity in new religions, appropriation as a transcultural practice and its criticisms; the encounter between new religions and science; and new religions in the post secular age.



**Dr. Andrea Jain**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and author of *Selling Yoga: From Counter-culture to Pop Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2014) will deliver the keynote address.



A reception honoring **Dr. Jacob Needleman**, Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University and former Director of the Center for the Study of New Religions at the GTU (1977-1983), will follow.

## Wednesday, October 30, 2019

### 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

**Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library**  
 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley  
**Reception to follow**

# The Graduate Theological Union Presents The 44th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture:

**"Liberal Inclusion or Liberal Conversion? Islamophilia, Islamophobia, and Islamic Studies in Interreligious Contexts"**



**Dr. Munir Jiwa**, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Anthropology and Founding Director of the Center for Islamic Studies (CIS) will be this year's Distinguished Faculty speaker.

**Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake**, Visiting Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Social Transformation at Pacific School of Religion (PSR), will be the respondent.



**Public reception immediately following the lecture will be held at the Badè Museum, Pacific School of Religion (located directly across the courtyard)**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019 | 6:30 PM**

**Pacific School of Religion, Chapel of the Great Commission  
1798 Scenic Ave (at LeConte ), Berkeley**

**Reception to follow at PSR's Badè Museum**

# Library News & Workshops

## GTU LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE—October 8th

All are invited to the library's annual mega book sale on **Tuesday, October 8** (not October 1 as previously advertised) from **10am to 3pm in the plaza in front of the library**. There will be thousands of books for sale at rock bottom prices (hardbacks \$2, paperbacks \$1). Light refreshments will be served. In case of rain, the sale will moved to the Collaborative Learning Space (CLS).

### ALTA DIGITAL LIBRARY

The GTU library recently joined the Atla Digital Library. The participation provides metadata and links to our different content platforms, an easy way to access the different collections that are online. We join over forty other institutions who are members of Atla (American Theological Library Association). See their welcoming blog: <https://www.atla.com/blog/digitallibrary-gtu>.

### OCTOBER WORKSHOPS:

#### Finding Primary Sources

Learn about the primary sources for biblical and theological research and how to access them in both print and digital formats.

<u>Thursday, Oct 3rd</u>	<u>10am in CLS</u>
<u>Tuesday, Oct 8th</u>	<u>2pm in in Zoom</u>

#### Doing Library Research from a Distance

Are you away from your library, but want to do research? Learn about options for electronic sources and print near you.

<u>Wednesday, Oct 2nd</u>	<u>10am in Zoom</u>
<u>Thursday, Oct 10th</u>	<u>10am in CLS</u>

## Digital Learning – Workshops

The Digital Learning Department is offering a series of course design workshops this Fall. These workshops are for those interested in learning more about pedagogical methods for course development along with using Moodle for teaching both in-class and online courses. **RSVP for online courses to Diandra Erickson [derickson@gtu.edu](mailto:derickson@gtu.edu)**, Director of Digital Learning, who will you send the Zoom login info.

- **Developing Student Learning Outcomes**  
Wed. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2:30-3:30pm  
Thurs. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Syllabus Design for Online Learning**  
Wed. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30pm  
Thurs. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Designing Engaging Online Presentations and Lectures**  
Wed. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30pm  
Thur. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Collaborative Learning with Moodle and Voicethread**  
Wed. Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30pm  
Thur. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Assignments and Assessment with Rubrics and Moodle's Gradebook**  
Wed. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30pm  
Thur. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via zoom)
- **How to Teach an Intro Course: Strategies for In-class and Online Intro Courses**  
Wed. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm-3:30pm  
Thur. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)



# The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

## October Events | *PSR and GTU Campus Events*

### 1 October 2019: **CLGS Lavender Lunch with Steven Colbrook**

After the “Straight State”: Sexuality and Social Reform During California’s HIV/AIDS Crisis  
 12:00 noon to 1:15pm | Small Dining Room, PSR’s D’Autremont Hall

### 3 October 2019: **CLGS Jewish Roundtable Queeries Series**

Daniel Boyarin, PhD, Professor of Talmudic Culture, Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Rhetoric, UC Berkeley  
 6:30pm | PSR’s Badè Museum

### 10 October 2019: **The 10th Annual CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecture**

**Bishop Yvette Flunder**, Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries: Embracing Eros as People of Faith: Creating an Intimacy-based Theology and Practice  
 6:30pm | PSR’s Chapel of the Great Commission

### 15 October 2019 (to 28 February 20): **CLGS Metropolitan Church Community Exhibition**

GTU Library Gallery

*The Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion*  
 2019 CLGS Georgia Harkness Lecture

EMBRACING EROS AS  
PEOPLE OF FAITH:  
CREATING AN INTIMACY-BASED  
THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE


*with* **BISHOP YVETTE FLUNDER**


THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2019 | 6:30 PM

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION CHAPEL

1798 SCENIC AVENUE, BERKELEY, CA 94709

*Reception to follow in the Badè Museum*





CENTER FOR  
LGBTQ and Gender  
Studies in Religion (CLGS)

[www.clgs.org](http://www.clgs.org)

## Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

**Unless otherwise noted, all CARE events take place in the Doug Adams Gallery, located on the first floor of 2465 LeConte Ave., Berkeley CA:**

### **Visualizing Kabbalist Gestures: Ego Schiele, Max Oppenheimer and the Language of the Viennese Jewish Body with Dr. Nathan J. Timpano**

Wednesday, October 2 at 5-7pm

In this lecture, Timpano argues that the unique hand/figure gestures that appear in portraits by Oppenheimer and Schiele convey a secret, yet knowable, visual sign language that connected Jewish and non-Jewish artists with Jewish patrons. In other words, imagining the Nesi'at Kapayim created an implicit "insider's" language between artist and benefactor.

Dr. Nathan J. Timpano is Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Head of Art History at the University of Miami (UM).

### **Women's Studies in Religion Art & Discussion Group: Friday, October 11 at 12:30-2pm**

The GTU Women's Studies in Religion program is hosting a series that will involve art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjöholm. No art experience/skill whatsoever required! Registration is limited to 10 participants. To register, please email <mailto:wsr@ses.gtu.edu>

### **The Art of Butoh**

The Center for the Arts & Religion is partnering with Cal Performances to bring the GTU a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the performing arts. This October, don't miss the opportunity to see Sankai Juku's seminal *Meguri: Teeming Sea, Tranquil Land* and take part in discussion and workshops on the art of butoh dance.

Butoh Body Laboratory: Saturday, October 12 at 10am-12pm (This event is sold out.)

Oscillating Time: Environment and Temporality in Sankai Juku's Butoh: Saturday, October 12 at 11am (This event is sold out.)

Meguri: Teeming Sea, Tranquil Land Saturday, October 12 at 8pm — Location: Zellerbach Hall

Performed by Sankai Juku

A majestic stone wall carved with fossils of sea lilies overlooks a sand-dusted stage, where eight dancers from this internationally renowned butoh company

enter into a sublime dialogue with gravity. *Meguri* is a meditative visual poem by Ushio Amagatsu, Sankai Juku's acclaimed artistic director, that reflects on the passage of time through imagery and movement inspired by the ebb and flow of water, and the cycle of the earth's seasons. "At its core, each Sankai Juku production draws the audience together with the performers into a powerful human experience" (The Seattle Times).

Catharsis Café

Saturday, October 12 at 10pm — Location: Zellerbach Hall

Join CARE for a post-performance reception and discussion with fellow audience members.

### **Second Sundays in the Gallery**

Sunday, October 13 at 1-4pm

The Doug Adams Gallery will be open each Second Sunday of the month. Explore the current exhibition, *Beyond Words: Art Inspired by Sacred Texts*, and chat with the curator about the work on display!

### **Third Thursdays at BAMPFA**

Thursday, October 17 at 4pm — Location: BAMPFA

Every Third Thursday of the month, gather in the lobby of the Berkeley Art Museum and Film Archive to receive complimentary museum admission and to hear a short lecture on a current exhibition by GTU staff, faculty and students.

Our first talk of the semester will be led by Rev. Keyona Saquile Lazenby (Pacific School of Religion) on the exhibition "The San Quentin Project: Nigel Poor and the Men of San Quentin State Prison". Keyona, the founder of Blessed Is, received her Masters of Social Transformation from PSR. She is currently an adjunct faculty member of Patten University's College Program at San Quentin State Prison.

### **Artists' Panel and Book Release**

Sunday, October 27 at 5-7pm

Join CARE for the release of our exhibition catalogue, *Beyond Words: Art Inspired by Sacred Texts*! This beautiful catalogue features high quality pictures from our current exhibition as well as five essays by GTU students and faculty.

To celebrate, three of the artists whose work is featured in the exhibition will be joining us for a panel discussion. Come meet the artists in person and hear more about their artists processes.

## Center for Islamic Studies (CIS)

CIS Research Scholar **Carol Bier** and CIS Director **Munir Jiwa** will be hosting several conversations throughout the semester on Art, Identity and Belonging reflecting on current exhibitions at the Doug Adams Gallery, the Bade Museum, and Zaytuna College. Please see our website for more details:

[www.gtu.edu/centers/cis](http://www.gtu.edu/centers/cis)

CIS is delighted to share that **May Kosba**, GTU PhD student and Newhall Fellow, will be facilitating conversations on Religion and Critical Race Theory as part of her class this semester and in partnership with the 1619 project at UCB. Please see our website for more details:

[www.gtu.edu/centers/cis](http://www.gtu.edu/centers/cis)

Congratulations! **Carol Bier's** paper, "The Aleppo Minbar: Symmetry and Islamic Aesthetics" for the International Symmetry Congress, has been accepted for publication in the Japanese journal, *Forma* (Society for Science on Form). [www.scipress.org/journals/forma/](http://www.scipress.org/journals/forma/)

Congratulations to CIS MA student **Huzaifa Shahbaz** who is working with Our Three Winners, facilitating programs with the Haas Institute and the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at UCB.

## Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology (DSPT) Opening Reception for "Putting On Christ"



**DSPT Galleria**  
2301 Vine Street, Berkeley  
**Sunday, Oct 6 at 3-5 PM**

For more information, please contact Chris Renz ([crenz@dspt.edu](mailto:crenz@dspt.edu)).

# Honorable Mentions

## MA/MABL

Warren A. Gilchrist, CIS, *Honors*

Bran Stigile-Wright, HCSR

Kyoungdeuk Min, SATX

## Advanced To Candidacy

Kathryn, LeFranc, THEO

Shin Young Park, THEO

Pasesa Sapolu, SATX

Eric Sias, SATX

## Dissertation Successfully Defended

Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, IDS

Justin Lipscomb, IDS

Yong Yeon Hwang, IDS

Mauricio Najarro, SPRT



Graduate  
Theological  
Union

### **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:  
Melissa Haddick, mhaddick@gtu.edu

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