

GTU Dean's Newsletter



I am nowhere near being a gardener. From time to time, I lend a hand to my wife who is the de facto green-thumbed gardener of our house. I like watering the flowers growing all around our small parcel of land and trimming the plants that the original owners had planted. We have yet to use the sprinklers that came with the house despite some neighbors already using them after the seven-year drought ended in California last year. Both the backyard and lawn used to be covered in green, but now have patches of light brown grasses. And, there *it* is, bright and yellow, all alone and high above the humbled grasses. My wife instructs me to take out the entire root when I pull the dandelion. I know I have to follow her command, but I hesitate. I told her several times about how the late

Korean American theologian Jung Young Lee compared Korean Americans to the dandelion in his book *Marginality: The Key to Multicultural Theology*. For three pages, Lee tells a modern-day fable for all Americans, not just immigrants, in which the dandelion maintains its beauty and dignity, surviving repeated attempts to remove it by those who wish to keep the lawn with neatly trimmed green grasses. I remind her, but she insists, and I reluctantly pluck the dandelion. My dandelion ends up in the compost bin, but Lee takes his inside and puts it in a cup filled with water. Once its head turns white, he takes it outside and blows on it. He then says, "Let them live; let them live anywhere they want. It is God's world, and they are God's creatures."

An article entitled "The Life and Death of the American Lawn" appeared in *The Atlantic* as a eulogy of sorts to the idea that manicured lawns shaped the national landscape as well as the American identity – but now outlived their purpose. We live in a new era, the article said. "Maybe the yard of the future will feature wildflowers and native grasses and succulent greenery, all jumbled together in assuring asymmetry. Maybe we will come to find all that chaos beautiful. Maybe we will come to shape our little slices of land, if we're lucky enough to have them, in a way that pays tribute to the America that once was, rather than the one we once willed."

I hope my wife allows dandelions to grow in our yard someday. I hope our yard will be as diverse as the American people.



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



Register online at:
gtu.edu/inauguration-registration

From the Associate Dean of Students

Outstanding Dissertation Award from 2018-2019

Congratulations, Sukhun Huh!

Sukhun Huh, Systematic and Philosophical Theology won the 2018-2019 Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award for his proposal entitled “A Theology of the Event: A Dialectical Understanding of the Collective Event in Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Alain Badiou.”

Modern Language Exam

Wednesday, September 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered Wednesday, September 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in the Dinner Board Room in the GTU Library. The exam will be offered in French, German, and Spanish, and in Italian and Modern Hebrew if there is interest. Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need student’s help to secure the examiner.

Please register with Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator (ftompson@gtu.edu or 510-649-2461) no later than September 11.

Thesis/Dissertation Filing Deadline for Fall Graduation

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

The deadline to file completed and approved copies of theses and dissertations for the Fall 2019 graduates is October 1st. This is also the deadline for certificate requests for CJS and CIS certificate students.

Orientation to Doctoral Council and the Dissertation Proposal

Wednesday, September 18, 11:00am–12:00pm, Student Lounge, 2465 LeConte Ave.

If you are planning to propose your dissertation in 2019-2020, you are strongly encouraged to attend this event led by Associate Dean of Students Wendy Arce. We will hold an additional session in early spring 2020. Contact Wendy Arce at warce@gtu.edu with questions.

GTU Dean's Office—You are invited!

All members of the
GTU Consortial Community, new MA and Doctoral Students
are invited to the **GTU Welcome Reception!**

Wednesday, September 11 at 4:00 PM

GTU Library, Richard S. Dinner Boardroom, 3rd Floor

2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley



Refreshments provided! Vegan and vegetarian options available!

At 4:30pm, there will be a brief program introducing
new faculty and visiting scholars. Join us!

GTU Diversity—You are invited!

A Welcome Reception

for Students, Faculty and Staff of Color,
and International Students, Faculty and Staff



Wednesday, September 18 at 4:30 PM

Badè Museum, PSR

1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

This event is hosted by the GTU consortium Students Affairs office.

For more information, contact Chaitanya Motupalli, GTU Director of Student Life,
cmotupalli@gtu.edu

The Graduate Theological Union Cordially Invites You to:

A Spiritual Journey toward a Theology of Dao

Public Lecture by **Dr. Heup Young Kim**

Distinguished Asian Theologian in Residence at GTU



Heup Young Kim will reflect on his spiritual journey that has led him to formulating a theology of dao. He argues that East Asian theological perspectives, as an antidote to Western modes of thinking, can present an alternative hermeneutic to the dualism inherited from Greek philosophy that still prevails in Western theologies. In and through deep Confucian-Daoist-Christian dialogue, Kim proposes a theological paradigm which can not only encompass these disparate traditions but also move beyond them into more fruitful theological, scientific, and ecological areas of reflection.

Heup Young Kim (GTU PhD, 1992) is the Distinguished Asian Theologian in Residence at the GTU in Fall 2019. He is Professor Emeritus of Theology at Kangnam University and President of Korea Forum for Science and Life, South Korea. He has published extensively in the area of East Asian constructive theology, interreligious dialogue, religion and science, and ecology, including *Wang Yang-ming and Karl Barth: A Confucian-Christian Dialogue*, *Christ and the Tao*, and a *Theology of Dao*.

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 | 4 PM

Free and open to the public

GTU Library | Richard S. Dinner Boardroom

2400 Ridge Road | Berkeley, CA 94709

Student Awards—Due Dates

Student Travel Grants

DUE: Monday, September 16, 2019 by 5 PM

Students who have papers accepted for the program of the Annual Meeting of the AAR, SBL, or other comparable national meeting or conference may compete in the GTU's Student Travel Grant competition. Winners are given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award. For the first cycle, applications are due by Monday, September 16, 2019 (and on February 17, 2020 for the second cycle).

For more information and to access the online application form, see: www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants

Chan Essay Prize

DUE: Monday, September 16, 2019 by 5 PM

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

Submissions are due in the GTU Dean's Office **no later than 5PM on Monday, September 16, 2019**. Email submissions can be sent to: mhaddick@gtu.edu (Melissa Haddick, Executive Assistant to the Dean's Office). For more information, see: www.gtu.edu/chan-essay-prize

Newhall Fellowship

DUE: Friday, November 8, 2019 by 5 PM

Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students in collaborative teaching or research with faculty mentors in the belief that such collaborative work would contribute to the professional development of the students and the mission of the GTU. Newhall awards offer a wonderful opportunity to work closely with professors whose interests and approaches parallel the student's on projects that often would not be possible under other circumstances. The Newhall applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching).

Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office no later than Friday, November 8, 2019.

For more information on the Newhall Fellowship and how to apply, go to:
www.gtu.edu/newhall-fellowship

Library News

GTU Library Annual Book Sale—Tuesday, October 1st

In honor of St. Jerome, patron saint of librarians (Feast day September 30), the GTU library will hold its annual voluminous book sale from **10am-3pm** on the patio in front of the library. Come mingle with fellow students and check out the myriad of books that will be for sale at rock bottom prices sure to fit every student's budget. You might just find that diamond in the rough! Hardcover \$2, paperbacks \$1. Light refreshments will be served. In case of rain, the sale will be moved indoors.

We hope to see you there!

Library Lockers

All consortial students can check out a free locker. Located on the lower level of the library behind the stairs, the lockers are great for storing items while you go to lunch, or for storing your checked-out books. PhD students can check out a locker for the academic year; all other students can check out a locker for a semester at a time.

To reserve a locker, stop by the Circulation Desk.

Group Study Rooms and Digital Learning Lab

We have three reservable spaces for students, faculty or students. The two group study rooms located on the lower level of the library are equipped with big screens with built-in computers, webcams, and whiteboards, so you can work together with colleagues. Seminar A seats 5 people, and Seminar B seats 12 people. The Digital Learning Lab is an editing studio featuring the Adobe creative software including Photoshop, Premier, Illustrator, and Acrobat Pro.

Reserve online in two-hour blocks at: www.gtu.edu/library/policies/reservations

Library Workshops For September

Descriptions and full listings of workshops available at <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-workshops> All workshops are free and open to all.

In-person workshops will be taught in the Collaborative Learning Space (CLS) and online workshops in Zoom; use meeting ID number 510-649-2501.

No RSVP required.

Zotero

A recording of the Zotero workshop is also on the Workshops page.

Thursday Sept 5th	10am
Friday Sept 6th	10am
Monday Sept 9th	2pm
Tuesday Sept 10th	2pm
Wed. Sept 11th	1:30pm
Thursday Sept 19th	10am
Friday Sept 20th	10am
Tuesday Sept 24th	10am

Make-up Orientation Sessions

New students needing a Student ID should come at 12:45pm. *Note: You don't need an ID card to use online library resources; simply login with your Student ID number.*

Tuesday Sept 3rd	12:45pm ID cards; 1pm Orientation
Thursday Sept 12th	10am in Zoom
Friday Sept 13th	12:45pm ID cards; 1pm Orientation

Bridging the Research Gap (Designed for faculty or future faculty)

Friday Sept 13th	10am in CLS
Monday Sept 16th	10am in Zoom

Biblical Exegesis:

Wednesday Sept 25th	2pm in CLS
Thursday Sept 26th	10am in Zoom

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, Director of Digital Learning, who will you send the Zoom login info.

- **An Overview of Moodle: Design, Flow, and Function**
 Wed, Sept. 11th 2:30-3:30pm
 Thurs, Sept. 12th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Developing Student Learning Outcomes**
 Wed. Oct. 2nd 2:30-3:30pm
 Thurs. Oct. 3rd 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Syllabus Design for Online Learning**
 Wed. Oct. 9th 2:30-3:30pm
 Thurs. Oct. 10th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Designing Engaging Online Presentations and Lectures**
 Wed. Oct. 30th 2:30-3:30pm
 Thur. Oct. 31st 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Collaborative Learning with Moodle and Voicethread**
 Wed. Nov. 6th 2:30-3:30pm
 Thur. Nov. 7th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)
- **Assignments and Assessment with Rubrics and Moodle’s Gradebook**
 Wed. Nov. 13th 2:30-3:30pm
 Thur. Nov. 14th 1:30-2:30pm (online via zoom)
- **How to Teach an Intro Course: Strategies for In-class and Online Intro Courses**
 Wed. Dec. 4th 2:30pm-3:30pm
 Thur. Dec. 5th 1:30-2:30pm (online via Zoom)

Center for the Arts & Religion Events

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

- **Beyond Words Opening Reception | Thursday, September 5 | 5-7PM**
 Our Fall 2019 exhibition *Beyond Words: Art inspired by sacred texts* opens on Thursday, September 5! Please join us in the gallery from 5-7PM to celebrate the opening of this show. This exhibition runs from September 5 – December 13, 2019. Gallery hours: T, W, Th | 10am-3pm & the second Sunday of each month | 1-4pm.
- **Brown Bag Lunch | September 6 | 12-1PM**
 CARE's Brown Bag Lunch Series features presentations by recent CARE/GTU grant recipients, students, faculty, and staff. These are informal presentations, so please bring your sack lunch! Free & open to the public. In our first Brown Bag Lunch of the semester, Jesuit School of Theology MA student Briana Deutsch will talk to us about her recent fieldwork in Guatemala.
- **CANCELLED EVENT—Playing the Part: Masks & the Performance of Identity in Iron Age Cyprus, September 12, 5-7PM**
 Join CARE for our annual Dillenberger Lecture with guest speaker Dr. Erin Walcek Averett, Associate Professor of Archaeology at Creighton University, NE. Dr. Walcek Averett will reevaluate the evidence for masking rituals in Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Cyprus through close analysis of archaeological contexts to reconstruct masked performances. Reception to follow in the LeConte Student Lounge, directly outside the Doug Adams Gallery.
- **Art & Discussion Group | September 13 | 12:30-2PM**
 The GTU Women's Studies in Religion program is hosting a series involving art-making and discussion, led by skilled facilitator, Karen Sjöholm. No art experience/skill required! The focus is on finding balance in our busy lives and forming community with other students. All are welcome, regardless of gender identity or expression. Each session will feature a different theme and a different creative project. Registration is limited to 10 participants. Please register by emailing wsr@ses.gtu.edu
- **Words Beyond Words: Poetry inspired by sacred texts | September 17 & September 26 | 5-7PM**
 This two-part poetry series engages with our Fall 2019 exhibition, *Beyond Words*. Part One, taking place on Tuesday, September 17, will be an evening of poetry and discussion with Irish poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama. Part Two brings CARE board member and poet-in-residence Rev. Nate Klug back to the gallery on Thursday, September 26. Nate will be leading a group poetry reading of 5 poets, all involved in discussion of sacred texts.
- **Prayer-tivity Workshop with Cantor Sharon Bernstein | September 19 | 5-7PM**
 Unleash the power of your creative process in understanding, experiencing, and practicing prayer. Those of us who pray often do so within a certain established context, with traditional words that are familiar and comforting, and can perhaps become a little static. In this workshop, using a blend of the practical and the fanciful, we will explore methods for using text study, the arts, and our creative selves to enhance the ways in which in which we understand, experience, and teach prayer.

 This workshop is led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, San Francisco.
- **ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders | September 21 & 22 | 7:30-10:30PM & 1:30-5:30PM**
Held in the Pacific School of Religion Chapel

 CARE is pleased to announce ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders, a world music festival celebrating a global diversity of sacred music. The festival premieres with a concert on Saturday, September 21, from 7:30-10PM. On Sunday, September 22, from 1-5:30PM will be a free Community Music Day featuring participatory workshops for the whole family! Both events will take place on the grounds of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Tickets are on sale now: <http://resonation.eventbrite.com/>

“ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders”

GTU Special Event—September 21-22, 2019

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Buy online at resonation.eventbrite.com—*Seating is limited, get your tickets early!*

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce *ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders*, a sacred world music festival presenting music that celebrates and heals the human spirit, transcends borders, and engages the whole person and wider community.

ResoNation: Sacred Sounds Beyond Borders features an evening concert **Saturday, September 21** in the **Pacific School of Religion (PSR) Chapel**, and a free community music day for all ages on the **PSR campus Sunday, September 22**. For more info, see: gtu.edu/events/resonation-sacred-sounds-beyond-borders

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:30-10:00PM

Featured artists include:

Miriam Peretz and the **Qadim Ensemble**, Piyutim from the Eastern Diaspora

Mahsa Vahdat and Atabak Elyasi, original Iranian sounds inspired by the poet **Rumi**

Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble, mystical songs from Eastern Europe

Parvathy Baul, Baul traditional music, influenced by Sahajiya Buddhism, Turkish Sufism and Bengali Hinduism

Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir, African American roots music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 | 1:00-5:30PM

Participatory workshop sessions with:

Linda Tillery

Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

Threshold Choir

Nigun Collective

Dr. Yolanda Norton | **Beyonce Mass**

Catherine Braslavsky | **Hildegard von Bingen**

Rev. Ann Jefferson | Gospel

Mahsa Vahdat

Miriam Peretz

And more!



Center for Dharma Studies

- **Congratulations to Pravina Rodrigues, Laura M. Dunn, and Zipei Tang**, who were awarded an Interreligious Collaborative Research Project titled “Yoga as Healing for Sexual Trauma” 2019. Results of the study will soon be posted on www.yoga-heals.org.
- **Congratulations to Cogen Bohanec**, PhD candidate, who will be teaching a “Research Sanskrit” course this fall for the Center of Dharma Studies. This course will provide intermediate lessons in Sanskrit grammar, language and working vocabulary, enabling students to manage aspects of Sanskrit philology. While learning grammar in all its complexities, student will also read passages from certain primary texts.
- **Congratulations to Pravina Rodrigues**, PhD candidate, who will be teaching a Newhall Course this fall titled “Christian God, Hindu God: The Architecture of Hindu-Christian Systematic Theology.” This course will study basic Catholic/Christian doctrines while juxtaposing them against similar looking themes in the Hindu theological tradition. Students will study the Christian God versus the Hindu Brahman, Hindu avatara or incarnation theology versus Christology, the Christian concept of sin against the Hindu concept of avidya/moksha (existential ignorance/liberation), the Holy Spirit versus Shakti, and so forth.
- **Congratulations to Laura Dunn** for recently completing an interreligious collaborative grant project with Pravina Rodrigues and Zipei Tang on Spiritually Informed Trauma based Yoga. She has been appointed as an undergraduate lecturer for the University of Hawaii’s Windward Community College for the 2019-20 academic year, in addition to teaching a graduate seminar this fall for the Center of Dharma Studies titled “Yoga Studies Foundations Embodied Spirituality: The Living Traditions of Hindu Yoga” and an online course for the GTU’s online graduate certificate program in the spring. She is also continuing her service to the American Academy of Religion, sitting on the steering committee for the exploratory unit, “Critical Studies on Asceticism,” which presents a panel for the second time this November in San Diego.
- **Congratulations to Rachelle Syed** for formally launching the interfaith art exhibition project titled "Drawing the Soul Towards Truth: Muslim and Hindu Sacred Geometry," in partnership with the Center for the Arts and Religion, with the August release of the call for artists. Rachelle was an attending delegate to the International Conference on Cohesive Societies in Singapore from June 18-21, 2019. A reflection on this event was written about for the GTU Voices blog [here](#).
- **Congratulations to Adriel P. Ramirez**, Master’s Degree in Hindu Studies student at the GTU, who has been chosen as the D’Arpino Essay Contest winner for his paper, “Be Loved and Love: The Nature of the Divine-Human Relationship.” The composition highlights various dimensions of love coming from Divinity with respect to the Caitanya School of Kṛṣṇa bhakti. The school proposes that elements of the Divine-human relationship reflect relationships within our world as illuminated by the natural sciences. Analysis of these relationships and demonstration of what is most valued to our world is undertaken. Assimilation of Divinity’s love for all beings and the value of love by souls of this world provide a connection that sheds light on the nature of the Divine-human relationship to be one of love. Many thanks to Emilio (Chick) D’Arpino for the idea for and financial support of this prize.
- **Congratulations to Krish Ramakrishnan** for admission to the CPE-Fellowship training program at Stanford Medical Center.

CTNS Event

"Recalibrating Human Freedom with Martin Luther " Public Forum with Andrea Vestrucci



Monday, September 23, 7pm

Graduate Theological Union
Richard S. Dinner Boardroom, 3rd Floor
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA

Open to the public!

The relationship between free will and determinism is one of the hot topics of current philosophical debate. This paper focuses on a specific way of addressing this relationship: the theological way. The theological way is the following: considering human freedom in relation with a world determined by divine omnipotence and omniscience. Martin Luther explores this path in his famous " *Bondage of the Will* " (1525). The paper analyzes the logical argument thanks to which Luther challenges the usual idea that freedom and necessity cannot share the same room. As such, the *Bondage of the Will* clarifies the relationship, and the distinction, between the philosophical and the theological approaches to the issue of freedom.

Andrea Vestrucci is Research Professor of Systematic Theology at the Graduate Theological Union. He earned his Ph.D. in Ethics from the University of Lille (France) and the University of Milan (Italy), and his Th.D. in Systematic Theology from the University of Geneva (Switzerland). His most recent book is *Theology as Freedom: On Martin Luther's De servo arbitrio* (Mohr Siebeck, 2019).

Respondents:

Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna is the First Lutheran, Los Angeles/Southwest Synod Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at PLTS of California Lutheran University. A native of Finland, she is a docent at the Helsinki University and serves in the doctoral faculty of the GTU. Her publications include "Women and the Reformation" and "Martin Luther, the Bible, and the Jewish People", with her spouse Rev. Dr. Brooks Schramm, and "The Annotated Luther" (contributor, editor of volume 2, and co-general editor of the 6 volumes).

Rev. Diane Bowers, Ph.D., is a theologian, Luther scholar, and pastor. She is serves as adjunct faculty at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, a pastor in the Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA, and convenes a Luther discussion group for lay folks and clergy in the synod. Dr. Bowers lives in Berkeley with her husband Hans Kasper and their baby son Elijah.

Center for Islamic Studies

Center for Islamic Studies extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, instructors, staff and visiting scholars for the academic year 2019-2020!

- We are honored to welcome **Dr. Eva Kepplinger** who is Research Assistant and Chair for Islamic Religious Studies with a Systematics Focus at Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg. We are delighted that **Carol Bier**, Historian of Islamic Art, will continue her work with the CIS/GTU as Research Scholar. Both our scholars will present their research at a symposium on Thursday, Sept 19 at the GTU Library Board Room, 12-2pm. For more info: gtu.edu/cis or contact: mdhala@gtu.edu
- Congratulations to **Carol Bier** who was invited to Uzbekistan as one of the world's leading global scholars on Islamic art, textiles and geometry. From August 22-27 she participated in the conference, "Preservation of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage," and also attended Heritage Week, "Uzbekistan - The Intersection of Great Roads and Civilizations: Empire, Religion, Culture.
- Congratulations to alum, **Sarah Mohr**, who will be presenting her recently published work on Liberation Psychology from an Islamic Perspective at the 7th Biennial Cambridge International Conference on Mental Health, and also at the Global Muslim Mental Health Conference, in Cambridge, UK, September 5-6.
- Congratulations to **Huzaiifa Shahbaz** for his work at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC where he spent the summer researching and writing on the US military budget. His works analyzed discretionary spending within the Pentagon budget. He also has a published op-ed in Foreign Policy in Focus Magazine.
- CIS/CJS joint Madrasa-Midrasha Program will be holding an event at Stanford University on Sept 26 at 7:30pm, on Jewish and Islamic Perspectives on Hospital-Based Spiritual Care. Details forthcoming at gtu.edu.

GTU Faculty Committees

Awards Committee

Consists of two members of the Core Doctoral Faculty and the GTU Dean. The committee meets three times a year to review entries and make decisions on the Chan Essay contest, Student Travel Awards and Newhall Awards.

2019-2020

Jerome Baggett (JST-SCU)

Susan Phillips (GTU/NCB)

Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship Selection Committee

The Borsch-Rast Prize and Lectureship of the Graduate Theological Union has as its purpose the encouragement of the writing and publication of theological scholarship by GTU graduates and current faculty. The selection committee consists of the present GTU and three prior deans.

Current Committee Members

Uriah Y. Kim

Arthur G. Holder

Judith A. Berling

Margaret R. Miles

Appointments and Review Committee

This is a committee of two members of the Core Doctoral Faculty and the GTU Dean. The committee meets three times a year to review applications for the Core Doctoral Faculty, conduct five-year evaluations of Core Doctoral Faculty members, and make the final selection for the Excellence in Teaching Award.

2019-2020 Members:

Mary McGann (SCU)

Deena Aranott (CJS)

Grievance Committee

Consists of three members of the Core Doctoral Faculty and two student members. One faculty alternate is also elected. The committee meets on a need-only basis. The committee hears grievances brought by students concerning the misapplication of GTU policies and procedures after the complaints have been through the review process outlined in the Doctoral Program Handbook.

2019-2020 Members

Robert Russell (GTU/CTNS)

Ronald Burriss (ABSW)

Julia Prinz (JST-SCU)

Arthur Holder (GTU)

Doctoral Council

Consists of two members of the Core Doctoral Faculty and two student members. Meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month during both fall and spring semesters to review dissertation proposals.

2019-2020 Members

Michael Dodds (DSPT)

James Lawrence (PSR/CSS)

Faculty Council—Class of 2019-2021

Consists of eight members elected by the Core Doctoral Faculty. Serves two-year terms, with half of the Council retiring. Retiring members are not eligible for re-election for two years.

Kathryn Barush (JST)

Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (PLTS/CDSP)

Anselm Ramelw (DSPT)

Ahn Tran (JST)

Jean-Francois Racine (JST)

Valerie Miles-Tribble (ABSW)

Marianne Farina (DSPT)

Honorable Mentions

MA

Aya Baron, CJS, Distinction

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Mahjabeen Dhala, Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation

Ismael Ruiz Abaunza, Ethics and Social Theory

Myoung-Ho Sin, Theology and Ethics

Stephen Waligur, Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Comprehensive Oral Exam Passed

Amanda De Joinville, Art and Religion

Uzma F. Husaini, Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

Mariska Lauterboom, Religion and Practice

Shin Young Park, Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Parameshwaran Ramakrishnan, Theology and Ethics

Eric Sias, Biblical Studies

Grace Eunhye So, Biblical Studies

Mahjabeen Dhala, Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation, Distinction

Kai LeFranc, Systematic and Philosophical Theology, Distinction

Amin Tejpar, Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion, Distinction

Laura Torgersen, Interdisciplinary Studies, Distinction

Joshua Warfield, Systematic and Philosophical Theology, Distinction

Olga Yunak, Interdisciplinary Studies, Distinction

Honorable Mentions

Advanced to Candidacy

Thomas Calobrisi (HCSR)

Sukhun Huh (THEO)

Daniel Mocerri (IDS)

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Susan L. Aguilar, History

Yohana Junker, Art and Religion

Sungrae Kim, Interdisciplinary Studies

Cecilia Titizano, Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Andrew Younan, Theology and Ethics



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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