

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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Creative Collisions

What a joy it was to gather with over 100 people to celebrate the grand re-opening of our library on Thursday, January 26, 2023. The GTU library is the physical manifestation of the coming together of the consortium and its member schools—all of whom contributed their collections to bring it into being and continue to contribute to support its ongoing development. It is a place where we can gather for collaboration, conversation, and group work, and a place where we can study in silence. And it is staffed by deeply knowledgeable librarians who are dedicated to serving students and faculty at the GTU.

On the night of re-opening, there was a slideshow on rotation in the library that included a quote from former GTU President Claude Welch from May 1981: “The GTU is nothing less than an ingenious device for arranging creative collisions.” Two images jumped to my mind immediately when I read the quote.

The first image was of that TV ad in the early 1980s showing two people walking along, oblivious to their surroundings, each of them thoroughly absorbed with that they were eating—one peanut butter, the other chocolate. When – bam! – suddenly they collide with each other. “Hey! You got chocolate on my peanut butter!” says one. “You got peanut butter on my chocolate!” complains the other. Then, tasting the unexpected concoction, they each declare: “Delicious!”

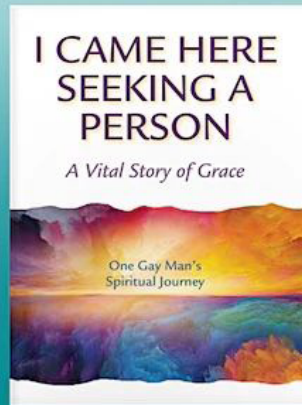
The other image that the quote conjured for me was the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s largest and most powerful particle accelerator (17 miles in circumference). The LHC was designed to help explain some of the [Big Unanswered Questions](#) in particle physics like what is the origin of mass? And what are dark matter and dark energy?

The LHC is called a collider because, as an article on Space.com puts it in plain speak: [“the LHC accelerates two particle beams in opposite directions, and all the action takes place when the beams collide.”](#) In other words, what I think they’re saying is: “Delicious!”

“The GTU is nothing less than an ingenious device for arranging creative collisions.” And those collisions happen most fortuitously in the GTU library. This is where the action takes place. People colliding with people, people colliding with ideas, and images, and archives, and artwork. Ideas colliding with other ideas. It is in this space where we ask the big questions. (And loads of little questions, too!) What happy (if perhaps sometimes at first unsettling) and delicious collisions these are.

Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD
Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Book Launch & Reading:
I Came Here Seeking a Person
by William D. Glenn



Tuesday, February 21st 2023 | 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm (Pacific)

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

I Came Here Seeking a Person: One Gay Man's Spiritual Journey is Glenn's recently published spiritually-focused memoir. It follows his journey from his childhood in an Irish Catholic family in the Midwest in the 50's and 60's, through his nearly decade as a Jesuit, to his subsequent life as a sober, out gay man, detailing his complex journey of faith in practice over the span of his 74 years.

[RSVP here](#)

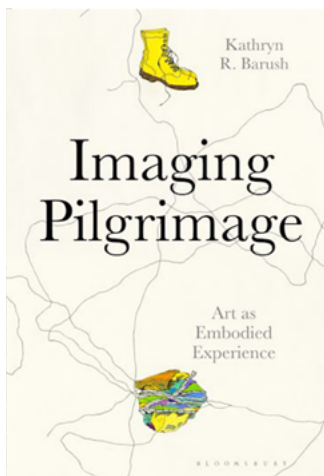
The Sixth Annual Borsch-Rast Lecture

With Dr. Kathryn Barush,
 Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr.
 Associate Professor of Art
 History and Religion



Friday, March 3 | 5:00 pm (Pacific)

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to host Dr. Kathryn Barush, Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. Associate Professor of Art History and Religion, as the sixth annual Borsch-Rast Lecture for 2021 publication, *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts).



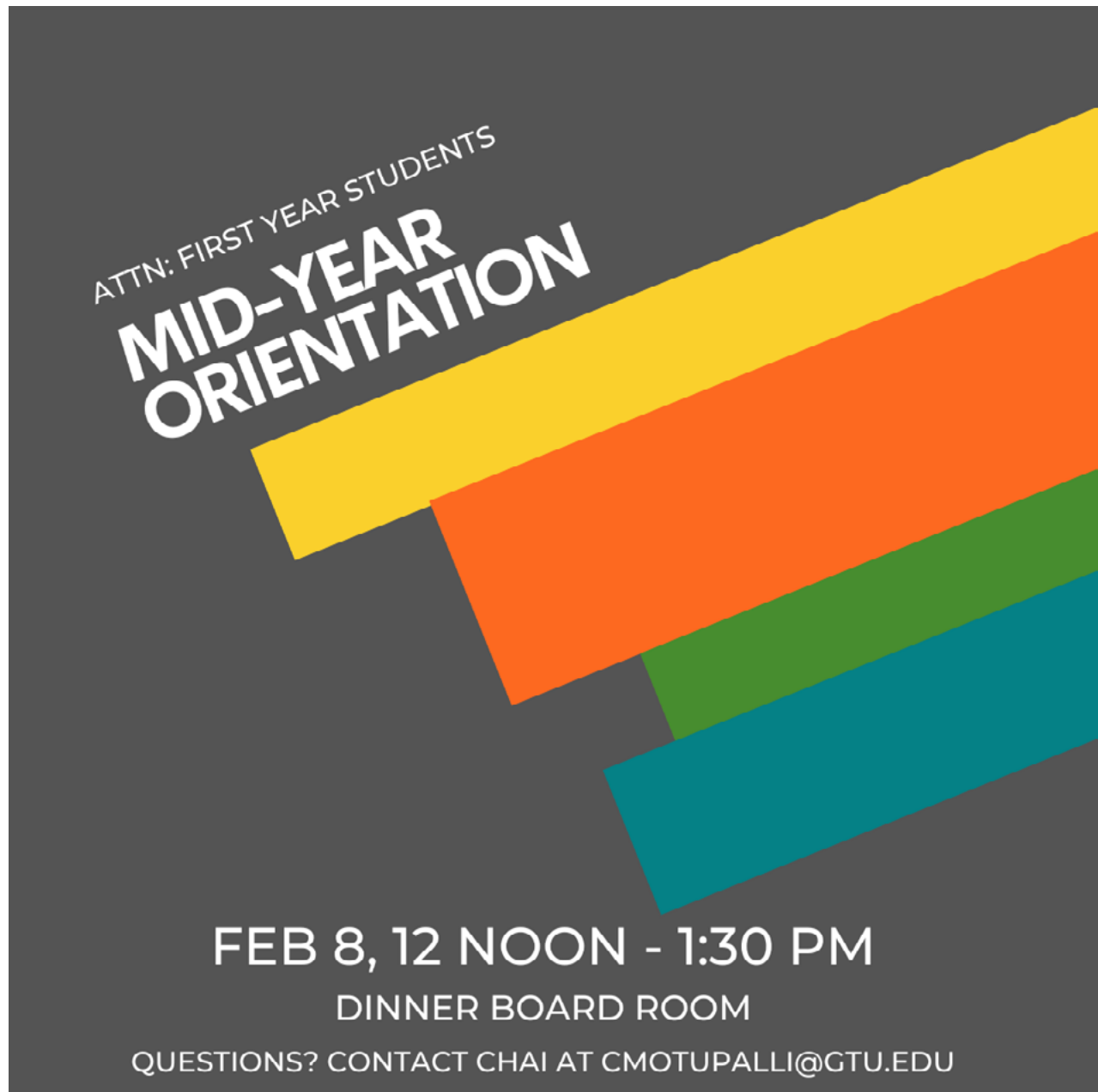
In her acclaimed book, Dr. Barush explores contemporary artworks created after pilgrimage experiences, which are intended to act as a catalyst for the embodied experience of others. Each chapter focuses on a contemporary artwork that links one landscape to another—from the Spanish Camino to a backyard in the Pacific Northwest, from Lourdes to South Africa, from Jerusalem to England, and from Ecuador to California, ultimately comprising the first full-length study to engage contemporary art that has emerged out of the embodied experience of pilgrimage.

[Learn more about Dr. Kathryn Barush](#)

The event will be hybrid with an in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Contact Sabrina Kennedy by **February 21 5:00pm** at skennedy@gtu.edu if you would like to attend in person.

[Register here for virtual attendance](#)

Announcements



ATTN: FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

**MID-YEAR
ORIENTATION**

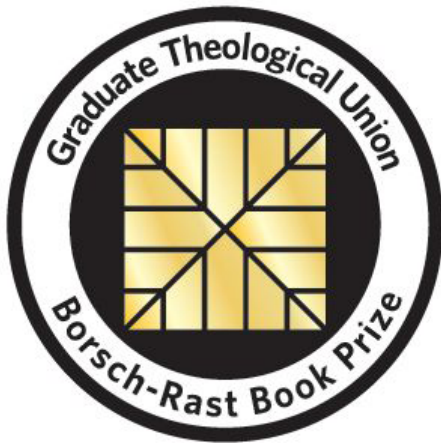
FEB 8, 12 NOON - 1:30 PM
DINNER BOARD ROOM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHAI AT CMOTUPALLI@GTU.EDU

The graphic features a dark grey background with four overlapping, slanted rectangular bars in yellow, orange, green, and teal. The text is white and positioned in the upper left and lower right areas.

Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship

Nominations open



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

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

Nominations must be submitted to the GTU Dean's Office using the [online nominations form](#). Nominations are open again, with a due date of May 19, 2023. This is for books published in 2022.

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

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

MA Capstone Defense

Omar Naisan, SATX

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Jess Jones, HCSR
Victoria Price, HSCR
Yanan Lu, THET

Oral Comprehensive Examination Passed

Jane Smiley, ETHC
Henry C. Washington, IDS

Advanced to Candidacy

Grant Barnes, THET
Gideon M. Mbui, THET

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Robert David Coolidge, HCSR
Sean Albrecht, BIBL



Congratulations to all!

Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals

submit by (Noon) is April 24, 2023

Intent to Graduate form for Spring January 13, 2023

[MA Intent to graduate form](#)

[PHD Intent to graduate form](#)

Modern Foreign Language Exam

Deadline to register for the examination is February 8, 2023

[Register here](#)

Student Awards

Student Travel Grants, Cycle #2

Doctoral 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.

We are now accepting applications for Cycle #2 Student Travel Grants for meetings occurring between **February 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023**, the deadline is **February 15, 2023, 11:59PM**

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

To apply, submit a completed [GTU Student Travel Grant Application Form](#).

Library News

Hello GTU Community,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all back into the library. As many know, the library has undergone considerable changes this past year. I want to highlight some of these and invite you to visit if you haven't seen the new spaces yet. The new entrance, on Scenic, is the original library entrance, first used 35 years ago. It's around the corner from the Ridge Road entrance and will take you directly into the first-floor library.

- You'll see a new library-themed mural created by local artist Nigel Sussman when you enter.
- The service desks have been moved to the first floor. The circulation desk is available every hour the building is open for checking out and returning materials. The reference desk, staffed by the reference librarians, is available in hybrid modalities. Reference librarians are both in-person and online on weekdays from 9 am-4 pm to answer your questions.
- We've moved the beloved oak study tables to an area where they get more natural light. These refinished tables seat eight and are fantastic for groups.
- Individual study carrels are still a silent solo area, and each has an outlet and light.
- Any GTU consortial student can reserve a locker for the semester; they are handy for keeping checked-out materials inside.
- Group study rooms are available again. Book these from the library website.
- We have a new Rare Book and Archives Reading Room available by request. Please let us know if you want to read something from these collections.
- Digitizing of the microfilm and many duplicate items continues. These will be linked in our library catalog, making for easy full-text searching.
- All the books have been rearranged; that's approximately 400,000 items in the building, picked up and put in a new location.
- The computers have moved, and a scanner, printer, and copier are available near the restrooms.
- The reference and exegetical collections have been combined into radial shelving around the atrium. A new table, which seats 12, will be installed in the center of the shelves.
- A new display featuring photos from 60 years of GTU history is also near the entrance, and the exhibition inside the library features art and publications by GTU students and alums.

In addition to these physical changes, we are committed to continuing hybrid services to our community outside of Berkeley. These include scanning services for people at a distance, Reciprocal Borrowing programs across the United States and Canada, and our essential Ask-a-Librarian chat services.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a librarian. We are happy to help.

-Beth

Beth Kumar (she/her)
Director of Library Services
Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709

Library Research Workshops this Spring

Reinvigorate your research habits by brushing up on library research tools, tips, and tricks. Check out the [GTU Library Workshop page](#) for an up-to-date listing of online and in-person workshops.

Library Orientations

Learn tips for finding articles and books that are relevant to your research.

Thursday 1/26/2023 at 3 PM (Seminar B)

Tuesday 2/7/2023 at 10 AM (Seminar B)

Monday 2/13/2023 at 10 AM ([Zoom](#))

Thursday 2/23/2023 at 2 PM ([Zoom](#))

[Recorded video orientation](#) – watch anytime! (38 minutes)

Branch Library Tours



Do you live closer to Marin County? Then you might find the branch library convenient for picking up requested items and quiet study. Join Stephanie for a tour and learn tips for finding articles and books that are relevant to your research at the SFTS branch library Geneva Hall 3rd Floor Reference Room, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 109 Seminary Road San Anselmo, CA 94960.

Monday 2/13/2023 at 1 PM

Friday 2/17/2023 at 11 AM

Friday 2/24/2023 at 2 PM

Zotero Workshops

Zotero ([zotero.org](https://www.zotero.org)) is free citation management software. It will organize your research, create your foot notes, and produce an alphabetized bibliography in the citation management style of your choice. Most students say it saves them 2-3 hours per paper. It integrates with your browser and word processor for a smooth research and writing experience.

Zotero (in person) - Tues 2/7/2023 at 11 AM (Seminar B)

Zotero (in person) - Thursday 2/9/2023 at 11 AM (Seminar B)

Zotero (online) - Thursday 2/16/2023 at 11 AM ([Zoom](#))

Zotero (online) - Thursday 2/16/2023 at 2 PM ([Zoom](#))

[Recorded video Zotero tutorial](#) – watch anytime! (18 minutes)

Zotero – Advanced Topics

Artificial Intelligence (AI) allows researchers to leverage online tools to visualize connections between books and articles. Learn to use AI integrations with Zotero to make your literature review process a bit smoother. Workshop attendees should be comfortable creating free accounts with a variety of websites; they should also be comfortable with the basics of navigating and using Zotero.

Literature Review Tools and Zotero (online)

Wed 2/8/2023 at 12:30 PM ([Zoom](#))

Thursday 2/23/2023 at 11 AM ([Zoom](#))

Biblical Exegesis



Learn to use both print and online resources for biblical exegesis available through the GTU library and on the Internet.

Bible Exegesis (in person) - Wednesday 2/8/2023 at 1 PM (Seminar B)

Bible Exegesis (online) - Friday 2/10/2023 at 11 AM (Zoom ID - 5106492501)

[Recorded video tutorial: Getting Started with Biblical Exegesis](#)
 (15 minutes)

Reserving Library Study Rooms

The library has two reservable seminar rooms, Seminar A and B. GTU and member school students, faculty, staff, and visiting scholars can reserve group study rooms in two-hour blocks, 30 days in advance. Seminar A and B will be available to reserve beginning in February, depending on renovation work in the library.

Seminar B is a slightly larger room which can fit between 8-10 people comfortably. Seminar A can fit at most 5 people comfortably. Both have smart screen TVs that allow you to hold video conferences. The table has built-in chargers for laptops and other devices.

For more information on these rooms and other spaces and equipment, please visit the [library website](#).

Lockers Available



If you're spending the day close to the GTU, borrowing a locker for a semester is a great way to keep your stuff safe and organized. Lockers are for current GTU and member school students and visiting scholars only; they are quite popular. Lockers will be ready to borrow by January 30.

You can use the locker for the semester. If you're using them to store library books, please remember to have library staff check them out on your account first. Do not store food or perishable items. Please note that the library reserves the right to search lockers at anytime.

Lockers are located behind the stairs. Students may request by height if they wish, otherwise staff will assign the next available locker.

You must clean out your locker by May 19, so that library staff can clean the lockers and replace the locking mechanism's batteries. Please make sure to remove your items promptly or else items will be discarded after 30 days.

Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning Department will provide workshops to help instructors teach in hybrid and remote formats beginning on **Wednesday, February 22nd**. The workshop list with days and times is below.

If you cannot attend these workshops but still want to receive help with hybrid and/or remote learning, please reach out to Diandra Erickson, Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, to schedule an appointment. Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom.

Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing derickson@gtu.edu, and you will receive a Zoom link.

Overview of Moodle 4.0

Wednesday, February 22nd, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, February 23rd, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Overview of Panopto

Wednesday March 8th, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, March 9th, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Pedagogical and Technical Strategies for Teaching Concurrent Hybrid Courses

Wednesday, March 22nd, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, March 23rd, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Overview of VoiceThread

Wednesday, April 5th, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, April 6th, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Universal Design for Learning: Benefits and Strategies

Wednesday, April 26th, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, April 27th, at 1 PM (via Zoom)

Overview of Assignments and Grading Methods in Moodle

Wednesday, May 3rd, 1 PM (via Zoom)

Thursday, May 4th, at 1 PM (via Zoom)

Center for the Arts and Religion

February at CARE

Be sure to check out the new CARE exhibitions on the first floor in the recently re-opened GTU Library!



Reconnecting: a celebration of student and alum art marks the re-opening of the GTU library with a showcase of artwork by GTU students past and present. Leave us a comment on the exhibition message board, and if you share photos to social media be sure to use #ReconnectingGTU.

The second exhibition you will see immediately upon entering the GTU Library, honoring the architecture of the Hewlett Building and tracking the story from first inception to completion.

We're excited to be installing real life exhibitions at the GTU again – stay tuned for more!

Center for Dharma Studies

CDS News

CDS is pleased to announce a grant for \$40,000, received from the Uberoi Foundation. The grant supports research and publication of a volume on “Justice, Compassion, & Service in Dharma Philosophy.” The grant also provides \$20,000 for student scholarships

CDS Initiatives

The CDS Initiative in Contemplative Studies has submitted the final manuscript for the second volume, in its book series, titled *Contemplative Studies and Jainism: Meditation, Yoga, Prayer, & Ritual* (Routledge, 2023).

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program would like to welcome GTU students and faculty back for the Spring 2023 semester! We are excited for upcoming MM programming during 2023.

Spring 2023 Faculty Colloquia

With much enthusiasm from colleagues, The Madrasa-Midrasha Program will continue to lead the MM Faculty Colloquia for the Spring 2023 semester, which is comprised of faculty from the GTU, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, and the University of San Francisco.

Poetry Recital Event

Join us on Feb 27th from noon to 1:30 pm for a poetry recital by Naomi Seidman and Nargis Virani. Please look for forthcoming details [on our website](#).



Madrasa-Midrasha Program Interreligious Research Grants

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.
- Student(s) 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 Dhala (mahdhala@gtu.edu) by **Monday, April 3rd, 2023**.

For more info, please visit:

gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha/student-grants



Graduate
Theological
Union

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies &
the Center for Islamic Studies

Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Center for Islamic Studies



CIS extends a warm welcome to new and returning students and scholars for the spring semester 2023. We are delighted to continue celebrating our CIS 15th anniversary and our monthly Islamic Studies @ GTU gatherings on Zoom to learn more about the scholarship, teaching and community service of our students, alums, visiting scholars and faculty. Please visit the CIS webpage and the GTU calendar for more information.

CIS is delighted to be hosting a series of events during Black History Month and beyond.

Please join us for an event hosted and led by GTU PhD student Sundiata Al Rashid, Amir of Lighthouse Mosque, and co-sponsored by CIS. The event will feature Dr. Bilal Ware and his book, *The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa* to be held on February 11 at 6 pm at the Lighthouse Mosque in Oakland 620 42nd St, Oakland, CA

Congratulations



Congratulations to GTU doctoral student Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman for her participation in the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion's working group on race, religion and belonging, and for her spring Newhall course, Race, Religion, Belonging, which will also feature academic events and lectures open to the public.

For more information, please visit: gtusonis.jenzabarcloud.com



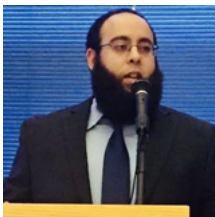
Congratulations to Dr. David Coolidge who was awarded the 2022 Best Dissertation Proposal Award for his dissertation, "Abd and Dāsa: A Muslim Understanding of Caitanya Vaisnavism," which he successfully completed and defended. What an incredible contribution to Islamic studies, Hindu studies, and Interreligious studies and dialogue.



Congratulations to Omar Naisan for completing his MA and for his thesis, “Decrypting the Son of Man Problem: An Inquiry into the Dominant Approaches to the Son of Man Problem and it’s Conspicuous Application in Mark 8:27-31.” We thank Omar for his contributions to Christian-Muslim study and dialogue.



Congratulations to CIS research scholar Carol Bier for being appointed consultant to the San Diego Museum of Art exhibition, “Wonders of Creation” and for contributing to the organization of an international symmetry conference in Egypt, to take place in Fall 2023.



CIS is delighted to share that Dr. Ahmed Khater, CIS/GTU scholar, will be leading a series of public engagement courses and events this semester at UC Berkeley, including at Berkeley Law, co-sponsored by the CIS. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/events/group/cis>



Congratulations to Sr. Marianne Farina, CSC, Professor of Philosophy & Theology, who has been appointed Interim President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology. Sr. Marianne serves on the Core Doctoral Faculty of the GTU and as Faculty at the Center for Islamic Studies. We extend our gratitude to Sr. Marianne and pray for her success, with peace and blessings. For more info: <https://www.dspt.edu/news/dspt-interim-president>



CIS Director Munir Jiwa is co-leading a New Directions graduate seminar this spring 2023 at UC Berkeley on Religion and Health, through the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion. Dr. Jiwa has also received a faculty award from the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, for research and public engagement events on race, religion, health, justice, and belonging, with a focus on African American Muslim leadership. For interest in participating in the research, please contact mjiwa@gtu.edu

Center for Jewish Studies

The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

HIDEOUTS

The Architecture of Survival in the Holocaust

Featuring Dr. Natalia Romik
in conversation with Francesco Spagnolo



Wednesday, February 1 | 5:00 pm (Pacific)

The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94720

Join us for this CJS-co-sponsored program hosted by Taube Philanthropies and features Dr. Natalia Romik, 2022 Dan David Prize Laureate, architect, Holocaust researcher, curator, and artist. Dr. Romik’s work focuses on Jewish memory and Holocaust commemoration in Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and Ukraine.

Dr. Romik will present her current research and exhibition project, which explores and preserves the unusual hiding places used by Jews in the Holocaust. Romik’s work combines archival investigation, theoretical research, architectural design, artistic practice, and social engagement. She has dedicated her efforts to investigating and preserving Jewish memory, especially its material and architectural traces, and the forgotten legacy of shtetls – small, historically Jewish towns.

[RSVP here](#)



JCC East Bay
 Graduate Theological Union | The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

**A BOOK TALK WITH
 RABBI JOSH FEIGELSON
 AND
 PROFESSOR SAM SHONKOFF**

RABBI JOSH FEIGELSON
 PRESIDENT & CEO
 Institute for Jewish Spirituality

SAM SHONKOFF
 TAUBE FAMILY ASSISTANT
 PROFESSOR OF JEWISH STUDIES
 Graduate Theological Union

Eternal Questions
Reflections, Conversations, and Jewish Mindfulness Practices for the Weekly Torah Portion
 Rabbi Josh Feigelson

FEBRUARY 8, 2023
 7:30PM-9:00PM
 BOARDROOM, 3RD FLOOR, 2400 RIDGE ROAD
 GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION, BERKELEY
 IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

Wednesday, February 8 | 7:30 - 9:00 pm (Pacific)

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

How can we make our study of Torah not only “interesting,” but truly transformative in our lives?

Rabbi Josh Feigelson, President and CEO of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, answers this question and many more in his recently-published book *Eternal Questions: Reflections, Conversations, and Jewish Mindfulness Practices for the Weekly Torah Portion*.

Joining R. Feigelson in conversation about this book, Professor Sam S.B. Shonkoff, Taube Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, will dive deeper into suggested practices to help turn Torah study into more mindful, intentional exercises for living.

[Register here](#)

Judaism and Ecology

Tuesday, February 14 | 12:30 pm (Pacific)

Please join us for a special CJS event on Judaism & Ecology, featuring Rabbi Natan Margalit in conversation with CJS student Rebecca Schisler. A light lunch will be provided in the GTU Library’s Dinner Boardroom

CJS Annual Conference “Worlds of Corporeality”

Wednesday, March 8 | 9:00 am - 7:00 pm (Pacific)

Join us for our annual CJS conference, which we are excited to hold once again in 2023. This year’s theme is “Worlds of Corporeality” and will feature distinguished scholars and presenters. More details and registration info are forthcoming.

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program

Virtual Chaplaincy Lectures – Spring 2023

An Educational Approach to Fostering Emotional Integration in Traumatized Children

Guest Speaker: Claudia Kohner, Ph.D. – Licensed Psychologist

Tuesday, February 28 | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (Pacific) Free Webinar / Open to all!

Trauma in children can manifest in out-of-control behaviors that look to adults like "misbehaving" or "tantrums." This webinar will emphasize children have feelings too big to handle alone, and adults can be helpful. Three modalities: comforting, playing, and assigning words to feelings, signal a shift in the adult's thinking, enhance the adult's relations with children overwhelmed by their feelings, and promote the emotional integration of experience.

Host: GTU Interreligious Chaplaincy Program
Cosponsored: The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies
Made possible by a grant from Taube Philanthropies.

Registration information is forthcoming visit [ICP Program](#)

Caring for the Elderly in the Jewish Community

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak

Tuesday, March 21 | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (Pacific) Free Webinar / Open to all!

Rabbi Beliak will focus on the context of hospice and hospital needs but will reference the internal diversity of the Jewish cultural and religious contexts. Chaplains answer the “frontline” spiritual and psycho-social needs of diverse minority populations. In the case of Judaism, it should be evident that there is not just one way to be Jewish religiously or claim that identity. Often, pausing to appreciate the internal complexity within groups builds trust and connection during stressful interactions. Discerning the needs of a family is a delicate challenge.

People may have an identity within Judaism, but at a specific moment, they are uncertain or even conflicted about how to respond because of fear or ambivalence, or ,, a host of other factors. A chaplain’s guidance can help sort out how to proceed. With a deft expression of humility and directness, a Chaplain may often find a way to point the way.

Host: GTU Interreligious Chaplaincy Program
Cosponsored: The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies
Made possible by a grant from Taube Philanthropies

Registration information is forthcoming visit [ICP Program](#)

Theological Reflection Across Religious Traditions: The Turn to Reflective Believing

Guest Speaker: Dr. Edward Foley

Wednesday, April 12 | 9:30 pm - 11:00 pm (Pacific) Free Webinar / Open to all!

Theological/spiritual/philosophical reflection in chaplaincy is a tool to address meaning-making. The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program is privileged to host Professor Edward Foley, author of *Theological Reflection across Religious Traditions*, to discover more inclusive ways of reflecting on experiences in ministry and religious living. Dr. Foley is an internationally renowned teacher, preacher, liturgical scholar, and the Duns Scots Professor Emeritus of Spirituality at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Registration information is forthcoming visit [ICP Program](#)

MJF Hindu Chaplaincy Spring 2023 Fellowships

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program (ICP) and the Hindu Community Institute (HCI) awarded the spring 2023 MJF Fellows to four ICP students: Kristine Bell, Sudha Bhat, Jagjiwan Gossai, and Anoop Kumar. The Fellowship is made available by a generous gift from the Motwani-Jadeja Foundation that supports training and certifying Hindu Chaplains to serve in the growing global networks of chaplains from all major faiths, especially in universities, hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice settings. A complete bio of each student will soon be available on the ICP's webpage.

Chaplaincy Hour

The Interreligious Chaplaincy Program hosts a weekly virtual meet and greet for chaplaincy students, faculty, and former and prospective students interested in the Interreligious Chaplaincy Program at the Graduate Theological Union.

Contact kshamsieh@gtu.edu or mhartman@gtu.edu to get the zoom link and password.

Thursdays: 12:30 pm, starting February 2, 2023

The Institute of Buddhist Studies

Spring 2023 Virtual Open House

THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES IS HAVING A VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 4PM PST ON ZOOM



OPEN HOUSE



Learn about our degree and certificate programs!
FIELD DIRECTOR LILU CHEN WILL SPEAK ON OUR EXCITING
FIELD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

[Register here](#)

Women's Studies in Religion

WSR to Host GTU Student Conference on Women and Religion

Please note the deadline for submission of papers has been extended to March 1st.



Friday, April 28, 2023

Call for papers on the theme: *Embracing Women's Bodies as Intersections of Identities, Theologies, and Justice Roles*

Submission Requirements

Who: This graduate student conference is open to students at all stages of programs at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and its member schools.

What: Please submit a paper proposal that includes a title, an abstract (150 words), and an overview (1,500 words). Please use 12-point, Times New Roman or Arial font, double space your proposal, and follow the 8th Edition of the Turabian Manual of Style.

Proposals focusing on gender and religion from any GTU discipline will be considered. Topics include but are not limited to feminist theologies, womanist theologies, mujerista theologies/Latina feminist theologies; theologies from the perspectives of Indigenous women, Asian-American feminist theologies, queer/trans theologies; gender issues in sacred texts, ritual, liturgy, history, or the practice of religion, environmental and disability justice themes; the role of women in a particular religious tradition; considerations of the Divine Feminine, Feminine Deity, and the Sacred Feminine; approaches to philosophy of religion that highlight feminist concerns; and ethics from feminist, womanist, mujerista/Latina feminist, Asian-American feminist, or Indigenous perspectives.

When: All proposals must be submitted to Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu no later than the CFP deadline, **March 1, 2023**. The committee will contact you by **March 24, 2023** to notify you of its decision. If your proposal is accepted, please be prepared to share a copy of your paper with your moderator and fellow panelists by **March 31, 2023**.

Where: This conference will take place in the Dinner Board Room, on the 3rd floor of the Flora Lamson Hewlett Library.

Please direct any questions to WSR Program Coordinator Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu

Submission Form

To be considered by the WSR committee, please email this completed submission form, as well as the paper proposal with the title, abstract, and overview, to wsr@ses.gtu.edu no later than March 1, 2023 at 5pm Pacific Time. Late materials will not be considered.

Student Name: _____

Email: _____

Program: _____ Year in Program: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Statement of Student Consent

I certify that all the above and attached is correct and true. By submitting a proposal to the WSR Steering Committee, students grant permission for the use of this proposal for promotion on the GTU website, possible journal publication, and/or the Women's Studies in Religion newsletter. All participants in the conference will supply a final electronic copy of the paper no later than March 31, 2023 at 5 pm Pacific Time.

Student Signature

Date

GTUx Series on "Women's Bodies and The Sacred"

WSR to host a GTUx Series on "Women's Bodies and The Sacred". The faculty and guests on the panel so far will be Dr. Rita Sherma, Dr. Paula Nesbitt, Dr. Naomi Seidman and Leslie Bowling-Dyer. The program is being scheduled for viewing in early March. More details soon to follow.

WSR Spring 2023 Suggested Courses

Please take time to explore the many course that can be applied to the requirements for the WSR Certificate Program at [WSR Intersession 2023](#)

Information on the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program

For more information on the WSR Certificate Program and Events see our webpage at <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/wsr>, or Contact the Program Coordinator, Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu. Email Diane to be added to our WSR Mailing List to be kept informed about upcoming events!

Berkeley Journal of Religion & Theology (BJRT)

The BJRT has various openings on its Executive Editorial roster to help facilitate the peer review process and publication of Volume 9. These roles come with a small stipend. If interested, please send an email to bjrt@ses.gtu.edu.



BJRT 2023 CALL FOR PAPERS

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2023

The BJRT is now accepting
submissions for articles and
book reviews for Volume 9

For more visit bjrt.gtu.edu

The BJRT is pleased to announce that it is now accepting article submissions and book review requests for Volume 9! Please visit our website at bjrt.gtu.edu for more information as well as the BJRT Style Guide. This is a great way to gain experience with an academic journal and convert a term paper or writing project into a published article, and contribute to the discourse of current scholarship in your field by writing a book review.

The deadline for publishing consideration in Volume 9 is April 1st, however the BJRT accepts submissions on a rolling basis for future consideration.



Read the 2021–2022 Impact Report

Since its founding in 1962, the GTU has remained steadfast in its commitment to building a better world through dialogue. Building on the strong foundation to which so many have contributed, our vision as we look ahead involves several key initiatives: expanding educational access with GTUx; optimizing the GTU’s campus and infrastructure to best serve student, faculty, and staff needs; and investing in student scholarships to attract and support tomorrow’s leaders today. The FY2021–22 Impact Report details the aim, impact, and current status of these initiatives and more.

Read more about in the GTU’s 2022 Impact Report, available on our website: gtu.edu/impactreport

San Francisco Theological Seminary



JOIN US for a conversation about Calvin, the character and legacy of the Reformation(s), and the modern world, with Prof. Ward Holder and other experts, on the occasion of the publication of Holder's recent book, *Calvin and the Christian Tradition: Scripture, Memory, and the Western Mind*.

PANELISTS

Ward Holder (St. Anselm's College), author of *Calvin and the Christian Tradition: Scripture, Memory, and the Western Mind* (Cambridge 2022) and *Reinhold Niebuhr in Theory and Practice: Christian Realism and American Politics in the Twenty-First Century* (Lexington 2019)

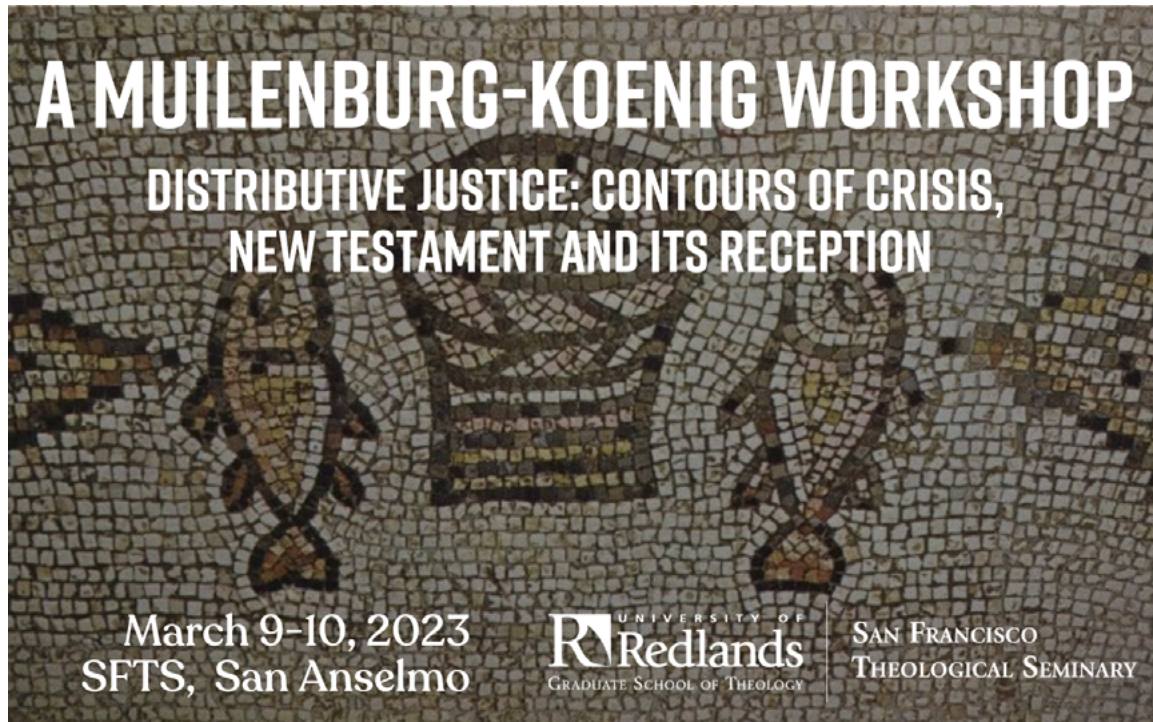
Barbara Pitkin (Stanford), author of *Calvin, the Bible, and History: Exegesis and Historical Reflection in the Era of Reform* (Oxford 2020)

Christopher Ocker (San Francisco Theological Seminary, University of Redlands), author of *The Hybrid Reformation* (Cambridge 2022)

Ethan Shagan (University of California, Berkeley), author of *The Birth of Modern Belief* (Princeton 2018)

Kirsi Stjerna (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary/Graduate Theological Union), editor of *Women Reformers of Early Modern Europe* (Fortress 2022) and author of *Lutheran Theology: A Grammar of Faith* (T&T Clark 2020)

[RSVP here](#)



The purpose of this workshop is to explore the ancient contours and later global legacies of distributive justice (and injustice) in the Bible from a range of disciplinary perspectives. This will involve examining New Testament passages in their Jewish and Roman contexts, as well as critical study of the imperialist uses of such texts and the derivative legacies of transmission, interpretation and re-appropriation. To accomplish this purpose, the workshop will bring together both scholars of New Testament and scholars in other fields (literature, political science, Islam, the natural sciences, medieval history), to show how a broad study of the New Testament/Early Christianity bears on contemporary issues related to unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, such as poverty, climate change, identity, and violence.

[RSVP here](#)

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



Hybrid Film Screening
 Monday, February 6th, 2023
 5:00 pm PT / 8:00 pm ET
 followed by Q&A with
 Director Raj Patel!



Center for Climate Justice and Faith
 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



Lutherans Restoring Creation
 Cultivating Hope & Healing for All

The PLTS Center for Climate Justice and Faith and Lutherans Restoring Creation are excited to invite you to a screening of the documentary film *The Ants & the Grasshopper* on Monday, February 6th at 5pm PT / 8pm ET. The film will be screened in-person at PLTS in Berkeley, CA and simultaneously broadcast over Zoom. We especially fortunate to be able to welcome the film's director, Raj Patel, for a time of Q&A with us following the screening.

Please register for the event in-person here: bit.ly/TAATGPLTSScreening

Please register for the event online here:

https://clu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9tQvJAs1Q5-9v0CpLvyXEA

PLTS Mohrenweiser Lecture

February 15th | 9:00 am



Arvin Gouw, PhD
Keynote Speaker

"CRISPR Revolution in Science, Religion, and Ethics"

Join us for our annual Mohrenweiser lecture where theologian and scientist Arvin Gouw, PhD, will present an overview of the CRISPR revolution and the implications for the domains of science, religion, and ethics. Dr. Ted Peterson will offer a response.

Scan here for more
information and to register



California
Lutheran
University

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PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

During this calendar year of 2023, Dr. Bernard Schlager was granted a sabbatical from his teaching duties and the Executive Director of CLGS at PSR. However, he will maintain the fundraising efforts for the Center during this year. Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow has been appointed to be the Managing Director for CLGS during this year. Roland earned his MDiv from PSR in 2006 and his DMin from PSR in 2016. He began working with CLGS in 2008 as the Coordinator of Welcoming Congregations. In 2011 he expanded in coalition building work throughout California and nationally as the Director of Ministerial Outreach. In 2013, he began to work remotely from Detroit, Michigan and continued his national outreach work while taking on the work of the African-American Roundtable Coordinator.

CLGS will host our 16th Annual Boswell Lecture online on Thursday, April 20 at 4pm PST / 7pm EST featuring Dr. Pamela Lightsey, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology of Meadville Lombard Theological School located in Chicago. We are very excited to have Dr. Lightsey's perspective for this lecture.

For more information visit [The CLGS John E. Boswell Lecture](#)

Our African-American Roundtable is hosting the 8th Souls A'Fire Conference online. The first SAF conference was 20 years ago 2003. SAF will take place on April 22 and 23 featuring previous "Souls A'Fire Fellows" who will reintroduce their original papers on Black Queer Theology to see if their ideas have stood the test of time and continue to have relevance to the Black Church today.

For more information visit www.soulsafire.org

Center for Swedenborgian Studies

Learning From Our Past, Healing Our Future: Dismantling Colonial Dominance in Western Christianity

Monday, February 13 | 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm (Pacific) Free on Zoom



The history and theology of Christianity is unfortunately intertwined with the colonizer impulse, to the detriment of many indigenous cultures. Even today, Christian ideas, perspectives, language, practices, and systems bear the marks of this impulse, having been formed with the colonizer mindset as the default. Join us as Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, farmer, author, activist, scholar, distinguished speaker/teacher and wisdom keeper, using the lens of indigenous spirituality, will speak on how Christianity can be disentangled from the precepts of colonialism and returned to its core message.

[Register here](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For questions, please email revshada@gmail.com.



The Dean's Newsletter

The Dean's Newsletter is for official notices from the Graduate Theological Union Dean's Office regarding academic affairs and for announcements of educational events focusing on academic research and thus of particular interest to faculty and MA and PhD students.

Send submissions by the second-to-last Friday of the month to skennedy@gtu.edu
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the Dean

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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