

THE DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DEAN

A small group of scholars gathered for three days in late March in Berkeley to continue its work on the "Current State of Interreligious Learning in Higher Education," a study funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, of which our own Judith Berling is a co-director. When I was asked to serve as a discussant for one of its sessions, it gave me an opportunity to share with the group what the GTU has been thinking and doing in regards to interreligious education.

What sets the GTU apart from the participant schools is that the number of religions represented in the GTU is far greater than that of theirs. Whereas other schools use a dialogical model of engagement, which typically puts Christianity in conversation with one or at most two other religions, the GTU has to develop ways to create learning environments in which ten or more religious traditions engage one another. A dialogue, of course, is the *sine qua non* of interreligious engagement. But at the GTU, it requires a "collaborative engagement through common project" model, which expands the dialogical model to facilitate people representing multiple religions to engage one another as they focus on specific issues, problems, or projects.

The implementation of the Arthur Vining Davis collaborative interreligious research is such a model. There were eight teams, each cohort comprised of three or more members representing two or more religious traditions, that competed in the first round of this grant. Each team's project focused on a narrower slice of an identifiable and significant problem of our time. Three proposals were selected, and the GTU community will benefit from their work when their project results are publicly shared before the beginning of the fall semester.

In the next three semesters, there will be interreligious collaborative seminars that will focus on climate change, economic disparity, and social inequality. The seminars will rely on research from the GTU doctoral students and faculty, and at least six religions will be represented in the seminars. A competition for papers and 60-minute learning modules will be announced soon. The winning papers and 60-minute lessons will make up the content of each seminar. The seminars will seek to educate and train those who wish to engage with the challenges of environmental, economic, and social sustainability by drawing on the wisdom, principles, and insights from various religions with the goal of creating an intellectual and theological space to foster interreligious engagement.



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SUMMER MODERN LANGUAGE STUDY

GTU summer language study opportunities are an excellent summer activity. These courses focus on developing researching and writing facilities in the language, and provide good preparation for the GTU Modern Foreign Language Exams. The course ends with an opportunity to take a language proficiency exam with the possibility of certifying for the GTU common MA and doctoral degree program requirements. French, German, and Spanish courses will be offered July 10 through August 4 from 9am to noon. Tuition is \$650, due the Friday before the courses begins, payable to the GTU and submitted to the GTU business office. GTU-wide consortium students can register on WebAdvisor through the Continuing Education module starting on May 1. For registration questions, contact John Seal, GTU Registrar, jseal@gtu.edu.



MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM

The next modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, May 17, 1:00pm to 4:45pm in the Dinner Board Room.

Register by **May 3** with Wendy Arce, Student Affairs Office Manager, warce@gtu.edu, 649-2400.



Celebration of 2017 GTU Graduates of Color and International Student Graduates

Hosted by the GTU Member School Student Services Offices. Wednesday, April 26, 4:30pm, PSR Chapel.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

April 5th | 10am | Student Lounge

Are You Ready for the Job Search? Useful Guidelines and Current Challenges, with Uriah Kim, Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Deena Aranoff, Director of Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, Senior Lecturer in Medieval Jewish Studies.

April 12th | 12pm | Dinner Board Room

Sarlo Teaching Lecture and Newhall Fellows Lunch, with Barbara Green, Professor of Biblical Studies, DSPT.

April 19th | 10am | Student Lounge

Beyond Tenure Track—A Conversation with GTU Alumni



CARE NEWS AND EVENTS

Aesthetics & the Divine: Jewish and Islamic Perspectives

April 04, 2017 | 5-7pm

Location: Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Presented by Center for Jewish Studies (CJS), Center for Islamic Studies (CIS), and the Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE), at the Graduate Theological Union featuring **Dr. Francesco Spagnolo** Curator, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Music University of California, Berkeley and **Carol Bier** Visiting Scholar, Center for Islamic Studies, GTU Curator, *Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art*, Center for the Arts & Religion, GTU

This program was made possible by the Walter and Elise Haas Fund and the Peleh Fund.



Third Thursdays at BAMPFA

April 20, 2017 | 4:30pm

After gathering in the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive lobby at 4:30pm, we'll hear a short talk about an artwork on display. Then, we can amble around the museum and /or go have a drink in the café! Check in with a Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) staff member for a complimentary ticket. Presented by **Yohana Junker** (PhD Student in Art & Religion, GTU). Graduate Theological Union students, staff, faculty, and friends are all welcome. BAMPFA is located at 2155 Center Street, between Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue, bampfa.berkeley.edu



YOGA IN THE GALLERY

April 19, 2017 | 12-1pm

free | all levels welcome
| no experience necessary



Looking for a break during your work week? We offer a 45 minute yoga class in the gallery the third Wednesday of each month. Come in your work clothes to stretch, meditate, and prepare yourself for the second half of the workday. Don't worry! Mats are provided. Hosted by CARE in the Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

DOCTORAL STUDENT ELECTION RESULTS

AAR Liaison (2017-2019)

Jennifer Fernandez

Doctoral Council (2017-2019)

Diandra Chretien

Levi Checketts (2016-2018)

Grievance Committee

Daniel Mocerì

Hannah Pheasant

Student Advisory

Committee (2017-2019)

Thomas Calobrisi

Sheryl Johnson

Leah Macinskas-Le

Pravina Rodrigues

Eric Sias

Andrew Lee (2016-2018)

Student Rep to the Board of Trustees (2017-2019)

Olga Yunak

Student Rep to Library Committee

Tripp Hudgins



GTU COMMENCEMENT

The GTU Commencement is **May 11 at 4pm** in the PLTS Chapel. A reception follows the ceremony outside the Chapel. Common MA and Doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU Commencement Ceremony should report to Giesy Hall for robing and procession instructions by 3:15pm. Faculty are asked to report to Giesy Hall by 3:30pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU Dean of Students, kkook@gtu.edu, 510-649-2464 for information. Please carpool and ask your guests to carpool. There is a parking lot, AND, it can be a challenge to fit all of our vehicles.



GTU GRADUATE RECEPTION

The GTU's Board of Trustees and Office for Institutional Advancement host a reception for all GTU common MA and Doctoral graduates, faculty, families and guests the night before commencement, **Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** in the St. Mary's Courtyard and Denniston Commons on the CDSP campus. Please contact Chris Cox in the Office for Institutional Advancement at 510-649-2531 or by email at ccox@gtu.edu should you have any questions about the event.



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

CIS is pleased to cosponsor PSR's Asian and Pacific Islander Program Initiative's Annual Lecture, *Muslim Youth and Islamophobia in an Age of Empire: A Canadian Perspective* by Dr. Jasmin Zine, Professor of Sociology and Muslim Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada. April 20 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Bade Museum, Pacific School Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue.

Please join us for the *8th Annual Islamophobia Conference* sponsored by the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project, Center for Race and Gender, UC Berkeley, and cosponsored by CIS. This year's theme is *Islamophobia and the End of Liberalism?* to be held April 21-23 at UC Berkeley School of Law, Booth Auditorium, 8:00 am-6:00 pm. For more info: <https://irdproject.com/>

The Walter & Elise Haas Fund has provided the GTU a grant to support the CIS and CJS in their joint Madrasa-Midrasha programming for this year. We are pleased to announce the student research grant recipients: Mahjabeen Dhala (CIS), "Exploring the Role of Female Activism in Islamic and Jewish Tradition," Ahmad Ibrahim Moss (CIS) "Imagining an Islamic Liberation Theology in a Post-Truth World," and group grant recipients Bat Sheva Miller (CJS), Mahjabeen Dhala (CIS) and Jonathan Homrighausen (JST/SCU/GTU), "Abrahamic *Havruta*: Developing Pedagogies of Interfaith Education." Congratulations!

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

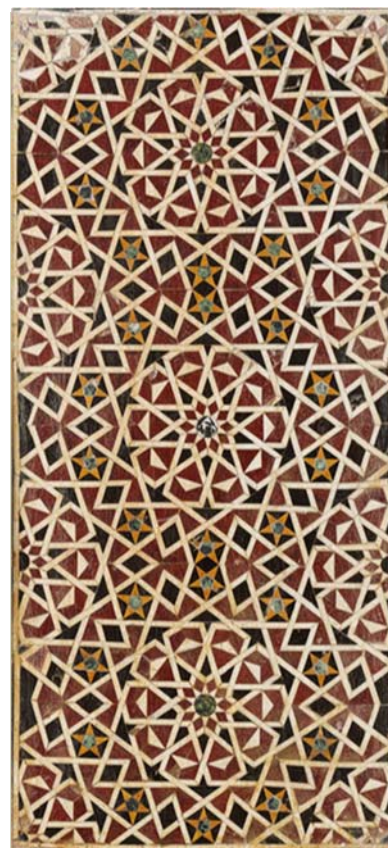
THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH:
NORMS AND HETRODOXIES
IN PRODUCTION OF JEWISH
CULTURE

9:00am-4:30pm: Graduate Theological Union | Dinner Board Room, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley CA 94709

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH:
THE POLITICS OF MEMORY:
THE NEW YAD VASHEM EXHIBITION AT AUSCHWITZ
STATE MUSEUM WITH SHANA PENN

12:00pm: The Magnes Collection
of Jewish Art and Life

2121 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA
94709



CIS and CJS are pleased to announce a joint Madrasa-Midrasha event, *The Joseph Story in Biblical and Quranic Narrative*, by Dr. Todd Lawson, Professor Emeritus of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto, and Dr. Robert Alter, Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley. The event will take place on **Thursday, April 27, 5:30pm-8:00pm in the Dinner Boardroom (GTU Library, 3rd floor).**

2016-2017 CYCLE #2 STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following GTU doctoral students will be presenting at the international and national conferences and meetings this semester. Each has received a Student Travel Grant Award from the GTU Dean's Office.

Ineda P. Adesanya "Seeking Home: A Spiritual Response to the Resurgence of Overt Racism in America";

Richard Austin Choate
"Audite Ad Imaginem: What the Origins of Language Can Tell us About Human Uniqueness and Our Relationship With God";

Chaitanya Motupalli
"Restorative Justice and Intergenerational Justice";

Hyun Ho Park "Subverting the Symbolic World: A Socio-Political Reading of 1 Cor 7:17-24";

Stephen Quarles "Is Derrida a Mystic?" or "Praying Within Grammatology";

James Sienkiewicz
"Traditional Belief & Ethnicity in the Oil Politics of the Niger Delta";

Olga Yunak "The Mother of God of the Blind Spot: Renaming a Fresco by Theophanes the Greek".

PACIFIC COAST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

You are cordially invited to attend the Spring Meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society (PCTS) on **Friday, April 21 from 1:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m.–noon** in Classroom "B" at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

Marking the anniversary year of a pivotal moment in the Protestant Reformation, the theme, **The 95 Theses 500 Years Later**, interacts both with the critical features of Martin Luther's historic thought as well as contemporary reflection and dialogue. As is the custom of the Society, reading links are posted on the PCTS website (<http://pcts.org/meetings/2017/Spring.html>) and texts should be read ahead of time.

Free Public Lecture **Friday Evening, April 21 at 7pm:**

"Luther's Theses and Freedom Theology"—Kirsi Stjerna (PLTS), reinterprets the story of the German reformation with Luther and his theology of freedom, its impact in recent world history, and identification of Luther's Catechism as a source for the theology of freedom. Please join us Friday evening, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Tucson Room at CDSP.



Registration fees are located on the PCTS website (www.pcts.org/register.html) and may also be paid at the Meeting. Go to www.pcts.org for further information.



CTNS PUBLIC FORUM

CTNS Public Forum, **Wednesday April 26, 7pm Free**

From Empathy to the Evolution of Compassion
Professor Celia Deane-Drummond
Dinner Board Room, GTU Library

This lecture contributes a theological perspective to recent heated public debates in psychology on the rejection of empathy as of key significance in the moral life. In dialogue with philosopher Martha Nussbaum, Professor Deane-Drummond explores recent analysis of the deep history of the evolution of compassion in early hominins. She argues for the importance of charity, understood in the classic Thomistic, sense, as holding a central place for mercy and its relationship with superabundant compassion.

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond is currently Professor in Theology at the University of Notre Dame, IN, USA. Her interests are in the engagement of systematic and moral theology and the biological sciences, including specifically ecology, genetics, animal behavior, psychology and evolutionary anthropology.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION

A series of events at the Jesuit School of Theology on The Papal Commission on Women Deacons
An Ecumenical Perspective on the Ordination of Women

Tuesday, April 4, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Reception to follow. Gesu Chapel, Jesuit School of Theology

A panel features representatives from schools of the GTU who will address their respective tradition's understanding of ordained ministry, what influenced the inclusion of women into ordained ministry, and the effects of this change.

The Rev. Dr. Ruth A. Meyers is Dean of Academic Affairs and Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics at CDSP, and an assisting priest at All Souls Episcopal Parish in Berkeley. She served as Chair of the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music from 2009 to 2015, is the author of several books, and was a member of the Anglican / Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S. from 1999 to 2007.

Dr. Kirsi I. Stjerna, the First Lutheran, Los Angeles/Southwest California Synod Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at PLTS, a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the GTU, a docent on the Theological Faculty at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and for 27 years an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.



Jeanyoun Kim is a doctoral candidate of the GTU. She has a Master of Sacred Theology from Drew Theological School. She is writing her dissertation about the Methodist deaconesses and the San Francisco National Training School of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Progressive Era. She is interested in popular religious movements within Protestantism including the modern deaconess movement.

The moderator of the panel is Ana López, an MDiv student at JST-SCU.

BY DEMAND...MORE ZOTERO WORKSHOPS

Workshops in the library:

Friday April 7th @2pm or Tuesday April 11th @12:30pm

Please bring your own laptop. We recommend downloading and installing Zotero standalone before coming. Visit www.Zotero.org to download.

NEW We are going to offer a Zotero workshop live online on YouTube. It's the first streaming workshop we've offered, and you'll be able to chat and ask questions of our librarians. No software to install to watch the workshop, although you'll need to download and install zotero and the extensions. The workshop will be recorded and shortly after we finish, will become available on YouTube with closed captioning.

Join us for an online workshop at 2pm on Wednesday April 11 on YouTube.

If you need help downloading or installing Zotero, or do not have your own laptop and would still like to attend, please email us at library@gtu.edu or visit the reference desk.

Wait, what's Zotero? It's free citation management software that can organize research for multiple projects with multiple formats (books, articles, webpages, and video). It integrates with Microsoft Office and Open Office, and can create an alphabetized bibliography in your choice of style, including Turabian.

More information, a flyer, and a link to the YouTube stream here:

<http://gtu.edu/events/zotero-workshop>

WSR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Studies in Religion Steering committee is currently accepting applications for new student committee members for the 2017-18 academic year. The committee meets for about 1.5 hours once per month. The application procedure is as follows: Interested students should write a letter of interest stating why they would like to serve on the committee and about their experience with Women's Studies. A copy of their CV should also be included. Materials should be sent to wsr@ses.gtu.edu and will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. Materials should be sent by **April 17, 2017**.

If you have been enrolled in the Women's Studies in Religion Certificate Program and will be graduating this year and completing your certificate, now is the time to get the logistics in order!

If you have been enrolled, to receive the certificate, please submit the **requirements checklist** and all **colloquium verification forms**, as well as a transcript, to Angela Muñoz in the Dean's Office at 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709. A \$50 certificate-processing fee must be paid to the business office when all required forms have been approved. Please contact wsr@ses.gtu.edu with any questions. The deadline to submit your items to Angela Muñoz is **Friday, April 21, 2017 at 5pm**.

CENTER FOR DHARMA STUDIES

Sustainable Societies: Interreligious, Interdis- ciplinary Responses

Friday, April 28 -Saturday,
April 29

A two-day conference sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union and the GTU's Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies.

Join us for this two-day conference exploring interreligious approaches to building sustainable societies. The event will feature panel conversations and presentations from a host of renowned educators, including more than twenty scholars from across the GTU and its member schools and centers. Plenary speakers include internationally known scholar of ecology and religion Dr. Mary-Evelyn Tucker of Yale University, and Dr. Anantanand Rambachan of St. Olaf College.

The closing portion of the conference will focus on *Hindu Ecophilosophy and Ecotheology*, and will feature a keynote by Dr. Anantanand Rambachan (who offered the GTU's 2015 Surjit Singh lecture), and panel conversations on *Advaita Vedanta* and *Vaishnava Vedanta*.

To register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-societies-interreligious-interdisciplinary-approaches-tickets-32479098859>

INSTITUTE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

Interdependence/Intersectionality Marginalization, Oppression, and American Buddhism



Friday, April 14, 2017 • 3:00 – 5:30

Institute of Buddhist Studies - 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley

Free and open to the public

This symposium brings together Buddhist scholars, teachers, and activists to discuss issues of marginalization and oppression related to race, gender, and sexuality both inside and outside American Buddhist communities both historically and at the present. Speakers will discuss such topics as: how did the racialization of Japanese American Buddhists relate to World War II internment? How are Asian and white Buddhist communities in conversation or at odds? How have new Buddhist communities developed or responded to historical or contemporary exclusion related to gender or sexual orientation? How might Buddhists respond to the current US political climate?

Speakers Include:

Ann Gleig, Assistant Prof of Religious Studies, University of Central Florida

Funie Hsu, Assistant Prof of American Studies, San Jose State University

Harry Bridge, Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of Oakland

Natalie Quli, Research Fellow, Institute of Buddhist Studies

LOAN EXIT INTERVIEW

All graduating students who have borrowed Federal Stafford and Graduate PLUS loans are **required** to complete a Loan Exit Interview prior to graduation.



Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Graduate Theological Union

Library Computer Classroom

11:00am-12:30pm

1:00pm-2:30pm

The federal Student Loan Exit Counseling session will be

presented by Sun Ow, from Great Lakes Higher Education and will provide a comprehensive and personal approach to help you understand your responsibilities as a borrower and discover strategies that will help you to manage your federal student loans, such as, options for affordable repayment, deferment, temporary postponement and potential loan forgiveness. After the one-hour discussion, there will be a fifteen (15) minute Q&A to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and benefit from the questions of other student borrowers.

At the end of the session you will be asked to provide information that will be included as part of your loan records, to include, names, addresses and phone number(s) for your next of kin, two references who live in the United States, and your future employer (*if known*). You will also need your driver's license number, if you have one. **Laptops are welcome** but *not* required to complete the online option (www.studentloans.gov) of the mandatory exit interview. **Hardcopy forms will also be provided.** To complete the online option you will need your verified FSA ID (Username and Password).

A hardcopy of your federal student loan history from the *National Student Loan Data System* (NSLDS) and an information packet will be provided to students who register by **Tuesday, April 12.**

To register, please send an email to finaid@gtu.edu on or before Tuesday, April 12.

LIBRARY EXHIBIT

Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

February 13, 2017 - May 31, 2017

To commemorate 500 years of the Reformation, the library is exhibiting historical works by Martin Luther and his contemporaries, along with the ways Protestant anniversaries have been celebrated through the years. The exhibit cases will include a Luther Bible (1535 with hand colored prints) as well as early editions of works by Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Jean Calvin, Johann Eck and others. The exhibit will run from February 13 through May 2017.

The exhibition is made possible by the Jane Dillenberger Fine Arts Endowment Fund and is free and open to the public during library hours. For more information, contact David Stiver at dstiver@gtu.edu or Caryl Woulfe at cwoulfe@gtu.edu.



**THE DEAN'S
NEWSLETTER**

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

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

HONORABLE MENTION

MA STUDENTS

Thesis Successfully Defended

- Mahjabeen Dhala, CIS*
- Lora East, SFTS
- Daigan Vincent Gaither, IBS
- Lea Heitfeld, CJS
- Jaime Kimmel, IBS
- Rizwan Mawani, CIS
- Kelsey Pacha, PSR
- Ronald Riecki, CJS
- Sterling Spence, JST-SCU*
- Wan-Ting Tsai, PLTS
- Tipisone Tuiiolemotu, PSR
- Brandon Vaca, JST-SCU*

*With Honors

Oral Exams Passed

- Ivana Mullner, JUST-SCU
- Lucia Tosatto, JST-SCU

PHD STUDENTS

**Comprehensive Proposal
Approved**

- Amy Erickson, ETHC
- Nathaniel Michon, CHSR
- Hannah Pheasant, IDS
- Daniel Shantu, THEO

Oral Comprehensive Passed

- Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, IDS**
- Lindsey Dean, IDS

**With Distinction

Advanced to Candidacy

- Jiyong Ko, Christian Spirituality

Dissertation Successfully Defended

- Robert Galoob, CHSR
- Veronica Goines, IDS
- Elekosi Lafitaga, BIBL
- Su-Chi Lin, ART
- Chaitanya Motupalli, IDS
- Justin Tanis, IDS

SCHEDULE OF COMMENCEMENTS AROUND THE GTU (IN DATE ORDER)

Member School	Date	Time	Location
GTU	Thursday, May 11	4:00 PM	PLTS Chapel of the Cross
SKSM	Thursday, May 18	7:00 PM	Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
CDSP	Friday, May 19	10:30 AM	PSR Chapel of the Great Commission
SFTS	Saturday, May 20	9:30 AM	First Presbyterian Church
PLTS	Saturday, May 20	11:00 AM	PLTS Chapel of the Cross
DSPT	Saturday, May 20	1:30 PM	Second Church of Christ Scientist, 1521 Spruce St., Berkeley
ABSW	Saturday, May 20	2:00 PM	First Church-Christ Scientist
JST-SCU	Saturday, May 20	3:00 PM	PSR Chapel of the Great Commission
PSR	Sunday, May 21	4:00 PM	First Congregational Church of Berkeley