

# GTU Dean's Newsletter

## FROM THE DEAN



I had a hard time choosing a topic for this month's Newsletter. What to say is not easy when tensions are rising in the world due in large part to conflicts between the United States and Russia, China, or North Korea. There are also critical socio-political issues in the United States that need our immediate and sustained response, including the Black Lives Matter, Me Too, and March for Our Lives movements. All of these events and causes need our attention. But building off of March's Newsletter, for this month, I will focus on Holy Hill and theological education.

There will be two outstanding candidates for the GTU President position visiting the campus on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. One of the questions that the Presidential Search Committee asked of all semi-finalists was the following: As you know the overall enrollment numbers for theological schools have been decreasing for the last several decades. What did the theological schools and their leaders do or not do in the last thirty years or so that contributed to this decline, and what do you think the GTU needs to do now to increase the enrollment and become even more relevant to the faith communities and the public at large? The answer is a complicated one, but the question basically asks what we have learned from past mistakes and what can we do now to keep the GTU sustainable for another fifty or more years.

In addition to the pedagogical challenge I mentioned in the March issue, the GTU needs to *add* new philanthropy to its existing portfolio and *recruit* and *add* new types of students (e.g., millennials, non-Christians, and nones) to its traditional student body. The GTU needs new sources of funding to respond adequately to changes in student demographics, pedagogy, and technology. The challenge is to continue to excite traditional donors, alumni and friends, and at the same time, attract new categories of donors and friends who might not have considered making contributions toward traditional programs and activities. What can we highlight among the GTU's programs and initiatives that might attract new philanthropy? Similarly, how can we design our academic programs in such a way that will continue to excite the traditional student body while at the same time appeal to *new* students who might not have considered theological education before? I have some ideas. But it is important for all of us to be thinking about these questions.



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



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CARe & PDP Events . . . .	2
CIS News & Presidential Search Events . . . . .	3
Library News . . . . .	4
Library Workshops . . . . .	5
Commencement Events & Important Deadlines . . . .	6
CTNS & PSR Events . . . . .	7
CDS Events . . . . .	8
PSR Ignite Institute Events . . . . .	9
Honorable Mentions & Doc Student Committee Election Results . . . . .	10

# Center for the Arts and Religion Events

## ***Religion and Resistance, on view through May 24, 2018***

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

Free admission; open to the public

Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10am-3pm

***\*Special gallery hours! Open the first Saturday of the month, 10am-1pm- April 7 & May 5!***

## **GTU Art-Making and Discussion Group**

**Led by Karen Sjoholm**

**Co-sponsored by CARE and GTU Women's Studies in Religion**

Monday, April 2, 12:30-2:00pm

Limited to 10 participants. RSVP to [wsr@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:wsr@ses.gtu.edu)

Location: CARE's Doug Adams Gallery, 2465 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley

## **GTU Writing Group**

Every **Monday** in CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

**9am-1:30pm.** Feel free to bring beverages and light snacks. Wifi and outlets available!

## **Brown Bag Lunch Series: DORIS SALCEDO: ON MEMORIALIZING CIVIC WOUNDS AS A FORM OF PROTEST**

CARE's Doug Adams Gallery

**Friday, April 6 12-1pm. Bring your sack lunch!**

Guest speaker: **Yohana Junker** (PhD candidate in art and religion, GTU)

## **Third Thursdays at BAMPFA**

The UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

2155 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94720

**Thursday, April 19, 4:30pm**

**Guest speaker: Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble**

Topic: ART WALL: KARABO POPPY MOLETSANE

Receive a complimentary ticket the third Thursday of each month to visit the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive and hear a short talk by a GTU faculty member about an artwork on display. A CARE staff member will meet you in the lobby to check in and receive your visitor's pass. **RSVP to [care@gtu.edu](mailto:care@gtu.edu)**

# Professional Development Program Events

April 4th | 11 am | Student Lounge

**Excellence in Academic Writing**, with Jean-François Racine and Eduardo Fernández.

April 11th | 11 am | Student Lounge

**Exploring Job-Positions Beyond Tenure Track**,

with Wendy Arce, Beth Kumar, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, and Lisa Webster.

# Center for Islamic Studies News & Events

Congratulations to PhD students Paula Thompson and Mahjabeen Dhala for their presentations at the AAR Western Region Conference which was held at IBS, March 23-25.

**PhD student and Presidential Scholar, Mahjabeen Dhala**, will be presenting on **Muslim Women's Leadership at the upcoming GTU WSR Conference on April 13**. Congratulations!

**CIS is pleased to announce our visiting scholars presentations to be held at the GTU Library Board Room on April 17, 12-2pm.**

Dr. Jessica Lilu Chen (Stanford University) will present, What Chinese Muslims Have to Say About Islamic History.

Dr. Mark Fathi Massoud (Mellon Fellow and Professor at UC Santa Cruz) will present, Champions of Shari'a: Women and Islam in Somalia. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful event. For more info, please contact Rania Shah: [rshah@gtu.edu](mailto:rshah@gtu.edu)

CIS is delighted to co-sponsor the **9th Annual International Islamophobia Studies Conference to be held at UC Berkeley, April 27-29**. This year's theme is The Road Travelled. Congratulations to PhD students May Kosba and Paula Thompson who will be presenting papers, and our gratitude to Paula who serves as the Coordinator of the UC Berkeley Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at the Center for Race and Gender at UC Berkeley. For more info: [irdproject.com](http://irdproject.com)

Congratulations to CIS Director Munir Jiwa who has been named an advisor to the Society of Asian Art's Advisory Council at the Asian Art Museum.

## Presidential Search Events

*AS FEATURED IN "FROM THE DEAN" !*

The Presidential Search Committee at the Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that it has chosen two finalists for consideration to become the next president of the GTU. When elected, the new president will become the eighth president in the fifty-six-year history of the Graduate Theological Union, succeeding Dr. Riess Potterveld, who is scheduled to retire on June 30, 2018.

**For more information on these upcoming events, visit:**

<https://www.gtu.edu/presidentialsearch>

# Library News

**Reminder:** Barbara Green, OP will be giving the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading of the Sacred Texts on **Wednesday, April 4, at 7pm** in the GTU Dinner Board Room. All are welcome. Join us!



## “Can We Do That? Reading Sacred Texts As They Read Us”

How—with what legitimacy, rationale, skill, and effect—can we address fresh questions to our sacred texts? A certain strand of scholarship has valorized objectivity on the part of readers, strict attention to original historical contexts. And yet we also know from the arts that those who create such texts are deeply responsive to changing times. Our eyes and ears will not perceive quite the same world as did the authors of our texts. With the assistance of some hermeneutical tenets to guide interpretation, we will read one scene featuring Priam and Achilles from Homer’s *Iliad* book 24 and another of David and God narrated in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament’s 2 Samuel 5-7, viewing also a Baroque artwork of God and David. Since both scenes involve the workings of compassion, we will engage the question of our own capacities to read such material help or hinder us, and how deep texts may prompt compassion in us.

### **New Interreligious Journals!**

We recently acquired a new package of journals from Equinox Publishers, a UK based publisher focused on interreligious themes. Some of the new journals we have access to include: *Body and Religion*, *Health and Social Care Chaplaincy*, *Fieldwork in Religion*, *Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology*, *International Journal for the Study of New Religions*, *Implicit Religion*, *Journal for the Cognitive Science of Religion*, and more. You’ll see these journals in Summon or you can link directly to them via the E-journal portal. Ask a librarian if you have any questions.

### **Practicing for a language exam?**

We keep copies of previous exams in seventeen languages in the library in the reference section at BV4070 G763 L3. Come over, scan or photocopy a language of your choice and practice! We also have dictionaries in more than 60 languages, but if you don’t see your favorite, please suggest a purchase.

# Library Workshops

The following is a list of all course design and digital learning workshops that will happen in the Collaborative Learning Space this spring. The workshops will occur Monday afternoon (**12:40 to 2:00 pm**) and then repeated Friday morning (**9:40 to 11:00 am**, concurrent with the first half of the IDS-5011 class session) – *note the time change from previous semesters.*

## ***Assessment with Rubrics and Moodle's Gradebook***

Performing concrete assessment is an important part of a course. One important tool is the grading rubric. This workshop provides ideas for creating rubrics, adding them to Moodle, and using Moodle's gradebook to do all the math for assessment.

Monday, April 2

Friday, April 6

## ***Game Theory and Teaching* *NEW!***

In the last couple of years, "gamification" has become an important component in education. This workshop introduces participants to the interaction and mechanic aspects of game theory to construct educational games.

Monday, April 9

Friday, April 13

## ***Student Assessment with Moodle Quizzes***

Quizzes are still a popular way of assessing students' progress throughout a course. Quizzes can also provide opportunities to teach students interactively through various types of feedback. This workshop looks at Moodle's Quiz module to design traditional and developmental quizzes.

Monday, April 16

Friday, April 20

## ***Teaching with Social Media and Information Literacy* *UPDATED!***

Social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become very popular in the last decade, but are they effective as classroom tools? Join this workshop to discuss opportunities for including social media in residential and online classrooms. Specific attention will be paid to teaching students information literacy skills when working with online sources.

Monday, April 23

Friday, April 27

## ***Effective Syllabus Design* *NEW!***

This final workshop in the series looks at putting everything together with a thorough syllabus as the end-product. Ideas for drafting weekly lesson plans are also discussed.

Monday, April 30

Friday, May 4

# GTU Commencement Events

## The GTU Graduates Reception

The GTU Board of Trustees hosts a reception for all GTU common MA and Doctoral graduates, their families and guests the night before commencement. You will receive specific details about this event from the Advancement Office, but please mark your calendars. This event is a lovely opportunity to gather with friends, family and the entire GTU community to celebrate the successes of the graduating class. The evening features a program in which faculty advisors provide brief remarks about the graduate's work and accomplishments.

The reception will be:

**Date:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP)

St. Margaret's Courtyard & Dennison Commons

2451 Ridge Road

Berkeley, CA 94709

**For Information about the Trustees Reception contact:**

**Chris Cox, Associate Director of Development at [ccox@gtu.edu](mailto:ccox@gtu.edu), 510-649-2531**

## GTU Commencement

The GTU Commencement is **May 10 at 4pm Zaytuna College, 2401 LeConte**. A reception follows the ceremony at the Bade Museum at PSR. Common MA and Doctoral students planning on participating in the GTU Commencement Ceremony should report to for robing and procession instructions by 3:15pm. Faculty are asked to arrive by 3:30pm. Contact Kathleen Kook, GTU Dean of Students, [kkook@gtu.edu](mailto:kkook@gtu.edu), 510-649-2464 for information. We look forward to celebrating our accomplished graduates.

## Celebration of 2018 GTU Graduates of Color and International Student Graduates

Hosted by the GTU Member School Student Services Offices. Wednesday, April 25, 4:30pm, PSR Chapel.

# From the Dean of Students

## Modern Language Exam

The next modern Foreign Language Examination is Wednesday, May 23, 1:00pm to 4:45pm in the Dinner Board Room. Register by May 2 with Amberly Largusa, Student Affairs Office Manager, [alargusa@gtu.edu](mailto:alargusa@gtu.edu), 649-2400.

## Summer Modern Language Study at the GTU

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 and German courses will be offered July 9 through August 3 from 9am to noon, Spanish will meet from 3pm to 6pm. Tuition is \$670, due the Friday before the courses begins, payable to the GTU. To reserve a spot, contact

John Seal, GTU Registrar, [jseal@gtu.edu](mailto:jseal@gtu.edu).

## Center for Theology & the Natural Sciences Events

### What Does God Really Do in an Evolutionary Change?: Divine Concurrence and Transformism from the Thomastic Perspective

Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P.

~A CTNS Public Forum~

7 P.M., Thursday April 5

Dinner Board Room, 3rd Floor, Hewlett Library, Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California

Free and open to the public.

Neither Aristotle nor Aquinas assumes the reality of the evolution of species. Their systems of thought, however, remain open to the new data, offering an essential contribution to the ongoing research concerning scientific, philosophical, and theological aspects of the theory of evolution. Many enthusiasts of theistic evolution willingly accept Aquinas' distinction between primary and secondary, and principal and instrumental causes, to describe theologically "the mechanics" of transformism. Is it right, however, to ascribe all causation in evolution to creatures--acting as secondary causes? Is there any space for a more direct divine action in an evolutionary change? In this lecture, Tabaczek will endeavor to explain the complexity of causal description of the origin of a new species, analyzed in reference to both the immanent and the transcendent orders of causation.

**Mariusz Tabaczek, O.P.**, graduated in 2016 from the Graduate Theological Union with a Ph.D. in systematic and philosophical theology. He also holds an S.T.L. degree from the University of Poznan, Poland. A member of the Thomistic Institute in Warsaw, Poland, he teaches in the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Cracow, Poland.

## Asian & Pacific Islander Initiative Lecture

### Cosmopolitanism in a Geopolitically Uneven World: Radical Calls for the EthicoPolitical Responsibility for the Other

A lecture by Dr. Namsoon Kang

April 5, 6 PM | Badè Museum, PSR | 1798 Scenic Ave Berkeley, CA 94709

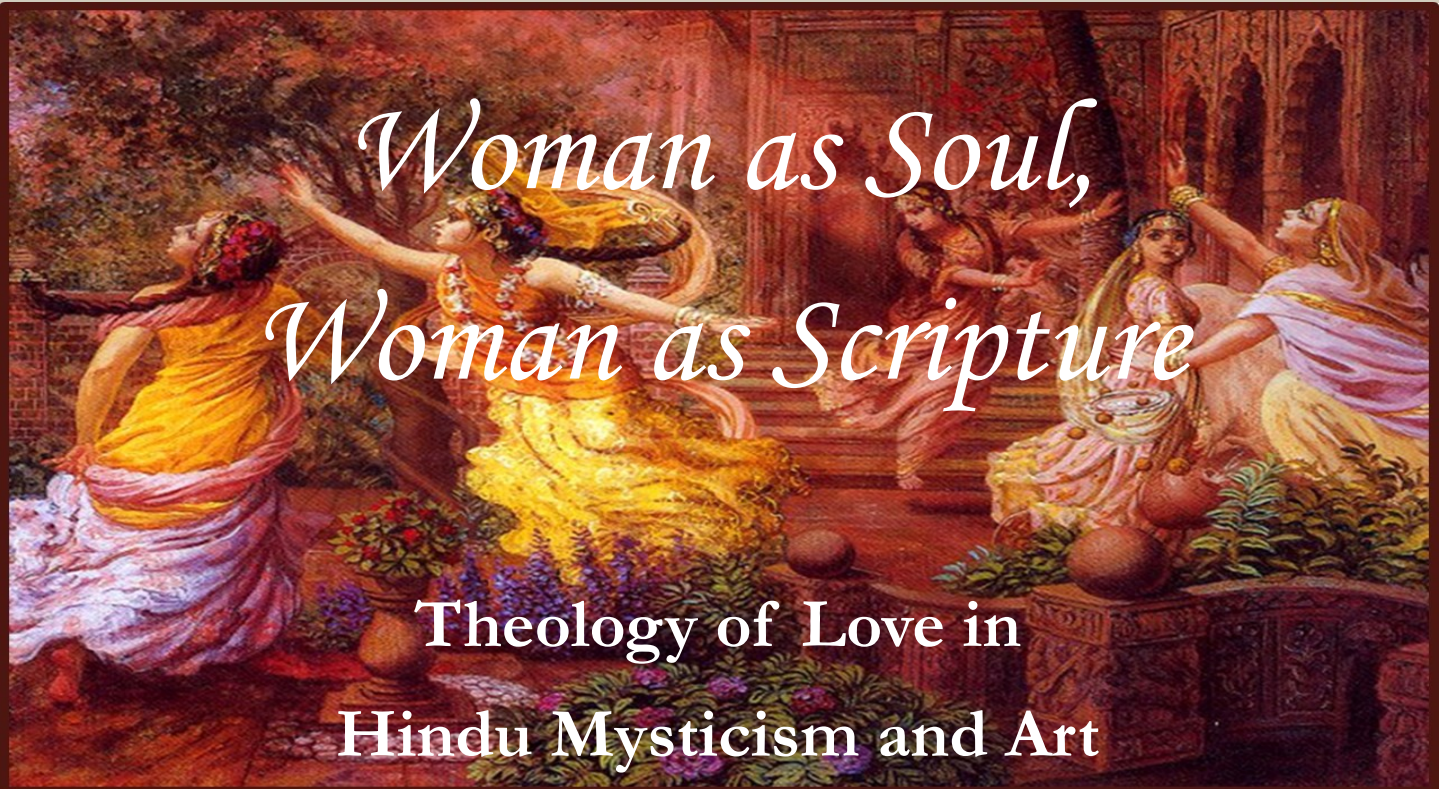
We live in an era when we are overwhelmed by the presence of the Others, whose rights to life, to freedom, or to survival, are *categorically* denied through the laws, biases, conventions, value systems, or religious teachings and practices. Today, countless places, people, or groups experience bloody conflicts, extreme poverty and hunger, oppression, hate-crime, and killing.

In the spirit of cosmic citizenship, cosmopolitanism grounds itself in an *ethics of singularity*, beginning with a singular *face* of the other. Cosmopolitanism emphasizes the *cosmic belonging* of all individual human beings as the ground of our hospitality, responsibility, solidarity, justice, and compassion for the others in an uneven world. This lecture takes an ethicopolitical cosmopolitanism as a fundamental mode of human co-existence, as a significant mode of *living-well-together*.



Namsoon Kang is professor of Theology and Religion at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University since 2006, and taught previously at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, UK and Methodist Theological University, Seoul, South Korea.

# Center for Dharma Studies Events



FRIDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> | 11:30 – 1:00 | DINNER BOARDROOM | LUNCH



Professor Graham M. Schweig, PhD

Distinguished Research & Teaching Fellow | GTU

Mira & Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies

Professor, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion | CNU

RESPONDENT

Kathryn Barush, PhD

Assistant Professor of Art History and Religion

Graduate Theological Union & Jesuit School of  
Theology at Santa Clara University



Mira and Ajay Shingal  
Center for Dharma Studies



Doug Adams Gallery  
Center for the Arts & Religion



# Pacific School of Religion's Ignite Institute Events

## DECOLONIZING SOCIAL INNOVATION

DATE | Saturday, April 14, 2018

LOCATION | PSR, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley, CA

TIME | 9am-4:30pm PST

REGISTRATION + INFO | [tinyurl.com/IgniteDecolonizingSI](http://tinyurl.com/IgniteDecolonizingSI)

COST | \$75

OFFERED BY | The [Ignite Institute at the Pacific School of Religion](#),

in partnership with [Impact Hub Berkeley](#)

Decolonizing Social Innovation is a 1-day, conference-style retreat dedicated to taking action to dismantle the colonizing practices inherited from our shared colonial past. This will be a day of exploring how the history of colonization manifests in socially innovative practices today, and sharing practical measures we can each take to engage in intentional cultural shifts to decolonize businesses, products, and daily operations in the world around us.

Visit the registration page to learn more about the Facilitator, Moderator, and Panelists.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY SERIES: BOOTCAMP for FAITH-BASED BUSINESSES

DATES | Monday, April 30 - Tuesday, May 29, 2018

LOCATION | Online

FORMAT | 8, 3-hour Sessions (Mondays + Fridays) + 1 Final

TIMES | 9am-12pm PST / 12-3pm EST

REGISTRATION + INFO | [tinyurl.com/IgniteKumuBOOTCAMP](http://tinyurl.com/IgniteKumuBOOTCAMP)

COST | \$500

OFFERED BY | The [Ignite Institute at the Pacific School of Religion](#), in partnership with [Kumu](#)

This Ignite Bootcamp is a hands-on experiential learning journey designed to encourage, empower and equip you to get started on your journey to become a social entrepreneur. Together we will form a learning community of meaning-driven entrepreneurs who will explore and experience how impact entrepreneurship could help your church have greater financial sustainability and social impact. Along the way you will learn and apply in practice some of the most powerful customer-centric tools you can use to design, prototype, iterate and launch world-changing businesses in real life.

Visit the registration page to learn more about your Bootcamp's Instructor, Learning Objectives, Time Commitments, and Technical Requirements

## Honorable Mentions

### MA/MABL

Ria B. Aquino, JST-SCU  
Alyssa Cover, PSR  
Jonathan Guevara, SFTS  
Jonathan Homrighausen, JST-SCU  
Lorelai Kude, CJS  
Sofia Lozano-Pallares, JST-SCU  
Mary Dern Walker, JST

### Dissertation Successfully Defended

Therese Bjoernaas, THEO  
Diandra Chretien, BIBL  
Philip Erwin, BIBL  
Hollis Mitchem, ART  
Raphael Okitafumba, ETHC  
Dustyn Ragasa, ETHC  
Daniel Shantu, THEO  
Eleanor Shapiro, IDS

### Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Shin Young Park, THEO

### Advanced to Candidacy

Hannah Pheasant, Interdisciplinary Studies

## Doctoral Student Committee Election Results

**Doctoral Council:** Kate LeFranc, Laura Dunn

**Grievance Committee:** Ineda Adesanya

**Student Advisory Committee:** Mahjabeen Dhala

**Student Rep to Library Committee:** Andrew Lee

**SBL Liaison:** Sarah Kohles



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 Wendy Arce, warce@gtu.edu

GTU Office of the Dean  
2400 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
<http://www.gtu.edu>

Phone: 510-649-2440  
Fax: 510-649-1417