

GTU Dean's Newsletter



It was wonderful to see 89 faces at the Dean's Welcome Reception!

On the one hand, we certainly missed the trappings of the traditional event -- grazing on elegant hors d'oeuvres while enjoying the expansive view of the Bay from the GTU boardroom. On the other hand, at this year's bring-your-own-snacks Zoom, we had no need to worry about BART delays, finding a parking spot, or even wearing real pants! The important elements of the event remained: saying hello to returning faculty, students, staff, visiting scholars and others; and welcoming new members of the GTU community. It was uplifting to see the new faces and hear the new voices of some twenty new colleagues. In these difficult and dangerous times, it was affirming to be among others dedicated to learning and growth, and to appreciating both our differences and our common humanity.



I pass along here the text I read at the event, from **Rebecca Solnit's** *Hope in the Dark: Untold Stories, Wild Possibilities*:

“Cause and effect assumes history marches forward, but history is not an army. It is a crab scuttling sideways, a drip of soft water wearing away stone, an earthquake breaking centuries of tension. Sometimes one person inspires a movement, or her words do decades later; sometimes a few passionate people change the world; sometimes they start a mass movement and millions do; sometimes those millions are stirred by the same outrage or the same idea and change comes upon us like a change of weather. All that these transformations have in common is that they begin in the imagination, in hope. To hope is to gamble. It's to bet on the future, on your desires, on the possibility that an open heart and uncertainty is better than gloom and safety. To hope is dangerous, and yet it is the opposite of fear, for to live is to risk.

I say all this because hope is not like a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. I say this because hope is an ax you break down doors with in an emergency; because hope should shove you out the door, because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the annihilation of the earth's treasures and the grinding down of the poor and marginal. Hope just means another world might be possible, not promised, not guaranteed. Hope calls for action; action is impossible without hope. At the beginning of his massive 1930s treatise on hope, the German philosopher Ernst Bloch wrote, “The work of this emotion requires people who throw themselves actively into what is becoming, to which they themselves belong.” To hope is to give yourself to the future, and that commitment to the future makes the present inhabitable.”

– Rebecca Solnit, *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016 [first published by Nation Books, 2004]), 3-4.

Elizabeth Peña, PhD

Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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From the Associate Dean of Students

Newhall Fellowships

DUE: Friday, November 13, 2020 by 5pm

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 13, 2020.

For more information on the Newhall Fellowship and how to apply, see:

www.gtu.edu/newhall-fellowship

Borsch-Rast Dissertation Award winners 2020-2021 ***Congratulations, Thomas Calobrisi and Laura Jean Torgerson!***

Thomas Calobrisi won for his project entitled, "*Minding Science: Neurophenomenology and the Buddhification of the Mind Sciences.*"

Laura Jean Torgerson won for her project entitled, "*Crossing Contexts: How Pentecostal Theology Students Navigate Church and Classroom.*"



INTRODUCING

A brand new students' group
 sponsored by
 The Center for the Arts & Religion

The Creatives' Cove

CREATING WITH FUN!

For more details contact:
 GM M'Imwonyo Mbuyi: gmbui@ses.gtu.edu
 Julie Gerrish: jgerrish@ses.plts.edu



**PDP
WORKSHOPS**

October 7, 10 - 11 AM
 Comprehensive Exams Proposal
 Facilitated by a student panel

October 21, 10 - 11 AM
 Dissertation Writing and
 Human Subjects Protocol
 Facilitated by
 Drs. Rebecca Esterson and
 Wendy Arce

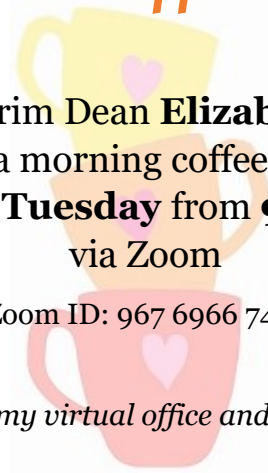
Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257
 RSVP: cmotupalli@gtu.edu

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join Interim Dean **Elizabeth Peña**
 for a morning coffee hour
every Tuesday from 9-10am
 via Zoom

Zoom ID: 967 6966 7418

“Stop by my virtual office and say hello!”



Protect yourself, your family, and your community.
 Get a flu shot!

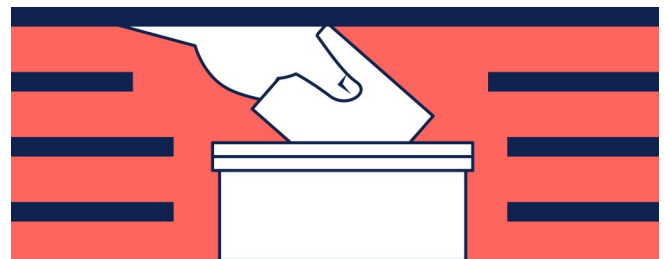


Flu Shot?

ANN CHANDLER PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER
 830 UNIVERSITY AVENUE (AT 6TH STREET)
 BERKELEY, CA 94710
 PHONE: (510) 981-5350
[HTTPS://WWW.CITYOFBERKELEY.INFO/FLUSHOT/](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/flushot/)

BERKELEY FREE CLINIC
 2339 DURANT AVENUE
 BERKELEY
 PHONE: (510) 548-2570

[HTTP://WWW.BERKELEYFREECLINIC.ORG/](http://www.berkeleyfreeclinic.org/)



ONE DECISION CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE

REGISTER TO VOTE

Let your voice be heard.
 Be a registered voter!

IT'S EASY!
 VISIT WWW.REGISTERTOVOTE.CA.GOV
 FOR DETAILS.

VOTE. In California, voter registration
 is allowed through **October 19**. Bring
 family + friends to the polls! Make your
 voice heard!

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program (ICP)

Interreligious Chaplaincy Program has created a new tradition for the GTU to begin every major event with an invocation by an ICP student.

The Fall 2020 Dean's Annual Welcome Reception included a prayer delivered by **Ms. Sakinah Alhabshi**, a first-year Masters in Islamic Studies and Interreligious Chaplaincy student.

INTERFAITH BENEDICTON BY CH. SAKINAH ALHABSHI

Let us join our hearts together...

My dear fellow travelers of this Life

We gather here in our unique presence

Welcoming the new, and greeting the familiar

As we embrace our common passion

For education, for transformation, for authentic leadership

We acknowledge the uncertainties, the pain, the anger

The rupture and repair that our communities are struggling through

May we find comfort in facing, not running

May we lean on each other for solidarity and compassion

May we strive to be of service to a hurting world.

We give thanks for the blessing of calling the GTU our Home

We give thanks for a community of vibrant hearts and minds

We give thanks as we nurture the seeds of Peace. In the many names we know You through

The Divine, All-Mighty, All-Loving, All-Wise, Greatest Mystery of Clarity, God, Allah

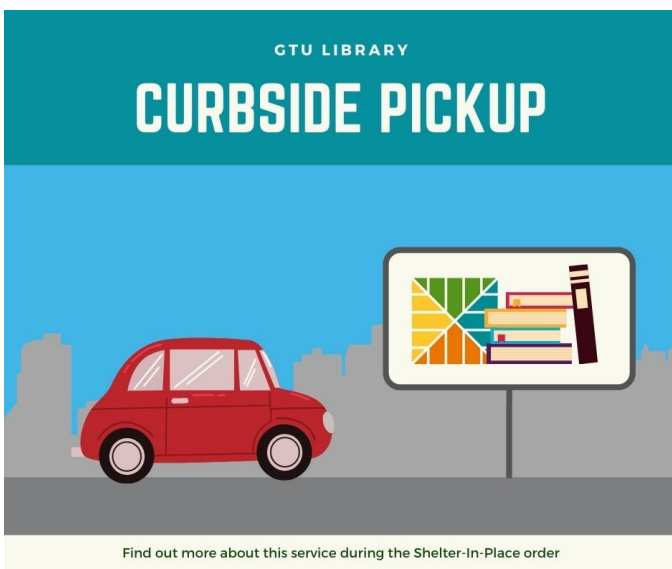
May it be so. Ameen.



Library News

- **Alumni Access to Articles.** Graduating soon or have you already graduated? Did you know that even after you graduate, you still can have free access to the Alta Religion Plus database? And if you are staying in the Bay Area, you can purchase an alumni account to checkout books for \$30 per year. Curbside pickup services for alumni are available both in Berkeley and San Anselmo. Please visit this page for details: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/alumni>
- **New Databases.** You may have read last month that the library has been busy acquiring new online material. We have access to more than 5 million more journals, ebooks, dissertations, and art images! These resources are integrated into Summon (our all-in-one search) or can be found on the electronic resources page in alphabetical order. A video highlighting these new databases can be found on the workshops page: <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-workshops>
- **Copies of Language Exams.** Are you preparing for a language exam? We have copies of the old exams in the library, and they can be scanned and emailed to you for practicing. Please fill out the scanning services form, and let us know which language you would like: French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, or Swedish. <https://www.gtu.edu/library/library-scanning-services>

Several new services were initiated during the last semester and will continue throughout the Fall semester:

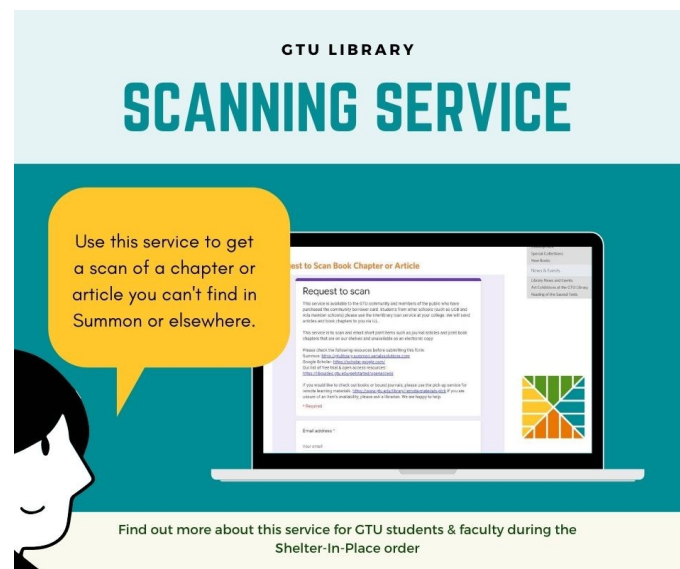


Curbside Pickup: Available in Berkeley or San Anselmo. <https://www.gtu.edu/library/remote-materials-pick>

Have a question?

Ask-a-librarian chat: Available from the library webpages and Moodle, the reference librarians are online from 9a-4p (pacific time) on weekdays.

Email: Send all questions (about anything) to library@gtu.edu



Zoom one-on-one help: By appointment, email us and we can set up a time to meet.

Scanning Services: Library staff can scan physical items that are in the library, such as periodical articles, reference articles, language exams, archival materials, or book chapters.

<https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-scanning-services>

Digital Learning Department

The Digital Learning Department will provide workshops during the Fall semester to help instructors teach with remote modalities. All workshops will take place on **Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00am-12:00pm** starting the week of September 14th until the end of November.

If instructors are unable to attend these workshops but still want to receive training, they are encouraged to reach out to Diandra Erickson, Director of Digital Learning, to schedule an appointment. The director is available for 1:1 and small group consultations.

Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom. Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing derickson@gtu.edu to receive the Zoom link.

Below are the workshops taking place in October:

Strategies for Facilitating Effective Zoom Synchronous Sessions:

Thursday, October 1st, 11am
 Friday, October 2nd, 11am

Community Building and Collaborative Learning in a Remote Course:

Thursday, October 15th, 11am
 Friday, October 16th, 11am

Overview of VoiceThread:

Thursday, October 8th, 11am
 Friday, October 9th, 11am

Moodle's Intermediate and Advanced Features:

Thursday, October 22nd, 11am
 Friday, October 23rd, 11am

Faculty:

Are you interested in “**Getting Your Scholarship in the Public Square?**” Check this out and other webinar opportunities from **ATS**:

<https://www.ats.edu/events/ats-webinar-faculty-getting-your-scholarship-public-square>



New College Berkeley (NCB)

Racial Injustice: From Complicity to Commitment—October 2-4, 2020

Cosponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley and New College Berkeley

<https://www.gtu.edu/events/racial-injustice-complicity-commitment>

Register now for GCC 2020: a weekend virtual conference of listening to voices of Christians of color who are on the front lines of combating racial injustice. Our six speakers are well known, dedicated faith leaders who are involved in issues of racial justice and the church. Wonderfully, Jemar Tisby, author of *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism* (the book that we have been reading in book groups this summer) will be one of our speakers on Friday evening. We will also hear from Michael McBride, Alexia Salvatierra, Raymond Chang, Dominique DuBois Guilliard, and Kamal Hassan. Conversations are facilitated by the Mark Labberton and Charlene Han Powell.

Speakers will speak to those of us in predominantly white churches with loving candor and honesty about the church’s complicity in racial injustice. We hope they will help us move from that complicity to overcome racial injustice in our own hearts and minds, so we may be able to commit, with energy and compassion, to the collective work of change in the church and in our communities.

[Visit the conference website!](#)

RACIAL INJUSTICE: FROM COMPLICITY TO COMMITMENT

October 2-4, 2020

Join us in listening to these Christians of color
on the front lines of combating racial injustice.



Jemar Tisby



Michael McBride



Alexia Salvatierra



Dominique DuBois
Guilliard



Raymond Chang



Kamal Hassan

3-Day Gathering on Zoom
A National Interpretation of
The Global Church Conference
#GCC2020

Facilitated by Mark Labberton
and Charlene Han Powell

Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

Art Window

Opening October 1

While the Doug Adams Gallery is out of use, we are using our beautiful ground floor window to highlight some of the Bay Area's talented artists! Take a stroll by the GTU North Building from October 1st to see the work of **Ora Clay**, an African American quilt-maker based out of Oakland. Her two quilts, *Bread at Midnight*, and *Human Rights: Article 29*, deal with themes of slavery, oppression, and the inalienable human right to water.

This window exhibition features work by a different artist every month, so be sure to keep an eye out for what to expect next!

CARE Fall Grants deadline

Monday, October 12, 9am

The Center for the Arts & Religion is pleased to offer grants (up to \$2,000) in support of projects that center on religion & the arts. Projects might include travel to a conference to present a paper or to conduct research, funding to assist with an art workshop, or fees related to a theatrical performance. Student projects are more likely to receive funding if linked directly to a student's progress toward a GTU degree or certificate program.

Please see more information on how to apply at: gtu.edu/caregrants

WORKSHOPS & TALKS

- ◆ **Workshop: Sacred Tattoos in 'Secular' Spaces with Luke Bruggeman**
October 2 - 6, 11am-1pm
- ◆ **Workshop: The Art of Sacred Circles with Karen Sjöholm**
October 3 - 10, 1:30-4pm
- ◆ **Workshop: Art, Embodied Creativity, and Spiritual Wisdom for Climate Emergency with Dr. Yohana Junker**
October 16 - 23, 1-3pm
- ◆ **Free talk: Gideon Mbui Art Talk**
October 22, 4pm
- ◆ **Workshop: Representations of Otherness: Monsters, Devils, and the Roots of Fear with Louise Victor**
October 27 - 28, 2-4pm

Book Release Party

Wednesday, Oct. 7 | 4pm PST

With Dr. Devin Zuber and Rev. Nate Klug, who will discuss their latest books:

A Language of Things: Emanuel Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination

Hosts and Guests: Poems

Join us on Zoom for a conversation about landscape, environmentalism, poetry, and more!

RSVP to care@gtu.edu

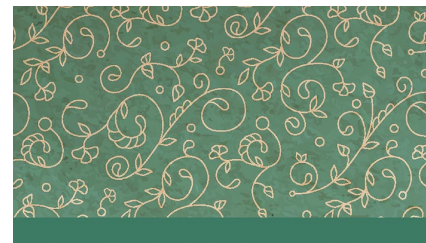


Please send an email to: care@gtu.edu if you would like to join us for these events!

Center of Dharma Studies (CDS)

The Center for Dharma Studies had several student milestones and achievements since the start of the Fall semester.

- ◆ CDS PhD Candidate in Hindu Studies (HCSR), **Cogen Bohanec**, has **Passed his PhD Defense** (oral dissertation examination). Soon to be the first PhD alum of CDS, Cogen leaves behind a brilliant legacy and a high bar for future doctoral students in Hindu Theology. The title of his dissertation is: *“Process and Dialectic in Hindu Thought: Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Systematic Theology and Ethics.”* He is currently co-editing *Contemplative Studies in Jainism* (Routledge). *Congratulations, Dr. Bohanec!*
- ◆ CDS is proud to announce that **Laura Dunn**, PhD Candidate in Hindu Studies (HCSR), and Managing Editor of the *Journal of Dharma Studies* (Springer), has received the GTU **Outstanding Dissertation Award** for best dissertation proposal (2019-2020) entitled *“Visualizing Power: The Image of Śakti in Modern Day Trika Tantra.”*
Congratulations, Laura Dunn!
- ◆ We are delighted to celebrate, along with **CARe and CIS**, the opening on September 10th, of the Fall exhibition for GTU Center for Art & Religion: *“Drawing the Soul Toward Truth: Hindu and Muslim Sacred Geometry,”* **Rachelle Syed**, CDS PhD student in Comparative Theology, is the **Guest Curator** and creative force behind this brilliant and beautiful exhibition. It showcases the work of Hindu and Muslim artists from around the world. CDS MA Student **Ariel Ramirez** is one of the artists showcased by the exhibit. View the Opening Reception at <https://www.drawingthesoul.com/> and hear from the curator, get a tour of the exhibition, and meet some of the artists on display. *See the exhibit that places interreligious and cross-cultural dialogue in the transformative space of art and sacred aesthetic imagination.*
<https://www.drawingthesoul.com/gallery>
Congratulations on this major achievement, Rachelle Syed!
- ◆ CDS warmly welcomes **Kali Tanikella**, our new PhD Student in Hindu Studies (HCSR).
- ◆ Congratulations to **Rachelle Syed** and **Kali Tanikella** on your selection to the **Koret Fellowship in Interreligious Dialogue!** The Koret announcement noted that despite many highly qualified applicants, Koret found their “interests, experiences and goals well suited to the objective of the Koret Fellowship to equip scholars, teachers, and practitioners of religion with skills useful in facilitating meaningful interreligious communication.”
- ◆ CDS is launching a three-volume series on Contemplative Studies and Dharma Traditions (Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist Dharma), seeking to broaden the categories of the discipline towards more diversity and complexity. The first book of the series is now available: ***Contemplative Studies & Hinduism: Meditation, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship*** (Rita D. Sherma & P. Bilimoria, Editors).



CONTEMPLATIVE STUDIES AND HINDUISM

MEDITATION, DEVOTION, PRAYER, AND WORSHIP

Edited by
Rita D. Sherma and Purushottama Bilimoria



Fall 2020 Exhibition of CARE

“Drawing the Soul Toward Truth: Hindu and Muslim Sacred Geometry”

Guest Curated by Rachelle Syed, CDS PhD student in Comparative Theology

View the Opening Reception at: <https://www.drawingthesoul.com/>



Artist: © Fariba Abedin, “Geometry #146-149”



Artist: © Vera Vandendries, “Awakening Courage”



Artist: © Kinnari Saraiya, “Coexist”

Center of Islamic Studies (CIS)

CIS is delighted to share and celebrates the academic milestones for the following students in Islamic Studies:

- ◆ "Dr." Mahjabeen Dhala - PhD dissertation submitted
- ◆ Kamran Khan - MA thesis submitted
- ◆ "Dr." Ahmed Khater - PhD dissertation submitted
- ◆ May Kosba, PhD exams passed with distinction

Congratulations to these students and to their families on these incredible accomplishments!

- The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is pleased to host, *Assembly Without Assembly: Sacred Gatherings in the Time of Covid*.

Featured speakers will be **Dr. Ahmed Khater and Rabbi Yonatan Cohen**.
October 13, 2020 at 4pm.

For more info:

<https://www.gtu.edu/events/assembly-without-assembly-sacred-gatherings-time-covid>

- Congratulations to **Carol Bier**, CIS Research Scholar, who will be presenting on a Roundtable (via Zoom) *India in Situ: Textile History and Practice – A Team Approach*, at the Textile Society of America Biennial Symposium, **October 15-17, 2020**. For more info:

<https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/symposia/symposium-2020/program-2>

- Congratulations to **David Coolidge**, GTU doctoral student, who is Visiting Faculty at Bayan Islamic Graduate School teaching a course entitled, "Homo Islamicus: Explaining Human History from an Islamic Perspective."
- Congratulations and gratitude to CIS MA students **Sakinah Alhabshi** and **Chaplain Taqwa Surapati** who will present, "Chaplains Creating Value: Integration in Interdisciplinary Care" and to **Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh** who will give the keynote presentation, "Practical Theology and Ethics in Islamic End-of-Life Care" at the Association of Muslim Chaplains Healthcare Conference **October 3-4, 2020**.

Center of Theology and Natural Sciences (CTNS)

The Spiritual Journey of Homo Sapiens

with

Dr. Jim Stump

Friday, October 9 at 5pm (PDT) - ONLINE



The forum will take place Friday, October 9 at 5pm (PDT). The discussion will be moderated by Robert John Russell, with the lecture followed by a brief question and answer period.

Please email mmoritz@gtu.edu to register and receive the Zoom ID. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jim Stump is Vice President at [BioLogos](#). He oversees the editorial team, participates in strategic planning, and hosts the podcast, [Language of God](#). Jim also writes and speaks on behalf of BioLogos. He has a PhD in philosophy and was formerly a professor and academic administrator. His books include, *Four Views on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*; *Science and Christianity: An Introduction to the Issues*; *How I Changed My Mind about Evolution*; and *The Blackwell Companion to Science and Christianity*.

Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

The CLGS 2020 Georgia Harkness Lecture

Wednesday, 21 October 2020, 4pm to 6:30pm (Pacific Time)

ONLINE at www.clgs.org

Rev. Dr. Traci C. West

“Engendering Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality Among Church Leaders”

In this political moment, how can scholar-activist church leaders create common understandings that undermine patterns of society-wide abuse and intra-communal betrayal, and instead deepen their solidarity with one another? What are effective ways of expressing defiance of heteropatriarchal abuser logic and white supremacy through our spiritual resources and practices? This lecture will include examples from Dr. West’s study of transnational Africana activist leadership to end gender violence.



Rev. Dr. Traci C. West is an activist-scholar who serves as the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School (NJ). Her teaching, research, and activism have focused on gender, racial, and sexuality justice, especially related to gender violence. Her major publications include *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics* (1999), *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women’s Lives Matter* (2006), and most recently, *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality: Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence* (2019). She is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and an activist for full and anti-racist LGBTQIA+ equality in that denomination.

OCTOBER ONLINE EVENTS:

CLGS Lavender Lunch: Rowan Queathem, CSR, MTS on *From Seminary to Student Affairs*. Wednesday, 13 October from 12:15pm to 1:15pm (Pacific Time). ONLINE at clgs.org. [For more information, click [here](#)]

The CLGS Queer Online Book Club: An online discussion of the book *How We Fight For Our Lives* by Saeed Jones. Rev. Jim Mitulski, Facilitator.

12, 19, and 25 October (7pm, Pacific Time). ONLINE at clgs.org. [For more information, click [here](#)]

INTERCONNECTING BOUNDARIES: Women, Democracy, and Religion

GTU Asia Project & Women's Studies in Religion Joint Student Conference

Friday, October 23, 2020
9:30am - 12:00pm
Online Conference

Program

Session 1 - Women: 9:30 - 10:15am

Moderator: Marinda, KengFan Chan

Hye Hyun Han: The Body as a Political Space: Sexual Objectification of Comfort Women

Keyona Saquile Lazenby: Spiritual Democracy - The Politics of Patriarchy

Session 2 - Democracy: 10:15 - 11:00am

Moderator: Mariska Lauterboom

Sheryl Johnson: Majority Rules?: Democratic Processes and Minoritized Religious Leadership in the United Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Barbara Anne Kozee: Queer Migrations in the Age of Trump

Wan-Ting Tsai: The PCT's Social-Political Involvement in Twentieth Century Taiwan: A Review and Response

Break: 11:00 - 11:15am

Session 3 - Religion: 11:15am - 12:00pm

Moderator: Brianna Deutsch

Christina M. Atienza: Postcolonial Christology as Starting Point for Interreligious Dialogue in Asia: A Response to Peter Phan's *The Joy of Religious Pluralism*

Woori Han: A Practical Application of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux's Concept of Love: Preaching Designed to Deepen the Spiritual Maturity of Members of Yoido Full Gospel Church (Assemblies of God of Korea)

Mahjabeen Dhala: The Sermon of Fatima: A Critique of Religious and Political Leadership from the Perspective of Women and Justice

All are welcome to attend this conference featuring a variety of student papers!

**Please RSVP at Marinda Chan at asia-project@ses.gtu.edu and Sheryl Johnson at wrs@ses.gtu.edu.
The zoom link will be given after the registration.**

Honorable Mention

MA/MABL

Jeffrey Adams, HCSR
Christopher Dunford, BUDH, HONORS
Harumichi Fukaya, HCSR
Kamran Khan, ISLM
Yae In Min, HCSR

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Cogen Bohanec, HCSR
Mahjabeen Dhala, SATX
Aline Gram, SPRT
Ahmed Khater, CRLG
Cristoffr A. Ortiz-Roberts, BIBL
Harley J. Siskin, HIST

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Matthew D. Beach, THET
Kelly Colwell, REPR
Aaron Grizzell, HCSR
Kyprianos Koutsokoumnis, HCSR

Oral Examination

May Kosba, HCSR, Distinction



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, Executive Assistant to the Dean's Office, mhaddick@gtu.edu



Graduate
Theological
Union

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