

GTU Dean's Newsletter



Fall Semester 2020



As Director of the Center for the Arts & Religion, I have been fortunate enough to have met many of you in the Doug Adams Gallery at exhibition openings, Brown Bag Lunch presentations, poetry readings, and the like. I've worked with some of you as a Center Director, GTU faculty member, and as a Women's Studies in Religion steering committee participant. For the upcoming year, I am honored to take on another role, serving the GTU as Interim Dean.

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We are used to starting the academic year with a feeling of promise, ready to dive into coursework, renew friendships, and meet new colleagues. This year, those expectations are tempered by the realization that those activities won't happen in the classroom, the library, or a nearby café – instead, we are challenged to find community in a virtual environment. Having followed shelter-in-place rules since March, we are used to social-distancing routines; yet they remain onerous and dispiriting. Of course, in addition to the egregious death toll wrought by COVID-19, the pandemic has laid bare the systemic racism and inequality that undergird our society and culture. That's not new, but it's been more fully revealed.

Despite all this, my hope is that the new academic year will indeed offer a re-set, a means to reengage and reconnect. How can we take heart?

- ◆ **Focus** on the GTU's mission to *advance new knowledge, share inspiration, and collaborate on solutions*. The GTU's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, intercultural communication, and interreligious understanding is ever more crucial. We can take this opportunity for reflection and examination, in our personal lives and in our studies.
- ◆ **Be inspired** by the GTU faculty and staff, who have recreated a learning community that is academically rigorous but retains the personal (albeit virtual) touch. Professors have spent the summer wrestling with syllabi, making the best use of on-line modalities. The library developed creative solutions to allow for on-going research, from generous on-line support to curbside pick-up (check the website for updated policies).
- ◆ **Take action** to repair the world: V O T E. It's not too late! In California, the deadline to register is Monday, October 19 (<https://registertovote.ca.gov>).

In closing, I'd like to invite you to join me for a morning coffee hour, every Tuesday from 9-10am. Just email Melissa Haddick (mhaddick@gtu.edu), and she will send you the Zoom link. Stop by my virtual office and say hello!

Elizabeth Pena, PhD.

Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Director of the Center for the Arts & Religion and Doug Adams Gallery



From the Associate Dean of Students

Welcome to Fall Semester, New and Returning Students!

Modern Language Exam

Wednesday, September 30th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The GTU Modern Foreign Language Exam will be offered Wednesday, September 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. using remote modalities. The exam can be offered in Chinese, French, German, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish, depending on interest and need. Students should contact Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator, well in advance if they wish to be examined in an alternative language; in these cases, we will need student's help to secure the examiner. Please visit <https://www.gtu.edu/students/academic-milestones> for more information.

⇒ Please register with Fredonia Thompson, Academic Programs Coordinator (ftompson@gtu.edu) no later than September 16.

Outstanding Dissertation Award from 2019-2020

Congratulations, Laura Dunn!

Laura Dunn, Historical and Cultural Studies of Religions won the 2019-2020 Outstanding Dissertation Award for her proposal entitled, "Visualizing Power: The Image of Śakti in Modern Day Trika Tantra."

Call for Submissions—

“Be the Change: Student Stories of Action and Resilience“

The GTU wants to spotlight and share the stories of how our students are having transformative impact in these unprecedented times.

We are seeking stories about work that students have done or are intending to do that addresses the impact of this year's most urgent and pressing issues, taking on such themes as inequality, community-building and social cohesion, and spiritual care.

All submitted stories will be featured on the GTU's social media channels, and a select number will be chosen by a review committee for more in-depth coverage as part of the GTU's Spiritual Care and Ethical Leadership for our Times (SCEL) series through the production of a video and podcast. Those selected for inclusion in SCEL will receive an honorarium.

⇒ **This opportunity is open to any student within the GTU consortium, at any stage of their program.**

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/scel/be-change-student-stories-action-and-resilience>

Fall 2020 Student Awards

Student Travel Grants

DUE: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 by 5pm.

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. Because travel is restricted this year, winners of this grant can be used to cover registration costs incurred for presenting your paper. Winners are given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award.

For the first cycle, applications are due by Monday, September 15, 2020 (and on February 15, 2021 for the second cycle).

For more information and to access the online application form, see:

www.gtu.edu/student-travel-grants

Chan Essay Prize

DUE: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 by 5pm

Fall 2020 Topic: "Religion and Economics"

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

Submissions are due in the GTU Dean's Office no later than 5PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. Email submissions can be sent to: warce@gtu.edu (Wendy Arce, Associate Dean of Students).

For more information, see: www.gtu.edu/chan-essay-prize

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



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CALIFORNIA**

Want to explore your health insurance options?

Contact Christiane Broner

(christianebronner@gmail.com) for a free consultation.

SEPTEMBER PDP WORKSHOPS**SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, 10 AM**

Writing in English
(Only for International Students)

Facilitated by Dr. Chaitanya Motupalli

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, 10 AM

Orientation to Doctoral Council

Facilitated by Drs. Wendy Arce &
Chaitanya Motupalli

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, 10 AM

Excellence in Academic Writing

Facilitated by Dr. Devin Zuber

All workshops will be held on Zoom
Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257

RSVP: cmotupalli@gtu.edu

<https://www.gtu.edu/students/professional-development>

Digital Learning Department

Since all courses will be offered using remote modalities for the Fall, the Digital Learning Department is readily available to support faculty and students with their teaching and learning needs! The Digital Learning Department provides the following services listed below. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Diandra Erickson (derickson@gtu.edu) or GTU Moodle Support (moodle@gtu.edu).

Digital Learning services for faculty:

- 1:1 and small group consultations between faculty and the Director to discuss online course design, using Moodle for remote courses, educational technologies, or any other questions about remote teaching (by appointment).
- Weekly workshops on various pedagogical and technical aspects of remote teaching and learning. The Fall schedule will be distributed to faculty at the beginning of September.
- Syllabus and Moodle course page review and feedback.
- Guides and documents for effective teaching with remote modalities (please email the Director for PDF copies).
- Instructional how-to videos for using Moodle and VoiceThread. These are available on the Moodle site home page under "Moodle and VoiceThread help for faculty" <https://moodle.gtu.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=174133> Most recordings of the workshops provided in Summer 2020 are also available in the Moodle site home page.
- Moodle, Zoom, and VoiceThread technical support.

Digital Learning services for students:

- Moodle and VoiceThread technical support. For students that need assistance with any aspect of Moodle or VoiceThread please contact moodle@gtu.edu.
- Instructional how-to videos for using Moodle and VoiceThread. These are available on the Moodle site home under "Moodle help for students" <https://moodle.gtu.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=174134>
- Instructional video for setting up a Grammarly Premium account. <https://moodle.gtu.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=174134>
- FAQ questions about using Moodle <https://moodle.gtu.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=174134>



Library News

The GTU Library welcomes all returning and entering students, faculty, and staff to the 2020-21 academic year. While the library building remains closed to all but essential workers in compliance with relevant County and City Health Officers' orders, the library staff remain committed to provide academic support services to the GTU community. Please contact us with any questions at library@gtu.edu.

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

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>

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

Librarian Assistance

- **Ask-a-librarian chat:** Available from the library webpages and moodle, the reference librarians are online from 10a-4p on weekdays. These hours might change due to patterns in chat volume.
- **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.
- **Getting Started with Library Research Guide:** <https://libguides.gtu.edu/getstarted>

Online workshops: Both live zoom and pre-recorded sessions will be available <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/library-workshops> view webpage for times and login info. Workshops include:

Biblical Exegesis (live in zoom- Sept. 10th & 15th)
Zotero (pre-recorded, with drop-in Q&A live times)
Grammarly (pre-recorded)and more.

Materials & Access

Interlibrary loan: You can borrow items not owned by the GTU. Articles will come via email, while print materials can be picked-up curbside. <https://www.gtu.edu/library/get-help/interlibrary-loan>

Suggest a Purchase: <https://forms.gle/qVfc5pyjSnHCH2vCA>

Extended due dates and recalls: We have extended all due dates, and will continue to extend these for students who are registered for the fall semester. However, books that are currently checked out can sometimes be recalled by other students, which would require you to bring the book back. The book drops at both libraries are open to return materials or they can be mailed back. Please login to your library account to see these changes in due dates.

New Online Resources for Fall! Including: ProQuest Dissertation & Theses Global Database, Loeb Classical Online, Project Muse Premier Collection, Sage Premier All Access eJournals, Oxford Reference Collections, Oxford Bibliography of Biblical Studies, LGBTQ+ Source, Digitalia Hispanica, ArtStor, and more. A video highlighting the new resources will be posted on the workshops page and in social media.

Planning for Future Library Access:

Mindful of the GTU commitment to the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff, the library staff is currently developing plans for the staged reopening of the library. Stage One, implemented during the Spring Semester 2020, provides for remote services, scanning of chapters and articles, and curbside circulation of print-materials. **Stage One will continue until further notice.**

For Stage Two, the library is developing a self-reservation system where a small number of students and faculty will be able to reserve a place in the library for short periods of individual study or research. Low-density, social distancing, face coverings, and hand hygiene will be observed by all patrons and members of staff to promote the health and wellbeing of our community.

Several further stages are in discussion. **Stage Two will not come into effect until County and City Health Officers' orders allow.**

For up to date information regarding Library services during the Covid-19 pandemic, please visit <https://www.gtu.edu/coronavirus-resources-gtu>. Scroll down to Library Resources.

Center of Islamic Studies (CIS)

Center for Islamic Studies extends a warm welcome to all new and returning students, instructors, staff and visiting scholars for the academic year 2020-2021!

As we begin the new academic year in these unprecedented and challenging times, we are grateful for our beloved GTU community and partnerships, and our ability to work together on Zoom as we eagerly look forward to being together in person. Prayers and wishes for everyone's good health and safety.

CIS is honored to lead a grant to the GTU from the **Henry Luce Foundation** as part of its initiative to provide rapid support for community and faith-based responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate effects on predominantly Black and Brown communities in the Bay Area. In addition to the frontline work being led by communities of color, the CIS/GTU will be holding a series of webinars to hear from our community partners and leaders. As an extension of this project, CIS/GTU will be hosting a series of ongoing conversations on racism and injustice.

For more information please visit our GTU calendar of events and/or contact the project coordinator: Huzaiifa Shahbaz: hshahbaz@gtu.edu

GTU LIBRARY

SCANNING SERVICE

Use this service to get a scan of a chapter or article you can't find in Summon or elsewhere.

Request to Scan Book Chapter or Article

Request to scan

This service is available to the GTU community and members of the public who have purchased the copyright for their work. Students from other schools such as UC and other regional colleges cannot use this service for their school or other college. We will scan articles and book chapters for you.

This service is available to scan and request chapters from our journal articles and book chapters that are in our library and available on an online or print format.

Please email the following information to library@gtu.edu

Author: [Name]

Title: [Title]

Journal: [Journal Name]

Chapter: [Chapter Name]


If you need the article scanned at a different time, please use the link provided for online library services. <https://gtu.library.gsu.edu/online-services/> If you are unable to access the online services, please email us directly. We're happy to help!

E-mail address: [Email]

Find out more about this service for GTU students & faculty during the Shelter-In-Place order

GTU LIBRARY

CURBSIDE PICKUP



Find out more about this service during the Shelter-In-Place order

Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS)

A CLGS Lavender Lunch:

Tuesday, 15 September 2020 | 12:10pm (Pacific Time) | ONLINE at www.clgs.org

Nicole Santamaría, CSSC, MAST: Ministry at El/La Para TransLatinas

International activist, art therapist, and educator Nicole Santamaría will speak about their current ministry as Executive Director of **El/La Para TransLatinas**, a Bay Area organization that has served the Translatina community for over 25 years.



A CLGS Lavender Lunch:

Tuesday, 29 September 2020 | 12:10pm (Pacific Time) | ONLINE at www.clgs.org

Rev. Roland Stringfellow, CSR, MDiv, DMin: Sacred Activism

The Coordinator of the **CLGS African American Roundtable** will explore “sacred activism” as a vocation to work for justice. Rooted in our current realities and also building upon past movements of resistance and activism, sacred activism can lead us to a future grounded in hope.



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.

Center for the Arts & Religion Events (CARE)

Fall Workshops

Interested in tattoos and spirituality? Hollywood's Biblical epics? Check out CARE's 2020 Fall workshops! Each workshop will consist of two 2-hour long online sessions.

Open to students and community members, artists and non-artists, those with experience and beginners! Each workshop pair costs \$100.

Learn more at gtu.edu/careworkshops

GTU 2020 closing soon

This summer, CARE stepped back from our regular exhibition schedule to focus inwards on our own community - GTU students, faculty, and staff. We created an online showcase of the resilience all of us have shown in the last few months by gathering together reflections, photos, artwork, and so much more. In response to the institutional racism in the United States laid bare by the murders of Black people at the hands of the police, we also included a Black Lives Matter section.

Be sure to visit the showcase online before it closes at www.dougadamsgallery.com

Drawing the Soul Toward Truth

Opening online Thursday, September 10th

Guest curated by Rachele Syed, GTU PhD Student

In partnership with the [Center for Islamic Studies](#) and the [Mira and Ajay Shingal Center for Dharma Studies](#).

Drawing the Soul Toward Truth explores Islamic and Hindu geometric design in their particularities and as a tool of interfaith dialog. The art in this show can facilitate new thoughts, ideas, and relationships, creating opportunities for inquiry and learning for the benefit of students, spiritual communities, and others.

This online exhibition features geometric design as an expression of faith and its use in the theology, art, and history of Islam and Hinduism. This includes geometry as a tool of representation of divinity, divine communion, or unlocking the language of creation.

Art Window

While the Doug Adams Gallery remains closed, we are pleased to present mini-exhibitions in our window! Each month this academic year, we'll feature the work of Bay Area artists, focusing on themes related to social justice. Keep an eye on CARE's website and social media channels for more information on the artists and possible socially distanced exhibition openings!

AFTER/LIFE Recap

Our Fall exhibition, *AFTER/LIFE* was open for only a few short weeks before COVID-19 made it impossible for any more visitors to enjoy this spectacular show in person. Not deterred, we at CARE made sure to bring this exhibition to life as best we could, with panel discussions, videos, articles, and more.

The full list of related programs lives on through our website:

[Take a look!](#)



GTU to Host AAR

2021 Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region

We are delighted to announce that the **Graduate Theological Union** (GTU) in Berkeley, California, will host the 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Western Region (AAR/WR) March 19-21, 2021. Due to the spread of COVID-19 in California and the United States, the conference will follow a virtual modality with the possibility of some hybrid sessions.

The AAR/WR and GTU are working closely together to organize a robust conference in 2021. The successful organization of our [2020 conference](#), which the AAR/WR turned into a virtual event in short time and as an emergency following the spread of COVID-19 in California in March 2020, brings us confidence that our unit chairs and members will work together to create a unique and memorable online conference in 2021. We are further encouraged by the amazing team of academics and administrators at GTU with whom we are working to bring forth the conference. Our conference organizers are especially working on issues of inclusivity and accessibility for our members, and we expect to provide unique sessions that highlight our region's diversity and creativity. We also expect to provide all of our members with special networking opportunities at our 2021 conference.

Our 2021 Conference Theme is: *Religious Studies after COVID-19: The Role of Religion in Times of Pandemic, Sustainability, Marginalized Communities, and Social & Economic Justice*. Please see [this page](#) for a full description of the theme.

The deadline for submissions is **October 15, 2020. Submissions should be sent to the relevant unit chairs and include an abstract of 250 words and a [Program Participant Form](#).**



*American Academy of Religion
Western Region*

*California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii,
Guam, and the Pacific Islands*

URL: <https://www.aarwr.com/annual-meetings.html>

Honorable Mention

Comprehensive Proposal Approved

Christian Suba, HCSR
Wan-Ting Tsai, REPR
Matthew Hartman, THET

Oral Examination

Christina Atienza, HCSR
Clifton Huffmaster, HCSR, Distinction
Pamela Stevens, HCSR
Stefan Waligur, HCSR
Ineda Adesanya, SPRT

Dissertation Successfully Defended

Paul Blankenship, SPRT
Insoo Kim, THEO

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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