

GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



That's the GTU. We Do Hard Things

This month's newsletter article is adapted from the remarks I offered at our block party celebration on October 14, 2023. As we gathered that day, our hearts, minds, and bodies carried within them the profound grief over the intense suffering and crisis unfolding in Israel and Gaza. Members of our community are personally and intimately affected by the ongoing suffering in that region of the world. Our community also holds mindfully the suffering around the world (including locally) that does not gain the attention of the news or a broader acknowledgment in classrooms or conversations. At our event in October and in our daily lives together all month long, we have lived into this deep complexity. Enveloped within that complexity are also moments of celebration, a joy that rebelliously persists. The theologian Willie Jennings, in a podcast episode from February 2021, reflected on the way joy can be an act of resistance. He said: "I look at joy as an act of resistance against despair and its forces. ...Joy in that regard is a work, that can become a state [of being], that can become a way of life."

In the months leading up to the block party, I thought in shorthand about the "Hewlett Building Celebration." It was a grand reopening of our building after several years of alterations: moving thousands of books several times; the creation of new classroom space; new offices; new gallery space; new gathering spaces. We endured years of construction noise, drilling into concrete, sonic and physical disruptions during meetings and classes.

But what we honored on October 14 was something much more profound than that. What we honor together is the spirit of the Graduate Theological Union—a vision that is bold enough, revolutionary enough, resilient enough, and inspiring enough to bring us together with a joy that will not be extinguished by grief no matter how deep. The spirit of the GTU allows us to gather in all our complexities and join in a work that seeks to heal, reconcile, problem-solve, reconstruct, and begin anew.

How we lived through the reconstruction of the Hewlett Building says something about who the GTU is as a community. I learned from my colleague Marie Lucero that a lot of other places probably would have closed the building completely for a year to accomplish the level of alterations that we did in this space. But not us. Not the GTU. Perhaps we might think to ourselves: "Yep, that's the GTU. We do things the hard way!" And, yeah, maybe we do. But I choose to think of it this way: "That's the GTU. We do hard things."

We lived in this building together even as it was reconstructed around us. We did not choose to save ourselves from the many inconveniences and disruptions of reconstructing our space but instead chose to keep ourselves right in the middle of it. And, honestly, isn't that just like the GTU? We stay in hard places, we remain amid the disruption, we choose to do hard things because we see, we imagine, we re-imagine what it will someday look like to be together, to be community, to build a better future, to shape together a better way of life.

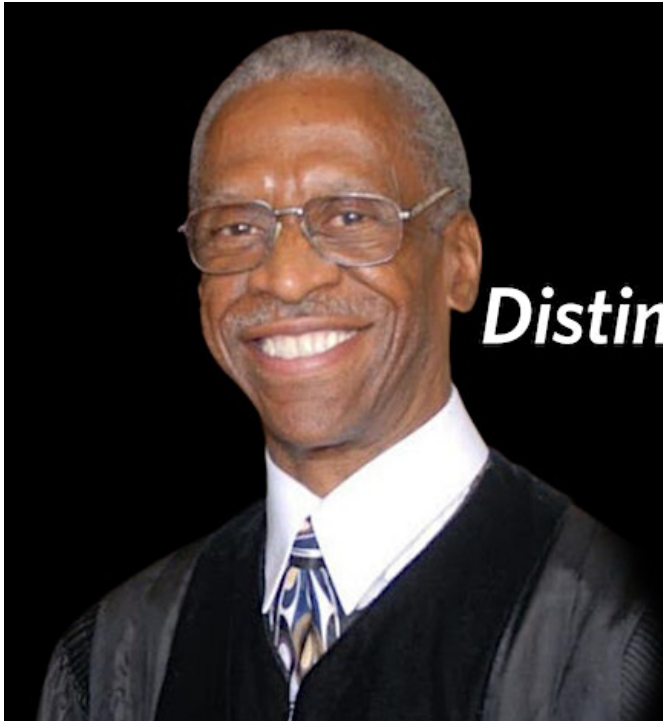
¹ "Joy and the Act of Resistance Against Despair," Willie Jennings & Miroslav Wolf, Yale Center for Faith & Culture, Theology of Joy, Episode No. 57, February 28, 2021. <https://faith.yale.edu/media/joy-and-the-act-of-resistance-against-despair>

Inside This Issue

- From the Dean.....1
- Announcements.....4
- Academic Achievements/
Deadlines.....5
- Library News.....7
- CARe.....11
- CIS.....13
- CJS.....16
- WRS..... 19
- Member Schools News
- BST.....20
- PLTS.....21
- PSR GLCS.....22

Jennifer W. Davidson, PhD

Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs




GTU Dean Presents

48th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture

Presented by
Dorsey Odell Blake

November 7, 2023



Tuesday, November 7 | 5 pm (Pacific) | Hybrid Event

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake will present the 48th Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture titled, “Howard Thurman: Seeking, Queering, and Transcending” on November 7, 2023, at 5:00 PM PST.

Each November, the GTU faculty honors a distinguished professor who embodies the scholarly standards, teaching excellence and commitment to ecumenism that defines the GTU. Nominations are made by GTU faculty and are then considered by the Council of Deans, which selects the lecturer.

The Rev. Dr. Blake is Faculty Associate, Leadership and Social Transformation, at Pacific School of Religion, a member school of the GTU. He also served for six years as Dean of Faculty and Visiting Professor of Spirituality and Prophetic Justice at Starr King School for the Ministry, a former member school of the GTU.

The event will be hybrid with an in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Register on [Eventbrite](#) to attend online.

Student Forum to Discuss ATS Self-Study Report

Dear Students,

The GTU is presently engaged in its reaccreditation process with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). This year, we are preparing a self-study report for ATS prior to their visit in March 2024.

All GTU students are invited to participate in a forum to give feedback on a draft of the report that the GTU will submit to ATS in January. The forum will be hosted on Zoom. The link for joining the forum is listed below.

The ATS Self-Study Report was emailed to all students. Feedback received at this forum will be incorporated with other feedback from across the GTU to produce a revised draft of the report.

Friday, November 10, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Link: <https://gtu.zoom.us/j/95350762441>

Accreditation is very important to a school for many reasons. Because we are accredited, GTU MA and doctoral students are eligible for federal student aid, and credits earned here are easily transferable to other institutions. Beyond those practicalities, accreditation is a valuable means of quality control and continual improvement.

The self-study report is an essential part of the reaccreditation process. The report itself has several goals. It needs to address the standards outlined by the accrediting agency. It needs to speak to the ways the GTU has attended to issues raised by the accreditor at previous visits. And it needs to convey the complexity and the story of the GTU to the outside visiting team prior to their campus visit.

The entire GTU community is invited to participate in this intensive process of self-evaluation. Leading this effort is the Reaccreditation Steering Committee: Dean Jennifer W. Davidson, Joshua Garcia (PhD student), Heidi Hadsell (trustee), Arthur Holder (accreditation liaison officer), Naw San Dee KD (staff), and Sam Shonkoff (faculty).

Please note that this document is intended only for the GTU community and our accreditor. Please do not distribute this document or post its contents for a broader public.

Please mark your calendars for the above forum and plan to add your voice to the ongoing conversation.

Reaccreditation Steering Committee

Announcements

Professional Development Program

In keeping with the tradition of providing ongoing support opportunities for our students, Student Affairs is resuming a modified schedule of fall 2023 workshops for our Professional Development Program (PDP), and we would be delighted to invite you to participate. The PDP helps doctoral students develop academic and non-academic skills that contribute to professional success. This is accomplished with a series of workshops offered throughout the year, with an emphasis on doctoral progression in the fall, and external networking in spring.

NOVEMBER PDP WORKSHOPS

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS STUDENT PANEL

FACILITATED BY

ERIKA KATSKE AND JENNIFER LEHMANN

Wednesday, November 15 | 2023 10-11 AM

ZOOM: [985 1875 3152](https://gtu.zoom.us/j/98518753152)

DISSERTATION WRITING & DEFENSE

FACILITATED BY

DR. ARTHUR HOLDER

Wednesday, November 29 | 2023 10-11 AM

ZOOM: [985 1875 3152](https://gtu.zoom.us/j/98518753152)

Academic Achievements & Deadlines

Deadline for submitting dissertation proposals by (Noon) for December's Doctoral Council Meeting Monday, November 27

Financial Aid Priority Deadline for Doctoral Students

The 2024-2025 financial aid priority deadline for doctoral students has been postponed to Monday, January 15, 2024. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will not be available until sometime in December 2023 due to a significant overhaul of the FAFSA processes and systems used to award financial aid. The Department of Education has streamlined the process by reducing the questions from 108 to 46. For more information, visit studentaid.gov and feel free to contact us at finaid@gtu.edu if you have any questions or wish to schedule an appointment. The financial aid team will communicate with students when we have an official date or as soon as the application is available.

Fall 2023 Student Awards

Chan Essay Prize

On behalf of the Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee, the Dean is pleased to announce Charissa Jaeger-Sanders as the winner of this year’s 2023 Chan Essay contest for her paper entitled

“Mother Earth: How Theologies of Divine Immanence Impact Our Ecological and Ethical Practices.”

Student Travel Grant Winners

Students who have papers accepted for the program of the Annual Meeting of the AAR, SBL, or other comparable national meeting or conference may compete in the GTU’s Student Travel Grant competition. Winners are given cash awards to support the costs of attending the meeting. The Dean and Core Doctoral Faculty Awards Committee select recipients for this award. The Dean is happy to announce grant recipients for this semester are:

Joshua Garcia

Charissa Jaeger-Sanders

Matthew Korpman

Yanan Lu

Emily Pothast

Zeinab Vessal



Congratulations to all!

Newhall Fellowship

Applications due Friday, November 10 | by 5pm

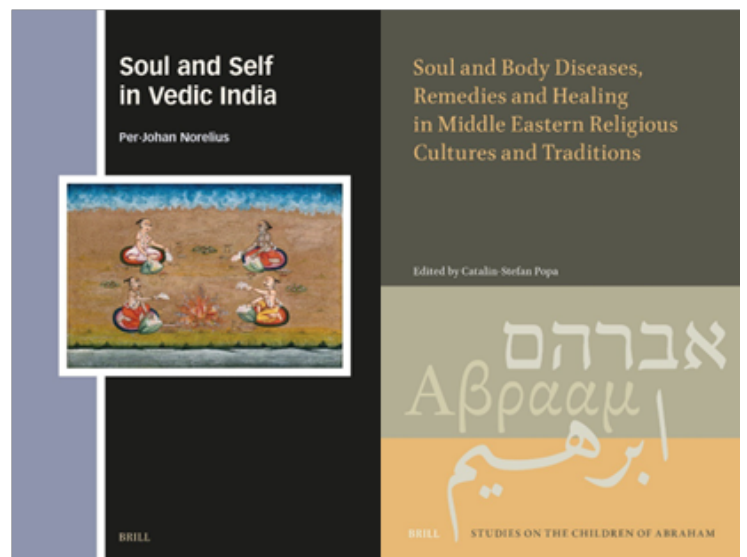
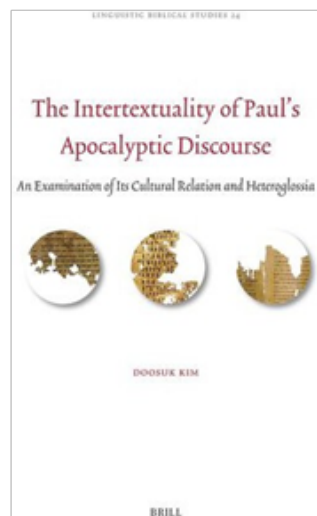
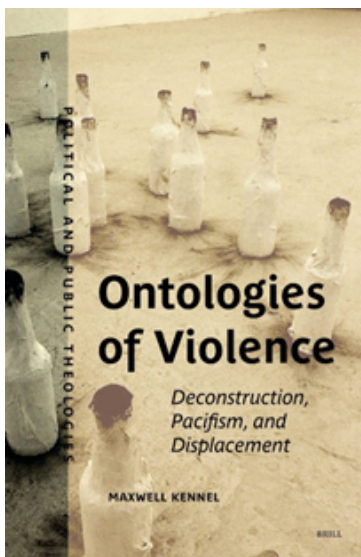
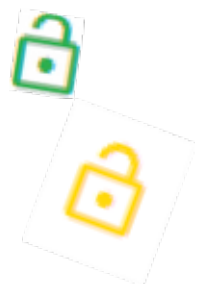
Newhall Fellowships are competitive awards for GTU Doctoral students to collaboratively teach or conduct research with faculty mentors. Newhall awards offer an opportunity to work closely with professors whose interests and approaches parallel the student’s on projects that often would not be possible under other circumstances. The awards are designed to support both students (through grants) and faculty (through offering assistance to their research and teaching). Applications must come from both the student and the professor for a project involving both of them. Applications for the Newhall Fellowship must be submitted to the GTU Dean’s Office.

[Learn more and apply now!](#)

What's New at the GTU Library

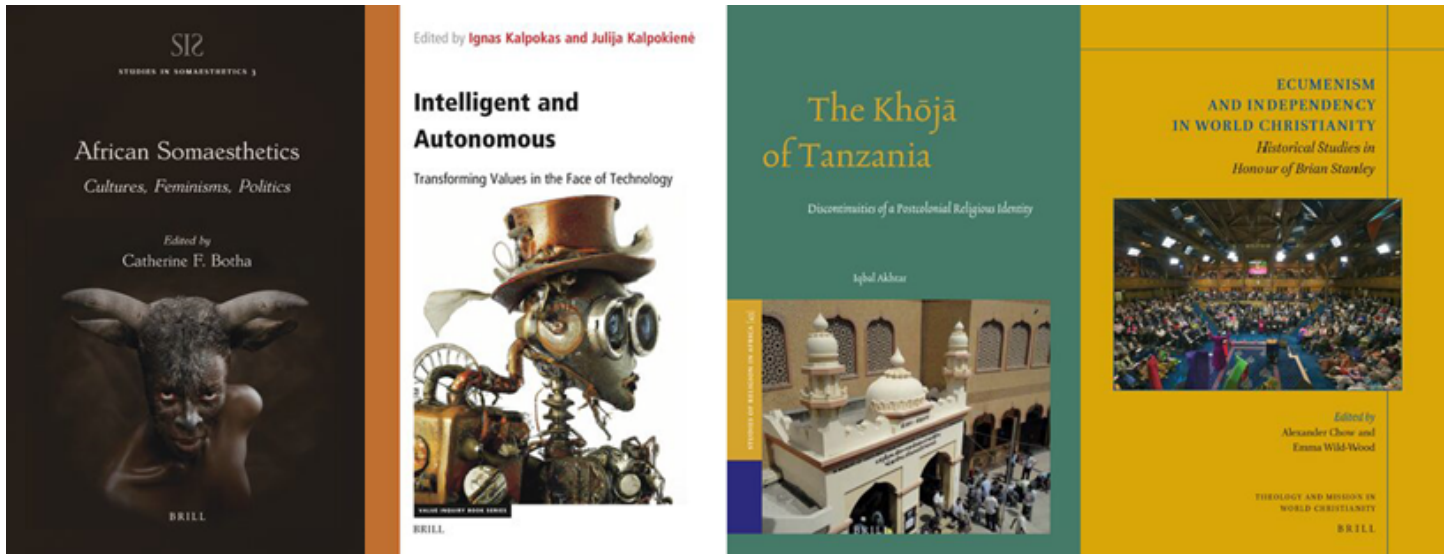
Page through a new collection of 4,000 e-books

The library's added a catalog of Brill e-books in religious studies! There's such an array of historic, anthropological, and sociological approaches to the study of religion in these texts. [Visit the Brill database](#) to see what's new. Look for the green (subscribed content) or yellow (open access) unlocked padlock for e-books you can access.



If one of these covers catches your eye, export the full citation information from [GTU Library's group library on Zotero](#).

Highlights from the Brill Database (continued)



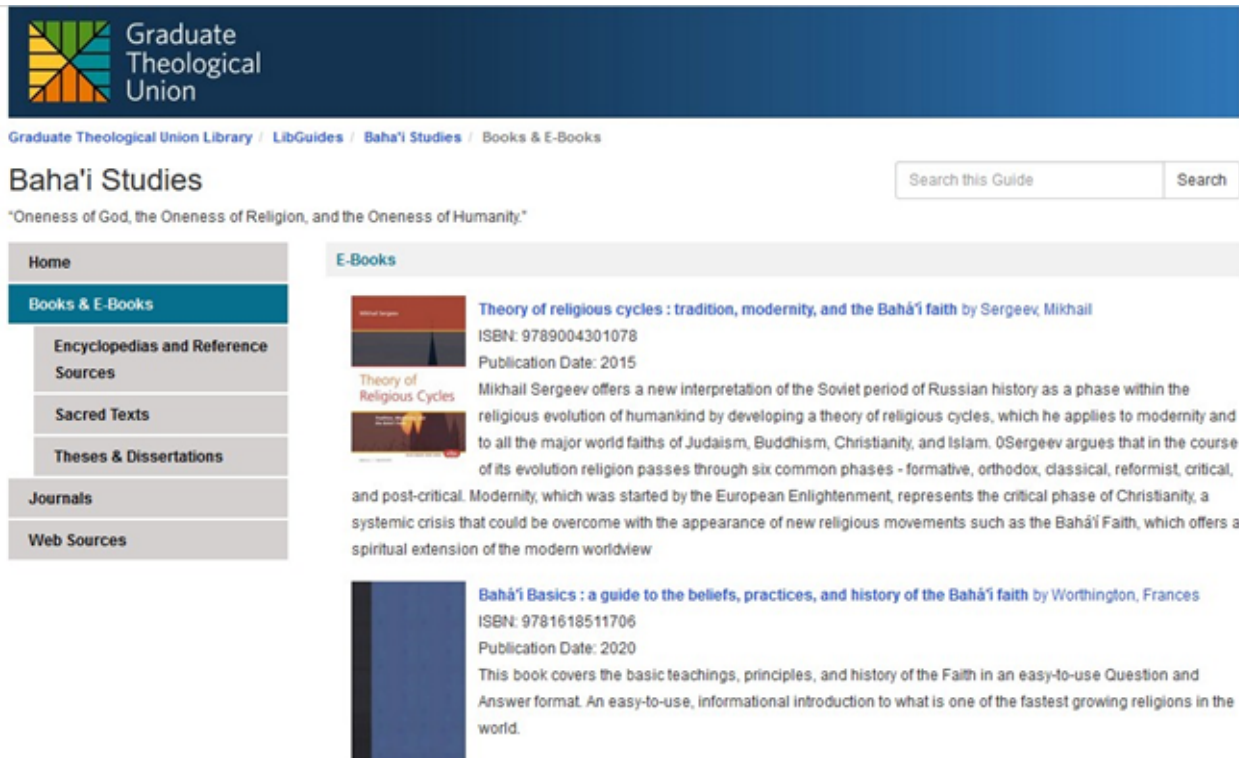
If one of these covers catches your eye, export the full citation information from [GTU Library's group library on Zotero](#)



Need Research Help?

Whether it's finding sources or learning new literature review tools, [reach out to a librarian](#) for a consultations or for quick point-of- need help. Librarians are available weekdays 9 AM to 4 PM Pacific time.

New! Baha'i Studies Guide



The screenshot shows the 'Baha'i Studies' LibGuide page. At the top left is the Graduate Theological Union logo. Below it is a breadcrumb trail: 'Graduate Theological Union Library / LibGuides / Baha'i Studies / Books & E-Books'. The main title 'Baha'i Studies' is followed by the quote: "Oneness of God, the Oneness of Religion, and the Oneness of Humanity." A search box is located to the right of the title. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with categories: Home, Books & E-Books (highlighted), Encyclopedias and Reference Sources, Sacred Texts, Theses & Dissertations, Journals, and Web Sources. The 'E-Books' section features two book entries:

- Theory of religious cycles : tradition, modernity, and the Bahá'í faith** by Sergeev, Mikhail
ISBN: 9789004301078
Publication Date: 2015
Mikhail Sergeev offers a new interpretation of the Soviet period of Russian history as a phase within the religious evolution of humankind by developing a theory of religious cycles, which he applies to modernity and to all the major world faiths of Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. Sergeev argues that in the course of its evolution religion passes through six common phases - formative, orthodox, classical, reformist, critical, and post-critical. Modernity, which was started by the European Enlightenment, represents the critical phase of Christianity, a systemic crisis that could be overcome with the appearance of new religious movements such as the Bahá'í Faith, which offers a spiritual extension of the modern worldview.
- Bahá'í Basics : a guide to the beliefs, practices, and history of the Bahá'í faith** by Worthington, Frances
ISBN: 9781618511706
Publication Date: 2020
This book covers the basic teachings, principles, and history of the Faith in an easy-to-use Question and Answer format. An easy-to-use, informational introduction to what is one of the fastest growing religions in the world.

Visit the [guide](#) to see selected print and online sources about the Baha'i religion. Librarians have created a variety of how-to and resource guides around studying topics and tools in religious studies.



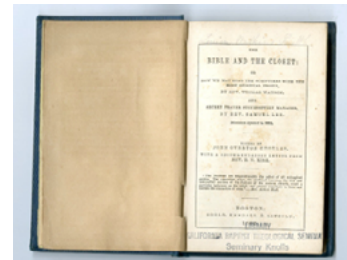
How we celebrated Theological Libraries Month

October was Theological Libraries Month. Stop by the book display across from the Reference Desk and learn a bit more about the people working in your library. You might just find your next great read.

Tiny Book Display

To supplement the “Small Books” exhibition on Level 1, an online exhibit is available at: <https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/gtu/exhibition/small-books>

The online exhibit provides additional information and images about 14 of the books that are on display. Several small hymnals are featured. There are links to a full edition of a Thumb Bible, C.G. Finney’s “How to Preach So As To Convert Nobody,” and the Memorial of Edith -----, aged fifteen years and two months.



Highlighted Electronic Resource

GTU Library subscribes to articles in the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion (our subscription focuses on articles on Buddhism) available on the [Oxford Research Encyclopedias platform](#). The articles are substantive, peer-reviewed, and regularly updated. Each article includes a bibliography of recommended resources for further reading as well as info about any digital projects, archives, and collections relevant to the topic. Recent additions to the Encyclopedia include: Bodhisattva-bhūmi, Creole and Indigenous Muslims in Venezuela, and Kabbalah in Art and Architecture.

Center for the Arts and Religion

Creatives' Cove

Wednesday, November 15 | 5:15-7pm | Doug Adams Gallery



GTU students! Join us in the gallery for an informal evening of creativity and community. We provide the art supplies and snacks; you just need to show up! Learn more about Creatives' Cove: www.gtu.edu/careworkshops

Corita Kent Day

Monday, November 20



Corita Kent, also known as Sister Mary Corita, was an artist with an innovative approach to design and education. By the 1960s, her vibrant serigraphs were drawing international acclaim. Corita's work reflected her concerns about poverty, racism, and war, and her messages of peace and social justice continue to resonate with audiences today.

Several prints from Corita's two series are currently on display in the GTU Library. And November 20 is official Corita Kent Day, celebrating her life, art, and legacy. Join us for a curator's talk from CARE Director Dr. Elizabeth Peña in the library at 12 noon, and check out the family-friendly celebrations put on by our friends at St. Mary's College in Moraga: www.stmarys-ca.edu/events/corita-day



The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies &
The Center for Islamic Studies
Madrasa-Midrasha Program

Islamic & Jewish Law



Madeline Wyse

Doctoral Candidate
University of California, Berkeley



R. David Coolidge

PhD, Historical & Cultural Studies of Religion
Graduate Theological Union

Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 11:30 AM

2nd Floor Multi-Use Room, GTU Library

Join us for a special lunchtime event featuring presentations related to the MM Program’s Spring 2024 course, HRIR-1501: Islamic & Jewish Law. A light lunch will be provided.

gtu.edu/projects/madrasamidrasha

The Madrasa-Midrasha Program is made possible by the generous support of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Please join the GTU’s Madrasa-Midrasha Program on Wednesday, November 15 for an event on “Islamic & Jewish Law” featuring presentations by Madeline Wyse, Doctoral Candidate at UC Berkeley, and Dr. R. David Coolidge, recent graduate of the Graduate Theological Union. The event will take place at 11:30am in the Multiuse Room on the second floor of the GTU Library. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information, including a registration link for those who plan to attend online. A light lunch will be served for those who attend in-person.

Center for Islamic Studies



Congratulations to Yusuf Mullick on completing his MA in Islamic Studies with Honors. His capstone is titled, *Shukr as a Case Study in the Qur'an Glossary of al-Rāghib al-Isfahānī*. Yusuf is currently a GTU PhD Presidential Scholar in the Department of Sacred Texts and Their Interpretation, with a focus on Qur'anic lexicography and the philosophy of language.

The Center for Islamic Studies is delighted to share that the following students, alums and faculty will be presenting papers, chairing panels, and hosting meetings at the AAR/SBL annual conference in San Antonio, TX, Nov 18-21, 2023. Please refer to the program handbook for more details. Congratulations to all on these extraordinary accomplishments and best wishes at the conference!



Raya Hazini, GTU MA student in Interreligious Studies, with a focus on Islam and Bahá'í Studies

Presentation at the Women's Caucus
Presiding on a panel, *Emerging Scholars*
"Feminist Martyrs" on the panel, *Key Texts and Figures in Early Baha'i History*



Zeinab Vessal, GTU Presidential Scholar, PhD student, Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion

"Rayat-e Nasr Ayat: The Quranic Verses in a Safavid Victory Banner" for the AAR (The Society of Biblical Literature) panel, *The Societal Quran (IQSA)*.

"Siyah-Poushan: The Black Covering Ritual of Shia with Muharram Banners,"
AAR Study of Islam Unit.

Congratulations to Zeinab for being awarded the AAR Diane Apostolos-Cappadona Travel Grant from the AAR Religion and the Arts award for this year. More information: aarweb.org



Dr. David Coolidge, BA Brown, MA Princeton, PhD GTU 2023.

“Islām and Vaikuntha: Muslim Theological Exploration of Prakṛti/Purusa,”
 Comparative Theology and the Islamic Traditions: Muslim and Christian
 Perspectives.

“Islām Meets Kṛṣṇa, Again: Contours of a New Interreligious Discourse,”
 Advancing Interreligious Studies: Interactive Workshop



Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala GTU Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of
 the Madrasa-Midrasha Program

“The Work of Constructive Muslim Theology in the 21st Century,” exploring the
 issue of Muslim female scholars’ access to the development of Islamic theology and
 exegesis in classical and contemporary Islamic studies.

Congratulations to Dr. Dhala on her publication, “Muslim Feminist Exegetes, Not
 “Handmaidens of Empire”.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 39, no. 2
 (2023): 83-85. <https://doi.org/10.2979/jfs.2023.a908302>.



Dr. Munir Jiwa, CIS Director and Assoc. Prof of Islamic Studies and Anthropology
 Presentations on the IDCL Grounded Knowledge grant project, Muslims in the Bay
 Area: Leading, Bridging and Belonging, at AAR receptions, IDCL and APARRI.



The CIS gratefully acknowledges Dr. Eby Shabudin, CIS/GTU visiting scholar, for
 offering a public engagement course from Oct-Dec on Values Based Leadership,
 and for his ongoing leadership and mentorship bridging diverse communities,
 cultures and faiths.



The CIS gratefully acknowledges Sr. Marianne Farina, CSC, Interim President and Professor of Philosophy & Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, GTU Core Doctoral Faculty and Faculty at the Center for Islamic Studies, for her presentation on Catholics and Islam, hosted by the Catholic Community at Stanford University CC@S. We are also grateful to Bianca Bermudez, MPA, Director of Student Services & Recruitment at DSPT for arranging the event.



Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake for being named the 2023 GTU Distinguished Faculty Lecturer. Dr. Blake will give his keynote address on Nov 7, with a response from Dr. Munir Jiwa. The CIS gratefully acknowledges Dr. Blake for his extraordinary leadership, mentorship and teaching, and for his care, commitment and dedication to the work of the CIS since its founding. For event info, please see: [GTU Event Page](#).



The CIS is delighted to share that as part of the IDCL Grounded Knowledge grant project on Muslims in the Bay Area: Leading, Bridging and Belonging, a student-led group will be attending the SF Opera's opening performance of "Omar" on Sun, Nov 5. A series of ongoing CIS discussions about the opera and the life and legacy of Omar Ibn Said will continue throughout the year.

For more information, please contact: mjiwa@gtu.edu

Opera info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZoL8qbheao>

Show info:

<https://www.sfopera.com/operas/omar/>

Center for Jewish Studies


The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

CJS invites you to join us for these upcoming events:

Mother's Milk: Childrearing, the Household, and the Making of Jewish Culture with Deena Aranoff

CJS Director Deena Aranoff is presenting a talk at Stanford University on **Monday, November 6th at 12:00pm** which will take place in Margaret Jacks Hall on Stanford's campus.

[Visit Stanford's event page](#) for more info and to register.



Stanford | Taube Center for Jewish Studies

Mother's Milk:

Childrearing, the household, and the making of Jewish culture


Deena Aranoff

11.6.23
12PM

TERRACE ROOM (460, 426)

lunch included with rsvp

RSVP



Worlds of Corporeality: Judaism and the Material World

Please join us on **Thursday, November 16th at 5:30pm** for a live discussion of the new GTUx original “Worlds of Corporeality: Judaism and the Material World.” Professors Deena Aranoff and Sam S.B. Shonkoff will present and lead a discussion on the modules of the GTUx series, which explore the theme of corporeality in Jewish thought, life, and history from various disciplinary, geographical, and historical perspectives. Topics may include embodiment, materiality, gender, language, narrative, ritual performance, and identity construction. [Visit the event page](#) for more info and to register for this online event.



Beit Midrash Tuesday Gatherings

Please join CJS for our ongoing *beit midrash* [house of study] program held each Tuesday. This program provides an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to come together and engage in more traditional modes of Jewish learning—slow reading, working through Hebrew sources, and engaging in conversation. The program is hosted by Deena Aranoff and Sam S.B. Shonkoff with additional guest teachers.

The CJS *beit midrash* takes place in the GTU Library at Collaborative Tables 1&2, near the entrance of the library on the 1st floor on **Tuesdays from 12:45 to 1:45pm**. Attendees are encouraged to bring your own lunch that is easy to eat in the library space, something that is not likely to spill or release a strong fragrance that might bother other library patrons.

Women’s Studies in Religion



The Women’s Studies in Religion (WSR) works to sustain, promote, and advance the commitment to the study of women, gender and religion, emphasizing conversations across differences of race, sexual and gender orientation, ethnicity, class, culture, nationality, and religious orientation.

Tips for Successful and Safe Conferencing

WSR faculty and mentors are pleased to share a new document on “Tips for Successful and Safe Conferencing.” We invite all students and faculty attending/presenting at the upcoming AAR/SBL national meeting in San Antonio to review this short document. Your feedback is welcome at wsr@ses.gtu.edu. Safe travels!

Link: [Staying Safe at Scholarly Meetings and Other Events](#)

Ways to BE INVOLVED in WSR!

- Sign up to be on the WSR email list.
- Attend events sponsored by the WSR Certificate program.
- Take the WSR Seminar.
- Pursue the WSR Certificate
- Become a member of the Advisory Committee

Taking the WSR Seminar - Each year during the Spring semester the WSR program offers a seminar on Women’s Studies. The seminar is taught by faculty and students who serve on the Advisory Steering Committee. This upcoming Spring Semester it will be taught by WSR Faculty Chair, Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala and Meera Tanikella. Register soon!

Pursue the WSR Certificate - Any GTU student can apply to begin the certificate program at any time. The certificate involves taking the WSR Seminar Class, taking 3 classes related to themes pertaining to women's studies and attend WSR events to earn six co-curricular points.

For More information contact WSR Program Coordinator, Diane Saunders at wsr@ses.gtu.edu. And visit the website at <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/wsr>.

Berkeley School of Theology



Save the Date!

INAUGURAL LECTURE
DR. WILLIAM DARITY, JR. &
A. KIRSTEN MULLEN

***CO-AUTHORS, FROM HERE TO EQUALITY: REPARATIONS
FOR BLACK AMERICANS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY***

April 18, 2024



**Spanish-language Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith:
Application Deadline November 30, 2023**

The PLTS Center for Climate Justice and Faith is accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of the Spanish-language Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith through November 30, 2023. This two-semester certificate program offers a cohort-based, contextually-rooted, online curriculum for Spanish-speaking people in Latin American, the Caribbean, and North America. The curriculum equips participants with moral, spiritual, and practical power for leadership in the work of climate justice. Topics covered include theology, ethics, and spirituality related to climate justice; climate change knowledge; and social change practices that connect ecological well-being with racial, economic, and gender justice. This certificate was developed through a partnership with Seminario Luterano Augsburguro (SEMLA) in Mexico, Universidad Luterana Salvadorena in El Salvador, Instituto para la Pastoral Contextual de la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida of Argentina and Uruguay, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

LEARN MORE: <https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/programs/spanish-language-certificate-in-climate-justice-and-faith/>

APPLY TODAY: <https://airtable.com/appcWjdk5zhxbM4YG/shrTV3uWnCazI569O>

DOWNLOAD THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE FLYER HERE: <https://centerforclimatejusticeand-faith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Certificacion-Justicia-Climatica-y-Fe-Flyer-2023-1.png>

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

For a Time Such as This: An LGBTQ View of The Situation in Israel

Thursday, November 9 | at 11:00 am PT/2:00 pm ET)

The tragic events unfolding in Israel and Palestine this past month have international reverberations. Queer Jews and allies are deeply impacted, and are seeking a way forward that promotes peace and justice for all people. We also understand that Antisemitism is entrenched in many communities in North America and worldwide. This program will give us a window into queer life in Israel now, and how we who are not in Israel/Palestine can be of support. Presenter: Sharon Morgenstern, A Wider Bridge.

[Event Details](#)

“Where 2 or More are Gathered”: Polyamorous Loving as a Spiritual Community Ethic & Practice

Thursday, November 16 | at 1:00pm PT/4:00pm ET)

How can polyamory/ethical non-monogamy as non-normative relational formation expand our understanding of spiritual community, wellbeing, and practice? Join the AAPIRT in an exploratory dialogue on the intersections of polyamory and faith and how polyamorous frameworks can help us deepen and inform the spiritual ethics & practices of our faith communities.

[Event Details](#)

Trans Day of Remembrance for Trans Jews and Allies in collaboration with ALEPH (Renewal Movement)

Tuesday, November 21 | at 5:00pm PT/8:00pm ET)

Rayzel Raphael and Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman - as Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal in association with the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion (CLGS) commemorate the International Transgender Day of Remembrance - observed annually since its inception in 1999 - remembering those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. The day was founded to draw attention to the continued violence directed towards transgender, nonbinary and gender queer people. This program will include PERSONAL stories, poetry and music about living Jewish and trans today in America, how to SUPPORT and be an ally, and WHY this is JEWISH ISSUE! Speakers: Rabbi Levi Alter, Dr. Marla Brettschneider, Educator Zebulon Hurst, Rabbi Emily Kapor-Mater, Dr. Joy Ladin, Rabbi Rona Matlow, Filmmaker Martin Rawlings-Fein, Activist Enzi Tanner, Dr. Abigail Weissman.

[Event Details](#)

“Queering Resistance: Decolonizing Feminist Spaces with Professor Alexandra M. Rosado-Román: Lavender Lunch ”**Wednesday, November 29 | at 12:30 pm PT**

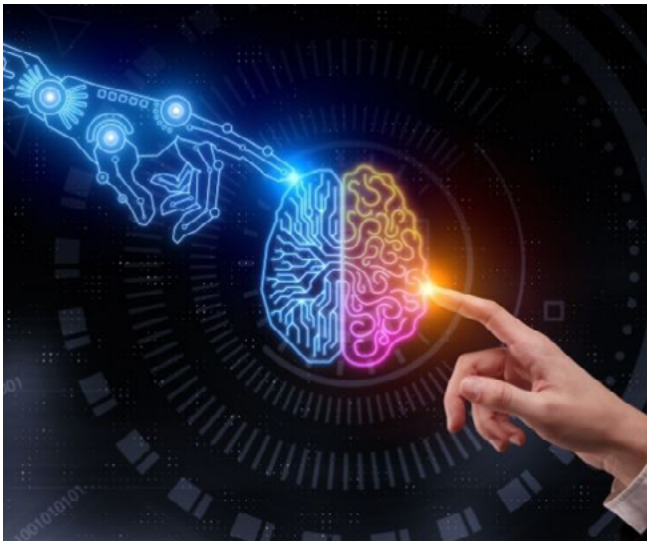
Queerness represents a transgressive action and a methodological tool for disrupting established norms in various aspects of life, from spaces and practices to language. Beyond discussions of pride and sexual liberation, this conversation will be focused on themes, such as capitalism and colonialism, examining how both have historically exploited land and people as capital. “Queering resistance” in feminist spaces involves a relational understanding of difference, challenging binary notions of identity, and questioning how power is consolidated in specific spaces. It blends insights from queer theory with feminist theories, indigenous studies, and decolonial theory to create an interdisciplinary approach that broadens the discourse surrounding marginalized voices.

[Event Details](#)**Sublime Divinations, Edition 3: Queer AAPI Elemental Magic****Thursday, November 30 | at 1:00 pm PT/4:00 pm ET**

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[Event Details](#)

Wilmette Institute



With
FARZIN AGHDASI

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ETHICS

A Search for Coherence

Tuesday, November 7
7 pm Eastern (4 pm PT)



Wilmette Institute

For more information and to register visit: [Wilmette Institute](https://www.wilmetteinstitute.org)



The Dean's Newsletter

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

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

Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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