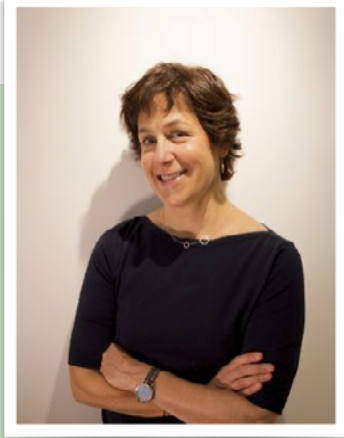


# GTU DEAN'S NEWSLETTER



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A few days ago, I composed a newsletter column, lightly musing about transitions. I was thinking about the seasonal change from winter to spring, and about welcoming Dr. Jennifer Davidson as the incoming Dean.

I still want to welcome Dr. Davidson! But, that column is now crumpled up in the trash, as events on the world stage have pushed me into thinking about much more dangerous and tragic transitions. I don't pretend to have any special expertise about Ukraine (though my grandfather's village lies in the western part of the country), so I won't provide a political or strategic analysis. Instead, I'm thinking about some of the reactions here at home, in the U.S.

When the news came that Russia had invaded Ukraine, some people praised and justified these illegal and immoral actions. It's shocking and sad, but I shouldn't be surprised. Strains of authoritarianism are everywhere in the U.S. as hard-fought but established rights are being dismantled. The governor of Texas issued an order that not only threatens trans children but accuses their loving and supportive parents of child abuse. The Florida House of Representatives passed a bill to censor discussions about sexuality, gender, and race in classrooms and businesses. In Michigan, three candidates vying for the position of Attorney General attacked *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the 1965 Supreme Court case that overturned a law from 1879 that prohibited married couples from using birth control. Do these politicians (who are also lawyers!) really want to turn the calendar back to 1879 and invade people's lives in this way?

The ignorance and short-sightedness are staggering; the immorality and arrogance are astounding. Those who praise authoritarians and push for authoritarian measures seem secure in their entitlement as they walk through our communities, wearing blinders lest any truths get in their way.

The GTU mission statement encourages us to “embody the critical thinking, ethical frameworks, compassionate values, and spiritual foundations essential to building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.” Our work continues.



*Elizabeth S. Peña, PhD*  
 Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs

# The War in Ukraine and its Religious Roots

*Friday, March 4 | 12:00 - 1:15 pm (Pacific) | Online*

## Speakers:

**Thomas Cattoi**, Associate Professor of Christology and Cultures, Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, GTU

**John Klentos**, Associate Professor of Eastern Orthodox Christian Studies, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, GTU

**Vitaliy Osmolovskyy SJ**, Doctoral student at JST-SCU, Coordinator of Jesuit Outreach to Ukrainian Refugees in Poland

[Join via Zoom](#)



## GTU Community Town Hall With Incoming Dean Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson



### A Word of Thanks from Dr. Jennifer W. Davidson

Thank you to everyone who attended the Town Hall Meet-and-Greet and to all of you who have reached out to me over these last few weeks. I am excited to begin in my new role on July 1, 2022. This semester I am continuing to serve as Professor of Theology and Worship at Berkeley School of Theology, savoring my time with my students. I am also meeting with Dean Elizabeth Peña on a weekly basis for some robust onboarding conversations. Although I have been a part of the GTU for nearly twenty years, like any good long-term relationship, there is always more to discover and learn! Along those lines, I look forward to embarking on a listening tour when I do officially begin in my new position. I am interested in hearing from you as we begin this next part of our adventure together!

View the recording [here](#) of the virtual town hall “meet-and-greet” event held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 via Zoom

## Congratulations, Dr. Diandra Erickson!

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The Dean's Office is so pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Diandra Erickson to Associate Dean of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Lecturer in Course Design and Pedagogy.

This well-deserved promotion recognizes Dr. Erickson's significant work during the pandemic and the ongoing importance of digital learning at the GTU. Dr. Erickson will continue to provide digital learning services, including workshops and training sessions, but she will also take on broader responsibilities in pedagogy, learning, and assessment.

Doctoral students, please look out for upcoming courses that Dr. Erickson will teach on course design and pedagogy!

Dr. Erickson will begin her new role on July 1, 2022.

## Assistant Professor of LDS/Mormon Studies Presentations

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Save the date for presentations from the three finalists for the LDS/Mormon Studies assistant professor position!

Global Indigenous Mormonism: The Religious Activism of Margarito Bautista, 1878-1961.

Dr. Elisa Eastwood Pulido

*Wednesday, March 2 | 4:00-6:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)

Becoming a People of the Books: Early Latter-day Saints and New Scripture.

Dr. Janiece Johnson

*Tuesday, March 8 | 4:00-6:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)

Reconciling with Finitude.

Dr. Deidre Nicole Green

*Wednesday, March 9 | 4:00-6:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)

# The Fifth Annual Borsch-Rast Lecture

*Thursday, March 31 | 6 pm (Pacific)*

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Ashley L. Bacchi (GTU, PhD 2015), Assistant Professor of Jewish History and Ancient Mediterranean Religions at Starr King School for the Ministry, has been awarded the fifth annual Borsch-Rast Book Prize and Lectureship for her 2020 work, *Uncovering Jewish Creativity in Book III of the Sibylline Oracles: Gender, Intertextuality, and Politics* (Brill).



[Learn more about Dr. Ashley L. Bacchi](#)

Check out the recent [GTU Voices interview with Dr. Bacchi](#), where she discusses her book, the wider corpus of the Sibylline Oracles, and why she feels they matter today.

The event will be hybrid with a limited in-person audience located in the GTU Dinner Board Room, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library. Contact Sabrina Kennedy at [skennedy@gtu.edu](mailto:skennedy@gtu.edu) if you would like to attend in person.

[Register to attend here](#)

# The 2022 Surjit Singh Lecture

*Friday, April 8 | 6 pm (Pacific)*

The Graduate Theological Union is pleased to announce that Dr. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Alice Drysdale Sheffield Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, will be presenting the 2022 Surjit Singh Lecture entitled **The Virgin Mary as Warrior: Marian models of women's religious experience in colonial Latin America.**



[Learn more about Dr. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra](#)

The historiography of women's piety in Latin America usually focuses on discrimination and dominant colonial ideologies of religious passivity. Yet a study of Mariology suggests that Hebrew Bible models of Mary were not only numerous (Song of Songs, Book of Wisdom, Ruth, Judith, Yael) but deeply contradictory, creating enough room for women to gain and wield immense religious power. This talk explores these contradictions to find surprising forms of religious experience that challenge our understanding of Marianism and the power of women in Latin American colonial societies.

We hope to be able to offer an opportunity for a limited in-person audience. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event.

Starting in 1991, the annual Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture builds upon the GTU's tradition of ecumenical theological education and dedication to interreligious dialogue and understanding. Each year, the endowed lectureship brings to the GTU a distinguished scholar to address religion and culture from a cross-cultural perspective. Learn more about past Singh Lecturers, or view past lectures [here](#).

[Register to attend here](#)

## Announcements

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**Get ready for IN-PERSON commencement!**

A graphic for a commencement event. It features a background image of graduates in caps and gowns, with a large GTU logo in the upper left. The text is overlaid in white and orange. The main title 'COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES' is in large orange letters. The date and time are in white. The background image shows a group of graduates in caps and gowns, some holding diplomas, in a celebratory mood. A large, semi-transparent GTU logo is in the upper left corner of the graphic.

SAVE THE DATE

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

**COMMENCEMENT  
EXERCISES**

FOR THE CLASSES OF  
2020, 2021, & 2022

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022  
4 PM ONWARDS  
DETAILS FORTHCOMING

GTU  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## March Workshops

How to Write a Teaching Philosophy?

March 2, 2022, 11 am to 12 noon

Facilitated by Dr. Diandra Erickson

How to Write a Diversity Statement?

March 16, 2022, 11 am to 12 noon

Facilitated by Dr. Sharon Jacob

All workshops will be held on Zoom  
Zoom ID: 978 6840 4257RSVP: [cmotupalli@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupalli@gtu.edu)

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION

STUDENT  
ELECTIONS

## 2022 SCHEDULE

Nominations will open on

March 4

Deadline to submit nominations

March 20, 5 pm

Voting period

March 21 - April 4

Results out on April 8

For any questions, please contact  
[cmotupalli@gtu.edu](mailto:cmotupalli@gtu.edu)

Save the Date  
GTU STUDENTS'  
**Spring Forum**  
Organized by  
the Student Advisory Committee  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022, 4:00 - 6:00 PM



*Coffee Hour with  
the Interim Dean  
Elizabeth Peña*

Tuesday March 8, all welcome  
9 am - 10 am

Zoom ID:  
543 910 5370



# Academic Achievements & Deadlines

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## *Dissertation Successfully Defended*

Bright David, THEO  
Amanda De Joinville, ART  
Kelly Colwell, REPR  
Nancy Gutsell, HIST  
Jiyoung Ko, SPRT  
Colette Walker, ART



## *MA Capstone Defense*

Dennis Abraham, REPR  
Jonathan Drake, HCSR Honors  
Sok Jin Kim, SATX  
Daniel G. Tate, REPR

## *Advanced to Candidacy*

Kyprianos Koutsokoumnis, HCSR  
Jennifer Lehmann, SATX

## Deadline for Submitting Dissertation Proposals

submit by **(Noon)** for April's Doctoral Council is **Monday March 28th, 2022**

## Intent to Graduate form for Spring 2022

MA Intent to graduate form <https://forms.gle/pZAurpRcDSc2hHAa8>

PHD Intent to graduate form <https://forms.gle/vNNsKH321HHMzE8x5>

## Library News

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### Save the Date!

#### **The annual GTU Reading of the Sacred Texts lecture**

*Wednesday, April 6 | 5:15 pm | Zoom*

Our speaker this year is Vanessa Zoltan, chaplain, podcaster, and writer. She is the CEO and Founder of Not Sorry Productions, which produces the podcasts *Harry Potter and the Sacred Text*, *Twilight in Quarantine*, and *Hot & Bothered*. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Vanessa recently published her first book, *Praying with Jane Eyre: Reflections on Reading as a Sacred Practice*.

The lecture will be a virtual event. Registration will be via Eventbrite. More information about the lecture and details on how to register via Eventbrite will be forthcoming

# Digital Learning Department

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The Digital Learning Department provides workshops to help instructors teach in hybrid and remote formats. All workshops will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00 pm.

If instructors cannot attend these workshops but still want to receive help with hybrid and/or remote learning, they are encouraged to reach out to Diandra Erickson, Director of Digital Learning, to schedule an appointment.

Each workshop will be provided remotely through Zoom. Please RSVP for each workshop by emailing [derickson@gtu.edu](mailto:derickson@gtu.edu) to receive the Zoom link.

Below is a list of workshops taking place in March. The full workshop list can be found [HERE](#).

## Overview of Panopto

*Tuesday, March 1 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

*Thursday, March 3 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

Panopto is a robust and user-friendly video platform that provides extensive recording and editing features. Both instructors and students can use Panopto to create high-quality videos produced directly in Moodle. This workshop will cover the basics of Panopto, including creating and editing videos, adding quizzes to videos, and using Panopto for student presentations and assignments.

## Overview of VoiceThread

*Tuesday, March 8 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

*Thursday, March 10 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

VoiceThread is an excellent product for enhancing student engagement and collaboration in the remote classroom. It is a slideshow tool that provides both the instructor and students with the virtual space to have meaningful asynchronous discussions through audio or video. This workshop provides an overview of creating video and PowerPoint lectures on VoiceThread, developing collaborative activities for students, and using VoiceThread for student assignments.

## **Effective Course Design in Moodle: Creating “Easy-to-Navigate” Moodle Course Pages.**

*Tuesday, March 15 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

*Thursday, March 17 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

Students could have difficulties navigating through their courses in Moodle if the Moodle course page is created without much thought to design, form, and function. Moodle provides various options for making courses materials appear to your students in a clean, clear, and organized fashion. A well-produced Moodle course page can help increase students’ knowledge retention and motivation while mitigating frustration with accessing online materials. This workshop will guide participants through the Moodle interface with an eye toward functionality and design and discuss various ways to create visually appealing Moodle courses that are simple for students to navigate.

## **Overview of the Moodle Gradebook**

*Tuesday, March 29 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

*Thursday, March 31 | 11:00 am (Pacific) | Online*

The Moodle Gradebook is a powerful platform for grading student assignments and discussions, keeping track of grades, and automatically calculating complex or straightforward grade categories. Instructors can choose to use the Gradebook anytime during their course. This workshop will provide detailed instructions for building the Gradebook with attention to the different options for instructors to track and organize their assignments.

## Center for the Arts and Religion

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### Art Break with the Hangtown Fry

*Tuesday, March 15 | 5 - 6 pm | Zoom*



[Colyn Wohlmut](#), Director of Library Services at the GTU's Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, will be offering a live performance on Zoom with her fellow bandmates, to celebrate the release of their new album!

The Hangtown Fry are Kevin Brownell, Vern McElroy, and Colyn Wohlmut. They play a new style of music: Citygrass. It's a "loud on the inside" blend of country, soul, bluegrass, rock, funk, blues, love, loss, friendship, joy, longing, beer, whiskey, weed, and a little bit of prayer thrown in for good measure.

We are so excited to learn more about their music-making process and hear some of The Hangtown Fry's work!

[Learn more and register here](#)

## CARe Grants, Spring 2022

**Deadline: Monday, March 14, 9am**

GTU students and faculty, it's that time of year again -- we are now accepting applications for CARe Grants!

CARe is pleased to offer twice-yearly grants of up to \$2,000 in support of GTU student and faculty 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.

Learn more and apply now at [www.gtu.edu/caregrants](http://www.gtu.edu/caregrants)

## Let's Get Physical!

**Thursday, March 10 | 12 - 1 pm | Zoom**

In conjunction with CARE's Doug Adams Gallery Online exhibition, Draw me after you: a visual Song of Songs, join student Olivia Tabert (Master of Arts in Theological Studies, San Francisco Theological Seminary, University of Redlands) and three other artists for a panel discussion on the intersections of religion, sensuality, and art.



Olivia Tabert's work explores the value and sacrality of the erotic found in the Song of Songs. Our panel guests include Kari Gale and Karyn Thurston, the co-authors and illustrators of [She will be with me: a love letter to my body](#). This work helps reintroduce us to our bodies through art, poetry, and a guided journaling practice. Also joining the panel is author and illustrator Jamie Latourneau whose debut children's book, [A Kids Book About Shame](#), was chosen as one of "[Oprah's Favorite Things of 2020](#)" and helps others feel less alone in the daily emotions they experience.

Together, these three panelists will explore the Song of Songs, and its lasting impact on human sensuality and togetherness to this day.

[Register here to join us!](#)

## Workshops

This month CARE is offering our first workshop of the new year! Open to students and community members alike, each workshop pair carries a \$100 fee. CARE workshops are open to all - no experience in either of the fields necessary!

### Living the Questions: a poetry workshop

**Saturday, March 12 and Saturday March 19 | 10 am - 12 pm | Zoom**

Instructed by Nate Klug



Rainer Maria Rilke said, "Live the questions." In these two workshops, each poem we read (by Robert Hayden, Mary Oliver, Alice Oswald, and others) will contain at least one question. We will follow the poems' invitations into questioning our families, our faiths, our doubts, our countries, what our lives are for – but we will also find solace, and even energy, in the kinds of questioning that poetry can open up. Each workshop will combine close reading and discussion with time for our own writing, guided by prompts from the instructor.

Learn more and sign up at [www.gtu.edu/careworkshops](http://www.gtu.edu/careworkshops)

## Madrasa-Midrasha Program

*Monday, March 28 | 12:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*

### PREPARING FOR SACRED SEASONS

**FREE WEBINAR**

Please join the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program as we prepare for the sacred seasons of Passover and Ramadhan.



**DR. MAHJABEEN DHALA**  
Director, Madrasa-Midrasha Program



**DR. DEENA ARANOFF**  
Director, Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

 **MARCH 28, 2022**  
Monday 12pm (PT)

 **REGISTRATION:**  
[gtu.edu/events/madrasa-midrasha-preparing-sacred-seasons](https://gtu.edu/events/madrasa-midrasha-preparing-sacred-seasons)

 **ZOOM WEBINAR:**  
Free & Open to the Public

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

Join us for a special Madrasa-Midrasha Program webinar “Preparing for Sacred Seasons.” This Zoom webinar will feature a conversation between Madrasa-Midrasha Program Director Mahjabeen Dhala and CJS Director Deena Aranoff in preparation for Passover and Ramadhan. [Please visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

# 2022 Haas Summer Interreligious Research Grant!

now accepting applications

The deadline is Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.

[visit the webpage](#) for additional information.



## Madrasa-Midrasha Program Interreligious Research Grants

The Walter & Elise Haas Fund has provided funding to the GTU's Madrasa-Midrasha Program to support research grants for GTU students working on interreligious projects related to Judaism and/or Islam.

- Grants range from \$250 to \$500 for individual projects and \$500 to \$1000 for joint projects.
- Student(s) must be in the GTU MA or PhD degree program focusing on Jewish Studies and/or Islamic Studies and/or have registered for a CJS or CIS class this academic year.
- Proposed projects must be interreligious, or relevant to interreligious work. Projects that address both Judaism and Islam will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted to the Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala ([mahdhala@gtu.edu](mailto:mahdhala@gtu.edu)) by **Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

For more info, please visit [gtu.edu/news/summer-2022-interreligious-research-grants-madrasa-midrasha-program](http://gtu.edu/news/summer-2022-interreligious-research-grants-madrasa-midrasha-program).

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





## Center for Islamic Studies

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### **Multi-Faith Movements: Fireside Chats with Leaders Moving us Forward**

Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California

***Wednesday, March 23 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Pacific) | Hybrid***

Join Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala for a fireside chat organized by the [Aspen Institute's the Religion & Society Program](#)

America today is the most diverse it's ever been. And yet, old prejudices, stereotypes, and fears of the perceived "other" continue to abound. With rates of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia reaching record highs and religious literacy rates remaining low, we are already seeing what can happen when diversity is not accompanied by proper and robust engagement. But, this is not our only path forward. explore what the future of multi-faith engagement could be with leaders who are paving the way to pluralism.

[Register here for in-person](#)

[Register here for virtual](#)

### **Congratulations to CIS Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Madrasa-Midrasha Program Dr. Mahjabeen Dhala for giving the following upcoming talks:**

“To Teach Like a Prophet: Community Engaged Learning with a Theological Twist” at the American Academy of Religion-Western Region Annual Conference, March 18-20.

More details at <https://www.aarwr.com/2022-virtual-conference-registration.html>.

Sharing reflections from the Qur'an on a panel discussion following the showing of “Maryam, a Woman of Bethlehem” at San Jose State University, March 25.

More details at <http://www.maryamawomanofbethlehem.org/shows.html>

Join CIS on Monday, March 28th at 12pm PT for a Madrasa-Midrasha Program webinar “[Preparing for Sacred Seasons](#)” featuring a conversation between Madrasa-Midrasha Program Director Mahjabeen Dhala and CJS Director Deena Aranoff in preparation for Passover and Ramadhan.

# Center for Jewish Studies

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## The Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies

*Tuesday, March 3 | 1-2 pm (Pacific)*

Join us Thursday, March 3rd at 5pm PT for a conversation between author (and CJS alum!) Angela Botelho and CJS Director Deena Aranoff about Botelho's new book *German Jews and the Persistence of Jewish Identity in Conversion: Writing the Jewish Self*.

[Please see the event page for more info and registration link for this webinar.](#)



## Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences

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### Dimensions of Time

*Wednesday, March 16 | 5:00-7:00 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Register Here](#)

Time and its associated properties are an integral part of any physics calculation. Differentiability enables equations of motion and, therefore, quantitative predictions in the first place. Time also has an ontological dimension and is intimately linked to human existence. A third understanding of time is the one in theology, contrasting human time with divine eternity. In this talk, the property of time in physics is contrasted with an understanding of time following Heidegger and a theological time dimension from Pannenberg.



Carolin Frueh is an MDiv student with CDSP. She holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Bern, Switzerland. She holds the rank of Associate Professor at the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University, where her field of research is space debris and space domain awareness, focusing on human-made objects.



Braden Molhoek has been selected to be part of the 2021-2023 Sinai and Synapses Fellowship. The Sinai and Synapses Fellowship is a select interfaith group of clergy, scientists, and writers who are committed to elevating the discourse surrounding religion and science. It is supported by grant funding secured with the help of The Issachar Fund, as well as generous individual donors. This cohort of fellows meets three times annually to learn, share, and plan. Their first meeting was in February of 2022, and the next is in April. Here is the complete list of fellows in this cohort [sinaiandsynapses.org](https://sinaiandsynapses.org)

## Women's Studies in Religion



**MARYAM**  
امرأة من بيت لحم

**A WOMAN OF BETHLEHEM**

A PLAY BASED ON COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS IN BETHLEHEM PALESTINE

**MAR. 23-25 LIVE-STREAM**  
**HAMMER THEATRE**  
**SAN JOSE CALIFORNIA**

**MAR. 24-25**  
PERFORMED IN ARABIC & ENGLISH

  
جامعة دار الكلمة  
DAR AL-KALIMA  
UNIVERSITY

Supported by grants from  
The Sam Mazza Fdn. and SJSU

**SJSU**

A play by Dr. Victoria Rue translated by Hind AbuShkhadim

For more information visit [www.maryamawomanofbethlehem.org](http://www.maryamawomanofbethlehem.org)

Please note that the play is being BOTH performed live, and Live Streamed. All performances at 7:00 pm.



## Women's Studies in Religion

## Spring 2022 Event Save the Date!

- ❖ WSR Speaks with Dr. Kirsi Stjerna about Women as Confessors of Faith in the 16<sup>th</sup> century on Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm PT
- ❖ Play & Panel Q&A of "Maryam: A Woman of Bethlehem" at Hammer Theatre in San Jose, CA on March 23, 24, & 25  
<http://www.maryamawomanofbethlehem.org/shows.html>
- ❖ GTU Borsch-Rast Lecture on Dr. Ashley Bacchi's Book, *Uncovering Jewish Creativity in Book III of the Sibylline Oracles: Gender, Intertextuality, & Politics* on March 31<sup>st</sup> 6pm PT
- ❖ WSR Speaks with the Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee about Korean Feminist Theology on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm PT
- ❖ WSR Faculty Chair Lecture & Recognition of WSR Certificate Recipients for 2021/2022 in May, date & time TBA

All listed events worth 2 WSR Co-Curricular Units  
Check out our [FB Page](#) or <https://www.gtu.edu/projects/wsr> for details

Introducing a Newly Expanded GTUx - Now Available Online at [GTU.edu/x](https://gtu.edu/x)

Full-Time Faculty Across the Consortium and  
Members of Core Doctoral Faculty are invited to:

# Submit your proposal for GTUx by April 29th

Faculty members whose  
proposals are selected will  
receive a \$1,000 honorarium

Topics must align with at least  
one of GTUx's Core Content  
Pillars:

- Wisdom Traditions in  
Storytelling & Sacred Narrative
- History, Thought, & Culture of  
Religion & Spirituality
- Spiritual Care, Contemplative  
Practice, & Ritual
- Ethics, Justice, & Sustainability

Apply at:  
[gtu.edu/gtux-  
proposals](https://gtu.edu/gtux-proposals)

GTUx thrives at the crossroads of  
global culture & interreligious life,  
learning, & leadership, extending  
the GTU's campus & furthering its  
mission by serving as a dynamic,  
digital learning resource for  
individuals & communities  
internationally to engage deeply  
with the world's wisdom  
traditions.

# GTUx

Experience GTUx Originals  
first-hand at:  
[gtu.edu/x](https://gtu.edu/x)

# Berkeley Journal of Religion & Theology (BJRT)



**BJRT 2022 CALL FOR PAPERS**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2022**

The BJRT has extended its 2022 submission deadline for Volume 8. Please submit articles and book reviews by Tuesday, March 15.

For more visit [bjrt.gtu.edu](http://bjrt.gtu.edu)

The BJRT is now accepting article submissions and book review requests for Volume 8, to be published in 2022. Please visit our website at [bjrt.gtu.edu](http://bjrt.gtu.edu) for more information, as well as the BJRT Style Guide. This is a great way to gain experience with an academic journal and convert a term paper or writing project into a published article, and contribute to the discourse of current scholarship in your field by writing a book review.

The deadline for publishing consideration in Volume 8 has been extended and is now Tuesday, March 15th; however, the BJRT accepts submissions on a rolling basis for future consideration.

Please email [bjrt@ses.gtu.edu](mailto:bjrt@ses.gtu.edu) with any questions.

# Teaching Theology & Religion

## Call for Papers COVID-19 and Teaching Theology & Religion

You are invited to submit an article for possible inclusion in a special issue of Teaching Theology & Religion. This peer-reviewed journal is published through a partnership between Wiley and the Graduate Theological Union. We believe good teaching and learning are essential for the vitality and effectiveness of departments and institutions of higher education engaged in the study of religion and theology. Teaching Theology & Religion advances global discourse among scholar-practitioners about teaching and learning in fields related to religion, especially those that attend to one or more of the following areas: interdisciplinary approaches, intercultural and international contexts, interreligious emphases; and where technology, the arts, and service-learning come together to address the entire person. The journal has a global scholarly audience for interdisciplinary theological educators. The journal welcomes articles (4,000 to 7,000 words), Teaching & Learning in Action (3,000 words), Teaching Notes (400 words), and Book Reviews (800 to 1200 words).

“*COVID-19 and Teaching Theology & Religion*” is the topic of a **special issue** planned for the March 2022 issue of the journal. The onset of the recent coronavirus pandemic has required instructors and institutions to alter and adapt to this new situation, even if they had been previously teaching through digital means. This **special issue** aims to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to present new research and developments on this topic. Areas of interest for this special journal include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Altering course plans for multiple (and sometimes simultaneous) instructional modalities
- Incorporating new media possibilities
- Collaborating across geographical restrictions
- Teaching about the intersection of religion and health
- Dealing with increased workload having to balance safety, family duties, and teaching
- Developing alternate forms of ministerial formation
- Constructing new assignments for the digital environment
- Adapting ritual practices and/or immersion experiences for the pandemic
- Discerning masking and/or vaccination requirements for the classroom

The full manuscript should be prepared in accordance with the Author Guidelines and submitted online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ttr>.

### Important Dates:

Because these articles can immediately address current issues facing educators, the timeline for submitting is shortened. Although the deadline was initially **January 15, 2022**, we are still accepting strong contributions for this issue. Please submit through the online portal as soon as possible.

Teaching Theology & Religion web address: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14679647>



# Teaching Theology & Religion

## Call for Papers

### Trauma and Teaching Theology & Religion

You are invited to submit an article for possible inclusion in a special issue of Teaching Theology & Religion. This peer-reviewed journal is published through a partnership between Wiley and the Graduate Theological Union. We believe good teaching and learning are essential for the vitality and effectiveness of departments and institutions of higher education engaged in the study of religion and theology. Teaching Theology & Religion advances global discourse among scholar-practitioners about teaching and learning in fields related to religion, especially those that attend to one or more of the following areas: interdisciplinary approaches, intercultural and international contexts, interreligious emphases; and where technology, the arts, and service-learning come together to address the entire person. The journal has a global scholarly audience for interdisciplinary theological educators. The journal welcomes articles (4,000 to 7,000 words), Teaching & Learning in Action (3,000 words), Teaching Notes (400 words), and Book Reviews (800 to 1200 words).

“*Trauma and Teaching Theology & Religion*” is the topic of a **special issue** planned for the September 2022 issue of the journal. It was clear in the years immediately prior to 2020 that faculties and institutions needed to develop trauma-informed pedagogies at the undergraduate and graduate levels because of the pervasive experience of trauma among students and faculty alike. Since the pandemic, this need is even greater. This **special issue** aims to provide a platform for researchers and practitioners to present new research and developments on this topic. Areas of interest for this special journal include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Teaching traumatic material (from scripture, history, art, film, or contemporary events)
- Best practices for grappling with disclosure of trauma in a classroom discussion
- Secondary traumatic stress for professors and/or students
- Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout
- COVID-19 traumas and the classroom
- Trauma-informed institutions
- Interreligious wisdom for trauma-informed teaching
- Trauma-informed approaches to teaching about sexual abuse scandals in religious settings
- Trauma-informed approaches to online teaching
- Preparing trauma-informed leaders (PhD students, religious leaders, community leaders)
- ADA accessibility accommodations for complex post-traumatic stress in students
- Writing about trauma-informed principles in syllabi
- Teaching toward anti-racism with a trauma-informed lens
- Trauma-Informed approaches to teaching in intercultural settings especially in light of generational and historical traumas
- Indigenous religions and/or contexts and trauma-informed teaching
- Destigmatizing trauma and valuing resilience

You will need to indicate your intention to submit your full paper by email to the co-editor with the title of the paper, authors, and abstract. The full manuscript should be prepared in accordance with the Author Guidelines and submitted online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ttr>.

**Important Dates:****Intent to Submit:** March 15, 2022**Full Version:** April 1, 2022**Decision Date:** June 1, 2022**Final Version:** August 1, 2022**Publication:** September 15, 2022**Co-Editor Contact:**

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Teaching Theology & Religion web address: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14679647>

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

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A CLGS Jewish Queeries Series event with Fran Benjamin and Monique Cadle



Fran Benjamin



Monique Cadle

**Gender: A Spectrum or an Angle of Deviation?**

*Thursday, March 3 | 1:00-2:15 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)



A CLGS Lavender Lunch with Tahil Sharma

**The Interfaith Query**

*Tuesday, March 8 | 2:15-1:15 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)

A CLGS Queer & Latinx Faith Conversation with Ana Ester, André Musskopf, and Cris Serra. **Latinx, LGBTQ+, and Faith Communities: An Inclusive Experience**



Ana Ester



André Musskopf



Cris Serra

*Thursday, March 10 | 12:00-1:15 pm (Pacific) | Online*

[Join via Zoom](#)

## Center for Swedenborgian Studies

# SPIRIT IN ACTION: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Ours is a tradition that encourages people of faith to be active and conscientious citizens. We will explore this aspect of the Swedenborgian tradition as well as concrete ways to be civically engaged in a non-partisan five-part event series designed to support civic action generally, without preference to specific issues. [swedenborgianstudies.org](http://swedenborgianstudies.org)

**Mondays 7:30-9pm EST on Zoom**

Contact Rev. Shada Sullivan for the link: [revshada@gmail.com](mailto:revshada@gmail.com)

**March 28th**

**Lobby Training & How to Engage Congress**

**Led By Sarah Freeman Woolpert  
of the Friends Committee on National Legislation**

Standard lobby training, how to engage your member of Congress

**April 25th**

**How do I Raise my Voice? Where do I Go**

**Led By Sarah Johnson  
of the Friends Committee on National Legislation**

How to build meaningful partnerships for advocacy in my community and lift up these issues in the media

**May 23rd**

**Swedenborgians in the Field**

A panel discussion led by Rev. Rich Tafel

## Wilmette Institute

# Responding to Injustice with Constructive Agency

Exploring constructive approaches to social transformation from a uniquely Bahá'í perspective

Join a Zoom presentation and discussion about nonviolent approaches to authentic social change. People and communities across the planet are working to translate commonly held spiritual principles into a new social reality through an evolving understanding of oppression, justice, nonviolence and constructive resilience. In thousands of localities around the world, Baha'is and like-minded collaborators are contributing to this work by reexamining the root causes of oppression, investigating who has agency and why, and integrating justice, unity and diversity. Join us and explore the profound implications of this work.

**Register for Zoom Talk [bit.ly/GTU-WI-Karlberg](https://bit.ly/GTU-WI-Karlberg)**

**Wednesday, March 16 at 6pm PT**



Speaker: Dr. Michael Karlberg



Host: Dr. Chitra Golestani



## 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](mailto:skennedy@gtu.edu)  
Sabrina Kennedy, Executive Assistant to the Interim Dean

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Graduate Theological Union Office of the Dean

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