

**SouthEastern Commission for the Study Of Religion**  
**Southeast Region of the AAR/SBL/ASOR**  
**2012 Call for Papers**

Join us at the Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2-4, 2012! The following sections and program units invite members who wish to present a paper or coordinate a session to submit the Proposal Submission Form available on the SECSOR website (<http://groups.wfu.edu/secsor>) along with proposals to the appropriate section chairs by the call deadline, October 3, 2011. Proposals should consist of a 1-2 page description of the presentation unless otherwise requested in the call for a particular section. Each member is limited to one proposal, although a member can submit the same proposal to multiple sections. If a member submits a proposal to multiple sections, the relevant sections must be ranked as first or second choice on the Proposal Submission Form. Proposals for joint sessions as listed in the call should be sent to all involved section chairs but do not have to be ranked.

Please note that unless otherwise indicated, papers must be of such a length as can be presented and discussed within 25 minutes. Planned use of audio-visual equipment **must** be noted on the submission form. SECSOR will provide **only** a limited number of AV rooms with screen, cart, and power cords. Presenters must bring their own projection, audio, and other support equipment. It is imperative that we have all information concerning AV equipment on the proposal forms in insure presentations have the support needed. It is not possible to accommodate AV needs once meeting room assignments have been determined.

The copying of handouts is the responsibility of the presenter. All program participants **must** be pre-registered for the meetings.

**(SBL/ASOR) Archaeology and the Ancient World**

Themes: Proposals on all topics in Archaeology and the Ancient World will be considered, but proposals for the following themes are especially invited: (1) Presidential Address; (2) A joint session with the AAR, "Islam and Muslim Spaces"; (3) Recent Excavations and Finds and (4) Early Explorers/Excavators of the Ancient Near East. Submit a copy of your proposal to program chair, John Wineland, Kentucky Christian ([wineland@kcu.edu](mailto:wineland@kcu.edu)).

**(AAR/SBL) Bible and Modern Culture**

Themes: Proposals on all topics in Bible and Modern Culture will be gladly considered, but proposals for the following themes are especially invited: (1) The Bible and Cultural/Political Practices and Ideologies; diverse papers related to this theme are welcome. (2) Is Apocalyptic Language still Meaningful: How do Ancient Texts apply to Modern People? (3) Let's get our Bearings: The Quest of the Historical Jesus One-hundred Years after Schweitzer.(4) Open call. Submit proposals to Brian Mooney, Johnson & Wales University ([brian.mooney@jwu.edu](mailto:brian.mooney@jwu.edu)), and Finbar S. Benjamin, Oakwood University, ([fbenjamin@oakwood.edu](mailto:fbenjamin@oakwood.edu)).

**(AAR) Black Cultures and the Study of Religion**

Themes (1) Joint Session with Teaching Religion, *Obama, Apocalypse, and Beyond*: In light of the impending 2012 presidential election, this session is concerned with race, religion, and the American empire. Papers are sought that examine the legacies of race and religion, the Obama presidency and the practice of teaching religion in such contexts. Papers are strongly encouraged that account for the gamut of Obama's presidency, from his initial candidacy in 2008 to the end of his first term as President; (2) *New Frontiers: Religion, Sex, and the Study of Black Religious Cultures*: This session is concerned with sexual politics and black religious cultures. Papers are sought that examine the entanglements of gender

and sexuality with respect to black religious cultures. Specifically, we seek papers that engage the sexual politics of religious institutions, religious elites, and popular expressions of religiosity among black people. Given the context for the 2012 meeting we strongly encourage papers that examine religion and sexual politics in Atlanta, Georgia. This includes recent cases of sexual misconduct involving high profile Atlanta ministers and the religious media of Atlanta based entrepreneurs; (3) Joint Session with Religion, Culture, and the Arts, *Religion and Black Popular Culture*. This session is concerned with the interpretation of black popular culture from the standpoint of religious studies. Papers are sought that apply the critical tools of religious studies to black popular culture. From a variety of disciplinary perspectives, we seek papers that interrogate past and present expressions of black popular culture. Such expressions include music, film, books and mass media writ at large. We strongly encourage papers that examine recent scholarship which fuses the academic study of religion with black popular culture. Submit all proposals to Ronald Neal, Wake Forest University ([nealrb@wfu.edu](mailto:nealrb@wfu.edu)) and Adam L. Bond, The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University ([albond@vuu.edu](mailto:albond@vuu.edu)).

### **(AAR) Constructive Theologies**

Themes: (1) Open Call; (2) "Apocalypticism Now?" a consideration of the current shape of apocalyptic theologies in an age of climate change, globalism, political revolutions, and doomsday predictions; (3) A joint session with the Religion and Ecology Section around the theme, "The Relationship between Theology and Ecology," with particular emphases on the themes of food/sustainability and/or theological education; (4) "Hell Hath No Fury?" engaging changing conceptions of the afterlife and eternal punishment; (5) "The Virtues and Vices of the Virtues and Vices" exploring the legacy of Christian theological psychology and traditional approaches to moral formation. Submit proposals to Cameron Jorgenson, Campbell University Divinity School ([jorgensonc@campbell.edu](mailto:jorgensonc@campbell.edu)). For the "Theology and Ecology" session, also send proposals to Richard Carp, Appalachian State University ([carprm@appstate.edu](mailto:carprm@appstate.edu)).

### **(AAR) Ethics, Religion, and Society**

Themes: Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) ethics and disability; (2) economic ethics (labor issues) and political ethics/use of public discourse; (3) comparative religious ethics; (4) navigating pluralism in the classroom; (5) a joint session with Religion and Ecology on religion and environmental ethics. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals to Sally Holt, Belmont University ([sally.holt@belmont.edu](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu)) and Michael Stoltzfus, Valdosta State ([mjstoltz@valdosta.edu](mailto:mjstoltz@valdosta.edu)).

### **(SBL) Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament**

Themes: (1) a joint session with the New Testament (SBL) and Teaching Religion (AAR) sections on Teaching Ancient Apocalypses for Social Change; (2) a session on Reading and Writing Biblical Texts in the Persian Period; and (3) 2 open sessions. Direct all proposals (or completed papers if you have never presented) and inquiries to the section co-chairs: Todd Hibbard, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga ([Todd-Hibbard@utc.edu](mailto:Todd-Hibbard@utc.edu)) and Bryan Bibb, Furman University ([bryan.bibb@furman.edu](mailto:bryan.bibb@furman.edu)). For the joint session with NT, please see the full description at the New Testament call. Send proposals for this joint session in the first instance to Margaret Aymer, Interdenominational Theological Center ([secsornt@mpaymer.net](mailto:secsornt@mpaymer.net)).

### **(AAR) History of Christianity**

Session 1: Early Church Period: Seeking papers on Apocalypticism or other areas of interest in the Early Church Period. Session 2: Medieval Period: Seeking papers on Apocalypticism or other areas of interest in the Medieval Period. Session 3: Reformation Period: Seeking papers on Apocalypticism; the pre-

Reformation life of Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, or early Anabaptist leaders; or other areas of interest in the Reformation Period. Session 4: Joint session with the Religion in America Section: Seeking papers on Apocalypticism in American Religious History within groups, denominations, or as individual beliefs. All proposals should be sent to Dr. Michael Simmons, Auburn University ([bishopmichael@centurytel.net](mailto:bishopmichael@centurytel.net)) and Mark Nickens, Averett University ([drnickens@triad.rr.com](mailto:drnickens@triad.rr.com)).

### **(AAR) History of Judaism**

Themes: (1) The texts and contexts of the Graeco-Roman world and Second Temple Judaism. Papers may be inclusive of, but are not limited to, discussions of apocalypticism or apocalyptic literature. A joint session with New Testament. (2) Exploring the intersections of Queer Theory/Feminist Studies and Judaism/Torah Studies. A joint session with Women, Gender and Sexuality (3) Teaching War, Genocide and the Holocaust. Proposals addressing any topic of Judaism will be considered as well. Submit proposals or completed papers if you have never presented at SECSOR to co-chairs Michael Fuller, Lee University ([mfuller@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:mfuller@leeuniversity.edu)) and Michelle Tooley, Berea College ([michelle\\_tooley@bera.edu](mailto:michelle_tooley@bera.edu)).

### **(AAR) Islam**

Themes: Proposals on all topics in Islamic Studies will be considered, but proposals for the following themes are especially invited: (1) Islam and Revolution; (2) A joint session with the American Society of Oriental Research, "Islam and Muslim Spaces"; (3) Islam and Non-Violence (4) Islam in the Southeastern U.S. Submit a copy of your proposal to co-chairs, Rachel Scott, Virginia Tech ([RMSCOTT@vt.edu](mailto:RMSCOTT@vt.edu)) and Dave Damrel, University of South Carolina, Upstate, ([ddamrel@uscupstate.edu](mailto:ddamrel@uscupstate.edu)).

### **(AAR/SBL) MA/MDiv Session**

MA and MDiv Students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the MA/MDiv Session, sponsored by SECSOR. All topics are welcome, including those directed to the conference theme. Students should submit completed papers that reflect original student research of an appropriate length for presentation (approximately 12 d.s. pages). No paper over 15 d.s. pages will be considered. One submission per student. Electronic submission preferred. Papers should be sent to Dr. Ron Williams, Gardner-Webb University, [rwwilliams@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:rwwilliams@gardner-webb.edu) by December 15, 2011. Note: MA/MDiv students may submit proposals to other sections as well.

### **(AAR) Method and Theory of Religion**

(1) We are looking for papers that address issues of method and theory as pertains to the study of apocalyptic/eschatology including non-western religious traditions. Papers may deal with the application of theory and/or method to understand apocalyptic/eschatology or may address the use of theory and/or method in the scholarship of apocalyptic/eschatology. (2) Student papers that are related to method and theory in the study of religion. Papers relating to Religion and apocalypticism/eschatology are particularly encouraged, though other topics related to method and theory will certainly be considered. Undergraduate student paper proposals must be sponsored by a faculty member who will act as mentor to the student. The faculty sponsor's name should be included in the paper proposal. Submit proposals for either of the first two topics to Randy Reed, Appalachian State University ([reedrw@appstate.edu](mailto:reedrw@appstate.edu)), and Laura Ammon, Appalachian State University ([lauraammon@gmail.com](mailto:lauraammon@gmail.com)). (3) We are sponsoring a joint session with Religion in America, seeking papers reassessing the field of theory, gender, and American religion at the 15-year anniversary of Ann Braude's "Women's Religious History IS American Religious History" Submit proposals for the joint session to Kelly Baker, University of Tennessee, [kellyjbaker@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjbaker@gmail.com), and Laura Ammon, Appalchian State University, [lauraammon@gmail.com](mailto:lauraammon@gmail.com).

### **(SBL) New Testament**

Themes: 1) New Testament and Apocalypse/ apocalypticism – in keeping with the conference theme, papers are solicited on topics such as NT apocalypticism, apocalypse(s) of/and the NT world; the apocalyptic Jesus; extracanonical apocalypse(s); apocalypse and immanence and other related topics. (2) Teaching Ancient Apocalypses for Social Change (co-sponsored with HS/OT and AAR/Teaching Religion) – The uncertainties of the current times (economics, earthquake, tsunami) and the collective imaginary around the possible end of the world in 2012 (Mayan calendar), yield a variety of challenges and opportunities for teaching ancient (and) biblical apocalyptic writings. Papers that address these challenges and opportunities are requested. Emphases may include critical self-reflective analysis of self as participant in the collective imaginary while teaching apocalyptic texts; consideration of the intersection of teaching these texts and/as ethical change and or praxis; the connections between texts, contexts, participants and ethical imperatives; and other best practices of teaching ancient (and) biblical writings. (3) Papers are solicited concerning the texts and contexts of the Graeco-Roman world and Second Temple Judaism. These may be inclusive of, but are not limited to, discussions of apocalypticism or apocalyptic literature. (4) Explicitly Located Readings – papers are solicited that approach the critical study of NT and Early Christianity from explicitly located perspectives, inclusive of but not limited to post-colonial, culturally and/or ethnically-informed, feminist/womanist/mujerista, queer or other located perspectives. (5) Open call for papers on New Testament studies and/or Early Christianity. (6) Invited Panel: “the one who reads and who hears”: Perspectives on Revelation to John. Proposals and papers for *all* sessions (including the joint session) should be submitted to [SESCORNT@paymer.net](mailto:SESCORNT@paymer.net) and should state clearly the session for which they would like to be considered.

### **(AAR) Philosophy of Religion Section:**

Papers are invited for the following three sessions: (1) Open Theism and Postmodernism. This session will feature a response by John Sanders. (2) Cognitive Science (broadly construed) and the Philosophy of Religion. (3) Open call. For all sessions, please send proposals to J. Aaron Simmons at [aaron.simmons@furman.edu](mailto:aaron.simmons@furman.edu). Proposals should be prepared for blind review and consist of a title and abstract of 200-300 words.

### **(AAR) Religion and Ecology Consultation**

The Religion and Ecology section of the 2012 AAR Southeastern Regional Meeting calls for the submission of papers on the following themes: (1) A joint session between Religion and Ecology and Constructive Theologies concerning the relationship between Theology and Ecology (with particular emphases on the themes of food/sustainability and/or theological education); (2) A joint session between Religion and Ecology and Ethics, Religion, and Society concerning the topic of Religion and Environmental Ethics; (3) Apocalyptic Rhetoric in Ecological Discourse; (4) Pluralism/Diversity in Religious Responses to Ecological Concern; (5) Focus on International Perspectives/Local Knowledge in Religion and Ecology; (6) Rhetoric of Religion and Ecology in Public Policy; (7) Religion and Urban Environmentalism; (8) Open Call. Submit all proposals to Richard M. Carp, Appalachian State University ([carprm@appstate.edu](mailto:carprm@appstate.edu)). For the joint session between Religion and Ecology and Constructive Theologies, also send proposals to Cameron Jorgenson, Campbell University Divinity School ([jorgensonc@campbell.edu](mailto:jorgensonc@campbell.edu)). In addition, for the joint session between Religion and Ecology and Ethics, Religion, and Society, also send proposals to Sally Holt, Belmont University ([sally.holt@belmont.edu](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu)).

### **(AAR) Religion, Culture, and the Arts**

Themes: (1) Cultures of Violence and Arts of Resistance; (2) Religion and Black Popular Culture (joint session with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion); (3) Eschatology and Expectation in Religious Literatures; (4) Zombie Apocalypses in American Cinema, Art, and Fiction (joint session with Religion in America); (5) Open call. Please submit proposals to section chairs Adam Ware ([amware@fsu.edu](mailto:amware@fsu.edu)) and

Cara Burnidge ([clb07s@fsu.edu](mailto:clb07s@fsu.edu)), and if submitting to a joint session, please submit proposals to all relevant section chairs.

### **(AAR) Religions in America**

Themes: (1) Teaching/Theorizing Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in American Religions (2) Apocalypticism in American Religious History, possible joint session with History of Christianity, submits proposals also to Dr. Mark Nickens ([drnickens@triad.rr.com](mailto:drnickens@triad.rr.com)) (3) Papers reassessing the fields of theory and gender [in American Religions] at the 15-year anniversary of Braude's 'Women's Religious History IS American Religious History, possible joint session with Women in Religion, submit proposals also to Jill Peterfeso ([petjm@email.unc.edu](mailto:petjm@email.unc.edu)) (4) Zombie Apocalypse in American Cinema, Art, and Literature, possible joint session with Religion, Culture, and the Arts, submit proposals also to Adam Ware ([amware@gmail.com](mailto:amware@gmail.com)) (5) Religion and Region. Submit **all** (joint or single call) proposals to Dr. Kelly J. Baker ([kellyjbaker@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjbaker@gmail.com)) and Joshua Fleeer ([jdf08d@fsu.edu](mailto:jdf08d@fsu.edu)). For joint sessions, please send proposals to the other section chairs as well.

### **(AAR) Religions of Asia section**

In conjunction with the 2012 conference theme, the Religions of Asia Section solicits proposals on 1) Eschatology, the Apocalypse and End Times (including hells, the Kali Yuga and *mappō* end of Dharma narratives) 2) Demons, Devils, and Friends, Oh My! 3) Ancestors, Mummies and the Living Dead. In addition, we solicit proposals on the following topics: 4) Religion and Cities - in conjunction with a possible tour to religious sites in Atlanta 5) Material Culture and/or Visual Culture in Asia - including pedagogical uses of visuals in the classroom 6) "New" Religion: innovations, renovations, inventions, and renewals 7) Open Call. Submit all proposals to Amy Allocco ([aallocco@elon.edu](mailto:aallocco@elon.edu)) and Pamela Winfield ([pwinfield@elon.edu](mailto:pwinfield@elon.edu)).

### **(AAR) Teaching Religion**

Teaching Religion offers the following calls for papers for three joint and a solo session: (1) Our solo session offers an **Open call for papers** in the area of teaching religion. Proposals should be directed to Dr. Reginaldo Braga Jr. and Carolyn J. Davis using the section email ([secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)). In cooperation with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion section: **"Obama, Apocalypse, and Beyond"** In light of the impending 2012 presidential election, this session is concerned with race, religion, and the American empire. Papers are sought that examine the legacies of race and religion, the Obama residency and the practice of teaching religion in such contexts. Specifically, we seek papers that engage the apocalyptic responses to Obama and its entanglements with race. This includes conservative and far right reactions to the Obama Administration, pedagogical consideration steamed from the political, social, religious and racial contexts, and the challenge of teaching religion in institutions that situate themselves across the discourses. Papers are strongly encouraged that account for the gamut of Obama's presidency, from his initial candidacy in 2008 to the end of his first term as President. Proposals should be submitted with copies to both Sections. Email proposals to Dr. Reginaldo Braga Jr. ([secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)) with copy to Dr. Alan Bond ([ALBond@VUU.EDU](mailto:ALBond@VUU.EDU)). In cooperation with New Testament and Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament sections: **"Teaching Ancient Apocalypses for Social Change"** The uncertainties of the current times (economics, earthquake, tsunami) and the collective imaginary around the possible end of the world in 2012 (Mayan calendar), yield a variety of challenges and opportunities for teaching ancient and biblical apocalyptic writings. Papers that address these challenges and opportunities are requested. Emphases may include critical self-reflective analysis of self as participant in the collective imaginary while teaching apocalyptic texts; consideration of the intersection of teaching these texts and/as ethical change and or praxis; the connections between texts, contexts, participants and ethical imperatives; and other best practices of teaching ancient (and) biblical writings. Proposals should be submitted with copies to both Sections. Email proposals to Dr. Reginaldo

Braga Jr. ([secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)) with copy to Dr. Margaret Aymer ([secsornt@mpaymer.net](mailto:secsornt@mpaymer.net)). In cooperation with Women, Gender and Religion section: **“The promises, perils, and pedagogy when teaching issues of gender, sexuality, and religion in the southeast”** Proposals should be submitted with copies to both Sections. Email proposals to Dr. Reginaldo Braga Jr. ([secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)) with copies to Drs. Jill Peterfeso, [petjm@email.unc.edu](mailto:petjm@email.unc.edu), and Lisa Stephenson, [lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu).

#### **(AAR) Two-Year College Professors of Religion Consultation**

Proposals on topics related to the challenges involved in teaching religious studies at two-year institutions are invited. Possible topics include: (1) identifying the roles religious studies should play at two-year colleges; (2) presenting religious studies as a critical intellectual activity to administrators at two-year institutions; (3) the status of the M.Div. in teaching religious studies at two-year institutions; and (4) the challenges of teaching both world religions and introduction to religious studies in the same course at two-year institutions. Proposals should be sent to both Michael Bradley ([michael.bradley@gpc.edu](mailto:michael.bradley@gpc.edu)) and Jason Flato ([jason.flato@gpc.edu](mailto:jason.flato@gpc.edu)).

#### **(AAR) Women, Gender, and Religion**

In addition to an open call, we encourage proposals on the following themes: (1) The promises, perils, and pedagogy that surround teaching gender, sexuality, and religion in the southeast, for a possible joint session with Teaching Religion (copy Regi Braga, [secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)); (2) The intersections of Queer Theory/Feminist Studies and Judaism/Torah Studies, for a possible joint session with History of Judaism (copy Michelle Tooley, [Michelle.Tooley@berea.edu](mailto:Michelle.Tooley@berea.edu), and Michael Fuller, [mfuller@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:mfuller@leeuniversity.edu)); (3) For a joint session with Religion in America and Theory and Method, papers reassessing the field of theory, gender, and American religion at the 15-year anniversary of Ann Braude's “Women's Religious History IS American Religious History” (copy Kelly Baker, [kellyjbaker@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjbaker@gmail.com), and Laura Ammon, [lauraammon@gmail.com](mailto:lauraammon@gmail.com)); and, in keeping with the SECSOR 2012 theme, (4) Papers exploring the role of gender and/or sexuality in the rhetoric and images of apocalyptic/millennial groups. Send all proposals to both co-chairs: Jill Peterfeso, [petjm@email.unc.edu](mailto:petjm@email.unc.edu), and Lisa Stephenson, [lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu); for joint sessions, send to both co-chairs and the joint session's chairs/co-chairs.

#### **Undergraduate Research**

Students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Session, sponsored by SECSOR. Open to all topics, the session will be composed of the papers considered the best submissions by an interdisciplinary committee. Students should submit completed papers that reflect original student research of an appropriate length for presentation (approximately 12 d.s. pages). No paper over 15 d.s. pages will be considered. One submission per student. Please include on a cover page contact information for the student and a faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Electronic submissions preferred. Send submissions by December 15, 2011, to Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College ([anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu)). Note: Undergraduates may submit proposals to other sections as well.