

SECSOR NEWS

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SECSOR

Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion
Department of Religion Wake Forest University
Box 7212, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Atlanta--2010

The 2010 meeting will take place at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center, GA from March 5-7. The room rate is \$112.00 for an evening. The Century Center offers a full range of guest amenities and details may be found at their website, <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atline-atlanta-marriott-century-center/>. When booking a room, please call the hotel directly (1-404-325-0000) and mention the SECSOR room rate.

Special Workshop for 2010

Nurturing the Next Generation of Scholars: A Workshop for Students of Color Considering the Ph.D.

In conjunction with the 2010 meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion and in partnership with its affiliate societies, The American Academy of Religion (AAR/SE), the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL/SE), The Fund for Theological Education will host a pre-meeting workshop for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who are considering the pursuit of a Ph.D. or Th.D. in religious, theological, or biblical studies. The goals of this session are to introduce prospective graduate students to the profession, provide opportunities for participants to dialogue with distinguished faculty and current graduate students, provide useful information on the graduate application process, and to increase the pipeline for future faculty of color in the guild.

Join us in identifying a new generation of talented scholars and educators. For more information, e-mail doctoralinfo@thefund.org to receive updates and application.

Program Plans for 2010

The theme for our 2010 program will be "Religion and Economics" and continues a series focusing on the intersection of "Religion and Public Life."

Once and Future Meetings

The 2009 Regional Meeting was held March 13-15 at the Sheraton Greensboro. Despite a very last-minute change in venue, we had a solid registration of 223. Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill were the co-host institutions and co-sponsored the Friday evening reception and coffee break on Saturday morning. Baker Academic Press sponsored our Saturday afternoon coffee break. For 2011, we are evaluating proposals from Birmingham and Louisville.

Nominations

SBL/SE is seeking nominations for 2010-2011 vice president elect. Nominations may be directed to Jodi Magness (magness@email.unc.edu), Gail Streete (gstreete@rhodes.edu) or Vicki Phillips (Phillips_v@wwwc.edu).

AAR/SE is seeking nominations for 2010-2011 vice president elect. Nominations should be directed to Michelle Tooley (michelle_tooley@berea.edu).

SBL REGIONAL SCHOLARS AWARD

The Regional Scholar's Award is an SBL initiative to recognize and promote promising entry-level scholars in the field of biblical studies. The award includes various forms of recognition, including \$1000 to facilitate travel to and participation in the 2010 SBL annual meeting. Applicants must be at least ABD and no more than four years past receipt of the Ph.D. (at the time of application) and must present a paper at a 2010 SBL regional meeting. Selection is based on the quality of the paper, as evaluated by both regional and national selection committees.

If you are eligible and interested, then the first step is to submit a paper proposal for presentation at the SECSOR meeting in Atlanta. If your paper is accepted, then you may apply for the regional scholar award by submitting: (1) a brief statement requesting consideration for the award (an email message will suffice); (2) a copy of your paper as you will present it; (3) a c.v. which clearly indicates when you received your Ph.D. or became ABD. **March 1, 2010 is the deadline for applications this year.**

For more information or to apply, contact Vicki Phillips, SBL Regional Coordinator – Phillips_v@wwwc.edu Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged.

Session for Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate 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. Please include on a cover page contact information for the student and a faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Electronic submission preferred. Send submissions by December 15, 2009 to Bernadette McNary-Zak, Rhodes College (mcnary_zak@rhodes.edu). Note: Undergraduates may still submit proposals to other sections as well.

Student Awards

(AAR) The winner of the 2009 graduate student award was Rosemary Blackburn-Smith of Florida State University for her paper, "Religion/State as a Discourse of Dissent: Moses Mendelssohn in Response to McCutcheon and Fitzgerald."

A cash prize of \$250 will be awarded the graduate student member of the Academy who submits the best paper accepted for presentation at the 2010 Regional Meeting. Proposals for papers to be entered in the graduate competition must be submitted to the appropriate section chair by the call deadline, October 1, 2009. Notification of acceptance will be mailed by November 1, 2009. Papers accepted for presentation, and thus for the competition, must be submitted in final form (maximum 12 d.s. pages) by January 15, 2010.

A separate prize of \$100 will be given for the best paper by an undergraduate student. Please see the announcement for the session above.

The winner of the 2009 Undergraduate Paper contest was Lucia Hulsether of Agnes Scott College for her paper "Playing Princess, Playing Soldier: Girls' Gender Construction at Faithspring Baptist Church, Atlanta."

The Prize will be awarded to the paper deemed the best presentation reflecting original research, demonstrating cogent analysis, and exemplifying clarity and creativity. The committee reserves the right in any year not to award the prize if it feels that submissions do not achieve an appropriate level of excellence.

Papers submitted for the undergraduate session(s) will automatically be considered for the prize. Undergraduates whose proposals *have been accepted* by other sections who wish to be considered for the prize must submit completed papers (following the guidelines for the undergraduate sessions) with cover letter to Anne Blue Wills (anwills@davidson.edu) by December 15, 2009.

(SBL) Ben White of UNC-Chapel Hill won the 2009 Kenneth Willis Clark Award, for his paper, "Androgyny and the Rhetoric of Conversion: Toward a Solution to the Northern/Southern Galatia Problem.."

A cash prize of \$250 will be awarded the graduate student member of the Society who submits the paper judged best among those accepted for the 2010 program. Proposals for papers to be entered in the competition should be sent to the appropriate SBL section chair by the call deadline, October 1, 2009. Completed manuscripts of papers selected for presentation (maximum 12 d.s. pages) should be submitted to the appropriate section chair by January 15, 2010.

(ASOR) Alan Todd of Duke University won the 2009 Joseph Callaway Prize for Biblical Archeology for his paper, "Demand for Local Jewish Pottery in First Century BCE Palestine: Household Purity Concerns or Availability?"

A cash prize of \$250 will be awarded to the graduate student member who submits the paper judged best among those submitted for the 2010 program. Proposals for papers to be entered in the competition should be sent to the SBL/ASOR section chair by the call deadline, October 1, 2009. Completed manuscripts for presentation (maximum 12 d.s. pages) should be submitted to the SBL/ASOR section chair by January 15, 2010.

Each Society retains the right to not award prizes in any particular year.

CALL FOR PAPERS

2010 SECSOR Regional Meeting

MARCH 5-7, 2010 ATLANTA MARRIOTT CENTURY CENTER

NEW PROPOSAL DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2009!

The following sections and program units invite members who wish to present a paper or coordinate a session to submit proposals (1-2 pages) or completed manuscripts to the appropriate section chairs by the call deadline, October 15, 2009. Each member is limited to one proposal.

Please use the proposal submission form available on the SECSOR web site (<http://groups.wfu.edu/secsor/>). Proposals for joint sessions should be sent to all chairs.

Please note that unless otherwise indicated, papers must be of such a length as can be presented and discussed within 45 minutes. Planned use of audio-visual equipment must be noted on the submission form. Because of the very high cost of renting audio-visual equipment, presenters who wish to use such equipment must provide it themselves. SECSOR will provide a limited number of designated AV rooms with a screen, cart, and cords; however, presenters must bring their own projection, audio, and other AV equipment. So it is still necessary for program planners to know what presenters are planning on using

AV equipment so they can be scheduled in appropriate rooms. It is imperative that we have all information concerning AV equipment on proposal forms. This allows us to plan “AV rooms” where sessions with similar needs can be scheduled. AV costs are based on a per room, per day basis. By blocking rooms, SECSOR can save substantially on conference costs. In addition, SECSOR cannot support the cost of audio visual equipment but will provide AV ready rooms. If you must use this equipment, note on your proposal form that you will provide your own equipment at the conference. Thank you for your cooperation.

The copying of handouts is also the responsibility of the presenter.

All program participants must be pre-registered for the meeting.

Suggestions for new program units or special speakers should be sent to SECSOR’s Executive Director or to the Vice President/Program Chair of the respective society (see list of regional officers).

(SBL/ASOR) Archaeology and the Ancient World (4 sessions)

Four sessions: (1) Special session with a guest lecturer, “Jesus and the Galilean Economy”; (2) Invited panel, “Jesus and the Galilean Economy”; (3) A joint session with Teaching Religions, “Teaching in the Field: Best Practices in Field Schools”; (4) Open call. We are interested in scholarly papers. To wit: slide presentations must be accompanied by a written paper. Papers may be on, but are not restricted to, the topic of religion and economics. We are also interested in papers dealing with archaeological theory and/or method, but will not exclude papers on other subjects dealing with archaeology and material culture. Submit proposals (or complete papers if you have never presented) to Ralph K. Hawkins, Kentucky Christian University (rhawkins@kcu.edu).

(AAR/SBL) Bible and Modern Culture (5 sessions)

Themes: (1) Invited panel “The Black and African Diaspora Reading the Hebrew Bible”; (2) A joint session with Religions of Asia, “Biblical Interpretations in Asian Cultures”; (3) A joint session with Islam, “Scripture, Religion, and Science”; (4) “Caribbean Religions: The Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Traditions”; (5) Open Call. Submit proposals to Brian Mooney, Johnson & Wales University (brian.mooney@jwu.edu), and Finbar S. Benjamin, Oakwood University, (fbenjamin@oakwood.edu).

(AAR) Black Cultures and the Study of Religion (3 Sessions)

Themes: (1) Open Call; (2) Invited panel, “Troubling Black Religion: Changing Times and the Study of Black Religion”; (3) A joint session with Women and Religion on the intersections of race, gender, religion, and economics. Papers that deal with the racial, gendered, and economic dimensions of religion in contemporary black culture are sought, especially the following: 1) papers that deal with the commodification of religion or religion and economic justice, and 2) papers that engage recent books on commodified religion in black communities. Such books include Stephanie Y. Mitchem’s, *Name It and Claim It: Prosperity Preaching and the Black Church*, Milmon F. Harrison’s, *Righteous Riches: The Word of Faith Movement in Contemporary African American Religion*, and Jonathan Walton’s, *Watch This!: The Aesthetics and Ethics of Black Televangelism*. Submit proposals to Ronald B. Neal, Claflin University (rmeal@claflin.edu).

(AAR) Constructive Theologies (4 sessions)

Themes: (1) Open Call; (2) Theology and the Economy; (3) Liturgical/Sacramental Theologies; (4) Invited panel, “Teaching in/and ‘The Economy’: Pedagogical Implications” with Teaching Religions and Ethics, Religion, and Society. Submit proposals to Mark Medley, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky (mark.medley@bsky.org), and Emily Askew, Lexington Theological Seminary (easkew@lextheo.edu).

(AAR) Ethics, Religion, and Society (5 sessions)

Themes: Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) Open call in the area of economic justice; (2) The ethics of capitalism; (3) Comparative religious ethics; (4) A joint session with Women and Religion on women’s sexuality and reproductive health; (5) Invited panel, “Teaching in/and ‘The Economy’: Pedagogical Implications” with Constructive Theologies and Teaching Religions. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals to Darla Schumm, Hollins University (dschumm@hollins.edu), and Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu).

(SBL) Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament (3-4 sessions)

Themes: (1) Invited panel on “Economics in the Hebrew Bible.” (2) Invited panel on technology and Hebrew Bible studies. (3) Open call. Submit proposals (or complete papers if you have never presented) to Bryan Bibb, Furman University (bryan.bibb@furman.edu) and David Garber, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University (garber_dg@mercer.edu).

(AAR) History of Christianity (3 sessions)

Themes: (1) Any aspect of the early church and Greco-Roman culture, from Jesus to Justinian; (2) Medieval Christian thought; (3) Reformation history and theology. Submit proposals to Dr. Michael Simmons, Auburn University (bishopmichael@centurytel.net).

(AAR) History of Judaism (3 sessions)

Themes: (1) Second Temple Judaism; (2) Open Call; (3) Special session with mystery scholar. Submit proposals (or complete papers if you have never presented) to Dr. Gilya Schmidt, University of Tennessee (gschmidt@utk.edu).

(AAR) Islam (5 sessions)

Themes: Proposals on all topics in Islamic Studies will be considered, but proposals for the following themes are especially invited: (1) Social and economic justice; (2) A joint session with Teaching Religion, “Teaching Islam: Challenges and Opportunities;” (3) A joint session with Bible and Modern Culture, “Scripture, Religion, and Science;” (4) Political theology; (5) Islam in the West. Submit proposals to Rachel Scott, Virginia Tech, (rmscott@vt.edu), and Dave Damrel, University of South Carolina Upstate (ddamrel@uscupstate.edu)

(AAR) Method and Theory of Religion (3 sessions)

Themes: (1) Critical readings of the work of Immanuel Wallenstein (bibliography and description available at www.methodandtheory.co.nr) or other economic theory as it relates to Economics and Religion. (2) Applications of the theories of Immanuel Wallenstein (or other economic theorists) to the data of Religion. (3) Student papers that are related to method and theory in the study of Religion. Papers relating to Economics are particularly encouraged. Undergraduate student paper proposals must be sponsored by a faculty member who will act as respondent to the paper at the session. Submit proposals to Randy Reed, Appalachian State (reedrw@appstate.edu), and Laura Ammon, University of North Florida (laura.ammon@unf.edu).

(SBL) New Testament (5 sessions)

Themes: (1) Open call; (2) Reception history of the New Testament texts; (3) Historical Jesus and/or Gospel relationships/trajectories; (4) Pauline and/or Deutero-Pauline letters; (5) “Theological interpretation” of the New Testament and/or New Testament ethics. Submit proposals to Kavin Rowe, Duke Divinity School (krowe@div.duke.edu).

(AAR) Philosophy of Religion (2 sessions)

Submissions are invited on the following themes: (1) The relationship between faith and reason. Of particular interest are papers that consider anti-evidentialist claims in a scientific age; (2) Philosophy in the Medieval period. Papers should consider the question of how (specific) religious philosophers of the Middle Ages interacted with one another in their works. Of particular interest will be how Muslim, Jewish, and Christian philosophers understood and, at times, employed each other’s work. Submit proposals to Dr. Mark Wells, Montreat College (mwells@montreat.edu).

(AAR) Religion and Ecology Consultation (2 sessions)

This new consultation seeks papers and other scholarly presentations addressing the theme of religion and ecology. Sessions will be open and proposals are sought from interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, as well as disciplinary, perspectives. Topics may include theory of religion and ecology; religion and ecology in the Southeast (before contact, historical studies, contemporary issues and developments); specific religious traditions and ecology; specific religious themes (e.g., ritual, mysticism); comparative studies. General themes of interest to the consultation include: Does (did) religion and/or a religion cause ecological crisis? Is religion (or humanism) necessary to solve ecological crisis? Does ecological crisis call for a “new spirituality” or a new religion? Submit proposals to Richard M. Carp, Appalachian State University, (carprm@appstate.edu).

(AAR) Religion, Culture, and the Arts (4 sessions)

Themes: (1) Religion, Sports, and the Body; (2) Music, Performance, and Identity (collective *and* individual); (3) Religion and Children’s Literature (including young adult fiction); (4) A joint session with Religion in America, “Intolerance in American Media”; (5) Open Call. Submit proposals to Adam M. Ware, Florida State University (amware@fsu.edu).

(AAR) Religion in America (4 or 5 sessions)

Themes: (1) Open Call; (2) A joint session with Religion, Culture, and the Arts, “Intolerance in American Media”; (3) America, Religion, and the World (missions, globalization, literature, etc.); (4) Leisure and Religion in the U.S.; (5) Religion and Innovation (theories, case studies, etc.). Submit proposals to Lynn S. Neal, Wake Forest University (nealls@wfu.edu).

(AAR) Religions of Asia (4 sessions)

Themes: (1) Biographies in Asian Traditions; (2) A joint session with Bible in Modern Culture entitled “Biblical Interpretations in Asian Cultures”; (3) Invited panel on Neurobiology and Contemplative Religions; (4) Open Call. Submit proposals to Steven Ramey, University of Alabama (steven.ramey@ua.edu), and Pamela Winfield, Elon University (pwinfield@elon.edu).

(AAR) Teaching Religions (4 sessions)

Themes: (1): Teaching as (theo)ethical praxis; (2) A joint session with ASOR, “Teaching in the Field: Best Practices in Field Schools”; (3) A joint session, Islam, “Teaching Islam: Challenges and Opportunities”; (4) Invited panel, “Teaching in/and ‘The Economy’: Pedagogical Implications” with Constructive Theologies and Ethics, Religion, and Society. Submit proposals to Margaret Aymer, Interdenominational Theological Seminary (revdramer@gmail.com). Graduate students and independent scholars are as encouraged to apply as senior and junior faculty.

Undergraduate Research (2 sessions)

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, 2009, to Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College (anwills@davidson.edu). Note: Undergraduates may still submit proposals to other sections as well.

(AAR) Women and Religion (4 sessions)

Proposals on all themes will be considered, but the following themes are especially encouraged: (1) Gender and place; (2) Women in media, art, or performance; (3) A joint session with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion on the intersections between race, gender, religion, and economics; (4) A joint session with Religion, Ethics, and Society on women’s sexuality and reproductive health. Submit proposals to Emily Holmes, Christian Brothers University (emily.holmes@cbu.edu), and Jill Peterfeso, UNC Chapel Hill (petjm@email.unc.edu).

**SOUTHEASTERN COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION
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A Brief Note from the Executive Director

You are receiving this edition of SECSOR NEWS in a digital version for several reasons, not the least of which was a hard-drive crash as the News was being composed in August. Besides, in the present economic environment, we save a considerable amount of expense in not printing copies and mailing them out!

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