

## SECSOR Call for Papers for 2013

Come join us in lively downtown Greenville, South Carolina, for the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Regional Meeting on March 15-17, 2013!

The following sections and program units invite members/participants 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, 2012**. 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, as directed, 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 order to 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 registered for the meetings.

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

Themes: (1) Presidential address; (2) A session commemorating the work of Joseph A. Callaway. We are particularly interested in the participation of Callaway's former students and co-workers, but will consider all papers related to Callaway's work; (3) A public session featuring James Tabor and three panelists, all of whom will interact with Tabor's new book, *The Jesus Discovery: The Resurrection Tomb that Reveals the Birth of Christianity*; (4) One open session focused on excavation reports and other archaeological subjects. For the Callaway and open sessions, send proposal or complete paper (required of first-time presenters) to Chair: Ralph K. Hawkins ([rhawkins@kcu.edu](mailto:rhawkins@kcu.edu)). Student papers will be considered for the Joseph A. Callaway Award.

### **(SBL) Bible and Modern Culture (4-5 sessions)**

We welcome submissions broadly related to the following thematic and open call sessions: (1) "And The Lambe Shall Walk." Healing in the NT: Medicine, Myth, or Metaphor; (2) The Empire of the Reader: How the Reader Colonizes the Text; (3) Interpreting Biblical Stories/Parables of Violence and their Significance for Contemporary American Culture; (4) The Bible in the Public Square: Culture Wars and the Bible: on Scripture on The Huffington Post [joint session with NT and OT/HB]; (5) Open Call. Papers on diverse themes relating to the Bible and Modern Culture

are welcome. Please submit proposals of two pages or less and proposal forms to Brian Mooney at [brian.mooney@jwu.edu](mailto:brian.mooney@jwu.edu) and Finbar Benjamin at [fbenjamin@oakwood.edu](mailto:fbenjamin@oakwood.edu)

**(AAR) Black Cultures and the Study of Religion (3 sessions)**

Themes: (1) The Rise (and Fall?) of Black Megachurches: This session is concerned with exploring the challenges and opportunities that black (or predominantly) black megachurches afford us in studies of African American religious life. Given the prominence of black megachurches in contemporary African American religious life (as evidenced by the prominence of religious figures like TD Jakes, Creflo Dollar, Jeremiah Wright, and Eddie Long), relatively little work has been done on these churches. Specifically, we seek papers that will attend to the theology of megachurches, and the socio-cultural dimensions of these churches and their impact on our understanding of black religion(s); (2) Religion, Black Culture and Post-Racial Discourse: This session is concerned with interrogating African American culture and cultural expressions in a supposedly “post-racial” world. The election of Barack Obama has been held as a signifier of a shift in racial discourse in American life. However, the Trayvon Martin shooting as well as other racially charged incidents has challenged that assertion. We seek papers that will explore the ways in which film, television, music and literature might present “post-racial” discourses that are fused with religious discourses; (3) Open Call: Womanist Approaches to Religion—joint with Women, Gender, and Religion: This session seeks papers that employ womanist theoretical approaches to religions other than Christianity, with a particular interest in womanist discussions of Islam or indigenous religions. Sponsored jointly with the Women, Gender, and Religion group, we seek papers that address a variety of methods including womanist theology, ethics, theological anthropology, and religious history. Submit proposals to Roger Sneed, Furman University, [roger.sneed@furman.edu](mailto:roger.sneed@furman.edu), and Monique Moultrie, Western Kentucky University, [monique.moultrie@wku.edu](mailto:monique.moultrie@wku.edu). Send joint session proposals also to Lisa Stephenson, [lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu), and Brandy Daniels, [brandydaniels@gmail.com](mailto:brandydaniels@gmail.com).

**(AAR) History of Christianity (4 sessions)**

We invite proposals that relate the history of Christianity to the theme of the 2013 meeting, “Culture Wars.” Proposals may deal with any period of history and may be conducted from any methodological or theoretical starting point; the theme “Culture Wars” may be construed broadly to include any type of discourse about values. In particular, we encourage proposals that fit within one of the following themes: 1) family and household values; 2) formation of values; 3) position-taking in political discourse. There will be four sessions, three relating to the three themes listed above, and a fourth “open” session. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to send proposals, provided that the proposal includes the name and contact information of a faculty member who agrees to mentor the student as needed. Send questions and/or proposals to Erin Roberts, University of South Carolina ([erinroberts@sc.edu](mailto:erinroberts@sc.edu)).

**(AAR) Constructive Theologies (5 sessions)**

Themes: (1) Open Call; (2) “Christology Today,” an intentionally open-ended call for reflections on this central locus of systematic theology; (3) “Nature and Grace,” a renewed interaction with one of the defining disputes of 20<sup>th</sup> century theology; (4) “Spiritual but not Religious,” an exploration of the nature of Christian self-conception and practices with reference to those who “hate religion but love Jesus”; (5) A joint session with the Philosophy of Religion Section entitled “Public Theology 2.0: Doing Philosophy of Religion And Theology in the

Digital Age,” exploring the role of new media in public scholarship. Submit all proposals to Cameron Jorgenson, Campbell University Divinity School ([jorgensonc@campbell.edu](mailto:jorgensonc@campbell.edu)). For the “Public Theology 2.0” session, also send proposals to J. Aaron Simmons, Furman University ([aaron.simmons@furman.edu](mailto:aaron.simmons@furman.edu)).

**(AAR) Consultation: Religion and Ecology (6-7 sessions)**

Themes: (1) Open Call for a joint session between Religion and Ecology and Religion, Ethics and Society on “Religion and Environmental Ethics;” (2) Religions of Sustainability; (3) Ecologies of Spiritual Practice; (4) Effective Pedagogy in Religion and Ecology Education; (5) Religion, Ecology, and Sexuality; (6) Religion and Science in the Discourse of Ecological Concern; (7) Religion, Ecology and the Culture Wars. Submit all proposals to David C. McDuffie, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ([dcmcduffie@gmail.com](mailto:dcmcduffie@gmail.com)) and Brock Bingaman, Wesleyan College ([brockbingaman@gmail.com](mailto:brockbingaman@gmail.com)). 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)) and Michael Stoltzfus, Valdosta State University ([mjstoltz@valdosta.edu](mailto:mjstoltz@valdosta.edu)).

**(SBL) Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (4 sessions)**

(1) The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (HBOT) section of SECSOR invites papers on the topic of reception history of the HBOT. Papers focusing on the reception of a particular corpus of the HBOT are welcome, as are essays on method more generally. The aim is to answer some of the following questions, either by example or programmatically: What is reception history? When does this “reception” begin? How might reception history challenge or support traditional historical-critical investigations of biblical literature? (2) Proposals are also invited for one or two open sessions. (3) In addition, there will be an invited panel on the *New Women's Bible Commentary* [joint session with New Testament and AAR Women, Gender, and Religion] and (4) one entitled “Culture Wars and the Bible: On Scripture on Huffington Post” [joint session with New Testament and AAR Bible and Culture]. All paper proposals should be submitted to Nancy deClaissé-Walford, (Mercer), ([walford\\_nd@mercer.edu](mailto:walford_nd@mercer.edu)) and Jim West (Highland) ([jwest@highland.net](mailto:jwest@highland.net)).

**(AAR) Islam (5 sessions)**

Themes: Proposals on all topics in Islamic Studies will be considered, but submissions on the following themes are especially invited: (1) “Islam in Culture Wars.” In keeping with the conference theme of culture wars, this session invites submissions that reflect on how religious dimensions of difficult and controversial subjects (such as ethnicity, communal violence, gender and social justice, medical ethics, the environment and other issues) have been and can be approached in the context of multi-faith and classroom discussions. Topics might include exploring the role of religious values, prayer-life, rituals and ideas as they relate to contemporary social unrest, gender and economic disparities, power struggles and political conflicts, and immigrant communities. We specially invite submissions on the themes of Muslim radicalization, the King Commission report, and Shari'a as loci of cultural wars in Islamic societies, in the West, and between the Islamic world and the West; (2) For a joint session with the Religions of Asia Section we invite proposals focused on “Islam in Asia: Shared and Contested Spaces and Communities” with special emphasis on historical and contemporary interactions between and among Muslims and Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and other religious

traditions; (3) "Muslim Spiritualities Beyond Sufism." We invite papers from historical, ritual studies and theological perspectives on the Liturgy/prayer/worship practices (or everyday Sufism) as key to Muslim identity, ethos, and/or politics; (4) "Islam as Presented and Represented in Films," and (5) "Conversations in Islamic Studies: Carl Ernst and *How to Read the Qur'an*." This session invites participants in a conversation with Professor Carl Ernst about his most recent book, *How to Read the Qur'an: A New Guide, with Select Translations* [University of North Carolina Press, 2011]. Submit proposals to both Dave Damrel, University of South Carolina Upstate ([ddamrel@uscupstate.edu](mailto:ddamrel@uscupstate.edu)) and Syed Rizwan Zamir, Davidson College ([rizamir@davidson.edu](mailto:rizamir@davidson.edu)).

#### **(AAR) History of Judaism (4 sessions)**

Proposals addressing any topic in Second Temple Judaism and Contemporary Judaism will be considered, but proposals are especially sought on the following themes: (1) Joint Session with Philosophy of Religion on "Jewish Philosophy of Religion" – featuring Steven Kepnes (Colgate University) as a respondent; (2) Joint Session with New Testament on the topic: "Texts and Contexts of the Graeco-Roman World and Second Temple Judaism;" (3) Contemporary Judaism (open call on any topic); (4) Second Temple Judaism (open call on any topic, but proposals on Jewish apocalypticism and/or Jewish pseudepigrapha are encouraged). Submit all paper proposals by email to Michael Fuller, Lee University, [mfuller@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:mfuller@leeuniversity.edu), and Samuel Kessler, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [skessler@unc.edu](mailto:skessler@unc.edu). For the joint session on Jewish Philosophy of Religion submit proposals also to Aaron Simmons, Furman University, [aaron.simmons@furman.edu](mailto:aaron.simmons@furman.edu). For the joint session on "Texts and Contexts of the Graeco-Roman World and Second Temple Judaism," send proposals also to Jason A. Staples, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, [jasonstaples@gmail.com](mailto:jasonstaples@gmail.com)

#### **(AAR) Method and Theory of Religion (3-4 sessions)**

Themes: (1) We are looking for papers that deal with the methodological and theoretical issues surrounding Religion and Violence. Papers from a variety of angles are solicited. Some examples may be theoretical understandings of the role of violence in Religion, the ways Religion functions as a form of violence, or the ways Religion may act as an alternative to violence. Submit proposals 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)). (2) Student papers that are related to method and theory in the study of religion. 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 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 Religions in America, seeking papers on the Culture Wars. Submit proposals to Kelly Baker, University of Tennessee, [kellyjbaker@gmail.com](mailto:kellyjbaker@gmail.com), Laura Ammon, Appalachian State University, [lauraammon@gmail.com](mailto:lauraammon@gmail.com).

#### **(SBL) New Testament (4-5 sessions)**

Papers in all areas of New Testament and Early Christianities will be considered, but special consideration will be given to papers in (1) Gospels or Acts (2) the Epistles or the Apocalypse (3) "Texts and Contexts of the Greco-Roman World and Second Temple Judaism" [joint session with AAR History of Judaism]. (4) In addition, there will be an invited panel on the new

Women's Bible Commentary [joint session with SBL Old Testament and AAR Women, Gender and Religion] and (5) one entitled "Culture Wars and the Bible: On Scripture on Huffington Post" [joint session with SBL Old Testament and AAR Bible and Culture]. All paper proposals should be submitted to Margaret P. Aymer (Interdenominational Theological Center) [secscornet@mpaymer.net](mailto:secscornet@mpaymer.net).

**(AAR) Philosophy of Religion (3 sessions)**

Papers are invited for the following three sessions: (1) Joint session with the Judaism Section on "Jewish Philosophy of Religion" – featuring Steven Kepnes (Colgate University) as a respondent. (2) Joint session with the Constructive Theology Section on "Public Theology 2.0: Philosophy of Religion and Theology in the Digital Age" – this session will explore the role of new media in public scholarship. (3) Open call for papers in any area of Philosophy of Religion. For all sessions, please send proposals to J. Aaron Simmons (Furman University) at [aaron.simmons@furman.edu](mailto:aaron.simmons@furman.edu). Proposals should be prepared for blind review and consist of a title and an abstract of 250-300 words, and the SECSOR Proposal Submission Form.

**(AAR) Religion, Culture, and the Arts (5 sessions)**

The Religion, Culture, and the Arts section seeks papers and panel proposals related to the following themes: (1) Transnational Religion and Cultural Theory (e.g., Actor-Networks, borderlands, etc.); (2) Religion, the Senses, and Material Culture; (3) Issues of race, class, and religion in American Media; (4) Representations of Biblical figures in popular and folk culture; (5) Open call. Please submit proposals to section chairs Adam Ware, Florida State University, ([amware@fsu.edu](mailto:amware@fsu.edu)) and Cara Burnidge, Florida State University, ([clb07s@my.fsu.edu](mailto:clb07s@my.fsu.edu)).

**(AAR) Religion, Ethics, and Society (4 sessions)**

Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) ethics, disability, and chronic illness; (2) spiritual practices/comparative religious ethics; (3) a joint session with Religion and Ecology on "religion and environmental ethics;" (4) a joint session with Women, Gender, and Religion on ethics, reproduction, and public policy. 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 University ([mjstoltz@valdosta.edu](mailto:mjstoltz@valdosta.edu)). In addition, for the joint session between Religion and Ecology and Ethics, Religion, and Society also send proposals to ([carprm@appstate.edu](mailto:carprm@appstate.edu)) and ([brockbingaman@gmail.com](mailto:brockbingaman@gmail.com)). For the joint session between Women, Gender, and Religion and Religion, Ethics, and Society also send proposals to ([lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu)) and ([brandydaniels@gmail.com](mailto:brandydaniels@gmail.com)).

**(AAR) Religions in America (4-5 sessions)**

Themes: (1) Studying and theorizing "Culture Wars" for a joint session with Theory and Method. Submit proposals also to Laura Ammon, Appalachian State University, ([AmmonLL@appstate.edu](mailto:AmmonLL@appstate.edu)) and Randy Reed, Appalachian State University, ([reedrw@appstate.edu](mailto:reedrw@appstate.edu)); (2) Nation and race (3) Re-evaluating class in American religions; (4) Teaching ethnography for a joint session with Teaching Religion. Submit proposals also to Derrick Lemons, University of Georgia, ([dlemons@uga.edu](mailto:dlemons@uga.edu)) and Reginaldo Braga Jr., Interdenominational Theological Center, ([secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org)); (5) Open call. Please submit

**all** (joint or single call) proposals to Kelly Baker, University of Tennessee Knoxville, ([kbaker27@utk.edu](mailto:kbaker27@utk.edu)) and Joshua Fleer, Florida State University, ([jfleer@fsu.edu](mailto:jfleer@fsu.edu)). For joint sessions, please make sure to send proposals to the other section chairs as well.

**(AAR) Religions of Asia (6 sessions)**

The Religions of Asia Section solicits proposals that consider: (1) Asian religions and visual and/or material culture; (2) Pedagogies/Geographies/Strategies: Teaching Asian Religions in Particular (regional, institutional) Contexts; (3) Teaching Asian religions through film; (4) “New” Religion: innovations, renovations, inventions, and renewals; (5) Health, healing, and illness in Asian religious traditions; or (6) Open Call; 7) A panel responding to A. Whitney Sanford’s book, *Growing Stories from India: Religion and the fate of Agriculture*. For a joint session with the Islam Section we invite proposals focused on ‘Islam in Asia: Shared and Contested Spaces and Communities’ with a special emphasis on historical and contemporary interactions between and among Muslims and Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and other religious traditions. Finally, and in conjunction with the 2013 conference theme, ‘The Culture Wars,’ we solicit proposals that address Asian religions and/or traditions in conflict, whether inter- or intra-tradition contestations. Submit all proposals to Amy L. Allocco, Elon University ([aallocco@elon.edu](mailto:aallocco@elon.edu)) and Warner Belanger ([warner.belanger@gcsu.edu](mailto:warner.belanger@gcsu.edu)).

**(AAR) Teaching Religion (4 sessions)**

**(1)** “The Teaching and Learning of Religion within the South: Navigating the Implicit Religious Cultural Wars South of the Mason-Dixon Line”. In keeping with the conference theme of "Religion and Culture Wars," this session invites submissions which reflect on teaching strategies of faculty in Southern Universities when tackling controversial subjects in religion (i.e., evolution, ethnicity, communal violence, gender, social justice, medical ethics, LGBT issues, the environment and other issues). **(2)** “Ethnography as a Teaching Tool: Introducing Students to the Lived Religious Experience of Others”. In many religion classrooms, the teaching of religion tends to be historiographic in nature where students are asked to memorize facts and critically analyze source material. Ethnography encourages students to observe religious practices, talk with people about their religious beliefs, and “synthesize” their findings into a meaningful description of the lived religious experience. Many students report that ethnography enlivens their passion for the study of religion. However, teaching students the art of ethnography can be overwhelming from both instructors and students. This session invites submissions which reflect on the best practices of the pedagogy of ethnography. Topics might include exploring the ethics of ethnography, development of student research questions, guiding the writing process, and other practical questions. Joint session with Religions in American. Email Papers to [dlemons@uga.edu](mailto:dlemons@uga.edu), [kbaker27@utk.edu](mailto:kbaker27@utk.edu), and [jfleer@fsu.edu](mailto:jfleer@fsu.edu). **(3)** Invited Panel: “Teaching religion for social change, the intersections of scholarship, pedagogy and activism in Southern US”. A round-table conversation on the challenges and role of scholars, teachers, and activists on the social construction of cultural wars. **(4)** Invited panel: “Cultural Wars between students and Instructors over Learning Expectations in the Classroom.” A panel responding to research over the role of student evaluations in tenure and promotions - is effective teaching really being measured? Papers should be e-mailed to [secsorteach@sre-itc.org](mailto:secsorteach@sre-itc.org) with copies to the additional emails indicated in each call for paper.

### **(AAR) Women, Gender, and Religion (4-5 sessions)**

In addition to an open call, we encourage proposals on the following themes: (1) for a joint session with Black Cultures and the Study of Religion, papers exploring womanist themes and approaches, with a particular interest in womanist approaches outside of Christianity (copy Roger Sneed, Furman University, [roger.sneed@furman.edu](mailto:roger.sneed@furman.edu), and Monique Moultrie, Western Kentucky University, [monique.moultrie@wku.edu](mailto:monique.moultrie@wku.edu)); (2) for a joint session with Religion, Ethics, and Society, papers exploring ethics, reproduction, and public policy (copy Sally Holt, Belmont, [sally.holt@belmont.edu](mailto:sally.holt@belmont.edu), and Michael Stoltzfus, Valdosta State University, [mjstoltz@valdosta.edu](mailto:mjstoltz@valdosta.edu)); (3) papers exploring masculinity and religion (i.e. masculinity and gender norms within religious communities, patriarchy and gendered language for God, religious constructions of masculinity, etc.); (4) papers exploring gender and liturgy. In addition, there will be an invited panel on the new Women's Bible Commentary (joint session with SBL Old Testament and SBL New Testament). Send all proposals to both co-chairs: Lisa Stephenson, [lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:lstephenson@leeuniversity.edu), and Brandy Daniels, [brandydaniels@gmail.com](mailto:brandydaniels@gmail.com).

### **Undergraduate Research (2 sessions)**

Students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by SECSOR. Open to all topics, the sessions 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 double-spaced pages). No paper over 15 double-spaced pages, regular size font, 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, 2012, to Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College ([anwills@davidson.edu](mailto:anwills@davidson.edu)). Note: Undergraduates may submit proposals to other sections as well.