**Call for Papers – AAR/SBL Southeast Region 2021 Annual Meeting (Virtual)**

**Conference Theme: Religion, Health, and Disease: An Online Conference Where Interdisciplinary Lines Intersect**

**March 12-14, 2021**

All proposals must be submitted through the [online submission form](https://forms.gle/SJhr6DonbjsQi2AG6) at <https://forms.gle/SJhr6DonbjsQi2AG6>. Each member is limited to one proposal, although a member can indicate a second choice of sections on the submission form. All program participants must be pre-registered for the meeting.

**Deadline for Submissions Extended to November 1, 2020**

AAR and SBL Southeast Region 2021 CFP

In addition to the AAR and SBL section calls for papers below, the organizers are also accepting proposals for panels and roundtable sessions that address the intersections of religion(s) and the current epidemic of racialized police violence, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and/or the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on people of color as well as the poor. Should you wish to submit such a panel or roundtable proposal on race-related issues, religion and health and fail to find a section call that already corresponds to your concerns, please send your proposal directly to the organizers at fsu.rel.conf@gmail.com.

**AAR: Bible and Modern Culture**

The Bible and Modern Culture section welcomes papers for the following panels (1) The Job Dilemma and religious imagination: Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People? (2) Open Call, but papers engaging the Conference theme, Religion and Imagination, will receive priority.

(3) Joint session with New Testament--Inviting papers that address what the New Testament might contribute to current political debates, studies of the use of the NT among contemporary communities, or reflections on scholarly use of the NT in current ethical or theological issues among popular audiences.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. If you have questions regarding the Bible and Modern Culture section, please contact Brian Mooney (Brian.Mooney@JWU.edu) or Sam Murrell (murrells@uncw.edu).

**AAR: Black Cultures in the Study of Religion**

In light of the annual theme, *Religion, Health and Disease*, The Black Cultures and the Study of Religion group issues a call for papers that address some aspect of the interplay between black religion and black public health in the midst of, and beyond, the COVID 19 global pandemic. Papers might directly address how black religious thought, practices, traditions, institutions, or other religious formations, are confronting or responding to the disproportionate effects of COVID 19 on black communities. Papers might also address black religious thought and practice concerning the particular challenges of the eruption of nationwide protests of state-sponsored violence against black bodies (i.e. Breonna Taylor and George Floyd) in the midst of the pandemic. How does black religion address death, disease, trauma, healing, and wholeness in this particular historical moment, and beyond?

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form AND send papers to Dr. Michael Brandon McCormack (b.mccormack@lousiville.edu) or Shari Madkins (shari.madkins@emory.edu).

**AAR: Constructive Theologies**

The Constructive Theologies section invites proposals for papers in the following areas:

(1) Constructive theological and philosophical reflections on pandemics. Proposals might address pandemics in light of theological understandings of suffering, natural evil, human nature, creation, redemption, or moral responsibility for the most vulnerable in society. They might approach the topic through the lens of political theology, work with contemporary scriptural, liturgical, and pastoral resources, or engage with any number of historical texts dealing with suffering, disease, and death (such as Cyprian's *De Mortalitate*, Boccaccio's *The Decameron*, John Donne's *Devotions upon Emergent* Occasions, or Daniel Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year*). They might also draw upon philosophical accounts of pandemics, such as Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* and *The Birth of the Clinic*, or Zizek's *Pandemic!*: *Covid-19 Shakes the World*. They may also respond specifically to the worldwide outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020 or more generally to the conference theme of Religion, Health, and Disease.

(2) Theological and philosophical responses to Michiko Kakutani's *The Death of Truth: Notes on Falsehood in the Age of Trump* (2018). Proposals might address the questions Kakutani raises about postmodernism, truth, knowledge, language, objectivity, subjectivity, relativism, democracy, technology, and authoritarianism in light of our current "post-truth" politics. They may also consider the epistemological issues raised by Kakutani in light of the conference theme of Religion, Health, and Disease.

(3) Reimaginings or reinterpretations of historical Christian doctrines which are constructive or synthetic, including and especially those engaged in multidisciplinary work (e.g. theology and psychology). Papers engaging atonement theory (justification/sanctification) and related themes (e.g. Christology, theosis/divinization, eschatology) are particularly desired but other topics are welcomed as well.

Questions may be directed to Ian Curran, Georgia Gwinnett College (icurran@ggc.edu), Jason Smith, Tougaloo College (jason.m.smith521@gmail.com), or Aaron Davis, Union Presbyterian Seminary (aaron.davis@upsem.edu).

**AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society**

Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) Ethics and the Coronavirus Global Pandemic/Response; (2) Spiritual Practice, Healing & Ethics. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals through the on-line process. Direct any questions to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu).

**AAR: History of Christianity**

We invite proposals for panels or individual papers on the following topics: (1) Religion, health, and disease, including but not limited to disease outbreaks in the history of Christianity, past Christian attitudes toward various forms of healing (doctors/hospitals, faith healing, indigenous/folk healing traditions), and past Christian use of healing/health as metaphorical rhetoric (e. g. sin as a “disease”). (2) Racial justice, critical race theory, and comparable lines of injustice and difference in the history of Christianity, from second century Jewish-Christian relations to the Crusades to early modern colonialism/slavery to Black Lives Matter. (3) Open call.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. If you have questions, please contact co-chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College (anwills@davidson.edu) or Douglas Brown Clark, Louisville Seminary (douglas.brown.clark@gmail.com).

**AAR: Intersectionality in Religion (formerly Women and Religion)**

Intersectionality and Religion seeks papers for three proposed sessions:

(1) Religion, Intersectionality, and Pandemic Responses: This section seeks paper submissions that address intersectionality or intersectional identities or oppressions and faith, spiritualities or theologies as expressed in public discourse (including social media) or that inform ways of doing corporate worship/church in the context of the CoVid19 pandemic. One might consider how faith communities have had to reconsider or reconstruct their theologies about what constitutes church and worship in the context of CoVid19. Paper submissions might explore how persons teaching in religious institutions have had to adapt theologically and pedagogically in ways that consider how the CoVid19 pandemic affects/ed students differently based on race/class/gender and so on.

(2) Open Call: We invite proposals that consider health and/or disease in the development, interpretation, experience, and/or practice of ritual, texts, and spaces within the broader framework of intersectionality and religion. We encourage scholars who employ womanist, feminist, and/or queer interpretative lenses to submit a proposal.

(3) Joint Session with Intersectionality and Religion, and Environmental Justice: The decision by President Trump to declare meat-packing plants as critical infrastructure raised to public visibility a convergence of issues involving ecologically regressive and inhumane forms of food production, corporate capitalism, and the vulnerable status of the health, social power, and livelihoods of people working in these plants, many who are people of color, female, and immigrants. How do religions and religious insights help us to analyze and understand the complexity of environmental and social justice issues associated with race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class in this situation? More broadly, how do intersectional critiques expand our thinking about what a “pandemic” is or what sort of “pandemics” we are experiencing?  Are we talking about intersectional pandemics and if so how do they infect, so to speak, each other? How do pandemic conditions exacerbate issues of environmental injustice in relation to gender, race, and class? Do intersectional religious critiques help us to understand better new dimensions of disease and health? How are religious organizations working together to build diverse networks to address covid-19 and other pandemics?

Please send questions to LaToya Leary ([lleary@fsu.edu](http://lleary@fsu.edu)) and Mitzi Smith ([smithm@ctsnet.edu](http://smithm@ctsnet.edu)). Please send questions regarding joint session with Religion and Environmental Justice to Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](http://jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu)) LaToya Leary ([lleary@fsu.edu](http://lleary@fsu.edu)), Mitzi Smith ([smithm@ctsnet.edu](http://smithm@ctsnet.edu)), and Mark Wood ([mdwood@vcu.edu](http://mdwood@vcu.edu)).

**AAR: Islam**

In light of the recent reshaping of our society by the global pandemic, the Islam section invites papers related to the following three themes:

(1) Contagion and Infection: How have Muslim communities of the past or the present conceived of disease and infection and how have they responded? What implicit or explicit understandings of the body and society take shape in narratives about contagion or in response to plagues and epidemics? How or to what extent do the categories of contagion overlap or share territory with other avenues concerned with the body, such as critical race, queer studies, and disability studies? We are also interested in papers that explore the ethical dimensions of responding to plagues and epidemics within broader religious narratives.

(2) Distance and Proximity: The global pandemic has reshaped both society-wide and interpersonal interactions and heightened our attention to the spaces – physical, emotional, and social - between individuals. We thus invite papers that examine the theme of distance and proximity in both contemporary and historic contexts. How have Muslims conceived of and measured space in physical, psychological, or spiritual terms? How and under what circumstances have they discussed closing and bridging, or accentuating and reinforcing, distance between selves and others? Possible topics might include asceticism, travel accounts, epistolary exchanges, and geography as well as *takfir* and *tawhīd*, interfaith and reconciliation movements, calls for justice and incitements to violence.

(3) Crisis: The Qur’ānic term *fitna* and its application to the early divisions among Muslim communities has left a long, complex, and specifically gendered legacy within Islamic history. We invite papers that present new work and approaches to *fitna* in historic contexts or that examine how historic discussions of *fitna*-as-crisis have been repurposed, altered, or abandoned in response to the current pandemic. We welcome diverse approaches that examine this theme from various sub-fields, including (but not limited to), law, ethics, literature, Qur’anic interpretation, and hadith commentary or that adopt historical, political, philosophical, sociological, ethnographic, or literary methodologies.

Format: In order to take advantage of the possibilities afforded by an online conference, these panels will adopt a novel format. Presenters will be asked to either give a 5-minute presentation or, if they prefer, to prerecord a 5-minute presentation that can be shared synchronously with the audience. Each short presentation will be followed by a Q&A session curated by the moderator, and the session will conclude with a long Q&A session on the panel theme.

For questions, please contact Dr. Hadia Mubarak at Mubarak.hadia@gmail.com and Dr. Ariela Marcus-Sells at amarcussells@elon.edu.

**AAR: Judaism**

The Judaism section invites submissions to any of the following three sessions: (1) Second Temple Judaism: Open Call; (2) Judaism in Late Antiquity: Open Call; and (3) Contemporary Judaism: Open Call. We welcome proposals from a wide range of methodological approaches and historical settings. We especially encourage proposals that consider case studies or employ heuristic models relative to our contemporary setting. Topics might include, but are not limited to, health, disease, crowds, cleanliness, human networks, isolation, and protest. These themes have provided significant impetus for theological reflection, identity construction, political propaganda/protest, and much more throughout Jewish history. Preferred proposals will shed light on the way these sorts of experiences/subjects have shaped Jewish ideologies and identities. Please submit proposals for 20-minute papers.

Please contact Amanda Walls (awal@uga.edu) and/or Giancarlo Angulo (gangulo@fsu.edu) with any questions/concerns.

**AAR: Method & Theory in the Study of Religion**

The Method & Theory section invites proposals for two open sessions—submissions must concern either (1) a methodological issue (i.e., problem or proposal) in the history of the field or in current scholarly work in the study of religion or (2) examine a topic of theoretical interest, whether understanding theory as critique (as in literary theory or critical theory) or an explanatory framework aiming to identify religion’s causes or function. Book review panels (i.e., author meets critics), focusing on current works examining either (1) or (2) above, are also possible.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. Questions can be sent to Vaia Touna, University of Alabama (vaia.touna@ua.edu).

**AAR: Philosophy of Religion**

The Philosophy of Religion section seeks proposals that reflect the conference theme of “Religion, Health, and Disease.” We are especially seeking proposals for the following sessions (1) Meta*physicians*: Philosophies of Healing (2) Philosophy, Religion, and Practices of Well-Being (3) Thinking race, racism, and/or racialization in the philosophy of religion.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. Direct questions regarding the Philosophy of Religion section to Wesley Barker (Barker\_wn@mercer.edu) and Nathaniel Holmes (nholmesjr@yahoo.com).

**AAR: Religion & Environmental Justice**

The Religion & Environmental Justice Section seeks papers for the following proposed sessions:

(1) The covid-19 pandemic has exposed the brutal realities of intersecting and interrelated social, political, economic, epidemiological, and ecological crises confronting humanity: from record breaking inequality, poverty, hunger, and homelessness, state-sanctioned police brutality, mass incarceration, and imperial policies to disease-engendering depletion and degradation of ecosystems. Under such conditions, moving toward a healthy environment seems to be an increasingly difficult undertaking. Many individuals and sectors of society express an understandable desire to "get back to normal," even as the pre-pandemic normal was in some measure responsible for generating these crises. At the same time, others contend we should not go back to life as at was but rather work together to envision and to build a new normal that supports the health and wellbeing of ecosystems and the life they support. With this transformational situation in mind, we invite paper and panel proposals that examine how religious ideas and organizations are directly or indirectly supporting the old normal—the complex of institutions, policies, values, and practices that comprise the pre-pandemic norm--or are actively working to envision, educate, advocate, and mobilize to construct a normal that moves us toward an ecologically just and healthy society.

 (2) Joint session with Religions in America and Environmental Justice on Indigenous Religions: The Covid-19 pandemic, which many understand to be a product of human degradation and depletion of ecosystems, has disproportionately impacted Native peoples. The Navajo, for example, suffer the highest rate of per capita infection and death in the United States. How have indigenous worldviews and practices shaped their responses to the pandemic? What insights do they offer to the work of forming an eco-spiritual approach to health and disease and to constructing a society that replenishes and protects ecosystems as the basis for the promotion of healthy individuals and communities? How does spirituality inform indigenous efforts to protect and reclaim their rights and the rights of nature and to challenge the forces responsible for environmental injustice? In addition, what must the academic study of religion do to decolonize itself and serve as an ally to indigenous peoples who are fighting to gain their rights and protect their own health and the health of the ecosystems we share? Given the location of next year’s conference in Tallahassee, Florida, we are especially interested in research that explores the Gulf Coast and the traditions and practices of the Muscogee/Creek, Timucua, and/or Seminole tribes.

(3) Joint Session with Intersectionality and Religion, and Environmental Justice:

The decision by President Trump to declare meat-packing plants as critical infrastructure raised to public visibility a convergence of issues involving ecologically regressive and inhumane forms of food production, corporate capitalism, and the vulnerable status of the health, social power, and livelihoods of people working in these plants, many who are people of color, female, and immigrants. How do religions and religious insights help us to analyze and understand the complexity of environmental and social justice issues associated with race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class in this situation? More broadly, how do intersectional critiques expand our thinking about what a “pandemic” is or what sort of “pandemics” we are experiencing?  Are we talking about intersectional pandemics and if so how do they infect, so to speak, each other? How do pandemic conditions exacerbate issues of environmental injustice in relation to gender, race, and class? Do intersectional religious critiques help us to understand better new dimensions of disease and health? How are religious organizations working together to build diverse networks to address covid-19 and other pandemics?

All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form. Please send questions to Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmdwood%5CDownloads%5Cjefferson.calico%40ucumberlands.edu)) and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu). Questions regarding the joint session with Religions in America should be directed to Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmdwood%5CDownloads%5Cjefferson.calico%40ucumberlands.edu)), Haley Iliff (hi12@my.fsu.edu), Sierra Lawson (sielaw@live.unc.edu), Sonia Hazard (shazard@fsu.edu), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu). For questions regarding the joint session with Intersectionality and Religion, please email Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmdwood%5CDownloads%5Cjefferson.calico%40ucumberlands.edu)), LaToya Leary (lleary@fsu.edu), Mitzi Smith(smithm@ctsnet.edu), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

**AAR: Religion Culture & the Arts**

Religion, Culture, and the Arts solicits all papers or complete panel proposals related to Religion, Culture, and the Arts; interdisciplinary submissions both within and beyond the typical scope of Religious Studies are welcome and encouraged.

Special consideration will be given to papers or panels related to the following themes: (1) Religion, material culture, and performances and/or representations of sexualities; (2) Popular medicine, healing rituals, and therapeutic cultures; (3) Feelings, testimonies, and aesthetics of pain; (4) Religion and Asian popular media broadly construed, with particular attention to apocalypse, contagion, and the body politic, co-sponsored with the Religions of Asia section; 5) Public protests, public health, and the (un)freedoms of offensive speech, hate speech, and blasphemy, especially papers which explore recent public backlash against infectious disease mitigation efforts, from social distancing to vaccination; (6) Performances of mediation, especially papers that draw attention to their own mediated environments and performativity.

All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form. Please send questions regarding the Religion, Culture, and the Arts section to Meredith Ross (mr09@my.fsu.edu), Tim Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu), and Anderson Moss (am5vt@virginia.edu).

**AAR: Religions in America**

Papers in all areas related to American Religions will be considered, however special consideration will be given to the following themes: (1) Religion, immigration, and movement; (2) Religion and gender, sex, and sexuality; (3) Religion and (un)freedom; (4) Papers dealing specifically with the meeting’s updated 2021 theme “Religion, Health, and Disease.” All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form. Please send questions to Haley Iliff (hi12@my.fsu.edu), Sierra Lawson (sielaw@live.unc.edu), and Sonia Hazard (shazard@fsu.edu).

Papers for a joint session with Religion and Environmental Justice: The Covid-19 pandemic, which many understand to be a product of human degradation and depletion of ecosystems, has disproportionately impacted Native peoples. The Navajo, for example, suffer the highest rate of per capita infection and death in the United States. How have indigenous worldviews and practices shaped their responses to the pandemic? What insights do they offer to the work of forming an eco-spiritual approach to health and disease and to constructing a society that replenishes and protects ecosystems as the basis for the promotion of healthy individuals and communities? How does spirituality inform indigenous efforts to protect and reclaim their rights and the rights of nature and to challenge the forces responsible for environmental injustice? In addition, what must the academic study of religion do to be self reflexive about its own institutional memory and the opportunity to serve as an ally to indigenous peoples in their ongoing efforts to protect and maintain their own health and the health of the ecosystems we share? Given the location of next year’s conference in Tallahassee, Florida, we are especially interested in research that explores the Gulf Coast and the traditions and practices of the Muscogee/Creek, Timucua, and/or Seminole communities.

Please direct questions regarding joint session with Religion and Environmental Justice to Haley Iliff (hi12@my.fsu.edu), Sierra Lawson (sielaw@live.unc.edu), Sonia Hazard (shazard@fsu.edu), Jefferson Calico ([jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmdwood%5CDownloads%5Cjefferson.calico%40ucumberlands.edu)), and Mark Wood (mdwood@vcu.edu).

**AAR: Religions of Asia**

(1) In conjunction with the 2021 theme, “Religion, Health, and Disease,” we solicit proposals on these topics in relation to Asian Religions. That is, how are understandings of health and disease construed, desired, and promoted in Asian religious paradigms?

(2) Religion, Culture and the Arts Joint Session - We welcome papers that consider religion and Asian media, including, but not limited to apocalypse, contagion, and the body politic, co-sponsored with the Religion, Culture and the Arts section."

(3) Open call. We welcome proposals that focus on any religious tradition that is practiced in Asian contexts, including, but not limited to: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and other indigenous religions of Asia. We especially welcome panel proposals and roundtables from graduate seminars from colleges and universities in the southeast covering the religions of Asia. Graduate students would be grouped together to present papers or discussion in reflection of a shared or similar seminar topic.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. If you have questions regarding the Religions of Asia section, please contact Kendall Marchman (kendallmarchman@uga.edu). Please direct questions regarding joint session with Religion, Culture, and the Arts to Meredith Ross, Florida State University (mr09@my.fsu.edu).

**AAR: Secularism, Religious Freedom & Global Politics**

Is secularism dying? The Secularism, Religious Freedom and Global Politics section is interested in proposals imagining the relationship between religious freedom and the state of secularism in the global political culture. Themes revolving around fundamentalism, bigotry, policing, protest, political consensus (or dissensus), and the overlaps between secular and religious authorities are always significant for our reflection.  This year, we are particularly interested in topics imagining the emerging relationship between scientific authority and religious reasons, and their impact on the surveillance of bodies and borders. What are the observable tensions on the questions of religious freedom, freedom of movement, and public health? Has the secular polity been able to manage the crisis of public health with respect to the language of offense against religious groups? Does the public health crisis *eliminate* or *create* the scope of religious reasons inside the secular public sphere? Nevertheless, we are also keen to invite conversations related to any other topics related to the imagination of the secular state, expectations of religious freedom, and the predictions about their future inside global politics.

Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form. For questions contact Finbarr Curtis fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu) or Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu).

**AAR: Teaching & Learning in Religion**

The Teaching and Learning Religion section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. For the 2021 meeting, we are seeking paper proposals on the following topics:  (1) For graduate students and newly-minted instructors: “What my mentors never taught me about teaching: a presentation of lessons learned, mistakes made, and surprising successes.” (2) “Reimagining the classroom during a global pandemic: getting your class online in the nick of time and other challenges and rewards.” (3) For a possible joint session with Religions of Asia: “Religion, orientalism, and imagination: reimagining religion as defined by practice rather than belief in the classroom.” (4) For a possible joint session with Interfaith Religious Dialogue: “Imaginative ways of talking about difficult topics in the classroom modeled on interfaith and interreligious encounters.” (5) Finally, as an open call, we invite submissions for both individual papers and multiple-person sessions or panels. We value explanations and analysis of innovative teaching activities, critical reflection on successes and failures in the classroom, and research related to pedagogy and religion. Graduate students, as well as seasoned professors, are encouraged to submit proposals.

For more information on the Teaching and Learning section, contact co-chairs Jodie Lyon (lyon@uga.edu) and Carole Barnsley (cbarnsley@transy.edu)

**ASOR Member Sponsored : Archeology & the Ancient World**

(1) The Southeastern section of the American Schools of Oriental Research welcomes paper submissions for the 2021 meeting of the AAR-SBL Southeast Region. The field reports session will provide an opportunity to share reporting of recent work on archaeological digs throughout the Near East. Reports may engage with a wide range of timeframes and geographical locations. Submissions are especially encouraged which tie into the AAR-SBL Southeast Regional meeting theme.

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form

website and sent to the group chairs: Alan Todd (atodd1@coastal.edu) and Rachel Nabulsi

(rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)

(2) ASOR SE Presidential Address: ASOR SE is pleased to present the annual presidential address by Dr. Alan Todd of Coastal Carolina University. Dr. Todd is a historian of religions specializing in the social and religious history of Jews and Judaism in antiquity. His scholarly work focuses on the processes by which Jews established and maintained their identities within the Greco-Roman Mediterranean.

(3) Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Joint Session: The ASOR SE and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study groups are accepting proposals for an open joint session that will engage the theme, “religion and imagination.” This session is particularly focused upon the intersection of Biblical text and archaeological discovery. Work related to the creative impact of religious themes and thought within the literary aspects of the Hebrew Bible are sought. Papers related to the creative shaping of historical narratives of the text are also welcome. Finally, archaeological investigation which sheds light on either or both of these features are encouraged.

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form *and* sent to the group chairs: David B Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com), Clinton Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu, Alan Todd (atodd1@coastal.edu) and Rachel Nabulsi (rachelnabulsi@gmail.com)

**SBL: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament**

For the 2021 SBL-SE annual conference, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament sections invites proposal for two “open sessions” and one joint session in conjunction with ASOR-SE.

For the open sessions, we will consider all topics germane to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies. We encourage submissions that will engage the conference’s theme of Religion, Health, and Disease: An Online Conference Where Interdisciplinary Lines Intersect.

Joint session with ASOR SE: The ASOR SE and Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study groups are accepting proposals for an open joint session that will engage the theme, “religion and imagination.” This session is particularly focused upon the intersection of Biblical text and archaeological discovery. Work related to the creative impact of religious themes and thought within the literary aspects of the Hebrew Bible are sought. Papers related to the creative shaping of historical narratives of the text are also welcome. Finally, archaeological investigation which sheds light on either or both of these features are encouraged.

Proposals for the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament sessions are to be submitted through the online proposal form AND to the section chairs: David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com) and Clinton J. Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu). The subject line on the email submission should read, SBL-SE 2021 Proposal, Open Session, TITLE.”

**SBL: New Testament**

In light of the conference theme of *Religion, Health, and Disease*, the New Testament group issues the following call for papers in three sessions: (1) one session for papers related to the conference theme and (2) two open sessions for papers in any area of NT studies.

For the session on the conference theme, papers will be given special consideration if they treat aspects of health, disease, and healing in the New Testament. Possible topics include healing accounts in the Gospels and Acts, use of disease/plague in NT texts, and the metaphorical use of health/disease in early Christian discourse. Papers are also welcome that address NT community construction separate from face-to-face interactions as a situation analogous to what many current churches face in the time of the pandemic.

As an online conference, the NT group is open to submissions from all but priority will be given to scholars living or working in the Southeastern US. Presenters will be given 15 minutes to present their paper in an online video conference and will have 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Scholars who wish to use slides or handouts will have the option to share their screen on the video conference. Presenters will need reliable access to the Internet and a computer equipped with a microphone and camera.

For questions regarding these sessions, please contact the NT Section co-chairs: Eric Thurman (etthurman@sewanee.edu), Alex Thompson (alexander.thompson41@gmail.com), or Jonathan Groce (jgroce@emory.edu). Please submit all paper proposals through online proposal form.

**SBL: Dead Sea Scrolls**

The Dead Sea Scrolls group welcomes any papers that relate to the Dead Sea Scrolls. Different methodologies and approaches are encouraged as ways to assess the contribution of the scrolls to our understanding of ancient Judaism. We particularly encourage papers to explore the Dead Sea Scrolls in ways that resonate with the conference theme "Religion, Health and Disease" by addressing topics such as ancient Jewish conceptualizations of bodily health, purity or illness.

Please contact Matthew Goff (mgoff@fsu.edu), or Douglas Hume (doug.hume@pfeiffer.edu) with any questions/concerns.

**SBL: Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha**

The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section is a new section for the SBL-SE. The section will focus on the New Testament Apocrypha as well as the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. For the AAR and SBL Southeastern Regional Meeting 2021, which will be a virtual conference, we invite proposals for the following sessions: 1) Papers engaging the current state of parabiblical studies including, but not limited to, the problematic nature of the terms “apocrypha” and “pseudepigrapha” in the history of interpretation and the value of parabiblical literature for understanding Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity; 2) Papers approaching these texts in relation to the conference theme of “Religion, Health and Disease”; and 3) An open call for papers in any area of apocryphal or pseudepigraphal studies.

For questions regarding the Aprocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section, contact the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Section Chair, Kathy Barrett Dawson (dawsonka15@ecu.edu).

**AARSE/SBLSE: Undergraduate Research**

Undergraduate students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by AAR-SE and SBL-SE. 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 14 double-spaced pages, regular size font, will be considered; footnotes should be converted to endnotes to ensure proper length; one submission per student. Undergraduate students can only submit papers for presentation in the undergraduate sessions; their papers will not be considered for other sections.

On a cover page, please include contact information for the student and a faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Proposals will not be accepted after December 15, 2020 and should be emailed to AARSBLSE@gmail.com as a PDF attachment. All undergraduate papers are automatically considered for the Undergraduate Paper Prize. Questions may be directed to Steven A. Benko at AARSBLSE@gmail.com.