

CALLS FOR PAPERS

AAR/WR Annual Meeting 2010
Arizona State University
March 13-15, 2010

CONFERENCE THEME: *LA FRONTERA*

This year's theme, *La Frontera*, calls for analyses of the various borders that exist in our world and in our lives: geographical, chronological, theological, transformational. While *La Frontera* can be translated as border or boundary, it can also indicate a frontier, and in that sense the conference theme invites participants to pursue undeveloped fields of study and other topics needing research and investigation. The borderlands—social, cultural, spiritual, as well as geographical—that exist between multiple social identities can be examined. Stepping across theoretical and disciplinary boundaries is encouraged. Identifying limits and limitations, transgressing boundaries of all kinds, and exploring new frontiers—that is what *La Frontera* is intended to evoke and provoke.

PROPOSALS ARE DUE TO SECTION CHAIRS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

A good proposal includes the following:

- 1) A cover sheet that includes your name, address, email address, title of paper, and 100-word abstract
- 2) A second sheet that includes the title of your paper and a 200- to 250-word proposal, typed double-spaced. Do not include your name on this sheet.
- 3) Remember to submit your [Program Participant Form](#) (available on WECSOR site and on AAR/WR site under "Guidelines") along with your proposal.
- 4) You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.
- 5) The AAR/WR may be able to use the national OP3 online submission form. Check back for details.

QUEER CAUCUS PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION ON "QUEERING THE SYLLABUS"

The Queer Caucus is soliciting contributions for a pre-conference panel on "Queering the Syllabus." We seek contributions from queer and straight members of the academy. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, using queer theory in the academic study of religion, considering where interdisciplinary studies (specifically those addressing gender, race and ethics) intersect with queer religious theory, incorporating homoerotic narratives and imagery in the teaching of canonical scriptures, and uncovering the contributions of past scholars who can be shown to have had homoerotic orientations or behaviors. A further area of exploration includes the relation of the queered syllabus to "being out." What kinds of dynamics does a queered syllabus open between queer and straight students? Does a queered syllabus automatically "out"

the professor? We hope for contributions from a wide spectrum of sub-disciplines in the field. Please send submissions to Dirk von der Horst at dirkster42@yahoo.com.

BUDDHIST STUDIES SECTION

We invite papers relevant to Buddhist Studies and the 2009 conference theme, *La Frontera*. We hope to hold two sessions on any topic of interest within Buddhist Studies but are very interested in proposals dealing with Buddhism in America. We also hope the proposals will reflect on responses to modernity, in particular intersections and divergences between the categories of “traditional” and “modern” Buddhism. Proposals for this session should be sent via e-mail to Buddhist Studies Chair Dr. Kenneth Lee, klee@csun.edu, and Co-Chair Brooke Schedneck, brooke.schedneck@asu.edu. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS

Submissions for papers and panels for the annual meeting of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion (March 2010) are welcome on all topics in teaching religious studies or theology. Please send all proposals to Karen Crozier at Karen.Crozier@fresno.edu or Karencr80@hotmail.com and to Bret Lewis, lewis1@asu.edu. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

ETHICS SECTION

The Ethics Section invites proposals from a wide range of religious and academic disciplines providing ethical analysis related to the 2010 Conference theme, *La Frontera*. This year, we will host two sessions: one section is open to papers related to ethics, in general, but preferably engaging the issue of boundaries/borders and the ways in which these are constructed, maintained, and removed. The second session will focus exclusively on the ethics of belief, which includes topics concerned with missions, proselytization, apologetics, pluralism, tolerance, and violence. These sessions aim to facilitate interaction between traditional approaches to ethics and novel ways of presenting and understanding the topic. All accepted participants on the program must be members of the AAR, and submissions must be received by September 30, 2009. All participants must send a Participant Form (available on the website) along with their proposal (200-300 words). Submissions may be sent via email to: Brandon M. Crowe, Arizona State University, Brandon.Crowe@asu.edu

GODDESS STUDIES

Goddess Studies calls for papers on the themes of cosmogony, music, nature, ruling, and/or largely misunderstood or under-represented goddesses/female divines within the established religious traditions. Documentation and (re-)interpretation of renowned or hidden goddesses from around the world are also welcome. Papers that substantiate

feminist and/or interdisciplinary methodologies will be given priority for consideration. Please send an abstract of your paper (about 500 words) alongside the Participant Form to Helen Hye-Sook Hwang, Ph.D. at magoism@gmail.com, Annette Williams, alynwms@hotmail.com, and Laura Truxler, Laura.Truxler@gmail.com. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY SECTION

We invite papers relevant to the History of Christianity and the 2010 conference theme, *La Frontera*. We will hold two sessions: The first session will address immigration's impact on the study of the History of Christianity: crossing borders, changing demographics and reverse missions. The second session will rethink epochal boundaries in the History of Christianity: early, Medieval, Modern, Postmodern. Do these even make sense anymore? Are they laden with Western conceptions? Proposals for these sessions should be sent via e-mail to History of Christianity co-chairs Marianne Delaporte: mdelaporte@ndnu.edu and Dyron Daughrity: Dyron.Daughrity@pepperdine.edu. Proposals must be received by September 30, 2009, and all participants must send a Participant Form (available on the website) along with their proposal. All accepted participants on the program must be members of the national AAR.

INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS SECTION

This year's theme, *La Frontera*, calls for analyses of the various borders that exist in our world and in our lives: geographical, chronological, theological, transformational. While *La Frontera* can be translated as border or boundary, it can also indicate a frontier, and in that sense the Indigenous Religions Section invites participants to pursue undeveloped fields of study and other topics needing research and investigation in relation to the religious world and/or the religious practices of indigenous peoples around the world. The area of Indigenous Religions has frequently debated the nature of the borderlands—social, cultural, spiritual, as well as geographical—that exist between multiple social identities, seeking to understand ways in which the boundaries of religious experience are at times sharply defined and at times exceedingly porous. Stepping across theoretical and disciplinary boundaries is encouraged. Identifying limits and limitations, transgressing boundaries of all kinds, and exploring new frontiers—that is what *La Frontera* is intended to evoke and provoke. Please send your proposal to Mutombo Nkulu-N'Sengha, mutombo.nkulu-nsengha@csun.edu. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

ISLAMIC STUDIES SECTION

The Islamic Studies section encourages the submission of proposals that are related to the academic study of Islam. We are particularly interested in papers that touch directly or indirectly on the 2010 AAR/WR theme of *La Frontera* (border, boundary, or frontier).

This theme calls for analyses of the many types of boundaries, including geographical, spiritual, cultural, chronological, theological, transformational, and theoretical, that are found in our societies and in our lives. You are also welcome to submit papers having to do with Islamic Studies that are unrelated to the topic of the conference. Proposals, no more than two pages in length, and Participant Forms should be sent by email to Co-Chair Prof. Souad Ali at Souad.Ali@asu.edu and Co-Chair Prof. Sophia Pandya at spandya@csulb.edu by September 30, 2009. All accepted participants on the program must be members of the AAR.

JEWISH STUDIES SECTION

The Jewish Studies Section seeks any papers related to the session topic of *La Frontera*. We are looking for contributions on the question of hybrid religious Jewish identities and Crypto Jewish identities. A modern day example of blending borders is the phenomenon of the Bu-Jew or Jew-Bu, Hindu Jew, Jews for Jesus and Jewish Cowboys. We have an interest in papers that might explore Hannah Arendt's concept of Jews as pariah and parvenu. We welcome papers that examine the differences in experience of Jewish identities in colonized culture (Europe, Africa, Middle East, India etc.). Does having a colonized identity impact border crossing? We are also interested in papers that take into consideration the impact of dominant culture impact on the social and physical identities of border crossing such as the alteration of the physical, racial and gender bodies or of interest. We welcome any paper on Jewish studies. See also the Call for Papers for the jointly-sponsored Queer Studies and Jewish Studies session. Proposals and Participant Forms should be sent by email to Emily Silverman (ebinah@gmail.com) and Saba Soomekh (ssoomekh@yahoo.com) by September 30, 2009. All accepted participants on the program must be members of the AAR.

LATINA/O AND LATIN AMERICAN RELIGIONS SECTION

The Latina/o and Latin American Religions section is currently seeking a section chair. Please see the Religion in America Section for submitting paper proposals.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY SECTION

This section is intended to provide a forum for the study of various religions around the world in the 19th century. We especially encourage topics on particular religious people, religious objects, or religious places that are related to events or issues unique to the 19th century.

We invite papers or panels that reflect the 2010 conference theme, *La Frontera*. The 19th Century section will plan two sessions. For the first, in the spirit of frontiers, we welcome papers that focus on religion in the American West. For the second, we invite all papers having to do with 19th century religion, and especially those that focus on religion and identity boundaries, including themes of class, gender, race, or sexuality. A variety of disciplinary methods are welcome, particularly historical and comparative approaches. Please send your proposal and Participant Form via email attachment to

co-chairs Natalie Fawcett (natalie_fawcett@umail.ucsb.edu) and Kristy Slominski slominski@umail.ucsb.edu). If you are proposing a panel of 3 to 4 papers, please include short abstracts for each paper on the panel, and a short description of your panel theme. All proposals must be received by September 30, 2009. All accepted participants in the program must be members of the AAR.

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

We invite papers relevant to this year's theme, *La Frontera*. What are the philosophical implications of the borderlands or the new frontier? We invite papers more specifically to theorize on the relationship of the secular to the religious. What distinguishes the two? Are the borders between them hard and fast? Is the religious secular, or secularizing, in some sense? Is the secular religious? Or what are new conceptions of the philosophy of religion and its task(s) in light of postmodern critiques of modern philosophy, the return of religion, fundamentalisms, etc. The Philosophy of Religion section invites such presentations and, as always, presentations from other subjects related to the conference theme or philosophy of religion. We also encourage proposals for thematic panels or for joint sessions with other AAR units. Send proposals (100-200 words) and Participant Forms to both Hester Oberman, heoberman@msn.com and Jason Smick, jsmick@scu.edu by the due date of September 30, 2009. All accepted participants must be members of AAR and please add a Participant Form with your proposal.

PSYCHOLOGY AND RELIGION

The section invites proposals addressing the connection between art/literature and healing exploring therapeutic mechanism of various forms of expression. Proposals may also address intrapsychic/interpersonal narratives that drive creative expressions through art or literature within a broader context of religion or any connection between mental illness and literature. All accepted participants on the program must be members of the AAR, and submissions must be received by September 30, 2009. All participants must send a Participant Form (available on the website) along with their proposal. Submissions may be sent via email to: Siroj Sorajjakool, Loma Linda University, ssorajjakool@llu.edu, or by fax to 909-558-4856.

PSYCHOLOGY, CULTURE, AND RELIGION

PCR is an informal association of scholars and practitioners in the fields of religion and psychology. Our members share common interests in the relationships between religions, individuals, and the contemporary cultures which mediate and construct them. To learn more about us, see <http://www.pcr-aar.org/>.

PCR has always lived on the frontier of individuals, cultures, religions, and disciplines. So we are very pleased that this year's theme calls us to explore *La Frontera*. We particularly invite presentations on religion as a new frontier in American society, especially politics. Religion's reintegration into American politics and policy has been opportunistic, not accurate. How shall we, as Americans and as scholars, conceive and

shape the (re)integration of religion and politics? And how does this new (and eternal) frontier shape *us*, our spiritual lives, our psychological development? As always, we strongly encourage creative proposals that challenge preconceived notions of what an academic “paper” or “panel” should or could be. Send proposals (100-200 words) and Participant Forms to Dr. Franz Metcalf, franz@mind2mind.net. Participant Forms may also be mailed to Franz Metcalf, 2001 Morgan Hill Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

QUEER STUDIES

The Queer Studies in Religion section is looking for papers and or panels that deal with: any aspect of Proposition 8 for a session exploring the aftermath and ramifications of Prop. 8; any aspect of queer studies in film for a queer studies in film and religion session; any aspect of queer studies in religion for a possible general session. Please send proposals to Marie Carter, ezmeralda@earthlink.net and Raedorah Stewart at revsisraedorah@gmail.com. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

QUEER STUDIES AND JEWISH STUDIES JOINT SESSION: *On the Borders: Being Queer and Being a Jew*

This joint session of Queer and Jewish Studies is seeking papers that address the theme of the borders of queer theory and queer practice. One of the founders of Queer Theory, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, who broke ground with *Epistemology of the Closet*, was a straight Jew whose work sprang from literary theory. Judith Butler, famous for *Gender Troubles*, is a practicing Queer Jew whose work originates from her training in philosophy. David Halperin’s work, *Saint Foucault*, is another Queer Jew. Butler and Sedgwick are two different sexually-oriented Jews who have founded this field. Why have a number of Jews been on the forefront of queer theory? Is there a relationship between being a Jew and developing queer theory? We also seek any paper related to themes of Queer and Jewish Studies and any papers on Queer Jewish weddings. Please send a proposal to each of the following Section Co-Chairs: Emily Silverman, ebinah@gmail.com; Saba Soomekh, ssoomekh@yahoo.com; Marie Cartier, ezmerelda@earthlink.net, and Raedorah Stewart, Revsisraedorah@gmail.com. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

RELIGION AND THE ARTS

Religion and the Arts seeks papers and panels that address the conference theme, *La Frontera*, specifically looking at the religious arts of borderlands. We also seek papers on the following topics: religious themes in popular music; religious content, and its aesthetic presentation, in virtual reality sites (Second Life, etc.); implicit and explicit theologies of art; theologies of performance art. Any other topics that involve religion and the arts, broadly conceived, will be considered. Scholars wanting to suggest a

panel should contact the section chair: Jennifer Rycenga at jrycenga@earthlink.net. You must be a member of the national American Academy of Religion to present a paper at the Western Regional AAR meeting.

RELIGION IN AMERICA

The section encourages the use of diverse sources and multiple approaches to the study of religions in America. We seek to stimulate comparative discussion across a range of traditions around particular themes.

The Section on Religion in America seeks papers that address the conference theme, *La Frontera*, from a variety of perspectives: religions and the margins, religions and geographical borders, religions to the margins, and so on. We are looking for proposals on popular piety/religion and immigrant/ethnic communities, religion and public square border issues, borderlands theology, and anything off the beaten path. We also welcome investigations of religions meeting each other at their respective borders. We are open to other papers on Religion in America as well. In addition, in cooperation with the Latina/o and Latin American Religions Section, this section welcomes proposals that include participants from institutions in the northern Baja California and Sonora region for comparative discussions about religious life and culture that straddle the border in historical or contemporary periods. Please send a proposal to Philip Riley, priley@scu.edu and Rebecca Moore, remoore@mail.sdsu.edu, or fax a copy attn: Rebecca Moore, 619-594-1004. Be sure to submit a Program Participant Form as well. You must be a member of the AAR to present papers at the regional meeting.

RELIGION, LITERATURE, AND FILM

The Religion, Literature, and Film section welcomes proposals directly related to the 2010 conference theme: *La Frontera*, the examination of borders. We welcome papers that focus on fictional literature and/or films that examine borders, create borders, cross borders, break down borders, or challenge boundedness, (race, gender, class, kinship) as related to religious ideas, groups, or identity. We also welcome proposals that extend the ongoing discussion in this section as it relates to literary and film criticism and the academic study of religion. Current AAR members within the Western region should send a 1-page proposal and Participant Form via email to Jon R. Stone (jrstone@csulb.edu).

RELIGIONS OF ASIA

This year the Religions of Asia Section seeks to explore various ways in which religious frontiers are constructed, encountered, and transgressed. These frontiers may be local, cross-cultural as we look to include studies of traditions both in Asia and those which have spread around the world. We also hope to consider trans-historical frontiers as past traditions encounter modern life. Papers selected for the panel should reflect various approaches utilized in the discipline of religious studies, as we seek to engage the boundaries of our own field of studies. Proposals and Participant Forms should be

emailed to Toby Johnson (toby.johnson@email.ucr.edu) University of California, Riverside. All accepted participants in the conference must be members of the AAR.

WOMEN AND RELIGION SECTION

The AAR-WR Section on Women and Religion encompasses contemporary and historical, theoretical and practical work on gender, women's studies, feminism, and feminist activism in relation to the study of religion.

The Women and Religion (W&R) Section particularly welcomes papers relevant to the 2010 conference theme, *La Frontera*, addressing geographical, chronological, theological, transformational, as well as cultural, social, political, and religious borders, borderlands, changing borders, and border crossings. How does the construction of categorical borders limit discourse in W&R, and how do categories serve to orient and assist in understanding? How can categories, such as "second-wave feminism" or "religious women," assist or inhibit the theoretical and practical projects of W&R? Which distinctions remain relevant as contemporary Women's Studies encompasses "unsettled and unsettling" identities and categories? How can pedagogical, epistemological, and otherwise theoretical borders realign to encompass the territory of W&R? We would be glad to host a panel highlighting the work of Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, and those who interpret her work, if we receive enough papers on this theme.

Also, we request papers more broadly relevant to Women & Religion, including studies on women's roles in various religious traditions, religions and feminisms, women's spiritualities, and the dynamics of masculinity/femininity in religious settings. We invite papers that address contemporary challenges in the study of religion and/or in religious communities with regard to gender-race-class-sexuality-age-disability (and the "-isms") and roles, status, authority, insider/outsider dynamics, and new, relevant discursive spaces. We welcome papers addressing gender/women and religion/spirituality in conversation with intersectionality, transnational feminism, postcolonial thinking, womanism, borderlands and border crossings (as elaborated above), solidarity and justice, gender performance and religious identity in a globalized context, and individual and collective agency within specific social conditions. We encourage work in multiple and diverse religious contexts.

Proposals for the Women & Religion section should be sent by Sept. 30 via e-mail to BOTH of the Women & Religion Section co-chairs: Ann Wertman, awertman@asu.edu, and Sarah Robinson, MsSarahRobinson@gmail.com. All participants must send a Participant Form (available on the WECSOR website) along with their proposal. All speakers must be members of the AAR at conference time.

CO-SPONSORED SESSION BY WOMANIST/PAN AFRICAN AND WOMEN AND RELIGION SECTIONS OF AAR/WESTERN REGION

The academy has only begun to find space/s (concrete, geographical, metaphorical,

and literal) for the academic study of women and religion. People, issues, and subjects that intersect or cross race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation boundaries represent *La Frontera*. The Womanist/Pan African and Women and Religion Sections welcome papers that address these challenges. We especially appreciate papers that define the pedagogies, methodologies, language/s, and/or practices that demonstrate intersections and collaborations. Current political issues such as CA Prop 8, AZ Prop 102, and other subjects that directly speak to the intersections of gender, race, and/or sexual orientation are encouraged. For submitting proposals to this co-sponsored session, please use all four email addresses of the four section chairs, and please include the subject heading "Co-sponsored Session Proposal":

ann.wertman@asu.edu; sarah_robinson@hotmail.com; arazak@ciis.edu; paulamcgee@aol.com. All speakers must be members of the AAR at conference time.

Womanist/Pan African Section

The Womanist/Pan African section seeks papers that explore the many borders and boundaries of *La Frontera* as they exist in Womanist/Pan African Studies and scholarship. This includes geographical boundaries of the African diaspora, multiple and intersecting Diasporan identities, and academic and disciplinary boundaries. We are especially interested in papers that show the historical mapping of old and new boundaries/borders in theology, spirituality, and religion/religious studies (interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multicultural) and their implications. We also invite papers that examine pedagogies, strategies, and applications for the classroom, research, and publishing. What does the future look like and how do we successfully cross these many boundaries/borders, and maintain allegiances to the communities and issues that birthed the need to move into *La Frontera* in the first place? Please send your proposal to Paula McGee, paulamcgee@aol.com, and Arisika Raza, arazak@ciis.edu. Be sure to include a Program Participant Form. All speakers must be members of the AAR at conference time.