

BEYOND BORDERS:

**CONSTRUCTING, DECONSTRUCTING,
AND TRANSGRESSING BOUNDARIES**

**11th Annual Florida State University
Department of Religion
Graduate Student Symposium**

11th Annual Florida State University Graduate Student Symposium is sponsored in part by:



PEARSON



**FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012
DODD HALL**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 17th

3:30–4:00 p.m. Registration and check-in

Session 1A: Religion, Science, and the Environment

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Sharayn Menne

Respondent: Dr. Amanda Porterfield

Beyond Unity: Epistemic Ideals of the Biocognitive Turn

Andrew Aghapour

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Many Stewards: Puritan Ownership and the Politics of Land Distribution, 1629-1680

Randy Tarnowski

Florida State University

The Role of the Bible in Environmental Ethics

Sarah Werner

University of Florida

The Sustainability of the Catholic Worker Movement through Bioregionalism

Victoria Machado

University of Florida

Islam and Climate Change in Mali, West Africa

Dianna Bell

Florida State University

Session 1B: Politics of Place in American Religious History

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

Moderator: John Crow

Respondent: Dr. John Corrigan

Allah in the Atlantic World: Exploring the Influence of Islam among African Slaves in Latin America and the Caribbean

Allison Sellers

University of Central Florida

Speaking Place, Saving Place: The Western Apache and the Mount Graham International Observatory

Deborah Williams

Arizona State University

Punishment and Penology in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts

Brad Stoddard

Florida State University

Material Boundaries: A Civic Biography of the Mt. Soledad Cross

Allison Solso

University of California, Riverside

Personal Jesus: New Approaches to Spirituality in the Flexible Economy

Antionette Brown-Waithe

Georgia State University

“Beyond the Fetishism of Commodities? Hyper-Animism and Materiality in the Present Age.”

A Keynote Address by Dr. Manuel Vásquez,
University of Florida, Department of Religion

6:30 p.m., Dodd Hall Auditorium

8:00 p.m.

Announcement of the Leo Sandon Best Paper Award

Afterward: Reception, Dodd Hall Foyer

Saturday, February 20th

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Dodd Hall Foyer

Session 2A: Religion, Human Rights, and Justice

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Daniel Wise

Respondent: Dr. Joseph Hellweg

Promise and Possibility: Augustine, Citizenship, and Chastened Cosmopolitanism

Samuel Houston

Florida State University

The Practice of Witnessing: Exploring Representations of Trauma

Helen M. Orr

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

The Disembodiment of American Catholicism: The Lenten Reformation, 1935-1985

Peter S. Cajka

Boston College

The Enemy of my Friend... is my Enemy?: Intergenerational Friendships and Loyalty in Moroccan Perspectives of the 2006 Lebanon War

Cory Thomas Driver

Emory University

After the Genocide: A Judicial Discourse of Injustice

Clifford B. Parkinson

Florida State University

The Blood Out Crieth on Youre Cursed Dede: “The Jew” as Abject in Blood Libel Narratives from Chaucer and Hamas

Damon T. Berry

Ohio State University

Session 2B: Religious Media(ation) In The Public Sphere

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

Moderator: Brad Stoddard

Respondent: Dr. Kathryn Lofton

The Politics of Legitimacy: Solidifying Hindu Identity in American Museums

Nkoyo Edoho-Eket

Florida State University

“So Mightily Grew the Word of God”: The Burning of Record Albums in the U.S.

Shaun Horton

Florida State University

God at the Plate: The Intersecting Fates of Black Jews and Brother Benjamin

Andrew McKee

University of Missouri

Teaching Religion and Film: Pedagogical and Ethnographic Approaches to a Popular Course

Clint Bland

University of Florida

Session 2C: The Politics of Identity in Global Islam

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Moderator: Lauren Cosgrove

Respondent: Dr. Adam Gaiser

Thoughts on Conceptualizing the Shia Transnational

Sina Kashefipour

Florida State University

‘Of the True Faith’: Islam and Identity in Coastal Georgia

Joseph Beatty

University of Florida

Constructing a Shi`i Muslim Identity Through Ritual

Rose Aslan

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Session 3A: Philosophy, Theology, and Literature

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Rachel Grossman

Respondent: Dr. François Dupuigrenet

Nietzsche and the Poetical Imperative for Philosophy

Samuel Joseph Kessler

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

“There is no place where I stop”: A Kristevan Approach toward Understanding the Infanticidal Mother

Carrie Jones

University of North Carolina – Charlotte

Inscrutable Gods, Inscrutable Skulls: Cetacean Phrenology as Tautegorical Theology in *Moby-Dick*

Frank Pittenger

Duquesne University

Such a Dark Thing: Liberation Theology and the Breakdown of Community in Stephen King’s *Salem’s Lot*

M. Jess Peacock

Methodist Theological School

History Leaves the Historical

Aaron Ellis

Florida State University

Session 3B: Negotiating Boundaries in Greco-Roman Antiquity

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

Moderator: Zac Johnson

Respondent: Dr. Trevor Luke

Delineating and Maintaining Boundaries: Paul’s Somatic Proscriptions for His Early Congregations

Guy Adam Niederhauser

University of Missouri

Constructing Identity in the Frescoes of the Salone Riario: Julius II and Trajan

Caroline Victoria Larson
Florida State University

On the Relationship Between Roman Imperial Cult and Domestic Religion

Kevin Oliver
Florida State University

Political and Family Transgressions: The Leges Juliae and Augustus's Moral Reforms

Hillary Conley
Florida State University

Session 3C: Holocaust Concentration Camp Liberators and Their Religious Beliefs

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Moderator: Randy Tarnowski
Respondent: Dr. Martin Kavka

Presenters:

Mary Beth Isaacson, *University of Florida*
Kimberly Nordon, *University of Florida*
Alexandra Curran, *University of Florida*

1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunch, Dodd Hall Foyer

**Taking Up Space: Movement, Embodiment, And Materiality
A Roundtable Discussion**

2:00–3:30 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Seth Bledsoe

Participants:

Dr. Manuel Vasquez, *University of Florida*
Dr. Kathryn Lofton, *Yale University*
Dr. Elijah Siegler, *College of Charleston*
Dr. Amy Koehlinger, *Florida State University*

Session 4A: Religion and the Politics of Legitimation

3:45–5:45 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Michael Graziano

Respondent: Dr. Kelly Baker

The Heart of Transatlantic Revivalism in the Age of Enlightenment

Lauren Davis Gray

Florida State University

The Demonic Taxon: Possession and Discourse

Chad W. Gardner

Florida State University

Middle-Class Vodou: Spirit Possession and Marginality in the United States

Mary Hamner

University of North Carolina – Charlotte

Guarding the Boundaries of Evangelicalism: “New Calvinist” Historical Narrative as a Reaction to Postmodern Christianity

Adam S. Brasich

Florida State University

Methodist Itinerants and the Glorification of Hardship

Charles McCrary

Florida State University

Session 4B: Sectarian and Tradition Formation in Asia

3:45–5:45 p.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

Moderator: Nkoyo Edoho-Eket

Respondent: Dr. Bryan Cuevas

Deconstructing Sectarianism: Beliefs in Mañjuśrī and Mount Wutai During the Song

Lori Chung

Florida State University

Toward an Inclusive Epistemology: From Linguistic Determinism to the Contemplative Dialectic

E. Claire Villarreal

Rice University

The Ocean of Oath-Bound Protectors: Political and Sectarian Boundaries in 18th-Century Tibet

Cameron Bailey
Florida State University

Justifying an Uprising as Sacred: Rebellious Peasants and Their Empowering Strategies in Nineteenth-Century Japan

Takashi Miura
Princeton University

Rhetoric of Decline and Revival: Buddhism in Republican China and Contemporary Taiwan

Daniel R. Tuzzeo
Florida State University

Session 4C: Feminist and Queer Criticisms

3:45–5:45 p.m.

Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Moderator: Aaron Ellis
Respondent: Dr. Katie Hladky

The Gendering of Mental Illness: Private-Religion and The (Fe)Male Body

Ilya Merlin
University of North Carolina – Charlotte

Deconstructing the New Atheism: A Feminist Critique

Amy L. Brown
University of Florida

Islam, Feminism, and Agency

Bharat Ranganathan
Indiana University

Prayer and Performativity: On Developing a Queer Pneumatology

Amaryah S. Armstrong
Emory University

Featured Film: *The Last Assyrians*

6:15 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Afterward: Reception, Dodd Hall Foyer

Sunday, February 21st

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Dodd Hall Foyer

Session 5A: Race and Identity in American Religions

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Danny Gibboney

Respondent: Dr. Amy Koehlinger

Heathen Chinees: Protestant American Narratives of Chinese Religiosity in the 19th Century

Zac Johnson

Florida State University

Six Days of Twenty-Four Hours: The Scopes Trial, Antievolutionism, and the Last Crusade of William Jennings Bryan

Kari Edwards

University of Mississippi

Blavatsky's Coming Race: Nationalism, Racism, and Fiction in Theosophical Doctrine

John L. Crow

Florida State University

Parrhesia With Purpose: The 1957 Atlanta Ministers' Manifesto as Bearing Witness to Christian Caritas as the South Integrates its Public Schools

Teresa Federico Morales

Georgia State University

'Eugenic Love' and Eugenic Limits: Protestant Ministers, Parenthood, and the Eugenic Socialization of Procreative Behavior in the 1920s United States

Leif C. Tornquist

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Session 5B: Reformulation in Jewish and Christian Texts

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

Moderator: Jenny Collins-Elliott

Respondent: Dr. Matthew Goff

Action and Belief: Aristides and Justin Martyr's Boundaries of Christian Identity

David Woodington
Florida State University

Identity Formation Through Laughter: The Laughter of Jesus in the Coptic Apocalypse of Peter and the Second Treatise of the Great Seth

Thomas Whitley
Florida State University

Pious Demonology versus Illicit Witchcraft: Theologizing Magic in Testament of Solomon 19-26

Daniel Wise
Florida State University

Session 6A: American Religious Nationalisms

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Cory Fritch
Respondent: Dr. Elijah Siegler

“As a Race Thinketh So Will It Be”: Marcus Garvey, New Thought, and Racial Destiny

James R. Young, Jr.
Princeton University

“To Defend with Our Bodies and Lives”: Language, Religion, and the State in Philadelphia's German Lutheran Community, 1795-1817

Anna Amundson
Florida State University

Baseball Bats Smithereening Idols: The Dream of American-Punk Islam in The Taqwacores

Wawan Eko Yulianto
University of Arkansas

Federal Religion: Disestablishment at West Point in the Early Republic

Michael Graziano
Florida State University

GUEST SPEAKERS



Dr. Manuel Vásquez is a professor in the Department of Religion at University of Florida. His research focuses on Religions of Latin America and U.S. Latinos, Method and Theory, Religious Pluralism, Transnational Migrations and Globalization. His recent book, *More Than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2010), challenges the traditional idea that religions can be understood primarily as texts to be interpreted, decoded, or translated.



Dr. Kathryn Lofton is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at Yale University. Her research investigates the inseparability of religion and its cultural constructions, and the extent to which culture itself is embedded in religious histories. Her recent book, *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon* (University of California Press, 2011), uses the work of Oprah Winfrey to explore the formation of religion in modern America.



Dr. Elijah Siegler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston. He is a historian of American religions, with expertise on new religious movements, religion and popular culture, and Asian religions in America. His book, *New Religious Movements* (Prentice Hall, 2007), takes a more historical and cultural approach to the study of New Religious Movements.

**The 2012 Graduate Student Symposium would like
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