

**Rocky Mountain/Great Plains AAR-SBL Regional Meeting  
Denver, CO March 25th and 26th, 2022**

**Conference Program (Draft)**

**Friday, March 25, 2022:**

**7:30-4PM (Registration)**

**8:00 - 8:30 AM morning coffee/tea and pastries**

**8:30 - 10:00 AM Session 1**

**Panel A: Religious Studies in Dialogue**

Chair: Tony Alumkal, Iliff School of Theology (Invited)

1) "Jonathan Edwards, John Locke, and... Ibn Tufayl? Reinterpreting Evangelical and American Religious History from a World-Historical Perspective"

Name: Patrick Bowen

Institutional Affiliation: Independent Scholar

2) "Unmasking Ceramic Colima dogs and Their Ritual Significance"

Name: Sydney Barofsky (they/them)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver School of Art and Art History

3) "Intelligent Design: A Critical Analysis of a Religious Response to Evolutionary Theory"

Name: Jim Sharp

Institutional Affiliation: Colorado State University - Pueblo

4) "'Snatching Away' in the Iliad and in Paul"

Name: Dan Clanton (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: Doane University

**Panel B: Religion, Culture, & Identity**

Chair: Benjamin Nourse, University of Denver (invited)

1) "I Have to Defend my People: Imagined Communities and the Evolutionary Psychology of Religion in Racist Odinism"

Name: Jeremy Fricke (he/him/his)

Institutional Affiliation: Tri-Faith Initiative, MA from University of Iowa

2) "In Search of Beijing's Tibetan Buddhist Past: Religious Spaces, Memory, and Identity in Modern Beijing"

Name: Benjamin Nourse (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver

3) "Should the Fourteenth Dalai Lama Be the Last?"

Name: Jack Hamblin

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

4) "The Roma And The Romanian Orthodox Church Past And Present"

Name: Nicolae Roddy (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: Creighton University

### **Panel C: Biblical Interpretation & Early Christianity**

Chair: Michelle A. Stinson, Denver Seminary

1) "Stake or Cross: Upon Which was Jesus Crucified"

Name: Woodrow Michael Kroll

Institutional Affiliation: Retired scholar; President, Davis College, Johnson City, NY

2) "Moses and Elijah at Luke's Empty Tomb"

Name: Dulcinea Boesenberg (she/her/hers)

Institutional Affiliation: Creighton University

3) "Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy: The Cultivation of Hope in the Psalms of Ascents (Pss 120-134)"

Name: Michelle A. Stinson

Institutional Affiliation: Visiting Professor of Old Testament, Denver Seminary

4) "Iconoclastic Production in Exodus 34 and Deuteronomy 12"

Name: Albert McClure (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: MSU Denver

**10:00 - 10:15 AM Break**

### **10:15 - 11:45 AM Session 2**

#### **Panel D: Religious Authority and Collaboration from Ancient Something to the Digital Age**

Chair: Heidi Ippolito, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology (ask Nabil?)

1) "The Right To Copy: Challenging Authority and Intellectual Property in the Context of Religion"

Name: Seth M. Walker (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: Independent Scholar

2) "Heeding the Skalds: Musicians and Spiritual Authority in Nordic Neopaganism"

Name: Padraic Fitzgerald (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

3) "Memes as Matrix Red-Pilling: The QAnon Conflation of Religious Community, On-Screen Storytelling, and Internet Culture"

Name: Heidi Ippolito

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

### **Panel E: The Bible and Early Church Leaders**

Chair: Sam Boyd, CU Boulder (Invited)

1) "Before Luther: Early German Preachers and Their Place in the Tradition of Bible Translation"

Name: Tod Harris (he, his)

Institutional Affiliation: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Translation Division

2) "Whence the Womb? John 7:38 and the Motherhood of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel"

Name: Jackson Abhau

Institutional Affiliation: University of Arizona

3) "My Son was Dead, and is Alive Again": Eschatological Implications in Luke 15"

Name: Christina O'Brien (she/her)

Institutional Affiliation: Augustine Institute

4) "The Economy of the Effects of Grace"

Name: Hesron Sihombing

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

### **Panel G: Religion, Power, and Authority**

Chair: Loriliai Biernacki, CU Boulder (invited)

1) "The Lingering "Colonial Matrix of Power": Colonialism, Nationalism, and the COVID-19 Crisis in India"

Name: Alyssa Putzer (she/her/hers)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver

2) "Preachers and Believers on Muslim Religious Apps"

Name: Andrea Stanton (she/her/hers)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver

3) "White Supremacy and eurochristian Worldview"

Name: Roger Green (he/him/his)

Institutional Affiliation: Metropolitan State University of Denver

4) "Catholicism and Democratization in Africa: Presenting a New Archive of Church Documents and Qualitative Analysis"

Names: Elizabeth Sperber (she, her, hers); Paige Wietzel (she, her, hers)

Institutional Affiliation: Political Science, University of Denver; Department of Religious Studies, University of Denver

**Panel H: Coalitions and Common Themes in Religion BCE to the Early Christian Period**

Chair: Richard Hess, Denver Seminary (invited)

1) "By His Word All Things Hold Together:" Revelation, Wisdom and the Cosmos in the Cultic Imagination of Ben Sira"

Name: Rachel Bell

Institutional Affiliation: Augustine Institute

2) "Egil Skallagrimsson—An Icelandic Elijah?"

Name: Tod Harris (he, his)

Institutional Affiliation: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Translation Division

3) "Ammonite and Israelite Religion: Perspectives from the Personal Names"

Name: Richard S. Hess (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: Denver Seminary

4) "Dynamic Views of Text and Scripture in Rabbinic Judaism"

Name: Avram R. Shannon (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: Brigham Young University

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Lunch and (possible) Colloquium for Graduate Students**

Buffet from Jerusalem

**1:15 - 2:45 PM Session 3**

**Panel I: Religion and (De)colonization**

Chair: Patrick D'Silva, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (invited)

1) "Musical Hinduism: Constructing and Contesting Religion in Indian Popular Music Videos from the 1990s."

Name: Deeptangshu Das (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/ILIFF School of Theology

2) "Art Theology: Decolonizing Theology through Creative Pedagogy"

Name: Angela Hummel

Institutional Affiliation: Naropa University, Front Range Community College, and Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design

3) "Sharing Siva's Secrets: Translating Svarodaya as Anti-Colonial Knowledge Production in 20th CE India"

Name: Patrick J. D'Silva (he/him/his)

Institutional Affiliation: UCCS

4) "Newness Born Islam: Orientalism, Third Space, and The Nation of Gods and Earth"

Name: Jared Lacy (He/Him)

Institutional Affiliation: Graduate Student, Religious Studies Department, University of Denver

**Panel J: Gloria Anzaldúa Revisited: The Borderlands of Identity, Politics, and Spatial Theory**

Chair: Isabela Rosales, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology

1) "What it means to embrace "Nepantla" in a U.S. Lantix/e Context in Critical Dialogue with American Indian Worldview"

Name: Isabela Rosales

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver / Illiff School of Theology

2) "Expanding Borderlands: A Necropolitical Deathscape"

Name: Rebecca M. David Hensley

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver / Illiff School of Theology

3) "The Spatiality of the Borderlands: An Examination of Liminal Space and Identity Constructs"

Name: Taylor Muma

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver / Illiff School of Theology

**Panel K: Rhetoric and the Metaphors of Structure in Apocalyptic**

Chair: Colin McAllister, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

1) "Ich fühle Luft von anderem Planeten: Arnold Schoenberg as Apocalyptic Prophet"

Name: Colin McAllister

Institutional Affiliation: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

2) "Apocalyptic Time and the time of APOKATASTASIS: Musical Flow Experience as Eschatology in Current Compositional Practice"

Name: Jon Forshee

Institutional Affiliation: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

3) "The Shoot That Does Not Strike: Apocalyptic Expression of Justice in the Gospel of Matthew"

Name: James D. Romano

Institutional Affiliation: Fuller Theological Seminary

**Discussant: TBD**

**2:45-3:00 PM Break**

**3:00 - 4:15 PM Junior Scholar Keynote Address: Dr. Natalie Avalos**

**4:30-6:30 PM Reception**

## **Saturday, March 26, 2022:**

**7:30-4PM (Registration)**

**8:00 - 9:00 AM Rocky Mountain/Great Plains AAR-SBL Program Committee  
Business meeting (coffee/tea and pastries)**

**9:00 - 9:15 AM Break**

### **9:15-10:15 AM Undergraduate Panel**

#### **Intersectional Exploration of Religion, Violence, and Trauma**

**Chair: TBA**

1) "Trauma, Liminality, and ASC: an exploration of Miko and Mudang"

Name: Jasper Lumadue, they/them

Institutional Affiliation: Washburn University

2) "Marginalized Dharma: A Feminist Critique of the Historiography of Buddhist Warfare and Peace Movements in Japan"

Name: Kaitlin Smith (She/Her/Hers)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver.

Discussant: Steven M. Vose (He/Him)

Institutional Affiliation: Colorado College

### **10:15 - 11:45 AM Session 4**

#### **Panel L: Religion, Community, and the Making of Religious Publics**

**Chair: Jennifer Leath, Iliff (invited)**

1 ) "A smile of patronizing commiseration for his former self": Assimilative Storytelling in Arendt and Yekl

Name: Sarah Schwartzman Ramsey (she/her)

Institutional Affiliation: CU Boulder

2) The "Wager" as Prudential Belief and Practice in Pascal, William James, and Contemporary Theology

Name: Zachary Simpson (he/him)

Affiliation: University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

3) How to Bring Religion to a Transdisciplinary Team

Name: Mary L. Keller (she/her/hers)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Wyoming

4) Buddhist Right Livelihood and Career Guidance: Expanding from Mindfulness at Work to Mindfulness of Work

Name: Kyle Inselman (he/him)

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver

**Panel M: Feminist practices and theology**

**Chair: Eunjoo Kim, Iliff School of Theology (invited)**

1) The Persistence of Spirit: Women's Lived Religion in the Arizona Colonies, 1890-1910

Name: Cathy Gilmore (she/her)

Institutional Affiliation: Utah State University

2) ) "Reinterpreting a Burmese word, Phon for Decolonizing the Authoritarian and Patriarchal Church and Society"

Name: Sau Nam

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

3) "In Memory of Her"

Name: Wendy Felese

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

4) Performative Hopelessness and Public Space: Ecojustice Praxis in Indonesia

Name: Hesron Sihombing

Institutional Affiliation: University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

**Panel N: Apocryphal Stories, Prophets, and Contested Canons**

**Chair and Discussant: TBA**

1) Temptresses, Tongues, & Titillation: Apocryphal Afterlives in the Narratives of Jerome

Name: Jeannie Sellick (she/her/hers)

Institutional Affiliation: Creighton University

2) "Leaning on the Shaft that Pierces: Biblical Canon in Light of Neglected Voices."

Name: Aaron Lockhart (he/him/his)

Institutional Affiliation: Denver University/Iliff School of Theology

3) The Bible as an Archeological Dig – A Relook at the Prophet Hosea, the Exodus in the Written Prophets, a Follow-On to Richard Elliot Friedman, The Exodus

Name: Dr. Sidney Fox

Institutional Affiliation: Independent Scholar



**11:45 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch and Senior Scholar Keynote Address - Dr. Mark George**

**2:00 - 4:30 PM Film screening followed by panel discussion with Amy Balogh,  
Zach Smith, and filmmaker**