

Rocky Mountain – Great Plains

Regional AAR/SBL

Creighton University, Omaha

All sessions are in the Harper Center, 3rd Floor North

Friday, March 29

Registration and Check-in

8:30–9:00

Harper 3rd Floor North Lobby

Session 1

9:00–10:30

1A. Hebrew Bible

Harper 3028A

Convenor:

Daniel Belnap, Brigham Young University

“Open Thine Eyes, O Lord, and See”: A Possible Cultic Rite of Text Presentation

Nathan French, University of Aberdeen

Levirate Law and Divine Retribution in the Throne Succession Narrative

Benjamin Hoyer, Augustine Institute

The Priestly Logos of Wisdom 18.21: The Literary and Theological Tendencies of the Sage in Wisdom 18.5-25

1B. The Apostolic Tradition

Harper 3028B

Convenor:

Dulcinea Boesenberg, Creighton University

Control Your Women: Silencing and Subordination of Women in the Acts of the Apostles

Joel Allen, Dakota Wesleyan University

Stephen’s Speech and the Absence of the Plundering of Egypt in the New Testament

Paul Hartog, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary

Faith and Hospitality in 1 Clement 9-12: The Case of Hospitable Noah

1C. Human Recourses: Etic exploitation of “Authenticity”

Harper 3027

Convenor: Dillon Sampson, University of Colorado Boulder

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On the Simulation of Authentic Indigeneity

Yasemin Pacalioglu, University of Colorado Boulder

“On the Commercialization and Policing of the Whirling Dervish Ceremony

Graham Homan, University of Colorado Boulder

The Manipulation of Native American Religious Authenticity

1D. Religious and Theological Studies

Harper 3029

Convenor:

Rudolph P. Reyes, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Have the Mind of Christ: Notes Towards a Mad Christology

Taylor Muma, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

She Speaks for Herself: www.Theolo-She.org Website as Praxis of Trinitarian Inclusion

Hannah Griffin, University of Colorado Boulder

Ergi and the Duality of Odin

Session 2

10:45–12:15

2A. Gospel of Mark

Harper 3028A

Convenor:

Aaron Lockhart, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

The Motif of Identity and Authority in the Gospel of Mark

Jason Robert Combs, Brigham Young University

“Eloi la . . . Elijah?”: Reading a Mondegreen in Mark 15:34–35

Whitley Kaufman, University of Massachusetts Lowell

The Case Against an Apocalyptic Jesus

2B. Religion and Popular Culture

Harper 3028B

Convenor:

Padraic Fitzgerald, University of Denver

The Cult of the Pit: Sacrificial Echoes Within the Black Metal Performance

Gregory Robbins, University of Denver

Re-visiting The Band’s Visit

Zachary Simpson, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
To Be Born of a Woman: Affirmations and Denials of Male Sacrifice in Popular Culture

2C. East Asian Religious Traditions

Harper 3027

Convenor:

Joshua Shelton, University of Colorado Boulder
"A King and a Siddha Walk Into a Bar": The Role of Literary Form in Crafting Gendered Archetypes in The Testament of Padmasambhava

Robin D. Bruce, Naropa University
Application of the Mahāyāna Teachings: The White Privilege Bodhisattva, Structural Spiritual By-Pass, & Relative Truth as a Means for Liberation

George Sieg, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Reconsidering Rajneeshee Bioterror: Religious?

Lunch

12:15–1:30

Get to know and network with other members of the region over a good lunch Harper 3023

Session 3

1:30–3:30

3A. Smartphone Piety: Social Media, Apps and the Making of Digital Devotional Publics

Harper 3028A

Convenor: Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver

Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver
Apps as Epistemes: The Making of a Modern Hindu Public

Andrea L. Stanton, University of Denver
Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj Apps: Managing the Business and Piety of Pilgrimage

Courtney Robinson, University of Denver
Shifting the Moral Paradigm: Transforming America's Morality in 280 Characters or Less

Stefanie Fajardo, University of Denver
Instagramming the Borderlands: The Reconfiguration of Chicanx Identity through Virtual Reinterpretations of Religious Art Expression

3B. Religion and Politics

Harper 3028B

Convenor:

Philippa Juliet Meek, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology
Not for US: Bias against Mormon Polygamy in U.S. Law

Rebecca M. David Hensley, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology
Gendering Immigration: A Liberative Feminist Hermeneutic for Crossing the U.S./Mexico Border

Sandra Dixon, University of Denver
A Lived Religions Approach to Christians' Long-Term Anti-Abortion / Pro-Life Activism

Cameron Rowlett, University of Colorado Boulder
Dynamics of Political Power in Nation of Islam and Christian Identity Theology

3C. Undergraduate Session

Harper 3027

Convenor:

Tyler Harris, Brigham Young University
"Ears of the Deaf" (Isa 35:5): Deafness in the Ancient Near East

Nathan Nelson, Creighton University
Biblical Translation and Pictorial Interpretation

Meaghan Stout, Doane University
Devadasi Evolution: From the Temple to the Sheets

Krista Waite, Morningside College
God's Cubicle: The Office and Diverse Religions

Meredith Wall, Coe College
The Considerate Archbishop and the Solitary Monk: A Study of Athanasius's Life of Antony as a Pastoral Text

3D. Bible and Popular Culture Workshop

Harper 3029

Convenor: Dan Clanton, Doane University

Facilitators:

Amy Balogh, University of Denver

Dan Clanton, Doane University

Elizabeth Rae Coody, Morningside College

AAR Keynote Address

3:45–5:00

Harper 3023

Lisa Sideris

Professor of Religious Studies
Indiana University

*Religion and World-Making:
Techno-Transcendence from Earthrise to Astrobiology*

Reception following the keynote

Harper 3rd Floor North Lobby

Graduate Student Get-Together

7:00

All masters and doctoral students are welcome to a post-reception informal gathering. Come to meet other RMGP graduate students and chat with some younger/newer faculty about navigating doctoral study, the job search, and the academic life.

Saturday, March 30

Business Meeting Breakfast

All are invited to attend

7:30–8:45

Harper 3023

Session 4

9:00–10:30

4A. Gospel of John

Harper 3028A

Convenor:

Sherri Brown, Creighton University

*Apostles to the Apostles: Case Studies on the Role of Women in the Gospel of John through
Jesus' Encounters with the Woman of Samaria and Mary and Martha of Bethany*

Charlie Cummings, Front Range Community College

*"Nic at Night": The Role of Nicodemus in the Literary and Theological Development of the
Fourth Gospel*

Elijah Owen, Augustine Institute

John 19:25-26: Mary as Mother of All Christians

4B. Scribal Traditions

Harper 3028B

Convenor:

Jason Reddoch, Colorado Mesa University

The Significance of the Music of the Spheres and the Greek Myth of the Cicadas for Philo of Alexandria's Treatment of Fasting

Avram Shannon, Brigham Young University

"Number the Stars": Rabbinic Cosmology at the Intersection of Greek and Biblical Thought

Paden Alexander Unruh, University of Colorado Boulder

Yahweh and the Maker: Monster Making and Monster Slaying

4C. Islam

Harper 3027

Convenor:

Mahmoud Samak, University of Kansas

Social Solidarity on the Day of Arafat in the Light of Durkheim Theory of Religion

Saman Fazeli, University of Colorado Boulder

When The Skies Wept Blood: A Literary Analysis of Maqatal Literature

4D. Religion and Food

Harper 3029

Convenor:

Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, Ohio State University (Graduate Student Paper Award)

Bridging the Nature-Culture Divide: Religious Meaning-Making in the Food Justice Movement

Jessica Schroder, Denver Seminary

Raising a Glass to Joy and the Gift of Being: The Mutual Affirmation of Theology of Food Literature and Jurgen Moltmann's Theology of Joy

Session 5

10:45–12:15

5A. Early Christian Studies

Harper 3028A

Convenor:

Josh Schachterle, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Fleeing from Bishops: John Cassian's Advocacy for the Separation of Monasticism and the Institutional Church

Amy J. Erickson, Fuller Theological Seminary

Law as Gospel in Gregory of Nyssa's Life of Moses

Courtney Wilder, Midland University

Disability, Childbirth and Breastfeeding: Perpetua's visions, bodily experience, and Christian reflection

5B. Lived Religious Experience

Harper 3028B

Convenor:

John O'Keefe, Creighton University

Spirituality and Place in the Nebraska Sandhills

Rode Molla, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Resisting Ethiopia's Imposed Higher Education Ideologies Through Lived Religious Experiences of Ethiopians

5C. Philosophy of Religion

Harper 3027

Convenor:

Justin Davis

Can the Truth be Superfluous? Schleiermacher, Sin, and the Post Truth World

Laura Arcila Villa, Colorado State University

Anne Conway's Rejection of Spinoza's Pantheism

5D. Scribal Traditions

Harper 3029

Convenor:

Lincoln Blumell, Brigham Young University

The Classroom Context of the New Testament Text of Didymus the Blind: A Reconsideration of the Tura Papyri and their Text-Critical Value

Alan Taylor Farnes, Brigham Young University

The Scribal Habits of Non-Native Greek Scribes

Leonard Greenspoon, Creighton University

What's In a Name? More Than We Might Imagine

Lunch and SBL Keynote Address

12:15–2:30

Harper 3023

David Brakke

Joe R. Engle Chair in the History of Christianity and Professor of History
Ohio State University

The Gnostic Origins of Christian Biblical Interpretation