



# The Religious Studies Voice

University of California, Riverside | Department of Religious Studies | 2017-2018

## *Announcements*

Throughout the year, the Department hosts an active calendar of lectures, colloquia, conferences and other events centered on the academic interdisciplinary study of religion.

The new Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies was established this past academic school year! The position of Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies was successfully filled, and the department will have a new colleague at the beginning of the new academic session. It will certainly enrich the focus on diversity.

Read more about Dr. Ana Bajželj, Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies, on page 9!

## *Inside This Issue*

### **PG. 4**

Professor Wilcox's book, *Queer Nuns*, was released in May 2018!

### **PG. 7**

Professor King invites 15 experts from five countries to discuss the understudied Tibeto-Mongolian genre of gsan yig or thob yig ("records of received teachings").

### **PG. 14**

English Ph.D. Candidate Hannah Manshel's "Altogether Without Form" wins the inaugural Holstein Graduate Prize.

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Pics by Dharmesh

## *Notes from the Chair's Desk*

The academic year 2017-18 has been quite exciting and productive in a number of ways. First, I am delighted to report the establishment of new Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies. The signing of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Endowed Chair Fund by and among Dr. Rushabh Jaswant Modi, Mr. and Mrs. Mahesh and Usha Wadher (The Wadher family Foundation), The U.C. Riverside Foundation and The Regents of the University of California, took place in a colorful function at UCR Alumni & Visitors Center on February 17, 2018, attended by Chancellor Kim Wilcox, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Dean Milagros "Milly" Peña, faculty members and the members of Jain community. Please see the cover photograph and many other images of this issue that rightly capture the exciting growth our Department is undergoing.

Second, during this year we were able to recruit successfully a new faculty to the position of Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Ana Bajzelj to our department and look forward to many years of collaboration with her. The presence of Jain studies in our curriculum will certainly enrich diversity in our teaching and research.

Third, the curriculum of our Undergraduate Program in Religious Studies has been revised under the guidance of our Undergraduate Advisor Dr. Amanda Lucia. This was done in the light of the recommendations of the external review of our Undergraduate Program in the last year. It is extremely important from academic perspective to keep pace with new developments in the field of religious studies.

Fourth, under the leadership of Professor Melissa Wilcox our Graduate Affairs Committee has revisited the curriculum of our graduate program and has redesigned its focus in terms of different tracks in research. The revised graduate curriculum is currently undergoing review process.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our commitment to our pedagogical work toward meeting the curricular needs of our graduate and undergraduate students in the coming years. We have much to celebrate in terms of the success of our faculty in winning research grants to reflect their productive research trajectory. Our colloquium series has been a great success. We are also grateful to our donors for supporting our department.

Pashaura Singh



## Faculty Updates

This year, **Dr. Paul Chang's** research has been focused in three directions. He submitted an article that uses the insights of Global Christianity to challenge the usefulness of existing categories that define Christianity—categories such as Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic. He suggests that all non-Roman Catholic Christians be called “Independent” and that many Independent Christians be defined as Primitivist or Apostolic rather than Protestant or Pentecostal. Dr. Chang also prepared an article that examines the life of Margaret Barber, an unknown but important English missionary and continued work on his book-length manuscript, an intellectual biography of Watchman Nee.

Teaching and advising continue to reward, as Dr. Chang refines his pedagogy and learn with his students. He was proud to chair both his first and second ever qualifying examinations and commends Katie Phillips and Joshua Earls for their diligence, brilliance, and promise as they launch forth on their prospectuses and careers. They will be well-served by their committees, which combine the highest standards of scholarship with generosity of spirit. Dr. Chang is always humbled and gratified by his colleagues in this fine department! Finally, Dr. Chang writes this from the People's Republic of China, to which he has returned for the first time in five years! He is glad to research, teach, and renew contacts in China.



**Professor Wilcox** has spent the year finalizing the publication of *Queer Nuns*, which was released in May 2018, working on her two textbooks on sexuality studies in religion and on queer and transgender studies in religion, and beginning to explore new research. She gave talks at venues ranging from the Center for Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis to “Fucking Solidarity,” the eighth annual Queering Paradigms conference in Vienna, Austria. Prior to arriving in Vienna, she interviewed and met with activists engaged in queer, performative religious protest (producers of the homoerotic Orthodox Calendar and members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence) in Bucharest, Odessa, Prague, and Poznań in an effort to better understand the situation on the ground for such activists in former Eastern Bloc countries. She introduced several new courses to the department this year – Religion, Society, and Culture in the fall, Queer Religiosities in the winter, and a graduate seminar on queer and transgender studies in religion in the spring. As the current Director of Graduate Studies, she is also spearheading departmental efforts to revise and strengthen the curricular requirements and offerings in the graduate program as part of our larger curriculum revision process.



This past year has been a year of transitioning to new major projects for **Professor Matthew King**. He completed his first book manuscript, *Ocean of Milk, Ocean of Blood: A Mongolian Monk in the Ruins of the Qing*, which is now forthcoming with Columbia University Press. He also completed several articles and book chapters, including six chapters of annotated translations (with analytical essays) of Tibetan-and Mongolian-language primary texts for a forthcoming book with Oxford University Press tentatively entitled *Sources of Mongolian Buddhism*. Prof. King is now pursuing his new major research project, on the late-imperial intersections of European positivism and empiricism with Inner Asian scholastic knowledge. Outside of his research, Prof. King welcomed 15 colleagues from the UK, Poland, Canada, Korea, and the US (including our Buddhist Studies PhD students Steven Quach and Elizabeth Miller) to UCR for a workshop funded by the ACLS/Luce Foundation China Studies program. Over two days, participants explored an understudied but vital genre of Inner Asian scholastic literature entitled *thob yig* (“records of teaching received”) from the perspective of literary history, social history, and the digital humanities.

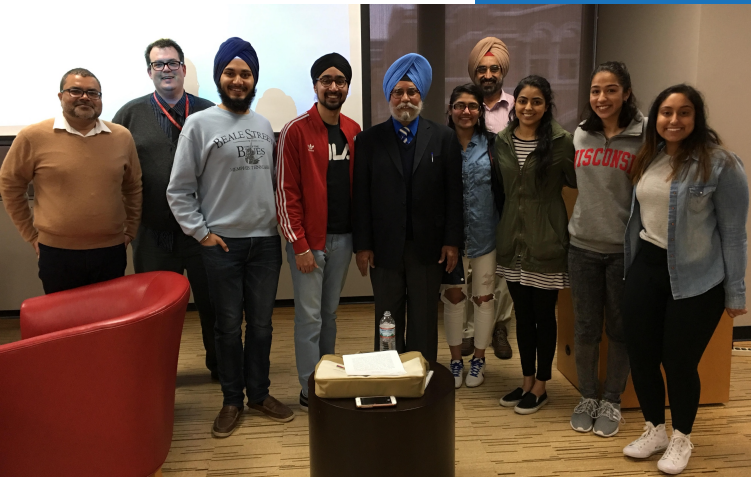


In the Fall Quarter, **Dr. Pashaura Singh** delivered a lecture on “Guru Gobind Singh’s Egalitarian Message and its Relevance in Modern Times” at a function to celebrate Guru Gobind Singh’s 350th Birth Anniversary at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, on November 10, 2017.

In the Spring Quarter, Dr. Singh presented a paper on “Power Play in the Formation of the Sikh Canon” as part of the Spring Lecture Series organized by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on April 12, 2018. In the evening he gave a talk on “Scripture as Guru in the Sikh Tradition” as part of a special Community Event in Celebration of Baisakhi at Memorial Library of UW-Madison.

Dr. Singh’s chapter on “The Guru Granth Sahib as a World Literary Dialogue” was accepted for publication in the volume *A Companion to World Literature* (Wiley-Blackwell), edited by B. Venkat Mani.

Finally, Dr. Singh co-signed (along with Arvind-pal Singh Mandair) an agreement with Taylor & Francis Group to edit the volume on *The Sikh World* to be delivered to the Publishers by 30th June 2020. The volume will contain 50 Essays on various topics related to the life world of the Sikh community.



This year, **Dr. Amanda Lucia** presented on topics related to celebrity hyper-gurus, scandals, and sexuality at Ohio University, Boston University, and UC Davis and white appropriations of yoga and Hinduism at CSU-Bakersfield and the Claremont University Club. She also responded to the book *Dream Trippers* and a panel on female gurus at the American Academy of Religions Annual Conference. Her article, "Guru Sex: Charisma, Proxemic Desire, and the Haptic Logics of the Guru-Disciple Relationship," was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religions (JAAR)* and another "An Unlikely Tīrtha: Making Gaudiya Vaishnava Space Sacred among the Mormons" was published in the *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*. She was awarded a CIS Second Project Award for Fall 2018 to complete her second book, *White Utopias: Yoga, Transformational Festivals, and American Spirituality*. She is still active in field research on race, yoga, and transformational festivals, and in 2018 she will be leading a bakery at Burning Man. In addition to her research, she was selected and participated in the UC Women's Initiative for Professional Development, a UC system-wide leadership training. In her teaching, she completed the curriculum and launched an online version of *Religious Myth and Ritual (RLST/ETST 012)*.



# 'Genealogies of Knowledge on the Inner Asian Frontiers of China'

This report summarizes a very successful workshop funded by ACLS/Luce Foundation entitled 'Genealogies of Knowledge on the Inner Asian Frontiers of China.' The workshop was held on January 26-27, 2018 at the Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside. It was co-sponsored (non-financially) by UCR's Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, and the Asian Studies Program.

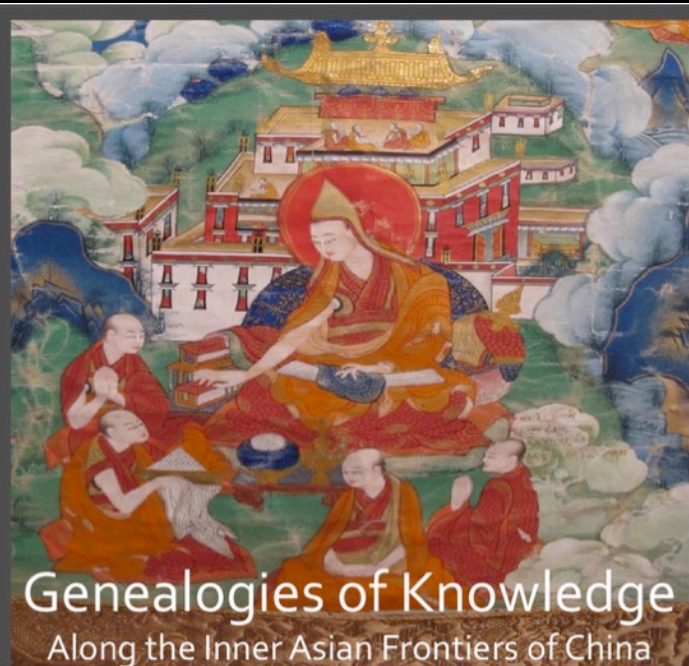
Because of the generosity of this ACLS/Luce Foundation program, I was able to invite a total of 15 experts from five countries (Canada, the UK, the USA, Korea, and Poland) to discuss this understudied Tibeto-Mongolian genre of gsan yig or thob yig ("records of received teachings"). In addition to the 15 official participants, several colleagues and graduate students from UCLA and UC Santa Barbara also attended, though they all added very actively to our discussions. In light of the profile of several of the senior colleagues who attended, as well as the profile of the funding bodies, the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies welcomed participants with opening remarks.

## An ACLS/Luce Foundation Workshop

Report by: Matthew W. King,  
Department of Religious  
Studies, UC Riverside

The workshop dwelt upon three major themes: 1) thob

yig as literature; 2) thob yig and the history of knowledge in late imperial Inner Asia; 3) thob yig and the digital humanities. In each session, two participants were tasked with leading the participants through a close reading of pre-selected sections of a particular thob yig from the 17-early 20th centuries, drawing our attention to distinctive literary features, organizing themes, unique departures, and so forth. Questions we considered included: What do the authors of gsan yig/thob yig say they are doing when writing such texts? What are the stated purposes of this genre? What dominant concepts seem to organize a particular gsan yig/thob yig? Ex. disciplines and orders of knowledge, modes of practice, management and authority, institutional legitimacy, renovation and repair (ie. fixing broken lineages), situated transmission (ie. emphasis on place), etc.? What "moves" in such texts (permissions, systems of self-cultivation, objects, etc.) and how might these be related to other kinds of formative movement like pilgrimage, study travel, flows of patronage, and so on?



## Genealogies of Knowledge Along the Inner Asian Frontiers of China

Jan. 26-27, 2018

ACLS/Luce Foundation China Reading Workshop  
The Center for Ideas and Society  
The Department of Religious Studies  
University of California, Riverside

Agata Bareja-Starzyńska (Warsaw)  
Sangseraima Ujeed (Oxford)  
Uranchimeg Tsultem (Berkeley)  
Kunga Sherab (Toronto)  
Michael Sheehy (MLI, UVA)  
Stacey Van Vleet (Berkeley)

Vesna Wallace (UCSB)  
Sarah Richardson (Toronto)  
Baatra Erdene-Ochir (UCSB)  
Ryan John Jones (McGill)  
Daigengna Duoer (UCSB)  
Matthew King (UCR)

Elizabeth Miller (UCR)  
Steven Ouach (UCR)  
Lisa Raphals (UCR)



As just a few examples of session topics, in my session I led participants through interesting reflections by Zawa Damdin Lubsangdamdin in his early twentieth-century, 1500-page thob yig about the form and purposes of writing “records of received teaching.” In that same session, my colleague Ryan Jones led participants through examples of developed digital prosopography projects (at Harvard and elsewhere) focused upon networks in the Mediterranean and imperial China, and then led a fascinating group discussion about ways these might be used to newly interpret thob yig on the basis of a nineteenth century example written by a scholastic from Eastern Tibet. As just a couple other examples, Stacey Van Vleet offered to lead us through a critical reading of the medical sections of the Fifth Dalai Lama’s thob yig. Agata Bareja-Starzynska and Sangseraima Ujeed led a joint session devoted to the 17th century Khalkha polymath Zaya Paṅḍita’s work. Sarah Richardson and Uranchimeg Tsultem, both art historians and scholars of Buddhism, led a fascinating session on the intersections of thob yig and visuality in mural paintings and other artwork directed at the laity.

“Rare and valuable opportunity to expand my critical thinking about the transmission of Buddhist knowledge in Inner Asia”

-Steven Quach, UCR

“I feel extremely privileged to have participated in such a unique workshop and I learned a great deal from these esteemed scholars.”

-Elizabeth Miller, UCR





## *Welcome Dr. Ana Bajželj!*

### **New Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair in Jain Studies**

Dr. Ana Bajželj received her Ph.D. from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Rajasthan in India and at the Polonsky Academy (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute) in Israel. She taught at the University of Ljubljana and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. Ana's research focuses on South Asian philosophical and religious traditions, with a special emphasis on Jainism. Her first book on Jaina metaphysics was published in 2016 by Ljubljana University Press. She is currently working on two book projects. The first proposes a novel reading of the central



“The presence of Jain studies in our curriculum will certainly enrich diversity in our teaching and research.”

-Dr. Pashaura Singh,  
Department of  
Religious Studies  
Chair, UCR

Jaina teaching of non-one-sidedness by examining how Jaina philosophers tackle the problems of time and temporality. The second book project, co-authored with Brianne Donaldson, investigates the relationship between Jainism and bioethics, exploring what foundations Jaina doctrines provide for addressing bioethical issues as well as how the tradition informs the attitudes and decisions of contemporary Jaina medical professionals.

## Graduate Student Updates

This year, **Cristina Rosetti** moved to Utah for the Mormon Studies Graduate Research Fellowship at the University of Utah. She participated in the Rocky Mountain American Religion Seminar, which brought Kathryn Gin Lum and Robert Orsi to campus to discuss their new work. During this seminar, Cristina was able to take a tour of the newly renovated Jordan River Temple with Robert Orsi, Colleen McDannell, Matthew Bowman, and Joseph Stuart. She served as co-chair for the North American Religion Unit of the AAR/WR and completed two book reviews for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. Cristina also conducted a live interview with William Smith on his book covering D&C 132 and sat on a panel with Gary Bergera and James Allen to discuss the newly released *Leonard Arrington Diaries*. Cristina presented at the Mormon History Association and Sunstone Symposium, and was accepted to present at the American Academy of Religion. This summer, she participated in the Maxwell Institute's Summer Seminar at BYU.

This year **Steven Quach** began preparations for his Qualifying Written Examinations, currently scheduled for winter 2019. He has also started a Designated Emphasis in Medical and Health Humanities, which will allow him to explore his interests in Buddhist meditation and its application for therapy.



The biggest development in **Hassanah El-Yacoubi's** academic career this year was passing her Qualifying exams. She is now beginning to work on her prospectus as she moves into the dissertation phase. Hassanah is also in the midst of completing the Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies Fellowship in Religious Identity by the Center for Ideas and Society. It has been an incredibly rich experience for her to be able to work with Howie Wettstein from the Philosophy Department, Katja Guenther from the Gender and Sexuality Department, Stephanie Wilms from the History Department, as well as fellow UCR PhD and undergraduate students working across different disciplines dedicated to creating intersectional perspectives in understanding various religious formations.

This year **Kathryn Phillips** passed her qualifying exams and advanced to candidacy. She has now begun working on her dissertation prospectus. She also presented a paper titled, "Impudent Woman or Holy Virgin: Gendered Readings of Thecla," at AAR Western Region.

This year, **Danielle Dempsey** completed her dissertation prospectus and began research and writing for her dissertation. Danielle's dissertation will focus on the intersection of contemporary institutional Roman Catholic sexual ethics, social doctrine, and contemporary Queer, Trans, and gender equality social activism movements. She presented a portion of her research in a paper entitled "New Age of Sin: Exploring Pope Francis's Condemnation of Gender Theory" at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting in Berkeley.

On June 1, 2018, **Ali Samji** received the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Best Graduate Student Paper Award (First Prize) for his paper entitled "Recontextualizing Islam in Southeast Asia." The award was presented to him by Professor Fariba Zarinebaf at the MEIS awards luncheon. The abstract reads: The study of Shi'ism in its multifarious forms provides a viable avenue of investigation for scholars interested in contextualizing the substratum of Muslim society before and after orthodoxy took shape in Southeast Asia. This paper explores the manner in which Islam in Southeast Asia can be recontextualized by considering trade networks, missionary activities, subaltern literatures, and gender roles. Moreover, it demonstrates that in order to understand Islam in Southeast Asia, Islam in the Indian subcontinent should be investigated. Finally, it elaborates on the current state of the Shi'a in Southeast Asia.



**Adam Tyson** is excited to be finishing up his first year in the UCR religious studies department! He is originally a proud Cheese-head from Wisconsin though he got his

Master's in Comparative Religion at the University of Washington - Seattle. This year, his research in early-modern Islam has taken him to religious debates between the Sufis and their opponents in the Ottoman Empire and the Acehese Sultanate with Dr. Zarinebaf in the History Department and our own Dr. Ali, respectively, and he is rounding out the year with an exploration of LGBTQ issues and Sufi philosophy in Islamicate cultures.

**Tejpaul Singh Bainiwal** was featured on CNN's United Shades of America episode on Sikh Americans. As part of the hour long special on May 6, 2018, Tejpaul spoke on and displayed the Sikh martial arts of shastar vidya. He also spent three weeks in Maryland teaching the local youth gatka and competed in a national competition in July 2018. Tejpaul submitted several entries to be published in an edited volume on "Religious Violence Today: Faith and Conflict in the Modern World." This will be his first publication! He was also selected as a Diversity Scholar for the National Trust (for Historic Preservation) conference taking place in San Francisco in November 2018.





This summer **Elizabeth Miller** had the opportunity to spend two months in Kathmandu, Nepal studying Classical Tibetan at Rangjung Yeshe Institute. In addition to attending an intensive language program, she attended lectures and dharma talks, took in much of the local history and culture, visited numerous religious sites, and even caught a glimpse of Mt. Everest via an airplane tour! Elizabeth is incredibly grateful to the staff and faculty in the department who helped make this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.



## *Upcoming 2018-19 Colloquium Series*

October 4 – Amanda Lucia, Department of Religious Studies, UCR

November 1 – Wade Clark Roof, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara

November 29 – Michael Alexander, Department of Religious Studies, UCR

January 17 – B. Venkat Mani, Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic, University of Wisconsin Madison

February 7 – Sarah Pike, California State University, Chico

March 7 – B. Scherer, INCISE, Canterbury Christ Church University

April 11 – Virginia Burrus, Syracuse University

May 2 – Michael Burroughs, California State University Bakersfield

May 30 – Danielle Dempsey, Religious Studies, UCR

## 2017-18 Colloquium Series

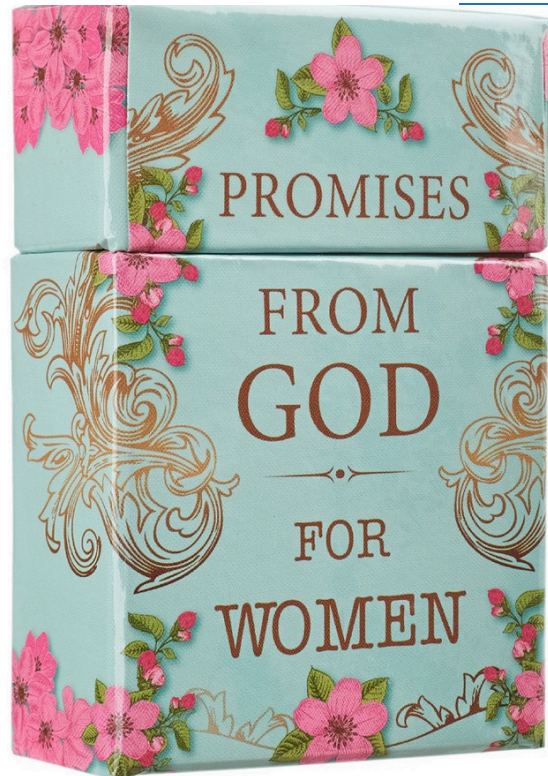


October 5 – “The Virgin of Guadalupe, Her Miraculous Appearances and Science Fact/Fiction” - Rudy Busto, Department of Religious Studies, U.C. Santa Barbara

November 2 – “‘The Breaking of the Outer Man’: Asceticism, the Self, and the Church in Watchman Nee’s Mature Thought” - Paul Chang, Department of Religious Studies, U.C. Riverside

December 7 – “Informant as Researcher: Rethinking the Subjective Experience of Studying One’s Own Community” - Shou-Jen Kuo, Department of Religious Studies, U.C. Riverside

January 25 – “The Unread Book: Visual Display and Image Narratives in Medieval Tibet” - Sarah Aoife Richardson, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto



February 12 – “Illness, Medicine, and Ascetic Practice: Jaina Attitudes to the Medical Treatment of Mendicants” - Ana Bajzelj, Department of Religious Studies, U.C. Riverside

February 15 – “Making Personal (and Public?) Violence Visible Through the Jain Ritual of Pratikramana” - Brianna Donaldson, Rice University

February 22 – “Jainism and Multiplexity of Reality: Logic and Semantics Vis-à-vis Morality and Politics” - Piotr Balcerowicz, University of Warsaw (Poland)

April 12 – “The Faithfully Indebted: Going into Debt for Christ in Colombia” - Rebecca Bartel, San Diego State University

May 10 – “Carceral Technologies, Biblical Affects, U.S. Theopolitics” - Erin Runions, Department of Religious Studies, Pomona College

May 31 – “What is ‘Asian American’ about Asian American Christianity?” - Rebecca Y. Kim, Department of Sociology and Ethnic Studies Program, Pepperdine University

# Inaugural Holstein Graduate Prize

**Katie Phillips'** submission, "Impudent Woman or Holy Virgin: Gendered Readings of Thecla," was presented at the most recent meeting of the AAR's Western Region. Focused on a well-known early Christian evangelist the paper explores early Christian uses of, appropriations of, and reactions to Thecla's story. Noting the established scholarship on the challenges that Thecla's story, and Thecla herself, brought to early Christian models of gender, as well as the ways that Thecla was tamed and reclaimed by the men often known as the "Church Fathers," Katie's paper argues that Thecla's life, and the story that lived on long after her death, may have created opportunities and inspiration for Christian women who sought something beyond the narrow confines of traditional Roman gender roles. The committee was impressed by the careful, detailed analysis that Katie was able to work into even such a short conference paper, and by the way this paper begins to set up Katie's larger dissertation project.

Also working on the impact and management of women's lives and stories in early Christianity is **Rick Howick**. His submission, "The Prison Diary of Perpetua and the Grooming of Her Voice," which was originally a class paper, explores the layers of authorship in narratives of the life of the martyr Perpetua and the roles of gender in what scholars believe to be her own relatively unaltered narrative as well as the



*"We were excited to receive four strong submissions this year, so selecting the winner was both a challenge and a joy!"*

-Dr. Melissa Wilcox,  
Holstein Family and  
Community Chair, UCR

editorial decisions made by later (male) redactors and interpreters. Coming in some ways to similar conclusions as Katie, Rick finds a strong, profoundly human, persistently faithful and resistant young women at the heart of Perpetua's narrative, one whose story was perceived by later male church leaders as in need of careful management not only for its hints of religious heresy but also for its overtones of infidelity to the gendered mandates of the society of specifically of their ideas of female Christian propriety. Intriguingly, both Rick and Katie focus on early Christian figures who defied gender roles to such an extent that their own gender-slash-sex (the two weren't particularly separable in these communities) came into some question. The committee was especially impressed by the depth of analysis and the thoroughness of the background research in Rick's very fine paper, as well as his ability to evocatively capture the variety of voices and multiple truths circulating about, and in, Perpetua's story.

**Dani Dempsey**, like Katie, submitted a paper she recently presented at the AAR's Western regional meeting. Entitled "New Age of Sin: Exploring Pope Francis's Condemnation of Contemporary Gender Theory," the paper is an initial formulation of the questions and analytical perspectives that Dani is bringing to her dissertation project, which takes as its launching point Pope Francis' recent remarks on what he calls

“gender theory” as a form of (his words again) “ideological colonization” and the contrast between Francis’ relatively (well, relative to Pope Benedict, anyway) benign stance on gay male Catholics and his clear opposition to support for the full inclusion of transgender Catholics and to women’s ordination. Dani managed to fit an impressive level of rich analysis into a short conference paper, particularly in the questions she raised – questions to which she is now in the midst of sorting out the answers as she begins to frame out her dissertation. The committee was impressed with this richness, and with the promise of Dani’s project.

By unanimous decision of the Graduate Program Committee, the inaugural Holstein Award went to a completed dissertation chapter: “Altogether Without Form,” by English Ph.D. Candidate **Hannah Manshel**. Focused on the Antinomian Controversy in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, during which well-known (or perhaps, well-known to historians of US religions) dissident Anne Hutchinson was eventually banished from the colony, this first chapter of Hannah’s dissertation argues that colonial, Puritan anxieties over white women out of place indexed an even more profound anxiety over the colonial project itself, both its settler colonial aspects and the franchise colonial product (in economic terms) of enslaved black bodies. As Hannah puts it, “by reading Puritan texts ‘with the grain,’ we can discern the ways

in which Puritan anxieties about the ways in which women and racialized others (Indians and Africans) embodied a particular form of lawlessness inspired a legal and sovereign crackdown to manage the apparent threat. This makes it possible to track the ways in which the appearance and practice of lawlessness, the disruption of the legal logic of possession, and the de-lamination of law from land was deployed by Indians, Africans, and women as a non-oppositional mode of resistance to Puritan legal hegemony.” Nimbly combining critical race, postcolonial, settler colonial, and gender theory with the tools of literary analysis and a sharp understanding of the religious dynamics involved, Hannah offers an important and much-needed intervention into the single-issue gender analyses that all too often ground historians’ discussion of Hutchinson and the controversies surrounding her and her followers.

Report by Dr. Melissa Wilcox



# Multidisciplinary Unit Updates

Josie Ayala and Diana Marroquín will join the MDU staff as our new Budget Analysts. Their first day will be Monday, July 9th. Given the enormous growth of the MDU, the very large financial workload, and the college administration recognizing such, the single position is now two and responsibilities have been split as listed below.

## **Josie Ayala**

### **Departments:**

Ethnic Studies

Gender & Sexuality Studies

### **Programs:**

Latin American Studies

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersexual, and

Transgender Studies

Liberal Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies

Southeast Asian Studies

## **Diana Marroquín**

### **Departments:**

Media & Cultural Studies

Religious Studies

### **Programs:**

Asian Studies

Global Studies

Labor Studies

Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies

Peace and Conflict Studies

Josie transfers to us from the UCR Financial Aid Office where she been the Federal Direct Loan Program Coordinator since 2011. Prior to that, she worked in finance for DeVry University, University of Phoenix, and Los Angeles County. Diana, as you know has already been working for the MDU Cluster Unit since 2012 serving as the Payroll/Accounting Specialist. Prior to that Diana worked for UC Riverside between from 2000-10 within the



Student Affairs arena. We will now begin to recruit for the Payroll/Accounting Specialist position.

Also, at this time, we want to wish Celeste Townsend the best as she begins her new position as Interim President for the California Indian Nations College (CINC) and thank her for continuing to help out until the above recruitment could be concluded.

As of June 28th, our Enrollment Manager, Tricia Smith, has retired. We wish Tricia a wonderful and happy retirement.

We have hired a new person, her name is Agnes Lee and she will start on July 9th, but until she is trained and up to speed on scheduling in Banner. Agnes Lee is a UCR alum who graduated with a BA in Political Science in 2014. Prior to her coming on to the Enrollment Management Position she was working at C2 Education in Diamond Bar as the Center Director for 4 years.

In other exciting news, the Multidisciplinary Unit staff were the winners of the 2017-2018 Staff Assembly Costume Contest with their theme "Alicia in Wonderland." Their theme even inspired the Mad Hatter theme for the Staff Assembly December Celebration.

This school year has been great, and we hope that we have a wonderful 2018-2019 school year.

Report by Ryan Mariano





# 2018 Awards and Graduates

**Edwin S. Gaustad Award:** Mark Anthony Pishay

**Barbara and Donald Donner Essay Award:** Margaret Gardner

**Achievement Award:** Emma Nicole Sherwood

**Encouragement Award:** Ibrahim Mohammad Tabel

**Holstein Chair Undergraduate Award:** Alvaro Daniel Cubides

**Holstein Graduate Prize in Religion and Social Justice:** Hannah Manshel

**June O'Connor Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award:** Nathan Womack

**Religious Studies Graduate Service Award:** Kathryn Phillips



## Majors

Arevalo, Beverly Lynn  
Garcia, Ivette Abigail  
Ozuna, Giselle  
Pishay, Mark Anthony  
Sherwood, Emma Nicole

## Masters

El-Yacoubi, Hassanah  
Phillips, Kathryn

## Minors

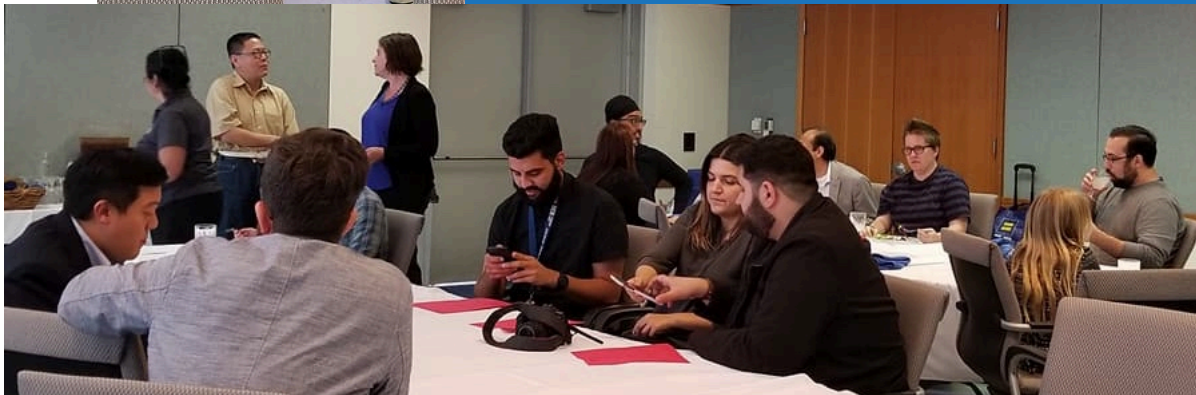
Dickenson, Calvin Benjamin  
Singh, Aashna  
Tesmer, Agatha Ada

## PhD Candidacy

Earls, Joshua  
El-Yacoubi, Hassanah  
Phillips, Kathryn

## PhD

Dr. Cori Knight  
Dr. Shou-Jen Kuo  
Dr. Justin Rose



# Beyond Graduation: Undergrad Updates

Most Pre-Law students often feel pressured to major in Philosophy or Political Science because those majors are believed to prep students for a career in Law. However, **Ibrahim Tabel** decided to major in RLST due to his passion for religion and the way empires, cultures and even laws were dependent on it. Majoring in RLST gave him skills that will be essential for his law school journey, and for his long-term career goal as an attorney. RLST courses helped him develop research skills that he will continue to use for the rest of his career, including: how to read and understand difficult texts, think about what he reads critically, and how to express his thoughts in effective language. As a law student, Ibrahim will be constantly reading law cases from the past, and the background in RLST gives him an advantage in understanding such tasks.

Already on the undergraduate pre-health track as a neuroscience major, **Agatha Tesmer** recognized a gap in her educational endeavors and craved a more humanistic approach to understanding the world. What began as a general interest developed into a passion for making connections between religion and psychology, philosophy, politics, history and, eventually, medicine. Agatha grew amazed by how relevant religious studies appeared throughout her pre-med and neuroscience courses despite



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- **Agatha Tesmer**  
Major: Neuroscience  
Minor: Religious Studies

seeming fundamentally opposing in nature. She firmly believes that her additional exposure to the social sciences has prepared her to develop deeper interpersonal relationships with the diversity of patients she hopes to serve in the future. Beyond her own personal experiences, Agatha truly believes that every discipline across the UCR campus can gain something extremely valuable from becoming involved with this wonderful department and its staff!

As an undergraduate Asian Studies major student, **Fnu Baoagudamu** took several religion studies courses. He believes it is crucial for students to take a wide variety of courses as it will help them discover what their real interests are for the future. When Fnu was taking religious studies courses, he spent plenty of time doing research on several different religions, which helped him realize that he wanted to do something related with religion in his future. Fnu will be applying for graduate school to continue research on religion as he strives to become a religious studies professor.

Right: UCR Chancellor Dr. Kim Wilcox speaking with Drs. Amanda Lucia, Michael Alexander, and Melissa Wilcox at the Jain Studies signing event.



Right: UCR Chancellor Dr. Kim Wilcox greets attendees at the Jain Studies signing event on February 17, 2018.



Pics by Dhamesh

Left: Graduate Students with Dr. Muhamad Ali following his "Southeast Asian Islam" graduate seminar.



Right: UCR Chancellor Dr. Kim Wilcox with the Jain Studies Chair Donors during the event on February 17, 2018 at the UCR Alumni & Visitors Center.



Pics by Dharmesh



Left: RLST Graduate student Cristina Rosetti on a panel with Gary Bergera and James Allen to discuss the newly released Leonard Arrington Diaries.



Top: Dr. Paul Chang speaking to a group of students during his visit to China.



Left: Graduate Students with Dr. Muhamad Ali following his "Southeast Asian Islam" graduate seminar.

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