Upcoming Lectures

Professor Jacob Olupona (Harvard University) will be giving the second 2014 Delton Scudder lecture. The talk, which will be entitled “Transnational Migration: America's Emerging African Diaspora,” will take place March 19, 2014, from 3:30 - 5:00pm, in Grinter Hall, Room 404, with a reception to follow.

Presentations

Professor Mario Poceski finalized the schedule for the symposium on East Asian Buddhism he is convening and organizing at the University of Hamburg, May 22-24, 2014. The Symposium’s theme is “Communities of Memory: Reimagining and Reinventing the Past in East Asian Buddhism.” Participants will include Wendi Adamek (University of Calgary), Stefania Travagnin (University of Groningen), Jörg Plassen (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Jinhua Chen (University of British Columbia), Imre Hamar (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), Marek Zemanek (Charles University, Prague), Jörg Quenzer (University of Hamburg), Steffen Döll (University of Munich), Michaela Mross (University of Gottingen), and Carl Bielfeldt (Stanford University). If any UF faculty and graduate students happen to be in Germany, they are welcome to come for the presentations and discussions.

The Religion Graduate Student Association (RGSA) will be hosting their monthly paper reading at the Jones B-Side on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 5:45pm. Bhakti Mamora (PhD student, Asian Religions) will be presenting a paper titled "Youth Activities: Creating a Swaminarayan-American Identity" before she presents it at the SECSOR Meeting March 7-9, 2014 in Atlanta.

Publications

Professor Mario Poceski’s new publication, a review of Joachim Gentz, Understanding Chinese Religions (Edinburgh and London: Dunedin Academic Press, 2013), was processed by the editor and will appear in the Journal of Chinese Religions 42/2(2014).

Professor Manuel Vásquez’s article entitled “From Colonialism to Neo-Liberal Capitalism: Latino/A Immigrants in the U.S. and the New Biopolitics” appeared as part of a special issue on “Decoloniality and Crisis” in the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory 13(1): 81-100.

Caleb Simmons’s (PhD candidate, Asian Religions) article “The goddess and Vaisnnavism in Search for Regional Supremacy: Wodeyar Devotional Traditions during the Reign of Raja Wodeyar (1578-1617 CE)” has been published in Indian History, Vol. 1 No. 1 (Spring 2014) pp. 27-46.
News

Professor Zoharah Simmons was interviewed on Friday, February 21, 2014, for an upcoming radio documentary on Voting Rights in the United States developed by the syndicated radio program – Human Kind – to be aired on NPR in the summer of 2014. The interviews were conducted at UF’s NPR studios here on campus by the director/producer of the program, David Freudberg. Dr. Simmons was asked to speak about the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project (in which she was a participant), the obstacles to voting faced by blacks in Mississippi at that time, and the efforts made by the project to correct these injustices.