

Friday Bulletin, February 6, 2015

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

Did you miss the Religion & Culture in a Digital Age conference? For those interested, a summary and overview of the Department of Religion's first Graduate Student Conference — "Religion and Culture in a Digital Age" — was posted to our UF Religion website.

Click [HERE](#) for an exploration of the papers presented, the topics covered, and to learn how this conference helped further the study of religion & digital humanities. Thanks again to the organizers, participants, and attendees for their support! (Submitted by PhD student, **Ken Chitwood**)

The Rothman Distinguished Lecture in Classics presents **Eric Rebillard**, Cornell University, entitled "Popular Hatred against Christians: The Case of North Africa in the Second and Third Centuries," on Friday, February 6, 2015, at 5:00-6:30pm in the Keene Faculty Center. This event is free and open to the public.

On Monday, February 9, 2015, from noon to 1:30pm, **Dr. Jakob Thorsen** (Aarhus University – Denmark) will be offering a workshop entitled "Ethnographic Fieldwork among Religious Groups in Latin America – Design, Execution, Positioning, and Interpretation." The event will be held in 117 Anderson Hall. He will also offer a lecture entitled "The Incipient Pentecostalization of Latin American Catholicism – a Case Study from Guatemala with Continental Perspectives." In this lecture, Dr. Thorsen will discuss how the practices and spirituality of the Charismatic Renewal Movement, arguably the most dynamic lay movement in Latin American Catholicism, affects all levels of the Catholic Church, from the life of an Ecclesial Base Community in a parish in Guatemala City to the pastoral strategies and priorities of the Latin American Bishops (CELAM). The lecture will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2015, from noon to 1:30pm also in 117 Anderson Hall. Note the change of date for the lecture.**

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 11:45am, **Ken Chitwood** will give a lecture entitled "UF: Somalia as Samaria: Kenyan Christians and the reimagining of Christian-Muslim conflict in East Africa," in 471 Grinter Hall. Ken Chitwood is a PhD student & teaching assistant at the University of Florida studying Religion in the Americas with interests including glocalization, transnationalism, intersections of religion & culture, global Christianity, global Islam, Islam in the Americas, Islamic minorities, theories of religion, & ethnographic methods. He is also a journalist covering religion and culture, and his work, academic and popular, has been featured in *Religion News Service*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*, *The Washington Post*, *Concordia Journal*, *Sightings from the University of Chicago*, *Missio Apostolica*, *Deseret News National*, *Christian Century*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *US Catholic*, *RealClear Religion*, and other publications.

As part of its initiative on “Faith and Vocation,” The Christian Study Center will be hosting a lecture by **Ryan Duffy**, Associate Professor of Psychology, UF, entitled “Strategies for Finding and Living Out Your Calling: Practical Wisdom from the Psychology of Vocation.” Professor Duffy is the co-author of *Make Your Job a Calling: How the Psychology of Vocation Can Change Your Life at Work*. The lecture will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 6:00pm at the Christian Study Center of Gainesville (112 NW 16th St., just two blocks north of University Avenue and Library West).

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 5:30pm, Dr. **Amir Hussain** will give a talk entitled “(Re)presenting: Images of Muslims in North American Television and Film,” in 404 Grinter Hall—the Center for African Studies. In this lecture, Dr. Hussain analyzes the portrayal of Muslims in several North American television shows and movies. He will focus on the two seasons of *Sleeper Cell*, the first show on American television created to deal with Muslim lives post 9/11. Dr. Hussain will also discuss Muslim characters in *Oz*, *Saving Grace*, *Lost*, and *24* as well as some films to add further insights. Further, he will compare these television dramas with two comedies, *Community* and *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, the first Canadian television show to examine Muslim lives. Dr. Hussain is professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, where he has been teaching courses on Islam and world religions since 2005. He is the Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, the premier scholarly journal for the study of religion. His own research focuses on contemporary Muslim societies in North America, and he is the author or editor of 5 books and over 50 book chapters and scholarly articles. In 2008, he was appointed a fellow of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities.

[Religion, Science and the Future](#), the 10th anniversary conference of the [International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture](#), will be held January 14-17, 2016 at the University of Florida. The full call for proposals and papers is now available at http://www.religionandnature.com/society/pdf/ISSRNC_CFP-2016.pdf

The lead UF organizer for this conference is Professor **Bron Taylor**, who also led the collaboration that founded the ISSRNC in 2006. We expect about 200 participants from around the world, and, as was the case the first time around, many hands will be needed to make the conference a success. If you are able to help, please contact Dr. Taylor at your earliest convenience. The ISSRNC is the foremost scholarly society focusing in an interdisciplinary way on the nexus religion, nature, and culture.

Presentations

Professor **Mario Poceski** was invited to give three lectures on Chinese religions at Hartford Seminary, on June 9 and 10, 2015. He will be traveling from Germany to Connecticut for the lectures.

Professor **Bron Taylor** will give two presentations at the invitation of the Environmental Philosophy and Ethics Program at Michigan State University on Monday, February 9, 2015: the first as part of a lunchtime workshop, focusing on the ethics of radical environmental movements, the second, a large public lecture drawing on his book *Dark Green Religion*.

News

Professor **Manuel Vásquez** and Professor **Philip Williams** (Center for Latin American Studies/Political Science), co-directors of the Program for Immigration, Religion, and Social Change (PIRSC), have received a \$50,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to carry out a series of guided conversations with religious leaders with the aim of encouraging a more civil, rational, and informed discourse that takes into account the moral dilemmas and human predicaments, as well as the potential benefits and challenges posed by immigration. The project, which will be conducted in collaboration with the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University, New Orleans, will also develop materials to help faith communities engage in immigrant integration issues. Congratulations, Dr. Vasquez and Dr. Williams!

Professor **Bron Taylor** has launched his “Terranaut” blog, which began with an overview of recent research into what he calls the “greening of religion hypothesis;” see <http://www.brontaylor.com/blog/>

Deadlines

The applications for Summer 2015 Travel Support for Graduate Students, for the period May 1 – August 31, 2015, are due in the Dean’s office by 4:00pm on Monday, March 16, 2015. The application is available on the web at <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/index.html>. Since the graduate studies committee will have to evaluate and rank the applications before forwarding them to CLAS, please submit a copy of your application by email to Dr. Hackett by 4:00pm, Wednesday, March 11, 2015. The department also offers matching support. In order to apply for these funds, you will need to have applied for support from CLAS, International Studies, GSA, or any other external source. The application for departmental travel funds can be found at http://sites.clas.ufl.edu/religion/files/Religion_Travel_Support_Application.pdf. Please submit this application by email to Dr. Hackett by 4:00pm, Monday, March 23, 2015.

UF’s Center for Latin American Studies announces . . .

FLAS 2015-2016 Academic Year Fellowships

Through support from the U.S. Department of Education, the Center for Latin American Studies offers Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowships to support training in Brazilian Portuguese and Haitian Creole.

For graduate students, the fellowship covers tuition and fees for 12 graduate credit hours per semester, provides a stipend of \$17,000 total for the 2015-16 academic year (fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters), and includes GatorGradCare coverage.

For undergraduate students, the fellowship covers tuition and fees not already covered by other financial aid or scholarships (up to a maximum of \$10,000 for the academic year) and provides a scholarship of \$5000 total for the 2015-16 academic year (\$2500 each for the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters).

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be (or applying to become) full-time UF graduate or undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Undergraduate applicants must have at least intermediate proficiency in Portuguese or Haitian Creole. There is no proficiency requirement

for graduate applicants. Priority will be given to applicants pursuing a Master's degree, graduate certificate, or undergraduate minor/certificate in Latin American Studies. Professional school students are also encouraged to apply. Applications are reviewed by the Center's Financial Aid Committee.

Fellowship Requirements

Each semester, recipients must enroll in a minimum of 3 credit hours of Portuguese or Haitian Creole and at least 3 credits of Latin American area studies. Recipients are also required to take language proficiency exams and to complete online reports about their fellowship on a semester basis.

After the fellowship period is completed, recipients will complete a short survey about their job placement every two years.

Application Deadline

February 6, 2015

Application Materials

To apply for a FLAS Academic Year Fellowship, please submit the following:

- FLAS Academic Year Fellowship Application
- Two page statement of purpose describing how the study of Brazilian Portuguese or Haitian Creole and Latin American area studies will benefit your program of study and career plans
- Two letters of recommendation* accompanied by a Release Form. For graduate students, one of the letters should be from your adviser, unless you are a new UF applicant.
- UF academic transcript; new UF applicants may submit photocopies from previous universities or colleges

Submission

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