

# Friday Bulletin, February 21, 2014

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*Department of Religion, University of Florida*

## 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 Mamtara** (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 Vaiṣṇavism in Search for Regional Supremacy: Wodeyar Devotional Traditions during the Reign of Rāja 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.