

Friday Bulletin, March 6, 2015

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The **Islam in Africa Working-group** is organizing a talk on March 10, 2015, at 11:45am in 471 Grinter Hall. The speaker is Professor **Hania Abou al-Shamat**, UF, and her talk is entitled "Receptivity and Impact of Legal Reforms: From Islamic to 'French' Commercial Law, Egypt 1880s-1950s." Hania Abou al-Shamat is a research associate at the Department of History and the Center for African Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Political Economy and Public Policy from the University of Southern California. Her research interests are interdisciplinary, spanning the areas of economics, law, and history, with particular focus on Islamic institutions. Her research is published in the *Journal of Islamic Studies*, and the *Islamic Law and Society Journal*. She has been a fellow at the American Research Center in Cairo (2011-2012) and a Fulbright scholar in Turkey (2013-2014).

Kocku von Stuckrad, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, will give a presentation on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, beginning at 6:15pm, titled "Theorizing Shamanism in the Contested Field between Academia, Colonialism, and Religious Practice." The lecture will be held in Pugh Hall 170 and a reception will follow. *Lecture description:* "Theories of shamanism in the twentieth century have operated in a hybrid space between academia, colonialism, and religious identities. Discourses of authenticity and appropriation of religious heritage mark the borders of this contested field. The lecture addresses the underlying dynamics with a focus on what is often called "neoshamanism" and argues that this religious practice is in fact the materialization of scholarly discourses more or less detached from 'indigenous tradition,' although the construction of 'indigenouness' plays an important role in the formation and legitimization of knowledge in this field." Anyone who is interested in meeting with Professor von Stuckrad during his visit should contact Professor **Bron Taylor**, who is organizing the event.

Presentations

Professor **Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons** will be a respondent to the film: "She's Beautiful When She's Angry," on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 7:30pm at the Hippodrome Theatre in Gainesville, FL. The film is an entertaining and witty portrayal of feminism's roots and growth in the latter half of the 20th century. It performs a critical service by recalling the many brave women and the risks they took to advance the equality of women in the United States and beyond. It should be required viewing for all women who take women's rights for granted.

Professor **Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons** was on a panel at the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee, FL, in their series: Civil Rights in the Sunshine State, on Friday, February 27, 2015, at 5:30pm. The topic for the panel was "Women in the Civil Rights Movement." The panel participants included, UF's **Dr. Paul Ortiz**, the moderator, **Ms. Priscilla Stephens Kruize**, a

student leader in the 1960s Florida Civil Rights Movement, and Ms. **Sandra Parks**, a Florida Civil Rights leader.

Professor **Terje Ostebo** gave two guest-lectures: “Patterns of Islamization in Africa and Theories of Conversion” and “Faith in the Ethiopian Developmental State” at the University of Bergen, on March 3 and 4, 2015. He also delivered a paper: “Thinking about the Muslim Brothers: The Intellectualist Movement in Ethiopia” at the conference “**R**eform and Tradition in Muslim and Christian Communities in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin-America From the Early 20th Century to the Present,” at the University of Bergen, on March 7-8, 2015.

Jodi Shaw (PhD student, Asia Track) will be presenting her paper, "Bharatanatyam: Devotion and Culture Become Muscle Memory," at the regional AAR (SECSOR) in Nashville, TN, on March 6, 2015.

Publications

The latest issue of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* is now available (v. 8, #3), and includes an introduction from Senior Assistant editor and Assistant Professor of Religion at Mississippi State University, **Joe Witt**.

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Laura Hobgood-Oster, *The Friends We Keep: Unleashing Christianity's Compassion for Animals* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010)

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Susan Power Bratton, *The Spirit of the Appalachian Trail: Community, Environment, and Belief on a Long-Distance Hiking Path* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2012)

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David L. Clough, *On Animals*. Volume 1, Systematic Theology (London: T&T Clark International, 2012)

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The journal, which was founded and is edited by Professor **Bron Taylor**, is available for free to members of the International Society for the Study of Religion Nature and Culture. See <http://www.religionandnature.com/> or <http://www.equinoxpub.com/JSRNC>

News

Professor **Anna Peterson** received a \$5000.00 award from the UF International Center to develop a course on "Global Ethics" for their Global Studies initiative. Congratulations, Dr. Peterson!

The Center for Global Islamic Center is happy to announce this **Graduate Certificate in Global Islam**. The goal of this certificate is to train students to pursue careers in teaching and research related to Islam, and will broaden students' understanding of the diversity of Islam in the global context. The certificate requires the completion of 15 credits for all students. All students must choose two of the three core courses, and three additional elective courses related to particular contexts and topics. The certificate will be of an interdisciplinary character, offering courses taught in the departments of Religion, Anthropology, History, LLC, Political Science, and the Center for African Studies. This means that the students will be exposed to and familiarized with a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches drawing from disciplines within the social sciences and the humanities. For more info and how to apply, please visit this link:

<http://globalislam.center.ufl.edu/academics/graduate-certificate-in-global-islamic-studies/>

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.