

# Friday Bulletin, March 27, 2015

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*Department of Religion, University of Florida*

## News and Upcoming Events

The **Center for Jewish Studies** has organized the following two events:

[http://web.jst.ufl.edu/pdf/2015-02\\_%20JewishFilmFest\\_posterV2.pdf](http://web.jst.ufl.edu/pdf/2015-02_%20JewishFilmFest_posterV2.pdf) and

[http://web.jst.ufl.edu/pdf/2015-02\\_EastWest\\_ConcertPosterMailerV2.pdf](http://web.jst.ufl.edu/pdf/2015-02_EastWest_ConcertPosterMailerV2.pdf)

The **Center for Global Islamic Studies** is organizing a lecture by **Dr. Jerusha Lamptey**, Union Theological Seminary: “‘Wholly Other’ or ‘Holy Other’: Islam, Religious Diversity and Muslima Theology.” The time and venue will be March 30, 2015, @ 5:00pm - 7:00pm, in 404 Grinter Hall (Center for African Studies). Professor Jerusha T. Lamptey received an M.A. in Islamic Sciences at the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences in Leesburg, VA in 2004, and her Ph.D. in Theological and Religious Studies at Georgetown University in 2011. Before joining the Union faculty in July of 2012, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology at Georgetown University, where she taught courses on Islam, the Qur’an, feminist theology, and philosophy of religion.

**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 at the Keene Faculty Center. *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.

The **Islam in Africa Working Group**, **Center for African Studies** (co-sponsored by the **Center for Global Islamic Studies** and the **Sahel Research Group**) is hosting a symposium: “Sufism in Africa: Adapting to Changing Realities.” The time and venue will be April 3-4, 2015, in 404 Grinter Hall (Center for African Studies). Click here for the full program:

<http://religion.ufl.edu/event/sufism-in-africa-adapting-to-changing-realities/>

## Presentations

Professor **Bron Taylor** is one of the featured speakers at the symposium “The Human Face of Environmental Inequality” at Wake Forest University, March 26-27, 2015. Event information: <http://humanitiesinstitute.wfu.edu/the-human-face-of-environmental-inequality>

## News

**Ken Chitwood** (PhD, 2014) was appointed to serve on the Religion Newswriters Association Board of Directors for a three-year term. To learn more about what this means and how it benefits not only religion journalism but also the study of religion in the U.S. and internationally, please visit the [announcement](#) page. Congratulations, Ken!

### **#UFReligion Dept. Digital Media Announcement:**

The Religion Department at the University of Florida is pleased to announce new initiatives in its digital media strategy. Increasingly, the department is aware of the need to interface with the university at-large, faculty and students within the department, and the general public with a web-based presence. **Ken Chitwood** is spearheading this process and has a few particular initiatives he would like you to be aware of and take part in:

- **Social Media:** UF Religion is on Twitter @UFreligion and on Facebook! Be sure to follow @UFreligion and “like” us on Facebook for news, updates, invitations, and social connections!
- **Check out the Website:** The department website has been updated with up-to-date events postings, news items, updated contact information, and our new Wish You Were Here Florida State Parks project page.
- **UF Religion Blog:** In Fall 2015, our department will launch its own blog with essays, videos, podcasts, and opportunities for social engagement and classroom engagement at the undergraduate and graduate levels. If you are interested in being part of the process of shaping what this blog will be, please contact Ken.

**Upcoming News:** In the coming weeks, we will have more event news, alumni stories, book notes, and faculty profiles. If you have any other news, please submit your news and notes to Ken. For any questions or comments, please contact Ken Chitwood — [kchitwood@ufl.edu](mailto:kchitwood@ufl.edu).

## Deadlines

Here is our Fall 2015 schedule: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201508/all/religion.htm>