

Friday Bulletin, May 30, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Presentations and Conferences

Professor **Mario Poceski** organized a very successful symposium on East Asian Buddhism, held at the University of Hamburg, May 22-24, 2014. Participants included **W. Adamek** (U Calgary); **S. Travagnin** (U Groningen); **J. Plassen** (U Bochum); **J. Chen** (U British Columbia); **M. Zemanek** (Charles U, Prague); **S. Döll** (U München); **M. Mross** (U Gottingen); and **C. Bielfeldt** (Stanford U). He also presented a paper at the symposium, titled “Reimagining Patriarch Ma and Rewriting Chan History.”

Professor **Poceski** also secured funding for another conference, which he will convene and organize at the University of Hamburg in May 2015. The theme of the conference is the Construction of Buddhist Studies in Europe. It will cover a variety of themes and issues related to the academic study of Buddhism in a European context, including disciplinarity, method, theory, and economy of knowledge.

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** will speak at the University of Southern Mississippi's "Remembering Freedom Summer" conference on June 19, 2014, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Simmons will speak on "The Role of Women in the Mississippi Civil Rights Struggle."

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** is featured in the upcoming PBS documentary "Freedom Summer," by the acclaimed documentary filmmaker, **Stanley Nelson**, which premieres nationally on June 24, 2014 on the PBS network.

Professor **Manuel A. Vásquez** chaired a panel entitled “Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism in Latin America” at the XXXII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, on May 21 – 24, 2014, in Chicago.

Publications

Professor **Mario Poceski's** new journal article, “Conceptions and Attitudes towards Contemplative Practice within the Early Traditions of Chan Buddhism,” was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*. It will come out in print in the 2015 issue of the journal.

Professor **Mario Poceski** accepted the role of an editor of a new book, titled *Communities of Memory: Reimagining and Reinventing the Past in East Asian Buddhism*. The edited volume will include revised contributions from the aforementioned symposium on East Asian Buddhism, as well as newly commissioned essays by leading scholars in Buddhist Studies. The book is expected to be published by Hamburg University Press in the second half of 2015.

News

Professor **Mario Poceski** received special funding from the Humboldt Foundation for the study of German, which he will begin on July 1, 2014.

Alumni Notes

Congratulations to UF religion graduate **Jamal Sowell**, who will be leaving the Provost's Office to attend the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University on a Pat Tillman Foundation Scholarship! Jamal was profiled in the *Gainesville Sun*:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20140527/ARTICLES/140529649>