

# Friday Bulletin, November 21, 2014

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*Department of Religion, University of Florida*

## News and Upcoming Events

Our department's first **Graduate Student Conference**, entitled "Religion and Culture in the Digital Age," will be held on January 24, 2015. We will have several grad student presenters from our department as well as a few from out of state. Following the students' panels, we will have a roundtable discussion with Dr. **David Morgan** from Duke University, Dr. **Stewart Hoover** from the University of Colorado, Dr. **Sid Dorbin** from UF's English department, and Dr. **Dragan Kujundzic** from UF's Center for Jewish Studies. The Office of Research has awarded the graduate students \$1000 in support of this graduate conference!

## AAR Presentations and Activities

**The American Academy of Religion (AAR)** will be holding its annual meeting in San Diego from November 22-25, 2014. UF faculty, graduate students, and recent alumni are very active in the AAR, which is the primary professional association for Religious Studies students and scholars in the US. The very diverse topics of UF participants show the range of themes addressed by research and teaching in our department.

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** is presenting papers in three sessions at the American Academy of Religion. She was invited to present in a session organized by the Graduate Students Committee on Graduate Training and Scholarly Formation. The Public Understanding of Religion Committee has invited her to talk in a special session entitled "The Doniger Affair: Censorship, Self-Censorship, and the Role of the Academy in the Public Understanding of Religion." She is also presenting a refereed paper, "Invictus and Immortal: Ajita and Amrta in the Bhagavata Purana."

Professor **Manuel Vásquez** will be presiding over a panel of the Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group entitled "Religious Pluralism, Secularism, and Prosperity: The Contemporary Dynamics of Latin American Religion," as well as over a meeting of the public university department chairs. In addition, he will be participating in an exploratory session entitled "Occupying Latino Male Bodies" and in a seminar on responsible research practices organized by current AAR president Thomas Tweed.

## News

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** was quoted extensively in an article on Thanksgiving in Beliefnet.com. See <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Hinduism/Articles/A-Hindu-Thanksgiving-Its-All-about-Gratitude.aspx>

## Deadlines

Here is our Spring 2015 schedule: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201501/all/religion.htm>

The department offers matching travel 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](http://sites.clas.ufl.edu/religion/files/Religion_Travel_Support_Application.pdf). Please submit this application to David Hackett by 4:00pm, Wednesday, November 26, 2014.

**The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies** offers fellowships and grants through the following competition: Distinguished Visiting Professorships in Buddhist Studies—deadline: January 14, 2015. More information is available on the ACLS website at <http://www.acls.org/programs/buddhist-studies/>. (Submitted by Professor **Vasudha Narayanan**.)