

Friday Bulletin, December 5, 2014

Department of Religion, University of Florida

News and Upcoming Events

The Islam in Africa Working-group is organizing a talk on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 11:45am – in 471 Grinter Hall (CAS Conference room, 4th floor). The speaker is Dr. **Rosa De Jorio**, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of North Florida, and her talk is entitled “*Reconstructing/Preserving Islamic Cultural Heritage Sites in Mali after the Crisis*.” Dr. De Jorio’s research interests include the politics of culture, the anthropology of the state, Islam and the public sphere, and gender issues. She has published several articles and book chapters and guest-edited two special journal issues for *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* and *Africa Today*. Her book, *National Heritage and Public Culture in Mali*, is forthcoming with the University of Illinois Press.

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 Dobrin** 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

Professor **Whitney Sanford** presented a paper entitled “Experiments in Equity: Food, Sustainability, and Intentional Communities” in the Feminist Theory and Methodologies group at the annual meeting of **The American Academy of Religion (AAR)**, which took place in San Diego on November 22-25.

Publications

Professor **Whitney Sanford**’s article, “Why We Need Religion to Solve the Food Crisis,” was published online in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/zygo.12133/abstract>) in December 2014.

Megan Geiger (MA student, Americas) published a blog on **Ken Chitwood**’s (PhD student, Americas) site (www.kenchitwood.com) about Apostolic Pentecostal women’s fashion. She began, “Thank God for winter. Summer in Florida is not the easiest time to be Apostolic. With temperatures in the high 90’s and enough humidity to make the mosquitoes grumpy, the daily task of choosing an outfit becomes something of a test of ingenuity. As an Apostolic Pentecostal, I belong to a group of believers that adheres to standards of dress that promote modesty, based

on scriptural interpretations of covering with a little Bible belt flavor and fashion thrown in. That means that my body is covered from my knees to my neck to the middle of my bicep in every season, no matter the heat index.” The post was received well, with over 900 views in its first two days.

Other Items of Interest

Jeena Kar, Religion Senior, was featured in the *Alligator* for her work with the Center for Spirituality and Healthcare. Her final project was applying the Indian traditional art of Henna as a healing force for cancer patients. Henna has been used as a spiritual offering of beauty for centuries on the hands and feet in south Asia. This project aims to instead apply it on the heads of women experiencing hair loss through chemotherapy, in order to restore some of the dignity that is often lost in this difficult time. The volunteer project is in the process of expansion to UF Health Shands Hospital. Attached is the link for the newspaper spread.

http://www.alligator.org/news/local/article_0b80d12e-7aaf-11e4-b2f0-430a16d40fdb.html

Deadlines

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

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**.)