

Friday Bulletin, December 6, 2013

Department of Religion, University of Florida

Presentations

Professor **Vasudha Narayanan** was invited to give a talk on “Who Speaks for American Hindus?” at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, DC and also to talk about suggestions for what the Smithsonian may want to acquire as part of its Migration project.

Professor **Terje Ostebo** is giving an (invited) talk – “Muslim Protests in Ethiopia” – at the Christian Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway, on December 12, 2013:
<http://www.cmi.no/news/?1262-muslim-protests-in-ethiopia>

Professor **Mario Poceski** gave a public lecture at the University of Hamburg, on the topic of “Catholic and Protestant Christianity as Chinese Religions.”

At the recent American Academy of Religion Meeting in Baltimore, MD, Professor **Bron Taylor** gave a presentation titled "Bruno Latour and the Seductions of Gaian Animism" in a special session “Querying Natural Religion: Immanence, Gaia, and the Parliament of Lively Things” that was devoted to Latour's "Facing Gaia" lecture, presented in Edinburgh last February. Dr. Taylor also gave an invited presentation on ethnographic methods at the “Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline” workshop focusing on “Methodologies and the Analytical Study of Religion” at the same meeting.

Publications

Professor **Bron Taylor's** “Battleground Pandora: The War over James Cameron's *Avatar*” has been published as a featured article in the *Bright Lights Film Journal* (November 2013, issue # 82); see the left column's second article under "Features" here:
<http://brightlightsfilm.com/82/index.php#.UpSfY2R4bOU>

Rodney Sebastian's (PhD, Asia track) chapter "Performing Identities: State-ISKCON Interactions in Singapore" has been published in J. Finucane & R. M. Feener (Eds.), *Proselytizing and the Limits of Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Asia* (Singapore: Springer), pp. 147-170.
<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/religious+studies/book/978-981-4451-17-8>

News

For his grant proposal "The Greening of Religion Hypothesis," Professor **Bron Taylor** has been awarded \$12,000 from the 2013-2014 Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund which will

provide an opportunity for a group of scholars to continue work on this long-term research project. Congratulations, Dr. Taylor!

Robin Veldman (PhD, Nature track) has received a Spring 2014 Graduate School Dissertation Award which offers support during the student's final semester. Congratulations, Robin!

Amy Brown (PhD, Nature track) was awarded a Spring 2014 CLAS Dissertation Fellowship. This fellowship is funded by the Michael Aschoff Dissertation Fellowship and includes a tuition waiver and stipend. Congratulations, Amy!

Professor **Mario Poceski** secured funding for a symposium on "East Asian Buddhism," sponsored by the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies, University of Hamburg, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He will convene and organize the symposium, to be held at the University of Hamburg in early May, 2014. The symposium theme is "Communities of Memory: Reimagining and Reinventing the Past in East Asian Buddhism," and the participants will include a number of prominent scholars from Europe and North America.

Professor **Zoharah Simmons** will be a guest of the *NPR* program *ON BEING with Krista Tippett* on Thursday, December 12, 2013, from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The program will be taped before a live audience at *NPR* Studio 1 at 1111 North Capitol Street in Washington, DC, and will be aired in January on *NPR* stations. This episode is a part of *ON BEING's Civil Conversation Project* and will explore the transition from Civil Rights to Black Power. Dr. Simmons will be in conversation with Rev. Lucas Johnson, a 21st century leader with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This is a link to the program: <http://events.npr.org/npr/Home/EventDetails/430>

Professor **Bron Taylor** was quoted in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on December 4, 2013 in an article "Shark victim's soul surfer legacy: go back in the sea;" see <http://goo.gl/tztWBd>

Deadlines

Students: please complete your instructor evaluations. Here is a link to the evaluation website: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. The deadline for completing evaluations is today, 12/6/2013.

The Department of Religion Spring 2014 schedule can be found here: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201401/all/religion.htm>