



The **American Academy of Religion** brings thousands of professors and students, authors, publishers, religious leaders, journalists, and interested laypersons to its Annual Meeting each year. Co-hosted with the Society of Biblical Literature, the Annual Meetings are the largest events of the year in the fields of religious studies and theology. Some 10,000 people attended the 2016 Annual Meetings, enjoying access to more than 1100 academic sessions and additional meetings. This year's meetings will be held in Boston, Massachusetts from November 18-21.

UF Religion is proud to have 11 faculty, current graduate students, and former Ph.D. graduates representing the department at the event. From presiding over panels to presenting on topics as diverse as religion, medicine, and healing, global Islam, and biblical textual interpretation, UF religion is well represented at this year's AAR/SBL Annual Meetings.

Below is a full list of their presentations and panels with information about when, where, and what events they will be participating in so that you can enjoy their scholarly work if you're in attendance!

## **Faculty**

**Dr. Robert Kawashima** will be presenting his paper, "The Emergence of the Devotional Self in Ezra-Nehemiah" on a panel focusing on Prayer in Antiquity on Tuesday from 9am-11:30am in Belvidere B (2nd Level) in the Hilton Boston Back Bay.

**Dr. Vasudha Narayanan** will be presenting as part of two panels. The first is a panel on the "State of the Field: Past, Present, and Future of the Studies of Religions, Medicines, and Healing" in the Religions, Medicines, and Healing Unit on Saturday 9am-11:30am (A18-129) in the Sheraton Boston - Liberty C (2nd Level). The second paper will be with the Hinduism Unit on the theme of "The Ethics of Bhakti: Exploring Moral and Aesthetic Dimensions in the Life of Hindu Devotion" (A19-313) on Sunday from 5pm-6:30pm in Sheraton Boston - Gardner (3rd Level).

**Dr. Whitney Sanford** will present on, "Nonviolence, Voluntary Simplicity, and Radical Democracy: Gandhi's Legacy in Contemporary Intentional Communities in the U.S." as part of the Hinduism Unit and North American Hinduism Unit's panel on Gandhian Afterlives: Transnational Circuits of Gandhi's Memory on Saturday from 4pm-6:30pm (A18-314) in the Marriott Copley Place - Vineyard (4th Level). Sanford will also present a paper entitled, "Sacred Waters, Contested Histories, and the Public Good in the American South," as part of the

Graduate Student Committee's "Religious Scholars as Humanitarians: Publications, Pedagogies, and the Protection of the Most Vulnerable" panel (A18-100) on Saturday from 9am-11:30am in the Sheraton Boston - Grand and Independence (2nd Level).

## Current Graduate Students

**Ken Chitwood** will present a paper on the, "Fluid Dynamics of Puerto Rican Muslims and the Study of Global Islam," as part of the Study of Islam Unit's "New Graduate Research in Islamic Studies" panel (A20-137) on Monday from 9am-11:30am in Marriott Copley Place - Simmons (3rd Level).

**Bhakti Mamtora** will preside over the panels, "Religious Scholars as Humanitarians: Publications, Pedagogies, and Protecting the Most Vulnerable" on Saturday from 9am-11:30am in the Sheraton Boston - Grand & Independence (2nd Level) and "Pedagogical Uses of Social Media: Twitter, Facebook and Beyond" on Saturday from 11:30am-1:00pm in the Hynes Convention Center 303. She has also planned/organized the following events with the Graduate Student Committee: [https://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual\\_Meeting/2017/2017AM\\_GSCflyer.pdf](https://www.aarweb.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual_Meeting/2017/2017AM_GSCflyer.pdf).

**Priyanka Ramlakhan** will preside over a Student Lounge Roundtable on "The Potential Value of Genre-based Pedagogy in Religious Studies" (A20-100) on Monday from 9am-10:30am in the Hynes Convention Center - 303 (3rd Level) and a panel on "Navarātri and the Production and Performance of Socio-Political Structures" (A18-333) as part of the Navarātri Seminar on Saturday from 4pm-6:30pm in the Hilton Boston Back Bay-Maverick B (2nd Level).

**Rodney Sebastian** will present his paper, "Vaiṣṇava Concepts for Ecological Sustainability: Case Study of the Govardhan Ecovillage Project," at the DANAM conference held in conjunction with the AAR. The panel is titled "Climate Change, Renunciation and Modernity" (M17-106) and will take place Friday, 11:00am-1:00pm in the Marriott Copley Place-Brandeis (3rd Level).

## Former Graduates

**Dr. Rose Caraway** (Iowa State University) will present her paper, "If We Are the Problem Then We Are the Solution: Religion and Resilience in Contemporary Cuba," as part of the Religion and Ecology Unit's panel, "Identity and Community in Religion and Ecology" panel on Saturday from 9am-11:30am in Hynes Convention Center-104 (Plaza Level).

**Dr. Shreena Gandhi** (Michigan State University) will preside over a panel on the theme of "Religion on Television: Production, Positives, and Perils/Pitfalls," with the Program Committee and Public Understanding of Religion Committee on Monday from 1pm-3:30pm in the Sheraton Boston-Grand & Independence (2nd Level).

**Dr. Caleb Simmons** (University of Arizona) will be responding to a Navarātri Seminar panel on the "Production and Performance of Socio-Political Structures," (A18-333) at the Hilton Boston Back Bay - Maverick B (2nd Level) on Saturday from 4pm-6:30pm.

**Dr. Robin Veldman** (Iowa State University) will present her paper, “Global Warming Alarmists Remove Our Motivation to Thank God for His Gifts of Cheap, Abundant Energy Resources’: How Leaders in the Christian Right Used Evangelical Mass Media to Promote Climate Skepticism,” as part of the Religion and Ecology Unit’s “Identity and Community in Religion and Ecology” panel on Saturday from 9am–11:30am in Hynes Convention Center-104 (Plaza Level).