

UF RELIGION

NEWSLETTER



NEWS

- **Dr. Rachel Gordan** will participate in a September 9th roundtable to discuss graphic memoir *Maus*. See *Page 2* for more details.
- **Dr. Yaniv Feller** has published two new scholarly articles that explore themes of Jewish history, memory, and relations among religious traditions. See *Page 3* for more details.
- **Dr. Bron Taylor** has published many articles to his new Substack account. See *Page 4* for more details.

EVENTS

- The Department of Religion hosted a **Breakfast Social** on September 4th, bringing faculty and students together for conversation, community, and breakfast. The event gave students the opportunity to discuss academic interests, explore future course offerings, and connect with faculty and fellow students in a welcoming and informal setting.



Faculty and students engaging at the Breakfast Social

PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Rachel Gordan** will participate in a September 9th roundtable sponsored by the **Center for European Studies** at the University of Florida, marking the 40th anniversary of Art Spiegelman's award-winning graphic memoir *Maus*. The panel will feature Gordan alongside **Dr. Jeanne Ewert** and **Dr. Margaret Galvan**, with **Dr. Terry Harpold** serving as discussant. The roundtable will explore the cultural and academic impact of *Maus* in the four decades since its publication, including its visual and thematic narrative, representation of Holocaust memorialization, and significance as a graphic memoir.



Maus: A Survivor's Tale is a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel by Art Spiegelman that recounts the experiences of his father, Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew who survived the Holocaust. Through a series of interviews conducted in New York during the late 1970s, Spiegelman reconstructs his father's life before, during, and after World War II.

The novel uses anthropomorphic animals to represent different groups, portraying Jews as mice, Germans as cats, and Poles as pigs. Interwoven with Vladek's wartime experiences is a deeply personal story about Spiegelman's complicated relationship with his father and the lasting impact of trauma on survivors and their families. The narrative also addresses the absence of Spiegelman's mother, Anja, who died by suicide years after the war.

Combining memoir, biography, history, and graphic storytelling, *Maus* is celebrated for its innovative approach to representing the Holocaust and became the first graphic novel to receive a Pulitzer Prize in 1992.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Dr. Yaniv Feller** recently published two scholarly articles exploring Jewish history, memory, and interreligious relations.

His article "*Undesired Emotion: Visible Storage and the Presentation of Antisemitism in the Jewish Museum of the City of Vienna*" appears in The Routledge International Handbook of Heritage and Affect. In this chapter, Feller examines how the Jewish Museum of Vienna presents objects associated with antisemitism, drawing on recent scholarship that considers antisemitism as an emotional and cultural phenomenon.

Feller also contributed "*Leo Baeck's Double-Critique of Christianity and Islam*" to *Cultures of Continuity: Jewish-Muslim Conversations on a Contested Ideal*, a volume developed from the inaugural conference of the Forum on Jewish-Muslim Thought and Theology. The article explores how the influential German-Jewish thinker Leo Baeck understood the political and intellectual dynamics among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, offering insight into the complex relationships among the three traditions.

- The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (JSRNC), a publication affiliated with the **International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture** and founded by **Dr. Bron Taylor**, has released Volume 20, Issue 3. The new issue features the following articles:

- "*Flows of Worship: How Adaptations to Ritual Immersion Practices are Changing Peoples' Engagement with Water and the River Yamuna in Delhi, India*" - Helen Underhill, Radhika Modi, Beenish Mushtaq, Rabidyuti Biswas, Shivani Singhal, Cat Button
- "*Dark Green Religion or Humanizing Nature? Exploring How Nature and Its Conservation is Understood in the Religions for Biological Diversity Project in Germany*" - Carrie B. Dohe
- "*Barriers and Opportunities for Orthodox Environmental Action*" - Maytal S. Lazarovic, Tanhum Yoreh



Official cover for an edition of the JSRNC

PUBLICATIONS

- In May 2026, Professor **Dr. Bron Taylor** launched his **Substack** account, an online publishing platform that allows writers, podcasters, and content creators to share their work directly with subscribers through email newsletters and a searchable web archive.

His inaugural post, *"Who I Am and What I Intend with My Substack,"* introduced the goals of the project, followed by *"The Liberating Power of the Sociology of Knowledge,"* an essay adapted from a lecture used in his Quest course for first-year students. His most recent post, *"What (and Who) Caused the Tibet-Nepal Glacial Flood Catastrophe?,"* explores the causes and implications of the devastating flood in Tibet and Nepal.

Taylor has also shared a series of essays stemming from research he conducted in Egypt in May and June of 2026 as part of a book project on museums around the world. The Egypt essays include:

- *"The Resurrection of Tutankhamun (aka King Tut)"*
- *"Into the Underworld: King Tut's Burial Chamber and Its Secrets"*
- *"Curating Egyptian Civilization at the NMEC"*
- *"Mummy Exhibitionism in Cairo and Paris"*

Another series draws on Taylor's 2016 visit to Iran, undertaken at the invitation of UNESCO and the Iranian Department of Environment, while also reflecting on the war in Iran a decade later:

- *"My Journey to Iran: Hope, Resistance & Fear"*
- *"Hope and Heresy in 2016 Iran"*
- *"A Promise Abandoned and Iranian Reformers Betrayed"*

Taylor has also introduced readers to the ideas developed in his book *Dark Green Religion*, adding more recent examples of the ways people regard California's Sierra Nevada as sacred. These essays include:

- *"Dark Green Religion ~ A Brief Introduction"*
- *"Going Home to the Range of Light"*
- *"Advertising Nature Spirituality"*

Taylor has also published two memorial essays: *"Antifascism & Memorial Day,"* reflecting on his father's service during World War II, and *"Viva Ted Turner,"* honoring the late entrepreneur and conservationist.

Through his Substack, **@profbrontaylor**, he plans to continue sharing insights from his research and teaching with a broad public audience.

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We look forward to hearing from you!