SECSOR Call for Papers - 2019 Annual Meeting

East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina
March 8-10, 2019

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission form. Each member is limited to one proposal, although a member can indicate a second choice of sections on the submission form. Proposers who have not previously presented at a SECSOR Meeting must submit a full manuscript of their paper to the program unit chair(s) before the call for papers closes. The copying of handouts is the responsibility of the presenter. All program participants must be pre-registered for the meeting.

Deadline for Submissions: October 1, 2018

SECSOR 2019 CFP

AAR: Bible and Modern Culture

Bible & Modern Culture I Theme: Resisting Culture: When Biblical Religion and the Dominant Culture Collide. Papers dealing with historical or contemporary issues are welcome in this broadly-conceived session. Bible & Modern Culture II Theme: Religion & Science Dialogue USA, the Tennessee v. Scopes Trial Centenary: We invite papers dealing with any aspect of this historic epoch in the religion and science debate in America: Outstanding papers presented over the next several years will be selected for inclusion in a published volume marking the centenary of the 1925 Scopes (“Monkey”) Trial. For questions, contact Brian Mooney (brian.mooney@jwu.edu) or Sam Murrell (murrells@uncw.edu).

AAR: Black Cultures in the Study of Religion

Black Cultures and the Study of Religion invites papers related to this year's theme at the intersection of religion and animality. Signifying practices that deemed Africans and African descended people in the Americas as animal-like, primitive and/or subhuman relied on a modernist division of the world into rational and irrational actors. Current attempts to address this modern hierarchical project by collapsing the divide between human and animal religious behavior could do more to address the animalization of blackness and how colonial projects systematically devalued African descended people and related them to the anti-modern. Who is the anti-modern and do the lingering effects of animalized blackness promote a lack of compassion for this group (policing, prisons, media, etc)? What does it mean that scholars of religion are emphasizing the animality of humanity at a moment when black people are fighting intensely to be valued as human? Additionally, an ethnolinguistic approach might explore how black people express their adeptness and power through images of animal and primordial muscularity. How could religious discourse address the gendered nature of naming practices when language such as “beast,” “savage,” or, “dog” are used to indicate masculine striving and potency among black artist, athletes and professionals. Papers might also consider the religious significance of animals in various African Diaspora religious traditions that place emphasis on the natural world such as Candomblé, Santeria, Rastafari, Gullah religious traditions, Hoodoo
and Voodoo. For questions, contact Michael Brandon McCormack (b.mccormack@louisville.edu) or Timothy Rainey II (timothy.rainey.ii@emory.edu).

**AAR: Constructive Theologies**

The Constructive Theologies section invites proposals for papers in the following areas. 1. Constructive theological discussions that deal with the conference theme of animality and the post-human. Papers could address incarnation and embodiment and how those intertwine with animality, humanity and post-humanity. What does theology contribute to these cultural conversations? 2. Open call for papers in constructive theology. Constructive Theologies also invites proposals for the following co-sponsored session: 3. A joint session between Constructive Theologies and Ethics, Religion and Society dealing with theological and ethical interpretations of animality, humanity and post-humanity. Papers can address relevant theological/ethical perspectives and thinkers, or engage specific issues such as bioethics, animal rights, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and radical life extension. For questions, contact Tracey Stout (tstout@bluefield.edu) or Ian Curran (icurran@ggc.edu). For the joint session with Ethics, Religion, and Society questions can also be addressed to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu).

**AAR: Ethics, Religion, and Society**

(AAR) Ethics, Religion, and Society (3 sessions) Themes: Proposals on all topics will be considered, but the following topics are encouraged: (1) a joint session with Constructive Theologies on theological and ethical interpretations of animality, humanity and post-humanity. Presenters might consider such issues as bioethics, animal rights, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and radical life extension; (2) Religious Pluralism and Ethics; (3) Ethics and Spirituality, Health & Well-Being. All submissions are encouraged to consider and pay close attention to issues pertaining to the balance between theory and applied ethics. Submit proposals through the on-line process. Direct any questions to Sally Holt, Belmont University (sally.holt@belmont.edu) and Michael Stoltzfus, Georgia Gwinnett College (mstoltzfus@ggc.edu). In addition, for the joint session with Constructive Theologies direct questions to Ian Curran (icurran@ggc.edu) or Tracey Stout (tstout@bluefield.edu).

**AAR: History of Christianity**

Proposals for papers or complete panels are invited on the following topics: 1) Religious movements and technology; e.g., technology’s effects on religious movements in the ancient world; use of social media to promote or discredit religious movements; A.I. or digital media in religious movements; portrayal of religious movements in media. 2) Millennial movements past and present; e.g., millennial movements in global politics; comparisons of past and present millennial movements; media and millennial movements; millennial movements and utopian societies. 3) Humans and other animals in Christian tradition; e.g., the function of animals and humans in Late Antique Christian texts; apocryphal accounts of human interactions with animals; Christian representations of human, non-human, and hybrid figures; humans as monsters in the Christian tradition. We welcome a wide range of disciplinary approaches.
Send questions to co-chairs Anne Blue Wills, Davidson College (anwills@davidson.edu), Douglas Clark, Vanderbilt University (douglas.h.clark@Vanderbilt.edu), and Kenny Vandergriff, Florida State University (kav16@my.fsu.edu).

AAR: Islam

In conjunction with the conference theme “Religion, Animality, and the Post-Human,” we invite papers that intersect with the following themes: 1) Islamic ethics, 2) Islamic mysticism, and 3) Islamic theology as it pertains to the broader themes of animality and post-humanism. We welcome papers that approach these topics from a diverse array of sources and disciplines, including, but not limited to legal texts, normative practices, Sufi orders, social history, and Quranic exegesis. We also invite panel sessions for on any topic related to Islam. For questions, contact Roshan Iqbal (riqbal@agnesscott.edu) or Hadia Mubarak (Mubarak.hadia@gmail.com).

AAR: Judaism

The Judaism section invites proposals to any one of our three sessions in the following areas: (1) Second Temple Judaism: Open Call; (2) Judaism in Late Antiquity: Open Call; (3) Contemporary Judaism: Open Call. We will consider proposals from a wide range of methodological approaches and points of interest but will give preference to essays engaging with topics related to narrative fictions and how they relate to the consolidation of Jewish identity in their respective periods. Essays may approach this topic by way of historical case studies, literary criticism, history of scholarship, comparison, social theory, or any other appropriate avenues. For questions, contact Amanda Smith (ansmith@uga.edu) or Giancarlo Angulo (gpa15@my.fsu.edu).

AAR: Method & Theory in the Study of Religion

The Method & Theory section invites proposals for two open sessions—submissions must concern either (i) a methodological issue (i.e., problem or proposal) in the history of the field or in current scholarly work in the study of religion or (ii) examine a topic of theoretical interest, whether understanding theory as critique (as in literary theory or critical theory) or an explanatory framework aiming to identify religion’s causes or function. Book review panels (i.e., author meets critics), focusing on current works examining either (i) or (ii) above, are also possible. Questions can be sent to Vaia Touna, University of Alabama (vaia.touna@ua.edu).

AAR: Philosophy of Religion

In keeping with the conference theme, the Philosophy of Religion section welcomes paper submissions that engage the conference theme of Religion, Animality and the Posthuman, especially those that engage the theme in relation to the following topics. 1. Rethinking the Subject: Bodies, Affects, and the Philosophy of Religion 2. Religion, Animality and the Posthuman. We especially welcome philosophical engagement with this topic from non-Christian perspectives. 3. Philosophies of Flourishing and Constructing Post-human Futures. This is a joint session with Religion and Ecology and Philosophy of Religion. For this session, we encourage papers that consider the topic from a diversity of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives and welcome proposals from a variety of fields across philosophy, religious studies, critical race studies, gender studies, indigenous studies, animal studies, environmental studies,
architecture and landscape design. For questions, contact Wesley Barker (barker_wn@mercer.edu) or Steven Dawson (dawson.s@lynchburg.edu).

AAR: Religion & Ecology

The Religion and Ecology section is excited to announce a call for paper proposals that engage with the broad conference theme of Religion, Animality, and the Post-Human, and especially papers that address some aspect of the following topics. (1) Religion, Animality, and the Environment, considering new and emerging interpretations of animality, the human (as/and) animal(s), and the post-human animal. (2) Designing Flourishing Cities: healthy urban ecologies, green design, and post-human cities. Our aim is to bring together scholars from diverse backgrounds to engage in a multidisciplinary conversation about the meaning and practice of human beings in nature and the construction of eco-cities. (3) Philosophies of Flourishing and Constructing Post-human Futures. This is a joint session with the Philosophy of Religion section. We welcome proposals from a variety of fields across philosophy, religious studies, critical race studies, gender studies, indigenous studies, animal studies, environmental studies, architecture and landscape design. All proposals should be submitted through the online proposal submission form on the SECSR website: secsr.org. Submissions for the joint session should indicate joint session with Philosophy of Religion. Send questions to Jefferson Calico, University of the Cumberlands (jefferson.calico@ucumberlands.edu) and Mark Wood, Virginia Commonwealth University (mdwood@vcu.edu).

AAR: Religions of Asia

1. In conjunction with the 2019 theme, “Religion, Animality, and the Post-Human,” we solicit proposals on how “a person or entity that exists in a state beyond being human” is negotiated, represented, or otherwise conceived in Asian religions. 2. We welcome proposals that will present new research in Buddhism. Papers focusing on Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist Practices, or any other aspect of Buddhism are welcome. 3. Joint session with Islam - We welcome papers that focus on the intersection of Asian Religions and Islam. Topics may include, but are not limited to: Asian religions in Muslim majority contexts; Islam in regions dominated by other Asian religions. 4. Open call. We welcome proposals that focus on any religious tradition that is practiced in Asian contexts, including, but not limited to: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and other indigenous religions of Asia. Please submit proposals via the online proposal submission form at: https://secsr.org/proposal-submission-form. If you have questions regarding the Religions of Asia section, please contact Lisa Battaglia, Samford University (lbattagl@samford.edu) and Jay Valentine, Troy University (jvalentine@troy.edu). Please direct questions regarding Islam to Roshan Iqbal, Agnes Scott College (riqbal@agnesscott.edu).

AAR: Religion Culture & the Arts

All papers related to Religion, Culture and the Arts will be considered. Special consideration will be given to papers or panels related to the following themes: (1) representations of religion or religious people in television, musicals, or children’s/YA literature; (2) religion, mobility, and transportation; (3) religion and crafts/crafting; (4) religion, genealogical research, family, and racial identities; (5) religion, emotion, and affect. For questions, contact Meredith Ross (mr09@my.fsu.edu) or Tim Burnside (tb14e@my.fsu.edu).
AAR: Religions in America

Papers in all areas related to Religions in America will be considered, however special consideration will be given to the following themes: (1) Religion, immigration, and movement; (2) Religion and gender, sex, and sexuality; (3) Religion and (un)freedom; (4) Papers dealing specifically with the meeting’s 2019 theme “Religion, Animality, and the Post-Human. For questions, contact Jamil Drake (jdrake@fsu.edu), Andy McKee (am13ag@my.fsu.edu), or Haley Iliff (hi12@my.fsu.edu).

AAR: Secularism, Religious Freedom & Global Politics

Proposals from any disciplinary or methodological perspective on topics related to secularism, religious freedom, and global politics are welcome. We are especially interested in proposals related to (1) the roles of religious freedom in international relations and foreign policy; (2) critical accounts of “freedom” in the production of “religious freedom;” (3) secular constructions of space and place (especially in relation to contests over monuments or sacred territory); (4) secular discourses of civility and offense. For questions contact Finbarr Curtis (fcurtis@georgiasouthern.edu) or Beena Butool (sbb13h@my.fsu.edu).

AAR: Teaching & Learning in Religion

The Teaching and Learning in Religion section critically examines pedagogical theory and practice. For the 2019 meeting, we are seeking the following: (1) As part of an open call, we invite submissions for both individual papers and multiple-person sessions or panels. We value explanations and analysis of innovative teaching activities, critical reflection on successes and failures in the classroom, and research related to pedagogy and religion. Graduate students, as well as seasoned professors, are encouraged to submit proposals. Successful proposals in previous years have dealt with topics such as teaching introductory courses, using pop culture to help students understand religious concepts, and approaching controversial topics in the classroom. (2) For a joint session with Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, we seek papers addressing “Teaching Difficult Religious Texts.” This session aims to explore challenges and best practices associated with teaching the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and/or other sacred texts in contexts where students frequently (and often unwittingly) bring to bear complicating factors such as popular (mis)conceptions and faith-based (or anti-faith-based) predispositions, whether positive or negative, toward all or parts of the text or the corpus under consideration. For more information on the Teaching and Learning section, contact co-chairs Jodie Lyon (lyon@uga.edu) and Carole Barnsley (cbarnsley@transy.edu).

AAR: Women, Gender & Religion

Women, Gender and Religion invites paper proposals for sessions related to mothers, mothering, and motherhood: (1) one session will focus on foundational scholarship about mothers and mothers, such as Adrienne Rich, Patricia Hill Collins, Bonnie Miller McLemore; (2) a joint session with the New Testament section seeks papers dealing with texts (canonical or non-canonical) and/or traditions (ancient or contemporary) about Mary, the mother of Jesus; (3) a session focusing on comparative treatments of mothers, mothering or motherhood; papers on specific individuals, practices, or sacred texts are welcome. For questions related to the session jointly sponsored with the New Testament, contact the New Testament Section co-chairs: Brent (brent.driggers@lr.edu) and Eric Thurman (etthurma@sewanee.edu). For the remaining sessions,
contact the chair of the Women, Gender, and Religion group: Vicki Phillips (phillips_v@wvwc.edu).

**ASOR-Member-Sponsored Section: Archeology & the Ancient World**

Archaeology and the Ancient World invites paper proposals for the following sessions: (1) field reports on ongoing excavations; and (2) archaeology of ancient technologies (e.g., material culture associated with craft production). For the archaeology of ancient technologies session, we are particularly interested in papers that: i) explore the methodology of identifying the function(s) of installations; and ii) papers that examine what the material evidence for specialized industries suggests about how their production processes shaped the social order of the communities engaged with them. For questions contact Dr. Alan Todd (atodd1@coastal.edu).

**SBL: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament**

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament study group invites proposals for the annual SECSOR meeting. With the exception of the joint session (see below), proposals are to be submitted through the SECSOR website AND to the group’s chairs: David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com) and Clinton J. Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu). The subject line on the email submission should read, “SECSOR 2019 Proposal, SESSION, TITLE.” There will be two “open” sessions. All topics germane to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies will be considered. In addition, we are accepting proposals for a session devoted to the broadly defined topic “Story and History in 1 and 2 Kings.” Finally, there will be a joint session between Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Teaching and Learning. The joint session aims to explore challenges and best practices associated with teaching the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and/or other sacred texts in both undergraduate and postgraduate contexts where students frequently (and often unwittingly) bring to bear complicating factors such as popular (mis)conceptions and faith-based (or anti-faith-based) predispositions, whether positive or negative, toward all or parts of the text or corpus under consideration. Submissions for the joint session should also be sent to the chairs of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Teaching in Religion groups. For questions contact Clinton J. Moyer (moyercj@wfu.edu) and David B. Schreiner (dbschreiner@gmail.com).

**SBL: New Testament**

The New Testament section for the 2019 SECSOR conference invites paper proposals for three sessions: (1) a session for papers dealing with the meeting’s global theme, “Religion, Animality, and the Post-Human,” (2) an open session for papers in any area of New Testament research, and (3) a joint session between the New Testament section and the Women, Gender, and Religion group for papers dealing with texts (canonical or non-canonical) and/or traditions (ancient or contemporary) about Mary, the mother of Jesus. In keeping with the conference’s global theme, the New Testament section will devote a fourth session to an invited panel discussion of Stephen D. Moore’s recent monograph, Gospel Jesuses and Other Nonhumans: Biblical Criticism Post-structuralism (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017). For questions regarding the first two sessions, please contact the New Testament Section co-chairs: Brent Driggers (brent.driggers@lr.edu) and Eric Thurman (etthurma@sewanee.edu). For questions regarding the third joint session, please contact either the New Testament section co-chairs or the chair of the Women, Gender, and Religion group: Vicki Phillips (phillips_v@wvwc.edu). Please submit all paper proposals through the Google Docs paper submission form.
SECSOR: Undergraduate Research

Students at institutions in the Southeast Region are invited to submit papers for the Undergraduate Sessions, sponsored by SECSOR. Open to all topics, the sessions will be composed of the papers considered the best submissions by an interdisciplinary committee. Students should submit completed papers that reflect original student research of an appropriate length for presentation (approximately 12 double-spaced pages). No paper over 14 double-spaced pages, regular size font, will be considered; one submission per student. On a cover page, please include contact information for the student and a faculty sponsor who has reviewed the submission. Proposals are to be submitted through the Google Docs link no later than December 15, 2018. All undergraduate papers are automatically considered for the Undergraduate Paper Prize. The link is available at the “Submission” tab at the top of the SECSOR home page. Questions may be directed to Steven A. Benko (benkos@meredith.edu).