

**SWCRS/AAR-SW
2023 Annual Meeting Session Schedule**

Friday, March 4

2:00 - 5:00 pm Pre-Conference AAR-SW Future Planning Workshop

*All interested conference attendees should contact Tiffany Puett
(tiffany@diversityandcivicliflife.org) for details on the workshop.*

6:00pm: Informal meet and mingle, hotel lobby and bar area

Saturday, March 5

8:00-10:00 SWCRS Board of Directors Meeting

10:30-noon

AAR: Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion

Theme: Mindful Flourishing

Presiding: Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University

Panel members:

- Wendy Williams, Texas Christian University
- Max Sklansky, Seminary of the Southwest
- Chad Pevateaux, Interfaith Action of Central Texas
- Monica Jenschke, Texas Christian University
- Blake Hestir, Texas Christian University
- Andy Fort, Texas Christian University
- Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University

AAR: The Profession

Theme: "The Future of Education: Perspectives on Bi-vocational Education"

Presiding: Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas

- Preston Byrd, Baylor University
- Sahr Mbriwa, Baylor University
- Joshua Heavin, Houston Baptist University
- Caroline Smiley, University of Aberdeen
- Kevin Garcia, Redeemer Theological Seminary

AAR: Theta Alpha Kappa

Presiding: Lisa Wolfe, Oklahoma City University

10:30 "Do You Know What You're Singing in Church? Exploring the Intersections Between Christology and Theology in Modern-Day Church Music"

Shelbi Barnum, Oklahoma City University

11:00 "God Save the People: The Theatrical Catholic Social Teaching Zeitgeist of the 60s and 70s"

Calista Robledo, St. Edward's University

AAR: Arts, Literature, and Religion

Presiding: Rachel Toombs, Baylor University

10:30 "Transhumanism, Metamodernity, and American Transcendentalism: A Case Study of Five Japanese Anime"

Steven Foertsch, Baylor University

11:00 "Rarely Merely Entertainment: How stories of upstart women, the marginalized, and the freak and geeks (biblical or otherwise) may help us save the world"

Rebecca Huskey, University of Oklahoma

Noon-1:30 :Lunch break

1:30-3:30

AAR: Book Review

Theme: Personal, Professional, and Practical Responses to David Newheiser's *Hope in a Secular Age* (Cambridge, 2019)

Presiding: Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas

Panel members:

- Carl S. Hughes, Texas Lutheran University
- Rachel Ozanne, University of Texas at Austin
- Chad Pevateaux, Interfaith Action of Central Texas
- Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas

AAR: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

Theme: The Role of Embodiment in Religious Hermeneutics

Presiding: Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University

1:30 "Fat Religion as Liberation: An Exploration of Christianity, Fatness, and Blackness"
Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson, University of Texas at Austin

2:00 "SM Sexuality and Innovative Religious Eroticism: The Case of Genesis P-Orridge and Terence Sellers"

Andrew Lee, Drew University

2:30 "Thomas Baty and the Radical Interwar Feminism of *Urania*"

Tish Duncan, Texas Christian University

- 3:00 “Rights, Women’s Bodies, and Religion: Strategies for Asylum and Beyond”
Aixin Aydin, University of Texas

AAR: Theology

Theme: Hope and Fulfillment

Presiding: Lance Green, University of St. Andrews

- 1:30 “Precarious Language and Longings: Childlike Hope in Stanley Cavell and Rowan Williams”
Katherine Ellis, Baylor University
- 2:00 “Present Participation, Future Fulfillment: St. Gregory of Nazianzus' Understanding of the Easter Event and Its Connection to Hope”
Noah Edmonson, Dallas Theological Seminary
- 2:30 “Raised and Re-Raced? The Resurrection Body and the Question of Racial Identity”
Daniel Lee Hill, Baylor University
- 3:00 “Expectant Hope and Reverent Wonder in Basil the Great's Hexameron, Bonaventure's The Soul's Journey Into God, and Dillard's Holy the Firm”
Kendra Jernigan, Abilene Christian University

AAR: Black Theology

Presiding: Hue Woodson, Tarrant County College

- 1:30 “Softness Can Save Us: A Black Man’s Look at Disability, Religion, and an Ethic of Care”
Robert Monson, United Theological Seminary
- 2:00 “A Hope that Does not Forget: Blondel as Resource for Racial Reconciliation”
Joshua Mobley, Baylor University
- 2:30 “Choosing Black”
Ptah Allah, Prairie View A&M University

3:30-4:00 coffee break

4:00-5:30 AAR-SW Plenary Session

Hopeful Futures and the Future of SWCRS—A Cross Disciplinary Community Conversation

This year's AAR plenary talk is different from past plenaries. In light of the evolving challenges of the pandemic and growing concerns with an unstable economy, the work of imagining hopeful futures is as urgent as ever. This year's plenary leads with the intention of nurturing the future of SWCRS to grow and solidify its diverse scholarly community and connects the annual theme of "Hopeful Futures" to broader issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging concerning the future and viability of SWCRS, and engage in vital conversation with the officers of other SWCRS organizations, but also with the regional community at large to reimagine pathways forward and toward flourishing futures. With multiple, and potentially conflicting, visions of what may 'count' for a "hopeful future" involved, this plenary aims to generate nuanced and robust discussion.

At this plenary, there will be small and large discussions around issues concerning the future of our guild and our field(s). AAR-SW leadership will pose a series of questions to stimulate discussion and to collect data for planning future meetings.

Sunday, March 6

7:30-8:15 AAR Business Meeting

8:30-10:30 AM

AAR: Comparative and Asian Studies in Religion

Theme: Religion, Revelation, and Persecution: South Asian Perspectives on Hope and Resilience

Presiding: Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University

- 8:30 "“Everyone drinks from the same well’: Charismatic Authority and Female Gurus’ Struggle For Gender Equality in South Asian Hinduism”
Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University
- 9:00 “Bhakti under the blade of a Hengdang: Guru and the Persecuted Śatra of the Māyāmārā Vaiṣṇavites of Medieval Assam”
Arunjana Das, American University, Georgetown University, World Bank Group
- 9:30 “The Mahabharata and Martial Culture”
Nathan Hogan, Pacifica Graduate Institute
- 10:00 “Who was that four-armed blue guy? A Re-reading of Bhagavadgītā 11.33-34 in the Combat Context of Drona Parvan CCI-CCIII”
Rev. Brooks St. Clair Morton, Butler Community College

AAR: Theta Alpha Kappa

Presiding: Jenny Veninga, St. Edward's University

- 8:30 "The Beheading of John the Baptist"
Ashtyn Ball, Oklahoma City University
- 9:00 "The Signs of the Times: The Women of the Book of Judges through the Male Gaze"
Natalie Hughes, St. Edward's University
- 9:30 "Hagar and the Unheard Pain of Her Story"
Genna Parr, Oklahoma City University

AAR: Ethics, Society, and Cultural Analysis

Theme: Institutions and Change

Presiding: Rachel Ozanne, University of Texas at Austin

- 8:30 "Is There a Future for the Church in North America?: Fieldnotes from the Center to the Edge of Christendom"
Dr. Dustin D. Benac, Baylor University, George W. Truett Theological Seminary
- 9:00 "Into the Seeds of Time: Adapting to Institution Change in the (Post)Corona Era"
Preston Byrd, Baylor University
- 9:30 "The Synoptics and a Postmillennial Perspective of the Future"
Vincent Rossini, Saint Leo's University
- 10:00 "A Brotherhood Constructed in History: Gustavo Gutiérrez on Unity in a Divided World"
Gerhard Stuebben, Baylor University

AAR: Philosophy of Religion

Presiding: Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas

- 8:30 "A More Hopeful Future through the Religion of Spinoza"
Anthony DeSantis, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- 9:00 "Variations on Divine Simplicity in Essentialist and Existentialist Metaphysics: A Reflection on the Singularity and Significance of Thomas Aquinas' Notion of Divine Being and Essence"
Mark Wiebe, Lubbock Christian University
- 9:30 "Webster and Heidegger: Past Influences for the Future of Theology"
Casey Spinks, Baylor University

10:30-11:00 coffee break

11:00-12:30

AAR: Theology + Ethics, Society, and Cultural Analysis

Theme: Christianity and Resources

Presiding: Ryan Fitzgerald, St. Edward's University

11:00 "Yards and Lawns as the Doctrine of Creation: On Wendell Berry, Indigenous Wisdom, and Native Landscaping"

Samuel Davidson, Princeton Theological Seminary

11:30 "Healing from the Pandemic through Cultivating Conversation: Reflections on Wendell Berry and Paul Farmer"

Charles Regli, Baylor University

12:00 "The Theological Take on Technology: Beyond Technophile and Troglodyte"

Daniel Crouch, Baylor University

AAR The Profession Roundtable

Theme: Women Scholars in the Profession: How far have we come, how far back have we gone?

Presiding: Tiffany Puett, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, and Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University

- Elise Edwards, Baylor University
- Rebecca Huskey, University of Oklahoma
- Nadia Lahutsky, Texas Christian University
- Mandy McMichael, Baylor University
- Jan Quesada, Texas Christian University
- Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas