

**Southwest Commission  
on  
Religious Studies**

**Annual Regional Meeting  
Program of Events**



**March 1–3, 2024  
Dallas Marriott Las Colinas  
Irving, Texas**

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### Professional Societies Represented at SWCRS

AAR-SW	American Academy of Religion, Southwest
ASSR	Association for the Scientific Study of Religion
NABPR	National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, Southwest Region
SBRL	Society of Biblical and Related Literature

The 2024 meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies will feature outstanding plenary speakers, opportunities for networking, and a reception and awards ceremony, in addition to an array of scholarly papers and panel discussions in the fields of biblical and religious studies.

The Marriott Dallas Las Colinas is recently remodeled, overlooks a lake with a running trail, and is within walking distance of a host of restaurants. This year's regional meeting promises to be an excellent one, as we continue the process of rebuilding collegial connections.

**Location:** Dallas Marriott Las Colinas

223 West Las Colinas

Boulevard

Irving, TX 75039

(972) 831-0000

**Date:** Friday–Sunday, March 1–3, 2024

**On-Site Registration:** Friday, March 1, 5:30–7:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 2, 8:30–5:00; Sunday, March 3, 8:00–8:30. On-site and “day-of” registration will be completed online with the assistance of SWCRS staff, but must be paid with a check.

### **Friday Afternoon, March 1, 2:00–5:00 pm**

American Academy of Religion, Southwest (AAR-SW) Future Planning Workshop

*All interested conference attendees should contact Cindy Dawson*

*(seedawson@me.com) for details on the workshop.*

### **Friday Evening, March 1, 6:00 pm**

Informal meet-and-mingle in the hotel lobby and bar areas.

### **Friday Evening, March 1, 6:00–9:00 pm**

AAR-SW Game Night in the hotel lobby and bar areas.

### **Friday Evening, March 1, 7:00–9:00 pm**

National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, Southwest (NABPR) – Planters

## Saturday Morning, March 2, 8:00–9:30 am

Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (SWCRS) – Beaumont (1st floor)

Board of Directors Meeting

*Presiding:* Kelley Coblenz Bautch, St. Edward's University

## Saturday Morning, March 2, 8:30–10:00 am

NABPR – Hudson

## Saturday Morning, March 2, 10:30–noon

AAR-SW: Featured Book Session I – Planters

*Presiding:* Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

*Theme:* Michael J. Zogry, *Anetso, the Cherokee Ball Game: At the Center of Ceremony and Identity*

*Panelists:*

Sarah Summers, University of Texas

Matthew Pereira, Oklahoma State University

Angela Tarango, Trinity University

Michael J. Zogry, University of Kansas

AAR-SW: Play and Mindfulness in Undergraduate Education – San Antonio

*Presiding:* Rachel Ozanne, University of Texas at Austin

- 10:30 Trung Huynh, University of Houston  
Why Mindfulness-Based Therapies Are Essential Therapeutic Approaches for Enhancing College Students' Academic Excellence and Mental Health, Positively and Effectively
- 11:00 Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University  
Role-Playing toward Inclusive Conversations: Approaching Transformative Learning through Innovative Pedagogies and Alternative Epistemologies in the Study of Religion
- 11:30 Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University  
Moksha and Reacting to the Past

AAR-SW: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality – Hudson

*Presiding:* Chad Pevateaux, Interfaith Action of Central Texas

- 10:30 Aixin Aydin, University of Texas at Austin  
Workplace Rituals: Gender-Based Violence in the Immigration Nonprofit
- 10:52 Vanity James, Prairie View A&M University  
Religiosity Trends in African American Adolescent Girls Religiosity, and Its Impact on Suicide Rates

- 11:14 Alexandra Nelson-Tomlinson, University of Texas at Austin  
What's Women's "Work"? The Preacher's Wife and the "Work" of Body Maintenance
- 11:36 Rachel Schwaller, University of Kansas  
"I Left My Bible At Home...": How Denominational Evangelical Magazines Created the Work Space

**AAR-SW: The Structures of Black Theology, the Signs of Work, and the Nature of Play in the Discourse of Prophetic Commitments – Merchants**

*Presiding:* Hue Woodson, Tarrant County College

- 10:30 Luke Bellinger, Texas Christian University and Tarrant County College  
The Interaction Relationship between Race, Literalism, and Acceptance of Queer People
- 10:52 Michelle Patterson, University of Birmingham  
Exploring the Multifaceted Impact of African American Masculinity in Church Leadership Roles
- 11:14 Michelle Davis, Prairie View A&M University  
The Spiritual Foundation of the Civil Rights Movement: Drawing from a Plurality of Traditions
- 11:36 Laron Muse, Prairie View A&M University  
The Black Panther Party's (BPP) The Ten Point Platform: A Bold Cause without a Spiritual Foundation

**AAR-SW: Ideals of Work and Economic Relations in Christian History – Dallas**

*Presiding:* Ryan Fitzgerald, St. Edward's University

- 10:30 Crystal Silva-McCormick, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Exporting American Imperialism to the Ends of the Earth
- 10:52 Erik A. Estrada, Texas Christian University  
Combatting Merciful Catholicism: The Historical-Religious Context for the Compilation of Augustine's Exposition on the Epistle of James
- 11:14 Jon Carman, Southern Methodist University  
What's the Value of a Denarius? A Footnote to the Footnotes
- 11:36 Greg Atkins, Fort Hays State University  
South and West, Black and White: The NAACP and the Navigators in Colorado Springs, 1953–1969

**Association for the Scientific Study of Religion (ASSR) – Frisco**

*Presiding:* Darren J. N. Middleton, Baylor University

*Theme:* Haile Selassie, Exodus of Black Women from Evangelicalism, and Hans Ehrenberg

- 10:30 Darren J. N. Middleton, Baylor University  
Elect of God, England, and Exile: H.I.M. Haile Selassie I at Bath, 1936–41
- 11:00 Leslie Garrote, Baylor University  
Speaking Out and Speaking Back: The Not-So-Quiet Exodus of Black Women from Evangelicalism, 2010–2020

- 11:30 Jerry Summers, East Texas Baptist University  
A Heretic Comes Home: Hans Ehrenberg, The End-Time and Revelatory Hope

**Society of Biblical and Related Literature (SBRL): Hebrew Bible/Old Testament I – Williams**

*Presiding:* Mark Sneed, Lubbock Christian University

*Theme:* Insights from the Ancient Near Eastern World

- 10:30 John Mellison, University of Texas at Austin  
Disposal of Impurity in Judges 19
- 11:00 Reichert Zalameda, Baylor University  
In or Out – Two Views of Rahab's Entrance into Israel in Joshua 2
- 11:30 Kyle Rouse, Baylor University  
The Annals of Ashurnasirpal II and Joshua's Altar: Negotiating the Textual Location of the Mt. Ebal Altar Episode

**SBRL: Second Temple and Late Antique Judaism I – Carrollton**

*Presiding:* Deirdre Fulton, Baylor University

*Theme:* Dead Sea Scrolls and Apocalyptic Literature

- 10:30 J. Seward Gelatt, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
1QS and Modern Hyper-Literalist Readings of Isaiah 40:3
- 11:00 Margaret Talbot, Independent Scholar  
The Body in the Rule: Achieving Atextual Atonement in 1QS
- 11:30 Hallie Nickell, Criswell College  
The Relation of the Book of Daniel to 1 Maccabees

**SBRL: New Testament and Early Christianity I – Brown**

*Presiding:* Jillian Engelhardt, Texas Christian University

*Theme:* Epistolary Literature

- 10:30 Jennifer Reil, Baylor University  
Associations, the Empire, and 1 Peter
- 11:00 John Boyles, Abilene Christian University  
Marital Status as a Matter of Reputation in the Pastoral Epistles
- 11:30 Sharon Gresham, Independent Scholar  
The Letter of James: What Does Love Have to Do with It?

**SBRL: Christian Literature Beyond the Bible I – Kit**

*Presiding:* April DeConick, Rice University

- 10:30 Katie Brown, University of Texas at Austin  
The Idealization of Masculinity and Femininity and the Construction of Gender in Early Christian Martyr Narratives
- 11:00 J. D. Reiner, Rice University  
The Hymn of Christ in the Acts of John and Valentinian Thought
- 11:30 Mary Freiburger, Reformed Theological Seminary  
Virginity in the Ancient Church as Seen in St. Gregory of Nyssa

## Saturday Afternoon, March 2, 12:15–1:15 pm

### AAR-SW: Featured Book Session II – Planters

*Presiding:* Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

*Theme:* David James Duncan, *God Laughs and Plays: Churchless Sermons in Response to the Preachments of the Fundamentalist Right*

*Panelists:*

Rebecca Huskey, University of Oklahoma

Claire Colombo, Seminary of the Southwest

Ryan Fitzgerald, St. Edward's University

*Lunch is available in the Marriott restaurant for SWCRS registrants or at the numerous restaurants nearby*

## Saturday Afternoon, March 2, 1:30–3:30 pm

### AAR-SW: Featured Book Session III – Planters

*Presiding:* Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

*Theme:* Kristy Nabhan-Warren, *Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland*

*Panelists:*

Rachel Schwaller, University of Kansas

Craig Prentiss, Rockhurst University

Aixin Aydin, University of Texas at Austin

Nancy Frausto, Seminary of the Southwest

Matthew Drever, University of Tulsa

### AAR-SW: Acknowledging the Trauma of Gun Violence and Its Impact on Campus Climate – Dallas

*Presiding:* Santiago Piñón, Texas Christian University

*Panelists:*

Luke Hendrickson, Texas Christian University

Catalina Sheehan, Texas Christian University

Aaron Featherstone, Texas Christian University

Francesca Brown, Texas Christian University

Lucia Ibrahim, Texas Christian University

Erik A. Estrada, Texas Christian University

Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Texas Christian University

**AAR-SW: Theology, Multiplicity, and Play - Hudson**

*Presiding:* Michael D. Royster, Prairie View A&M University

- 1:30 Rebecca Huskey, University of Oklahoma  
Thou Shalt Have Fun: On Laughing, Playing, Pretending, and Genuinely Loving Each Other
- 2:00 Charles Regli, Baylor University  
Where Can I Find A Presbyterianism Like That? Theological Reflections on Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*
- 2:30 John San Nicolas, University of New Mexico  
One in the Spirit: An Ecumenism of Affective Transformation
- 3:00 Greg Jones, Duquesne University  
"And Move": Holding Other Religions Lightly as "Conspirators"

**AAR-SW: Religion and the Visual Arts – Beaumont**

*Presiding:* Helena Reddington, Metropolitan State University of Denver

- 1:30 Sage Elwell, Texas Christian University  
The Grotesque at Play: The Grotesque as Corrective in Digital Culture
- 2:00 Katherine Ellis, Baylor University  
Formed by Joy: Playfulness and Asceticism in the Life of St. Francis
- 2:30 Lara-Sophie Boleslawsky, University of Texas at Austin  
Whose Kingdom? Examining the Impact and Interpretation of the Nazi Era Painting of Hitler and Jesus Found in Christus Church at Hof, Germany
- 3:00 Ronald Lorenzo, Prairie View A&M University  
Social Character and St. Francis

**AAR-SW: Theta Kappa Alpha and Undergraduate Presentations – San Antonio**

*Presiding:* Jennifer Veninga, St. Edward's University

- 1:30 Yajat Bhargav, University of Houston  
Subverting Dominance: Theological Implications of Gender Role Reversal in Judges 4
- 1:54 Nia Botti, St. Edward's University  
*The Greek Life of Adam and Eve*, Holy Week Liturgy, and Iconography: Adam and the Jordan River
- 2:18 Christina Munafo, St. Edward's University  
Responding to the Digital Other: A Psycho-Spiritual Feminist Reflection
- 2:42 Ella Johnson, Texas Christian University  
The Affirmation of Gender Fluidity and Diversity in the Christian Context: Contextualizing the Genesis 1 Creation Story and the Evolutionary Nature of Creation through a Process Theological Lens
- 3:06 Emma Goins, Oklahoma City University  
The Quadrinity of God: The Role of Woman Wisdom in Modern Theology



### **ASSR – Frisco**

*Presiding:* Darren J. N. Middleton, Baylor University

*Theme:* East Asian Afterlives, Tradwives, and Latinx Christianity

- 1:30 Karol Chandler-Ezell, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Dramas and Syncretism in the Korean and Chinese Afterlife: Reapers, Goblins, and the Deities as Heroes
- 2:00 Carmen Celestini, Queen's University  
Popovers, Submission, and Dystopia: Tradwives, Christianity, and Conspiracy Theories
- 2:30 Leslie Garrote, Baylor University  
Displacement and Home Making: How Divergent Asylee Experiences Disrupt the Myth of 'Latinx' Christianity
- 3:00 ASSR Business Meeting

### **SBRL: Hebrew Bible II – Williams**

*Presiding:* Ericka Dunbar, Baylor University

*Theme:* The Artistry of the Hebrew Bible

- 1:30 Rannfrid Thelle, Wichita State University  
Creation of Light as Harmonics
- 2:00 Victor H. Matthews, Missouri State University  
The Role of Silence in the Aqedah (Genesis 22)
- 2:30 Robert Kranz, Southern Methodist University  
The Melodrama of Jephthah and His Daughter
- 3:00 Tyler Moser, University of Texas at Austin  
Birthing the Wind: Omen Literature and Isaiah's Apocalypse

### **SBRL: Hebrew Bible III – Merchants**

*Presiding:* Kim Bodenhamer, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

*Theme:* Biblical Hebrew Poetry

- 1:30 Michelle Hunt, Baylor University  
Creating Poetry in Numbers 21:30: The Reception and Recreation of Num 21:30 as a Poetic Line in Ancient Translations and Manuscripts
- 1:50 Dylan T. Smith, University of Texas at Austin  
The Jonah Psalm (Jonah 2:3–10) and the Song of the Sea (Exod 15:1–18)
- 2:10 Cindy Dawson, University of Houston  
Isaiah 60: Light Everywhere, Light Now
- 2:30 Ambrose Arralde, University of Texas at Austin  
The Semantics of Sin in the Psalms
- 2:50 Nicholas Werse, Baylor University  
Songs of Ecological Trauma in the Book of the Twelve
- 3:10 Discussion

**SBRL: Second Temple and Late Antique Judaism II – Carrollton**

*Presiding:* David Schones, Austin College

*Theme:* Emotions, Satire, and Deities in Second Temple Literature

- 1:30 Lisa M. Wolfe, Oklahoma City University  
The Compassionate Character of Qoheleth?
- 2:00 Micah R. Brewster, Denver Seminary  
Exegetical Fallacies in the Hebrew Bible: Who Is That Guy?
- 2:30 Stuart Lasine, Wichita State University  
Sensing Humor and its Absence in the Book of Tobit
- 3:00 Marcus Hayes, Texas Wesleyan University  
“Greater Than All Who Were Before Me!” King Qohelet, Satire, and the Tobiads

**SBRL: New Testament and Early Christianity II – Brown**

*Presiding:* Susan Benton, Baylor University

*Theme:* Book Review Panel of Jeremy L. Williams, *Criminalization in Acts of the Apostles: Race, Rhetoric, and the Prosecution of an Early Christian Movement*

*Panelists:*

Margaret Aymer, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (20 min.)

Jin Young Kim, Oklahoma State University (20 min.)

Abraham Smith, Southern Methodist University (20 min.)

*Respondent:*

Jeremy L. Williams, Brite Divinity School (20 min.)

Discussion (20 min.)

**SBRL: Christian Literature Beyond the Bible II – Kit**

*Presiding:* Robert Matthew Calhoun, Texas Christian University

- 1:30 Rochelle Willingham, Rice University  
Untangling the Webs of Theudas in Early Christian Sources
- 2:00 Kendra Jernigan, Abilene Christian University  
Reception History of Psalm 45: Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and Augustine
- 2:30 Abigail Crowe Tipton, Rice University  
The Body of the Soul
- 3:00 Camden Roy, Rice University  
Hellenistic Succession Narratives in *The Hypostasis of the Archons*

**Saturday Afternoon, March 2, 3:30–4:00 pm**

**COFFEE BREAK, 2nd Floor Foyer**

*Complimentary coffee and tea*

Saturday Afternoon, March 2, 4:00–5:30 pm

**AAR-SW Plenary Session – Merchants**

**Jeffrey G. Snodgrass**

**Colorado State University**

*Harnessing the Therapeutic Potential of Avatar Identities:  
The Religious Parallels and Health Dynamics of Contemporary  
Role-Playing Games*

*Presiding:* Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

ASSR – Frisco

*Presiding:* Dennis Horton, Baylor University

*Theme:* Paul's Missionary Journeys, Vicarious Suffering, and Religion in the  
Twentieth Century

- 4:00 Patrick Scott Smith, Independent Scholar  
Paul's Missionary Journeys and Mediterranean Trade Patterns
- 4:30 J. Seward Gelatt, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Matthew, Vicarious Suffering, and Isaiah 53:4
- 5:00 Michael D. Royster, Prairie View A&M University  
How Religion Survived the Twentieth Century

**SBRL Plenary Session – Kit/Williams**

**50 Years of Biblical Studies in the Southwest Region**

*Presiding:* Rannfrid Thelle, Wichita State University

*Panelists:*

Claudia Camp, Texas Christian University

Lidija Novakovic, Baylor University

Stephen B. Reid, George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Victor H. Matthews, Missouri State University

Joseph McDonald, Texas Christian University/Brite  
Divinity School

**Saturday Evening, March 2, 5:30–6:30 pm**

**2nd Floor Foyer**

**Reception and Announcement of 2024 Awards**

*Presiding:* Kelley Coblenz Bautch, St. Edward's  
University and SWCRS President

*Registrants will receive a ticket for the reception;  
complimentary food and beverages will be served*

**Saturday Evening, March 2, 6:30–7:30 pm**

**SWCRS 50th Anniversary Celebration – Kit/Williams**

**Saturday, Evening, March 2, 6:30–8:30 pm**

**AAR-SW Plenary Hands-On Activity – Merchants**

**Jeffrey G. Snodgrass**

**Colorado State University**

*You Are the Hero (or Villain) in This Adventure:  
Character Creation, Moral Conundrum, and Methodological  
Reflections in the Fate Role-Playing Game*

*Presiding:* Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

In the hands-on activity, participants first create a character using the role-playing game Fate's simple and intuitive system. Then, a group of intrepid adventurers play through a brief scene where they are asked to make a difficult moral choice. This is followed by a short debrief questionnaire and discussion that aims to provide insight into an ethnographic and psychological anthropological approach to the study of play.

## Sunday Morning, March 3, 7:30–8:15 am

AAR-SW: Business Meeting – Dallas

SBRL: Business Meeting – Frisco

## Sunday Morning, March 3, 8:30–10:30 am

AAR-SW: Making It Work? A Caucus for Adjunct and Contingent Faculty – Planters

*Participants:*

Cindy Dawson, University of Houston

Jillian Engelhardt, Texas Christian University

Trung Huynh, University of Houston

Tiffany Puett, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life

Rachel Schwaller, University of Kansas

AAR-SW: Theology, Philosophy, and Theory of Religion – Dallas

*Presiding:* J. Sage Elwell, Texas Christian University

8:30 Gregory Bock, University of Texas at Tyler

An Unforgiving God: Retributivism as a Divine Perfection

9:00 Daniel Hill, Baylor University

Transfiguring Death in the Death of Christ: Hans Urs von Balthasar's Theology of Death

9:30 Nicolette Walters, Prairie View A&M University

The Inherent Dynamics of Unemployment in a Capitalist Economic System

10:00 Dan Stiver, Hardin-Simmons University

Social Stupidity: Religion as Cause and Cure

AAR-SW: Meet My Monograph: In Print or In Progress – Beaumont

*Presiding:* Eric Breault, Northern Arizona University

8:30 Ben Wright, University of Texas at Dallas

*Bonds of Salvation: How Christianity Inspired and Limited American Abolitionism* (LSU Press, 2020)

9:00 Gregory Clines, Trinity University

*Jain Rāmāyana Narratives: Moral Vision and Literary Innovation* (Routledge, 2024)

9:30 Chad Pevateaux, Interfaith Action of Central Texas

*Mystic Hope: Interfaith Cooperation in an Age of Crisis* (in progress)

10:00 Lora Walsh, University of Arkansas

*Lady Church: Revelations of the First Christian Goddess* (in progress)

**AAR-SW: Student-Centered Roundtable – Hudson**

*Presiding:* Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University

*Theme:* Academic Flourishing, Nurturing Community Well-being, and Professionalization in the Study of Religion and Theology

*Panelists:*

Arunjana Das, Georgetown University  
Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University  
Rebecca Huskey, University of Oklahoma  
Sean O'Neil, Texas Christian University  
Shari Mackinson, Texas Christian University  
Santiago Piñón, Texas Christian University  
Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University  
Kirsten Wilson, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Samuel Ross, Texas Christian University  
Michael Gustin, Texas Christian University

**ASSR – Frisco**

*Presiding:* Karol Chandler-Ezell, Stephen F. Austin State University

*Theme:* Undergraduate Research

- 8:30 David Thevatheril, Baylor University  
Christianity and Caste: What Dalit Theology Has to Say about Christ, the Church,  
and Social Injustice
- 9:00 Khala Rice, Prairie View A&M University  
The Consequences of Growth and Expansion of Egoism
- 9:30 Victoria Hoover, Stephen F. Austin State University  
Are You Now, or Have You Ever Been, Cleopatra? – A Study of Past Life  
Regression, Practitioners, and the Impact of Spiritual Trances and Hypnotism

**SBRL: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament IV – Williams**

*Presiding:* Mark Sneed, Lubbock Christian University

*Theme:* Character and Ethics

- 8:30 Alexander Goodrich, Fuller Theological Seminary  
Covenant Identity and Social Ethics in Deuteronomy 15:4–6
- 9:00 Timothy Bang, Baylor University  
Unconventional Warfare: Women's Roles in YHWH's Victory in the Battle between  
Deborah and Jabin
- 9:30 Jerry Summers, East Texas Baptist University  
Job the Existentialist: Cultural Dialogue for Humankind in Crisis
- 10:00 Discussion

**SBRL: New Testament and Early Christianity III – Kit**

*Presiding:* John Boyles, Abilene Christian University

*Theme:* Narrative Literature

- 8:30 Keimi Driscoll, Brite Divinity School  
Man-Made Men: A Transmasculine Rereading of Mark's Disciples
- 9:00 Richard Warren Johnson, East Texas Baptist University  
Paul's Triumph in Luke's Subversive Narrative
- 9:30 Andrew H. Waller, Ridley College  
"For All Who Are Far Away": Acts 2, the Idea of Israel, and Lukan Eschatology
- 10:00 Jillian Engelhardt, Texas Christian University  
The Kingdom of Heaven and the Roman Empire: A Tale of Two Economies

**Sunday Morning, March 3, 10:30–11:00 am**

**COFFEE BREAK, 2nd Floor Foyer**

*Complimentary coffee and tea*

**Sunday Morning, March 3, 11:00–12:30**

**AAR-SW: Performing Religion and Play – Beaumont**

*Presiding:* Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University

- 11:00 Eric Breault, Northern Arizona University  
The Indigo Room: Religion and Play
- 11:30 Sarah Summers, University of Texas at Austin  
Religion in the Marching Arts
- 12:00 Helena Reddington, Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Jokes and Play in the Tullal Tradition of Kerala

**AAR-SW: The Status of Women in the Profession Roundtable 2.0: Religion Matters at Work and at Play – Dallas**

*Presiding:* Antoinette DeNapoli, Texas Christian University

*Panelists:*

- Arunjana Das, Georgetown University  
Lea McCracken, Texas Christian University  
Tiffany Puett, Institute for Diversity and Civic Life  
Susanne Scholz, Southern Methodist University  
Grace Vargas, Texas Christian University  
Jennifer Veninga, St. Edward's University

**ASSR – Frisco**

*Presiding:* Jerry Summers, East Texas Baptist University

*Theme:* Bearing False Witness, Canada's Queen Romana Didulo, and LGBTQI Legislation in Uganda

- 11:00 Nicholas Elliott, University of Southern Mississippi  
You Shall Not Bear False Witness Against Your Neighbor (Though Everyone Lies): An Examination of Why Individuals Lie for Asked Questions in Opposition to a Religious Goal of Honesty
- 11:30 Carmen Celestini, Queen's University  
Reviving the Violet Flame: The New Age Conspiratorial Journey of Canada's Queen Romana Didulo
- 12:00 Tariro Tandi, University of Southern Mississippi  
Religious Rhetoric and Media Constructs: The Interplay of Faith, Framing, and LGBTQI Legislation in Uganda

**SBRL Presidential Address – Kit/Williams**

*Comparing Christianities:  
Why I Wrote a Textbook and What I Learned*

**April DeConick**

Isla Carroll & Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies  
Department of Religion  
Rice University

*Presiding:* Matthias Henze, Rice University

**Sunday Afternoon, March 3, 12:30 – Suite 1207**

**SWCRS 2025 Meeting: Planning Session**

The secretaries or regional coordinators of the AAR-SW, ASSR, NABPR and SBRL will meet to begin planning the 2025 meeting. If you have suggestions for the 2025 meeting, please send them to the SWCRS executive secretary.



The Southwest Commission on Religious Studies was organized in 1974 to encourage, support, and coordinate scholarly activities in the field of religious studies in the Southwest. The Commission has served as the umbrella organization for the regional American Academy of Religion, American Schools of Oriental Research, Association for the Scientific Study of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature, and the Society of Biblical and Related Literature. The Commission is sponsored by institutions of higher learning, and faculty from those institutions are eligible to apply for annual Junior Scholar Grants and to be nominated for the John G. Gammie Distinguished Scholar Award.

## 2023–2024 SWCRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### *Presidents*

2022–2023	Darren J. N. Middleton, Texas Christian University
2021–2022	Mark Hamilton, Abilene Christian University
2020–2021	Ivette Vargas-O'Bryen, Austin College
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2005–2006	C. David Grant, Texas Christian University
2004–2005	Jesse Long, Lubbock Christian University
2003–2004	Francisco Garcia-Treto, Trinity University
2002–2003	Amy Oden, Oklahoma City University; Stephen Stell, Austin College
2001–2002	Stephen B. Reid, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
2000–2001	James Moyer, Southwest Missouri State University
1999–2000	Terry Muck, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
1998–1999	Roy F. Melugin, Austin College
1997–1998	Nadia Lahutsky, Texas Christian University
1996–1997	Claudia V. Camp, Texas Christian University
1995–1996	Harold Hatt, Phillips Theological Seminary
1994–1995	Philip Shuler, McMurry University
1993–1994	Paula Coeey, Trinity University
1992–1993	Victor Matthews, Southwest Missouri State University
1991–1992	Robert B. Sloan, Baylor University
1990–1991	Toni Craven, Brite Divinity School
1989–1990	George Boyd, Trinity University
1988–1989	Thomas W. Nuckols, Austin College
1987–1988	Richard A. Hoehn, Brite Divinity School
1986–1987	John Alsup, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
1985–1986	Joe E. Barnhart, North Texas State University
1984–1985	William O. Walker, Jr., Trinity University
1983–1984	Joseph B. Tyson, Southern Methodist University
1982–1983	Kenneth T. Lawrence, Texas Christian University
1981–1982	M. Eugene Boring, Phillips Graduate Seminary
1980–1981	Bruce C. Cresson, Baylor University
1979–1980	Roy F. Melugin, Austin College
1978–1979	Thomas H. Olbricht, Abilene Christian University
1977–1978	W. Eugene March, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

1976–1977	W. L. Hendricks, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
1975–1976	John G. Gammie, University of Tulsa
1974–1975	Albert C. Outler, Perkins School of Theology

*Executive Secretaries/Directors*

2024–	Richard Wright, Abilene Christian University
2019–2023	Jan Jaynes Quesada, Texas Christian University
2014–2018	Richard Bautch, St. Edward’s University
2006–2013	Stacy L. Patty, Lubbock Christian University
2003–2006	William Pitts, Baylor University
1997–2003	William H. Bellinger, Baylor University
1991–1997	Toni Craven, Brite Divinity School
1990–1991	Gary Lance Johnson, Phillips Graduate Seminary
1987–1990	Daniel B. McGee, Baylor University
1980–1987	Thomas H. Olbricht, Abilene Christian University
1978–1980	William O. Walker, Jr., Trinity University
1974–1978	Joseph B. Tyson, Southern Methodist University

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

*John G. Gammie Distinguished Scholar Award*

2021–2022	C. David Grant, Texas Christian University
2020–2021	James Thompson, Abilene Christian University
2018–2019	Jack Hill, Texas Christian University
2017–2018	Mikeal Parsons, Baylor University
2016–2017	Nadia Lahutsky, Texas Christian University
2015–2016	Joerg Rieger, Perkins School of Theology
2014–2015	Warren Carter, Brite Divinity School
2013–2014	Andrew Fort, Texas Christian University
2012–2013	Stephen Reid, George W. Truett Theological Seminary
2011–2012	C. Mackenzie Brown, Trinity University
2008–2009	William H. Bellinger, Baylor University
2007–2008	James C. Moyer, Missouri State University
2006–2007	David Gunn, Texas Christian University
2005–2006	Joe Barnhart, University of North Texas
2004–2005	Claudia Camp, Texas Christian University
2003–2004	Ronald B. Flowers, Texas Christian University
2002–2003	E. Earl Ellis, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
2001–2002	Toni Craven, Texas Christian University
2000–2001	Bruce C. Cresson, Baylor University
1999–2000	John T. Willis, Abilene Christian University
1998–1999	Charles Hedrick, Southwest Missouri State University
1997–1998	Leo Perdue, Brite Divinity School
1996–1997	Everett Ferguson, Abilene Christian University
1995–1996	Roy F. Melugin, Jr., Austin College
1994–1995	James H. Ware, Austin College
1993–1994	Joseph B. Tyson, Southern Methodist University
1992–1993	Glenn O. Hilburn, Baylor University
1991–1992	Brandon Scott, Phillips Graduate Seminary
1990–1991	William O. Walker, Jr., Trinity University

1989–1990	Kenneth Lawrence, Texas Christian University
1988–1989	William Estep, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
1987–1988	William R. Farmer, Southern Methodist University
1986–1987	William R. Baird, Brite Divinity School
1985–1986	Eugene Boring, Phillips Graduate Seminary
1984–1985	John Glenn Gammie, University of Tulsa

The John G. Gammie Distinguished Scholar Award honors noted scholars in the field of religious studies who reside in the Southwest. Nominees for this award must be active members of one of the participating societies and on the faculty or staff of a sponsoring institution. Letters of nomination must be sent to the SWCRS no later than January 30.

### *Junior Scholar Grant*

2022–2023	Erik Estrada, Texas Christian University
2021–2022	Rebecca Poe Hays, Baylor University
2020–2021	Lora J. Walsh, University of Arkansas Nicholas R. Werse, Baylor University
2019–2020	Mandy McMichael, Baylor University
2016–2017	Carl Hughes, Texas Lutheran University Ryan Stokes, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
2014–2015	Marc DiPaolo, Oklahoma City University Santiago Pinon, Texas Christian University
2013–2014	Angela Tarango, Trinity University
2012–2013	Gregory Cuellar, Texas A & M University Chad Spigel, Trinity University
2011–2012	Sharon Betsworth, Oklahoma City University
2010–2011	Mark Dennis, Texas Christian University Michael Homan, Xavier University of Louisiana
2009–2010	Michael Martin, Lubbock Christian University
2008–2009	Rebecca Raphael, Texas State University – San Marcos Eric A. Mitchell, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
2007–2008	Hjamil A. Martinez, Texas Christian University Ruben Rene Dupertuis, Trinity University
2006–2007	Serge Frolov, Southern Methodist University
2005–2006	Leor Halevi, Texas A & M University David Jensen, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
2004–2005	Brent Plate, Texas Christian University Stephen Ortiz, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
2003–2004	Joel S. Burnett, Baylor University
2002–2003	Sarah K. Pinnock, Trinity University Jack A. Hill, Texas Christian University
2001–2002	Todd C. Penner, Austin College Matthias Henze, Rice University
2000–2001	Darren J. N. Middleton, Texas Christian University
1999–2000	David B. Capes, Houston Baptist University
1998–1999	Daphne C. Wiggins, Texas Christian University
1997–1998	Joerg Rieger, Perkins School of Theology
1995–1996	Richard H. Lowery, Phillips Theological Seminary

1994–1995	Darryl Trimiew, Brite Divinity School
1993–1994	Danna Nolan Fewell, Perkins School of Theology Lynn Tatum, Baylor University
1992–1993	Jon L. Berquist, Phillips Graduate Seminary Richard W. Cogley, Southern Methodist University
1991–1992	Gregory Walters, St. Mary's University Warren G. Frisina, University of Houston
1990–1991	Mark G. Toulouse, Brite Divinity School William F. Monroe, University of Houston
1989–1990	Bobby C. Alexander, Southern Methodist University Mikeal Parsons, Baylor University
1988–1989	William H. Bellinger, Jr., Baylor University Victor H. Matthews, Southwest Missouri State University
1986–1987	Daryl Schmidt, Texas Christian University Frank Gorman, Jr., Phillips University
1985–1986	Dennis Smith, Oklahoma State University Robert Sloan, Baylor University
1984–1985	Andrew J. Dearman, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary James O. Duke, Brite Divinity School

Junior Scholar Grants are awarded to promising newer scholars of religious studies who reside in the Southwest region. Applicants must be active members of one of the participating societies and on the faculty or staff of a sponsoring institution. They will ordinarily have completed their dissertation and have served in a faculty position no more than ten years. Applications must be submitted no later than December 1. In the year that they apply, Junior Scholar applicants must attend the Regional Meeting and be present at the reception in order to receive the grant.

*Frank P. Forwood Award for Academic Excellence in Presented Research*

2022–2023	Todd Jay Leonard, University of Teacher Education Fukuoka, Japan
2021–2022	Adam Toler, Yale Divinity School
2020–2021	John Francis Burke, Trinity University
2018–2019	Derek de la Peña, University of Houston Downtown
2017–2018	Jerry Summers, East Texas Baptist University
2016–2017	Dianne Dentice, Stephen F. Austin State University
2015–2016	Ann Reed Wilder, Stephen F. Austin State University
2014–2015	Patrick Scott Smith, Independent Scholar, Republic, Missouri
2013–2014	Stephen Padilla, Wayland Baptist University
2012–2013	Dennis Horton, Baylor University
2011–2012	Todd Jay Leonard, Fukuoka University of Education
2010–2011	Ben D. Craver, Wayland Baptist University
2009–2010	Todd Jay Leonard, Fukuoka University of Education
2008–2009	Dennis P. Horton, Baylor University
2007–2008	J. B. Watson, Stephen F. Austin State University

Honoring the career service of Frank P. Forwood, this award recognizes distinguished scholarship in the ASSR at the SWCRS. The award is administered by the ASSR.

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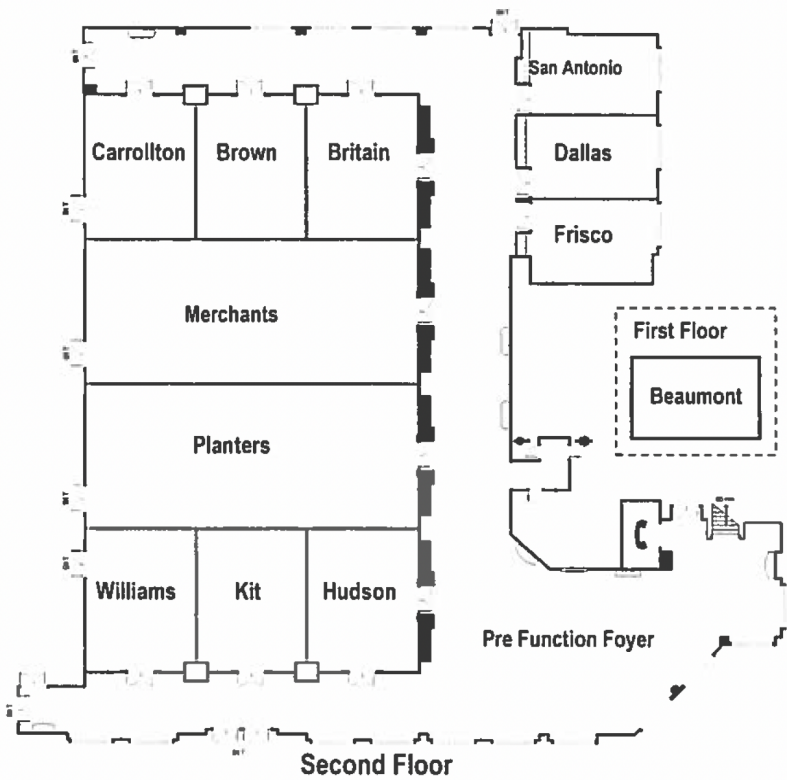
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## NOTES







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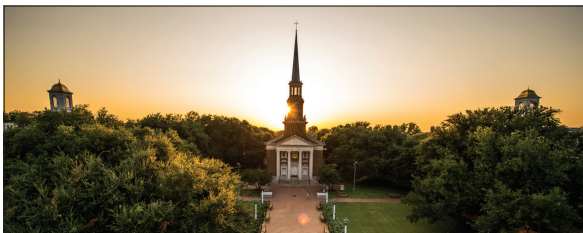
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