2017 AAR SBL
Upper Midwest Regional Meeting
Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, MN
March 31–April 1, 2017

Sessions are held in Northwestern Hall (NH), the Olson Campus Center (OCC), and Gullixson Hall (GH). Maps are available at the registration table and OCC information desk.

FRIDAY, March 31, 2017

9:00–11:15 AAR/SBL Preconference Workshop:
Interreligious Pedagogy
(NH 232)
Dominic Longo, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
Matt Maruggi, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN
Martha Stortz, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN

11:00–12:45 pm SBL/AAR Graduate Student Seminar:
From School to the Streets: Activism for Grad Students
(Gullixson 103)

1:00–2:30: First Sessions

2:45–4:00: AAR Plenary Session: Anant Rambachan, St.
Olaf College, Northfield, MN Theology vs. Religious
Studies: A Hindu Dialogical Perspective
(NH Auditorium)

4:15–6:00: Invited Panel: Getting Beyond the Tent of
Abraham: Listening to Unheard Voices from Marginalized
Religions
(NH Auditorium)
Presiders: Murphy Pizza, MCAD, St. Catherine U, St.
Mary’s University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN and
Hans Gustafson, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Sara Axtell, Heathenry/Asatru
Phil Hutchens, Druidry
Donald L. Engstrom-Reese, Vitki/ Hedge-Witchcraft
Iya Omo’lawo Origbega Ekundayo, Ifa/Orisa - West
Africa/African Diaspora traditions

6:00–6:30: Welcome Reception and Refreshments
(NH Atrium)

Friday evening: Graduate students, come chat it up! You
listen all day to speakers, so come and share your ideas
and network. Location TBA. Pick up a flyer at the
registration table for more information. First pitcher of
beer is on us!

SATURDAY, April 1, 2017

8:00-9:30 Coffee and Tea
(NH Atrium)

9:00-10:00 SBL Plenary Session: Blake Leyerle, University
of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
Preaching Zeal; John Chrysostom’s Appeal to the
Emotions
(NH Auditorium)

10:15-11:45 Second Sessions

12:00-1:15 Buffet Lunch and Business Meetings (OCC)
AAR Business: OCC Dining Room B
SBL Business: OCC Dining Room C
All society members are welcome to attend this
meeting!

1:30-3:00 Third Sessions

3:15-4:45 Fourth Sessions

FIRST SESSIONS: Friday, 1:00–2:30

Session 1: New Testament: Synoptics
(Gullixson 103)
Presider: Dan Scholz, Cardinal Stritch University,
Milwaukee, WI

How Is It Written about the Son of Man... Mark 9:12
Nicholas Schaser, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
**Quanta Vincit Amor? Luke and the Romantic View of Life**  
Richard I. Pervo, St. Paul, MN

**The Endings of Mark in Light of First-Century Media Culture**  
Nicholas Elder, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

**Session 2: Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Session 1**

(Gullixson 104)  
Presider: Abby Pelham

**God Rising: A Liturgical Epithet in the Psalms**  
Steven Dunn, Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI

**Gomer and the Holy Women: Hosea’s Portrayal of Female Sexuality;**  
David Penchansky, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

**Really, There Are No Dumb Questions? A Different Approach to the Psalms**  
Michael S. Donahou, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI

**Session 3: Historical Perspective on Religion**

(NH Room 232)  
Presider: James Kroemer, Concordia University, Wisconsin

**To Die for the Faith: Amakusa Shiro and the Shimabara Rebellion**  
Caroline Keenan, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

**The Paradox of Luther’s Political Theology of Power: Sovereignty, Revolution, and the Exception**  
Silas Morgan, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

**Saints in the Making: The Quasi-Religious Rearing of Soviet Children**  
Elena Vishnevskaya, Central College, Pella, IA

**Session 4: World Religions Panel: Comparative Religions**

(NH Room 243)

**Presider: Courtney Wilder, Midland University, Fremont NE**

**Advaita Vedanta and Western Philosophy—with Reference to Rambachan’s Account of Advaita**  
Terence J. Kleven, Central College, Pella, IA

**“Tongues of Angels”: Non-Linguistic Vocables in World Religious Traditions**  
Priscilla Previl, Universite Providence d’Haiti, Balan, Haiti

**God’s Grace and the Guru’s Blessing: An Interreligious Inquiry into Dependence and Agency**  
Steven Shippee, Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Franklin, WI

**Session 5: Religion and Science Session 1**

(NH Room 251)  
Presider: George Tsakiridis, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

**Morality Evolves: Creating Moral/Religious Communities Informed by Science**  
Paul Shrell-Fox, The Schechter Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

**Historical Trauma: Religion, Genetics, and Landscape**  
Ann Pederson and Erin Nuetzman, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD

**Morality versus Religion: The Scientific Study of Human Nature**  
Alexandra Glynn

**Session 6: Women in the Bible**

(OCC Upstairs Seminar Room, #215)  
Presider: Susan Myers, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

**Trumping Womanhood: Revelation, the Polluted Feminine, and Misogynistic Political Theatrics in the 21st Century**  
Marsha A. Thrall, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Deborah, Yael, and Judith: Reclaiming Old Testament Heroines
Trinity Elmer, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, WI

The Anomalies of Esther or Bring Her in from the Cold
Reid McFarlane, Independent Scholar

Session 7: Undergraduate Research Session 1: Theology A
(OCC Downstairs Lecture Room, #10)
Presider: Bruce Forbes, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA

Living Waters: The Problem of Dirty Water and Baptism
Benjamin Trenne, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD

A Theology of Mental Health
Jesse St. Clair, Simpson College, Indianola, IA

Barth’s Semiotics and Transcendent Revelation on Divine Images
Brandon Woller, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

SECOND SESSIONS: Saturday, 10:15–11:45

Session 1: Ethics
(NH Auditorium)
Presider: John Fournelle

Fragmentation in Postmodernity: Social Media and ‘Whatever’ Culture
Michelle Gilgannon, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI

Karl Barth’s Eschatological Interpretation of Conscience and the Teleological Recovery of Voluntarism
J. Andrew Edwards, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University, St. Joseph, MN

Session 2: New Testament, Johannine Literature
(Gullixson 104)
Presider: Marsha Thrall, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL

Understanding Revelation as a Bilingual, Oral Composition
Kristofer Coffman, Luther Seminary Alumnus, Independent Scholar

Session 3: Early and Late Antique Christianity
(Gullixson 103)
Presider: Mark DelCogliano, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

The Bishop-Martyr Pothinus: Restoring the Lapsed to Faith
Justin Buol, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

Tertullian on Divine Sovereignty and Free Will: A Christian/Stoic Resolution
David Clark, PhD, Independent Scholar

Preaching to Seneca: Christ as Stoic Sapiens in Divinae Institutiones IV
Benjamin Hansen, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Session 4: Philosophy of Religion and Systematic Theology Session 1
(NH Room 232)
Presider: Spencer Moffatt, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Retrieving Theosis: A Close Reading of Tuomo Mannermaa
Evan Taylor Marsolek, Independent Scholar

Robert Jenson’s Pneumatological Contribution: An Engagement
John W. Hoyum, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

The Human Creature as Christian Confessor
Jane Barter, The University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Session 5: Undergraduate Research Session 2: Theology B

(NH Room 243)
Presider: Amanda Morrow, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison, WI

“O dear Love, I have inscribed you in the fresh blood of my heart”: Eroticism and Suffering in Medieval Mysticism
Virginia Atwell, Simpson College, Indianola, IA

St. John of the Cross’s Theology of Suffering in Light of Heidegger’s “On the Essence of Truth”
Michael Stevens, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Finding Divine Love In, With and Under Trench Warfare: A Theology of War
Maddie Todd, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD

Finding Meaning Despite Suffering and Trauma: The Myth of Sisyphus and the Book of Ecclesiastes
Amanda Nameniuk, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

Session 6: Open Session 1

(NH Room 251)
Presider: Amy Marga, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Veiled Women in Early Christian Art and Text
Susanna Drake, Macalester College, Minneapolis, MN

Process and Dance
Kristen Soltvedt Rinaldi, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN

A Politics of Love: What Believers Can Learn from Contemporary Political Philosophers
Andrés Roberto Albertsen, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Session 7: Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

(OCC Upstairs Seminar Room, #215)
Presider: C. Neal Keye, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN

Reconciling the Dissonance in Tertullian’s Position on Women
Ken Holder, Independent Scholar, Humble, TX

Distinguished, Not Separated: A Buddhist-Catholic Theology of Gender Identity
P. J. Johnston, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Virtual Worlds, Virtual Violence, and Virtual Gender in The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas and Video Games
Corrine Carvalho and Michael Best, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

THIRD SESSIONS: Saturday, 1:30–3:00

Session 1: Luther Studies Invited Panel
(Gullixson 103)
Moderator: William Russell (AAR Regional President).

The Practical Luther after 500 Years: A Roundtable Discussion
A public conversation about the implications of Martin Luther’s life and work for the present.

Participants:
Marcia Bunge, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
Gary Kinkel, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Shakopee, WI
Gary Simpson, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Olaf Roynesdal, Eastside Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Session 2: Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Session 2
(Gullixson 104)
Presider: Cameron Howard

Embodied Jeremiah
Corrine Carvalho, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

Justice for Yahweh: Conflict and Justice
Scott P. Bayer, Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA

Poetry, Language, and Statecraft in Isaiah 18
Blake Couey, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
Session 3: Religions in North America

(NH Auditorium)
Presider: Murphy Pizza, MCAD, St. Catherine U, St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

*Millennials, Church, & Pop: Creating an “Urban Ethos” for Worship in the Twin Cities*
Katelyn Medic, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Nahid Khan, Independent Scholar, Twin Cities, MN

*The American Orthodox Church of Alexandria: A Controversial Re-forming of an Ancient Church*
Elizabeth Staszak, Independent Scholar

Session 4: Undergraduate Research Session 3: Bible
(NH Room 232)
Presider: Jessica Tinklenberg, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA

*Gilgamesh and the Documentary Hypothesis: The Composition of the Genesis Flood Narrative*
Cassidy Mosity, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

*From Shame to Honor: The Education of Judah in Genesis 29-49*
Shayla Cox, Central College, Pella, IA

*Reclaiming the Good News in the Gospel of Mark*
Andrea Bonneville, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

Session 5: Undergraduate Research Session 4: Religion and Culture A
(NH Room 243)
Presider: Janet Everhart, Simpson College, Indianola, IA

*The Colonizing Approaches of Sepulveda and Las Casas from a Mexican-American Perspective*
Tlaloc Huerta, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI

Session 6: Religion, Theology and the Arts
(OCC Upstairs Seminar Room, #215)
Presider: Kim Vrudny, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

*The Liminal Tragic: How Silence Speaks to The Beauty of the Infinite*
Thomas Breedlove, Baylor University, Waco, TX

*Poetry and the Redemption of Language: The Philosophy of Solmaz Sharif’s “Look”*
Lance Green, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

*The Murky Waters of the Tragic and Comic in Flannery O’Connor’s “The River”*
Rachel Toombs, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Session 7: Teaching Religion, Theology and the Bible
(NH 251)
Presider: Suzanne Hequet, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

*Crowdsourcing A Tragedy: Digital Annotation in the Religious Studies Classroom*
Brad Crowell, Drake University, Des Moines, IA

*Bringing Experiential Learning into Global Christianity Courses*
Suzanne Hequet, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

*Teaching Students (of the Dominant Culture) about Culture’s Role in Biblical Interpretation*
James Grimshaw, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI

Diluting the Dharma: Buddhism in American Popular Culture
Nisa Salmen, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA

Action and Contemplation as Contrasting Musical Identities in Ecumenical Christian Communities
Gabriella Makuc, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

The Colonizing Approaches of Sepulveda and Las Casas from a Mexican-American Perspective
Tlaloc Huerta, Carroll University, Waukesha, WI
FOURTH SESSIONS: Saturday, 3:15–4:45

Session 1: Early Judaism
(Gullixson 104)
Presider: Joshua Ezra Burns, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

The Belly of the Δρακόν: Old Greek Job’s Ravenous Beast
James Wykes, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Ben Sira, Genesis and ... Chaoskampf?
Gary P. Klump, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

“The Badge of Priesthood”: Sacerdotal Permutation of Portentous Birth Stories in Early Judaism
Christopher Brenna Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Session 2: Philosophy of Religion / Systematic Theology
Session 2
(Gullixson 103)
Presider: Andrés Albertsen, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Mystery as Aperture: Reading Luther in the Midst of a Logocentric World
Benjamin Taylor, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Discontinuity and Solidarity in the Theology of James Cone
Tyler Davis, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Session 3: Old Testament / Hebrew Bible Colloquium
(NH Room 232)
Presider: Blake Couey, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN
Respondent: Margaret Odell, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

Making Images: Creativity in Biblical Hebrew Poetry
Sean Burt, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND and Elaine James, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN

Session 4: Undergraduate Session 5: Religion and Culture B
(NH Room 251)
Presider: Ann Peterson, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD

The Causes of the Fall of the Empire and the Significance of this Empire for the Modern Republic of Turkey
Jimmy Cunningham, Central College, Pella, IA

Public Religion, Space, and Tolerance in Morocco and Sierra Leone
Meghan Murphy, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

Viking Values: Scandinavian Religion through the Ages
Alex Paulsen, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA

Session 5: Religion and Science Session 2: Cosmic Realities in Religion and Science
(OCC Downstairs Lecture Room, #10)
Presider: Greg Peterson, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD

The Neurophysiological Basis for Dialectical Logic: Some Hegelian Reflections on “Absolute Unitary Being”
David James Stewart, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN

Lisanne Winslow and Walter Schultz, University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN

Moral Facts within an Information-Theoretic Account of Reality
Michael Berhow, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
Please join us next year for the AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Meetings on April 13-14, 2018

Watch for news out of the National AAR and SBL on www.aar.org and www.sbl.org

2017 Plenary Speakers:

AAR: Dr. Anantanand Rambachan is Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College, Minnesota. He is also Visiting Professor at the Academy for the Study of World Religions at the University of Hamburg in Germany. His major books include: Accomplishing the Accomplished: The Vedas as a Source of Valid Knowledge in Shankara; The Limits of Scripture: Vivekananda's Reinterpretation of the Authority of the Vedas; The Advaita Worldview: God, World and Humanity, and A Hindu Theology of Liberation: Not-Two is Not One. The British Broadcasting Corporation broadcast a series of 25 of his lectures around the world.

Prof. Rambachan has been involved in the field of interreligious relations and dialogue for over 25 years, as a Hindu participant and analyst. In 2008, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, he delivered the distinguished Lambeth Interfaith Lecture at Lambeth Palace in London. Professor Rambachan led the first two White Horelruse Celebration of the Hindu Festival of Diwali in 2003 and 2004.

SBL: Dr. Blake Leyerle teaches at the University of Notre Dame in the departments of Theology and Classics. A social and cultural historian of early Christianity, she has published on a wide range of topics in the Journal of Early Christian Studies, Harvard Theological Review, the Journal of Late Antiquity, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, the Journal of Religion, the Archiv für Religionsgeschichte, the Journal of Early Christian History, and various edited volumes and handbooks.

Her book, Theatrical Shows and Ascetic Lives: John Chrysostom's Attack on Spiritual Marriage, was published by the University of California Press in 2001. A second book, co-edited with Robin Darling Young, Ascetic Culture: Essays in Honor of Philip Rousseau, was published by the University of Notre Dame Press in 2013. A member of the Society of Biblical Literature, she currently serves as the co-chair of the Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section. She previously served as co-chair of the History of Christianity Section of the American Academy of Religion. She is also a member of the North American Patristics Society, and has served that organization as a Member of the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors, as well as a Member-at Large.

Blake Leyerle has won a Henry Luce III fellowship in Theology, a Kaneb Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, and two multi-year collaborative grants. She is currently working on two book length projects: one a study of John Chrysostom and the emotions, and the other of early Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land.