



2012 Midwest Regional Meeting
March 30–31, 2012
Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois, USA

The deadline for proposals is ~~January 2, 2012~~ **January 2, 2012**. The online submission system will be available .

The Midwest Region invites research presentation proposals related to the academic study of religion from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and encompassing a wide range of religious and cultural phenomena. This year, we especially invite proposals dealing with topics related to our conference theme, “Religion and Fear.”

Authors may submit 250–500 word proposals for individual papers or for panels of papers. Please submit your proposal using the online submission system by January 2, 2012 (link will be available on the [Midwest Region’s website](#)). If you have any questions about whether your proposal is appropriate for a particular Section, please contact that Section’s Chair. If you feel your proposal does not fit into any of our current Sections, you may submit it to the Special Topics Section.

Proposal submissions will only be accepted online. Please observe these restrictions:

- You may submit up to two different proposals to a single Section.
- You may submit up to two different proposals to two different Sections.
- You may not submit the same proposal to two different Sections.
- Please indicate if religious observances will make a Friday afternoon panel inappropriate for your participation.

Notice of acceptance/rejection will be sent out before the end of January.

Sections and Section Chairs

Arts, Literature, and Religion

Solicits proposals for papers and panels that examine the intersection of religion and the arts, broadly defined to encompass the visual arts, architecture, literature, cinema, theater, and dance, in both their fine and vernacular manifestations.

Kristin Schwain, University of Missouri, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](mailto:krschwain@missouri.edu) .

Ethics and Philosophy of Religion

Solicits proposals for papers and panels dealing with ethical theory, applied ethics, moral theology, and other topics related to religion and morality, as well as papers dealing broadly with the philosophy of religion, such as questions of religious ontology, metaphysics, and epistemology.

We are currently seeking nominations for Chair of this Section. See below for information on the nominations process.

History of Christianity

Solicits proposals for papers and panels that analyze any variety of Christianity from academic, historical, and social scientific perspectives. Proposals for papers that adopt theological, constructive, confessional, or faith-based perspectives should be submitted to either the Theology Section or the Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Section.

William E. Smith III, Indiana University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

History of Religions

Solicits proposals for papers and panels investigating any aspects of religions other than Christianity from a historical, anthropological, sociological, or other social scientific perspective.

Brian J. Clites, Northwestern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Religion and American Culture

Solicits proposals for papers and panels exploring social, cultural, and historical aspects of religion in the Americas, in particular in the United States. Studies of religious traditions or ideas that are not specifically situated in, or related to, their manifestations in this geographical context will not be accepted.

John Schmalzbauer, Missouri State University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Religion and Sacred Texts

Solicits proposals for papers and panels on the nature of sacred texts from a wide variety of religious traditions, especially those that study what makes these texts “sacred,” what makes them “texts,” and how they originate and function in their religious and cultural settings.

Steve Young, McHenry County College, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Religion, Ecology, and Culture

Solicits proposals for papers and panels that explore the dynamic interrelationships of religion, ecology (environment, nature, animals), and culture, including those that seek to understand religious responses to, and analyses of, the ways in which human and nonhuman species relate to their natural environments.

Amanda Baugh, Northwestern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) , and Hayley Glaholt, Northwestern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Religions of Asia

Solicits proposals for papers covering textual, ethnographic, or other historical and cultural studies of the religious traditions of South, Southeast, and East Asia, consisting primarily of (but not necessarily limited to) Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism.

Michael Nichols, Northwestern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from](#)

spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

Special Topics

Solicits proposals for papers and panels not appropriate for other Sections. Preference will be given to those proposals that focus on the annual conference theme or on teaching in religious studies. Proposals might include research engaging topics such as ritual performance, gendered roles and identities, the embodiment of religion, and theologies of the body and sexuality among religious peoples and groups.

Scott R. Paeth, DePaul University, This e-mail address is being protected from
spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

Study of Judaism

Solicits proposals broadly inclusive of Judaism and Jewish tradition. Panels and proposals may address textual studies, history concerning any time period from the ancient to the modern, theology, sociology, or anthropology of Jewish subjects.

Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University, This e-mail address is being protected from spambots.
You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

Theology

Solicits proposals for papers and panels in all areas of theology — broadly defined as critical reflections on the transcendent, the human relationship with the divine, and all related questions and issues.

Amy Carr, Western Illinois University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Undergraduate Students

Specifically designed for undergraduate students in the field of religious studies who wish to broaden their academic experience by presenting their research at a formal conference, this Section solicits proposals for papers by undergraduate students on any topic concerning religion.

Forrest Clingerman, Ohio Northern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) , and Ellen Posman, Baldwin-Wallace College, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Women and Religion

Solicits proposals for papers and panels that explore the many ways that women imagine and construct religious identities, experience religion in their everyday lives, and interpret symbols, myths, and rituals. Other topics, including questions of methodology, in the study of women and religion are also welcome.

Mary Ellen Konieczny, University of Notre Dame, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

Additional Regional Notices

If you are interested in serving as a Section Chair or proposing a new Section for the conference, please contact the regional President, Thomas Pearson, Wabash College, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) .

See the [bylaws](#) for more information on the duties of the Section Chairs.

We are seeking nominations for the following Section Chairs:

- Ethics and Philosophy of Religion
- Islam
- Teaching Religion

Section Chairs serve a three-year, renewable term. [Click here](#) for more information on the nomination process. Nominations are due by October 31, 2011.

Paper Competitions

There are three paper competitions at this year's Regional Meeting:

- Undergraduate paper competition — undergraduate students who wish to have their papers considered for this competition should submit their papers to the Undergraduate Section Chair, Forrest Clingerman, Ohio Northern University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#).
- Graduate paper competition —graduate students who wish to have their papers considered for this competition should submit their papers to the Vice President/Program Chair, Jacqueline Bussie, Capital University, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#).
- Marion McFarland Taylor Award for Best Research Paper in the Area of Religion, Ecology, and Sustainability — scholars who wish to have their papers considered for this competition should submit their papers to the President, Thomas Pearson, Wabash Center, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#).

Keynote Address

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Jason Bivins, North Carolina State University.