



2012 Upper Midwest Regional Meeting
March 30–31, 2012
Luther Seminary
Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA

Submitting A Proposal:

This year, we are using the Oxford Abstracts Registration Program. You may access the link to submit your proposal on our [Region's website](#) . All presenters at the Regional Meeting (excluding undergraduate students) should be a member (whether student or full) of one of the three participating societies.

The submission deadline is December 15, 2011.

For Master's Students:

The Region encourages MA students to present outstanding papers. Paper proposals from MA students must be accompanied by the nomination of a faculty advisor. Please include the name and contact information of the faculty advisor in your submission.

Joint AAR/SBL Sessions:

Asian/Asian American Theology and Religious Studies

Sharon Tan, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Bernon Lee, Bethel University

This Section welcomes any papers relating to Asian/Asian American perspectives on religious studies, theology, ethics, history, and biblical studies.

Multicultural Perspectives on Theology, Religion, and Biblical Interpretation

Amy Marga, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

This Section seeks papers that address theology, religion, or the Bible from diverse racial, ethnic, and demographic perspectives in conversation with analysis of other forms of difference.

Teaching the Bible and Religion

Suzanne Hequet, College of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's University

This Section welcomes proposals on topics that explore pedagogical issues specific to the teaching of the Bible or religion in undergraduate, graduate, or seminary settings. Analyses of educational theory, teaching practices, and the ways in which values affect teaching and learning are encouraged. In addition to papers, presentations may include opportunities to engage participants in activities or discussion.

Undergraduate Research

Bruce Forbes, Morningside College

The Regional Meeting includes undergraduate papers reflecting the preponderance of undergraduate institutions in the Region. Members nominate outstanding papers. Each institution is allowed up to two submissions.

Women, Religion, and Sacred Text

Cia Sautter, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

This Section is open to a wide range of topics but particularly encourages proposals that engage in a feminist, womanist, or mujarista perspective. For example, papers may deal with feminist perspectives on history or scripture, but also keeping in mind teaching challenges for women in the Upper Midwest region. Different forms of presentation are welcome, including performance.

AAR Sessions:

Ethics

Mary Gaebler, Gustavus Adolphus College

This Section welcomes papers from both practical and analytical perspectives on the effect of faith in the lives of individuals (agent ethics) and the impact of religion on the common good (social ethics).

Historical Perspectives on Religion

Jim Kroemer, Marquette University

This Section seeks papers dealing with the social, cultural, intellectual, and institutional history of all religious traditions. Submissions using traditional historical or interdisciplinary methods are equally welcome.

Native American Religions

Michelene Pesantubbee, University of Iowa

This Region is a geographical area with an abundance of Native American traditions. We seek proposals on all aspects of Native American religions from Native American presenters as well as from others with an interest in/commitment to Native American traditions.

Philosophy of Religion/Systematic Theology

Courtney Wilder, Midland Lutheran College

This Section invites papers that examine the interface between philosophy and religion. Approaches can include both philosophical positions within religion and philosophy of religion more generally, as well as constructive theological work in dialogue with both historical traditions and aspects of the contemporary context.

Religion and Ecology

Amy Marga, Luther Seminary

Submissions are welcome on any aspect of religion and ecology study, including the role of politics, globalization, war, or legal decisions in the creation of and/or resistance to environmental degradation. Other topics within the field are also encouraged.

Religion and Science

Greg Peterson, South Dakota State University

This Section welcomes papers that analyze the various ways that science and religion intersect. Topics may include — but are not limited to — historical analyses, theological/religious reflection on the implications of scientific theories and methods, scientific theories of religion, and examinations of social and political forces that shape the intersection of science and religion in contemporary culture.

Religion, Art, and Culture

Kim Vrudny, University of Saint Thomas

Submissions are welcome on all topics examining the relationships between religion and cultural ideas, including — but not limited to — music, literature, and all forms of art, as well as the ways in which religion shapes and is shaped by culture.

Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

C. Neal Key, College of Saint Scholastica

Submissions are welcome on all topics that explore the intersections between religious ideas and constructions of gender and/or sexuality. This Section consolidates the Women and Religion Section and the Religion and Sexuality Section.

Religions in North America

Murphy Pizza, Globe University and Minnesota School of Business

This Section seeks proposals analyzing religious traditions, practices, and communities in North America from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives.

World Religions

Michael Baltutis, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Submissions are welcome on any topics related to religious traditions other than Judaism and Christianity, or topics that involve comparative reflection on more than one religious tradition.

SBL Sessions:

Archaeology and Excavation Reports (sessions cosponsored by ASOR)

Mark Schuler, Concordia University

This Section welcomes all topics pertaining to the archaeology of the ancient Near East, including excavation updates and summaries of work in progress. This year, ASOR also seeks reviewers for a panel discussion of Jodi Magness's *Stone and Dung, Oil and Spit: Jewish Daily Life in the Time of Jesus* (Eerdmans, 2011).

If you are interested, submit a proposal with the title "Jodi Magness panel" outlining your perspective on Magness's book.

Early Christianity

Casey Elledge, Gustavus Adolphus College

This Section welcomes papers on topics of early Christianity, including New Testament Apocrypha, Christian uses of Pseudepigrapha, the social background of early Christian communities, and the features of patristic literature.

Early Judaism and Judaic Studies

Alex Jassen, University of Minnesota

This Section concerns itself with the literatures, histories, and cultures of ancient Judaism. The breadth of the Section's description is intentional and serves as an invitation to those in related fields to join in interdisciplinary interaction and scholarship regarding virtually any aspect of ancient Judaism.

New Testament

Daniel Scholz, Cardinal Stritch University

This Section welcomes exegetical studies of specific texts, theological or thematic examinations, and methodological proposals of the New Testament.

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

Maggie Odell, Saint Olaf College, Bernon Lee, Bethel University, and Blake Couey, Gustavus Adolphus College

This Section welcomes exegetical studies of specific texts, theological or thematic examinations, and methodological proposals of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible.

Religion in the Ancient World

Glen Menzies, North Central University

This Section welcomes papers concerning general or specific studies of the practice of religion in Mediterranean and Near Eastern antiquity.

Multiple Submissions

Scholars may submit only one paper proposal to one session of the regional meeting.

Questions and Other Topics

Questions about the upcoming meeting or submitting proposals to the appropriate Section should be directed to Susan Hill, University of Northern Iowa, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) . Proposals for papers or topics not listed in the call for papers are also to be brought to her attention.

Travel Grants for Graduate Students

The Region is pleased to announce the availability of travel scholarships in the amount of \$100 and \$250 for graduate students whose papers are accepted for presentation at the Regional Meeting. A limited number of these scholarships are available and they will be awarded on a competitive basis. Please send a request for details to Jeannine Brown, Bethel Seminary, [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#) after you have submitted your proposals.

New Mentoring Program

The Regional Societies of the AAR and SBL are pleased to announce a new mentoring program for female faculty in religion, theology, and Bible. Women are still underrepresented in both of our societies. Studies in the STEM fields have shown that mentoring within professional societies can increase women's ability to achieve promotions and tenure. We are launching a mentoring partnership program for female scholars within our region. Mentoring through the regional societies can increase the likelihood that partners can meet face-to-face at least twice per year. It also provides opportunities to discuss teaching within the culture of the Upper Midwest, in addition to support for research, service, and community outreach.

[On the regional website](#) you will find a full description of the program, a paper by Corrine Carvalho about mentoring partnerships using principles of feminist pedagogy, a questionnaire to fill out if you would like to be part of this initiative, and contact information for further questions. Please note that we are seeking women scholars who are interested in becoming mentors, as well as women scholars interested in having a mentor. On the website, there is also a bibliography with articles that partners can use to spark discussion.

Notice to SBL Members: Regional Scholars Program

This year the Region will again participate in the Regional Scholar Program of the Society of Biblical Literature. Beginning scholars (less than four years from receiving a terminal degree) may request information on this program by e-mailing Jeannine Brown, Bethel Seminary, This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Upper Midwest Regional Officers

American Academy of Religion

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Vice-President: William Russell, Collegeville Institute

Program Committee: Stephen Pattee, Saint Mary's University

Regional Coordinator: Susan Hill, University of Northern Iowa, This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

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