

# Rocky Mountain – Great Plains

## Regional AAR/SBL

Creighton University, Omaha

All sessions are in the Harper Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North  
20<sup>th</sup> Street and California

Friday, March 29

Registration and Check-in 8:30–9:00

Harper 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North Lobby

Session 1 9:00–10:30

1A. Hebrew Bible Harper 3028A

Convenor: Nicolae Roddy, Creighton University

Daniel Belnap, Brigham Young University

*“Open Thine Eyes, O Lord, and See”*: A Possible Cultic Rite of Text Presentation

Nathan French, University of Aberdeen

*Levirate Law and Divine Retribution in the Throne Succession Narrative*

Benjamin Hoyer, Augustine Institute

*The Priestly Logos of Wisdom 18.21: The Literary and Theological Tendencies of the Sage in Wisdom 18.5-25*

1B. The Apostolic Tradition Harper 3028B

Convenor: Sherri Brown, Creighton University

Dulcinea Boesenberg, Creighton University

*Control Your Women: Silencing and Subordination of Women in the Acts of the Apostles*

Joel Allen, Dakota Wesleyan University

*Stephen’s Speech and the Absence of the Plundering of Egypt in the New Testament*

Paul Hartog, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary

*Faith and Hospitality in 1 Clement 9-12: The Case of Hospitable Noah*

1C. Human Recourses: Etic exploitation of “Authenticity” Harper 3027

Convenor: Dillon Sampson, University of Colorado Boulder

Dillon Sampson, University of Colorado Boulder  
*On the Simulation of Authentic Indigeneity*

Yasemin Pacalioglu, University of Colorado Boulder  
*“On the Commercialization and Policing of the Whirling Dervish Ceremony*

Graham Homan, University of Colorado Boulder  
*The Manipulation of Native American Religious Authenticity*

1D. Religious and Theological Studies Harper 3029

Convenor: Meghan Johnson Aelabouni, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology

Rudolph P. Reyes, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*Have the Mind of Christ: Notes Towards a Mad Christology*

Taylor Muma, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*She Speaks for Herself: www.Theolo-She.org Website as Praxis of Trinitarian Inclusion*

Hannah Griffin, University of Colorado Boulder  
*Ergi and the Duality of Odin*

Session 2 10:45–12:15

2A. Gospel of Mark Harper 3028A

Convenor: Thomas Wayment, Brigham Young University

Aaron Lockhart, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*The Motif of Identity and Authority in the Gospel of Mark*

Jason Robert Combs, Brigham Young University  
*“Eloi la . . . Elijah?”: Reading a Mondegreen in Mark 15:34–35*

Whitley Kaufman, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
*The Case Against an Apocalyptic Jesus*

2B. Religion and Popular Culture Harper 3028B

Convenor: Jeffrey Scholes, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Padraic Fitzgerald, University of Denver  
*The Cult of the Pit: Sacrificial Echoes Within the Black Metal Performance*

Gregory Robbins, University of Denver  
*Re-visiting The Band’s Visit*

Zachary Simpson, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma  
*To Be Born of a Woman: Affirmations and Denials of Male Sacrifice in Popular Culture*

## 2C. Eastern Religious Traditions

Harper 3027

Convenor: Nicolae Roddy, Creighton University

Joshua Shelton, University of Colorado Boulder  
*"A King and a Siddha Walk Into a Bar": The Role of Literary Form in Crafting Gendered Archetypes in The Testament of Padmasambhava*

Robin D. Bruce, Naropa University  
*Application of the Mahāyāna Teachings: The White Privilege Bodhisattva, Structural Spiritual By-Pass, & Relative Truth as a Means for Liberation*

George Sieg, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
*Reconsidering Rajneeshee Bioterror: Religious?*

## Lunch

12:15–1:30

*Get to know and network with other members of the region over a good lunch* Harper 3023

## Session 3

1:30–3:30

### 3A. Smartphone Piety: Social Media, Apps and the Making of Digital Devotional Publics

Harper 3028A

Convenor: Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver

Dheepa Sundaram, University of Denver  
*Apps as Epistemes: The Making of a Modern Hindu Public*

Andrea L. Stanton, University of Denver  
*Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj Apps: Managing the Business and Piety of Pilgrimage*

Courtney Robinson, University of Denver  
*Shifting the Moral Paradigm: Transforming America's Morality in 280 Characters or Less*

Stefanie Fajardo, University of Denver  
*Instagramming the Borderlands: The Reconfiguration of Chicana Identity through Virtual Reinterpretations of Religious Art Expression*

### 3B. Religion and Politics

Harper 3028B

Convenor: Thomas Kelly, Creighton University

Philippa Juliet Meek, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*Not for US: Bias against Mormon Polygamy in U.S. Law*

Rebecca M. David Hensley, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*Gendering Immigration: A Liberative Feminist Hermeneutic for Crossing the U.S./Mexico Border*

Sandra Dixon, University of Denver  
*A Lived Religions Approach to Christians' Long-Term Anti-Abortion / Pro-Life Activism*

Cameron Rowlett, University of Colorado Boulder  
*Dynamics of Political Power in Nation of Islam and Christian Identity Theology*

### 3C. Undergraduate Session

Harper 3027

Convenor: Zachary B. Smith, Creighton University

Tyler Harris, Brigham Young University  
*"Ears of the Deaf" (Isa 35:5): Deafness in the Ancient Near East*

Nathan Nelson, Creighton University  
*Biblical Translation and Pictorial Interpretation*

Meaghan Stout, Doane University  
*Devadasi Evolution: From the Temple to the Sheets*

Krista Waite, Morningside College  
*God's Cubicle: The Office and Diverse Religions*

Meredith Wall, Coe College  
*The Considerate Archbishop and the Solitary Monk: A Study of Athanasius's Life of Antony as a Pastoral Text*

### 3D. Bible and Popular Culture Workshop

Harper 3029

Convenor: Dan Clanton, Doane University

Facilitators:

*Amy Balogh, University of Denver*

*Dan Clanton, Doane University*

*Elizabeth Rae Coody, Morningside College*

## AAR Keynote Address

3:45–5:00

Harper 3023

Lisa Sideris

Professor of Religious Studies  
Indiana University

*Religion and World-Making:  
Techno-Transcendence from Earthrise to Astrobiology*

*Reception following the keynote*

Harper 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor North Lobby

## Graduate Student Get-Together

7:00

All masters and doctoral students are welcome to a post-reception informal gathering. Come to meet other RMGP graduate students and chat with some younger/newer faculty about navigating doctoral study, the job search, and the academic life.

## Saturday, March 30

### Business Meeting Breakfast

*All are invited to attend*

7:30–8:45

Harper 3023

### Session 4

9:00–10:30

#### 4A. Gospel of John

Harper 3028A

Convenor: Dulcinea Boesenberg, Creighton University

Sherri Brown, Creighton University

*Apostles to the Apostles: Case Studies on the Role of Women in the Gospel of John through Jesus' Encounters with the Woman of Samaria and Mary and Martha of Bethany*

Charlie Cummings, Front Range Community College

*"Nic at Night": The Role of Nicodemus in the Literary and Theological Development of the Fourth Gospel*

Elijah Owen, Augustine Institute

*John 19:25-26: Mary as Mother of All Christians*

## 4B. Ancient Religious Traditions

Harper 3028B

Convenor: Elizabeth Coody, Morningside College

Paden Alexander Unruh, University of Colorado Boulder

*Yahweh and the Maker: Monster Making and Monster Slaying*

Jason Reddoch, Colorado Mesa University

*The Significance of the Music of the Spheres and the Greek Myth of the Cicadas for Philo of Alexandria's Treatment of Fasting*

Avram Shannon, Brigham Young University

*"Number the Stars": Rabbinic Cosmology at the Intersection of Greek and Biblical Thought*

## 4C. Islam

Harper 3027

Convenor: Gordon Brubacher, Creighton University

Mahmoud Samak, University of Kansas

*Social Solidarity on the Day of Arafat in the Light of Durkheim Theory of Religion*

Saman Fazeli, University of Colorado Boulder

*When The Skies Wept Blood: A Literary Analysis of Maqal Literature*

## 4D. Religion and Food

Harper 3029

Convenor: John O'Keefe, Creighton University

Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, Ohio State University (Graduate Student Paper Award)

*Bridging the Nature-Culture Divide: Religious Meaning-Making in the Food Justice Movement*

Jessica Schroder, Denver Seminary

*Raising a Glass to Joy and the Gift of Being: The Mutual Affirmation of Theology of Food Literature and Jurgen Moltmann's Theology of Joy*

## Session 5

10:45–12:15

## 5A. Early Christian Studies

Harper 3028A

Convenor: Zachary B. Smith, Creighton University

Josh Schachterle, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology

*Fleeing from Bishops: John Cassian's Advocacy for the Separation of Monasticism and the Institutional Church*

Amy J. Erickson, Fuller Theological Seminary

*Law as Gospel in Gregory of Nyssa's Life of Moses*

Courtney Wilder, Midland University  
*Disability, Childbirth and Breastfeeding: Perpetua's visions, bodily experience, and Christian reflection*

## 5B. Lived Religious Experience

Harper 3028B

Convenor: Ronald A. Simkins, Creighton University

John O'Keefe, Creighton University  
*Spirituality and Place in the Nebraska Sandhills*

Rode Molla, University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology  
*Resisting Ethiopia's Imposed Higher Education Ideologies Through Lived Religious Experiences of Ethiopians*

## 5C. Philosophy of Religion

Harper 3027

Convenor: Elizabeth Coody, Morningside College

Justin Davis  
*Can the Truth be Superfluous? Schleiermacher, Sin, and the Post Truth World*

Laura Arcila Villa, Colorado State University  
*Anne Conway's Rejection of Spinoza's Pantheism*

## 5D. Scribal Traditions

Harper 3029

Convenor: Thomas Wayment, Brigham Young University

Lincoln Blumell, Brigham Young University  
*The Classroom Context of the New Testament Text of Didymus the Blind: A Reconsideration of the Tura Papyri and their Text-Critical Value*

Alan Taylor Farnes, Brigham Young University  
*The Scribal Habits of Non-Native Greek Scribes*

Leonard Greenspoon, Creighton University  
*What's In a Name? More Than We Might Imagine*

## Lunch and SBL Keynote Address

12:15–2:30

Harper 3023

David Brakke

Joe R. Engle Chair in the History of Christianity and Professor of History  
Ohio State University

*The Gnostic Origins of Christian Biblical Interpretation*