

**AAR-SBL**  
**Rocky Mountains – Great Plains Region**

***Virtual* Regional Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 20, 2021**  
University of Colorado Colorado Springs



University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs

# General Information

Welcome to the *virtual* 2021 Rocky Mountain–Great Plains regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature. Just as the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 conference, it is forcing a virtual conference in 2021. We are grateful that a conference is taking place in 2021. We sincerely hope to hold an in-person conference in 2022. Thank you for all of your accommodating and persistence.

You still must register for the conference, though **all fees are waived**.

Go to: <https://www.cvent.com/d/kjq0q3> to register for the conference.

On the day before the conference (March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021), you will be emailed a link that will contain all of the sessions. A Zoom link will accompany each session, so be sure to have Zoom downloaded on your device.

These are challenging times to say the least. Thanks to all of you for sustaining our Rocky Mountain-Great Plains AAR-SBL region. We believe that you all have help us put together a great (though smaller) program.

Sincerely,

The Program Committee and Regional Officers:

Ronald Simkins (Creighton University), President

Jeffrey Scholes (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), Vice President and Program Chair

Zachary Smith (Creighton University), AAR Coordinator

Thomas Wayment (Brigham Young University), SBL Coordinator

Michael Laminack (University of Denver – Iliff School of Theology), AAR Student Director

# Academic Program

2021 AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain–Great Plains Regional Meeting

\*All sessions take place on Saturday, March 20th

## Session 1, 8:15–10:00am

### 1A Religion and Communities

CHAIR: Erik Hanson (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Camilla Raymond (University of Denver), “Where is “Home” Again?: Mobility and Assimilation of Ioudaioi in the Greco-Egyptian Period”

Shoshana McClarence (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), “The First Brick Thrown: Materialism through the Stonewall Riots”

Patrick D. Bowen (Independent Scholar), “Remanufacturing Religion: On the Early Years of Farrakhan’s Nation of Islam”

Rebecca David Hensley (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), “Demonic Grounds or Living Water? The Crisis at the U.S./Mexico Border”

### 1B Hebrew Bible

CHAIR: COLIN McALLISTER (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS)

PRESENTERS:

Avram R. Shannon (Brigham Young University), “‘Judah shall not vex Ephraim’: The Josephite Tribes in Genesis Rabbah”

Albert McClure (Iliff School of Theology / University of Denver and Metropolitan State University), “Systemic Iconoclasm in the Hebrew Bible during the Persian Period II”

Michael T.R. Krueger (Reformed Theological Seminary), “Woe to Us for We Have Sinned: Lamentations as Prophetic Lament”

### 1C PANEL: Embodiment in South Asian Religious Traditions

Chair and Presenter: Loriliai Biernacki (University of Colorado, Boulder)

PRESENTERS:

James Batten (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Kim Ploeg (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Erika Brown (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Vincent Vansaghi (University of Colorado, Boulder)

10:00–10:15am

**Break**

Session 2, 10:15am–12:00pm

**2A Global Religion and Pedagogy**

CHAIR: Colin Lewis (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Jack Hamblin (University of Denver/Iliff School of Theology), “When Buddhas Suffer: Tenzing Rigdol’s *My World Is in Your Blind Spot*”

Mukti Patel (University of Toronto), “Shifting Perspectives: Women in Mosques”

Sandra Lee Dixon (University of Denver), “Teaching on the Wide-Open Conceptual Landscape of Lived Religion”

**2B New Testament**

CHAIR: Patrick D’Silva (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

SAM CALDERWOOD (WASHBURN UNIVERSITY), “BARABBAS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MARKAN PASSION NARRATIVE”

ANDREW J. POTTENGER (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER), “‘SUFFICIENT ORTHODOXY’: CONSTANTINE’S ADHERENCE TO THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA AS ECCLESIASTICAL LAW, A.D. 325-337”

ROBERT DOUGLASS (INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR), “THE RHETORICAL PRACTICE OF THE PARABLE IN FIRST-CENTURY GRECO-ROMAN LITERATURE, WITH APPLICATION TO THE PARABLES OF MARK 4”

RYAN F. SMITH (ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY), “LECTIO DIFFICILE NIMIS: A READING TOO DIFFICULT: “THE FALLACY OF EXTRINSIC PROBABILITY IN NEW-TESTAMENT TEXTUAL CRITICISM: THE CASE OF THE PRE-MORTEM SPEARING OF JESUS AT MATT 27:49B”

## **2C Panel: “Apocalypticism and Popular Culture”**

CHAIR and Moderator(s): Lorenzo DiTommaso (Concordia University Montréal) and Colin McAllister (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Eli Mason (Concordia University Montréal), “This Will Reveal a Great Secret of Time”: Liminality and Apocalypse in ‘Welcome to Night Vale’”

Shannon Ritchey (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs), “All the Nightmares Came Today: David Bowie and the Postmodern Apocalypse”

Julia Gerhard (Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA), “Dmitry Glukhovsky’s Metro 2033 as a Post-Utopia”

Regula Meyer Evitt (Colorado College), “Dante’s Fra Alberigo, Infernal Cannibalism, and the Medieval Technologies of the Zombie Apocalypse.”

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**Break**

**Session 3, 1:00–2:45pm**

## **3A Undergraduate Student Papers**

CHAIR: Jeffrey Scholes (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

PRESENTERS:

Jacob Barrett (Nebraska Wesleyan University), “The Case for World Religions without the World Religions Paradigm

Jackson Abhau (Brigham Young University), “Taking Away the Sin of the World: *Egō Eimi* and the Day of Atonement in John”

Korbyn Peebles (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma), “From Green to Brown: Moral Conflict of Climate Change within Contemporary Southern Baptism”

### **3B CREATION AND ECOLOGY: Author meets critics**

THIS SESSION WILL REVIEW THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK BY RONALD A. SIMKINS, *CREATION AND ECOLOGY: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ANCIENT ISRAEL AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS* (CASCADE BOOKS, 2020).

CHAIR: ZACHARY SMITH (CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY)

PANELISTS:

SAMUEL BOYD, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

MARK GEORGE, ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

AMY BALOGH, REGIS UNIVERSITY

RESPONSE:

RONALD A. SIMKINS, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

**3:00-4:00 pm: Business meeting**

**End of conference**

Founded in 1965, the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs is home to more than 12,000 students, more than 800 experienced faculty members and more than 800 devoted staff members. On our awe-inspiring campus, we focus on providing an academically excellent environment at a value to students across the United States, and more than 80 nations. The experience our students gain at UCCS provides an incredible service to our community of Colorado Springs and the greater southern Colorado region as a whole, with UCCS contributing about \$600 million each year in economic impact in El Paso County alone. For more information about UCCS, see <https://www.uccs.edu/ir/data/quick-facts>.

