

Call for Papers

Upper Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature

Saturday, April 4, 2020

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

The Upper Midwest Regional Society of Biblical Literature invites proposals for papers, panels, or roundtables to be presented at its 2020 Meeting in St. Paul, MN. The deadline for submissions is **December 31, 2019**.

We meet in cooperation with the Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion at the same time and place, but our call for papers is separate.

Proposals may address any aspect of the discipline of Biblical Studies and Cognate Literature. We welcome proposals for 1) single papers for an existing session; 2) panels with multiple papers on a designated topic; or 3) roundtables or workshops with a focused discussion on a particular biblical text or topic. Also note the joint sessions of AAR and SBL.

All presenters at the regional meeting *must* register for the conference.

For Master's Students: The region encourages master's students to present strong papers. Paper proposals from master's students must be accompanied by the nomination of a faculty advisor. Include the name and contact information of the faculty advisor in your submission.

For Undergraduates: Reflecting the large number of undergraduate institutions in our region, the Upper Midwest regional meeting includes undergraduate papers. We welcome the full scholarly participation of undergraduate members in the meeting.

Please note the following requirements for undergraduate papers:

- Undergraduates may submit paper proposals for the Undergraduate Research Sessions only.
- Each undergraduate institution may propose **two** papers. Faculty at the institution are responsible for selecting the two papers for submission and vetting them for quality.
- Each undergraduate paper proposal must include the name and email address of the faculty sponsor at the end of the paper abstract.
- The Undergraduate Research Sessions are convened by Dr. Bruce Forbes, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA. **Please email** proposals to directly to Dr. Forbes at forbes@morningside.edu, with the subject line "Undergraduate Submission to SBL." The faculty sponsor should be copied on the email.

Proposal Requirements: All SBL paper proposals *except* undergraduate proposals (see above) through this [form](#). Questions may be emailed to the SBL Regional Coordinator Dr. Blake Couey (jcouey@gustavus.edu). Each proposal should include a **title** and **abstract** of no more than 300 words, which should formulate a scholarly topic or problem for inquiry and articulate a thesis or argument.

Proposals for existing sessions be sent to reviewers anonymously; that is, your name and institution will be removed before reviewers see your proposal.

Proposals for panels or roundtables should be emailed directly to jcouey@gustavus.edu. Individual papers for the panels should be submitted at the form linked above.

SBL SESSIONS

OLD TESTAMENT/HEBREW BIBLE

The OT/HB session encourages paper proposals that engage biblical texts across a broad range of approaches, including historical, literary, linguistic, theological, or interdisciplinary approaches, as well as proposals that address methodological issues relevant to the field of biblical studies. Relevant proposals pertaining to ancient near Eastern archaeology or Second Temple Judaism are also welcome.

Coordinator: Sean Burt, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND

NEW TESTAMENT

Exegetical studies of specific New Testament texts, theological or thematic examinations, and methodological proposals are welcome. Relevant topics relating to Greco-Roman archaeology or early Judaism are also appropriate.

Coordinator: Daniel Scholz, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI

EARLY AND LATE-ANTIQUITY CHRISTIANITY

This section welcomes papers on any topic dealing with the history, literature, thought, and practices of early Christianity, broadly conceived, from the first century through the post-Nicene era.

Coordinator: Mark DelCogliano, University of St Thomas, St Paul, MN

JOINT AAR/SBL SESSIONS

MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON THEOLOGY, RELIGION AND BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

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.

*Coordinators: Bernon Lee, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota
Victor Ezigbo, Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota*

TEACHING RELIGION, THEOLOGY, AND THE BIBLE

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

Coordinator: Suzanne Hequet, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Submissions are sought on topics having to do with women and the Bible. This includes papers or creative presentations dealing with women who appear in biblical texts or with feminist, womanist, or mujerista readings of biblical texts. In addition, this section deals with the reception of biblical texts by a woman or women throughout history, or discussions of how a text has affected women at different points in time.

Coordinator: Susan Myers, University of St. Thomas, St Paul, Minnesota

MARTIN LUTHER STUDY GROUP

An invited group of scholars from the region will discuss approaches to Luther's life, with special reference to the spate of recent biographies of the Reformer. The 500th anniversary of the 95 Theses occasioned numerous new biographies of Martin. And now, after some time to digest, it is time to discuss: 1) What's new, interesting, distinctive? 2) Which approach the "definitive" category? 3) Which might be particularly well-suited for use in a classroom setting? 4) Any new paradigm/approach worthy of note?

Coordinator: The Rev. Dr. William R. Russell, Pastor, Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS

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

QUESTIONS AND OTHER TOPICS

Questions about the upcoming meeting or the appropriate section for proposals should be directed to the Regional Coordinator, Dr. Blake Couey (jcouey@gustavus.edu). For information about the regional AAR, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Coody (coodye@morningside.edu).

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Upper Midwest region is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of awards to graduate students for completed papers. The Upper Midwest AAR/SBL Student Travel Grant is competitive. Two hundred fifty dollars and one night of housing during the conference will be awarded to a small number of graduate students on the basis of a submitted paper of appropriate length for a 20-minute presentation (approximately 2400 words).

To apply, please submit papers to Dr. Blake Couey (jcouey@gustavus.edu) with the subject line "Submission: UMW Student Paper Travel Grant Competition" by December 31, 2019.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The **SBL plenary speaker** for 2020 is **Dr. Bernard M. Levinson**, Berman Family Chair in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible and Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Studies and of Law at the University of Minnesota. The **AAR plenary speaker** will be **Professor José Ignacio Cabezón**, the Dalai Lama Professor of Tibetan Buddhist Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Note: The selection of keynote speakers for each society (AAR and SBL) alternates between scholars outside our region who are of national and international reputation and exemplary scholars in our own region. For example, if the SBL has selected a speaker from the national or international community, AAR will select one from the region, and vice versa.

SBL UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICERS

President: Dr. John Martens, University of St. Thomas

Vice-President: Dr. Sean Burt, North Dakota State University

Regional Coordinator: Dr. Blake Couey, Gustavus Adolphus College

Program Coordinator: Dr. John Burnight, University of Northern Iowa

Student Representative: Jeffery Cross, University of Minnesota