Call for Papers/Proposals

AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Regional Conference

March 19-26, 2021

Hosted by the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (virtually)

Announcement

The Program Committee has decided that this year's annual conference will ***not*** be held in person. For reasons that, undoubtedly all you understand, COVID infections continue to be on the rise with no set date on the horizon for a mass vaccine inoculation. We are trying to think proactively. The cancellation of the 2020 conference, while lamentable, likely scrambled plans for a research project, a consistent presentation of your CV, and, well, just convening with some of your friends at the conference. We are aware of this, and we thought that holding a virtual conference this spring would help mitigate, however badly, some of these concerns.

So, we are proposing a virtual conference to take place at a set time each day within the dates of March 19 – 26, 2021. In order to accommodate your yearly, monthly, daily schedule, we are doing a combination of asynchronous and synchronous style. Presenters will upload their papers/proposals into a cloud (one that we provide the link for on our regional website). This will allow presenters to read over papers/proposals in advance. Then all will be invited to join their group (or other groups that elicit interest) for a synchronous event at a designated time during the week of March 19th through the 26th.

Call for Papers/Proposals for Conversations

Please note: this year's conference will have ***two*** separate CFPs (papers and proposals)

1. The first will be the traditional call for scholarly papers. It must be stated, as earlier, that all papers/proposals accepted for the 2020 conference gain immediate priority for the 2021 conference. We do need to hear from you as to whether you will participate in the conference. Please email Jeffrey Scholes: jscholes@uccs.edu to declare your intention (*even if you already notified us of your desire to have a remote conference*). If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you do not want to participate. If we get a "yes" from you, unless you would like to make changes to your previous submission, no further action is needed on your part.

   We are also soliciting ***new*** submissions to the conference. We welcome proposals for single papers, panels with multiple papers, or other types of sessions, such as roundtables involving structured discussions of pre-circulated questions. Paper proposals should include an abstract of no more than 300 words that discusses the subject matter and methodology of the paper, as well as the significance of the subject within the broader field of interest. Panel proposals should include (1) an abstract of no more than 300 words that discusses the subject matter and significance of the session as a whole; and (2) individual abstracts of no more than 300 words for each paper, addressing the subjects, methodology, and significance of those papers.

2. The second call will be for proposals that put forth a more untraditional conversation amongst fellow scholars around topics of interest involving religion or biblical literature. We are

introducing this second call provisionally as a way to accommodate more *ad hoc* presentations, given the unusual times. Possible topics could involve current events, discussions of recent books in the field, hot or controversial scholarly topics, and or any topic you think might be of interest to others. We hope that this "openness" towards programming will provoke several of you to form a conversational panel around a topic that is important to you.

The deadline for submissions responding to either call is January 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm MST. Each proposal should also include contact information for all participants, including (1) name(s), (2) institutional affiliation(s), and (3) email address(es).

Proposals should be sent as an email attachment in MS Word or PDF format to jscholes@uccs.edu. Our hope is to have the paper proposals available and accessible to all of you at least several weeks before the conference starts.

Finally, it is hoped that at least one faculty person from each of the participating schools in the region will serve on the Program Committee. Details on the program committee proposal review process will be emailed to those who self-identify by the deadline, which will be by Zoom towards the end of January. Questions about the conference or call for papers should be sent to jscholes@uccs.edu.