

NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

NAASR

FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION

CALL FOR PAPERS

Annual Meeting

October 29th - November 1st 2010

Atlanta, Georgia.

The North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR) was formed in 1985 to encourage theoretical reflection on the study of religion among North American scholars; to represent North American scholars of religion internationally; and to sustain communication between North American scholars and their international colleagues. NAASR is committed to examining any intellectual practices in the field regardless of geographical location or disciplinary boundaries. Our central concerns are with the intellectual and theoretical foundations of the study of religion, with the historical, social, and political conditions that shape the intellectual orientations and practices of the field, and with the place of criticism, experimentation, and theorizing of religion.

We invite proposals for individual papers and for panels that engage important theoretical issues in the academic study of religion (both historical and contemporary). We are particularly interested in the following topics:

1. Why do certain works, authors, and frameworks concerning religion and its study command more authority and attention than others? What kinds of works are being neglected, and what benefit might be gained by fostering neglected intersections? For panels already under formation, proposals focusing on the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss and Talal Asad are solicited.
2. Given the current interest in science and religion, what values, norms and vocabularies are embedded in this pairing? What is the history of the distinction, and what are some of its contemporary implications? Does giving more specific and/or challenging content to the terms (e.g. Islamic science, Chinese medicine, Evangelical healing, evolutionary ritual) help us to shape workable theoretical questions of our present moment?
3. The differing understandings of “theory” as it is used in continental and anglophone philosophy.
4. Finally, with the Law, Religion and Culture group of the AAR, we seek proposals for a session theorizing discourses of sovereignty in comparative and cross-cultural perspective.

Panels of three papers with a formal respondent are preferred but alternative formats are welcome.

Individual Paper Proposals of no more than 300 words should include the title of the paper, an abstract, and the author's affiliation and contact information.

Panel Proposals should include the title of the panel and the names, affiliations, and contact information of the organizer and all panelists or presenters. A title and proposal for each paper should be supplied and a separate proposal that describes the panel as a whole. None of these proposals should exceed 300 words. A chair and/or respondent may be proposed, or NAASR will assist in arranging them, as appropriate. Please keep in mind that a typical duration of a session is two and a half hours, and sufficient time should be reserved for public discussion.

Please send inquiries and proposals to:
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E-mail submissions are preferred and will be accepted until April 15, 2010