

NAASR Annual Meeting
November 2012, Chicago
Call for Papers

The 2012 NAASR annual meeting, held jointly with the annual meetings of both the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL), will take place in Chicago from Nov. 15-19. The NAASR programming committee accepts proposals for both individual papers and complete panels, though the latter are preferred. We welcome proposals for rigorous, critical, theoretically sophisticated scholarship on any aspect of religion, including book panels addressing a single significant publication in the study of religion.

NAASR Presidential Panel

NAASR is delighted to announce that we are reviving the annual presidential panel. This special program deals with an important theme in the critical, analytical study of religion, selected annually by NAASR's president. The president also seeks out the panelists. This year, President William Arnal has chosen the topic, "the identity of NAASR and the character of the critical study of religion." While NAASR will not accept unsolicited submissions to the presidential panel, paper and panel proposals in any area that link up with the president's topic are especially welcome.

Programming Focus

This year, we have special programming focus in two areas:

1. *Religion and politics*. Partly co-sponsored with the AAR Religion and Politics Section.

The American November elections and our meeting's occurrence in Chicago create a valuable moment in which to reflect critically on religion and politics, in America and worldwide, in history and today. It is essential to engage with such intersecting categories as race, nation (and nationalism), sovereignty, and money. We hope to think about such questions as how "religious freedom" operates as a political issue, and about knowledge-production in regards to religion. Such movements as Occupy and the Tea Party also direct attention to mythmaking, a dimension of politics and religion that has manifested throughout history. We are furthermore interested to interrogate Martin Marty's longstanding relationship with President Obama, which raises important questions of oral history and the role of religion scholarship in contemporary politics.

2. *Historical-Critical Reflection on Formulating the Category "Religion."* Co-sponsored with the AAR Philosophy of Religion Section.

A good deal of recent work in religious studies has focused on the development of the category of "religion" in the West. In the 18th and 19th Centuries in particular, much of this conceptualization took place in the field of philosophy of religion, yet contemporary philosophers of religion have tended not to engage this conversation. In the hopes of fostering productive dialogue between theorists and philosophers, we invite papers concerning the intersections of philosophy, colonial history, and academic practice with respect to the historical and conceptual formation of the category of religion.

All proposals should be sent to Christopher Lehrich (clehrich@bu.edu) by April 15th.