



2025

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Academy
Report

Executive Summary

American Academy of Religion

2025



2025 was filled with challenges and opportunities. Amidst escalating threats to religion departments and institutions of higher learning, the American Academy of Religion defended our disciplines and our colleagues. Amidst rapidly declining financial support for the humanities and the academic study of religion and theology, our members rallied: providing resources for scholars and departments, contributing financially, serving as volunteer leaders and contributing their knowledge and expertise in AAR governance, committees, and programming. Whether convening online for webinars, mentoring, the June Annual Meeting, or joining the November Annual Meeting in Boston, AAR members consistently demonstrated the importance of expertise and the value of sharing our work, engaging critical conversations, and supporting each other.

In the face of a changing professional field, in and outside the academy, AAR seeks to remain nimble and invested in learning and teaching and developing diverse and meaningful resources for our members. Thank you for being part of our professional association as we collectively strive to uphold and defend the value of religious studies and theology.

Claudia Schippert (Executive Director)



Leela Prasad (2025 President) talks with members at the New Member Breakfast in Boston

OUR MEMBERSHIP

As we continue to expand our year-round programming, we have surpassed 6,000 members in 2025. As a membership organization, all we do is by and for our members.

BY THE NUMBERS

AAR members are the lifeblood of our professional association: Program Units and Seminars are in charge of annual programming; standing committees advocate for constituencies, promote important aspects of our work, engage in self governance and ensure professional conduct; juries evaluate grants and awards nominations; task forces tackle special issues.

6,226

number of AAR members in good standing in November 2025

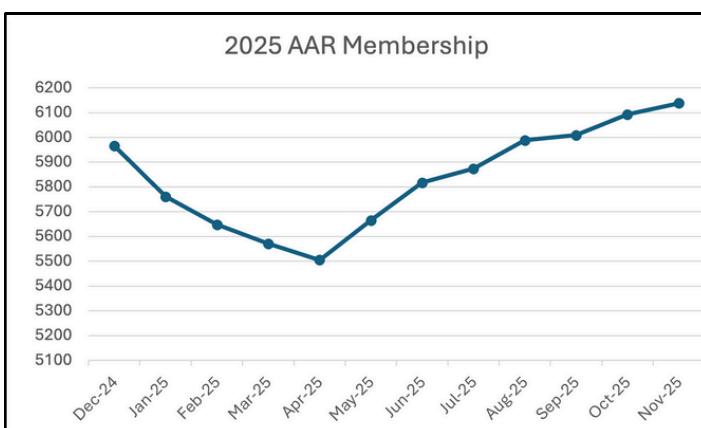
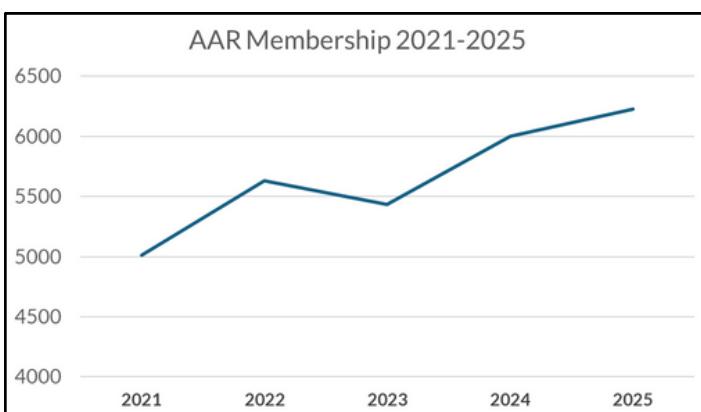
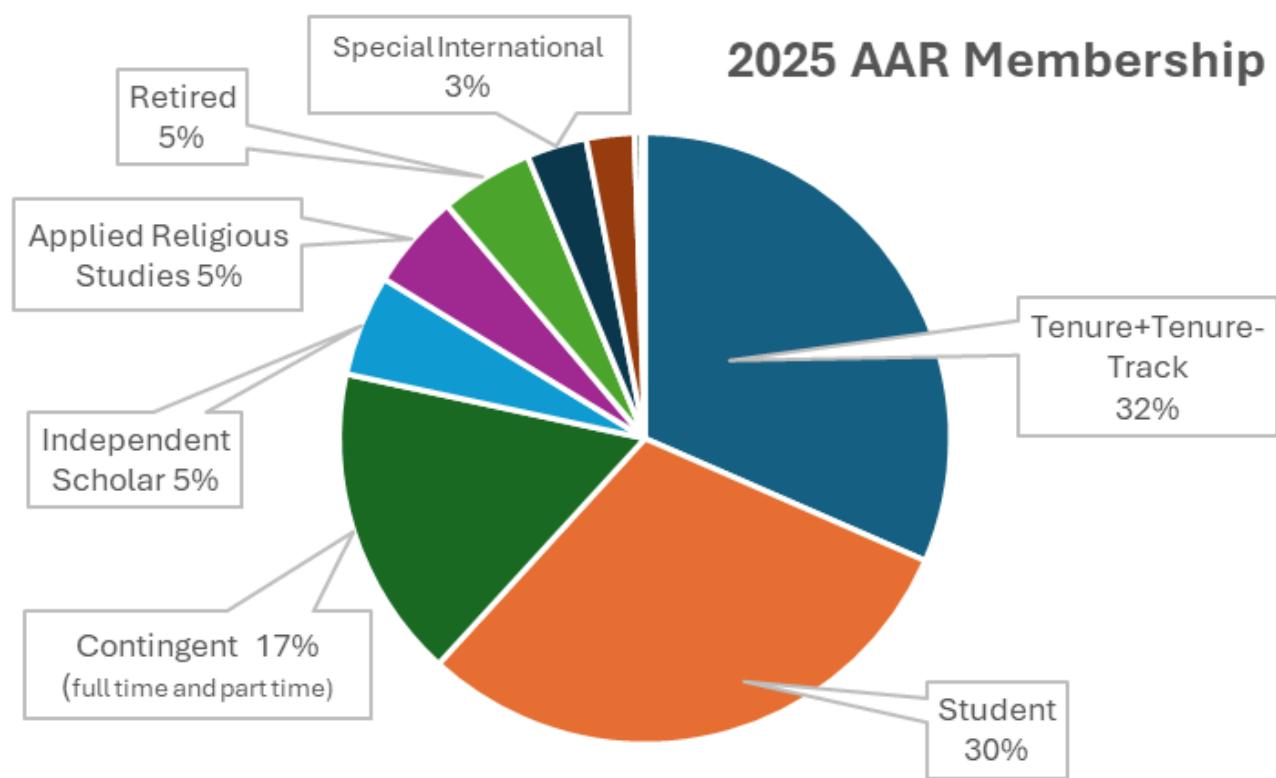
1,320

number of members who serve on Program Unit Steering Committees or serve as co-chairs of Program Units or Seminars

193

number of members who volunteer by serving on AAR committees, juries, and task forces.

2025 AAR Membership



Member Type Numbers

Student	1,887
Tenure	1,417
Full-time Contingent ...	725
Tenure-track	551
Independent Scholar....	334
Applied Rel. Studies	315
Part-time Contingent	310
Retired	308
Special International	198
Lifetime	159
Supporting Member	9
Sustaining	13

Membership is highest in November

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

New in 2025, institutions can support their students, faculty, or staff by becoming institutional members of AAR.

2025 AAR Institutional Members:

Auburn Theological Seminary
Berea College
Corinne True Center for Bahá'í History
Denison University
DU/Illiff Joint Doctoral Program
Episcopal Divinity School
Georgia State University
Princeton University
Springtide Research Institute
Stanford University
The University of Pennsylvania
Turner Theological Seminary

OUR ADVOCACY

Our advocacy this year focused on mobilizing our members and scholar activists to organize against the attacks on academic freedom and to defend our academic departments.

AAR continues to promote the value of religious studies and theology and to advocate for scholars and practitioners.

BY THE NUMBERS

In addition to launching a new advocacy section of our website and expanding our programming to cover topics relevant to current events, we also launched an advocacy newsletter with a higher average open rate than that of **all** our newsletters combined.

4,269

number of total views of our advocacy-centered webinAARs

451

number of total registrations for our webinAAR on book bans

84%

user engagement rate on our advocacy page

3,824

average number of people reading our advocacy specific newsletter

THE YEAR IN ADVOCACY

MARCH 2025

AAR launches new website and adds a new “Religious Studies Matters” section focused on engaged and public scholarship as well as advocacy

MARCH - APRIL 2025

AAR endorses several letters penned by scholarly societies speaking out against actions taken by the U.S. government to suppress free speech and academic freedom

APRIL 2025

AAR launches a regular advocacy newsletter, issues a board statement “Denouncing Book Bans and Threats to Academic Freedom,” and hosts a webinAAR featuring member authors whose books were banned by the US Naval Academy

AUGUST 2025

AAR pens letter to the leaders at University of Oregon urging the university to retain the religion department.

SEPTEMBER 2025

AAR launches Fall Fridays Scholarship Series, a webinAAR series on topics including Religion & Human Rights; Religion, Race & Public Scholarship; Religion & Conflict: Case Studies from Ukraine; and Theology after Gaza. Additionally, monthly webinars by the Academic Relations Committee continue to consistently support and advocate for REL departments.

NOVEMBER 2025

Annual Meeting presidential panel focuses on threats to REL departments and faculty; AAR also hosts emergency session on immigration enforcement activities in sanctuary spaces, issues board statement.

OUR FUNDRAISING

We could not exist without our members' support. From volunteering their time in leadership positions, to donating what they can to help scholars in need or to support award and grant programs, our collective work is supported by members' boundless generosity.

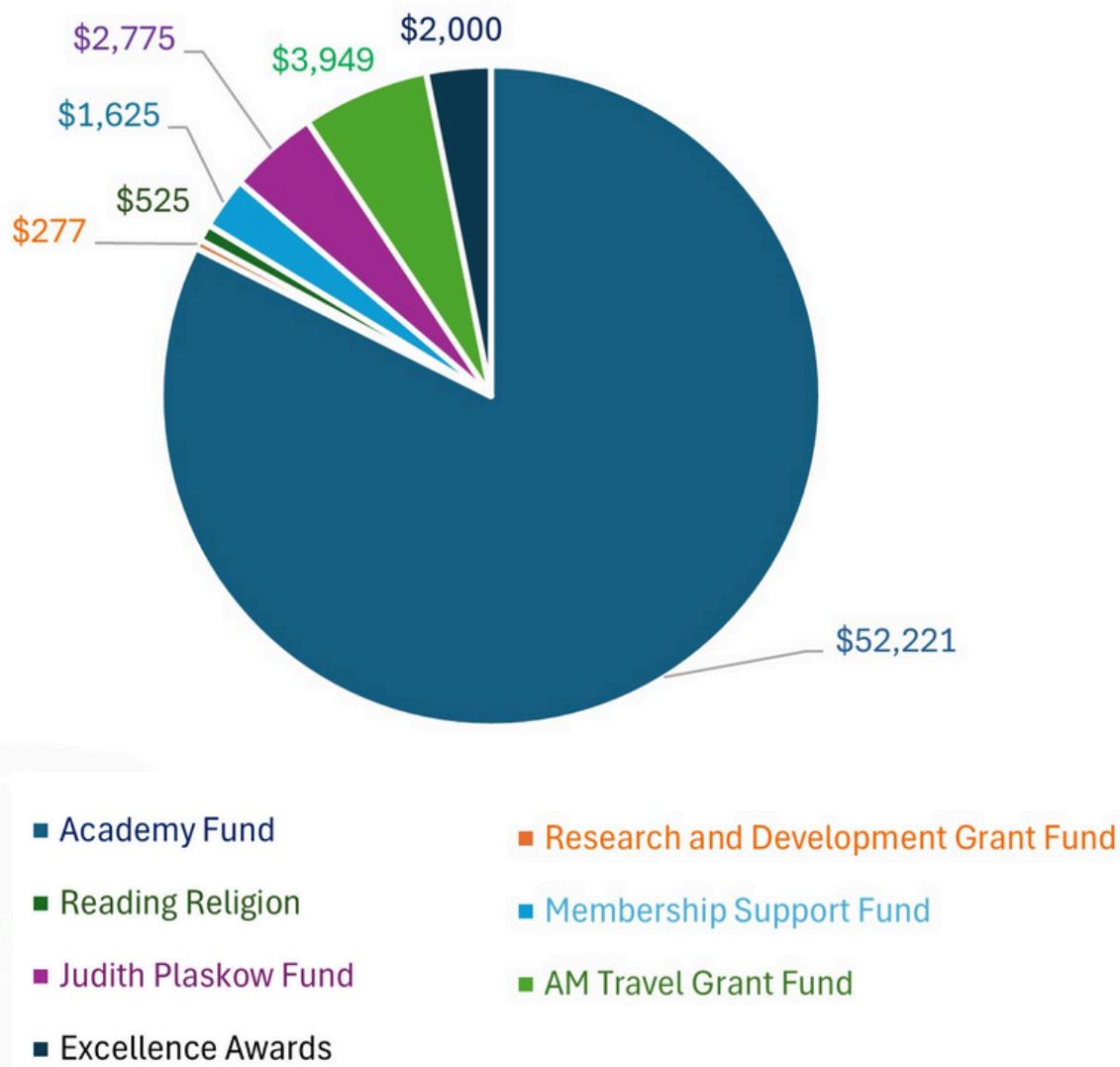
BY THE NUMBERS

The centerpiece of our fundraising efforts this year was our matching “Religious Studies Matters” Fall Fundraising Campaign in which we raised a total of **\$49,000**. Thank you to our matchmakers! Total donations to AAR in 2025 were **\$63,372** with additional \$1,700 to the “One Tree Planted” Fund.

- 183**
number of individual donors
- 219**
number of donations we received this year
- 7,000**
dollar amount of the largest donation we received this year
- 113**
percent increase in dollars raised from 2024

2025 DONATIONS

Total 2025: \$63,372



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

AAR Diamond Donors (\$5,000+)

Diane Apostolos-Cappadona
R. David Coolidge
Kwok Pui Lan
Laurel Schneider
Judith Weisenfeld

AAR Gold Donors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Rebecca Alpert
Ann Marie Bahr
Jack Fitzmier
Vasudha Narayanan
Leela Prasad
Mayra Rivera
Kathleen M. Sands
Claudia Schippert
Emilie Townes
Joanna Punzo Waghorne
David Harrington Watt
Glenn Yocum

AAR Silver Donors (\$100-\$999)

Susan Abraham	Harshita Kamath	Nadine Pence
Catherine Albanese	Catherine Keller	Brian Pennington
Sebastien Bakatu	Lisa Kochinski	Rebecca Todd Peters
Rita Brock	Bruce Lawrence	Patrick Reyes
Kelly Bulkeley	Karen Lebacqz	Louis Ruprecht
Malcolm Clark	Anthony Lee	William Sachs
Keri Day	Laura Levitt	Darla Schumm
Eric Dubuis	Martin Madar	Angela D. Sims
Anne Marie Ellithorpe	Rachel Fell McDermott	Ronald Stone
Eugene Gallagher	Mary McGee	Bert Strange
Gwendolyn Gillson	Barbara McGraw	Randall Styers
Ann Gleig	Richard McGregor	Robert Tappan
Naomi Goldenberg	Alberto Melloni	Jolyon Thomas
Roger Hatch	Rebecca Moore	Cheryl Townsend Gilkes
Gregory Hoenes	Ebrahim Moosa	Tom Tweed
Barbara A. Holdrege	David Newheiser	Matthew Vaughan
Mary Hunt	Vivian-Lee Nyitray	John Wells
Amir Hussain	Jenn Ortegren	Traci C. West
Erik Kalkhurst	Jin Y Park	Heather White
		Jessica Zu

AAR 2025 Bronze Donors (\$1-\$99)

Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones	Melanie Harris	Florence Pasche-Guignard
Jim Alexander	Cordelza Haynes	Cassandra Perry
Michael Allen	Douglas Hedley	Ted Peters
Amy Allococo	Bradford E. Hinze	Cheryl Peterson
Tyson Anderson	Susan Tower Hollis	Zdravko Zack Plantak
Sarah Anderson-Rajarigam	B. Dundee Holt	Jawad Qureshi
Tom Armbruster	Michael Howlett	Beth Reece
Ellen T. Armour	Benjamin Hubbard	Jenna Reinbold
Ana Bajzelj	Sungjin Im	Nikia Robert
Michael C. Baltutis	Angela Jagger	S.B. Rodriguez-Plate
Thomas G. Bandy	Seigen Johnson	Rebekah Rosenfeld
Whitney Bauman	Arun W. Jones	Rosetta E. Ross
Sydney Beckmann	Margaret Kamitsuka	Terra Schwerin Rowe
Steinunn Bjornsdottir	Navkiran Kaur	Jennifer Rycenga
Alice S. Bond	Felicity Brock Kelcourse	Richard S. Sarason
Bernadette Brooten	Aaron Klink	B. Yuki Schwartz
Amy Carr	Kristen E. Kvam	Jim Sharp
Diana Fritz Cates	Emmanuel Lartey	Raynard Daniel Smith
Yuria Celidwen	Terri Laws	Susan Snider
Mark Chancey	Charles Lehner	Meli Solomon
Carolyn Chen	Todd T. Lewis	Jacqueline I. Stone
Mary Churchill	Nan Lin	David Stowe
Ann Coble	Jeannette Lindholm	Joseph Stuart
Ronald S. Cole-Turner	Lois Ann Lorentzen	Demchok Tashi
William Collins	Susan M. Maloney	Marit Trelstad
Ravi Deepak	M. Mookie Manalili	Thomas A. Tweed
Gary Dorrien	Nancy Martin	David Walline
Emily Dumler-Winckler	Flagg Miller	James W. Walters
Robert Geraci	Lucinda Mosher	David H. Warren
Daniel A. Getz	Kristen Daley Mosier	Shea Watts
Ristina Gooden	Philip Nicholson	Martin Wellings
Shoshana Razel Gordon	Elliott Nolte	Winifred Whelan
R. Marie Griffith	Chigozie Nwaka	Rita Wright
Natalie Gummer	Candice Olson	Sakena Young-Scaggs
Anthony Haines	Marcia Pally	
Josephine Harris		

OUR PUBLICATIONS

In 2025, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion editors worked tirelessly to get the journal caught up with backlogged issues and we are now starting 2026 with the publication of Volume 94, Issue 1.

BY THE NUMBERS

In addition to the data on the right, 2025 also saw *Religious Studies News* implement a new content creation strategy and we published more articles in 2025 than in 2024, 2023, and 2022 combined. *Reading Religion* also expanded its coverage to review films including *Sinners* and *KPop Demon Hunters*.

5

academic monographs published by our members through the AAR-OUP Series

86

percent increase in JAAR articles published online since previous year

25

percent increase in subscriptions to JAAR since previous year

209

number of reviews published on *Reading Religion*

MOST READ ARTICLE: JAAR

“Editor’s Note”

By Andrea R Jain

***Journal of the American Academy of Religion,
Volume 93, Issue 1, March 2025, Pages 1–3***

Published: 17 April 2025

“One day when my children were still smaller than me, I walked into our dining room to find them standing proudly, delightfully defiant grins across their faces. There had been a glitter explosion, and it was everywhere. As I recall it was a year or more before I no longer found sparks of glitter gleaming from floorboards and tucked into corners of picture frames. The image of my children surrounded by glitter leapt to mind when I opened The New York Times to see a list of delightful words strewn below the headline: “These Words Are Disappearing in the New Trump Administration” (Yourish et al. 2025). Word glitter, followed by a dire reminder of Trump’s empire-making project.”

MOST READ ARTICLE: RSN



An Appeal from the Department of Religious Studies at University of Oregon

Published: August 19, 2025

“We are writing to notify you of a looming threat to religious studies, the humanities, and tenure protections at the University of Oregon (UO). We are members of UO’s Department of Religious Studies, which is home to seven associate and full professors. Our department has served a critical role within humanities education here at UO since 1939, and in recent years has been thriving, with new faculty hires, robust course enrollments, and a steady stream of research grants, awards, and publications.”

MOST READ ARTICLE: *READING RELIGION*



"Theology Meets Southern Gothic Horror in Ryan Coogler's "Sinners"

By Amber Lowe

Published: 2 May 2025

"Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* is more than a cinematic milestone –it is a love letter to Black Southern culture, a theological interrogation of sin, and a speculative reckoning with colonial memory. Set in 1932 Mississippi, this Southern Gothic vampire tale fuses blues music, non-linear storytelling, and parasitic horror to interrogate the lingering afterlife of extraction, racial capitalism, and spiritual dispossession."

OUR PROGRAMS

AAR is more than the June and November Annual Meetings; we also provide year-round programming through frequent webinAARs, mentoring programs, and online scholarship opportunities. AAR supports competitive award and grant programs that recognize and support excellence in the field of religious studies.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,832

number of individual registrations to our webinAARs this year

7,791

total number (incl. SBL) of registrations to the November Annual Meeting

8,667

total number of views across our webinAARs offered this year

335

total number of registrations to the Online June Sessions

2,073

number of views on our most watched webinAAR

175

total number of applications to our various mentoring programs



WHAT OUR MENTEES SAID

“It was immensely helpful to humanize the scholarly journey and to address questions to someone knowledgeable about the transition from being doctoral students writing a dissertation to being young scholars sorting out why and how to publish our research as a scholarly book project. The program made the whole process seem less daunting and more friendly / accessible.”

Mentee, *Publishing Mentoring Program*

“I enjoyed learning from people who were able to continue researching and making a difference, and I was able to have a new form of imagination of what my career could look like. I really appreciate the different types of jobs people can have post-PhD.”

Mentee, *Applied Religious Studies Mentorship Cohort*

MOST ATTENDED WEBINAAR

Government Book Bans in America: A Conversation with Recently Banned AAR Member Authors



In this webinAAR, several AAR member authors of books banned by the US Naval Academy discussed the dangers of the book banning and related efforts to censor, restrict, and control what students and the public can read, learn, and know.

AWARD AND GRANTS



Our grants provide funding to our members for travel, research, public scholarship, and more.

Our awards recognize extraordinary contributions to the academic study and public understanding of religion.

Amy Allocco (Elon University) presenting her new publication at the publisher's booth during the Boston Annual Meeting. *Sweetening and Intensification: Currents Shaping Hindu Practices*. Edited by Amy Allocco and Xenia Zeiler. SUNY Press, 2025.

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

AAR BOOK AWARDS

Awards for Excellence in the Study of Religion

Analytical-Descriptive Studies

Rachel Feldman, *Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age: Jews, Noahides, and the Third Temple Imaginary* (Rutgers University Press, 2024).

Constructive-Reflective Studies

Rafal K. Stepien, *Buddhism Between Religion and Philosophy: Nagarjuna and the Ethics of Emptiness* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

Historical Studies

Samantha Kelly, *Translating Faith: Ethiopian Pilgrims in Renaissance Rome* (Harvard University Press, 2024).

Textual Studies

Signe Cohen, *I, Yantra: Exploring Self and Selflessness in Ancient Indian Robot Tales* (SUNY Press, 2024).

Best First Book in the History of Religions

Rajbir Singh Judge, *Prophetic Maharaja: Loss, Sovereignty, and the Sikh Tradition in Colonial South Asia* (Columbia University Press, 2024).

Religion and the Arts Book Award

Anna Lise Seastrand, *Body, History, Myth: Early Modern Murals in South India* (Princeton University Press, 2024).

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

AAR TRAVEL GRANTS

Annual Meeting Travel Grants

Abraham Wu, University of Cambridge
Akeem Adagbada
Anabella Martinez, Baylor University
Bhadrajee Hewage, University of Oxford
Chang In Sohn, Graduate Theological Union
Claire Maligot, Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose, Italy
David Justice
Faezeh Izadi, University of Calgary
Hilary Scarsella
Isobel-Marie Johnston
Kimerer LaMothe
Madison Lyonhart
Mariangela Carpinteri, University of California, Santa Barbara
Marleen Thaler, University of Vienna
Moina Maaz
Nomenjanahary Mamisoa Rakotomalala, Graduate Theological Union
Riad Ghobrial
Sam Victor
Sarah Nahar, Syracuse University; State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Shinmyung Kim
Snehashish Das, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
Tomoya Fujihara
Valentyna Kuryliak, Ukrainian Institute of Arts and Science
Wesley Biddy, Pentecostal Theological Seminary
Ying Cao, Wycliffe College, TST, UofT

The Judith Plaskow Travel Grant

Emma Ceruti, University of Toronto, Emmanuel College

Religion and the Arts Travel Grant

Nathan Samayo, Princeton Theological Seminary

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

LUCE-AAR ADVANCING PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

SeyedAmirHossein Asghari

Understanding Religion and Ethics: A Persian-Language Lecture Series for Interreligious Engagement

Anna Bigelow, Stanford University

Collaborator: Karen Barkey

Mapping Shared Sacred Sites: Conviviality, Competition, and Collective Life Beyond the Mediterranean and South Asia

Kimberly Carfore, University of San Francisco

Wild Women Podcast: Engaging Ecofeminist Theology in the Public Sphere

Olufemi Gonsalves Knight

Women, Murder, and the Bible

Lauren Griffin, Louisiana State University

Louisiana History in Sacred Spaces

Anna Hennessey, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Rebirth Tunnel Immersive Art Installation

Richard Jankowsky, Tufts University

Collaborators: Anna Kijas, Kaylen Dwyer, Matthieu Hagene

At-risk Black Tunisian Musicians and the Promise of Ethnographic Digital Humanities

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

LUCE-AAR ADVANCING PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS *cont.*

Rasul Miller, University of California, Irvine

Collaborator: Fatima Siwaju

In The Shadow of Malcolm X: Islam and the Black Tradition A Transatlantic Dialogue and Workshop

Devan Stahl, Baylor University

Collaborator: Tyler Gibb

Marked by Faith: The 1950s Blood Type Tattoo Experiment and Its Bioethical Echoes

David Swartz, Asbury University

Rebel on Main: A Kentucky County Reckons with Faith, Memory, and Its Confederate Statue

INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANTS

INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH GRANT

Kartik Maini, University of Chicago

Research destinations: Kerala, Tamil Nadu

SELVA J. RAJ ENDOWED INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Akhil Thomas, Harvard University

Research destination: India

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

REGIONAL GRANTS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

AAR Midwest Region

Rebecca Wollenberg, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Religion in Real Time: Teaching Hands On Religion at a Public University

Collaborators:

Melissa Borja, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Cameron Cross, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Robert Erlewine, Eastern Michigan University
Deborah Forger, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Yasmin Moll, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Swapnil Rai, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Sangseraima Ujeed, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

RESEARCH GRANTS

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

Lexi Eikelboom, Australian Catholic University
Benjamin DeSpain, Australian Catholic University
Natalie Carnes, Baylor University
Elise Edwards, Baylor University
Art-Engaged Theology Writing Workshop

Slavica Jakelić, Valparaiso University
Zoran Grozdanov, University of Zagreb
Nebojsa Zelic, University of Rijeka
The Forms of Religious-Secular Pluralism in the Balkans

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS *cont.*

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath, Emory University

Yashoda Thakore, University of Silicon Andhra

Recording Archives of South Indian Kalavantulu Performers

Kayvan Tahmasebian, University of London

Rebecca Ruth Gould, University of London

Mona Norouzi

The Dialectics of Reading Sufi Manuscripts: A Critical Edition of Asan Dihlavī's 'Ishqānāma

Xin Zhang, Beijing Normal University, Duke Divinity School

Zhaohui Bao, China Graduate School of Theology

Quan Li, The University of Edinburgh

Huili Stout, University of Dayton

Yi Sun, GETS Theological Seminary

Comparative Spirituality between Christian and Chinese traditions

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

Ryan Turnbull, St John's College

"Washing Faces": Land-back and Church Cemeteries

Collaborators:

Jane Barter, University of Winnipeg

Mary Horodyski, Diocese of Rupert's Land

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Megan Abbas, Colgate University

Molding Islam from the Outside: Religion and the Cold War in Indonesia

Agnès Desmazières

The challenging journey of South African Catholic women toward racial equality

AWARDS AND GRANTS REPORT

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANTS *cont.*

Rebecca Gould, SOAS University of London

Narrating Catastrophe: Willed and Forced Migration in Islamic Thoughts and History

James Kwateng-Yeboah, Saint Mary's University

Spirited Mobilities in West Africa

Xu Ma, Lafayette College

Genealogy and Cults of Female Divinity in Early Modern China

Monique Moultrie, Georgia State University

“Making Myself:” Exploring Black Childfree Women’s Experiences of Religion, Family, and Legacy

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University

Queering Orthodox Christianity: LGBTQ+ Religious Worldmaking and Futurecraft

Josefrayn Sánchez-Perry, Loyola University

Chicago Without Superstition: An Unlikely History of the Telpochcalli

William Underwood, Oberlin College & Conservatory

The Antitheses of Religion: Marx, Materialism, and the Making of American Religious Studies

OUR GOVERNANCE

The AAR's Board of Directors consists of twelve members elected by the membership and the AAR Executive Director, who serves in a nonvoting role. The Board of Directors governs the organization through strategic planning, policy development, assessment, and advocacy, and it oversees the AAR's working groups.

President: Laurel Schneider

President-Elect: Angela Sims

Vice President: Walid Saleh

Treasurer: Nikia Robert

Secretary: Kathleen Sands

Student Director: Jacob Barrett

At-Large Director: Elise Edwards

Program Unit Director: Ann Gleig

Contingent Faculty Director: Patrick Reyes

At-Large Director: Darla Schumm

Regions Director: Matthew Vaughan

Status Committee Director: Heather White

Executive Director: Claudia Schippert

Thank you to the 2025 outgoing Board members:

President: Leela Prasad

Student Director: Ristina Gooden

At-Large Director: Keri Day



From 2025 President Leela Prasad's Presidential Address “Freedom & Vigilance: Four Meditations”

In the year since I called on our AAR community to examine the conditions of freedom and unfreedom, the world has recorded slaughter and starvation, silencing and surveillance. As despotism and democracy collide on an invisible, ever-moving edge, old wounds left untended have re-opened beside new ones. In the days ahead here, many of us will gather to discuss the seismic shifts within our own institutions, shifts that have dictated terms of speaking and terms of silence. These shifts also mirror the changing meanings of education, and of society itself. An atmosphere of inscrutability, repercussion, and betrayal is familiar on many campuses. It is indeed difficult to imagine freedom amid such conditions.

...

With this idea of vigilance as a special kind of interiority that calls for certain embodied orientations, I turn to poets and storytellers, everyday activists and other visionaries, whose actions exemplify a practice of vigilance more sovereign and sustaining than the brute vigilantism of the state, its sympathizers, and other oppressive structures. What does it mean to be vigilant for justice, for connection, vigilant for the smallest acts of dignity, vigilant for freedom in the ordinary and the everyday? What hope does an ethics of vigilance offer?

I invite you to four meditations across time, space, culture, media, and species. Each meditation, I hope, will illustrate a distinctive practice of vigilance.

.... *the forest*
..... *the sanctuary*
..... *the carceral web*
..... *the heart*

2025 PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

WORKING GROUPS: AAR STANDING COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC LABOR AND CONTINGENT FACULTY COMMITTEE

Herbert Strange

ACADEMIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Andrea Stanton

AMERICAN LECTURES IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

Samah Choudhury

Julia Watts Belser

APPLIED RELIGIOUS STUDIES COMMITTEE

SueJeanne Koh, Chair

Joshua Patterson, Vice Chair

Henry Goldschmidt

Henry W. Morisada Rietz

COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGION

Harold Morales

Brad Onishi

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Emily Gravett

Amina McIntyre

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

Lauren Tassone

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Aditya Bhattacharjee

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rosemary Hancock

THE STATUS OF LGBTIQ+ PERSONS IN THE PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

Eziaku Atuama Nwokocha, Chair

Vivek Joseph

William Stell

THE STATUS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

Sarah Blake LaRose

THE STATUS OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIZED PEOPLE IN THE PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

Rolf Nolasco

Oluwatomisin Oredein

THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GENDER MINORITIZED PERSONS IN THE PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

Yenny Delgado

2025 PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

WORKING GROUPS: AAR JURIES

ANNUAL MEETING TRAVEL GRANTS JURY

Robert Geraci
Angela Bernardo

BOOK AWARD JURIES

BEST FIRST BOOK IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS
Maria Doerfler

CONSTRUCTIVE-REFLECTIVE STUDIES

Syed Rizwan Zamir

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Ahmad Greene-Hayes

EXCELLENCE AWARDS JURY

Marla Frederick, Chair
Amir Hussain
Boyung Lee
Patrick Reyes

JOURNALISM AWARDS JURY

BEST IN-DEPTH MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM
Leah Payne

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS JURY

Harold Morales, Chair
Evan Berry
Victoria Machado

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS JURY

Brian Pennington
Tiffany Puett

RELIGION AND THE ARTS AWARD JURY

Laura Perez, Chair
Stephanie Budwey
Aftab Jassal
Seth Ligo
Jeanine Viau

RESEARCH GRANTS JURY

Nikki Clements
Diana Dimitrova
Michael M. Knight

STUDENT AWARDS JURY

Mugdha Yeolekar

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the entire AAR membership, we would like to thank the following AAR volunteers – board of directors, committee, jury, and task force members whose terms end in 2025. Thank you for serving your colleagues and your guild. Thank you for your dedicated service!

Reza Aslan
Journalism Awards Jury, *Best In-Depth
Multimedia Journalism*

Daniel Ballon-Garst
Status of LGBTIQ+ Persons in the
Professions Committee

Molly Bassett
Applied Religious Studies Committee

Ronald Bernier
Regional Council

Valerie Bridgeman
Book Award Jury, *Textual Studies*

Lee Hayward Butler
Academic Relations Committee

Wei-Jen Chen
International Connections Committee

Kimberly Connor
Student Awards Jury

Ashon Crawley
Religion and the Arts Award Jury

Keri Day
AAR Board of Directors
Finance and Audit Committee

Jeremy Fricke
Regions Council

Sarah Gallant
Regions Council

Ristina Gooden
AAR Board of Directors
Graduate Student Committee

Marie Griffith
American Lectures in the History of Religions
Committee

Mohamed S. Hassan
Applied Religious Studies Committee

Derek Hicks
Program Committee

Cassie Houtz
Status of People with Disabilities in the Professions
Committee

Janet R. Jakobsen
Governance and Leadership Development
Committee

Alisha Jones
Committee on the Public Understanding of Religion

Terence Kleven
Regional Development Grants Jury

Courtney Lamberth Book Award Jury, <i>Analytical-Descriptive Studies</i>	Megan Robb American Lectures in the History of Religions Committee
Rachel Lindsey Religion and the Arts Award Jury	Gina Robinson Committee on Teaching and Learning
Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi Committee on Teaching and Learning	Megan Robertson The Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee
Herbert R. Marbury AAR Facilitator	Barbara Sostaita Publications Committee
Leonard McKinnis The Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee	Melissa Snarr Academic Labor and Contingent Faculty Committee
Chris Miller Regional Council	Amy Elizabeth Steele The Status of Women and Gender Minoritized Persons in the Professions Committee
Cooper Minister Program Committee	Anna Sun Book Award Jury, <i>Best First Book in the History of Religions</i>
Lucinda Mosher Book Award Jury, <i>Religion and the Arts Book Award</i>	Cori Tucker-Price Annual Meeting Travel Grants Jury
Jin Y. Park AAR Immediate Past President Governance and Leadership Development Committee	Tisa Wenger Research Grants Jury
Angela Parker The Status of Racial and Ethnic Minoritized People in the Professions Committee	Kirsten Wesselhoeft Annual Meeting Travel Grants Jury
Elaine Pena Book Award Jury, <i>Analytical-Descriptive Studies</i>	Melissa M. Wilcox Status Committee Caucus Status of LGBTQ+ Persons in the Professions Committee
Nichole Phillips Committee on Teaching and Learning	Anne Wills Regional Development Grants Jury
Leela Prasad AAR Board of Directors Executive Committee	

THANK YOU !

IN MEMORIAM



Walter Brueggemann 1933-2025

M. Darrol Bryant 1943-2025

John Cobb 1925-2024

Paul Courtright 1942-2024

Fred Denny 1939-2025

Donald Dreisbach 1941-2025

Roger Haight, S.J. 1936-2025

Michael Ium 1984-2025

Martin E. Marty 1928-2025

Carl Olson 1925-2025

Jill Raitt 1931-2025

Russel Richey 1941-2025

William Shepard 1933-2025

Tony Stewart 1954-2024

Edward Albert Yonan 1954-2024

You can learn more about the members we lost this year [on our website](#).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (FY2025)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

Statements of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2025 and 2024

	June 30, 2025*	June 30, 2024	\$Variance
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$559,024	\$992,950	(\$433,926)
Marketable securities	\$5,254,019	\$7,039,165	(\$1,785,146)
Accounts receivable, net	\$5,159	\$138,488	(\$133,329)
Prepaid expenses	\$64,264	\$62,962	\$1,302
Furniture and equipment, net	\$132,993	\$132,993	\$0
Share of Luce Center assets, net	\$1,719,684	\$2,032,292	(\$312,608)
Total Assets	\$7,735,144	\$10,398,851	(\$2,663,707)
Liabilities			
Accounts payable, accrued expenses	\$108,921	\$57,662	\$51,259
Deferred revenue memberships	\$91,990	\$36,120	\$55,870
Deferred revenue rent	\$6,532	\$5,408	\$1,124
Deferred revenue annual meeting	\$264,492	\$1,046,170	(\$781,678)
Total Liabilities	\$471,935	\$1,145,360	(\$673,425)
Net Assets			
Net assets	\$7,053,952	\$9,144,899	\$ (2,090,947)
Current Year Net Income	\$209,257	\$108,592	\$100,665
Total Net Assets	\$7,263,209	\$9,253,491	(\$1,990,282)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$7,735,144	\$10,398,851	(\$2,663,707)

*Interim Financials/Audited Statements

January 2026

American Academy of Religion
 Statement of Activities
 For the Years Ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

	June 30, 2025*	June 30, 2024	\$Variance
Revenues			
Membership	\$508,539	\$564,765	(\$56,226)
Annual Meeting Registration	\$941,122	\$810,728	\$130,394
Annual Meeting Exhibits and Advertising	\$239,763	\$302,760	(\$62,997)
Annual Meeting Other	\$46,753	\$56,670	(\$9,917)
Publishing and Advertising	\$69,196	\$93,003	(\$23,807)
Employment Services	\$41,020	\$111,483	(\$70,463)
Contributions and Gift in Kind	\$9,896	\$19,870	(\$9,974)
Rental Income Luce	\$108,739	\$141,598	(\$32,859)
Investment Income	\$112,587	\$167,595	(\$55,008)
Other	\$16,467	\$10,158	\$6,309
Release from Restriction	\$1,568,339	\$550,668	\$1,017,671
Total Revenues	\$3,662,421	\$2,829,298	\$833,123
Expenses			
Personnel Expenses	\$1,895,869	\$1,814,763	\$81,106
Professional Fees	\$94,255	\$111,452	(\$17,197)
Annual Meeting Contractors	\$360,349	\$301,764	\$58,585
Annual Meeting Catering and Services	\$120,636	\$65,694	\$54,942
Annual Meeting Programming (non-session)	\$1,436	\$1,200	\$236
Advertising and Promotion	\$173	\$1,298	(\$1,125)
Occupancy	\$111,690	\$147,589	(\$35,899)
Office Expenses	\$86,420	\$80,361	\$6,059
Computer Operations	\$779,590	\$397,231	\$382,359
Equipment and Maintenance	\$2,231	\$6,848	(\$4,617)
Meetings and Travel	\$80,400	\$114,527	(\$34,127)
Meetings and Travel (Summit Only)	\$0	\$11,105	(\$11,105)
Bank and Credit Card Fees	\$46,429	\$60,418	(\$13,989)
Grants, Awards and Subventions	\$230,311	\$265,189	(\$34,878)
Other Programming Expenses	\$6,775	\$150	\$6,625
Fees, Misc and Waivers	\$3,008	\$53,353	(\$50,345)
Total Expenses	\$3,819,572	\$3,432,942	\$386,630
Net Operating Revenues and Expenses	(\$157,151)	(\$603,644)	\$446,493
Other Revenues and Expenses			
Gains or Losses on Investments	\$505,171	\$827,578	(\$322,407)
Regions net Revenues and Expense	(\$3,965)	\$1,647	(\$5,612)
Depreciation	(\$134,798)	(\$116,989)	(\$17,809)
Total Other Revenues and Expenses	\$366,408	\$712,236	(\$345,828)
Total Net Revenues and Expenses	\$209,257	\$108,592	\$100,665

*Interim Financials/Audited Statements

January 2026

LOOKING AHEAD

2026 PRESIDENTIAL THEME: **FUTURE/S**

LAUREL SCHNEIDER



This is not a time for “business as usual.” The future of religious scholarship within and without the academy is more uncertain than ever for our members – perhaps especially our contingent faculty, our graduate students, our department chairs striving to maintain a place for the study of religion, and all who are crafting para-academic careers. From an organizational perspective, our gatherings are powerful opportunities for collective re-imagining and action. From a scholarly perspective, our diverse traditions and approaches make us particularly skilled in thinking about future possibilities.

“The future” is a contested idea that looms large in human traditions and functions diversely in the collective stories of many cultures. To whom something called “the future” belongs, or for whom it functions is a matter of extensive theoretical, literary, and cinematic interest but visions of possible futures (hoped-for or feared) are also an ancient and enduring concern of many religions. Some would say that we bring into being what we can first imagine. Are we able critically to assess and help to build futures for which we hope? The muscle of dystopic imagination is well honed these days, and for good reason. But what about other possible futures, past and present? Where is the sensory richness that might enflesh imagination otherwise?

Scholars of religion are uniquely positioned to reflect critically on the modes and capacities of religious and spiritual stories and practices, ancient and new, local and global, to imagine futures beyond despair on the one hand, or superficial hope on the other. We know how to take seriously the narratives, traditions, and practices that have opened up or delimited our horizons of possibility. We know how to illuminate their materialization over time, and to lift up counter-memory possibilities therein. Given the present intensity of uncertainty facing scholars of religion and academic pursuits in the humanities more generally – not to mention the uncertainties of democracy, peace, and the well-being of the earth and its creatures – this is a time to attend to the question: what is the importance of future thinking (futuring, as some would have it) in the work of religious scholarship in this time?