

Bulletin

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

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Dr. Peter Beyer
Dr. Richard Mann

Mot du président / President's Update

I'm honoured to be addressing you as the new CSSR President. It's been a delight to have started working with the rest of the Executive. Il est difficile d'imaginer un groupe de chercheurs plus rigoureux, engagés et énergiques, ainsi qu'en témoigne d'ailleurs l'excellente qualité du *Bulletin*, produit par notre collègue Mark, encore une fois. De plus, ce *Bulletin* offre un aperçu des responsabilités des autres membres de l'Exécutif, dont Peter, notre Président sortant, qui a tant fait pour nous au cours des deux dernières années (et ce, souvent dans l'ombre), et qui continuera à servir notre société de plusieurs façons.

I come to you with experience in other academic groups, e.g., Executive Secretary of Canadian Society of Biblical Studies (1997-2003), Secretary of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion (1993-2000), Board (1996-99) and General Assembly (1999-2003) member of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and Secretary of the American Academy of Religion (2007-2010). I also come to you madly, deeply involved in my wide-ranging research on religion and food, finding research opportunities under every plate and pot. In short, I'm looking forward to participating fully in CSSR activities and to contributing whatever I can to the ongoing health of this society.

On the immediate horizon for us this year is the development of our web face. This work will include fine-tuning our website. As you'll see below, Janet's also started a complementary Facebook page for students, which is already in full swing. On the more distant horizon is the 2010 meeting of the International Association for the History of Religions in Toronto (August 15-21), in which CSSR is actively involved.

For the moment, please note the upcoming 2009 deadlines: January 12 (for proposals to present at the May 24-27 CSSR annual meeting at Carleton), March 1 (for information updates to be included in the Spring 2009 edition of the *Bulletin*), March 31 (for early registration savings at the Carleton Congress), and April 17 (for submissions to the undergraduate and graduate student essay prize competitions). And why not take a moment now to renew your membership; you'll find renewal information at the end of this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing some of you in Chicago in a few weeks, and many of you in Ottawa in May.

Meilleurs souhaits,
Michel Desjardins

Word from the Editor / Mot du rédacteur

In this edition of the *Bulletin* you will find minutes from the Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, the call for papers for next year's Annual Meeting in Ottawa, a call for papers from several journals, a description of the annual student essay contests, the ever interesting member and departmental news, a research fellowship opportunity, and a note from the CSSR Student representative.

If you have not yet renewed your 2008/2009 membership in the CSSR/SCÉR I would encourage you to do that. The various activities of the Society (e.g., running the annual meeting, publishing the *Bulletin*) are dependent on your membership dues. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website and are found at the end of every edition of the *Bulletin*.

More of you than ever are taking the opportunity to list your academic activities in the *Bulletin*. This is very encouraging and is a sign of a flourishing society. Please continue to make use of the *Bulletin* to communicate your activities to your colleagues. You can use the form at the end of the *Bulletin* or send

me an email with the information or publication(s) you would like included in future editions of the *Bulletin*. Please feel free to send me information for inclusion in the *Bulletin* year round. I will keep track of it and insert it in the next edition of the *Bulletin*.

The society maintains a mailing list that is used exclusively by our society to send you information about what the CSSR/SCÉR is doing or information that we think would be important to our members. If you are not currently receiving email from us and would like to be added to this mailing list please contact our recording secretary, Donna Seamone, and request that your name be added to our list. We do not sell or rent out our membership list. Nor do we accept paid advertising of any kind.

This year we are moving to an all electronic distribution of the *Bulletin*. This change will both reduce our costs and reduce the large amount of time necessary to compile and mail a paper copy of the *Bulletin*. Starting with the Spring 2009 *Bulletin* all members will be sent a notification that the *Bulletin* has been put up on our website. If you prefer you can have the *Bulletin* emailed to you as a PDF file or you can still request a paper copy. Please keep your email address up to date.

As always I welcome your comments on how this publication can be of more use to you.

Mark Chapman
Rédacteur / Editor

**Canadian Society For The Study Of Religion / Société canadienne pour
l'étude de la religion
Procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil / Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
June 1, 2008 / 1^{er} juin, 2008
University of British Columbia**

Present: Peter Beyer, Mark Chapman, David Feltmate, Janet Gunn, Chris Klassen, Francis Landy,
Richard Mann, Rubina Ramji, Donna Seamone

Regrets: Leona Anderson, Alain Bouchard, Kenneth MacKendrick, David Seljak.

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Peter Beyer welcomed all members to the meeting. Richard Mann was welcomed as acting treasurer working with and reporting on behalf of outgoing treasurer Kenneth MacKendrick.

2. Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Since there was no circulated printed Agenda, those in attendance agreed to the suggestion of the president that a special item of "Other business" be added to the agenda to accommodate any items not otherwise discussed.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 2007 meetings of the Executive Committee / Adoption des procès-verbaux des réunions du conseil de mai 2007.

MOTION to approve R.Ramji/D. Feltmate (carried)

4. **Business Arising From the Minutes / Suivi aux procès-verbaux**

The President announced that all outstanding items would be covered under the President's Report.

5. **Reports / Rapports**

5.1 **President / Président**

a) Legal status of CSSR. P. Beyer presented a summary of investigations into the legal status of the CSSR. As a result of his investigations he reported that:

- No one knows the legal status of the organization.
- Issue of the legal status is only of significance for matters related to finances.
- The association does not have to file a tax return because the CSSR is not a charitable organization.
- The CSSR is classified as a non-profit organization although it is not incorporated.
- Signing authorities are legally responsible.

Discussion of the peculiar status of the CSSR followed. There was a consensus that we should continue to follow the procedures established by K. MacKendrick: filing the necessary tax file as required by the bank. The executive of the society are legally responsible for the actions of the society.

b) CSSR Website P. Beyer found a graduate student to correct the French on the website. To date, everything is corrected.

c) Support of the IAHR in Toronto. Following on the 2007 AGM decision that the CSSR support the meeting of the IAHR in Toronto (in 2010) by sponsoring a plenary session (the cost of a speaker is approximately \$5,000). P. Beyer contacted selected members of the CSSR executive regarding how to raise money for this event. Discussion followed regarding possibilities for sources of funds to support sponsorship of this event. The options are:

1. Raise the money by raising the membership fee for a short period of time
2. Take the money out of the CSSR's reserve funds

MOTION R.Ramji/C. Klassen (carried): The executive solicit the support of the members at the AGM to authorize the allocation of \$5,000 from the CSSR's reserve funds (in either 2009 or 2010) to the IAHR to support the previously agreed upon sponsorship of an international speaker at the event in Toronto.

There was consensus that the executive make a suggestion to D. Wiebe that Vandana Shiva be suggested as the plenary speaker for this event. D. Seamone agreed to supply information and C. Klassen agreed to make the contact with D. Wiebe.

5.2 **Treasurer / Trésorier**

Richard Mann reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report prepared by Ken MacKendrick.

The Treasurer's Report highlighted issues such as the following:

- **Membership Dues (WLUP).** The inordinately higher number is accounted for by a deposit (approximately \$10K) made in May 2007. The average is typically about \$9,900.
- At first glance it certainly looks like we had a banner year: \$30,124.99 total income!!! This needs to be explained. About 10K is a WLUP deposit that is really from the year before. Another 5K is the "double" SSHRC grant. This essentially means things are running as usual.
- **SSHRC Grants.** Nothing unusual to report. The 2007 and 2008 SSHRC Grants have been received and were deposited this year, thus appearing to be double the previous year.
- WLUP membership appeared to be down last year and appears to be up this year. Mark Chapman has the details and the truth of the matter (see below).
- AGM income (Society Registration Fees) was down. Location location location?

- Membership dues for the CFHSS are down, but this is also likely because of when people renew their memberships.
- The rest is fairly par for the course. This was a “cheap” year since we did not defray any travel costs or invite any special speakers. Next year (i.e., this 2008 Congress), will be a more expensive.

MOTION R. Ramji/D. Feltmate (carried): That Ken MacKendrick maintain signing authority on the accounts until the signing authority to the new treasurer has been fully effected.

MOTION F. Landy/M. Chapman (carried): To accept the treasurer’s report.

MOTION F. Landy/M. Chapman (carried): To accept the budget for 2008-09 as prepared by K. MacKendrick.

5.3 Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions

Mark Chapman highlighted the following issues:

- The membership enrollment procedure in 2007/2008 remained the same as in previous years.
- Produced a revised copy of our brochure and our one page ad (in French and English) which was used to advertise the CSSR/SCÉR.
- This year individuals were not approved for presentation at the annual conference until they had paid their membership dues (made explicit in the call for papers).
- According to the report provided by WLUP, the 2008 membership count as of April 29 totaled 254. This appears to be a membership decline of 15% from April 2007. However, paid memberships from April 2007 to April 2008 increased from 187 to 189. Our average paid membership over the last decade is 172. Membership tends to rise and fall depending on how close the annual meeting is to major population centres. Students now compose 35% of our paid membership as compared to 38% in 2007 and 32% in 2005. Payment of 2008 membership dues is still being received.

5.4 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

The nominations committee this year was composed of Dr. Leona Anderson, Dr. Peter Beyer, and Dr. Mark Chapman. Dr. Richard Mann stepped into the treasurer position mid-year. In addition, the nominating committee recommended the following nominations for presentation at the AGM: President: Michel Desjardins (Wilfrid Laurier University), 2 year term
Treasurer: Richard Mann (Carleton University), 3 year term

- Currently serving in the position in a temporary capacity

Member-at-large: Alain Bouchard (Collège de Sainte-Foy), 3 year term

Member-at-large: Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton University), 3 year term

Executive members received the recommendations of the nominating committee with thanks to the committee members for their work.

5.5 2007 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2007

R. Ramji submitted a written report. Chris Klassen and Rubina Ramji were responsible for the 2008 CSSR program.

She noted the following highlights:

- This year the CSSR received fifty-five individual paper submissions (three were special paper submissions requiring either double slots or entire sessions), ten panel submissions and one roundtable submission. Unfortunately, between the deadline for proposals and the final program being prepared, there were ten paper submission cancellations. In total, one hundred and four papers will be presented at the upcoming annual meeting in thirty-five sessions.
- Those members who had their papers accepted for presentation were approached to chair sessions.

- The program chairs assembled the annual program, booked the necessary rooms for each session, ordered the requested audio-visual equipment and placed the food orders for a variety of sessions. Thanks to Alain Bouchard for the French translation that was required on the program guide, and his assistance for putting together the program this year.
- The CSSR is responsible for sponsoring the international keynote speaker this year, an interdisciplinary event supported by the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies (CSBS), the Canadian Theological Society (CTS), and the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies (CSPS). The speaker chosen for this year is Dr. Daniel Boyarin, Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Chair, Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Rhetoric at the University of California at Berkeley, who will be giving the keynote address entitled, “Apartheid Comparative Religion: The Ideological Construction of Religious Difference in Antiquity” on June 2nd at 19:30 pm. The CSSR applied for funds from the Congress to support an international keynote speaker and received \$1000 and received \$250 for aid for an interdisciplinary session.
- The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is celebrating their 40th Anniversary and has scheduled a full day of panel sessions in this year’s program.
- With the help of Robert Cousland, the local representative, the annual CSSR dinner has been scheduled to take place at the Westward Ho! Public House and Grill Room at the University Golf Club on June 1st at 19:00.

5.6 Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

5.6.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest / Concours d’essai pour les étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle

David Feltmate reported that the undergraduate essay contest received twenty-five submissions in 2008, two papers were disqualified because of length and one other was disqualified because it was submitted by a high school student. The winner of the contest was

- David Joubert-LeClerc, Bishop’s University. “Christianity’s Trial: Christian Heresiology from the first to the third century CE.”

The runner up was:

- Jennifer Baker, Wilfrid Laurier University. “Incorporating all Conversion Motivations: Exploring the “Crisis Stage” of Religious Conversion.”

5.6.2 Graduate Essay Contest / Concours d’essai pour les étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle

Francis Landy announced that there were 20 entries in the graduate essay competition. There was a tie for the winning essay between:

- Joel Buenting, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta. Essay: “Can someone choose hell?”

And

- Matthew King, University of Toronto. “Ideological Geography and Narrative Work of a Periphery Buddhist History”

•

Landy requested special commendation of the following essays:

- Meredith Warren, McGill University. “Honeycomb and Transformation: the Role of Food in *Joseph and Aseneth*”
- Aaron Rick Parks, McGill University. “The Greco-Roman Rhetorical Foreign Tyrant and Mark 10: 42”

Landy made two recommendations regarding the graduate essay competition:

1. The restriction that only students registered at Canadian Universities may apply should be amended to include Canadian students who are registered in Universities outside Canada.
2. The March deadline for the competition should be extended.

MOTION J. Gunn/C. Klassen (carried). The Executive accepts the recommendations of winners of the undergraduate and graduate essay competitions as presented.

MOTION R. Ramji/J. Gunn (carried). That it is the responsibility of the person judging the Graduate Essay Prize to establish the deadlines and conditions for the submission of essays as s/he sees fit and that the eligibility requirements for graduate students be: a) the student is a graduate student registered in an academic program in Canada **or** b) A graduate student registered in a program outside of Canada who is a member in good standing of the CSSR.

5.8 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses (CCSR)

P. Beyer is the representative to the CCSR. He gave a brief report on the status of the CCSR.

5.9 Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

Janet Gunn reported on her activities:

- Updated list of student liaisons across the country, submitted student reports to the Bulletin and maintained regular communication with liaisons.
- Planned luncheon and strategic planning session for Graduate students at 2008 Congress meeting.
- In cooperation with the Graduate Student Committee of the AAR, a “Canadian corner” will be established in the student lounge at the AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- In response to student request explored ways of putting Canadian Students studying in the U.S. in touch with one another. Will continue to pursue these efforts.

5.9 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)

No report. (A. Bouchard, président de la SQÉR, absent.)

5.10 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences Representative (CFHSS) / Représentants à la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales (FCSH)

No report. D. Seljak absent.

5.11 CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR

Discussed under 5.1 above. M. Chapman emphasized that the website needs refurbishing and development. This would entail hiring someone capable of undertaking and maintaining this work. Suggestions of possible persons were offered. All suggestions of names and contact information for such persons are to be sent to M. Chapman.

6. Local arrangements representative Congress 2007

No report, local arrangements committee chair not present.

7. Other business / Varia

7.1 C Klassen will serve as program chair for the 2009 meeting with another executive member serving in an assisting capacity. There was tentative agreement, depending on the results of elections at the AGM, that the program chair for the 2010 meeting of the CSSR will be a yet to be determined executive member assisted by C. Klassen with R. Ramji serving as back-up.

7.2 Landy informed the executive that the Ph.D. Program at the University of Alberta has been approved.

7.3 Though there was no motion at the meeting but there was agreement that R. Ramji will be responsible for the graduate student essay competition and David Feltmate will be responsible for the undergraduate essay competition.

8. **Adjournment / Ajournement**
MOTION M. Chapman/C. Klassen (carried).
 The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Donna L. Seamone

**Canadian Society for the Study of Religion / Société canadienne pour l'étude
 de la religion**
Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle
June 1, 2008 / 1^{er} juin, 2008
University of British Columbia

Present: Edward Bailey, Peter Beyer, Paul Bramadat, Mark Chapman, Harold Coward, André Couture, Christopher Cutting, Jennifer Davis, Patricia Dold, David Feltmate, Aaron Hughes, Karljürgen Feuerherm, Janet Gunn, Chris Klassen, Francis Landy, Richard Mann, Alexandra Pleshoyano, Rubina Ramji, Donna Seamone, David Seljak, Matt Sheedy, Braj Sinha, Veronique Tomaszewski-Ramses, Hans Joachim Wiens

1. **Welcome / Bienvenu**
 P. Beyer called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and welcomed the assembly.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour**
MOTION to approve with the addition of one item under other business (presentation by Braj Sinha): M. Chapman/A. Hughes (carried).
3. **Adoption of the minutes of the 2007 meeting of the Annual General Meeting / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2007**
MOTION to approve: F. Landy/P. Bramadat (carried).
4. **Business arising from the Minutes / Suivi au procès-verbal**
 None.
5. **Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences Representative / Représentant de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales**
 The membership were addressed by a representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation: Jodi Ciufo. She informed the assembly of the highlights of the current activities and initiatives of the Federation, emphasizing the following :
 - The federation is undertaking special emphases on :
 - Inclusivity
 - Interdisciplinarity
 - Language Connections
 - Internationality
 - Stewardship
 - The membership itself :
 - Efforts to improve the membership experience. The general assembly representative is important in this process.
 - The federation is encouraging a two-way exchange.

- Three positions are coming open the federation is looking for active, engaged people to take part.
- There is a new project to set up an association finder to increase the awareness of the scholarly associations.
- Advocacy to the federal government, not just for SSHRC, to ensure an equitable distribution of funds.
- Work with national associations regarding ethics.
- Copyright. Lobbying the federal government to ensure restrictions are not too restrictive.
- Future Congress gatherings will be held at: Carlton (2009); Concordia (2010); St. Thomas (2011); WLU/Waterloo (2012).

6. Reports/Rapports

6.1 President / Président

P. Beyer noted two issues on which he would report:

1. Last year the AGM supported exploration of possibilities (by the executive) by which the CSSR/SCÉR might raise funds to sponsor a guest speaker at the Toronto meeting of the IAHR in 2010. P. Beyer outlined three possibilities:
 - i. Initiate a IAHR fund and solicit optional contributions. (This option is not feasible given the cost of changing CSSR/SCÉR registration forms).
 - ii. Raise the membership rates.
 - iii. Utilize monies from our reserves.
2. Last year we discussed the issue of exploring more responsible and fiscally responsible investment of our surplus funds. Together with K. MacKendrick, P. Beyer decided to take a more aggressive and responsible course of action by investing the association's surplus monies in mutual funds.

MOTION B. Sinha /P. Dodd (carried unanimously): The CSSR/SCÉR allocate \$5,000 from the reserve funds, either in 2009 or 2010, for the support of an international speaker at the meeting of the IAHR in Toronto in 2010.

6.2 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses

The meeting agreed to reorder the agenda moving this item forward.

Aaron Hughes addressed the meeting in his capacity as manager of SR. He reported that SR has had an offer from Sage Publishing wanting to take over publication of the journal. He identified the benefits as:

- Increasing the international profile of the journal
- Giving the journal an immediate digital presence.

He identified one liability: the journal would be taken out of Canadian hands.

There was an open discussion of this issue. See the minutes of the CSSR annual meeting for more details.

The meeting resumed the regular order of the agenda.

6.3 Treasurer / Trésorier

Richard Mann, acting treasurer, reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report and proposed budget prepared by Ken MacKendrick highlighting the following:

- Membership Dues (WLUP). The inordinately higher number is accounted for by a deposit (approximately \$10K) made in May 2007. The average is typically about \$9,900.

- At first glance it certainly looks like we had a banner year: \$30,124.99 total income!!! This needs to be explained. About 10K is a WLUP deposit that is really from the year before. Another 5K is the “double” SSHRC grant. This essentially means things are running as usual.
- The rest is fairly par for the course. This was a “cheap” year since we did not defray any travel costs or invite any special speakers. Next year, (i.e., this 2008 Congress) will be a more expensive.
- SSGRC Grants. Nothing unusual to report. The 2007 and 2008 SSHRC Grants have been received and were deposited this year, thus appearing to be double previous years.

MOTION to adopt the Treasurer’s report and the budget F. Landy/C.Klassen (carried).

6.4 Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions, CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR & The Bulletin

M. Chapman highlighted that:

- Membership numbers of the association are stable.
- The default convention of the circulation of the *Bulletin* will be notice of web posting (unless paper copy or PDF is requested).
- The website has been and will continue to be updated.

Harold Coward expressed a special vote of appreciation for Mark’s work on the *Bulletin*. The membership endorsed this affirmation with applause.

6.5 2007 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2007

Rubina Ramji presented a brief report on behalf of herself and Chris Klassen. She reminded attendees of the annual dinner to be held this evening.

Patricia Dold expressed her thanks on behalf of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The Institute is celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a full day of panel sessions in this year’s program.

6.6 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

M. Chapman presented the report of the nominations committee (Dr. Leona Anderson, Dr. Peter Beyer, and Dr. Mark Chapman). The nominating committee presents the following nominations:

President: Michel Desjardins (Wilfrid Laurier University), 2 year term

Treasurer: Richard Mann (Carleton University), 3 year term

- Currently serving in the position in a temporary capacity

Member-at-large: Alain Bouchard (Collège de Sainte-Foy), 3 year term

Member-at-large: Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton University), 3 year term

The floor was opened for further nominations.

MOTION that nominations close. Braj Sinha/P. Bramadat.

P. Beyer declared the President : Desjardins, Treasurer : Mann, and 2 Members-at-Large: Ramji and Bouchard, elected.

D. Seljak announced that his term is up as FedCan representative.

6.7 Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s

6.7.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest

David Feltmate reported that the Undergraduate Essay Contest received twenty-five submissions in 2008, two papers were disqualified because of length and one other was disqualified because it was submitted by a high school student. The winner of the contest was

- David Joubert-LeClerc, Bishop’s University. “Christianity’s Trial: Christian Heresiology from the first to the third century CE.”

The runner up was:

- Jennifer Baker, Wilfrid Laurier University. “Incorporating all Conversion Motivations: Exploring the “Crisis Stage” of Religious Conversion.”

6.7.2 Graduate Essay Competition

Francis Landy announced that there were 20 entries in the Graduate Essay Competition. There is a tie for the winning essay (\$250 each) between:

- Joel Buenting, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta. Essay:”Can someone choose hell?”
And
- Matthew King, University of Toronto. “Ideological Geography and Narrative Work of a Periphery Buddhist History”

Landy requested special commendation of the following essays:

- Meredith Warren, McGill University. “Honeycomb and Transformation: the Role of Food in *Joseph and Aseneth*”
- Aaron Rick Parks, McGill University. “The Greco-Roman Rhetorical Foreign Tyrant and Mark 10: 42”

Landy announced the decision of the executive to expand the eligibility for participation in this competition to include Canadian graduate students registered in programs outside of Canada who are members in good standing of the CSSR in addition to graduate students registered in academic programs in Canada.

MOTION P.Dodd/D. Seljak. Carried. That the 1st prize for the Graduate Student Essay Competition be raised to \$700.

MOTION P.Dodd/D. Feltmate. Carried. That there be a 2nd prize of \$300 for the Graduate Student Essay Competition.

6.8 CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR

Covered in the report of the membership secretary.

6.9 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)

No report.

6.10 Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

Janet Gunn reported on her activities:

- Updated list of student liaisons across the country, submitted student reports to the Bulletin and maintained regular communication with liaisons.
- Planned luncheon and strategic planning session for Graduate students at 2008 Congress meeting.
- In cooperation with the Graduate Student Committee of the AAR, a “Canadian corner” will be established in the student lounge at the AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- In response to student request explored ways of putting Canadian Students studying in the U.S. in touch with one another. She will continue to pursue these efforts.

7. Other Business/ Varia

- Braj Sinha thanked the CSSR/SCÉR for the support of the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan. In their difficulty in the previous year and reported the department was successful in maintaining its status.
- David Seljak announced that the Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier Ph.D Program in Religious Diversity

has had their first graduate in the program.

- Paul Bramadat announced that he will be taking up a new position as Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria.
- Francis Landy announced that the doctoral program at the University of Alberta is in operation.

8. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

MOTION to adjourn C. Klassen/R. Ramji. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Seamone

Information concernant la conférence annuelle de 2009 / Annual Conference 2009 Information Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

Call for Papers Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Conference

The Program Committee invites submissions for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and the Social Sciences on the campus of Carleton University, Ottawa, May 24-27, 2009.

The Board of the Federation has adopted the following as the major theme for Congress 2009:

Capital Connections: nation, terroir, territoire.

The theme of Congress 2009 is *Capital Connections: nation, terroir, territoire*. The theme allows for the exploration of identity as physical space; the space of a people, a nation, and their historic 'terroir.' It asks the question: has globalization produced a sea-change in our understanding of the relationship between place and who we are?

The Board of the Federation encourages associations to adopt this theme and to develop sessions related to the topic within their own programs and to engage in intellectual debates that characterise these annual meetings.

As always, the CSSR welcomes papers and proposals on *all aspects of religion, from various academic perspectives*.

The deadline for all submissions (special papers and abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables) is **January 12, 2009**. Abstracts are to be no more than 150 words. Those greatly exceeding this limit will not be printed in the program.

Individuals must be members to have their papers accepted into the program. At least one participant of a panel should be a member.

Chaired sessions are an integral part of an effective program. Please indicate if you would be willing to **chair a session** at the annual meeting.

Completed special papers, abstracts of regular papers, panels and roundtables, are to be sent electronically to:

Chris Klassen
Department of Religion and Culture
Wilfrid Laurier University
cklassen@wlu.ca
(519) 884-0710 ex. 3626

** Please include the following information with your submission: last name, first name, institutional affiliation, abstract, audiovisual needs, mailing address, phone number(s), fax number, and e-mail address. Submission via email attachment is preferred.

Submissions for the CSSR Annual Meeting may be of four types.

a. Special Papers

In order to effect a more full discussion of complete studies by Society members, blocks of time may be set aside for the presentation of, responses to, and discussion of “special” or “major” papers. A special paper may be grounded in a special field, but it should address matters important to all students of religion. In order to be considered, a complete version of the paper together with an abstract is to be submitted by **January 12, 2009**.

b. Regular Papers

The Committee invites proposals for presentations of works in progress and shorter scholarly papers for presentation. Normally, the time for actual delivery is twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussion. A 150 (maximum) word abstract should be submitted by **January 12, 2009**. All audio-visual needs must be clearly noted with your initial submission. Abstracts should include some background to the topic you are proposing, a statement of methodology and an indication of your argument.

c. Panels

The Committee encourages proposals for panels, workshops and seminars. The organizer is responsible for setting the topic and involving the participants in a maximum three hour block of time (two sessions of an hour and a half each). An abstract(s) as above, together with the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, audio-visual needs, and the name of a chair (who should not be making a presentation) is to be submitted by **January 12, 2009**. Panel organizers should submit both the panel abstract and the individual paper abstracts as one package. Panel organizers are expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Program Chair.

d. Roundtables

The Roundtable format usually focuses on a particular issue, book, or the body of work of an individual. It consists of four (or more) short presentations followed by discussion, both with the roundtable members and audience members. As with the panel, the organizer is responsible for submitting an abstract for the Roundtable which includes the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, equipment needs, and chair (who may also be a participant).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. *The CSSR strongly discourages panel presentations of more than three papers as it inhibits discussion. Presentations of more than 3 papers should use the Roundtable format.*
2. *Requests to present on specific dates MUST accompany the initial proposal.*
3. *Joint proposals (two societies combining their efforts) should be submitted to both societies for approval.*
4. *Acceptance of proposals will be done via e-mail, and Panel/Roundtable organizers will be responsible for informing their presenters. Members who require a 'hard copy' acceptance of their proposal for funding purposes may request one from the Program Chair.*
5. *Multiple presentations are not permitted. However, a participant is permitted to present both a regular paper/panel presentation and a roundtable presentation.*

Invitation à proposer une communication
La Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion (SCÉR)
Conférence annuelle, 2009

Le comité de programme de la Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion vous invite à envoyer des propositions de communication pour sa prochaine conférence annuelle qui aura lieu sur le campus de l'Université Carleton à Ottawa, du 24 mai au 27 mai 2009, dans le cadre du 78^e Congrès des sciences humaines.

Comme thème principal du congrès de 2009, le Conseil de la Fédération a adopté :

Capital connections : nation, terroir, territoire

Ce thème invite à une exploration de l'identité en tant qu'espace physique; l'espace d'un peuple, d'une nation, de son « terroir » historique. Il pose la question suivante : « La mondialisation a-t-elle produit une vague de changement dans notre compréhension du rapport entre le lieu et qui nous sommes? »

Nous espérons que le Congrès 2009 vous donnera l'occasion de participer à des débats intellectuels comme ceux qui ont fini par caractériser nos assemblées annuelles.

Vous noterez que, conformément à sa politique habituelle, la SCÉR accepte des propositions de communication portant sur *n'importe quel aspect de la religion, mais uniquement à visée académique.*

La date limite pour soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) de toutes les propositions (conférence, communication ordinaire, séminaire ou atelier, table ronde) est le **12 janvier 2009**. Les résumés qui dépasseront largement la limite de 150 mots, ne seront pas publiés dans le programme.

Vous devez être membre de la Société pour proposer une communication et dans le cas d'un séminaire ou d'une table ronde, un des participants doit être membre. Nous avons grand besoin de personnes qui accepteraient de présider l'une ou l'autre session de cette rencontre, veuillez nous indiquer si vous êtes disposé à le faire.

Si vous désirez participer, vous devriez envoyer le texte complet de votre proposition de conférence, le résumé de votre communication, d'un séminaire ou d'une table ronde à :

Chris Klassen
Department of Religion and Culture
Wilfrid Laurier University
cklassen@wlu.ca
519-884-0710 ex. 3626

** Nous vous encourageons à envoyer votre proposition en document attaché par courrier électronique. Avec toute proposition, veuillez inclure les informations suivantes : Nom, prénom, affiliation institutionnelle, résumé, besoin en audio-visuel, adresse postale, numéro(s) de téléphone, de télécopieur, courrier électronique.

Quatre types de propositions sont recevables lors de ce congrès :

a. La conférence :

Afin de permettre un débat plus en profondeur concernant des recherches d'envergure réalisées par nos membres, des périodes peuvent être réservées à la présentation de communications plus longues avec répondants et discussion. Bien qu'appuyé sur une expertise précise, ce type de communication devrait éviter une trop grande spécialisation et déboucher sur des questions générales susceptibles d'intéresser une plus large audience. Pour qu'une telle conférence puisse être organisée, il faut que le texte complet de la conférence nous soit soumis avant le **12 janvier 2009**, de même qu'un résumé de cette conférence.

b. La communication ordinaire :

Le comité vous invite à proposer une brève communication faisant état de travaux en voie de réalisation ou portant sur tout autre sujet spécialisé. L'exposé est normalement de vingt minutes, et est suivi de dix minutes de questions et discussions. Il faut à cet effet soumettre un résumé de 150 mots (maximum) avant le **12 janvier 2009**. Ce résumé doit préciser le thème abordé, inclure des éléments de méthodologie et donner une première idée de votre argumentation. Vous devez immédiatement signaler si vous aurez besoin d'appareils audio-visuels.

c. Le séminaire ou l'atelier :

Le comité encourage à faire des propositions de séminaires, d'ateliers, etc. À de telles activités, on alloue au maximum trois heures, soit deux sessions d'une heure et demie. C'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de tels séminaires de décider de son thème, de choisir et de contacter ceux ou celles qui y participeront. C'est à lui ou elle à soumettre avant le **12 janvier 2009** un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels de chacun des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui ne devrait pas normalement faire de communication). La personne qui organise cette activité doit soumettre ensemble le résumé global et les résumés provenant de chacun et chacune des membres du groupe. C'est à cette personne d'assurer la coordination entre les membres du séminaire et le président du comité du programme.

d. La table ronde :

Le format de table ronde est habituellement réservé à une question particulière, à un livre ou à l'œuvre d'un auteur. Il consiste en quatre présentations (ou davantage), suivies de discussions entre les membres de la table ronde autant qu'avec l'audience. Comme pour le séminaire, c'est à l'organisateur ou à l'organisatrice de soumettre un résumé de cette activité, y compris le nom, l'affiliation institutionnelle, les besoins audio-visuels des participants, ainsi que le nom d'un président ou d'une présidente (qui peut lui-même participer à la table ronde).

REMARQUES IMPORTANTES :

1. *La SCÉR n'encourage pas les séminaires ou ateliers de plus de trois communications, car ils ne laissent pas suffisamment de temps à la discussion. Les présentations de plus de trois communications devraient plutôt utiliser le format de « table ronde ».*
2. *Le comité accepte d'analyser une demande de communication faite à une journée précise, à la condition expresse que cette demande accompagne la proposition initiale.*
3. *Toute proposition de communication conjointe (i.e. impliquant la participation de membres de deux sociétés) doit être soumise et approuvée par les deux sociétés concernées.*
4. *Les personnes dont les propositions de communication sont acceptées sont avisées par courrier électronique, mais ce sont les personnes en charge de séminaire ou de table ronde qui sont responsables d'aviser les membres de leur groupe. Toute personne ayant besoin d'une lettre officielle d'acceptation de sa communication, en raison de subventions par exemple, n'ont qu'à le demander au président du comité.*
5. *On ne permet pas à la même personne de présenter plusieurs communications ordinaires. Cependant, il est permis de présenter à la fois une communication ordinaire et une communication à un séminaire ou à une table ronde.*

Undergraduate Student Essay Contest

Subject: Any topic in the general field of religious studies

Language: English or French

Length: 2500-3500 words, typed and double-spaced

Eligibility: Any undergraduate currently registered in a Canadian university or college

First Prize: \$300

Second Prize: \$100

Deadline: April 17, 2009

Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a religious studies course. Essays must be accompanied by a letter from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department or programme, indicating that the student is an undergraduate in good standing in that university or college.

Students entering the contest must submit an electronic copy as well as a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay, and a letter of certification, no later than April 17, 2009, to:

David Feltmate
Department of Religious Studies
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1
dsfeltma@uwaterloo.ca

Concours d'essai pour les étudiants et étudiantes du 1^{er} cycle

Sujet: Un thème relevant du domaine des sciences religieuses

Langue: anglais ou français

Longueur: 2500-3500 mots, dactylographié, double interligne

Éligibilité: Toute personne inscrite dans un programme du premier cycle dans une université ou un collège canadien

Prix premier: \$300

Prix secondaire: \$100

Échéance: 17 avril 2009

Les rédactions présentées dans le cadre du concours peuvent avoir été rédigées en vue de répondre aux exigences d'un cours de sciences religieuses. Une attestation d'inscription, rédigée par un professeur de département des sciences religieuses de l'institution, doit accompagner la rédaction.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation et une copie électronique, à l'attention de:

David Feltmate

Department of Religious Studies
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1
dsfeltma@uwaterloo.ca

Graduate Student Essay Contest

The Graduate contest is open to all graduate students (Master's and PhD)

Subject: A theme in the general field of religious studies

Language: English or French

Length: 3000-5000 words, typed and double-spaced

Eligibility: Full-time Master's or PhD student status in a Canadian university or Canadian graduate students registered in programs outside of Canada who are members in good standing of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)

First Prize: \$700

Second Prize: \$300

Deadline: 17 April 2009

The winners will be invited to read their papers at the next annual meeting. Submissions must include the full mailing address of the candidate and a letter from the chairperson or graduate coordinator of the department or programme certifying the degree and programme status of the candidate.

Students entering the contest must submit an electronic copy as well as a hard copy of her/his essay, their full mailing address on the first page of the essay, and a letter of certification, no later than April 17, 2009, to:

Dr. Rubina Ramji
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Cape Breton University
1250 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 6L2
Email: ruby_ramji@cbu.ca

Concours d'essai pour les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s

Le concours d'essai est ouvert à tous les étudiants et étudiantes diplômé(e)s (maîtrise ou doctorat).

Sujet: Un thème relevant du champ général des sciences religieuses.

Langue: anglais ou français

Longueur: 3000-5000 mots, dactylographié, double interligne

Personne éligible: Tout étudiant présentement inscrit à temps plein dans un programme de maîtrise ou de doctorat dans une université ou un collège canadien ou étudiant(e) canadien(ne),

membre de la Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion (SCÉR), qui est inscrit dans un programme de doctorat dans une université ou un collège à l'extérieur du Canada.

Prix premier: \$700

Prix secondaire: \$300

Échéance: 17 avril 2009

Les gagnant(e)s seront invité(e)s à présenter leur texte à la prochaine réunion annuelle. Les essais doivent être accompagnés d'une lettre rédigée par le directeur ou la directrice du programme de l'institution attestant que leur auteur est bien un étudiant ou une étudiante présentement inscrit(e) à temps plein dans un programme d'études supérieures.

Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation et une copie électronique, à l'attention de:

Dr. Rubina Ramji
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Cape Breton University
1250 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 6L2
Email: ruby_ramji@cbu.ca

News and Notes from Members / Information en provenance des membres

Information des membres / Member Notes

Desjardins, Michel and Harold Remus (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Michel Desjardins and Harold Remus, eds. *Tradition and Formation: Claiming An Inheritance: Essays in Honour of Peter C. Erb*. Pandora Press, Nov. 2008.

Dourley, John (Carleton University)

Paul Tillich, Carl Jung and the Recovery of Religion, Routledge, London and New York, 2008

Duncan, Carol B. (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Carol B. Duncan, with Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Stephen G. Ray Jr and Nancy Lynne Westfield, *Black Church Studies: An Introduction*. Abingdon Press, 2007

Carol B. Duncan, *This Spot of Ground: Spiritual Baptists in Canada*. WLU Press, 2008.

Fiasse, Gaëlle (McGill University)

Prof. Gaëlle Fiasse's current works concern the question of forgiveness and the theme of fragility (McGill University). She was awarded a grant from the FQRSC for her project on forgiveness (2005-2008) and another grant from the SSHRC for her research on fragility (2008-2011). The goal of this philosophical project is to analyze the theoretical

and practical implications of “human fragility”. In addition to addressing the theoretical void in research pertaining to the concept of human fragility, they aim to contribute to two areas of practical concern: the moral fragility of victims and perpetrators in contexts of oppression and political violence; and the ethical issues that arise in the treatment of people in states of extreme vulnerability.

Prof. Fiase is a specialist in Aristotle and Paul Ricœur. She is one of the Canadian correspondents for the Fonds Ricœur (Paris). <http://www.fondsriceur.fr/intro.php>

Paul Ricœur. De l'homme faillible à l'homme capable. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France (Débats philosophiques), 2008.

L'autre et l'amitié chez Aristote et Paul Ricœur. Analyses éthiques et ontologiques, Louvain: Peeters, Éditions de l'Institut supérieur de Philosophie (Bibliothèque philosophique de Louvain, 69), 2006.

Klassen, Chris (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Chris Klassen begins a one year limited appointment in the area of religious diversity in North America. Chris holds a PhD in Women's Studies (York University, 2006), an MA in Religion and Culture (WLU) and BA in Religious Studies (Waterloo). Her areas of interest include Canadian Paganism, Witchcraft and feminist spirituality. Chris is currently working on an anthology on third-wave feminist spirituality entitled *Feminist Spirituality: The Next Generation*. She is also working on a research project examining the discourse of environmental ethics in Canadian Paganism and Witchcraft.

Chris Klassen, *Storied Selves: Shaping Identity in Feminist Witchcraft*. Lexington Books, 2008.

Lathangue, Robin (Trent University)

Robin Lathangue has left the WLU Brantford campus to accept an appointment as Head of Colleges at Trent University in Peterborough.

Marshall, Alison (Brandon University)

Alison Marshall has a new three year SSHRC Standard Research Grant, *Understanding the Chinese Presence in Rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan through Foodways*. She is the principal investigator leading a team of research assistants. The research program investigates immigration patterns and customs in rural Manitoban and Saskatchewan Chinese communities since 1884, using historical and ethnographic data collection methods (oral histories, surveys and semi-structured interviewing) to determine when, why and how Chinese immigrants chose and continue to choose to settle in small prairie communities such as Estevan, Saskatchewan and Shoal Lake, Manitoba. For further details see the website:

<http://www.brandonu.ca/academic/arts/Departments/Religion/SSHRC%20%282008-11%29.html>

Scott, Jamie (York University)

For 2008-2009, Jamie S. Scott, Professor of Humanities at York University, is Visiting Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Institute of Advanced Study for Humanity (IASH), University of Newcastle, Australia (Jamie.Scott@newcastle.edu.au)

Recent publications:

“Postcolonial Cultures and the Jewish Imaginary.” In Axel Stähler, ed. *Anglophone Jewish Literatures: Transcultural and Transnational Studies*. London: Routledge. 2007. Pp. 51-64.

“Missions in Fiction.” *Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries*. Ed. Jonathan Bonk. London and New York: Routledge. 2007. Pp. 159-63.

“Missions in Film.” *Encyclopedia of Missions and Missionaries*. Ed. Jonathan Bonk. London and New York: Routledge. 2007. Pp. 163-67.

“Missions and Fiction.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 32.3 (2008): 115-120.

“Missions and Film.” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 32.3 (2008): 121-26.

Recent conference presentations:

“Pilgrimage and Literature,” plenary lecture at an international conference, *Loci sacri: Sacred Places and Their Secrets*. Leuven, Belgium. September, 2007.

“Space, Time, Solitude: The Liberating Contradictions of Ruth First’s 117 Days.” Triennial Conference of the European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies: Try Freedom: Rewriting Rights in/through Postcolonial Cultures.” Universities of Venice and Padua, Italy, March 2008.

“Towards the Future Zoo: The Evolution of Wild Animal-Keeping in Toronto.” *American Society for Environmental History Conference: Agents of Change: People, Climate, and Places through Time*. Boise State University, Idaho, USA. Forthcoming, March, 2008 (with Paul Harpley).

“Silent Witness: Christian Missions on the Silver Screen.” *Christian Missions in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Southern Africa and in Comparative Perspective: Passing Review and Breaking New Ground*. Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. July, 2007.

Sharify-Funk, Meena (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Meena Sharify-Funk, *Encountering the Transnational: Women, Islam and the Politics of Interpretation*. Ashgate, 2008.

Walker, Richard R. (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Richard R. Walker begins a tenure-track appointment in Christianity. Richard holds a PhD in philosophy of religion from McGill University (2007), an MA and BA degrees in Religious Studies from the University of Calgary. Richard's dissertation research focused on the relationship between Christian religious thought and the development of modern technological culture. His current research takes up questions concerning the dichotomy of 'spirituality'/'religion' in Western culture and its affects on political and scientific understandings of religion in North America.

Warne, Randi R. (Mount St. Vincent University)

New Approaches to the Study of Religion, ed. Peter Antes, Armin W. Geertz and Randi R. Warne is now available in paperback (\$68 US). This two volume set covers regional, critical, and historical approaches (vol. 1) and textual, comparative, sociological and cognitive approaches (vol. 2) to the study of religion in a global context from 1980 to the early 21st century. Already a staple in research libraries, publication in paperback is intended to encourage adoption of one or both volumes as course texts.

Departmental News / Nouvelles des départements

Concordia University, Department of Religion

The Department of Religion at Concordia University has in recent years seen the retirements of several distinguished and long-serving colleagues – Jack Lightstone and Frederick Bird – but we have been pleased to welcome a number of new colleagues. These are: Naftali Cohn in Judaic Studies, Carly Daniel-Hughes in early Christianity, Marc Des Jardins in East Asian religions, Richard Foltz in Islam, and Shaman Hatley in Hinduism.

Faculty members in the Department are engaged in a variety of research projects.

Shaman Hatley participates in two international research projects: one on early Tantra, sponsored by agencies in France and Germany, which seeks to discover the interrelationships and common ritual syntax of the Saiva, Buddhist, Vaisnava and Saura traditions, and a second project in which he serves as a contributor to *Tantrikabhidhanakosa: A Hindu Tantric Dictionary*.

Norma Joseph is continuing to work on her SSHRC-funded project on food and religious identity among Jewish Iraqi immigrants, and has further become involved in two other major research projects: the CURA-funded project for research on “Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide, and Other Human Rights Violations,” and the UNICEF/ GRNC -funded project on “Children in World Religions.”

Leslie Orr has a new SSHRC-funded project on “De-Centering and Re-membering the South Indian Temple.”

Ongoing SSHRC-funded research projects being carried out by Concordia Religion faculty include Donald Boisvert's project on adolescent saints and the formation of a Catholic sexual pedagogy and Norman Ravvin's project on postwar Jewish identity in South Africa and Canada. Carly Daniel-Hughes is the chief designer and co-chair of a new American Academy of Religion group focusing on "Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Pre-Modern Christianity."

Among recent book publications by faculty members are:

Muslim and Canadian Family Law: A Comparative Primer co-authored by Lynda Clarke, who also produced a "Marriage Contract Kit" for the Canadian Council of Muslim Women; *L'Iran Creuset de Religions: de la préhistoire à la République islamique* (Les Presses de l'Université Laval) by Richard Foltz; *Jewish Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Narrating the Interhuman* (Rowman and Littlefield) by Michael Oppenheim; Henry Kreisler's *Rich Man*, newly edited by Norman Ravvin, and *New Readings of Yiddish Montreal*, which he co-edited; and two books by Ira Robinson – *Rabbis and Their Community: Studies in the Eastern European Orthodox Rabbinate in Montreal, 1896-1930* (University of Calgary Press/ Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies) and *Translating a Tradition: Studies in American Jewish History* (Boston: Academic Studies Press). Forthcoming are: *Bastide on Religion. The Invention of Candomblé* (London: Equinox) by Michel Despland; two books by Marc Des Jardins – *Le sutra de la Mahamayuri* (Presses de l'Université Laval) and *La religion Tibétaine du Bön* (Editions Namparaz);

Preparations have begun for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Concordia University's Hindu Studies Chair. One of the events planned will be an international academic conference, tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2010. The Hindu Studies Chair, T.S. Rukmani, has been extremely active as a participant in conferences and symposia, receiving invitations from around the world. The Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, under the guidance of Norman Ravvin, has sponsored a large number of lectures, symposia, exhibitions, and publications in recent years, including a conference on "The Poet as Landscape: A Portrait of A.M. Klein" in October 2007, a chapbook series devoted to Canadian Jewish Studies and the *Student Journal of Canadian Jewish Studies*. The Avriel Butovsky Research Library, housed at the Institute and containing over 3000 books on modern Judaica, was inaugurated in April 2008.

Wilfrid Laurier University

Erb, Peter (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Peter C. Erb has retired from the Religion and Culture department. He is continuing to help develop the Catholic Studies programme at UPEI this fall and has begun study of Anglo-Catholic/Roman Catholic debate over history and tradition in England in the 1860s. He will be lecturing in Alberta and British Columbia later this fall and spring 2009 on Newman, Church-State matters, and, of course, murder mysteries.

Grimes, Ronald L. (Radboud University Nijmegen)

Ronald L. Grimes has retired from the Religion and Culture department at Wilfrid Laurier University. He currently holds the Chair of Ritual Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) and is director of Ritual, Media, and Conflict, a research project jointly sponsored by Radboud University and the University of Heidelberg. He edits *Religion on the Ground*, a book-plus-DVD series for the University of California Press, and *The Oxford Ritual Studies Series* for Oxford University Press.

Bourse de recherche / Research Fellowship

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society 2009 / 10 Visiting Research Fellowships

The Centre for Studies in Religion and Society invites applications from scholars in Canada or abroad for visiting fellowship appointments at the University of Victoria.

Topics: Applications are welcomed for projects that meet the Centre's mandate of promoting the interdisciplinary study of religion in relation to any and all aspects of society and culture, both contemporary and historical. Topics may include but are not limited to examinations of religious themes within the areas of ethics, health, environment, technology, public policy, human conflict, art, literature, the media, and social currents and debates in philosophy and/or the natural sciences. Applications from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome.

Eligibility: Canadian and international scholars; emeritus scholars; new scholars; scholars on sabbatical leave from their regular academic appointments.

Value: Private office space centrally located on the scenic University of Victoria campus; a congenial retreat-like setting; university privileges; enhanced opportunities for research networking, stimulating and regular scholarly exchange, and participation in the Centre's wide range of academic and social activities. This is a non-stipendiary appointment with no cash value.

Term: Fellowships are granted for a minimum term of two months and a maximum term of twelve months.

Conditions: Fellows are expected to conduct their work in the Centre's quarters, to participate actively in the programs and activities of the Centre, and to give at least one public seminar or lecture on the theme of their research.

Application Procedure: Applications should include a descriptive title, a detailed statement of the research project (maximum 5 pages), an up-to-date curriculum vitae, two reference letters (to be forwarded to the CSRS under separate cover), and the names and full addresses of two scholars who might evaluate the proposed project. The Centre may also solicit the opinions of other referees.

Please submit four copies of the complete application to:

Dr. Paul Bramadat, Director, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society
Sedgewick B102, Vandekerkhove Wing
Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, B.C. CANADA V8W 2Y2

Selection will be made by the CSRS Program Committee based on the academic merit of the proposal, the views of the referees, and the recent scholarly activity of the candidate.

Deadline: January 31, 2009

January 31 is the normal deadline for the annual adjudication of visiting fellowship applications. Applications submitted outside of this schedule may also be considered at the discretion of the Director.

For more information about the CSRS and its fellowship programs visit www.csrs.uvic.ca, or phone 250-721-6325.

Call for Papers / Invitation à proposer une communication

GOLEM: Journal of Religion and Monsters

GOLEM: Journal of Religion and Monsters is currently accepting scholarly articles on topics related to religion and monsters.

Submissions using methodology from a variety of fields are welcome. The editors maintain a broad definition of religion as culture, but the connection to religion should be clear in all submissions. Articles are peer-reviewed.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR *GOLEM*:

- Limit papers to 7,000 words in length.
- Include a 100 word abstract at the beginning of the submission.
- Number all paragraphs in the following format: [1], [2], etc.
- Use MLA format for endnotes and bibliography.

Submit manuscripts as Microsoft Word attachments and send to ruby_ramji@cbu.ca using "GOLEM" as the subject line.

Or,

send as a paper copy to:

Rubina Ramji, Ph.D.
Cape Breton University
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Office CC241
1250 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, Nova Scotia CANADA
B1P 6L2

For other submission possibilities see the MONSTER TRACKS and GREMLIN Sections of *GOLEM* at <http://www.golemjournal.org>

Women In Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal

<http://www.womeninjudaism.org>

Submissions are invited for the online periodical: *Women In Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal*.

The journal is published **exclusively on the Internet** as a forum for scholarly debate on gender-related issues in Judaism. The ultimate aim of the journal is to promote the reconceptualization of the study of Judaism, by acknowledging and incorporating the roles played by women, and by encouraging the development of alternative research paradigms. It is particularly intended to advance critical analysis of gender inequalities within Jewish religion, history, culture and society, both ancient and modern. The journal does not promote a fixed ideology, and welcomes a variety of approaches. The material may be cross-methodological or interdisciplinary.

Articles, essays, book reviews, and bibliographies from all disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences are welcome. We also publish fiction works. Submissions for the spring and summer issues are concurrently accepted and should be made (preferably) by e-mail or by regular mail to:

Dr. Dina Ripsman Eylon, Editor-in-Chief
Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal
246-1054 Centre St.
Thornhill, ON L4J 8E5 Canada
E-mail: dina.eylon@utoronto.ca

We are also seeking book reviewers. A complete list of books is available in our Review Books Received section, which is updated periodically. For further information and guidelines for contributors, please consult our web site or write to the Editor-in-Chief.

An Interdisciplinary Collection of Essays on the Zombie

We are seeking proposals for an interdisciplinary edited volume discussing the zombie from a wide variety of perspectives and within a wide range of contexts. We encourage submissions from any discipline, including but not limited to English literature, film studies, media studies, cultural studies, gender studies, queer studies, philosophy, religious studies, anthropology, sociology, history, psychology, economics, and political science. We especially welcome new approaches to the study of zombies. In addition to theoretical essays on zombies, we also welcome critical discussions of specific zombie films, novels, and graphic novels, including those both pre- and post-Romero.

Proposals should be between 200 and 300 words. Authors are asked to include brief biographical details along with their submissions, including name and academic affiliation. Please submit proposals either electronically or by regular mail. Deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2008. Submit to either:

Dr. Cory James Rushton
Dept. of English
St. Francis Xavier University
PO Box 5000
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
B2G 2W5
Canada
crushton@stfx.ca

or

Dr. Christopher M. Moreman
Dept. of Philosophy
California State University, East Bay
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.
Hayward, CA 94542
U.S.A.
christopher.moreman@csueastbay.edu

Du bureau des affaires étudiantes / From the Student Desk
CSSR Graduate Student Representative Bulletin Report
Fall 2008

Dear fellow Religious Studies Graduate Students,

This edition of the *CSSR Bulletin* comes to you at that heady/queasy time of year known as “Back to School.” And though it feels like we may never have stopped, we do tend at this time to begin again in many ways, pursuing new lines of inquiry (or scrambling to complete ones that are not so new) and moving ever closer toward our goals. No matter what stage of studies at which you find yourself, best wishes for a productive, challenging and exciting year ahead.

Some items of interest as you look ahead to the coming year:

The Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting of the CSSR took place as part of the 2008 Congress of the Humanities, hosted by the University of British Columbia from June 1-4. Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Announcement of the Student essay prize winners:**

- Graduate essay competition: First place in the competition was shared this year between Joel Buenting of the Dept. of Philosophy of the University of Alberta, whose paper was entitled “Can someone choose hell?,” and Matthew King of the University of Toronto, for his essay “Ideological Geography and Narrative Work of a Peripheral Buddhist History.” Meredith Warren and Aaron Rick Parks, both of McGill University, both received commendations for their excellent papers.
- Undergraduate essay competition: First prize was awarded to David Joubet-LeClerc of Bishop’s University for his paper “Christianity’s Trial: Christian Heresiology from the first to the third century CE.” Jennifer Baker of Wilfrid Laurier University was the runner up with her paper entitled “Incorporating all Conversion Motivations: Exploring the ‘Crisis Stage’ of Religious Conversion.” Congratulations to both David and Jennifer for these excellent papers!
- **Changes to student essay contest for 2009:** 1st prize for the Graduate Student Essay Contest is now \$700 (previously \$500), and, new this year, a 2nd prize of \$300 is offered! Please consult the website (<http://www.ccsr.ca/ccb/studentessays.htm>), and the call for entries above, for 2009 submission guidelines. Canadian PhD students studying outside the country will now also be eligible for consideration for the Graduate Student Essay Contest.
- **The Strategic Planning Session and Luncheon** for grad students was a great success, with panelists from all stages of professional development (and much free pizza). This is an annual event, so if you missed it, plan on attending when we meet next at Congress 2009 to be held at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, May 23-31.

Join us on Facebook! The CSSR has established a Facebook group just for student members. Visit it at <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=39154515329> and get involved in the ongoing discussions. This is a great place to check for announcements and helpful web links relevant to students, and post information about news and happenings in your own departments. Please join the conversation!

We are also hoping to develop a student page on our **CSSR website**. Do you have ideas for the design or content of our future student website page? If so, send them to me at contact.gunn@gmail.com.

Going to Chicago? In co-operation with the Graduate Student Committee of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), a “**Canadian Corner**” will be established in the Student Lounge at the AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago (November 1-3). This space will provide a means for Canadian students to connect with peers wherever they are studying. Come and see us! Stop in for a coffee and a chance to connect with your Canadian student colleagues. Saturday through Monday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Chicago Hilton Towers, Private Dining Room (PDR) 7.

Announcement of New Graduate Student Journal

Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto

The Centre for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Association at the University of Toronto announces a transformation of its graduate student journal to an online, peer-reviewed journal for graduate students in the study of religion and related fields. As in the past, the journal will be published once yearly and will correspond thematically to the Centre’s annual symposium.

Call for Articles

The 2009 edition’s theme has been selected to accompany the launch of the University of Toronto’s new interdisciplinary initiative on “Religion in the Public Sphere.” We extend a cordial call for original,

unpublished papers investigating the nature of religious actors in public and civil society. While much contemporary scholarly and popular attention has been directed toward the roles and activities of official religious spokespersons in the rejection of, or accommodation to, the public sphere, we are especially interested in the activities of religious “laity” or “masses.” Specifically we seek to identify the ways in which religious actors promote union and/or division to further their own ethical narratives and special interests in a public venue.

While the theoretical frameworks exploring religion and the public sphere are often seen as modern Western initiatives, the aim of this edition of the journal is to extend the subject across historical and regional boundaries. The editors strongly urge scholars to submit articles exploring the history of the formation, elaboration, transformation, interpretation and contestation of public religious identity in non-Western and non-modern traditions.

Topics

The following sub-fields for this issue have been designed so as to allow for flexibility of interpretation and to encourage applications reflecting a broad spectrum of interests and disciplines. We gladly welcome papers which fall outside of these tentative parameters:

- differences between “elite” and “popular” forms of religion
- group identity formation
- political or liberation theology
- religion and/as social progress
- representations of public religiosity in media, art and literature
- the interface of religious and secular legal traditions

For more information please contact Rebekka King (rebekka.king@utoronto.ca) or Nicholas Dion (nicholas.dion@utoronto.ca). Articles should be written in clear, grammatical, and fluent English (Chicago style, maximum of 20 pages). Submissions are due by **15 October 2008**.

Finally, a reminder that **membership in the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion** is a valuable opportunity for students at all levels. As a student member of the CSSR, you have access to essay contests, professional development seminars, and the opportunity to submit abstracts for presentations at the annual conference. You receive the journal *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses (SR)*, as well as the *Bulletin* of the Society. You are also invited to attend the Annual General Meeting, ensuring that student voices are heard in this forum. By joining the Society you join a network of Canadian academic professionals engaged in the study of religion, and reap the benefits of that shared expertise. If you are already a member of the CSSR, please remember to keep your membership current. If you are not currently a member, please visit our website today (<http://www.csr.ca/cssr/>) to learn more about the benefits of membership.

As ever, if you have any questions, ideas or concerns about the CSSR and its services for student members, please contact me by e-mail at contact.gunn@gmail.com.

With best wishes for the coming year,

Janet Gunn
CSSR Graduate Student Member at Large

Membership Form

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

Please use this form in forwarding your membership fees, whether a new membership or a renewal. Your membership pays your annual CSSR dues, CFH dues, and (unless you are an associate member) a subscription to *Studies in Religion*. In addition, your membership entitles you to receive the bi-annual *Bulletin* of the Society and to submit papers to the Programme Committee for consideration for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It does not cover your registration fee for the Annual Meeting. **Please make cheque or money order payable to: “Wilfrid Laurier University Press.”**

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Information concernant la façon de s'acquitter de la cotisation Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

Prière d'utiliser ce formulaire pour vous acquitter de votre cotisation même s'il s'agit d'un renouvellement. Votre cotisation couvre vos droits d'adhésion à la SCÉR, à la FCÉH, et (à moins que vous ne soyez membre associé) un abonnement à la revue *Sciences religieuses*. En plus, cette cotisation vous permet de recevoir le *Bulletin* bisannuel de la Société et de soumettre des textes au Comité de programme pour une présentation lors de la réunion annuelle. Il faut toutefois noter que cela n'inclut pas les frais d'inscription au congrès annuel. **Veillez libeller votre chèque ou mandat à l'ordre de: "Wilfrid Laurier University Press."**

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 Wilfrid Laurier University Press
 75 University Avenue West
 Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5

On demande aux nouveaux membres d'envoyer une courriel à:
 Mark D. Chapman
 30 Carrier Drive, Suite 100
 Toronto, ON M9W 5T7
mchapman@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

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