

Religion & Ecology Newsletter January 2004

At the recent business meeting of the Religion and Ecology group of the American Academy of Religion, the steering committee acknowledged the good work of outgoing chair Bron Taylor, who served a full term on the committee. Thanks, Bron! We would also like to welcome two new members to the steering committee: Rebecca Gould of Middlebury College and David Landis Barnhill of University of Wisconsin / Oshkosh. We are in the process of exploring the addition of a graduate student representative to the steering committee.

In Atlanta, many people proposed topics for paper sessions at next year's AAR in San Antonio, TX. These topics and contact persons are listed in detail in our on-line call for papers, which can be found at www.religionandnature.com/aar. For 2004, the steering committee is especially encouraging the submission of full paper sessions (i.e. a pre-arranged set of papers around a common topic or theme, rather than individual submissions) for consideration. (Please note that the committee is also open to proposals not linked to full paper sessions.) We prefer that the submission of full paper sessions and individual proposals be done on line, though if you find this impossible, you may fax a proposal to Chris Chapple and he will arrange for it to be electronically submitted.

Please follow the directions released by the AAR carefully. As a general reminder, the person proposing the session needs to provide an overview of less than 1000 words, followed with an abstract of 150 words. Then each presenter gives her/his contact information, followed with a paper proposal of less than 1000 words, again, followed with an abstract of less than 150 words. We encourage individuals who have suggested the following topics below to actively recruit at least three contributors to participate in their paper session, and also be ready to receive paper proposals from individuals who respond to the call for papers. Each session should also suggest a chair and perhaps a respondent. You may also wish to propose a panel discussion, which entails several scholars responding to a theme or book. See this year's call for papers for full details on how to develop proposals for either a paper session or a panel (www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/2004/call/).

We strongly encourage everyone considering submitting a proposal to review all past Religion and Ecology Proposals, in order to reduce duplication. These past proposals, along with other pertinent information about our group, are available on-line at www.religionandnature.com/aar.

The call for papers has just been released (see www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/2004/call/). Paper proposals are due via the OP3 submission system by March 1, 2004. They will be reviewed by the steering committee and notification will be given by April 1, 2004. The committee is only allowed to submit the program electronically, which is why we prefer that all proposal be submitted electronically. All accepted participants must be members of the AAR and must register for the meeting. The program book will be mailed in September.

The members of the steering committee are

* Chris Chapple cchapple@lmu.edu

* Beth Blissman beth.blissman@oberlin.edu

Laurel Kearns lkearns@drew.edu
Vijaya Nagarajan nagarajan@usfca.edu
David Haberman dhaberma@indiana.edu
Rebecca Gould rgould@middlebury.edu
David Barnhill barnhill@vaxa.cis.uwosh.edu

* signifies co-chair for 2003-2004 Academic Year

Religion and Ecology 2004 Call for Papers

(Long Version with Contact Information)

The Religion and Ecology Group invites paper proposals exploring relationships between religions, cultures (especially of the U.S. southwest and Latin America), and environments. Priority will be given to thematically coherent sessions proposals and/or panels. To view previous sessions and to find complete contact information for scholars interested in organizing sessions listed below, visit www.religionandnature.com/aar

Please note that although we are encouraging full session proposals, and hoping proposing scholars will contact the individuals listed below if they think their ideas could fit into any of the envisioned sessions, we also strongly encourage proposals unconnected to any already-envisioned session.

The R & E committee will evaluate each individual paper proposal, and every proposed session (and each paper within that session) on its own merits. Based on these evaluations, the committee may select and re-arrange papers and panels based on their own judgments about the quality and coherence of individual papers and sessions that are proposed.

The following are the already-envisioned session proposals and contact people:

Latin American Environmental Thinkers

Lois Lorentzen
lorentzen@usfca.edu

Networks and Systems Theory (possible cross list with Critical Theories Group)

Kochu von Stuckrad
stuckrad@aol.com

Panel on the work of Larry Rasmussen

Daniel Spencer
dspencer@selway.umt.edu

Panel on Catherine Keller's book, The Face of the Deep

Rosemary Ruether

rruether@psr.edu

Religion, Environmental Justice & the Borderlands

Beth Blissman

beth.Blissman@oberlin.edu

Future Potential of the San Antonio River

Richard M. Carp

carprm@appstate.edu

Ecology and the 2004 Elections

David Landis Barnhill

barnhill@vaxa.cis.uwosh.edu

Panel on the work of Paul Shepherd

Stephanie Kaza

skaza@zoo.uvm.edu

Panel on the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature

Chris Chapple

cchapple@lmu.edu

Issues & Perspectives from the non-Developed World

Matthew Fox and Creation Spirituality

Lee Bailey

bailey@ithaca.edu or mimmergu@drew.edu

Religion and Water

Ecological Theories in Science and Religion

Joel Geffen

geffenji@yahoo.com

Fact/Value Distinction

Panel on Darwin's Cathedral, by David Sloan Wilson

Bron Taylor

bron@religionandnature.com

Alternative Religions and Ecology

Evangelicals and Ecology

Nicole Roskos

nroskos@drew.edu

Please note: For sessions where there is no contact person listed, please contact one of the co-chairs of the Religion and Ecology group. Also, you are welcome to propose a session or panel that is not currently listed, and the committee will also look at individual paper proposals. We prefer for applicants to use the OP3 system for electronic submission, but co-chairs Chris Chapple and Beth Blissman welcome requests for further information. Those without internet access may contact Blissman for the information available on the website and Chapple for submission procedures.

Chris Chapple [cchapple@lmu.edu 310-338-2846];

Beth Blissman [beth.blissman@oberlin.edu 440-775-8055]