

AAR

2003 Annual Meeting

November 23-26
Atlanta, Georgia

PCR Preessions:

Friday, Nov. 21, 2:00-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

PCR Regular Sessions:

Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 24, 9:00-11:30 p.m.

A129 SUNDAY 1:00 PM-3:30 PM
LOCATION TBA

PSYCHE, SOUL AND SELF

Pamela Cooper-White

Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia
Presiding

Felicity Brock Kelcourse

Christian Theological Seminary
*A Phenomenology of Psyche, Self and Soul:
What Can We Learn from a Name?*

Franz Aubrey Metcalf

The Forge Institute
A Winnicottian Transpersonal Psychology

Marsha Hewitt

Trinity College
*To Never Wholly Die, Never to Fully Live:
Death and Rebirth in the Emergence of Self
in the Therapeutic Process*

Wil Brant

University of Chicago
*Souls That Materialize: Implications of
Judith Butler's Psyche on the Christian Self*

A191 MONDAY, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM
LOCATION TBA

PRACTICING THEORY AND THEORIZING PRACTICE

Kathleen Bishop

Drew University, Presiding

G. William Barnard

Southern Methodist University
Scholarship and Healing: Two Worlds, One Life

Stanford J. Searl

Union Institute, San Diego
Making a Place for the Soul: The Pedagogy of Silence

Al Dueck

Pasadena, CA
Ethics, Levinas, and Psychotherapy

Lee Hayward Butler

University of Chicago
*From Theory to Student to Parish/Client and Back Again:
Pastoral Theology As Praxis*



In This Issue:

PCR Main Sessions	1	Upcoming Conferences	6
PCR Pre-sessions	2	AAR/SBL Split	6
Other AAR Sessions	2	Book Note	7
News from PCR Members	3	Member Information	8
Other AAR Sessions	5	Steering Committee	8
SBL Sessions of Interest	5	Send us your information	9

Pre-Sessions: November 21-22

FRIDAY 2:00-6:30 PM
HILTON ATLANTA & TOWERS: FULTON ROOM

2:00 PM PANEL

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORK OF DON BROWNING

Kelly Bulkeley

Graduate Theological Union, Presiding

Panelists:

Archie Smith, Jr.

Pacific School of Religion

Bonnie Miller-McLemore

Vanderbilt Divinity School

Ian Evison

Alban Institute

Greg Schneider

Pacific Union College

Soo-Young Kwon

Graduate Theological Union

Respondent

Don Browning

University of Chicago Divinity School

4:30 COFFEE BREAK

5:00 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

An update on the International Association for the Psychology of Religion and its journal.

Jacob Belzen, University of Amsterdam

5:15 FILM DISCUSSION

MYTH AND RELIGION AS UNCONSCIOUS

FORCES IN THE PSYCHOANALYSIS

OF TONY SOPRANO

Naomi R. Goldenberg, University of Ottawa

SATURDAY 9:00 -9:45 AM
HILTON ATLANTA & TOWERS: HENRY ROOM

9:00 WORKS IN PROGRESS

Kelley Raab, St. Lawrence University Presiding

9:45-11:30 AMPANEL

EXISTENTIAL/SPIRITUAL AND RITUAL DIMENSIONS OF ADDICTION AND THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION:

AN INTERCULTURAL, OBJECT RELATIONS

INVESTIGATION

Peter Savastano

Seton Hall University, Presiding

Panelists:

Valerie DeMarinis

Uppsala University/Karolinska Institute

James Jones

Rutgers University

Pamela Cooper-White

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

John McDargh

Boston College

Kathleen Bishop

Madison, NJ

Owe Wikstrom

Uppsala University

PCR Friday Dinner

It is our annual custom to go out to dinner together on Friday evening. Location of the dinner and signup information will be made available as soon as we have it.

PCR News

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Summer 2003

Editor: Kelly Bulkeley

Layout: D. Andrew Kille

Person, Culture and Religion Website:

pcr-aar.home.att.net

PCR-List online e-mail discussion group:

To subscribe send a message to:

pcr-list-subscribe@yahoo.com

Harvey Aronson is finishing up work on a new book, *Buddhist Practice on Western Ground: Reconciling Eastern Ideal and Western Psychology*. Due Winter/Spring 2004 from Shambhala, the book will look at the transplantation of this Asian discipline in the modern West, with a focus on anger, love, attachment and self.

Ralph Underwood (Austin Seminary), who retired from Austin in 2001, has come out of retirement for a time to be the seminary's interim academic dean, beginning August 1.

Greg Schneider (Pacific Union College) is spending time in New York City this summer at a Research Colloquium sponsored by the journal, *Crosscurrents*. Greg says, "It's a four-week gig (July 6 to August 1) where about 20 scholars participate, each with a particular research project. We stay at Union Theological Seminary and have access to libraries there and at Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University. My project, "Ritual and Burden of the Modern Self," seeks to use some sociological and anthropological ritual theory, e.g., Roy Rappaport, Erving Goffman, and Charles Derber, to examine the pursuit of attention inherent in the secular rituals of everyday life. My guiding question is which religious rituals might provide relief from, or reinforcement of, the burdens imposed by this quest. Here's the link to where *Crosscurrents* explains the Research Colloquium, which is in its 20th year, just in case other PCR members might find such a thing interesting: <http://www.aril.org/colloquium.html>.

Kelly Bulkeley (Graduate Theological Union) recently published *Dreams of Healing: Transforming Nightmares into Visions of Hope* (Paulist Press). The book looks at recurrent patterns in dreams and nightmares following a sudden catastrophe, whether a collective event like September 11 or an individual trauma like a car accident. In contrast to the mainstream psychotherapeutic goal of helping trauma victims regain "ego control," this book argues that post-traumatic dreams are pointing to new potentials for creative living that are best understood as part of a process of spiritual/religious transformation.

Jon Alexander (Providence College) is working on a study titled "Plot Trumps Race, Ethnicity, and Class: A Comparison of Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave* (1845) and Edward Boyd Barrett's *The Magnificent Illusion* (1930)." The project will focus on basic narrative themes relating to escape from oppression in these and other American autobiographical texts.

Susan Easton wants to bring to PCR attention the services of the Religion Newswriters Association, which provides email alerts on various stories having to do with religion (www.religionwriters.com). She also reports, "I'm working on a book - The Vatican in 20th Century Literature. Part religious studies and comp lit, part book review extravaganza, (130 novels identified to date, whew); an assessment of the past, present, and future of the church as played out in literary license and fertile imaginings. There are a number of truly good books.... also some really wild novels.... Great summer reading if you know what I mean.... FYI - We will be at our London residence beginning the first week in Sept. Have a week or two side trip to Geneva planned. Back to the states sometime in mid to late October. Within reason, I am willing to do research related errands ... but am equally willing to fetch and return with boutique jams and teas..."

News from PCR Members

Lucy Bregman (Temple University) is pleased to announce the publication of her new book *Death and Dying, Spirituality and Religions: A Study of the Death Awareness Movement*. (Peter Lang Publishing, 2003).

"The death awareness movement provides a new language for speaking about death and dying by stressing death, dying and bereavement as meaningful human experiences beyond their medical context. This movement appears secular and detached from religion, although its advocates embrace spirituality. However, this book refutes the "secularity" view, and undermines the popular opposition between spirituality and religion. The death awareness movement is deeply indebted to popular Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and tribal religions for ideas and images. Urging a thoughtful theological response, this book illustrates how such diverse religious legacies contribute to contemporary views of death and dying."

Continued on page 4

News from PCR Members

Continued from page 3

Felicity Kelcourse (Christian Theological Seminary) reports that *Human Development and Faith: Life-cycle stages of change in body, mind and soul*, an introductory text book she edited and wrote three chapters for, has been delivered to Chalice Press and is due out in April, 2004 (Pamela Cooper-White, Roy Steinhoff-Smith and Bernie Lyon are among the contributors). She will also be giving an advance version of her November AAR/PCR talk ("A phenomenology of psyche, self and soul: What can we learn from a name?") for the Washington Psychoanalytic Foundation's October 24-26 program on "The Future of Religion in the Psychoanalytic World: Revisiting the Mind/Soul Dilemma." Fellow panelists include Diane Jonte-Pace, Ana-Maria Rizzuto and Polly Young-Eisendrath.

James Jones (Rutgers University) has a new book coming out this fall titled *The Mirror of God: Christian Faith as spiritual practice — lessons from Buddhism and psychotherapy* (Palgrave).

Charlene Burns (University of Wisconsin Eau Claire) recently published *Divine Becoming: Rethinking Jesus and Incarnation* (Fortress Press, 2002). "In it I use an analysis of the capacity for empathy in human psychological development to argue that incarnation

can continue to be considered an ontological category within Christian thought, without the problematic taint of ancient 'substance metaphysics.'" Charlene also has an article forthcoming this fall in volume 23 (2003) of *Buddhist-Christian Studies* entitled "Soul-less Christianity and the Buddhist Empirical Self: Buddhist-Christian Convergence?" in which she examines possible parallels between non-reductive physicalism (à la Murphey, *et. al.*) and Buddhist no-self teachings as interpreted by Peter Harvey.

Judith Kay (University of Puget Sound) is putting the finishing touches on a book entitled *A Story to Die For: Why Abolishing the Death Penalty Isn't Enough*, which examines the moral psychology and habits of murderers, citizens, and participants who support the death penalty and how some victims' families construct a different story. The book is due out 2004 from Rowman & Littlefield.

An abridged version of **D. Andrew Kille's** (Revdak, San Jose, CA) article "The Bible Made Me Do It: 'Text, Interpretation and Violence'" appeared in the June 2003 online issue of the *Religious Study Review* (SBL Edition), which was devoted to the issue of violence and the Bible (www.sbl-site.org/Newsletter/index.htm). The full article is scheduled to come out from Praeger this fall as part of J. Harold Ellens' four-volume *The Destructive Power of Religion*.

A Request from Al Dueck

I am a faculty member in Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Psychology. My specific responsibility is to encourage the dialogue between religion/theology and psychology/psychotherapy. In many of our courses we focus on interdisciplinary dialogue but when our students search for placements that are religion-accommodating, there are very few. I am wondering if any of you know of counseling centers that supervise clinical psychology interns and are uniquely competent in addressing religious issues. Are they APA approved? Do you know of supervisors that particularly skilled in this area who, though they are not part of a clinic, provide supervision for a clinic? Please contact me at adueck@fuller.edu.

PCR Members in Other AAR Programs?

PCR members are often active in other program units of the AAR and make presentations that are potentially of interest to the rest of the PCR group. If you are making a presentation in Atlanta in a different group or section, or if you know of a session you think will be of special relevance to PCR concerns, please let us know so we can spread the word.

SBL Sessions of Interest

TIMES AND LOCATIONS TBA

SESSION 1: METHODS AND EXPLORATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITICISM

Ilona N. Rashkow

(SUNY Stony Brook)

The Rape(s) of Dinah: False Religion and Excess in Revenge?

David G. Garber, Jr.

(Emory University)

Traumatizing Ezekiel: An Evaluation of Psychoanalytic Approaches to Ezekiel and a New Proposal

Neil Douglas-Klotz

(Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning)

Reading Wisdom with Reich: Proverbs 8-9 Seen Through the Psychology of Wilhelm Reich

Daniel B. Mathewson

(Emory University)

Symbolic Systems, Death, and Desymbolization in the Writings of Robert Jay Lifton and in the Prologue to the Book of Job

Petri Merenlahti

(University of Helsinki)

Reading Mark for the Pleasure of Fantasy

Halvor Ronning

(Home for Bible Translators)

Can a psychological/sociological analysis of the gospel writers provide evidence for determining the relative chronology of the Synoptic Gospels?

SESSION 2: THE BIBLE AND HUMAN TRANSFORMATION

Lyn M. Bechtel

(Drew Theological School)

Transformation Offered, But Ignored (Genesis 4)

Walter Wink

(Auburn Theological Seminary)

Transformation: Method and Meaning

Wayne G. Rollins

Back to the Future: Walter Wink's The Bible in Human Transformation After Thirty Years, 1973-2003

Upcoming Conferences

- “The Past and Future of the Science-Religion Dialogue: Celebrating the Work of Ian G. Barbour,” October 3-5, Berkeley, California. Sponsored by the **Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences**. For more information, go to www.ctns.org.
- **American Academy of Religion/Western Region Annual Meeting**, with the theme “Embodied Knowledge,” March 20-22, 2004, Whittier College, Whittier, California. For information on PCR and Religion and the Social Sciences programming, contact Kirk Bingaman (kbingaman@sfts.edu), Kelly Bulkeley (kellybulkeley@earthlink.net), or Siroj Sorajjakool (ssorajjakool@univ.llu.edu).
- **American Psychological Association Division 36** (Psychology of Religion) Mid-Winter Conference, with the theme “Building Bridges through Theory, Research, and Practice,” March 28-29, 2004, Loyola College, Maryland. For details, go to www.apa.org/divisions/div36/.

The Great Divorce: AAR and SBL to Separate

After more than 30 years of joint Annual Meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, the Board of Directors of the AAR voted this Spring to hold stand-alone Annual Meetings, effective in 2008. The decision was made after many years of discussion, prompted both by the AAR’s evolution as a distinctively different organization and by the unwieldy size of recent meetings. Some signs over the past few years of the impending separation included the separation of membership services, the organization of the program book, and publishing ventures following the close of Scholars Press in 1999.

The Board hopes that separating the meetings will allow for smaller meetings that would allow for more AAR sessions and permit use of smaller, more personal meeting facilities. Because of joint commitments for future meetings through 2007, the first AAR-only meeting will take place in 2008. In the interim, the AAR and SBL meetings will be held “concurrently,”

rather than “jointly.” Following the announcement, the SBL Board expressed some dismay that the decision had been made “without SBL consultation,” but it would appear that the surprise was in the timing and finality of the decision, rather than in its substance.

As one who has worked “both sides of the aisle” over the years, I’m not sure how I feel about the decision. On the one hand, more manageable meetings (especially ones that can keep us away from Disney World and Opryland) would be a welcome change. On the other, separate meetings will make our particular cross-disciplinary endeavors more difficult and force us to “choose sides.”


More information about the decision can be found on the AAR website at www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/decision-faq.asp.

D. Andrew Kille
Revdak, San Jose, CA

Book Note

The Mind and the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force
Jeffrey M. Schwartz and Sharon Begley (ReganBooks, 2002).

For those who are troubled by the moral, religious, and psychological implications of recent advances in evolutionary theory, *The Mind and the Brain* offers a well-reasoned, though narrowly framed, response. Against the deterministic tendencies of cognitive neuroscience (see Steven Pinker's *The Blank Slate*), in which human mental life is nothing more than an epiphenomenon of genetically-driven neural hard-wiring, Schwartz and Begley argue that our minds are in fact far more capable of change, adaptation, and self-directed action than mainstream neuroscience is willing to admit. Schwartz, a research psychiatrist at UCLA, describes his success in treating patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) by means of what he calls "directed mental force," a kind of power-of-positive-thinking method that he says actually changes the physical functioning of the brain. Schwartz's success in treating OCD is further evidence of what he and other researchers are calling "neuroplasticity," the surprising mutability of the brain-mind system in response to changes in activity and/or experience. Although Schwartz and his co-author Begley focus exclusively on the implications for individual willpower (Begley, science correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*, clearly sees Schwartz's research as support for the entrepreneurial spirit), the phenomenon of neuroplasticity is also a huge opening for those of interested in religion and culture generally as potent influences on human life and development. Religious experience is not simply a product of the brain, it can actually be a *producer* of the brain—that is the exciting prospect opened up by Schwartz's work.



The Mind and the Brain is also noteworthy as another textual example of a contemporary Western scientist deeply enamored of Buddhism. Schwartz dedicates the book to his Buddhist teacher, he proudly describes his 25 years of "Bare Attention" meditation, and he concludes the book with a quote from Gotama about the Law of Karma. Are there any Christian scientists out there who are as open and unapologetic about the harmony they perceive between their faith and their research? I can't think of any. For religious studies scholars who are interested in the emergence of a distinctively American style of Buddhism, this book offers a particularly vigorous assertion of the compatibility of Buddhist philosophy and cutting-edge neuroscience. Along with that, *The Mind and the Brain* offers provocative discussions of William James (Schwartz loves him), quantum physics (pushing brain-mind science beyond Newton), and the psychology of moral choice (it's real, not epiphenomenal). One does not have to be obsessed with the neuroscience literature (as I confess I have become) to appreciate the relevance of these ideas for the ongoing work of religious studies scholarship.

Kelly Bulkeley
The Graduate Theological Union

About that Red Spot

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PCR Membership

Membership in PCR entitles you to three copies of PCR News, goodies at the Friday pre-session, advance copies of the papers for PCR sessions, plus the warm glow of knowing that you're helping us distribute PCR-related information to scholars, clinicians, and clergy members interested in our work.

\$15.00 Regular Membership; \$10.00 Student Membership (with copy of student ID). Checks should be payable to Person, Culture, & Religion Group. Send to: Kelly Bulkeley, Secretary/Treasurer, 226 Amherst Avenue, Kensington CA 94708; Phone: 510-528-0226; Fax is same; E-mail: kellybulkeley@earthlink.net

2003 paid members to date are listed below; if you think we missed you, contact Kelly Bulkeley at the address above.

Jon Alexander	Eileen Campbell-Reed	Diane Jonte-Pace	Catherine Roach
Harvey Aronson	Dan Capper	Merle R. Jordan	Martha Robbins
Bill Barnard	Pamela Cooper-White	Elizabeth Koenig	Wayne G. Rollins
Matthias Beier	David Crownfield	Soo-Young Kwon	Christopher Ross
Kirk Bingaman	Charles Davidson	Linda Land-Closson	Greg Schneider
Kathleen Bishop	Carrie Doehring	Daniel Merkur	Phillis Sheppard
Kurethara Bose	Nancy Grace	Franz Metcalf	Judith Van Herik
Peter Schuyler Brown	Kathleen Greider	Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore	Hendrika Vande Kemp
Kelly Bulkeley	John Haule	Laura Praglin	Trevor Watt
Lee Butler	Peter Homans	Kelley Raab	Demaris Wehr
Ric Camarillo	Steve Johnson	Martha J. Reineke	Douglas Whitcher

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INFORMATION FOR PCR NEWSLETTER VOL. 26 NO. 3

I. These days I find myself thinking about . . .
CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS AND WRITING

II. What we need is a good course in . . .
COURSES BEING TAUGHT OR PLANNED

Would a syllabus be available on request? yes___ no___

III. Have you seen ? . . .
ARTICLES, BOOKS AND PRESENTATIONS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE
TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION
[PLEASE GIVE FULL CITATION IF KNOWN]

IV. INFORMATION OF GENERAL INTEREST [calls for papers, announcements, travel, pro-
motions, job searches . . anything you would like to share in the newsletter]

Your name and Address:

New Member Suggestion:

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