CALL FOR PAPERS
2017 New England & Canadian Maritimes Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Saturday 8 April 2017 Boston University School of Theology
745 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA. 02215
(MBTA Green “B” Line [“Boston College”] to Boston University Central Stop)
http://www.bu.edu/sth/

BEFORE Submitting your proposal please read all these directions carefully

The NEMAAR Conference is open to all individuals, though those with accepted proposals must be active (i.e., current paid-up) members of the AAR by no later than March 1, 2017. AAR members from Regions other than NEMAAR are invited to participate, though the Graduate Student Essay Competition is limited only to graduate students of institutions within the geographical boundaries of NEMAAR.

Proposal Submission Deadline & Practicalia By Wednesday January 18, 2017 please e-mail a one-page, double-spaced Paper Proposal (c. 250 words) in a PC-compatible electronic file (doc, docx, or pdf) named with your own surname to NEMAAR Regional Coordinator James Bretzke at bretzke@bc.edu with “NEMAAR Paper Proposal” in the Subject Line. Include within the proposal itself your own name, your institutional affiliation, and contact information, including e-mail address. We plan on including the e-mail information in the Conference Program, and if you wish not to have such information included please state this clearly in your Proposal Information. We do need, though, the e-mail address for internal communication with all those submitting a proposal.

There is no overall Conference Theme and so the paper or panel proposal should indicate the general subject or interest area (e.g., Ethics, Religions in Asia, Historical Theology, Gender & Sexuality, Theology & Art, Islam, Comparative Religions, Spirituality, etc.) as well as the specific title of your paper. Also please indicate if you will need any AV equipment or have other special needs. If you have someone who might serve as a convener for your Session please indicate that as well. If no Convener is designated we will do our best to find a volunteer.

Panel proposals are most welcome, and in the case of a successful panel proposal an entire 75 minute Session will be devoted to the Panel Presentation and Discussion.
Abstract: Also include a c. 75 word Abstract of your paper, which will be used in the Conference Program should your paper be accepted. The Abstract does NOT “count” in the limit of the one-page Paper Proposal.

Conference Format

Individual, concurrent Conference Sessions will be 75 minutes in length. Single Papers accepted will be grouped with another Paper in the same general area, so presenters each would be asked to limit their individual presentation to about 25 minutes, which comes to 12-13 pages of written text, double-spaced and with 12 point font. This format then would allow time for some reasonable follow-up discussion and questions. Panel proposals accepted will have the entire 75 minute concurrent session at their disposal (i.e., only one panel per 75 minute concurrent session will be scheduled).

Notification of Paper Proposal Acceptance

Authors of proposals will be notified by the second week of February and at that time all accepted paper presenters must become active (i.e., paid up) members of the American Academy of Religion and will also be expected to complete paid registration for the conference itself.

Conference Registration, Fees, and Practicalia

The Conference Fee will be fairly modest, in the $30.00 range for students and independent scholars and $35.00 for those with a paid academic position, and will include a box lunch and limited snacks and beverages. No funds are available for travel and/or other conference-related expenses such as housing, parking, etc. No hotel or parking arrangements will be offered by NEMAAR. Since the Conference site is quite accessible by the Green Line and since street parking is quite limited conference participants are encouraged to take public transportation, carpool, taxi, Uber, Lyft, or be prepared to pay for off-street parking. Online registration, via EventBrite, will be available by early-March on the NEMAAR website.

All those whose proposals have been accepted are expected to present their own papers at the regional conference.

The Conference Plenary Session is still in the planning stage but will involve an invited Panel to discuss the Trump Presidency’s First 100 Days from the perspective of Political Theology and Religious Studies.

Annual Regional Business Meeting

In addition to the Conference presentations there will be the annual NEMAAR Business Meeting convened by the NEMAAR President Dr. Ronald R. Bernier and NEMAAR Regional Coordinator Rev. Dr. James Bretzke, SJ.

Graduate Student Paper Competition
Graduate student presenters who are currently enrolled in a degree program in an institution within the geographical boundaries of NEMAAR (New England and Maritime States) are eligible to enter the competition for best graduate student paper, which comes with a small monetary award. Papers considered for this competition should be 5,000 - 7,000 words, 12-point font and double-spaced, and must be submitted no later than March 1, 2017 to Professor Ann Marie Bahr at annmarie.bahr@sdstate.edu. Winners will be announced, and must be physically present at the Conference Business Meeting on April 8, 2017.

For any Conference-related questions not already answered in this CFP please e-mail NEMAAR Regional Coordinator James Bretzke at bretzke@bc.edu and indicate your question in the subject-header.