



January 2008

## Reports & News

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### Recommended Citation

(2008) "Reports & News," *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies*: Vol. 21, Article 15.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.7825/2164-6279.1414>

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## REPORTS AND NEWS

### **Society for Hindu-Christian Studies 2008 Annual General Meeting October 31-November 1, 2008**

The Society's 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois, October 31-November 1, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. This year, we are co-sponsoring two AAR sessions, both on Sunday, November 2.

### **2008 Annual Meeting Program**

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008**

7:00-9:00pm, CHT-Joliet  
AAR Program: M31-414

#### **Constructing and Crossing Religious Boundaries in South Asia: A Discussion with International Visiting Scholars**

Amy Allocco, Emory University, Presiding

#### Panelists

Tissa Balasuriya, OMI, Centre for Society and Religion, Colombo  
Dominique-Sila Khan, Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Jaipur  
K. Srinivasan, Vivekananda College, Chennai

Paul M. Collins, University of Chichester, Respondent

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

7:30-8:45am, PH-PDR 4  
AAR Program: M1-4

BOARD MEETING

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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

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9:00-11:30am, PH-PDR 4 AAR

Program: M1-114

9:00-11:00am, Panel Discussion

**Female Authority and Religious Power in Hindu Traditions: A Reappraisal of Grace Jantzen's *Power, Gender, and Christian Mysticism***

John Thatamanil, Vanderbilt University, Presiding

David Buchta, University of Pennsylvania

An Honorary Male or an Honorary Non-female? Baladeva Vidyabhusana on Gargi Vacaknavi

Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University

Engendering the "Mysticism" of the Alvars

Michelle Voss Roberts, Rhodes College

Power, Gender, and the Classification of a Kashmir Saiva Mystic

Antoinette E. DeNapoli, Emory University

"Crossing over the Ocean of Existence": "Mystical Experience" and Religious Authority amongst the Female Hindu Sadhus of Rajasthan

Ella Johnson, University of St. Michael's College, Respondent

This panel seeks broad audience participation. Panelists will make brief remarks based on papers that will be made available in advance on HCac, the society's listserv, and audience members will then be invited to join in the discussion.

To get copies (after Oct. 15), please email: [reid.locklin@utoronto.ca](mailto:reid.locklin@utoronto.ca)

11:00-11:30, Business Meeting

Corinne Dempsey, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Presiding

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008**

9:00-11:30am, CHT-Conference Room 4F

Co-Sponsored with History of Christianity Section

AAR Program: A2-107

**Possession among Christians in India: Issues of Authenticity, Authority, and Identity**

Catherine Cornille, Boston College, Presiding

Will Sweetman, University of Otago

The Cessation of the Oracles: Authenticity and Authority in Missionary Reports of Possession in India

Eliza Kent,

Colgate University Syncretism and Sin: The Yuyomayan Sect in Colonial Kerala

Mathew N. Schmalz, College of the Holy Cross

Distinguishing between Hindu and Catholic Exorcism in a North Indian Village

Kristin Bloomer, University of Hawaii

Possession: Syncretic and Somatic Semantics

Frederick M. Smith, University of Iowa, Respondent

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008**

5:00-6:30pm, CHT-Conference Room 4F

Co-Sponsored with Anthropology of Religion Group

AAR Program: A2-313

**Complicating Indian Christian Identities amid Competition, Conflict and Colonialism**

Rebecca Sachs Norris, Merrimack College, Presiding

Kristin Bloomer, University of Hawaii

O Mother: Problems of Identity

Corinne Dempsey, University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point

Messing with Political and Religious Empire: The Suffering Nun and the Drunken Priest of Indian and Irish Folklore

Chad M. Bauman, Butler University

Reporting Violence: Media Accounts of Hindu-Christian Violence in Orissa and Beyond

Eliza Kent, Colgate University, Respondent