



2017

# 2017 Annual Meetings Sessions

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## 2017 Annual Meetings Sessions

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies

November 17, 18, 2017

San Antonio, Texas

### Annual Meetings

The society's annual meetings are held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the [American Academy of Religion](#). Please consult the AAR web site for details as to location, housing, and the like.

The format of our meetings typically consists of two sessions, the first on Friday evening and the other on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, with a business meeting (open to all members) in the final half hour of the second meeting.

The society's 2017 Annual Meeting was held in Boston, Massachusetts, Nov. 17-18.

### 2017 Annual Meeting Program

Friday, November 17

7:00-9:00pm, Westin Copley Place-Essex Center (Third Level)

#### **Theme: Reform and Reformers in Hindu-Christian Perspective**

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's (1483-1546) Theses and the genesis of the Protestant Reformation in Europe. In commemoration of this event, this panel will explore the categories of "Reform" and "Reformers" in the context of Hindu-Christian Studies by examining specific comparative cases in South Asia, from the 16th to the 20th centuries. The respondent will draw the case studies into conversation with one another and with key points of Luther's theology.

Reid Locklin, University of Toronto, Presiding

Jon Keune, Michigan State University

*Religious Reformers as Agents of Social Change? A Comparative Historical View of Eknath's and Luther's Interpreters*

J. Barton Scott, University of Toronto

*The Victorian Luther: How the British in India Reimagined the Reformation*

*Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies* 30 (2017): 116-119

Srilata Raman, University of Toronto

*The Wandering Bottle Gourd Guru: Post-sectarian Reformations and Dalit Charisma in 19th-20th Century South India*

Anant Rambachan, Saint Olaf College

*B. R. Ambedkar and Hindu Reformations: Caste, Liberty, and Democracy*

Responding: Kristin Johnston Largen, Gettysburg Seminary

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Friday, November 17

8:00-10:00pm: Sheraton Boston-Liberty B (Second Level)

Co-sponsored with the AAR Film Series

**Film and Panel: Dawn of the Abyss: The Spiritual Birth of Swamiji**

The unique life of Henri Le Saux/Swami Abhishiktananda reveals the spiritual dynamism which lies in the encounter of Christianity with Hindu mysticism. Can this dynamism be brought into a film and speak to a public more than 40 years after the depicted events? What is the legacy of Abhishiktananda for our time of globalization and new policies of national and religious identity? What can be the role of mysticism, whether monastic or not monastic, today? Watch the trailer for the film at [solarproductions.com](http://solarproductions.com).

Christian Hackbarth-Johnson, University of Salzburg, Presiding

Panelists:

Sudhakshina Rangaswami, Fort Washington, PA

Catherine Cornille, Boston College

Joseph Prabhu, California State University, Los Angeles

Nadya Pohran, University of Cambridge

Peter Kovach, Bethesda, MD

Responding: Fabrice Blée, Saint Paul University

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Saturday, November 18

7:30-8:30am, Westin Copley Place-St. George A-B (Third Level)

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### **Society for Hindu-Christian Studies Board Meeting**

Michelle Voss Roberts, Wake Forest University, Presiding

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Saturday, November 18

9:00-11:30am, Westin Copley Place-Staffordshire (Third Level)

#### **Theme: Ashrams in Space: Multiplying Sites, Mobilizing Methods**

Nadya Pohran, University of Cambridge

*Indian Christian Ashrams as the "Kingdom of God"*

Claire Robison, Denison University

*Reflections of the Secular Cityscape in a Rural Religious Ashram: Urban Aspirations in a Vaisnava Ecovillage*

Kerry San Chirico, Villanova University

*One Catholic Ashram as "Abundant Space" and Index of Contemporary India*

Srivastava Shivam, University of Salzburg

*Bettina Bäumer's Samvidālaya: Abhinavagupta Research Library in Varanasi as a Meeting Place of Scholars and Spiritual Seekers*

Responding: Timothy Dobe, Grinnell College

### **Business Meeting**

Michelle Voss Roberts, Wake Forest University, Presiding

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Saturday, November 18

1:00-3:30pm, Hynes Convention Center-111 (Plaza Level)

Joint Session with the Comparative Theology Unit

#### **Theme: Rāmānuja at 1000: The Heritage and Promise of the Study of Rāmānuja in a Christian-Hindu Comparative Theology**

While the work of comparative theology is forward-looking and properly engaged in contemporary issues, it is also fittingly mindful of the history of the discipline. This panel takes the occasion of the 1000th birth anniversary of Rāmānuja (1017-1137), the great south Indian Srivaisnava Hindu theologian,

to ponder how he has been drawn into Christian comparative theological study since at least the late 19th century. Rāmānuja has consistently attracted Christian theological attention for a variety of reasons: his strongly (mono)theistic reading of Vedānta; his rich understanding of God's nature and qualities; his posing of a powerful alternative to nondualist Vedānta; his famed body-soul analogy; his rich theology of grace, toward a theology of surrender as "faith alone." This panel explores his heritage in five different ways, in order to notice the advantages and limitations of a focus on this one Hindu theologian.

John Carman, Harvard University, Presiding

Gopal Gupta, College of Idaho

*Why Rāmānuja? Some Reflections on Christian-Vaisnava Comparative Theology*

Hugh Nicholson, Loyola University, Chicago

*Rudolf Otto's Encounter with Rāmānuja as Model for Comparative Theology*

Jon Paul Sydnor, Emmanuel College, Boston

*What if Rāmānuja Was Right? On the Possibility of Divine Embodiment in the Christian Tradition*

Ankur Barua, University of Cambridge

*The God of Love and the Love of God: Thinking With Rāmānuja About Grace in Christianity*

Robindra Martin Ganeri, O.P., Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford

*Thinking the Creator and Creature Together: How Rāmānuja's Account of Scriptural Meaning Encourages a Retrieval of Unitive Language in Christian Discourse about God and the World*

Rakesh Peter Dass, Hope College

*Proper Acts: Rāmānuja and Luther on Works*

Responding: Francis X. Clooney, Harvard University

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