

NZ News

University of Canterbury

The Religious Studies program at Canterbury has introduced a new first year course, "Alternative Worlds". It is divided into three parts, the first looking at the first three chapters of Genesis from a number of angles (including Darwinism), the second considering issues relating to incarnation and more generally, nature, body and spirit in Christian tradition, and the third presenting the wide diversity of Hindu ideas about love and sex. "Religion and Power" is also being offered, but the standard surveys of world religions are no longer being offered.

On a more personal note, Bo Sax recently attended a conference at the University of Wisconsin entitled "Epics in the Modern World". The conference brought together classicists, ethnomusicologists, and anthropologists interested in epics as living traditions. While in the USA, Bo also gave a lecture at Emory University in Atlanta. Bill Shepard gave two papers at conferences in the US last November on Egyptian Muslim religious writers which he is currently revising for publication.

Jane Simpson informs us that educational reforms at the secondary school level mean there will be more encouragement for independent schools to develop

a world religions approach to the study of religion, as from 1995. World religions will be able to be taught in the state system from 1997.

Massey University

Peter Donovan will be on sabbatical exchange with Peggy Morgan from Westminster College, Oxford from August to October. Peggy has published widely in the UK on Buddhism and world religions in education. At Westminster College she is lecturer in World Religions and a member of the Oxford University Faculty of Theology.

Peter will take seminars at Westminster College on theories of religion (with examples from Pacific rituals) and is speaking at the British Association for the Study of Religions conference in September. He will also work with Laurie Brown at the Alister Hardy Research Centre, designing a questionnaire for research on inter-faith religious experience.

Massey's new telecourses are proving very popular with 92 and 124 students enrolled. The World Religions first-year papers are being taught with televised programs (The Long Search series plus some local additions) being a large part of

them. The programs are backed up with a textbook and study guides.

So far student response has been excellent. Numbers taking the two courses in extramural mode were up by 75% from the beginning, and enrolments for the second semester course look like more than doubling last year's figures. The student retention rate is also up significantly on previous years.

Massey Religious Studies department hopes to be advertising shortly for a part-time lectureship at the Albany campus to commence in 1995.

University of Otago

Numbers are up this year with a 59.2% increase in EFTSs. A proposal for Single Honours recently passed the Senate (because of Otago's stringent Honours requirements the Department has previously offered only Combined honours).

Victoria University of Wellington

Dr Paul Morris from Lancaster has been appointed to the Chair of Religious Studies and takes up his appointment later this year.

The Canadian Connection!

We have our first exchange journal from the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. As you obviously can't all get to read it I will include here a brief summary of the Table of Contents (only the English version!) and you can contact us for photocopies. Obviously this has cost implications for AASR so you will have to use your discretion until we can put something in place at the AGM. (Suggested discretion c10c per page + postage)

Studies in Religion, Volume 22, No 22 1993

Articles

DAN MICHMAN Jewish religious life under Nazi domination: Nazi attitudes and Jewish problems pp 12

JACK N LIGHTSTONE The institutionalization of the rabbinic Academy in late Sassanid Babylonia and the redaction of the Babylonian Talmud pp12

THOMAS F DAILEY, OSFS Theophanic bluster: Job and the wind of change pp6

DON SCHWEITZER The consistency of Jürgen Moltmann's theology pp8

ROMAN GARRISON Paul's use of the athlete metaphor in 1 Corinthians 9

ROBERT TESSIER De la sociologie de l'éthique à l'éthique sociétale pp12

Book Reviews (all p1)

Koichi Shinohara and Gregory Schopen (eds) *From Benares to Beijing: Essays on Buddhism and Chinese Religion*

James Gollnick *Love and the Soul: Psychological Interpretations of the Eros and Psyche Myth*

Jerry Camery-Hoggatt *Irony in Mark's Gospel: Text and Subtext*

Book Notes (all p1)

Jay Newman *On Religious Freedom*

Arvind Sharma *Fragments of Infinity: Essays in Religion and Philosophy*

Mark Minor *Literary-Critical Approaches to the Bible: An Annotated Bibliography*

Ben Wiebe *Messianic Ethics: Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the Church in Response*

Hannah Adams and Thomas Tweed *A Dictionary of All Religions and Religious Denominations*

Harold Coward and Toby Foshay *Derida and Negative Theology*

IAHR News

From 1 October 1994 the Secretary-General's address is:

Professor Michael Pye
FG Religionwissenschaft
Liebibstrasse 37

35037 Marburg GERMANY

Selected proceedings from the XVIth Congress held in Rome have now been published. Details are:

Bianchi, Ugo (ed.) 1994. *The Notion of Religion in Comparative Research. Selected proceedings of the XVIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions. Rome, 3rd-8th September, 1990* L'Erma di Bretschneider, Rome ISBN 88-7062-852-3

Enquiries can be directed to the publishers at Via Cassiodoro 19, Roma, Italy

International On-Line Religion Seminars

Since its inauguration in February the Bitnet Seminar on the Study of Religions based at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard has continued to draw subscribers from around the world who share information and ideas - on course syllabi, new book titles, unpublished papers and work in progress, conference announcements, job listings, news of colleagues - and discuss and debate topics related to the study of religions.

The 'charter' statement of the seminar explains its purpose:

Our aim is to encourage scholarly discussion relating to the academic study of religions and religions. We do not intend to compete with (other Bitnet) groups which discuss personal faith or personal theologies. Our interest lies more in history, sociology, aesthetics, psychology, anthropology, and philosophy... Relevant issues include methodological

study and teaching of religions; comparative themes such as myth, ritual, mysticism, art, and community; and issues relevant to particular religious traditions.

The Religion Seminar serves as a combination bulletin board and electronic journal. Notices of lecture and seminar series and calls for conference papers and submissions to journals and anthologies appear regularly, as do job announcements. Subscribers are invited to share bibliographic information of their own new publications or of other titles they consider of interest to members. Subscribers are also encouraged to share course syllabi, research proposals, and ideas on a variety of contemporary religious issues.

To participate in the Religion Seminar, one must send a request to the following network address:

Religion@HarvardA.Harvard.Edu

Upon receiving a request for subscription, the moderator sends an introductory description of the group and a short biographical form. Questions about the Religion Seminar may be addressed to Tim Bryson on TBry@HarvardA.Harvard.Edu

Other Religion Lists

There are several other electronic seminars that deal with religion in general terms or in specific areas. A directory of these has been prepared by Paul Fehrmann at Kent State University. This directory gives details of how to subscribe to any of the lists and is available from 'Tricia Blombery or from the Directory Team email dkorvacs@kentvm.kent.edu for details. The areas covered by other groups are:

- * history of American Catholicism
- * the occult
- * Baha'i faith
- * concerns of observant Jews
- * personal ideologies
- * Buddhism
- * Indian and Buddhist studies
- * Cell Church
- * publications in religious studies
- * ecological theology
- * Christianity 100-500CE
- * Eastern and Oriental Orthodox
- * history of evangelical Christianity
- * Islam
- * Global Jewish Information Network
- * Christian liturgy
- * Greek New Testament
- * Objective discussions on religion
- * Orthodox Christianity

- * Hebrew Old Testament
- * pagan religions and paganism
- * Quakerism
- * Quaker concerns on peace and justice
- * religious communication
- * Shakers
- * Christian Bible
- * Scientific Study of Religion
- * theology
- * religion and science
- * Unitarian Universalists

New Lists

Two new lists not on the Directory which may interest members are:

1. The International Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education Network (CPE-NET). To subscribe, type this and ONLY this in the body of the message: subscribe CPE-NET your Internet e-mail address

Send this message to: MAJOR-DOMO@interaccess.com

2. Technospirituality network (TECHSPIRIT-L). The goals of this network are to explore to the farthest and deepest point such questions as:

- What new spiritual possibilities does cybertechnology create?
- How are individual and groups using computers and the media to deliver their spiritual message? How does technology affect their message?

To subscribe to the list send email to listserver@williams.edu and include the following as the first line:

subscribe TECHSPIRIT-L Firstname
Lastname

Queries could be directed to the co-owners:

Mark Taylor mtaylor@williams.edu or
Michael Brown mbrown@williams.edu

Image Bank for Teaching World Religions

The Image Bank for Teaching World Religions, a collection of over 5,500 indexed and annotated colour slides, was developed by Richard and Jana Carp. The collection came under the stewardship of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard in 1992. The collection was conceived so that it would be a valuable visual tool and resource regardless of one's particular strategy of teaching.

In addition to quality the Carps wanted "to ensure exemplary coverage by religious tradition, geographical area, time period, and thematic category". The focus was on a series of images for example: "Documentation of an entire ritual, a thorough examination of an architectural space, a sequence of slides on a single artefact or a series of similar artefacts, a slide essay on a deity." The collection was built up with contributions from prominent scholars and collectors and from a number of important American museums.

As conceived the Image Bank was designed to be used in an individualised manner according to preference and teaching style. The computer-accessed indexing system provides total flexibility in choosing one's slides for teaching world religions from an historical, tradition-based, a regional, or a thematic approach, or from a combination of perspectives. One can purchase as few or as many slides as needed, and in any combination.

The computerised disk indices may be purchased for \$US10 and are available in IBM WordPerfect 5.1 or in Microsoft Word 4.0 for Macintosh. Each slide costs \$US1.75, and there is a shipping fee of \$US10 to Oz. To order the indices or for further information contact Center for the Study of World Religions, 42 Francis Ave, Cambridge, MA02138 Fax: 0011-1-617-496-5411

From News, 1, 2 Spring 1994

The Journal of Bahá'í Studies

While on study leave in Ottawa David Hilliard chanced across the International Centre for Baha'i Studies and would like to share with us news of their extensive library, publications, and journal.

The Journal of Bahá'í Studies is a publication of the Association of Bahá'í Studies. It invites scholarly contributions relating to the principles, teachings, and development of the Bahá'í Faith to the concerns of contemporary life and thought. There are 4 issues a year and subscriptions for Australia/NZ are: Individ-

ual \$US20; Institutions \$US30. Address inquiries to the Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4

The Association also has a number of publications on aspects of the Bahá'í faith which are available to subscribers at reduced rates.

Tricia Blombery has order forms and an index of journal items to 1992 if any member would be interested in following it up.

New Association in Psychology of Religion

The International Federation for the Psychology of Religion is at once unique, and historic, in that it brings together persons from every possible culture, religious tradition, nation, psychological theory, and research approach for the purpose of increasing knowledge and dialogue about the meaning of religion for life.

Benefits of membership include:

- * subscription to the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*
- * reduced registration to regional associations and gatherings
- * contact with others through shared research, writing, conferences, and seminars
- * updates about current events, including major international symposia.

The 1st International Federation for the Psychology Conference will occur in cooperation with the International Con-

gress of Psychology in Toronto, Canada in Summer 1996.

The Federation aims to respect and cultivate differences in all facets of discussion about the psychology of religion, as well as encourage the development and cooperation of regional associations.

Cost of membership = \$US35 which includes 4 issues of the journal

For further information or enrolment contact (in English or French):

James M Day

L'Universite Catholique de Louvain
Centre de Psychologie de la Religion
Unite de Psychologie du Developpement Humain
Faculte de Psychologie et des Sciences de l'Education

20 Voie du Roman Pays

1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Tel: ++32-10-474395; Fax: ++32-10-474834; email: day@deve.ucl.ac.be

International Society for the Sociology of Religion

The society is delighted to announce the election of a new Secretary-General for the next four years. The address of the SISR for all correspondence will be:

Dr Grace Davie
Department of Sociology

University of Exeter

Exeter EX4 4RJ

England

Tele: +44-392-263302; Fax: +44-392-263305

9th Sanskrit Conference, Melbourne

Report from Robert Goldman and Sally Sutherland - UC Berkeley

From January 2 to January 15 1994 the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, La Trobe University, Deakin

University, The Australia-India Council, the National Centre for South Asian Studies, and the Indian Council for Cultural

Relations sponsored and organised the IXth World Sanskrit Conference. The conference was a tremendous success from the point of view of the scholars attending. It provided an opportunity for scholars of Sanskrit and related areas to meet and exchange ideas in a pleasant environment conducive to stimulating, intellectual exchange. The intellectual breadth of the conference can be discerned from its range of papers, submitted by some two-hundred and fifty scholars from around the world. The scholarly expertise and range of discourse of the scholars enabled the formation of nineteen sections divided into fifty-one panels, ranging from traditional grammar to modern theoretical readings of ancient texts. For Sanskritists - who are often the sole representative of the field in their college or university community - this was truly an intellectual feast.

Especially useful and crucial for the survival and renewal of the field was the organisers' inclusion of panels that sought to contextualise the traditional materials or Indological scholarship within new and emerging theoretical and methodological trends in literary, historical, anthropological, and cultural studies. Particularly important in this regard were the panels on 'Contemporary Indology and Cultural Analysis', and 'Pandita Tradition and Western Epistemes in Indology'. The papers presented at these panels by us (Goldman and Sutherland) and Australian scholars Bailey and Bilimoria made, we feel, considerable progress in furthering efforts to intellectually revitalise the field of Sanskrit Studies by addressing the

sorts of problems being grappled with in allied branches of humanistic scholarship.

The in-country organisers, Greg Bailey and Purushottama Bilimoria, must be commended for their insight, organisation and planning. A conference such as this is exceedingly difficult to organise since the diverse population of academics it attracts has dramatically different needs and concerns. Bailey and Bilimoria were sensitive to these problems and did an excellent job in accommodating the varying dietary, housing, and intellectual needs of the participants.

Support for the conference on the Australian side was impressive. The contributions of the local academic institutions and the participation of scholars from many Australian institutions was most gratifying. Particular thanks are due to the faculty and administration of La Trobe and Deakin Universities as well as the staff for the Centre for South Asian Studies (Melbourne) and a group of ardent student helpers. Also impressive was the active participation and support on the part of the representative of the Government of India and the community of Australians of Indian origin. Noteworthy here was the support of India's High Commissioner, the Honourable A M Khaleeli, the proprietors of Johnston Opals, the Australia-India Council and many Indian families who graciously accommodated delegates from India. Their gracious hospitality and the wonderful entertainment, including classical dance and music performance, they provided was greatly appreciated and turned the outstanding scholarly conference into a truly memorable event.

A House of Studies

In January 1995 there are plans to establish a House of Studies in Adelaide to provide lay and professional people and groups with specialist courses, conferences and consultancies on Advanced Studies in Biblical Books; Ways of Interpreting the Scriptures; Learning to Do

Theology in Australia; Social Justice, Eco-justice and Scripture.

For more information contact Prof Norman Habel, 10 University Way, Bellevue Heights 5050. Work Tel: 08-302-6232 Fax: 08-302-6752; home tel: 08-278-8811; email: habeln@underdale.unisa.edu.au

Australian Conferences

Shame and the Modern Self

16 September 1994, ANU

An interdisciplinary workshop sponsored by the English Department, Faculty of Arts, ANU

Contact: Rosamund Dalziell or David Parker Tel: 06-249-3245/2884; Fax: 06-249-3244

Churches and Social Justice: The Church's Political Role in Modern Australian Society

23-25 September, Armidale

Contact: Philip Raymont, Master, Earle Page College, UNE 2351 Tel: 067-73-2283 Fax: 067-73-3321

Religious/Cultural Nationalism and Fundamentalism in South and South-East Asia

21-22 October 1994, Stonnington Toorak Campus of Deakin, Malvern V

Cohosted by the Faculty of Arts Deakin U, Asia Institute Monash U and National Centre for South Asian Studies.

Contact: Dr P Bilimoria Deakin U 3217 Tel: 052-272-688; Fax: 052-272-018; email: pbilmo@deakin.edu.au

International Year of the Family National Conference

20-23 November, Adelaide

Theme: Australian Families: the Next Ten Years

Contact: Elisabeth Eaton, Festival City Conventions, PO Box 986, Kent Town 5071. Tel: 08-363-1307. Fax: 08-363-1604

Religion, Literature and the Arts

5-8 January 1995, Sydney

Contact: Michael Griffiths Tel: 02-739-2192; Fax: 02-739-2105

Religion, Literature and the Arts: Modernist & Postmodernist Perspectives

10-14 January 1995, Sydney

Contact: Jim Tulip, School for Studies in Religion, University of Sydney 2006 Tel: 02-692-3650 Fax: 02-692-2434

Out of Africa: Texts for understanding the African past

3-6 July 1995, Humanities Research Centre ANU

Contact: Dr David Dorward, African Research Institute, La Trobe University 3083

Tel: 03-479-2431; Fax: 03-478-5814

Studying Australian Christianity 1995
10-12 July, Sydney
Contact: The Director, Centre for the
Study of Australian Christianity, PO Box

1505, Macquarie Centre 2113. Tel: 02-
888-7133; Fax: 02-805-1582; Email:
100026,3265.compuserve.com

Overseas Conferences Coming Up !

Paganism in Contemporary Britain
12-14 September 1994, Newcastle upon
Tyne
Contact: Dr Charlotte Hardman; Dr Graham
Harvey, Department of Religious Studies, The
University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon
Tyne NE1 7RU Tel: +44-91-222-6525

**British Association for the Study of
Religions**
26-29 September, Bristol
Theme: Contemporary Symbols of the Sacred
Contact: Alan Rogers, 4 Fossett Way, Wyke
Regis, Weymouth Dorset DT4 9HD

**11th Congress of the International
Association of Buddhist Studies**
24-28 October 1994, Mexico City
Contact: Prof Flora Botton, Director, Center
for Asian and African Studies, El Colegio de
México, Camino al Ajusco No. 20, Código
Postal 01000, México, DF Fax: 525-645-04-64

**3rd International Conference on
Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide
in Universities and Secondary Schools**
26 December 1994 - 2 January 1995
Contact: Bernard Klein, Department of His-
tory, Philosophy and Social Sciences,
Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Ori-
ental Boulevard, Brooklyn NY 11253. Fax: 1-
718-368-4654

**Association for Practical and
Professional Ethics - 4th Annual
Meeting**
2-4 April 1995, Crystal City VA

Presentations may take the form of 1) formal
papers 2) pedagogical demonstrations and cur-
riculum projects 3) case studies 4) posters,
and 5) nominations of books by members for
Breakfast with the Authors.

Contact: Assoc for Practical and Professional
Ethics, 410 North Park Avenue, Bloomington,
Indiana 47405 USA

**International Society for the Sociology
of Religion 1995 Conference**
26-30 June 1995, University of Laval,
Quebec

Theme: The Regulation by Religion of Nature
and the Body

Contact: Dr Grace Davie, Department of Soci-
ology, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4RJ,
England

Tele: +44-392-263302; Fax: +44-392-263305

**International Association for the
History of Religions**
5 -? August 1995, Mexico City
Contact: Prof Elio Masferrer Kan, Apartado
Postal 22-614 /c.p.1400/ Tlalpan, Mexico D F
Fax: 525-658-9823 and 525-548-9849

**The International Institute for the
Study of Human Ideas on Ultimate
Reality and Meaning**
August 1995, Toronto

Theme: The Social Construction of Moral
Limits

Contact: Anthony Blasi, 52 East Main Street,
New Concord, OH 53762