



SAMR NEWSLETTER



Vol. 11.1, February 2018

Nancy Evans, editor

President's Column

Greetings to all SAMR Members!

Welcome to the new year, and a host of great opportunities on the horizon! SAMR had a robust close to the 2017, with sessions in Boston at the SBL in November and (bomb cyclone notwithstanding) at the AIA/SCS in January; we have three panels on the horizon for 2018-2019, and hope to hear from many of you in the form of abstracts and suggestions for future panels. Because the storm prevented so many people from reaching Boston in January, we were not able to hold our usual business meeting, which is an important place for collecting ideas for sessions, conferences, support for teaching, and new projects. We'd like to encourage all members to email socamr@gmail.com with suggestions for the coming academic year and beyond.

Our panels this year have been characterized by a rich engagement with methodological and theoretical issues in textual studies, archaeological approaches to ritual, and the bridge between disciplines that gives SAMR its particular energy. Our textual foci have ranged from Attic drama to Euhemerism and paradoxography; archaeological panels included analysis of city streets as frameworks for considering mobility, subjectivity, human noise and the potential for digital modeling, and the problematics of big data approaches to ancient religion. Here is a quick overview of where we have been, and what lies ahead.

SAMR members organized, co-sponsored and participated in three different sessions at the Boston **Society for Biblical Literature** conference. Fred Brenk, Kenneth Yu, Zsuzanna Varhelyi and Jeffrey Brodd contributed papers for a session devoted to the role of nostalgia, archaism and restoration in Greco-Roman religion. Fred Brenk contextualized Plutarch's Theon, and his glowing description of the Delphic oracle, in the time of Plutarch's writing, after Nero's spoliation of the shrine and before Hadrian's restoration. Kenneth Yu foregrounded the potential for paradoxography, specifically the Ps-Aristotelian *On Marvelous Things Heard*, as a source for religion in which the tensions between nostalgia and the need for stable discourse casts light on the pre-theoretical experiences and practices of ancient religious life. Zsuzanna Varhelyi explored the
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Treasurer's Report, January 2018

We had a first this year: the annual SAMR Business Meeting, scheduled for the first day of the joint SCS and AIA conference, was cancelled when a snow storm that moved up the east coast caused flight cancellations and travel snarls for the society's president and secretary-treasurer!

I can report that, blizzards and unforeseen delays aside, SAMR maintains a solid footing. The Society's membership continues to grow, and the 236 members on the mailing list live all over the world. We ended 2017 with total assets of \$4109.68, and a 2017 income of \$399.89 (inflows of \$545, and outflows of \$145.11).

The annual operating budget covers annual administrative fees for memberships in international and US scholarly associations, maintains our internet accounts with Paypal and Wordpress, and funds registrations fees and equipment rentals at annual conferences. In addition, the treasury funds help us host conferences in the US and Europe.

Please remember to renew your dues to SAMR. Our annual fees are modest, \$20 for faculty and \$10 for students. Dues can be paid through Paypal or by check. As always, drop me an email at socamr@gmail.com if you have any question about the status of your dues.

Best wishes for 2018,

Nancy Evans, SAMR Secretary-Treasurer

<https://samreligions.org/membership/>

SAMR CALL for PAPERS

SBL Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, November 17-20, 2018

Ritual Matters: Materiality in Ancient Religion

Co-sponsored with *Greco-Roman Religions*, and *Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World*

Materiality is raising new paradigms in the study of religions, informing regional studies from Southeast Asia to the American west, and embracing questions in cognition, linguistics, the economics of religion and the body-culture interface in healing cults. Its potential for ancient Mediterranean religion informs the collected essays in *Ritual Matters: Material Remains and Ancient Religion*, ed. Claudia Moser and Jennifer Knust (University of Michigan Press, 2017). We invite papers to engage with the key proposals of the volume, including:

- How might a focus on materiality shape new methodologies in the study of ancient religion?
- How do these framework converge with or challenge established heuristic pathways?
- Do these frameworks effectively bridge the various categories of materiality, from bones and waste to temple reliefs?
- What new light can these innovations offer to text-centered approaches to ritual in ancient contexts?
- How do comparative studies, both within the ancient Mediterranean and beyond, take on new energy because of the book's approaches?

We are especially interested in papers that offer new reports from the field - archaeological or iconographic - or from literary studies, that engage with the methodologies and strategies in this edited volume.

Proposals should be submitted electronically through the SBL website. The deadline is **Tuesday, 6 March, 2018**. You must be a member of the SBL or seek a waiver in order to deliver a paper. Papers should last between 15 and 20 minutes. Abstracts should contain a title and a word count, but should not have any information regarding the identity of the submitter. All abstracts will be reviewed anonymously. Please direct all queries to SAMR at socamr@gmail.com.

SAMR CALL for PAPERS

SCS/AIA Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, January 3-6, 2019

Epic Gods, Imperial City: Religion and Ritual in Latin Epic from Beginnings to Late Antiquity

How did Roman writers of epic reflect on the ritual realities of the imperial city? In this panel we invite scholars working on Latin epic in all its instantiations to explore how the genre in its Italian setting offers frameworks for approaching ritual practice, including prophecy, ruler cult and conceptions of the gods; the relationship between religion and philosophy; insights offered through material culture, including iconography and sanctuaries; the forging of memory and the tools of persuasion; and epic reflections on the establishment and expansion of the sacralized landscape. We encourage submissions connected with epic authors from the earliest to the latest examples, Livius through Lucretius, Vergil to Valerius; papers which offer interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are especially welcome.

Abstracts should be submitted by email attachment as .doc or .docx files to socamr@gmail.com and should be from 500-600 words in length for a paper to last between 15 to 20 minutes. Abstracts should contain a title and a word count, but should not have any information regarding the identity of the submitter. For further information about abstract format, please see the SCS Program Guide.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **Thursday, March 1, 2018**, and all abstracts for papers will be reviewed anonymously. Please direct all queries to socamr@gmail.com.

Upcoming conferences, with CFP's out now:

Local Horizons of Ancient Greek Religion: University of Sydney, Australia:

- abstracts due February 25, 2018.
- conference November 21-22, 2018

Digital Humanities and Ritual Space: Rethymnon, Crete

- abstracts due: 30 March 2018
- conference 19-21 October 2018
-

Monuments and Memory: Contesting Identity in the Classical Landscape: UC Berkeley

- abstracts due: 1 January 2018
- conference: 21 April 2018

Beliefs and Rituals in Antiquity: Wroclaw, Poland

- abstracts due: 31 January 2018
- conference: 6-8 June 2018

Approaching Landscape in the Classical Tradition: University of St. Andrews

- abstracts due: 16 February, 2018
- conference: 11-14 July, 2-18

From **Jacob Latham**: two different program sections invite papers for their sessions at the 2018 Denver. Please consult SBL website for further details and submission information: <https://www.sbl-site.org/default.aspx>

1. **Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World** The Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World section invites papers for two sessions: *(1) Text, Travel, and Materiality* We seek papers that explore the intersections between texts, travel, and material culture. Possible topics include (but are not limited to): texts on travel, texts that travel, traveling texts (translation and reception), material texts (e.g. inscriptions) on travel, the infrastructure of travel. All papers proposals related to the theme will be considered, but those that directly address materiality and focus on religious practice are highly encouraged. *(2) Analyses of various topics related to religion and archaeology of the Hellenistic, Roman, and/or Late Antique eras.* Papers dealing with household religion or with religion and work are of particular interest. If your paper for either session involves the interpretation or consideration of archaeological artifacts, please ascertain that they have been previously published in a peer-reviewed scholarly publication. If they have not, please submit documentation of their country of origin, and evidence of permission from the excavators or other relevant authorities to publish these items.
2. **Art and Religions of Antiquity *Ritual and Sacred Space***: For this session, we ideally seek papers that discuss ways that architecture, spatial features, or any religious environment channel ritual movement or ritual stages, or demarcate audiences from principal performers. Papers that address liturgical development through the lens of material culture are welcome as well.

CALL for PAPERS

NEW SCHOLARS SERIES AT BATES COLLEGE
NEW APPROACHES TO THE ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN MEDITERRANEAN
A GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM September 28 – 30, 2018

The Program in Classical and Medieval Studies at Bates College invites papers on any topic related to new approaches to the cultures of the ancient Greco-Roman Mediterranean, for a day-long graduate symposium showcasing the work of emerging scholars (recent PhD or ABD) from historically underrepresented groups. The symposium will showcase new work by individuals from underrepresented groups in the professoriate, specifically defined as including African Americans, Alaska Natives, Arab Americans, Asian Americans, Latinx, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

We seek papers that examine how people (ancient through modern) have maintained or deployed the power and prestige of Greek and/or Roman culture through texts, objects, rituals, or other means. In the ancient world, Greeks and Romans interacted with each other, and with many other populations, and in these layered interactions they negotiated identities,

cultural hierarchies, and relationships including to their own past. We will consider papers on such layered interactions as well as historical or contemporary adaptations of classicism. We are interested also in papers that expand the theoretical lens through which such cultural and linguistic interactions—ancient or modern—are studied. Fields may include literature, history, medicine, philosophy, religion, art, linguistics, or politics, among others.

Invited speakers will have their travel expenses covered and will be guests of the College from the evening of 9/28 through breakfast on 9/30, with all paper presentations to occur on 9/29. Twenty-minute papers will be grouped into thematic panels, with additional roundtable and Q&A formats running throughout the day. We aim to create an intellectually enriching experience for all interlocutors, including the selected speakers and the faculty and students of Bates College.

What to Submit:

- A 300-word abstract describing the paper's argument, critical context, and significance
- A current cv
- A brief statement confirming self-identification as a member of a historically underrepresented group

Where to Submit:

Abstract, cv, and statement should be submitted in PDF format by email to lmaurizi@bates.edu by April 1. Speakers will be notified of acceptance by the end of May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Milette Gaifman is happy to announce the appearance of her book on libations in Greek art, from Yale University Press: <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300192278/art-libation-classical-athens>

John Pollini sends greetings from Köln, Germany. John has received two fellowships for this academic year (2017-18): Senior Fellowship at the "The International Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities" at the University of Cologne, Germany for the academic year (2017-2018) to work on my book, "Augustus Caesar: From Image to Icon," and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship (Harvard University) (2017) for my study of a cuirassed bronze statue of Germanicus in the Archaeological Museum of Amelia (Umbria, Italy).

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

Fred Brenk is pleased to announce the publication of Chystina Häuber's 2nd vol. on the Campus Martius in Rome, edited by Franz Xaver Schütz and Chrystina Häuber, Augustus and the *Campus Martius* in Rome: the Emperor's Rôle as Pharaoh of Egypt and Julius Caesar's Calendar Reform; the Montecitorio Obelisk, the Meridian Line, the Ara Pacis, and the *Mausoleum Augusti in Honour of Eugenio La Rocca on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday* With Contributions by Nicola Barbagli, Frederick E. Brenk, Amanda Claridge, Filippo Coarelli, Luca Sasso D'Elia, Vincent Jolivet, Franz Xaver Schütz, and Raimund Wünsche and Comments by Rafeed El-Sayed, Angelo Geißen, John Pollini, Rose Mary Sheldon, R. R. R. Smith, Walter Trillmich, Miguel John Versluys, and T. P. Wiseman. FORTVNA PAPERS, Edited by Franz Xaver Schütz and Chrystina Häuber. Volume II, 2017, München: Hochschule München.

An additional note from Chrystina:

Dear friends and colleagues,

Our book on Augustus and the Campus Martius, in which I have (in part) published my contribution on the Iseum Campense, presented at the Convegno at Rome 2016, is now available on all three Webservers, as announced in the "IMPRESSUM" of the book:

- 1.) On my personal Webserver of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet:
<http://www.rom.geographie.uni-muenchen.de/FORTVNA> . Here you can download the text and the maps. The first and largest, which is based on the cadastre, Fig. 3.7 on p. 69, is already available. Next my husband, Franz Xaver Schütz, intends to upload also my other maps, as well as his photos, which are published in the book.
- 2.) On the Webserver of our [FORTVNA](http://fortvna-research.org/FORTVNA) Research Center: <http://fortvna-research.org/FORTVNA>
Also on that Server the map Fig. 3.7 is already available, the others and the photos are "coming soon".
- 3.) On the webserver of the Hochschule Muenchen (University of Applied Sciences):http://digital.bibbv.de/webclient/DeliveryManager?pid=12913556&custom_att_2=simple_viewer. On this Server, you can read the book online.

With my very best wishes,
Chrystina Haeuber

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

Jörg Rüpke cordially invites submissions for individual papers or relevant thematic issues by the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions. The journal starts from the notion of "lived religion" and hopes to stipulate the development of new approaches in the study of pluralistic religions in antiquity. It is a peer reviewed journal now in its fourth year with an expanding reach in the fields of History of Religion, Archaeology, Anthropology, Classics, Ancient History, Jewish History, Rabbinics, New Testament, Early Christianity, Patristics, Coptic Studies, Gnostic and Manichaean Studies, Late Antiquity and Oriental Languages. So, as you can see, our field is quite wide, encompassing the entire Mediterranean religious traditions as well as multidisciplinary methodologies. Please find more information about the journal and our current editorial and advisory editorial boards in the attachment, as well as on the journal's website: <https://www.mohr.de/en/journals/religion-in-the-roman-empire-re#menu1>

We would be very pleased to receive contributions by members of the SAMR!

Kind regards,
Jörg Rüpke
Managing editor
Religion in the Roman Empire

An announcement from **Dr. Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli**:

Dear colleagues,

I would like to announce two events involving the Max Weber Centre in Erfurt and both concerning Ancient Mediterranean Religions.

The first is a Spring School on Urban Religion in Rome (12th-16th March 2018) which has been organized by the Danish Institute in Rome, the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (Urbnet) at Aarhus University, and the Max Weber Centre in Erfurt. The deadline for CfA is now closed.

The second is an international conference organized by the Max Weber Centre on "Religion of Quarters: Practicing Religion on a Neighbourhood Scale in the Hellenistic and Imperial Periods". The CfP is open till February 21.

Thank you. Best wishes,

emiliano rubens urciuoli

Dr. Dr. Emiliano Rubens Urciuoli
Research associate
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imperial exploitation of religious tradition in the monumental landscape of Rome, as embodied in the figure of P. Clodius Thrasea Paetus, a figure with a front-row seat to traditional rituals, but known for his personal withdrawal from such events. Jeff Brodd concluded the session with an exploration of Emperor Julian's efforts to rebuild the Jerusalem temple and thus appropriate the religious past, while challenging the apologetic tradition which saw the fall of the temple as the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy.

Gerhard van den Heever led the **SBL Greco-Roman Religions** section, devoted to the questions raised in Nickolas Roubekas *An Ancient Theory of Religion: Euhemerism from Antiquity to the Present* (Routledge, 2017). Euhemerus' theories of the divine reflect the emergence of a new religious and cosmological landscape, and offer a vibrant foil for emerging Christianity. Panelists Jennifer Eyl, Vaia Touna, and Jeffrey Brodd offered responses to the volume; Nickolas Roubekas provided a rejoinder, followed by audience discussion. **SAMR members Dan Schowalter and Jacob Latham** hosted a panel on *Ritual and Religion on the City Streets of the Empire*, an opportunity to consider embodied experience in urban spaces in the ancient Roman world. Maggie Popkin explored the distinction between the religious souvenirs displayed upon return from a sanctuary and the objects commissioned before a visit, and the potential for cognitive science to highlight the agency of these objects in shaping collective knowledge. Cecilia Feldman used the civic dedication of Caius Vibius Salutaris to explore the intersection of religious belief and political motivation in the urban fabric of Roman Ephesos, while Jacob Latham mapped the landscape of memory engaged in the *pompa circensis* that moved from the Capitol to the Circus Maximus, embodied in practices and places as well as monuments. Jeffrey Veitch took us into the urban soundscapes of Ostia's Mithraea, analyzing the social implications of the acoustic properties and their contrast with the visual exclusion that characterizes Mithraic shrines. And Tina Shephardson examined the evidence for clamor and spectacle as part of the competition for congregants in late Antique Antioch, so that the city streets themselves became theaters of seduction and contestation.

SAMR members were likewise active at the 2019 Boston SCS/AIA conference. The **SAMR session**, titled *Gods in and at the Theater: Drama and the Religious in Ancient Greece*, brought together four

papers foregrounding intertextual analyses and anthropological lenses on performance as the framework for debate, critique, and carnival inversion. Sarit Stern explored the gap between the depictions of Artemis in Athenian tragedies and her role in Athenian religious life, and the origins of this distinction in Homeric poems. Alexandre Johnston argued for the triangulation of structure, performance and ethical and religious contexts in Attic tragedy, and for the archaic roots of these interactions. Lisa Maurizio explored Euripides' presentation of Delphic Oracles as a staging of divinatory consultation, in which contingent truths and ambiguity are simultaneously a performance and a critique of oracular practice. Rebecca Raphael explored the figure of Prometheus in light of the capacity for religious critique between Hesiod and Aeschylus, in which the god embodied becomes a canvas for the gap between divine and human justice, framed as religious performance. And finally, **Megan Daniels and I** co-organized an AIA panel, *Gods in our Machines? Critical Approaches to Big Data and Ancient Religion*, devoted to exploring the implications of digital and big data approaches to the study of ancient religion. Dan-el Padilla Peralta addressed mobility, community, and data in the Roman Middle Republic, exploring the social network models extracted from statistical analysis of votive dedications in mid-Republican Rome vis-à-vis the pilgrimage economy. Sarah Murray problematized the human bias in results emerging from GIS analysis of cult sites on the Greek mainland and Crete from the Late Bronze through the Archaic. Sebastian Heath brought network analysis and semantic reasoning to the religious component of amphitheater audiences, enabling a comparison of urban and rural community experiences through a regional network model. Willis Monroe offered a report on the ongoing development of the Database of Religious History, particularly its mission to integrate thick descriptive data as a critical balance to the limits of big data. Megan Daniels kindly read my paper setting out the potentialities and the caveats of gamifying the epigraphic data from the mystery cult of the Great Gods of Samothrace as a route to measuring human agency. Cavan Concannon brought the session to a close, with a response to the papers and an invitation to further discussion.

Please have a look at sessions coming up in the year ahead! We're delighted to announce a SAMR panel at the **European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)**, to be held June 17-21 in Bern (<http://www.easr2018.org>) Amelia Brown will chair the panel titled *Plurality in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, offering papers by Marios Kamenou on the

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Check us out on Facebook as well!

President's Message (continued from page 7)

mosaic of ancient Cyprus, Federica Gatto on Sacred reptiles in Bona Dea's cult, and Francesco Amatruda on the encounter between Celts and Romans. In November, SAMR will partner with ARRW to sponsor a panel at the **SBL** on *Ritual Matters: Materiality in Ancient Religion*, responding to the new book by the same title by Claudia Moser and Jennifer Knust (University of Michigan Press 2017), and we are joining with Gerhard van den Heever of the Greco-Roman Religions section of SBL to co-sponsor a section of *The Twilight of Greek and Roman Religion*. And at the SCS in January, this year's SAMR panel is devoted to *Epic Gods, Imperial City: Religion and Ritual in Latin Epic from Beginnings to Late Antiquity*.

Warm thanks to all the SAMR members who have so generously submitted abstracts, attended sessions, and joined in the discussions. Special thanks, as always, are due to Nancy Evans, who makes the newsletter, the website, and our finances run smoothly and on time! And special gratitude goes to Paul Dilley, who has just completed a three-year term on the programming committee. We are delighted to offer a great welcome to Megan Nutzman, who has just agreed to serve on that committee for the next three years.

All the best for a great year ahead-
With best wishes,



Sandy Blakely, President
Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions