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Please send comments, questions, letters, and newsletter submissions to either:

Max Samson,
GORABS Chair
msamson6@depaul.edu

Nathan Burtch,
GORABS
Vice-Chair & Secretary
nburtch@gmu.edu

Dear GORABS Members,

On behalf of the GORABS Board, we hope that you will enjoy this Spring 2024 edition of the GORABS Newsletter. This year, the AAG Annual Meeting will be held in Honolulu, although a relatively large proportion of the sessions will be operating virtually. The latter is true of GORABS's sponsored sessions, so regardless of where you are in the world, you will have the opportunity to tune in to our varied and fascinating program.

Please keep an eye out for announcements about the Annual Meeting on our website, www.gorabsaag.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GeographyOfReligionAndBeliefSystemsGorabsAag, or on Twitter/X at <https://twitter.com/gorabsAAG>

Best,

Max Samson (GORABS Chair), Nathan Burtch (GORABS Vice-Chair & Secretary), and Briana Meier (GORABS Assistant to the Secretary)

GORABS News

Please note the following GORABS-related information:

1. **Message from the Chair** (pp. 2–3)
2. **2024 GORABS Annual Lecture** (p. 5)
3. **GORABS is Recruiting Members to Serve on the Board** (pp. 6–7)
4. **Upcoming AAG Sessions & Paper Presentations** (pp. 8–21)

GORABS Mission Statement

The central objective of GORABS Specialty Group is to encourage and advance the study of the geographical dimensions of religious phenomena and belief systems. This includes, but is not limited to, the study of spatio-religious aspects of human behavior, socioeconomic and political issues, material culture, gender role, and human-environment relations from a religio-geographical perspective.

GORABS intends to achieve its objectives by organizing scholarly paper presentations and discussion of sessions at the professional meetings, developing strategies to facilitate teaching the geography of religions, publicizing information about GORABS, establishing contact with scholars in other related disciplines, and by seeking funding for research pertaining to the geography of religions.

Message from the Chair

Dear GORABS members,

To my personal astonishment, it's already been a full year since our busy Curated Track program "Sacred Spaces, Varied Voices" at AAG 2023, our first meeting with an in-person presence in three years. Buttressed by Dr. Priscilla McCutcheon's fascinating lecture, "The Bully Pew, the Bush Harbor and the Brick: The Importance of Place and Landscape to the Black Church in the U.S. South," we enjoyed a rich variety of stimulating talks and were delighted to welcome engaged audiences who posed our speakers a number of thought-provoking questions. For a range of reasons, we have opted to host each of our sessions virtually in 2024, and hope that in whatever way you plan to attend the conference, you will be able to tune in to our program on Tuesday April 16.

At the core of our program is our annual lecture, which, this year, we are sponsoring jointly with the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group (IPSG). On behalf of GORABS, we are excited to host Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua as our keynote speaker, whose lecture, titled "'Onipa'a: It Takes Movement to Stay," combines a Kanaka Maoli intellectual genealogy with pertinent questions of colonialism, social justice, and education. We could not have conceived a keynote speaker more appropriate both to our shared interests in religions and belief systems, and to our determination to accentuate Indigenous Hawaiian perspectives and concerns at AAG 2024. I hope to see you at this virtual event, which I expect will be a highlight of the conference.

Additionally, GORABS is pleased to sponsor both a virtual panel and a virtual paper session at AAG 2024. The former, titled "Nones in Space - (Ir)Religious Identities on University Campuses," will share initial research findings from a project bringing together several members of our board. Its unique focus on how college students, many of whom describe themselves as religious "nones," engage with spirituality and access or create sacred spaces on campus, is sure to interest many of our members, and the panel is keen to welcome feedback from the audience. The latter comprises engrossing papers from three continents, each with an attention to how geographers assess processes of constructing and contesting religiosities, and how religions and belief systems are integral to innumerable people's lives.

Especially considering the distance that the majority of in-person attendees will be traveling to reach Honolulu, I am also pleased to note a significant number of other papers relevant to the geographies of religions and belief systems at AAG 2024, the details of which can be found in this newsletter. It is possible that some speakers are eligible for one of our awards – the David E. Sopher New Scholar Award – which was won in 2023 by Dominic Wilkins for his captivating paper, "Why Have We Lacked Geographies of Religion and Nature?" The Sopher Award comes with a travel grant of \$250, so if you are a graduate student or untenured faculty who is not currently serving on the GORABS board and is presenting a GORABS-relevant paper in Honolulu, please do check out the eligibility requirements and simple application process on page 6.

Over the past year, the board has recognized the need to update and modernize the group's bylaws, many of which had become rather dated. I am pleased to announce that the GORABS community has agreed to these updates, voting overwhelmingly in favor. Some of the new protocols include the election of board members, the definition of board member duties, and the creation of new committees of the board. I hope that many of you will consider nominating yourself for a position, a list of which can be found on page 6, and attend our virtual GORABS Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting (12:10 PM HST – that's 6:10 PM Eastern – on Tuesday April 16).

As I enter the final few weeks of my tenure as Chair, I would like to thank the rest of the board for your enduring support, ideas and activity over the past two years. Not least over the past six months, I have been humbled by our board members, whose resilience in the face of unthinkable trauma and tragedy has allowed us to prosper as a group. I never take for granted the fact that participating on the board is a voluntary activity that must be made

to fit into an already tight academic schedule: whether you have been on the board for a year or for far longer, *thank you*.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair over the past two years, and I look forward to supporting my successor in my upcoming role as Immediate Past Chair. I am certain that they will enable the group to go from strength to strength, and bring even more attention to the importance and value of studying religions and belief systems within our discipline.

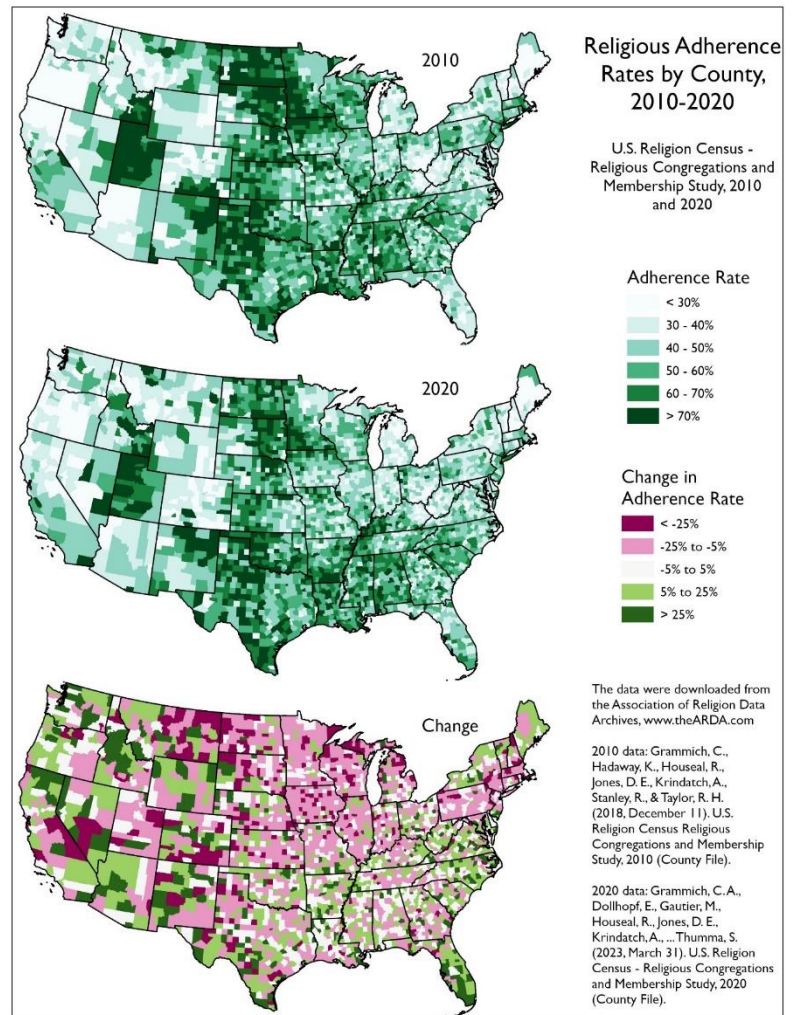
Max Samson

Newest U.S. Religion Census Available

Nathan Burtch, George Mason University

The newest version of the U.S. Religion Census for the year 2020 is now available on The Association of Religion Data Archives website (theARDA.com). The Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB) has conducted this named religious census and reported results at the county-level since 2000, with a similar county-level survey of Judeo-Christian church bodies in 1990. Combined with other county-level data available on theARDA.com, researchers can, depending on the denomination or faith family, map US Christian religion at the county level back to the year 1890. Data includes the number of congregations, number of adherents, and the rate of adherence by county (and metropolitan statistical area) for participating religious bodies.

The 2020 dataset contains information for 372 groups, up from 236 groups in 2010. Of the 372 groups, 354 are Christian groups. The remaining groups include “counts of Jain, Shinto, Sikh, Tao, Zoroastrian, American Ethical Union, and National Spiritualist Association congregations, and counts of congregations and adherents from Baha’i, three Buddhist groupings, two Hindu groupings, four Jewish groupings, and Muslims” (Grammich et al 2023, theARDA.com 2023).



Below is a simple usage of the data. Data from the 2010 and 2020 religious censuses are joined to a county geographic data file. For both 2010 and 2020, the overall adherence rate is symbolized. As noted in the summary pages for the data, some counties have a higher number of adherents than population; reasons for this can include US Census undercounting, religious bodies overcounting adherents, and issues of adherents attending church in one county (or county equivalent) but living in another. Additionally, a third map is shown displaying the percentage change in adherence rate by county between 2010 and 2020. General patterns show lower adherence rates throughout much of the Midwest and gains in adherence rate in the South, especially North Carolina and Florida. Though states in the Great Plains, those around Mississippi, and Utah maintain tend towards overall higher adherence rates, most are seeing general declines in adherence rate (with inter-and-intra-state regional exceptions).

With the depth of religious bodies examined, further study can be used to see which faiths are drivers of adherence growth, and which are losing adherents or congregations in areas of the United States.

**GORABS is pleased to announce that
Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua will be presenting our 2024 Annual Lecture!**



A Kanaka Maoli who has dedicated her life to Indigenous education and social justice, Dr. Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua is a professor of political science at UH Mānoa. Noe's commitment to education is also evidenced in her work as a co-founder of Hālau Kū Māna public charter school, a board member of the Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy, and a trustee of the Kamehameha Schools.

Noelani's research has documented ways Hawaiian people transform settler colonial relations through Kanaka Maoli political and educational initiatives. Her books include *The Seeds We Planted: Portraits of a Native Hawaiian Charter School*, *A Nation Rising: Hawaiian Movements for Life, Land and Sovereignty*, and *Nā Wāhine Koa: Hawaiian Women for Sovereignty and Demilitarization*. She is currently working on a biography of Dr. Haunani-Kay Trask.

Noelani's keynote for GORABS's annual lecture, which we are hosting conjointly with the Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group (IPSG), is titled, "'Onipa'a: It Takes Movement to Stay."

Lecture title: 'Onipa'a: It Takes Movement to Stay

Date: Tuesday 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 3

For Kanaka Maoli, reciting our mo'okū'auhau (genealogies) is a form of world renewal. This presentation offers a Kanaka Maoli intellectual genealogy through the prism of 'Onipa'a. The motto of Queen Lili'uokalani, this concept describes the ways Native Hawaiians remain steadfast upon our lands through movements—educational, political and geographic—amidst settler colonial forces of displacement, replacement and containment. Central to the (partial) genealogy I offer is the formidable legacy of Haunani-Kay Trask, a wahine koa who became the first full-time director of the UH Mānoa Center for Hawaiian Studies. Different social justice movements beyond and in Hawai'i shaped her path, as she herself moved through the world. I will highlight how movements and educational institutions have converged in this genealogy. This is a mo'okū'auhau deeply rooted in ko Hawaii Pae 'Āina, yet intersecting with global movements against imperialist war and racial capitalism, forces driving the premature death of Kanaka and BIPOC folx. 'Onipa'a, as theorized by No'eau Peralto, signals the ways we must engage in movements so that Indigenous people can stay connected with lands from whom settler colonialisms work to remove us.

Announcements

THE DAVID E. SOPHER NEW SCHOLAR AWARD 2024

Description: The purpose of the David E. Sopher New Scholar Award is to promote intellectual inquiry from new scholars into geographies of religions and belief systems through the presentation of papers at the AAG meeting. The Sopher Award was created in honor of the eminent scholar David Sopher, whose publication record on the geography of religions was unparalleled.

Eligibility: The author must be either a graduate student or less than four years beyond the completion of their doctorate. The author must not be serving currently on the GORABS Board. Papers are judged on three elements: a) contribution to the field of Geography of Religions and Belief Systems, b) structure & organization, and c) writing & composition.

Award: The amount for the 2024 award is a travel grant of \$250. The recipient will also be awarded an official certificate.

Requirements: Papers must be submitted by April 2, 2024, which is two weeks prior to the start of the Annual Meeting. A script and accompanying slideshow (in PDF) may be submitted in lieu of a full paper. The paper must be presented in person at the AAG Annual Meeting in Honolulu, although it does not have to be in a GORABS-sponsored session. If you would like to apply, please send your paper abstract and either a script or slideshow via the contact form on our website (www.gorabsaag.org), no later than April 2, 2024. GORABS reserves the right to not make an award in a given year.

THE WILBUR ZELINSKY AWARD 2024

Students are encouraged to apply for the Wilbur Zelinsky Award upon submitting a session of papers to the AAG relevant to the geographies of religions and belief systems, having first taken out student membership in GORABS and received GORABS group sponsorship. This award was first presented in 2018. Applications are now open for the Wilbur Zelinsky Award 2024, whereby a certificate and \$100 will be given to the best session of papers that qualifies in the above categories.

GORABS IS RECRUITING

Particularly if you are from a historically underreported group, please consider joining our group and serving on our Board. Your participation will help to strengthen our group and shape its direction going forward.

In preparation for our annual GORABS business meeting on Tuesday April 16 (12:10 PM HST; 6:10 PM Eastern) we are soliciting nominations for our Board. This is the end of the 2-year terms for the three leadership positions of Chair, Vice Chair/Secretary, and Editor/Secretary. As part of the new bylaws, we are also electing At-large and Student Board members to either one- or two-year terms. As such, we will be looking for nominations for:

- Chair
- Vice Chair/Secretary
- Editor/Secretary
- At-large Board members
- Student Board members

Board members serve on committees regarding sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting, oversee GORABS-related awards, and communication of news/research/other GORABS related events.

Eligibility for these positions consists of being a GORABS member; if you are not currently a member, dues are \$5 or \$1 for students. You can still nominate yourself even if you cannot join the virtual GORABS business meeting at this AAG Annual Meeting.

If you are interested, please email Nathan Burtch (nburtch@gmu.edu).

List of GORABS-Sponsored Papers and Sessions

The 2024 AAG Annual Meeting will comprise a mixture of in-person, virtual and hybrid meeting rooms. Virtual and hybrid sessions will utilize Zoom meeting rooms that will be accessible through the AAG's Final Program Platform (<https://aag.secure-platform.com/aag2024/>).

This year, all GORABS-sponsored sessions will be taking place virtually on **Tuesday 4/16/2024**. Apart from our Business Meeting, each will be recorded and archived on the AAG's website.

Please note that all the times displayed are HAWAII–ALEUTIAN TIME (HST). This is UTC–10:00, i.e., six hours behind Eastern Daylight Time, hence 7:20 AM in Honolulu is 1:20 PM Eastern.

Nones in Space - (Ir)Religious Identities on University Campuses

Session Type: Panel, virtual

Date: Tuesday 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: Virtual 1

Organizer and chair: Sandy Marshall, *Elon University*

College students in the US are increasingly rejecting organized religion and traditional religious affiliations. Many are choosing to identify as religious “nones,” unaffiliated with any specific religious groups or traditions. This trend raises several questions about how and where young people practice, experience, or express religious or spiritual beliefs or identities in ways not easily captured by standard labels or catch-all categories like “none.” This includes questions about how and where students identify and enact their spiritual identities, beliefs, and practices, and how institutions of higher learning can better accommodate such spatio-spiritual needs.

In this panel, members of a research team investigating these questions will share initial research findings and invite feedback from participants. Specifically, panelists will share findings from a qualitative survey administered to over 300 college students across the US. In particular, panelists will discuss how students identify in their own words beyond the “none” label; how and where students explore and enact (ir)religious and spiritual identities beyond traditional religiously inscribed spaces; and the kinds of spaces college students would like to see on campuses to support their spiritual or religious curiosity, questioning, growth, or expression. The latter includes natural spaces and spaces for indigenous spiritual practices. In addition so survey data results, panelists will also share results from a visual-narrative project in which students photographed and wrote about their sacred spaces.

By sharing these findings, panelists hope to share and gain insights about this work as they prepare for the next data-collection phase: focus group interviews with students and campus visits.

Panelists (P) and discussant (D): Ed Davis (P), *Emory & Henry College*; Sandy Marshall (P), *Elon University*; Max Samson (P), *DePaul University*; Briana Meier (P), *MIT*; Dominic Wilkins (D), *Syracuse University*.

Constructing and Contesting Religiosities

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: Tuesday 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: Virtual 8

Organizer and chair: Max Samson, *DePaul University*

DINÉTAH: Sacred Places in Navajoland

Author: Catherine Carter, *Stand-alone / Senior Geographer*

Keywords: sacred, place, photography

A sacred place is not just an isolated location, a space that accommodates people with specific beliefs. Rather, it is a palimpsest that built from layers of human occupation and the peoples' associated religious beliefs. This project identifies six such places that lie between the Navajo four sacred mountains in New Mexico and Arizona. It uses photography to bring together and build the world of Navajoland for the viewer and to provide a means for inspecting the places visually. The project is permanently displayed as an ArcGis StoryMap.

Reflections on the Ogoni landscape: Indigenous traditional knowledge, Extractive pollution and contamination, ecological trauma, and embodied violence

Author: Ledeebari D. Banuna, *The Pennsylvania State University*

Keywords: Indigenous traditional knowledge, Indigenous peoples, oil pollution and contamination, ecological trauma, embodied violence, sacred forests, Niger Delta, mangrove swamps, environmental justice, environmental racism, landscapes, ecological genocide

My dissertation research will touch on several overarching themes, such as: 1) Indigenous traditional knowledge related to landscapes and cultural values, 2) Maintenance or abandonment of indigenous ecological knowledge and how this impacts the landscape, 3) Extractive pollution and contamination, ecological trauma, and embodied violence and 4) How this [theme 3] impacts both environments and the way people relate to their environment, as well as how pollution of the land impacts people's perceptions of themselves. I will examine several land use types, including sacred forests, non-sacred forests, mangrove swamps, and agricultural fields, as chapters of my dissertation. The four themes will be investigated cutting across all of the landscape land use types examined. I will draw upon literature on environmental justice/ racism, public health/health inequity, and pollution and contamination from Health Geography. I draw upon literature on land rights/ the commons, activism/ resistance, environmental futures, and environmental responses to contamination from Physical Geography. I also draw upon literature on how to value environment and biodiversity, indigenous perspectives on pollution and contamination, and food systems from Human-Environment Geography.

Understanding the creation of different aspirational geographies in newly independent India: engaging with difference and relativity

Author: Shivangi Kaushik, *University of Oxford*

Keywords: aspirational geographies, difference, independence, affinity, choice and subjectivity

This paper tries to weave together the historical genealogies of collectives which work with migrant students hailing from different ethnolinguistic communities from the distinct states of what is problematically known as Northeast India in Delhi. In doing so, the paper tries to understand the historical genesis of different aspirational geographies in India's colonial resource frontier.

Following Thiranagama (2011) it seeks to understand how collective spaces position migrant individuals from the same community in different ways in relation to one another. The paper suggests that associational bodies which work closely with communities, reflect their beliefs and are also expressive of their agency and how they themselves wish to identify themselves.

The paper then tries to understand the different processes through which distinct socio-religious bodies and associational spaces work together to re-entrench their ethnolinguistic identities in relation to other communities with whom they had formerly shared clan relationships, however post-independence perceive themselves as different. More specifically I try to understand how young migrant students remembered and commemorated their community founders and how it impacts intergenerational relationships within their respective communities in Delhi today. By understanding these historical genealogies through a mix of archival as well as ethnographic work, as a privileged outsider, I engage with narratives originating from within communities to open possibilities of understanding practices of remembrance which (re)define community and collective life as they unfold in different ways for migrant students in Delhi.

Rethinking the Production of Sacred Spaces: A Critical Poetics Approach to Pentecostal Spatial Contestations in Postcolonial Hong Kong

Authors: Daniel Chun Leung Chow & Christian Nathen Ng, both *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Keywords: Pentecostalism, sacred space, spatiality, geographies of religion, postcolonial, Hong Kong

This paper calls for geographers of religion to delve into theology, urging a deeper engagement with the theological underpinnings shaping human geographies. It argues that spatial subjectivities studied in geography are theologically constituted, often involving the spatial contestation of religious territoriality. Emphasizing a shift from a politics to a poetics of space approach, this paper advocates for a critical understanding of the theological dimensions influencing spatial practices in the postcolonial context of Hong Kong.

The research investigates the spatial practices of Pentecostal adherents, examining the theology involved in these practices. The study aims to explore how these spatial practices shape and are shaped by the unique Pentecostal theological worldview, shedding light on the dynamic production of sacred spaces.

Two central questions guide the research: How do Pentecostals conceptualize their spatial construction within their theological framework? What is the dialectic relationship between their spatial practices and spatial conceptions? The study employs a multi-faceted research approach, including two years of ethnographic fieldwork in 20 Pentecostal churches in Hong Kong, in-depth interviews, content analysis, and archival research.

Preliminary findings suggest that a religious worldview centered on the contested relationship between the divine and evil in the everyday spiritual battle is crucial in understanding the dynamic complexity of Pentecostal spatial practices and imaginations. Spiritual territoriality in the postcolonial context of Hong Kong emerges as integral to the ongoing production and transformation of these spaces, highlighting the need for a critical poetics of space approach in discussions of geographies of religion.

Politics of belonging and dissent of Muslim Americans within two protest movements, the Women's March and Black Lives Matter

Author: Anna Mansson McGinty, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

Keywords: Muslim Americans, Muslim geographies, minority politics, politics of belonging, citizenship, anti-Muslim racism, Women's March, Black Lives Matter

In this paper I examine the multitude of positionalities of Muslim Americans who were engaged in the largest protest movements in the United States since the civil rights movement. Both the Women's March on Washington in 2017, documented as the largest single-day protest in U.S. history, and Black Lives Matter protest, invigorated by the police killing of George Floyd in May of 2020, demonstrate an intersectional feminist commitment and platform against white supremacy and misogyny. Both movements address gender, social and racial injustices with focus on targeted minorities, including Black Americans, Muslims, and the LGBTQ+ communities. I'm interested in Muslims' self-representations and accounts of the movements with respect to Muslim American identity in relation to politics of inclusion and belonging as well as politics of dissent. Drawing on news media, social media, statements by Muslim organizations, as well as individual accounts by authors, journalists, politicians, community activists, and artists, I look at the relationship between Muslim American women, intersectional women's right and racial justice activism, and the articulation of politics of belonging and dissent in the face of anti-Muslim racism. The self-representations compose specific discourses which shed light on Muslim minority politics in relation to national racist rhetoric and attacks on multiple minorities, including Muslims as a racialized group. These narratives express and perform both "good" and "bad" Muslim citizenship (cf. Maira 2009) with the latter engaging in dissent and radical critique of the neoliberal democratic state and its racist domestic politics as well as imperial foreign politics.

Geography of Religions and Belief Systems (GORABS) and Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group (IPSG) Joint Annual Lecture:

Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua

Title: 'Onipa'a: It Takes Movement to Stay

Date: Tuesday 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 3

For Kanaka Maoli, reciting our mo'okū'auhau (genealogies) is a form of world renewal. This presentation offers a Kanaka Maoli intellectual genealogy through the prism of 'Onipa'a. The motto of Queen Lili'uokalani, this concept describes the ways Native Hawaiians remain steadfast upon our lands through movements—educational, political and geographic—amidst settler colonial forces of displacement, replacement and containment. Central to the (partial) genealogy I offer is the formidable legacy of Haunani-Kay Trask, a wahine koa who became the first full-time director of the UH Mānoa Center for Hawaiian Studies. Different social justice movements beyond and in Hawai'i shaped her path, as she herself moved through the world. I will highlight how movements and educational institutions have converged in this genealogy. This is a mo'okū'auhau deeply rooted in ko Hawaii Pae 'Āina, yet intersecting with global movements against imperialist war and racial capitalism, forces driving the premature death of Kanaka and BIPOC folx. 'Onipa'a, as theorized by No'eau Peralto, signals the ways we must engage in movements so that Indigenous people can stay connected with lands from whom settler colonialisms work to remove us.

GORABS Business Meeting (virtual)

Date: Tuesday 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 12:10 / 1:10 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 2

Organizer and chair: Max Samson, *DePaul University*

Other Papers at the AAG 2024 Annual Meeting of Interest to GORABS

Religious Spread in a Multi-Religious Metropolitan: A Historical Religious Profile of Taipei City in Taiwan from 1660 to 2020

Authors: Chun-Hsiang Chan, *National Taiwan Normal University*; Wei-Hsian Chi, *Academia Sinica*; Fei-Ying Kuo, *National Taiwan University*; Yi-Yun Chen, *Academia Sinica*

Keywords: institutionalized religion, spatiotemporal clustering analysis, immigration, religious landscape, diffused religion

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 312 (Nī ihua), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Are Sacred Natural Sites Effective for Biodiversity Conservation? Insights from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

Authors: Gama Dingba Jiangcuo, *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)*; Ye Qi, *The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)*

Keywords: Sacred Natural Sites, Biodiversity Conservation, Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, Effectiveness

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 302B (Makiki), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Mapping the Historical Geography of “Unknown Woman, alias Samuel Ackerman”

Authors: Beth Schlemper, *University of Toledo*; Juthi Mitra, *University of Toledo*; Kristine Stilwell, *University of North Georgia*

Keywords: Historical Geography, Qualitative GIS, Ethnography

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/16/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 304A (Mānoa), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

The Mosque and the Block: Race, Geography, and Islam in the Black neighborhood

Author: Rasheed El Shabazz, *University of California*

Keywords: Islam; racial segregation; Black geographies; Muslim geographies

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 306B (Pālolo), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Complicating colonialism: Governmentality and water conflict resolution in the Kingdom of Hawai`i during the late 19th century

Author: Kate A. Berry, *University of Nevada, Reno*; H. Peter King

Keywords: Hawai`i, colonialism, governmentality, water conflict resolution, historical geography, Indigenous geography

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 316B (Maui), Third Floor, Hawai`i Convention Center

Gender, Place and Culture Annual Jan Monk Distinguished Lecture: U`mista (The Return of Something Important) — A Manifesto for Sovereign Futures. Sarah Hunt/Tlalilila'ogwa

Organizers: Lena Grip, *Karlstad University*; Lise Nelson, *University of Arizona*

Chair: Lena Grip, *Karlstad University*

Session Type: Plenary, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 311 (Kaua`i), Third Floor, Hawai`i Convention Center

Refugee-ness and Exploitation: A feminist geography of shitty jobs

Author: Shae Frydenlund, *University of Colorado Boulder Center for Asian Studies*

Keywords: labor, gender, refugees, political economy

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 318A, Third Floor, Hawai`i Convention Center

Multi-generational Impacts of the Uganda 1972 Expulsion Decree for Asians; reconciliation of material culture and place-making practices for health in new geographies

Author: Asma Khanani, *University of Western Ontario*

Keywords: Ugandan-Asians, Canada, USA, Uganda, women, refugees, health geography, well-being, identity, ontology, place-making, material culture, practice, therapeutic landscape theory, creativity, resiliency

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 318B, Third Floor, Hawai`i Convention Center

Pale I Kahi Makamae: Protecting Sacred Spaces on the Island of Hawaii

Author: Ines Miyares, *Hunter College-CUNY*

Keywords: Hawaii, National Parks Service, sacred space

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 305B, Third Floor, Hawai`i Convention Center

Launch Site Politics: A Political Ecology of SpaceX's Starbase

Author: Claire Raulston, *George Washington University*

Keywords: Outer Space, Privatization, SpaceX, Environmental Justice, Frontiers, Rio Grande Valley

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 2

Making the Basin 'Barren': Lithium Mining on Paiute Shoshone Sacred Landscapes of the Sagebrush Steppe

Author: Sam Orndorff, *San Diego State University*

Keywords: Indigenous geographies, Lithium mining, sacred landscapes, Great Basin, environmental policy

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 302A (Makiki), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Elemental Cartographies to Heal the People and the Earth: Kanaka Maoli Activation of Elements

Author: Candace Fujikane, *University of Hawai'i*

Keywords: Kanaka Maoli, cartography, ancestral knowledge, winds, health, healing, climate change, chant

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 1:20 PM / 2:40 PM (HST)

Room: 303A, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Therapeutic encounters and wellbeing away from home: Explorations among Indonesian female domestic workers in Hong Kong

Author: Fikriyah Winata, *Mississippi State University*

Keywords: Wellbeing, therapeutic encounters, therapeutic landscapes, social networks, Indonesian female domestic workers, Hong Kong

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: 316A (Maui), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Narratives of change in Oceania: Exploring multiple ways of understanding

Authors: John Overton, *Massey University*; Glenn Banks, *Massey University*; Gordon Nanau, *University of the South Pacific*; Hennah Steven, *Waikato University*

Keywords: Oceania, climate change, indigenous epistemologies, progress, development

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: 302A (Makiki), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Understanding Tribal/Federal Co-Managed National Parks Through Visual Rhetoric

Author: Cassidy Schoenfelder, *The University of Arizona*

Keywords: National Park Service, Indigenous Geography, Cultural Geography, Art and Visual Cultural Studies, Visual Sovereignty

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 3

Human being, indigenous practices, and endemic plant species in the race for survival to climate change: The role of water in arid lands

Author: Xochizeltzin Castaneda-Camacho

Keywords: Protected Areas, Vulnerability, Arid lands, Water, Mexico

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: 4/17/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 3

Sacredness of Fire and Water: Learning from Gumbaynggirr Country, Australia

Authors: Aunty Shaa Smith, *Guumbaynggirr Jagun*; Neeyan Smith, *Gumbaynggirr Jagun*; Karl Wickey, *Wiradjuri and Dharrug Countries*; Paul Hodge, *University of Newcastle, Australia*; Lara Daley, *University of Newcastle, Australia*; Sarah Wright, *University of Newcastle, Australia*

Keywords: Gumbaynggirr Dreaming, Aboriginal Lore, Gumbaynggirr-led collaborative research, Respectful relationships, Aboriginal protocols, More-than-human teachings, belonging

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 316B (Maui), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Healing our lands in an era of "great winds, fires and floods": teachings from Secwépemc knowledge and oral tradition

Authors: Marianne Ignace (Gulkiihlgad), *Simon Fraser University*; Ronald E. Ignace (Stsmél'qen) *Secwépemc Nation*; Sarah Dickson-Hoyle, *University of British Columbia*

Keywords: fire, water, Indigenous knowledge, oral traditions, climate change

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 316B (Maui), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Singing to nature: The importance of Shuar knowledge and practice for communicating with the spirit of plants in the Amazon

Author: Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo, *Queen's University*

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 309, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Restoring Neglected and Forgotten Cemeteries: Vandalism, Tombstone Conditions, and Soil Failure

Author: Alfred W Weiss

Keywords: Keywords: Cemetery, Restoration, Geographic Information, Deceased, Tombstones

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 305A, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Chauffeuring trips and the gendered unpaid labor burden among Tel-Aviv's cultural groups

Author: Hannah Hook, *Ghent University*; Ramandeep Singh, *Technical University of Munich*; Wafa Elias, *Shamoon College of Engineering*

Keywords: childcare trips, trip chaining, gender equity, social diversity, travel behavior

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 301B, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Secluded Glory: The Black Church and Brush Harbors in the Rural South

Author: Priscilla McCutcheon, *University of Kentucky*

Keywords: Black geographies, Black church, U.S. South, rural

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 315 (Moloka'i), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Urban 'Āina - Indigenous knowledge applied to modern geography

Author: Maya Heipoala Han, *University of Hawaii*

Keywords: Indigenous, urban, Hawaiian, epistemology, 'Āina, culture

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 309, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Building Communitarity Donation Garden Partnerships Across Communities of Faith: Cultivating trust through teaching youth

Author: Kristen S Borre, *Northern Illinois University*

Keywords: Communitarity gardening, regenerative agriculture, faith-based partnerships

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/18/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 308A, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

The role of geotourism in (re)shaping urban environment, everyday life, and human-nature relationship: A case study of UNESCO Global Batur Geopark in Bali, Indonesia

Author: Yoonhee Jung, *National University of Singapore*

Keywords: Geopark; Geotourism; Landscape Political Ecology; Volcano

Session Type: Paper, in-person

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 318B, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Waikalua Loko ʻĀ: Addressing Environmental Impacts Through Historic Preservation Law

Author: Adele Balderston, *University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law*; Jennifer Hoshino, *University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law*

Keywords: Fishpond, Native Hawaiian Technology, Historic Geography, Historic Preservation, Legal Geography, Hawai'i

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 320 (ʻEmalani), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Contesting 'Dry' Hydrosocial Imaginaries of the Thacker Pass Lithium Mine

Author: Noel Vineyard, *University of Nevada, Reno*; Kate Berry, *University of Nevada, Reno*

Keywords: hydrosocial, hydrosocial imaginaries, lithium, mining, Thacker Pass, Nevada, energy transition

Session Type: Paper, in-person

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 316B (Maui), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Telbilir a Rengelkel Belau (Our Promise To Belau From Her Youth)

Author: Alyah Diliusech Absalom, Kerreng Kloulechad, Ru-shell Keiula Kuroda, Idelbong Mamis, Mibuk R. Masang, Imaim Ngiraboi, Ebiklou Mau'hina Ngiraswei, Kelau Singeo, Dilboi Suzuki, Ngesur Victor, Ann Singeo, *Ebiil Society*; Caroline E. Ferguson Irlanda, *University of Maine*

Keywords: Palau, militarization, youth, resistance, decolonization, Micronesia, war, Oceania, Pacific, military geography, endangered species, sacred sites

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 304A (Mānoa), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Women and Leadership in Faith-Based Organizations in the US

Author: Remi Alapo, *City University of New York [CUNY]*

Keywords: Women's leadership, women's leadership styles, servant leadership culture, transformational leadership style, faith-based ministries, women in faith-based organizations

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 325B, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Experience of sexual coercion among in-school young people with disabilities in Ghana

Author: Akwasi Kumi-Kyereme, *University of Cape Coast*; Abdul-Aziz Seidu, *University of Cape Coast*; Eugene Kofuor Maafo Darteh, *University of Cape Coast*

Keywords: Disability, Ghana, Prevalence, Sexual coercion, Young people

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 302A (Makiki), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Ocean Echoes in the Global South: Seismic blasting, Whale Songlines and Revolutionary Praxis

Author: Michele Lobo, *Deakin University*

Keywords: Oceans, Energy, Seismic blasting, Global South, Whales, Revolutionary Praxis, Australia

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 308B, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Conceptualising magical tourism

Author: Jane Lovell, *Canterbury Christ Church University*; Nitasha Sharma, *University of Alabama*

Keywords: Magical tourism, transmedia tourism, enchantment, non-human, fantasy, folklore, mythology, otherworlds

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 1:20 / 2:40 PM (HST)

Room: Virtual 9

How the Catholic Church Planned Twentieth-Century Detroit

Author: Christine Hwang, *University of Michigan*, Bader AlBader, *Kuwait University*

Keywords: Catholic, religion, neighborhood, race, urban planning, parish

Session Type: Paper, in-person

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: 307A, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

The Studio Pinch: Aesthetic Labor and Economic Disjuncture in a Havana Music Scene

Author: Max Gear, *Columbia University*

Keywords: Labor, political economy, music, aesthetics, Cuba

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/19/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: 312 (Ni'ihua), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Moral economies and water sharing in a climate change hotspot: The case of extreme water insecurity in coastal Bangladesh

Authors: Mohammad Jobayer Hossain, *Arizona State University*; Melissa Beresford, *San Jose State University*; Dylan Diaz-Infante, *Arizona State University*; Amber Wutich, *Arizona State University*; Alexandra Brewis, *Arizona State University*

Keywords: Moral economies, Water sharing, Water insecurity, Climate change, Bangladesh

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 7:20 / 8:40 AM (HST)

Room: 309, Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

Re-creating connections with water: Buryat way

Authors: Vera V. Kuklina, *The George Washington University*; Timur Zolotoev; Aryuna Bulutova

Keywords: Indigenous epistemology, Buryat, water, climate change

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: 314 (Lāna'i), Third Floor, Hawai'i Convention Center

The Woman Life Freedom Social Movement in Iran: A Geospatial and Historical Analysis

Author: Najmeh Heidarian

Keywords: Woman, Freedom, Feminism, Iran, Protest

Session Type: Paper, virtual

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 9:00 / 10:20 AM (HST)

Room: Virtual 9

Social Dreaming as Worldbuilding: Narrating Futures in Hong Kong and Ukrainian Civil Society

Authors: Justin Tse, *Singapore Management University*; Halyna Herasym, *University College Dublin*

Keywords: Hong Kong, Ukraine, social dreaming, narrative, worldbuilding, creative writing, social geography, cultural geography

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 314 (Lāna‘i), Third Floor, Hawai‘i Convention Center

Addressing Climate Change Adaptation with Indigenous Cosmologies and Ontologies through Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk)

Author: Patrick Joseph Augustine, *University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)*

Keywords: Climate Change, Indigenous Peoples, Two-eyed seeing, Indigenous Knowledge

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 317B (Kaho`olawe), Third Floor, Hawai‘i Convention Center

The Building of Millet: Islamist production of space and imagined Ottoman identity

Author: Hakki Ozan Karayigit, *Syracuse University*

Keywords: Political Geography, Urban Geography, Sound-mapping, right to the city

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 10:40 AM / 12:00 PM (HST)

Room: 318B, Third Floor, Hawai‘i Convention Center

Affective oceanic assemblages: seawalls and community resistances in post-disaster Tohoku, Japan

Author: Annaclaudia Martini, *University of Bologna*

Keywords: affect; ocean; geographies of affect; Japan

Session Type: Paper, hybrid

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 1:20 / 2:40 PM (HST)

Room: 302B (Makiki), Third Floor, Hawai‘i Convention Center

A post-secular tale of two metropolises: Articulating entrepreneurial religion through variegated landscapes of ‘urban Buddhism’ in Shanghai and Beijing

Authors: Han Zhang, *The University of Hong Kong*; Junxi Qian, *The University of Hong Kong*

Keywords: Shanghai, Beijing, urban Buddhism, This-worldly Buddhism, entrepreneurial religion, postsecularity, postsecular cities, religion of geographies

Session Type: Paper, in-person only

Date: 4/20/2024

Start / End Time: 3:00 / 4:20 PM (HST)

Room: 307A, Third Floor, Hawai‘i Convention Center

Minutes from GORABS Annual Business Meeting, 2023

The annual business meeting of the Geography of Religions and Belief Systems (GORABS) specialty group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) was held in person in Denver and on Zoom on Friday March 24, 2023, 4:30–5:30 PM (MT)

Present: Max Samson; Nathan Burtch; Briana Meier; Steven Silvern; Ed Davis; Catherine Carter; Osama Abdl-Haleem; Deondre Smiles; Dominic Wilkins

Minutes recorded by Briana Meier

Meeting Activities

Max Samson provided a recap of the three GORABS sponsored sessions held earlier this day. There was a good level of engagement for the annual lecture from Priscilla McCutcheon, but there was a slight overlap in scheduling with cultural geography featured lecture, which may have led to fewer people at each lecture.

Nathan thanked everyone for their continued support for the quarterly meetings

The two most recent chairs meetings were held in early March.

Nathan mentions award celebration.

Not all the specialty groups had hybrid sessions, so it's nice that GORABS had that option.

Max provided a summary of AAG meeting held on 3/23 for specialty group chairs:

- Estimated 6,000 attendees at AAG this year, about 80% in person.
- Specialty groups were highlighted, some groups are having problems.
- Steven is on the council. GORABS numbers are low compared to other specialty groups. We're somewhere in the middle in terms of best practices vs. problems.
- How many people are members of GORABS? Approximately 96.
- AAG just moved to a new building in DC.
- New editor for Annals being decided upon.

Max provided a summary of plans for AAG 2024

- Honolulu
- Concerns about this location - environment, extractive tourism, exploitation of Indigenous communities, meeting with local people to ask what AAG can do to address concerns: Hire an Indigenous coordinator, make attendance free to locals, free registration for Native Hawaiian students, others?
- Deondre attended the meeting with native Hawaiian academics. The cost to break the contract is something like \$500,000.
- Discussion of how to involve local native communities. Free registration, native vendors, local coordinating committee.
- Ed suggests sponsoring people in Hawaii who would be willing to speak about sacred spaces in Hawaii.
- Effort on the part of AAG to engage Indigenous communities - NYC, Denver.

Steven updates:

Emphasize the message that AAG is not coming there as neo-colonialists.
AAG has a new director of DEI. Steven has seen AAG go through a real transformation and politics.
Steven has an email he can share about this topic.
Steven suggests also connecting with local and Native Hawaiian agriculture.
Nathan has an email about this that he can share.

AAG 2025 - Detroit

AAG will be working to elevate marginalized voices.
Ed notes that the largest Muslim community in the US is outside of Detroit and we should connect with them about a local speaker.

Max - Outreach Updates

Twitter, FB, etc...more turnout in part due to these efforts.

Web updates have been helpful.

Newsletters are all available on the new site.

Max would like everyone on the board to add their bios: who we are, where we work, what we are interested in, and photos. Add a publication or two that we want to share.

Max would like us to continue modernizing our systems.

Awards

No candidates for the Zelinsky award - no eligible sessions that weren't GORABS session
Sopher Award - multiple candidates this year - winner is Dominic Wilkins (present at the meeting): "Why Have We Lacked Geographies of Religion and Nature?"

Max presented the award to Dominic.

Awards reviewers were Ed and Sandy.

Board roles

Target of 12 total positions?
Nathan, Max, and Briana are all halfway through our two year terms
David Rutherford - still willing?
Deondre just joined as a board member last year
Vincent - stepped down last year as chair but continues for another year as immediate past chair
All the other roles are still up for grabs.

Next steps:

Nathan will review bylaws.

Nathan: In order to change the bylaws, we would need to get $\frac{2}{3}$ of current board members. But we were not confident that we could get a quorum.

Board Roles (12):

1. three people as executive committee (currently Max, Nathan, Briana)
2. Immediate past chair
3. Treasurer
4. 5 at large
5. 2 students

Agreement on Nathan's proposed process for updating the bylaws - all agree

Treasurer's Report - Max

Priscilla McCutcheon declined the \$250 from GORABS

AAG did provide \$500

Priscilla suggested that we put the \$500 from AAG toward bringing a student for next year.

Student award - try to create new student essay award.

Try for a second newsletter in the fall when people are registering for AAG and showcase relevant student papers and showcase those.

Prior to Sopher award this year - the account balance was \$3675.71 last week (March 2023)..

Other Business

Thanks to Max!!! From Ed and all of us.

Next quarterly meeting in late spring/early summer.