



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION



CALL FOR PAPERS

**2024 Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion
May 2-4, 2024
University of Toronto**

Deadline for submissions is February 5, 2024

The [Eastern International Region](#) of the AAR invites you to submit proposals for the 2024 Regional Meeting. This meeting will be held at the University of Toronto, which is [located](#) on the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. The theme for the 2024 Conference is **Sea Change: Religion, Cosmology, Environment**. Understanding that we all live within a time of climate crisis, we welcome papers and panels that broadly engage the theme across regions, traditions, historical periods, theories, and methods.

Some possible prompts include: how have religious genres and modes of understanding the world — such as apocalypticism, nihilism, and balance — shaped responses to what is possible in the face of natural disasters or human-caused threats to existence? What are ways that religious traditions writ large have understood the shaping forces of the natural world, and the interrelated roles of human and non-human animals? How have practices of and justifications for resource extraction been shaped by religious cosmologies, in the past and present? What does the study of visual, sensory, or material culture bring to our understanding of religion, cosmology, and environment? Is the Anthropocene a scientific and/or religious periodization, a call to action, or something else altogether?

Proposals that do not relate to the 2024 conference theme are also warmly welcomed.

AAR membership is not required to submit a proposal. Scholars from any region or association may apply to present. We are especially excited to host members from the newly-created AAR [Northeast region](#). Only proposals received by the deadline will be considered for inclusion in the program. Undergraduate-only panels are encouraged – please see instructions below.

FORMAT FOR PAPER or PANEL PROPOSALS

Proposals can be submitted through this link: <https://forms.gle/rhntDgQVYyoGA5MF7>. Please include the following elements:

PAPERS:

- Title and abstract (250 words maximum) describing the nature of the paper
- Submitter's name, institution, title (undergraduate/graduate student, faculty, staff, etc.), and email address.
- If you require any technological support for your presentation/panel (e.g., internet connection or audio)

PANELS:

- Title and abstract for panel theme (150 words maximum)
- Title and abstract for each paper (200 words maximum, up to 4 papers)
- Submitter's name, institution, title (undergraduate/graduate student, faculty, staff, etc.), and email address.
- If you require any technological support for your presentation/panel (e.g., internet connection or audio)

Proposals must be submitted by the February 5, 2024 deadline. Proposals will be evaluated through blind review

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Paper presentations are limited to 20 minutes, with 10 minutes allowed for questions; Panels are limited to 4 papers each, or 3 papers with a respondent.

EIR PARTNERS

The EIR is meeting concurrently with the Annual Research Conference of the Graduate Students' Association at the Department for the Study of Religion at U of T.

The EIR will once again meet concurrently with SCRIPT (the Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performative Texts). Proposals for SCRIPT papers should respond to the call for papers at www.script-site.net.

UNDERGRADUATE PANELS

The EIR welcomes submissions from undergraduates in the field of Religious Studies or on the theme of the conference. Presentations in undergraduate sessions must be 15 minutes long. In addition to the standard form for submissions, undergraduate students must also arrange a letter from a faculty member who has supervised the student's work. Please send this letter to eirexec@gmail.com by February 5, 2024.

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to enter the student paper competition. Please note that to be eligible, the student must attend a college or university in the Eastern International Region or the Northeastern Region. The graduate student award and the undergraduate student award will be formally presented at the business meeting during the conference.

To enter the competition, please indicate when you submit your proposal that you wish to enter your paper into the contest. While the deadline for proposals is February 5, 2024, the final draft of the paper must then be submitted to Chris Miller, Chief Regional Officer for the EIR at eirexec@gmail.com by April 8, 2024. To be eligible for this award the student must present the entire paper at the meeting, which means the paper and presentation must conform to the respective time limits.