



eREACH

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*The electronic newsletter of the Religious Education Association:
An Association of Professors, Practitioners, Researchers, and Religious Educators*

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2014 ANNUAL MEETING in CHICAGO – November 7-9, 2014

You won't want to miss this year's Annual Meeting with the theme, "[Religion and Education in the \(Un\)making of Violence](#)." Program Chair Mai-Anh Le Tran (Eden Theological Seminary) has forged a conceptual problem out of a practical concern for what we have been witnessing in local and global current events: the problem of violence and the function of cultural and religious imagination in its making and unmaking. *In particular*, how has [religious education](#) functioned to produce "matrices, mindsets, or cultures of violence"? If we can wrestle with the discomfiting reflexivity of that deep questioning, imagine what creative insights might emerge concerning the unique contribution of religious education to violence's *undoing*! Download the [meeting flyer](#) to post for friends, students and colleagues

You still have time to submit a proposal by the [May 2 deadline](#). The **CALL FOR PAPERS** is available at <http://www.religiouseducation.net/rea2014/call/>. New, clearer submission guidelines and the online submission form are linked to the page. The deadline for submission of proposals is Thursday, May 2nd, 2014, and members will be notified of the status of their proposal by June 16, 2014.

Book your room at the [Doubletree Hotel, Chicago – Oak Brook](#) by Hilton through [this page](#) to be sure to receive the conference rate of \$119/night (before taxes). Or, make reservations by phone and **be sure** to say you are attending the Religious Education Association meeting. Please plan to join us for an outstanding program in Chicago next November!

NOW AVAILABLE: 1ST VOLUME IN REA HORIZONS SERIES

Spread the word about the March 2014 publication of [GOD BEYOND BORDERS: INTERRELIGIOUS LEARNING AMONG FAITH COMMUNITIES](#), by Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook. This ground-breaking comprehensive account of current practices of interreligious learning in faith communities will be celebrated with a special panel presentation at the [American Academy of Religion](#) in San Diego, November 22-25.

This is the inaugural book in REA's new book series, [HORIZONS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION](#), which is published in cooperation with Wipf & Stock Publishers. The impetus for this groundbreaking project is REA's commitment to support newer scholars and to nurture the growth and development of our field. The Editorial Board for the series is already considering a few manuscripts for publication in the next year. Inquiries, manuscripts, or intent to submit should be sent to Jack Seymour, Editor, at jack.seymour@garrett.edu.

SEARCH SUCCESSFUL FOR EDITOR-ELECT FOR JOURNAL

The Board of Directors celebrates the [appointment of Joyce L. Mercer](#), Ph.D., as Editor-Elect of the 108-year-old REA:AAPPRE journal, *Religious Education*. Dr. Mercer, well known among her colleagues in religious education, pastoral care, and practical theology, is Professor of Practical Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary. Her years of involvement on REA's Board of Directors and the journal's editorial board have equipped her with the breadth of experience necessary to continue the amazing growth and international trajectory of the REA journal under current editor, Jack Seymour. Jack will continue as Editor while Joyce works with him until January 2016.

2013 ANNUAL MEETING in BOSTON

REA members and friends enjoyed another spectacular meeting outside of Boston last November, and attendance continues to climb each year, with a record number of international participants in Boston! The meeting theme "Coming Out Religiously" engendered wonderfully diverse papers, workshops, and speakers. Papers can still be accessed on the [meeting website](#). Highlights included the Harper Award to British scholar [Robert Jackson](#), and a banquet made especially festive through the anonymous gift of wine and a jazz band.

From your President

Dear REA members and friends,

Let me first wish you all personally a healthy and an inspired year 2014! I further hope that our Religious Education Association may grow and flourish Anno Domini 2014.

Several months have passed since the annual REA conference in Boston from 8-10 November 2013. The conference theme, "Coming Out Religiously! Religion, the Public Sphere, and Religious Identity Formation," brought more than 180 participants together representing 35 countries and originating from nearly all continents.

The conference emphasized that, for religious educators, religious and worldview education and formation, next to and in relation to economics, politics and culture in liberal-democratic societies, are of utmost importance and need to be addressed openly and convincingly in the public square and in societal debates. Religious or worldview education should be part of the curriculum of every school to sustain children and youngsters in the formation of their personhood.

It is my hope that in our teaching, our research and in our different professional practices we all will give this high priority. In the opening session of the conference I referred to the motto I saw on the office wall of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Roxbury, Boston: **Be bold and transformational, but also pragmatic and practical.** I hope that the Boston conference has and will strengthen your

boldness and your sensitivity for transformational possibilities and potentials, but combining this always with pragmatic and practical ways.

Watch for the conference edition of our journal *Religious Education* (Volume 109, No. 4) this summer, which will include selected pieces from last November's conference. It offers the opportunity to (re-)read some of the contributions of presenters, but I would also encourage you to be in touch with your colleagues about their (re-worked) papers, thus giving shape to our community of learners. Many conference papers can be downloaded from the [meeting website](#), and you can find members' email addresses in the [REA Member Directory](#).

Thanks to all who shared their insights and experiences, professionally and personally, being a keynote speaker, a presenter or 'just' a participant. A special thank you to Board Members whose involvement was instrumental in making the conference successful.

Peace and all good be with you!
Siebren Miedema, VU University Amsterdam

2014 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcome 2014 Board and Committee members:

Harold (Bud) Horell as Vice-President (2015 Program Chair) and Mualla Selcuk and Arch Wong as Members-At-Large. We also welcome five new committee members: Justus Baird, Hyun-Sook Kim, Sara Lee, Najeeba Syeed-Miller, and David White. See the [Board and Committee](#) pages on our website for a full listing.

Special gratitude is extended to those completing their terms of Board and Committee service: Mary Hess, Debra Court, Russell Dalton, Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Thomas Groome, Joyce Mercer, and Katherine Turpin. Our organization runs on the steam of its committed leadership!

Opportunities Abound

REA is a volunteer association of practitioners and academics. For over one hundred years, the Association has been sustained by the energy, creativity, and commitment of its membership. Please consider how you might most enjoy participating more fully in our collaborative work!

If you would be interested in serving in a leadership capacity on the Board of Directors or a Committee, or leading a Task Force or Affinity Group, please let us know by contacting the Executive Secretary, secretary@religiuseducation.net. If you have skills and experience that you would enjoy contributing, don't hesitate to contact us with your suggestions! Here are just a few areas that might spark some of your own ideas:

- A list of resources on our web site
- Liaison with affinity groups (denominations, internet sites, other academic guilds, etc.)
- Update the REA e-Bookstore
- Maintain information about graduate programs in religious education
- Develop guidelines and best practices for aspects of the Annual Meeting
- Photograph speakers and meetings
- Create or find artwork for brochures, web site, meetings
- Gather information about funding sources for religious education; grant-writing
- Develop a way for members to share syllabi

- Strengthen our ties with other-than-Christian colleagues
- Liaison with publishers; arrange a bookstore at the Annual Meeting

REA MEMBER NAMED PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT

We congratulate our colleague and former REA Board member **Mary Hinton** on her selection as the President of the College of Saint Benedict, partner school to the College of Saint Thomas in Collegeville, MN. Mary recently completed a term as Member-At-Large on the REA Board of Directors, during which time she contributed her administrative expertise to lead the Board in strategic planning and assessment. She will assume her position at Saint Benedict on July 1, 2014. [Read more here.](#)

Note:

Please keep us apprised of retirements and other news to be acknowledged at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the benefits of your REA membership is that REA members DO NOT have to purchase AAR membership in order to register for AAR annual meetings. Because REA is now a Scholarly Related Organization (SRO) of the AAR, REA members may register for AAR annual meetings at the special SRO rates. Look for that category when you register.

Remember that REA membership follows the calendar year; don't forget to [renew your membership](#) early. You receive five issues of *Religious Education*. You can find current information about your membership by 1) checking the online [Membership Directory](#) to see if you are listed correctly, 2) signing in to your account at Taylor & Francis Online and going to My Account > Access, or 3) contacting [Customer Service](#) at Taylor & Francis who publish the REA journal and process all of our memberships.

Blessings of Spring,



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