

Call for Papers
Colloquium on Violence and Religion Sessions
at the American Academy of Religion Meeting
Atlanta, GA, October 30-Nov. 1, 2010.

Please share this announcement with interested colleagues – Participation is open to all, including advanced graduate students.

Please review the following opportunities for participation in COV&R events at the AAR. Our AAR sessions bring important visibility to Girard's mimetic theory and help strengthen the community of scholars and practitioners who find Girard to be a key resource for reflection on violence and religion. Please help make the 2010 COV&R sessions at the AAR a success by contributing one or more proposals.

Proposals are invited for three sessions at the AAR:

1) COV&R Session on the Main Program:

We invite papers and panels related to a variety of topics associated with the exploration, criticism, and development of René Girard's mimetic model of the relationship between violence and religion in the genesis and maintenance of culture. Topics of interest for the COV&R session on the main program of the AAR meeting include: 1) critical reflection on and delineation of the pagan/sacred in Girard's work; 2) the application of Girard's theory outside of the biblical traditions, particularly in reference to the challenge of world religions, 3) positive mimesis in a world shaped by conflict, and 4) issues associated with conversion from scapegoating (i.e., how persons may be persecutors without knowing it, how we can identify our own violence and break with it). The planning committee also welcomes strong proposals responding to other aspects of Girard's work, including recent publications by/about Girard. *Proposals for the main program session will be subject to blind review – please leave identifying information off the proposal text.*

2) COV&R Saturday morning session, October 30:

Respondents are needed who will bring a Girardian perspective to a book session on Jon Pahl's *Empire of Sacrifice*. Professor Pahl will be present for the session. One invited respondent will address the significance of Pahl's work for the field in general. The planning committee seeks proposals from two other respondents who will *offer a perspective explicitly grounded in Girard's work*. Proposals should describe interest in and preparation for the respondent role, drawing on a preliminary acquaintance with the book garnered from the NYU Press page and Google preview. A free copy of the book will be mailed to the selected respondents.

See http://www.nyupress.org/books/Empire_of_Sacrifice-products_id-11134.html and link to Google Preview is from that page.

3) Joint session on the main program of the AAR with the Person, Culture, and Religion group:

Paper proposals are requested that will bring a Girardian perspective to a panel discussion of James W. Jones' *Blood Cries out from the Earth: The Psychology of Religious Terrorism*. PCR will also be inviting a panelist. Professor Jones will be present to respond. Paper proposals that are grounded in Girard's work and demonstrate familiarity with psychological theories of violence on which Jones' scholarship is based are especially welcome.

Please send your proposals to Martha Reineke, martha.reineke@uni.edu, Coordinator, COV&R at the AAR, by **April 15**. Proposals should be no more than 1000 words and should include 1) title of your proposal, 2) session to which you are submitting the proposal, 3) professional contact information and 4) other papers accepted for the AAR meeting [to avoid scheduling our sessions at the same time].

The Planning Committee is also seeking additional members to begin a three-year term starting in 2010, 2011, or 2012. Committee members need to make a commitment to attend the AAR during their three year term. Business meetings are held at the AAR and by email. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please send your CV and preferred beginning year to martha.reineke@uni.edu. Thank you. Committee membership is open to COV&R members.

Questions: email Martha Reineke at martha.reineke@uni.edu