

Secularism and Secularity CFP:

In its first two years, the Secularism and Secularity Group has explored the secular and its precarious, shifting boundary with religion. We now aim to take stock of its lacunae. Our group is especially interested in papers that investigate the secular's complicated relationship with race and sex/gender. What new spaces has the secular opened up for women and people of color, and what new barriers has it created? What forms of activism does the secular enable that are not available in spaces governed by religious norms, and what forms does it foreclose? How does the divide between secular and religious map onto different kinds of feminism and struggles for rights and recognition? In turn, how do critical analyses of race and sex/gender disrupt that divide? And why are self-avowed nonbelievers disproportionately white and male? We invite paper and session proposals that engage these and related questions through original historical or social scientific research.

We also welcome papers that explore any of the following areas:

- Humanisms, religious and secular, historical and contemporary.
- The role of the secular in effecting a distinction between economic and religious spheres. For instance, how do "private" and "public" become constructed as religious and secular in the discourse and practice of economic development? And how does law work to disrupt or reinforce these distinctions?
- The spiritualization of the secular and the secularization of the spiritual in the context of health, healing, and medicine. For instance, how are certain "spiritual" practices being integrated into "secular" medical settings, and how has secular medical research influenced spiritual and religious practice?

The high quality and large quantity of submissions during our group's first two years have enabled us to put together a series of strong panels, and they also speak to the secular's growing importance for the study of religion.

We're writing now to share with you our call for papers for the AAR's 2015 meeting in Atlanta, which you can find below or by following this link:

<http://papers.aarweb.org/content/secularism-and-secularity-group>

The deadline for submissions is March 2nd, 4:59pm EST, and we welcome both individual papers and session proposals.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the group or this year's CFP; happy to help. If you no longer wish to receive future updates, please let us know in a reply to this email.