

Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions
Events and Projects, 2005-2016

This list does not include individual appearances by various members of the Institute, which would number several hundred.

Conferences

- 2005-06 – “The Ten Commandments and Their Appropriations in Judaism, Christianity and Islam”
 - Plenary speaker: His Eminence, Dr. Mustafa Čeric, Grand Mufti of Bosnia
 - 19 panelists
- 2006-07 – “Religious Pluralism in Modern America”
 - Plenary speakers: Martin Marty, Diana Eck
 - 15 panelists
- 2007-08 – “Perspectives on the Abrahamic Traditions: Leadership, Commonalities, and Critical Reflection:
 - Plenary speakers: Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield, Ingrid Mattson, President, Islamic Society of North America
 - 9 panelists
- 2008-09 – “Religion and the State”
 - Partner: Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy
 - Plenary speaker: Alan Wolfe
 - 15 panelists
- 2009-10 – “Are There Limits to our Dialogue? Interfaith Marriage and Conversion”
 - Plenary speaker: Fr. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M.
 - 9 panelists
- 2010-11 – “Tradition and Modernity in the Abrahamic Traditions”
 - Partner: Faculty of Theology, Oxford University
 - Plenary speakers: Edward Kessler, Dame Averil Cameron
 - 15 panelists
- 2011-12 – “Politics, Political Thought and Political Theology in the Abrahamic Religions”
 - Partner: Faculty of Theology, Oxford University
 - 12 panelists
- 2014-15 – “The Holy in a Pluralistic World: Rudolf Otto’s Legacy in the Twenty-First Century,” Nov. 5-6, 2014
 - Plenary Speaker: Robert Orsi
 - 17 panelists
 - 4 international participants

- 2015-6 – “*Nostra Aetate* and the Future of Interreligious Dialogue,” Oct. 11-13, 2015
 - Plenary Speakers: John Borelli, Paul Knitter
 - 18 panelists

Rose Thering Fellows and Lubar Institute Scholars

The Fellowship is a two-day scholar-in-residence program. Fellows deliver a public lecture and hold three conversations with small groups of faculty, students, and community members.

- 2008-09 – Reza Aslan
- 2009-10 – Jim Wallis
- 2010-11 – Arnold Eisen
- 2011-12 – James Carroll
- 2012-13 – Charlotte Gordon
- 2013-14 – G. Willow Wilson – Lubar Institute Scholar

Exhibitions, Installations, and other Major Events

- 2007-08
 - Phillip Ratner
 - Installation of sculpture, “The Children of Abraham”
 - Lecture, “An Artist and the Bible”
- 2008-09
 - Partner: DeRicci Gallery, Edgewood College
 - “Families of Abraham: A Photographic, narrative exhibit celebrating life and faith traditions of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families”
 - opening night included a panel with the curator, Eleanor Brawley, and three members from local communities
 - Dalia Mogahed, “Who Speaks for Islam?” public lecture and three small-group conversations
- 2009-10
 - Islamic Society of North America
 - booth in the bazaar
 - Negotiating Religion Internationally
 - partner: Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights
 - participants: Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway; Thomas Loftus, former Ambassador to Norway; David Morgan; Amaney Jamal
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible – Milwaukee Public Museum
 - contributed two lecturers to the lecture series

- Charles Cohen, "What do the Dead Sea Scrolls Tell Us about the Hebrew Bible?" Wisconsin Alumni Association lecture at Milwaukee Public Museum and at the Science Museum of Minnesota
- 2010-11
 - Islamic Society of North America
 - booth in the Bazaar
 - Charles Cohen, panelist, "Jewish-Muslim Relations"
 - Symposium: The Jerusalem Esplanade
 - Partner: Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights
 - private conference: Participants: Kjell Magne Bondevik (Oslo Center), Benjamin Kedar (Hebrew University), Guy Stroumsa (Oxford University), Mustafa Abu Sway (Al-Quds University), Nasser Abufarha (UW-Madison and Canaan Fair Trade Olive Oil Co.), Nadav Shelef (UW-Madison), and Ron Hassner (UC Berkeley)
 - public presentation: Bondevik, Kedar, Stroumsa, and Abu Sway
 - "The 411 on Faith"
 - grant to New York Public Library in conjunction with their exhibition, "Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam"
 - Charles Cohen, "Jews and Muslims in Christian America," Mid-Manhattan Branch, New York Public Library
 - Symposium on Neuroscience and Religion
 - Partners: Center for Investigating Healthy Minds, Isthmus Society
 - Richard Davidson, Elliot Wolfson, Andrew Dreitcer, Vincent Cornell, John Dunne
- 2011-12
 - White House Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge: a year-long series of classes, service activities, and events designed to increase interfaith cooperation and heighten awareness of religious diversity. LISAR spearheaded the University's proposal and is responsible for writing the major reports to the White House. Major events include:
 - Teams of Badger Volunteers from the Morgridge Center for Public Service specially designated for interfaith projects and trained by LISAR staff
 - Symposium on "Race, Religion, and Representation," sponsored by the Multicultural Student Center. LISAR staff appear in four of the panels/sessions (March 15-16, 2012)
 - LISAR designed and maintains the Challenge website
 - Eboo Patel, Founder of the Interfaith Youth Core and the person who created the Challenge as a member of the President's Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Affairs: lecture and meetings with students (April 30, 2012)

- 2012-13
 - Summer Teaching Institute, “Teaching about the Abrahamic Religions: A Workshop for Novice Teachers,” Simone Schweber
 - weeklong symposium, including participation by LISAR staff
 - President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge II
 - campus-wide service day
- 2014-15
 - “Religion on Film” – showings of eight films with religious content and themes, introduced and discussed by eight experts in each film’s particular area
 - Symposium: “Embattled Ideologies: *I Am Malala* and the Question of Women’s Education in South Asia,” Nov. 11, 2014
 - Prof. Nancy Kendall, Omar Qureshi, Sidra Rind, Tayyab Zaidi
 - “Illuminating the Word: *The Saint John’s Bible*,” exhibition at the Chazen Museum: December 19, 2014-March 15, 2015
 - 34 folios displaying the Bible’s calligraphy and illuminations
 - Symposium: “Visualizing and Translating Scripture: Reflections on the St. John’s Bible,” February 26-27, 2015
 - Christopher de Hamel, Marc Epstein, Conrad Rudolph, David Roxburgh
 - Roundtable, “The Jihad of Meaning: Islam’s Struggle with Islamist Extremism”
 - Michael Chamberlain, Asifa Quraishi-Landes, Imam Hamza Maqbul
- 2015-16
 - “Tales from Planet Earth” – major sponsor of the 2015 environmental film festival put on by the Center for Culture, History and the Environment, Nelson Institute, centered on the theme of “belief”
 - 30 films plus a roundtable discussion
 - contributed support with planning and execution
 - “Reporting on Religion” conference – national reporters who cover religion
 - Partner – Upper House
 - Plenary speaker – David Gregory
 - 14 panelists, 5 sessions
 - Gift of the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John’s Bible* to the Special Collections of the UW-Madison Library
 - Grant for the Library to plan educational activities centered around *The Saint John’s Bible*

Sponsored lectures and events (LISAR supplies primary funding or important sponsorship. Lead cooperating unit in parenthesis.)

- 2005-06
 - Maria Rosa Menocal, "What 'Interfaith' Meant in Medieval Spain" (Center for the Humanities)
 - Bruce Zuckerman, "Reclaiming History Letter-by-Letter: How Modern Technologies are Unlocking Ancient Texts from Biblical Times" (Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
- 2006-07
 - James Yee, Chaplain, U.S. Army, Guantánamo Bay, "For God and Country" (Wisconsin Book Festival)
 - Symposium: "Islamic Law in a Globalized World: Implications for Contemporary Law" (Law School)
- 2007-08
 - The Faith Club: Three Women's Initiative for Abrahamic Interfaith Understanding (Religious Studies, Edgewood College)
 - Al-Andalus Conference, "Cultural Diffusion and Hybridity in Iberia (1000-1600) (Department of Spanish and Portuguese)
 - Naim Kattan lectures, "From Baghdad to Montreal: Crossing Cultures," and "L'écrivain francophone. Ce passeur inlassable de cultures" (Department of French and Italian)
 - Symposium: "'Sacred Scriptures' in the Abrahamic Religions," with Irfan Omar, Jonathan Schofer, and Ann Fritschel (Lutheran Campus Ministry)
 - Leonard Greenspoon, "Interpreting the Word: Hope, Hype and Habit in 50 Years of Biblical Studies" (Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
 - Conference: "Islam and Visual Culture" (Center for Visual Culture)
 - Panel at 7th Annual International Bioethics Forum, "Evolution in the 21st Century" (BioPharmaceutical Technology Center Institute, Madison)
- 2008-09
 - Panel at 8th Annual International Bioethics Forum, "Sustainability" (BioPharmaceutical Technology Center Institute, Madison)
 - Ziad Almarsafy, "The Qur'an in the Enlightenment: Translations, Readings, and Impact" (Center for the Humanities)
 - Jodi Magness, "Ancient Synagogues in the Land of Israel" (Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
- 2009-10
 - Kenneth Seeskin, "Messianic Thoughts in an Age of Despair" (Mosse Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies)

- 2010-11
 - Aisha Al-Mannai, Dean of Shari'a and Islamic Studies, University of Qatar (Division of International Studies)
 - Anthony Shadid, "The Truths We Tell: Reporting on Faith, War and the Fate of Iraq" (Center for Journalism Ethics)
- 2011-12
 - Luis Bernabé Pons, "Islam and Christianity in Sixteenth-century Spain: The lead books of Sacromonte" (Department of Spanish and Portuguese)
 - Amitabh Pal, "Not Just Gandhi: The Tradition of Nonviolence Among Muslims in South Asia" (LISAR)
 - Laugh-In Peace Tour (interfaith comedy with Rabbi Bob Alper and Azhar Usman) (Muslim Students Association)
 - Bernard Levinson, "Paradoxes of Canon and Authorship in Ancient Israel" (Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
- 2012-13
 - "Out of Cordoba," film showing and discussion with Director Jacob Bender (Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition)
 - Danusha Goska, "Bieganski: The Brute 'Polak' Stereotype in Polish-Jewish Relations and American Popular Culture" (Religious Studies, Slavic Studies, Folklore, and the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia)
 - Ayad Akhtar, "American Dervish" and Amitabh Pal, "'Islam Means Peace'" (Wisconsin Book Festival)
 - Yael Zeira, "Assessing the Impact of International Recognition on Conflict Attitudes" (Department of Political Science)
- 2013-14
 - Judith Levi, "The Heart Can Change" (with Edgewood College, Wisdom Well, and Pax Christi Madison)
- 2014-15
 - Paul Hanebrink, "The Nazi Occupation Monument in Budapest: Holocaust Memory in Hungary and the Problem of 'Double Occupation'"

Co-Sponsored Events (program support, no funding; lead unit in parenthesis)

- 2005-06
 - Humanities Now Panel Discussion, "Blasphemy and Free Speech: the Danish Cartoons and World Reaction" (Center for the Humanities)
 - Michael Patrick O'Connor, "Eunuchs in the Ancient Near East: Social and Sexual Control" (Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies)

- 2006-07
 - Robert Orsi, "Bleeding Saints, Troubled Angels and Dying Children: The Imaginative World of Catholic Periodicals for Young People in the Twentieth Century" (Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America)
- 2008-09
 - Conference: "The Weimar Moment: Liberalism, Political Theology, and Law" (Project for Law and the Humanities)
- 2010-11
 - David Laitin, "Integration into France: Identifying a Muslim Effect" (Department of Political Science)
- 2012-13
 - "Ask Big Questions" Initiative (Hillel)
 - LISAR serves as consultants
- 2013-14
 - Orhan Pamuk, "An Evening with Orhan Pamuk" (Center for the Humanities)
 - Symposium on and showing of film about the Apostle Paul, "A Polite Bribe" (Religious Studies), Jan. 29-30, 2014

Isthmus Society: Dialogue Between Sciences and Religions at UW-Madison (LISAR provides partial funding and is co-recipient of enabling grants from the Metanexus Foundation and Templeton Foundation. LISAR staff help administer)

- 2005-06
 - Edward Larson, "From Scopes to Intelligent Design: A Brief history of the Evolution/Creation Teaching Controversy"
 - S. Irfan Habib, "Science and Islam: From Pluralism to Religious Essentialism"
 - Ernan McMullin, "Discerning Design," followed by a panel discussion with Paul Nelson, Jeffrey Hardin, and Elliott Sober
- 2006-07
 - William Hurlbut, "Stem Cells, Embryos and Ethics: Is There a Way Forward?" with a panel featuring Robert Streiffer, Clive Svendsen, and Bishop Robert Morlino
 - Cal De Witt, "John Muir's Spiritual Journey," and "Evangelicals and Scientists: A New Consensus on Caring for Creation"
 - Michael Ruse, "The Evolution-Creation Struggle: An American Story"
- 2007-08
 - Efthymios Nicolaidis, "Science and Eastern Orthodoxy: Some Historical Perspectives"
 - Nancey Murphey and Richard Davidson, "A Science and Religion Symposium: Neuroscience of the Spirit"
 - Michael Shank: "Politics and Astrology in the Galileo Affair"

- 2008-09
 - Edward Larson, "Science, Religion, and Presidential Politics: 1800 and 2008"
 - Owen Gingerich, "Designing a Universe Congenial for Life"
- 2009-10
 - Daniel Buxhoeveden, "God and Science in the Eastern Christian Church"
 - Michael Shermer, "Why People Believe Weird Things"
- 2010-11
 - (co-sponsored Symposium on Neuroscience and Religion)
- 2011-12
 - Ahmed Ragab, "Between text(s) and practice(s): Islamic prophetic Medicine in Scientific and Religious Knowledge Regimes"
- 2012-13
 - Denis Alexander, "Genes, Determinism and God"
- 2013-14
 - Franz de Waal and Jeff Schloss, "Do We Need God to Be Moral?: A Dialogue on Morality, Religion and Evolution"
 - Screening of "Inherit the Wind," comments by Ronald Numbers
 - Peter Harrison, "The Territories of Science and Religion"

Other Campus Events

- 2012-13
 - "Speaking Aloud About Religion at a Public University," Panel at 2012 UW-Madison Diversity Forum – Director, two Student Fellows
 - Presentation to Wisconsin Presidents' Organization
 - showcase Institute programs at UW Foundation
 - Training Sessions
 - In-Service Training for Campus Resident Assistants; workshop, "'Hijab, Shabbat, and Confession, Oh My!': Interreligious Understanding in the Dorms, led by Student Fellows
 - Sellery Hall interfaith dialogue for students, led by Student Fellows
 - Coexistence Dinner (Muslim-Jewish Volunteer Initiative)
- 2013-14
 - SOAR participation, Summer
 - Email announcement of all religion courses on campus to students, Spring Registration, 2014
 - Institute staff and Fellows speak in dorms:
 - "The Many Levels of Thanksgiving,"
 - "'Hijab, Shabbat, and Confession, Oh My!': Interreligious Understanding in the Dorms," led by Student Fellows
 - "Modesty, Fashion and Muslim Women"

- “The Varieties of Interreligious College Experience”
- Showing of the film, “The Infidel,” followed by student discussion
- Training Sessions
 - In-Service Training for Campus Resident Assistants; workshop, “Hijab, Shabbat, and Confession, Oh My!': Interreligious Understanding in the Dorms,” led by Student Fellows
- 2014-15
 - Institute staff and Fellows speak in dorms:
 - “I Am Malala”
 - Center for Leadership and Involvement accepts Lubar Institute Interfaith Fellowship Training as a credential for its certificate
- 2015-16
 - “Faith and My Field: How Knowledge of World Religions Has Helped My Career” – Career advising event for undergraduates with four Institute Interfaith Fellow Alumni/ae
 - Culminated campaign begun in 2011-12 for a Reflection Room in the UW-Madison Union. On April 18, the Union Council approved one room for Union South and is planning for another in Memorial Union.

School Programs

- “The Courage Project” – interfaith workshops with Madison-area teenagers.
 - 2010-11: Rohany Nayan, Cantor Deborah Martin, Pastor Katie Baardseth
 - 2011-12: Rohany Nayan, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
- Workshop for sixth graders at Cherokee Middle School, Madison, April 11-12, 2016
 - Led by some of the Institute’s Student Interfaith Fellows
 - 44 students plus two teachers

Sponsored Research Projects

- Professors Nadav Shelef (UW-Madison) and Yael Zeira (NYU) , on Palestinian Public Opinion and the drive for United Nations Recognition
- Forgiveness Project (with Robert Enright): pilot project on communication between students in Israel/Palestine – introduction of curricula in Mar Elias Schools

Sponsored Publications

- Charles L. Cohen and Paul S. Boyer, eds., *Religion and the Culture of Print in Modern America* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008)

- Leonard V. Kaplan and Charles L. Cohen, eds., *Theology and the Soul of the Liberal State* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010)
- Charles L. Cohen and Ronald L. Numbers, eds., *Gods in America: Religious Pluralism in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013)
- Ulrich Rosenhagen and Greg Alles, eds., *The Holy in a Pluralistic World*, manuscript in preparation
- Charles L. Cohen, Paul Knitter, and Ulrich Rosenhagen, eds., “Nostra Aetate” and the Future of Interreligious Dialogue, manuscript in preparation for Orbis Books

Institute Publications

- Newsletter - Appeared three times/year (superseded by web feed, 2013)
 - 2010-11
 - 2011-12
 - 2012-13
- *Abrahamic Reflections/Undergraduate Journal*
 - vol. 1, 2008-09
 - vol. 2, 2009-10
 - vol. 3, 2010-11
 - vol. 4, 2011-12
 - vol. 5, 2012-13
 - vol. 6, 2013-14
 - vol. 7, 2014-15
 - vol. 8, 2015-16
- *The Courage Project*, a collection of essays and reflections
 - vol. 1, 2010-11
 - vol. 2, 2011-12
- LISAR Occasional Papers
 - vol. 1 – Amitabh Pal, “Not Just Gandhi: The Tradition of Nonviolence Among Muslims in South Asia” (2012)
 - vol. 2 – G. Willow Wilson, “What Would Frodo Do?” (2014)
- List of Courses on Campus that deal with Religion, Spirituality, etc.
 - 2013 - 2016

LISAR Interfaith Fellows

- 2005-06: 8
- 2006-07: 5
- 2007-08: 6
- 2008-09: 7
- 2009-10: 5
- 2010-11: 6

- 2011-12: 7
- 2012-13: 7
- 2013-14: 8
- 2014-15: 9
- 2015-16: 8
- Fellows have begun to enter into public service careers with the Peace Corps, the Interfaith Youth Core, etc.

Student Interfaith Forum

- 2006-07: 17 members
- 2007-08: n/a
- 2008-09: 23 members
- 2009-10: n/a
- 2010-11: 23 members
- 2011-12: 21 members
- 2012-13: 22 members
- 2013-14: 21 members
- 2014-15: 27 members
- 2015-16: 20 members

Community Forum

- 2007-08: Madison
- 2008-09: Appleton
- 2009-10: Madison
- 2010-11: Madison
- 2011-12: Madison
- 2012-13: Madison

Social Media

- Facebook
 - Continuous web feed of items on religion around the world
- Twitter