“Emotional Communities in the Second Temple Period: The Instrumentalization of Affect after the Exile”

Angela Kim Harkins is a native of Chicago, Illinois and completed her doctoral work at the University of Notre Dame in 2003. She currently holds a Marie Cure International Incoming Fellowship in the Department of Theology and Religion at the University Birmingham (UK) where she is working on a monograph that investigates the role that memories about the Teacher of Righteousness had in the religious experiences of the Qumran community (2014-2016). During this time, she is on leave from Fairfield University (Fairfield, CT) where she is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies and of the interdisciplinary program in Judaic Studies. Harkins is the author of Reading with an “I” to the Heavens: Looking at the Qumran Hodayot through the Lens of Visionary Traditions (Ekstasis 3; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2012), and numerous articles and essays on prayer in the Second Temple period. She is especially interested in the role that performative emotions can have in the construction of religious experiences in antiquity. In addition to the texts from Qumran, Harkins is also working on the collections known as the Prayers of Solomon and the Odes of Solomon.

Co-sponsored by: Humanities Institute, Department of Anthropology, Judaic Studies, James Barnett Endowment for Humanistic Anthropology

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