Other Activities: tours to the Cahokia Mounds and to sites related to the Dred Scott case, both just a few miles from the conference location, are planned. The Cahokia Mounds are the remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico. In 1982, UNESCO has designated Cahokia Mounds a World Heritage Site for its importance to our understanding of the prehistory of North America. The city of Cahokia supposedly was inhabited from about A.D. 700 to 1400. At its peak, from A.D. 1050 to 1200, it covered nearly six square miles and had 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants.

As details for the conference emerge, they will be posted to the conference website: http://www.slu.edu/department-of-theology-home/2015-colloquium-on-violence-and-religion. Queries can be sent to COVR2015@gmail.com.

The 2015 COV&R host is Grant Kaplan, Associate Professor of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University.

Grant Kaplan

The Colloquium on Violence and Religion is pleased to offer two sessions at the upcoming American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting on November 23 in San Diego, CA. The session descriptions are below. The AAR staff re-entered information for the P23-200 session into their computers after telling me that the computer could not list panelists (Part II of our session) in the same session as a paper (Part I of our session). Our panelists kindly offered titles for their remarks to turn the panel into a set of papers. The results, as you will see if you look at the actual program book, are garbled because the field-settings for computer entry still could not handle our session format. Therefore, please note that session P23-200 is intended to be a panel. Panelists will offer remarks, but plenty of time will be left for discussion among the panelists and with David Dawson, the author of the book under discussion. Our business meeting has also been left out of the schedule. I have included it here. Finally, in a less than stellar year for the AAR program book computer/staff, P23-200 comes several pages after P23-201 in the program book. Please take time to locate the entry now, using the program page numbers listed below.

Program of the Annual Meeting
November 22-25, 2014, San Diego, CA

Session I (P23-100; Sunday, Nov. 23, 9:00 AM–11:30 AM, at Marriott Marquis-Carlsbad) [P. 289 of the print AAR/SBL Program Book]
Theme: René Girard, Secular Modernity, and Politics
Martha J. Reineke, University of Northern Iowa, Presiding
Responding: Scott Cowdell, Charles Stuart University
William T. Cavanaugh, DePaul University, and Thomas Ryba, University of Notre Dame and Purdue University: Resisting Violence and Victimisation: Christian Faith and Solidarity in East Timor by Joel Hodge: A Conversation [for a review of the pertinent book see: Bulletin no. 43, p. 13]
Responding: Joel Hodge, Australian Catholic University

Session II (P23-200; Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:00 PM–3:30 PM, at Marriott Marquis-Carlsbad) [P. 299 of the print AAR/SBL program book]
Theme: New Directions in Mimetic Theory
Nikolaus Wandinger, University of Innsbruck, Presiding
Part I of the session:
David Dawson, University of Costa Rica: The Head Beneath the Altar: Hindu Mythology and the Critique of Sacrifice by Brian Collins
Responding: Brian Collins, Ohio University
Part II of the session:
A discussion of Flesh Becomes Word: A Lexicography of the Scapegoat or, the History of an Idea by David Dawson [for a review of the pertinent book see: Bulletin no. 44, p. 17].
Matthew Pattillo, The New School for Social Research: “Reflections on Flesh Becomes Word: A Lexicography of the Scapegoat or, the History of an Idea”
Robert A. Segal, King’s College, University of Aberdeen: “The Use of Girard’s Theory of Myth in *Flesh Becomes Word*”

William Johnsen, Michigan State University: “Words alone are certain good: David Dawson’s *Flesh Becomes Word*”

Responding: David Dawson, University of Costa Rica

**Business Meeting:** Please plan to stay for a brief business meeting at the conclusion of the second session. Bring your ideas for the 2015 COV&R sessions at the AAR, which will be held in Atlanta, GA.

*Martha Reineke*

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Anniversaries stir the memory, awaken reflection, and inspire decision. At this moment in October, 2014, we in COV&R stand between two such anniversaries. The 2014 COV&R conference in Freising, Germany, marked in a special way the centennial anniversary of the outbreak in 1914 of World War I, the first of the terrible modern wars foreseen by Carl von CLAUSEWITZ, whose book *On War* inspired René GIRARD’s *Achever Clausewitz* (2007). The 2015 COV&R conference to be held next summer at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Colloquium—a cause for grateful celebration.

Appropriately so, *Im Angesicht der Apokalypse: Clausewitz zu Ende Denken* (2014), the German-language translation of GIRARD’s *Achever Clausewitz*, appeared in print at the start of the meeting in Freising. “Battling to the End, 1914-2014: The Escalation of Violence and Victimization.” The mimetic theory as formulated by GIRARD (*1923) is arguably a “child” of war, an intellectual fruit of his youthful experiences in France during World War II—the terrible, historic cataclysm that has spurred his life-long effort to understand the causes of human violence. Through our participation in this Girardian quest, we have all become “children” of war, but also hopeful children of peace.

This letter is not the place to recall the whole program of papers, so I restrain myself from doing so. I want to emphasize, however, that the 2014 meeting left a profound impression. Truly an extraordinary event, miraculous in many ways, the conference at Freising was organized by Walter SCHWEIDLER and his youthful team, with the support of Richard SCHENK, O.P., President of the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. In terms of intellectual quality, thematic coherence, and hospitality, it was one of our very best COV&R meetings. The good spirit that usually characterizes our meetings as a gathering of friends was clearly present. We owe a great debt of thanks to the organizers, to the Raven Foundation, to Imitatio, and to everyone who participated, young and old.

This year COV&R gave four (not three) Raymund Schwager S.J. Memorial awards in the graduate student competition, and each of the young winners (Pedro SETTE-CAMARA, W. Bernard DISCO, Simon DE KEUKELAERE, and Markus WIERSCHEM) rose to the occasion of giving a very fine lecture in plenary session. Thanks to a grant from Imitatio, six travel grants were awarded to first-time attendees. Representing AMES, the network of young Girardians within COV&R, Carly OSBORN (University of Adelaide, Australia) unveiled [http://skandalonscholars.com](http://skandalonscholars.com), a new Girardian blog which is a work of former students in the Imitatio-sponsored Girard Summer School in The Netherlands, organized by Thérèse ONDERDENWIJNGAARD.

Unlike many organizations of a comparable size and age, COV&R continues to attract many young people to our yearly meetings and to welcome back, year after year, an impressive group of core members. Their long-term commitment to the study, development, critique, and application of the mimetic theory has borne fruit in countless articles and books, as is clearly in evidence in the book series from Michigan State University Press, edited by William JOHNSEN, as well as in recent publications from Continuum and the University of Notre Dame Press, among others. Meanwhile, the collected works of Raymund SCHWAGER, S.J., are being prepared for publication—volume 5, *Dogma und dramatische Geschichte* has already appeared, volume 6, the bilingual French-German edition of the correspondence between SCHWAGER and René GIRARD, is due in late November.