Preconference Workshops

Friday - 1:45 pm-5:30 pm must register in advance
CC-2006: David Aftandilian, Texas Christian University, Presiding

Sponsored by the Sustainability Task Force and the Animals and Religion Group

1:45 pm - 2:15 pm: Introductions and Small Group Icebreakers/Warm-up
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm: Central Topics in Animals and Sustainability
  Aaron Gross, University of San Diego
  Animals as Food
  Paul Waldau, Canisius College
  Wildlife (Including Urban/Campus Wildlife)
  Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University
  Companion Animals
  3:15 pm - 3:30 pm: Break
  3:30 pm - 4:30 pm: Teaching Animals, Religion and Sustainability
  Jay McDaniel, Hendrix College
  Animals and Religion Course
  Laurel Kearns, Drew University
  Animals in Seminary Courses
  Christine Gutleben, Humane Society of the United States
  Animal Welfare and Not-for-Profit Groups: How to Build the Community-based Learning Connection
  4:30 pm - 5:15 pm: Small Group Discussions, Selected Topics with Facilitators
  Aaron Gross, University of San Diego
  Animals in/out of Campus Dining Halls
  Paul Waldau, Canisius College
  Wildlife: Practical and Environmental Concerns
  Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University
  Companion Animals on Campuses and in the Community
  Jay McDaniel, Hendrix College
  Animals and Sustainability in Introductory Religion Courses
  David Clough, University of Chester
  Theology, Animals and Sustainability in the Classroom
  Sara Tlili, University of Florida
  Sustainability-Animal Connections in Comparative Religion Courses
  David Aftandilian, Texas Christian University
  Critical Service-learning Pedagogy and Animals/Religion
  5:15 pm - 5:30 pm: Wrap-up – Idea Sharing, Follow-up
  A comprehensive bibliography will be given to all participants. The cost for the workshop is $40, which includes the entire afternoon of sessions and a coffee break.
  Registration is limited to the first 75 participants.

Theme: Sustainability Workshop — Teaching About Religion and Sustainability: The Animal Question

Panelists:

Aaron Gross, University of San Diego
Paul Waldau, Canisius College
Laura Hobgood-Oster, Southwestern University
Please join us for a reception in honor of Rosemary Radford Ruether's seventy-fifth birthday. The reception will be sustainably catered, following the day-long workshop of the Sustainability Task Force. This reception will also mark the publication of *Voices of Feminist Liberation: Writings in Honor of Rosemary Radford Ruether* (Equinox, 2012). The reception is made possible by a generous donation to the Religion and Ecology Group.

**Theme:** *Sustainability Reception in Honor of Rosemary Radford Ruether*

**Films**

One day on a Greek island, and your perception of the universe will change forever... Ask acclaimed author and evolutionary philosopher Brian Thomas Swimme about our role as humans in this awe-inspiring universe, and his insights will light up the night skies. As our host, co-writer, and fellow traveler, he shares his infectious curiosity about life’s biggest questions in the epic JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE. This documentary film project, companion book, and 20-part educational series is a collaboration of Swimme and historian of religions Mary Evelyn Tucker. They weave a tapestry that draws together scientific discoveries in astronomy, geology, biology, ecology, and biodiversity with humanistic insights concerning the nature of the universe. Using his skills as a masterful storyteller, Swimme connects such big picture issues as the birth of the cosmos 14 billion years ago – to
the invisible frontiers of the human genome – as well as to our current impact on Earth’s evolutionary dynamics. Through his engaging and thoughtful observations audiences everywhere will discover the profound role we play in this intricate web of life. From the Big Bang–to the epic impact humans have on the planet today–this film is designed to inspire a new and closer relationship with Earth in a period of growing environmental and social crisis.

Theme: Journey of the Universe

Panelists:

Brian Swimme, California Institute of Integral Studies
Barbara Holmes, Memphis Theological Seminary
Heather Eaton, St. Paul University

A19-102

Special Topics Forum

Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am
Room: MM-Willow

Michael Christensen, Drew University, Presiding

Sponsored by the Sustainability Task Force

As part of the AAR Sustainability Task Force’s focus on educating about sustainable food practices, and in recognition that San Francisco is a Fair Trade city, this session focuses on issues related to Fair Trade best practices. The international Fair Trade movement has involved over a million growers and countless consumers with its focus on ethical and environmentally-responsible economics. Religious groups have played an important role, both among the producers and in promoting Fair Trade products. This panel will present and discuss the award-winning film Delicious Peace (Mirembe Kawomera) Grows in a Ugandan Coffee Bean, which chronicles the Peace Kawomera cooperative with over 1,000 Jewish, Christian, and Muslim farmers/members, and Paul Katzeff. Panelists will also discuss Fair Trade and religious practice, the Fair Trade university movement, challenges that the Fair Trade movement faces, and the possible connections between the AAR and Fair Trade. This Special Topics Forum welcomes discussion on all the ways that the AAR can take a greater role in incorporating environmental sustainability efforts. Delicious Peace coffee will be served.

Theme: Delicious Peace: Fair Trade, Religions, and the Academy

Panelists:

Laurel D. Kearns, Drew University
Saturday - 8:00 am-11:00 am Muir Woods Tour
Room: Offsite-Meet at CC-Howard Street Exit

After a short ride from San Francisco over the Golden Gate Bridge, you will be awed by one of the most magnificent Redwood forests in the world — Muir Woods. Early winter is one of the best times to visit Muir Woods — the weather is cool and rainy; and Redwood Creek is full and melodious. You will travel by bus and have an opportunity to walk through the forest and explore this magnificent National Monument. Bring rain gear!

Theme: *Muir Woods*

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**African Diaspora Religions Group**

Saturday - 9:00 am-11:30 am
Room: MM-Nob Hill A

Maha Marouan, University of Alabama, Presiding

Theme: *From "Double Consciousness" to the "Black Atlantic": Theorizing the African Diaspora and African Diaspora Subjectivities*

Torin Alexander, Saint Olaf College
*African Diaspora Subjectivities and Religious Experience: The Pursuit of Wholeness*

Karyna Do Monte, Boston University
*Brazilian Candomble Meets *Ecology* *: A Samba Plot in the Rio de Janeiro Carnival*

Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, University of Miami
*Translator of the Afro-Cuban Religious World: Lydia Cabrera*

Mary Diggin, Pacifica Graduate Institute
*Damballah and Maman Brigitte: The Irish Influence on Vodou Lwas*

Responding:
While forms of environmentally engaged Buddhism focus heavily on the theoretical mitigation of ecological impact, little attention has been paid to the experience of natural disasters from a Buddhist point of view, to their broader cultural context, or to how Buddhist ideology can be practically applied in the lead up to and aftermath of natural disasters. This panel will attempt to redress this situation through four cases that all have at their basis a commitment to exploring cultural perceptions of natural disasters in the Tibetan Buddhist world; these cases represent indigenous Tibetan voices, and focus on women in particular. This panel will explore gendered Tibetan Buddhist perceptions and experiences of natural disasters through a three-part approach that looks at: community attempts to prevent disasters; the actual experience of these disasters; and Buddhist tools for dealing with the aftermath of these disasters.

Theme: *Natural Disasters in Tibetan Buddhist Traditions: Prevention, Perception, and Response through a Gendered Lens*

Kalzang Dorjee Bhutia, University of Alabama
*Rediscovering Indigenous Tibetan Environmentalisms: Injunctions from Dakinis for Avoiding Ecological Disaster and Increasing Environmental Awareness in Tibetan Buddhist Literature*

Ruth Gamble, Australian National University
*The Gendered, Geopolitical Geography of Natural Disasters in the Tibetan Buddhist World*

Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa, University of Alabama
*Dialectics of Devastation and Liberation: The Transformative Power of Natural Disasters as Signs on the Path and as Ethical Pedagogical Tools in Tibetan Biographical Literature*

Leah Weiss Ekstrom, Boston College
*Tibetan Buddhist Resources for Survivors of Natural Disasters and Direct Care Providers*
A19-305

North American Religions Section

Saturday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
Room: CC-2006

Jeff Wilson, University of Waterloo, Presiding

This session gathers four papers that examine some “key paradigms” in American Religion and provide the opportunity to consider what is meant by “Black Church,” “Queering Religion,” “Nature Religion,” and “Material Culture”.


Josef Sorett, Columbia University
The Problem of the "Black Church": Church and Spirit(s) in the American Religious Imaginary, 1923–1940

Megan Goodwin, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Captive Bodies, Queer Religions: Scripting North American Religious Difference

Bron Taylor, University of Florida
Gaian Earth Religion: Vanishing Divine Being(s) and the Mod-God of Nature

Jennifer Schepfer Hughes, University of California, Riverside
Material Religion: On the Agency of Objects

Responding:

Linda L. Barnes, Boston University

A19-329 ✫

Animals and Religion Group and Science, Technology, and Religion Group
Donna Haraway’s controversial and insightful engagements with a variety of fields are widely known. However, the field of religious studies has not yet fully engaged with her ideas. This joint session explores the import of Haraway’s contributions for science, technology, animals, and religion. The session includes four papers and a response by Haraway herself. Jeanine Thweatt-Bates argues that Haraway uses Christian theological concepts in a continuous corpus that relates the cyborg with companion species. Sam Mickey’s paper takes on posthumanities and science-speculative-fiction-feminist ideas, particularly the concepts of sacramental consciousness and the risky openness that facilitates respectful contact between humans and other species. Amy Brown uses Haraway’s philosophy of “becoming with” other animals and the dissolution of boundaries to challenge individualism in environmental ethics. Finally, Marti Kheel questions Haraway’s sanguine view of mutuality and respect, suggesting that she does not sufficiently confront the asymmetrical nature of most human/other-than-human encounters.

Theme: Animality, Hybridity, Divinity: Donna Haraway's Technoscientific Revisioning of the Religious Subject

Jennifer Thweatt-Bates, Newark, NJ
Cyborgs, Dogs, and Jesus: The Worldly and Religious Figures of Donna Haraway

Sam Mickey, California Institute of Integral Studies
Farfetchings for Respecting Species: Postsecular Posthumanities and the SF Mode

Amy Brown, University of Florida
Donna Haraway's Philosophy as a Challenge to Individualism in Evolutionarily-derived Environmental Ethics

Marti Kheel, University of California, Berkeley
Donna Haraway's "Species Encounter": Reciprocity or Dominion?

Responding:

Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz

Business Meeting:

David Aftandilian, Texas Christian University

Contemporary Pagan Studies Group and Religion and Ecology Group
Sunday - 9:00 am-11:30 am
Room Assignments and vCalendar Files Available Only to Members Login

Whitney Bauman, Florida International University, Presiding

Starhawk is the well-known feminist Witch, Earth activist, and writer who initiated the Reclaiming Witchcraft Tradition in San Francisco in 1979. Her books on Pagan ecospirituality, such as The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion (HarperOne, 20th anniv. ed., 1999) and the novel The Fifth Sacred Thing (Bantam, 1993), are still bestsellers. Over the last four decades her thinking and practices have spun off the emergent Goddess spirituality movement, but have also provoked and influenced feminist theologians. One of them is Rosemary R. Ruether, herself a major contributor to feminist theologizing in all Western traditions — be it Christian, Jewish, or Pagan. Over the last ten years, Ruether and Starhawk have developed similar interests in feminist earth practices, honored the four elements and permacultural social principles, and have quoted each other’s work respectfully. In this session all are invited to reflect on the notion of “elemental theology” and/or “feminist Earth practices” as a possible crossroad for feminist theology of different faiths to meet.

Theme: Elemental Theology and Feminist Earth Practices

Panelists:
Rosemary R. Ruether, Claremont Graduate University
Starhawk, Earth Activist Training

Responding:
Marion S. Grau, Graduate Theological Union
Jone Salomonsen, University of Oslo
Heather Eaton, Saint Paul University

A20-231

Animals and Religion Group

Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm
MM-Nob Hill A; View Map (coming soon)
Download vCalendar File (for use in Outlook or Palm Desktop) (coming soon)

Aaron Gross, University of San Diego, Presiding
Theme: *Thinking Animals and Religion, Rethinking Ethics: Farley, Midgley, Nussbaum, and Singer*

Charles Camosy, Fordham University
*Peter Singer and Christian Ethics on Nonhuman Animals: Unexpected Rapprochement?*

Mary Ashley, Graduate Theological Union
*Extending Margaret Farley's "Just Love" to the Animal Other: To Place Being in Affirmation of Being*

Thomas Leenders, Harvard University
*Buddhist Approaches to Martha Nussbaum’s Capabilities Approach: Dignified Animals, Indignant Buddhists, and Other Apparent Paradoxes*

Gregory S. McElwain, University of Florida
*Mary Midgley and the Mixed Community in Religious Studies*

Responding:

Grace Kao, Claremont School of Theology

**A20-235**

 wildcard session

Sunday - 1:00 pm-2:30 pm
Room: CC-3008

Sarah Robinson, Claremont Graduate University, Presiding

Theme: *Voices of Feminist Liberation: Writings in Celebration of Rosemary Radford Ruether*

Panelists:

Emily Silverman, Graduate Theological Union
Whitney Bauman, Florida International University
Dirk von der Horst, Claremont Graduate University

Responding:

Rosemary R. Ruether, Claremont Graduate University
A20-251

Special Topics Forum

Sunday - 3:00 pm-4:30 pm
Room: MM-Yerba Buena 9

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale University, Presiding

Sponsored by the Religion and the Arts Award Jury

Gary Snyder has been named the 2011 Religion and the Arts Award winner. He is a Pulitzer Prize winning poet, essayist, and environmental activist. He has published eighteen books, which have been translated into more than twenty languages. Snyder’s work and thinking has been featured in video specials on BBC and PBS, and in every major national print organ. He is the recipient of multiple grants and awards, including the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Bollingen Prize for Poetry, American Poetry Society Shelley Memorial Award, a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and in 1975 he won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. A key member of the mid-twentieth century San Francisco Renaissance literary movement, Snyder is currently professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis, and lives in Northern California. Born in San Francisco, Snyder has traveled the world, working as a logger, a carpenter, and on a steam-freighter crew, among other things. He has spent ongoing time in Japan, undertaking extensive training in the Rinzai school of Zen Buddhism. In announcing the 2008 Lilly Poetry Prize, chair of the jury selection Christian Wiman said, “Gary Snyder is in essence a contemporary devotional poet, though he is not devoted to any one god or way of being so much as to Being itself. His poetry is a testament to the sacredness of the natural world and our relation to it, and a prophecy of what we stand to lose if we forget that relation.” Snyder and his ongoing work and words open up many conversations across the AAR constituency.

Theme: Conversation with Gary Snyder, 2011 AAR Religion and the Arts Award Winner

Panelists:

Gary Snyder, Yuba Watershed Council
Christopher Patrick Parr, Webster University
Bron Taylor, University of Florida
Christopher Ives, Stonehill College

A20-324

Religion and Ecology Group

Sunday - 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
Room Assignments and vCalendar Files Available Only to Members Login
David Haberman, Indiana University, Bloomington, Presiding

This panel is devoted to Bron Taylor’s book Dark Green Religion (University of California Press, 2010). Panelists/critics have expertise in religion and the environment, science and religion, religion and social movements, Neopagan religions, and religion and radical environmentalism. Taylor distinguishes the phenomenon of “Dark Green Religion” (DGR) from the broader movement of greening “traditional” faiths. According to Taylor, adherents of DGR regard nature as “sacred, imbued with intrinsic value, and worthy of reverent care.” Our panelists will critically engage a cluster of themes, including: the possibility that DGR will contribute/is contributing to the rise of a global, planetary religion; the role of science in the emergence of DGR and how science shapes the spiritual and ethical commitments of DGR; the relationship between DGR and “traditional” faiths; panelists will also draw on their own research on radical environmentalism/grassroots green spiritualities as test cases with which to probe and critique Taylor’s definition of DGR.


Panelists:

Sarah M. Pike, California State University, Chico
Lisa Sideris, Indiana University
Laurel D. Kearns, Drew University
John Baumann, University of Oregon

Responding:

Bron Taylor, University of Florida

Monday - 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Room: Offsite-Meet at CC-Howard Street Exit

Sponsored by the Sustainability Task Force

This bus tour features leaders and community organizations working to bring fresh food to urban food deserts, to address global hunger and ecological degradation, and to educate children about gardening, cooking, and health. During site visits in Oakland and Berkeley, we will learn how committed community activists nourish a progressive, sustainable food culture in the East Bay Area, as well as contribute to international NGOs dealing with food security. The tour will include talks from and visits with local religious and secular leaders within these movements, who will share the specific religious and/or spiritual values and ethics that drive their sustainable food and policy activism.

Itinerary:
9:00 am - 9:25 am Drive from San Francisco to Oakland. Presentation from Renna Khuner-
Haber, Bay Area Programs Associate of Hazon

9:30 am - 10:15 am Meet with Marilyn Borchardt, Development Director of Food First

10:30 am - 11:15 am Meet with Nikki Henderson, Executive Director of People's Grocery

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Meet with HuNia Bradley, Program Manager for Farm Fresh Choice, a program of the Ecology Center, and Wendy Johnson, Zen Buddhist teacher and master gardener involved with the College of Marin, Green Gulch Farm, and the Edible Schoolyard

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Return to San Francisco to be dropped off at the Moscone Center or at the San Francisco Ferry Building for a sustainable lunch

*participants who elect to have lunch will be responsible for their own transportation after lunch.

Theme: Edible Cityscapes — Religion, Justice, and Sustainable Food Culture

A21-328

Religion and Ecology Group

Monday - 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
Room Assignments and vCalendar Files Available Only to Members Login

Matthew Riley, Drew University, Presiding

This session explores the encounter between religion and ecology in specific cultural and geographic contexts, ranging from Asia to the US. This collection of papers demonstrates how environmental issues, such as farming and waste management are understood and negotiated within religio-cultural contexts and highlights the importance of place.

Theme: Religion and Conservation in Context

James Miller, Queen's University
Daoism and Sustainability in Contemporary China

Elizabeth Allison, California Institute of Integral Studies
Liminal Beasts: Dogs, Pigs, and Other Challenges to Ecological and Ritual Purity in Bhutan

Steven Masters, Drew University
Backpacking the Long Trail: Sacred Ritual in Vermont's Viridis Montis

George James, University of North Texas
Indian Hermeneutics of Nature and the Hermeneutic of Nature of Hindu Nationalism
Suzanne Armstrong, Wilfrid Laurier University
*Understandings of Christian Stewardship in Farming Through the Work of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Canada*

**M21-300**
New Horizons in Religion and Ecology  
11/21/2011  
6:45 PM to 7:45 PM  
Room: Continental Ballroom Salon 1 - Hilton Union Square

At this wine and cheese reception hosted by the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS, San Francisco), meet with others interested in the study of religion and ecology. Four CIIS faculty—Elizabeth Allison, Robert McDermott, Jacob Sherman, and Brian Swimme—will briefly introduce a new CIIS MA and Ph.D. level program of study in *Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion*.

**A18-302** 🍷

**A19-236** ⭐

**Religion, Food, and Eating in North America Seminar**

Saturday - 1:00 pm-3:30 pm  
MM-Yerba Buena 8; View Map (coming soon)  
Download vCalendar File (for use in Outlook or Palm Desktop) (coming soon)

Reid L. Neilson, Latter-Day Saints Church, Presiding

Theme: *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*
Leonard Norman Primiano, Cabrini College
"The Abundance of the Fullness": Mother Divine's Theology of Food

Todd LeVasseur, University of Florida
Koinonia Partners: A "Demonstration Plot" for Food, Fellowship, and Sustainability

Nora L. Rubel, University of Rochester
The Feast at the End of the Fast: The Emergence of a New American Jewish Practice

Benjamin Zeller, Brevard College
Quasireligious American Foodways: The Cases of Vegetarianism and Locavorism

Sarah Robinson, Claremont Graduate University
Refreshing the Concept of Halal Meat in Muslim American Context in Taqwa Ecofood Cooperative

Derek Hicks, Lancaster Theological Seminary
An Unusual Feast: Gumbo and the Complex Brew of Black Religion

Business Meeting:
Benjamin Zeller, Brevard College
**Society of Christian Ethics**

11/19/2011

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**Room:** Continental Ballroom Salon 4 - Hilton Union Square

Theme: *Spirit, Scripture, Ethics: Pneumatological Engagements with Knotty Ethical Issues*

This is the second of two SCE sessions offering pneumatological explorations of the intersection of Scripture and ethics. Ethicists and exegetes offer constructive proposals and display their entailments for one particular "knotty" ethical issue. Discussion following the papers will be actively directed by the session moderator in order to stimulate conversation across disciplinary boundaries.

Jacqueline Lapsley, Princeton Theological Seminary, Presiding (5 min)

Christopher Holmes, University of Otago

*“Let us also be Guided by the Spirit”: The Promise of the Abrahamic Blessing for Human Sexuality Today* (25 min)

Coleman Fannin, Baylor University

*Indwelling the Church and Reconciling Creation: Toward a Pneumatological Theology of Ecology* (25 min)

Guenther "Gene" Haas, Redeemer University College

*Scripture, Spirit and the 'Ethical' Behaviour of Autonomous Military Robots* (25 min)

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**Ecological Hermeneutics**

11/20/2011

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**Room:** Nob Hill B - Marriott Marquis

Theme: *Hebrew Bible and Methodology*

Elaine Wainwright, University of Auckland, Presiding

Kristel Clayville, University of Chicago

*Rachel Carson's Silent Spring as Biblical Commentary* (30 min)

Karina Martin Hogan. Fordham University
**The Slander of the Devouring Land in Ezekiel** (30 min)
Jeanette Mathews, Charles Sturt University

**An Ecological Reading of Habakkuk** (30 min)
Jeffrey S. Lamp, Oral Roberts University

"The Poor Will Always Be with You": Another Look at Suspicion and Identification in Ecological Hermeneutics (30 min)

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**S20-223**

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**Ethics and Biblical Interpretation**

11/20/2011

1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Room: Salon 5 - Marriott Marquis

Theme: *The Bible, Eschatologies, and their Moral Implications*

Mark Douglas, Columbia Theological Seminary, Presiding

Grant MacAskill, University of St. Andrews

*Sanctus and Sanctification: Grounding Holiness on the Temple’s Cornerstone* (30 min)

Stanley Saunders, Columbia Theological Seminary

*Salt for the Earth: Eschatology, Ecology, and the Empire of Heaven in Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount* (30 min)

Discussion (30 min)

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**S21-119**

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**Ecological Hermeneutics**

11/21/2011

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Room: Sierra I - Marriott Marquis

Theme: *Evolving Methodologies for Eco-Hermeneutics*

Hilary Marlow, University of Cambridge, Presiding

Norman Habel, Flinders University and Peter Trudinger, Flinders University

*Ecological Hermeneutics and the Bible: Centering Earth* (30 min)

David Horrell, University of Exeter, Cherryl Hunt, University of Exeter and Christopher Southgate. University of Exeter
The Exeter project: Towards an Ecotheological Hermeneutic (30 min)
Ellen Bernstein, Holyoke, MA

The Natural Intelligence of the Bible: A Jewish Perspective (30 min)
Ernst Conradi, University of the Western Cape, Respondent (15 min)
Barbara Rossing, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Respondent (15 min)
Discussion (30 min)