Panelists, Participants Discuss New Research

CSR sponsored several events this year to discuss new research on religion that has been published in the past year. In December, Kathryn Lofton, Yale University, Leigh Schmidt, Harvard Divinity School, and J. Terry Todd, Drew University discussed The New Metaphysicals: Spirituality and the American Imagination with author Courtney Bender, Columbia University. Schmidt probed what it means for the Cambridge metaphysicals featured in the book to maintain a “dehistoricizing disposition.” Todd explored how the book illuminates debates over acceptable spiritual belief and practice lurking beneath more obvious battles in Protestant churches today. Lofton clarified Bender’s assertion that the American religious imagination has been defined by its combinatorial capacity rather than its discriminations. Audience members came away with new tools to understand and interrogate the American phenomenon of “spiritual but not religious.”

In a packed auditorium in March, CSR hosted a discussion of Blessed are the Organized: Grassroots Democracy in America, the latest book by CSR Faculty Associate Jeffrey Stout. Responding were David Bromwich, Yale University, Ernesto Cortes, Jr., the Southwest Regional Director of the Industrial Areas Foundation, and Emilie Townes, Yale Divinity School. Bromwich used Stout’s ideas of earned authority and representation to examine the shortcomings of the current presidential administration. Townes urged us to live into the hope and hard work of grassroots democracy, while Cortes shared his personal experiences on the ground with the IAF seeking to build this very democracy. The discussion imparted a vision of what excellent citizenship is. During the question-and-answer period Stout clarified how organizing can be successful when it is broad-based and takes into account ethics of means, especially as inspired by religious traditions.

Later in the Spring, CSR collaborated with the Princeton University Press to explore its newly launched book series: the Lives of Great Religious Books. Three series authors, Donald Lopez, Jr., University of Michigan, Martin Marty, University of Chicago, Emeritus, and Vanessa Ochs, University of Virginia, shared perspectives on their new and forthcoming books. CSR Faculty Associate Eric Gregory moderated the discussion of such disparate works as the Passover Haggadah and the Tibetan Book of the Dead (which, the audience learned, is neither Tibetan, nor a book, nor of the dead). Participants debated exactly what it means to argue that a book has a life in and of itself.
A few words from a Graduate Student Fellow, Matthew Milliner

“A few weeks into the Religion & Culture symposium last fall, participants began to realize that ours was an unusual gathering of academic minds. Professor John Gager and the post-doctoral members of the group set a tone that made graduate student participants such as I feel welcome. Feedback to each dissertation or book chapter was cordial and serious, and the conversation easily filled an hour and a half, and could have gone on much longer. The tone for the year was set, and I began to look forward to giving feedback each week, and – what’s more – I began to generate my dissertation chapter not just for an abstract audience, but for the members of our group. This helped lift my work from the perils of specialization, causing me to want to reach an intelligent audience beyond my field.”
Undergraduate Research Fellows
Hollis Barber ’11, History, “Segregation and Discrimination of North African Immigrants in France”
Adam Bradlow ’11, Anthropology, “Imagining China”
Hannah Cohen ’11, Religion, “Prosperity Theology in Lakewood Church”
Elizabeth Cooper ’12, Anthropology, “Exploring the Choreography of Authentic Movement”
Lauren Cubellis ’11, Anthropology, “Curanderismo: Mexican Ritual Healing in the American Southwest”
Anne Frances Durfee ’11, History, “Women, Religion and the Vote in the Election of 1948”
Mary Gamber ’11, Religion, “The Conference Board Summer Fellowship: Exploring the Relationship Between Business and Ethics”
Phoenix Gonzales ’11, Religion, “Mystery and Passion Play Research”
Gabriela Gonzales-Araiza ’12, Politics, “Religious Liberty from a Legal Perspective”
Aarian Marshall ’12, Religion, “‘Mountain Mourning’: At the Intersection of Religion, Regional Identity and Environmental Activism in Appalachia”
Benjamin Oseroff ’11, Near Eastern Studies, “Islamic Bioethics and Genetic Testing”
Liz Parsons ’11, History, “Tracing the Princeton Unit with the Young Men’s Christian Association, 1917-1918”
Amelia Ridgeway ’12, Religion, “Muslim-Christian Relations in Tanzania”
Patricia Sever ’11, Spanish and Portuguese, “Perception and Memory in Borges and Biy Casares”
Kit Thayer ’11, History, “Benjamin Disraeli’s Jewishness”
Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux ’11, Religion, “The Faith of Abstinence?: Abstinence, Chastity and Female Sexuality on American College Campuses”
Eva Marie Wash ’11, Art and Archaeology, “Creativity and Christian Faith in Community”

A few words from an Undergraduate Fellow, Aarian Marshall ’12
“My involvement with the Center was not limited to my grant; I was also invited to attend countless lectures, as well as many post-talk dinners. These were beyond fascinating—somehow, I found myself sitting at a dinner table, eating delicious Prospect House food and conversing with some of the most brilliant minds in the country. During one of those dinners—with Alexia Kelley, Deputy Director and Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships—I was even given the opportunity to talk about my junior paper, and get feedback from the professors and grad students in attendance. It felt so...intellectual; I came to college to talk and think about big ideas, and I really think that the Center for the Study of Religion has given me concrete chances to do so.”
Center-Sponsored Events in Review

**Buddhist Studies Workshop**, featured selections


“The Iconic Body as Insight into Japanese Buddhist Practice” Helmut Brinker, University of Zurich, Emeritus, October 12, 2010


“Printing or Copying? The Merit of Copying Buddhist Texts in Medieval Japan,” Kikuchi Hiroki, The Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo, February 22, 2011


“Spiritual Progress: Buddhist Judging in Late Sixteenth-century China,” Jennifer Eichman, Moravian College, March 10, 2011

“Buddhism in North China under the Liao and Xixia Dynasties,” Kirill Solonin, Institute of Oriental Studies/IAS, April 5, 2011


“Who or What is to be Blamed? The Framing of ‘Natural’ Disasters in Medieval Japan,” Haruko Wakabayashi, Meiji Gakuin University, April 21, 2011

**Crossroads of Religion and Politics Lecture Series**

“Resolving the Irish Conflict: No Conflict is Intractable,” Gerry Adams MP, President of Sinn Féin, September 24, 2010


“Economics vs. Extremism: The New Muslim Middle Class and Ideological Shift in the Muslim World,” Vali Nasr, Professor of International Politics, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and Senior Advisor to Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. State Department, December 8, 2010

“Islamophobia and the Reconstruction of Muslim American Culture,” Yvonne Haddad, Professor at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, February 23, 2011


**Doll Family Lectureship on Religion and Money**


**Faith & Work Initiative Conversations with David W. Miller on Ethics in the Executive Suite**

A Conversation with Dale Jones, Vice Chairman, Heidrick & Struggles, March 8, 2011

A Conversation with Max Anderson ’01, Co-founder and Author of The MBA Oath. March 31, 2011

A Conversation with Ken Melrose ’62, former Chairman and
CEOs, The Toro Company, April 12, 2011

A Conversation with Anne Mulcahy, Chairman, Save the Children; former Chairman and CEO, Xerox Company,” April 21, 2011

A Conversation with John Bogle ’51, Founder and former Chairman and CEO, Vanguard Funds, May 27, 2011. A Reunions event, co-sponsored with the Westminster Foundation.

Princeton Lecture in Religion and Global Culture
“Defeating Intolerance: Social Science Research and Strategies for Interfaith Cooperation,” Eboo Patel, Founder and Executive Director, Interfaith Youth Core, April 28, 2011

Featured Panel Discussions

“The New Metaphysicals” A Panel Discussion of Courtney Bender’s New Book, featuring Kathryn Lofton, Yale University, Leigh Schmidt, Harvard Divinity School, and J. Terry Todd, Drew University, December 10, 2010

“Blessed are the Organized” A Panel Discussion of Jeffrey Stout’s New Book, featuring David Bromwich, Yale University, Ernesto Cortes, Jr., Industrial Areas Foundation, and Emilie Townes, Yale Divinity School, March 2, 2011


Additional Lectures and Events


“Saints’ Liturgies: Profiles of a Practice in the Middle Ages” Conference co-sponsored with the Program in Medieval Studies, November 12-13, 2010

“Science vs. Religion: What Scientists Really Think,” Lecture by Elaine Howard Ecklund, Rice University, November 18, 2010

“Diego Hurtado de Mendoza: Spain, Italy, and the Culture of Skepticism, 1520-1550,” Lecture by Stefania Pastore, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa/Institute for Advanced Study, November 22, 2010

“The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration,” A Discussion with author Isabel Wilkerson, co-sponsored with the Center for African American Studies, December 7, 2010


“Religion, Politics and Society from Constantine to Charlemagne,” Co-sponsored conference in honor of Peter Brown, May 5-7, 2011
Updates from CSR Fellows and Alumni

It was a great year for employment for our visiting fellows. Annie Blazer will become Assistant Professor of religious studies at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. Grace Yukich will become Assistant Professor of Sociology at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. Phil Haberkern is leaving us a year early to become Assistant Professor of History at Boston University, while Jessica Delgado will remain with us as a Stewart Fellow for one more year before becoming Assistant Professor here in Princeton’s Religion Department. The best news for us is that she will lead the Religion and Culture workshop in the future. Past visiting fellows shared equally exciting news. Graduate Student Fellow D. Michael Lindsay (’04-’06) has left Rice University to become the eighth president of Gordon College, located on Boston’s North Shore, effective July 1, 2011. Wendy Cadge (Graduate Student Fellow ’00-’01) and her partner Deborah had a baby. Wendy gave birth to Nate Elliott-Cadge. Penny Edgell (Visiting Fellow ’00-’01) is now a full professor at the University of Minnesota. After serving as director of graduate studies for 6 years she is finally stepping down. Penny just got an NSF grant for a project titled “The Role of Cognition in the Development of Social Fragmentation, Commonalities, and Consensus” that aims to map out the cultural terrain in the “vast middle” of America where the “culture wars” thesis doesn’t hold up. Oh, and she is recently engaged to be married, too! Nate Klemp (GSF ’04-’05) started a blog called Life Beyond Logic that explores philosophy as a way of life. His book The Morality of Spin, based on his research at CSR, is under contract with Rowman and Littlefield Press. Levi McLaughlin (GSF ’08-’09), Assistant Professor at Wofford College, will be a Visiting Researcher at the Asian Studies Institute, National University of Singapore for the summer of 2011; he will be working with scholars in the “Religions and Globalization” research cluster as he revises his dissertation. In 2011-2012, he will be a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Iowa, where he will complete his book and begin new research on religion in modern East Asia. The Louisville Institute awarded Janet Parker (VF ’04-’05) a Pastoral Study Project grant. She will be on sabbatical for three months from Rock Spring UCC to work on her book. She started a blog to reflect on her sabbatical travels and experiences. Mark Rowe (GSF ’05-’06), in addition to taking up hot yoga, was recently tenured at McMaster University. His book, Bonds of the Dead: Temples, Burial and the Transformation of Contemporary Japanese Buddhism, will be released by University of Chicago Press in September. He is now on leave researching his next book. Oliver Krüger (VF ’05-’06) has published with two colleagues Das Prinzip Evolution. He traces the origin of the book to the first lecture on religion and evolution he gave here at the Center! Holger Zellentin (GSF ’05-’06) just published Rabbinic Parodies of Jewish and Christian Literature. He also accepted a position at the University of Nottingham at the beginning of this year and is thrilled to return to good old Europe!

CSR in the blogosphere

CSR people can be found all over cyberspace!

- FaithandWorkblog.com showcases the essays of David W. Miller, Director of the Faith & Work Initiative.
- TheImmanentFrame.com boasts former Visiting Fellows Grace Yukich and Kathryn Lofton as contributing editors and features many CSR alumni contributions.
- BooksandCulture.com is where Visiting Fellow alum Lauren Winner reviews the best new books from a Christian perspective.
- LifeBeyondLogic.com is a blog founded by Nate Klemp, former Graduate Student Fellow, to explore philosophy as a way of life.
- BecomingHumanJourney.blogspot.com is where Former Visiting Fellow Janet Parker blogs about her pastoral sabbatical.
- EqualWrites.com, devoted to feminist and gender issues at Princeton, was co-founded by Undergraduate Research Fellow Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux ’11.
- ReligionDispatches.org includes posts by alumni such as Anthea Butler, Wendy Cadge, Levi McLaughlin and Anthony Petro and this summer presented a story on Jeffrey Stout’s CSR-featured book, Blessed are the Organized.

Do you blog? Let us know!
Crossroads of Religion and Politics
A conversation with Rachel McCleary, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, October 19, 2011

A conversation with Jennifer Butler, Executive Director, Faith in Public Life, Date TBA

Princeton Lecture in Religion and Science
“Principles of Neurotheology,” lecture by Andrew Newberg, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Medical College, March 7, 2012

Princeton Lecture in Religion and Global Culture
“Making Chastity Sexy,” lecture by Christine Gardner, Wheaton College, Date TBA

Buddhist Studies Workshop

“Who is Zhuhuilun (?-875/876)? An Assessment of Late Tang Esoteric Buddhism,” Jinhua Chen, University of British Columbia, November 16, 2011

“Daoist Painting,” Carma Hinton, George Mason University, November 30, 2011


“Giant Buddhas, Theme Parks, and Curio Cabinets: Public Spaces in the Making of Buddhism,” Lecture by Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania, April 24, 2012


Conferences and Panel Discussions
“The King James Bible from 1611 to 2011,” an international conference, featuring keynote speaker Gordon Campbell, co-sponsored with the Princeton Theological Seminary and the Center of Theological Inquiry, October 13-14, 2011

“Pilgrims and Pioneers: The Growth of Orthodox Christianity in Twentieth-Century America,” co-sponsored with the Princeton University graduate students of the Fr. Florovsky Orthodox Christian Theological Society, September 30-October 1, 2011

“Spirits of Protestantism: Medicine, Healing, and Liberal Christianity” A Panel Discussion of Pamela Klassen’s new book, Spring 2012

Doll Lecture on Religion and Money
Lecture by Joshua DuBois, Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Date TBA

Visiting Fellows
Elesha Coffman, Waynesburg University
Jaeun Kim, University of California, Los Angeles
Jessica Delgado, Stewart Fellow
Kate Carté Engel, affiliate, Texas A&M University
Samuel Goldman, Tikvah Fellow in Religion, Ethics and Politics

Religion and Culture Graduate Student Fellows
Thomas Carlson, History
April Hughes, Religion
Sarit Kattan-Gibretz, Religion
George Laufenberg, Anthropology
Jebro Lit, History
Bryan Lowe, Religion
Daniel Stolz, Near Eastern Studies
Lev Weitz, Near Eastern Studies

Religion and Public Life Graduate Student Fellows
Douglas Gildow, Religion
Erin Johnston, Sociology
Kati Li, Sociology
Carol Ann MacGregor, Sociology
Danielle Nahmias, Anthropology
LiErin Probasco, Sociology
Brad Smith, Sociology
Irene (Beth) Stroud, Religion
Alexander Wamboldt, Anthropology

Undergraduate Research Fellows
Elizabeth Cooper ’12, Anthropology
Daniel Bohac ’12, Religion
John Butler ’12, Art and Archaeology
Marjorie Crowell ’12, Sociology
Trent Fuenmayor ’12, WWS
Elena Garadja ’12, Philosophy
Julia Keimach ’12, English
Aarian Marshall ’12, Religion
Hasan Onder Polat ’12, Economics
Amelia Ridgeway ’12, Religion
Michelle Ripplinger ’12, English
Miriam Rosenbaum ’12, WWS
Michele Tyler ’12, Anthropology
Julia Vill ’12, History
### By the Numbers

#### CSR in 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of majors represented by our Undergraduate Fellows</td>
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<td>Anthropology, Art &amp; Archaeology, Dance, History, Near Eastern Studies, Politics, Religion, Spanish &amp; Portuguese</td>
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<td>Number of books published by CSR fellows this year</td>
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<td>Number who follow CSR on email and Facebook</td>
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#### About Center for the Study of Religion

The Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University was founded in 1999 to encourage greater intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary scholarly studies about religion among faculty and students in the humanities and social sciences. The Center is committed to scholarly research and teaching that examines religion comparatively and empirically in its diverse historical and contemporary manifestations. It aims to facilitate understanding of religion through a program of support for Princeton faculty to teach and direct public events; awards for Princeton graduate and undergraduate students to pursue research; two interdisciplinary seminars; undergraduate courses; public lectures and conferences; and opportunities for visiting scholars to affiliate with the Center.

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