



Princeton University

CENTER *for the* STUDY of RELIGION

Fall 2012 Newsletter

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Teaching Opportunities Enriching for Graduate Fellows and Seminaries

Since 2002, the Center has matched graduate students seeking teaching experience with Christian seminaries and colleges. The teaching fellowship program, funded by a Lilly Endowment grant, has provided Princeton graduate students invaluable experience at institutions in the United States and Canada.

Teaching fellows have the opportunity and resources to construct and teach their own courses. Seminaries provide a faculty mentor to offer support and feedback. Those faculty mentors have been a crucial resource for four-time teaching fellow **LiErin Probasco**. She says having senior colleagues sit in on class sessions was nerve-racking at first. However, their supportive feedback helped her identify strengths and areas for growth. "I felt like a valued colleague," she reports, "thanks to their clear respect for and encouragement of my abilities and goals as a teacher."

For seminaries, the diverse expertise of these emerging scholars and teachers enhances core curricula. Courses address topics historical – such as "Women Leaders of the Medieval Church" or "Christian Education in its Late-Roman Context" – and contemporary, such as "Race and American Christianity." The courses introduce more than new subject matter. Fellows teach students to apply discipline-specific tools to analyzing theological and practical problems. In **Carol Ann MacGregor's** Summer 2012 course, "Congregation as Organization" (at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia), she shared sociological research methods and institutional theories of community formation and conflict resolution. Students enthusiastically rose to the challenge of applying these tools to building case studies of congregations in conflict. The course provided church leaders with new frameworks for thinking about congregational

life as well as skills for assessing needs and evaluating programs.

Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) in Newton, MA has hosted 8 courses, on topics like "Prison Ministry," "The Religious Lives of 20-Somethings," and "Christian-Jewish Relations in America." **Sarah Drummond**, Dean of the Faculty, says the program gives students in-depth access to a variety of subjects. Faculty mentors "play a role in shaping the next generation of seminary teachers," she explains. Mentoring teaching fellows challenges her faculty to think more about "the intersection between teaching theology and religion and teaching to teach."

Seminary Teaching Internship Program

By the Numbers:

- 11 Years
- 71 Courses
- 41 Fellows
- 21 Seminaries
- 2 Countries

Selected Courses:

"Who Belongs to God's Family? Women, Slaves, and Children in Early Christianity," **Eduard Iricinschi** at McCormick Theological Seminary

"Introduction to Christian Mysticism," **Lisa Cerami** at Drew University Theological Seminary

"Theology and Economic Life," **Amy Reynolds** at Andover Newton Theological School

"Engaging Differences: Church Debates over Homosexuality," **Heather White** at Wesley Theological Seminary

2011-2012 CSR Fellows



Visiting Fellows

Elesha Coffman, now University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Jaeeun Kim, now Stanford University
Jessica Delgado, Stewart Fellow, now Princeton University
Kate Carté Engel, now Southern Methodist University
Samuel Goldman, Tikvah Fellow in Religion, Ethics, and Politics, Princeton University

Religion and Culture Graduate Student Fellows

Thomas Carlson, History
April Hughes, Religion
Sarit Kattan-Gribetz, 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

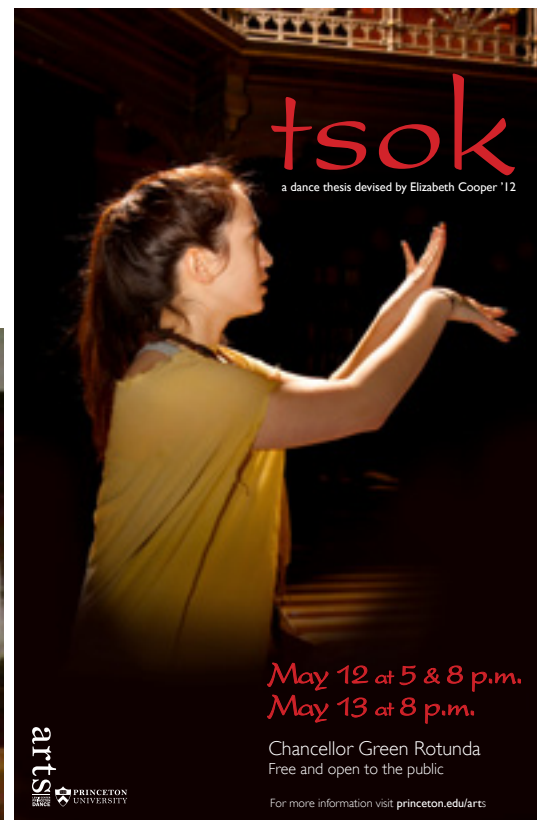
Douglas Gildow, Religion
Erin Johnston, Sociology
Kati Li, Sociology
Carol Ann MacGregor, Sociology
Danielle Nahmias, Anthropology
LiErin Probasco, Sociology
Brad Smith, Sociology
Beth Stroud, Religion
Alexander Wamboldt, Anthropology



2011-2012 Undergraduate Fellows

Daniel Bohac '12, Religion
John Butler '12, Art and Archaeology
Elizabeth Cooper '12, Anthropology
Marjorie Crowell '12, Sociology
Jonathan Evans '12, Anthropology
Trent Fuenmayor '12, WWS
Elena Garadja '12, Philosophy
Julie Han '12, Psychology
Lauren Jackson '12, History

Julia Keimach '12, English
Diana Lam '12, Archaeology
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



Left: Undergraduate Fellows gather at the Center to discuss their research. Right: Senior thesis funding from CSR enabled Elizabeth Cooper '12 to travel to northern India, where she conducted ethnographic research for her anthropological study of Tibetan Buddhist nuns. The experience also inspired her collaborative dance performance thesis, "tsok," which means "gathering" in Tibetan.

Find Our Fellows Online

Blogs:

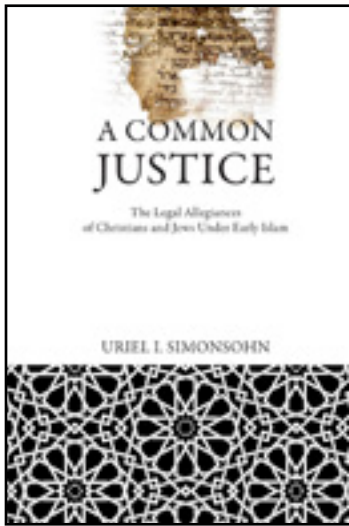
- <http://www.fromunderthefigtree.com>
Jenna Weisman Joselit (Advisory Council member) runs this site focused on Jewish arts & letters.
- <http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com>
Grace Yukich co-edits this site hosted by the Center for the Study of Social Movements at Notre Dame.
- <http://absolute-disruption.com>
Jason Ānanda Josephson writes this blog dedicated to the fate of "theory" after postmodernism and to theory and method in Religious Studies more broadly.
- <https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/bh297>
Becky Yang Hsu blogs here. She also guest blogs for Black, White, and Gray, a site where sociologists who are Christian write about the nexus of research and Christian practice. <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/blackwhiteandgray/>
- <http://www.religionandpolitics.org>
Current Graduate Fellow **Alfredo Garcia** interviews Center director **Robert Wuthnow** for this new site.

Twitter:

- **Courtney Bender**, Columbia University: [@achtungbender](https://twitter.com/achtungbender)
- **Conrad Hackett**, Pew Research Center: [@conradhackett](https://twitter.com/conradhackett)

Have a blog or twitter account to share? Email csrelig@princeton.edu

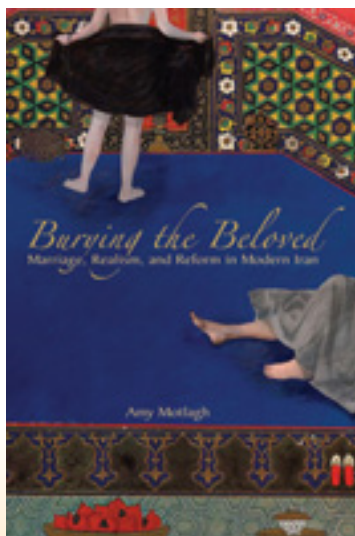
Updates from CSR Fellows and Alumni



This year, Visiting Fellows crossed disciplinary lines in their career paths. **Elesha Coffman** joined the faculty of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, while historian **Kate Carté Engel** moved to the Religious Studies Department of Southern Methodist University. **Jaeun Kim** holds a post-doctoral fellowship at the Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center at Stanford (2012-2013) and will be Assistant Professor of Sociology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, in August 2013. Graduate fellow **Bryan Lowe** is Mellon Assistant Professor of Religions Studies at Vanderbilt University. **Carol Ann MacGregor** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Loyola New Orleans.

Former fellows have also had an exciting year on the job front. **Rebecca Davis** (University of Delaware) and **Anne Lester** (University of Colorado at Boulder) have both been promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure. **Paul Gutjahr** has been promoted to full Professor at Indiana University. In Fall 2011, **Chris Graces** began a tenure-track position at Cornell University's Department of Anthropology, and **Daniel Hanna** began as Assistant Professor of French and Spanish at Lake Forest College. **Ra'anan Boustan** recently completed a year as Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellow in the newly founded Department of Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin before returning to the UCLA History Department. **James McCartin** is now Director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture. In Fall 2012 **Katie Holscher** became Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies and the endowed chair of Catholic studies at the University of New Mexico. **Annie Blazer** joined the Religious Studies Department at The College of William and Mary. **Jack Tan-nous** returned to Princeton as Assistant Professor in the History Department.

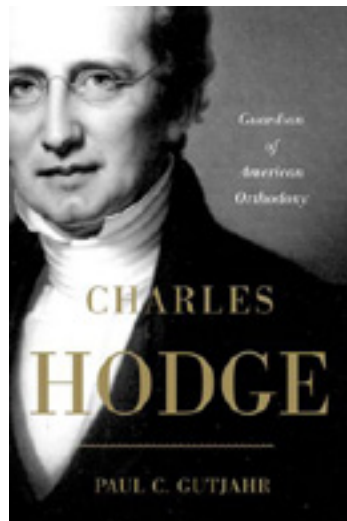
Several former fellows have recently published books based on the dissertations they completed or revised



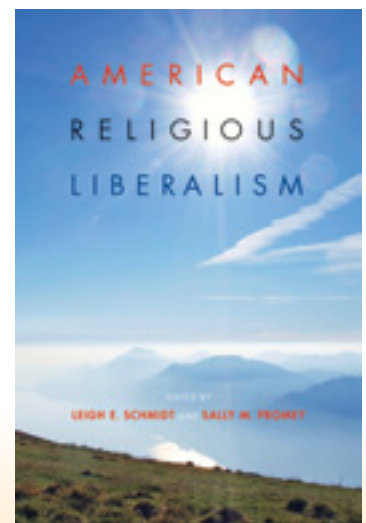
during their time at the Center. Congratulations to **Lisa Bailey**, **Katie Holscher**, **Jason Ananda Josephson**, **Anne Lester**, **Amy Motlagh**, **Behnam Sadeghi**, **Uriel Simonsohn**, and **Val Vinokur**! Former fellows **Paul Gutjahr** and **Ryan Jordan** also have recent books. The Center's Annual Report, available for download on the center [website](#), includes complete bibliographic information for these and other recent publications by our fellows.

Congratulations to recent fellowship and award winners! **Darren Dochuk** and **Jebro Lit** both received fellowships from ACLS. Darren's research project is "Anointed with Oil: God and Black Gold in Modern America." Jeb received the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for his work, "A Reformation of Tears: Christianity and the Invention of Western Emotion." **Rebecca Davis** and **Anthony Petro** were jointly awarded the 2012 LGBT Religious History Award (from the LGBT Religious Archives Network) for separate articles. Graduate Fellow **Erin Johnston** received honorable mention in the Student Paper Award of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for her research on pagan conversion experiences. We also welcome new family members to the CSR community. Associate Director **Jenny Wiley Legath** welcomed her third son, Cole Jeffrey. Congratulations to **Daniel Hanna**, **Andrew Lewis**, and **Douglas Gildow**, who each became first-time fathers this year. **Katrina Olds** reports she has two sons (7 and 2 years old). **Becky Hsu** gave birth to a son in August.

Finally, congratulations to the Undergraduate Research Fellows of the Class of 2012. The Center's seventeen thesis writers from ten disciplines have diverse plans for the coming year. Some will pursue graduate degrees in economics, law and social work, Christian ethics, and more. Others will travel, studying theater in Paris or teaching in Khazakhstan or Somaliland. We look forward to hearing about their next adventures!



AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LIBERALISM



Featured Events from 2011-2012

Visit the Events page of our [website](#) for a **full list** of 2011-2012 events and to **view or download** event [webcasts](#).

“Competition in U.S. International Aid: the State and NGOs,” Crossroads of Religion and Politics lunchtime discussion with [Rachel McCleary](#)

“Japan’s Oldest Archive: **A Workshop on the Shōsōin** (in Japanese),” Buddhist Studies Workshop Conference with [Sakehara Towao](#), organized by [Bryan D. Lowe](#) and [Christopher Mayo](#)

“A Wondrous Gift For Women? The Blood Bowl Sūtra in Buddhist Commentaries from Early Modern Japan,” Buddhist Studies Workshop lecture by [Lori Meeks](#)

“Principles of **Neurotheology**,” Princeton Lecture in Religion and Science by [Andrew Newberg](#) (pictured above)

“Debating the Intersections of **Religious Freedom and Women’s Health**,” Crossroads of Religion and Politics lunchtime discussion with [Allison L. Boden](#), [Kathleen A. Brady](#), and [Daniel K. Williams](#)



“Spirits, Demons, and Companions: Animals in Medieval Chinese Buddhism,” Buddhist Studies Workshop lecture by [Huaiyu Chen](#)

“Faith in Public Life,” Crossroads of Religion and Politics lunchtime discussion with [Jennifer Butler](#)

“World Faiths Development Dialogue: Report on **Cambodia**,” with [Katherine Marshall](#) and [Michael Scharff](#), lunchtime discussion

“Spirits of Protestantism: **Medicine, Healing and Liberal Christianity**,” a panel discussion

(pictured above) of the new book by [Pamela Klassen](#), featuring [Courtney Bender](#), [João Biehl](#) and [John Lardas Modern](#)

“Ethics in the Newsroom?” Interview with [Lauren Green](#), **FOX News Religion Correspondent**, Faith and Ethics in the Executive Suite event led by [David W. Miller](#), Princeton Faith and Work Initiative

“Making Chastity Sexy: The Rhetoric of Evangelical Abstinence Campaigns,” [Christine Gardner](#)

“Slavery, Race, and Gender in Islamic Societies: A Comparative Perspective,” [conference](#) organized by [Shaun Marmon](#)

“Mount Fuji Religion: The Debate over **Talismanic Practices**,” Buddhist Studies Workshop lecture by [Janine Sawanda](#)

“Faith and Money: **How Religious Belief Contributes to Wealth and Poverty**,” Doll Lecture by [Lisa Keister](#) (pictured right)

“The **King James Bible** from 1611-2011: Its Champions, Critics, and Continuing Legacy” conference featuring [Gordon Campbell](#) and a screening of the [film](#) “KJB: The Book that Changed the World” with director [Norman Stone](#), co-sponsored with the Princeton Theological Seminary and the Center of Theological Inquiry



2011-2012 Highlights

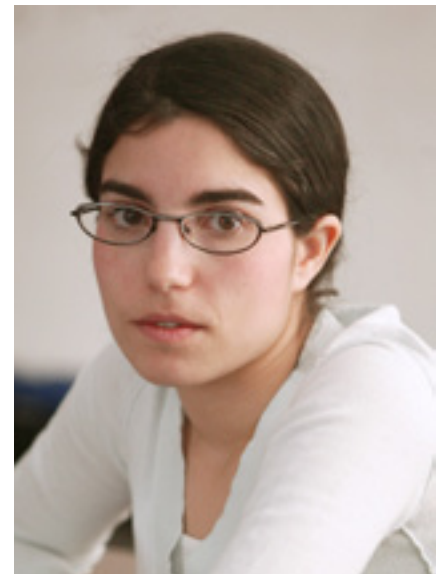


400 Years of the KJB

The film “KJB: The Book that Changed the World” set the stage for an engrossing conference with presentations by 11 scholars from the US and the UK. The keynote address by **Gordon Campbell** (pictured left) described how a readership focused on orality and memorization informed editors’ scrupulous crafting of the “pulse” and nearly poetic rhythm of the KJB’s prose. Panelists, including Princeton Theological Seminary’s President, **Iain Torrance**, and former CSR Fellow **Paul Gutjahr**, discussed the book’s history, supporters and critics, and its legacy in the 21st century. Conference participants browsed an exhibit of bibles from the Scheide Library’s collection, including a Wycliffite Bible (ca. 1400) and a first edition of the King James Bible.

From CSR Conference to *Jewish Studies Quarterly*

In 2009, CSR co-sponsored a conference on “Rabbis and Others in Conversation” organized by graduate students **Moulie Vidas** (CSR Fellow ’08-09) and **Sarit Kattan-Gribetz** (CSR Fellow ’11-12, pictured right). The conference explored dialogues, found throughout rabbinic literature, between rabbis and non-rabbinic figures: so-called “heretics” and “idolaters,” magicians and philosophers, Roman and Persian officials, members of competing Jewish elites and masses, women, and others. This year, a [special issue](#) of *Jewish Studies Quarterly* (19:2) features papers that emerged from the conference. Vidas and Gribetz wrote an introduction highlighting the issues’ themes, including the intersections (real and imagined) between those in the rabbinic community with those beyond it and the interface between literary forms/genres and historical reconstruction in the study of ancient texts.



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.

Research Update: “The Integration Box”

In his 2007 [book](#), *God at Work: The History & Promise of the Faith at Work Movement*, **David W. Miller** proposed “The Integration Box” (TIB), a theoretical model of the manifestations of faith, religion, and spirituality in the work place. Since then, Miller, Director of Princeton’s Faith & Work Initiative, has worked with research assistant **Jonathan Lea** and colleague **Timothy Ewest** of Wartburg College to turn this theoretical model into a reliable, validated instrument. Miller reports: “Early response from scholars and marketplace practitioners is that The Integration Box theory and instrument will provide a unique scholarly foundation and offer practical new applications for both individuals and organizations seeking to understand and constructively engage issues of faith and work.” Widespread distribution of the survey begins soon. New, tradition-specific instruments are planned for future development. For more information about the TIB or the Faith & Work Initiative, find them [online](#).

Selected Dissertations in Progress



LiErin Probasco, Sociology. *More good than harm: Moral action and evaluation in international religious volunteer tourism*

How do people learn to interact across vast differences in culture, class, and interpersonal power? I study transnational humanitarian encounters through two years' fieldwork in Nicaragua and the US with two Christian relief and development organizations and 220+ interviews with US and Nicaraguan aid participants. I explain how orienting practices frame cross-cultural contact, how travelers and Nicaraguans experience and interpret humanitarian interactions, and how encounters shape claims of personal and social change. "Episodic" orientations stress interpersonal intimacy and improvisation, suggesting personal connections liberate people from the constraints of social inequality. "Embedded" orientations view interpersonal intimacy as a force to be monitored and managed to avoid reproducing patterns of dominance and dependency. Efforts to embody these orientations challenge travelers and Nicaraguans alike to re-imagine the meaning and goals of transnational humanitarian contact.

Allison Schnable, Sociology. *Voluntrepreneurs: The Growth of American Grassroots Development Organizations*

My dissertation examines the 10,000 new international aid organizations that have been founded by Americans since 1990. Beneath the global exchanges of trade and the movements of a cosmopolitan elite, American citizens are more quietly forging global ties through immigration, tourism, volunteering, study, work, and adoption. These ties have shaped a remarkable trend in international aid: the flowering of grassroots relief and development organizations, operating independently from the established development institutions of bilateral aid agencies, international agencies like UNICEF, or religious mission organizations. I explore religious and secular organizations together to attempt to account for this broader trend toward grassroots assistance and understand the different organizational resources these voluntary entrepreneurs use.



Lev Weitz, Near Eastern Studies. *Family, Law, and Society: Syriac Christians in the Abbasid Caliphate*

The Middle East's history is shaped by the intersections of religious communities' intellectual traditions and social interactions. To this end, my dissertation brings together Islamic and Christian sources in Arabic and Syriac to examine how the legal traditions and social institutions of Islamic society influenced the emergence of Christian family law in medieval Syria and Iraq. The dissertation argues that Syriac Christian bishops used law to instill Christian distinctiveness in the marital practices common to both lay people and their non-Christian neighbors. In doing so, these bishops adopted some of the same legal hermeneutics and ethical norms as Muslim contemporaries. An endeavor aimed at distinguishing the rhythms of Christian social life from that of Muslims thus shaped a Christian intellectual tradition in a distinctly Islamic mold.



To read more about Center fellows' research, see the People page of the Center's [website](#).

The Year Ahead

Events:

For more information, including times and venues, visit the Events page of our [website](#).

Buddhist Studies Workshop

“Enduring Dharma: A Symposium on the Inscription of Buddhist Sacred Texts on Stone,” April 20, 2013.

Crossroads of Religion and Politics

Conversation with **Katharine Wilkinson**, author of *Between Green and God: How Evangelicals are Cultivating a Middle Ground on Climate Change*, October 1, 2012.

“When Liberal Protestant Congregations Organize: Case Studies on Occupy Wall Street and the New Sanctuary Movement,” Conversation with **Donna Schaper**, November 8, 2012.

Doll Lecture on Religion and Money

Lecture by **DeForest “Buster” Soaries, Jr.**, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, March 12, 2013.

Conferences and Panels

“The Book of Job: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Hermeneutics,” featuring **Robert Alter**, University of California at Berkeley, co-sponsored by the Tikvah Project on Jewish Thought, October 14-16, 2012.

“The Religious Right and the 2012 Election,” panel discussion with **Robert Jones**, Public Religion Research Institute, and Princetonians **Kevin Kruse** and **Neil J. Young**, October 16, 2012.

“Out of the Tower, Into the Square: Academics Writing for Public Audiences,” featuring **Wallace Best**, Princeton, **Joseph Blankholm**, Columbia University, **Kevin Eckstrom**, Religion News Service, and **Paul Raushenbush**, Huffington Post, co-sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School and the Program in American Studies, November 30, 2012.

Panel on *Wal-Mart Wars: Moral Populism and the 21st Century* by **Rebekah Peeples Massengill**, Princeton University, Spring 2013.

Panel on *Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine* by **Wendy Cadge**, Brandeis University, March 28, 2013.

“Failure’ in Islamic Reform,” Graduate Student Conference co-sponsored by the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, April 12-13, 2013.

Additional Lectures

“Religion and Spirituality in the Context of Everyday Life,” lecture by **David Sloan Wilson**, Binghamton University, co-sponsored by the Center of Theological Inquiry, October 4, 2012.

“The Great Partnership: God, Science, and the Search for Meaning,” lecture by **Jonathan Sacks**, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Life and the Center of Theological Inquiry, October 17, 2012.

“When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God,” lecture by **Tanya Luhrmann**, co-sponsored by the Office of Religious Life, the Anthropology and Religion Departments, Stanford University, April 1, 2013.

“Living Faith: Everyday Religion and Mother in Poverty” by **Susan Crawford Sullivan**, College of the Holy Cross, April 11, 2013.

People:

Visiting Fellows

Martha Finch, affiliate, Missouri State University
Samuel Goldman, Tikvah Fellow in Religion, Ethics, and Politics, Princeton University
Andrew Johnson, University of Minnesota
Daniel Rivers, affiliate, Emory University
Daniel Vaca, Columbia University

Religion and Culture Graduate Student Fellows

Alexander Bevilacqua, History
Christine Bourgeois, French and Italian
Rozaliya Garipova, Near Eastern Studies
Jun Hu, Art and Archaeology
David Jorgensen, Religion
Ross Lerner, English
Christopher Mayo, East Asian Studies

Religion and Public Life Graduate Student Fellows

Megan Brankley, History
Alfredo Garcia, Sociology
Erin Johnston, Sociology
George Laufenberg, Anthropology
Kati Li, Sociology
Matty Lichtenstein, Sociology
Allison Schnable, Sociology
Steven Snell, Political Science
Irene (Beth) Stroud, Religion

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Laura Anderson '13, Religion
Ahsen Nimet Cebeci '14, Philosophy
Nava Friedman '13, Religion
Aaron Glasserman '13, Near Eastern Studies
Sarah Hedgecock '13, Anthropology
Kristen Kim '13, Psychology
Enoch Kuo '13, Religion
Mohit Manohar '13, Art and Archaeology
Madeline McMahon '13, History
Tessa Romano '13, French and Italian
Elizabeth Scullin '13, Anthropology
Stephanie Tam '13, English