Center Fellow Achievements

Current and former fellows of the Center for the Study of Religion had a busy year with promotions, publications, awards and new endeavors of all kinds. See below and right for images of fellows’ books published this year.

Former Visiting Fellows were especially productive: After the release of her book, Grace Yukich headed out on a road trip this summer, from Connecticut to Seattle, down the west coast, to the Grand Canyon, and back east through Denver. Along with sightseeing and eating their way through different regions of the U.S., she and her husband planned to explore various American religious destinations, like Native American spiritual sites in the Dakotas and the historic Mission San Carlos in Carmel, California. Jaeun Kim won the Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award from the American Sociological Association for “Colonial Migration and Transborder Membership Politics in Twentieth-Century Korea.” Jaeun has completed a fellowship at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University and is beginning a position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University this Fall. Annie Blazer has just completed her first year as Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at The College of William and Mary. She loves the job, where she teaches classes on religion in America. Jonathan Sheehan has become the founding director of the new Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion at the University of California, Berkeley. Look for the new Center to begin programming this Fall. Lisa Materson’s book For the Freedom of Her Race: Black Women and Electoral Politics in Illinois, 1877-1932 was released in paperback in 2013 by the University of North Carolina Press. Former Affiliate Fellow Petra Schierl is pleased to have finished her habilitation, “The Bucolic Deus: A Study of Deified Benefactors in Vergil’s Eclogues” at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Graduate Student Fellows, present and past, continue to make us proud: Allison Youatt Schnable, Christine Bourgeois and Molly Farneth were each awarded Charlotte Newcombe dissertation fellowships. Alfredo Garcia received a teaching award from the Graduate School. Garcia was honored for his work as an assistant in instruction in the course “Money, Work and Social Life.” Professor Viviana Zelizer nominated Garcia, noting “his remarkable devotion to his students, his determination to turn each precept into a mini-community and his availability for consultation.” April Hughes and Alexander Bevilacqua received 2013-2014 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships for their dissertations, respectively, “Waiting for Darkness: Apocalyptic Eschatology in Early Medieval China” and “Islamic Culture in the European Enlightenment.” Katharina Ivanyi reports that she is moving from Saint Michael's College in Vermont to a position as Assistant...
Having completed my doctoral studies shortly before arriving, I found the Center an ideal place to exhale, to think, to begin transforming my dissertation into a book, and to begin writing toward new projects. Just as important, however, the Center helped me to step into an academic career. The Center provided this assistance not just by connecting me with dialogue partners both in Princeton and beyond but also by creating countless opportunities to receive and offer feedback among graduate students and other fellows, serving variously as colleague and mentor. For all of this nourishment, I am thankful beyond measure. It has been an honor and privilege to join the long list of scholars whose careers the Center has helped initiate.

—Daniel Vaca
Visiting Fellow

Martha Finch, Associate Professor of North American Religious History, Missouri State University, “Outward Adornment: Plain Dress in American Protestantism”
Samuel Goldman, now Assistant Professor of Political Science, The George Washington University, “God’s Country: The Intellectual Origins of Christian Zionism”
Andrew Johnson, Visiting Fellow, “Pentecostalism in Prison in Rio de Janeiro” and “Religious Practice in the Louisiana State Penitentiary”
Daniel Rivers, now Assistant Professor of History, The Ohio State University, “Gender and the Dawes Act: Family and Sexuality in Indian Territory, 1850-1960”
Daniel Vaca, now Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University, “Commercial Media and American Christianity”
2012-2013 Graduate Student Fellows

Alexander Bevilacqua, History, “Islamic Culture in the European Enlightenment”
Rozaliya Garipova, Near Eastern Studies, “The Transformation of Religious Authority of the Ulama and Islamic Law in the Volga-Ural Muslim Community under Russian Imperial Rule”
Jun Hu, Art and Archaeology, “Embracing the Circle: Domical Buildings in East Asian Architecture ca. 200-750”
Christopher Mayo, East Asian Studies, “Mobilizing Deities: War and Religious Ritual in Late Medieval and Early Modern Japan”

Megan Brankley Abbas, History, “Academic Islam: Modern Islamic Thought and the Western University”
Alfredo Garcia, Sociology, “Friction or Demand? Sociological Predictors of Disbelief Organizations”
Erin Johnston, Sociology, “Becoming a Practitioner: The Social Transmission of Spiritual Practice”
George Laufenberg, Anthropology, “The ‘Headshrinker Tiospaye’: Presence, Transformation, and Community among American Healers”
Kati Li, Sociology, “Religion at Work: Examining the Experiences of Christian Therapists in the Mental Health Profession”
Irene Elizabeth Stroud, Religion, “Liberal Protestantism and Eugenics in the United States, 1883-1933”

Center Fellow Achievements continued from page 1

Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Religion at Columbia. Sarit Kattan Gribetz will hold post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard University and the Jewish Theological Seminary next year and then will teach at Andover Newton through the CSR teaching internship in June 2014. In Fall 2014, Kattan Gribetz will begin a position in the Theology Department at Fordham University as an assistant professor of classical and medieval Judaism. At the Pew Research Center, Conrad Hackett was the lead author for several recent studies of global religious demography: the Global Religious Landscape, Global Christianity, and the Global Catholic Population. During the papal transition, Hackett talked to many reporters about Pew’s religious demography data which has been painstakingly assembled from their analysis of over 2,500 census and surveys from around the world. Hackett and his family live in a residence hall at Georgetown University, where his wife Campbell is a chaplain-in-residence and their two young kids make more noise than the college students. Becky Hsu, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University, is the project leader of a new research project, which includes former CSR participant Anna Sun, investigating how people define happiness in China today. As the 2012 UN World Happiness Report shows, happiness indexes and surveys are increasingly adopted as a measure of good governance around the world. And yet, definitions of happiness vary widely. Hsu has put together a research team to understand how ordinary Chinese define “the good life.” Katrina Olds specializes in early modern European history as Assistant Professor of History at the University of San Francisco. She is making final revisions to her book manuscript, Forging the Past: Invented Histories in Counter-Reformation Spain, due out with Yale University Press in 2014. In 2012, Amit Bein was promoted to associate professor in the Department of History at Clemson University. His book, Ottoman Ulema, Turkish Republic, was published by Stanford University Press in 2011 and its Turkish translation came out in early 2013 by Kitap Yayinevi. Jack Tannous (History) and Moulie Vidas (Religion) have both joined the Princeton University faculty. Welcome back!

Finally, congratulations to Undergraduate Research Fellow Monica Greco ’13 who was awarded a Fulbright grant to Jordan for the 2013-2014 year.
2012-2013 Undergraduate Research Fellows

Saud Al-Thani ’13, Near Eastern Studies, “Collective Identity and Familiality as Depicted by Manuscript Fragments from the Cairo Geniza”
Laura Elizabeth Anderson ’13, Religion, “Religion and End of Life Issues in Pediatric Cancer”
Ahsen Nimet Cebeci ’14, Philosophy, “The Philosopher’s Death”
Stephanie Colello ’13, Slavic Languages and Literatures, “Midwives and Medicalization: Reading Childbirth in Russian Literature”
Brandon Davis ’13, Anthropology, “Desiring Israel: Gays, Jews and Homozionism”
Margaret Fox ’13, History, “The Meaning of ‘Jew’ and the Terms of Salvation: Jewish Christian Community, Practice, and Congregational Autonomy in 19th and 20th Century United States and Israel”
Nava Friedman ’13, Religion, “Choosing to Be Chosen: Religious Identity Among the New Jews of East Africa”
Aseneth Garza ’13, Anthropology, “The Emergence of Violence in Religious Leaders’ Discourse in Post-Conflict Guatemala”
Aaron Glasserman ’13, Near Eastern Studies, “Accidents of Institutionalization: State Policy, Sectarian Interest, and the China Islamic Association”
Monica Greco ’13, Classics, “The Interaction between Romans and Ancient Bedouins along the Limes Arabicus”
Sarah Hedgcock ’13, Anthropology, “Gender Performance in Evangelical Purity Culture”
Kristen Kim ’13, Psychology, “The Intersection of Suicide and the Christian Faith in South Korea”
Enoch Kuo ’13, Religion, “Reformed Epistemology and Pluralism”
Nadirah Mansour ’14, Near Eastern Studies, Thesis title withheld
Madeline McMahon ’13, History, “Ani one example of the primitiue Churche’: Church History and Confessional Identity in Sixteenth-Century England”
Sajda Ouachtouki ’13, Woodrow Wilson School, “Hymens and Headscarves: The Arab Awakening and the Struggle for Sexual Dignity in Morocco and Tunisia”
Sarah Paton ’13, Religion, “The Growth and Structuring of Humanist Communities”
Kathryn Phillips ’13, Psychology, “Lord, Give Me Strength! The Relationship between Coping and Religious Plan Beliefs”
Elizabeth Scullin ’13, Anthropology, “Sanctity and Scandal: Courtship and Marriage Rituals among Irish Travellers”
Alice Su ’13, Woodrow Wilson School, “In Popularity We (Don’t) Trust: Soft Power and Public Diplomacy in U.S. and Sino-Egyptian Relations”
Finding academic literature on hospital chaplains is nearly impossible, but I was very lucky to learn from Professor Wuthnow about one extremely useful book: Wendy Cadge’s *Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine*. The luck continued, as the Center was hosting a panel with Dr. Cadge. I was able to hear the panel and eat dinner with Dr. Cadge afterwards in Prospect House. Dr. Cadge even talked with me about my project! I was ecstatic. It is opportunities like this one that make me fall more in love with Princeton every day.

—Liz Anderson ’13

Undergraduate Research Fellow
CSR / CTI Collaboration

“Becoming Human: Community, Compassion, Conflict and the Inference of Religion” by Agustín Fuentes

“Religion and Spirituality in the Context of Everyday Life” by David Sloan Wilson

“The Great Partnership” by Jonathan Sacks

In 2012-2013, CSR enjoyed a successful year of collaboration with the Center of Theological Inquiry. The Center of Theological Inquiry, directed by William Storrar, is an independent, ecumenical institution for advanced research that brings theologians together with other scholars. CTI is currently executing a special three-year interdisciplinary project on “New Approaches to Theological Inquiry.” In 2012-2013, researchers at CTI pursued the Inquiry on Evolution and Human Nature. As part of this Inquiry, CSR hosted several events on the Princeton University campus. These events benefited CSR fellows and Princeton University students and faculty by bringing them into contact with specialists from theology, biology, philosophy, and cognitive science from across the globe interested in questions such as: How have human capacities for religion and culture evolved? How do biological and anthropological accounts of continuity between generations relate to religious ideas about human freedom and responsibility? How do the communities by which religious traditions are passed from generation to generation contribute to the continuity of human knowing and the abilities that make it possible? How might philosophy and theology engage the assumptions in the science of human evolution?

In 2013-2014, the collaboration continues with the Inquiry on Religious Experience and Moral Identity, engaging interdisciplinary studies in psychology, neuroscience, and cultural and biological anthropology. Theological accounts of virtue and vice, spiritual experience, and personal transformation have a place in this comprehensive interdisciplinary inquiry, which proceeds not by simply comparing perspectives, methods, and hypotheses, but by asking how each way of knowing can use the results of the other to shape its own substantive questions and future inquiries. We look forward to hosting lectures by Paul Bloom, William Hurlbut and others.

CSR Director Robert Wuthnow and CTI Director William Storrar enjoy a co-sponsored lecture.

“Nine Evolutionary Myths: The Closing of the Darwinian Mind?” by Simon Conway Morris
Featured Events from 2012-2013

Visit the events archive on our website to see a complete list of 2012-2013 events and to view or download event webcasts.

Buddhist Studies Workshop
“Special Features of Uyghur Buddhism,” Peter Zieme, Turfanforschung, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

“How Buddhist Art Began? Or, Its Impediments on Buddhist Iconography,” Informal Discussion with Juhyung Rhi, Seoul National University

“Enduring Dharma: A Symposium on the Inscription of Buddhist Scriptures on Stone,” with Lothar Ledderose, Heidelberg Academy of Science

Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion Series
“Between God and Green: How Evangelicals Are Cultivating a Middle Ground on Climate Change,” Katharine Wilkinson, Boston Consulting Group

“Islamic Feminism in Kuwait,” Alessandra L. González, John Jay College

“When Liberal Protestant Congregations Organize: Case Studies on Occupy Wall Street and the New Sanctuary Movement,” Donna Schaper, Judson Memorial Church

Doll Family Lectureship on Religion and Money
“Breaking Free From Financial Slavery,” DeForest “Buster” Soaries, First Baptist Church, Lincoln Gardens

Panel Discussions and Featured Lectures
“The Religious Right and the 2012 Election,” featuring Robert Jones, Public Religion Research Institute; Kevin Kruse, Department of History; and Neil J. Young, Princeton Writing Center

“Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine,” featuring Elizabeth Mitchell Armstrong, Department of Sociology, Tiina H. Nummela, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and Allison Smith, Health Professions Advising, with a response from author Wendy Cadge, Brandeis University

“Out of the Tower, Into the Square: Academics Writing for Public Audiences,” Panel Discussion and Graduate Student Writing Workshop featuring Wallace Best, Department of Religion and the Huffington Post; Joseph Blankholm, Columbia University, The Immanent Frame and Possible Futures; Kevin Eckstrom, Religion News Service; and Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, the Huffington Post

“Living Faith: Everyday Religion and Mothers in Poverty,” Susan Crawford Sullivan, College of the Holy Cross

Co-Sponsored Events
“The Book of Job: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Hermeneutics,” conference featuring Robert Alter, University of California at Berkeley, organized by Leora Batnitzky, Department of Religion

“Their Kingdom is of this World: Do You Really Need Theology to Explain the Religious Right?” Modern America Workshop with Molly Worthen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

“Global Crossings: An Experiment in Making International Theatre,” weeklong theatre workshop organized by Tamsen Wolff, Department of English

“When God Talks Back: What American Evangelicals Mean when They Say They Hear God Speak,” Tanya Luhrmann, Stanford University

“‘Failure’ in Islamic Reform,” a Graduate Student Conference hosted by the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, organized by Megan Brankley Abbas, Aaron Rock-Singer, and Simon Wolfgang Fuchs

“War, Peace, and Religion in the Middle Ages,” the Twentieth Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference in Medieval Studies, featuring keynote speaker Brett Whalen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, organized by Molly Lester and Leah Klement, both Department of History

“Religion and Poetry in the Nineteenth Century,” speaker series organized by Meredith Martin and Sarah Rivett, both Department of English. Talks included “The Bard, the Bible and Victorian Interpretation” by Charles LaPorte, University of Washington, and “Transatlantic Tractarians: Poetry, Religion and the Church of English in America” by Kirstie Blair, Stirling University

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The Year Ahead, 2013-2014

People
More information can be found on the [People page](#) of the Center's website.

Affiliate Visiting Fellows
James B. Bell, Rothermere Institute of Oxford University and Visiting Scholar, Princeton Theological Seminary
Gillian Frank, Stony Brook University
Hillary Kaell, Concordia University of Montreal

Graduate Student Fellows
Religion and Culture Seminar (led by Jacqueline Stone, Fall Semester, and Jessica Delgado, Spring Semester):
Megan Brankley Abbas, History, “Islam in the University: Blurring the Line between Religious Studies and Theology”
Mika Ahuvia, Religion, “Israel among the Angels: A Study of Angels in Jewish Texts from the Fourth to Eighth Century CE”
Simon W. Fuchs, Near Eastern Studies, “Elusive Centers: Debating Shi’ite Orthodoxy in Pakistan”
Douglas Gildow, Religion, “Cultural Ontologies of Chinese Buddhist Monastics”
Rebecca Johnson, History, “Praying for Deliverance: Childbirth and the Cult of the Saints in the Later Medieval Mediterranean”
Valeria Lopez Fadul, History, “Early Modern Spanish Scholars on Language and Linguistic Diversity”
Helen Pfeifer, History, “The Role of Islam in Shaping Cross-Cultural Encounters within Ottoman Social Gatherings”
Ana Sabau, Spanish and Portuguese, “Revolutionary Imaginations: Religion and Politics throughout Mexico’s 19th Century”

Religion and Public Life Seminar (led by Robert Wuthnow)
Alfredo Garcia, Sociology, “Analyzing Predictors for the Presence and Number of Unbelief Organizations at the County Level”
Michael Hoffman, Politics, “Religion and Democratic Attitudes”
Erin Johnston, Sociology, “Spiritual Disciplines: Transmission, Initiation and Maintenance; and Their Roles in Formation of Spiritual Selves and Subjectivities”
Kati Li, Sociology, “How Evangelical Christian Therapists Negotiate Resistance and Accommodation to the Secular”
Allison Schnable, Sociology, “The Growth of Grassroots International Aid Organizations and their Significance as an Emerging Form of Global Generosity”
Steven Snell, Politics, “How Religious Congregations Shape the Political Behavior of Congregants”

Irene Elizabeth Stroud, Religion, “Liberal Protestants and Eugenics in the Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century United States”
Jan an Haack, Visiting Graduate Student, University of Potsdam, “Affective Economies of Evangelical Mission”

Undergraduate Research Fellows
Additional Undergraduate Fellows will be named in October 2013.
Ruwa Alhayek ’14, Near Eastern Studies, “Changes from Within the Muslim Brotherhood with Regards to the “Woman Question”
Sheeba Arif ’14, Comparative Literature, “Islamic Feminism vs. Neocolonial Feminism”
Allegra Wiprud ’14, Woodrow Wilson School, “Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Bangladesh”

Events
Further details will be posted on the [Events page](#) of the Center’s website as they become available.


“Just Babies: The Origin of Good and Evil” by Paul Bloom, Yale University, sponsored with the Center of Theological Inquiry, September 26, 2013.

Buddhist Ethics Reading Group, October 3, 2013; October 24, 2013; December 5, 2013; February 6, 2014; March 27, 2014; April 10, 2014; May 8, 2014.


Lecture by Samir Khalaf, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, October 17, 2013.


Workshop on Plotinus’ Conception of the Soul and its Relationship to the Physical World, organized by Hendrik Lorenz, Department of Philosophy, Fall 2013.


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“Perfect Bodies and Imperfect Images” Buddhist Studies Workshop Lecture by Phyllis Granoff, Yale University, February 27, 2014.


Buddhist Studies Workshop Lecture by Mark Rowe, McMaster University, March 11, 2014.


“Politics of Spirit: Augustine and Hegel in Dialogue” Conference organized by Eric Gregory and Molly Farneth, Department of Religion, co-sponsored with the University Center for Human Values and the Department of Religion, March 2014.

Lecture by William Hurlbut, Stanford University, sponsored with the Center of Theological Inquiry, April 2014.


Workshop on Religion and Digital Technologies, Spring 2014.

Sponsored Course


I appreciate the opportunity to be a CSR Fellow because it brings me into contact with so many scholars whose fields and approaches differ from mine, both peers and senior scholars. It brings a sense of community to what can otherwise sometimes be very isolating work.

—Beth Stroud
Graduate Student Fellow

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