Center for the Study of Religion Celebrates Ten Years of Fellows

2009-2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the Center for the Study of Religion. During that time, fifty different Visiting Fellows and 124 different Graduate Student Fellows have contributed to and benefited from the vibrant intellectual life of the Center. Former CSR fellows (and fellows from our preceding days as the Center for the Study of American Religion) continue to make us proud. Here are the latest accomplishments of just a few.

Anthea Butler (VF '01-'02) has become Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Pennsylvania. Courtney Bender (Graduate Student Fellow '96-'97), Associate Professor of Religion at Columbia, has joined the CSR's Advisory Council. Wendy Cadge (GSF '00-'01) has received tenure at Brandeis College. Carolyn Chen's (VF '02-'03) book, Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience, was published in 2008 by Princeton University Press. Lynn Davidman (Visiting Scholar '94-'95) has become Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies, and Director of the Program in Jewish Studies, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Cynthia Eller's (VS '96-'97, Affiliate Fellow '05-'08) new book Motherright: The Origins of Matriarchal Myth, 1861-1900 is forthcoming from the University of California Press. R. Marie Griffith (Visiting Fellow '95-'96) has left Princeton to become John A. Bartlett Professor of New England Church History at the Harvard Divinity School. Matt Hedstrom (VF '07-'08) has accepted a tenure-track position in American Studies and Religious Studies at the University of Virginia beginning Fall '09. Paul Lichterman (VF '01-'02) has been promoted to Full Professor in Sociology and Religion at University of Southern California. Michael Lindsay's (GSF '03-'06) book, based on his dissertation won the 2008 Outstanding Book Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. His article, “Evangelicals in the Power Elite: Elite Cohesion Advancing A Movement” in American Sociological Review received the 2008 Distinguished Article Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. David Michelson (GSF '05-'06) has finished his first year as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Alabama. Margarita Mooney (GSF '04-'05) has just published a book with University of California Press.

Faith Makes us Live: Surviving and Thriving in the Haitian Diaspora. Jon Pahl (AF '06-'07) has two books in print resulting from his time at the Center: Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence and An American Teacher: Coming of Age, and Coming Out-the Memoirs of Loretta Colver, Barbara Savage's (VF '99-'00) book, Your Spirits Walk Beside Us, was published by Harvard University Press in 2008. Daniel Schwartz (GSF '05-'06) has a post-doctoral fellowship in Oxford next year in conjunction with the Mellon-Sawyer Seminar on “Conversion in Late Antiquity: Christianity and Islam.” The year-long seminar aims to be a rigorously comparative venue for the analysis of a wide variety of factors in conversion to Christianity and to Islam in the late antique period. Tisa Wenger's (GSF '01-'02) book We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom has been released by the University of North Carolina Press. Tisa will begin at Yale Divinity School this Fall as Assistant Professor of American Religious History, joining Kathryn Lofton (VF '08-'09). Heather White (GSF '05-'06) will become Visiting Assistant Professor in American Religions at the New College of Florida this Fall. Brad Wilcox (GSF '05-'06) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in Sociology at the University of Virginia.

Center Graduate Student Fellow Wins Carnegie Award

Intisar Rabb, who was chosen as a Graduate Student Fellow in both the Religion and Culture and Religion and Public Life categories, was selected as one of 24 recipients of a 2009 Carnegie Scholarship. Rabb will receive a two-year grant of up to $100,000 from the Carnegie Corp. of New York to pursue a research project titled “Islamic Law and Legal Change: The Internal Critique.” Rabb, who is trained in Islamic and American law, will examine Muslim juristic debates about modern legislation and implementation of classical Islamic criminal law. Her work will focus on these distinctly “internal” critiques – balancing them, and those who present them, against critical assessments of Islamic law offered by human rights activists in the local and international legal arenas. Rabb will survey criminal law practices—not all of which are “Islamic”—in the 27 countries that have incorporated Islamic law into their constitutions or allow for a jurisdiction of Islamic criminal law. She will present her survey findings in a public, online database aimed at scholars, legal institutions, nongovernmental organizations and policymakers. Rabb also will conduct a comparative study of judicial debates in Iran and Saudi Arabia, with reference to Pakistan, for a book intended for international lawyers, scholars, the media and the public. Rabb completed her dissertation in the department of Near Eastern Studies on legal maxims in comparative American and Islamic law. In the fall, Rabb will join the faculty of the Boston College Law School, where she will teach criminal law, legislation, and Islamic and comparative law. (Text courtesy of Princeton University news release by Princeton staff on April 14, 2009.)
Center Expands its Support for Undergraduates

Even as university budgets tightened, the Center for the Study of Religion expanded significantly its support for undergraduate research. The number of Undergraduate Research Fellows grew from 14 last year to 26 in 2008-2009 and the dollar amount of their funding doubled as well. The Fellows met on occasion throughout the year to discuss their own research and to give the Center input from the undergraduate perspective. One Fellow, Alexander Metelitsa ’09, gave a coffee talk about his senior thesis project, “Stalin’s Disneyland: Religion, Dictator and Nation in Turkmenistan’s Book of the Soul.” Another fellow, Lily Cowles ’09, was featured in the Princeton Alumni Weekly for her innovative research on the Mazione Church in Mozambique. At the request of the undergraduates, the Center has even formed a group on Facebook. Search for Princeton Center for the Study of Religion on Facebook and join the group!

Faith & Work Initiative: Students Meet Faith-Minded CEOs

The Princeton Faith & Work Initiative enjoyed a successful inaugural year as part of the Center for the Study of Religion. The initiative brought students into contact with business leaders known for thinking seriously about the role of faith in the workplace. Project Director David Miller hosted three public conversations during the spring:

A Conversation with Sherif Nasr, M.D., President and CMO, eParadigm Diagonistic: “A Muslim Perspective on the Executive Suite,” March 24, 2009


In addition to those large-scale conversations, other business executives were invited to speak to students in Professor Miller’s class, “Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought.” Speakers included Laura Berry, Executive Director, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility; Ann Fudge, former president of Kraft Foods; Kitt Garrett, Founder and CEO, Discover New York; Dale Jones, Vice Chairman, Heidrick & Struggles; Ken Melrose ’62, former CEO, Toro Company; Craig Phillip ’75, President and CEO, Ingram Barge; John Tyson, Chairman and CEO, Tyson Foods.
Center-Sponsored Events in Review

In addition to those events highlighted in this newsletter, the center sponsored a variety of conferences and public lectures this past academic year, including:

**Crossroads of Religion and Politics Lecture Series**

“Left Behind...In the Culture Wars of 2008: Evangelicals, Culture & the Politics of Moose Hunters, Community Organizers & Family Values,” **Burns Strider**, The Eleison Group, October 6, 2008


“Sudan and the Fallacy of Nationhood: How Political Islam Threatens National Unity,” **Jok Madut Jok**, Loyola Marymount University, February 18, 2009


“Doll Family Lectureship on Religion and Money


**Princeton Lectures in Religion and History**

“What Hath God Wrought: Religion in the Transformation of America, 1815-1848,” **Daniel Walker Howe**, Oxford University and University of California, Los Angeles, April 1, 2009

**Additional Lectures, Roundtables, Conferences, & Faculty-Directed Events**


“The Fragility of Truth and Other Inescapable Facts,” **Sarah Jones Nelson**, Director of the Princeton Project on Fragility, February 19, 2009

A Conversation with Frank Schaeffer, author of Crazy for God, moderated by **Patricia Fernandez-Kelly**, Sociology, February 23, 2009


“Religion in the Civil Rights Movement,” a conference organized by **Albert Raboteau**, Religion, April 2-4, 2009

“Odetta Tribute,” a conference co-sponsored with the Center for African American Studies, April 9, 2009

“Law and Religion: Philosophical and Historical Perspectives,” a conference sponsored by the James Madison Program and co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion, April 17-18, 2009

2008-2009 Faculty, Graduate, and Undergraduate Fellows at CSR

Visiting Fellows

Eric B. Johnson, Columbia University
Kathryn Lofton, Yale University
Petra Schierl, University of Basel (Affiliate)
Willem B. Drees, Leiden University (Affiliate)

Affiliate Graduate Student Fellows

Morten Brænder, The University of Aarhus, Denmark
Ovidiu Creangă, King’s College London, United Kingdom

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Lily Cowles '09, Religion, “Spiritual Reconciliation in Angola.”
Jasmine Ellis '10, “Amazonian Healing Beliefs,”
Kelley Frances Fenelon '09, Woodrow Wilson School, “Unexpected Evangelicalism: PEPFAR’s Illustrative Example of Diversity in Religiously Motivated Policy Making and Coalition Building.”
Emily Garcia '10, Comparative Literature, “Poetry at the Mont Sainte-Odile.”
Matthew Gleason '10, Religion, “Modern Revisions of Sacred Space.”
Tao Goffe '09, English, “British Islamic Hip-Hop: Exploring the Cultural and Religious Expression of Britian’s Muslim Youth.”

Robert Griest '09, Religion, “Gore-Tex Pilgrims: The Impact of Tourism on the Religious Culture of India.”
Kaitlyn Hay '10, Art, “The Historical Reception of Programmatic Byzantine Church Decoration in Northern Italy, A Theological and Political Lens.”
Jaryn Horner '09, History, “Christian Appropriation of Muslim Cultural Sites in Medieval Spain.”
Sebastian Jones '09, Anthropology, “Living in the End Times.”
Jordan Kinser '09, Religion, “‘More Life’: Heaven on Earth in Tony Kushner’s Angels in America.”
Sumin Lee '09, “Let us Pray for our Northern Brothers and Sisters: Rhetoric of the North Korean Humanitarian Movement in South Korean Churches.”
Cameron McLain '10, Religion, “The Spirituality of the Beats.”
Alexander Metelitsa '09, Politics, “The Role of Islam in Post-Niyazov Turkmenistan.”
Rebecca Nyquist '09, Religion, “The Effects of Intermarriage on Jewish Ritual Practice and Childhood Experience.”
Karen Okigbo '09, Politics, “Nigeria-Biafra War.”
Colin Peiffer '09, Anthropology, “Hope Amidst Desolation: Dispatches from the Aral Sea.”
David Ponton III '09, Religion, “The Manger, the Margin, and Pentecost.”
Kate Poole '09, Religion, “The Effects of Marxist Education on Young Peoples’ Perceptions of Religion.”
Abigail Smith '09, Religion, “Healing Latin America: The Impact of Holistic Pentecostal Healing on Community Development and the Reduction of Poverty.”
Emmelyn Stevens '09, Art & Archaeology, “Religious Influence Recorded: Francisco de Zurbaran’s Monastic Works at Guadalupe and Jerez de la Frontera.”
Brandon White '09, English/Creative Writing, “Mormon Missionary Activity in Brazil.”
Join Our E-Mail List!

If you would like regular reminders of upcoming events at the center or would like to have access to press releases with full details about Center programming, please sign up for our e-mail announcement list. E-mail csrelig@princeton.edu to subscribe.

Visit Us on the Web

Visit www.princeton.edu/csrel for the latest information about Center events, people, and research. Most lectures are available for download from the website. You can also join CSR on Facebook.

Religion and Culture Workshop Fellows:


J. David Decosimo, Religion
Daniel Hanna, French and Italian
Rebecca Harmon, French and Italian
Laura Leon Llerena, Spanish and Portuguese
Aviva Rothman, History
Mairaj Syed, Religion
Jack Tannous, History
Moulie Vidas, Religion

Visit Us on the Web

Left to Right: Aviva Rothman, Jack Tannous, Laura Leon-Llerena, Mairaj Syed, David Decosimo, and Rebecca Harmon.

Religion and Public Life Workshop Fellows:

Phillip Connor, Sociology
Carol Ann MacGregor, Sociology
Levi McLaughlin, Religion
Anthony Petro, Religion
LiErin Probasco, Sociology
Intisar Rabb, Near Eastern Studies
Mark Robinson, Anthropology
Liza Steele, Sociology
Alicia Juskewycz, Sociology

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Lecture Series

Crossroads of Religion and Politics:

Lecture by Mickey Edwards, Aspen Institute and former Congressman, December 1, 2009
“Forces of Fortune: The Rise of A New Muslim Middle Class and What It Means for Our World,” Vali Nasr, Senior Advisor to Special Representative on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Holbrooke, December 10, 2009
“The Widow’s Torment: International Religious Freedom and American Foreign Policy,” Thomas Farr, Georgetown University, March 4, 2010

Princeton Lectures in Religion and History


Princeton Lectures in Religion and Science


Conferences and Symposia

“Islam, Modernity, and India,” a workshop organized by Isabelle Clark-Deces, Anthropology, and Bernard Haykel, Near Eastern Studies, TBA
“Rabbi Loew and the Jews of Early Modern Prague,” a conference directed by Peter Schäfer, Religion and Program in Judaic Studies, December 2009
“Race, Gender & Slavery in Islamic Societies,” a symposium, organized by Shaun Marmon, Religion. Spring 2010
“War, Religion and Democracy,” a conference directed by Amaney Jamal, Politics, TBA

Visiting Fellows

Eric B. Johnson, Columbia University
Amy Kittelstrom, Sonoma State University
Rebecca Sager, Loyola Marymount University

Affiliate Fellows

James B. Bell, Oxford University
Petra Schierl, University of Basel

Stewart Fellows

Jessica Delgado, Department of Religion
Phillip Haberkern, Department of Religion

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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