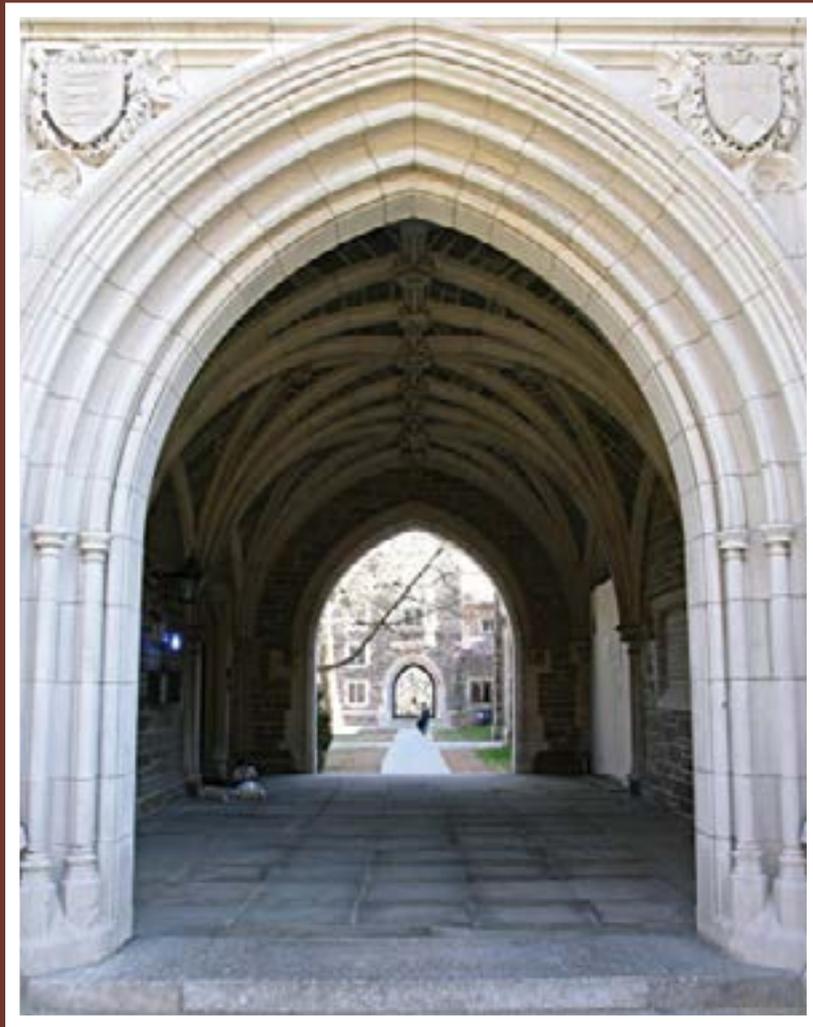


Annual Report

2018-2019



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



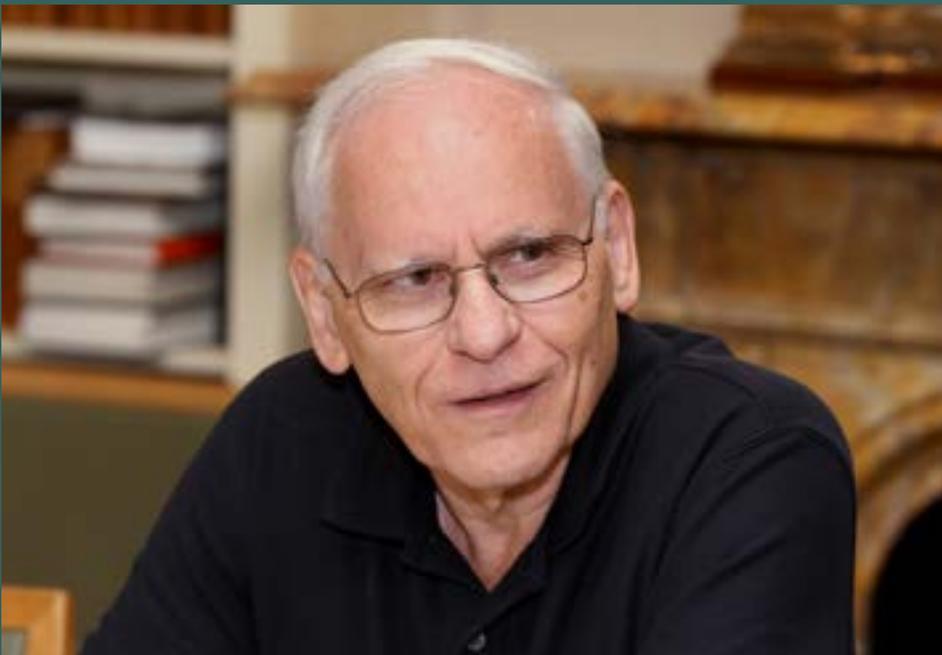
Center for the Study of Religion

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Photographs by Frank Wojciechowski, unless otherwise noted

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 pursue teaching, research, and public event planning; awards for Princeton graduate students to complete dissertation research and undergraduate students to write senior theses and junior papers; two interdisciplinary seminars; undergraduate courses; public lectures and conferences; and opportunities for visiting scholars to affiliate with the Center.





Weekly Seminars

The Heartbeat of the Center

The Center offers two weekly interdisciplinary seminars that bring together faculty, postdoctoral and affiliate fellows, graduate student fellows, and other graduate students to present and discuss research in progress. Papers are prepared and distributed in advance of each week's meeting. Participants in these seminars develop a level of trust that allows them to share the challenges of writing and offer each other supportive yet critical feedback.

Members of the Religion and Culture Seminar



Members of the Religion and Public Life Seminar



Religion and Culture Seminar

The Religion and Culture Seminar was led this year by Religion Department Professor **Jessica Delgado**. This workshop brings together researchers working on historical, ethnographic, and normative aspects of religion. Approaches vary, but participants' work examines the relation between religion and its wider context, whether that context is construed in literary, cultural, anthropological, philosophical, artistic, or other terms. Topics and presenters for 2018-2019 were:

- "Monastery, Mosque, and a Transformation of an Ottoman Town" and "The Rise of Franciscans and the Formation of the Catholic Community in Ottoman Bosnia: The Mountains," **Ana Sekulić**
- "Slavery and Freedom: Literal and Political" and "How to Be a People," **Toni Alimi**
- "Shaft versus Klap: Scientific Management on South Africa's Ultra-Deep Mines 1953-1980" and "Human by Comparison: Black Bodies and Heat Stress in South Africa's Deep Mines 1950-1975," **Megan Eardley**
- "The Starving Person Paradigm and the Jurisprudence of Taking Property, 4th/10th to 10th/16th Centuries" and "The Consolidation of Paradigms: Legal Interpretation, Foundational Principles, and Ordering the Legal and Ethical Universe, 4th/10th to 10th/16th Centuries," **Dana Lee**
- "Testimonies of Truth and Tragedy in Martin Crusius and the Early Modern Discovery of Ottoman Greece" and "The Discovery of Greek Orthodoxy," **Richard Calis**
- "Black Men on the Threshold: Merging the Sacred and Secular and Redefining Masculinity in Two Pre-Civil Rights Tales" and "How to Mix Music: Trinitarian Approaches to Mid-Century Gospel and Jazz," **Leslie Wingard**
- "'Knowledge in the making': Milton and the Rhetoric of Coalition" and "The Reformation of Indifference, An Introduction," **Tom Clayton**
- "Defining the Third Day: Evidence and Approaches" and "The Double Third Festival and the Third Century Literary Banquet," **Kay Duffy**
- "A Religious-based Socio-Emotional Wealth Approach. A case study in the Canadian food industry" and "Antioch: Presentation on the historical, social and economic context," **Nicoleta Acatrinei**
- "Probability and the Afterlife of Dialectic" and "Probability and the Reformation of Dialectic," **Matthew Rickard**
- "The Stench of Flesh," **Michael Thate**



Religion and Public Life Seminar

Center Director and Professor of Sociology **Robert Wuthnow** led this weekly interdisciplinary seminar that brings together scholars engaged in research on the relationships between religion and public policy or between religion and contemporary social issues more generally. Topics and presenters for 2018-2019 were:

- “Race Relations to Reparations: Presbyterians and Economic Stewardship” and “Bottle Babies and an Ethic of Care,” **Kyla Morgan Young**
- “Religion at Time Incorporated: From the Beginning of *Time* to the End of *Life*” and “Religion at Time Incorporated: ‘Watch Your Adjectives!’” **Eden Consenstein**
- “International Refugee Law, Sovereignty and Non-Citizens” and “Emerging Global Refugee Law Applied: 1956 Hungarian Refugees in the US and UK,” **Megan Brand**
- “Israel’s ‘Agunah Wars’ As A Custody Battle Over ‘The Jewish People’: Religious Authority, Cultural Continuity, And Gendered National Boundaries” and “Re-Thinking Religious Feminism,” **Tanya Zion-Waldoks**
- “January 25: An ‘Impermissible’ turned ‘Blessed’ Revolution” and “Revolutionary Religion: Growing *Out* of ‘Egyptian Islam’ in Post-2011 Egypt,” **Nareman Amin**
- “‘Cotton Rich and Rotten Rich’: New Money in Dallas High Society, 1925-1942” and “Dallas: Wealth and Inheritance in America’s City, 1890-1960,” **Shay O’Brien**
- “‘More Than a Building’: St. Laurentius Church and the Historic Preservation of Religious Properties” and “Religion and Aging,” **Madeline Gambino**
- “Disabling Religion and the Making of Intellectual Disability in Postwar America” and “Exceptional Relations: American Catholics and Intellectual Disability in Postwar America,” **Andrew Walker-Cornetta**
- “Recruiting the Soul: Spiritual Labor as Organizational Practice” and “Towards Radical Subjects: Workplace Spirituality as Neoliberal Governance in American Business,” **Dennis LoRusso**
- “‘The Name Is The Most Important Thing About A Church’: Ministerial Alliances Among Pentecostals, Spiritualists, Catholics, Hoodoos and The Spirits in Black New Orleans, 1935-1945” and “Gods of the Flesh: Religio-Racial Networks Between the Global South and Black New Orleans, 1915-1954,” **Ahmad Greene-Hayes**
- “When Organizations Minimize Partisan Divisions: The Case of Canadian Pro-Life and Pro-Choice Organizations, 1978-1988” and “Piloting the Replacement Strategy: Pro-Lifers and the Liberal Party of Canada (1988-1993),” **Elizabeth Baisley**
- “Public Policy and Poverty among Ultra-Orthodox Jews,” **Nechumi Yaffe**



Buddhist Studies Workshop

Enriching the Center's weekly seminar offerings is the Buddhist Studies Workshop, which meets periodically throughout the year. The Buddhist Studies Workshop began in 1998 as an interdisciplinary forum for new scholarly work on Buddhism. It is designed to bring together people from different departments (Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Comparative Literature, East Asian Studies, History, Religion, Sociology) to discuss common topics. Workshop events are co-sponsored by the Program in East Asian Studies, the Tang Center for East Asian Art, the Department of Religion, and the Office of Religious Life. For details, please see page 27 of the Events section.

Writing Workshop

For the fourth year in a row, the Center hosted a weekly silent writing workshop. Each Monday morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon, graduate students, fellows, and faculty gather together in the 5 Ivy Lane Seminar Room to write. After stating their writing goals for the day, the writers work in silence, huddled over cups of coffee and laptop computers and basking in each other's supportive presence.

Curriculum Development and Enrichment

The Center solicits proposals from humanities and social sciences faculty for new undergraduate courses on topics significantly concerned with the study of religion. The Center gives priority to proposals for the freshman seminar, which provides a unique opportunity for students to work in a small setting with a professor and a few other students on a topic of special interest. Such seminars are in high demand among students and often result in new regular courses being added to the curriculum. Prior to the Center's efforts in this area, very few freshman seminars were offered on religion. With the Center's help, this gap is now being filled. The Center also sponsors occasional advanced undergraduate courses. This year, CSR sponsored one undergraduate course in Fall 2018.

PHI363, "Religion and Scientific Objectivity" taught by Hans Halvorson, Philosophy

We investigate the concept of "scientific objectivity" with special reference to its relationship to religious belief and practice. We begin with the revolt against scientific objectivity by 19th century religious thinkers such as Kierkegaard, and the impact this revolt might have had on the development of the sciences — in particular, on the major revolutions in physical science in the 20th century (Einstein's relativity, and quantum physics). We conclude with a section on current affairs, in particular, the relationship of religious subjectivity to "post-truth" society.

CSR also celebrated the ongoing success of Ellen Chances' course, "What Makes a Meaningful Life? A Search" which began as a CSR-sponsored Freshman Seminar in 2013 and has continued to be a popular course offering. Chances, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and her course were featured on the Princeton University webpage in December 2018.



"I hoped that in this era of overly busy lives, it might be helpful for first-year students to contemplate what others have said about living a meaningful life, and to reflect upon their own thoughts and questions in connection with the topic and with their lives."

Ellen Chances on her popular Freshman Seminar, which began with CSR support

Photo by Denise Applewhite

Report from the
Director,
David W. Miller



Founded in 2008, the Faith & Work Initiative (FWI) studies the intersection of faith and work, undertaking interdisciplinary research to benefit scholars and practitioners alike. This endeavor is led by director **David W. Miller** and ably assisted by associate research scholars **Nicoleta Acatrinei**, **Dennis LoRusso**, and **Michael Thate**, who are also pursuing their own related research projects (see their adjacent reports). FWI has become a magnet for international researchers and conversation partners studying aspects of faith and work. Acatrinei, with a PhD in economics and psychometric scale building experience, brings a global perspective as a naturalized Swiss citizen born in Romania. She conducts and oversees research pertaining to The Integration Profile (TIP) Faith and Work Integration Scale. LoRusso continues to burnish his reputation as a social historian of American religion, focusing on spirituality and religion in corporate America. Thate draws on ancient resources in his research into questions of labor, work, and ethics, honing skills developed during his Humboldt Fellowship in Tübingen and as Visiting Research Fellow at École normale supérieure. And Miller continues his thought leadership role on the domestic and global impact of the faith at work phenomenon, conducting research, giving scholarly lectures, and advising organizations around the globe, including in the Philippines, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

1) *God at Work-II*

FWI's first major research project is conducting fresh research for a new and revised edition of *God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement*, under contract with Oxford University Press. Since its original publication in 2007, there have been many new developments in the movement itself, as well as in the surrounding religious, economic, ecclesial, academic, and wider geo-political context. *God at Work-II* will explore what has changed and is emerging on the horizon. With assistance from LoRusso, Miller is revising the original chapters, as well as adding new ones, to incorporate research findings and observations from the past decade.

2) *Sky Pilots: A Study of Workplace Chaplaincy*

This research project focuses on a growing phenomenon called “workplace chaplains,” or, more archaically known as “Sky Pilots.” There is limited scholarly study of military, hospital, and prison chaplains, and even less research into workplace chaplains who serve in for-profit businesses. To remedy this void, Miller and colleagues have undertaken an in-depth, mixed-methods study, drawing on quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews at companies with workplace chaplains. CEOs, HR professionals, workers, and chaplains were extensively interviewed and surveyed. With assistance from LoRusso and collaborator **Faith Ngunjiri** from Concordia College, Miller's team have published three peer-reviewed journal articles and authored a chapter in an edited volume. Focus now shifts to writing a book on Sky Pilots aimed at a wider business audience, drawing on the research to help explain and analyze its potential possibilities and pitfalls in modern business.

3) *The Integration Profile: Faith & Work Integration Scale*

FWI's third major research project is continued development of The Integration Profile (TIP) for Faith and Work, a psychometric assessment tool to measure how individuals and groups manifest or “bring” their faith to work. Notably, this is the only instrument that measures faith at work in a business context for people of all religious traditions, and does so at both the individual and aggregate level. This project builds on and expands “The Integration Box” theory Miller initially posited in *God at Work*. Miller and collaborators **Tim Ewest** and **Mitch Neubert** have published in the *Journal of Business Ethics* on the technical aspects of the TIP scale development. Miller and Ewest have completed a book manuscript featuring TIP, provisionally called, “Taboo No More: Faith and Work?” designed to be accessible to a wider business audience. FWI's Acatrinei has assumed re-

Major FWI Research Projects

sponsibility for TIP project management, including development of a web-based TIP survey and translation into other languages to enable wider scholarly research.

4) *Related Research Activities*

In addition to the above three core research projects, FWI's research model also includes contributions to scholarly initiatives at other universities. Miller serves on the Advisory Board of the Lilly Endowment's new "Faith at Work: An Empirical Study" with Rice University/Seattle Pacific University. He has taught on the "business track" of the University of Virginia's "Values and the Common Good" research project. Internationally, Miller sits on the advisory board for the European Spirituality in Economics and Society Institute and on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Springer book series on Virtues and Economics.

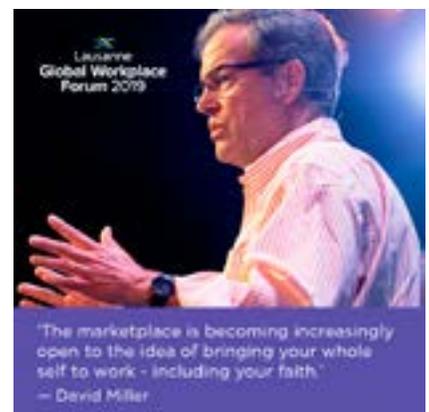
Miller taught his signature course, "Business Ethics and Modern Religious Thought" in Spring 2019. Due to student demand, it has grown from a small seminar to a lecture format, with more than 150 students enrolled. Interest remains high and represents a wide diversity of race, gender, ethnicity, religious traditions, and career interests. More than 20 majors across virtually all disciplines are represented. Similarly, CEO guests who visit class represent a diverse range of stories and traditions. In 2019 the Keller Center for Innovation in Engineering Education decided to cross-list the class, making it one of the core courses for the Entrepreneurship Certificate. After completing current writing projects, Miller intends to write a text book based on the course, exploring business ethics using the resources of the three Abrahamic traditions and utilizing his Three Lenses Ethical Decision-Making Framework. In addition to teaching, Miller serves as a Senior Thesis Advisor in the Religion Department. He also informally advises and mentors current and former students on academic matters, vocational discernment, and ethical encounters. Last year Miller gave guest lectures and papers at several universities (e.g., Bucknell University, Yale University School of Management, University of St. Thomas-MN) and advised corporations and C-Suite executives on matters pertain to ethics and spirituality at work.

As a citizen of the wider University, Miller serves as an Academic Faculty Fellow to the Varsity Football and Wrestling teams, speaks to student organizations, and supports alumni relations, development, and recruitment. He gave the dinner keynote to the Princeton Club of Georgia and gave a plenary lecture for the Princeton Entrepreneurial Council's "Tiger Entrepreneurs Conference" in San Francisco. During the 2018 "She Roars: Celebrating Women at Princeton" Miller was a panelist on business with purpose, profits, and corporate social responsibility. At Reunions, he interviewed Jason Garrett '89, Head Coach, Dallas Cowboys. This "FWI Faith & Ethics in the Executive Suite" interview series is a public forum in which Miller interviews distinguished business leaders and other public figures about how their faith informs their ethics and leadership. These interviews are available to view on the FWI website at www.princeton.edu/faithandwork.

As part of his efforts to bridge the worlds of scholarship and praxis, Miller was involved with leadership organizations including the Yale CEO Summit, the CEO Forum, and the Faith at Work Summit. He also gave keynote presentations on his research at the Lausanne Global Faith and Work Forum held in Manila to more than 850 attendees representing 125 countries. Miller's academic and advisory work has led to a feature article in *The Wall Street Journal* and interviews on NPR and in other media. He consults and speaks at various corporate events, which serves as a vital form of field research and enriches his teaching and scholarship. These activities also play an important development role, widening FWI's donor support network. Significant time is spent on development efforts, including cultivation of current relationships and finding additional funding sources to support FWI mission and budget. FWI's annual budget is 100% reliant on gifts and grants.

Teaching

Public Programs,
Outreach, and
Development



FWI Fellows



Nicoleta Acatrinei is an economist whose career began in banking. This past year she was busy conducting and overseeing the international launch of The Integration Profile (TIP) Faith and Work Integration Scale, first theorized and developed by David W. Miller. Acatrinei established an international research network to test the TIP instrument in China, India, Germany, Switzerland, France, Romania, Poland, Netherlands, UK, and Italy, soon extending into South Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Acatrinei has established joint research protocols for TIP with many universities around the world: the London School of Economics; the Vatican's Pontifical University; La Sorbonne, Paris; Minzu University and Sun Yat-sen University, China; University of Bucharest and University of Iasi, Romania; University of Gdansk, Poland; Nyenrode Business University, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Indian Institute of Technology BHU, Varanasi IIT-BHU, and Banasthali Vidyapith (Women's University) Jaipur, India. Acatrinei led the effort to translate TIP into Chinese, Romanian, German, and French. She is in discussions with other potential research partners to translate TIP into Hindi, Dutch, Polish, Russian, Italian, and Arabic. With David W. Miller, Acatrinei has been updating the TIP report to make it more user-friendly, including the development of three new spiritual key performance indicators (KPI), facilitating the interpretation of results and allowing for easier assessments. In addition to her work on TIP, Acatrinei prepared theoretical and empirical models for Silicon Valley companies based on her doctoral thesis on work motivation and pro-social behavior, building on her work on Saint John Chrysostom and on Miller's theory of faith integration. This year she presented research at the American Economic Association meeting in Atlanta and the Association of the Economics of Religion in Boston and also participated in the International Conference of Faith and Sustainability in collaboration with the United Nations at the Vatican. She has upcoming presentations at the Symposium of Faith at Work at the Biannual International Conference of the Psychology of Religion in Gdansk, Poland and the International Conference of Patristic Studies at Oxford. Acatrinei also maintains and updates the FWI website and Facebook page.



James Dennis LoRusso's fifth and final year in the Faith & Work Initiative at the Center of the Study of Religion was a very productive one. LoRusso and David Miller have made significant strides towards the completion of a manuscript on workplace chaplains, tentatively titled "Skypilots." The book is based on extensive qualitative and quantitative research conducted by the FWI research team and aims to provide readers with a comprehensive description and analysis of the expanding phenomenon of corporate chaplaincy. LoRusso also furthered research related to his broader scholarly interest on religion in the workplace. Currently, he is a collaborator on an interdisciplinary project exploring the role of "spirituality" in organizational culture. Feedback solicited from the CSR Religion and Public Life Workshop proved especially helpful for revising their first article, entitled "Recruiting the Soul: Spiritual Labor as Organizational Practice" and currently under peer-review with the *Journal of Business Ethics*. Additionally, CSR colleagues in the RPL workshop offered substantial comment on an essay on spirituality in American business that will appear in an edited volume on "Spirituality, Organization, and Neoliberalism." LoRusso has been invited to speak about this chapter at an upcoming symposium on Spirituality, Theology, and Management at the University of Sherbrooke. Finally, LoRusso was interviewed in May 2019 about his work at CSR on religion in the workplace for "The Meaning of Everything" podcast.



Michael J. Thate has, for the past few years, been developing an approach to early Christianity and late Antiquity that is attuned to the emergence of "Christianity," its complex performances and presences in varying geographies, its reception and recasting through time and space, and its haunting remainder in modern philosophy and political discourse. The trilogy attempting to explain this approach bears the title, "A History of Absence." The first volume considers trauma and ecstasy in varying ancient imaginaries and

Visiting Fellows

will be published with the University of Penn Press's Divinations series in Fall 2019 as *The Godman and the Sea*. The manuscript for volume two, *Scented Life*, will be submitted to the same press and series in November; and the third volume, *The Revelation of Violence*, in January of 2021. Thate has also just begun working on a project relating to philosophical discussions of "attention." These early musings have gone into presentations and talks at the Esalen Institute, University of Geneva, and Waterford Institute of Technology.

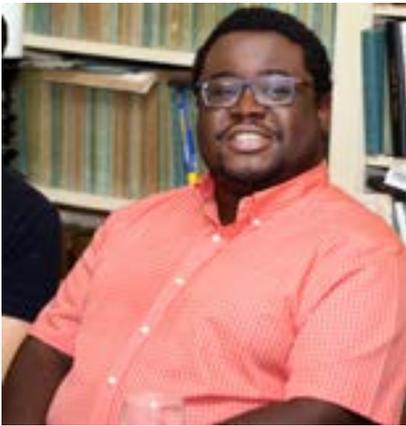
Leslie Wingard is Associate Professor of English at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio on research sabbatical. She is currently crafting a manuscript titled, "The Sacred and Secular Reconciled: Productive Dissonance in African American Literature and Culture." This manuscript rethinks the terms of African American culture's engagement with Christianity during a period often described as "postsacred," when religious faith is losing (if it has not already completely lost) significance. Juxtaposing works by writers such as Alice Walker, James Baldwin, and Zora Neale Hurston with visual, musical, dance, and literary works by artists such as Carrie Mae Weems and Bill T. Jones shows that neither sacred nor secular has a strict definition, that sanctity and secularity continually shift and overlap, that spirited debate is healthy and useful, and that social progress often emerges out of religious conflict; in short, that dissonance not only can be productive but also can be a harbinger of social progress.

Tanya Zion-Waldoks is a gender scholar, feminist activist and mother of four – intertwined callings. She received her PhD in 2016 from the Gender Studies program at Bar-Ilan University. At Princeton she pursued her current project "Religious Feminisms in Israel: A Comparative Analysis of Intersections between Gender, Culture, Politics and Law in the 'Jewish and Democratic' State." This comparative research project analyzes diverse case studies of women engaging in social activism while embedded in a religious tradition on the one hand and committed to gender equality on the other. Drawing on qualitative feminist methodologies, it analyzes narratives of religious feminist activists from various minority groups in Israel, particularly Muslim and Jewish ultra-Orthodox women. The study examines the diversification of feminisms within a single nation-state framework, exploring how each movement is shaped by intersections of religion, law, culture, nationality, class, and ethnicity, and in relation to other movements. By applying an intersectional and comparative lens, this study offers a unique opportunity to explore Israeli society's cultural differences and power differentials while also drawing attention to commonalities often overlooked by an increasingly polarized public discourse and highly-charged identity politics in Israel. Overall, the study interrogates the relationship between belonging and critique, agency and structure and aims to transcend conceptual binaries such as private/public, secular/religious, and conservative/radical. It suggests new pathways for thinking about women's social movements in other contexts as well, highlighting their potential and limitations in light of the co-construction of gender, religion and politics.



“The community of interdisciplinary scholars gave me not only careful feedback, but also feedback of a breadth I would not have enjoyed in many other settings.”

Toni Alimi
Religion and Culture Fellow



Graduate Student Fellows

A small number of Princeton graduate students in the humanities and social sciences are selected each year as CSR Graduate Student Fellows. Their proposals are evaluated by the CSR Executive Committee for scholarly merit, clarity and persuasiveness, and the applicants' overall scholarly record. Successful applicants receive support that supplements their regular fellowships and that can be used for research expenses. Graduate Student Fellows take part in one of two Center-sponsored workshops: Religion and Culture or Religion and Public Life (See pages 5-6 for descriptions). In these workshops Fellows present work in progress and respond to that of others. This year's Graduate Student Fellows are listed below, with their research abstracts.

Religion and Culture

Olaoluwatoni Alimi, Religion, “Theirs is the Kingdom: Law, Citizenship, Slavery and Religion in Augustine’s Political Thought”

My dissertation, “Slaves of God,” analyzes Augustine’s account of slavery, reading him through three of his Roman interlocutors: Cicero, Seneca and Lactantius. It then uses his account of slavery to analyze three related political concepts: law, citizenship, and religion. It further argues that understanding Augustine’s conceptions of *religio* and *vera religio* can help us coordinate his commitments on slavery, law, and citizenship. This in turn helps us better grasp Augustine’s legacy with respect to the history of slavery in the Christian world and his place relative to the republican political tradition.

Richard Calis, History, “The Apostle of the Orient: Martin Crusius and the discovery of Greek Orthodoxy”

My dissertation, entitled “Martin Crusius (1526-1607) and the discovery of Ottoman Greece,” is about understanding cultural and religious difference in the early modern world. My laboratory is sixteenth-century Tübingen, where a deeply pious Lutheran professor named Martin Crusius developed an extremely precise and highly informed representation of the Greek Orthodox Mediterranean. Through a well-preserved set of sources I follow Crusius’s journey of discovery. The dissertation’s six chapters retrieve Crusius’s forgotten conversations with Greek Orthodox Christians; trace how debates about Church doctrine moved from Tübingen to Istanbul; look over Crusius’s shoulder as he annotates religious treatises; and, ultimately, reconstruct how he emphasized the solidity of his findings in his published works. Taken together they show the various ways in which ethnographic knowledge was made in the early modern world.

James Thomas Clayton, English, “The Reformation of Indifference: Poetry and Ritual in England, 1605-1689”

Religious toleration was established in England by parliamentary statute in 1689. The Reformation of Indifference: *Adiaphora* and English Literature in the Seventeenth Century revisits the controversies that precipitated the institutional embrace of toleration in the English Church and recovers the early modern languages of political and religious obligation which were later reformulated in the liberal discourse of toleration as rights. The concept at the center of this project is the doctrine of *adiaphora*, which organized the theological discourse that addressed questions of protestant material and ritual practice by distinguishing between essential doctrines (*fundamenta*) and circumstantial, “indifferent” practices (*adiaphora*). Though this project borrows from the methodologies of the history of ideas and of political thought, it is primarily a study of language, and its principal objects are works of literature. In chapters on George Herbert, John Milton, Andrew Marvell, and John Dryden, the project explicates alternative attitudes toward religious differences, and argues for the significance of literature for expressing the contradictions and compromises that were negotiated

in the period's political crises and which remain unresolved in modern liberal conceptions of religious liberty.

Kay Duffy, East Asian Studies, "The Third Day of the Third Month in Early Medieval Texts: Literary Composition as Ritualized Practice"

My dissertation examines the proliferation of literary texts composed in early medieval China on the late spring festival of lustration. During the period between the breakdown of the Han dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE) and the establishment of the Tang (618-907), the festival of purification celebrated on the third day of the third lunar month became closely associated with the act of poetic composition. My research draws on literary texts, historical narratives, and ritual treatises in order to understand how this ritual became a prominent court celebration and why its meaning was so fiercely contested by court historians. I show how the invocation of spring renewal, vernal brilliance, and shared cultural touchstones in the poems composed for this occasion facilitated the constitution of communal bonds among elites during this tumultuous era.

Megan Eardley, Architecture, "Halls of Gold and Progress? The Architecture of Extraction in South Africa c. 1953"

"Gold," Hannah Arendt observed in 1951, is "the most ancient symbol of mere wealth." In the growing industrial economies of the twentieth century, it "hardly had a place in human production." and was "of no importance compared with iron, coal, oil, and rubber." In its failure to be useful to industrial production, Arendt concluded, the metal "bears an ironical resemblance to the superfluous money that financed the digging of gold and to the superfluous men who did the digging." In more recent years Achille Mbembe has also insisted on this irony, as he describes "the aesthetics of superfluity" in the gold-fueled city of Johannesburg. Here, he claims the overwhelming movement of men and mined surfaces has obfuscated the dialectics of indispensability and expendability of life and labor such that competing definitions of superfluidity— luxury, rarity, the conspicuous spectacle of things and a class of disposable workers— collapse. The sheer irony of the gold industry in South Africa, its mutability, and easy association with excess presents an important foil to histories of modernization that have privileged the physical infrastructure of carbon-fueled economies, and bound its material properties to hyper-rational theories of the state, and spatial constructs, that underpin biopolitical theories. This dissertation critically examines the way that architects helped shape the expansion of the gold industry in the second half of the twentieth century. Attending to the history of spatial research above and below ground, it raises new questions about the definition, and limits, of "the human" as a biological, economic, and moral category.

Dana Lee, Near Eastern Studies, "At the Limits of Law: Necessity in Islamic Legal History"

My dissertation, entitled "At the Limits of Law: Necessity in Islamic Legal History, Second/Eighth Through Tenth/Sixteenth Centuries," examines juristic discourses and cases on legal necessity in the Islamic legal tradition and in comparative perspective. The paradigmatic example of necessity in the Islamic tradition, culled directly from the Qur'an, is that of a person who, suffering from dire hunger, is rendered blameless for his consumption of a prohibited food such as carrion or pork. This seemingly de minimis instance of necessity from a source text became the site of intensive legal debate, formed the basis for analogies to new instances of necessity, and provided the foundation for multilayered paradigmatic hypothetical cases. This work first examines how early debates on necessity tended to coalesce around several core texts, early cases, and paradigmatic hypothetical cases. It then analyzes how subsequent jurists systematized and expanded upon the paradigmatic cases and used them in thinking

"To be welcomed as part of the CSR community and get to know others on campus whose work addresses issues of religion was incredibly enriching. It was also particularly helpful at this juncture as I think about future projects and how to edit my dissertation to engage a broader audience. I am so grateful for the support and the community the CSR has provided this year."

Dana Lee
Religion and Culture Fellow



about foundational substantive and interpretative legal questions. Finally, paying particular attention to cases involving harm to others, the work examines in depth several hypothetical cases spanning the areas of property, tort, criminal, and contract law.

Matt Rickard, English, “Fictions of Probability: Poetry and the Reformation of Humanism”

Ana Sekulić, History, “‘Their Land, Souls and Churches:’ The Rise of Franciscans and the Formation of the Catholic Community in Ottoman Bosnia (16th – 19th c.)”

My dissertation “The Rise of the Franciscans the Making of a Catholic Landscape in an Early Modern Ottoman Town” analyzes the formation of the Catholic community in Bosnia under Ottoman rule. By focusing on the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Spirit in the town of Fojnica, an enduring center of Catholic spirituality, the project explores how the Franciscans redefined the meaning of being a Catholic through shaping environmental and spiritual landscapes in a town in which a significant part of the population converted to Islam between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. It argues that in confronting the trend of conversion to Islam, the friars combined environmental management with Franciscan spirituality, thus, turning natural and man-made spaces into religiously contested landscapes. By bridging religious and environmental history, the dissertation illuminates hitherto unexplored ways of producing religious subjects through translating theological differences into environmentally grounded practices of everyday life.

Religion and Public Life

Nareman Amin, Religion, “Revolutionary Religion: Islamic Manifestations and Interruptions in Post-2011 Egypt”

My dissertation “Revolutionary Religion: Egyptian Youth and Islam in Post-2011 Egypt” examines the impact the Egyptian uprising of 2011 and subsequent political events had on the youth’s attitudes toward Islam as a tradition explicated by various religious authorities. A plethora of works looks into the political aspects of the revolution, but few study the ways in which Egyptian youth’s understanding of Islam shifted during this crucial time. I conducted 60 interviews with young Egyptians between 2018 and 2019 and found that they began to question the Islamic precepts they were raised with. I term this “revolutionary religion”: a transformative engagement with the tradition and the ones who preach it made possible by the post-revolutionary climate. A reversal of religious trends that emerged since the 1970s (like the “Islamic Awakening”) is on the horizon, causing many youth to reconsider their need for guidance from religious figures, how and whether to embody the Islamic tradition, and, for some, their faith.

Elizabeth Baisley, Politics, “The Dynamics of Party Position Change: A Comparison of American and Canadian Party Position-Taking on Moral Issues”

My dissertation, “Sexuality Politics and Political Cleavage Development in the US and Canada,” traces the development of political cleavages on abortion and LGBT issues between 1968 and 2018. Existing work points to cross-country differences in public opinion or political culture to explain why it took longer for partisan conflict on these issues to emerge in Canada. I argue instead for an organizational explanation. I focus on interest groups and political parties as key actors. Through a comparative-historical analysis, I show that organizations’ strategic decisions to either minimize or promote partisan division are crucial to explaining different paths of cleavage development in the US and Canada. These strategic decisions are based on how organizations perceive political opportunities and constraints.

“The opportunity to think with and alongside this special group in the RPL seminar has been invaluable to my intellectual and professional growth. To put it succinctly, I am just a better scholar today in ways that would be hard to duplicate in any other institutional setting.”

Dennis LoRusso
Faith & Work Fellow



Megan Brand, Politics, “Aiming Higher: The Domestic Politics of International Refugee Law”

Knowing what factors increase state openness to refugees can improve policies towards those fleeing persecution for reasons of religion, race, nationality, or political opinion. From the 1960s onward, the numbers of global refugees steadily increased, peaking in 1992 with the end of the Cold War and increasing again in the last several years. Efforts today at creating a “Global Compact” show international actors are still trying to solve the problem through new norms and procedures. This dissertation examines how political leaders use legal tools, both international and domestic, to classify, aid, and resettle refugees. The research compares state negotiations that take place as an international refugee agreement comes into existence with actual responses to refugees from Hungary, Palestine, Kosovo, and Iraq.

Eden Consenstein, Religion, “‘To Dramatize the Pleasant’: Religion at Time Incorporated, 1923-1964”

Madeline Gambino, Religion, “Religious Nostalgia and Decline in 21st Century Philadelphia”

My dissertation on “Religious Change and Decline in 21st Century Catholic Philadelphia” will examine local experiences of religious decline, marked by diminishing attendance, aging membership, or the financial burdens of oversized or aging properties, among Catholic communities in the Philadelphia area. Through in-depth qualitative interviews and participants observation, as well as methods of historical analysis, I intend to examine how communities, including congregations of women religious as well as local neighborhoods and parishes, develop practical and rhetorical strategies to make meaning out of the transformations, opportunities, and challenges facing them as a result of institutional decline. As such, my work takes a particular interest in the local investment in and maintenance of religious communities in light of questions about aging and old age, space and place, and rhetorics of decline and transformation.

Ahmad Greene-Hayes, Religion, “A Religious History of ‘Negro Cults’ and African Vice in the American South, 1890-1960”

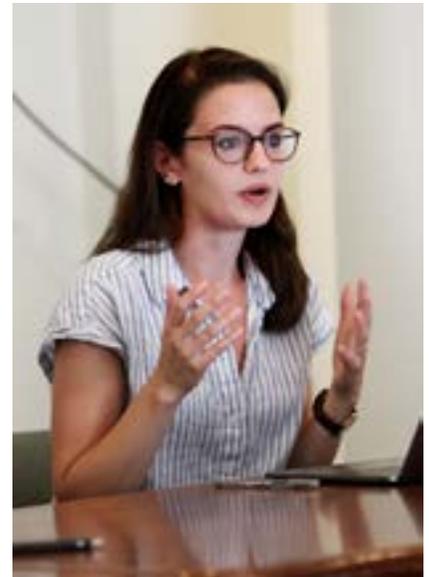
My dissertation, “Gods of the Flesh: Religio-Racial Networks Between the Global South and Black New Orleans, 1915-1954” places African American and African diasporic religions in their proper transnational context through careful attention to migration patterns and the circulation of material culture in the early twentieth century. With particular focus on New Orleans during the Great Migration, the immigration of West Indians to the United States, and the migration of African Americans to the Global South during the early to mid-twentieth century, it analyzes the ways transnational movement(s) have historically transformed African American religions and understandings of religio-racial identities in the Crescent City.

Shay O’Brien, Sociology, “‘Within Reason’ and ‘Cotton Rich and Rotten Rich’”

Broadly, I study elites in the United States. My dissertation will map the social and economic world of elites in Dallas, Texas from the Gilded Age to the post-WWII economic boom. Using social registers supplemented by archival, Census, and vital records, I am building a comprehensive longitudinal dataset of members of Dallas high society from 1896-1956. The dataset takes advantage of the wealth of historical information available on wealthy and powerful people, along with technological advances that make it possible to access, compile, and analyze increasingly large quantities of data, to ask questions about elites and their resources that have thus far been quite difficult or impossible to answer. Ultimately, I am primarily interested in the ways elites’ resources are acquired, maintained, and passed on. Because most of what scholars know about elites in the United States is based on large cities in the Northeast, espe-

“Although I participate in other workshops at Princeton, RPL has offered the most diverse set of academic perspectives, even while it privileges the work of graduate students. In reading and responding to my peers’ work, not only have I learned so much about how to approach the study of religion, but I have also grown more confident in my own academic perspective and have considered new ways of asking my questions.”

Madeline Gambino
Religion and Public Life Fellow



“CSR made a huge impact on my work this year. Attending the sessions and hearing about the brilliant research done by my colleagues inspired me and made me eager to work on my own project. In the collegial atmosphere offered by the workshop, I found it both humbling and helpful to present my work and receive feedback from my courteous and friendly cohort whose sole interest was to see other members succeed in what they do.”

Nareman Amin
Religion and Public Life Fellow



cially New York, where religious affiliations have not necessarily played as large of a role in elite worlds, I am also particularly interested in the role that religion might play in the city that eventually served as the birthplace of the alliance between the Republican party and the Religious Right that has shaped national politics for decades. After producing a series of linked articles that will form my dissertation, I will make the dataset available for public use. It will provide researchers with the capacity to look at change over time across multiple dimensions: residential patterns, club memberships, religious affiliations, workplaces, marriages, childrearing, and schools.

Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Religion, “Spiritual Rehabilitation: A Religious History of Intellectual Disability in Postwar America”

My dissertation explores the religious history of cognitive disability and its treatment in the United States in the wake of Second World War. While several scholars have marked this period as one in which what is now known as intellectual disability was “remade” in American public life, these studies have largely underplayed or neglected the role of religious practices and ideas in facilitating these changes. My project works to foreground those practices and ideas, not simply to give “the religious” its proverbial due, but instead, as part of a broader effort to reflect upon how diverse discourses have interacted in the making of disability within a so-called “secular age.”

Kyla Morgan Young, History, “Vested in Faith: A Religious History of Corporate Social Responsibility”

This past year, Kyla Morgan Young presented two chapters from her forthcoming dissertation, “Vested in Faith: An American Religious History of Socially Responsible Investing, 1951-1991”. The project examines the relationship between American Protestant denominations and multinational corporations in shaping ideas of human rights during the latter half of the twentieth century. Commencing with the inception of the National Council of Churches, the dissertation traces how civil rights and antiwar activism led mainline American Protestant churches to engage, refine, and deploy tactics of socially responsible investing and divesting in an effort to ensure the “common good.” Through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a faith-based investment watchdog, church leaders led the charge to reform corporate policies and ensure social justice at home and abroad. Through these divestment campaigns, American Christians engaged in a range of activities, from challenging injustices such as South Africa’s system of racial apartheid to regulating infant formula suspected of contributing to high rates of infant mortality across the Third World. Each of the dissertation’s five case studies reveals how liberal Protestant and Catholics negotiated the radical ideals of their faith and politics to reform the capitalist system while also preserving their institutional privilege.

Undergraduate Research Fellows

The Center annually assists undergraduates by funding their junior and senior independent research. The Center also works to include Princeton undergraduates in its many areas of ongoing research. The following students were named Undergraduate Research Fellows for the past academic year. In addition to receiving research funding these students attended Center-sponsored lectures and workshops.

Zartosht Ahlers ’19, Politics, “Implications of the Proposed US-Mexican Border Wall on the Tohono O’odham Nation”

Andie Ayala ’19, Anthropology, “Kaleidoscope Stories: Film as a Dialogic Platform for Life Stories”

Through film and essay components, my senior thesis explores the simultaneous and fragmented memories surrounding my Nana Rory’s life story. I argue that the me-

dium of film enables a life history text to be socially situated and dialogically constructed. Much like a turning kaleidoscope, the life history text is formed through the intersection of various perspectives of an individual's life path, reflected off of one another. Despite the fact that my Nana, her children, and her friends all view the same set of major events that occurred in her lifetime, they have experienced and interpreted them differently. Thus, film can play an active role in mediating and representing these varied perspectives through various layers of dialogue and video editing techniques. Although I note that the meaning of the life history text emerges through the intersubjective structure of compound authorship, I ultimately argue that my Nana uses the film platform to ultimately assert her faith-based conviction to bring healing to the family.

Mariachiara Ficarelli '19, Anthropology, "Fuori Campo: Affect, Dwelling, and Transience in Eritrean Rome"

Fuori Campo is an ethnography of Eritrean Rome. It explores how the urban space of Italy's capital produces an ambiguous affect for Eritreans, an overlapping of contradictory political alliances, sentiments, and citizenships. I argue that in urban precarity, mobility is experienced as stasis. Yet, in these interstices, the spaces in between, there are melancholic hopes and imaginations of alternative and resilient futures.

Nouran Ibrahim '19, Politics, "The Politicization of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt"

How do the politics regarding an issue impact public support levels for or against the issue? Can the politics surrounding an issue determine people's opinions on the practice? This thesis attempts to find the links that bridge politics to people's support levels for practices like FGM/C. Egypt has the second highest rates of FGM/C in the world, despite its apparent progressiveness and advancement in comparison to other African and Middle Eastern countries. Thus, the overwhelming presence of the practice is puzzling, and begs for an investigation of the underlying mechanisms through which politics come to influence people's lives in unexpected ways. The central tenet of this thesis is that the politicization of issues like FGM/C influences public support levels for their perpetuation. This is an investigation of the politicization of FGM/C in Egypt, and the way in which this politicization has manifested itself. I use qualitative evidence retrieved on the grounds in Cairo, Egypt and quantitative evidence from the Arab Barometer to substantiate my hypotheses on the relationship between people's attitudes towards political entities like the state, and their support of FGM/C. Because FGM/C became associated with anti-state, anti-Western political sentiments, which reached peak levels during the eruption of the issue on the international stage, people became more likely to accept the practice.

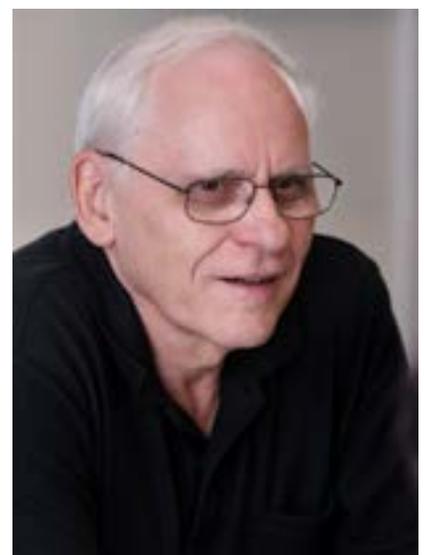
Yael Lilienthal '19, "Aramaic Caught in the Thicket: A Linguistic Untangling of Pseudo-Jonathan on the Binding of Isaac"

Though the term *targum* has been used to mean many things in Jewish texts, the word is associated with a genre of Aramaic translations of the Bible published in a variety of dating and geographic locations. In my thesis, I reinforce the difficulty of properly dating Targum Pseudo-Jonathan. After exploring the history of targum as a category, setting the genre in the broader context of translation theory, and laying out the historical dialectical development of Aramaic, I explored Pseudo-Jonathan and its complicated features. Some of its linguistic entanglements ensue from its incorporation of the translations of Targum Onqelos and Targum Neofiti, but even within its unique expansions, Pseudo-Jonathan seems to have language pointing to different eras in which it could be written. After much scholarship grappling with this issue, which I have laid out, Kaufman recently suggested that the dialect in which the document is written was constructed for literary purposes based on a variety of linguistic



"The year as an RPL fellow enabled me to regularly hear from perspectives outside my discipline. Presenting and dialoguing about how to develop research in progress was helpful in the early stages of dissertation writing. Professor Wuthnow's thoughtful comments, genuine interest, and humility provide an excellent example to all of us aspiring to be academics."

Megan Brand
Religion and Public Life Fellow





Associate Director Legath with two of the Undergraduate Research Fellows: Emily Kunkel '19 and Jamie O'Leary '19

"As a CSR Undergraduate Fellow, I gained the funding that I needed to travel to Nigeria and conduct in-person primary research that ultimately served as some of my most compelling evidences in proving the claims of my thesis. I'm very grateful to have been provided this opportunity to more directly engage with and learn about my thesis' target audience."

Emmanuel Udotong '19

influences. I applied Kaufman's methodology of study to chapter 22 of Genesis to portray that the same results are yielded, suggesting consistency in his study beyond his initial sampling of chapters. Both in its grammar and in its application to Genesis 22, the language of Pseudo-Jonathan proves to be a mergence from a plethora of linguistic sources, and my thesis explores what those sources may be.

Emily Kunkel '19, Anthropology, "Examining French sentiment towards Arab immigrants through food culture"

Marseille's culture is defined only by its indefinability. It's a multicultural mélange bringing together influences from each wave of people that have passed through its ancient port. With new people come new conflict. Marseille has forever been a land of refuge, but it has also forever been an object of control, a fact that the city has most commonly responded to with rebellion. Most recently, such control comes in the form of gentrification. Noailles, a neighborhood just blocks from Le Vieux Port epitomizes Marseille's cultural amalgamation. Five spices shops within Noailles, can be thought of as even smaller microcosms of the city. I found myself in Le Paradis D'Épice, one of the shops that has held onto historic spiritual and health practices thanks to a charismatic owner: Alibaba. This thesis explores the ways these shops, and in particular Alibaba's shop, navigate the changing landscape through assimilation and rebellion.

Jack Lohmann '19, English, "Congolese Refugees"

Emily McLean '20, Religion, "Teach Them Diligently: Analyzing Conservative Christian Sources of Authority Through Christian Homeschooling Textbooks"

In this paper, I argue that a more conservative textbooks are more narrative-driven because they rely more on the Bible as the sole source of authority in every aspect of their, and their readers', lives. The homeschooling movement is important because it impacts the lives of millions of children each year and is vastly understudied within the academy. I introduced the topic through a history of homeschooling, both Christian and secular. I then moved into an analysis of websites to see where conservative Christians source their authority. Finally, I analyzed three conservative Christian homeschooling texts and found the correlation between conservatism, narrative-driven structure, and Biblical authority. I punctuated the paper with excerpts from the Christian homeschooling conference I attended, which confirmed my claims and adds a real-life dimension to my arguments.

Nathaniel Moses '19, History, "Edward Pococke and his Judeo-Arabic Manuscripts"

My thesis is a study of the Hebraic scholarship of Edward Pococke, the first Laudian chair of Arabic in seventeenth-century Oxford and the first European scholar to integrate the study of Judeo-Arabic texts into Biblical scholarship. I investigate the encounter that occurred in Pococke's Oxford between classical Islamicate hermeneutics and early modern humanism. Whereas Pococke's scholarship on Islamic literature and philosophy has been researched, Pococke's impressive Biblical scholarship remains understudied, yet was a central site of England's encounter with the intellectual traditions of the Islamic world. Pococke spent the last fifteen years of his life writing commentaries on the later prophets: Micah, Malachi, Hosea, and Joel. I reconstruct Pococke's scholarly process in writing these works, revealing the rich conversation that took place between him and a number of contemporary and medieval Judeo-Arabic philologists.

Jamie O'Leary '19, Anthropology, "Duma Doyal Ci Maam Maryaama: Ins and Outs of Gendered Embodiment in a Senegalese Daara"

This ethnography explores the gendered and multidirectional relationships between interiors and bodies in Daara Yacine, a Sufi daara (Quranic school) in Senegal. Be-

liefs and daily practices in the daara center around Maryaama (the Quranic Mary), who serves as proof that women are superior to men and whose example is performatively embodied by all Daara Yacine students. This thesis discusses the nuances and complexities of gendered interior/exterior dichotomies through its analyses of the community's gendered division of labor, the ongoing story of Maryaama, the sometimes-contradictory relationships between gendered interiors and sexed exteriors, and the embodied and affective practices of song and dance. In Daara Yacine, boundaries between interior, body, and social world are drawn and complicated, their interstices becoming sites of both incongruity and harmony.

Natalya Rahman '19, Politics, "Candidate Pull, Partisan Push: The Personal Vote and Voter Behavior in Pakistan's 2018 National Election"

Although Pakistan was founded as a democracy in 1947, it had its first peaceful, democratic transfer of power in 2013. Pakistan's 2018 national election represented ten consecutive years of democracy. In 2018, PML-N, an established incumbent party lost the election to PTI, a party led by a political outsider and former cricket star, Imran Khan. In this paper, I compare the vote choice of ordinary citizens across Pakistan's two most recent elections to demonstrate the importance of the personal or candidate-centered vote in the 2018 election. I use aggregate data, original survey data, and field interviews to illustrate that although candidates remained important to voters, political heavyweights were not as integral to PTI's winning strategy as the press portrayed. I then show that Imran Khan's personal vote was not associated with electoral outcomes in contradiction with the charismatic leader explanation for PTI's success. I also disentangle the personal vote from patronage. After accounting for the personal vote, PML-N still lost vote share somewhat uniformly across constituencies. I argue that this quasi-uniform swing cannot be explained by voters' attitudes toward corruption but rather by Pakistan's deteriorating economy. This paper contributes to the perspective that candidates are important in Pakistani politics by focusing on citizens as opposed to candidates, nuancing the personal vote, and measuring the size of the candidate's vote relative to the partisan vote. Another contribution of this project is the design and implementation of Pakistan's first post-election survey. Overall, this project sheds light on voter behavior in emerging democracies.

Nora Schultz '19, Politics, "Theory and Practice of Radical Left in Uruguay and Chile"

Emmanuel Udotong '19, Sociology, "Spiritually Rich yet Physically Poor: Dissecting the Contemporary Influence of Pentecostalism in Nigeria"

This study explores the economic implications of religiosity in Nigerian Pentecostal society. Zeroing in on the country's broader Pentecostal program, we hypothesize that the denominational sect has in many ways stifled economic growth. By examining a variety of data sources such as qualitative interviews, church teachings, and a quantitative macroeconomic analysis, the study reveals that Pentecostalism has spurred economic stagnation and perpetuated poverty in Nigerian communities. The results show that pastors commonly urge their followers to maximize religious routine and maintain faith that all needs will be provided, but they neglect and even condemn the physical work that is required to practically drive growth and prosperity. This study also investigates the source of this "faith without works" mentality and offers recommendations to alleviate its detrimental effects. Ultimately, this work is salient because research has seldom focused on the impact that religion can have on economic behavior within today's developing world.

Téa Wimer '19, Religion, "Family Formation & Community Organizing For Queer Religious Individuals"

"Make Me Love a Stranger!: Connecting Family and Community in an LGBTQ+

"My year as a CSR Undergrad Fellow was immensely useful because it helped me realize how much joy I find in conducting research. The funding particularly enabled me to engage with my community for an extended amount of time, allowing me to garner over 20 hours of individual interviews to listen to and extract rich points of analysis. Additionally, attending Rebecca Davis' "Free to Be" event was eye-opening in connecting my thesis to broader systems that affect vulnerable communities and impacts individuals in these communities by undermining their own agency."

Téa Wimer '19

Church” investigates the extent to which family formation and a sense of responsibility to family changes for LGBTQ+ identifying members of Guiding Light Metropolitan Community Church as they build their own family and community within the church space. This thesis explores the ways that these transformed notions of family impacts the responsibility that queer religious individuals feel towards their communities in their church space. Based on a 4-month ethnographic study, which included interviews with church members, observation during service, and auto-ethnographic sessions that participants conducted during their own private moments, the thesis proposed two models of family formation that resist popular notions of family formation and work together to center the individual’s own agency. For instance, an individual might assert that family is those who accepts the individual wholly, yet also assert that their own mother loves them, even if she doesn’t accept their sexual orientation or gender identity. In this case, the individual is able to adopt multiple understandings of what it means to be family with someone else. This may also be exercised within the church space as church members seek to grow their congregation. Those who attend service for the first time are treated as potential family as church members extend their notions of family to include this new person in their space. The last part of this argument extends this analysis to the outer community within which the church exists. The thesis argues that church members are able to effectively extend themselves through these modes in order to do community work, as they envision everyone in their community as potential family that they then become responsible for. Finally, the last chapter argues for a definition of religious ethnography, concerning itself primarily with the auto-ethnographic sessions to demonstrate that how people talk about and experience subjects related to spirituality and religiosity are influenced by the individual’s environment and surroundings, therefore suggesting that religious auto-ethnography is an incredibly important tool to understanding lived religion.



“I have particularly enjoyed and truly appreciated the weekly collegial and thought-provoking sessions with RPL seminar, which challenged me and expanded my horizons, always with a sharpness of thought and a smile.”

Tanya Zion-Waldoks
Visiting Fellow

Executive Committee

The Center is administered by an interdepartmental faculty committee appointed to rotating terms by the Dean of the Faculty. The committee sets policy for the Center and serves as the review and selection committee for all applications to the Center, including those for its conferences and lecture series, graduate student fellows, and undergraduate seminars.

João Biehl is Susan Dod Brown Professor of Anthropology and Woodrow Wilson School Faculty Associate. Biehl is the author of the award-winning books *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment* and of *Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival*. He also co-edited the books *When People Come First: Critical Studies in Global Health* and *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations*. Concerned with the conceptual and literary force of ethnography, Biehl has recently co-authored *Unfinished: The Anthropology of Becoming*. Biehl has been a National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Member of the Center for Theological Inquiry. Biehl received Princeton’s Presidential Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005 and Princeton’s Graduate Mentoring Award in 2012. He is currently writing *The False Saints: Remains of a German-Brazilian Fratricide*, a historical ethnography of the Mucker War, a religious war that shattered German-Brazilian communities in the 19th century.

Ellen Chances is Professor of Russian literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Her scholarly and teaching interests range from studies on individual authors such as Andrei Bitov, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, and Kharms, to broad interdisciplinary explorations of the psychology of culture, and the interplay between literature and the other arts. Her specialties are the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first-century Russian novel; Soviet and post-Soviet Russian literature and culture; the study of literature in its historical context; literature and ideas; literature and art; literature and values; and literature and film. In addi-

tion to writing fiction, memoirs, essays and poetry, she is the author most recently of *Andrei Bitov: The Ecology of Inspiration*.

Jessica Delgado is Assistant Professor of Religion. Her field is the history of religion in Latin America with a focus on Mexico in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Her research interests include women, gender, and sexuality, the Catholic Church in colonial society, race, caste, and religion, and the intersection between social and spiritual status in the early modern world. Delgado's first book, *Laywomen and the Making of Colonial Catholicism in New Spain, 1630-1780*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018.

Patricia Fernández-Kelly is Professor in the Department of Sociology and Research Associate in the Office of Population Research. She is also the director of the Center for Migration and Development. Fernández-Kelly is a social anthropologist with an interest in international economic development, gender, class and ethnicity, and urban ethnography. Her latest book is *The Hero's Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State* and she is currently working on a book entitled *Hialeah Dreams: The Making of the Cuban-American Working Class in South Florida*.

Seth Perry is Assistant Professor of Religion. He is interested in American religious history, with a particular focus on print culture and religious authority. Perry's first book, *Bible Culture and Authority in the Early United States* (Princeton University Press, 2018) explores the performative, rhetorical, and material aspects of bible-based authority in early-national America. His current book project is a biography of Lorenzo Dow, the early-national period's most famous itinerant preacher

Jack Tannous is Assistant Professor of History. He is interested in the cultural history of the eastern Mediterranean, especially the Middle East, in the Late Antique and early medieval period. His research focuses on the Syriac-speaking Christian communities of the Near East in this period, but he is interested in several other related areas, including Eastern Christian Studies more broadly, Patristics/early Christian studies, Greco-Syriac and Greco-Arabic translation, Christian-Muslim interactions, sectarianism and identity, early Islamic history, the history of the Arabic Bible, and the Quran. He is also interested in manuscripts and the editing of Syriac and Arabic (especially Christian Arabic) texts. Tannous is the author of *The Making of the Medieval Middle East: Religion, Society, and Simple Believers* (Princeton University Press 2018) and is currently at work on *Lovers of Labor at the End of the Ancient World: Syriac Scholars Between Byzantium and Islam*.

Stephen F. Teiser teaches history of religions at Princeton University, where he is D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and Director of the Program in East Asian Studies. He is interested in the interaction between Buddhism and indigenous Chinese traditions, brought into focus through the wealth of sūtras, non-canonical texts, and artistic evidence unearthed on the Silk Road. With support from a Social Science Research Council fellowship, "New Directions in the Study of Prayer," he is completing a book entitled *Curing with Karma*, focusing on medieval liturgical manuscripts used in Buddhist rituals for healing. He is also working on a book in Chinese on ritual and the study of Buddhism, growing out of the Guanghai Lectures he delivered in 2014 at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Judith Weisenfeld is the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion and Associate Faculty in the Center for African American Studies. Her field is American religious history, with particular emphasis on 20th-century African American religious history, black women's history, and religion in American film and popular culture. She is the author of *Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film, 1929-1949* and *African American Women and Christian Activism: New York's Black YWCA, 1905-1945*. Her most recent book is *New World A-Coming: Black Religion*

"My work has benefited tremendously from my time at the CSR. The helpful and constructive feedback that I received from my colleagues in Religion and Culture has not only improved my writing and sharpened my arguments but also introduced me to new theories and new discussions. More than anything the community that I became part of and the companionship and encouragement I found at the CSR alleviated some of the struggles of writing a dissertation. I am grateful to the CSR for their support this past year."

Richard Calis
Religion and Culture Fellow



and *Racial Identity during the Great Migration*, supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies. Her current research examines the intersections of psychiatry, race, and African American religion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Robert Wuthnow, Center Director, is the Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Sociology. His research and teaching focus on social and cultural change in communities. He is interested in the structural (economic, demographic, political) conditions that elicit change, the social movements that mobilize and respond to change, and the effects of social change for civil society, for the moral obligations that bond people together, and for cultural understandings of justice, human dignity, and personal meaning. He pays particular attention to these questions in religious communities, asking how new movements emerge, how congregations respond to immigration and religious pluralism, how they make use of the arts and engage in social service activities, and how they are affected by generational dynamics. Recent books include *Inventing American Religion: Polls, Surveys, and the Tenuous Quest for a Nation's Faith* and *American Misfits and the Making of Middle Class Respectability*.

Jenny Wiley Legath is Associate Director of the Center. She specializes in American religious history, focusing on women's religious history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her book *Sanctified Sisters: A History of Protestant Deaconesses* is forthcoming in Fall 2019 from New York University Press. She sits with the Committee as a non-voting member.

Faculty Associates

Faculty Associates are members of the University faculty who have expressed particular interest in the activities of the Center and who help advise Center staff about relevant activities and interests in their respective departments. Complete descriptions of their publications and research and teaching interests are featured on the Center's website for students interested in knowing more about faculty resources in the study of religion.



Christopher Achen is Roger Williams Straus Professor of Social Sciences and Professor of Politics. His research interest is Political Methodology, particularly in its application to empirical democratic theory, American Politics, and International Relations.

Leora F. Batnitzky is Professor of Religion. Her teaching and research interests include philosophy of religion, modern Jewish thought, hermeneutics, and contemporary legal and political theory.

Aisha Beliso-de Jesús is Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and American Studies. She is a cultural and social anthropologist who has conducted ethnographic research with Santería practitioners in Cuba and the United States, and police officers and Black and Brown communities affected by police violence in the United States.

André Benhaïm is Associate Professor of French. He studies twentieth-century French and Francophone literature and culture, with particular interest in questions of identity and representation, ethics and aesthetics, and the relationship among "canonical" literature, contemporary works, and "popular culture."

Wallace Best is Professor of Religion and African American Studies. He specializes in 19th and 20th century African American religious history, focusing on the areas of African American religion, religion and literature, Pentecostalism, and Womanist theology.

John Borneman is Professor of Anthropology. With regard to religious studies, he explores the displacement of the sacred in and through secular processes.

D. Graham Burnett is Professor of History. His interests include the history of natural history and the sciences of the earth and the sea from the 17th through the 20th centuries.

Michael Cadden is Senior Lecturer in Theater, and Chair, in the Peter B. Lewis Center for the Creative and Performing Arts. His areas of interest include modern and contemporary theater, Shakespeare in performance, and Australian literature and theater.

Michael Cook is Class of 1943 University Professor of Near Eastern Studies. His focus is the formation of Islamic civilization and the role played by religious values in that process.

Rafaela Dancygier is Assistant Professor of Politics and Public and International Affairs. She researches the domestic consequences of international immigration, the incorporation of immigrants, the political representation of ethnic minorities, and the determinants of ethnic conflict.

Mitchell Duneier is Maurice P. Daring Professor of Sociology. He is the author most recently of *Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, the History of an Idea*.

Eddie S. Glaude Jr. is William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies. His research interests include American pragmatism and African American religious history and its place in American public life.

Jonathan Gold is Associate Professor of Religion. His research focuses on Sanskrit and Tibetan Buddhist intellectual traditions—especially theories of interpretation, translation, and learning.

Anthony Grafton is Henry Putnam University Professor of History. His interests lie in the cultural history of Renaissance Europe, the history of books and readers, the history of scholarship and education in the West from Antiquity to the 19th century, and the history of science from Antiquity to the Renaissance.

Eric Gregory is Professor of Religion. His interests include religious and philosophical ethics, theology, bioethics, political theory, and the role of religion in public life.

Jonathan Gribetz is Assistant Professor in Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies. He researches the history of Zionism, Palestine, Israel, Jerusalem, and the Arab-Jewish encounter.

Olga P. Hasty is Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She devotes herself primarily to poets of the nineteenth century and the modernist period (e.g. Pushkin, Pavlova, Pasternak, and Tsvetaeva).

Amaney Jamal is the Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics. Her areas of specialization are the Middle East and North Africa, mass and political behavior, political development and democratization, inequality and economic segregation, Muslim immigration (US and Europe), gender, race, religion, and class.

Michael Jennings is Class of 1900 Professor of Modern Languages and Chair of the Department of German. His research and teaching focus on 20th century European literature, photography, and cultural theory.

Beatrice Kitzinger is Assistant Professor of Art and Archaeology. Her research examines intersections of artistic media, of pictorial and liturgical space, and of historical, eschatological, and ritual time primarily in manuscript illumination between the eighth and tenth centuries.

Eve Krakowski is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies. She focuses on the social history of the medieval Middle East, with

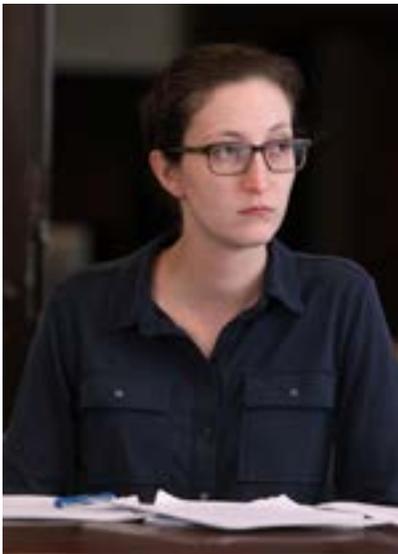
“My dissertation research and wider academic interests have been profoundly shaped by the Center’s commitment to interdisciplinary seminars, public lecture series, and workshops. This year, feedback from the Religion and Culture workshop particularly encouraged me to re-think the way I conceive of ritual and the politics of sacrifice in the mining industry. Conversations with Lynn Davidman at the Center further helped me develop interview methods to study miners’ uniquely embodied knowledge and concepts about space.”

Megan Eardley
Religion and Culture Fellow



“Each week in Religion and Public Life I learned about a new topic, reflected more deeply about the processes of research and writing, and practiced giving and receiving feedback on work at various stages and from a variety of disciplines. Outside of the seminar space, I find myself thinking more deeply about the ways religion matters in my dissertation.”

Elizabeth Baisley
Religion and Public Life Fellow



particular interests in women's history, family history, and the history of religious practice.

Christina Lee is a tenured research scholar in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Her current research examines Hispanic-Asian forms of religious devotions in the Spanish Philippines during the early colonial period.

Hendrik Lorenz is Professor of Philosophy. His research centers on Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics and Plotinus, focusing on issues in (moral) psychology and epistemology.

Carolina Mangone is Assistant Professor of Art and Archaeology. She specializes in southern Renaissance and Baroque art and is currently researching Gianlorenzo Bernini, the “Michelangelo of his age.”

Meredith Martin is Associate Professor of English. She specializes in anglophone poetry from 1830 to the present, with particular interests in historical poetics, poetry and public culture, and disciplinary and pedagogical history.

Jan-Werner Müller is Professor of Politics. His research interests include the history of modern political thought, liberalism and its critics, constitutionalism, religion and politics, and the normative dimensions of European integration.

Chika Okeke-Agulu is Associate Professor of Art and Archaeology and African American Studies. He specializes in African and African Diaspora art and visual cultures, with a particular interest in the history of modernism in Africa and the intersection of art and politics in modern and contemporary art.

Elaine Pagels is the Harrington Spear Paine Foundation Professor of Religion. She has published widely on Gnosticism and early Christianity and continues to pursue research interests in late antiquity.

Sara S. Poor is Associate Professor of German. Her primary research interests are in the areas of Gender Studies and medieval German literature.

Jamie Reuland is Assistant Professor of Music. Her work focuses on music of the later Middle Ages, song, language, and philosophies of music.

Sarah Rivett is Assistant Professor of English. She specializes in early American and transatlantic literature and culture.

Carolyn Rouse is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Program in African Studies. She is a cultural anthropologist who focuses on how evidence and authority are used to validate truth claims and calls for social justice.

Marina Rustow is Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East. She is a social historian of the medieval Middle East who works primarily with sources from the Cairo Geniza.

Esther H. Schor is a poet and professor of English and founding Chair of the Committee on American Jewish Studies. Her teaching interests include British Romanticism and literature, Scripture, and religion.

Teresa Shawcross is Associate Professor of History. She is a historian of the Byzantine Empire and the Mediterranean World in the Middle Ages who is currently studying medieval theories and practices of empire.

Nigel Smith is William and Annie S. Paton Foundation Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature. His interests include poetry; poetic theory; the social role of literature; and literature, politics and religion.

Moulie Vidas is Assistant Professor of Religion and the Program in Judaic Studies.

His current projects include a monograph on the emergence of Talmudic culture in Roman Palestine and a co-edited collection of essays on late ancient knowledge.

Barbara White is Professor of Music and Director of Composers' Ensemble. She is a chamber music composer whose scholarly writings address the coordination between sound and image, the relationship between creative activity and everyday life, and the impact on music of gender, listening, and spirituality.

Tamsen Wolff is Associate Professor of English. She specializes in modern and contemporary drama and performance, gender studies, cultural studies, voice, directing, and dramaturgy.

Muhammad Qasim Zaman is Robert H. Niehaus '77 Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion. His research interests include: religious authority in classical, medieval, and modern Islam; history of Islamic law in the Middle East and in late medieval and modern South Asia; learning in Islam; Islamic political thought; and contemporary religious and political movements in the Muslim world.

The Religion and Public Life Seminar





Advisory Council

Courtney Bender *97

Lynn Davidman

Henry C. Doll '58

Jenna Weissman Joselit

D. Michael Lindsay *06

Katherine Marshall *69

A. G. Miller *94

Staff

Director: Robert Wuthnow, Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Sociology

Associate Director: Jenny Wiley Legath

Manager: Anita Kline



EVENTS

Throughout the year, the Center sponsored many public lectures, discussions and symposia. These well-attended events attracted the interest of students, faculty, and the wider Princeton community. Video or audio recordings of most events are available online from the Center's website, and a podcast subscription will become available this Fall. In addition to financial support from Princeton University, the Center's public events are funded through a variety of sources.

Buddhist Studies Workshop

"Dreaming Dharma's Decline: An Indian Buddhist *Vaticinium ex eventu*" with **Jonathan Silk**, University of Leiden, October 4

"Rethinking the Structure and Typology of Liturgical Texts from Dunhuang" by **Hao Chunwen**, Capital Normal University, December 6, 2018

Center of Theological Inquiry-Center for the Study of Religion Joint Symposium

"Religion and Violence: Global Issues" featuring CSR Executive Committee members **Jessica Delgado** and **Seth Perry** and Visiting Fellow **Tanya Zion-Waldoks**, December 7, 2018

Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion Series

The Crossroads of Religion and Politics Series is co-sponsored with the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. The discussions feature academics, journalists, faith practitioners, and policy makers in informal conversation with CSR and WWS students and fellows.

"The Evangelical Road to Donald Trump" with **John Fea**, Messiah College, November 6, 2018

"This Muslim American Life" with **Moustafa Bayoumi**, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, November 27, 2018

"Advocating for Healthy Minds in Trenton, New Jersey" with **Kimme Carlos**, Urban Mental Health Alliance, December 10, 2018

Faith & Ethics in the Executive Suite

Reunions 2019: **Jason Garrett '89**, Head Coach, Dallas Cowboys, interviewed by **David W. Miller**, Director of the Faith & Work Initiative, June 1, 2019



THE PRINCETON FAITH & WORK INITIATIVE, WITH THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION, PRESENTS:

FAITH & ETHICS IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE
WITH
JASON GARRETT '89
HEAD COACH, DALLAS COWBOYS



IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID W. MILLER, DIRECTOR, FAITH & WORK INITIATIVE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | MORE INFORMATION AT FAITHANDWORK.PRINCETON.EDU

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019 | 10:30-11:30 AM | 135 NASSAU STREET, JAMES STEWART THEATRE, ROOM 110



Doll Family Lecture on Religion and Money

“Holy Humanitarians: American Evangelicals and Global Aid,” **Heather D. Curtis**, Tufts University, April 18, 2019

Graduate Student Fellow **Andrew Walker-Cornetta** had the following comment on the event, “Our Doll lecturer, Dr. Heather Curtis, Professor of Religion at Tufts University, has provided us with an illuminating and potentially surprising genealogy for some of our current donation rituals and the appetites that feed them. Taking us back well before our computers and televisions and glossies, Professor Curtis has directed our attention to a late nineteenth-century newspaper and evangelical media-sphere in order to raise and address a series of questions about religion, US empire, philanthropy, and journalism. And much more besides.

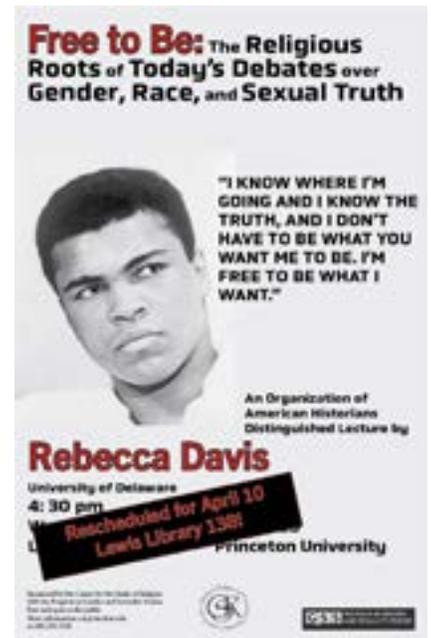
With stunning archival facility, Curtis offers us a compelling origin story for how Americans have imagined a global world and their places within it—what has nurtured and nagged a perduring humanitarian ambition in the US and beyond. In doing so, she has provided a generative set of resources for thinking about the making and maintenance of American moral imaginations, what we might call popular ethics, and our own relation to a not too distant past. And she does so consistently sensitive to ambiguities, impasses, and conflicts.”



The Doll Family Lectureship on Religion and Money, inaugurated in 2007, was established through a gift from Henry C. Doll '58 and his family. The purpose of the lectureship is to bring distinguished speakers to Princeton University who will inspire students, faculty, and the campus community toward a greater understanding of the many – and often neglected – relationships between religion and money in our own time and historically. This year’s lecture reflected the family’s longstanding interest in the subject of philanthropy and its relationship with religion.

“Free to Be: The Religious Roots of Today’s Debates over Gender, Race, and Sexual Truth,” an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecture by **Rebecca L. Davis**, University of Delaware, April 10, 2019

In this lecture, Rebecca Davis gave us insight into her current research on religious conversion, part of her ongoing pursuit of “intellectual histories of non-intellectuals.” She argued that in the years after World War II, religious conversions became sites of contest over truth, sincerity, and authority. Davis demonstrated that privileges of race and gender helped determine who was deemed able to choose, or choose credibly, their religious identity. Americans deployed concepts such as “brainwashing” and “manhood” to render some individuals competent to choose and some incompetent. These ideas persisted and by the 1970s, evangelicals were claiming their born-again experiences as the epitome of the American religious freedom to choose. These claims remain powerful today and are acted out, for example, upon same-sex-desiring people, as Americans argue whether or not they are entitled to choose their identities.



Featured Co-Sponsored Conferences

“Remorseless Cannibals and Loving Scribes: Samples and Highlights from Princeton University’s Collections of Ethiopian Manuscripts (1500s-1900s)” Organized by **Wendy L. Belcher**, Comparative Literature and African American Studies, March 12, 2019

The Center for the Study of Religion joined several departments at Princeton to provide financial support for a historic event at Princeton, the visit of eight Ethiopian orthodox priests and scholars to the library’s extraordinary collection of Ethiopian manuscripts, the largest and most substantial in the Americas. Prof. Wendy Laura Belcher

used the funding to consult with these African religious leaders and scholars on these manuscripts and for a new project of hers, the Princeton Ethiopian Miracles of Mary (PEMM) digital humanities project. These visitors included **Rev. Melaku Terefe**,

“I’m so grateful to the CSR for its timely support of a historic event at Princeton, the visit of eight Ethiopian orthodox priests and scholars to the library’s extraordinary collection of Ethiopian manuscripts, the largest and most substantial in the Americas. Consulting with these African religious leaders, who are the experts on their patrimony, especially in cultural, linguistic, and religious terms, was only possible due to CSR support. This kind of engagement with a broader and more diverse public enriches us all as individuals and researchers.”

Wendy Laura Belcher

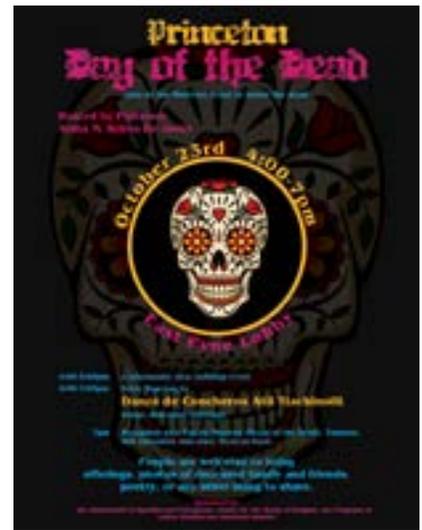
one of the catalogers of the Princeton collection and on the Ethiopic Manuscript Imaging Project; **Eyob Derillo**, curator of Ethiopian collections at the British Library; Meron Gebreananaye, PhD student in religious, theology, and literary studies at the University of Durham, UK; **Elias Wondimu**, CEO and President of TSEHAI Publications; **Rev. Mussie Berhe**, St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Church of Los Angeles; and **Rev. Woldesemait Teklehaymanot**, at St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles; **Solomon Gebreyes**, researcher at the University of Hamburg Institute for Ethiopian Studies; and **Dr. Ephraim Isaac**, scholar of Ethiopian manuscripts and one of the original cataloguers of the Princeton manuscripts. The CSR thus funded Princeton’s expanding engagement with a broader and more diverse public, one that enriches the Princeton community in numerous ways.



Photos by Mark Czajkowski

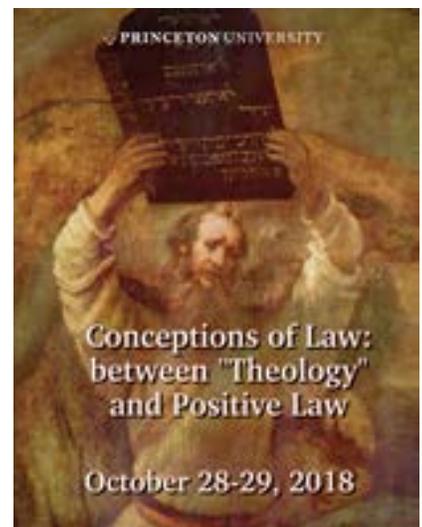
Day of the Dead Presentation, Organized by **Aisha Beliso-de Jesus**, Spanish and Portuguese and American Studies. October 23, 2018

On Tuesday, October 23, the Princeton community gathered in the lobby and courtyard of East Pyne to celebrate the Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos. Day of the Dead — which takes place from November 1 to 2 — is an indigenous and Catholic syncretic practice in Mexico and Latin America that remembers and honors the deceased. Day of the Dead in the U.S. is a place where Latina/o/x communities can gather, honor, remember and claim space. We find these events across a variety of places such as community centers, schools, libraries, museums, or parks. In Latin America, the Day of the Dead is a family-centered celebration, where homes and graves are prepared to honor ancestors and family who have departed and their favorite foods and drink are offered. In the United States, the holiday has also become a cultural and artistic experience, where altar exhibitions and making, processions, and vigils are often accompanied by political messages to point to injustices that have caused unnecessary deaths. These events are celebrated in public and social locations rather than only cemeteries. As the Day of the Dead fell over fall break, Princeton's event was held early to ensure that more students, faculty and staff could participate. Through a ceremonial art, the Day of the Dead event at Princeton allowed the community to explore the practice of cultural memory and traditions through a creative public presentation that brought together group unity and identity for Latina/o/x communities in and around campus. It also served to inform others about this powerful culture heritage and indigenous tradition of which many Princeton Latina/o/x practice. There was a class lecture featuring a NYC based Jewish-Mexican artist, poet and dancer, Luz Schreiber. Luz hosted the public commemoration event, where the Princeton community was able to experience this rich heritage, through community altar-building, shared Pan de Muertos (Bread of the Dead) and hot chocolate, both traditional foods of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, as well as a lively performance by Danza de Concheros Atl Tlachinolli, an Aztec dancing troupe from New York and New Jersey.



“Conceptions of Law: Between ‘Theology’ and Positive Law” Conference organized by **Olaoluwatoni Alimi** and **Raissa von Doetinchem de Rande**, Religion, October 29-30, 2018

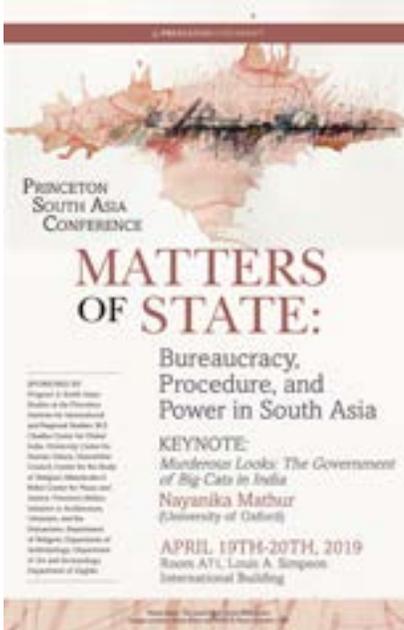
The conference had three main parts. The first part was a workshop for scholars of religion who were interested in the use of legal cases in religion writing but lacked formal legal training. This workshop was led by **Winnifred Sullivan** (Indiana University) and **Cathleen Kaveny** (Boston College). The second part was a keynote lecture, given by **Tisa Wenger** (Yale Divinity School), on the American legal history of the category of ‘religion’ as it pertains to religious freedom. The final part was a panel discussion featuring scholars on religion and law in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, aimed at analyzing how religious communities in North America have conceived of and navigated the spaces between their religious conceptions of law and the American legal system. This event had a number of distinguished scholars from across the United States and Canada attend. Funding from the Center for the Study of Religion made it possible for us to cover a range of expenses including travel and lodging, as well as honoraria for our keynote speakers and workshop leaders. Furthermore, we enjoyed strong attendance at the conference – from University affiliates and community members alike. For this reason, we are very grateful to CSR for their help in advertising this conference.





“In the Service of Your Fellow Beings: A Student Conference at Princeton University,” organized by **Amelia Goldrup ’20** and **Jonathan Spencer**, Electrical Engineering, November 9-11, 2018

With the help of the Princeton CSR, students were able to put on a 3 day conference with nearly 200 attendees - including a group of Princeton students but also students from across the country. The funds helped cover the cost of food, renting spaces around campus, and transportation costs for our guest speakers (including Senator **Jeff Flake** and **Katrina Lantos Swett** as the keynote speakers). The theme for our conference was based on a scripture from the Book of Mormon - Mosiah 2:17: “And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.” As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we are obligated to strive to better the world and the lives of our brothers and sisters through Christ-like service. Though public service can take many forms, electoral politics is perhaps the most controversial and is therefore seldom discussed in official church settings. Recognizing such, we devoted a significant portion of the conference to examining and discussing how committed church members of all political persuasions can use their faith to guide them in their efforts to better the world through political engagement. We also discussed other forms of public service and how Latter-day Saints in many different fields contribute to the world around them. Putting on a conference of this scale and quality has been a longtime dream of the Princeton LDSSA, and will certainly be one of our favorite memories from our college years. We are so grateful for the CSR and other Princeton organization’s support in making this possible!

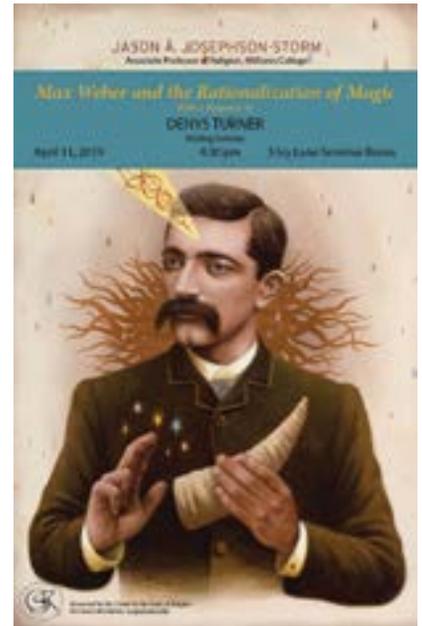


“Matters of State: Bureaucracy, Procedure, and Power in South Asia,” Conference organized by **Tara Suri** and **Amna Qayyum**, History, April 19-20, 2019

The 8th annual Princeton South Asia Conference, “Matters of State: Bureaucracy, Procedure, and Power in South Asia,” brought together twenty one young scholars from five countries for two days of rich discussion on April 19th and 20th. Through panels ranging from “violence and welfare” to “spatializing development” to “licit and illicit labor,” participants engaged in interdisciplinary explorations of how the state generates material force in everyday life in South Asia. Their presentations attended to the production of subjectivities across lines of sexual, racial, caste, and religious difference. A highlight of the event was the keynote by **Nayanika Mathur**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oxford, titled “Murderous Looks: The Government of Big Cats in India.” The organizers of the Princeton South Asia Conference are grateful to the Center for the Study of Religion; funding from CSR supported the travel of multiple graduate students and in so doing, facilitated a dynamic and diverse conference environment. The full program and abstracts are available here: <https://southasiaworkshop.wordpress.com/program/>

“Max Weber and the Rationalization of Magic,” **Jason Josephson-Storm**, Williams College, with Response by **Denys Turner**, April 11, 2019

On April 11, the Center for the Study of Religion hosted **Jason Ananda Josephson-Storm** to discuss his recently-published book, *The Myth of Disenchantment: Magic, Modernity, and the Birth of the Human Sciences* (University of Chicago 2017). Josephson-Storm is chair and associate professor of Religion at Williams College and also Chair of Science and Technology Studies. He holds a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Stanford. He is a previous Fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion. Professor **Denys Turner**, visiting faculty in the Department of Religion, offered comments. Turner is Horace Tracy Pitkin Professor of Historical Theology emeritus at Yale University. Before that he was Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University. He earned his D.Phil. in Philosophy from Oxford University and has focused on political theory and social theory in relation to Christian theology, as well as on medieval thought and Christian Mysticism. Josephson-Storm’s talk challenged the widely-held account of modernity as characterized by a diminished belief in the divine as a pervasive force in everyday life, and a corresponding belief that modernity meant skepticism regarding the power and effectiveness of magic, spiritualism, and myth. Based on archival research, Josephson-Storm traced the history of the idea of disenchantment in the early fields of philosophy, anthropology, sociology, folklore, psychoanalysis, and religious studies, treating the U.S., Britain, France, and Germany. Josephson-Storm’s unusual breadth in scholarship on religion, as well as his interest in European intellectual history, made for a stimulating presentation on the idea of modernity, focusing on the early twentieth century with Weber’s influential and often misinterpreted idea of “the disenchantment of the world.” Turner’s discussion was wide-ranging but pushed Josephson-Storm to clarify his idea of “disenchantment” and myth itself, drawing on the example of the Catholic Church. In Turner’s example, the church was a world in which ritual and metaphor (the Communion, for example) were more complex than in Weber’s treatment. They were more than simply literal representations of the body of Christ but rather elicited devotion and the felt presence of the divine through a sense of religious community. Thus, Weber’s notions of “magic” and archaic ritual were overly simple, and the continued commitment to mysticism in the early social sciences, as well as the ambivalence concerning rationalization among classical thinkers, was perhaps less surprising than we might suppose. A lively discussion ensued followed by dinner. The event was organized by **Amy Borovoy**, East Asian Studies.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Migration and the Bible



Photo: Jon Steinman Gallery, Art Net: "Ruth and Naomi"

Workshop

March 3-4, 2019

LEORA BATNITZKY Princeton University	YMAN LISKA University of Toronto/The Hebrew University
OFER DYNES The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	NAPHTALI MESHEL The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
AMIR ESHEL Stanford University	ILANA PARDES The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
EDWARD GREENSTEIN Bar Ilan University	SETH PERRY Princeton University
ERIC GREGORY Princeton University	GALITHASAN ROKEM The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
CHANA KRONFELD University of California Berkeley	NAOMI SEIDMAN University of Toronto

Julius Romo Rabinowitz Building - Room 301
March 3 @ 12 pm-7 pm March 4 @ 9 am-12:30 pm

Sponsored By: University Center for Human Values, Center for the Study of Religion and Department of Religion.

Additional Co-Sponsored Conferences

“Vasubandhu Translation Group Third Workshop: Buddhist Philosophical Translations for Non-Specialists” organized by **Jonathan Gold**, Religion, August 3-5, 2018

A Conference in Honor of **Jeffrey L. Stout**—Scholar, Teacher, Citizen, September 7-8, 2018

“History of Black Gospel Music” Guest Lecture by **Tracy Morgan**, Gospel Music Broadcaster, organized by **Wallace Best**, Religion and African American Studies, December 6, 2018

“Migration and the Bible” Conference organized by **Leora Batnitzky**, Religion, March 3-4, 2019

“Religion and New Voices in Intellectual History” featuring new work by **Amy Kitelstrom**, Sonoma State University and **Christopher Cameron**, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, organized by **Jessica Delgado**, Religion, March 9, 2019

“Failure in the Middle Ages” Twenty-sixth Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference in Medieval Studies, organized by **Ariana Myers** and **Joe Snyder**, History, March 22, 2019

“Legendary Characters: Attribution and Personhood in Ancient Judaism,” co-organized by **Laura Quick**, Religion and Judaic Studies, and **Jacqueline Vayntrub**, Brandeis University, April 28-29, 2019

“Original Thoughts”: A Conference in Honor of **Jacqueline I. Stone**, including presentations by CSR alumni **Timothy Benedict**, **Bryan Lowe**, **Levi McLaughlin**, **Lori Meeks**, **Mark Rowe**, and **Asuka Sango**, May 17-18, 2019

“Law, Difference, and Healthcare: Making Sense of Structural Racism in Medico-Legal History” Organized by **George Aumoithe**, June 6-7, 2019



LAW, DIFFERENCE, AND HEALTHCARE:
MAKING SENSE OF STRUCTURAL RACISM IN MEDICO-LEGAL HISTORY
June 6-7, 2019 | 300 Wallace Hall | Princeton University

FEATURING: OPENING KEYNOTE: "The Role of the Physician in the History of the Law" by George Aumoithe, Ph.D., University of Toronto; CONCLUDING KEYNOTE: "The Role of the Law in the History of the Physician" by George Aumoithe, Ph.D., University of Toronto; PANELISTS: Leah Arnold, J. Cole, Peter, David, John, etc.

SPONSORED BY: Shelby Cullom Davis Center
ORGANIZED BY: George Aumoithe, Ph.D.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
[HTTP://LAWDIFFHEALTH.PRINCETON.EDU/](http://LAWDIFFHEALTH.PRINCETON.EDU/)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



Original Thoughts
A Conference in Honor of
Jacqueline I. Stone
May 17-18, 2019

Free Registration:
<https://religion.princeton.edu/OriginalThoughts>

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
**Legendary Characters:
Attribution and Personhood
in Ancient Judaism**



Conference

James Aitken University of Cambridge	Tawny Holm Pennsylvania State University	Beate Pongratz-Leisten New York University
Joel Baden Yale University	David Lambert University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Annette Yoshiko Reed New York University
Thomas Bolin St. Norbert College	Michael Legaspi Pennsylvania State University	Jacqueline Vayntrub Yale University
Elena Dugan Princeton University	Mark Leuchter Temple University	Moulié Vidas Princeton University
Hindy Najman University of Oxford	Eva Mroczek University of California, Davis	Benjamin G. Wright Lehigh University

April 28 @ 1 PM **April 29 @ 9 AM**
Jones Hall 202 Louis A. Simpson Building
Room B60B

Co-organizers: **Laura Quick**, Princeton University and **Jacqueline Vayntrub**, Yale University

Sponsored By: Department of Comparative Literature, Department of Religion, The Carolyn Louise Duvick Memorial Leadership Fund for Near Eastern Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Religion, Humanities Council and Program in Judaic Studies

Writing about Religion Series

“Writing about Religion Online: Making Scholarship Public” with **Kali Handelman**, NYU Center for Religion and Media, October 15, 2018

“Writing about Religion in Creative Non-fiction” with **Briallen Hopper**, Queens College, CUNY, December 3, 2018

This Fall CSR sponsored a pair of interactive events with writers who have both successfully brought the study of religion to bear on their writing in a wide variety of digital forums. Handelman gave attendees a succinct course in how, when, and where to effectively pitch story ideas, demystifying the jargon and the process. Hopper shared the inspiring story of her own non-linear journey from graduate student to critically-acclaimed writer. Graduate students, visiting fellows, and faculty who attended found both inspiration and concrete tools for bringing their religion scholarship public.

PUBLICATIONS

Following is a partial list of books and articles published during the past year or forthcoming by current and past graduate students, visiting fellows, and scholars affiliated with or supported by the Center. All cover images are copyrighted by their respective publishing houses.

Books

Bevilacqua, Alexander. *The Republic of Arabic Letters: Islam and the European Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2018.

Bush, Stephen S. *William James on Democratic Individuality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Cann, Candi K. *Dying to Eat: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Food, Death, and the Afterlife*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018.

Carlson, Thomas A. *Christianity in Fifteenth-Century Iraq*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Clydesdale, Tim and Kathleen Garces-Foley. *The Twentysomething Soul: Understanding the Religious and Secular Lives of American Young Adults*. New York: Oxford, 2019.

Delgado, Jessica L. *Laywomen and the Making of Colonial Catholicism in New Spain, 1630-1790*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Dochuk, Darren. *Anointed with Oil: How Christianity and Crude Made Modern America*. New York: Basic Books, 2019.

Dollinger, Marc. *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*. Waltham, Mass.: Brandeis University Press, 2018.

Dubler, Joshua and Isaac Weiner, eds. *Religion, Law, USA*. New York: New York University Press, 2019.

Goldman, Samuel. *God's Country: Christian Zionism in America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018.

Hopper, Briallen. *Hard to Love: Essays and Confessions*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Legath, Jenny Wiley. *Sanctified Sisters: A History of Protestant Deaconesses*. New York: New York University Press, forthcoming 2019.

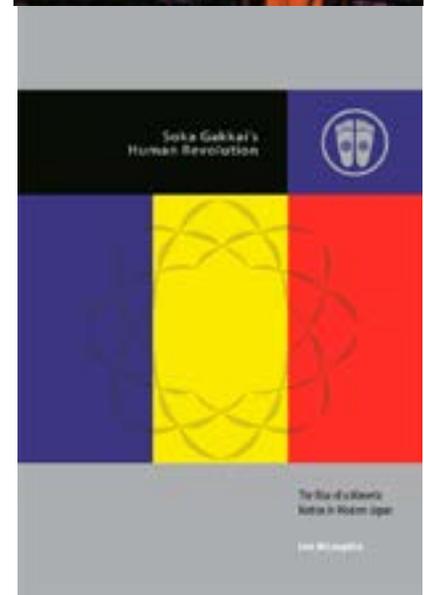
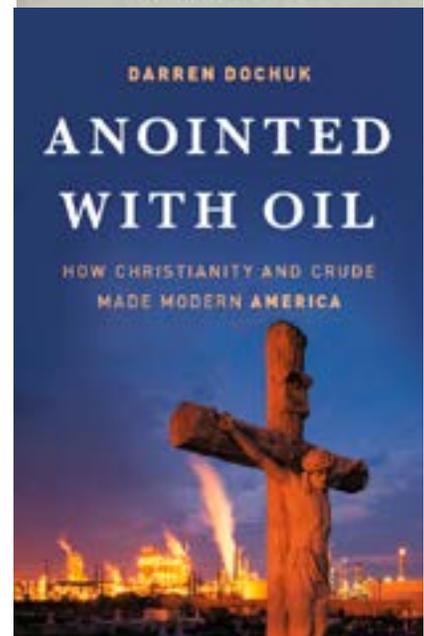
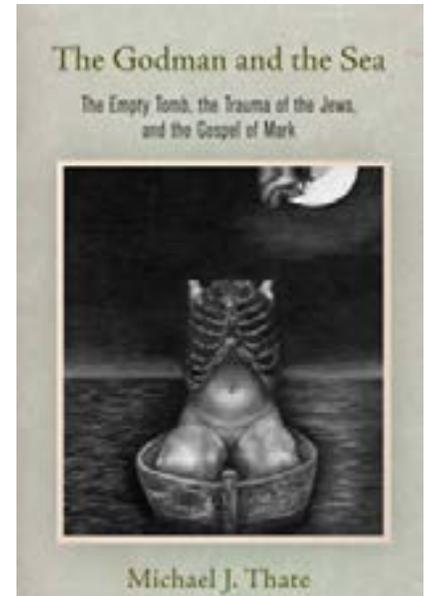
Macdonald, Paul A. *Christian Theology and the Secular University*. New York: Routledge, 2017.

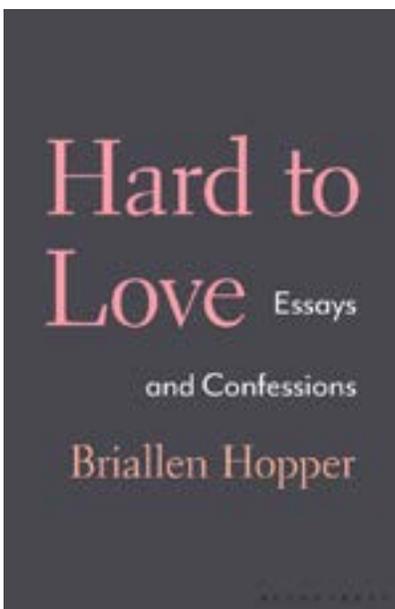
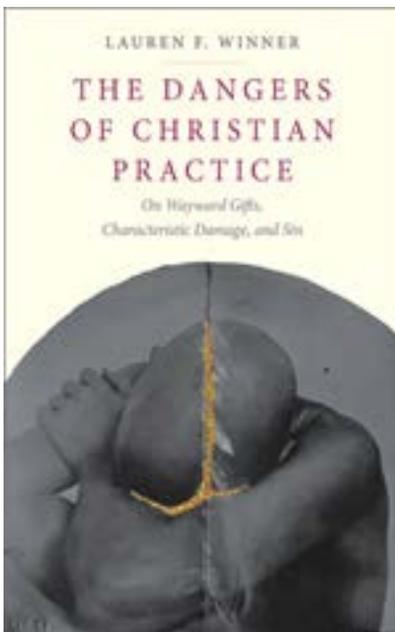
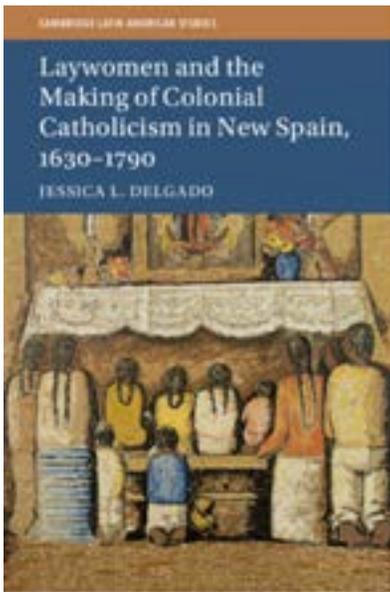
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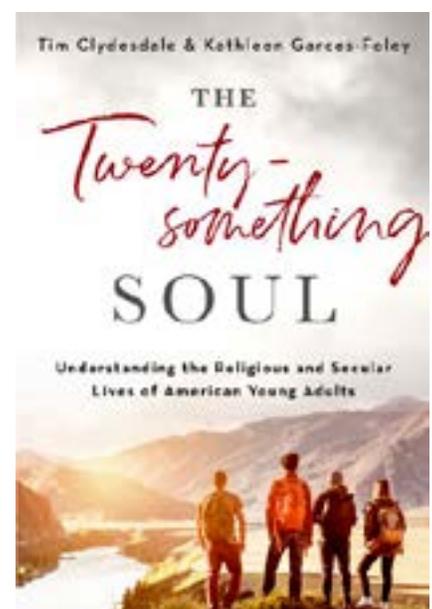
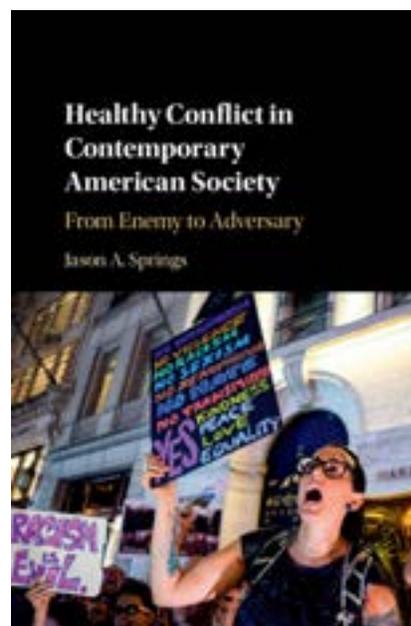
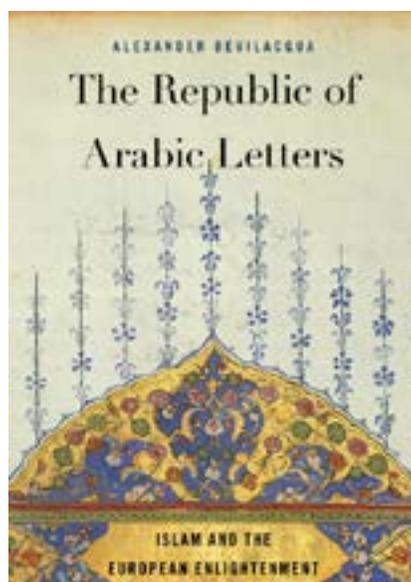
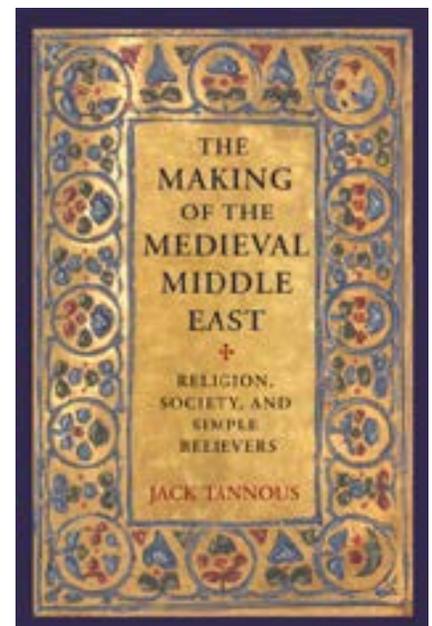
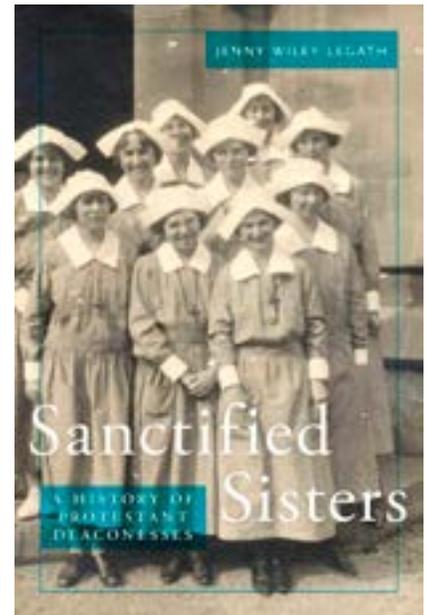
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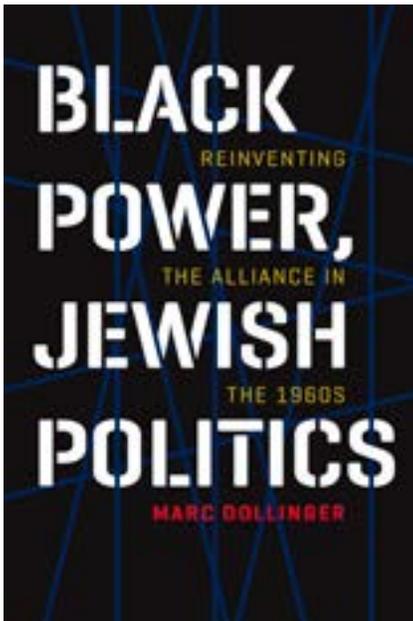
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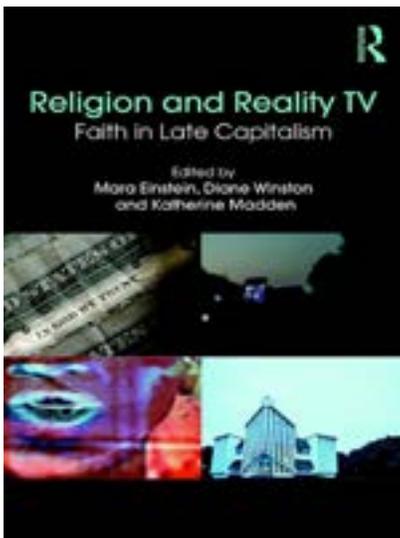
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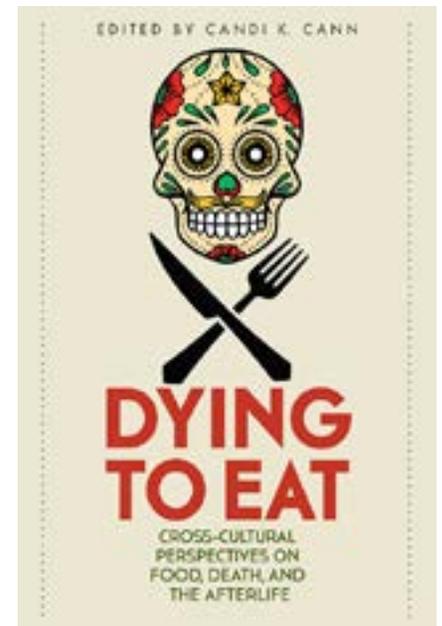
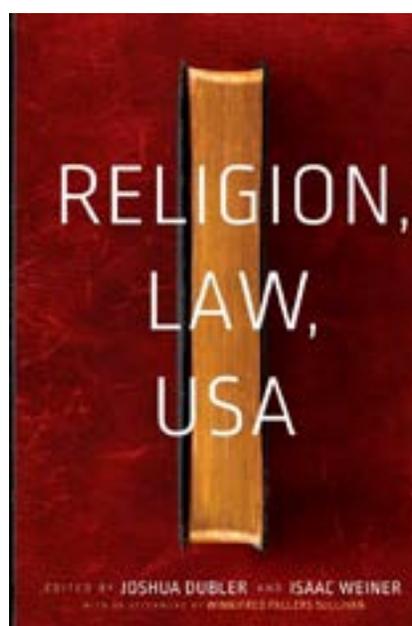
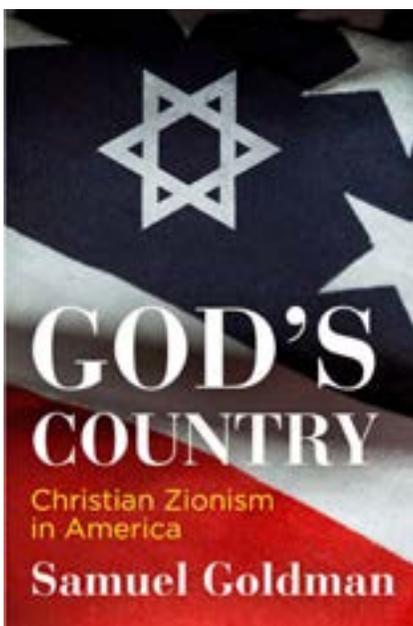


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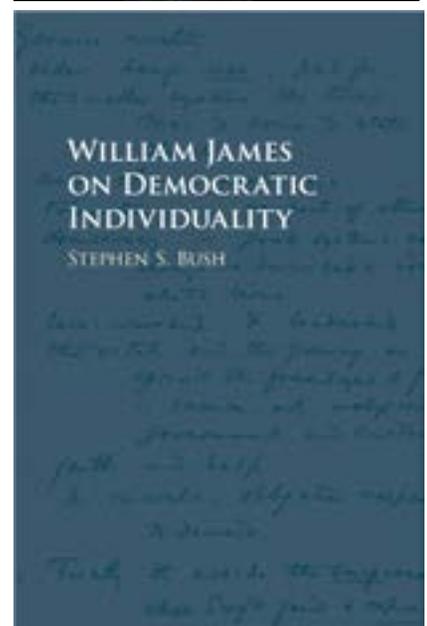
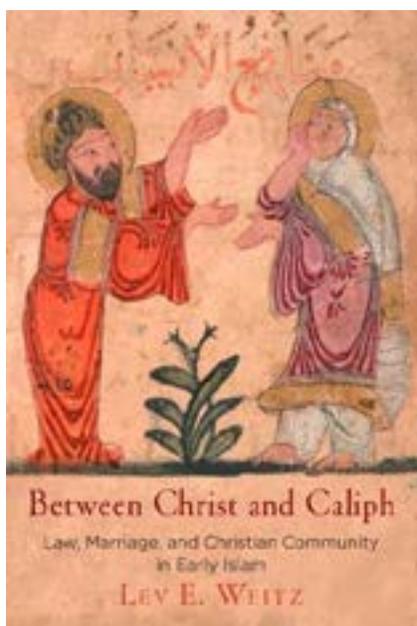
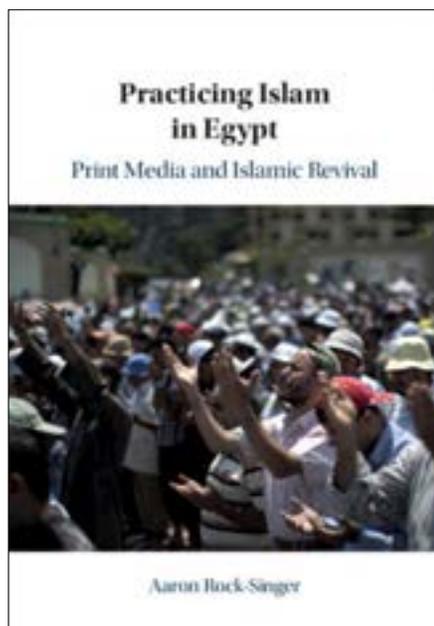
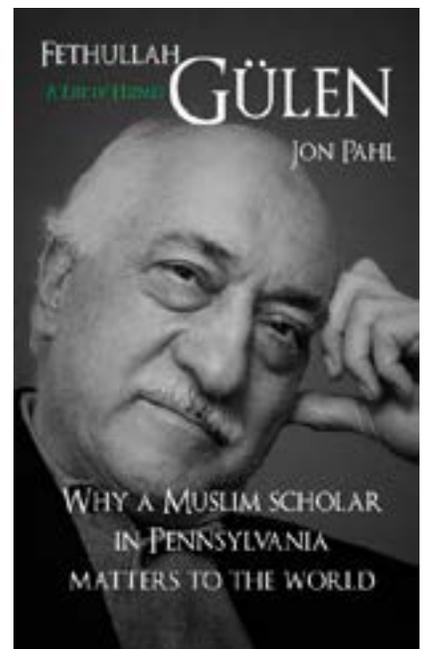
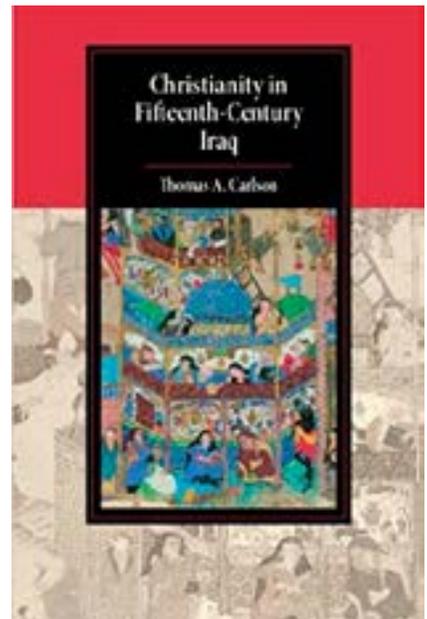
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People

Faith and Work Fellows

Nicoleta Acatrinei is an economist who started her career in banking. The reality of the business world forced her to question the assumption of the egoistic nature of *homo oeconomicus*. She received her Ph.D. in 2014 from Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP), Switzerland, entitled *Work Motivation and Pro-social Behavior in the Delivery of Public Services: Theoretical and Empirical Insights* (Globethics.net 2016). At the Faith & Work Initiative, Acatrinei continues her work on The Integration Profile (TIP) measurement tool in order to strength its theoretical foundations, relate its measurement to work-related outcomes, adapt it to a larger audience and make it known to new potential users. She also continues her research on religion/spirituality at work through the angle of virtue ethics and mindfulness management.

Michael Thate's second monograph *The Godman and the Sea* will be released this Fall by the University of Pennsylvania Press. This book reads varying representations of the sea in antiquity and early Christianity through the rubrics of desolation and trauma. Thate continues work on the manuscript for volume two, *Scented Life*, that will be submitted to the same press and series later this year. The third volume, *The Revelation of Violence*, will be submitted in early 2021. He has also just begun working on a project relating to philosophical discussions of "attention." Thate pursues research on the social and philosophical history of labor and work in early Christianity and late antiquity as well as modern philosophy's grappling with time and technology.

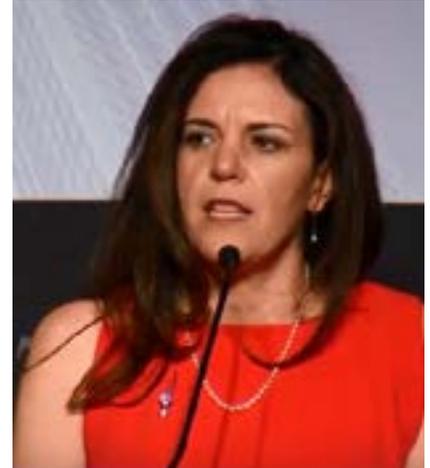


Visiting Fellows

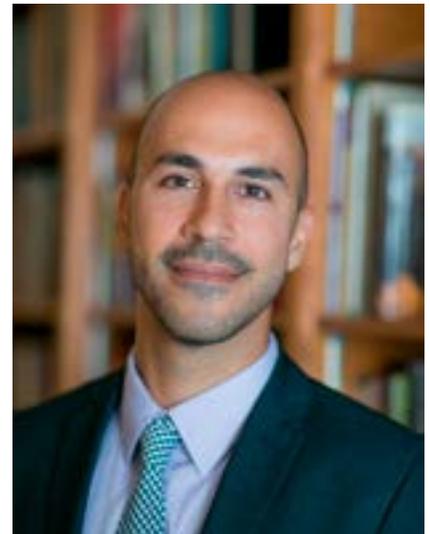
Ruth Braunstein, currently Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, is a cultural sociologist interested in the role of religion in American political life, with a focus on contests over the meaning of morality and good citizenship. Her first book, *Prophets and Patriots: Faith in Democracy Across the Political Divide* (University of California Press, 2017), is a comparative ethnographic study of progressive faith-based community organizing and Tea Party activism. She is also the co-editor of *Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories About Faith and Politics* (NYU Press, 2017). Her research has also been published in the *American Sociological Review*, the *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *Contexts*, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Theory and Society*, and *Qualitative Sociology*, among other outlets. Her focus during her time as a Visiting Fellow at the CSR will be on a new project entitled "The Moral Meaning of Taxes." This project explores taxpaying and tax resistance as practices through which citizens enact and contest their roles as participants in the national political community. The project draws on a combination of public opinion data, archival research, content analysis of publicly available documents, in-depth interviews, and ethnographic observation of groups engaged in moral protest related to taxpaying, including war tax resisters, right-wing and libertarian tax protesters, liberal religious groups making the case that "budgets are moral documents", and conservative "taxpayer" groups. Overall, the project aims to enrich our understanding of taxpaying as a site of resistance to dominant ideas about American democracy, citizenship and political community; and of the ways in which this resistance is informed by diverse religious and moral traditions. This project is supported by a Louisville Institute Sabbatical Grant for Researchers and by the University of Connecticut's Scholarship Facilitation Fund.



Margarita Mooney is Associate Professor of Congregational Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she teaches such as philosophy of social science, religion and social theory, intentional communities, Christianity and the liberal arts tradition, and research methods for congregational leaders. She is currently finishing a book manuscript for a popular audience tentatively entitled, “Diving into Transcendence: Reflections on Grace in a Materialistic World.” This project started as an exploration of the religious lives of young adults who have experienced traumatic life events. Her manuscript reflects on how the structures and categories for explaining human suffering and struggles she began the project with were not adequate for understanding the richness and depth of human experience around experiences of physical, mental and moral pain.



Devin Singh is Assistant Professor of Religion at Dartmouth College. Singh works at the intersection of religious studies, theology, and social theory, with a focus on how economic ideas and institutions in the West have shaped and been shaped by religious concepts and practices. His first book, *Divine Currency: The Theological Power of Money in the West* (Stanford, 2018), uses historical and economic sociology (among other tools) to show how Greco-Roman monetary practices left their mark on early Christian thought. Singh’s second book project, *When Debt Becomes God* (Harvard, under contract), on which he will focus during his time as a visiting fellow at CSR, explores debt. Singh’s aim is to shed light on the widespread nature of debt practices and debt-based inequality in Western societies as partly authorized and given power through religious language, concepts, and practices.



Leslie Wingard received her B.A. from Spelman College and her Ph.D. from UCLA. She is Associate Professor of English at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio on research sabbatical through the Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion and the Princeton Theological Seminary. She is also part of the research workshop on religion and economic inequality for the 2019-2020 academic year at the Center of Theological Inquiry. Wingard has taught courses linking African American literature with both religious studies and black visual culture. She has also published articles in *Religion and Literature*, *Religion and the Arts*, *South: A Scholarly Journal*, and *American Quarterly*. At Princeton, she is working on a book manuscript entitled “The Sacred and Secular Reconciled: Productive Dissonances in African American Literature and Culture.”



Graduate Student Fellows

Religion and Culture Seminar

(led by **Jenny Wiley Legath**)

Skylar Anderson, History, “Renegotiating Islam: The fate of the Judeo-Christian heritage in the formation of Islam”

Joshua Bauchner, History of Science and Humanities, “Walk, Play, Converse: The Mind-Body Relation in Experience and Concept from Psychophysics to Psychoanalysis”

Chiara Benetollo, Comparative Literature, “The Language of Reproduction Literature, Politics, and Public Health in the Soviet Union and Italy”

Yuanxin Chen, East Asian Studies, “At the Intersection of Religion and Historiography: Commemorating Exemplary Figures in Early Chinese Historical Biographies”

Rebecca Faulkner, Religion, “Muhammad Iqbal and the Meanings of South Asian Islamic Modernism”

Megan Gilbert, East Asian Studies, “Conciliators and Fixed Points: Dispute Resolution in Fifteenth-Century Japan”

Ariana Myers, History, “I Once Was Lost: Between Christian and Muslim in the Crown of Aragon, 1225-1339”

Liora Selinger, English, “Romanticism, Childhood, and the Poetics of Explanation”

Emily Silkaitis, Religion, “Suicide, Morality, and the Specter of Death in Islam, 1st/7th-6th/12th Centuries”

Chloe Vettier, French and Italian, “Writing out Shame: from Augustine to Jean Genet”

Justin Willson, Art and Archaeology, “The Moods of Early Russian Art: A Belated Chapter of Byzantine Aesthetics (1438-1598)”

Jessica Zu, Religion, “Toward an Ecology of Compassion: Lü Cheng’s Revolutionary Journey from Aesthetics to Yogacara, 1918-1966”

Religion and Public Life Seminar

(led by **Timothy Nelson**, Sociology)

Olaoluwatoni Alimi, Religion, “What Should Civil Religion Be? Lessons from Lactantius and Augustine”

Megan Brand, Politics, “Aiming Higher: The Politics of International Refugee Law in Domestic Contexts”

Killian Clarke, Politics, “Overthrowing Revolution: The Popular Roots of Counter-revolution”

Ipsita Dey, Anthropology, “Sacred Ecology and the Self: Religion and Identity Among Fijian Indian Hindus”

Harris Doshay, Politics, “Religion and Authoritarianism: State Protestantism in China”

Madeline Gambino, Religion, “Religious Change and Decline in 21st Century Catholic Philadelphia”

Thalia Gigerenzer, Anthropology, “Coming of Age in the End Times: An Ethnography of Young Muslim Women in Delhi, India”



Gözde Güran, Sociology, “Brokering Order in War: Informal Financial Networks in Syria’s Conflict Economy”

Judah Isseroff, Religion, “Choosing Chosenness: Secularized Theology in the Jewish Politics of Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss”

Shay O’Brien, Sociology, “‘Within Reason’ and ‘Cotton Rich and Rotten Rich’”

Kristine Wright, Religion, “Blessing the Mothers of Israel: Textual Circulation and the Creation of Social Bodies”

Undergraduate Research Fellows

Additional fellows will be named in Fall 2019.

Talia Anisfeld ’20, Anthropology, “Ethiopian Jewish Diaspora”

Emma Coley ’20, Religion, “Who is My Neighbor? Tent Cities in the United States”

Nathaniel Gadiano ’20, French and Italian, “Female Saints in the Middle Ages”

Matthew Igoe ’20, Religion, “The Mystical Theology of Saint Teresa of Avila”

Alexandra Levinger ’20, Anthropology, “Language and Spiritual Practice among the Jamaican Maroons”

Emily McLean ’20, Religion, “Native and Mormon Religious Practices Informing Land Politics”

Betty Vasquez ’20, Neuroscience, “Afro-Diasporic Religions as forms of psychotherapy among Afro-diasporic communities: Santeria in La Habana”

Events

Planning for 2019-2020 is underway. Further details (including co-sponsors of the below events) are posted on the Center’s website (csr.princeton.edu) as they become available.

Film screening: “Father’s Kingdom,” The untold story of the remarkable civil rights pioneer Father Divine, with commentary by featured scholar **Judith Weisenfeld**, Religion, September 18, 2019

Buddhist Studies Workshop with **Ira Helderman**, author, *Prescribing the Dharma*, September 24, 2019

“Considering the Counterculture” Conference organized by **Dov Weinryb Grohsgal**, Woodrow Wilson School, September 27-28, 2019*

“The Rise of America’s New Religious Left” A Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion with **Jack Jenkins**, Religion News Service, October 10, 2019*

Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion with **Timothy J. Nelson** and **Kathryn Edin**, Sociology and Woodrow Wilson School, December 5, 2019*

“Nicholas Watson on Lollardy in the Fourteenth Century,” Sponsored by the English Department Medieval Colloquium, October 14, 2019*

“The Eternal Feast: Banqueting in Chinese Art from the 10th to the 14th Century” Princeton University Art Museum Exhibit, October 19, 2019 - February 16, 2020*

“Space, Time, and Religion in Early America Conference” organized by **Seth Perry**, Religion, February 6-8, 2020*

African American Religious History Workshop, Organized by **Judith Weisenfeld**, Religion, February 20, 2020



Center for the Study of Religion Family Reunion, in honor of **Robert Wuthnow's** Service as Director, May 1, 2020

“Qur’anic Studies, Religious Studies, and the Humanities” Conference organized by **Tehseen Thaver**, Religion, Spring 2020*

“The Interplay of Faith and Forced Migration” Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion with **Katherine Clifton**, Office of Religious Life, TBA Spring 2020*

“The Moral Meaning of Taxes” Crossroads of Religion and Politics Discussion with **Ruth Braunstein**, University of Connecticut, TBA Spring 2020*

*indicates co-sponsored events

Sponsored Course

André Benhaim, French and Italian: FRS 111 “Sacred Guests, Scared Hosts: The Risks and Rewards of Hospitality in Secular Times” Freshman Seminar, Fall 2019

This course will focus on the broad question of the welcome of the stranger, emphasizing the religious origins of hospitality in our secular cultures, starting with the common cross-cultural belief that hosts shall receive strangers as if they were sacred. Religion will serve as a reference to recall the ethical aspects of hospitality and the questions stemming from it. As a point of departure, we will study how Ancient Greece conceived of sacred hospitality (the *xenia*) and how it influenced its conception of citizenship. We will then study the place, definitions and ramifications of hospitality in the Judeo-Christian traditions and as understood in Islam, especially as Arabo-Muslim cultures present themselves to the West.

This Freshman Seminar will explore questions stemming from the religious models of hospitality, from Ancient Greece to Islam, as addressed in sacred and secular texts (which would include mostly literature, but also film and visual arts). In addition, the “movement” of the course will tend to consider hospitality as the “question of the stranger” where the “stranger” would be defined as more and more familiar. In a first part, we will contemplate strangers as foreigners, and will thus address questions of hospitality such as migrations, nationhood, etc. This will be the occasion to look at the contemporary issues related to refugees from Africa and the Middle-East who face dire situations in Europe and the West at large. In a second part, we will consider “strangers” as neighbors, and reflect on how we decide to treat these “familiar strangers”. Finally, considering the stranger in still greater proximity, we will wonder about two universal paradigms of estrangement: gender and language. We will explore the



role of gender in the religious models of hospitality and how gender could be considered in terms of hospitality or estrangement. The course will end on a reflection of another universal paradigm: how language, and more specifically a Text (written or oral) can be understood as a space of individual or collective hospitality – or estrangement.



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