NEWS AND EVENTS
FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Religious Studies Program at Wash U! We’re delighted in your interest in our course offerings and other activities. In these pages, we will introduce you to a variety of faculty, students, as well as possibilities for study and participation in the coming year.

This is a critical moment for Religious Studies in a university setting. As our world becomes smaller and more interconnected, the fissures and challenges of cultural understanding offer us the opportunity to think critically about the role of religion in society. What is religion? How do people of various faiths and rituals interact productively and meaningfully? Where are the obstacles to understanding? How do matters of everyday life, including food, politics, dress, art, or popular music, shape religious life—and how are they shaped by it?

Wash U has a tremendously talented faculty who teach and write about religion in many times and places, from northern India to Eastern Orthodox immigrants in the US, and from ancient Palestine to contemporary diasporic movements around the world. There is a course, a lecture, or a colloquium here for anyone with an interest in how and why different communities pray, vote, heal, or bury their dead. At the same time, work in Religious Studies helps students think critically and engage actively with some of the most pressing issues of the past and present. Our major and minor are practical for many different kinds of career paths, and work well in combination with other areas of concentration.

We invite you to join us in this adventure. Whether you are a faculty member incorporating religion in your research or a student considering medical school, acting, finance, or a further degree in the humanities, we have a place for you in Religious Studies. Come, explore the opportunities!

Warmly,

Laurie Maffly-Kipp
Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor
Director of Religious Studies
NEW RELIGIOUS STUDIES FACULTY

Religious Studies welcomes two new lecturers to WashU this fall:

**Lance Jenott** joins Washington University in St. Louis as a lecturer in the Department of Classics and the Program in Religious Studies. Dr. Jenott received his PhD from Princeton University in 2011 and has taught courses on the New Testament, studies in Christian origins, and Coptic language and literature. His other teaching interests include Second Temple Judaism, Greco-Roman philosophy, classical civilizations, and theories and methods in the study of religion. Dr. Jenott is the author of *The Gospel of Judas: Coptic Text, Translation, and Historical Interpretation of the 'Betrayer's Gospel'* and the co-author of *The Monastic Origins of the Nag Hammadi Codices*. A co-edited volume titled, *The Nag Hammadi Codices and Late Antique Egypt*, is due out in October. He is currently working on a commentary on the Gospel of Judas for the Hermeneia Series by Fortress Press.

This fall Dr. Jenott is teaching a freshman seminar on “Sexuality in Early Christianity” and “Orthodoxy and Heresy in Early Christianity: Topics in Christian Thought” for Religious Studies.

In the Spring, Dr. Jenott will be teaching a new course for Religious Studies: “Major Figures in Christian Thought: The Alternative Jesus.” The course will examine how Jesus and his message, ‘the good news,’ are depicted in strikingly different ways in Christian literature (canonical and not) and beyond (including the Qu'ran, the Book of Mormon, and medieval Jewish legends). He will also teach “Scriptures and Cultural Traditions” and “Intensive Beginning Greek I.”

**Elena Kravchenko** joins Washington University in St. Louis as a lecturer in the Program in Religious Studies. Dr. Kravchenko received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in 2017. Her dissertation is titled “Orthodox Women in America: The Making of a Liberal-Conservative Subject.” It is a multi-lingual, multi-site, three-year ethnographic study that explores the religious lives of contemporary Russian immigrant women in the United States and American women who convert to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Her other research interests include Religion and Material Culture; Diasporic Religion, Trans-Atlantic Christianity, and Orthodox Christianity in the United States; Embodiment, Agency and Subjectivity in the Study of Religion; and Religion, Gender, Race and Ethnicity.

This fall Dr. Kravchenko is teaching “Thinking About Religion,” an introductory course that explores questions surrounding “what is religion and how can we study it?” She is also teaching a seminar on “Religion in the Kitchen” which analyzes practices of food preparation and everyday talk happening in the kitchen. The course highlights the kitchen as an active, material space: not merely subject to human meaning-making, but an agent, in its own right, assisting humans in creating meaning and identity.

This spring, Dr. Kravchenko will teach a new course, “Topics in Religious Studies: Religion, Transnationalism and Diaspora.” The course will introduce students to the concept of diasporic religion by focusing on contemporary ethnographic studies of immigrant communities in North and South America.
Students will explore how, and with what results, scholars have defined diasporic religion and distinguished it from “regular” and “transnational” religion. Particular attention will be paid to the examples of how the immigrant practitioners of such distinct religious traditions such as Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism, Candomblé, Lucumí, and Voodoo participated in a common practice of using religious concepts, objects and rituals to (re)envision their ethnic past and geographical origins. Dr. Kravchenko will also teach “Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion.”

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Lance Jenott and Dr. Elena Kravchenko to our program and to WashU!

**DR. ANNA BIALEK JOINS THE DANFORTH CENTER**

On July 1, 2017, Anna F. Bialek, lecturer in the Religious Studies, joined the faculty of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics as Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics. “After a thorough and wide ranging search, our faculty rapidly and unanimously placed Dr. Bialek at the top of our list for this tenure track position,” said Professor Marie Griffith, John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

Bialek’s research and teaching focus on contemporary religious ethics and political theory with an emphasis on feminist thought, Christian theology, and modern forms of power critique. Her first book project, “Vulnerability and Power: The Promise of Relational Ethics,” discusses vulnerability in contemporary ethics and politics. She is teaching two courses for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics this fall, “Love and Reason” and “Solidarity and Silence: Religious Strategies in the Political Sphere.”

“Fannie is a teacher and scholar of tremendous depth and range in the area of religious ethics and political theory, already so mature that her Ph.D. advisor called her ‘simply one of the finest educators I have ever encountered, at any rank in the profession.’ Our vetting process has certainly borne out that claim,” Griffith remarked. “Fannie’s investigation into the valorization of power and desire for invulnerability that marks contemporary political regimes is a timely and urgent project. Her work offers alternative models of selfhood and political engagement that better incorporate conceptions of relationship, community, and an ethic of care.”

Bialek will continue to work with Religious Studies as an affiliated faculty member and member of the Religious Studies Advisory Board.

Congratulations, Prof. Bialek!
Religious Studies celebrated student graduations at all three graduation ceremonies last year. Meet our newest alumni!

**AUGUST 2016**

Jacqueline Morris graduated in August with a major in Religious Studies and minors in History and Educational Studies. Her senior capstone class was Prof. Roshan Abraham's “Early Christianity and Classical Culture.”

**DECEMBER 2016**

Taylor DiRoberto graduated in December with a Religious Studies major and minors in Philosophy and Spanish. His capstone course was an independent study project with Prof. Mark Valeri, and included a poster at the fall Undergraduate Research Symposium. The project, titled “Enlightened Dissent: Eighteenth-Century Baptists and Moravians,” explored how dissent took shape in the British colonies of North America from 1700-1776, comparing how two of the most noteworthy dissenting groups, the Baptists and the Moravians, embraced or rejected Enlightenment influences in their practices.

**MAY 2017**

Matt Drew graduated *Cum Laude* with a double major in Religious Studies and Psychological and Brain Sciences. He received a Summer Undergraduate Research Award that enabled him to work on his senior thesis over the summer. His senior honor’s thesis was titled, “Histories of the Secular: Medical Mindfulness Meditation in the US.” At WashU, Matt was a member of Theta Alpha Kappa and the Student Worker Alliance. After graduation, he moved to Davis, California to support his partner as she begins her PhD in Cultural Studies at UC-Davis. He plans to pursue his own PhD in the next few years.

Brooke Layendecker graduated with a major in Religious Studies and minors in Legal Studies and Arabic Language & Culture. Her capstone paper, “Gnosticism as a Category,” was a continuation of her research from Prof. Roshan Abraham’s “Early Christianity and Classical Culture” in spring 2016.
While at WashU, she was a member of Theta Alpha Kappa and Chi Omega. She stayed in St. Louis after graduation to work for a management consulting firm.

**Michael Maley** graduated with a double major in Political Science and Religious Studies. His capstone project titled, “Exploring Relationality: A Challenge to Individualism,” was for Dr. Anna Bialek’s course “Gender and Power in Religious Thought.” While at WashU, he was a member of Theta Alpha Kappa. Following graduation, Michael moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting.

**Tyler Reed** graduated in May 2017 with a major in Religious Studies and a minor in Biology. His senior paper “Maoism as Political Religion,” was for “Gender and Sexuality in East Asia: The Body in Daoism” with Dr. Tobias Zürn. Tyler became interested in Religious Studies during a semester abroad in Shanghai when he studied traditional Chinese medicine. Upon his return to WashU, Tyler switched his major to Religious Studies. Outside of the classroom, Tyler was an active member of To Write Love on Her Arms – WashU Chapter, which is a student group focused on destigmatizing mental illness and promoting resources (on- and off-campus) for students. Following graduation, he is working in an anesthesiology lab at The Ohio State University Medical School and applying to medical schools.

**Justin Strohm**, a returning student seeking to finish his degree after several years off, graduated with a major in Religious Studies. His senior project, “Religion and Science: Scholars as Creators and Gatekeepers,” was also for Dr. Zürn’s “Gender and Sexuality in East Asia: The Body in Daoism.” After graduation he continues to work as a real estate agent and flip houses.

**Alvin Zhang** graduated with majors in Religious Studies and Biology. His capstone project, “Inclinations of Self: A Space for Generation,” was written for Dr. Anna Bialek’s course “Gender and Power in Religious Thought.” At WashU, Alvin was a member of Theta Alpha Kappa, and president of the Asian Pacific Islander American Initiative. This fall, Alvin is applying to medical schools.
THETA ALPHA KAPPA

Spring 2017 was a fun semester for Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK). The semester started off quickly with a luncheon with guest speaker Prof. Joseph Winters the first week of classes. Prof. Winters had spoken the night before on “Refusing Optimism: Ta-Nehisi Coates, Anti-blackness, and the Ethics of Anguish.” At the luncheon he shared his research with students and answered questions about his talk, researching, graduate school, and religious studies.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership in TAK almost doubled between the fall and spring semesters with the addition of seven new members. New inductees included: Thomas Davlin, Jennifer Greenberg, Brooke Layendecker, Madison Motsko, Isaiah Sciford, Kate Throne, and Alvin Zhang.

TRIVIA NIGHT

While you may know that Pope Francis is a member of the Jesuit order, you might not know what church Menno Simons established (the Mennonite Church) or what centuries John XXIII was pope (both the 15th and 20th; the first John XXII was later deemed an anti-pope). Students and faculty gathered in March for a Theta Alpha Kappa hosted trivia night to face questions such as those above. Three student tables competed against a lone faculty table in an intense competition over a variety of religious topics. Fun was had by all, and plans for another trivia night are in the works.

GRADUATING SENIORS

Graduation is always a crowning moment of the academic year and this year Theta Alpha Kappa saw seven of its member graduate in May: Matt Drew, Brooke Layendecker, Michael Maley, Allison Nickrent, Ryan Paige, Isaiah Sciford, and Alvin Zhang. In honor of their achievement red Honors Cords were presented to each graduating senior to be worn at graduation.

LOOKING AHEAD

This semester Dr. Elena Kravchenko takes over as the new TAK advisor from Prof. Anna Bialek. She and past TAK president Harry Hall will be hosting a welcome back/event planning soon. We look forward to seeing what exciting events will be planned for this year!
This past Spring, students in Dr. Tobias Zürn’s “Introduction to East Asian Religions: Ritual as a Transformative Device” and “Sex and Gender in East Asia: The Body in Daoism” met at the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts to learn about the Daoist concept of non-action (wuwei). David Winnigham (MFA 2018) hosted the hands-on workshop.

The concept of wuwei has already entered American popular culture in form of the idea of “being in the flow” or “being in the moment.” However, the concept of wuwei as described in early Daoist sources transcends the realm of psychology. According to early Daoist texts any entity (universe, state, body) needs an unmoved center (the Way, sagely ruler, heart) in order to be aligned properly. Such a centralized argument rarely unsettles students since it follows a rather straightforward logic. However, another, rather counter-intuitive aspect of this concept of wuwei normally causes some confusion: that is, the performance of non-action was considered to be highly productive. Fortunately, the practice of throwing pottery offers a fruitful avenue to reflect upon this ancient practice: any active engagement with the clay leads to an unsettling and chaotic result. Only through non-action, in the form of steady and still hands cupped around the moving clay, can the clay become centered. Once centered this round shape of clay can be manipulated through slight actions to become a useful piece of pottery.

This demonstration enabled students not only to explore and experience the rationale behind the early Daoist practice of wuwei, but also started heavier conversations about alternative visions and practices of leadership and productivity.

Thanks again to David Winnigham and the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Art!
CARL NEUREUTHER STUDENT BOOK COLLECTION ESSAY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Jennifer Greenberg and Mary Andino, first place winners (Undergraduate & Graduate respectively) of the 30th annual Carl Neureuther Student Book Collection Essay Competition for their essays on their religiously inspired book collections.

Jennifer Greenberg, a Religious Studies and Education dual major, won for her essay “Picked from the Pews: A Religiously Inspired Book Collection.” Her essay chronicles the progression of her reading life from her youth until now. Growing up in a family that observed the Sabbath, she begins her essay with the statement that, “The Sabbath, in my opinion, should be referred to as the day of reading, not the day of rest.” Books began as “saviors” providing “much-needed distraction” but grew into a personal spiritual practice and finally an academic practice as a Religious Studies major. Greenberg’s current reading list shows the intersection between her religious and academic journeys and how both have encouraged questioning and learning.

Mary Andino, a History graduate student, received first place for her essay “Early Modern Europe: The Female Perspective.” Andino’s essay focuses on how her collection of books on women and religion in Early Modern Italy grew from her undergraduate first semester course “Women’s Lives in Renaissance Italy.” The first book for class, Arcangela Tarabotti’s Paternal Tyranny, was a shock to Andino as she did not expect “such strong, feminist language from the seventeenth-century.” This unexpected discovery led Andino on a journey of exploration through undergrad to graduate school to learn more about women’s religious experiences in Early Modern Europe, beginning with Christian Italy and expanding into Judaism and the larger Mediterranean world.

The Carl Neureuther Student Book Collection Essay Competition encourages students at Washington University to read for enjoyment and to develop personal libraries throughout their lives. It offers first and second prizes, of $1,000 and $500, to both undergraduate students and graduate students who write short essays about their personal book collections. The competition is made possible by an endowment from Carl Neureuther, a 1940 graduate of Washington University.

The winning essays can be read at: https://library.wustl.edu/neureuther/
SEPTEMBER LECTURES

The fall semester was off to a fast start with two lectures in early September:

MIGRATION IN LIFE AND DEATH: JEWISH INSCRIPTIONS FROM GRAECO-ROMAN IUDAEA/PALESTINA

Prof. Jonathan Price
Professor of Classical History and Chair of History at Tel Aviv University

September 11 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18

Professor Jonathan Price is professor of Classics and Ancient History and chair of the History Department at Tel Aviv University. His talk centered on the Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae (CIIP). CIIP is an international project that aims to document all ancient inscriptions discovered in the modern state of Israel and dating between the fourth century BC and the seventh century AD, in ten different languages, such as Hebrew, Ancient Greek, Latin, Phoenician, Palestinian Aramaic, Syriac, Nabataean. The project will include seven volumes covering Jerusalem, the north and south coasts, the Galilee, Judaea and the Negev Desert.

Sponsored by The Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department and cosponsored by The Classics Department and The Religious Studies Program.

TEXTUAL INTERCOURSE: WHAT SEX CAN TEACH US ABOUT CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS & RABBINIC TEXT

Dr. Rebecca Epstein-Levi
Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Washington University in St. Louis

September 14 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18

This lecture addressed two problems. First, that modern Jewish ethics has tended to assume a simple one-to-one correspondence between the subject matter of rabbinic texts and the contemporary problems it wishes to address. And, second, that modern thinkers more generally have tended to treat sex as a *sui generis* phenomenon, a singular category of behavior that requires a correspondingly singular mode of analysis.

Sponsored by The Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department and cosponsored by The Women, Gender and Sexualities Department and The Religious Studies Program.
NEW BOOK, NEW COURSE: VOICE IN LATER MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LITERATURE

David Lawton’s latest book, *Voice in Later Medieval English Literature: Public Interiorities*, was published in March by Oxford University Press. In it, Lawton approaches later medieval English vernacular culture in terms of voice. As texts and discourses shift in translation and in use from one language to another, antecedent texts are revoiced in ways that recreate them (as “public interiorities”) without effacing their history or future. The approach yields important insights into the voice work of late medieval poets, especially Langland and Chaucer, and also their 15th-century successors, who treat their work as they have treated their precursors. It also helps illuminate vernacular religious writing and its aspirations, and addresses literary and cultural change, such as the effects of censorship and increasing political instability.

Lawton also proposes his emphasis on voice as a literary tool of broad application, and his book has a bold and comparative sweep that encompasses the Pauline letters, Augustine’s Confessions, the classical precedents of Virgil and Ovid, medieval contemporaries like Machaut and Petrarch, extra-literary artists like Monteverdi, later poets such as Wordsworth, Heaney, and Paul Valery, and moderns such as Jarry and Proust. What justifies such parallels is that late medieval texts constitute the foundation of a literary history of voice that extends to modernity. The book’s energy is therefore devoted to the transformative reading of later medieval texts, in order to show their original and ongoing importance as voice work.

Good academic monographs are often praised as thought-provoking, carefully argued, well-researched, and persuasive; great ones are further lauded as paradigm shifting or celebrated for posing a concerted challenge to the field. David Lawton’s *Voice in Later Medieval English Literature: Public Interiorities* is certainly the former, and in the fullness of time, it will very likely be recognized as the latter.

Excerpt from David Coley’s review in The Review of English Studies

Spring 2018 will see the first offering of a new course by Lawton titled “Voice, Language and Power: Late Medieval Religious Writing” (L23 3065). Shifting the focus from his new book onto a course about religious writing highlights how in the later Middle Ages, personal religious experience was pursued and expressed. While religious writings were intended to be portrayers of a communal voice regulated by and contained within the Church, the fact remains that voice offered a mode of resistance, or of difference. Such writing is often aimed at lay people, sometimes exclusively at women; and sometimes the intended auditors become the authors, and propose a version of religious experience that claims a new and more intimate kind of power for its readers. Whether such writing seeks to be orthodox or conducive to heresy, it presents a challenge to the power of clergy - a challenge that is written in the vernacular language of lay people, rather than clerical Latin, and in doing so offers distinctively new voices for religious experience.
SPRING ‘18 COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Religious Studies is excited about the variety of courses, both home-based and cross-listed, being offered in Spring 2018. For a full and up-to-date list of courses please visit: [http://courses.wustl.edu](http://courses.wustl.edu).

**Religion and Healing**
L23 Re St 3033: TuTh 10:00-11:30am Anderson

**Voice, Language and Power: Late Medieval Religious Writing**
L23 3065: TuTh 4:00-5:30pm Lawton

**The Problem of Evil: The Holocaust and Other Horrors**
L23 3101: MW 10:00-11:30am Barmash

**Topics in East Asian Religions: The Zhuangzi, A Daoist Classic**
L23 346: MW 1:00-2:30pm Zürn

**Zen Buddhism**
L23 3461: TuTh 11:30am-1:00pm Grant

**Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion**
L23 368: TuTh 1:00-2:30pm Kravchenko

**Topics in Religious Studies: Religion, Transnationalism, and Diaspora**
L23 3801: TuTh 8:30-10:00am Kravchenko

**Major Figures in Christian Thought: The Alternative Jesus**
L23 381: MW 4:00-5:30pm Jenott

**Sexuality and Gender in East Asia**
L23 418: TuTh 2:30-4:00pm Grant

**Senior Seminar in Religious Studies: Governing Religion**
L23 479: Tu 2:30-5:30pm Adcock
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP TRAVELS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) has grown from a small denomination of one million members in the U.S. to a worldwide organization of nearly sixteen million in just over half a century. Professor Laurie Maffly-Kipp, director of Religious Studies, is tracing this international growth in a book-length study of the church.

NEW ZEALAND

In March, she traveled to New Zealand as a visiting scholar at the University of Auckland, where she gave several lectures and spoke with students and faculty about her work. The visit concluded with a public symposium titled “Resistance and Innovation: Empire and Native Christianity in the Pacific,” an event that brought together twenty international scholars of indigenous Christian traditions. Together they explored the cultural dynamics of historic and contemporary interactions between Pasifika peoples and Christian churches, including the Mormons as well as the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, among others. Many of these groups have experienced a dynamic tension between centralized and localized religious cultures, creating new forms of practice and creative fusions of beliefs. These are both rooted in native histories and cultures and intimately linked to wider transnational networks, personalities, texts, and symbols. The exploration of this topic culminated in a public panel, featuring Prof. Maffly-Kipp, titled “Does Christ have a culture? Christianity, colonialism, and the Pacific.”

Video from the Plenary Session on “Maori Mormon Indigeneity in a Global Church” is available for the following talks: Selwyn Katene’s “Sifting the Wheat from the Tares: Maori Leadership in the Mormon Church 1880-1950”; Robert Joseph’s “Reconciling Our Differences - Maori Culture and the Mormon Church”; Gina Colvin’s “Mormon Becoming at the Colonial Outposts: Embracing the radical praxis of uncertainty”; as well as Laurie Maffly-Kipp’s response.

Meeting Rangi Parker (2nd from left), a New Zealand Maori, historical researcher/archivist, and television documentary producer in Hamilton, NZ
**KIRTLAND, OHIO**

In June Maffly-Kipp traveled to Kirtland, Ohio, home to one of the earliest Mormon settlements in the U.S. Between 1831 and 1838, Joseph Smith, Jr. and early church members established a headquarters in Kirtland and built a temple. The Kirtland Temple served a community of some 2,000 believers by 1838, when the Mormons, facing persecution, were forced to flee the area and move further west. That temple is still open to visitors and belongs to a rival offshoot of the Utah-based LDS Church, the Community of Christ. It was also from Kirtland that Smith sent the first members to preach to Native Americans and Europeans, a missionary enterprise that today commissions some 75,000 missionaries per year for service in 418 missions around the world.

“When Mormons send off missionaries to the South Pacific in the mid-19th century, and later to places like New Zealand, the message is, “We’re also being oppressed by our government, just as you are being oppressed.” In other words, they’re an anti-colonialist movement spreading a message of joining common cause with the oppressed peoples in Utah.”

Maffly-Kipp on the ReSt project podcast “Jesuits, Mormons, and American Religion in the World”

**CHINA**

Maffly-Kipp joined a group of fellow scholars of Mormonism from Brigham Young University and the University of Virginia in Shanghai, where they spoke about the history of Mormonism in the U.S. with a group of scholars and students at Fudan University. While the Mormon faith, as is true of a number of Christian churches, is not officially recognized by the Chinese government, its members hold separate services for non-Chinese expats and for Chinese nationals. The group of scholars discussed the legal restrictions on Christian churches in China and compared the Mormon process of cultural assimilation in the U.S. to the local context. She also visited the headquarters of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), a state-sanctioned Protestant body for the organization of all Protestant churches in China, and the Jing An Temple, a holy site for both Buddhists and Daoists.

Laurie Maffly-Kipp (on left), with scholars at Fudan University, Center for American Studies
FACULTY NEWS

Cassie Adcock (Associate Professor of History, South Asian Studies, and Religious Studies) was on leave for the Spring 2017 semester. This year she continues her work on the politics of cows and cow-slaughter in India. She has co-organized a pre-conference on Bovine Politics in South Asia for the Annual Conference on South Asia in October; she’ll be sharing her results there and at other conferences and workshops over the coming year. In her spare moments she's been preparing her new course “Hinduism and the Hindu Right.” While many observers have been bewildered by the rise of the political Right in the U.S. and around the world, observers in India have not. The world’s largest secular democracy since independence in 1947, India has witnessed the rising ascendency of the Hindu Right since the early 1990s. In its wake, the Hindu Right has brought violence against minorities; curbs on free speech; and moves toward second-class citizenship for Indian Muslims. Adcock tracks the history of the Hindu Right in India from its nineteenth century roots to the present in her new course, highlighting to students the immediate political relevance of the struggle to come to grips with the Hindu Right and the questions it raises in the study of religion and secularism.

Wendy Love Anderson (Academic Coordinator for the Center for the Humanities) is working on a new course, “Religion and Healing,” home based in Religious Studies and cross-listed with the Medical Humanities. “Religion and Healing” will be offered in Spring 2018 and will explore the relationship between religion and healing through historical and comparative study of Christian, Jewish and other religious traditions. Specifically, the course will examine how specific religious worldviews influence conceptions of the body and associated healing practices, how states of health and disease are identified and invested with religious significance, and how religious thought contributed to and coexisted alongside the growth of modern Western medicine.

Pamela Barmash (Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew with the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department) has become editor of Hebrew Studies, the academic journal of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. She has published three articles: “Through the Kaleidoscope of Literary Imagery in Exodus 15: Poetics and Historiography in Service to Religious Exuberance”; “Tamar’s Extraordinary Risk: A Narrative -- Not a Law -- of Yibbum”; and “The Book of Ruth: Achieving Justice Through Narrative.” She delivered the Samuel Sandmel Lecture at Greenville College, Greenville, Illinois on “Job and Jewish Theological Responses to the Holocaust,” and delivered a paper on “Empire and History: History at the Conjunctures of Empire and Exile (A Statement of the Problem),” at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. She is finishing a manuscript on the Laws of Hammurabi and is editing the Oxford Handbook of Biblical Law.

Anna (Fannie) Bialek (Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics) joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics on July 1, 2017 (see page 2 for more information). This fall she will be busy teaching, working on her first book, and giving several lectures including: The Nancy Hardesty Lecture at Clemson University, a lecture in the Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, and a paper at the American Academy of Religion Conference in Boston in the Philosophy of Religion Section.
Last spring, Daniel Bornstein (Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies and Professor of History and Religious Studies) along with Saundra Weddle (Architecture), received funding from the Divided City Initiative for a project titled “Technologies of Segregation in Italian Renaissance Cities.” Bornstein’s side of the project included a trip to the Tuscan town of Cortona this summer to research tax records from the town in order to explore issues of economic disparities, social differentiation, and residential clustering in pre-modern cities. The documents he photographed during this trip will be a key resource for the Historical Methods class he is offering in Spring 2018, on Community and Property in Medieval Europe.

Beata Grant (Professor of Chinese and Religious Studies) had a productive leave during 2016-2017. Her latest book, entitled Zen Echoes: Classic Koans with Verse Commentaries by Three Female Zen Masters was published in Spring 2017. Also published in the spring was a special issue of the journal Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in China edited by Grant. Included in the issue was her article: “Thirty Years of Dream-Wandering: Zhang Ruzhao (1900-1969) and the Making of a Buddhist Laywoman.” She also made substantial progress on her latest project, an annotated translation with critical introduction, tentatively titled, Chan Master Jizong Xingche: The Complete Dharma-talks, Letters and Poems of a Seventeenth-Century Female Chan Master. Grant will present part of this research at a workshop on Buddhist Women: Practitioners and Teachers Past and Present sponsored by the University of Calgary, the University of British Columbia, and the Sharma Drum Vancouver Center at the end of September. Her talk is titled: “Teacher, Traveler and Loyalist: The Poems and Gathas of Female Chan Master Jizong Xingche (b. 1606).”

Aria Nakissa (Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies with the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department) has spent the past year revising and adding to his first book manuscript on Islamic education at al-Azhar. This summer he spent several months conducting fieldwork in Southeast Asia for his second book project on Islam and human rights. In addition to his research, last year Nakissa designed new courses on modern Muslim societies and (for Religious Studies) a course on Islamic traditions of philosophy, mysticism, and theology.

Tobias Zürn (Postdoctoral Fellow in East Asian Religions) just finished two articles that are currently under review by the Journal of Asian Studies and Early China. The first one, titled “Writing as Weaving: Intertextuality and the Huainanzi’s Self-Fashioning as an Embodiment of the Way,” explores a perceived parallel between the practices of writing and weaving in early China. It argues that in light of the prevalence of such an imaginaire during the Han dynasty, the Huainanzi’s highly intertextual design should be read as the outcome of a literary attempt to create an efficacious embodiment of the Way by incorporating the act of weaving in the scripture’s texture. The second article, titled “Overgrown Courtyards and Tilled Fields: Image-Based Debates on Governance and Body-Politics in the Mengzi, Zhuangzi, and Huainanzi,” analyzes how three early Chinese texts developed their distinct visions of sagely rulership via the reworking of agricultural imagery.
THE INAUGURAL
ROBERT MORRELL LECTURE IN
ASIAN RELIGIONS

The department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and the Religious Studies program announce the Inaugural Robert Morrell Memorial Lecture in Asian Religions. Named after the late Professor Emeritus Robert E. Morrell, this annual series commemorates his life work by bringing distinguished scholars of Asian religions to campus. Dr. Robert Morrell taught Japanese literature and Buddhism, and was the first to teach courses on Buddhism at Washington University. To read more about Prof. Morrell please visit: https://source.wustl.edu/2016/05/obituary-robert-morrell-professor-emeritus-86/

GRADITUDE AND TREASURING LIVES:
EATING ANIMALS IN CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE BUDDHISM

Prof. Barbara R. Ambros
Professor in East Asian Religions
at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

October 19 • 4:00 pm • Women’s Building Formal Lounge
Reception to follow

Over the past ten years, an increasing number of Buddhist publications and public events in Japan have drawn attention to the fact that humans must rely on animal lives for food. The moral principle at the center of this discourse is gratitude. While the connection between animals and gratitude has a long history in Buddhism, in modern Japan the meaning of repaying a debt of gratitude has shifted from an emphasis on liberating animals to consuming animals with gratitude. In other words, as meat eating has become normative in modern Japan, even among the Buddhist clergy, a sacrificial rationale that relies on ex post facto devices has replaced anti-meat-eating discourses that have remained central features of a Buddhist identity in other parts of East Asia. The contemporary Japanese Buddhist discourse of gratitude envisions an interconnected chain of becoming that is sustained by animal lives and culminates in human lives. As animal bodies are consumed and transformed into human bodies, humans have the moral obligation to face this reality and express their gratitude.

Prof. Ambros’ research on Japanese Religions has focused on gender studies, human-animal relationships, place and space, as well as pilgrimage. She is the author of Women in Japanese Religions (New York University Press, 2015), Bones of Contention: Animals and Religion in Contemporary Japan (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2012), and Emplacing a Pilgrimage: The Early Modern Ōyama Cult and Regional Religion (Harvard University Asia Center, 2008). She has been serving as co-chair of the Animals and Religion Group of the American Academy of Religions since 2014.
Since the early years of the 19th-century, the Santuario de Chimayó in northern New Mexico has been a site of pilgrimage and Hispanic Catholic devotion. The Santuario’s importance and popularity result from a small hole in the floor of a side chapel; it is from this hole that pilgrims and tourists alike gather handfuls of holy dirt, long reputed to have healing power. The talk will focus on recent uses and interpretations of the holy dirt. The church’s various stakeholders—clergy, townspeople, tourists, and people in the tourism industry—all make particular claims on the ostensible miraculousness of the dirt. While the desire for healing remains primary, other desires for the Santuario often bring the stakeholders into conflict.
EVENTS OF INTEREST FALL 2017

Religious Studies in an inherently interdisciplinary field with events and lectures sponsored by various departments, programs, and centers that touch on religion in different and interesting ways. The following are relevant events on campus that we think you'll enjoy. For a chronological list of events please visit our website: [http://religiousstudies.artsci.wustl.edu/events](http://religiousstudies.artsci.wustl.edu/events)

KEMPER ART MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Renaissance and Baroque Prints: Investigating the Collection
Curated by Allison Unruh
Associate Curator at Kemper Art Museum
September 8, 2017 to January 8, 2018
Barney A. Ebsworth Gallery

EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXHIBITION

The Uses and Abuses of Old Master Prints
Elizabeth Wyckoff
Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Saint Louis Art Museum
September 28
6:00 pm reception, Kemper Art Museum; 6:30 pm lecture, Kemper 104

Art Inspiring Music: Italian Renaissance
The Clarion Brass Quintet, the Washington University Chamber Choir, and faculty from the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences will perform works from the Italian Renaissance, including antiphonal brass favorites of Giovanni Gabrieli and vocal masterworks of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.
October 23
5:00 pm, Kemper Art Museum

In partnership with the Department of Music in Arts & Sciences

Albrecht Dürer and the Rise of Printmaking: From Johannes Gutenberg to Martin Luther
Michael Roth
Curator at the Kupferstichkabinett in Berlin
November 8
6:00 pm reception, Kemper Art Museum; 6:30p lecture, Steinberg Auditorium

Gallery Conversation: Allison Unruh and Elizabeth Wyckoff
Allison Unruh and Elizabeth Wyckoff discuss Old Master works in the exhibition
November 15
5:00 pm, Kemper Art Museum

Gallery Conversation: Renaissance and Baroque Prints
William Wallace, the Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History, discusses the exhibit, with Stephanie Dolezal, Stephanie Kaplan, Lindsay Sheedy, and Emily Thompson, graduate students in the Department of Art History and Archaeology.
December 4
5:00 pm, Kemper Art Museum
ASSEMBLY SERIES
Survivors Club:
The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz
Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat
November 13 at 5:30 pm
Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom, Anheuser-Busch Hall

WORKSHOP IN POLITICS, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY
Aliens, Refugees, and Asylum in Greek and Biblical Legal Thought
Larry May (Philosophy at Vanderbilt University)
Discussant: Rachel Brown (Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Washington University in St. Louis)
December 8 at Noon
Seigle Hall, Room 248

SPRING CONFERENCES
There are several exciting conferences touching on Religious Studies topics scheduled for the spring semester:

February 8-9
EMBODYING INTIMACY:
NEW WORK ON VOICE AND SEXUALITY
This symposium explores how vocal performance functions as a means and mode of intimacy, including research on voice in the black Pentecostal Church.
http://amcs.wustl.edu/events/

March 1-4
THE RELIGION AND POLITICS IN EARLY AMERICA
(BEGINNINGS TO 1820)
This conference will explore the intersections between religion and politics in early America from pre-contact through the early republic.
https://sites.wustl.edu/religionpolitics2018/

April 11-13
THE REUNION OF BIGGS FAMILY RESIDENCE:
A COLLOQUIUM
Featuring 17 leading Classics Scholars, almost half of which will be speaking on Religious Studies related topics
http://classics.artsci.wustl.edu/events/862

April 12-13
ISRAEL AT 70
A review of Israeli literature since Israel became a nation.
http://jinelec.wustl.edu/events
**GIVING TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

The Religious Studies Program welcomes gifts to help support our expanding programs. Such donations are very appreciated and always put to good use.

**Donations can be made electronically at:**
Washington University’s “Gifts” page—[https://gifts.wustl.edu/](https://gifts.wustl.edu/)
Under “I prefer to enter my own designation,”
type “The Religious Studies Program”

**Financial contributions can also be mailed to:**
Washington University in St. Louis, Alumni & Development Programs, Campus Box 1210, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130
When writing, please include a note indicating that the gift is designated for the Religious Studies Program.

**THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!**

---

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES FALL ‘17 COFFEE HOURS**

Religious Studies invites you to our monthly coffee hour!

Stop by Busch 109 any time between 10:30 and 12:30 for beverages, a yummy snack, and to visit with faculty and students.

No RSVPs needed. Stay as long (or as short) as your schedule allows.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10**
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
BUSCH HALL, ROOM 109

---

“I loved the coffee hours. Casual and relaxing.”

“It was really great, I enjoyed talking to faculty and meeting other students.”