NEWS AND EVENTS
FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The study of religion has never been as critical as it is today. With religious intolerance on the rise here and around the world, our goal is to equip students to think critically and deeply about the traditions, practices, and tensions that have shaped the world in which we live. At the same time, the Program in Religious Studies seeks to champion the commitments to diversity, support, and inclusion that Washington University embodies.

Those values are increasingly important in a society divided by fear and, sometimes, by a lack of information about the great variety of religious traditions that make up our world and our local community. Through courses, film screenings, and guest lectures, we invite you to join us this semester as we offer a range of perspectives and voices. The program in Religious Studies is a gathering place as we wrestle with some of the most intransigent problems of contemporary life. We also hope to support our students from different faith backgrounds in the challenges that they may face in a divisive political climate. By better understanding both long term challenges and recent developments, we aim to foster discussion, debate, and dialogue. Join us!

Warmly,

Laurie Maffly-Kipp
Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor and Director
This fall, Religious Studies held its first ever Religious Studies Week! Designed to highlight the various aspects covered by the study of religion, Religious Studies Week—November 14th through 19th—brought together students and faculty as well as members of the community for a variety of interesting events. “The study of religion is one of the most exciting, confounding, and controversial aspects of humanistic work, and we want to spread the word about what a dynamic community is working on around these themes,” says Prof. Laurie Maffly-Kipp, program director and the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor.

To kick the week off with a bang, the newly revived honorary society in Religious Studies, Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK), hosted a student and faculty mixer on Monday night. Over curry and daal from Gokuls’s Indian Restaurant students and faculty got to know each other on a more personal level not normally seen in the classroom. Informal discussions about classes, personal background of how faculty became interested in religion, and questions about religion dominated the night. Students enjoyed getting to know each other as well as their various faculty members. The night ended reluctantly as conversations continued well past the reception hours and several students and faculty continued talking while also helping clean up. For more information on Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK) see the article by TAK president Harry Hall on pages 6 & 7.

Tuesday night was a film showing of Spotlight in a full Busch hall, room 18. Spotlight tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world’s oldest and most trusted institutions. When the newspaper’s tenacious “Spotlight” team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston’s religious, legal, and government establishment, touching off a wave of revelations around the world.

Following the film, Dr. Kate Gibbons, Lecturer in Classics and Religious Studies and head of the Fall 2016 Religious Studies Film Series, led a discussion about the movie. Part of the conversation focused on the structure of both religious and secular institutions and how the two interact. Dr. Anna (Fannie) Bialek, lecturer in Religious Studies, brought up the gender dynamics of the scandal and discussed why there hasn’t been a similar scandal around female victims.

Prof. David Blumenthal, Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor of Judaic Studies at Emory University, joined us on Wednesday to give a talk titled, “Obedience and Resistance: Principles for Ethical Living.” In his talk he analyzed historical and social-psychological cases of Obedience and Resistance leading to the conclusion that the conditions that drive good people to do evil or good are surprisingly similar. There needs to be a hierarchy of authority, teaching/socialization, discipline, and a practice of evil or good. The analytical takeaway is that nothing happens by accident; it is a result of teaching, modeling, and practice. The prescriptive conclusion is that we need to recognize and use our natural social authority to teach, model, and practice prosocial values. He finished the lecture by showing how Judaism as an institution can fuse prosocial techniques into the practice of its religion. Prof. Blumenthal’s lecture was sponsored jointly by the Religious Studies Program; the Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department; the Philosophy Department; and the Center for the Humanities.

Our last Religious Studies sponsored event of Religious Studies Week, was a Brown Bag luncheon with Prof. Dennis Schilling. A professor of Chinese Philosophy at Renmin University in Beijing, China, Prof. Schilling received his PhD in Sinology from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany. In his talk titled, “The Organization of Life in Ancient and Early Medieval China: Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist Approaches,” Prof. Schilling explored how early civilizations had different ideas of what life is compared to our own time. When does life begin, when does it end? What regulates the physiological and biological functions of the human body? What makes certain forms of life—plants, animals, human beings—differ from each other? How one answers these questions has a tremendous impact on the organization of society and religion. He concluded that the order of life textures society: religion and culture controls life resources, stratifies society, and discriminates among people so that new ideas about life inevitably call for alternative ways of living together.

Continued on page 4
RELIGIOUS STUDIES WEEK, CONT.

Religious Studies Week even included a “Bonus Lecture” on Friday sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literature. Lisa Voigt, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at The Ohio State University, gave a talk titled, “Performing Global Cultures in Early Modern Lisbon” which centered on issues of race, empire, religion, and early modern globalization. While some would think a lecture sponsored by another department would be an odd way to end Religious Studies Week, it serves to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the study of religion. It is too large of a subject to be relegated solely to one department and the field benefits from the perspective offered by other disciplines.

This is also shown in the off-campus conclusion to Religious Studies Week: the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature. From November 19th thru 21st, the world’s largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion met in San Antonio, Texas. Ten WashU faculty, from six different units on campus, gave lectures, participated on panels, and presided over meetings. For more details, please read the article on page 8 & 9.

The study of religion is one of the most exciting, confounding, and controversial aspects of humanistic work, and we want to spread the word about what a dynamic community is working on around these themes.

Religious Studies Week was a great success drawing a wide range of students and faculty to a variety of events. Prof. Maffly-Kipp in writing about Religious Studies Week said:

As you can see, we cover the world and a range of religious traditions, and we study religion as students of culture and society, not as partisans or apologists. ...The study of religion is one of the most exciting, confounding, and controversial aspects of humanistic work, and we want to spread the word about what a dynamic community is working on around these themes. We also want to reassure students that the study of religion is a terrific springboard to a variety of careers and post-graduation options. We aren’t just training ministers or rabbis—we are educating citizens to think critically and deeply about some of the most important issues of the day.
This summer, Taylor DiRoberto, a December Graduate with a Religious Studies major and minors in Philosophy and Spanish, worked with Prof. Mark Valeri on an independent study. During the Undergraduate Research Symposium this fall, he presented a poster of his project, titled “Enlightened Dissent: Eighteenth-Century Baptists and Moravians.” His project 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.

Matthew Drew, a dual Religious Studies and Psychological & Brain Sciences major, is a senior honors candidate working with Prof. Cassie Adcock. His project, tentatively titled “Spiritual Science: Mindfulness Meditation and American Orientalism,” explores how 19th century discourse on universal spirituality and mind-body practices helped construct contemporary mindfulness meditation as secular, allowing mindfulness to permeate public institutions.
THETA ALPHA KAPPA (TAK)
A WORD FROM TAK PRESIDENT

“So, a Religious Studies degree – you’ll have to be a priest, right?”
That’s a common question for many majors, but one that is quickly
defeated by a closer look at the fundamentally interdisciplinary nature
of Religious Studies, a field that has roots that reach from the university
chapel to Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science and
just about every division of the humanities.

But this necessary extension across campus also tends to create a pretty
dispersed community of Religious Studies scholars. Students and
faculty can become like citizens without a capital city. This is why Theta
Alpha Kappa, the national Religious Studies and Theology honor
society, is so important.

The society was established in 1976 and has grown to include over 200
chapters at colleges and universities across the country. To be eligible
for membership, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA in RS courses and a
3.0 GPA overall. The group offers more than just a distinguished mark
on a transcript and the chance to get decked out in special regalia on
graduation day. Membership includes opportunities to apply for
national scholarships and be considered for awards for exemplary
graduate and undergraduate papers, and at Wash U this year and going

WANT TO JOIN TAK?

You don’t have to be a Religious Studies major or minor to join TAK! If you
are interested in joining TAK email Dr. Anna Bialek a copy of your unofficial
transcript: abialek@wustl.edu
forward, opportunities to develop a strong community for students with shared interests in religious studies.

Theta Alpha Kappa has been reestablished at Wash U. this past fall after fading out in 2014. Faculty Director Dr. Anna Bialek, Religious Studies Director Prof. Laurie Maffly-Kipp, and Administrator Sarah O’Donnell have all helped TAK regain its footing. We have already hosted study breaks, dinners with faculty, and opportunities to meet and talk with visiting professors.

As Chapter President, I hope to further expand TAK at Washington University and cement the group as an active and engaging outlet for scholarship and enjoyment. In the spring semester, TAK will host general meetings, study breaks and dinners with professors, coffee hours for all students in religious studies classes, and other events determined by the membership. Due to generous support from the Religious Studies department, we can create venues for faculty and students to form a vibrant academic community.

Wash U. boasts an impressive student to faculty ratio of 8:1. But this doesn’t imply that meaningful student-faculty relations always instantly form. TAK represents one way in which everyone interested in the study of religion can meet and get to know one another better, and build a strong circle of like-minded scholars.

Our events thus far have been a great success, and we hope to see everyone this spring!

Cheers,
Harry Hall
Junior Majoring in Religious Studies and English Literature
TAK President
AAR & SBL ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is the world’s largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion. The AAR promotes reflection upon and understanding of religious traditions, issues, questions, and values through excellence in scholarship and teaching in the field of religion. The SBL is an interdisciplinary, humanistic, academic society that includes scholars of history, literature, archaeology, anthropology, theology, and more, who teach and research the many fields that make up biblical studies. Wash U had a strong presence at this year’s meetings in San Antonio, Texas.

AAR ACTIVITIES

Religious Studies director, Laurie Maffly-Kipp, was part of a panel titled “The Bicentennial of the American Bible Society: John Fea’s The Bible Cause and US Religious Print Cultures” which responded to Fea’s book and explored the effects of the American Bible Society on US religious history.

Cassie Adcock, Associate Professor of History, South Asian Studies, and Religious Studies, was very busy at the AAR. She participated in a roundtable discussion for the Cultural History of the Study of Religion titled “We need the Cultural History of THAT! (or Got Genealogy?)” She was the respondent for a panel on “Modern Sanskrit, Religious Others, and South Asian Nationalism.” Adcock also participated in the business meeting of the Law, Religion and Culture Group.

Anna (Fannie) Bialek, Religious Studies Lecturer, discussed Douglas Hedley’s The Iconic Imagination in a panel titled “Aesthetics, Representation, and Religious Rationality in Late Modernity: Engaging Douglas Hedley’s The Iconic Imagination.”

Tobias Zürn, Postdoctoral Fellow in East Asian Religions, organized a panel for the AAR’s Daoist Studies Group and the Society for the Study of Chinese Religions, titled “Submerged Readings of the Zhuangzi Rewind: Post-Yuan Receptions.” As part of this panel, he presented a talk, titled “Hanshan Deqing’s Buddhist Reading of the “Qiwulun” Chapter as a Dhāraṇī.” Zürn argued that Hanshan Deqing (1546-1623), an eminent monk from the late Ming Dynasty, purported the idea that the Zhuangzi, one of the early Daoist classics, covertly contains various practices of forgetful meditation (wang) in its second chapter “Discourses of evening out Things” (“Qiwulun”). Zürn suggests that Hanshan apparently read the “Qiwulun” as a text of practice (dhāraṇī) that may help practitioners transcend the great dream (da meng) and the world of samsāra.

**Lerone A. Martin**, Assistant Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, gave a talk titled “‘Sincerely Yours, J. Edgar Hoover’: The FBI and Black Religion Beyond COINTELPRO.” He also be presided over the Teaching and Learning Special Topics Forum (“On the Natural History of the Syllabus with Excellence in Teaching Award Winner Joanne Robinson”) as well as their Committee Meeting.

**Dana Logan**, Postdoctoral Research Associate in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, was a panel participant for “Prophetic Indictment and the Ethics of the Public Square: A Roundtable on Cathleen Kaveny’s Prophecy without Contempt.”


**Kate Gibbons**, lecturer in Religious Studies and Classics, gave a talk titled “Reconsidering the Cliché of Determinism in Early Christian Heresiology” for a panel on Religious Competition in Late Antiquity. In it, she considered how Turtullian and Bardaisan of Edessa offer two alternative ways of conceptualizing “free will” and how placing them their broader context can help move discussions past the “free will versus determinism” that has often dominated explorations of early Christian heresiology.

**Pamela Barmash**, Associate Professor of Jewish, Islamic, & Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, along with Prof. Mark Hamilton presided over a session on “Exile (Forced Migrations) in Biblical Literature.”
NEW BOOKS ABOUND!

**Beata Grant**, *Zen Echoes: Classic Koans with Verse Commentaries by Three Female Zen Masters*  
(Wisdom Publications, 2017)

Too often the history of Zen seems to be written as an unbroken masculine line: male teacher to male student. In this timely volume, Grant shows us that women masters do exist—and have always existed. *Zen Echoes* is a collection of classic koans from Zen’s Chinese history that were first collected and commented on by Miaozong, a 12th-century nun so adept that her teacher, the legendary Dahui Zonggao, used to tell other students that perhaps if they practiced hard enough, they might be as realized as her. Nearly 500 years later, the 17th-century nuns Baochi and Zukui added their own commentaries to the collection. The three voices—distinct yet harmonious—remind us that enlightenment is at once universal and individual. *Beata Grant is a professor of Chinese and Religious Studies.*

**Leigh E. Schmidt**, *Village Atheists: A Cultural History of American Unbelief*  
(Princeton University Press, 2016)

A much-maligned minority throughout American history, atheists have been cast as a threat to the nation’s moral fabric, barred from holding public office, and branded as irreligious misfits in a nation chosen by God. Yet, village atheists—as these godless freethinkers came to be known by the close of the nineteenth century—were also hailed for their gutsy dissent from stultifying pieties and for posing a necessary secularist challenge to majoritarian entanglements of church and state. *Village Atheists* explores the complex cultural terrain that unbelievers have long had to navigate in their fight to secure equal rights and liberties in American public life. *Leigh E. Schmidt is the Edward C. Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.*

**Kathleen Gibbons**, *The Moral Psychology of Clement of Alexandria: Mosaic Philosophy*  
(Routledge, 2016)

This book proposes a new approach to Clement’s moral philosophy and explores how his construction of Christianity’s relationship with Jewishness informed, and was informed by, his philosophical project. As one of the earliest Christian philosophers, Clement’s work has alternatively been treated as important for understanding the history of relations between Christianity and Judaism as well as between Christianity and pagan philosophy. This study argues that an adequate examination of his significance for the one requires an adequate examination of his significance for the other. *Kathleen Gibbons is a lecturer in Classics and Religious Studies.*
**Stephanie Kirk**, *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico*  
(New Hispanisms: Cultural and Literary Studies; Routledge, 2016)

Each of the book’s five chapters evokes a colonial Mexican cultural and intellectual sphere: the library, anatomy and medicine, spirituality, classical learning, and publishing and printing. Using an array of literary texts and historical documents and alongside secondary historical and critical materials, Kirk demonstrates how Sor Juana used her poetry and other works to inscribe herself within the discourses associated with these cultural institutions and discursive spheres and thus challenge the male exclusivity of their precepts and precincts. Sor Juana subverted the masculine character of erudition, writing herself into an all-male community of scholars. From there, Sor Juana clearly questions the gender politics at play in her exclusion undermining what seems to be the inextricable link previously forged between masculinity and institutional knowledge. *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico* opens up new readings of her texts through the lens of cultural and intellectual history and material culture in order to shed light on the production of knowledge in the seventeenth-century colonial Mexican society of which she was both a product and an anomaly. Stephanie Kirk is an associate professor of Spanish; Comparative Literature; and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies.

**Pamela Barmash and W. David Nelson, editors**  
*Exodus in the Jewish Experience: Echoes and Reverberations*  
(Lexington Books, 2015)

This book investigates how the Exodus has been, and continues to be, a crucial source of identity for both Jews and Judaism. Exploring how the Exodus has functioned as the primary model from which Jews have created theological meaning and historical self-understanding, it probes how and why the Exodus has continued to be vital to Jews throughout the unfolding of the Jewish experience. As an interdisciplinary work, it incorporates contributions from a range of Jewish Studies scholars in order to explore the Exodus from a variety of vantage points. Yet, the essays are guided by a common goal: to render comprehensible how the re-envisioning of Exodus throughout the unfolding of the Jewish experience has enabled it to function for thousands of years as the central motif for the Jewish people. Pamela Barmash is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew with the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department. She is the author of the Introduction “The Exodus: Central, Enduring, and Generative,” and Chapter 1 “Out of the Mists of History: The Exaltation of the Exodus in the Bible.”


**FACULTY NEWS**

**Anna (Fannie) Bialek** (Lecturer in Religious Studies) traveled to Haverford College in November to give a lecture titled: “How should we respond to wounds?” Doubting Thomas, ‘A Rape on Campus,’ and the false choice between inquiry and care.” In January she gave a talk titled “Structural Injustice, Vulnerability, and the Temporality of Perpetration” at the Society for Jewish Ethics conference.

In October, **Katherine Gibbons** (Lecturer in Classics and Religious Studies) gave a talk on the Syriac philosopher Bardaisan of Edessa’s astrology at the Christianity in Late Antiquity Workshop, a colloquium that brings together scholars working on early Christianity from universities around St. Louis once a semester. Her article “Human Autonomy and its Limits in the Thought of Origen of Alexandria” recently came out online in *Classical Quarterly*.

**Martin Jacobs** (Professor of Rabbinic Studies) will be speaking on “Humanist Historiography through a Post-Expulsion Sephardic Lens: The Hebrew Adaptations of a Genoese Jew” at a conference titled: *The Tasks of the Translator: Developing a Sociocultural Framework for the Study of Translation across the Early Modern World (15th-18th Centuries)* held at Saint Louis University on March 20-21, 2017.

**Moshe Kornfeld** (Postdoctoral Fellow in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) is happy to report a great first semester at WashU. In addition to teaching “Black-Jewish Relations in the United States, he attended the AAR annual meeting and the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) conference. At AJS, he delivered a paper about PJ Library, an initiative that provides free, Jewish-themed books to Jewish families around the world. He also wrote two short pieces: “Who are You Calling an Anti-Semite?: Jewish Debate in Trump’s America,” which appeared in *Religion & Politics*; and “Quoting at Length: Searching for the Radical within Tradition, ” a review of Michael Marmur’s *Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder*, forthcoming in *The Common Reader*.

**Jonathan Kvanvig’s** (Professor of Philosophy) next book, tentatively titled *Faith & Humility*, is in press with Oxford University Press and will be published in 2018. This spring, he will give the Wilde Lectures at Oxford University from April 27 through May 12.

**Laurie Maffly-Kipp** (Director of Religious Studies, Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor with the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) attended the American Society of Church History meeting in Denver in January, and chaired a ten-year retrospective session on a book that she co-edited, *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in American, 1630-1965*, with her colleagues in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Leigh Schmidt and Mark Valeri. In October she served on a panel at Stanford University that discussed religion and the upcoming election, and gave a paper at the
[Maffly-Kipp cont.] conference on U.S. Intellectual History held there concurrently. Later that month she delivered an address at the University of Iowa, “Baptizing the Founding Fathers: Mormon as Alternative Nationalism.”

**Lerone A. Martin** (Assistant Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) was awarded the 2015 Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize for outstanding scholarship in church history by a first-time author by the American Society of Church History for his book *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Shaping of Modern African American Religion* (New York University Press, 2014). He is on leave for 2017 after being awarded a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies and a book grant from the Louisville Institute for the Study of North American Religion.

In early January, **Leigh E. Schmidt** (Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) attended the American Historical Association/American Society of Church History. He served a respondent for the panel on “Reformation of the Self and Protestant Practice: Practicing Protestants Ten Years On,” and chaired a session on “Beyond Denominationalism: (Re)forming American Christianity in the 20th and 21st Centuries.”

**Gene Zubovich** (Postdoctoral Fellow in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) has published an article, titled “The Protestant Search for ‘the Universal Christian Community’ between Decolonization and Communism,” in *Religions*. He presented new work on Christianity and Human Rights at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Society for US Intellectual History, Danforth Center Colloquium, and the American Historical Association. This spring he will give a lecture at St. Louis University on March 31, sponsored by the American Studies Department, and as well as for the History Department Colloquium on March 29.

**Tobias Zürn** (Postdoctoral Fellow in East Asian Religions) was invited by Harvard University’s Department of History of Art and Architecture to present a talk at the conference “The Artist’s Hand: Technology in Practice.” Zürn introduced parts of his dissertation on the *imaginaire* of writing as weaving during the Western Han dynasty and its relationship to intertextual writing practices in the *Huainanzi*, a highly constructed scripture from the second century BCE. He attempted to reverse the common tendency in the Humanities to look at artistic practices through texts by observing the practice of weaving as a means to illuminate textual production in early China. In May, he will attend the International Conference on Daoist Studies in Paris. Zürn has organized a panel on the Daoist construction of power and efficacy and will contribute to this panel with a presentation on the conceptual intersections of images (*xiang*), resonating categories (*lei*), and the power of resonating correspondences (*ganying*) in the *Huainanzi*. 
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING 2017 COFFEE HOUR

10 AM TO 12 NOON
BUSCH HALL, ROOM 109

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17
FRIDAY, MARCH 3
FRIDAY, MARCH 24
FRIDAY, APRIL 7
FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Religious Studies invites you to drop in for coffee. Stop by Busch 109 for a cup of coffee/tea fresh brewed in the office Keurig, grab a snack, and visit with faculty and students.

No RSVPs needed. Stop in any time between 10-12 and stay as long (or as short) as your schedule allows.

“Religion is kind of everywhere, in ways that might not necessarily be obvious. Among other things, what religion does is help us to negotiate power relations and to negotiate a wider social and personal space.” - Dr. Kate Gibbons
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING 2017 FILM SERIES

All films will be shown in Busch 18 at 7 pm
Light refreshments provided

FEBRUARY 7: PRINCESS MONONOKE

Inflicted with a deadly curse, a young warrior named Ashitaka sets out for the forests of the west in search of the cure that will save his life. Once there, he becomes inextricably entangled in a bitter battle that matches Lady Eboshi and a proud clan of humans against the forest’s animal gods, who are led by the brave Princess Mononoke, a young woman raised by wolves!

FEBRUARY 21: SPIRITED AWAY

Tale of the fanciful adventures of a ten-year-old girl named Chihiro, who discovers a secret world when she and her family get lost and venture through a hillside tunnel. When her parents undergo a mysterious transformation, Chihiro must fend for herself as she encounters strange spirits, assorted creatures and a grumpy sorceress who seeks to prevent her from returning to the human world.

MARCH 21: STAR WARS IV: A NEW HOPE

Luke Skywalker joins forces with a Jedi Knight, a cocky pilot, a wookiee and two droids to save the galaxy from the Empire’s world-destroying battle-station, while also attempting to rescue Princess Leia from the evil Darth Vader.

APRIL 4: RUN LOLA RUN

Lola just received a frantic phone call from her boyfriend, Manni, who lost a small fortune belonging to his mobster boss. If Lola doesn’t replace the money in 20 minutes, Manni will suffer the consequences. As her feet slap the pavement and the seconds tick down, the tiniest choices become life altering (or ending) decisions and the fine line between fate and fortune begins to blur.

A conversation about the film will follow each showing.
For questions please contact Dr. Tobias Zuern at zuern@wustl.edu.
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SPRING 2017 LECTURE SERIES

For more information about these events please visit:
http://religiousstudies.artsci.wustl.edu/events

TA-NEHISI COATES, ANTI-BLACKNESS,
AND THE ETHICS OF ANGUISH

Prof. Joseph Winters
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and African and
African American Studies at Duke University

January 19 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18
Refreshments served
Sponsored by The Religious Studies Program; The Center for the Humanities;
and The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

BETWEEN ISLAMOPHOBIA AND HOMOPHOBIA:
GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND LIBERAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH ISLAM

Prof. Joseph Massad
Professor of Modern Arab Politics and Intellectual History
at Columbia University

February 16 • 5:00 pm • Anheuser Busch Hall, room 401
Sponsored by The Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Department; The Religious Studies Program; The Center for the Humanities;
The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics; and
The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

FRANCIS OF ASSISI ON EATING AND WORSHIPPING WITH ANIMALS

Prof. Susan Crane
Parr Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University

March 1 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 100
Sponsored by The Romance Languages & Literatures Department; The English
Department, The History Department; The Religious Studies Program; and
The Medieval Studies Writing Group
THE 2016-2017 WELTIN LECTURE
THE DIGITAL FUTURE OF EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES: UTOPIAN, APOCALYPTIC, AND APOCRYPHAL

Prof. Caroline T. Schroeder
Professor of Religious Studies
at The University of the Pacific

March 6 • 6:00 pm • Umrah Lounge
Refreshments served

BIBLICAL THEMES, MUSLIM ARTISTS

Prof. G. John Renard
Professor of Medieval Islam at Saint Louis University

March 27 • 5:30 pm • Kemper Art Museum, room 103
Refreshments served
Sponsored by The Art History and Archaeology Department; The Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages & Cultures Department; and The Religious Studies Program

CHILD WITCHES IN NAVARRE, 1550-620: LAW, RELIGION, AND FAMILIES

Prof. Lu Ann Homza
Dean for Educational Policy, Professor of History
at the College of William and Mary

April 3 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18
Sponsored by The Stella K. Darrow Professorship in Catholic Studies; The Religious Studies Program; The History Department; and The Children’s Studies Program

PREPOSITIONAL BODIES: SENSATION AND TRANSLATION IN MANCHU

Prof. Carla Nappi
Canada Research Chair in Early Modern Studies and Associate Professor of History at the University of British Columbia

April 13 • 4:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18
Refreshments will be served
Sponsored by The Religious Studies Program; The East Asian Languages and Cultures Department; The History Department; The East Asian Studies Program; and The Medical Humanities Program
EVENTS OF INTEREST SPRING 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

RELIGION AND POLITICS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is pleased to present events focused on religion and politics. RSVPs to rap@wustl.edu or (314) 935-9345 will ensure you receive event updates and a parking pass.

* The Art and Politics of African American Faith by Prof. Josef Sorett on February 1 at 5:00 pm in Umrath Lounge. Sponsored in conjunction with the African-African American Studies Department and the Religion and Literature Reading Group of the English Department

* No Human Right to Sodomy: The Christian Right and SOGI Human Rights by Prof. Cynthia Burack on February 9 at 4:30 pm in Umrath Lounge

* “An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story” Film Screening and Panel Discussion. The panel discussion will be moderated by Center Director Marie Griffith and includes the filmmaker Martin Doblmeier; Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Seminary; and Dr. Healan Gaston, Harvard Divinity School. Sponsored by the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and Eden Seminary. March 6 at 6:30 pm in Emerson Auditorium in Knight Hall. Reception immediately following.

* Healing a House Divided by The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry on April 4 at 5:30 pm in Emerson Auditorium in Knight Hall

ANTHROPOLOGY

* Ethnographic Theory Workshop: Empowering Migrant Women in the Netherlands: A Case Study of Hymenoplasty Consultations by Sherria Ayuandini, Sociocultural Graduate Student at WashU on March 28 at 11:30 am in McMillan Hall, room 150
ENGLISH

* The Double Life of Superimposition: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Black Christ Cycle by Prof. Phillip Maciak on February 8 at 4:00 pm in Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall, room 201

HISTORY

* History Department Colloquium: American Protestants and the International Origins of the 1960s Democratic Revolution by Dr. Gene Zubovich on March 29 at 3:30 am in Busch Hall, room 18

INTERNATIONAL AND AREA STUDIES

* Fyodor Dostoevsky & Martin Luther King, Jr: Two Ex-Cons on Justice Delayed and Denied by Prof. Elizabeth Blake on February 20 at 3:00 pm in McMillan Café. Light refreshments will be served.

MUSIC

* Sakithi Vibrations: A new documentary film about Parai drumming followed by Q&A with filmmaker Zoe C. Sherinian on February 23 at 7:30 pm in Brown Hall, room 100

* The Changing Status of the Tamil Parai Drum: From Untouchable to Dalit by Dr. Zoe C. Sherinian on February 24 at 4:00 pm in Music Classroom Building, room 102

* Music and Dance as Twin Cultural Icons in a Tamil Novel: Tillana Mohanambal by Prof. Indira Viswanathan Peterson on March 24 at 4:00 pm in Music Classroom Building, room 102

* Tamil Drumming and the Politics of Noise in Singapore by Prof. Jim Sykes on April 7 at 4:00 pm in Music Classroom Building, room 102

Workshop in Politics, Ethics, & Society

* Academics Theorizing Badly on (SOGI) Human Rights by Prof. Cynthia Burack; Discussant-Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt on February 10 at 12:00 pm in Seigle Hall, room 248

* Immigrant Identity and Political Radicalization among Young Muslim Women by Prof. Sunita Parkikh; Discussant-Prof. Jasmine Mahmoud on April 7 at 12:00 pm in Seigle Hall, room 248
SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

Monday, May 1st • 2:00 pm • Busch Hall, room 18

You’re invited to join us for our Senior Symposium! Come hear our graduating majors present their capstone research and celebrate their achievements and graduation.

Each major in Arts & Sciences offers students a special capstone experience during their senior year which culminates with the Senior Symposium. This year, Religious Studies is offering its seniors their choice of three courses that focus on Gender and/or the Body in Religion: L23 408 Nuns, L23 418 Sexuality & Gender in East Asia: The Body in Daoism; or L23 424 Gender & Power in Religious Thought. As part of their capstone experience the Religious Studies senior majors will meet once a month to discuss their course work and to prepare for the Senior Symposium.

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/
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!