

REVELATION

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO FALL 2016! A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sixty-two years ago Professor Huston Smith established a Program in Religious Studies at Wash U, starting with the claim that a liberal education “cannot rightfully claim its name” if it omits the study of religion as a human phenomenon. This is an exciting and critically important time to study religion. I’m happy to be stepping up as Program Director to help that project along, and to advocate for religious literacy and civil dialogue about religious differences in our world. Today, the Program in Religious Studies offers courses on all of the major world religions, religion and politics across the globe, as well as issues of gender, violence, race, science, and moral reform, past and present. We remain committed to keeping these conversations alive across departments and disciplines.

There are lots of transitions to report here. I’m deeply grateful for the work of Professor Beata Grant, who has stepped down from her leadership of the Program to take a well-deserved research leave. She has done a great deal to build up our offerings and provide support for faculty and students alike. We had to say goodbye to Roshan Abraham, an enormously popular teacher and beloved colleague, who has moved to Washington D.C. for family reasons. We wish him all the best. We are joined by three new faculty, Fannie Bialek, Kate Gibbons (shared with Classics), and Tobias Zürn (you can read more about them in these pages). Each brings energy and exciting new ideas into our midst, and we look forward to their contributions. Finally, we welcome faculty in allied departments who have interests in the study of religion and will be cross-listing courses with us, including Sarah Baitzel (Anthropology/Archaeology), Clare Bokulich (Music), Jon Kvanvig (Philosophy), and Christina Ramos (History)—more information about each of them is also available in this newsletter.

With sadness, we report on the loss of a longtime colleague, Robert Morrell, Professor Emeritus of Japanese Literature and Buddhism (more information available at <https://source.wustl.edu/2016/05/obituary-robert-morrell-professor-emeritus-86/>). One of his former students, Professor Micah Auerback of the University of Michigan, presented an address at his memorial service on August 22nd on “The Scholarly Legacies of Robert E. Morrell.”

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DROP IN FOR COFFEE HOUR

Religious Studies invites you to drop by Prof. Laurie Maffly-Kipp's office in Busch hall, room 109 this fall for a "Drop In for Coffee Hour". One Friday each month the director's office will be open for faculty, students and staff to stop for a cup of coffee/tea and a snack. We hope you'll take a moment or two to stop by, say hi, and perhaps even learn a little bit about Religious Studies.

Drop in for Coffee Hours

Friday, September 30th

Friday, October 21st

Friday, November 4th

Friday, December 2nd

Busch Hall, room 109

*Drop in any time between
10 and noon*



Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Director of Religious Studies

This last year we have hosted some terrific events, including a talk by Jessica Maya Marglin on Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco, the Weltin Lecture by Elizabeth DePalma Digeser on the legacy of religious conflict in early Christianity, an address on religion and violence in China's Golden Age by Geoffrey Goble, and Fred M. Donner's lecture on papyrological studies from the early Islamic period. Other departments and centers offered lectures relevant to religious studies as well, including a series on Religion, Medicine and Law at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, and a lecture series on Literature and Religion sponsored by the English Department.

This year will be equally rich and diverse, with several talks planned and more to come, including a Weltin Lecture by Professor Carolina T. Schroeder, who has combined her scholarship in early Christianity with the digital humanities, and a talk by Professor Carla Nappi, who works on science, medicine, and the body in early modern China. Both promise to promote wide-ranging interdisciplinary conversations. We will also be featuring a film series on religious topics. Stay tuned to the website for more information.

On behalf of our faculty and the Program, I invite you to join us and continue the conversation.

Warmly,

Laurie Maffly-Kipp

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Maffly-Kipp".

Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor and Director

...a liberal education "cannot rightfully claim its name" if it omits the study of religion as a human phenomenon.

NEW RELIGIOUS STUDIES FACULTY

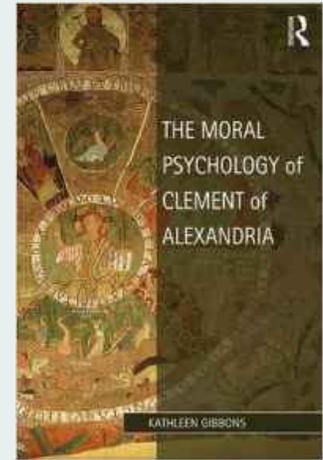
Anna (Fannie) Bialek, Lecturer in Religious Studies, received her PhD from Brown University in 2015 where she taught for one year as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Religion and Critical Thought program. Her research delves deeply into the intersections of political theory, ethics, and religious thought, and her recent work focuses on contemporary Christian and philosophical approaches to interpersonal relationships marked by love, valuing, and care, or their absence. A prizewinning teacher at Brown, she has also received numerous fellowships and accolades for her scholarship. She will be teaching “Thinking About Religion” and a freshman seminar on Vulnerability this fall.

Kathleen (Kate) Gibbons, Lecturer in Religious Studies and Classics, joins us from Wilfrid Laurier University, where she has taught in the Department of Religion and Culture and the Department of Philosophy. She received her PhD from the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto in 2011. Her monograph, *The Moral Psychology of Clement of Alexandria: Mosaic Philosophy*, was published by Routledge in September, and explores Clement’s engagement with ancient philosophical debates in the context of his theorization of the Mosaic law. Gibbons’ other work explores how early Christian participation in philosophical argumentation intersected with discussions of astrology, ethnography, and asceticism. This fall she will be teaching Plato’s *Apology* and “Magicians, Healers and Holy Men” for Classics, and “Introduction to the New Testament” for Religious Studies.

Tobias Zürn, Postdoctoral Fellow in East Asian Religions, earned his PhD in pre-modern Chinese religions from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2016, and taught for seven years at Grinnell College and in the University of Wisconsin system before coming to Wash U. His research concerns itself with the many ways that religious texts, or scriptures, function in the life of communities, and shows how early Daoists and Buddhists used scriptures not just as philosophical guides, but also as aesthetic and ritual entities that engaged with bodies and other objects in numerous ways. His teaching interests include life, death, and the afterlife in eastern religious systems, and understandings of sex, the body and gender. He will be teaching “Buddhist Traditions: Taking Refuge in the Buddha” this fall.



*New Religious Studies Faculty
Tobias Zürn, Kathleen (Kate) Gibbons, and Anna (Fannie) Bialek*



GIBBONS' BOOK PUBLISHED

In *The Moral Psychology of Clement of Alexandria*, Kathleen Gibbons 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 and between Christianity and pagan philosophy. This study argues that an adequate examination of his significance for the one requires a complementary study of his significance for the other.

NEW ANTHROPOLOGY FACULTY

Sarah Baitzel, PhD, joins the anthropology department as assistant professor. Baitzel specializes in mortuary archaeology, the Andes, social organization, ritual, and complex societies. Her dissertation research, funded by Fulbright-Hays and National Science Foundation grants, incorporated information about funerary dress, offerings, and biological markers from over 200 burials affiliated with the Tiwanaku culture (AD 500-1000). Additional research projects in the Moquegua Valley of Southern Peru and elsewhere in the Andes, where Baitzel has worked for the past decade, include collaborative efforts with the Museo Contisuyo (Moquegua) in conservation and analysis of archaeological sites and artifacts. She earned her doctorate from the University of California, San Diego.



NEW RELIGION AND POLITICS POSTDOCS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis has awarded four postdoctoral fellowships for the 2016-2017 academic year. Scholars receiving these prestigious fellowships are Christine Croxall, Moshe Kornfeld, Dana Logan, and Gene Zubovich.

Christine Croxall is finishing her PhD in history at the University of Delaware. Her dissertation analyzes how Catholics and Protestants competed to missionize the Mississippi River Valley, from St. Louis to New Orleans, between 1780-1830, and how the region's inhabitants—white, Native American, and African-descended—reacted to and shaped the agendas of the missionaries sent to convert them.



Moshe Kornfeld earned his PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan in 2015 and then held a postdoctoral fellowship and visiting lectureship at the University of Colorado Boulder. His research takes the study of American Jews as a lens through which to analyze complicated intersections of religion, economy, and politics. His current project investigates Jewish philanthropy, service, and activism in Post-Katrina New Orleans.

Dana Logan earned her PhD in religious studies from Indiana University and is currently teaching at Mercyhurst University. Focused on the role of religious ritual in democracy, her current work reframes American “civility” as a specific set of rituals historically developed by elite Protestants and carefully crafted as religious but unsectarian gestures; her project aims to explain the religious heritage of these mores and the context in which they operate in contemporary U.S. society.



Gene Zubovich earned his PhD in history from the University of California, Berkeley, where he currently teaches, and he specializes in the history of American religion in the twentieth century. His first project, “The Global Gospel: Protestant Internationalism and American Liberalism in the Twentieth Century,” traces the political history of liberalism in the US with a major focus on the influence of religion as a shaping force in both domestic and foreign politics through the 1960s.

NEW HISTORY FACULTY

Christina Ramos, PhD, joins the history department as assistant professor. Ramos specializes in the history of medicine in the early modern world, with a focus on colonial Latin America. She is particularly interested in the complex intermingling of medical, religious, and indigenous cultures; the history of colonial hospitals and the provisioning of public health; the Inquisition as an archive for medical history; and the daily experience and treatment of sickness and disease. Her first book project—titled *Bedlam in the New World: Madness, Colonialism, and a Mexican Madhouse*—is a history of madness in colonial Mexico. Ramos earned her doctorate from Harvard University.



NEW MUSIC FACULTY

Clare Bokulich, PhD, joins the music department as assistant professor. Bokulich's research focuses on the interconnectivity of music genres in the 15th century, particularly the ways in which musicians systematically crossed boundaries by quoting secular songs in masses, subsuming liturgical chant into the context of *forme fixe* chansons, and organizing motets into substitute mass cycles. She is also interested in the expressive potential of silence and has presented work on the use of silence in Wagner's *Parsifal* and Miles Davis's canonical album *Kind of Blue*. Her article "Contextualizing Josquin's *Ave Maria...virgo serena*" is forthcoming in *The Journal of Musicology*. Bokulich earned her doctorate in musicology from Stanford University in 2016 and has lectured at the University of California, Davis.



Inherently interdisciplinary, research on religion is found across campus from Anthropology, to History, to Philosophy, and Religious Studies.

NEW PHILOSOPHY FACULTY

Jonathan Kvanvig, PhD, joins the philosophy department as professor. Formerly Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Baylor University, Kvanvig specializes in metaphysics and epistemology, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of logic and language. He has authored eight books, served as editor for the 7-volume *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, and written dozens of articles. His most recent book, *Rationality and Reflection* (Oxford University Press, 2014), presents a conception of rationality arising out of the egocentric predicament concerning what to do and what to believe. Kvanvig's current projects include a book on faith and humility and another on the significance and limitations of philosophical skepticism. He earned his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in 1982.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: CASSIE ADCOCK

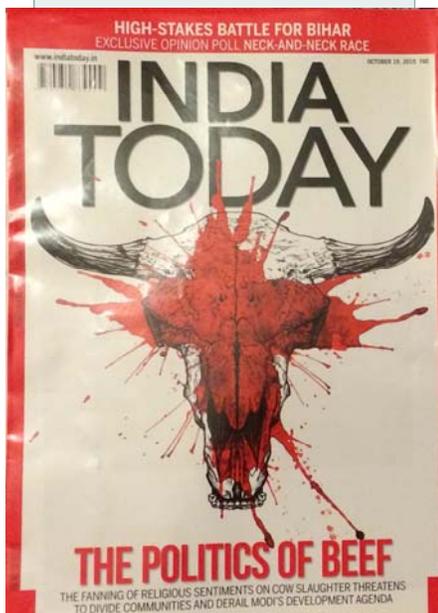
FALL FELLOWSHIP



Prof. Cassie Adcock and the UP archivist Miradevi in Lucknow



Sacred Cow Poster



In India, over the past year, Muslims and persons of low caste have been repeatedly attacked on suspicion of slaughtering cows. “Cow protection,” or efforts to prevent cow-killing, has a long history in Indian politics. Yet there is much we don’t know about this history. With support from an AIIS/NEH fellowship, Cassie Adcock spent the Fall semester doing research for her new book about cow protection in north India between 1881 and 1969.

Identifying cow protection with demands for a legal ban on cow-slaughter (and the violence that has accompanied those demands), scholars have concluded that the colonial state remained aloof from the politics of cow protection. Adcock’s research sheds light on a less-studied aspect of cow protectionist activities: gaushala cattle shelter institutions. By showing that gaushala institutions were entangled with state initiatives beginning in the colonial period, Adcock’s research changes the story of the relationship between cow protection and the secular state in India.



Gaushala Cattle Shelter

How has the connection between cow protectionist gaushala institutions and the state been justified? Cow protection is generally regarded as a political outgrowth of Hindu religious reverence for the “sacred cow”. But cow protectionists have regularly cited scientific and official literature to support their arguments about the importance of draught bullocks for Indian agriculture, the value of cattle manure for maintaining soil fertility, and the need to direct state efforts toward the preservation and improvement of cattle breeds in India. If scholars have often overlooked this overtly “secular” line of cow protectionist argument, historically it has allowed alliances to form between the state and cow protectionist institutions in the cause of agricultural development.

*Left:
Cow Protection
in the News*

*Right:
Imperial Agricultural
Research Institute
at Pusa*



In order to document the connection between gaushala institutions and the state, Prof. Adcock visited the National Archives of India in New Delhi. She also travelled to the city of Lucknow, which is home to the Uttar Pradesh State Archives. There, Prof. Adcock spent her days sifting through the official files of the colonial government in U.P. — with help from the archivist and other staff. She was also able to look at selected records about government aid to gaushalas after independence, housed at the U.P. Department of Animal Husbandry.



Sacred Cow Mural

funds and charitable donations for many decades. Some gaushalas have begun to supplement their income by selling products made from cow-urine, which they consider to have purifying, medicinal properties.

Prof. Adcock also travelled to several historic gaushala cow-shelter institutions in search of a different kind of historical materials — cow protectionist pamphlet literature in the Hindi language. These historic gaushalas were established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and have been maintained by a combination of state

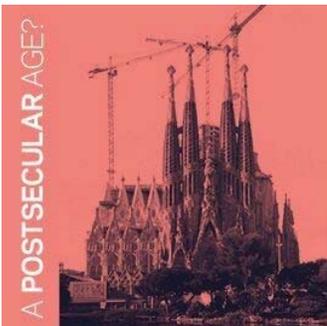


Cow Urine for Sale

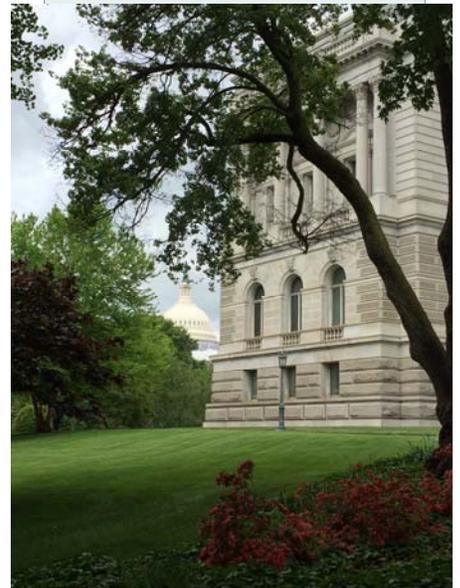
SPRING FELLOWSHIP & SUMMER CONFERENCE

On the hunt for the scientific and official literature cited by cow protectionists over the last century and more, Adcock visited the library of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi (Pusa), or IARI — formerly the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. She also made use of a goldmine of such literature at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., where she spent the Spring semester with support from a Kluge Fellowship.

What does cow protectionists' history of “secular” argumentation have to teach us about the violence against Muslims and low-castes in India today? In 1958, the Indian Supreme Court cited this same scientific, official literature when it ruled that state-level laws banning cow-slaughter were secular and constitutional. Those anti-slaughter laws, recently revised and strengthened, form the backdrop for the recent spate of cow-protection-related violence. She discussed these connections and what they teach us about secularism in India for a talk titled “Secularism as a Matter of Fact” at the A Postsecular Age? Conference at Oxford University in July.



The ceiling of the Library of Congress



The Library of Congress and the Capitol building

FACULTY NEWS



Wendy Love Anderson (Academic Coordinator for the Center for the Humanities) presented a talk titled “Children of Israel: Jews, Christian Materiality, and the Impact of Childhood” as part of a session on “Jews and Christian Materiality” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI in May 2016. She also co-organized and presided over a session on “Apocalypticism in the Age of Cusanus: In Memory of Louis B. Pascoe, S.J.” As Academic Coordinator for the Center for Humanities, Anderson helped administer and advise the new minor in Medical Humanities, which enrolled its first minors in 2015-16. She has an eye toward eventually teaching a course or two in that area as teaching about childhood has already brought her into close acquaintance with the intersection of religion and pediatric medicine.



Cassie Adcock (Associate Professor of History, South Asian Studies, and Religious Studies) was on research leave for the Fall and Spring semesters of 2015-2016 thanks to two fellowship awards: a Senior Research Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies that was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Kluge Fellowship from the Library of Congress (see faculty spotlight page 6-7). She published an essay in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, titled “Violence, Passion and the Law: A Brief History of Section 295A and its Antecedents.” The essay discusses recent controversies in India over free speech, especially the violent suppression of free speech about religion. In July, she gave a plenary address at Oxford University, titled “Secularism as a Matter of Fact,” at the conference, “A Postsecular Age?” organized by the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion.



Pamela Barmash (Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew with the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department) has been working on the history and memory of the Exodus, and her co-edited volume, *Exodus in the Jewish Experience: Echoes and Reverberations* has been published, with two chapters written by her, “The Exodus: Central, Enduring, and Generative,” and “Out of the Mists of History: The Exaltation of the Exodus in the Bible.” She is also continuing her focus on religion and law, with a web publication, “The Book of Ruth: Achieving Justice Through Narrative,” <http://thetorah.com/book-of-ruth-achieving-justice-through-narrative/> and with two manuscripts in progress, a monograph on the Laws of Hammurapi and an edited volume *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Law*.

Daniel Bornstein (Stella K Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies & Professor of History and Religious Studies) has been on the road a lot lately, giving talks at locales around the world. In September 2014 he gave the keynote address on “Saints of the Observant Reform” for a conference in Zadar, Croatia, on church reforms and saints’ cults. (On his way to Zadar, Daniel Bornstein stopped off in Split, where he saw the production trailers for Game of Thrones, but no sign of Jon Snow, Daenerys Targaryen, or Lord Tyrion.) In January 2015, in New York, he delivered the presidential address to the American Catholic Historical Association at the end of his term in office; his subject was “Other Catherines” – that

FACULTY NEWS, CONT.

[Bornstein cont.] is, holy women from Italy to Peru to Ontario to China who won reputations as imitators of St. Catherine of Siena. In July 2015, he gave an invited lecture on “Ordini mendicanti, devozioni popolari e religiosità femminile” (“Mendicant orders, popular devotion, and female religiosity”) for the International Society of Franciscan Studies, in Assisi, Italy. Most recently, in April 2016, he traveled to exotic upstate New York for a conference on “Experiencing Devotion in Medieval and Renaissance Europe: Sights, Sounds, Objects” at the University of Rochester, where he spoke on “From Farmhouse to House of God: Micro-Institutions of Charity in the Tuscan Countryside.” He also published a chapter on “Administering the Sacraments” in *The Routledge History of Medieval Christianity, 1050-1500*, ed. R. N. Swanson (London & New York: Routledge, 2015).

Beata Grant (Professor of Chinese and Religious Studies) is on academic leave during AY 2016-2017. She will be using this time to finish up a number of projects and to continue work on several more. A new book entitled *Zen Echoes: Classic Koans with Verse Commentaries by Three Female Zen Masters* is now in the production stage and will appear in Spring 2017. She is also guest editing a special issue of the journal *Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in China* dedicated to the question of religion and gender in 20th century China, and which will include one of her own articles, tentatively entitled *Waking from Thirty Years of Dream-Wandering: The Conversion Narratives of Zhang Ruzhao (1900-1969)*. In addition to these, Grant will continue her ongoing work on several other research and writing projects, including a study and annotated translation of a long Chinese popular religious “precious scroll” narrative entitled *Woman Huang’s Religious Cultivation over Three Lifetimes* and an annotated translation of a rare collection of 150 poems composed by a 17th century Chinese woman Zen master.

Martin Jacobs (Professor of Rabbinic Studies with the Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department) explores the ambivalent relationship of Sephardic Jews with the Iberian motherland following their expulsion from Spain in 1492 in his current research project titled “Sephardic Migration and Cultural Transfer: The Ottoman and Spanish Expansion through a Cinquecento Jewish Lens.” At its center are the historical works of Joseph Ha-Kohen, a 16th century Jewish chronicler from Genoa, whose parents were among the Sephardic expellees. As Jacobs shows, Ha-Kohen depicts Spanish and Ottoman rulers in decidedly binary terms, vilifying the former and idealizing the latter. He perceives the Ottoman Empire as a safe haven that offered Sephardic refugees a new home and (relative) religious freedom. Spain, by contrast, evokes the collective memories of coerced conversion and expulsion. Therefore, the Jewish chronicler had little sympathy for a Spanish ideology that aimed to justify the conquest of the New World with a Christianizing mission. Against this background, he applauds the Ottoman conversion of Byzantine churches into mosques, but condemns the Amerindians’ forced Christianization by the conquistadors.



FACULTY NEWS, CONT.



Christine Johnson (Associate Professor of History): In his landmark *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, the sociologist Max Weber proposed that God and Mammon might be more closely aligned than previously thought and that the Reformation ushered in new ideas about work, consumption, and economic success crucial to capitalism. Was he right? In some ways, yes, but often in ways he didn't anticipate. In her essay on "Commerce and Consumption" for the *Oxford Handbook of Protestant Reformations* (online version available; print issue in 2016), Christine Johnson explores what current research has revealed about Protestant principles and practices when engaged in work, commerce, and charity and charts the intricate relationships between material culture and Protestant spirituality.



Hillel Kieval (Gloria M. Goldstein Professor of Jewish History and Thought, Professor of History & Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) will be speaking at "The Blood Libel Then and Now: The Enduring Impact of an Imaginary Event" conference on October 9, 2016 at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.



Stephanie Kirk (Associate Professor of Spanish; Comparative Literature; and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies) had a new book, *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico*, published in June 2016 by Routledge. The book analyzes a series of intellectual and cultural spheres in 17th century Mexico: the library and book collecting, anatomy and medicine, religion, education and classical learning, and publishing and printing through the writings of the famous nun and poet. Examining the masculine and religious contours of this institutional knowledge, the book demonstrates how Sor Juana successfully and skillfully involves herself in the most important debates of her time.



Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Director of Religious Studies, Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor with the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) was elected president of the Mormon History Association at the organization's annual conference in Provo, UT on June 6, 2015. She succeeded past President Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Pulitzer Prize-winning professor of history at Harvard University. The Mormon History Association is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and understanding of all aspects of Mormon history. It promotes its goals through scholarly research, conferences, awards, and publications, including *The Journal of Mormon History*. The 2015 meeting marked the organization's 50th anniversary.

This June, at the 2016 Mormon History Association Annual Meeting in Snowbird, UT, Maffly-Kipp delivered the presidential address entitled "The Clock and the Compass: Mormon Culture in Motion." Against the backdrop of the early Mormon movement as an orienteering tradition, she asked what does the recent growth of the LDS Church, especially in the Southern Hemisphere, suggest about revisions to that original geographic and temporal organizing scheme? As the Church maps itself onto different landscapes, how will community practices be reoriented or revised?

FACULTY NEWS, CONT.

Lerone Martin (Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics) has earned two notable awards for the 2016-2017 academic year: an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship and a Book Grant from The Louisville Institute. Both offer support for his research project titled, “J. Edgar Hoover’s Stained Glass Window: The FBI and Christian America.” The project examines how the religious culture of the FBI and its collaboration with clergy, faith communities, and church organizations helped construct and shape popular notions of Christian America during the 20th Century. Martin’s first book, *Preaching on Wax*, was Recognized by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research.

Mark Valeri (Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics with the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics) was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society on February 16, 2016. Founded in 1791, the Massachusetts Historical Society is an invaluable resource for American history, life, and culture. Its extraordinary collections tell the story of America through millions of rare and unique documents, artifacts, and irreplaceable national treasures. Through its collections, scholarly pursuits, and public programs, the Society seeks to nurture a greater appreciation for American history and for the ideas, values, successes, and failures that bind us together as a nation.

Abram Van Engen (Associate Professor of English) has been busy writing. He published an article called “Eliza’s Disposition: Freedom, Pleasure, and Sentimental Fiction” in *Early American Literature*, which is about how one of the most popular novels of early America, Hannah Webster Foster’s *The Coquette* (1797), wrestles with free will within a Calvinist New England tradition, setting the stage for the development of American sentimental fiction. He also has a short piece on the state of literature and religion in 19th century studies coming out soon in *The Journal of American Studies*. On the contemporary side Van Engen explores American exceptionalism in [“Clinton’s American exceptionalism puts a new twist on an old idea”](#) published in *The Conversation*.

Hayrettin Yücesoy (Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies with Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) has recently published two articles. “Language of Empire: Politics of Arabic and Persian in the Abbasid World,” *PMLA* 130/2 (March 2015), 384-92 focuses on the political aspects of language and translation (in this case Arabic and Persian) in the Abbasid world (ca. 9-10th centuries). Instead of examining the rise of Arabic and then Dari Persian simply as civilizational or cultural achievements, which they were, he shows how political contestations and agendas partially determined language selection and revealed aspects of sociopolitical and cultural alignments in the late Abbasid Empire. In “Caliph and Caliphate up to 1517,” *Encyclopedia of Islam Third Edition* (Brill: Leiden, 2016), he examines the title, conventions, periodisation, and institutions of the caliphate up to 923/1517, when the Ottomans conquered Egypt and relocated the last ‘Abbāsīd caliph, al-Mutawakkil III, to Istanbul, their capital.



SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

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: Nuns, Sexuality & Gender in East Asia: The Body in Daoism; or Gender & Power in Religious Thought. As part of their capstone experience the senior class will meet once a month to discuss their course work and to prepare for the Senior Symposium. The Symposium will be held on **Monday, May 1st**. Look for more information on the Senior Symposium on our website.

COURSES

Each semester the Religious Studies Program offers a wide variety of courses both in its home based courses list and in the courses it cross-lists. Below is a listing of our home based courses for each semester. For a full list including cross-listed courses visit courses.wustl.edu.

SPRING 2017

- Intro to East Asian Religions:
Ritual as a Transformative Device (L23 236F)
- From the Temple to the Talmud:
The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism (L23 3082)
- Religion and Violence (L23 3100)
- Jews & Christians in the Premodern World (L23 323)
- Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion (L23 368)
- Islamic Philosophy, Mysticism, & Theology (L23 393)
- Nuns (L23 408)
- Sexuality & Gender in East Asia: The Body in Daoism (L23 418)
- Gender & Power in Religious Thought (L23 424)

FALL 2016

- Thinking About Religion (L23 102)
- Freshman Seminar: Vulnerability (L23 180)
- Introduction to the New Testament (L23 307F)
- The Problem of Evil: The Holocaust and Other Horrors (L23 3101)
- Buddhist Traditions: Taking Refuge in the Buddha (L23 311)
- South Asian Religious Traditions (L23 312)

I loved both Thinking about Religion and Theories and Methods because they gave me a whole new way of framing the world. They changed me as a person, making me more understanding, and they gave me tools to begin my own research.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES WEEK

Religious Studies will be setting aside one week this fall to highlight and explore the variety of approaches to religious belief and practice. Religious Studies Week will be held November 14-18 and will culminate with faculty traveling to San Antonio, TX for the annual American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Language Conference on November 19. Full plans for the week will be available on our website at:

<http://religiousstudies.artsci.wustl.edu/events>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK) Day—TAK is the Religious Studies Honorary Society

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Film Series: Spotlight—see side panel for details

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Lecture by Prof. David Blumenthal, the Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor of Judaic Studies at Emory University. Prof. Blumenthal teaches and writes on constructive Jewish theology, medieval Judaism, Jewish mysticism, and holocaust studies. His previous published works include numerous scholarly articles, reviews, and eleven books including the two volume *Understanding Jewish Mysticism*, *God at the Center*, *Facing the Abusing God: A Theology of Protest*, and *The Banality of Good and Evil: Moral Lessons from the Shoah and Jewish Tradition*. His



Prof. David Blumenthal

most recent book is *Philosophic Mysticism: Essays in Rational Religion*. This talk is sponsored by the Religious Studies Program, the Jewish, Islamic & Near Eastern Languages & Cultures Department, and the Center for the Humanities.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17



Prof. Dennis Schilling

Brown Bag Lunch with Prof. Dennis Schilling (Ph.D., Sinology, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany), Professor of Early Chinese Philosophy at Renmin University in Beijing. His talk is titled **The Organization of Life in Ancient and Early Medieval China: Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist Approaches** and will be held *at noon in Busch 18*. In his talk, Schilling will discuss how Chinese encounters with Buddhism changed the normative Confucian and Daoist outlook on life and the body.

Prof. Schilling teaches and writes on early and medieval Chinese philosophy, *The Book of Changes [Yijing]*, Women in Early China, and Comparative Philosophy. In addition to his numerous books in German, he is the co-editor of the English volume *How Should One Live?: Comparing Ethics in Ancient China and Greco-Roman Antiquity*.

FALL 2016 FILM SERIES

October 25: **Lars and the Real Girl**

A delusional young man strikes up an unconventional relationship with a doll he finds on the Internet.

November 15: **Spotlight**

The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core.

December 6: **Selma**

A chronicle of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

All films will be shown in Busch 18 at 6:30 pm
Light refreshments provided

A conversation about the film will follow each showing.

For questions please contact Dr. Kate Gibbons at kgibbons@wustl.edu.

To find out about our Spring 2017 Film Series please visit our website or check out the Spring edition of *Revelation: The Religious Studies Newsletter*.

THE INAUGURAL THOMAS LAMB ELIOT LECTURE

Work as Worship: Emerson's Emancipat- ing Religious & Political Journey

by Prof. David M. Robinson,
Distinguished Professor of
American Literature and
Director of the Center for
the Humanities at Oregon
State University
December 7 at 4:30 pm in
Umrath Lounge

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is pleased to announce the creation of the Thomas Lamb Eliot Lecture Series. The namesake of this new lecture series, Thomas Lamb Eliot, is the son of the university's founder, William Greenleaf Eliot, and a member of the first class (1862) of Washington University in St. Louis. The lecture series will focus attention on the religious and political worlds out of which Washington University emerged, while at the same time reaching well beyond that immediate educational and institutional setting. It is designed to explore the broad cultural, intellectual, and political frames of Eliot's cosmopolitan faith while ranging temporally from the 19th through 21st centuries.

EVENTS OF INTEREST—FALL 2016

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>

ENGLISH

Visiting Hurst Professor *Adam Potkay*, October 3-7
Adam Potkay is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Humanities and Professor of English at the College of William & Mary, Virginia

- * **The Religion and Literature Reading Group** will discuss part of his book, *Wordsworth's Ethics*, on October 3 at 4:00 pm in Umrath 201.
- * **Something Evermore about to Be: The Transformation of Hope in the Romantic Era** on October 4 at 4:00 pm in Hurst Lounge
- * **Ecclesiastes and Literature** on October 6 at 10:00 am in Hurst Lounge

Visiting Hurst Professor *Charles Taylor*, October 24-28
Charles Taylor is an emeritus Professor of Philosophy from McGill University and one of the world's foremost thinkers on questions of religion and secularity in the modern world. Details for his talks are forthcoming.



RELIGION AND POLITICS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is pleased to present events focused on the 2016 election and in conjunction with the presidential debate to be hosted at WashU on October 9, 2016.

The first of the events to be sponsored by the Center, **Danforth Dialogues: Envisioning the Future of Religion and Politics in America**, will be a set of moderated conversations between distinguished public-minded thinkers on the issues at the heart of religion and U.S. politics. It will be held on October 8 on the WashU campus. Registration is free, but required.

The second of the events, **Faith and Power: Religion and the American Presidency from the Founding to Trump v. Clinton**, will be a public lecture by *Jon Meacham*, presidential historian, Contributing Editor at TIME, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. His talk will take place on October 26 at 6:30 pm in Graham Chapel. Mr. Meacham will be available to sign books from 5:00-6:00 pm in Holmes Lounge on the day of the lecture.

For more information as well as to register for these events please visit:

<http://rap.wustl.edu/all-events/>

Community Events

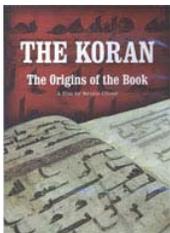
Spiritual Values & Politics Lecture Series by Prof. Randall Balmer
"Spiritual Values and the 2016 Election" on Monday, October 17
"The Spiritual Legacy of Jimmy Carter" on Tuesday, October 18
Both talks will be held at 7:30 pm at Second Presbyterian Church
(4501 Westminster Place) and are co-sponsored by Religious Studies.

ANTHROPOLOGY

- * Ethnographic Theory Workshop: **Legalizing Sin: Moral Reckoning around abortion among Catholic women in Mexico City after recent legalization** by *Elyse Singer*, PhD Candidate, WashU on September 27 at 11:30 am in McMillan Hall, room 150
- * Ethnographic Theory Workshop: **The Creativity of Grace and Faith: A Somali woman's narrative about violence** by *Dr. Anna Jacobsen*, Lecturer, WashU on November 8 at 11:30 am in McMillan Hall, room 150
- * **Wounds of Charity, Haitian Immigrants and Corporate Catholicism in Boston** by *Prof. Erica James*, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Global Health and Medical Humanities Initiative, MIT on November 29 at 4:00 pm in McMillan Hall, room G052

LAW

- * **Pluralism, Prejudice and the Promise of America** by *Eboo Patel* on October 10 at noon in Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom, Anheuser-Busch Hall #310
- * **Islamophobia** by *Arsalan Iftikhar*. An alumni of WashU, AB '99, JD '03, Iftikhar is a International Human Rights Lawyer; senior editor at *The Islamic Monthly* and founder of, TheMuslimGuy.com. He will be speaking on, "Scapegoats: How Islamophobia Helps Our Enemies & Threatens Our Freedom," on October 20 at AB Hall at noon and again at 4:30 as part of the Assembly Series.



JINELC

Middle East-North Africa Film Series
The Koran: Back to the Origins of the Book
November 7 at 6:30 pm in Wilson Hall, room 214

Workshop in Politics, Ethics, & Society

Fridays Noon to 1:30 in Seigle Hall, room 248 (2nd floor conference room)
To receive notices of meetings and copies of the papers prior to each sessions, please send an email to wupoliticaltheory@gmail.com.

- * **The Caliphate of Man: The Problem of Sovereignty in Modern Islamic Thought**, by *Andrew March*, Political Science, Yale; Discussant- *Matt Chick*, Political Science on September 30
- * **Obergefell's Liberties: All in the Family**, by *Susan Appleton*, Law; Discussant- *Linda Nicholson*, History & WGSS on October 7
- * **Immigrant Identity and Political Radicalization among Young Muslim Women**, by *Sunita Parikh*, Political Science; Discussant- *Shefali Chandra*, History & WGSS on October 28
- * **Solidarity and the Limits of Secularization: Habermas, Religion, and Moral Aesthetics**, by *Charlie Lesch*, Mellon Postdoc in Modelling and Interdisciplinary Inquiry; Discussant- *Jim Bohman*, Philosophy, SLU on

TRANSGENDER SPECTRUM CONFERENCE

Washington University in St. Louis will host the 3rd annual Transgender Spectrum Conference on November 4 and November 5. The conference will include a variety of programming for everyone—from those learning about transgender issues for the first time to seasoned scholars and activists. This year's conference theme is "Education, Liberation, and Healing." For more information and a full list of sponsors visit:

transspectconf.wordpress.com

Friday Morning Breakout **Transgender Pastoral Theology**

R.J. Robles, M.Div Candidate, Vanderbilt University

Friday Panel Discussion **Trans-Spirit: Christianity and Spirituality in the Trans* Community**

Saturday Plenary Talk **Transgressive Transformative Theology ~ Exploring Religion and Spirituality at the Crossroads of Gender**

delfin bautista, M.Div, MSW, Director of the LGBT Center at Ohio University

[Registration Required](#)



LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING SAVE THE DATE!

Spring will be a busy time for Religious Studies. Here's a sneak peek at some of the lectures being planned:

January 19 & 20 — Prof. Joseph Winters (Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University)

February 16 — Prof. Joseph Massad (Professor of Modern Arab Politics and Intellectual History at Columbia University)

March 1 — Prof. Susan Crane (Parr Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University)

March 6 — The 2016-17 Weltin Lecture in Early Christianity: Prof. Caroline T. Schroeder (Professor of Religious Studies at the University of the Pacific)

March 27 — Prof. G. John Renard (Professor of Medieval Islam at Saint Louis University)

April 13 & 14 — Prof. Carla Nappi (Canada Research Chair, Associate Professor of History, and Co-Chair of Science & Technology Studies Graduate Program at University of British Columbia)

Religious Studies Program

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Thank you all very much!