

Religion & The Public Intellectual Teaching Resources

[YouTube Link](#) – September 2023

Find assignment prompts, resources, book recommendations, people to learn about and more below.

Overview:

Over the last couple of years, the University, its curricula, and its responses to ongoing ideological debates have been under an intense microscope. This new reality has impacted every constituency on the university campus, but it has been particularly noteworthy for scholars whose work intersects with politics, activism, and community engagement. In this episode, a group of deeply engaged and outspoken scholars will address the role of being a public intellectual in politically fraught moments. Our panelists will discuss the ways that their latest works and discourse in the public sphere have placed them in an increasingly complex and unrelenting spotlight. Additionally, they will engage their process of creating more public and accessible works and the impact these works have on their relationship with the university, community partners, and the broader public. Join us for a conversation at the intersection of religion, activism, and the role of the public intellectual.

Host: Dr. Joseph Tucker Edmonds

Panelists:

Andrew Whitehead, Associate Professor of Sociology at IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis) and Director of the Association of Religion Data Archives, IUPUI

Monique Moultrie, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Religious Studies at Georgia State University

Mira Sucharov, Professor of Political Science at Carleton University

Sources from the panelists

Sources Mentioned in Video:

Books:

- [*Taking America Back for God; Christian Nationalism in The United States* by Andrew Whitehead](#)
- [*Palestinian Walks: Forays into a Vanishing Landscape* by Raja Shehadeh](#)
- [*Passionate and Pious: Religious Media and Black Women's Sexuality* by Monique Moultrie](#)
- [*The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: and The Path to Healing* by Robert P. Jones](#)
- [*Public Influence: A Guide to Op-Ed Writing and Social Media Engagement* by Mira Sucharov](#)
- [*A Guide for Women in Religion* by Monique Moultrie](#)
- [*American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church* by Andrew Whitehead](#)

People:

- [Brittney Copper](#): Activist, cultural critic and Professor of Women and Gender Studies, her research focuses on black female intellectuals and organizations, along with hip-hop feminism. She is also author of many books including, *Feminist AF: A Guide to Crushing Girlhood*, *Stand Up!: 10 Mighty Women Who Made a Change*, *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*, and *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*
- [Renita Weems](#): An ordained minister, scholar, author and is a Professor in Old Testament/Hebrew studies. Her focus is in womanism, theology and ethics.
- [Melissa Perry Harris](#): Writer, activist, TV host, political commentator Professor and Maya Angelou Presidential Chair in the Department of Politics and International Affairs and the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Wake Forest University

Other:

[Abortion and Religion Reader](#)

[American Idols](#) – Podcast by Andrew Whitehead

Teaching Resource 1 – Assignment

Use the video, or clips to answer the following. How do the panelists differentiate between Public Intellectual and Scholarly Activist? Is there one that they feel more connected to, do they differ between each other?

Teaching Resource 2 – Discussion

After watching the video, discuss why the panelists mention being objective versus neutral in their work and teaching. How is this different than what we typically focus on in public education? Do you think this is beneficial or not, why?

Teaching Resource 3 – Assignment

Based on the video how have audiences reacted to the authors books? What kind of feedback do these authors get from the people they write about? Furthermore, does this feedback impact their work or how they proceed?

Related Resources found on RAAC website

American Religion Timelines

- https://raac.iupui.edu/teaching_resources/american-religion-timelines/

Digital Projects in the Classroom

- https://raac.iupui.edu/teaching_resources/digital-projects-in-the-classroom/

Social Justice Mysticism

- https://raac.iupui.edu/teaching_resources/social-justice-mysticism-syllabus/

To Do Right in the World: Religion and U.S. Global Activism

- https://raac.iupui.edu/teaching_resources/to-do-right-in-the-world-religion-and-u-s-global-activism/