

5th Biennial Conference



Religion &
American Culture
June 1-4, 2017 Indianapolis, Indiana

THE ALEXANDER

A DOLCE HOTEL



5th Biennial Conference on Religion & American Culture

Thursday, June 1

- 6:00-8:00 Opening Reception, Platt 99
8:00-8:30 Alexander Hotel Art Tour, Lobby

Friday, June 2

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast available for purchase at Market Table and Yolk
8:00-8:30 Registration

Studying and Teaching American Religion in the 21st Century

- 8:30-10:00 **Session 1:** *Nones*
10:00-10:30 Morning Break
10:30-12:00 **Session 2:** *Digital Methods*
12:00-1:30 Lunch Break

Light snacks and refreshments available at the Nourishment Hub

The Religious Ordering of Things: Nation and World

- 1:30-3:00 **Session 3:** *Religion and the American State*
3:00-3:30 Afternoon Break. Nourishment hub refreshments available until 4:30
3:30-5:00 **Session 4:** *American Religion and the World*

Saturday, June 3

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast available for purchase at Market Table and Yolk

Pluralism and Production

- 8:30-10:00 **Session 5:** *Diversity, Pluralism, Secularism*
10:00-10:30 Morning Break
10:30-12:00 **Session 6:** *Cultural Production of American Religion*
12:00-1:30 Lunch Break

Light snacks and refreshments available at the Nourishment Hub

What We Do, How We Do It

- 1:30-3:00 **Session 7:** *How a Changing Landscape Reshapes the Study of Religion*
3:00-3:30 Afternoon Break. Nourishment hub refreshments available until 4:30
3:30-5:00 **Session 8:** *Categories and Interpretation*

- 5:15-8:15 **Closing Reception, City Way Gallery (first floor)**

5th Biennial Conference on Religion & American Culture

6:00-8:00 pm Opening Reception, Platt 99

8:00-8:30 pm Alexander Hotel Art Tour, Lobby



THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Social Media

Please help us enrich our conference discussions by using #RAAC2017 when posting to Twitter and Facebook.

Also, please follow us on Twitter and Facebook at:

- <https://twitter.com/csraac>
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8:00 Registration

Studying and Teaching American Religion in the 21st Century

8:30-10:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 1: Nones

Even casual observers of American religion know that the “None” category has grown rapidly in recent years. How has this measure of religious affiliation affected the study of religion more broadly? How has it changed our perception of the role played by traditional religious institutions? Is there evidence of similar shifts in the past? If it is true that our students are less religious, at least as measured by affiliation and tradition, what does this mean for our ability to teach them about religion?

Panelists:

Matthew Hedstrom is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at the University of Virginia. His book, *The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth Century* (Oxford, 2012) won the Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History in 2013. He’s been a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University and a Lilly Fellow in American Studies at Valparaiso University. He writes, teaches, and speaks regularly on American spirituality, and co-edits, with Leigh Schmidt, the new American Spirituality book series with the University of Virginia Press. His book in progress is a history of the “religion of humanity,” with a particular focus on the religious history of the United Nations.

Ariela Keysar, a demographer, is Research Professor of Public Policy and Law and the Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. She is Co-Principle Investigator, the Class of 1995/5755 Longitudinal Study of Young American and Canadian Jews, 2016-2018; the U.S. Principle Investigator, *Young adults and religion in a global perspective*, YARG, 2015-2018; a principle investigator of the Demographic Survey of American Jewish College Students 2014, the ARIS 2013 National College Student Survey; the American Religious Identification Survey 2008; and Worldviews and Opinions of Scientists: India 2007-2008. She was co-editor of *Secularism and Science in the 21st Century*; and *Secularism & Secularity: Contemporary International Perspectives*; and co-author of *Religion in a Free Market*, and *The Next Generation: Jewish Children and Adolescents*.

Christel Manning is Professor of Religious Studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut where she has taught since 1995. A graduate of Tufts University, she holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Manning has spent the last decade researching the rise of the “Nones” in America. Her most recent book, *Losing our Religion: How Unaffiliated Parents are Raising their Children* (NYU Press) was rated one of the top ten religion books of 2015 and won the 2016 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Studying and Teaching American Religion in the 21st Century

10:30-12:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 2: Digital Methods

Many fields have been affected by the rise of digital methods. To what degree have new methods for conducting or disseminating research changed the field? Do greater changes seem to be on the horizon and, if so, what should we expect? What is the nature of such changes—access by more people, access to more data, opportunities to broaden scope, ability to layer information, creation of new sorts of community? Do changes in methods portend communication difficulties within fields, either between and among generations or between and among scholars who use different methods? If so, are these difficulties qualitatively different from the past or just a different version of perennial issues?

Panelists:

Christopher Cantwell is Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he teaches classes on religious history, public history, and digital humanities. His research explores how Christianity, capitalism, and collective memory have shaped each other throughout American history, particularly how nostalgia shapes the political imagination of Protestant evangelicals. His work also explores how the digital humanities are transforming the study of religion. He is co-editor of *Religion, Media, and the Digital Turn* (SSRC, 2015), and is working on a manuscript titled “The Bible Class Teacher: Protestants and the Past in Industrial Chicago” as well as an edited collection titled “Introduction to Digital Humanities: Research Methods in the Study of Religion.”

Roger Finke is Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Religious Studies, and International Affairs at the Pennsylvania State University and is Director of the Association of Religion Data Archives. He is author of two award-winning books with Rodney Stark. His most recent book is *Places of Faith: A Road Trip Across America's Religious Landscape* with Christopher P. Scheitle (Oxford, 2012). As the founder and director of the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), he works with colleagues and students to provide global access to the best data and information on religion. The ARDA was named one of the 30 Best Free Reference Websites in 2010 by a division of the American Library Association.

Amy DeRogatis is Professor of Religion and American Culture in the Department of Religious Studies at Michigan State University. She teaches courses on Religion in the United States; Evangelicalism; Religion, Gender, and Sexuality; and Religion and the Senses. Her primary area of research is Christianity in the United States. Her most recent book is *Saving Sex: Sexuality and Salvation in American Evangelicalism* (Oxford, 2015). She is also co-PI with Isaac Weiner (OSU) of the American Religious Sounds Project.

Isaac Weiner is Associate Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Comparative Studies at Ohio State University. His first book, *Religion Out Loud: Religious Sound, Public Space, and American Pluralism* (NYU Press, 2014), analyzed the politics of religious pluralism in the United States by attending to disputes about religious sound in the public realm. He is co-director, with Amy DeRogatis, of the American Religious Sound Project, a digital initiative supported by the Henry Luce Foundation to document and interpret the diversity of American religious life by attending to its varied sonic cultures.

The Religious Ordering of Things: Nation and World

1:30-3:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 3: Religion and the American State

The relationship among lived religion, civil religion, secularism, and government authority is a subject of continuous inquiry. What is the relationship among religion (of any kind), patriotism, and nationalism? How has "Religious Freedom" legislation shaped the public conversation about religion's role and how are those changes perceived by different (racial, ethnic, LGBTQ) publics? In the same vein, how are attitudes toward policing or military intervention related to religion and how do these differ among those same publics? How has nationalism—or the reaction to it—shaped the very construction of the field?

Panelists:

David Sehat is Associate Professor of History at Georgia State University. He is author of *The Jefferson Rule* (2015) and *The Myth of American Religious Freedom* (2011), which won the Fredrick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians. During the 2017-2018 academic year, he will be the John G. Winant Professor of American Government at Oxford.

Lerone A. Martin is Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis. He is the author of the award winning *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Making of Modern African American Religion* (NYU Press, 2014). The book was the 2015 recipient of the prestigious Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize of the American Society of Church History for outstanding scholarship in religious history by a first time author by the American Society of Church History. In support of his research, he has received a number of nationally recognized fellowships, including the American Council of Learned Societies, The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, and the Forum for Theological Exploration. Currently he is researching the relationship between religion and national security in American history.

Melissa M. Wilcox is Professor and Holstein Family and Community Chair of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside. She is author or editor of several books and journal issues, and numerous articles, on gender, sexuality, and religion. Her books include *Coming Out in Christianity: Religion, Identity, and Community*; *Sexuality and the World's Religions*; *Queer Women and Religious Individualism*; and *Religion in Today's World: Global Issues, Sociological Perspectives*. Her newest work, *Serious Parody: Religion, Queer Activism, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*, is forthcoming from the Sexual Cultures Series at NYU Press, and she is at work on two textbook projects in the areas of queer studies and sexuality studies in religion.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

The Religious Ordering of Things: Nation and World

3:30-5:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 4: American Religion and the World

Increased attention is being paid to American religion's role in international affairs, as well as interaction with the world shaping American religion. From national security, missionaries, and war to colonization, nation building, and empire, there exist complex relationships. How does religion provide the background for justification of authority in the ordering of life internationally? How does it authorize the use of force in its international interventions and initiatives? How is a religious vision of the state mapped onto international interventions and initiatives? How is a religious vision of the state mapped onto international space? What role does "security" play in a religiously-inspired international agenda?

Panelists:

John Corrigan is the Luicas Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion and Professor of History at Florida State University. His most recent book is *Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America* (Chicago, 2015) and his forthcoming publications include *Feeling Religion*, ed. (Duke, 2017); *The Business Turn in American Religious History*, coedited with Amanda Porterfield and Darren Grem (OUP, 2017); *Religious Spaces in the Atlantic World*, ed. (South Carolina, 2017); *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Religion*, editor-in-chief, (OUP, 2018); *Making Deep Maps: Foundations, Approaches, and Methods*, coedited with David Bodenhamer and Trevor Harris (Indiana, 2018); *Return to Sender: Protestant Missionaries in Europe in the Twentieth Century*, coedited with Frank Hinkelmann (Brill, 2018); *Religion in America*, co-author with Winthrop Hudson, 9th edition, (Routledge, 2018); and *Religious Violence and American Foreign Policy* (Chicago).

Sylvester A. Johnson is Associate Professor of African American Studies and Religious Studies at Northwestern University, where he researches religion, race, and empire in Atlantic geographies; religion and sexuality; national security paradigms; and the impact of machine intelligence on human futures. His first book, *The Myth of Ham in Nineteenth-Century American Christianity: Race, Heathens, and the People of God* (2004), is an award-winning study of race, Christianization, and religious hatred. Johnson has also authored *African American Religions, 1500-2000: Colonialism, Democracy, and Freedom* (Cambridge, 2015), which earned the Choice Award for 2017. Johnson is a founding Co-Editor of the *Journal of Africana Religions*, and he recently coedited (with Steven Weitzman) *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security Before and after 9/11* (UCP, 2017).

Melani McAlister is Associate Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University. She is the author of *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and US Interests in the Middle East* (2001, rev. ed. 2005), and coeditor, with R. Marie Griffith, of *Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States* (2008). She has recently completed *Our God in the World: The Global Visions of American Evangelicals* (forthcoming from Oxford Univ. Press in 2018), an expansive study of evangelical internationalism since 1960. She has received fellowships from, among others, the National Endowment for the Humanities and Princeton University's Davis Center for Historical Studies. She is currently working on a study of the global response to the Nigeria-Biafra war of 1967-70.

Pluralism and Production

8:30-10:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 5: Diversity, Pluralism, Secularism

For years, American religious scholars claimed that the religious freedom that resulted from disestablishment created religious competition that led to the United States' high level of religiosity. Recent studies, however, indicate that pluralism and its unlimited options might be leading to lower levels of religious belief and practice. What is the nature of the relationship among diversity, pluralism, and secularism? Does religious freedom breed vibrant and diverse faiths, or does it create so many options that people eventually relativize them all and turn toward secularism?

Panelists:

Khyati Joshi is Professor of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University and a scholar on race and religion in the United States. She published her first book, *New Roots in America's Sacred Ground: Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in Indian America*, in 2006, and contributes to both popular and scholarly publications and is often contacted by media organizations. Her current book project is "Building a More Perfect Union: Race and Religion in America." Distinguished for both her scholarship and teaching, Dr. Joshi was editor for the 3rd edition of *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice* (2016), a text used by a wide array of educators to facilitate new learning on issues of social justice.

Peter Manseau is Lilly Endowment Curator of American Religious History at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. He serves as curator of the new exhibition *Religion in Early America* (opening June 28, 2017), and author of the companion book *Objects of Devotion*. His previous publications include the history *One Nation Under Gods*, the memoir *Vows*, the travelogue *Rag and Bone*, and the novel *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award. He also writes frequently for venues including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

Fenggang Yang is Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University. He is author of *Religion and China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule* (2012) and *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities* (1999), and the co-editor of more than ten books. He is the founding editor of the *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*. Two of his articles received distinguished article awards: "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications"; "The Red, Black, and Gray Markets of Religion in China." He was elected the president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (2014-15), and delivered the presidential address "Exceptionalism or Chinamerica?: Measuring Religious Change in the Globalizing World Today."

Pluralism and Production

10:30-12:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 6: Cultural Production and American Religion

Twenty years ago, Stephen Warner called the master function of religion “social space for cultural pluralism.” What role does religion play today in sustaining multiple cultures and, relatedly, what role does it play in supporting an ideology of pluralism as desirable? How does religion contribute to or challenge racialization—the practice of producing, maintaining, and contesting racial classification? Are we indeed witnessing the inevitable end of “white, Christian America?” How is religion reflected in movements such as Black Lives Matter or Standing Rock?

Panelists:

Paul Harvey is Professor of History and Presidential Teaching Scholar at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. He is the author/editor of a number of books, including most recently *Bounds of Their Habitation: Race and Religion in American History*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History*, coedited with Kathryn Gin Lum.

Josef Sorett is Associate Professor of Religion and African-American Studies at Columbia University, where he also directs the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice. He is author of *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics* (OUP, 2016); and his second book, *The Holy Holy Black: The Ironies of an African American Secular*, is forthcoming. His research has been supported with grants from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Louisville Institute, and Yale University's Institute for Sacred Music. Josef's writing and commentary have also appeared in a range of popular media outlets, including *ABC News*, the *New York Times*, the *BBC*, and *NPR*.

Tisa Wenger is Associate Professor of American Religious History at Yale Divinity School. Her first book *We Have a Religion: The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom* (UNC, 2009) shows how the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico deployed the concepts of religion and religious freedom to defend their ceremonial practices against government suppression and found them reshaped in the process. Her next book, *Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal* (UNC, 2017), explores the significance of religious freedom for a variety of colonized and minority peoples, arguing that this ideal worked historically to structure but also unsettle the racial-religious assemblages of empire.

What We Do, How We Do It

1:30-3:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 7: How a Changing Landscape Reshapes the Study of Religion

The role of traditional religious institutions is changing, but so too are the institutions that study religion in society. Seminaries once dominated the study of American religion, but now the field is dominated by large religious studies, history, and sociology departments in state and private universities. Meanwhile, large research centers within and without academia were created to study various aspects of religion in the United States. What do shifts in funding and the creation of centers that change the infrastructure of the study of American religion portend? How are these changes affecting the field, itself? Have government or neoliberal interests of some funders shaped the way questions are asked and answers given, and if so, how?

Panelists:

Marie Griffith is the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, is currently the director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and the editor of the Center's journal, *Religion & Politics*. Her first major publication was *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (1997), which examines the practices and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her forthcoming book, scheduled for fall 2017, is titled *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics*. In addition to her books, Professor Griffith has published over thirty-one articles and book chapters and written more than twenty reviews. Griffith is a frequent media commentator and public speaker on current issues pertaining to religion and politics, including the changing profile of American evangelicals and ongoing conflicts over gender, sexuality, and marriage.

Deborah Dash Moore is Fredrick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. A historian of American Jews, she has published an acclaimed trilogy examining the years from 1920 to 1960, including the experience of Jewish soldiers in World War II. Her most recent book, *Urban Origins of American Judaism* (2014), examines how new religious forms emerged on the streets of American cities and includes a chapter on photographs of American Jews. From 2005-2015 she served as Director of the University of Michigan's Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Currently she is editor in chief of the ten-volume *Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* published by Yale University Press.

Basheer Mohamed is a senior researcher at Pew Research Center. He is involved in the design and implementation of many of the Center's domestic religion polls. He specializes in studying religious minorities in the U.S., with a specific focus on Muslim Americans. Before joining Pew Research Center, Mohamed received a doctorate in sociology as well as a master's degree in Middle East studies from the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Implications of Religious Identity for American Muslims and Muslim Immigrants: Hurt by Recession but Not Complaining*. He has worked on the Center's surveys of Muslim Americans, Mormons, and Asian Americans as well as its polling on religion and politics. Mohamed has presented his work at academic conferences and been interviewed as an analyst by a variety of broadcast and print media.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

What We Do, How We Do It

3:30-5:00 Alexander Ballroom

Session 8: Categories and Interpretation

Many of our conversations hinge on well-known organizing principles: gender, race, class, tradition, institutions, centuries, etc. How well do these categories serve us today? Are there new frontiers that transcend these categories, or are changes primarily aimed at doing these things "more and better"?

Panelists:

Kathleen Flake is Richard L. Bushman Professor of Mormon Studies at the University of Virginia. Appointed to the Religious Studies faculty, she teaches courses in American religious history and the interaction of American religion and law. She is the author of *The Politics of American Religious Identity: The Seating of Senator Reed Smoot, Mormon Apostle* (UNC, 2004). She has published in several scholarly journals and is on the editorial board of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* and the *Journal of Mormon Studies*. Her current project is "Mormon Matriarchy: a Study of Gendered Power in Antebellum America." She has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the American Philosophical Society. She has held office in the American Academy of Religion and the American Society of Church History.

Kathryn Lofton is Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and Professor of Religious Studies, American Studies, History, and Divinity at Yale University. A historian and cultural critic, her research focuses on the problem of religion in modernity. She has written about modernism, consumerism, celebrity, and secularism. Her forthcoming book, *Consuming Religion*, includes examinations of Goldman Sachs, Kim Kardashian, and parenting as subjects for the study of religion. Lofton has served as editor-at-large for the *Immanent Frame*; she co-curated (with John Lardas Modern) *Class 200: New Studies in Religion*, a book series with University of Chicago Press. For her work at Yale she has won the Poorvu Family Award for Interdisciplinary Teaching, the Sarai Rebicoff Award for the Encouragement of Teaching at Yale College, and the Graduate Mentor Award in the Humanities.

Ann Taves is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara where she teaches courses on religious experience, new religious movements, and comparative worldviews along with supervising the interdisciplinary Religion, Experience, and Mind Lab Group. She is a past president of the American Academy of Religion; and current Deputy General Secretary of the International Association for the History of Religions. She is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Fits, Traces, and Visions: Experiencing Religion and Explaining Experience from Wesley to James* (Princeton, 1999) and *Religious Experience Reconsidered* (Princeton, 2009). Her most recent book, *Revelatory Events: Three Case Studies of the Emergence of New Spiritual Paths* (Princeton, 2016), analyzes and compares Mormonism, Alcoholics Anonymous, and *A Course in Miracles*.

5:15-8:15 Concluding Reception, City Way Gallery (first floor)

Arthur E. Farnsley II is Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture and Research Professor of Religious Studies at IUPUI. His books include *Southern Baptist Politics* (Penn State, 1994), *Rising Expectations: Urban Congregations, Welfare Reform and Civic Life* (IU, 2003), *Sacred Circles, Public Squares: The Multicentering of American Religion* (IU, 2005), *Flea Market Jesus* (Cascade, 2012) and *The Bible in American Life*, edited with Philip Goff and Peter Thuesen (Oxford, 2017). He has held two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. His essays have appeared on the cover of *Christianity Today*, *The Christian Century*, and in newspapers across the country.

Philip Goff received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture; Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies; and Dean of Research and Graduate programs in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. His research interests include religion and radio in the mid-twentieth century and Protestant individual religious practices. He recently published *The Blackwell Companion to Religion in America* (Wiley, 2010), with 44 interpretive bibliographic essays by leading scholars in the field, and is co-editor of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*.

Peter J. Thuesen is Professor of Religious Studies at IUPUI and Director of Humanities Research in the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. He also serves as co-editor of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. His research focuses on the intellectual history of religion in the U.S., the history of Christian thought since the Reformation, and the Bible in American culture. His publications include *Predestination: The American Career of a Contentious Doctrine* (Oxford, 2009) and *In Discordance with the Scriptures: American Protestant Battles over Translating the Bible* (Oxford, 1999). His current project is *Tornado God: American Religion and Violent Weather* (under contract with Oxford University Press).

Joseph L. Tucker Edmonds is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Religious Studies at Indiana University's School of Liberal Arts (IUPUI). He is also a research fellow for the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. His research interests are Black and womanist theologies, alternative Christianities in the Black Atlantic, the role of scripture in African and African American religious traditions, and the relationship between Africana religious identity, citizenship, and globalization. Currently, Joseph is working on his first book, supported by grants from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute, that will explore radical religious traditions within mainstream African American Christianity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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