

# 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

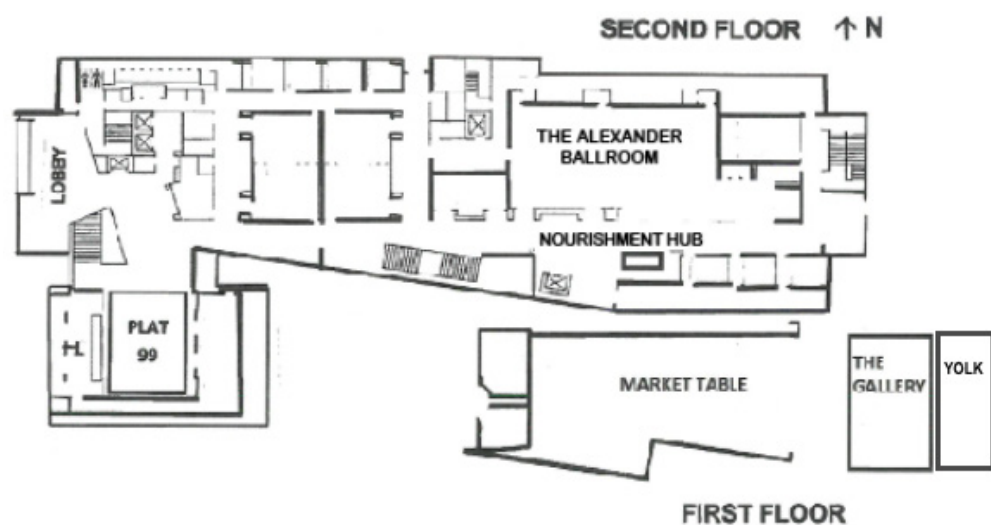


## Religion & American Culture

June 6-9, 2019 Indianapolis, Indiana

# THE ALEXANDER

A DOLCE HOTEL



# 6th Biennial Conference on Religion & American Culture

## Thursday, June 6

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

## Friday, June 7

- 6:30-9:00 Coffee & breakfast available for purchase at Plat 99, Market Table, and Yolk  
8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:30 **Session 1: Teaching American Religion**

10:30-11:00 Morning Break

11:00-12:30 **Session 2: Translating Scholarship**

12:30-2:00 Lunch Break (nearby options listed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2j7k7zx>)  
Light snacks and refreshments available at the Nourishment Hub

2:00-3:30 **Session 3: Religion and Refugees**

3:30-4:00 Afternoon Break. Nourishment Hub refreshments available until 4:30

4:00-5:30 **Session 4: Different Narratives in Religion and American Politics**

## Saturday, June 8

6:30-9:00 Coffee & breakfast available for purchase at Plat 99, Market Table, and Yolk

9:00-10:30 **Session 5: Religion and Crisis**

10:30-11:00 Morning Break

11:00-12:30 **Session 6: New Religious Movements Embodied**

12:30-2:00 Lunch Break (nearby options listed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2j7k7zx>)  
Light snacks and refreshments available at the Nourishment Hub

2:00-3:30 **Session 7: Science, Technology, and Spirituality**

3:30-4:00 Afternoon Break. Nourishment Hub refreshments available until 4:30

4:00-5:30 **Session 8: Looking Ahead**

5:45-8:00 **Closing Reception, City Way Gallery (first floor)**

# 6th 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 (optional)



## Social Media

Please help us enrich our conference discussions by using #RAAC2019 when posting to Twitter and Facebook.

Also, please follow us on Twitter and Facebook at:

- <https://twitter.com/csraac>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/religionandamericanculture/>

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6

**8:30-9:00 Registration**

**9:00-10:30 Alexander Ballroom**

### **Session 1: Teaching American Religion**

For many teaching about religion in North America, it is a tale of two cities. While digital and local resources are richer than ever and many institutions value experiential learning, our students are quite different from a generation ago. Generally, they are less religious and know less about religion, which means for many courses we must recruit them to register and then focus more on content than we want, just to familiarize them with the material. What does this portend for American religious studies over the next decade, as enrollments in the humanities and some social sciences decrease? How do we attract, retain, and truly educate students in our field? What have you found resonates with a new generation prone to avoid the topic?

#### **Panelists:**

**Kathleen Holscher** is Associate Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies, and holds the endowed chair in Roman Catholic studies, at the University of New Mexico. She is the author of *Religious Lessons: Catholic Sisters and the Captured Schools Crisis in New Mexico* (Oxford University Press, 2012). Her current work focuses on the historical relationship of Catholicism to the U.S. nation-state project of Indigenous lands colonization, and accompanying forms of dispossession, as well as to formations of Indigenous sovereignty. She is broadly interested in the problem of decolonizing methods and narratives of “American” Catholic history. Holscher is a former Young Scholar of American Religion and is the 2019 president of the American Catholic Historical Association.

**Carolyn M. Jones Medine** is Professor of Religion and Professor and Director of the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Georgia. She is the co-author, with Dr. John Randolph LeBlanc, of *Ancient and Modern Religion and Politics* (Palgrave 2012) and co-editor with Dr. Ibigbolade Simon Aderibigbe of *Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora* (Palgrave 2015). Dr. Medine writes mostly about African American and Southern women and on African American Buddhists, particularly in the work of Alice Walker.

**Douglas Thompson** is Associate Professor of History at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, and editor of the *Journal of Southern Religion*. He also serves as director of the Spencer B. King, Jr. Center for Southern Studies at Mercer. His book *Richmond's Priests and Prophets: Race, Religion, and Social Change in the Civil Rights Era* (University of Alabama Press) examined white congregations and religious leaders' engagement in Richmond with school desegregation. His current book project is titled *A Journey of Conscience: Martin Luther King Jr., the Vietnam War, and the Struggle for the American Soul* (under contract with University of Georgia Press). When not teaching, researching, or writing, he enjoys running and hiking.

11:00-12:30 Alexander Ballroom

## Session 2: Translating Scholarship

In our current context, where universities and colleges are changing and are under pressure to prove their worth, this panel seeks to focus on the applied aspects of our work. While all acknowledge the value of learning for its own sake, we understand the need to be able to explain how our work has direct or indirect implications for policy and practice to the state, school stakeholders, religious organizations, or funders. What are the current uses of religion scholarship? What areas do we need to further develop? How do we prove our value beyond what students turn in during the semester?

### Panelists:

**Heath W. Carter** is Associate Professor of history at Valparaiso University and, on July 1st, will begin a new appointment as Associate Professor of American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Union Made: Working People and the Rise of Social Christianity in Chicago* (Oxford University Press, 2015), and the co-editor of three books: *The Pew and the Picket Line: Christianity and the American Working Class* (University of Illinois Press, 2016), *Turning Points in the History of American Evangelicalism* (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017), and *A Documentary History of Religion in America*, 4th Ed. (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018). Carter is currently working on a new book entitled *On Earth as it is in Heaven: Social Christians and the Fight to End American Inequality* (under contract with Oxford University Press). He is the co-editor, with Kathryn Gin Lum and Mark Noll, of Eerdmans's award-winning Library of Religious Biography series.

**Robert Orsi** is Grace Craddock Nagle Chair of Catholic Studies at Northwestern University, where he is also Professor of Religious Studies, History, and American Studies. His most recent book is *History and Presence*, published in 2016 under the Belknap Imprint of Harvard University Press. Orsi is currently at work on a book called *Give Us Boys* about the formation of young men at a Jesuit high school in New York City in 1967-1971 as an episode in the broader history of modern Catholic sexuality, class, and urbanism.

**Mira Sucharov** is Associate Professor of Political Science at Carleton University in Ottawa. She is the author of, most recently, *Public Influence: A Guide to Op-Ed Writing and Social Media Engagement* (University of Toronto Press, 2019) and is co-editor (with Aaron J. Hahn Tapper) of *Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates* (University of Toronto Press, 2019). Her many op-eds have appeared in Haaretz, The Forward, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, The Huffington Post and The Daily Beast. She is a four-time teaching award winner, including receiving the 2017 OCUFA award — the highest such award in Ontario, and is the 2019 winner of her Faculty's Excellence in Public Commentary Award.

2:00-3:30 Alexander Ballroom

### Session 3: Religion and Refugees

Globally, refugees give evidence of a world in flux—both in the homeland they leave and in the new places they inhabit. In North America, what is religion's role in the daily lives of refugees? How does it individually and communally aid or complicate their new lives? How is religion used in lobbying governmental policy on refugees? How do refugees stimulate religious vitality? How does religion scholarship shape social attitudes and reactions toward refugees?

#### Panelists:

**Melissa Borja** is Assistant Professor of American Culture at the University of Michigan, where she is a core faculty member in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program. She researches migration, religion, politics, pluralism, and race in the United States and the Pacific World, with special attention to how religious beliefs and practices have developed in the context of the modern American state. Her book, *Follow the New Way: Hmong Refugee Resettlement and the Practice of American Religious Pluralism* (under contract, Harvard University Press) explores the religious dimensions of American refugee care—how governments have expanded capacity through partnerships with religious organizations and how refugee policies have shaped the religious lives of refugees.

**Tricia C. Bruce** is a sociologist of religion whose award-winning books include *Parish and Place: Making Room for Diversity in the American Catholic Church* (Oxford 2017) and *Faithful Revolution: How Voice of the Faithful Is Changing the Church* (Oxford 2011/2014). Her edited volumes include *American Parishes* (Fordham 2019) and *Polarization in the US Catholic Church* (Liturgical 2016). She is an affiliate of the University of Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Religion and Society and the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has led research for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Cultural Diversity, and is a frequent media commentator on religion and society. She resides in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Gale L. Kenny** is Assistant Professor in the Religion Department at Barnard College. Her research focuses on American Protestantism, transnationalism, race, and gender. She is currently working on a history of twentieth-century organized Protestant churchwomen and internationalism entitled *Christian Cosmopolitans: Protestant Churchwomen and the World*. Her article on the women's World Day of Prayer appeared in *Religion and American Culture* in 2017. She has also published articles on the missionary sensibility and nineteenth-century antislavery movements in *Slavery and Abolition* and *Journal of the Civil War Era*. These tied into her first book on evangelical abolitionists, *Contentious Liberties: American Abolitionists in Post-Emancipation Jamaica* (UGA Press, 2010).



## Session 4: Different Narratives in Religion and American Politics

For decades, the popular running narrative of religion and politics has been focused on white evangelicals. It reached its apogee following the 2016 election. But what if we turn our focus elsewhere and explore the role of religion in politics outside that familiar story. Where and how should we focus our attention? What are the trends we're ignoring or missing? What are the other important narratives that have been overshadowed by the dominant focus?

### Panelists:

**Prema Kurien** is Professor of Sociology and Robert D. McClure Professor of Teaching Excellence, as well as the founding director of the Asian/Asian American Studies program at Syracuse University. She is the author of three award-winning books, *Kaleidoscopic Ethnicity: International Migration and the Reconstruction of Community Identities in India* (2002), *A Place at the Multicultural Table: The Development of an American Hinduism* (2007), *Ethnic Church Meets Mega Church: Indian American Christianity in Motion* (2017), and over 50 other publications. She is currently working on her next book, "Race, Religion, and Citizenship: Indian American Political Advocacy," and on a research project, "The Political Incorporation of Religious Minorities in Canada and the United States."

**David Harrington Watt** teaches at Haverford College where he is the Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professor of Quaker Studies. In collaboration with Laura Levitt and Tracy Fessenden, Watt edits a series, North American Religions, for NYU Press. Books in the series explore topics such as lived religion, popular religious movements, religion and social power, religion and cultural reproduction, and the relationship between secular and religious practices. The books and articles Watt has published include: "Henry Cadbury, Haverford College and the Founding of the American Friends Service Committee" (co-authored with James Krippner), "Philadelphia, Rufus Jones, and the Reinvention of Quakerism;" *Antifundamentalism in Modern America; Fundamentalism: Perspectives on a Contested History* (co-edited with Simon Wood); *Bible-Carrying Christians: Conservative Protestants and Social Power*, and *A Transforming Faith: Explorations of Twentieth-Century American Evangelicalism*. Watt's current research focuses on the history of the Religious Society of Friends in the years between 1830 and 1937 and on Henry Cadbury's understanding of war, violence, and peace.

**Aubrey L. Westfall** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. She received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2010. Her research explores the policies and sociopolitical practices regulating the political behavior of minority groups within Western democratic societies. She is a primary author of *The Politics of the Headscarf in the United States*, published with Cornell University Press in 2018, which describes how the headscarf accentuates and engages Muslim identity in uniquely American ways. She is in the middle of a second book project examining the politics of immigration in Scotland. Her research has been supported by Fulbright, the European Commission, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation.



## Session 5: Religion and Crisis

Religion can play multiple roles in crises but almost always it is deeply embedded in the social, economic, scientific, cultural, or political circumstances of the day. From violence to peacemaking, from voter suppression to Moral Mondays, from homophobia to human rights, from climate change denials to faithful environmentalism, contemporary American life is rife with pressing contradictions. How can we best understand religion's relationship to crisis, past and present? Rather than focus on only one side of the equation—religion as the problem or the answer, the cause or the solution—how might we form more holistic understandings of how religion is embedded in crises?

### Panelists:

**Amanda J. Baugh** is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at California State University, Northridge, and Director of CSUN's Program in Civic and Community Engagement. She specializes in the study of religion, race, and environmental values among diverse American groups. Her first book, *God and the Green Divide: Religious Environmentalism in Black and White* (University of California Press, 2016) examines how assumptions about race, ethnicity, and class have shaped the "greening" of American religion. Baugh's current book project, *Rethinking Religious Environmentalism: Varieties of Latinx Catholic Engagement*, examines religious environmentalism from the perspective of Latinx Catholics in order to decenter dominant narratives of U.S. religious environmentalism.

**John Corrigan** is the Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion and Professor of History at Florida State University. Recent edited publications include the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, 3 vols. (OUP, 2018), *Feeling Religion* (Duke, 2017), *The Business Turn in American Religious History*, with Amanda Porterfield and Darren Grem (OUP, 2017), *Religion, Space, and the Atlantic World* (South Carolina, 2017), and, with Frank Hinkelmann, *Return to Sender: American Evangelical Missions to Europe in the Twentieth Century* (Verlag, 2018). Forthcoming books are *Religious Intolerance, America, and the World* (Chicago, 2020), *Religious Intolerance in America: A Documentary History*, with Lynn Neal, in a revised edition (UNC, 2020), and *Making Deep Maps: Foundations, Approaches, and Methods*, coedited with David Bodenhamer and Trevor Harris (Indiana).

**Anthony Petro** teaches in the Department of Religion and in the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program at Boston University. His first book, *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2015), examines the history of U.S. religious responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis and their role in the promotion of a national moral discourse on sex. His current book project, *Provoking Religion: Sex, Art, and the Sacred in the Modern United States* (under contract with Oxford University Press), traces heated debates over sex, art, and religion to reveal competing genealogies of the sacred and the secular in the modern U.S. He has published essays on a number of topics, including histories of Catholic sexual abuse, critical disability studies and religion, the religious politics of camp, and approaches to studying race, gender, and sexuality in North American religion.

11:00-12:30 Alexander Ballroom

### Session 6: New Religious Movements Embodied

Recent work on such subjects as photography, race, and gender have furthered our understandings of the role of the body in religious history. How were conceptions of the body of those who were shaped by new religious movements similar to or different from these? How might more attention to the body in the study of new religious movements complicate our conceptions of race and gender in American religions?

#### Panelists:

**Andre E. Johnson** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. He teaches classes in African American Public Address, Rhetoric, Race and Religion, and Interracial Communication. Additionally, he currently serves as Senior Pastor of Gifts of Life Ministries an inner-city church built upon the servant leadership philosophy. He is the co-author of *The Struggle Over Black Lives Matter and All Lives Matter*, (Lexington Books) with Amanda Nell Edgar and the forthcoming *No Future in this Country: The Prophetic Pessimism of Bishop Henry McNeal Turner* with the University Press of Mississippi. Currently, he is writing #WhiteChurchQuiet: The Role of Race and the White Church in America.

**Leonard Norman Primiano** is Professor of Religious Studies at Cabrini University; He is a Fellow of the American Folklore Society; Co-Covenor of the Folk Belief and Religious Folklife Section of the AFS; Co-Convenor of the Folklore and Religion Seminar of the American Academy of Religion. He is series editor for the upcoming *A Cultural History of Religion in the West* (Bloomsbury). Most recently, he contributed the article: "As A Living Shrine I Came": Remembrance, Creativity, and Paradox in God's American Tomb" to a special issue on "Shrines" in the journal, *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft*.

**Judith Weisenfeld** is the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion at Princeton University. She is the author of *African American Women and Christian Activism: New York's Black YWCA, 1905-1945* (Harvard, 1997), *Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion and American Film, 1929-1949* (California, 2007), and *New World A-Coming: Black Religion and Racial Identity during the Great Migration* (NYU, 2016), which was awarded the Albert J. Raboteau Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions by *The Journal of Africana Religions*. A recipient of fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, she is currently working on a book about early psychiatry, race, and African American religions.

## Session 7: Science, Technology, and Spirituality

Recent studies of the modern spiritual imagination, including the spirituality of the “nones” and spiritual-but-not-religious, have opened new inquiries into areas that once seemed settled. No longer do we assume the closed, deterministic world of science has triumphed over a world of belief in spiritual dimensions. Indeed, scientific assumptions and technologies have long shaped religious and spiritual views. How have scientific ideas both fostered secularity and religious decline and also helped people believe in the existence of unseen realms, spurring them to beliefs in other dimensions? How has science and technology caused, or at least helped, religious elements in culture to be reformulated and inspired different activities understood to be “spiritual”?

### Panelists:

**Sylvester A. Johnson** is Assistant Vice Provost for the Humanities and founding director of Virginia Tech’s new Center for Humanities, which is supporting human-centered research and humanistic approaches to the guidance of technology. His research has examined religion, race, and empire in the Atlantic world; religion and sexuality; national security practices; and the impact of intelligent machines and human enhancement on human identity and race governance. Among his publications is *African American Religions, 1500-2000* (Cambridge 2015) and *The FBI and Religion: Faith and National Security Before and After 9/11* (University of California 2017), co-edited with Steven Weitzman. He is a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Africana Religions*. Johnson is currently writing a study of human identity in an age of intelligent machines and cybernetics.

**Hillary Kaell** is Associate Professor of Religion at Concordia University in Montreal. She writes about North American Christianity, materiality, and globalism. She is author of *Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage* (New York University Press, 2014) and editor of *Everyday Sacred: Religion in Contemporary Quebec* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2017). Her current book project, with Princeton University Press, explores the history of child sponsorship programs as a framework for uncovering the ideas, imagery, and embodied techniques that make globalism more tangible for U.S. Christians who do not travel abroad. When she isn’t writing, she co-hosts the New Books in Religion podcast, co-curates the Anthrocybib blog, and serves as co-editor of the Contemporary Anthropology of Religion book series with Palgrave Macmillan press.

**Christopher White** is Professor and Chair of Religion at Vassar College. He received his PhD in Religious Studies from Harvard University, where he studied religion and culture in modern Europe and America. He is particularly interested in spirituality, science, technology, “unchurched” religion, electronic media and popular culture. His first book, *Unsettled Minds: Psychology and the American Search for Spiritual Assurance* (California: University of California Press, 2009) examined how modern Europeans and Americans used psychological and medical insights to fashion new, more scientific ways of testing, analyzing and sometimes even fostering religious trances, visions and experiences. His recent book, *Other Worlds: Spirituality and the Search for Invisible Dimensions* (Harvard University Press, 2018), examined the cultural history of the idea that the universe has hidden dimensions, layers and spaces.

4:00-5:30 Alexander Ballroom

## Session 8: Looking Ahead

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, after several major national meetings in the 1980s, as an effort to coordinate the efforts of those studying American religions and perhaps help to shape a more coherent field. Activities such as the founding of a journal, the Young Scholars in American Religion Program, and most recently the Biennial Conferences have been efforts toward those goals. Two driving questions behind these and other activities have been: "what needs to be done that isn't being done to further this field of study?" and "what needs to be done better to further this field of study?" Given the changes in scholarship and academia, as well as our understanding of the subject, now is a good moment to pose that question again. Beyond looking at new topics or developing new methodologies, what sort of institutional or public structures need to be developed? What common activities, networks, and formats need to be created or improved to significantly extend new insights into the relationship of religion to other aspects of American culture?

### Panelists:

**Rudy V. Busto** is Associate Professor of American, Asian & Pacific American and Latinx Religions, and the Director of Graduate Studies in Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His teaching and research interests focus on race and religion, and more recently, alterity and transcendence in science fiction and discourses around first contact. He is completing a project on Asian American religions titled, "DisOrienting Subjects."

**Laura Levitt** is Professor of Religion, Jewish Studies and Gender at Temple University where she works on contemporary American Jewish life, Holocaust memory, gender, and visual and material culture. She is just completing a book about trauma, memory, the reliquary nature of material artifacts, *The Afterlives of Objects: Holocaust Evidence and Criminal Archives* (Penn State University Press, forthcoming). She is the author of *American Jewish Loss after the Holocaust* (NYU Press, 2007) and *Jews and Feminism: The Ambivalent Search for Home* (Routledge, 1997) and an editor of *Impossible Images: Contemporary Art After the Holocaust* (NYU Press, 2003), and *Judaism Since Gender* (Routledge, 1997). With Tracy Fessenden (Arizona State University) and David Harrington Watt (Haverford College) she edits the *North American Religions Series* at NYU Press.

**Rhys H. Williams** is Professor of Sociology and Director of the McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion at Loyola University Chicago. His research has focused on religion, culture, politics, and social movements in the United States. His books include *A Bridging of Faiths: Religion and Politics in a New England City* (Princeton 1992; w/ N.J. Demerath III), *Cultural Wars in American Politics* (Aldine 1997), *Religion & Progressive Activism* (New York University Press 2017; w/ T. N. Fuist and R. Braunstein) and *The Urban Church Imagined: Religion, Race, and Authenticity in the City* (New York University Press, 2017, w/ J. Barron). Williams' current research efforts are centered on the politics of immigration in the U.S., and their connections to religion, race, and national identity.

5:45-8:00 Closing 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.

**Amanda Friesen** is Associate Professor of Political Science at IUPUI. As part of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, her study of individual-level behaviors and orientations contributes to the pursuit of knowing how people approach religion and politics within the context of American culture. She has published more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles in journals, such as *Political Behavior*, *Politics & Gender*, *Politics & Religion*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* and serves on the editorial board of *Politics & Religion*.

**Philip Goff** is Chancellor's Professor of American Studies, Religious Studies, and History at IUPUI. Since 2000, he has been Executive Director of the Center for Religion and American Culture and co-editor of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. His most recent publications include *The Bible in American Life* (OUP, 2017), edited with Arthur Farnsley and Peter Thuesen, and *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States* (OUP, 2015), edited with Jan Stievermann and Detlef Junker. He writes about religion and radio, American evangelicalism, and religion and politics in the Enlightenment era.

**Raymond Haberski, Jr.** is Professor of History and Director of American Studies at IUPUI. Haberski's books include *It's Only a Movie: Films and Critics in American Culture* (2001), *Freedom to Offend: How New York Remade Movie Culture* (2007), *The Miracle Case: Film Censorship and the Supreme Court* (2008), *God and War: American Civil Religion Since 1945* (2012), and *Voice of Empathy: A History of Franciscan Media in the United States* (2018). He is the co-editor of two other books: with Andrew Hartman, *No Things but in Ideas: U.S. Intellectual History*; and with Philip Goff and Rhys Williams, *Beyond Bellah: Essays on American Civil Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. Currently he is working on a monograph that looks at the U.S. Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter *The Challenge of Peace* as a reflection of American use of just war theory and a second project on the social history of the American blockbuster film.

**Brian Steensland** is Professor of Sociology and Director of Social Science Research at the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at IUPUI. He is also Director of the IU Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society. Professor Steensland's research interests include religion, culture, civic engagement, and politics in contemporary American society. His books include *The New Evangelical Social Engagement* (Oxford, 2014), co-edited with Philip Goff, and *The Failed Welfare Revolution* (Princeton, 2008), which won both the Mary Douglas Prize and the award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Political Sociology.

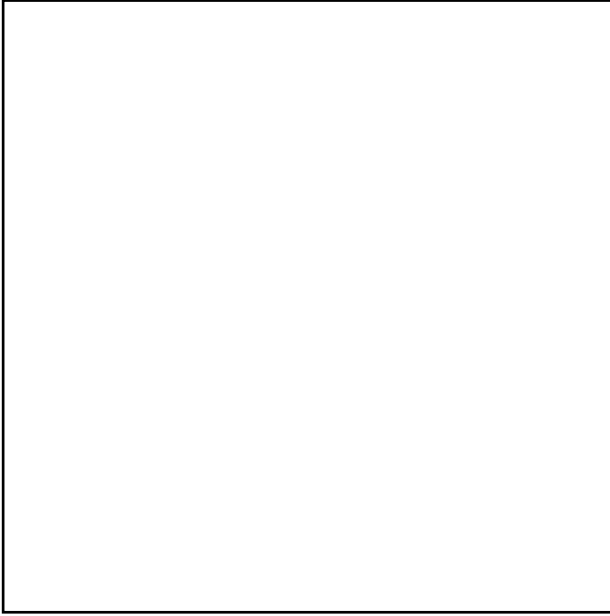
**Peter J. Thuesen** is Professor of Religious Studies at IUPUI and Director of Humanities Research in the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. He also serves as co-editor of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. His research focuses on the intellectual history 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 Project Director 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.

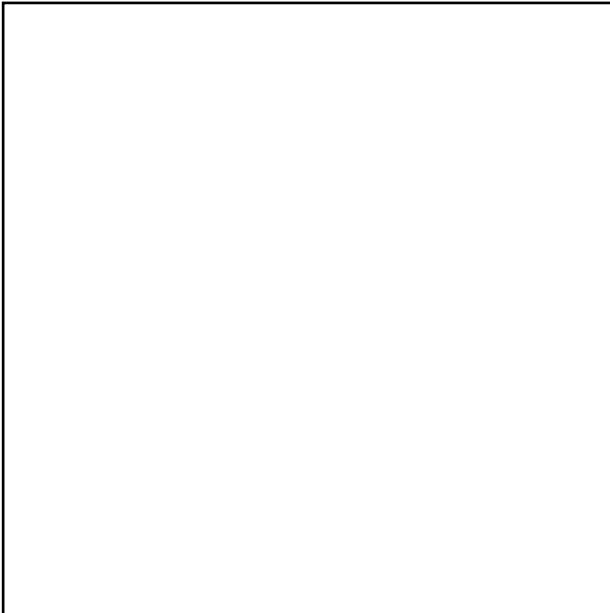
# Notes

# For Use During Facilitated Discussion

If your comment or question is intended to **continue** the current topic of discussion, please signal the moderator with blue.



If your comment or question is intended to **change** the topic of discussion, please signal the moderator with purple.





# Religion & American Culture Acknowledgements

The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture wishes to thank Lilly Endowment and the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute for their generous support of the 6th Biennial Conference on Religion & American Culture.