

Religion & The Aftermath of the 2024 Election Resources from **Panelists**

Andrew Whitehead (Host)

Books

[American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church](#)

Power. Fear. Violence. These three idols of Christian nationalism are corrupting American Christianity. Andrew Whitehead is a leading scholar on Christian nationalism in America and speaks widely on its effects within Christian communities. In this book, he shares his journey and reveals how Christian nationalism threatens the spiritual lives of American Christians and the church. Whitehead shows how Christians harm their neighbors when they embrace the idols of power, fear, and violence. He uses two key examples--racism and xenophobia--to demonstrate that these idols violate core Christian beliefs. Through stories, he illuminates expressions of Christianity that confront Christian nationalism and offer a faithful path forward. *American Idolatry* encourages further conversation about what Christian nationalism threatens, how to face it, and why it is vitally important to do so. It will help identify Christian nationalism and build a framework that makes sense of the relationship between faith and the current political and cultural context.

[Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States](#)

Why do so many conservative Christians continue to support Donald Trump despite his many overt moral failings? Why do many Americans advocate so vehemently for xenophobic policies, such as a border wall with Mexico? Why do many Americans seem so unwilling to acknowledge the injustices that ethnic and racial minorities experience in the United States? Why do a sizeable proportion of Americans continue to oppose women's equality in the workplace and in the home? To answer these questions, *Taking America Back for God* points to the phenomenon of "Christian nationalism," the belief that the United States is-and should be-a Christian nation. Christian ideals and symbols have long played an important role in American public life, but Christian nationalism is about far more than whether the phrase "under God" belongs in the pledge of allegiance. At its heart, Christian nationalism demands that we must preserve a particular kind of social order, an order in which everyone--Christians and non-Christians, native-born and immigrants, whites and minorities, men and women recognizes their "proper" place in society. The first comprehensive empirical analysis of Christian nationalism in the United States, *Taking America Back for God* illustrates the influence of Christian nationalism on today's most contentious social and political issues.

Articles

[Faith, Family and Research Intersect](#) from *ClemsonWorld*

[The Association of Religion Data Archives](#)

[Save the Economy, Liberty, and Yourself: Christian Nationalism and Americans' Views on Government COVID-19 Restrictions](#) (*Sociology of Religion*, 2021)

[Prejudice and Pandemic in the Promised Land: How White Christian Nationalism Shapes Americans' Racist and Xenophobic Views of COVID-19](#) (*Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2021)

[Culture Wars and COVID-19 Conduct: Christian Nationalism, Religiosity, and Americans' Behavior During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) (*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2020)

Talks & Podcast Appearances

[Lecture at Westmont College](#)

[Christian Nationalism with Andrew Whitehead & Samuel Perry](#)

[American Idols Podcast](#)

[Christian Nationalism Ain't Christian](#) from Data Over Dogma

[A Jesus-Centered Faith vs. Christian Nationalism](#)

[Talking about American Idolatry](#) from Guilt Grace Gratitude Podcast

Katie Gaddini

[Website](#)

[University Bio](#)

[The Politics of Religion Project](#)

The Politics of Religion: Examining Christianity and Politics in the US' is a six-year qualitative study (2020-2026) led by Dr Katie Gaddini. The US serves as an important case study to provide a deeper understanding of how religion shapes politics, which has ramifications for future research examining this intersection globally. The Politics of Religion builds on Dr Gaddini's previous research with white evangelicals during the 2016 US presidential elections. That research examined the interpenetration of religious identity and political beliefs through qualitative interviews and identified the key issues driving support for Donald Trump. The Politics of Religion extends from this project to elucidate how religious beliefs attach to political ones, and if these key issues (e.g., immigration) continue to drive white evangelicals' political choices. Using an innovative multi-method, multi-phase qualitative design - involving digital research methods, ethnography, and visual analysis - the project will interrogate how Christianity conditions evangelical support for political issues, figures, and policies in the US today.

Recommended Materials for Understanding the Topic

[Shattering Silence: Women, Nationalism, and Political Subjectivity in Northern Ireland](#) by the late feminist anthropologist Begona Aretxaga.

[Essays and work from Dr. Kelsy Burke](#)

[Prof Paola Bacchetta's work on Hindutva women in India](#)

Castillo, Isabel. 2024. ["Democratization and inclusion: what women's enfranchisement tells us about the second wave of democracy."](#) *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies* 30(2), 175-188.

Castillo, Isabel. 2024. ["Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the Breadth of Suffrage in Chile and Peru: Perspectives Among Suffragists."](#) *Historia y Política* 51, 221-248.

Articles

["Socialism Sucks: Campus Conservatives, Digital Media, and the Rebranding of Christian Nationalism" \(with Catherine Tebaldi\). Information, Communication & Society \(2024\): 1-22.](#)

[Defensive racism and Christian righteousness in the time of Trump](#)

[Politics used to be the evangelical man's domain. Not anymore.](#) Article for *San Francisco Chronicle*.

[Identities in Flux: British Evangelical Identity in the Time of Brexit and Trump.](#) *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (January 2022)

"Defensive Racism and Christian Righteousness in the Time of Trump" *Women's Studies International Forum* 101 (2023).

[The Rise and Fall of Evangelical Influencers](#)

Book

The Struggle to Stay: Why Single Evangelical Women are Leaving the Church (Columbia University Press, 2022)

Evangelical Christianity is often thought of as oppressive to women. The #MeToo era, when many women hit a breaking point with rampant sexism, has also reached evangelical communities. Yet more than thirty million women in the United States still identify as evangelical. Why do so many women remain in male-dominated churches that marginalize them, and why do others leave? In each case, what does this cost them? *The Struggle to Stay* is an intimate and insightful portrait of single women's experiences in evangelical churches. Drawing on unprecedented access to churches in the United States and the United Kingdom, Katie Gaddini relates the struggles of four women, interwoven with her own story of leaving behind a devout faith. She connects these personal narratives with rigorous analysis of Christianity and politics in both countries and contextualizes them through interviews with more than fifty other evangelical women. Gaddini grapples with the complexities of obedience and resistance for women within a patriarchal religion against the backdrop of a culture war. Her exploration of how women choose to leave or remain in environments that constrain them is nuanced and personal, telling powerful stories of faith, community, isolation, and loss. Bringing together meticulous research and deep empathy, *The Struggle to Stay* provides a revelatory account of the private burdens that evangelical women bear.

Interesting Fact: "I grew up a pastor's daughter in evangelicalism and so I'm somewhat of an "insider" to the research, even though I am no longer practicing."

Major Question: Why do women support Trump? Especially Christian women?

Eric McDaniel

[Website](#)

Books

[Politics in the Pews: The Political Mobilization of Black Churches](#)

As Eric McDaniel demonstrates in his study of Black congregations in the U.S., a church's activism results from complex negotiations between the pastor and the congregation. The church's traditions, its institutional organization, and its cultural traditions influence the choice to make politics part of the church's mission. The needs of the local community and opportunities to vote, lobby, campaign, or protest are also significant factors. By probing the dynamics of churches as social groups, McDaniel opens new perspectives on civil rights history and the evangelical politics of the twenty-first century. *Politics in the Pews* contributes to a clearer understanding of the forces that motivate any organization, religious or otherwise, to engage in politics.

[The Everyday Crusade: Christian Nationalism in American Politics](#)

“What is causing the American public to move more openly into alt-right terrain? What explains the uptick in anti-immigrant hysteria, isolationism, and an increasing willingness to support alternatives to democratic governance? The *Everyday Crusade* provides an answer. The book points to American Religious Exceptionalism (ARE), a widely held religious nationalist ideology steeped in myth about the nation's original purpose. The book opens with a comprehensive synthesis of research on nationalism and religion in American public opinion. Making use of survey data spanning three different presidential administrations, it then develops a new theory of why Americans form extremist attitudes, based on religious exceptionalism myths. The book closes with an examination of what's next for an American public that confronts new global issues, alongside existing challenges to perceived cultural authority. Timely and enlightening, *The Everyday Crusade* offers a critical touchstone for better understanding American national identity and the exclusionary ideologies that have plagued the nation since its inception.”

Articles

Perry, Samuel, and Eric L. McDaniel 2023. “[Must Religious Nationalism Divide?: Race, Government-Supported Religion, and Views of Political Solidarity and Compromise.](#)” *Social Science Quarterly*

McDaniel, Eric, L., Irfan Nooruddin and Allyson Shortle. 2016. “[Proud to be an American?: National Pride and the Boundaries of American Citizenship.](#)” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics.*

Philpot, Tasha S., and Eric L. McDaniel. 2020. “Black Religious Belief Systems and Political Participation.” *National Review of Black Politics.*

[What Kind of Christian Are You? Religious Ideologies and Political Attitudes.](#) *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (JUNE 2016), pp. 288-307 (20 pages)

Syllabi

The Politics of Health Care (Fall 2022)

The Black Church in African American Politics (Fall 2020)

Interesting Fact: I was born on January 6, and I have a family member born on September 11 and another on December 25.

Major Question: How do people come to understand their religion and religious duties and what does this mean for politics?

Nancy Khalil

Articles

[How Campus Protests Exposed Flaws in Higher Education Diversity Initiatives](#)