Mission  The Center serves as an open venue for fostering rigorous scholarship and informing broad academic and public communities about the intersections of religion and U.S. politics.
Leadership

“To create a condition where compromise is possible and government can function, we should do more than suggest that absolutism in politics is destructive—we should insist that political absolutism is contrary to what religion demands.”

Senator John C. Danforth
Letter from the Chancellor

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is one of Washington University’s greatest assets. Now in its sixth year, the Center continues to educate, collaborate, and bring our community together with a common purpose. This is especially important today as we face many challenges in our society stemming from issues related to religion and politics.

Inasmuch as this is a presidential election year, there is intense interest in these concerns. The Center serves as a forum for discussion of difficult topics that sometimes divide our country. Subjects such as same sex marriage, abortion, and immigration have been very much a part of the primary season. The Center offers important courses and events that aim to equip citizens of all ages to understand these and other issues. It helps us learn how to collaborate in our democracy where people come from diverse backgrounds and hold divergent points of view. The Center strives to help us understand complex current events in both an historical and global context and serves as a bridge between religious and political communities, informing new kinds of academic explorations focused on the relationship between the two. This is a worthy and important goal.

The Center is unique here at Washington University because it does not reside in a particular School. Instead, its faculty members work collaboratively with Schools to enhance faculty research opportunities, sponsor academic programs, conduct public events, and increase the visibility of the work of Washington University scholars. We are very pleased with the Center’s efforts to educate the University and wider community as it collaborates with departments, centers, schools, and student organizations across campus.

We are deeply grateful to Senator John C. Danforth and the Danforth Foundation for helping to establish a place without divisiveness, where we can move forward in understanding the complex issues of our world. During this past year, Senator Danforth established the Sally Danforth Distinguished Professorship, and Professor John D. Inazu has been selected to be the inaugural holder of this important, new distinguished professorship. Professor Inazu will add significantly to the quality and impact of the work associated with Center. We extend our appreciation to everyone who participates in the Center’s activities and generously supports its efforts.

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

Letter from the Center Director

It’s hard to believe that I’m finishing my fifth year at Washington University as Center Director. In this half-decade, the Center has recruited outstanding faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students, and staff. We have hosted thousands of guests at our public conferences, symposia, and lectures, attracting scores more viewers around the country who watch these events later online. We have established and grown our signature, prize-winning journal, Religion & Politics, which has become a unique source for the highest quality journalism and scholarly commentary on religion and politics in the United States.

Students express stronger interest in our courses each semester. This year, we offered fourteen courses on a wide range of subjects, such as religion and the origins of capitalism, American exceptionalism, Jewish political thought, African American religion and the politics of freedom, and religion and the FBI. The exciting new Sally Danforth Distinguished Professorship in Law and Religion (see the Chancellor’s letter, opposite page) will expand our curricular offerings even further.

In 2015-2016, the Center sponsored public lectures by two internationally renowned religious leaders: Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth in the United Kingdom; and Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York. We also hosted a lecture series on Religion, Medicine, and the Law that attracted a diverse range of participants. Additional events—all free and open to the public—connected our community to the public conversations happening on the topics of religion and U.S. politics.

See p. 15 for photos and comments about all our sponsored events this past year.

Already, we are gearing up for the 2016-2017 academic year, including a very exciting event featuring David Brooks, E.J. Dionne, Eboo Patel, Krista Tippett, and Natasha Trethewey—timed in conjunction with the 2016 Presidential Debate to be held at Washington University in October. See p. 53 for the listing of all our upcoming events.

Everyone who has come through the Center’s doors, supported the Center financially, and offered feedback has enriched our offerings in some way, and I am grateful to each one of you in our growing constituency. All of us at the Center remain profoundly grateful to Jack and Sally Danforth and to the many people who have given generously to us in the past. All of these gifts make a difference in what we are able to do, now and in future—thank you!

R. Marie Griffith
Director
Academics

“The Danforth Center is very needed in academia and in this country, so it’s an honor to be a part of it today. Congratulations on all you’re doing to launch the Center and take it to new places.”

Prof. Timothy Matovina, University of Notre Dame
Academics

At A Glance

48 Courses

offered by the Center since 2011

12 Meetings

of the colloquium in 2015-2016

14 Courses

offered by the Center in 2015-2016

177 Students

enrolled in 2015-2016 courses

Academics

Undergraduate

Undergraduate education is an important focus for the Center’s resources. All of our faculty and postdoctoral fellows taught courses in 2015-2016 on a range of topics in the realm of religion and politics. Undergraduates of every class at Washington University are able to enroll for these courses, as well as pursue the minor in religion and politics offered by the Center. Students based in Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Fine Arts, and Business participated in Center classes this year. Our interdisciplinary approach allows connections to many other programs and departments including American Culture Studies, History, Religious Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, among others.

Graduate

The Center seeks to enrich the graduate student’s experience studying religion and U.S. politics with several offerings. We have offered a dissertation completion fellowship program to scholars in the later stages of earning their Ph.D., in an effort to support their work and offer a residency experience with the Center. We have developed a formal graduate affiliate program, which is accessible to students in departments at Washington University in St. Louis, and current affiliates represent departments including English, History, Political Science, and the Brown School of Social Work. Independent of these two fellowship programs, the Center offers limited funding to Washington University graduate students for travel to academic conferences and research archives. We have also offered for four years a colloquium on American Religion, Politics, and Culture, which fosters a community of graduate students, faculty, fellows, and guests from across the St. Louis area with monthly meetings to discuss emerging scholarship in a research-oriented environment.
Academics (cont’d)

Courses offered in the 2015-2016 academic year:

Religion and Politics in American History (Lindsey)
Puritans and Revolutionaries: Religion and the Making of America (Valeri)
The FBI and Religion (Martin)
Independent Study in Religion and Politics (Schmidt)
Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from Transcendentalism to the New Age (Schmidt)
Scriptures and Cultural Traditions: America’s Bible (Maffly-Kipp, Valeri)
Jewish Political Thought (Rehfeld)
Religion in the African American Experience: A Historical Survey (Martin)
Between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.: Race, Religion, and the Politics of Freedom (Kashani, Martin)
City on a Hill: The Concept and Culture of American Exceptionalism (Van Engen)
Virtues, Vices, Values: Regulating Morality in America (Stahl)
American Religion and the Politics of Gender and Sexuality (Griffith)
Religion and the Origins of Capitalism (Valeri)
American Religion, Politics, and Culture: Historical Foundations (Schmidt)
Religion and the Origins of Capitalism (Valeri)

“I remember taking my first class on religion and politics (specifically as it pertained to the Civil Rights Movement). Dr. Martin taught the class and it was the first time that two things so close to me (Christianity and Civil Rights) were analyzed. I loved the class so much, that I decided to take more courses with Dr. Martin that interested me. The different approaches (i.e. governmental files, films, video chats with experts, field trips, and more) that we took to learn material really gave me a more holistic look at what it means to be “educated” on something and made me look closer at the way our laws and politics in America are set up. The more classes that I decided to take, the closer I got to realizing what I wanted to do (law).”

Lela Prichett, A.B. 2016
(Minor in Religion and Politics)

“I have enjoyed every class I took in the Center, two with Professor Schmidt and one with Professor Stahl, which even in just three classes covered a gamut of interdisciplinary topics. Both Professor Stahl and Professor Schmidt were fantastic.”

Eli Wachtel, A.B. 2016
(Minor in Religion and Politics)
Academics (cont’d)

Colloquium on American Religion, Politics, and Culture

Fall 2015

SEPTEMBER 3
R. Marie Griffith, “God, Sex, and Country”

SEPTEMBER 17
Sarah Barringer Gordon and Jan Shipps, “Fatal Convergence in the Kingdom of God: The Mountain Meadows Massacre in Religious History”

OCTOBER 1
Laurie Maffly-Kipp, “Mormonism, Citizenship, and the Nation-State”

OCTOBER 15
Rachel McBride Lindsey, “Agents of a Fuller Revelation”

OCTOBER 29
Lerone Martin, “J. Edgar Hoover’s Stained Glass Window: The FBI and Christian America”

NOVEMBER 12
Christopher Grasso, “The Religious and the Secular in the Early American Republic”

Spring 2016

JANUARY 21
Maryam Kashani, “Breaking Fast with the President: To be an American Muslim between Black Lives and Everything Else”

FEBRUARY 4
Stephanie Gaskill, “‘The Actors Have All the Power’: Redefining Rehabilitation in Angola’s The Life of Jesus Christ Play”

FEBRUARY 18
Scott Libson, “‘Money itself can never be evil’: James Barton and the Centralization of the American Board”

MARCH 3

APRIL 7, 2016

Academics (cont’d)

“As someone interested in international affairs and human rights, I worry that people in my field take a lot for granted -- they accept things like capitalism and democracy as inevitable, without investigating them further. The Center’s professors don’t let their students make those assumptions, and these constant questions (Why do you think this? Where did this idea come from, and what does it mean?) have made me a smarter, more socially aware person. I’m excited to take that experience to graduate school and beyond!”

Katie Engsberg, A.B. 2016

“Working for Religion & Politics and minoring in the Center has afforded me the opportunity not only to learn from some of the brightest minds in the field, but also to meet some of the important actors I learned about. Through the center, I have been able to meet a former senator, the chief rabbi of Great Britain, and interview other prominent scholars from different universities, all while building lasting relationships with the faculty members. All of these experiences have fostered and refined my desire to go to law school and pursue First Amendment issues.”

Jack West, A.B. 2016
(Minor in Religion and Politics)
Outreach

“The Danforth Center on Religion and Politics brings a much-needed and enduring place where dissimilarity and even discord need not mean devolution of civility. I have been delighted to see how the Center boldly both brings American voices together today and, through research, resurrects the American voices of the past. I am blessed to support this important work and hopeful for its unfolding potential.”

Rene Morency (Supporter and event attendee)
Events At A Glance

Public events offer an important way to meet our commitment to engage the scholarship that explores the intersections of religion and politics. It allows us to consider these important ideas with an audience that reaches beyond the university community, as well as to foster the debate and discussion between individuals with truly diverse viewpoints in a civil manner. We’re proud to offer our events as “free and open to all.”

12 Events
sponsored by Center in 2015-2016

1,216 Attendees
in 2015-2016

18 Guest Speakers
brought to campus for Center events

“The Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is bringing many wonderful conversations, speakers, and presentations to Saint Louis. Thank you!” Community Member, 2016
Religion, Medicine, and Law Lecture Series

Of the various areas in which religion and politics intersect, the domains of medicine, law, and public health display those convergences with particular intensity. The long-running debates over Obamacare are rife with religious concerns, hopes, and objections, but those highly visible conflicts bespeak a much wider range of issues. What, for example, is the role of chaplaincies in the delivery of health services? How do such spiritual offices fit within ostensibly secular institutions? In what ways are religious groups able to help generate greater access to medical care for the poor and uninsured? Can Christian-based recovery programs garner state support and endorsement, and, if so, on what terms? Our distinguished group of lecturers engaged these pressing questions, expanding the way we think about the junctures of religion, medicine, and the law.
An Evening with John Danforth
October 10, 2015


A Morning with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks
November 3, 2015

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks joined Washington University and St. Louis community members for a breakfast engagement at the Center to discuss his new book, *Not in God’s Name: Confronting Religious Violence*, which explores the roots of violence and its relationship to religion, focusing on the historic tensions between the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Sacks stresses our need to look anew at scriptural passages—passages that, when interpreted literally, can lead to hatred, violence and war. A global religious leader, philosopher, author, and moral voice for our time, Rabbi Sacks holds appointments at New York University, Yeshiva University, and King’s College London.
The Center delighted a full house in the university’s Graham Chapel by presenting St. Louis native and Catholic Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan. In his lecture, Dolan proposed that three eternal values essential to a republican form of government—soul, mind, and heart—could be explored by considering the histories of the three most recent popes. He wove stories together to show Saint John Paul II personified soul, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI indicated the importance of mind, and Pope Francis models the value of heart. Audience members enjoyed a reception immediately following the lecture at which Dolan mingled with the gathering of students, university faculty and staff, and community members.

“Thank you… for hosting the Cardinal. I feel I earned 3 college credits just in his hour long lecture.”

Audience Member
American Catholicism, 
American Politics Reconsidered

March 10, 2016

As the largest religious communion in the United States, Roman Catholicism is—and long has been—inensely influential in American political and civic life. From social-justice issues to church-state debates, from questions about immigration to the market economy to sexuality, Catholicism has been central to shaping American public discourse. This state-of-the-field panel discussion on Catholicism and U.S. politics with leading scholars of the American Catholic experience considered the contours of the current ecclesial and political landscape. Panel participants included Timothy Matovina, University of Notre Dame; Leslie Woodcock Tentler, The Catholic University of America; Kristy Nabhan-Warren, University of Iowa; and Eugene McCarraher, Villanova University.

War Stories: How Religion and State Converge in the U.S. Military

January 28, 2016

Postdoctoral fellow Ronit Stahl explored the work of the military chaplaincy in the twentieth century during this public lecture. As part of a large administrative bureaucracy that mobilized the nation for war and needed clergy who could comfort the dying, the chaplaincy became one of very few spaces in which the state formally authorized religious leadership. The lecture analyzed the chaplaincy as the vehicle through which the state mediated military necessity and private faith, thereby revealing the evolving religious commitments of the American state. Postdoctoral fellow Ronit Stahl delivered this lecture based on her work and Margot Canaday, Princeton University, offered response.
Religion & Politics entered its fourth year striving for insight into the most important issues of our time, including religious freedom, foreign policy, and electoral politics. Our writers represent some of the brightest thinking in journalism, the arts and humanities, and the social sciences. In this election year, our contributors without exception have modeled the civility this project holds dear, helping readers to analyze and understand campaign rhetoric, as well as topics in the headlines, such as civil liberties, bioethics, and immigration. Standing features include The States of the Union Project, which asks writers to tell us about where they discovered religion and politics in their states, and The Table, a setting for different opinions on a single issue.
When Our Truths Are Ignored: Proslavery Theology’s Legacy
by Yolanda Pierce

Teaching Islam in the Age of ISIS
by Amina Steinfels

North Carolina’s HB2 and the Shifting Battle over LGBT Rights
by Kent L. Brintnall

The Paradoxes of Ted Cruz
by Randall Balmer

At BYU, A New Confrontation in the Campus Sexual Assault Debates
by Kristine Haglund

Orlando: A Lament
by Mark D. Jordan

Read more articles at religionandpolitics.org
“There’s never been a more important time for thoughtful translation of the humanities and social sciences as they inform the citizens of our democracy. The work of the Danforth Center, with its strong grounding in top scholarship, provides the perfect vehicle.”

Provost Holden Thorp
People At A Glance

5 Fellows in residence at Center in 2015-2016

2 Visiting Scholars in 2015-2016

133 Financial Supporters since founding of Center

5 Faculty Members in 2015-2016

Faculty Director

Marie Griffith, 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.

Professor Griffith obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia in Political and Social Thought and her Ph.D. in the study of religion from Harvard University. She held consecutive postdoctoral fellowships at Princeton University and Northwestern University before joining the Princeton faculty as associate director of the Center for the Study of Religion. She earned tenure in 2003 and was promoted to Professor of Religion in 2005. While at Princeton, Griffith directed the women and gender studies program, and she was awarded both the President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Cotsen Fellowship for Distinguished Teaching. She spent two years on the Harvard University faculty as the John A. Bartlett Professor before moving to Washington University in 2011. In 2015 she was appointed a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

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 next book Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity (2004), explores the history of Christian-influenced attitudes and practices related to embodiment in modern America, culminating in the evangelical diet and fitness movement. These books, along with her three edited volumes—Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance (co-edited with Barbara Dianne Savage, 2006), Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States (co-edited with Melani McAlister, 2008), and American Religions: A Documentary History (2007)—exhibit Griffith’s varied and thoughtful scholarship. Her next 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. In 2016 so far, Griffith has delivered keynote addresses for the BYU Church History Symposium, the Boston College Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, the Columbia University Religion Department Graduate Student Conference, and the College of the Atlantic summer speaker series.

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Laurie Maffly-Kipp


Prior to joining the Center, Maffly-Kipp taught for twenty-four years at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Religious Studies and American Studies. She earned her B.A. from Amherst College in English and Religion, summa cum laude, and completed the Ph.D. in American History at Yale University with distinction (1990). She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including a grant for a collaborative project on the History of Christian Practice from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., fellowships at the National Humanities Center, and an NEH Fellowship for University Professors. Her work in African American religion was honored with the James W.C. Pennington Award from the University of Heidelberg in 2014.

Maffly-Kipp served as a faculty mentor for the 2014–2016 cohort of the Young Scholars in American Religion group through the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She is a past president of the American Society of Church History and served in 2015-2016 as the president of the Mormon History Association. She is currently serving as co-president of the Association of Women Faculty at Washington University in St. Louis.

Lerone A. Martin

Lerone A. Martin joined the faculty of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics as Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics in 2014, after a one-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Center.

Martin earned his B.A. from Anderson University in Anderson, IN, and his Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary before completing his Ph.D. at Emory University in 2011. From 2010-2013, he was the Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Culture at Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he taught courses in American and African American religious history. His first book project, *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Making of Modern African American Religion* (New York University Press, 2014), tracks the role of the phonograph in shaping African American religion, culture, and politics during the first half of the twentieth century. The Association for Recorded Sound Collections recognized it with a 2015 Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research.

Martin has received past fellowships from the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, Emory University’s Howard Hughes Medical Institute, The Fund for Theological Education, and Princeton University’s Program (now Center) for African American Studies.

Martin was selected for the Young Scholars in American Religion 2014-2016 cohort as one of the top ten pre-tenure scholars in American Religion by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He currently chairs the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Committee on Teaching and Learning and serves on the AAR Afro-American Religious History Group as well. In the past, he has worked as a research consultant for continuing education and recidivism at New York’s Sing Sing State Prison as well as an instructor at Georgia’s Metro State Prison. His commentary and writing have appeared in popular media outlets such as CNN, Religion Dispatches, Charisma, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, as well as *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

In 2016 Martin was awarded an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship and a Book Grant from The Louisville Institute. Both offer support for his current research project titled *J. Edgar Hoover’s Stained Glass Window: The FBI and Christian America*, which is under contract with Princeton University Press. The project examines how the religious culture of the FBI and its partnerships with clergy, faith communities, and church organizations helped construct and shape popular notions of Christian America during the 20th Century.
Leigh Eric Schmidt

Leigh Eric Schmidt is the Edward C. Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis. He joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in 2011.

From 2009 to 2011, he was the Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America at Harvard University, and, from 1995 to 2009, he taught at Princeton University where he was the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion and served as chair of the Department of Religion. He has held research fellowships at Stanford and Princeton and also through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Guggenheim Foundation.


Schmidt has often commented on current issues in American religion and culture, including for such media outlets as The New York Times, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek, among others. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Religion and American Culture, Practical Matters, and Religion & Politics.

Schmidt earned his undergraduate degree in history and religious studies from the University of California, Riverside, in 1983 and his Ph.D. in religion from Princeton in 1987.

Mark Valeri

Mark Valeri joined the faculty in 2014 and is the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics with the Center.

Valeri’s areas of specialization include religion and social thought, especially economics, in America; Reformation theology and the political history of Calvinism; Puritanism; and enlightenment moral philosophy. Valeri came to Washington University from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, where he served as the Ernest Trice Thompson Professor of Church History since 1996. His prior appointment was in the Religious Studies department at Lewis and Clark College.


Valeri has received several fellowships, including an Andrew W. Mellon fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies grant, and a Lilly Endowment faculty fellowship. In early 2016 he was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Valeri earned the Ph.D. from Princeton University, his M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and his B.A., summa cum laude, from Whitworth College. He is currently working on the meaning of conversion and religious belief in the eighteenth-century world, especially in the context of travel, encounters with religious others, and the literature of world religions.
Stephanie Gaskill

Stephanie Gaskill is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She specializes in the history and ethnography of African American religions and U.S. social policy. Her dissertation entitled “Moral Rehabilitation: Religion, Race, and Reform in America’s Prison Capital” explores how the predominance of African Americans in U.S. prisons shapes the conception, implementation, reception, and public presentation of rehabilitative programming. Gaskill earned her M.A. in history, as well as her bachelor’s in history and English, from Bowling Green State University.

Scott Libson

Scott Libson is a Ph.D. candidate and George W. Woodruff fellow in the history department at Emory University. He specializes in the histories of religion and capitalism in the United States during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. His dissertation, “Tainted Money, Sanctified Wealth: The Business of Mission Movement Fundraising, 1865-1929” examines the development of global philanthropies in the United States through an analysis of fundraising for Protestant foreign missionary societies between the Civil War and the Great Depression. Libson argues the coexistence of competing ideas about charity and philanthropy advanced the rise of American international philanthropy.

Libson earned his B.A. in archaeology, French, and religion from Columbia University. He holds master’s degrees in the history of Christianity from Yale University and history from Emory University.

Ronit Y. Stahl

Ronit Y. Stahl completed her doctorate in history from the University of Michigan in 2014. Her research focuses on the interaction between religion and the state in modern America. She taught a class on religion and the constitution for the Center and used her time as a postdoctoral fellow to revise her manuscript for publication. Her first book, Fighting With Faith: The Military Chaplaincy and the American State (Harvard University Press), will be published in 2017. Stahl earned her master’s degree in social sciences in education from Stanford University and her bachelor’s in English from Williams College. In fall 2016 she begins her term as a Fellow in Advanced Biomedical Ethics with the University of Pennsylvania Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy.

Rachel McBride Lindsey

Rachel McBride Lindsey earned the Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University in 2012. Her research and teaching focus on material and visual cultures in American history, religion, and race. Her first book, A Communion of Shadows: Religion and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America, explores how Americans incorporated new visual technologies and artifacts into their religious and devotional lives, and how photography contributed to new habits of beholding, imagining, and experiencing religion. She taught at Florida State University before coming to Washington University in St. Louis, where she served two years as Associate Director of the Center before accepting a 2015-2016 postdoctoral fellowship.

Maryam Kashani

Maryam Kashani completed her doctorate in social anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014. Her research and filmmaking are organized around the centrality of visual culture to Muslim everyday life and its critical relation to questions of morality, politics, ethics, and social justice. As a postdoctoral fellow, she developed her dissertation towards publication and co-taught a course about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. Kashani earned her M.F.A. in film/video from the California Institute of the Arts in 2003 and double-majored in film and interdisciplinary field studies as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley. In fall 2016 she will be Assistant Professor with the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies and the Department of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois.

Maryam Kashani

Rachel McBride Lindsey

Ronit Y. Stahl

Stephanie Gaskill

Scott Libson

Maryam Kashani

Rachel McBride Lindsey

Ronit Y. Stahl

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Rachel McBride Lindsey

Ronit Y. Stahl

Stephanie Gaskill

Scott Libson

Maryam Kashani

Rachel McBride Lindsey

Ronit Y. Stahl

Stephanie Gaskill

Scott Libson
Visiting Scholars

Sarah Barringer Gordon


She earned her Ph.D. in history from Princeton University and her J.D. from Yale University.

Elizabeth Leibold McCloskey

Elizabeth Leibold McCloskey is a Danforth Visiting Scholar in residence at the Center through spring 2017. She is a past president and CEO of The Faith & Politics Institute in Washington, D.C. Her writing has been published in various scholarly and lay outlets including *Commonweal* and *The Washington Post*. Currently she is working on a book project focused on spiritual biographies of political leaders.

McCloskey earned her Ph.D. from the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, her master’s degree in social ethics at Yale Divinity School, and her bachelor’s degree in Religion and History at the College of William and Mary.

Staff

Debra B. Kennard

Debra Kennard joined the Center in 2011 and currently serves as Communications Specialist, handling multiple communications functions, supporting donor relations, and directing event management. After earning a B.A. in journalism from Indiana University, she worked at J. Walter Thompson, GE Capital, and enjoyed community volunteer work while raising her young children. Currently she is pursuing an M.A. in Nonprofit Management.

Sheri Peña

As the Center’s Administrative Coordinator, Peña manages financial operations, event coordination, office administration, and course support functions. Before coming to Washington University in 2013, she worked at Tower Grove Park in the city of St. Louis as Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for 16 years.

Tiffany Stanley

Tiffany Stanley is Managing Editor of *Religion & Politics*, the Center’s online journal. Prior to coming the Center, she worked for *The New Republic*, *Harvard Magazine*, and Religion News Service. She also has written for *The Atlantic*, *National Journal*, and *The Daily Beast*, among other publications. In 2015 she was a finalist for the National Magazine Award for Public Interest, and her work was anthologized in *The Best American Magazine Writing*. She holds a B.A. in journalism and a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, in addition to a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.
Faculty Affiliates

Cassie Adcock
Associate Professor, Department of History; Associate Professor, South Asian Studies; Associate Professor, Religious Studies
South Asian religious traditions; religion in political culture; the politics of secularism; and Islamic traditions

John Inazu
Associate Professor of Law and Associate Professor of Political Science (by courtesy)
First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related questions of legal and political theory

Andrew Rehfeld
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science Professor of Law (by courtesy)
Political representation; democratic theory; history of political thought; political theory; philosophy of social science

Graduate Affiliates

Matthew Chick
Department of Political Science

Maxine Davis
Brown School of Social Work

Kenny Gradert
Department of English

Katie Kinney
Department of Music, Musicology

Jonathan McGregor
Department of English

Hannah Wakefield
Department of English, American Literature

Abram Van Engen
Assistant Professor, Department of English
Early American literature and culture, Puritanism, sentimentalism, and religion
Both as a group and as individuals, the National Advisory Board offers ongoing counsel and support to the Center. The board involves a group of distinguished representatives from the fields of American politics, religion, law, education, and journalism.

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David L. Boren  
Former United States Senator from Oklahoma, President, University of Oklahoma

Eboo Patel  
Founder and President, Interfaith Youth Core

Barbara D. Savage  
Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Barbara A. Schaal  
Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis

Alan K. Simpson  
Former United States Senator from Wyoming; Co-Chairman, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform

Jon Meacham (Chair)  
Executive Editor and Executive Vice President, Random House

John T. McGreevey  
I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame

David Brooks  
Author and opinion writer, The New York Times

John C. Danforth  
Former United States Senator from Missouri, Partner, Dowd Bennett LLP

Gerald Early  
Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Washington University in St. Louis

Barbara D. Savage  
Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Mary Stillman  
Founder and Executive Director, Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls

John C. Danforth  
Former United States Senator from Missouri, Partner, Dowd Bennett LLP

Holden Thorp  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis

Jean Bethke Elshtain  
The University of Chicago  
In Memoriam 1941-2013

Michael Gerson  
Journalist and opinion writer, The Washington Post

Sarah Barringer Gordon  
Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

Krista Tippett  
Host and Producer, "On Being" radio program and website

William G. Tragos  
Co-Founder and Former Chairman, TBWA Worldwide

Jonathan L. Walton  
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in Memorial Church, Harvard University
The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics owes its existence to the tremendous generosity of the Danforth Foundation, founded in 1927 by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Danforth. The Foundation’s commitment to funding St. Louis-based initiatives is well known, and in 2009 it announced a major gift of $30 million to Washington University to establish the Center. John C. Danforth, former Senator from Missouri and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was particularly engaged in the Center’s founding and remains a member of its National Advisory Board. This gift reflects Senator Danforth’s specific interest in religion and politics, as well as his dedication to his city, state, and nation.

Center Director Marie Griffith holds the John C. Danforth Distinguished University Professorship that was established as a part of this generous founding gift. We thank Senator and Mrs. (Sally) Danforth, and the Danforth Foundation, for their tremendous generosity and continuing encouragement of the Center.

In the fall of 2012, William B. Neaves, an emeritus trustee at Washington University in St. Louis, established a professorship for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in honor of his wife, Priscilla Wood Neaves. The Reverend Mrs. Neaves is a former Methodist minister with a personal interest in the role of gender in religion and politics. William Neaves has served on the Washington University Board of Trustees since 2003 and is a current member of the National Council for the School of Medicine. In addition to this generous gift to the Danforth Center, the couple donated Wood Neaves’s library containing books on gender and religion to Olin Library. Mark Valeri was installed as the inaugural holder of this professorship in 2015.

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Jared Murray Baeten
and Mark Ruffo
Leuwania and Keith Baker
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Robert A. Wierschem
Carol K. Winston
Looking Forward

“With the 2016 Presidential election approaching, the Center is creating varied opportunities to engage students and the wider public on a range of issues vital to our time and our democracy. Our fall events will present an array of thoughtful speakers and national leaders who can illuminate the most urgent issues in this impassioned historical moment while analyzing and debating religion’s ongoing role in our political life together. Our online journal will engage these matters still further and well into the future. Join us!”

Director Marie Griffith
New Appointments/Faculty

John Inazu
Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor in Religion and Politics

Former Senator John C. Danforth recently established and endowed a new distinguished professorship to honor his wife, Sally Dobson Danforth. The chair will be established in the Washington University Law School with a joint appointment in the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

“The connection of law and religion is such a rich area and such a hot topic for today,” said Sen. Danforth. “How we live together is the job of the law and should be the job of religion … and it is the way our political system was constructed.”

After a national search, John Inazu, currently a faculty member in the Law School and faculty affiliate with the Center, was selected to be the inaugural holder of this professorship, effective July 1, 2016.

“We’re very excited to be adding John Inazu to the Center’s core faculty. His widely renowned expertise in law and religion expands our breadth in a very important direction, and students will greatly benefit from the opportunity to take undergraduate courses from him,” said Center Director Marie Griffith.

Inazu’s recent book, *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving through Deep Difference* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) contends that despite deep, sometimes unresolvable differences, we can live together, and perhaps, ultimately become strengthened as a nation. The tools at our disposal are constitutional commitments that honor and protect our differences and the pursuit of tolerance, humility, and patience in our speech, collective action, and personal relationships. His first book, *Liberty’s Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly*, was published by Yale University Press in 2012. He served as special editor of a volume on law and theology published in *Law and Contemporary Problems*, and his scholarly articles have appeared in a number of law reviews and specialty journals. He also has written for mainstream audiences in such publications as USA Today, *The Hedgehog Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

Christine Croxall

Christine Croxall is finishing her Ph.D. 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.

Dana Logan

Dana Logan earned her Ph.D. 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.

Moshe Kornfeld

Moshe Kornfeld earned his Ph.D. 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 current project investigates Jewish philanthropy, service, and activism in Post-Katrina New Orleans.

Gene Zubovich

Gene Zubovich earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, where he currently teaches. His first project traces the political history of liberalism in the U.S. with a focus on the influence of religion on domestic and foreign politics through the 1960s.
2016-2017 Public Events

“As the eyes of the world turn to the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Washington University in St. Louis will play a prominent role in the national political conversation when it hosts a presidential debate on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016.”

debate.wustl.edu

The Center on Religion and Politics is pleased to highlight these events to further engage audiences in the presidential debate hosted on campus and the upcoming election:

OCTOBER 8, 2016
The Danforth Dialogues: Envisioning the Future of Religion and Politics in America
Two conversations moderated by Krista Tippett
“Religion and Conceptions of the Common Good,” with Eboo Patel and Natasha Trethewey
“Religion and National Politics” with David Brooks and E.J. Dionne

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2016
Contemporary Issues Forum: Spiritual Values and Politics
Randall Balmer delivers the Pfautch Lecture at Second Presbyterian Church: “Spiritual Values and the 2016 Election” and “The Spiritual Legacy of Jimmy Carter”

OCTOBER 26, 2016
Faith and Power: Religion and the American Presidency from the Founding to Trump v. Clinton
Public lecture by Jon Meacham

DECEMBER 7, 2016
Inaugural Thomas Lamb Eliot Lecture
Public lecture by David Robinson, Oregon State University

For more event information: rap.wustl.edu

2016-2017 Courses

A look at some courses offered in the upcoming academic year:

Fall 2016

Black-Jewish Relations in the United States

Freshman Seminar: Violence, Vulnerability, and Trauma in Contemporary Religious Thought

Jewish Political Thought

The Making of American Conservatism Since 1932, from Herbert Hoover to the Tea Party

Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from Transcendentalism to the New Age

Religion and American Society

Religion and the Modern Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968

Religious Freedom in America

Whose St. Louis? Religion, Race, and Power in the Gateway City