

JOHN C. DANFORTH CENTER ON
RELIGION AND POLITICS

2016-2017
ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS

John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2016-2017 Annual Report

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The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics aims to create a more educated and active citizenry through its commitments to challenging scholarship and **productive public engagement**. The Center explores the many intersections of religion and U.S. politics through its **rigorous research and teaching** and extends the intellectual conversation about these issues by modeling ideals of open exchange. A group of **dynamic leaders** and **generous supporters** makes these activities possible.

ABOUT THE COVER

Krista Tippett moderates a conversation between Natasha Trethewey and Eboo Patel as part of the Danforth Dialogues event at Washington University's Graham Chapel on October 8, 2016.

ABOUT THE INSIDE FRONT COVER

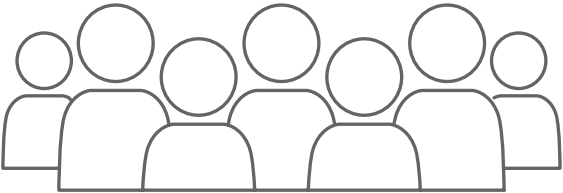
Aliza Astrow (class of 2019) asks a question in Marie Griffith's spring 2017 course.

2016-2017

AT A GLANCE



1. Event attendee Walid Ramadan with the Darul Jalal mosque greets Dr. Helal Ekramuddin, Chairman of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, guest speaker Tarek El-Messidi, and Karen Aroesty, Anti-Defamation League Regional Director. **2.** Mark Valeri initiates a class discussion as Leigh Schmidt observes their co-taught class. **3.** Students in “Religion and Politics in American History” offer their ideas to the class discussion.

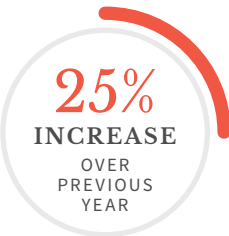


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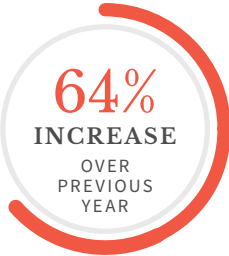
PUBLIC EVENT
ATTENDEES




FACEBOOK
LIKES AND
FOLLOWERS




TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



STUDENTS
WITH DECLARED
RELIGION AND
POLITICS MINOR

71%
INCREASE
OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

COURSE
ENROLLMENT

37%
INCREASE
OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

CLASSES

13
OFFERED
2016-2017
7 FALL AND 6 SPRING
CLASSES

10|08|16

DANFORTH DIALOGUES:
ENVISIONING THE
FUTURE OF RELIGION
AND POLITICS
IN AMERICA
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10|26|16

FAITH AND POWER:
RELIGION AND
THE AMERICAN
PRESIDENCY FROM
THE FOUNDING
TO TRUMP V. CLINTON
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WORK AS WORSHIP:
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AN AMERICAN
CONSCIENCE:
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JEWS AND
MUSLIMS TURN
HATE TO HUMANITY:
INTERFAITH
COLLABORATION
IN TIMES OF
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04|04|17

HEALING
A HOUSE
DIVIDED
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LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



“The Center continues to educate, collaborate, and bring our community together with a common purpose.”

— MARK S. WRIGHTON
Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis

This past year was an exciting one for Washington University and the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics as we hosted the second Presidential Debate on October 9. The day before the debate, the Center convened the stimulating *Danforth Dialogues*, which explored religion’s relation to national politics and conceptions of the common good in current public life. Moderated by Krista Tippett and featuring guest commentators David Brooks, E.J. Dionne, Eboo Patel, and Natasha Trethewey, the event featured lively debates on a range of issues to an overflowing crowd in Graham Chapel. A few weeks later, renowned author Jon Meacham lectured on *Faith and Power: Religion and the American Presidency from the Founding to Trump v. Clinton*. These important events spurred productive conversations on and off campus.

Washington University established this dynamic center in 2010 to support research and critical analysis that help us gain understanding of the complex issues of our world. Senator John C. Danforth and the Danforth Foundation have provided very generous support for the Center. Thanks to their generosity and vision, we are serving as a bridge between different perspectives and helping to shape conversations around religion and politics in our nation.

MARK S. WRIGHTON
Chancellor

LETTER FROM THE CENTER DIRECTOR

The academic year began with great excitement around our October events focused on the presidential campaigns and the on-campus debate. The November election and its emotional aftermath reminded us all, yet again, that deep fault lines run through our democracy and divide the country. In this climate of fear, mistrust, and anger, the bridging work we attempt to do at the Center has seemed more crucial than ever this year. After a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis was desecrated in February, we quickly pulled together a public event on “Turning Hate to Humanity,” featuring a dialogue between local Jewish leader Andrew Rehfeld and an American Muslim leader, Tarek El-Messidi, who spearheaded a fundraising campaign for cemetery repairs. The following month, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about “Healing a House Divided” and repairing our fractured nation. Such events represent the broad public work that we will continue to do in hopes of restoring trust in a time of fear.

Thank you for everything you do to facilitate our research and scholarship, classroom teaching, and broader public work.

“Strong scholarship on the many intersections of religion and politics anchors the Center’s wide-ranging work with students, national leaders across many fields, and the broader public.”

— R. MARIE GRIFFITH
Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

R. MARIE GRIFFITH
Center Director

PRODUCTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Engaging a wide range of citizens beyond the university is one of the Center's clear aims. Even as we continue developing excellent scholarship and educating the students of Washington University in St. Louis, we intend to reach broader audiences with important ideas, tools, and strategies for living in a religiously and politically pluralistic democracy. Our public events and online journal, *Religion & Politics*, offer important ways to meet our commitments to disseminate the work of scholars and thinkers and foster civil debate and robust discussion among persons holding diverse and even divergent viewpoints.

PG 08 EVENTS

PG 20 FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

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Krista Tippett, host and executive producer of public radio program and podcast *On Being*, moderated the Danforth Dialogues on October 8, 2016.





E.J. Dionne Jr. and David Brooks explore the topic “Religion and National Politics” in the second Danforth Dialogues conversation.

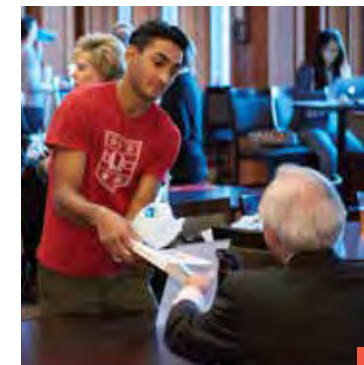
DANFORTH DIALOGUES: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AMERICA

10|08|16 On the eve of the second presidential debate hosted at Washington University in St. Louis, the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics convened a group of exceptionally thoughtful, dynamic commentators to participate in “The Danforth Dialogues” to explore the place of religion in our current politics and public life, along with future possibilities. The event consisted of a set of two conversations moderated by **Krista Tippett**, host of the Peabody Award-winning *On Being* radio show and podcast. The first conversation, themed “Religion and Conceptions of the Common Good,” featured **Eboo Patel**, Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core, and **Natasha Trethewey**, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and former Poet Laureate of the United States. The second conversation, themed “Religion and National Politics,” featured **David Brooks** and **E.J. Dionne**, two of America’s most prominent political commentators and influential authors.

“In this increasingly polarized political climate, the Danforth Dialogues were insightful discussions between the event speakers that gave me hope in the power of humanity and restored my faith that there can be respectful dialogue related to religion, politics, and the common good.”

— MICHELLE FIEDLER
Event Attendee

1. A student takes the opportunity to have E.J. Dionne personalize his recent book. **2.** Natasha Trethewey offers thoughts to the audience as Eboo Patel listens. **3.** Guests arrive early to Graham Chapel, located in the heart of the Washington University campus. **4.** Students eagerly engage Eboo Patel at the public reception after the event.



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John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2016-2017 Annual Report

FAITH AND POWER: RELIGION AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY FROM THE FOUNDING TO TRUMP V. CLINTON

10|26|16 The Center supported continuing conversations around the upcoming historic 2016 presidential election with a public event featuring presidential historian, Contributing Editor at TIME, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jon Meacham**. The campus visit included a book signing, a lunch with students, a public lecture, and a reception. Meacham's address, "Faith and Power: Religion and the American Presidency from the Founding to Trump v. Clinton," focused on the religious motivations and evocations of the country's presidents. As he stated, "the presidency has been shaped by religious thought, by religious impulses, and by religious rhetoric from the very beginning."

"The past presidential election pushed many of us to think and rethink about the ways that we conceive of the relationships among popular democracy, moral imperative, and political theory."

— MARK VALERI
Faculty

1. Meacham explores the role of religion in presidential history. **2.** Philip Masini (class of 2018) and Chris Hall (class of 2019) enjoy lunch and conversation with Meacham during his campus visit. **3.** Meacham speaks with students after his lecture. **4.** Lecture attendee Valerie Elverton Dixon poses a question to Meacham.



Jon Meacham personalizes books during a public book signing before his lecture.



John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2016-2017 Annual Report

THE ART AND POLITICS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH

02|01|17 Josef Sorett explored the terrain of presumably “secular” African American literature and popular music — drawing from episodes across the 20th century to the contemporary moment — as a novel means for engaging black faith traditions and inviting new conversations about American religion and politics. Professor Sorett is an 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 (CARSS). This lecture was co-sponsored with the African and African-American Studies Department and the English Department’s Religion and Literature Reading Group.

1. Sorett greets Professor Ben Sanders III of Eden Theological Seminary after his lecture. **2.** Sorett introduces a video clip of Chance the Rapper as part of his lecture. **3.** Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Sorett, and Lerone Martin welcome Fannie Bialek’s comments after the lecture.

WORK AS WORSHIP: EMERSON’S EMANCIPATING RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL JOURNEY



**INAUGURAL
THOMAS LAMB
ELIOT LECTURE**

12|07|16 David Robinson delivered this inaugural Thomas Lamb Eliot Lecture, which offered a spiritual autobiography of Ralph Waldo Emerson that traced the struggles and crises that led him from spokesman for a newly emerging spirituality to a prominent role in the antislavery movement and the political battle for the principle of emancipation. This new lecture series is named for a member of the first class (1862) of Washington University in St. Louis and the son of the university’s founder, William Greenleaf Eliot. Professor Robinson is a Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Director of the Center for the Humanities at Oregon State University and is a renowned scholar of Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau, and other authors connected with the New England Transcendentalist movement.

1. William H. Danforth and William Tragos discuss their interest in the lecture’s relevance to university history. **2.** Robinson considers a guest’s question as Leigh Schmidt listens. **3.** Robinson greets one of the attendees to his lecture in Umrath Lounge. **4.** Robinson uncovers similar themes in the lives of Emerson and Eliot.



THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Burack draws a history of the Christian Right's interaction with human rights. **2.** Burack answers a student's question at the reception following her lecture. **3.** Students absorb Burack's lecture.

02|09|17 In recent years, the U.S. government and the Christian conservative movement have been at odds over SOGI human rights. While U.S. policy supports SOGI human rights, the Christian Right opposes these human rights and works to undermine their institutionalization around the world. In this talk, **Cynthia Burack** examined the Christian Right case against SOGI human rights, as well as some of its hidden dimensions and internal contradictions. Professor Burack is professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. This lecture was cosponsored by the Law, Identity, and Culture Initiative of the Law School and The Workshop in Politics, Ethics and Society (WPES) in the Department of Political Science in Arts & Sciences.



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AN AMERICAN CONSCIENCE: THE REINHOLD NIEBUHR STORY FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

03|06|17 The Center was pleased to present with Eden Theological Seminary an advance screening of this new documentary film, which explores the life and impact of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. The screening was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Professor Marie Griffith, with panelists including the filmmaker **Martin Doblmeier**; **Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw**, President of Eden Seminary; and **Dr. Healan Gaston**, Harvard Divinity School.

1. Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier discusses the evolution of his Niebuhr project as panelists Gaston and Greenhaw listen. **2.** The film screening begins for the audience in Washington University's Emerson Auditorium. **3.** Professor Robin Lovin, a film contributor, offers the audience his reflection about Niebuhr's legacy.



2



3



JEWS AND MUSLIMS TURN HATE TO HUMANITY: INTERFAITH COLLABORATION IN TIMES OF RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

- 1. El-Messidi learns from Anita Feigenbaum, Executive Director of a local Jewish cemetery, about desecration to the site as Marie Griffith and Maharat Rori Picker Neiss listen. El-Messidi helped lead a Muslim effort to raise funds and presented a check to Feigenbaum for repair.
- 2. Andrew Rehfeld, Michael Ginsburg, and Tarek El-Messidi pose for a picture after the on-stage conversation.
- 3. A local Christian minister asks a question of the Jewish and Muslim speakers during the Q&A portion of the event.

03|08|17 Recent and recurring acts of violence against the American Jewish and Muslim communities remind us of the persistence of ethno-religious hate. Expressions of solidarity between Jews and Muslims in the wake of these events have shown that such hate can and should be collectively addressed. Locally, the fundraising efforts by Muslim organizations such as CelebrateMercy for Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery in the wake of recent desecration were inspiring to our St. Louis community and to the wider nation. In this context, the Center was pleased to bring together two leaders from the Jewish and Muslim communities to talk deeply about what it means to partner and support one another across religious and political lines, despite potential differences on geopolitical issues. Director Marie Griffith moderated a conversation between **Tarek El-Messidi**, Founding Director of Philadelphia-based CelebrateMercy, and **Andrew Rehfeld**, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

“I was blown away by the dialogue. What struck me the most was the openness and honesty they each brought with them to the conversation. It was an honor to witness and take part in that exchange.”

— MAHARAT RORI PICKER NEISS
Event Attendee
Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council



El-Messidi and Rehfeld offer a model of productive dialogue despite difference.

HEALING A HOUSE DIVIDED

04|04|17 The Most Reverend Michael Curry addressed an overflow crowd in the University's Graham Chapel with his message for the current time. He suggested two ways to heal the country: by reviving human relationships across difference and by reclaiming shared values and ideals instead of focusing on the divisions on issues. Curry is Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church and was introduced by Sen. John C. Danforth, himself an ordained Episcopal priest, who believes there is great value in religious institutions focusing beyond themselves and speaking to the nation.

“High energy comes to mind when I think about Bishop Curry’s talk! His lecture about the revival of relationships and community called us to action with a battle cry that “Love Transcends.”

— LAURIE BROWN
Event Attendee



After his lecture, Curry relishes the opportunity to meet attendees including local Episcopal priest The Rev. Kelly Carlson.



1. Alejandro Flores-Brown (class of 2019), Katherine Story (class of 2018), and Natalie Spaulding (class of 2017) enjoy the Bishop's address. **2.** Curry energizes his audience with positive messages. **3.** The audience enjoys Curry's inclusion of a gospel song. **4.** Jack Danforth prepares to introduce Bishop Curry to the audience. **5.** Curry spends a moment to greet The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, and his wife, Mrs. Debra Smith.

2016-2017

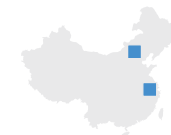
FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

REACHING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Faculty members extend the work of the Center by participating in conferences, seminars, lectures, and other exchanges in both academic and public arenas.

BEYOND THE UNITED STATES



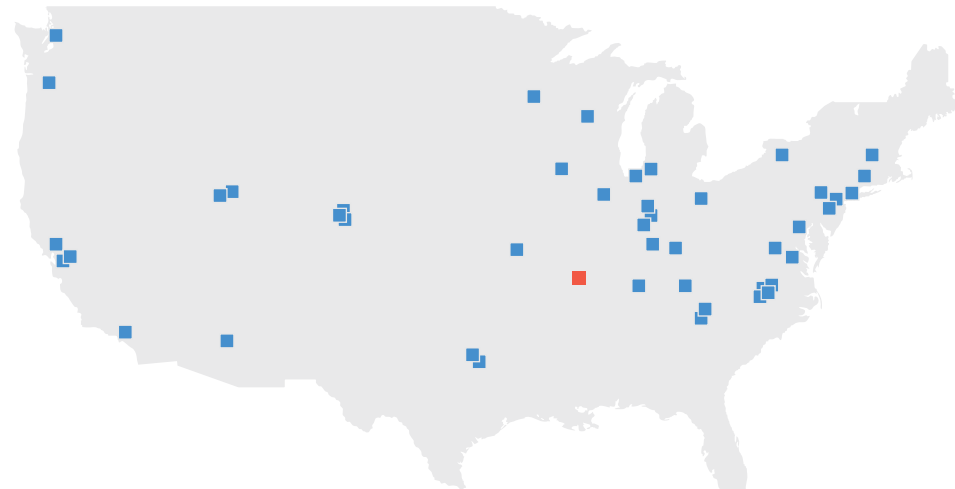
CHINA



GERMANY



NEW ZEALAND



1



2



3



4



5

1. John Inazu speaks to an audience eager to hear about the idea of confident pluralism. **2.** Mark Valeri participates in a Heidelberg Center for American Studies seminar. **3.** Publicity for Laurie Maffly-Kipp's public lecture at University of Auckland. **4.** Publicity for Marie Griffith's recent Connell Lecture at Lehigh University. **5.** Lerone Martin addresses the inaugural cohort of the Washington University College Prep Program.

Religion & Politics

Fit For Polite Company

ONLINE JOURNAL



1. This year Managing Editor Tiffany Stanley was one of four religion reporters awarded the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science for Religion Reporters Award, which will offer opportunities for exposure to forefront science. Award winners (left to right) were Betsy Shirley, *Sojourners* magazine; Stanley; Lauren Markoe, Religion News Service; and Julie Zauzmer, *The Washington Post*.
2. Find the journal online at www.religionandpolitics.org.
3. Readers enjoy an improved reading experience on their mobile devices after the journal's recent redesign.

One of the Center's most important projects, the online journal *Religion & Politics* offers an important vehicle to link the foremost scholars and journalists who work on the subjects of religion and public life with a broader public audience. Stories this year have covered topics including the history of Muslims in America, Neil Gorsuch's views on religious freedom, immigration and the sanctuary movement, the legacy of Phyllis Schlafly, and the religious (or irreligious) worldviews of political figures including Ted Cruz, Bernie Sanders, Stephen Bannon, Mike Pence, Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton, and Donald Trump. Our goal is to offer readers a deeper look at the issues easily scrolled through on a social media feed or heard in sound bites on network news shows. Find us online at www.religionandpolitics.org.



5M
PAGE VIEWS
BY MAY 2017

2M
READERS
SINCE MAY 2012



07|19|16

SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR

**IT STARTS
WITH THE STOP:
AN ESSAY ON FAITH,
RACE, AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

By Leah Gunning Francis

08|15|16

**THE MORAL
TRIBALISM OF
CONTEMPORARY
POLITICS**

By Michael Schulson

12|14|16

**WHO ARE YOU
CALLING AN
ANTI-SEMITES?
JEWISH DEBATE IN
TRUMP'S AMERICA**

By Moshe Kornfeld

01|17|17

**DONALD TRUMP
AND MILITANT
EVANGELICAL
MASCULINITY**

By Kristin Du Mez

01|30|17

**THERE HAS
NEVER BEEN
AN AMERICA
WITHOUT
MUSLIMS**

By Amir Hussain

04|25|17

**REINHOLD
NIEBUHR,
WASHINGTON'S
FAVORITE
THEOLOGIAN**

By Gene Zubovich

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DYNAMIC LEADERS

A cohort of outstanding scholars and teachers, academic associates, trusted advisors, and talented staff guides the Center's work toward its goals. Our faculty represent some of the foremost scholars in their fields and our postdoctoral fellowship program supports exceptionally promising early-career scholars who teach and pursue major research projects while in residence. The Center is enriched by fostering intellectual and collaborative opportunities among Center faculty and fellows, as well as across the wider university and beyond.



Laurie Maffly-Kipp offers her perspective in a recent meeting of the Center's Colloquium.

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* (University of California Press, 1997), which examines the practices and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her other books, edited volumes, and articles exhibit Griffith's varied scholarship. Her next book, scheduled for fall 2017, is titled *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics*.

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.

“Engaging with those whose positions are the furthest from mine has been one of the most rewarding parts of Professor Griffith’s class. Open, honest, and respectful dialogue builds empathy and bridges divides.”

— CHLOE ZACK
Washington University, Class of 2020

FACULTY

John Inazu is the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion, a dual appointment in the Washington University Law School and the Center on Religion and Politics.

Inazu's scholarship focuses on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related questions of legal and political theory. His first book, *Liberty's Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly* (Yale University Press, 2012), seeks to recover the role of assembly in American political and constitutional thought. His second book is *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Professor Inazu was the special editor of a volume on law and theology published in *Law and Contemporary Problems*, and his articles have appeared in a number of law reviews and specialty journals. He has written broadly for mainstream audiences in publications including *USA Today*, *CNN*, and *The Washington Post*.

Professor Inazu was the law school's 2014 David M. Becker Professor of the Year. Prior to joining the law faculty, he was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School

“I’ve been privileged to have the opportunity to speak about confident pluralism on college campuses around the country and even as far away as China. It is gratifying to have such an enthusiastic engagement with my ideas.”

— JOHN INAZU
Faculty

of Law and a Royster Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He clerked for Judge Roger L. Wollman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and served for four years as an associate general counsel with the Department of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

Inazu earned his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his J.D. and B.S.E. at Duke University.



FACULTY



LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP

Laurie Maffly-Kipp joined the Center in 2013 and is the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor.

Maffly-Kipp's research and teaching focus on African American religions, Mormonism, religion on the Pacific borderlands of the Americas, and issues of intercultural contact. Her publications are many and include *Religion and Society in Frontier California* (Yale University Press, 1994), where she explored the nature of Protestant spiritual practices in Gold Rush California, and *Setting Down the Sacred Past: African-American Race Histories* (Harvard University Press, 2010). Currently she is working on a survey of Mormonism in American life that will be published by Basic Books.

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

“We provide a space to engage in conversation across traditions and deep religious and political divides in a moment when such spaces are in short supply.”

— LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP
Faculty

Award from the University of Heidelberg in 2014. Maffly-Kipp is a past president of the American Society of Church History and the Mormon History Association.

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).

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 and his Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary before completing his Ph.D. at Emory University in 2011. Prior to coming to Washington University, Martin was Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Culture at Eden Theological Seminary.

His first book project was the award-winning *Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Making of Modern African American Religion* (New York University Press, 2014), which tracks

the role of the phonograph in the shaping of African American religion, culture, and politics during the first half of the twentieth century. Currently he is researching the historic relationship between religion and the F.B.I.

In support of his research, Martin has received 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 as a member of the Young Scholars in American Religion 2014-2016 cohort and The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation named him a 2017 Nancy Weiss Malkiel Scholar.



LERONE A. MARTIN

“I have taken three of Dr. Martin's classes and was impressed every time with his passion for the topic, ability to engage students in readings, discussions, and lectures, and the way he structured the class to be very applicable to issues in the past or today.”

— ALLISON NICKRENT
Washington University, Class of 2017

FACULTY



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; 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; and, from 1989 to 1995, he taught in the Theological and Graduate Schools of Drew University. He has held research fellowships at Stanford and Princeton and also through the National Endowment for the Humanities,

the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2015 he was appointed a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

Schmidt has authored many books about different aspects of American religious history. His latest book, *Village Atheists: How America’s Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation* (Princeton University Press, 2016) examines how atheists and freethinkers have fared in American public life. He has often commented on current issues in American religion and culture through various media outlets including *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *U.S. News and World Report*, 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.

“The last year especially demonstrated the Center’s deep relevance to American public life — whether through the Center’s involvement in programming around the presidential debate, its investment in interfaith conversations, or its engagement with religious leaders and journalists.”

— LEIGH ERIC SCHMIDT
Faculty

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.

His most recent book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America* (Princeton University Press, 2010), analyzes social transformations in the American economy from the early 1600s, when Puritans argued that personal profit should be subordinate to the common welfare, to the 1740s, when Christians increasingly celebrated commerce as an unqualified good. His publication list is extensive and includes many book chapters, journal articles, and essays.

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. 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 religious conversion, belief, and political liberty in the eighteenth century.



MARK VALERI

“To describe Professor Valeri’s teaching as engaged and engaging would be an understatement. More than perhaps any professor I’ve taken, he has a knack for imperceptibly pressing students to ask deeper questions of history and themselves.”

— TAYLOR REYNOLDS
Washington University, Class of 2017

FACULTY AFFILIATES



CASSIE ADCOCK

Cassie Adcock is Associate Professor in the Department of History and in the Religious Studies program at Washington University in St. Louis. She specializes in religion in the political culture of modern north India. Her work has been supported by a Fulbright Scholar Award, an NEH-AIIS Senior Research Fellowship, and a Kluge Fellowship. Adcock earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.



ANDREW R. REHFELD

Andrew R. Rehfeld currently serves as President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. He is also Associate Professor of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis. Rehfeld’s research focuses on contemporary democratic theory with related interests in the history of political thought and the philosophy of the social sciences. He earned his Ph. D. from the University of Chicago.



ABRAM C. VAN ENGEN

Abram C. Van Engen is Assistant Professor of English at Washington University in St. Louis. He specializes in early American religion, literature, and culture, focusing on Puritanism, sentimentalism, and the history of emotion. He received a 2016-17 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He earned his Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

VISITING SCHOLAR

Elizabeth Leibold McCloskey was a Danforth Visiting Scholar in residence at the Center for the 2016-17 academic year. 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.



ELIZABETH MCCLOSKEY

1. Center offices are found in Umrath Hall.



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



CHRISTINE CROXALL

Christine Croxall earned 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, and how the region’s inhabitants — white, Native American, and African-descended — reacted to and shaped the agendas of the missionaries sent to convert them. Dr. Croxall taught the course, “Whose St. Louis? Religion, Race, and Power in the Gateway City,” in fall 2016.



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 research takes the study of American Jews as a lens through which to analyze complicated intersections of religion, economy, and politics. His current project investigates Jewish philanthropy, service, and activism in Post-Katrina New Orleans. Dr. Kornfeld taught a class in fall 2016, “Black-Jewish Relations in the United States.”

“The postdoc was a great space for making the transition from graduate student to faculty member. I was able to try out a number of courses and explore topics that were more tangential to my primary research.”

— MARYAM KASHANI
Postdoctoral Fellow 2014-2016
Assistant Professor, Departments of Gender and Women’s Studies & Asian American Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



DANA LOGAN

Dana Logan earned her Ph.D. in religious studies from Indiana University and comes to Washington University most recently from a teaching position at Mercyhurst University. Her work focuses on religious rituals in American democracy and their intersection with political, consumer, and artistic practice. Her current project aims to explain the religious heritage of these mores and the context in which they operate in contemporary U.S. society. Dr. Logan taught a spring 2017 course, “Performing Religion, Ritualizing Gender.”



GENE ZUBOVICH

Gene Zubovich earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and comes to Washington University in St. Louis from a teaching position there. His research traces the origins of today’s political polarization, with a focus on religious responses to globalization in the twentieth century. His work includes “The Global Gospel: Protestant Internationalism and American Liberalism in the Twentieth Century.” Dr. Zubovich co-taught a course with Professor Elizabeth Borgwardt (History) in spring 2017, “History of U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1920.”

STAFF



LESLIE DAVIS

Leslie Davis joined the Center in 2016 as Event Coordinator. She came to Washington University after 20+ years of event management experience with a local event management firm and a global cruise line. Davis is an active leader and member of several local nonprofit organizations. She earned her B.A. from University of Missouri-St. Louis and currently is a candidate for the M.A. in Washington University’s Nonprofit Management Program.



DEBRA B. KENNARD

Debra Kennard joined the Center in 2011 and currently serves as Assistant Director with responsibility for multiple communications functions, event management, donor relationship support, and staff management. Kennard previously worked in advertising and marketing communications and also has enjoyed community volunteer work. Kennard earned a B.A. from Indiana University in journalism and marketing and an M.A. in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis.



SHERI PEÑA

Sheri Peña joined the Center in 2013 and serves as Administrative Coordinator, managing financial operations, office administration, course coordination, and a variety of other support functions. She came to Washington University from Tower Grove Park where she served as Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for 16 years. She has broad administrative experience leading front and back office operations including executive support, human resources and payroll coordination, financial processing, and meeting planning.



TIFFANY STANLEY

Tiffany Stanley is Managing Editor of *Religion & Politics*, the John C. Danforth Center’s online journal. She brings a strong background in the journalism and publishing world, as well as in religion and politics. 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 degrees in journalism and English from the University of Georgia, in addition to a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.

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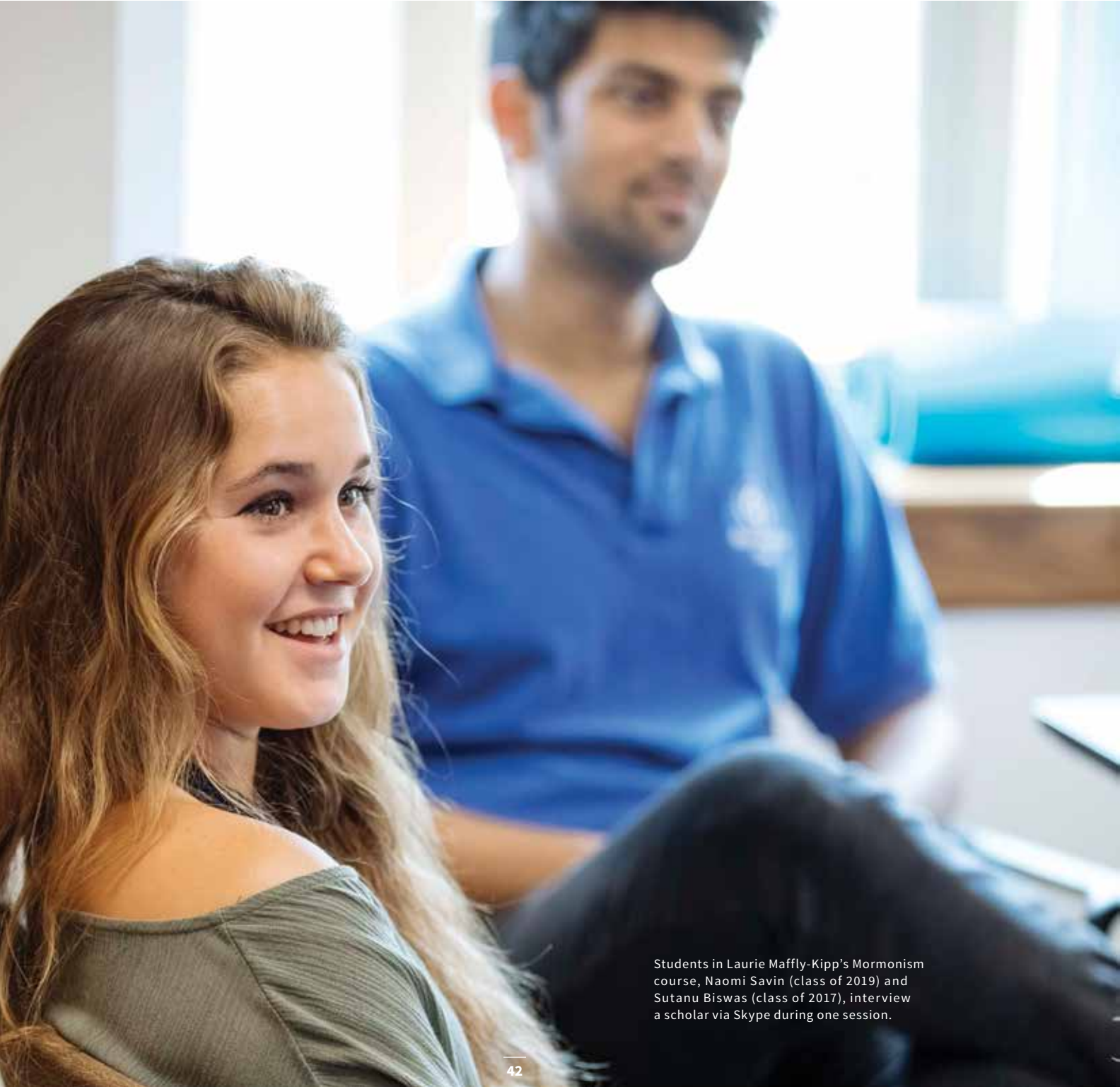
John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2016-2017 Annual Report

RIGOROUS RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Fostering exceptional research and scholarship is central to the academic mission of the Center. The objective is to provide critical context and careful reflection on the intensely trafficked intersections of religion and politics in both the nation's past and present and to maximize its reach among academics, students, journalists, policy makers, and fellow citizens. In the classroom, students develop a structure to engage in critical reflection, research and scholarship, and writing, whether enrolled in individual courses or pursuing our minor in religion and politics.



Priyanka Zylstra (class of 2018) questions the author's premise for a book discussion in Marie Griffith's course.



Students in Laurie Maffly-Kipp’s Mormonism course, Naomi Savin (class of 2019) and Sutanu Biswas (class of 2017), interview a scholar via Skype during one session.

2016-2017
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
- Black-Jewish Relations in the United States
- Jewish Political Thought
- Mormonism and the American Experience
- Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from Transcendentalism to the New Age
- Religion and American Society
- Religion and Politics in American History
- Religion and the Modern Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968
- Religious Freedom in America
- Performing Religion, Ritualizing Gender
- U.S. Foreign Relations Since 1920
- Whose St. Louis? Religion, Race, and Power in the Gateway City
- Zionism



“What strikes me as especially interesting about Wash U students is their eagerness to engage questions of meaning, purpose, and moral and religious frameworks for thinking about public issues. They are deeply concerned for intellectual issues, that is, that form the core of the humanities.”

— MARK VALERI
Faculty

1. Marie Griffith guides a student discussion about an assigned reading in her course, “American Religion, Gender, and Sexuality.”

2016-2017**COLLOQUIUM ON AMERICAN RELIGION,
POLITICS, AND CULTURE**

The Danforth Center sponsors an ongoing colloquium to foster discussion of new scholarship in the broad domains of American religion, politics, and culture. It is a research-oriented workshop that aims to build a multidisciplinary community among students, fellows, and faculty, all drawn to the intellectual questions that animate the Center's work.

1. Gene Zubovich, a postdoctoral fellow with the Center, inquires about context in a colloquium discussion as another postdoctoral fellow, Christine Croxall, listens. **2.** Mark Valeri responds to a question about his work being discussed by the group. **3.** Dana Logan, a postdoctoral fellow with the Center, offers her reaction to a passage in the reading. **4.** Leigh Schmidt considers an alternate perspective for the current discussion.

SEPTEMBER 8 KATE MORAN
(*Saint Louis University*)

The Memory of Marquette,
the Father of the Midwest

SEPTEMBER 22 MARIE GRIFFITH
Battles over Same-Sex Marriage,
Equal Rights, and Religious Freedom

OCTOBER 13 CHRISTINE CROXALL
Family Rules: Christian Missionaries
Confronting Native Domestic Practices
in the Mississippi River Valley

OCTOBER 27 GENE ZUBOVICH
Protestant Political Mobilization in
the Great Depression and the Making
of American Liberalism

NOVEMBER 10 HAL BUSH
(*Saint Louis University*)
Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast*,
Contemporary Neuroscience, and
the Spirituality of 'One True Sentence'

DECEMBER 1 DANA LOGAN
Protestant Ritualism

JANUARY 26 CHARLES LESCH
The Political-Theological Origins of Human
Dignity: Kant, Spontaneity, and Solidarity

FEBRUARY 9 FANNIE BIALEK
Vulnerability in Feminist Ethics: Revisiting
Agape as an Ethical Ideal

MARCH 2 MOSHE KORNFELD
Jewish Privilege, Philanthropy, and
Protest in Post-Katrina New Orleans

MARCH 9 LIZ MCCLOSKEY
Profiles in Spirit: Spiritual Narratives
of American Politicians

APRIL 13 MARK VALERI
Travels and Conversions
in the Eighteenth Century



GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Since the establishment of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics in 2010, many people and contributors have supported the Center. Their gifts directly support the Center's research projects, faculty mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students, our postdoctoral fellows, our online journal, and our varied public programming.

THE DANFORTH FOUNDATION

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.

DR. WILLIAM B. NEAVES AND THE REV. PRISCILLA WOOD NEAVES

In the fall of 2012, William B. Neaves, an emeritus trustee at Washington University in St. Louis, established a professorship in 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. Dr. 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 Washington University's Olin Library. Mark Valeri was installed as the inaugural holder of this professorship in 2015.

SEN. JOHN C. DANFORTH AND MRS. SALLY D. DANFORTH

Sen. Danforth established in 2016 a new distinguished professorship to honor his wife, Sally Dobson Danforth, and the important role she has played in his life and the lives of their children. Sen. Danforth is a retired politician and Episcopal priest, a partner with Dowd Bennett LLP in St. Louis, and an active member of the Center's national advisory board. John Inazu was installed in September 2016 as the inaugural holder of this professorship, which is a joint appointment between the Washington University Law School and the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

1. John Inazu poses with people important to his installation on September 7, 2016 as the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion, (left to right) Chancellor Wrighton, Provost Thorp, Caroline Inazu, Sally Danforth, Jack Danforth, Marie Griffith, and Nancy Staudt.

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— R. MARIE GRIFFITH
Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

2017-2018

LOOKING FORWARD



FALL 2017

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Religion and American Society

Jewish Political Thought

Love and Reason

Virtues, Vices, Values

Native American/Euro-American Encounters

Topics in Religion and Politics:
Religious Celebrity

Solidarity and Silence:
Religious Strategies in the Political Sphere

Law, Religion, and Politics

American Unbelief from the
Enlightenment to the New Atheism

1. Jiayi Hu (Class of 2020) appreciates a class discussion.

FACULTY APPOINTMENT

Anna F. Bialek will join the Center as Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics effective July 1, 2017.

Bialek’s research and teaching focus on contemporary religious ethics and political theory with an emphasis on feminist thought, Christian theology, and modern forms of power critique. Her first book project, “Vulnerability and Power: The Promise of Relational Ethics,” discusses vulnerability in contemporary ethics and politics. She will teach two undergraduate courses for the Center this fall, “Love and Reason” and “Solidarity and Silence: Religious Strategies in the Political Sphere.”

“Fannie is a teacher and scholar of tremendous depth and range in the area of religious ethics and political theory, already so mature that her Ph.D. advisor called her ‘simply one of the finest educators I have ever encountered, at any rank in the profession.’ Our vetting process has certainly borne out that claim,” Center Director Marie Griffith remarked.



ANNA F. BIALEK

“Fannie’s investigation into the valorization of power and desire for invulnerability that marks contemporary political regimes is a timely and urgent project. Her work offers alternative models of selfhood and political engagement that better incorporate conceptions of relationship, community, and an ethic of care.”

Bialek earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Brown University in 2016 and her bachelor’s degree in Religion *summa cum laude* from Princeton University. Competitive fellowships from the American Association of University Women, the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown, and the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown have offered support for her research.

“I am thrilled to join an institution where public engagement is part of the daily work of teaching and research.”

— ANNA F. BIALEK
Faculty

John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2016-2017 Annual Report

“What drew me to the Center in the first place was its dual commitment to educating both the Washington University student community and the broader public. We are able to interact with so many people across the country, especially through our programming and our online journal, and that outreach seems a crucial contribution we can make to a deeply divided, cynical nation.”

— R. MARIE GRIFFITH
Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

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The Umrath Hall archway offers passage from the Center's offices to the heart of the Washington University in St. Louis campus.

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.



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS

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