

A photograph of three students in a classroom. On the left, a young man with dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is looking down and smiling. In the center, a young woman with long, straight reddish-brown hair, wearing a teal cardigan over a dark top, is looking off-camera to the right and smiling broadly. On the right, a young man with brown hair and glasses, wearing a grey sweater, is also smiling and looking towards the right. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and a classroom environment.

JOHN C. DANFORTH CENTER ON
RELIGION AND POLITICS

2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION & POLITICS

The Danforth Center on Religion and Politics sponsored a public discussion series, "Religion and Politics in an Age of Fracture" to complement the new course "Religion, Politics, and the University." Both were organized by Prof. John Inazu and visiting scholar Dr. Eboo Patel.

ON THE COVER Neil Aggarwal, Mary Grace Gorman, and Liam Mardis participate in a class discussion with other students in the new course, "Religion, Politics, and the University."



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics was established in 2010 and is located on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis.

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.

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ENGAGEMENT

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LOOKING
FORWARD

2017-2018

AT A GLANCE



PROF. ANNA BIALEK

joins the faculty of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics as Assistant Professor

PG 30

07|01|17



Third biennial meeting of the Center's **NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

PG 42

09|13|17

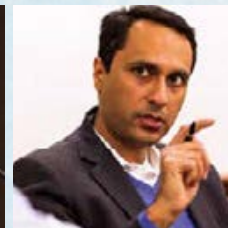


WHAT DO FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRANCIS OF BUENOS AIRES HAVE IN COMMON? A 'FRANCISCAN' PERSPECTIVE ON THE COMMON GOOD

A public lecture by Fr. Michael Perry

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PRESERVING A UNITED NATION: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES

A conversation with John C. Danforth

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PROF. LERONE MARTIN

awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor

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RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

discussion series begins featuring Adrienne Davis, John Inazu, and Eboo Patel

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RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

discussion featuring
Ken Stern and Eboo Patel

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04|03|18

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

discussion featuring Emma
Green and John Inazu

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Event to commemorate
Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr.'s death featuring a
lecture by **PROF.**

JONATHAN WALTON

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04|17|18



04|19|18

RELIGION, POLITICS, AND AMERICAN CULTURE COLLOQUIUM

gathers
for the last meeting
of the academic year

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RELIGION & POLITICS ONLINE JOURNAL

celebrates five years with
special print anthology

PG 26

05|01|18



05|18|18

Students graduate
from Washington
University with a
**MINOR IN RELIGION
AND POLITICS**

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LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



As my chancellorship draws to an end here at Washington University, it gives me great pride to reflect on the impressive growth of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. Since its beginning in 2009 – thanks to the tremendous generosity of Sen. John C. Danforth and the Danforth Foundation – the Center has recruited a talented director and faculty that will continue to strive to meet the Center’s mission to foster rigorous scholarship and inform broad academic and public communities regarding the intersections of religion and U.S. politics. The Center has also developed a postdoctoral fellowship program to support early career scholars, and it has built a curriculum and a minor in religion and politics for undergraduate students. Throughout it all, Sen. Danforth has remained engaged, most recently to kick off the Center’s programming year in September 2017 with “Preserving a United Nation: Moving Forward Together Despite Our Differences.”

These are challenging and complex times for our country and the world, and the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is well poised to continue its momentum as a leader in fostering conversations among groups that hold widely diverse views about religion and politics.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Wrighton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

MARK S. WRIGHTON

Chancellor

LETTER FROM THE CENTER DIRECTOR

The past year generated valuable and rewarding opportunities for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics to collaborate with new partners across the university as well as beyond its borders. We hosted Eboo Patel, the influential Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and a member of our National Advisory Board, as a Danforth Visiting Scholar at the Center, where with Prof. John Inazu he co-taught a course on “Religion, Politics and the University” and participated in a spring series of Center-sponsored public events on “Religion and Politics in an Age of Fracture” (see pages 19-21). We also co-sponsored events for the first time with two more Washington University schools: a panel discussion on “The Relevance of Religion for Leadership” with the Olin Business School’s Bauer Leadership Center, and a lecture by the Iraqi-American conceptual artist Michael Rakowitz with the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts (see page 24). This work adds to years of constructive collaborations with the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and numerous departments and units across the School of Arts & Sciences.



As 2017 marked the five-year anniversary of our online journal, *Religion & Politics*, we produced a beautiful print anthology of some of our best published pieces (see page 26). The selected articles are complemented by original artwork, new photography, and fresh design to enrich the thoughtful analyses that have helped the journal win awards and exceed our goals over these past five years.

As ever, we thank you and all of our collaborative partners for the role you play in supporting the scholarship, teaching, and public outreach that drive our mission of educating students and the wider community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Marie Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

R. MARIE GRIFFITH

Center Director

RIGOROUS RESEARCH AND TEACHING

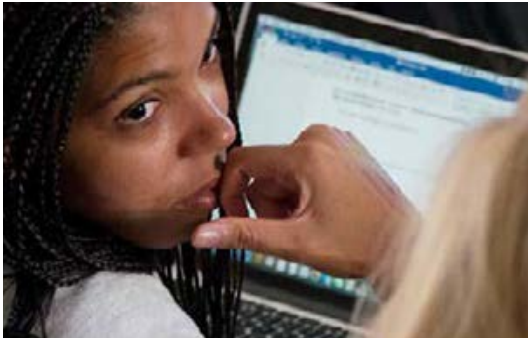
“My coursework as a minor in Religion and Politics breathed life into my college experience. As a graduating senior, I cannot emphasize how immensely grateful I am for the opportunity to engage in conversations about, and to grow in my understanding of, these two profoundly important identities that shape how individuals view and interact with themselves and the world around them.”

KATE ALEXANDER

Washington University, A.B. 2018 (Major: Biochemistry, Minor: Religion and Politics)



Prof. Lerone Martin asks students to consider the similarities and differences in the philosophies, approaches, and legacies of two leaders in his course "Between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.: Race, Religion, and the Politics of Freedom."



John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics class meetings.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Coursework in Religion and Politics provides a foundation and structure for students to engage in critical reflection, research and scholarship, and writing. Individual courses cover a wide spectrum of topics related to the intersection of American religion and politics, ranging from economics and politics in the British colonies to enduring and contemporary issues such as nationalism and globalization, gender, sexuality, race, and religious freedom. The collective focus of the curriculum is the cultivation of research and interpretive skills necessary for analyzing and responding to issues that shape society and culture in the United States.

FALL 2017

- American Unbelief from the Enlightenment to the New Atheism
- Jewish Political Thought
- Law, Religion, and Politics
- Love and Reason
- Native American/Euro-American Encounters: Confrontations of Bodies and Beliefs
- Religion and American Society
- Solidarity and Silence: Religious Strategies in the Political Sphere
- Topics in Religion and Politics: Religious Celebrity
- Virtues, Vices, Values: Regulating Morality in Modern America

SPRING 2018

- Between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.: Race, Religion, and The Politics of Freedom
- Jesus, Jazz, and Gin: The 1920s and the History of Our Current Times
- Religion and Politics in American History
- Religion and the State: Global Mission, Global Empire
- Religion, Environmentalism, and Politics
- Religion, Politics, and the University
- Zionism

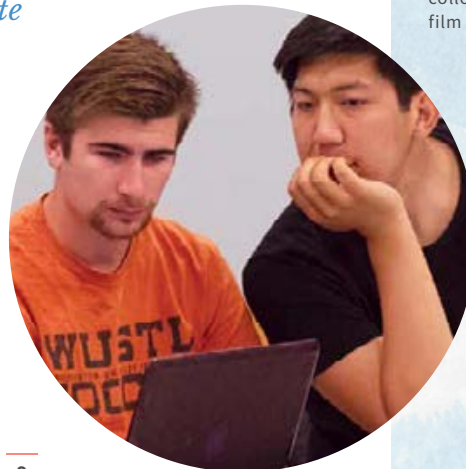


MINOR IN RELIGION AND POLITICS

The religion and politics minor is an interdisciplinary program that combines resources from the Center on Religion and Politics with relevant offerings from other academic programs, including Religious Studies, Political Science, History, American Culture Studies, African American Studies, English, and Women and Gender Studies. The religion and politics minor provides an opportunity for exploring in sustained ways how religion and politics have intersected in American culture, both in historical and contemporary terms.

“The tensions inherent to a religiously and politically diverse society underlie many of the debates within the law, and my background through my undergraduate minor in religion and politics has helped ease the adjustment required for the level of analysis expected in law school.”

JACK WEST
Washington University,
A.B. 2016 (Major: Economics, International and Area Studies,
Minor: Religion and Politics)
J.D. Candidate, Wash U Law Class of 2019



MINOR IN RELIGION AND POLITICS REQUIREMENTS

15 units of coursework, including:

L57 RelPol 201: Religion and American Society (3 units) **or**
L57 RelPol 225: Religion and Politics in American History (3 units).

12 additional units, 9 of which must be 300- or 400-level, and 9 of which, at any level, must be taught by Center faculty.

Attendance at five events sponsored by the Center on Religion and Politics (lectures, colloquia, lunch discussions, film screenings).



Dr. Gene Zubovich, a postdoctoral fellow with the Center, receives feedback on his current work in the Center's colloquium meeting on February 8, 2018.

2017-2018

COLLOQUIUM ON AMERICAN RELIGION, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

The Center's ongoing colloquium fosters 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.

SEPTEMBER 7

Moshe Kornfeld

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

SEPTEMBER 21

Dana Logan

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

OCTOBER 5

Christine Croxall

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

OCTOBER 26

Krister Knapp

Wash U, History

NOVEMBER 9

John Inazu

Danforth Center on Religion
and Politics & Law School

NOVEMBER 30

Laurie Maffly-Kipp

Danforth Center on Religion
and Politics

JANUARY 25

Emily Dumler-Winckler

Notre Dame/SLU, Theology

FEBRUARY 8

Gene Zubovich

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

FEBRUARY 22

Lerone Martin

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

MARCH 8

Valerie Elverton Dixon

Independent Scholar/
formerly Andover Newton,
Social Ethics

APRIL 5

Rachel Ellis

UMSL, Sociology

APRIL 19

Fannie Bialek

Danforth Center on
Religion and Politics

PRODUCTIVE
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

“I cannot express how much I appreciate the events the Center hosts throughout the semester. Having the opportunity as an undergraduate student to interact with and learn from leading scholars, prominent religious figures, and public intellectuals has allowed me to learn and grow outside of the classroom in a way that I never expected.”

ISMENE VEDDER
Class of 2020



Ismene Vedder, a Washington University undergraduate student, questions Prof. Jonathan Walton about potential conflict between individual religious commitments and liberal democracy after his public lecture for the Center on April 17, 2018.



Former U.S. Senator from Missouri John C. Danforth explains why it is important to emphasize points of agreement between people with different political agendas.

PRESERVING A UNITED NATION: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES

09|06|17 Center Director **Marie Griffith** interviewed former U.S. Sen. **John Danforth** about the challenges facing our divided nation and how citizens across the political spectrum can recommit ourselves to preserving unity despite our many differences. Following the interview, the audience asked questions of the guest speaker, including some related to his opinion piece published two weeks before the event in *The Washington Post*.

“I do think that if we’re going to move forward, to unite the country, I think a generosity of spirit is the answer, and with people who you don’t agree with on particular issues. I think a generosity of spirit also includes humility about yourself.”

JOHN C. DANFORTH



1. An audience member questions Sen. Danforth about the Johnson Amendment. 2. Sen. Danforth greets an attendee after his public event. 3. Sen. John Danforth offers his thoughts on the American mission of “holding things together.” 4. An overflow crowd views the event in the atrium space just outside the auditorium.



1. Fr. Perry greets a student who attended his lecture.
2. Fr. Perry answers an audience member's question about healing divisions within the Church.
3. Fr. Perry mingles with guests at the reception after his public lecture.
4. A student attendee asks Fr. Perry about Pope Francis's contributions to mysticism.

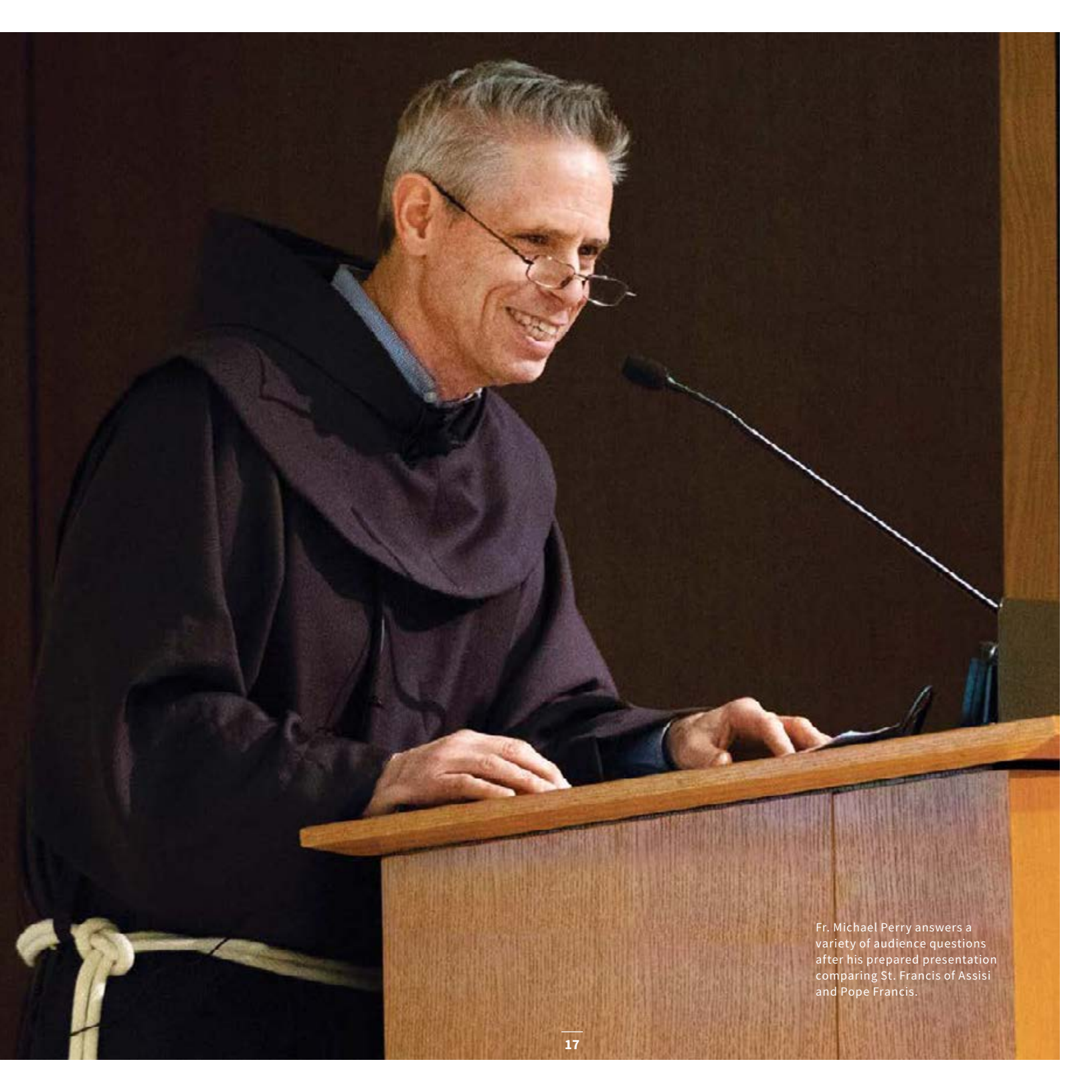
WHAT DO FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRANCIS OF BUENOS AIRES HAVE IN COMMON? A 'FRANCISCAN' PERSPECTIVE ON THE COMMON GOOD

01|30|18 Fr. Michael Perry, a member of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans), currently serves as the Minister General (leader) of the Order. Fr. Perry discussed the “distinct Franciscan social vision” shared by Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis, including the interplay of the personal and political, a spiritual vision that gives preference to the poor, an ecological orientation that is both social and environmental, and the willingness to cross boundaries to move forward.

“In the texts of Jesus it’s not about climbing, it’s about going down. Going down to where there’s pain, going down to where there’s darkness, going down to where there’s hopelessness. Being willing to go down and to stand in the middle of that is, I think, the beginning. How is Pope Francis helping us to do that? He’s inviting us to go down. His model of a church is a church that goes down.”

FR. MICHAEL PERRY





Fr. Michael Perry answers a variety of audience questions after his prepared presentation comparing St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis.



Eboo Patel speaks about his experiences as a leader of interfaith cooperation in religiously diverse social landscapes.

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

This discussion series approached the challenges arising out of divisions over religion and politics and how to bridge relationships in spite of those challenges. It featured three interdisciplinary conversations organized to bring together speakers representing areas including law, journalism, private industry, and the nonprofit world.

FIRST DISCUSSION: ADRIENNE DAVIS, JOHN INAZU, AND EBOO PATEL

02|06|18 Adrienne Davis, Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis, moderated the first discussion, which brought together **John Inazu**, the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion, and **Eboo Patel**, Ph.D., a visiting scholar and the founder-director of Interfaith Youth Core. The conversation focused on topics considered in their concurrently running course offered by the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, “Religion, Politics, and the University.”

“Number one, everyone has a right to define who they are and they have a right to a reasonable expression of that identity. The second part is that we should seek to encourage positive relationships between different groups. Relationship does not mean agreement. It doesn’t mean we are going to agree on everything, or even lots of things. It means we can find some things to positively do together. Part three of pluralism is some kind of understanding or commitment to an idea of a common good.”

EBOO PATEL

1. Law professor Adrienne Davis listens to an audience member’s comments after her moderation of the public conversation between Inazu and Patel. **2.** Student Neil Aggarwal asks the speakers about reasonable conceptions of the common good. **3.** Eboo Patel offers his thoughts about the idea of context on a college campus when considering issues of identity. **4.** John Inazu meets an audience member with a question about the presentation.



1. Ken Stern signs his recent book for an audience member.
2. Stern offers a story of how he sought to understand a different point of view by participating in a hunting trip.
3. Stern greets an audience member after his public event.

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

SECOND DISCUSSION: EBOO PATEL AND KEN STERN

03|06|18 Eboo Patel talked with **Ken Stern**, former CEO of National Public Radio.

The conversation centered on ideas from Stern's recent book, *Republican Like Me:*

How I Left the Liberal Bubble and Learned to Love the Right.

"There's a consequence to only hearing one side of a story, whether conservative or liberal. We lose the presumption that there's good faith on the other side. When that happens, I think that becomes a very dangerous dynamic in American democracy."

KEN STERN





“The seminar ‘Religion, Politics, and the University’ was an incredible exploration of issues surrounding religious pluralism, identity, and the American system of higher education. We had the unique opportunity to probe our professors and guests, including Sen. Danforth and Emma Green of The Atlantic, on the divisive issues on college campuses today surrounding freedom of speech, faith, and pluralism. This course and lecture series has opened my eyes to conflicts and divisions occurring on Wash U’s campus, as well as in America at large.” [READ MORE ON PG 45](#)

JACOB CANTRELL
Class of 2019

RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AN AGE OF FRACTURE

THIRD DISCUSSION: JOHN INAZU AND EMMA GREEN

04|03|18 John Inazu interviewed Emma Green, a staff writer at *The Atlantic*. Their discussion included the role of social media and free speech on campus.

“I write about politics, policy, and religion, in part because I think religion is an underappreciated door into understanding so many issues, not only on a policy level, but on a cultural level in America and around the world.”

EMMA GREEN

1. Emma Green explains her thoughts of how social media practices are changing media appetites.
2. An audience member asks Green about recent issues of free speech on college campuses.



AN EVENT IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEATH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RELIGION AS A CONVERSATION STARTER! EMBRACING KING'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF "SOMEBODINESS"



04|17|18 The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics was pleased to create this special event in recognition of the 50TH anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event featured social ethicist and scholar of American religions **Prof. Jonathan Walton**, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard University, who delivered the public lecture followed by an on-stage conversation with **Prof. Lerone Martin** about King's legacy to understanding religion and politics today.

"King is valuable insofar as he demonstrates that religious commitments need not be inconsistent with the normative values of modern democracy. It was Martin Luther King Jr.'s theological reservoir that compelled him to affirm the humanity and dignity of all regardless of race, class, or religion."

JONATHAN WALTON



1. Undergraduate student Camille Borders asks Prof. Walton about ways to bring nuance to King's legacy. **2.** Center Director Marie Griffith introduces the guest lecturer, Prof. Jonathan Walton, to Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth after the program. **3.** Prof. Jonathan Walton speaks to the audience gathered in Graham Chapel. **4.** Audience member Dr. Tullia Hamilton thanks Prof. Walton for his public lecture about King.



Prof. Jonathan Walton considers the role of the civil rights movement in relation to Prof. Lerone Martin's question about King's legacy as an evangelical.



Director of the Faith and Work Initiative at Princeton University, Prof. David Miller, offers connections between religious commitments and leadership values at an event co-sponsored by the Center and the Bauer Leadership Center at the Olin Business School on February 13, 2018.

EVENT COLLABORATIONS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics was glad to collaborate on several events this year with other units at Washington University in St. Louis and other organizations.

09|06|17 Preserving a United Nation: Moving Forward Together
Despite Our Differences
*Co-sponsored with the Public Interest Law and Policy Speakers Series
at Washington University Law School*

02|13|18 The Relevance of Religion for Leadership: How Religious Traditions
Can Inform Leadership Values and Approaches
Co-sponsored with the Bauer Leadership Center at Olin Business School

03|01|18-03|03|18 Religion and Politics in Early America Conference
Co-sponsored with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri

04|25|18 Public Lecture by artist Michael Rakowitz
Co-sponsored with Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts



1. The audience enjoys Prof. David Miller's presentation on faith and leadership. **2.** George Bauer introduces the panel that will discuss the role of religion in their professional lives. **3.** Prof. Sandra Gustafson remarks on her tenure as editor of *Early American Literature* at the "Religion and Politics in Early America" conference. **4.** *Minaret*, Performance art by Michael Rakowitz, 2001-ongoing. Mosque alarm clock, megaphone.



Religion & Politics is an online news journal that focuses on one of the most contested issues of our time: the role religion plays in the civic and political life of the United States. This journal is an important component of the Center, an entity that supports excellent scholarly research and teaching while also promoting the public understanding of religion and politics. Our journal was founded in 2012 to explore live issues from a broad range of diverging viewpoints, rather than a single perspective.

“We are honored to work with so many talented writers at the journal. The print anthology is a beautiful extension of our online work, and it’s a gift to see some of our greatest hits on paper.”

TIFFANY STANLEY
Managing Editor, Religion & Politics

SPECIAL PRINT EDITION

We commemorated the first five years of *Religion & Politics* with a special print anthology highlighting some of the best pieces to date. The work of 22 contributors is presented with original artwork, new photography, and a beautiful design.

2012

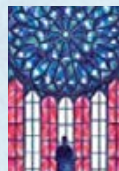


Illustration by
Irene Rinaldi

WHY AMERICAN EVANGELICALS LOVE THE BRITISH

By Molly Worthen

WHY IS AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SO RELIGIOUS?

By Andrew Preston

THE LONG APPROACH TO THE “MORMON MOMENT”

By Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp



Illustration by
Richie Pope

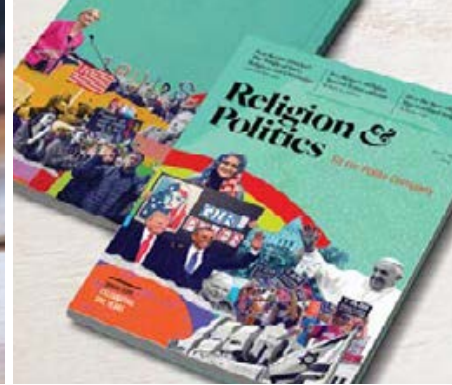
POST-RACIAL AMERICA? THE TANGLE OF RACE, RELIGION, AND CITIZENSHIP

By Judith Weisenfeld

JON STEWART, RELIGION TEACHER EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Mark Oppenheimer

Visit religionandpolitics.org to read the full articles.



2013

THE END OF DOMA AND THE DISMANTLING OF THE "STRAIGHT STATE"

By Sarah Barringer Gordon



Illustration by
Angie Wang

RADICAL MISSION: WHAT IS AISH HATORAH TRYING TO TEACH YOUNG JEWS?

By Michael Schulson

2014

MARILYNNE ROBINSON IN MONTGOMERY

By Briallen Hopper



Alex Wong/
Getty Images

FOR MICHAEL BROWN, JUSTICE IS NOT A GIFT. IT'S A RIGHT.

By Lerone A. Martin

2015

POPE FRANCIS COMES TO WASHINGTON

By Leslie Woodcock Tentler



H. William Tetlow/
Fox Photos/Getty Images

ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD, BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

By Marie Griffith

WHEN OUR TRUTHS ARE IGNORED

By Yolanda Pierce

2016

ORLANDO: A LAMENT

By Mark D. Jordan



Dario Pignatelli/
Getty Images

DONALD TRUMP AND THE EVANGELICAL POLITICAL SCHISM

By Mark Valeri

ERIC METAXAS'S BONHOEFFER DELUSIONS

By Charles Marsh

AN ATHEIST FOR PRESIDENT?

By Leigh Eric Schmidt



Illustration by
Irene Rinaldi

IN THE AGE OF TRUMP, MUSLIM VOTERS MOBILIZE

By Tiffany Stanley

THE QUEST FOR CONFIDENT PLURALISM

By Gordon Haber

2017

THE THEOLOGY OF STEPHEN K. BANNON

By Hugh Urban

REINHOLD NIEBUHR, WASHINGTON'S FAVORITE THEOLOGIAN

By Gene Zubovich

WHERE DO PRO-LIFE FEMINISTS BELONG?

By Ellen Duffer

HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS SIDELINED RELIGION

By Shaun Casey



Illustration by
Richie Pope

DYNAMIC
LEADERS

“The Danforth Center on Religion and Politics has been my home away from home this year. What makes the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics unique is the faculty and staff’s willingness to engage students on personal and academic levels. They are truly committed to the success of each student.”

AMBER AARSVOLD

Washington University, A.B. 2018 (Major: Religious Studies)



Prof. Leigh Schmidt asks students to consider the ways the U.S. has been imagined as both a deeply Christian nation and a thoroughly secular republic in the course "Religion and Politics in American History."



ANNA F. BIALEK

FACULTY

Anna F. Bialek joined the Center as Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics in 2017. Her 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 in fall 2018, “Vulnerability and Violence” and “Gender and Power in Religious Thought.”

Her appointment with the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics follows her position as Lecturer with the Religious Studies program at Washington University in St. Louis for the 2016-2017 academic year. She was Visiting Assistant Professor in Religious Studies at Brown in 2015-2016.

Bialek earned the Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Brown University in 2016. She earned a 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.

Prof. Bialek was on research leave in spring 2018.





R. MARIE GRIFFITH

Marie Griffith, the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, is director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and the editor of the Center's journal, *Religion & Politics*.

Prof. 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 newest book, *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics* was published by Basic Books in 2017. Her other publications include *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (University of California Press, 1997); *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity* (University of California Press, 2004); a co-edited volume of essays titled *Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006); a co-edited collection titled *Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008); and an edited volume of primary sources titled *American Religions: A Documentary History* (Oxford University Press, 2008). She 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. She has been featured on a variety of media outlets, most recently *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, *The Washington Post*, and *Politico*.





JOHN INAZU

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 John C. Danforth 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). Inazu is 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*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

Inazu was the Washington University 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 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.





LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP

Laurie Maffly-Kipp is the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

Her research and teaching focus on African American religions, Mormonism, religion on the Pacific borderlands of the Americas, and issues of intercultural contact. Her publications include: *Religion and Society in Frontier California* (Yale University Press, 1994); a co-edited volume of essays entitled *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006); a co-edited collection of essays, *Proclamation to the People: Nineteenth-Century Mormonism and the Pacific Basin Frontier* (University of Utah Press, 2008); *Setting Down the Sacred Past: African-American Race Histories* (Harvard University Press, 2010); *American Scriptures*, a Penguin Classics anthology of sacred texts (Penguin, 2010); and *Women's Work*, a co-edited collection of writings by African American women historians (Oxford University Press, 2010). Currently she is working on a survey of Mormonism in American life that will be published by Basic Books.

Prior to joining the Center, Maffly-Kipp taught 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 those from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., 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 is a past president of both the American Society of Church History and the Mormon History Association.





LERONE A. MARTIN

FACULTY

Lerone Martin is Associate Professor of Religion and Politics at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. He was awarded tenure in December 2017.

Martin is the author of 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. The book was the 2015 recipient of the prestigious Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize for outstanding scholarship in religious history by a first-time author from the American Society of Church History.

In support of his research, Martin has received a number of nationally recognized grants and fellowships, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The American Council of Learned Societies, The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion.

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. Martin joined the Center's faculty in 2014 as Assistant Professor after a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center. From 2010-2013, Martin was the Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Culture at Eden Theological Seminary.

Martin's commentary and writing have appeared in popular national media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and CNN.

He is writing a book on the relationship between religion and national security in American history to be published by Princeton University Press.





LEIGH ERIC SCHMIDT

Leigh Eric Schmidt is the Edward C. Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis.

From 2009 to 2011, Schmidt 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 serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Religion and American Culture*, and *Religion & Politics*.

Schmidt's most recent book is *Village Atheists: How America's Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation* (Princeton University Press, 2016). He is the author of *Hearing Things: Religion, Illusion, and the*

American Enlightenment (Harvard University Press, 2000); *Heaven's Bride: The Unprintable Life of Ida C. Craddock, American Mystic, Scholar, Sexologist, Martyr, and Madwoman* (Basic Books, 2010); *Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality* (HarperOne, 2005), which appeared in an updated edition from the University of California Press in 2012; *Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays* (Princeton University Press, 1995); and *Holy Fairs: Scottish Communion and American Revivals in the Early Modern Period* (Princeton University Press, 1989). In addition, Schmidt has served as co-editor of *American Religious Liberalism* (Indiana University Press, 2012), co-editor of *Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), and co-author of *The Religious History of America* (HarperOne, 2002).

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

FACULTY

Mark Valeri is the Rev. Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

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 beginning in 1996. His prior appointment was in the Religious Studies department at Lewis and Clark College.

His latest book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*, (Princeton University Press, 2010), received the 2011 Philip Schaff Prize from the American Society of Church History. Previous publications include *Law and Providence in Joseph Bellamy's New England: The Origins of the New Divinity in Revolutionary America* (Oxford University Press, 1994); *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 17: Sermons*

and Discourses, 1730-1733 (Yale University Press, 1999); the co-edited *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006); and the co-edited *Global Neighbors: Christian Faith and Moral Obligation in Today's Economy* (Eerdmans, 2008). 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, as well as the 2017-18 *Los Angeles Times* Distinguished Fellowship in the History and Culture of the Americas at The Huntington.

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 persuasion, evangelicalism, and secularism in the eighteenth century.

Prof. Valeri was on research leave in 2017-2018.



FACULTY AFFILIATES



CASSIE ADCOCK

Associate Professor in the Department of History and in the Religious Studies program, Washington University in St. Louis



ANDREW R. REHFELD

President and CEO, Jewish Federation of St. Louis; Associate Professor of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis



ABRAM C. VAN ENGEN

Associate Professor in the Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis

VISITING SCHOLARS



ELIZABETH MCCLOSKEY

Elizabeth Leibold McCloskey was a Danforth Visiting Scholar in residence at the Center for the 2017-2018 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.



EBOO PATEL

Eboo Patel was a Danforth Visiting Scholar with the Center for the 2018 spring semester. Patel is a leading voice in the movement for interfaith cooperation and the Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), a national nonprofit working to make interfaith cooperation a social norm. Patel co-taught the course "Religion, Politics, and the University" with John Inazu, and the pair also organized the spring 2018 discussion series "Religion and Politics in an Age of Fracture," which took place in spring 2018. Patel holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



CHRISTINE CROXALL

Christine Croxall earned her Ph.D. in history at the University of Delaware. Her research examines the interplay of global and local dynamics in the continental interior with the goal of reshaping our narratives of the cultural and religious development of North America. Her current project considers how Indigenous, black, and white inhabitants of the Mississippi River Valley responded to Catholic and Protestant missionaries between 1780 and 1830. Dr. Croxall taught the course, “Native American/Euro-American Encounters: Confrontations of Bodies and Beliefs,” in fall 2017.



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 spring 2018, “Religion, Environmentalism, and Politics.”



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 rituals of corporate bodies. Dr. Logan taught the fall 2017 course, “Topics in Religion and Politics: Religious Celebrity.”



GENE ZUBOVICH

Gene Zubovich earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and came 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 Prof. Leigh Eric Schmidt in spring 2018, “Religion and Politics in American History.”

STAFF



LESLIE DAVIS

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



DEBRA B. KENNARD

Debra B. Kennard is the Center's Assistant Director. She came to the Center in 2011 and brings experience from previous work in advertising and marketing communications, and her years as a community volunteer and leader with several organizations. She earned her B.A. in journalism from Indiana University and her M.A. in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis.



SHERI PEÑA

Sheri Peña is an Administrative Coordinator and manages the Center's financial operations, office administration, curriculum processes, and a variety of other support functions. She has over 20 years of broad administrative experience leading front and back office operations with local organizations.



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 Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *Politico*, 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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1. Krista Tippett chairs the third meeting of the National Advisory Board on September 13, 2017. **2.** Columnist Michael Gerson and Prof. Lerone Martin discuss the meeting's break-out sessions. **3.** Tom Bean and Prof. Sally Gordon continue the meeting's discussion as they depart. **4.** The Center hosted a trip to a St. Louis Cardinals game the evening before the meeting.



SUPPORTERS

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 Sen. 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 Rev. 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.

“Financial gifts facilitate a wide range of projects, from research and internship opportunities for students to professorships, postdoctoral fellowships, course enhancement, and open and accessible public events. We are deeply grateful to our donors whose contributions enable us to increase our impact and keep extending our reach.”

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

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

Sen. Danforth established in 2016 a 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.

MORRIS-CHOPIN INNOVATION GRANT FUNDS COURSE AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Dr. R. William Morris and Ms. Louise Chopin Morris established the Morris-Chopin Innovation Grant given to the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics for the purpose of improving current undergraduate courses, generating new courses of study for undergraduate students, or supporting the scholarly interpretation of issues in religion and politics for the public at large. This gift helped support the development of a new course, *Religion, Politics, and the University*, and a related public discussion series, "Religion and Politics in an Age of Fracture." The course and series were developed by Prof. John Inazu and Dr. Eboo Patel, a visiting scholar with the Center on Religion and Politics.



1. A student in the course "Religion, Politics, and the University" asks visiting scholar Eboo Patel about interfaith leadership. 2. Chancellor Mark Wrighton, Sen. John C. Danforth, and Mrs. Sally D. Danforth. 3. Center Director Marie Griffith greets Mrs. Marie Oetting before a public event. 4. The Rev. Priscilla Wood Neaves.

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2018-2019

LOOKING FORWARD

FALL 2018 COURSES

GENDER AND POWER IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Prof. Anna Bialek

This seminar examines the role of interpersonal relationships in recent religious, ethical, and political thought, with particular attention to the way they bring gender and sexual desire more centrally into view.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS AND POLITICS

Dr. Dana Lloyd

This course aims to transcend romantic and New Age notions of Native American spirituality and move toward an understanding of American Indian religiosity as tied together with a strong sense of place and a long history of oppression.

PILGRIMS AND SEEKERS: AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY FROM THE TRANSCEN- DENTALISTS TO THE MILLENNIALS

Prof. Leigh Schmidt

The seminar focuses on the formation of “spirituality” in American culture from the Transcendentalist world of Ralph Waldo Emerson on through more recent expressions of the “spiritual-but-not-religious” sensibility.

RELIGION AND AMERICAN SOCIETY

Prof. Marie Griffith

This course explores religious life in the United States. We will focus our study on groups and movements that highlight distinctive ways of being both “religious” and “American,” including the Americanization of global religions in the U.S. context.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AMERICA

*Profs. John Inazu
and Mark Valeri*

This interdisciplinary course, co-taught by a law school professor and an American historian, concerns the intersection of religion, liberty, and law in American culture. It introduces students to the major texts and historical issues concerning religious liberty, using legal history and case law, intellectual and social history, and political philosophy.

THE FBI AND RELIGION

Prof. Lerone Martin

This seminar examines the relationship between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and religion (i.e., faith communities, clerics, and religious professionals) as a way to study and understand twentieth century religion and politics.

THE POLITICS OF RELIGION, CRIME, AND PUNISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Cyrus O’Brien

This course traces the relationship between religion and the politics of crime and punishment in the United States from the Revolutionary Era to the Trump Administration.

VULNERABILITY AND VIOLENCE IN RELIGION AND POLITICS

Prof. Anna Bialek

This course examines the concept of vulnerability in contemporary discussions of trauma, mourning, terrorism, gun violence, violence against women, and racially motivated violence to consider this critical question of ethical thought: what does our past experience have to do with our preparation for the future?

UPCOMING EVENTS

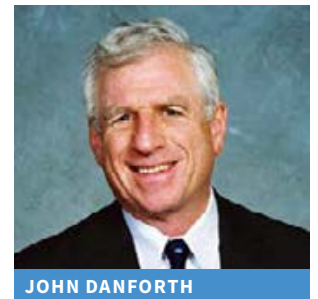
OVERCOMING POLITICAL TRIBALISM AND RECOVERING OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

A PUBLIC CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMY CHUA AND JOHN DANFORTH

09|06|18 7:00-8:30pm *Graham Chapel at Washington University in St. Louis.*
Reception Immediately Following

Amy Chua is the John M. Duff, Jr. Professor of Law at Yale Law School and *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. **John C. Danforth** served as the U.S. Senator from Missouri and is the author of *Faith and Politics* and *The Relevance of Religion: How Faithful People Can Change Politics*. Prof. Chua and Sen. Danforth will have an on-stage discussion about her new book, *Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations*.

More information about Center events can be found at rap.wustl.edu.



2018-2019

LOOKING FORWARD

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



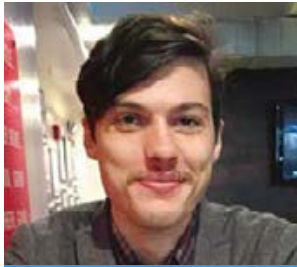
AARON GRIFFITH

Aaron Griffith is a doctoral candidate in the Divinity School at Duke University. His dissertation, “American Law and Gospel: Evangelicals in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” charts the history of evangelical Christian influence in American criminal justice and prisons in the second half of the twentieth century. The project argues that as postwar evangelicals positioned their religious movement as reputable and racially moderate, they helped do the same for the cause of punishment – bolstering the justice system’s claims to neutrality and its insistence that punishment could be colorblind, even as it increasingly incarcerated poor people of color. Yet their ministries also opened evangelicals’ eyes to the regular mistreatment of offenders.



DANA LLOYD

Dana Lloyd is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religion at Syracuse University. Her dissertation, entitled “Between God and Land: On Sovereignty, Indigeneity, and Religious Freedom,” focuses on the U.S. Supreme Court case *Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association*, a 1988 landmark case that denied the right of three American Indian nations to the free exercise of their religion for the sake of protecting property rights of the federal government. She completed law school and holds an LL.M. and an M.A. in Philosophy from Tel Aviv University.



CHARLIE MCCRARY

Charlie McCrary is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Florida State University. In December, he defended his dissertation, “Sincerely Held Religious Belief: A History,” which will become a book titled “Sincerely Held: American Religion, Secularism, and Belief.” The project examines the roles of religious sincerity and “sincerely held religious belief” in the U.S. state’s regulation of religion and interactions with believers, with case studies ranging from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first. It focuses especially on religious outsiders, including spiritualist women fortune tellers, leaders of new religious movements, eclectic conscientious objectors, and a radical black nationalist group.



CYRUS O'BRIEN

Cyrus O'Brien is a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan. His dissertation, “Faith in Imprisonment: Religion and the Development of Mass Incarceration in Florida,” places religion at the center of the study of mass incarceration in the U.S. It traces religion’s changing roles as Florida’s prison system expanded from an archipelago of small labor camps at the outset of World War II into one of the world’s largest criminal justice systems. Blending archival research and ethnographic interviews, it demonstrates that religion was a key force in the adoption of parole, the embrace of halfway houses, and the privatization of prisons.

“At a time of heightened suspicion about ‘fake news’ and media sourcing of accurate information, the Center stands as a fount of deep research that is not beholden to political parties, divisive ideologies, religious authorities, or corporate interests. Like the broader institution of Washington University within which we’re housed, the Center supports independent voices who produce outstanding scholarship while helping to bring that work to our students and diverse public audiences.”

R. MARIE GRIFFITH

Director, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

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Students actively discuss issues in their religion and politics classes.

“My interest in Religion and Politics began when I took a class during the fall of my first year. The course involved many field trips and guest speakers, which fascinated me with the ways communities of faith can influence politics to effect social change. I took another course my sophomore year. It was during that class that I realized that Center classes are what get me most excited to learn. My course this year has been one of the highlights of my time at Wash U; it was everything a seminar should be. I felt like I actually got to know my classmates and I was exposed to diverse perspectives and areas of knowledge.”

MARY GRACE GORMAN
Class of 2020



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