



John C. Danforth
RELIGION & POLITICS

JOHN C. DANFORTH CENTER ON
RELIGION AND POLITICS

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS



Small classes are a hallmark of Center coursework and allow thoughtful dialogue and individual attention from professors.

ABOUT THE COVER: Professors Cornel West and Robert George visited the Center for an on-stage conversation in April 2019.



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION AND POLITICS

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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2018-2019

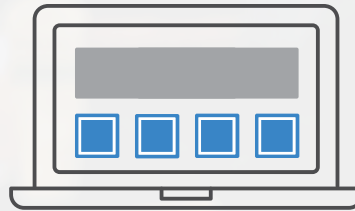
AT A GLANCE

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is a dynamic academic center with many different activities and community interactions happening each day. While we can't tell a full story with numbers, a snapshot can give a sense of this year's accomplishments.

13

UNDERGRADUATE
COURSES

OFFERED IN 2018-2019



45

ARTICLES PUBLISHED
IN *Religion & Politics*

IN 2018-2019

53%

INCREASE
OVER
PREVIOUS
YEAR

COURSE
ENROLLMENT

8

PUBLIC
EVENTS
SPONSORED BY
THE CENTER

6

OTHER
ENGAGEMENTS
SUPPORTED



**26% MORE
FOLLOWERS IN
2018-2019**

TWITTER.COM/
CTRRELPOL



**14% MORE
FOLLOWERS IN
2018-2019**

FACEBOOK.COM/
JOHNDANFORTHCENTER

12

**MEETINGS OF THE
COLLOQUIUM**

ON AMERICAN RELIGION,
POLITICS, AND CULTURE



48%

**INCREASE
OVER
PREVIOUS
YEAR**

**STUDENTS WITH
A DECLARED
MINOR IN
RELIGION AND
POLITICS**

LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



As I look back over 24 years serving as chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, I am pleased to share that one of the most important things I believe has resulted from the great teamwork at this institution is the building of community. The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is a model of this teamwork and the positive impact that can result for our students and the broader community through its activities in research, teaching, and public engagement.

In the nine years since its establishment and under the direction of Prof. Marie Griffith, the Center has cultivated an impressive faculty of eight scholars and has developed a strong undergraduate program including an undergraduate minor in religion and politics. Its postdoctoral fellowship program annually mentors young scholars on their way to academic careers across the nation and the world. Public events in this academic year alone brought numerous scholars, presidential advisors, and religious leaders to examine varied issues such as polarized politics and immigration to over 1,300 members of our local community. The Center's online journal, *Religion & Politics*, is an important activity of the Center and reaches tens of thousands of readers via social media alone.

The Center's mission to foster rigorous scholarship and inform broad communities about the intersections of religion and U.S. politics could not be more urgent in our complex and divisive times. When the Center was launched in 2010, former U.S. Senator John C. Danforth stated, "The more light that is shed on a subject the healthier we are." Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Sen. Danforth and the Danforth Foundation, as well as the many supporters since that founding gift, Washington University is working in yet another way to ensure a healthy community for years to come.

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

MARK S. WRIGHTON

Chancellor

LETTER FROM THE CENTER DIRECTOR

Greetings to you from Umrath Hall on the Washington University campus. Spring is transitioning to summer, as I write, and it's also a time of transition for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, as well as the university itself. Our most important change at the Center that comes out of this year is the addition of a new faculty member, Tazeen Ali, who will start as an assistant professor in July. Dr. Ali is an extraordinarily talented scholar of Islam in America, and we are very fortunate to have recruited her to Washington University. You can read more about her on p.52 of this report.

It's also a time of administrative transition within the university, as Mark Wrighton concludes his chancellorship and Holden Thorp ends his term as provost. All of us at the Center greatly admire both leaders and will miss working with them, even as we look forward to creative endeavors with our new chancellor, Andrew Martin. Mark and Holden have been exemplary mentors and role models for all of us, and I'm deeply thankful for the many tangible ways each of them has supported me, championed our faculty, and promoted the Center to broad constituencies.

As you will see in these pages, our year has once again been packed with teaching, scholarship, and public events. Highlights include two significant events on religion and immigration, an evening with lawyer and author Stuart Eizenstat, and public conversations between Melissa Rogers and Peter Wehner, and Robert George and Cornel West, to name but a few. Our growing cohort of students engaged thoughtfully with these and other guests, and we could not be prouder of our newest graduates in the class of 2019.

Looking back at the end of another busy year, I am struck by how many people's dedicated efforts have gone into all of our activities. Whether you have given money, offered collaborative support, attended an event, shared an article from our online journal, or contributed in some other way, we thank you for aiding us in our mission of educating students as well as the wider community.



R. MARIE GRIFFITH

Center Director



RESEARCH AND TEACHING

“My experience as a Religion and Politics minor in the Danforth Center was truly one of the highlights of my WashU experience. What I enjoyed most about the classes that I took was the frequency with which my professors taught interdisciplinary material. It was not rare or infrequent that a professor would draw from the disciplines of political science, religious studies, history, and law all in the same class period!”

ZACH PERSING
Class of 2019



Prof. Fannie Bialek guides the discussion in her seminar course "Gender and Power in Religious Thought."

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

1. Prof. Lerone Martin draws on his research for the class, “The FBI and Religion.” **2.** Students model respectful dialogue during classroom exchanges even when expressing opposing perspectives. **3.** Prof. John Inazu discusses issues of religious freedom in the U.S. with his students. **4.** Religion and Politics minor Morgan Dunstan poses a question related to her class reading. **5.** Gwyne Henke contributes a thoughtful perspective to her class discussion. **6.** Prof. Leigh Schmidt connects a student’s question to the class conversation.

Coursework in Religion and Politics provides a foundation and structure for students to engage in critical reflection, research and scholarship, and in-depth analytic 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, 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 2018

- Religion and American Society
- Vulnerability and Violence in Religion and Politics
- Politics of Religion, Crime, and Punishment in the United States
- Religious Freedom in America
- Gender and Power in Religious Thought
- Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from the Transcendentalists to the Millennials
- The FBI and Religion

SPRING 2019

- Modern Political Thought: Text and Traditions
- Religion and Politics in American History
- American Religion and the Politics of Sincerity
- Religious Dissent and Reform in American Life
- Native American Religions and Politics
- Religion and the Origins of Capitalism

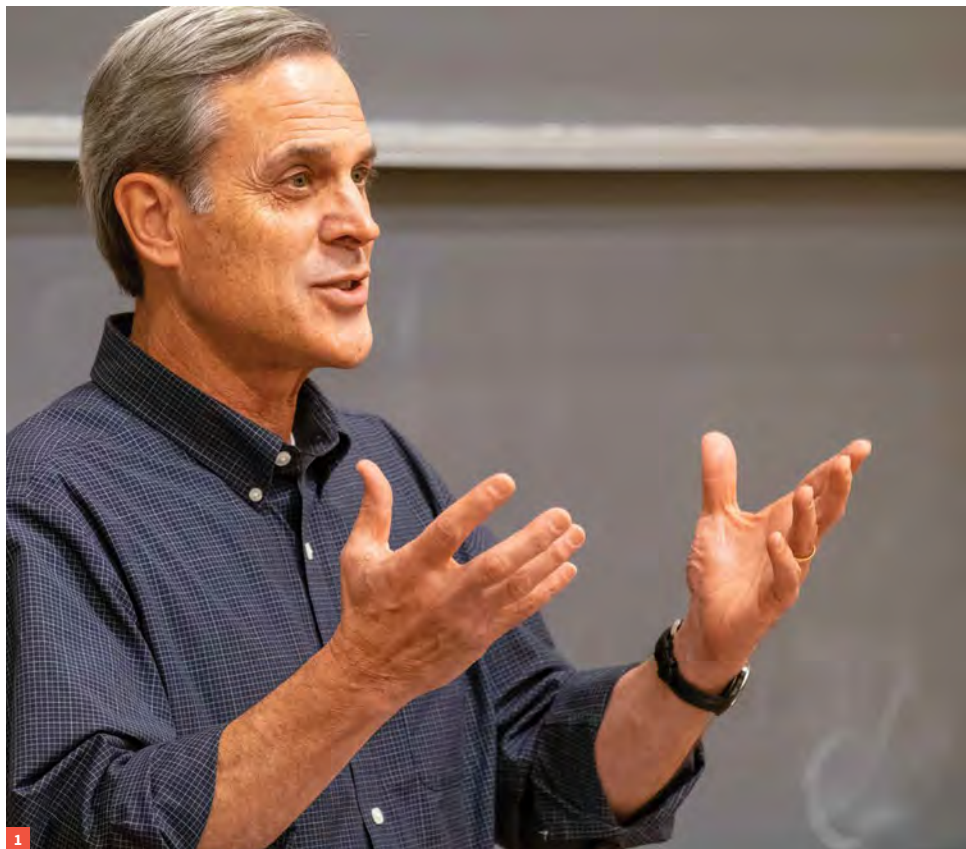




"I expected the class to operate similar to a typical lecture course, where we would be taught about the basic intersections of religion and politics in America's history. Instead, we, as a class, started from a piece of literature, discussed that, then Dr. Martin and Dr. Schmidt allowed us to take the discussion away from the specific event. Applying ideas we read about to more situations, sometimes contemporary and sometimes other historical moments, strengthened my understanding of the idea we were discussing much more than if I was exposed to it solely in a lecture setting."

CLAYTON FARRIS
Class of 2020





MINOR IN RELIGION AND POLITICS

The religion and politics minor provides an opportunity for sustained exploration of the ways in which religion and politics have intersected in American culture, in both historical and contemporary terms. Students with a declared minor in religion and politics enjoy individual advising with Center faculty. They are also invited to the Center's colloquium series and to special engagements with guests and visiting scholars throughout the academic year.

Nine members of the graduating class of 2019 earned a minor in religion and politics, joining 10 previous alumni who completed this course of study. The Center will begin the 2019-2020 academic year with 22 Religion and Politics minors.

1. Prof. Mark Valeri discusses early American ideas of religious freedom. **2.** A student considers religion as a shaping force in the American prison system. **3.** Religion and Politics minor Emily Cosgrove contributes to the class discussion of vulnerability in religion and politics. **4.** Religion and Politics minor Jacob Cantrell connects a reading assignment to the class discussion.



2018-2019

COLLOQUIUM ON AMERICAN RELIGION, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

The Center's colloquium, now in its seventh year, 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.

09|13|18

Tisa Wenger,
Yale University
Missionaries, "Native Liberty," and Colonial Secularisms in the Belgian Congo

09|27|18

Cyrus O'Brien,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
Prisons of Prosperity: Religious Organizations and the Prison Industrial Complex

10|11|18

Dana Lloyd,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
Dignity and Indigeneity

10|25|18

Charlie McCrary,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
Sincerely Held: American Religion, Secularism, and Belief

11|08|18

Aaron Griffith,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
Crime Concern and the Making of Postwar Evangelicalism

11|29|18

Elena Kravchenko,
Washington University Religious Studies Program
Women and the Orthodox Church in America

01|24|19

Amy Gais, Washington University Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities
Bound by Belief: Rethinking the Liberty of Conscience in Early Modern Political Thought

02|07|19

Mark Valeri,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
The Revolution of 1688 and How it Affected the Politics of Religion in England and New England

02|21|19

Abram Van Engen,
Washington University Department of English
American Exceptionalism and American Origins

03|07|19

Marie Griffith,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
Legacies of Slavery: The Value of Truthfulness

04|04|19

Monique Bedasse,
Washington University Department of History
Obnoxious Cult: Rastafari, Blasphemy, and the "Grim Specter of Racialism" in the Age of Decolonization

04|18|19

Leigh Eric Schmidt,
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics
"Baptism of Ire": Atheist Plaintiffs and Irreligious Freedom in Postwar America

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

“The Center on Religion and Politics makes special experiences for students to engage with event guests. For example, the Cornel West and Robert George event, and the chance to have lunch with West and George, created a unique opportunity to engage with top scholars on issues of pluralism, justice, and politics. It reinforced to me the Danforth Center’s emphasis on and respect for undergraduates, and the Center’s recognition that students should have voices in today’s most complicated debates.”

ALIZA ASTROW
Class of 2019



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION & POLITICS

Washington
University in St. Louis



John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION & POLITICS



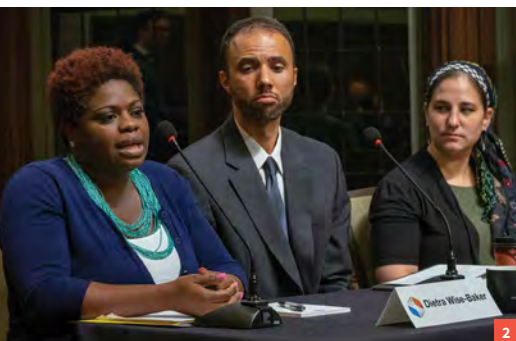
Melissa Rogers discusses religious liberty in the United States and how presidential administrations from the country's earliest history to the present have acted to support or weaken it.



Noah Bullock introduces his colleague, David Morales, who is the chief litigator for Cristosal, a nongovernmental organization working in El Salvador.

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED ORGANIZING: A FAITH-INFORMED RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AND IMMIGRATION

10|08|18 **Noah Bullock**, Executive Director of the nongovernmental organization Cristosal, discussed how a human rights-based approach, grounded in faith systems, informs work in El Salvador and with U.S. policy. How are the systems of economics, migration, and violence connected between Central America and the U.S., and what can people of faith do in response? He was joined by **David Morales**, the chief litigator for Cristosal and former Ombudsman for Human Rights in El Salvador from 2013 to 2016. A panel of local religious leaders joined the conversation to discuss some of the promise and challenges to implementing these strategies in the St. Louis area. Panelists were **Maharat Rori Picker Neiss**, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council; **The Rev. Travis Winckler**, Pastor, 2nd Presbyterian Church; and **The Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise-Baker**, Metropolitan Congregations United.



1. The audience includes students and local community members interested in faith-based activism. **2.** Local religious leaders bring home the issues in El Salvador discussed in the keynote address by relating similarities to issues their respective congregations address. **3.** Bullock translates for Morales, while The Rev. Mike Angell listens. Angell is the rector of a local Episcopal congregation that has developed a relationship with Cristosal to explore its relevance to St. Louis. **4.** Morales answers a question from one of the student attendees.



A FRESH VIEW OF A HISTORIC PRESIDENCY: AN EVENING WITH STUART EIZENSTAT

12|05|18 During a decade and a half of public service in three U.S. administrations, **Stuart Eizenstat** has held a number of key senior positions, including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981), U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration (1993-2001).

Eizenstat visited Washington University in St. Louis to discuss his recent book *President Carter: The White House Years*, which explores where Carter succeeded, where he failed, and how he set up many successes of later presidents. Ambassador Eizenstat was at Jimmy Carter's side from his political rise in Georgia through four years in the White House, where he was directly involved in all domestic and economic decisions, as well as in many foreign policy ones.



1. Eizenstat personalizes a book for a lecture attendee. 2. Center Director Marie Griffith joins Eizenstat for an on-stage interview after his address. 3. Provost Holden Thorp visits with another attendee to the lecture. 4. Eizenstat poses for a student's personal photo of the event.



Stuart Eizenstat shares rich details about his experiences in the Carter administration.



Peter Wehner answers a question about what he sees as a grounds for hope in the current political climate with a reminder that as a self-governing country, change is not beyond our control.

RELIGION AND POLARIZED POLITICS: PETER WEHNER AND MELISSA ROGERS ON REVITALIZING DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM

02|12|19 Presidential advisors **Peter Wehner** and **Melissa Rogers** took the stage for a conversation moderated by Center Director Marie Griffith. Wehner and Rogers shared their experiences with the relationship between religion and U.S. politics from within the executive branch and also considered current issues of religion in public life. Wehner served in the Reagan and G.H.W. Bush administrations and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. Rogers served in the Obama administration and is a nonresident senior fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution, as well as a visiting professor at Wake Forest Divinity School.

1. An audience member questions the speakers. **2.** Chancellor Emeritus William Danforth listens to the discussion between Rogers and Wehner. **3.** Religion and Politics minor Neil Agarwal tests a speaker's earlier comment with a question about the weaponization of faith in political rhetoric. **4.** Wehner and Rogers give time for a small luncheon with Religion and Politics students.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students in Center courses were invited to a small engagement with Mr. Wehner and Ms. Rogers during their visit to campus. The casual format allowed students to ask questions of the guests on topics that included subjects pertinent to their courses, career paths, current events, and the experience of working in a presidential administration.



WELCOMING THE STRANGER TO ST. LOUIS: RELIGIOUS RESPONSES TO RECENT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



02|20|19 This public event brought together local leaders to consider current issues related to immigrants and refugees with a keen focus on the St. Louis-area religious response. **Anna Crosslin**, President and CEO of the International Institute of St. Louis, discussed that organization's history and efforts in the current climate. Following her remarks, a panel of local clergy leaders representing a range of religious traditions discussed the actions their communities pursue to serve immigrants and refugees in the St. Louis area. Panel participants were **Maharat Rori Picker Neiss**, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council; **Dr. F. Javier Orozco**, OFS, Executive Director of Human Dignity and Intercultural Affairs, Archdiocese of St. Louis; and **Imam Eldin Susa**, St. Louis Islamic Center NUR.

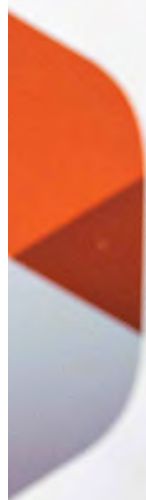


1. Imam Susa remarks that the history of the local Bosnian experience is one of the positive examples of how St. Louis welcomes and supports refugees. **2.** An audience member asks about the best use of her community's resources to welcome immigrants. **3.** Panelists share motivating histories from their own communities that fuel efforts to support current refugees. **4.** Fr. Orozco listens to an attendee's question at the reception following the event.



Anna Crosslin emphasizes the 100-year-old International Institute of St. Louis's consistent history of supporting immigrants and refugees.

Hatch, an American religious historian and president of Wake Forest University, explains his observation that the divide between a conservative and progressive religious view has become a chasm.



Center of
POLIT





1

THE POLITICAL CAPTIVITY OF THE FAITHFUL

03|28|19 Dr. Nathan O. Hatch is president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. He is regularly cited as one of the most influential scholars in the study of the history of religion in America and received national acclaim for his 1989 book, *The Democratization of American Christianity*. His lecture for the Center furthered some of the ideas in his commencement address to the Wake Forest University Class of 2018, “Both...And,” which asserted “the pressing need for all of us to understand the other side.” Dr. Hatch also took time to answer questions from the audience, which filled the lecture hall.



2



3

1. Religion and Politics minor Ismene Vedder challenges Hatch with a question after his lecture. **2.** Hatch visits with a lecture guest at the reception following his talk. **3.** Hatch delivers his address to an overflow crowd.

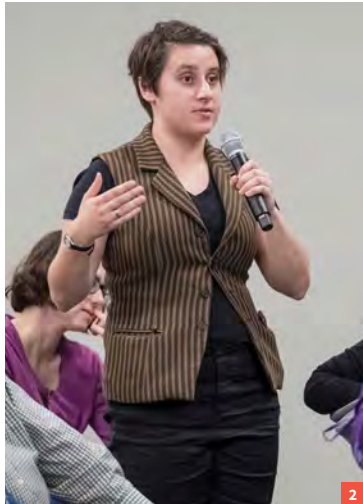


IDENTIFYING DEPRESSION: JEWISH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

04|07|19 Dr. David Pelcovitz delivered the Boniuk-Tanzman Memorial Lecture on Jewish Medical Ethics in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. Pelcovitz described dimensions of depression through an ethical lens and explored the unique risk in the Jewish community.

Isaac and Isabel Boniuk endowed the Boniuk-Tanzman Lecture on Jewish Medical Ethics in memory of their parents, Hyman and Rachel Boniuk and Joseph and Celia Tanzman, all of whom cared deeply about Jewish thought and ethics in the practice of medicine.

This year's lecture was the first sponsored by the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics after receiving the lectureship from the Washington University School of Medicine.



1. Boniuk family members listen to Dr. Jonathan Boniuk introduce the speaker. **2.** Rebecca Epstein-Levi, Washington University postdoctoral research associate, considers the speaker's statements from another perspective. **3.** The audience contemplates Pelcovitz's presentation. **4.** Pelcovitz appreciates Nabunya's comments during the panel discussion on issues of global child well-being.



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON CHILD WELL-BEING

04|08|19 Dr. Pelcovitz joined a panel of Washington University Brown School researchers and practitioners engaged in culturally contextual evidence-based practices that are improving the lives of children and families around the globe. Panelists joining Dr. Pelcovitz were **Prof. Lora Iannotti**, **Prof. Trish Kohl**, and **Prof. Proscovia Nabunya**.



David Pelcovitz welcomes questions from the audience following his presentation.



Cornel West listens to Robert George explain the urgent need for people to include others in their lives who challenge their most cherished, identity-forming beliefs.



LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION: WHAT'S THE POINT? ROBERT GEORGE AND CORNEL WEST IN CONVERSATION

04|16|19 This conversation centered on the value of an education grounded in academic freedom that challenges people of diverse political persuasions to forge understanding and greater connection across differences. In a time of sharp political and religious polarization, it's fair to ask what the role of our country's universities and colleges should be. Professors **Robert George** and **Cornel West** have spent years pondering, debating, and conversing about these questions. George is a conservative legal scholar and traditionalist Roman Catholic and West is a democratic socialist philosopher in the progressive Christian tradition. Two distinguished and widely celebrated intellectuals — and friends — they frequently discuss the importance of building trust, developing bonds despite political and religious differences, and holding one another accountable — urgent work that both strongly believe is at the heart of liberal arts education. This event was co-sponsored with support from The Veritas Forum.

1. West greets Ben Sanders III, a faculty member at Eden Seminary, during the reception following the lecture. **2.** George signs a book for Religion and Politics student Christian Baker. **3.** West considers the value of truth-seeking in academic life. **4.** Religion and Politics minors Liam Mardis and Zach Persing bring questions for West and George to the Center's group discussion.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Religion and Politics minors were invited to a small group discussion with Professors George and West during their visit to campus. Students and professors exchanged questions and answers about current politics, free speech on campus, and productive relationships across divides.





1



2



3



4

EVENT COLLABORATIONS

The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics was glad to collaborate on several events this year with some Washington University groups, as well as other local organizations.

ALL IN WASHU

10|10|18 The Center cosponsored with the Wash U Student Union an event that brought together state and local politicians to speak about the importance of being civically engaged and ways that students can make a difference with their power to vote. Following the prepared comments, students and elected officials continued the discussion over a shared meal.

27TH ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

11|11|18 The Center cosponsored the presentation of the film “Father’s Kingdom” at the Missouri History Museum. Following the screening, Professors **Marie Griffith** and **Lerone Martin** moderated an audience discussion of the documentary, which explores religious and civil rights leader Father Divine and his International Peace Mission Movement.

DAY OF DISCOVERY, DIALOGUE, AND ACTION

02|20|19 The Center supported Washington University’s fifth “Day of Discovery, Dialogue, and Action” and its keynote speaker, **Irshad Manji**, internationally acclaimed advocate, scholar, educator, and best-selling author. Manji met with students for a lunch discussion about moving beyond labels, the topic explored in her recent book *Don’t Label Me*.

1. Manji encourages a student to consider alternate approaches in a scenario shared during the lunch gathering.
2. Students sit with local representative Jeff Hales, a city councilman in nearby University City.
3. Alderwoman Joanne Boulton representing adjoining City of Clayton talks with students about the relationship with WashU.
4. Chalaun Lomax prompts a new thread in the conversation as Sam Seekings listens during the lunch conversation with Irshad Manji.



Bruce Franks Jr. addresses students at the All In WashU civic engagement event and shares experiences from his activism and involvement in local politics. Rep. Franks was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2016 to serve the 78th district of the City of St. Louis.

**Religion &
Politics** Fit For Polite Company

ONLINE JOURNAL

Religion & Politics is an online news journal, dedicated to the two topics thought unfit for polite company. The journal is an important project of the Center and was founded in 2012.

We feature articles from scholars and journalists who proceed from a single premise: that for better and for worse, religion and politics converge, clash, and shape public life. These intersections happen everywhere, from our homes to our courts, from the statehouse to the schoolhouse, in the lab and on the battlefield. We strive to publish a range of views, rather than promoting a specific political perspective. We honor frank and respectful debate. We inform these discussions by taking the long view, providing historical context, critical analysis, and thorough research with compelling writing.



SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Southern Baptists,
Gender Hierarchy, and
the Road to Trump
by Marie Griffith

The Salvation of Langston
Hughes: A Conversation
with Wallace Best
by Josef Sorrett

The Social Gospel Roots of
the American Religious Left
by Vaneesa Cook

A Kind of Homelessness:
Evangelicals of Color
in the Trump Era
by Melani McAlister

The Politics of Religious
Freedom Under the
Trump Administration
by Jacob Lupfer

Football and the
Political Act of Prayer
by Paul Putz

The Politicization of the
Catholic Clergy Abuse Crisis
by John Gehring

American Muslim
Politicians: A New
Generation on the
Campaign Trail
by Monique Parsons

A Text That Preaches:
The Late James Cone's
Final Book Arrives
by Yolanda Pierce

What Is the Future of the
Evangelical-Republican
Coalition?
by Eric C. Miller

Ahmadi Muslims Have a
Storyed American History
— And a Legacy That Is
Often Overlooked
by Aysha Khan

What if the Israel-Palestine
Conflict Cannot Be Solved?
An Interview with
Micah Goodman
by Michael Schulson

The Political Progression
of Modern Mormon Women
by Joseph Stuart

What the U.S. Catholic
Church Gets Wrong About
Native Dispossession
*by Jack Downey and
Kathleen Holscher*

Revisiting the Legacy
of Howard Thurman,
the Mystic of the Civil
Rights Movement
by Gene Zubovich

The Private Faith of Black
Public Figures, from Ethel
Waters to Muhammad Ali
by Nyasha Junior

Is Schism Inevitable for the
United Methodist Church?
by Shannon Craig Straw

How Prominent Women
Built and Sustained the
Religious Right
by Emily Johnson

PEOPLE

“The Center has become my home over the last four years. It was the place where I grew the most as a student and a person, and I am so grateful to have found this wonderful group of people who have had such an influence on who I have become and who I hope to become.”

EMILY COSGROVE
Class of 2019



As Director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Prof. Marie Griffith often serves as host and moderator of public engagements.

FACULTY



ANNA F. BIALEK

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 a new undergraduate course for the Center in fall 2019, “The Good Life between Religion and Politics.”



Prof. Bialek gave the MLK Day lecture at Bais Abraham Congregation in St. Louis on “Heschel’s Sabbath Politics and Reparations.”

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.

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.

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.



R. MARIE GRIFFITH

R. Marie Griffith, the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, is currently the director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and the editor of the Center's journal, *Religion & Politics*. Her research focuses on American Christianity, including the changing profile of American evangelicals and ongoing conflicts over gender, sexuality, and marriage.

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. Before moving to Washington University in 2011, she served as professor of religion and director of the women and gender studies program at Princeton University, where she was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching; and later as the John A. Bartlett Professor of New England Church History at Harvard. In 2015 she was appointed a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

Griffith is the author or editor of six books. Her first, *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (1997), examines the practices and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her next book *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity* (2004), explores the history of

Christian-influenced attitudes and practices related to embodiment in modern America, culminating in the evangelical diet and fitness movement. These books, along with her three edited volumes — *Women and Religion in the African Diaspora: Knowledge, Power, and Performance* (co-edited with Barbara Dianne Savage, 2006), *Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States* (co-edited with Melani McAlister, 2008), and *American Religions: A Documentary History* (2007) — exhibit Griffith's varied research interests. Her latest book, *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics* (2017), traces conflicts over sexual morality, feminism, and gender that have riven American Christianity and politics for over a century. In addition to her books, Professor Griffith has published numerous scholarly articles, book chapters, and essays.

Griffith is a frequent media commentator and public speaker on current issues pertaining to religion and politics.



Prof. Griffith delivered a lecture at the SMU Center for Presidential History from her book, Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics, which was also broadcast on C-SPAN.

FACULTY



JOHN INAZU


John Inazu is the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion and holds a joint 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, *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving*

Through Deep Difference (University of Chicago Press, 2016), looks at legal and civic practices in a pluralistic society. 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 earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and his J.D. and B.S.E. from Duke University. 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. From 2014-15, he was a senior fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia.

In addition to his academic positions, Inazu serves as the executive director of The Carver Project (carverstl.org).



Prof. Inazu participated with Dr. Eboo Patel in public dialogues about pluralism in a polarized age at the University of Chicago, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Sarah Lawrence College.



LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP

Laurie Maffly-Kipp is the Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. She also serves as the Director of the Religious Studies program at Washington University in St. Louis Arts & Sciences.

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); *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) with Leigh Schmidt and Mark Valeri; and a co-edited collection of essays about Mormonism in the Pacific World, *Proclamation to the People: Nineteenth-Century Mormonism and the Pacific Basin Frontier* (University of Utah Press, 2008). She has also authored *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.



Prof. Maffly-Kipp delivered the 2019 Eugene England Lecture at Utah Valley University, titled "This is a Woman's Church," in February 2019.

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

Prof. Maffly-Kipp was on research leave in 2018-2019.

FACULTY



LERONE A. MARTIN

Prof. Martin contributed to a panel at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's conference on "Religion and Innovation" in April 2019.

Lerone A. Martin is Associate Professor in Religion and Politics at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.

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 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 has also been recognized for his teaching, receiving grants and fellowships from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. In 2019, the students in the College of Arts and

Science at Washington University in St. Louis awarded him the ArtSci Excellence in Teaching Award in Humanities.

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 has served as a research consultant for continuing education and recidivism at New York's Sing Sing State Prison, as well as an instructor at Georgia's Metro State Prison. Currently he is an instructor at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center. His commentary and writing have appeared in popular national media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and CNN.

He is writing a book on the relationship between religion, the FBI, 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, 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 is the author of *Hearing Things: Religion, Illusion, and the American Enlightenment* (Harvard University Press, 2000), which won the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Historical Studies and the John Hope Franklin Prize of the American Studies Association; *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), which received the Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History. In addition, Schmidt has served as co-editor for three volumes. 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. It was named one of CHOICE's Outstanding Academic Titles in 2017. He also serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Religion and American Culture*, and *Religion & Politics*.



Prof. Schmidt was a featured guest on the national NPR program 1A in January 2019, discussing contemporary forms of atheism and humanism.

FACULTY



MARK VALERI

Prof. Valeri delivered a paper for a Presidential Panel on Loyalty at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in January 2019.

Mark Valeri is the Reverend 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 and politics, in early America. He 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. It was also shortlisted for the 2011 American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Historical Study of Religion and selected as one of CHOICE magazine's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2010. The book 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. 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), which won the Mackemie Prize from the Presbyterian Historical Society; *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733* (Yale University Press, 1999); and two co-edited volumes.

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.

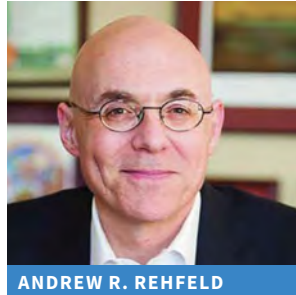
Valeri earned the Ph.D. from Princeton University, his M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Whitworth College.

He is currently working on Protestant ideas of conversion, approaches to other religions, and politics in Anglo-America from 1600 to 1776.

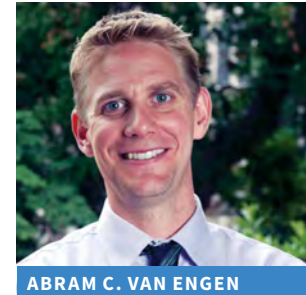
COURTESY APPOINTMENTS



Associate Professor, Department of History; Associate Professor of Religion and Politics (by courtesy)



President and CEO, Jewish Federation of St. Louis (through 03/31/19); Associate Professor of Political Science; Faculty Affiliate in the Center on Religion and Politics



Associate Professor, Department of English; Associate Professor of Religion and Politics (by courtesy)



1. Students discuss news coverage of current events related to their class discussion. **2.** Class discussions offer students the chance to think critically about their questions and analyze responses from peers. **3.** Students enjoy a group photo during their discussion with guest lecturers Robert George and Cornel West before their public event later that evening.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



AARON GRIFFITH

Aaron Griffith earned his Th.D. and M.Div. from Duke University Divinity School. He is currently at work on a book on the history of evangelical Christian influence in modern American criminal justice. The project examines evangelical crime politics, prison ministry, and prison reform in the second half of the twentieth century. In addition to teaching courses for the Danforth Center, Griffith also is teaching a course for the Washington University Prison Education Project in summer 2019.



DANA LLOYD

Dana Lloyd earned her Ph.D. from 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's research and teaching focus on secularism, religious freedom, and race in U.S. culture and politics. His book project, "Sincerely Held: American Religion, Secularism, and Belief," traces a history of the concept "sincerely held religious belief" from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first, focusing especially on religious freedom and secular governance. Charlie has a Ph.D. in American Religious History from Florida State University and a B.A. in Religion from the University of North Dakota.



CYRUS J. O'BRIEN

Cyrus J. O'Brien earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan. His dissertation, "Redeeming Imprisonment: Religion and the Development of Mass Incarceration in Florida," won the ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award. Placing religion at the center of the study of mass incarceration in the United States, the manuscript 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.

STAFF



SANDY JONES

Sandy Jones joined the Center in 2018 as Event Coordinator. She comes to Washington University after serving as Community Relations and Events Coordinator at a local nonprofit organization and brings several years of event management experience to her role. She earned her B.A. in Communications and Theatre Arts from California Lutheran University.



DEBRA B. KENNARD

Debra Kennard is Assistant Director of the Center with responsibility for multiple communications functions, event management, donor relationship support, and staff management. She previously worked in corporate advertising and marketing communications and also has enjoyed community volunteer work. She earned her B.A. from Indiana University in journalism and her M.A. in nonprofit management from Washington University in St. Louis.



SHERI PEÑA

Sheri Peña joined the Center in 2013 and currently serves as Administrative Coordinator, managing financial operations, office administration, course coordination, and a variety of other support functions. She has over 20 years of broad administrative experience leading front and back office operations including executive support, human resources and payroll coordination, financial processing, and meeting planning. Currently she is pursuing her A.A. at Washington University in St. Louis.



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 to the Center, she worked for *The New Republic*, *Harvard Magazine*, and Religion News Service. Her articles on religion and politics have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Politico*, and *The Daily Beast*, among other publications. She holds a B.A. in journalism and a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, in addition to a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.

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SUPPORTERS

1. Provost Holden Thorp visits with Dr. William Neaves. **2.** Chancellor Mark Wrighton, Sen. Jack Danforth, and Mrs. Sally Danforth. **3.** Rene Morency listens to a panel discussion sponsored by the Center. **4.** Dr. Jonathan Boniuk, his mother Mrs. Isabel Boniuk, his wife Mrs. Rena Boniuk, and their son Gavriel attended the 2019 Boniuk-Tanzman Memorial Lecture.

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.

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.



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.



1



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2019-2020

LOOKING FORWARD

FACULTY APPOINTMENT



Tazeen M. Ali will join the faculty as Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics on July 1, 2019. Ali's research and teaching focus on Islam in America, women's religious authority, and Islam, gender, and race.

Ali recently earned her doctorate in Religious Studies at Boston University. Ali was a visiting postgraduate student in Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh from 2017 to 2018. Prior to that she earned a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Boston University and a master's degree in Islamic Studies

from Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her bachelor's degree with honors in both religion and biology from Lehigh University. She will begin teaching for the Center in spring 2020.

FALL 2019 COURSES

Religions of St. Louis:
Communities of Faith and
Action Across the Region

Scriptures and Cultural
Traditions: America's Bible

The Good Life between
Religion and Politics

Puritans and Revolutionaries:
Religion and the Making
of America

African-American Religions

Slavery, Sovereignty,
Security: American Religions
and the Problem of Freedom

Law, Religion, and Politics

CONGRATULATIONS

Faculty Affiliate Andrew Rehfeld began his tenure as President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on April 1, 2019.

Postdoctoral Fellow Aaron Griffith accepted a position as Assistant Professor of History at Sattler College and will begin in August 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS *More information about Center events can be found online at rap.wustl.edu.*



AMY CHUA



JOHN DANFORTH



EDDIE GLAUDE

OVERCOMING POLITICAL TRIBALISM AND RECOVERING OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

A Public Conversation Between Amy Chua
and John Danforth

09|12|19 7:00-8:30pm *Graham Chapel at Washington
University in St. Louis. Reception Immediately Following*

JAMES BALDWIN AND THE MORAL CRISIS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

A Public Lecture
by Eddie Glaude

10|24|19 7:00-8:30pm *Graham Chapel at Washington
University in St. Louis. Reception Immediately Following*

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“The classes I took through the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics were the highlight of my academic career. As a business student, I felt like I was missing out on the point of what a university ought to be: the pursuit of truth. With this desire in mind, I began taking classes through the Center and was overjoyed at not only the material we were covering, but the arguments, debates, and dialogues that I was able to have with other students. As a traditional Catholic, I felt adequately challenged in these beliefs and presuppositions in many of these classes. Additionally, I was able to write argumentative research papers which proved to be a wonderful opportunity to research and make arguments about topics I was interested in. The Religion and Politics Center is proof that the free exchange of ideas at the modern-day university is not only necessary, but possible, and I am very grateful for its contribution to my studies.”

LIAM MARDIS
Class of 2019



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One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1066
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