



John C. Danforth Center on  
RELIGION AND POLITICS

# 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS







Prof. Griffith, Center Director, teaches a small seminar class.

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Sen. Jack Danforth and Prof. Amy Chua discuss her recent book in a public conversation hosted in Washington University's Graham Chapel.



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.*

**PG 2**  
AT A GLANCE

**PG 4**  
LETTERS

**PG 6**  
RESEARCH AND  
TEACHING

**PG 12**  
PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT

**PG 26**  
PEOPLE

**PG 45**  
LOOKING  
FORWARD



*John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2019-2020 Annual Report*

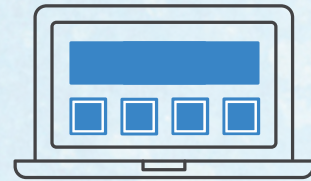
2019-2020

## 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.

14

UNDERGRADUATE  
COURSES  
OFFERED IN 2019-2020



48

ARTICLES PUBLISHED  
*in Religion & Politics*  
IN 2019-2020

12

PUBLIC EVENTS  
SUPPORTED BY  
THE CENTER

2000+

ATTENDEES AT  
PUBLIC EVENTS  
IN 2019-2020

11

MEETINGS OF THE  
COLLOQUIUM  
ON AMERICAN RELIGION,  
POLITICS, AND CULTURE



34

STUDENTS WITH  
A DECLARED MINOR  
IN RELIGION AND POLITICS

8

FACULTY  
MEMBERS



Umrath Hall is home to the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics.



## LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR



What a year it has been! In fact, I'd venture to say this past academic year was filled with some of the most pressing political and ethical challenges of our time, one of the most significant being our community and global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Citizens have come together — at the intersection of race, nationality, gender, and age; as well as business, education, religion, and politics — and focused in an act of global faith and resilience to fend off a public health crisis that has aimed to threaten the safety and well-being of our world's most vulnerable populations.

While this pandemic has crossed all boundaries, spilled over borderlines, reached unprecedented soils, and transcended all identity markers — our mobilization as a global community reminded me of our human and communal potential to do the same.

Now, imagine if we could harness this same collective energy for the sake of the entire common good. Imagine if we could harness this kind of momentum to become united and global citizens over issues such as health, income, and educational disparities, economic opportunity, climate change, healthcare, immigration, freedom of religious expression, international peace, and more.

This is why the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is so important — perhaps now more than ever. It's important as we intentionally bring people together, hear different perspectives, and reflect upon these and other issues of greatest concern to our intersecting communities. It was a busy and incredible year here at the Danforth Center as we analyzed many of these critical themes, and I look forward to continuing to foster rigorous scholarship as we fulfill our mission to improve lives in service of the greater good.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Martin'.

**ANDREW MARTIN**

*Chancellor*

## LETTER FROM THE CENTER DIRECTOR



Greetings once more on behalf of our faculty, fellows, and staff at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. Until March, this was already a year of changes: we welcomed the university's new Chancellor, Andrew Martin; Tazeen Ali, our first permanent faculty member teaching about Islam in the U.S.; the new Provost, Beverly Wendland; and the new Dean of Arts & Sciences, Feng Sheng Hu. These happy changes contrasted with the dramatic and stressful shifts in our lives as the pandemic shut down campuses across the U.S. and the world, including our own. Not long after, furious protests erupted over the killing of George Floyd, yet another in the chain of countless murders of black men and women in our history. At this writing, we're still learning how all these crises will affect our future.

As some of the Center's efforts shift online, we remain committed to our varied offerings related to teaching, scholarship, and public events. Highlights of the past year are detailed in these pages and included a public conversation about political tribalism between Amy Chua and John Danforth, a conference on the First Amendment's religion clauses, and lectures by Eddie Glaude, Asma Uddin, Jemar Tisby, and Dan Richter. As we gear up for a presidential election in November 2020, we are developing new initiatives and programming devoted to some of the most urgent issues of our time; and we pledge, as ever, to examine the past and present troubles and triumphs of our world with truthfulness, empathy, and rigor.

I am more mindful than ever that countless people work very hard to help us all succeed, from the staff whose dedication to our daily operations has been truly boundless, to our wonderful students, faculty colleagues across the university, loyal donors, followers on social media, writers and readers of our online journal, and enthusiastic participants of all kinds. Whatever you have done with or for the Center, we thank you profusely for your support and ask that you continue as we adjust our projects and pursuits. We hope you and your loved ones find what you need to be safe and well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Marie Griffith'.

**R. MARIE GRIFFITH**

*Center Director*



*John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2019-2020 Annual Report*

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING

*“I think the Danforth Center has a major role to play in two ways. One is increasing religious literacy for students and for the community at large to help people understand how different religious traditions are shaped by and affect society. The second part is modeling ways of interacting with people that don’t share one’s beliefs.”*

PROF. LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP



Prof. Ali participates in a public panel discussion sponsored by the Center.



UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

**1.** Toni Aguilar-Rosenthal considers the class discussion. **2.** Student discussion is central to the classroom experience. **3.** Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Cyrus O'Brien, opens his class discussion of assigned reading. **4.** Helen Webley-Brown captures a visiting scholar's remarks during her class. **5.** Students in the "Religions of St. Louis" course visit Maharat Rori Picker Neiss at Bais Abraham Congregation on one of their weekly trips to local religious sites.

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 2019

- Religions of St. Louis: Communities of Faith and Practical Action Across the Region
- Scriptures and Cultural Traditions: Texts & Traditions
- The Good Life Between Religion and Politics
- Puritans and Revolutionaries: Religion and the Making of America
- Slavery, Sovereignty, Security: American Religions and the Problem of Freedom
- Law, Religion, and Politics

SPRING 2020

- Religion and Politics in American History
- Love and Reason
- African-American Religions
- Islam in America
- Religion and Race in the United States
- Christian Theology and Politics in the Modern West
- God in the Courtroom
- Mormon History in Global Context



*“This might be one of the most important courses that you can take at WashU. It will teach you methods of skepticism and discourse that will help you better understand and navigate traditions, including the ones that you’re a part of, and give you the requisite theoretical knowledge to begin asking the question of what a good life might be in earnest.”*

STUDENT REFLECTION ON THE NEW COURSE “THE GOOD LIFE BETWEEN RELIGION AND POLITICS”





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. The Center’s interdisciplinary minor attracts students from many disciplines including natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities; whether pre-med, pre-law, or pursuing futures in education, business, or the arts, they report their studies are enriched by our curriculum. 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.

Ten members of the graduating class of 2020 earned a minor in religion and politics, joining 19 previous alumni who completed this course of study. The Center will begin the 2020-2021 academic year with 21 Religion and Politics minors.



1. Prof. Maffly-Kipp refers the class to the studied text. 2. Students use discussion to strengthen their perspectives. 3. Prof. Bialek challenges her class with a different perspective for consideration. 4. A student leads a small class discussion group.

2019-2020  
COLLOQUIUM ON AMERICAN RELIGION, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

The Center’s colloquium, now in its eighth 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|05|19  
Cyrus O’Brien,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
A Normal Life: Cultivating  
Dignity in an American Prison

09|26|19  
Tazeen Ali,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Reading the Qur’an in  
English: Interpretative  
Authority at the Women’s  
Mosque of America

10|17|19  
Molly Farneth,  
Haverford College Religion  
The Politics of Ritual:  
Power, Justice, and Freedom

10|31|19  
Elena Kravchenko,  
WashU Religious Studies  
Sacred Fight Against Racism:  
The Brotherhood of St.  
Moses the Black and the  
Retelling of African American  
History Through Orthodox  
Christian Forms

11|14|19  
Charlie McCrary,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Inquiry into the Calculative  
Nature of Secularism

12|05|19  
Miriam Levin,  
Case Western  
Reserve History  
Missionary Moderns:  
Protestant Women Export  
Progress in the Era of  
American Internationalism

01|16|20  
Lerone Martin,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Apostles of Justice: the  
Religious Culture of the FBI

02|13|20  
Marie Griffith,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Abortion and  
Religious Liberty

02|27|20  
Rachel Lindsey,  
St. Louis University  
Theology  
Lady of the Lens: Religion  
and Visual Grammers of  
American Citizenship in the  
Photographs of Margaret  
Bourke-White

04|02|20  
Dana Lloyd,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Wilderness in American  
Political Thought

04|16|20  
Fannie Bialek,  
Danforth Center on  
Religion and Politics  
Particularity and  
Democratic Love



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

*“It’s important and unique to have this space for students and broader members of the community to engage in our conversations and be exposed to different speakers that we bring to campus. I think it’s very relevant for becoming a more informed citizen at any stage, not just for students, but for all members of the community.”*

PROF. TAZEEN ALI



Prof. Eddie Glaude delivers a lecture to a full Graham Chapel on the Danforth Campus of Washington University in St. Louis.



**1.** An audience member begins the Q&A session with the speaker. **2.** Students and community members comprise the audience. **3.** Keeley shares her experiences building connections between different religious communities.

## BEYOND SIDES – TOWARDS RECONCILIATION: ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN WOMEN IN THE WEST BANK

**09|09|19** This presentation was cosponsored with the Brown School's Clark-Fox Policy Institute and featured photojournalist **Saskia Keeley**, who shared her experiences leading photography workshops that work to unite divided communities. Her work helps to unpack decades of fear and disconnection between Israeli and Palestinian women living in the West Bank by creating the opportunity for them to discover interconnectivity, respect, and empathy through the use of cameras and storytelling.



## OVERCOMING POLITICAL TRIBALISM AND RECOVERING OUR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

### A PUBLIC CONVERSATION WITH AMY CHUA AND JOHN DANFORTH

**09|12|19** Yale Law School Professor **Amy Chua** argues in her recent book that America must rediscover a national identity that transcends its political tribes. She joined **John C. Danforth** for a public conversation about her claims and prescriptions for solving the inequities that divide the country. Chua is the New York Times-Bestselling author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. Danforth is a former U.S. Senator from Missouri, attorney, Episcopal priest, and author of *Faith and Politics* and *The Relevance of Religion: How Faithful People Can Change Politics*.

**1.** Sen. Danforth listens to Prof. Chua's response to his question. **2.** Prof. Chua explains the underlying concepts in her recent book. **3.** Chancellor Andrew Martin welcomes the audience. **4.** Prof. Chua enjoys meeting an attendee after her on-stage discussion.







1



2



3

## JAMES BALDWIN AND THE MORAL CRISIS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

### A PUBLIC LECTURE BY EDDIE GLAUDE

**10|24|19** James Baldwin, one of America's most insightful critics, insisted that we understand the race problem in the U.S. as fundamentally a moral one. Choices had been made, and were continually made, to believe that ours was a country where white people were valued more than others. That choice distorted our individual characters and the character of the nation.

In his new book *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*, **Eddie Glaude Jr.** explores that choice as the source, along with the lies that sustain it, of the ongoing moral crisis at the heart of American democracy. Glaude met with a small group of students for lunch before his public lecture at Washington University's Graham Chapel. Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University.



4

**1.** Prof. Glaude delivers his lecture to a full Graham Chapel on the campus of WashU. **2.** WashU student and Religion and Politics minor Ismene Vedder poses a question to Prof. Glaude. **3.** Prof. Glaude answers a student's question about his lecture. **4.** Prof. Glaude inspires a lively Q&A session with the audience.

## WHEN ISLAM IS NOT A RELIGION: INSIDE AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**10|28|19** Somehow, the view that Muslims aren't human enough for human rights or constitutional protections is moving from the fringe to the mainstream along with the claim "Islam is not a religion." This conceit affects all Americans because the loss of liberty for one means the loss of liberties for everyone.

Religious liberty lawyer and scholar **Asma Uddin** unpacked these claims in an overview of her new book, followed by a panel discussion where she was joined by Washington University professors **Tazeen Ali**, **John Inazu**, and **Laurie Maffly-Kipp**.

**1.** The Center's Prof. Maffly-Kipp contributes to the panel discussion. **2.** Student Gwyne Henke approaches the author with a question about her lecture. **3.** Asma Uddin expands on the ideas in her book about religious liberty.



1



2



3





## THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

**11|04|19** This public dialogue between author **Jemar Tisby** and **John Inazu** centered on Tisby's acclaimed book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. Tisby's book considers the ways Christians of the past have reinforced theories of racial superiority and inferiority provides motivation for a series of bold actions Tisby asserts believers must take to forge a future of equity and justice.

Tisby serves as president of The Witness, a Black Christian Collective, and is completing his dissertation in the history Ph.D. program at the University of Mississippi. Inazu is the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion at Washington University. The Center on Religion and Politics was a cosponsor of this program presented by The Carver Project.



**1.** Jemar Tisby gives the audience an overview of his recent book. **2.** Tisby signs his book at the reception following the lecture. **3.** Prof. John Inazu, executive director of The Carver Project, which organized the event, introduces Tisby to the audience. **4.** An audience member probes some of the ideas presented during the lecture.



## “THE JUDGE” FILM SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

**11|13|19** This screening and panel discussion explored the new documentary *The Judge*, which tells the story of the Palestinian judge Khulud al-Faqih — the first woman to be appointed as a judge on a religious court anywhere in the Middle East.

**Dr. David Warren** moderated the panel discussion, which featured the film's director, **Erika Cohn**, as well as Washington University faculty members **Tazeen Ali** and **Nancy Reynolds**. The Center cosponsored the event with the Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Studies.

**1.** The film's director, Erika Cohn, offers background on the inspiration for the film. **2.** An attendee ponders the film's subject matter with the panelists. **3.** Dr. David Warren moderates the panel discussion following the film screening.







- 1. A law student takes the opportunity to pose a question to the keynote speaker.
- 2. Prof. Barclay presents her paper while Prof. Bhagwat listens.
- 3. Prof. Helfand explains his position while panel moderator Prof. Fannie Bialek and Prof. Girgis consider his point.
- 4. Panelists continue their conversations at the reception following the symposium.
- 5. Prof. Garnett waits as moderator Prof. Epps introduces their panel.
- 6. Prof. Inazu introduces the keynote lecturer.
- 7. Prof. Katz transitions the panel from Prof. DiGirolami to Prof. Lund.
- 8. Prof. Hill looks to her panelists for response.
- 9. Prof. McConnell delivers the symposium’s keynote address.

## THE RELIGION CLAUSES

**01|24|20** This interdisciplinary conference explored current and future trends in the First Amendment’s free exercise and establishment clauses. The Center cosponsored the event with the Washington University School of Law and the Washington University Law Review.

Panel participants included **Elizabeth Katz** (Washington University Law), **Marc DeGirolami** (St. John’s University School of Law), **Christopher Lund** (Wayne State University School of Law), Chad Flanders (Saint Louis University School of Law), **Stephanie Barclay** (BYU School of Law), **Ashutosh Bhagwat** (UC Davis School of Law), **Anna Bialek** (Washington University in St. Louis), **Gabrielle Girgis** (Princeton University), **Michael Helfand** (Pepperdine University School of Law), **Daniel Epps** (Washington University Law), **Richard Garnett** (University of Notre Dame Law School), and **Jessie Hill** (Case Western Reserve University School of Law).

John Inazu organized the conference and introduced the keynote speaker, **Michael McConnell** (Stanford Law School), who delivered the address “Freedom of Association: Campus Religious Groups.”





**1.** English graduate student Jonathan Koch enjoys Prof. Richter's answer to his question. **2.** Prof. Richter discusses his lecture with an attendee. **3.** Prof. Richter delivers his lecture to a full room in Hurst Lounge.

## LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE AS A TOOL OF EMPIRE: ENGLAND AND ITS RESTORATION COLONIES, 1660-1689

### PUBLIC LECTURE BY DANIEL RICHTER

**02|11|20** The imposition of royal or royally sponsored government brought with it the promise — or peril — of liberty of conscience. In some ironic ways during this period, religious freedom traveled from the “old world” to the “new,” and from the top down, and it was not always a welcome guest. Professor **Daniel K. Richter** is the Richard S. Dunn Director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.



## DESIGNER BABIES AND CHOOSING DISABILITIES: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF DELIBERATELY CREATING A DISABLED CHILD BY IVF

### THE BONIUK-TANZMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE ON JEWISH MEDICAL ETHICS

**02|20|20** Assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) have been used for decades to help infertile couples bear children and to assist couples in avoiding genetic abnormalities in their offspring. What if the parents' goal was to deliberately create a disabled child? Noted lecturer in the area of Jewish medical ethics **Dr. Daniel Eisenberg** considered the traditional Jewish approach to the use of new reproductive technologies. Eisenberg is Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging at Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine and a practicing radiologist in the Department of Radiology at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. This event was cosponsored with the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

**1.** Prof. Fannie Bialek introduces the speakers. **2.** Rabbi Seth Gordon offers a question to Dr. Eisenberg. **3.** Dr. Eisenberg explains the science of genetics as an introduction to his lecture. **4.** Dr. Eisenberg provokes lively engagement with the audience.





*John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 2019-2020 Annual Report*

# 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, founded in 2012, is an important project of the Center and is a core component of the Center's public educational mission.

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. In all of these ways, the journal embodies the vision and values that animate all of the Center's varied undertakings.

[www.religionandpolitics.org](http://www.religionandpolitics.org)

### SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

**Behind the Rise of Evangelical Women "Influencers"**

*by Katelyn Beaty*

**Black Churches Join a Green Movement**

*by Eric Berger*

**The Democratic Party Is Not Antithetical to Religion**

*by Vaneesa Cook*

**For These Progressive Jews, Prayer Is Part of the Protest**

*by Molly Farneth*

**Time for Deeper Conversations Around "Heartbeat" Bills**

*by Marie Griffith*

**The Vatican Draws a Line on Gender, and Transgender Catholics Push Back**

*by Bonnie Horgos*

**Dangerous Logic at the Border: Religion and the Travel Ban**

*by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd*

**Islamophobia: A Bipartisan Xenophobia in American Politics**

*by Arsalan Iftikhar*

**How Bad Theology Makes the Opioid Crisis Worse**

*by Timothy McMahan King*

**First They Came for the Buddhists: Faith, Citizenship, and the Internment Camps**

*by Eric C. Miller*

**Who Benefits from Conflicts Over Religious Freedom?**

*by Jenna Reinbold*

**Mormon Votes Are Valued. Too Often Mormon Convictions Are Not.**

*by Joseph Stuart*

**For Many Immigration Activists, Welcoming "Strangers" Is an Act of Faith**

*by Menachem Wecker*

**Should College Students Get a Break for Religious Holidays? One State Says Yes.**

*by Linda K. Wertheimer*



Readers can receive free, periodic digests from *Religion & Politics*.



## PEOPLE

*“An important part of our approach is the idea that you need historians, you need people trained in philosophical inquiry, you need people who do ethnographic research from a history or an anthropology background, you need law professors, you need people who are deep in the archives, you need people are out on the streets and really thinking in contemporary political scenes. I think anyone who spends time thinking about religion and politics can see that you have to include all of those voices.”*

PROF. FANNIE BIALEK



Prof. Mark Valeri welcomes the audience to a public lecture sponsored by the Center.



FACULTY



TAZEEN M. ALI



ANNA F. BIALEK

Tazeen M. Ali joined the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics 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. Her book-in-progress, “Rethinking Interpretative Authority: Gender, Race, and Scripture at the Women’s Mosque of America,” analyzes how American Muslim women negotiate the Islamic tradition to cultivate religious authority and build gender-equitable worship communities.

Ali earned her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Boston University in 2019. She 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, as well as 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. Competitive fellowships and grants from The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, the Boston University Center for the Humanities, and the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations at Boston University have supported her writing and research.

She taught two new courses for the Center in Spring 2020, “Islam in America” and “Religion and Race in the United States.”

*Prof. Ali hosted the Emmy award-winning director, Erika Cohn, at Washington University for a special screening of her new documentary, The Judge, and participated on a panel with her about Muslim women and the Islamic legal tradition, both in the Middle East and the United States.*

Fannie Bialek is Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics. 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, *Love in Time*, argues for a consideration of love as a relationship to uncertainty, instructive for the vulnerabilities of interpersonal relationships and political life. She teaches the gateway lecture course for undergraduates, “The Good Life between Religion and Politics,” among other courses in religious ethics and political 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 gave the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Induction Address at Washington University in St. Louis entitled “Love, Inquiry, and Other Unfinished Projects.”*



## FACULTY



R. MARIE GRIFFITH



JOHN INAZU

*Prof. Griffith served on the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship, which in June released a major national report, "Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century."*

R. Marie Griffith, the John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, is currently the director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and the editor of the Center's journal, *Religion & Politics*. 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* (University of California Press, 1997), examines the practices

and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her next book, *Born Again Bodies: Flesh and Spirit in American Christianity* (University of California Press, 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, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), *Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States* (co-edited with Melani McAlister, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), and *American Religions: A Documentary History* (Oxford University Press, 2007) — exhibit Griffith's varied research interests. Her latest book, *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics* (Basic Books, 2017), traces conflicts over sexual morality, feminism, and gender that have riven American Christianity and politics for over a century. A new book addressing conflicts over the teaching of U.S. history, *Making the World Better*, will be published by UVA Press in 2021. In addition to her books, Professor Griffith has published numerous scholarly articles, book chapters, and essays.

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.

Professor 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. at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and his J.D. and B.S.E. at 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 2014-2015, 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 convened in January 2020 the interdisciplinary conference, "The Religion Clauses," to explore current and future trends in the First Amendment's free exercise and establishment clauses.*



## FACULTY



LAURIE MAFFLY-KIPP



LERONE A. MARTIN

*In 2019-2020 Prof. Maffly-Kipp served as a faculty fellow in the Office of the Provost, where she led the review processes for University academic support services.*

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 in Washington University in St. Louis Arts & Sciences.

Maffly-Kipp's research and teaching focus on African American religions, Mormonism, religion on the Pacific borderlands of the Americas, and issues of intercultural contact. Her publications are many and include: *Religion and Society in Frontier California* (Yale University Press, 1994), where she explored the nature of Protestant spiritual practices in Gold Rush California; articles on Mormon-Protestant conflicts in the Pacific Islands, African-Americans in Haiti and Africa, and Protestant outreach to Chinese immigrants in California; a recent volume of essays entitled *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) with Leigh Schmidt and Mark Valeri; 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). Most recently she 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.

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

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, The Teagle Foundation, The Pew Religion Trust, 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, he was awarded the WUSTL Dean of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award.

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 and at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center.

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.

Professor Martin was on research leave for the 2019-2020 academic year.

*Prof. Martin accepted the invitation to join the Advisory Group to plan the first permanent Religion in America Gallery at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.*



FACULTY



LEIGH ERIC SCHMIDT



MARK VALERI

Mark Valeri is the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics.

Valeri’s areas of specialization include religion and social thought 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. 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); *Practicing Protestants: Histories of Christian Life in America, 1630-1965* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), co-edited with Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp and Leigh E. Schmidt; and the co-edited *Global Neighbors: Christian Faith and Moral Obligation in Today’s Economy* (Eerdmans, 2008). His publication list 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, a Lilly Endowment faculty fellowship, as well as the 2017-2018 *Los Angeles Times* Distinguished Fellowship in the History and Culture of the Americas at The Huntington Library in Pasadena, California.

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 descriptions of other religions and ideas of religious conversion during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

*Prof. Schmidt served as a consultant at the Minneapolis Institute of Art for its upcoming exhibition on Supernatural America.*

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

He is the author of *Hearing Things: Religion, Illusion, and the American Enlightenment* (Harvard, 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, 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, 1995); and *Holy Fairs: Scottish Communion and American Revivals in the Early Modern Period* (Princeton, 1989), which received the Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History and which was republished by Eerdmans in 2001. His most recent book, *Village Atheists: How America’s Unbelievers Made Their Way in a Godly Nation*, published by Princeton University Press in 2016, examines how atheists and freethinkers have fared in American public life. It was

named one of CHOICE’s Outstanding Academic Titles for 2017. His current book project has for its working title “The Church of Saint Thomas Paine: A Religious History of American Secularism.”

Schmidt also serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Religion and American Culture*, and *Religion & Politics*.

Before joining the Danforth Center faculty in 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; prior to that, he taught in the Theological and Graduate Schools of Drew University. Schmidt 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.

Professor Schmidt was on leave for the 2019-2020 academic year.

*Prof. Valeri gave a public lecture at Dartmouth College on the occasion of the college’s 250th anniversary in Hanover, New Hampshire.*



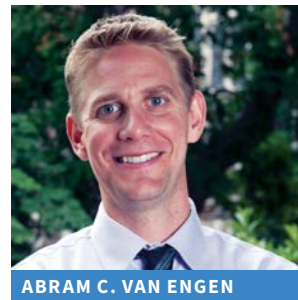
*“I’ve been deeply gratified to work with the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics over many years now. My own career has taken shape within a broad field of ‘literature and religion,’ and to understand either category in that phrase requires a multitude of perspectives. Through writing groups, colloquia, classes, seminars, visiting speakers, and more, the Center has provided invaluable insights, advice, feedback, and support for my work. My courtesy appointment has made my research, writing, and teaching far better than they otherwise would be and enabled all of it to reach far more readers, scholars, and students. The Danforth Center is a center of excellence, and I am grateful to be a part of it.”*

PROF. ABRAM VAN ENGEN

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## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



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.

***Lloyd taught the course *God in the Courtroom* in spring 2020.***



Charlie McCrary earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Religion at Florida State University. His dissertation project is under contract with the University of Chicago Press for their Class 200 Series, and will be 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.

***McCrary taught the course *Slavery, Sovereignty, Security: American Religions and the Problem of Freedom* in fall 2019.***



Cyrus O’Brien earned his Ph.D. from 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 United States. 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 with deep ethnographic data and interviews, it demonstrates that religion was a key force in the adoption of parole, the embrace of halfway houses, and the privatization of prisons.

***O’Brien taught the course *Religion and Politics in American History* in spring 2020.***



STAFF



SANDY JONES

Sandy Jones is the Center’s Event Coordinator. She previously served as Community Relations and Events Coordinator at local nonprofit organizations and brings several years of event management experience to her role. She is a member of Meeting Professionals International. She earned her B.A. in Communications and Theatre Arts from California Lutheran University.



DEBRA B. KENNARD

Debra Kennard serves as 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 with several local organizations. 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 is the Center’s 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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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.



1. Sen. Jack Danforth and Mrs. Sally Danforth.



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 was a former Methodist minister with a personal interest in the role of gender in religion and politics. 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. Our deepest condolences go to Dr. Neaves and his family on the death of The Rev. Mrs. Neaves in 2019.



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2020-2021

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



CHRISTINA DAVIDSON

Christina Davidson is an interdisciplinary historian with specializations in Latin American and Caribbean history, African American Studies, and religious history. Davidson earned her Ph.D. and master’s degree in History from Duke University and a B.A. from Yale University in Latin American Studies and International Studies.



CANDACE LUKASIK

Candace Lukasik is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. Lukasik earned a master’s degree in Arab Studies from Columbia University and a B.A. from Canisius College in Political Science and International Relations.



ANDREW WALKER-CORNETTA

Andrew Walker-Cornetta is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Religion at Princeton University, where he is also a certificate candidate in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Walker-Cornetta holds master’s degrees from Princeton and New York University and a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University.



ALEXIA WILLIAMS

Alexia Williams is a Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies and African American Studies at Yale University. Her research interests focus on questions of race, religion, and aesthetic production in the hemispheric Americas. Williams earned her B.A. in English and Spanish at Spelman College.

FALL 2020 COURSES

- The FBI and Religion
- Islam, Gender, Sexuality
- Islamophobia & U.S. Politics
- Pilgrims and Seekers: American Spirituality from Transcendentalism to the Present
- Religious Freedom in America
- Virtues, Vices, Values: Regulating Morality in Modern America

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*“Part of, I think, the most important role of places like the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics is to engage in an all-out, ongoing assault on the caricature of religion in public life: to insist on nuance and subtlety as we track the way in which religious commitments and religious language shape and form political deliberation in the country. There’s a lot of things that stand in for religion that cause trouble — muddled words that reflect muddled thinking. And part of the role of institutions like this Center here at WashU is to clarify matters, to kind of distill the waters so we can get some of the impurities out and so we can begin to think more clearly.”*

---

PROF. EDDIE GLAUDE JR., PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



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