



John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

Annual Report 2011-2012



Washington University in St. Louis



Mission

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

**John C. Danforth Center
on Religion and Politics**

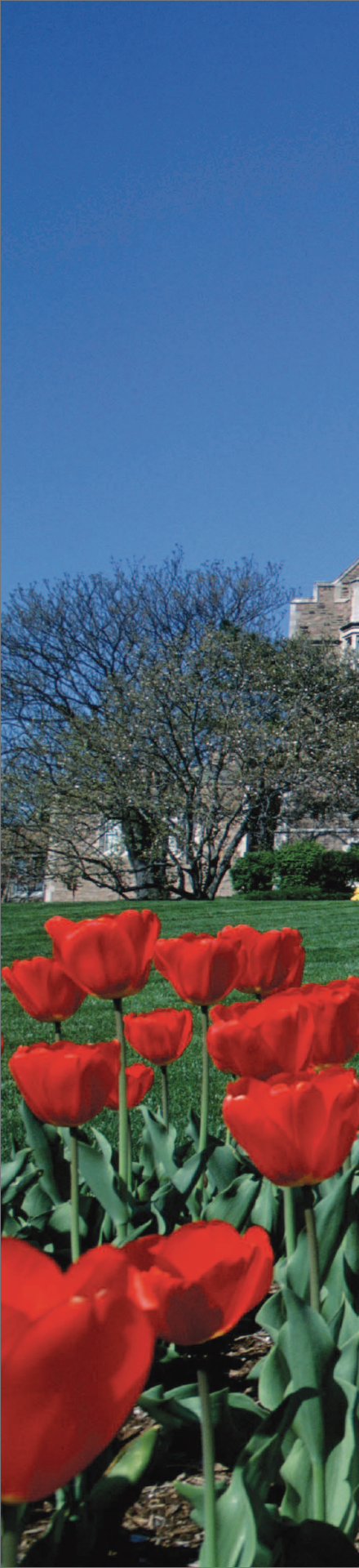
Annual Report 2011-2012

Contents

Founding	2
Letter From the Chancellor	4
Letter From the Center Director	5
Commitments	7
People	8
Faculty Director	
Continuing Faculty	
Incoming Faculty	
Center Founders	
Postdoctoral Fellow	
Staff	
National Advisory Board	16
Washington University Faculty Committee	18
Our Context	20
Public Events	22
Courses	24
Online Journal	26
Looking Ahead	28

Founding

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 to Washington University to establish the Center. John C. Danforth, former Senator from Missouri and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was particularly engaged in the Center's founding and remains a member of its National Advisory Board. This gift reflects Senator Danforth's specific interest in religion and politics, as set out in his 2006 book, *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together* (Viking).



Letter from the Chancellor



The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics reflects the legacy of Jack Danforth and his belief in civil discourse that treats differences with respect. The Center, which opened in 2010, serves as an ideologically neutral place that fosters rigorous, unbiased scholarship and encourages conversations between diverse and even conflicting points of view. Knowing that religious values and beliefs can either encourage or undermine civility, the Center and its educational programs and scholarly research provide a bridge between religious and political communities, informing new kinds of academic explorations focusing on the relationships between the two. We think this is a worthy and important goal.

The Center is somewhat unique in that it does not reside in a particular School at Washington University. Rather, it works collaboratively with Schools such as Law and Arts & Sciences to enhance faculty research opportunities, sponsor academic programs, conduct public events, and increase the visibility of the work of Washington University scholars. Already in its early years, the

Center is enriching the academic environment for students by creating opportunities for them to serve as research assistants, interns for the *Religion & Politics* journal, and participants in a wide range of courses and events.

During this past year, the Center sponsored an extraordinary range of programs, from public lectures by nationally recognized experts like Robert Putnam, Sarah Barringer Gordon, and E.J. Dionne to student-focused discussions on the 2012 election. Faculty and community members across many professional fields enjoyed learning about the political mobilization of African American churches, Reinhold Niebuhr and the Second World War, the civil friendship of Norman Mailer and William F. Buckley Jr., Muslim American dissent before and after 9/11, Mormons in U.S. politics, and religion's influence on American foreign policy.

I am grateful for the Center's work in educating the Washington University community and its successful efforts to collaborate with numerous departments, centers, schools, and student organizations across campus. I thank those involved in its activities and those who generously support its programs.

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

Letter from the Center Director



It is a pleasure to take a moment to reflect on the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, having completed my first year as Director. We ran at a rapid and steady pace all year, hosting more than 15 public events and identifying local constituents, even as we developed our online journal and reached out to a broad national readership. We hired two brilliant scholar/teachers to the Center's faculty, Mark Jordan and Darren Dochuk; and we secured a terrific postdoctoral fellow, Anne Blankenship. This Annual Report will tell you about all of these activities that took place in 2011-2012.

All of us at the Center are committed to its mission of serving as an ideologically neutral venue for fostering rigorous scholarship and informing broad academic and public communities about the intersections of religion and U.S. politics. Broadly speaking, we aim to replace divisive confrontation with rigorously civil debate and discussion among people who hold divergent views. We believe that our focus is of utmost social importance in these deeply divided times.

Our Center would not exist without the generosity of the Danforth Foundation and the Danforth family, in particular. I want to thank Jack Danforth, whom we fondly call "the Senator," for his vision and extraordinary support in my first year. He, his wife, Sally, and his daughter, Mary Danforth Stillman, have not only assisted my professional development in this new position but have welcomed my whole family to St. Louis in a spirit of genuine friendship. All of us at the Center look forward to continued collaborations with Senator Danforth in the years ahead.

The Center's staff members and student workers have labored hard this year for the Center and for Washington University more broadly. Their dedication reflects their enthusiasm for our mission, and I am grateful to them all: Debra, Joe, Lainey, Lenora, Max, Megan, and Tiffany.

Please visit us online, or in person at our new facilities in the renovated Umrath Hall. We look forward to hearing from you and to staying in touch as we grow. Thank you for your critical feedback and support.

R. Marie Griffith
Director



Commitments

To support and enhance outstanding scholarly research on the historical and contemporary intertwining of religion and politics.

To disseminate excellent scholarship to students and the broad public by means of courses, lectures, and conferences.

To foster debate and discussion among people who hold widely different views about religion and/or politics.

Faculty Director

R. Marie Griffith

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.

Professor Griffith earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia in Political and Social Thought in 1989. She completed both her M.A. and Ph.D. in the study of religion at Harvard University. Upon earning her doctorate in 1995, she was awarded consecutive fellowships at both Princeton University and Northwestern University. In 1999, she joined the faculty at Princeton where she filled several roles. From 1999–2003, she was associate director of Princeton’s Center for the Study of Religion. In 2003, she became associate professor of religion and was promoted to professor in 2005. She was later named the director for the Program in the Study of Women and Gender. While at Princeton, Griffith was awarded the President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, along with the Cotsen Fellowship for Distinguished Teaching in 2008. She returned to her alma mater, Harvard University, in 2009 as the John A. Bartlett



Professor in the Divinity School, serving as well on the faculty committee for the History of American Civilization program in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Her first major publication was *God’s Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* (University of California Press, 1997), which examines the practices and perceptions of contemporary evangelical women. Her 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 and thoughtful scholarship.

Her next book will be an analysis of sexuality debates in twentieth-century American Christianity titled *Christians, Sex and Politics: An American History*. In addition to her books Professor Griffith has published over thirty-one articles and book chapters and written more than twenty reviews.

Continuing Faculty

Leigh Eric Schmidt

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

From 2009 to 2011, he served as the Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America at Harvard University, and, from 1995 to 2009, he taught at Princeton University where he was the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion and chair of the Department of Religion. He has held research fellowships at Stanford and Princeton and also through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the American Philosophical Society. Schmidt earned his undergraduate degree in history and religious studies from the University of California, Riverside, and completed both his M.A. and Ph.D. in religion at Princeton in 1987.

Schmidt is the author of numerous books, including *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. He is also the author of *Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality* (HarperOne, 2005), which will appear 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, 1989), which received the Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History.

In addition, Schmidt served as co-editor with Laurie Maffly-Kipp and Mark Valeri of *Practicing Protestants: Histories of the Christian Life in America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) and co-author with Edwin Scott Gaustad of *The Religious History of America* (HarperOne, 2002). Schmidt’s latest authored book is *Heaven’s Bride: The Unprintable Life of Ida C. Craddock, American Mystic, Scholar, Sexologist, Martyr, and Madwoman* (Basic Books, 2010). He recently published a co-edited volume with Sally Promey titled *American Religious Liberalism* (Indiana University Press, 2012), an essay collection on the history of American religious liberalism. He has another project in the early stages on how atheism and nonbelief have fared historically in American public life.



Incoming Faculty

Mark D. Jordan

Mark Jordan is joining the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics as Distinguished Professor in the Humanities. A renowned philosopher, ethicist, and theologian, he formerly served as the Richard Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Divinity and Professor of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Harvard University. He taught previously at the University of Notre Dame, Rice University, and Emory University.

Jordan earned his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from St. John's College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. His doctoral training is in pre-modern European philosophy, and he has published widely on medieval theological texts, notably the writings of Thomas Aquinas. Jordan's work more recently turned to the modern period and to Christianity in the United States. His recent writing and teaching pursue questions about the interactions of political and religious rhetoric, the history of sex and gender in America, and the functions of ritual in creating unexpected identities. He teaches a range of courses in Christian ethics, natural law, theology, and sexuality. He is a renowned teacher and won Harvard Divinity School's distinguished teaching award in 2010.



10 John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

His many books include *Ordering Wisdom: The Hierarchy of Philosophical Discourses in Aquinas* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1986); *The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology* (University of Chicago Press, 1997), winner of the 1999 John Boswell Prize in Lesbian and Gay History; *The Ethics of Sex* (Basil Blackwell, 2002); *Telling Truths in Church: Scandal, Flesh, and Christian Speech* (Beacon Press, 2003); *Rewritten Theology: Aquinas after His Readers* (Basil Blackwell, 2006); and *Recruiting Young Love: How Christians Talk about Homosexuality* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), which received the 2012 nonfiction book award from the Publishing Triangle. He has just finished a book on religion and bodily resistance in the writings of Michel Foucault. His next project will trace basic patterns of moral formation in some masterworks of Christian theology. In addition to his books, Jordan has published over ninety essays in a range of scholarly publications.

Professor Jordan has received numerous fellowships and grants, from entities that include the John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, The Carpenter Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and The Henry Luce Foundation. He has held visiting appointments at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, Berry College, Memphis State University, University of Notre Dame, and The University of the South (Sewanee); and he has taught short-term courses at Chicago Theological Seminary, Graduate Theological Union, and Episcopal Divinity School, among others. He is a highly sought after speaker and has delivered lectures at universities across the United States and around the world.

Darren T. Dochuk

Darren Dochuk earned his B.A. from Simon Fraser University and M.A. from Queen's University in Canada before completing his Ph.D. in 2005 at the University of Notre Dame. Between 2005 and 2012, he taught courses in twentieth century U.S. political and cultural history at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

In 2011, Dochuk published *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism* (W.W. Norton), which tracks the emergence of evangelical politics from the margins of the Depression-era "Bible Belt" South into the mainstream of California's "Sunbelt" society. It has garnered a number of awards, including The Society of American Historians' Allan Nevins Prize, American Historical Association's John H. Dunning book prize for outstanding historical writing on any subject in U.S. history, and The Organization of American Historians' Ellis W. Hawley prize for best book in post-Civil War U.S. political history. It has been reviewed in *The American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Church History*, and numerous other academic journals, as well as in popular magazines such as *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Christian Century*, and *Time*.

Dochuk has also co-edited a collection of essays called *Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Space, Place, and Region* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), which assembles the latest work by leading scholars of politics in the South and West. He has published essays in several edited collections and journals, including *International Labor and Working-Class History*; *Religion and American Culture*; *Religion and American Politics*; *Reviews in American History*, and

The Journal of American History; and received extensive research support from a number of agencies, most recently the American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Philosophical Society, Purdue Research Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Canadian government.

In 2007-2008, he served as a research post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University, and he has been awarded a similar fellowship at Southern Methodist University's Clements Center for Southwest Studies for the spring of 2013. Dochuk is currently working on a book project tentatively titled *Anointed With Oil: God and Black Gold in Modern America*. It employs grassroots sources, church and corporate archives, and the personal records of powerful industrialists to chart evangelical Protestantism's longstanding (and politically significant) relationship with the petroleum industry.



Center Founders

John C. Danforth

John C. Danforth, a partner with the law firm of Bryan Cave, developed the initial vision for the Center that is now named for him. He graduated with honors from Princeton University and earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Yale Law School. He practiced law for some years, then began his political career in 1968, when he was elected Attorney General of Missouri, his first race for public office. He was re-elected to that post in 1972. Missouri voters elected him to the U.S. Senate in 1976 and re-elected him in 1982 and 1988. Serving 18 years in the Senate, he initiated major legislation in the areas of international trade, telecommunications, health care, research & development, transportation, and civil rights. He was then appointed Special Counsel by Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate the federal raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. Later he represented the United States as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and served as a Special Envoy to Sudan. He is the author of *Faith and Politics: How the “Moral Values” Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together* (Viking, 2006).



Wayne Fields

Wayne Fields, the Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor of English, is the Center’s founding director. He joined the English department at Washington University as an instructor in 1968, and he has since served as chair of the Department of English, dean of University College, and director of that same college’s Master of Liberal Arts program. He helped establish the American Culture Studies program in 1996, and functioned as its Director until 2008; and he chaired the Democracy and Citizenship Initiative from 2008-2010. Fields is an accomplished author and frequent commentator on the subject of political rhetoric. His writings include *Union of Words: A History of Presidential Eloquence* (The Free Press, 1996); *What the River Knows: An Angler in Midstream* (University of Chicago Press, 1990); *The Past Leads a Life of Its Own* (Poseidon Press, 1992); and several essays. Fields has also served as a radio and television commentator and magazine columnist. He has received various teaching awards and fellowships.



Postdoctoral Fellow Staff

Anne Blankenship

Anne Blankenship received the Ph.D. in Religious Studies in 2012 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she specialized in American religious history. Her research focuses on religious responses to injustice and associations between national and religious identities. Blankenship’s dissertation, “Steps to a New World Order: Ecumenism and Racial Integration During the World War II Incarceration of Japanese Americans,” analyzes the responses of American Protestant churches to the Japanese American incarceration and reveals how the incarceration challenged religious and racial boundaries within American Protestantism nationally, changing congregants’ preconceptions about the viability of those ideals. Blankenship’s work shows that while attempts to enforce ecumenical and interracial worship ultimately failed, they strongly influenced the formation of Asian American theology and precipitated civil rights activism among many individuals and congregations. Blankenship will use her postdoctoral fellowship to revise this manuscript for publication, as well as teach a course in the spring 2013 semester.



Lenora Fisher

Lenora Fisher serves as the Center’s assistant director, a position she has held since 2010. She has considerable professional familiarity with the fields of politics and religion. She spent two years working on the Obama Presidential Campaign, where her responsibilities ranged from field organizer to religious outreach coordinator to midwest operations director. During graduate school, she interned with the Pew Forum on Religion and the Public Life and the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy. She also engaged in several cultural studies that explored topics like the role of religion in government and the influences of racism and poverty in society throughout her education. She holds a bachelor of arts from Greenville College, as well as master’s degrees from both Wesley Theological Seminary and American University’s School of International Service in Washington, D.C.



Staff (cont'd)

Debra B. Kennard

Debra Kennard brings a wealth of management, organizational, and communication experience to her role as the Center’s administrative assistant. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Indiana University, she enjoyed a marketing career with J. Walter Thompson and GE Capital where she managed client relationships and supported a national sales team. While away from the formal workforce to raise her three children, Debra lent her professional skills to various volunteer efforts in her community including roles in her local school district and serving a three-year term on her church Vestry.

Joe McGill

Joe McGill is the assistant webmaster for the John C. Danforth Center on Religion & Politics. Joe is an expert in web technologies, graphic design, video, and audio production. Before coming to the Center, he worked as the technical coordinator for a local church, where he produced the weekly worship services and addressed the technical needs of a large church staff. Joe has also worked as an independent media consultant, creating marketing and design projects for small businesses and non-profit organizations. He holds a Bachelor of Science in digital media from Greenville College.



Max Perry Mueller

Max Perry Mueller is associate editor for *Religion & Politics*, the John C. Danforth Center’s online journal. He is a scholar of American religious history with particular interest in Mormonism, religion and presidential elections. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University. Max has written extensively on race and Mormonism and is currently writing a dissertation on late nineteenth century Mormon leaders’ participation in post-Reconstruction debates over the politics of race and citizenship. His writing has appeared in *The Journal of Mormon History* and *The Harvard Divinity School Bulletin*. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in religion and a Bachelor of Arts in French and Francophone Studies from Carleton College, in addition to a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard University.



Tiffany Stanley

Tiffany Stanley, who joined the Center staff in the summer of 2011, serves as the managing editor of *Religion & Politics*, the John C. Danforth Center’s online journal. She brings a strong background in journalism and publishing, as well as in religion and politics. Prior to joining the Center, she worked as a reporter-researcher at *The New Republic* magazine where she wrote on topics such as Obama’s faith-based outreach and the melding of the Christian Right and the Tea Party. Her freelance articles on religion and politics have appeared in, among others, *USA Today*, *The Christian Century*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Christianity Today*, and *Beliefnet*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Georgia, in addition to a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.



National Advisory Board

The purpose of the National Advisory Board is to help the Center have the greatest possible impact on current discussions relating to religion’s long role in U.S. politics.



Jon Meacham (Chair)
Executive Editor, Random House



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



David Brooks
Author and opinion writer, *The New York Times*



John C. Danforth
Former United States Senator from Missouri; Partner, law firm of Bryan Cave LLP



Gerald Early
Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters; Director, Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis



Jean Bethke Elshtain
Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, Divinity School, The University of Chicago



Michael Gerson
Journalist and opinion writer, *The Washington Post*



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



Joel C. Hunter
Senior Pastor, Northland, A Church Distributed



Edward S. Macias
Provost, Washington University in St. Louis



Charles R. Marsh
Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia



John T. McGreevy
I.A. O’Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters; Professor of History, University of Notre Dame



Eboo Patel
Founder and President, Interfaith Youth Core



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



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



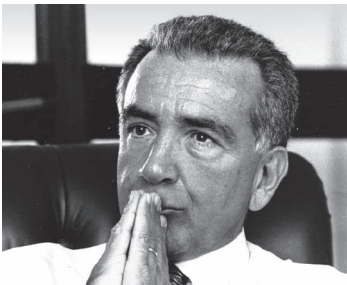
Mary Stillman
Lawyer and Lecturer in Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis



Roberto Suro
Professor of Journalism and Public Policy, University of Southern California



Krista Tippett
Host and Producer, “On Being” Radio Program, American Public Media



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



Gary S. Wihl
Dean of Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University

Faculty Executive Committee

The purpose of the Faculty Executive Committee is to advise Center leadership on matters of programming and resource allocation.



Iver Bernstein

Professor of History and Director of the American Culture Studies Graduate Program

Iver Bernstein, Professor of History and Director of the American Culture Studies Graduate Program, is a historian of the nineteenth-century United States. He earned his B.A. from Brown University and his Ph.D. from Yale. He is the author of *The New York City Draft Riots: Their Significance for American Society and Politics in the Age of the Civil War* (1991, 2010). His current book project, to be published by Oxford University Press, is *Stripes & Scars: Race, The Revitalization of America, and the Origins of the Civil War*. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies, among others.



Daniel Bornstein

Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies, Professor of History and Religious Studies, and Director of Religious Studies

Daniel Bornstein is the Stella K. Darrow Professor of Catholic Studies, Professor of History and Religious Studies, and Director of Religious Studies. A specialist in the religious culture of medieval Europe, particularly Italy, he has written extensively on lay piety, popular devotional movements, religious confraternities, female sanctity, parish priests, civic religion, and other intersections of the spiritual and material worlds. He is the author and editor of several publications including *The Bianchi of 1399: Popular Devotion in Late Medieval Italy* (1994), and is the editor of *Medieval Christianity* (the fourth volume of the seven-volume *People's History of Christianity*, 2010). He has translated numerous texts and has held several fellowships from the American Philosophical Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others.



Randall Calvert

Thomas F. Eagleton University Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science and Director of American Culture Studies

Randall Calvert is the Thomas F. Eagleton University Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science and Director of the American Culture Studies program. His interests revolve around the application of game theory to the understanding of political institutions, such as legislative parties and constitutions. More generally, his research and teaching fields include positive political theory, American political institutions, and constitutional politics. He is the author of *Models of Imperfect Information in Politics* (1986), and of journal articles in the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and elsewhere. His current teaching and research focus on strategic processes of political communication and political argument in American constitutional development.



Adrienne Davis

Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law

Adrienne Davis is Vice Provost of Washington University and the William M. Van Cleve Professor in the School of Law. A graduate of Yale Law School, she has been on the faculty of the University of San Francisco School of Law; American University's Washington College of Law, where she was co-director of the Gender, Work & Family Project; and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Davis' scholarship focuses on gender and race relations, theories of justice and reparations, feminist legal theory, and law and popular culture. She has written extensively on the legal dimensions of American slavery and is the co-editor of the book, *Privilege Revealed: How Invisible Preference Undermines America* (1996).



John Inazu

Associate Professor of Law and Associate Professor of Political Science

John Inazu is Associate Professor in the School of Law and Associate Professor of Political Science in Arts & Sciences. His 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* (2012), seeks to recover the role of assembly in American political and constitutional thought. Professor Inazu's work is also published or forthcoming in *Cornell Law Review*, *Hastings Law Journal*, and *Law and Contemporary Problems*, among others. Prior to joining the law faculty, Professor Inazu was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School of Law and a Royster Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Andrew Rehfeld

Associate Professor of Political Science

Andrew Rehfeld is Associate Professor of Political Science and Professor of Law (by courtesy). His research focuses on contemporary democratic theory with related interests in the history of political thought and the philosophy of the social sciences. His first book, *The Concept of Constituency* (2005), provides a conceptual, historical and normative analysis of territorial districting. Rehfeld's current book project is titled *A General Theory of Political Representation*. His articles and reviews have also appeared in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *Studies in American Political Development*, and elsewhere.



Rebecca Wanzo

Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

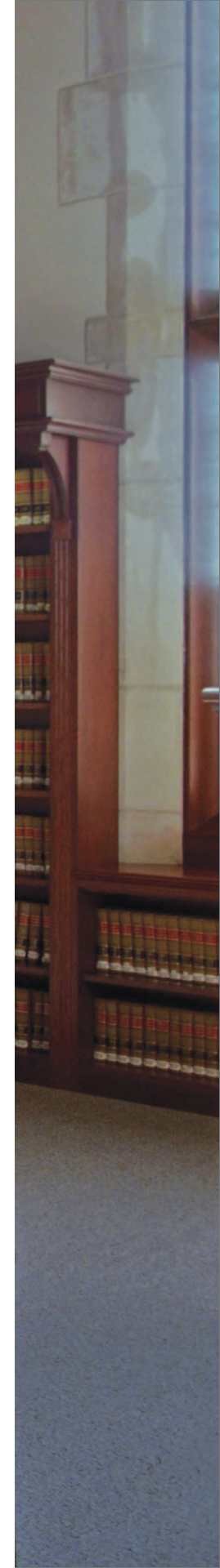
Rebecca Wanzo is Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her first book, *The Suffering Will Not Be Televised: African American Women and Sentimental Political Storytelling* (2009), examines the stories citizens must tell to make their suffering legible to the state and various other communities. Her research interests include popular culture, critical race theory, and black feminist theory. She is currently working on projects about radical feminist comix in the 1970s, the history of popular media in the United States, African American graphic storytelling, and legal and popular understandings of the relationship between civil rights law and time. She has published in a number of venues, including *differences*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, and *Women and Performance*.



Our Context

“Few issues are more critical to the well being of a democracy than how religious beliefs — or the denial of such beliefs — coexist with civic virtue and of how the ‘truths’ of the one are made compatible with the toleration and good will required by the other.”

Senator John C. Danforth



Public Events: 2011/2012 Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Politics in the Pews: The Political Mobilization of Black Churches

Eric L. McDaniel, Associate Professor of Government, University of Texas at Austin

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Navigating a Post 9/11 World: A Decade of Lessons Learned

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

How American Christians Learned to Talk About Homosexuality

Mark D. Jordan, Richard Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

Norman Mailer, William F. Buckley Jr., and the Civil Friendship That Shaped an Uncivil Decade

Kevin M. Schultz, Assistant Professor of History and Catholic Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011

Can Religion and Politics Make Us More Civil and Not Just Angry?

E.J. Dionne Jr., Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; Columnist, *Washington Post*; University Professor, Georgetown University

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2011

The Prophetic Conflict: Reinhold Niebuhr and the Second World War

William C. Inboden, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011

American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us

Robert D. Putnam, Malkin Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011

The Spirit of the Law: Separation of Church and State from 1945–1990

Sarah Barringer Gordon, Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

The Politics of ‘Spiritual But Not Religious’ America

Laura R. Olson, Professor of Political Science, Clemson University

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012

Muslim American Dissent and U.S. Politics Before and After 9/11

Edward E. Curtis IV, Millennium Chair of the Liberal Arts and Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Healing the Heart of Democracy

Parker Palmer, Founder and Senior Partner, Center for Courage & Renewal



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

U.S. Evangelicals and the Congo Crisis of 1960–64: The Politics of Race, Revolution, and Persecution in Decolonizing Africa

Melani McAlister, Associate Professor of American Studies, International Affairs, and Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Stop Worrying and Start Sowing! The Ethics of a ‘Recession-Proof’ Gospel

Jonathan Walton, Social Ethicist and African American Religious Studies Scholar, Harvard Divinity School

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

The Religious Influence in American War and Diplomacy: A History

Andrew Preston, Senior Lecturer in American History, Cambridge University

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

It’s Religion, Stupid, Not the Economy

Rev. Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

The Long Approach to the Mormon Moment: The Building of an American Church

Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Professor and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Courses

With the addition of our new faculty, and still more to be added, our course listings will continue to grow. Here are highlights of our course offerings to date, most in conjunction with the Department of History, the program in Religious Studies, or the American Culture Studies program.

Religion and American Society, 1890 to the Present

Professor: Marie Griffith

This course explores religious life in the United States. We will focus our study on groups and movements that highlight distinctive ways of being both “religious” and “American,” including the Americanization of global religions in the U.S. context. Major themes will include religious encounter and conflict; secularization, resurgent traditionalism, and new religious establishments; experimentalism, eclecticism, and so-called “spiritual” countercultures; the relationship between religious change and broader social and political currents (including clashes over race, class, gender, and sexuality); and the challenges of religious multiplicity in the U.S. Students will: 1) acquire knowledge of the disparate religions practiced in North America during the twentieth century and beyond; 2) examine some of the chief conflicts as well as alliances between religion and the American social order in a global context; and 3) develop interpretive tools for understanding religion’s present and enduring role in the US and the world.

American Religion, Politics, and Culture, Part I: Historical Foundations

Professor: Leigh E. Schmidt

This research-oriented seminar involves in-depth historiographical investigation of leading scholarship at the busy intersections of American religion, politics, and culture. Some sessions will include a visiting scholar engaged in cutting-edge research—a feature that will allow seminar members to work with important scholars from beyond the university. Research projects may originate from seminar participants or from other scholars within the university.

Possible topics include: church-state relations, religion and foreign policy, religion and civil rights, religion and the science wars, the rise of the Religious Right, and the role of religion in national elections. The seminar is taught under the auspices of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and is a two-part seminar. Its ambition is to build up a community of inquirers engaged in the core questions that animate the Danforth Center.

American Religion, Politics and Culture, Part II: Commentary from Alexis de Tocqueville to Contemporary Pundits

Professor: Leigh E. Schmidt

This research-oriented seminar involves in-depth historiographical investigation of leading scholarship at the busy intersections of American religion, politics, and culture. The second semester focuses on classic and contemporary commentaries on the American religious and political scene from Alexis de Tocqueville through today’s leading pundits. Some sessions will include a visiting scholar engaged in cutting-edge research—a feature that will allow seminar members to work with important scholars from beyond the university.

Possible topics include: church-state relations, religion and foreign policy, religion and civil rights, religion and the science wars, the rise of the Religious Right, and the role of religion in national elections. The seminar is taught under the auspices of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics and is offered in two complementary parts (though enrollment in either one of the two is certainly possible). Its ambition is to build up a community of inquirers engaged in the core questions that animate the Danforth Center.

Topics in American Culture Studies: Religion in America 1945–1965

Professor: Wayne Fields

This course examines the response of American Jewish and Christian communities to the global politics of the Cold War, their own international agendas, the economic and social changes that followed a prolonged depression and a war, and most especially, the implications of WWII and the Holocaust for theology and religious ethics. The class looks at a wide range of religious expression (Billy Graham, Rabbi Heschel, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Martin Luther King, Jr. will all appear on the syllabus), as well as major religious/social movements (the Civil Rights movement and ecumenism as well as the reorganization of evangelicals, etc).

Topics in American Culture Studies: Religion and the American Presidency

Professor: Wayne Fields

This course studies the writings and policies of seven Presidents in order to better understand their individual religious beliefs as well as their understanding of religion’s role in a democracy. Presidents researched include Washington, Lincoln, Wilson, Eisenhower, Reagan, George W. Bush, and Obama.

Online Journal

Religion & Politics launched on May 1. It is an online journal that focuses on the role religion has historically played, and continues to play, in the civic and political life of the United States. We publish pieces authored by journalists, scholars, and experts from a variety of fields, and our audience reach is broad.

This journal is an important component of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, as it aims to promote the public understanding of religion and politics. Like the Center more generally, our journal explores religion and politics from a wide range of diverging viewpoints, rather than any single one. Our tagline, “fit for polite company,” underscores the civility that we intend to bring to the discussion of these often heated topics.



Feature articles published thus far include:

John Stott, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien: Why American Evangelicals Love the British

Jon Stewart, Religion Teacher Extraordinaire

Does Obama Have a Jewish Voter Problem?

I Was a Mortuary Worker in Iraq: A Marine on What Remains After War

Why Is American Foreign Policy So Religious?

When Romney Was a Mormon President

Everything You Need to Know About the HHS Mandate Before the 2012 Election

Obama Backs Marriage Equality: A Christian Ethicist Responds

What Does François Hollande's Election Mean for Muslims, Americans?

The Lonely Life of American Atheists

What Psychology Teaches Us About Moral and Political Divides

The Myth of the Black Church

How Your View of God Shapes Your View of the Economy

What Can We Learn from UVA?

When the Court Took On Prayer and the Bible in Public Schools

The Plight of Pagans in the Military

The Changing Face of the Southern Baptist Convention

Journal Advisory Board

Asad Ahmed, Washington University in St. Louis

Marla F. Frederick, Harvard University

Ari L. Goldman, Columbia University

Kevin Eckstrom, Religion News Service

Gastón Espinosa, Claremont McKenna College

Melissa Harris-Perry, Tulane University

Paul Harvey, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

M. Cathleen Kaveny, University of Notre Dame

T. J. Jackson Lears, Rutgers University

R. Gustav Niebuhr, Syracuse University

Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame

Robert A. Orsi, Northwestern University

Leigh Eric Schmidt, Washington University in St. Louis

Mark Silk, Trinity College

Jonathan L. Walton, Harvard Divinity School

Diane Winston, University of Southern California

Michael Sean, Winters National Catholic Reporter

Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University

Looking Ahead

As our faculty and student numbers grow, the Center will expand in ways that are most appropriate to our scholarly and public mission. As we look ahead, we will continue working to attract constituencies from across the political spectrum: audiences both local and national, liberal and conservative, and holding a wide range of views on religion.

We will continue to value intellectual rigor as well as moral courage in facing very tough issues and refusing simplistic solutions.

Our programming will remain inclusive, in the sense of engaging a truly broad and diverse range of viewpoints and people without elevating a single one.

We intend to make a significant impact on undergraduate and graduate education at Washington University and to foster excellence through our rotating postdoctoral fellows and visiting faculty.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we aim to play a role in improving political discourse in the United States, and raising the understanding of religion's long and complex role in our nation's social and political life.





John C. Danforth Center on
RELIGION & POLITICS

One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1066
Umrath Hall, Suite 118
St. Louis, Missouri 63130
P. 314 935 9345
rap@wustl.edu

<http://rap.wustl.edu>