RELIGION//CULTURE

15th Annual
Florida State University
Department of Religion
Graduate Student Symposium

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2016
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 19th

4:00-4:30 p.m. Registration and check-in

Session 1A: Race, Capital, and Work
4:30-6:15 p.m.
Werkmeister Reading Room

Respondent: Dr. Richard Callahan Jr.
Moderator: Tara Baldrick-Morrone

Black Dollars, Black Souls: Reading Black Capitalism Beyond Marxist Critiques and Analyzing the Sacred Dimensions of Booker T. Washington’s Vision for Black Business and Economic “Cooperation”
Timothy M. Rainey III
Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion

Enchantments of the Octopus: Pre-Modern Religions, Hyper-Modern Races, and Corporate Monopolies in the Nineteenth-Century United States
Jeffrey Wheatley
Northwestern University, Department of Religious Studies

Undocu-Feminisms: Religion, Culture and the Secular Dialogue within the Immigrants Rights Movements
Rafael A. Martinez
University of New Mexico, Department of American Studies

“This Dark Diction, Has Become America’s Addiction”: Religion, Race, and Hip-Hop in a Neo-Liberal Age
L. Benjamin Rolsky
Drew University, Graduate Division of Religion
Session 1B: Acceptance and Adaptation in Antiquity
4:30-6:15 p.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Nicole Kelley
Moderator: Amanda Furiasse

Philo Judaeus: Discerning Jewish Identity in Philo’s Discourse
Giancarlo P. Angulo
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Of Men or Angels?: A Physiognomic Reading of the Acts of Paul and Thecla
Joshua M. Matson
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Strange Bedfellows?: David Brog, Josephus, and the Rhetoric of Contested Allegiances
Sheldon Steen
Florida State University, Department of Religion

The Status of Celebrity in the Study of Religion
A Keynote Address by Dr. Kathryn Lofton
Yale University
7:00 p.m., Dodd Hall Auditorium

8:30 p.m.
Announcement of the Leo Sandon Best Paper Award

Afterward: Reception, Dodd Hall Foyer
Saturday, February 20th

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Dodd Hall Foyer

Session 2A: Credulity, Belief, and Curious Things
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Werkmeister Reading Room

Respondent: Dr. John Lardas Modern
Moderator: Jeffrey Wheatley

What Does the Sincerity Test Test?: An Inquiry into the Metaphysics of Meaning It
Charles McCrary
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

Joseph Smith’s Chocolate-Colored Seer Stone: Missions, Magic, and Mormon Materiality
Megan Leverage
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

“Where’s Barnum?”: How P. T. Barnum Trained Antebellum Americans to Be Skeptical
Joshua D. Urich
*University of Texas at Austin, Department of Religious Studies*

A History of Curious Things at the Central Intelligence Agency
Michael A. Graziano
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*
Session 2B: Empire and Propaganda
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Dodd Hall Auditorium

Respondent: Dr. David Levenson
Moderator: Sheldon Steen

Just Another Roman Intellectual: Magic, the Hellenistic Occult, and the Case of Nigidius Figulus
Andrew Durdin
University of Chicago, Divinity School

Julian in the Middle: Julian's Imperial Structure and the Hymn to King Helios
Sean Daly
Florida State University, Department of Religion

“The Stripping of the Bulls:” A Re-evaluation of Ahaz’s Role in Deuteronomistic Historiography
Raleigh C. Heth
University of Georgia, Department of Religion

“How is Judaism Still a Thing?:” Eusebius and Augustine on Jews and Judaism
Yonatan Binyam
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Session 2C: Religious Thought and Activism
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Aline Kalbian
Moderator: Monique Colberg

Faith in Philosophy, Religion, & God: A Presentation on the Faith of Emmanuel Levinas
Ryan Quandt
University of South Florida, Department of Philosophy
Pope Francis on Ecology, Culture, and Our Common Home
Jordan A. Haddad
Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Department of Philosophy

The Role of Religious Argumentation in the Responsibility to Protect: An Analysis of Paul Ramsey's Ethics of War
Luke Arredondo
Florida State University, Department of Religion

The Banality of Racism: The Spirit of Capitalism and Mass Incarceration
Andrew Meland
University of Missouri, Department of Religious Studies

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch, Dodd Hall Foyer

Session 3A: Religion, Ritual, and Displacement
1:15-3:00 p.m.
Werkmeister Reading Room

Respondent: Dr. John Corrigan
Moderator: Andrew Gardner

Neoliberalism on the Mission Field: American Hegemony in the Two-Thirds World
Kali Freels
Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology

Sound as Dolung: An Attempt to Understand Death Divination in Sisala Terms
Jesse C. Miller
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Working the Root: Tracing the Origins of Hoodoo in the American South
Danielle Clausnitzer
University of Georgia, Department of Religion
Grave Injustices: The Necrogeography of Racial Segregation
Doug Valentine
University of Missouri, Department of Sociology

“We are the Remnant”: The Prophecy Conference Movement and Self-Displacement
Dan Wells
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Session 3B: Jihad Violence and Non-Violence
1:15-3:00 p.m.
Dodd Hall Auditorium

Respondent: Dr. Adam Gaiser
Moderator: Sam Houston

Mouridism and the Concept of Peaceful Jihād: Legal, Ethical and Doctrinal
Cheikh Seye
Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion

Muslim Brethren? Sufism, Terrorism, and Uyghur Identity in Post-Republican China
Darian Shump
Vanderbilt University, Divinity School

Hezbollah’s Jihad: Resistance, Liberation, and Empowerment
Thomas Greene
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Ibadism and Violence: Narrative and Counter-Narrative
Amanda Propst
Georgetown University, Department of Theology
Session 3C: (What is Religion?) Indian Thinkers and Texts
1:15-3:00 p.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Bryan Cuevas
Moderator: Ian Reed

The Jewel and the Casket: Swami Vivekananda on “Religion”
Adam T. Miller
University of Chicago, Divinity School

The Usage of the Vinaya-uttaragrantha in Śākyaprabha’s Illuminating Commentary of the Verses for Novices of the Noble Mūlasarvāstivādins
Christopher Emms
McMaster University, Department of Religious Studies

Śiva in the Mahābhārata: Propitiation, Imitation, Self-Possession
Roland Mullins
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Session 4A: Aesthetics/Religion
3:30-5:15 p.m.
Dodd Hall Auditorium

Respondent: Dr. Kathryn Lofton
Moderator: Dr. Sarah Dees

Girls, Guns, God, and Yet No Glory: Eastern Christianity’s Influence on Euromaidan Protest Art
Sarah VanSickle
Harvard University, Regional Studies: Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

Disney as Religion: How a Man Became More
Daniel Roeber
Florida State University, Department of Religion

An Unorthodox Cultural Policy: Religious Conservatism and Contemporary Art in the Russian Federation
Luke Mackle
Harvard University, Regional Studies: Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia
Jesus Christ Allin: The Last True Rock and Roller
Andy McKee
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Session 4B: Strife and Differentiation in Biblical Communities
3:30-5:15 p.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Dennis MacDonald
Moderator: Joshua Matson

“After such knowledge, what forgiveness?”: The Polemic against the Wealthy and Zephaniah’s Day of YHWH
Tyler Kelley
University of Georgia, Linguistics Program

“To Gods They Had Not Known:” Arguing for an Alternate Understanding of Paul's Conception of δαίμόνιον in 1 Corinthians 10:20-21
Scott Brevard
University of Georgia, Department of Religion

The Social Function of Violence against Women in the Metaphorical Realm: Ezekiel 16:1-43 as a Test Case
Robert C. Kashow
Brown University, Department of Religious Studies

Cast Out of the Vineyard: The Exiles of Jesus and Israel According to the Gospel of Matthew and Targum Jonathan
Nicholas Schaser
Vanderbilt University, Graduate Department of Religion
Respondent: Dr. Will Hanley  
Moderator: Ross Moret

**Who Mourns for Ali: The Performance of Muharram in Religiously Diverse Contexts**  
Ian Reed  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

**Banditry in the Balkans: An American Baptist Missionary Observes the Failure of Sharia in Late Ottoman Greece**  
Jacob Hicks  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

**A Muslim Historical Hermeneutics: Nadvi’s Excavations about the Collapse of Civilizations and Rise of Islam**  
Syeda Beena Butool  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

---

**A Roundtable Discussion: Religion and Neo-Liberalism**  
6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Dodd Hall Auditorium

Moderator: Andy McKee

**Participants:**  
Dr. Richard Callahan Jr., *University of Missouri, Department of Religious Studies*  
Dr. Finbarr Curtis, *Georgia Southern University, Department of Literature and Philosophy*  
Dr. Sarah Dees, *University of Tennessee, Department of Religious Studies*  
Dr. Kathryn Lofton, *Yale University, Department of Religion*  
Dr. John Lardas Modern, *Franklin & Marshall College, Department of Religion*

**Afterward:** Reception, Dodd Hall Foyer
Sunday, February 21st

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Dodd Hall Foyer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 5A: Literature and Books in America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werkmeister Reading Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondent: Dr. Finbarr Curtis
Moderator: Charles McCrary

**Book Culture and the Ahmadiyya Mission in the U.S.**
Sher Afgan Tareen  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

“Think of Your Library as an Arm of Your Church”: 20th Century American Church Libraries and the Function of Reading  
Meredith Ross  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

“Don't Forget the Tea!”: The Many Narrative Lives of D. T. Suzuki’s Encounter with the Beats  
Susannah Duerr  
*Duke University, Department of Religious Studies*

**Man of Letters, Prophet of God: Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Origins of Poetry**
Adam Sweatman  
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*
Session 6B: Religion/Politics
10:00-11:45 a.m.
Dodd Hall Auditorium

Respondent: Dr. Martin Kavka
Moderator: Joshua Lupo

American Uncivil Religion: Prayer Shaming and the American Culture Wars
Steven Lane
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

Post-Secularity and Public Reason in Habermas's Late Writings on Religion
Ryan Donovan
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

The Legal Foundations of the Church and State: John Locke's Theology of Toleration in Seventeenth-Century England
Will Love
*Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion*

Thomas Aquinas and Conditional Sovereignty
Nathan Moats
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

Session 5C: Narrative/Power
10:00-11:45 a.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Jimmy Yu
Moderator: Cameron Foltz

Confucian Construction of Mazu as a Daughter of Filial Piety and State Protector in Late Imperial China
Yanchao Zhang
*University of Florida, Department of Religion*
“Rich” and “Famous” as an Indian Buddhist Epithet
Joseph LaRose
McMaster University, Department of Religious Studies

“Feminine” No-Self in Hyesim’s Sŏn Philosophy
Yongsuk Park
Academy of Korean Studies, Department of Global Korean Studies

Buddhist Animal Welfare and Environmental Activism in Taiwan
Jeffrey Nicolaisen
Duke University, Department of Religious Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 6A: Men, Women and Their Gendered Christian Bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werkmeister Reading Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondent: Dr. Michael McVicar
Moderator: Megan Leverage

From Horny Bachelor to Content Husband, The Michael Wigglesworth Story: Puritan Sympathy and Marriage in Seventeenth-Century New England
Andrew Gardner
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Marian, Aztec, and Abject Imagery in Frida Kahlo’s Self-Portraits
Marie Patrick
Florida State University, Program in Interdisciplinary Humanities

Jiu-Jitsu, Muscular Christianity, and the Problem of Culture in Progressive-Era America
Adam Park
Florida State University, Department of Religion

Korean Protestant Missionaries in Haiti: Two Case Studies on Female Korean Missionaries
Minjung Noh
Temple University, Department of Religion
Respondent: Dr. Matthew Goff
Moderator: Giancarlo P. Angulo

Angels and Demons in Josephus’ Literary Corpus: Establishing a Supernatural Vocabulary
Carson Bay
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

Ordering Disorder: A Relational Assessment of Demonic Beings in the Dead Sea Scrolls
Blake A. Jurgens
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

The Enemy from Within: Sectarianism in the Damascus Document and Community Rule
Amanda Furiasse
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

How Long is Forever?: History and The Origins of Culture in Light 1 Enoch 10
Kyle Roark
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*

Respondent: Dr. Sonya Cronin
Moderator: Meredith Ross

Representing Belief: Shiʿi Symbolism in Modern Iranian Films
Rebecca Peters
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*
The Breakdown of Plausibility Structure of the Death Penalty in Light of the Film *Dead Man Walking*
Haley M. Cawthon
*Mercer University, McAfee School of Theology*

Looking for God in the Marvel Cinematic Universe: An Analysis of Free Will, the Problem of Evil, and Theodicy in Pop Culture
Will Livingston
*Florida State University, Department of Religion*
Keynote Speaker

Kathryn Lofton is a Professor of Religious Studies, American Studies, History and Divinity and the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University. She is editor-at-large for the Immanent Frame; has co-curated Frequencies, a collaborative web project; and, is co-editor for a new book series from the University of Chicago Press titled Class 200: New Studies in Religion. Lofton's research approaches religion with a particular focus on the cultural and intellectual history of the United States and highlights the relationships between religion, modernity, and the secular. Her first book Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon (2011) reflects this expertise. More recently, she is researching several projects including the sexual and theological culture of early Protestant fundamentalism; the culture concept of the Goldman Sachs Group; and the religious contexts of Bob Dylan. For her work at Yale she has won the 2010 Poorvu Family Award for Interdisciplinary Teaching, the 2013 Sarai Ribicoff Award for the Encouragement of Teaching at Yale College, and the 2013 Graduate Mentor Award in the Humanities.
The 2016 Graduate Student Symposium would like to extend a special thanks to the following people and organizations:

Florida State University Department of Religion

Congress of Graduate Students

Student Government Association

Aline Kalbian
Matthew Goff
Jon Bridges
Susan Stetson
Target Copy