

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. Martínez

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 *δαμιόνιον* 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

Session 4C: Lived Islam
3:30-5:15 pm
Werkmeister Reading Room

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

Session 5A: Literature and Books in America

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

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

Session 6A: Men, Women and Their Gendered Christian Bodies

12:00-1:45 p.m.

Werkmeister Reading Room

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

Session 6B: Disorder and Division in Ancient Judean Ideology

12:00-1:45 p.m.
Dodd Hall Auditorium

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

Session 6C: Cinema/Religion

12:00-1:45 p.m.
Thompson Religion-Classics Library

Respondent: Dr. Sonya Cronin
Moderator: Meredith Ross

Representing Belief: Shi'i 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



**The Graduate
School**