



Florida State University

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

Fall 2017



HERE'S TO ANOTHER 50 YEARS!!

We devoted the 2015-16 year to celebrating the past, present, and future of our department. The kickoff reception for retired faculty and alumni was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and reminisce. Throughout the year, the department sponsored a number of lectures about the state of the study of religion, and of the many subdisciplines we cover in our research and teaching. We are grateful to the scholars who kindly agreed to participate and to our faculty, former faculty, alumni, and students for participating in our series of events, and to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences for his sponsorship. We look forward to at least another 50 years!

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Please consider donating to The Department of Religion Foundation Fund. This helps us continue to provide programs for our graduates and undergraduate students:

<https://one.fsu.edu/foundation/donate/college/arts-sciences/donation-form>



Active and Retired faculty at the 50th Anniversary Celebration, 09/20/2015: Back Row: A. Kalbian (Chair), D. Levenson, M. Kavka, M. Goff, B. Cuevas, S. Twiss, A. Porterfield, K. Erndl, J. Hellweg, K. Buhrman, J. Kelsay; Front Row: B. Spivey, W. Moore, G. Priest, R. Rubenstein, L. Sandon. Photo credit: FSU Photography Services

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

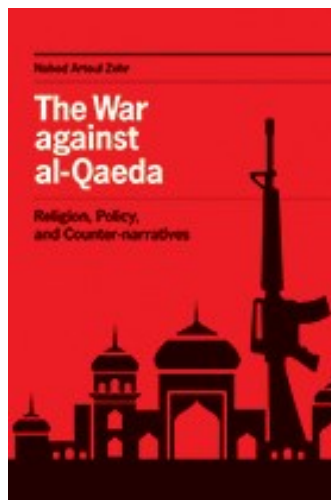
RECENT PLACEMENTS

Yonatan Binyam	Adjunct, Coastal Carolina University
Seth Bledsoe	Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University
Christopher Blythe	Historian, Joseph Smith Papers, Salt Lake City, Utah
Cara Burnidge	Assistant Professor, University of Northern Iowa
James Broucek	Lecturer, American University, Beirut
Emily Suzanne Clark	Assistant Professor, Gonzaga University
John Crow	Instructional Dev. Faculty, FSU Office of Distance Learning
Kirk Essary	Lecturer, University of Western Australia
Michael Graziano	Lecturer, University of Northern Iowa
Tammy Heise	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming
Shaun Horton	Editor, Duke University Press
Sam Houston	Brown Visiting Teacher-Scholar Fellow, Stetson University
Rosemary Kellison	Assistant Professor, University of West Georgia
Shem Miller	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi
Andrew Polk	Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University
Monica Reed	History Curriculum Designer, IXL Learning
Adam Ware	Director of Research, Joseph L. Brechner Research Library
Brooke Sherrard	Assistant Professor, William Penn University
David Skelton	Visiting Assistant Professor, Pepperdine University
Brad Stoddard	Assistant Professor, McDaniel College
Kate Temoney	Assistant Professor, Montclair State University
Thomas Whitley	Assistant Director, FSU's Office of Graduate Fellowships
Nahed Zehr	Executive Director, Faith & Culture Center (Nashville, TN)

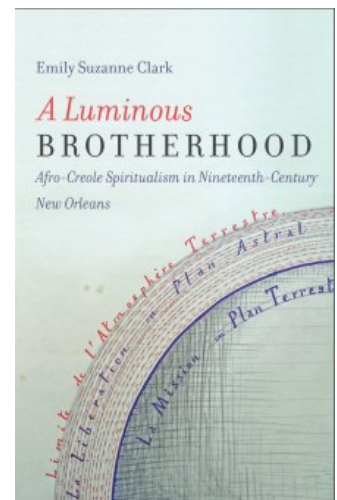
RECENT BOOKS BY FSU ALUMNI



By Cara Lea Burnidge



By Nahed Artoul Zehr



By Emily Suzanne Clark

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

David Skelton	Fulbright Fellowship, Germany	2016-17
Carson Bay	Fulbright Fellowship, Germany	2016-17
Carson Bay	de Karman Fellowship	2017-18
Rebecca Peters	American Institute of Indian Studies, India	2016-17
Ian Reed	American Institute of Indian Studies, India	2016-17
Andrew McKee	NEH summer instructional grant	2017
Thomas Whitley	FSU Graduate Research & Creativity Award	2016
Sam Houston	FSU Graduate Research & Creativity Award	2017
Jake Lollar	FSU International Dissertation Fellowship	2017
Amanda Furiasse	FSU International Dissertation Fellowship	2017-18
Jake Lollar	Chateaubriand Fellowship	2017
LaToya Leary	McKnight Fellowship	2017

GRADUATE STUDENT EVENTS

- We are hosting the Buddhist Studies Graduate Conference is planned for November 10-11, 2017. The *Journal of Chinese Buddhism* and the Sheng Yen Buddhist Studies Lecture Series are co sponsoring this event. Dr. Meir Shahar of Tel Aviv University will deliver the keynote.
- The department continues to sponsor a cross-disciplinary graduate student symposium on the study of religion every February. Dr. Kathryn Lofton (Yale University) was the keynote for the 2016 symposium and Dr. J. Kameron Carter (Duke University) delivered the keynote in 2017. Dozens of participants from other countries and the U.S. attended and contributed to lively and engaging scholarly exchanges.

UNDERGRADUATE PHIFER AWARD WINNERS (2016-2017)

Named after friend of the department and former instructor, Betty Phifer, the award is given to one (or more) graduating religion majors to recognize academic excellence combined with a commitment to public service and community. Below are profiles of two recent winners.



Jack Porter (BA, FSU 2016) is an assistant at the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, First Region. She was recently appointed to the Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. In 2017 she was named as one of the *Tallahassee Democrat's* "25 Women to Know" and was selected by the Knight Foundation as an Emerging City Champion Fellow. This fall Jack will begin a joint MA in public administration and urban planning at FSU.



Micah Friedman (BA, FSU 2017) is in Jerusalem for 2017-18 as a participant in Achvat Amim - Solidarity of Nations, a program of the Socialist-Zionist movement Hashomer Hatzair. The program explores the history of Israel-Palestine through a critical lens for the sake of promoting human rights and solidarity between all people who consider the land to be their home. Micah will volunteer at the Hand in Hand Bilingual School in Jerusalem where Israeli and Palestinian children learn together in Hebrew and Arabic and at the Beit Safafa Community Center.

NEW POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATES FALL 2017

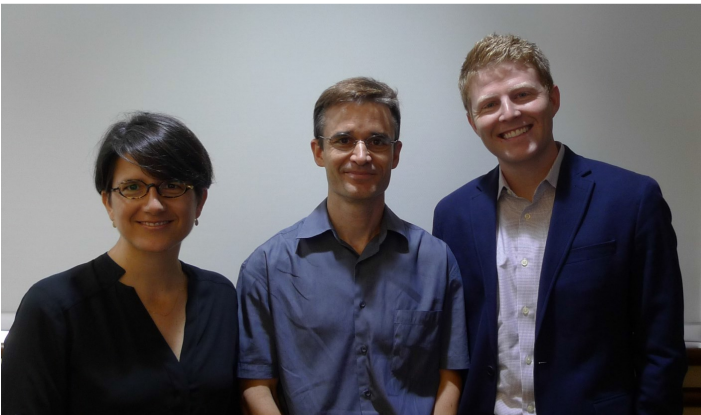


Matthew Robertson (PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara) specializes in historical and philosophical approaches to South Asian religious traditions. His research focuses on the interrelated paradigms of sovereignty, asceticism, and Ayurvedic medicine in the preclassical period of Indic religious history. He is especially interested in how Indic religious traditions conceptualize personhood and its changing relation to the experience of 'worldhood' in mundane or supernatural states.



Rebecca Stephens Falcasantos (PhD, Brown) was a Fellow of Byzantine Studies at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2017. She researches the intersection of religious practices, rhetoric, and contestations over cultural dominance in the late Roman and early Byzantine Empires. Rebecca has recently published an article on constructions of gender in late antique pilgrimage and is completing a manuscript on changes in public ritual life in late antique Constantinople. Her next project will examine accounts of violence, mutilation, and destruction as tools for targeting competing religious groups.

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATES 2015-17



Allyson Gonzalez, Douglas Gildow, & David Kirkpatrick

Allyson Gonzalez (PhD, Brandeis University) was our first postdoctoral fellow from 2015-2017. She studies Jewish life in the modern period, particularly within the Iberian diaspora. Her dissertation examines a group of 20th century Sephardic writers and artists who sought a path to modernity through their encounters with, and constructions of, Spain, Sepharad, and Palestine. Gonzalez, who received her undergraduate degree in English from FSU, won the Columbia-Fordham New Voices in Jewish Studies Award for 2017, and has been selected as a postdoctoral associate in Modern Jewish History at Yale University for 2017-18.

Douglas M. Gildow (PhD, Princeton) is the inaugural Sheng Yen Postdoctoral Associate in Religion and Chinese Buddhism for 2016-2018. His research on modern Chinese Buddhist monasticism draws on ethnographic and documentary sources. His dissertation was on institutional change in monasticism and the education of monks and nuns in Buddhist seminaries. He has also published on Taiwanese mortuary practices such as the mummification and enshrinement of religious leaders. Current research examines how people become monastics in China today through ordination sessions that incorporate both traditional rituals and modern schooling.

David C. Kirkpatrick (PhD, University of Edinburgh) is the T. Gannon Postdoctoral Fellow in Religion for 2016-2018. He teaches courses in Latin American Christianity, Christianity, and religion in the United States. His research focuses on religion at the intersection of Latin America and the United States. This year, he was elected to the council of the American Society of Church History for a three-year term. His current research explores the history of U.S. fundamentalism and evangelicalism in Latin America.

NEW FACULTY

Jamil W. Drake (PhD, Emory University) joined our department as an assistant professor in 2016. He specializes in American religious history with particular interests in 20th century African-American religious history; science and race; and labor and class politics. His manuscript, tentatively entitled *Documenting the Souls of Black Folk: Popular Religion, Reform, and the Making of the Working-Class Culture, 1893-1945*, tells a story about how the study of religion, race, and poverty became a central topic in the developing social sciences in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He examines how ethnographic studies of “folk religion” in southern life played a fundamental role in the process of classifying cultural behaviors that contributed to defining the “black underclass” throughout the twentieth-century. His next project will explore the history of religion and morality in welfare policy debates in the U.S.



FACULTY UPDATES

Kristina Buhrman recently published “Remembering Future Risk: Considering Technologies of the Archive for Discussion of Tohoku's Seismological Past After 2011” in *Technology and Culture* (58.1, January 2017), and also received a Northeast Asia Council research travel grant and an FSU planning grant to continue this research. Her contribution to the *Routledge Handbook of Premodern Japanese History* on the history of science and technology in Japan before 1600 appeared in June, 2017.

Bryan Cuevas's translation (with introduction and notes) of *The All-Pervading Melodious Drumbeat: The Life of Ra Lotsawa* (Penguin Classics, July 2015) won an inaugural Shantarakshita Award for Excellence in Translation from the Tsadra Foundation. He also had publications in the journals *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* and *Religion*, and in an anthology of Tibetan studies essays. In June 2016, he co-organized a panel at the International Association of Tibetan Studies conference in Bergen, Norway. A competitive FSU College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Travel Award supported his travels.

Matt Day is currently writing a book on Marx and Marxism for Routledge's *Key Thinkers in the Study of Religion* series.

Francois Dupuigrenet continued work on commented editions of Christian classics in French for the “*Petite bibliothèque Rivages*”. These include the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius Loyola and Jean Racine's history of Port-Royal. Last spring he also published with Lidia Breda, a commented edition of Simone Weil's meditation on the *Pater Noster*. In the summer of 2017, he was invited to Japan to deliver a series of lectures.

Adam Gaiser's *Shurāt Legends, Ibādī Identities: Martyrdom, Asceticism and the Making of an Early Islamic Community* (University of South Carolina Press) appeared in 2016. An article, which is a modified version of the first chapter of his next book on Islamic sectarianism, appeared under the title “A Narrative Identity Approach to Islamic Sectarianism,” in an edited volume with Hurst Publishers entitled *Sectarianization: Mapping the Politics of the New Middle East*.

Matthew Goff published two co-edited volumes, *Pedagogy in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (2017) and *Ancient Tales of Giants from Qumran and Turfan* (2016). He also received a substantial grant from the Thyssen Foundation in Germany to organize a major international conference that brings together scholars of the Dead Sea Scrolls and experts on ancient gnostic literature.

Joseph Hellweg was awarded the Whichard Endowed Chair in Religious Studies at East Carolina University for 2017-18 during which he plans to complete his book manuscript, *The Harp is the Hunters' Qur'an: Hunting, Islam, and Action in Mande West Africa*. In 2017, he published essays on John Hick's notion of the “ineffable” and the archaeological concept of “tribe”. As president-elect of the Mande Studies Association, he co-organized their 2017 conference in Côte d'Ivoire, which welcomed participants from a dozen countries.

Aline Kalbian received an undergraduate teaching award from FSU in 2015. She published *Sex, Violence & Justice: Contraception and the Catholic Church* (Georgetown Press, 2014). She continues to co-edit the *Journal of Religious Ethics* and serve as the Chair of the department. She is currently working on a book on the ethics of hospitality.

FACULTY UPDATES (continued)

Martin Kavka was the 2015-2016 Ruth Meltzer Fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is co-editing a volume of essays by 2015–16 Katz fellows (tentatively titled *Jews Beyond Reason*) to be submitted to the University of Pennsylvania Press, and he has published various sections of his long-gestating manuscript, *The Perils of Covenant*.

Nicole Kelley is completing an article titled “Punitive Miracles and Coercive Rhetoric in Late Antique Christianity.” She served as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies from 2012 to 2015.

John Kelsay was a fellow of Christchurch College, Oxford University in spring 2016. Recent publications include “On Fighting as an Individual Duty,” in *The Muslim World* (April, 2016), “Neighbor Love in Muslim Discourse,” in F. Simmons, ed., *Love and Christian Ethics* (Georgetown University Press, 2016), and “Power and Anxiety: Religion and Conflict in the Middle East,” in *Providence: A Journal of Christianity and Foreign Policy* (January, 2016).

David Levenson published two articles, co-authored with Thomas Martin of Holy Cross: “The Ancient Latin Translations of Josephus,” in the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Josephus* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016) and “The Place of the Early Printed Editions of Josephus’ *Antiquities* and *War* (1470–1534) in the Latin Textual Tradition,” in *Sibyls, Scriptures, and Scrolls: John Collins at Seventy* (Brill, 2017). Dr. Levenson and Dr. Martin are also working on a translation and commentary for the Greek text of Josephus’ *Jewish War*, which will appear in the Brill Josephus Project series.

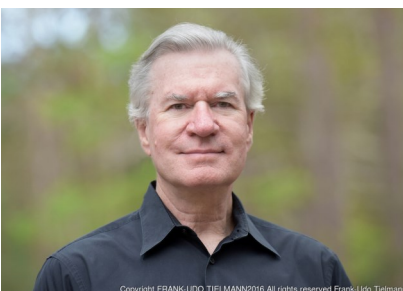
Mike McVicar published, *Christian Reconstruction: Rousas John Rushdoony and American Religious Conservatism* with the University of North Carolina Press (April, 2015). He is currently at work on, *God’s Watchers: Domestic Surveillance and Religious Activism from the Civil War to the War on Terror* (under contract with UNC). Research for the project has been supported by a number of competitive research grants, including sources from Florida State, Columbia University, New York University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Amanda Porterfield was the lead editor of *The Business Turn in American Religion* published by OUP in August 2017. Her monograph, *Corporate Spirit: Religion and the Rise of the Modern Corporation* is also in press with OUP and scheduled for release March 1, 2018.

Sumner B. Twiss published *Religion and Public Policy: Human Rights, Conflict, and Ethics* (senior editor; Cambridge U.P., 2015), *Chinese Just War Ethics: Origin, Development, and Dissent* (co-editor; Routledge U.K., 2015); *The Practices of Global Ethics: Historical Backgrounds, Current Issues and Future Prospects* (co-author; Edinburgh U.P., 2016). He is currently working on several projects including a comparison of Mao Tse-tung and Chiang Kai-shek on the ethics of war, and universal jurisdiction for crimes of atrocity.

Jimmy Yu is nearing completion of his new book manuscript on the establishment of a new lineage of Chan (Zen) Buddhism in Taiwan. A travel grant funded by the Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library of Taiwan allowed him to spend the summer of 2016 completing research for this project.

CORRIGAN RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



John Corrigan was awarded the title Distinguished Research Professor at the annual FSU faculty awards dinner in April 2017. The selection committee recognized his contributions to research in the areas of American religious history, religion and emotion, religious intolerance, and the spatial humanities. The award comes on the heels of many national and international awards over the last several years. He recently was selected as a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies and a Fellow of the National Humanities Center, awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair for the Netherlands, designated the Director of the Jessie Ball DuPont Faculty Seminar at the National Humanities Center, and

elected Alumnus of the Year of the University of Chicago Divinity School. He currently is serving as editor-in-chief of the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American Religion*, and has several books scheduled for publication in 2017-2018, including *The Business Turn in American Religious History*, coedited with Amanda Porterfield and Darren Grem (Oxford University Press, 2017); *Feeling Religion*, ed., (Duke University Press, 2017), *Making Deep Maps: Foundations, Approaches, and Methods*, coedited with David Bodenhamer and Trevor Harris (Indiana University Press, 2018); *Religion, Space, and the Atlantic World*, ed., (University of South Carolina Press, 2018), and *Religion in America*, co-authored with Winthrop Hudson, 9th ed., (Routledge, 2018).

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen Erndl (1954-2017)

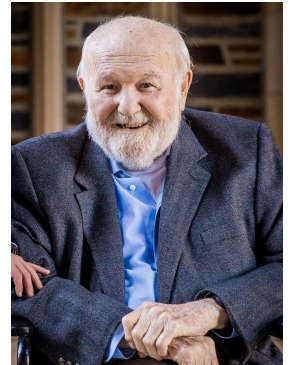
Our colleague Kathleen Erndl passed away suddenly on February 19, 2017.

After earning her undergraduate degree from New College of Florida, Prof. Erndl received a Ph.D. in South Asian Language and Literature (Religions of South Asia) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. She taught at DePauw University, Lewis & Clark College, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, before arriving at FSU in 1993. During her career at FSU, Prof. Erndl taught courses in the area of South Asian religion and culture, including courses on Hindu goddesses, the epic *Ramayana*, Hindu-Muslim conflict in India, Hindu ethics, and Bollywood film, in addition to language classes in Sanskrit, Hindi, and Urdu. She was widely recognized as an excellent teacher, and received University Teaching Awards from FSU in 1997 and 2006. Her research focused on popular religion and culture in India. At the time of her death, she was completing a book entitled *The Play of the Mother: Women, Goddess Possession, and Power in Hinduism*, as well as other publications on Bollywood film and religion. The quality of her research, including her 1993 book *Victory to the Mother*, was recognized with fellowships from the American Institute of Indian Studies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Fulbright-Hays program. We deeply miss Kathleen's intellectual brilliance, and her commitment to FSU. But just as much, we miss what these words only suggest: her cutting wit, and the bottomless kindness she showed to everyone she met.



John Carey (1931-2017)

John Carey, co-founder of FSU's Religion Department, and professor here until 1986 was trained at Duke University and Yale University. In Tallahassee, Carey was involved in the civil rights movement, spoke out on women's issues, led vigils against the death penalty, and started a peace studies program at FSU. He wrote or edited 12 books and published more than 60 scholarly articles. He was one of the nation's leading authorities on Paul Tillich. He won FSU awards for undergraduate teaching and service to the university. He served as president of Warren Wilson College and also taught at Catawba College, Florida Southern University, and Agnes Scott College.



David J. Kangas (1964-2016)

David Kangas taught in our department from 1999 to 2008 where he won an undergraduate teaching award in 2006. He received his PhD from Yale University in philosophy of religion. After leaving FSU, Dr. Kangas taught at Santa Clara University and California State University at Stanislaus. His research interests were in continental philosophy, history of philosophy, and philosophy of religion. He published one book and numerous scholarly articles. A second book, *Errant Affirmations: On the Philosophical Meaning of Kierkegaard's Religious Discourses*, will appear with Bloomsburg Publishers in late 2017.

Maureen A. Tilley (1948-2016)

Maureen Tilley taught in our department from 1989-1998. She received her PhD from Duke University. Her area was early Christian history with a focus on late ancient North African Christianity. She wrote over 70 articles, a monograph, and two books of translations. After leaving FSU, Dr. Tilley taught at the University of Dayton and Fordham University before her death in April of 2016.

Charles William "Bill" Swain (1937-2014)

Bill Swain came to FSU in 1965 as one of the first two full-time professors in the newly formed religion department. He retired in 1998. Dr. Swain received his PhD from Brown University and completed postdoctoral work at Harvard. He was director of Asian Studies at FSU for a number of years. After retirement, he was active with the Funeral Consumer Association, First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, and prison outreach.



Dr. Walter Moore

The Department of Religion wants to hear from YOU.

Please keep in touch and send us updates: your name, grad year and degree earned, your current mailing address and/or email address, and any recent news. You can send your emails to sstetson@fsu.edu or, if you prefer postal mail, to the address below.

RECENT NEWS

WALTER AND MARIAN MOORE ENDOWED FUND

Dr. Walter Moore, Professor Emeritus of Religion and his wife Marian gave the department a generous endowed gift dedicated to helping fund graduate student's travel to scholarly conferences. Giving students this opportunity enables them to advance their professional careers and positions them to compete for academic jobs in the future. Dr. Moore taught Christian history and thought in our department from 1967 to 1999.

SHENG YEN FOUNDATION VISITS FSU

The Sheng Yen Education Foundation visited our campus in July 2017. Dr. Pei Yang, director of the Foundation and Ms. Lily Kung, of the Great Compassion Foundation, met with Professor Jimmy Yu, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Sam Huckaba, and Assistant Dean Nancy Smilowitz to discuss continued collaboration with FSU and our department. The Sheng Yen foundation has generously funded a professorship, several graduate fellowships, a lecture series, and postdoctoral fellowship.



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