



IRCPL

2012-2013 Annual Report

institute for religion, culture, and public life



# Mission Statement

The resurgence of religion has led to the emergence of powerful forces in the new century, as religious and cultural intolerance become defining features of our world. In order to address this unexpected and rapidly changing situation, the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life brings together scholars and students in religion, cultural anthropology, history, political science, economics, social psychology and other allied fields to foster multi-disciplinary analysis. Founded in 2008, the Institute also engages political figures, economists and policy practitioners, as well as religious and cultural leaders, in its programs. The Institute focuses on questions relating to the role of difference, identity, and religious practice in both a national and an international context. It examines traditions, practices, and historical examples that demonstrate the proven potential for understanding, tolerance, and ecumenical values within religious traditions, along with the social institutions that may facilitate coexistence and mutual support. By taking an expansive rather than a restricted view of religious thought and practice, the Institute recasts the traditional opposition between the secular and the religious in order to promote innovative approaches to familiar problems.



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Karen Barkey, Professor of Sociology and History, has been engaged in the comparative and historical study of the state, with special focus on its transformation over time. She has worked on state society relations in her main empirical site, the Ottoman Empire, in comparison with France, the Habsburg, and the Russian Empires. She also pays attention to the Roman and Byzantine worlds as important predecessors of the Ottomans. She is now engaged in different projects on religion and toleration. She has written on the early centuries of Ottoman state toleration and is

now exploring different ways of understanding how religious coexistence, toleration and sharing occurred in different historical sites under Ottoman rule.

Her latest work, *Empire of Difference* (Cambridge UP, 2008), is a comparative study of the flexibility and longevity of imperial systems. *Empire of Difference* was awarded The 2009 Barrington Moore Award from the Comparative Historical Sociology section at American Sociology Association and the 2009 J. David Greenstone Book Prize from the Politics and History section at the Political Science Association. An edited book, *Choreography of Sacred Spaces: State, Religion and Conflict Resolution* (with Elazar Barkan), explores the history of shared religious spaces in the Balkans, Anatolia and Palestine/Israel, all three regions once under Ottoman rule. Barkey is also working on a project with Glenn Bowman (Anthropology, University of Kent, Canterbury) on the role of prayer and ritual in the choreographies of sharing in mixed sacred sites in Turkey and the Balkans.

Mark C. Taylor is the Chair of the Department of Religion at Columbia University. A leading figure in debates about postmodernism, Taylor has written on topics ranging from philosophy, religion, literature, art and architecture to education, media, science, technology and economics.

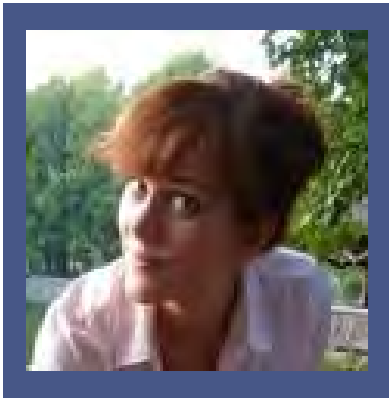


Taylor received a Doktorgrad (Philosophy) from the University of Copenhagen in 1981, a Ph.D. in religion from Harvard (1973), and a B.A. from Wesleyan University (1968). The many awards and honors he has received include: Wesleyan University Distinguished Alumnus Award (1998), Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Professor of the year (1995), Rektor's Medal, University of Helsinki (1993), American Academy of Religion Awards for Excellence for his books *Nots* (1994) and *Altarity* (1998), and Guggenheim Fellowship (1979-80).

His many books include: *Journeys to Selfhood: Hegel and Kierkegaard* (1980), *Erring: A Postmodern A/Theology* (1984), *Disfiguring: Art, Architecture, Religion* (1994), *Hiding* (1997), *About Religion: Economies of Faith in Virtual Culture* (1999), *The Moment of Complexity: Emerging Network Culture* (2001), *Confidence Games: Money and Markets in a World Without Redemption* (2006), *Mystic Bones* (2007), *After God* (2007). In addition to his writing, Taylor has produced a CD-ROM, *Motel Real: Las Vegas, Nevada*, and has had an exhibition of the artwork accompanying his book, *Grave Matters*, at the Mass MOCA.

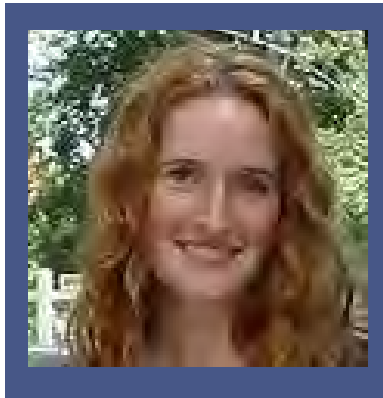
## Meet the Directors

**Assistant Director,  
Programming and Media**



**Chelsea Ebin** is a Ph.D. candidate in Politics at the New School for Social Research and is writing her dissertation on conservative Catholic and evangelical Christian political mobilization and coalition building.

**Assistant Director,  
Business and Research**



**Melissa Van** has worked in non-profit management for fifteen years and is in the process of completing an MS in Fundraising Management at Columbia University.

**IRCPL  
Staff**

**Print Designer**  
Joe Blankholm



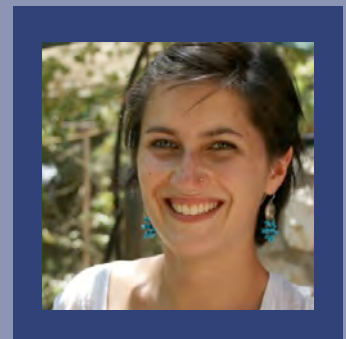
**Media Consultant**  
Norris Chumley



**Office Assistant**  
Rivka Rappoport



**Office Assistant**  
Hannah Rubashkin





# People

## Advisory Committee



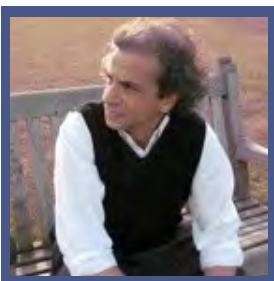
**Courtney Bender** received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Princeton University and her B.A. from Swarthmore College. She specializes in contemporary American religion and the social scientific study of religion.

**Sarah Cole** received her Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley and her B.A. from Williams College. She specializes in British literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, with an emphasis on the modernist period.



**Souleymane Bachir Diagne** is an alumnus of the École Normale Supérieure, holds an agrégation in Philosophy and took his Doctorat d'État in philosophy at the Sorbonne. His field of research includes history of logic, history of philosophy, Islamic philosophy, African philosophy and literature.

**Elazar Barkan** is Professor of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, Director of SIPA's Human Rights Concentration, and Director of Columbia's Institute for the Study of Human Rights.



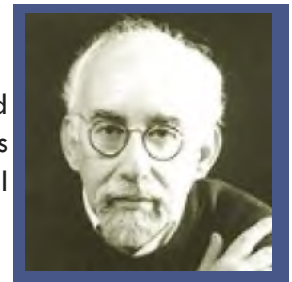
**Akeel Bilgrami** has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. His interests include the Philosophy of Mind and Language, Political Philosophy and Moral Psychology.

**Mamadou Diouf** is the Leitner Family Professor of African Studies and the Director of Columbia University's Institute for African Studies. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Paris-Sorbonne.



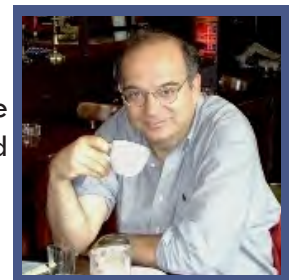
**Nicholas B. Dirks** is the Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and History at Columbia University, where, since September 2004, he has been Executive Vice President for the Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Faculty.

**Ira Katznelson** is the Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History and director of the SSRC. After receiving his Ph.D. from Cambridge in 1969, he has become an Americanist whose work straddles comparative politics and political theory as well as political and social history.



**Lydia Liu** is the Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. Her research has focused on cross-cultural exchange; the movement of words, theories, and artifacts across boundaries; and the evolution of writing, textuality, and technology.

**Claudio Lomnitz** is the Campbell Family Professor of Anthropology. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1987 and works on the history, culture and politics of Latin America.



**Robert Thurman** holds the first endowed chair in Buddhist Studies in the West, the Jey Tsong Khapa Chair in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies. After education at Philips Exeter and Harvard, he studied Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism for almost thirty years as a personal student of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

## IRCPL Fellows

The IRCPL awards fellowships to graduate students at Columbia University to conduct research on their dissertations. The fellowship provides each student \$4000 to cover expenses directly related to their research. Upon returning from their travel, students make oral presentations on the results of their research.



**Tolga Kobas** is a Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow and a Ph.D. candidate in Columbia University's Department of Sociology. His dissertation research focuses on the role of adab in social and political changes in the Ottoman Empire in the 17th and 18th centuries. Adab has two interrelated components: a socio-ethical and a literary aspect. In the first, adab designates a wide range of social and ethical virtues, like good manners, tact, grace, refined taste, courage, erudition and literary skill. The literary aspect is secondary and signifies literary production and scholarship that deals with or has connections to these socio-ethical subjects.

Tolga will spend the summer working in the Ottoman archives in Istanbul carrying out archival work analyzing historical documents for insights into the role and function of adab on the Ottoman patrimonial and bureaucratic state mechanisms.

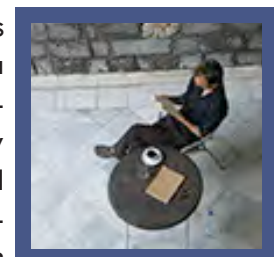
**Laura McTighe** is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Religion at Columbia University. Through multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in Chicago, Philadelphia and New Orleans, Laura's dissertation explores the role of formerly incarcerated people's movements in social healing and transformation. She aims to illuminate innovative approaches to the crises of mass incarceration that are already unfolding within these communities, thereby furthering the meaningful conversations and collaborations that are essential for bringing a lasting reduction to the United States' dependence on incarceration. During her IRCPL Research Fellowship term, Laura will be undertaking foundational fieldwork with Women With A Vision, Inc. (WWAV) in New Orleans, which is integral to her dissertation.



**Ana Méndez-Oliver** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures at Columbia University. Her dissertation examines representations of hybridity, in word and image, of frontier or liminal identities (Jewish, Muslim, converso, and mestizo) in little studied works, some of which have never been transcribed into modern English or Spanish. With the IRCPL Graduate Fellowship, Ana will conduct research in France and Spain on manuscripts and printed editions in sixteenth century official works promulgated by the monarchy and the Church, as well as some written by moriscos and

mestizos which represent religious and cultural hybridity. In these texts, she will explore how the marginal spaces in which these minority communities were situated became a creative space of resistance and/or alternative ways of incorporating themselves into Spain's national project.

**Rafal Stepień** is the inaugural Cihui Foundation Faculty Fellow in Chinese Buddhist Studies and a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. His doctoral dissertation investigates the philosophical limits of literary self-expression in the Buddhist and Islamic traditions. Through close textual analysis in the primary languages of Sanskrit, Chinese, Arabic, and Persian, he examines the philosophical links and the specific discursive strategies used both by Buddhist thinkers such as Nagarjuna (c. 150-250) and Linji Yixuan (d. 866), founders of the Madhyamaka school and the Linji Chan order respectively, and by Islamic writers such as Ibn al-'Arabi (1165-1240) and Mawlana Rumi (1207-1272), exponents of the Arabic philosophical and Persian poetic approaches to Sufism. He hopes to demonstrate that Buddhism and Islam, far from being incommensurably opposed, exhibit deep affinities both in their understandings of certain foundational beliefs, and in the discursive devices employed by some of their most eloquent exponents.





## IRCPL Visiting Scholars

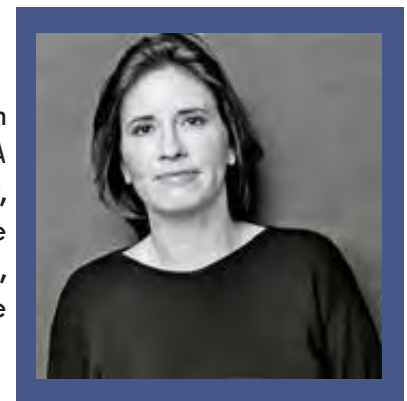
Visiting scholars have been invited to IRCPL for a semester or an academic year in order to take advantage of Columbia's resources to pursue their own research in fields related to IRCPL's mission.

**Ibrahim Bechroui** is a graduate student from the French Institute of Geopolitics of the University Paris VIII. He is carrying out field research for a thesis project on the surveillance of Muslim communities by the New York City Police Department. His previous research has been on US foreign policy in Morocco.



**Colm Fox** has a B.A. in Communications, a Masters degree in Pacific and International Affairs, and he has worked for over 10 years in New Media design. Colm is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at George Washington University and writing his dissertation. As a visiting scholar at IRCPL, he is writing his dissertation on how and why politicians in emerging democracies mobilize identity groups during elections. He builds on two years of field research in Indonesia and Thailand. Findings show how the politicization of identity groups is dramatically effected by electoral rules, social structure and level of political competition.

**Kate Walbert** attended Northwestern University and received a Masters in English from New York University. She is the author of such acclaimed books as *A Short History of Women*, *Our Kind*, *The Gardens of Kyoto*, and *Where She Went*, a collection of linked stories. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fiction fellowship and a Connecticut Commission on the Arts fiction fellowship, as well as fellowship from the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.



**Dr. Syed Mueh Khairudin Aljunied** will be joining the IRCPL as a visiting scholar in the incoming 2013-2014 academic year. He is currently an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore where he teaches courses in such topics as Religions in Southeast Asia, Colonialism and Decolonization, Social History and Historiography. His latest book project explores the ideas of key Muslim intellectuals in postcolonial Malaysia, looking primarily on the ways by which they have shaped the contours of Islamic thought and the Muslim public sphere in the country.



IRCPL initiates and supports a number of faculty-led projects to produce new research and materials to stimulate conversations relating to religion, culture and politics.

## Toleration Working Group

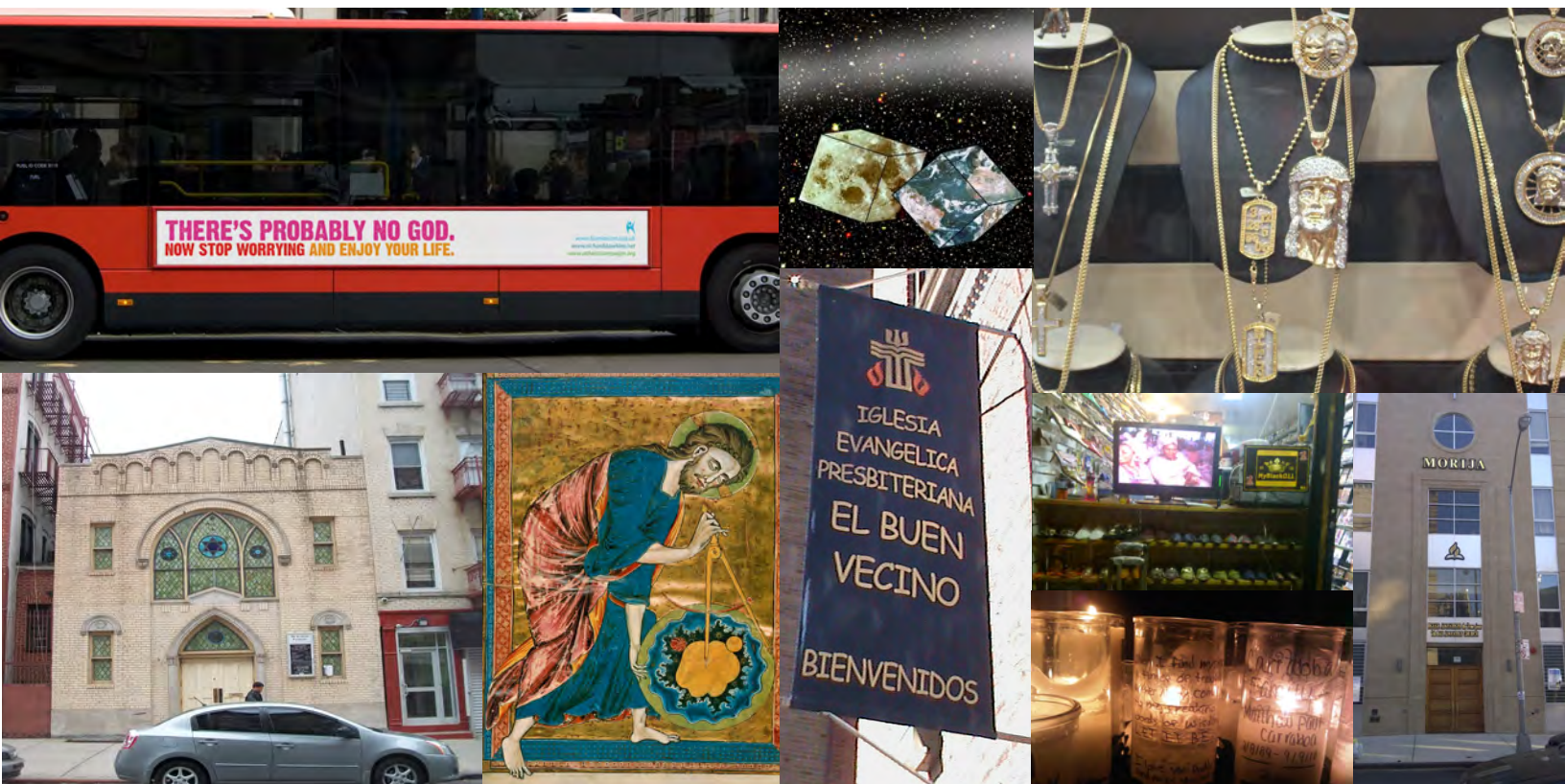
**The Toleration Working Group** was founded in 2007 to examine the undertheorized topic of toleration and consists of scholars Karen Barkey, Akeel Bilgrami, Rajeev Bhargava, Ira Katznelson, Sudipta Kaviraj, Charles Taylor, Alfred Stepan and Nadia Urbanati. The group has been exploring the theory and practice of toleration at different moments in time and in different societies. This work will be reflected in three volumes that the group anticipates will become cornerstones in the field. The first of which, *Boundaries of Toleration*, will be published by Columbia University Press in Fall 2013. The second volume is a response to Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*, which examines the emergence of secularism in Northern Atlantic culture, or secularism within Latin Christendom. The group has examined the relevance of Taylor's findings to non-European and non-Christian cultures. This volume, titled *A Secular Age Outside of Latin Christendom* will be published by Columbia University Press in 2014. The group's final project, to be called the *Reader on Toleration*, will showcase writings on toleration from around the world, spanning approximately 2,500 years. The volume's editors will introduce the selected materials with analytic essays that situate the writings within their particular geographic sites and relate them comparatively to ideas and practices of toleration in other parts of the world.

## Arabic Translation Project

IRCPL faculty working in the Middle East and North Africa during the "Arab Spring" found that few political leaders and activists had knowledge about successful and failed democratic transitions elsewhere, in sharp contrast with democratization attempts in Spain, Greece, Korea, Poland, Senegal, Turkey, Indonesia, Chile and Brazil. A primary reason for this is that none of the standard works on democratization in the modern world have been translated into Arabic or are available in the MENA region. In an effort to help address that, IRCPL has partnered with All Prints Publishing Beirut. We will translate and publish ten key works on democratic transitions: case studies of successes and failures as well as classic works on democratic theory. The books will be available in print and e-book formats throughout the region.

## Religions of Harlem

**Religions of Harlem** is the first web-based effort to publicly document the religious life of the Harlem neighborhood of New York. With the help of Columbia University students, and under the guidance of Professors Obery Hendricks and Josef Sorrett, Religions of Harlem uses diverse media to provide a unique view of the wide range of religious expressions, leaders, and communities that have been and continue to be central to the cultural worlds of Harlem. In the blog section of the site, students in the Religions of Harlem course at Columbia University use photos, videos, and audio recordings to bring to life various locations throughout Harlem—locations mapped on the site. In addition to reaching audiences through the world wide web and reaching students through the classroom, Religions of Harlem sponsors public events and forums. For example, Professor Hendricks and Professor Sorrett collaborated with radio-series producer Dr. Noris J. Chumley on two, one-hour mini-series which were broadcast for “Black History Month” on NPR affiliate stations nationwide, including WNYC New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities. It is likely that one million people or more heard these programs, which recieved a Wilbur Award (see page 12).



## Faculty Seminar

**Faculty Seminars** bring together Columbia faculty and colleagues from different departments and disciplines for semester-long investigations of interdisciplinary topics. Columbia faculty members from any department are welcome to submit a proposal to organize a seminar on a topic related to the institute's research. This year's seminar, called “What is an Atheist?” was organized by Mark C. Taylor, Chair of the Department of Religion and Co-Director of the IRCPL. The year-long seminar carried out a cross-cultural and multidisciplinary investigation of atheism with professors Anne Baker, Akeel Bilgrami, Patricia Dailey, Kathy Ewing, Dotan Leshem Lydia Liu, Wayne Proudfoot, Bruce Robbins, Josef Sorrett, Robert Thurman and Gauri Viswanathan and graduate student Joe Blankholm. Questions considered included: How is atheism defined? Can atheism be found in all religious traditions? Is atheism a distinctively modern phenomenon? Is there such a thing as religious atheism? Can there be an atheistic theology? Is modern science necessarily atheistic? What is the relation between atheism and secularity? What are the politics of atheism?



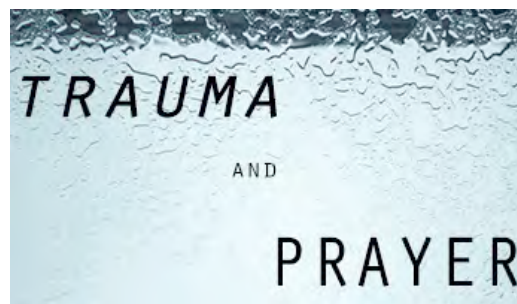
# Rethinking Religion

Rethinking Religion is the media project of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life at Columbia University. We produce radio episodes that explore the intersection of religion and culture in contemporary society. On our website, contributing writers respond to IRCPL's public events, offering commentary and analysis on religion in the public sphere. Audio podcasts and transcripts of these public events are available on our website and at iTunes University.

New Directions in Prayer is a three part radio series from the IRCPL's Rethinking Religion media program. Future episodes, to be released in Summer 2013, look at the Jesus Prayer and Islamic Prayer.

## New Directions in Prayer: Trauma and Prayer

This hour-long episode explores the role prayer plays in the lives of people who have experienced abuse or extreme trauma. With Dr. Norris J. Chumley as Series Host and Executive Producer and Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, author of *Trauma and Grace*, as featured commentator, the episode focuses not only on distinct forms of prayer, but also on the varied areas in which prayer is used to mitigate the impact of abuse and/or trauma. Listen to the full episode and full length interviews with the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones and William Moyers on the website.



## Wilbur Award

The IRCPL is pleased to announce that Rethinking Religion's "The Harlem Renaissance—Music, Religion and the Politics of Race" Radio Series received a Wilbur Award. The Religion Communicators Council (RCC) announced 17 Wilbur Awards on March 1. The awards honor excellence by individuals in secular media—print and online journalism, book publishing, broadcasting, and motion pictures—in communicating religious issues, values and themes during 2012.

During the Harlem Renaissance, music, religion, and spirituality were connected—not only in the church, but also in the jazz club. The public radio special "The Harlem Renaissance: Music, Religion, and the Politics of Race" combines music, archival audio, and guest commentary to explore this fascinating period in African-American history.



Rethinking Religion publishes responses to public events written by a diverse group of students, scholars and intellectuals.

10/23

### **This Fragile Life: A Dialogue on Family and Mental Illness with Charlotte Pierce Baker**

Charlotte Pierce Baker led a conversation about mental illness -a topic that is so often kept in silence- and the family. Her presentation engaged the audience “as participant” in order to create an atmosphere of sharing. She interspersed explanation and information with passages read from her most recent book, *This Fragile Life: A Mother’s Story of a Bipolar Son*— all the while, inviting questions and comments from the audience.

“The audience all took a breath together, trying to absorb the weight of the piece she had just read. Despite having read the memoir at multiple book readings, Pierce-Baker is not yet immunized to the emotional weight of her material, and her presentation was raw. Though it was obviously difficult for her, Pierce-Baker’s sense of duty overwhelmed her fear of sharing such personal information.”  
-Elizabeth Wade

2/19

### **Gangster Reality and Gangster Films: A mass culture case study in the real v. the fake**

The Gangster Story is the dark flipside of America’s driving Horatio Alger Myth, with a spectacular demise the required ending in this twisted fable of individual success. Few writers have a better perspective on the phenomenon than Paul Lieberman, who has tracked various forms of organized crime for decades and is the author of the book *Gangster Squad*, an epic account of the secretive (and real life) police squad tasked with driving the mob from Los Angeles after World War II.

“As Lieberman walked the audience through important dates from the biographies of Cohen and the Squad, a fascinating narrative emerged of a world in which, sometimes, the differences between lawman and mobster were merely a matter of dress.” -Rivka Rappoport

2/21

### **Between State and Synagogue, The Secularization of Israel: A talk with Guy Ben-Porat**

A thriving, yet small, liberal component in Israeli society has frequently taken issue with the constraints imposed by religious orthodoxy, largely with limited success. However, Guy Ben-Porat explains that the recent dramatic changes that have occurred in the secularization of public and private lives is in part because of demographic changes and in part because of the influence of an increasingly consumer-oriented society.

“Many of his subjects with disparate levels of practice all described themselves using the same word: “traditional.” He explained that this is a difficult word to define, as some of these individuals shopped on the Sabbath or had non-Orthodox marriages while others did not.” -Hannah Rubashkin

# Events

Each year, the IRCPL hosts events, ranging from intimate gatherings to large lectures, on a wide variety of topics relating to religion, culture and politics.

## **Religion Conflict and Accommodation in Indian History: the Medieval period** 9/28

A workshop focused on the Medieval period in Indian history and the developing complexities of the relations between Islamic communities and power centers and their Hindu counterparts, the project explored the sources of conflict and strategies of accommodation.

## **Lino Mannocci: Seeing is Believing, Believing is Seeing**

The artist Lino Mannocci reflected on his interest in stories from the Classical World such as "Apollo and Marsyas" and from the Old and New Testament such as "Lot and his Daughters" and the "Annunciation." Mannocci believes that even in a non-ideological period like ours the echoes and auras of these stories can still enrich and inform contemporary painting.

## **From Doctrine to Community- church-doing in pluralistic times**

A talk with Francesca E. S. Montemaggi, presenting findings from an ethnography in a Christian evangelical church in Wales, UK. In the pluralistic environment of Western liberal democracies, a strand of North American Christian evangelicalism has been promoting a model of church-doing that seeks to respond to contemporary diversity of life-styles.



## **Politics, Religion and the Presidential Race: Jesse Jackson and Katrina vanden Heuvel**

A wide-ranging discussion with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the legendary civil rights leader and first major African American presidential candidate, and Katrina vanden Heuvel, the acclaimed social critic and publisher of *The Nation* magazine, on matters of race, religion, and politics in America today. With the election just days away, this timely discussion explored the critical intersections of race and religion in the 2012 presidential campaign and their implications for America's political future. The conversation was moderated by Obery Hendricks.

## **Shadows of Universalism: A Conversation on "Human Rights" in Comparative Perspective**

A roundtable discussion with Etienne Balibar, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Lydia H. Liu, and Samuel Moyn. Participants discussed the nature of universalism in human rights as opposed to cultural relativism, particularism, and other symmetric or dissymmetric oppositions. They asked: what are the conditions under which one speaks for or against a certain kind of universalism?

## **Muslims in Indian Cities: Trajectories of Marginalisation (Book Launch)**

A conversation with the editors of the new book *Muslims in Indian Cities: Trajectories of Marginalisation* with its editors Christophe Jaffrelot and Laurent Gayer, Anapamo Rao, and moderated by Karen Barkey.



- 11/27 **Al Andalus Rediscovered: Iberia's New Muslims (Book Launch)**  
 The launch of Marvine Howe's new book, *Al Andalus Rediscovered: Iberia's New Muslims* and a roundtable conversation with the author, Marvine Howe, a former *New York Times* foreign correspondent, Professor Jose Moya, President of the World Policy Institute Michele Wucker and journalist Claudia Dreifus.
- 12/5 **Religion in American War and Diplomacy: A History**  
 From the first colonists to the presidents of the 21st Century, religion has always shaped America's relationships with other nations. Professor Andrew Preston claims that during the presidency of George W. Bush, many Americans viewed the entrance of religion into foreign policy discourses as a "new" development. Despite the official division between church and state, he argues that the presence of religion in American foreign policy has been a constant.
- 2/12 **Reading Durkheim in America: A Talk by Karen Fields**  
*The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* is usually associated with totemic religion in faraway places, but in writing it, Durkheim had in mind a social world much closer to hand in the France of his time. Sociologist Karen Fields adapted Durkheim's methodology to explore curious features of that world and our own.
- 4/2 **Strange Fruit: Augustine, Liberalism and the Good Samaritan**  
 Recent developments in political theory, religious studies, and social criticism have led to revived interest in political theology as an alternative to more conventional approaches to "religion and politics." This lecture by Professor Eric Gregory examined these developments in light of various encounters with the contested legacy of Augustine of Hippo.
- 4/4 **Islamized Armenians as "Survivors" of Genocide? – A Lecture by Ayse Gül Altınay**  
 Based critical readings of various historiographies, memoirs and fiction on Islamized Armenians, as well as interviews with the "grandchildren" of Islamized Armenian survivors from throughout Turkey, the presentation by Ayse Gul Altınay discussed the implications of both this historical silence and the recent forms of unsilencing for contemporary academic and political debates, and asks questions about the category of "the survivor" in genocide scholarship.
- 4/24 **Democratisation in Muslim Contexts: The Return to the Question of Legitimacy**  
 Since the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring, aspects of political legitimacy dominate discussions, while economic development seems to have been put on the back burner, if not forgotten altogether. In this talk, Dr. Filali-Ansary revisited the way in which issues of legitimacy are linked to discussions of religious and cultural traditions.
- 4/25 **Migrant Imaginaries: Religion on the Move in the African Diaspora**  
 This panel explored how an interdisciplinary approach to migratory experiences in the African diaspora — on United States soil, in the Caribbean, and across the Atlantic divide — might attune us to how mobility is constitutive of religious beliefs, practices and communities.
- 4/26 **The Phenomenology of Muslim Prayer**  
 The purpose of this workshop was to explore from many different angles the meanings of the ways in which Muslims pray to God. The workshop interrogated such questions as: How and why was the commandment of prayer established?
- 5/10 **Arindam Dutta on TransNational HaHas: Deltas, Deities and the Debt**  
 Arindam Dutta looked at the entanglement of "economy" and "religion" in the places where the singular, secular temporal expectancy of a ballooning, perdurable Public Debt was seen as interjecting into eschatologically-defined conceptions of obligation and existence.

# Events: Lecture Series

## Apolcalypse Now: The End Times and the Contemporary Imaginary

9/18 A conversation with Rebecca Solnit on the subject of apocalyptic fantasies, visions, and predictions and the politics of the End Time.

10/9 A conversation with best-selling author George Dyson on the subject of technology, time, and apocalyptic visions and predictions.

11/19 A conversation with Wallace S. Broecker, the “Grandfather of Climate Science,” on the subject of climate change, natural disasters, and apocalyptic visions and predictions.

## Religion in American Politics

1/31 A conversation with Jose Casanova examining the conditions under which both “civil” and “denominational” religions in America may turn “uncivil.”

3/12 Eddie Glaude considered how the “blind spots” in African American religious historiography block the way to a more nuanced engagement with powerful celebrity preachers.

4/11 John Torpey identified patterns in historical religious “points of departure” to help us set our own time in a broader perspective.

## Fencing in God: Religion, Immigration and Incarceration

2/10 Alyshia Galvez explored a decade of Guadalupe-based devotion and activism for immigration rights among recent Mexican immigrants.

2/13 A screening of *Sin Nombre* by writer-director Cary Fukunaga, a film that tells two powerful intersecting stories of immigration to the US.

3/14 A conversation between Winnifred Sullivan and Julio Medina, focusing on religious conversion within the American penal system.

4/16 Putting immigrant rights advocate Amy Gottlieb, scholar Douglas Thompkins, and journalist Jordan Flaherty in conversation.

# Bampton Lecture Series

Founded in 1948, the Bampton Lectures in America are a series of biennial lectures given by prominent scholars in the fields of theology, science, art, and medicine. The lectures will be published in book form this coming year by Columbia University Press. This year, the speaker was the artist Liam Gillick.

## 1820 Erasmus and Upheaval 2/26 2/28 1948 B.F. Skinner and Counter

Starting in 1820, prior to the European revolutionary upheavals of 1848, this lecture will address the immediate aftermath of the French and American revolutions and the stresses which led to new models of work, life and social organization.

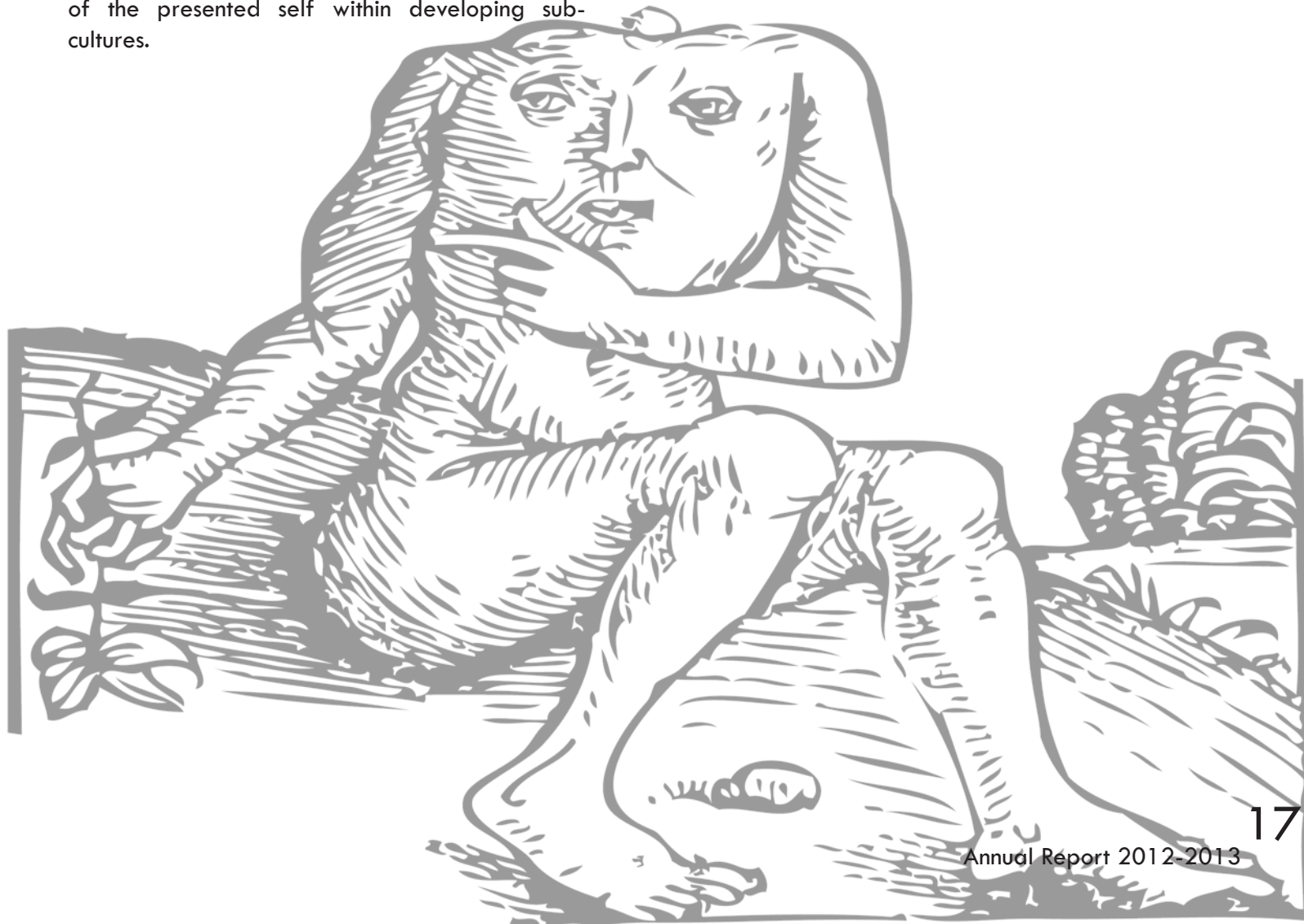
### Revolution

Examining conspiracy, behavioralism, post-World War II restructuring and the delusions around applied modernism it will reveal the various counter measures, both intentional and structural, that shaped the post-war sense of self.

## 1963 Herman Kahn and Projection 3/5 3/7 1974 Volvo and the Mise-en-scene

For the third lecture 1963 is the pivot for a consideration of projection – both social and political. The rise of insurgency and the consolidation of the scenario as a tool of political and financial control is combined with new models of the presented self within developing sub-cultures.

The final lecture rooted in 1974 and beyond looks at the mise-en-scène as a model for social and cultural organization. Continued shifts in technology and the rise of Neo-Liberalism are countered by the rise of new identifications and subjectivities.





# Partnerships

This year, the IRCPL co-sponsored events with the following Departments, Centers and Institutes:

BLINKEN EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

CENTURY 1913 2013  
COLUMBIA MAISON FRANÇAISE

CDTR  
Center for Democracy,  
Toleration, and Religion

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ISHR

institute for  
the study of  
human rights



Alliance Program

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE FOR ISRAEL AND JEWISH STUDIES

THE HEYMAN CENTER  
for the Humanities at Columbia University



INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

Center for the  
Study of Ethnicity  
and Race



South Asia Institute

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON  
WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JILL NEWHOUSE

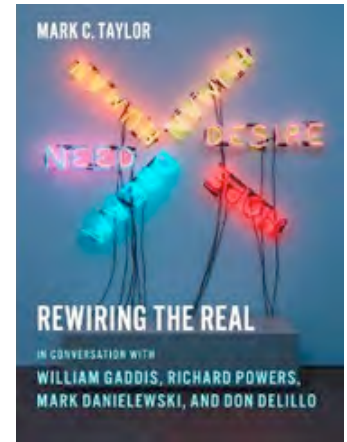
# Publications

## ***Rewiring the Real: In Conversation with William Gaddis, Richard Powers, Mark Danielewski, and Don DeLillo***

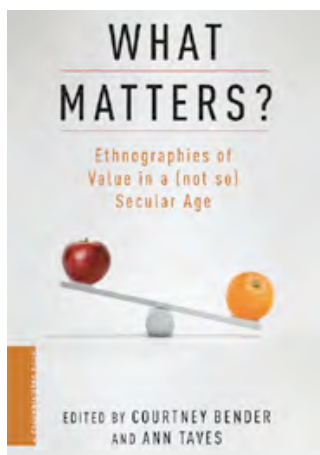
By Mark C. Taylor

Published: January 2013

Digital and electronic technologies that act as extensions of our bodies and minds are changing how we live, think, act, and write. Some welcome these developments as bringing humans closer to unified consciousness and eternal life. Others worry that invasive globalized technologies threaten to destroy the self and the world. Whether feared or desired, these innovations provoke emotions that have long fueled the religious imagination, suggesting the presence of a latent spirituality in an era mistakenly deemed secular and posthuman.



“Long gone are the days when social scientists regarded religion as an anachronism, fading into our collective past or remaining on the margins of culture as a side-show curiosity. Gone, too, are the days when scholars linked the language of spirits, haunting, and the spectral to investigations of the premodern and the primitive: more and more frequently, enchanted language and ideas come alive in studies of modernity.” - Ann Taves and Courtney Bender, “Introduction: Things of Value,” 1.

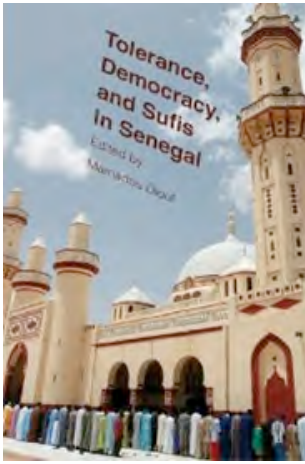


## ***What Matters? Ethnographies of Value in a (not so) Secular Age***

Edited by Courtney Bender and Ann Taves

Published: May 2012

Over the past decade, religious, secular, and spiritual distinctions have broken down, forcing scholars to rethink secularity and its relationship to society. Since classifying a person, activity, or experience as religious or otherwise is an important act of valuation, one that defines the characteristics of a group and its relation to others, scholars are struggling to recast these concepts in our increasingly ambiguous, pluralistic world. This collection considers religious and secular categories and what they mean to those who seek valuable, ethical lives. As they investigate how individuals and groups determine significance, set goals, and attribute meaning, contributors illustrate the ways in which religious, secular, and spiritual designations serve as markers of value.



### **Tolerance, Democracy and Sufis in Senegal**

**Edited By Mamadou Diouf**

**Published: January 2013**

This collection critically examines “tolerance,” “secularism,” and respect for religious “diversity” within a social and political system dominated by Sufi brotherhoods. Through a detailed analysis of Senegal’s political economy, essays trace the genealogy and dynamic exchange among these concepts while investigating public spaces and political processes and their reciprocal engagement with the state, Sunni reformist and radical groups, and non-religious organizations. The anthology provides a rich and nuanced historical ethnography of the formation of Senegalese democracy, illuminating the complex trajectory of the Senegalese state and reflecting on similar postcolonial societies.

### **Refiguring the Spiritual**

**By Mark C. Taylor**

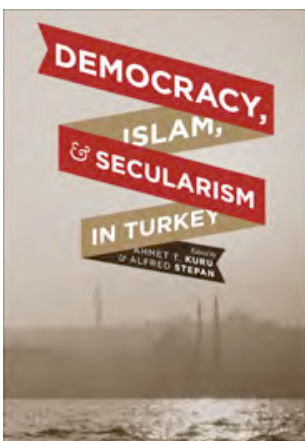
**Published: March 2012**

Mark C. Taylor provocatively claims that contemporary art has lost its way. With the art market now mirroring the art of finance, many artists create works solely for the purpose of luring investors and inspiring trade among hedge funds and private equity firms. When art becomes a financial instrument, grounded in nothing but itself, it loses its critical edge. Its commoditization, corporatization, and financialization rob us of necessary perspective.



“The crisis of confidence plaguing individuals and institutions is a crisis of faith. We no longer know what to believe or whom to trust. At such a moment, art might seem an unlikely resource to guide reflection and shape action. If, however, God and the imagination are — as Wallace Stevens insisted — one, then perhaps art can create an opening that is the space of hope. Perhaps, by refiguring the spiritual, art can redeem the world.” -Mark C. Taylor, “Financialization of Art,” 15.

“Despite its new strategy to mobilize societal supporters, the Turkish military’s political power has actually declined in some important respects, owing mainly to the information that has come into the public domain during the legal prosecution of officers accused of planning coups.” - Ahmet T. Kuru and Alfred Stepan, “Introduction,” 6.



### **Democracy, Islam and Secularism in Turkey**

**Edited by Ahmet T. Kuru and Alfred Stepan**

**Published: February 2012**

While Turkey has grown as a world power, promoting the image of a progressive and stable nation, several choices in policy have strained its relationship with the East and the West. Providing historical, social, and religious context for this behavior, the essays in *Democracy, Islam, and Secularism in Turkey* examine issues relevant to Turkish debates and global concerns, from the state’s position on religion to its involvement with the European Union. The essays offer a cross-Continental comparison of “multiple secularisms,” as well as political parties, considering especially Turkey’s Justice and Development Party in relation to Europe’s Christian Democratic parties.

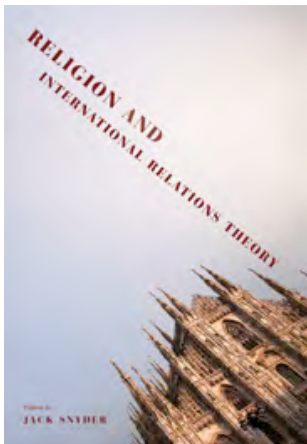
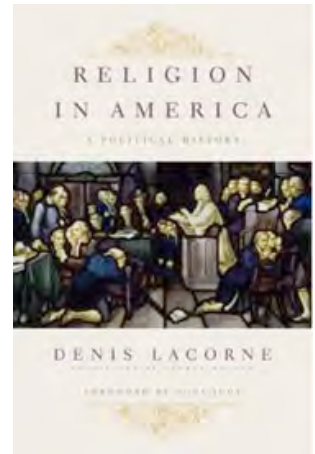


## **Religion in America**

**By Denis Lacorne**

**Published: July 2011**

America is unique in that its political institutions preceded its development of a national identity. The American Revolution and the drafting of the Constitution did not deepen a preexisting national self. Rather, it created a new political framework in which the “walls” of culture, particularly in reference to a distant past, were later added. Revisiting this moment in American history, Denis Lacorne identifies two competing narratives drawn from a reformulation of America’s past, present, and future. The first narrative, derived from the philosophy of the Enlightenment, is essentially secular, predicated on separating religion from politics to preserve political freedom. The second narrative casts national identity as the outcome of a progression toward freedom that began with the Reformation.



## **Religion and International Relations Theory**

**Edited by Jack Snyder**

**Published: April 2011**

Religious concerns stand at the center of international politics, yet key paradigms in international relations, namely realism, liberalism, and constructivism, barely consider religion in their analysis of political subjects. The essays in this collection rectify this. Authored by leading scholars, they introduce models that integrate religion into the study of international politics and connect religion to a rising form of populist politics in the developing world. With the secular state’s perceived failure to address popular needs, religion has become a banner for movements that demand a more responsive government. The contributors to this volume recognize this trend and propose structural and theoretical innovations for future advances in the discipline.

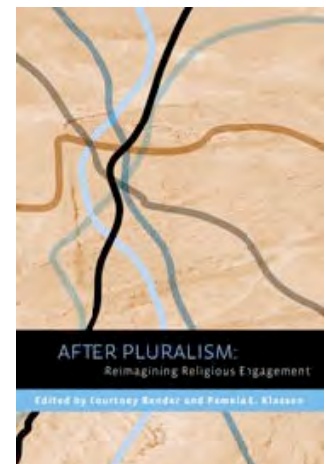
“Throughout the world, ‘Parliaments of Religion’ are no longer experiments held at a World’s Fair but instead are everyday assemblies occurring in schools, hospitals and city streets throughout North America, Asia and Europe. At the same time, combatants in new ‘wars of religion’ base their legitimacy on claims to defend religious traditions in such diverse places as Pakistan, Nigeria and (in a less overtly militarized zone) Washington, D.C. Religion is proliferating; academics, journalists, and policymakers increasingly take religion as a subject of inquiry, and laypeople of all sorts consider it a rubric by which to understand shifting social forces in local neighborhoods and around the globe.” - Pamela E. Klassen and Courtney Bender, “Introduction: Habits of Pluralism,” 1.

## **After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement**

**Edited by Courtney Bender and Pamela E. Klassen**

**Published: November 2010**

This book offers a critique of how religious difference is often framed as a problem only pluralism can solve. Working comparatively across nations and disciplines, the essays in *After Pluralism* explore pluralism as concept historically and ideologically produced and explore it as a term that sets the norms of identity and the parameters of exchange, encounter and conflict. Contributors locate pluralism’s ideals in diverse sites—Broadway plays, Polish Holocaust memorials, Egyptian dream interpretations, German jails, and legal theories—and demonstrate its shaping of political and social interaction in surprising and powerful ways. Ultimately, contributors do more than deconstruct this theory; they tackle what comes next.



# Forthcoming Publications

## *Boundaries of Toleration*

Edited by Charles Taylor and Alfred Stepan

## *Blood: A Critique of Christianity*

By Gil Anidjar

## *Beyond Post-Secularism: Political Religion, Legal Pluralism, and Democratic Constitutionalism*

Edited by Jean Cohen and Cecile Laborde

## *Recovering Place: Reflections on Stone Hill*

By Mark C. Taylor

## *Religion, the Secular and the Politics of Sexual Difference*

Edited by Linell E. Cady and Tracy Fessenden

## *Democracy and Islam in Indonesia*

Edited by Mirjam Künkler and Alfred Stepan

## *Choreographies of Sharing Sacred Sites: Religion and Conflict Resolution*

Edited by Elazar Barkan and Karen Barkey





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