

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SPRING 2016

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Religious Studies at
Georgia State University



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GSU Religious Studies



Save the Date Tuesday, March 1 | 5:00 pm
Rialto Center for the Arts | 80 Forsyth St.

REFUGEES IN GEORGIA:

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

2016 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE LECTURE

Panelists will include:



Justin Howell
International Rescue
Committee (Atlanta)
2015-16 Religion & Public
Life Fellow



Ted Terry
Mayor
City of Clarkston



Rev. George Tatro
Memorial Drive Presbyterian
Church, Stone Mountain



Dr. Abbas Barzegar
Religious Studies
Georgia State University,
Moderator

For more information, go to www.gsu.edu/religion

After Malcolm Project featured at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights

The After Malcolm Oral History and Archiving Project will be featured at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights during Black History Month. The digital exhibit will feature interactive kiosks displaying selections of newspapers, personal papers, documents, and oral histories curated from over two years of work by the After Malcolm team, spearheaded by Dr. Abbas Barzegar and Dr. Bilal King (Morehouse College). It will also feature a documentary produced by MA student, Ameer Muhammad. Many thanks to MA candidate, Tom Laporte, who has curated the digitization of the documents and newspapers that will be featured at the NCCHR.



The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

Photo courtesy of The National High Society of High School Scholars

For more information on the After Malcolm Project, please visit sites.gsu.edu/am

THE CHAIR FROM



Friends of Religious Studies,
There's lots to look forward to as we head into the Spring '16 semester! Mark your calendars for the following events:

- March 1, "Refugees in Georgia: Separating Fact from Fiction" with Justin Howell, International Rescue Committee
*More details to follow – keep an eye on our Facebook page, Twitter, and www.gsu.edu/religion for more details. This event is part of our "Religion and Public Life Fellow" event series.
- Pizza Tuesdays: 12:20-1 p.m., each Tuesday from Jan. 26th through April 19th in the Department Lounge area (Suite 1700, 25 Park Place)
*Enjoy informal programs from faculty, students, community members, along with free pizza & good conversation! All welcome!

Kathryn McClymond

- Presentation of our first Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship, awarded to an undergraduate student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in Religious Studies and contributed positively to the life of the department. The award comes with a \$1000.00 scholarship, funded by our Department Alumni.

Keep up to date on everything happening in Religious Studies with our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GSUReligion), Twitter, and our website (www.gsu.edu/religion). Join us! Kathryn

Kathryn McClymond

Kathryn McClymond
Professor and Chair
kmcclymond@gsu.edu

DEPARTMENT NEWS

FACULTY UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES

Joyce Kane and Ed Van Herik earned their M.A. in Religious Studies, December 2015.

Weekly Pizza Tuesday! 12:20 pm - 1:00 pm

Join us in the department lounge for free pizza and conversation.

January 26	March 7
February 2	March 22
February 9	March 29
February 16	April 5
February 23	April 12
March 1	April 19

SUMMER 2016

STUDY ABROAD: ROME



Colosseum in Rome, Italy

Dr. Louis Ruprecht will be teaching a Maymester course ("Religion and Sexuality") at the American University in Rome. All GSU students may register for the course at AUR and transfer credits as Religion or Anthropology courses.



FRI, 3/4 - SUN, 3/6

SECSOR ANNUAL MEETING
Southeastern Commission for the
Study of Religion
Atlanta, GA

For more information, visit secsor.org

MON, 3/14 - FRI, 3/18
SPRING BREAK

University Closed

Dr. Molly Bassett taught a new course, "Religious Dimensions in Human Experience: Between Animals and Gods," in the fall. Students examined the snake as a subject of biology, folk biology, natural history, and religion with a focus on Mesoamerican and Hindu traditions. The class visited Zoo Atlanta and Emory's Michael C. Carlos Museum. The class published a podcast series about animals in religions called "Religious Dimensions" on SoundCloud.com. Read more about the class here: <https://goo.gl/CA106X>. More recently, Dr. Bassett published "Teaching Critical Thinking without (Much) Writing: Multiple-Choice and Metacognition" in the January issue of *Teaching Theology and Religion*.

Dr. Jon Herman presented "Laozi the Existentialist: Martin Buber's Transformation of the 'Daodejing'" last fall at the Harvard University China Humanities Seminar. His book *Taoism for Dummies* was recently published in German translation as *Tao für Dummies*, and his rejoinder "The Spiritual Illusion Redux" recently appeared in the journal of the North American Society for the Study of Religion, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*.

Dr. Kathryn McClymond presented recent work on the Religious Sounds Mapping Project at the AAR in a session on "Digitally Mapping Religion Through the Senses." To see the project, which includes photos and sound recordings from different Atlanta area religious communities and events, go to ATLMaps.com, click "Start Exploring," and select the "Religious Sounds" entry. In addition, Dr. McClymond has been invited to regional campuses to talk with students about our MA program. Recent travels include trips to College of Charleston and Appalachian State University. Lastly, she recently published one entry on "Sacrifice" in the *Ashgate Research Companion to Anthropology* and another entry "Sacrifice" in Brill's *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*.

Dr. Monique Moultrie had an active fall semester presenting her research at the Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians, the American Studies Association conference, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and in the Religion and Popular Culture section of the American Academy of Religion.

This semester, Dr. Moultrie begins her term as Chair of the Status of Women in the

Profession Committee for the American Academy of Religion. In January, she will participate in a Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning workshop. She will also present at the 20th Anniversary Conference for the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality in March 2016.

Dr. Tim Renick appeared before the U.S. Senate in August, providing expert testimony on strategies for success with low-income and first-generation college students. He also traveled to South Africa to work with leadership teams from thirteen public universities to implement programs to help at-risk students graduate at higher rates. Since September, he has received more than \$13 million in federal and foundation grants to advance student-success programs. The largest grant is a \$9 million research project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to study the impacts of predictive analytics when used to inform advising interventions. The study, for which Dr. Renick serves as principal investigator, will track more than 10,000 college students for the next four years at Georgia State and ten other universities nationally, including Ohio State, Texas, Arizona State, and Perdue. He has recent articles appear in the *Christian Century* on prison reform and the growing wealth and opportunity gaps in the U.S.

Dr. Louis Ruprecht released a second edition of *Policing the State: Democratic Reflections on Police Power Gone Awry, in Memory of Kathryn Johnston*, with a new Afterword, "Policing the State After Ferguson." He also published three articles: "Fate as Fiction: Homeric, Irish and Icelandic Epic in MacIntyre's Virtue Ethics Tradition" in *Soundings*; "Myths in the Academy: Greek Studies as a Form of Humanistic Enquiry" in the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*; and "The People Versus the Powers, or, On Money and Speech: The Continuing Saga of Campaign Finance Reform (on McCutcheon v FEC)" in *Soundings*.

Dr. Ruprecht delivered several public lectures including a keynote address entitled "The Vatican's First *Museo Profano*: What the Secret Archives Reveal About Neoclassicism, Romanticism, and the Virtues of Pagan Display; and "Beyond *The Birth of a Nation*, or, the Limits of Liberal Tolerance," at American Academy of Religion, Annual Meetings.

GIVING

TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES



FINANCIAL GIFTS:

- Increase our undergraduate scholarship award amount
- Enhance public programming
- Make unique educational experiences possible, such as student research opportunities, the Religion and Public Life Fellow Program, etc.
- Support faculty research and public presentations of their scholarship



For more information and ways to give,
please visit our website and click on

Alumni and Friends

www.gsu.edu/religion
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