



Edited by Kate Hoeting '19
and Dani Rader '21

Rising Seniors Receive Awards For Summer Research

Several of our rising seniors will be pursuing unique opportunities for research projects over the summer. Owen Yager '20, Guapo Banuelos '20, and Laura Kiernan '20 have all received fellowships to sponsor their Religion-pertinent work and research projects. From Northfield to New York City to Paris, these three will be exploring a wide range of topics which reflect each of their diverse intellectual passions. We congratulate each of them and look forward to learning from their work when they return to campus in the fall.



Owen Yager '20 — Humanities Center Student Research Partner

Owen Yager '20 will be working alongside Professor Asuka Sango to explore the role of religion in the history of Carleton College, particularly through the birth of the Druid movement in the 1960s. Owen and Professor Sango were awarded funding from the Humanities Center to complete this project. He was inspired to assist Professor Sango in this line of research following a project on the history of religion at Carleton in his RELG 110: Understanding Religion course. The two will be working on campus, collecting data through a combination of Carleton's archival records and interviews with Carleton alumni as a way of gaining a historical perspective. This summer, they will explore the formation of the Reformed Druids of

North America movement and their continued popularity after 1964 following Carleton's disbandment of its religious requirement. Owen hopes to gain a broader understanding of the inner workings of religion and social movements and the value and endurance of religion in a broader social context.

Guapo Banuelos '20 — Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute

Guapo Banuelos '20 has received a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship to conduct research at the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute in New York City this summer. Guapo will join a cohort of ten students doing research pertinent to the African diaspora. This will be a continuation of the research Guapo began last summer to examine critical theory, the problem of evil, and the role of suffering in black theology and its intersections with hip-hop. As a Religion/History double major with a minor in Africana Studies, Guapo sees an overlap between the historical research he will be conducting through the Mellon Mays Fellowship this summer and his Religion comps. In his comps, Guapo hopes to explore religion in



the African diasporic community with a theological approach to those religious communities, and he believes that the research methods and theorists he will be studying at the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute will help prepare him for this project.



Laura Kiernan '20 — Paul and Lynn Kelley International Fellowship

Laura Kiernan '20 will travel to Paris, France this summer with support from the Paul and Lynn Kelley International Fellowship. There Laura plans to build on her work from last summer at Utopia56, a refugee organization that provides vital human services to incoming refugees and migrants in Paris. Last summer, Laura worked directly with refugees, matching families with emergency housing arrangements, escorting them to doctors and lawyers appointments, and helping them navigate Paris. Through this work, Laura encountered refugees with deep religious faiths, and she quickly grew fascinated by the role of religion in both sides of the migrant crisis in France. She approaches this

question with an attention to how faith is an avenue through which refugees assert personal agency amidst chaos and dislocation, building off her final project on how the term of agency is a critical term in study of religion in her RELG 300: Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion course this winter. Laura hopes to show a different side of the refugee crisis in her comps project through interviews with individuals at Utopia56 and by traveling to interview two research partners with whom she has kept in contact since her work with the organization during last summer.

Angie Heo Lectures on New Book *The Political Lives of Saints*

In April, Carleton welcomed Angie Heo, Professor of the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Heo delivered a talk based on her first book, *The Political Lives of Saints: Christian-Muslim Mediation in Egypt* (University of California Press, 2018). Her work focuses on the ways that Marian apparitions can act as media for Muslim and Coptic unity in Egypt. In Egypt, Heo argues, the Virgin's power is not just confessional, but also political. In her talk, Heo focused on the Apparition of Zaytun in 1968, which both Christians and Muslims observed hovering over a church for multiple nights.

Through the Apparition of Zaytun, Christian and Muslim Egyptians were able to lament over their shared inability to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem because of the conflict in Israel/Palestine. In Heo's book, she dives deeper into the similar roles that pilgrimage, martyrdom, and relics play in Christian-Muslim mediation. Heo's visit was particularly pertinent to members of Professor Noah Salomon's course "Televangelists and Cyber-Shaykhs: Explorations in Religion and Media", which focuses on the material and immaterial objects through which people relate to the divine. For Laura Kiernan '20, a student in the class, "it was awesome to host Professor Heo in our class; in discussing the nuances of her insightful book, she reminded us that even the most astute ethnographer has blind spots, and after twenty years of field work, new questions may still be made." Heo's upcoming book grapples with religious freedom in the Korean Peninsula.



Elizabeth Shakman Hurd Lectures on Religion and Politics

Written by Kate Rosenfeld '20

This spring, Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, an associate professor of Political Science at Northwestern University who focuses on the intersection of religion and politics, visited Carleton for several days. Hurd delivered a



lecture titled “Three Myths About Religion and Politics” that focused on themes in the intersection of these two topics which have plagued our national rhetoric and create misunderstanding of both categories. These myths included ideas relating to the role of US political actors, religious freedom, the association between religious affiliation and political behavior, and the ways in which religion is implemented to solve international relations problems. Hurd pointed out that a central theme in these myths was the common belief that religious freedom is somehow above politics. Hurd acknowledged that the topic of this talk has serious implications for the future of American democracy, as it influences both American culture, and specific legislative decisions. However, Hurd urged the audience not take this to mean that that these myths should be ignored. Rather, Hurd said that the discovery and

discussion of these myths is missing from our national rhetoric and must be talked about in order to understand the mistakes our country is making on a governmental and a cultural level.

In the question and answer portion of the talk, Hurd addressed a primary concern of the audience: the rhetoric that she described surrounding religion and politics made international and domestic affairs in regards to religious tolerance seem bleak. Hurd acknowledged this reality and said that in order to break down this political and religious hierarchy that is so ingrained into American culture, every sect of society which purports such knowledge needs to be reevaluated, and academia is no exception.

Hurd’s visit to Carleton brought forth an intersection between religion and politics which is not frequently discussed in this manner on our campus. In connecting these two fields, she challenged some of the ways in which we understand our society and institutions as purporting myths about religion even if we don’t necessarily believe in them. Given our political climate and the rhetoric surrounding religious difference in mainstream American culture, Hurd’s work is more important than ever.

While visiting Carleton, Hurd also partnered with the Carleton Center for Civic Engagement (CCCE) to facilitate a lecture titled “Thinking about Religion on the Border: Law, Politics, Practice.” Her most recent book, *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion* (Princeton University Press, 2015), focuses on the way that international efforts to maintain religious freedom can contribute to religious persecution.

Senior Comps Titles 2018-2019

❖ = Distinction in comps ➤ = Bardwell Smith Prize for Excellence in the Study of Religion

Realizing the Really Real: Spirit Possession and Schizophrenia in a Traditional Indian Healing Temple || Hanna Anderson

Queer Catholic Iconography: The Icon, Power, and Meaning-Making || Eliot Ayala

Invented Tradition and Authentic Ayurveda: Integrative Medicine in the West || Sara Canilang

Modern Muslims: Rethinking Conversion in the Autobiographies of Muhammad Asad and Malcolm X || Rachel Cruz

Achievements of Dependency: The Pieties of Stout and MacIntyre || Peter de Hueck

Defining Religious Persecution in U.S. Asylum Law || Fernando Dominguez

A Tibetan Buddhist View on Death and Dying: The Heart-Mind's Role in A Good Death || Madeline Egan

Till Death do Us Part: Contextualizing Citizenship and Same-Sex Marriage in the United States AIDS Epidemic || Emilee Erdel

❖ **Suburban Holy Lands: The Battle for Hindu Presence in Suburban New Jersey** || Maggie Goldberger

➤ **Walking to a New Self: An Ethnography of Spiritual but not Religious Pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago** || Kate Hoeting

When Athletic Practice Meets Religious Practice: The Power of Practice-Based Spirituality || Max Lane

Community-Based Indigenous Tourism: An Exercise of Self-Determination || Benja Reilly

The Ritualization of Colin Kaepernick: Exposing the Emptiness of American Ideals by Taking A Knee || Faith Skinner

The "Anti-Modern" Revolution: Robert Orsi's Real Presence and Nineteenth Century American Spiritualism in Connection to Jordan Peele's *Get Out* || Carolyn Ward



In Memory of Charlotte Smith 1926 - 2019



We were saddened by the death of Charlotte Smith, beloved spouse of Bardwell Smith, on May 11, 2019. Charlotte was a cherished member of our Religion Department extended community. She took interest in the lives and work of faculty members and their families, and she was a kind and engaging conversationalist at our department gatherings. In Northfield, Charlotte was a gracious host and an invested member of the Carleton neighborhood, “who always saw the best in people” (obituary). Charlotte was born in 1926 in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and after moving to Northfield in 1961, was a teacher in the Northfield School System for many decades. Charlotte wrote a book in 2011, *Tell Me One Thing: A Story of Two Mothers*. Charlotte had been living at the Three Links Care Center for the past year, and Bardwell had visited her there every day. We cherish the memory of Charlotte.



Students in Religion 130, Native American Religions, visit Dakota sacred sites with Dakota scholar, Iyekiyapiwin.



Religion majors hang out at the annual department picnic.

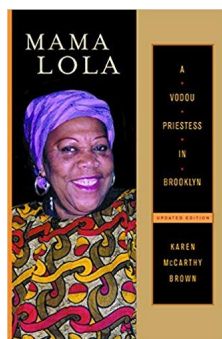
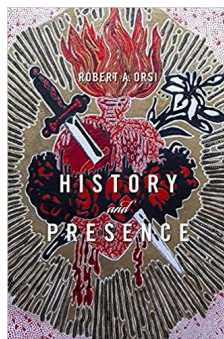
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Summer Reading Recommendations

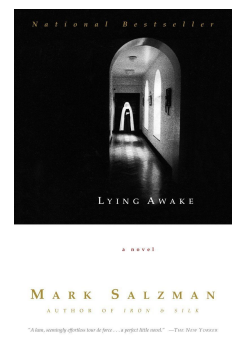
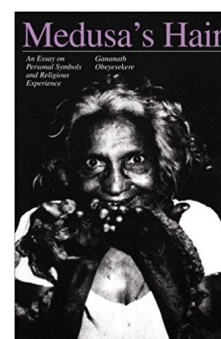
This summer, hit the beach with some of our favorite books about religion from our students, faculty, and staff!



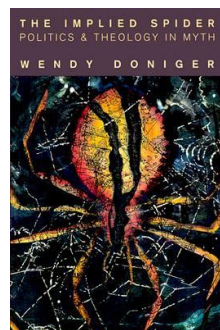
Kate Hoeting '19



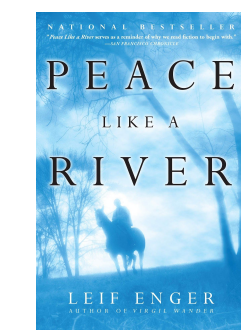
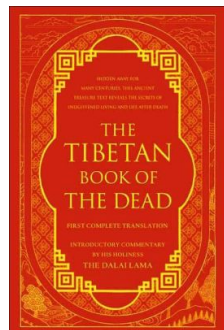
Hanna Anderson '19



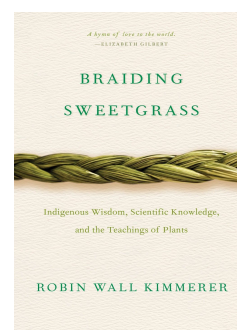
Rachel Cruz '19



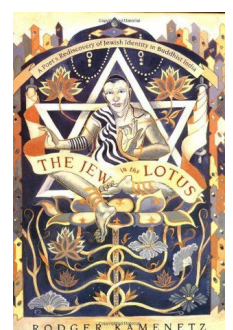
Madeline Egan '19



Kristen Askeland



Michael McNally



Dani Rader '21