



RELIGIOUS STUDIES NEWS

Department Newsletter

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Religious Studies Alumni newsletter. We are excited to share some recent campus happenings, including our faculty’s high achievements and guest lectures. Check our department [website](#) and [events calendar](#) for upcoming happenings and information about what is going on at the Department of Religious Studies!

Faculty Recognized with Interdisciplinary Innovation Research Grants

The Religious Studies Department is proud to announce several faculty that were awarded prestigious fellowships and grants. With these, Professors Vose, McLaughlin, and Burchett are investigating the effects of meditators' worldviews and motivations for practice in their project, "Unraveling Contemplative Practice: A Holistic Interdisciplinary Approach." Additionally, Professor Angelov is working with W&M Business School and international colleagues on "Ethnicity, Religion, and Citizenship: Disparities in Socio-Economic Capital and Health Among Minorities in Post-Communist Eastern Europe," and Professor Burchett is also collaborating with partners at VIMS and the Global Research Institute on "Understanding Indigenous Knowledge and the Cultural and Religious Significance of Nature for Integrative, Holistic Water Conservation Strategies in Nepal." To find out more about these projects, [read more here](#).



Andrew Tobolowsky Awarded Professorship

The Religious Studies Department is honored to present Andrew Tobolowsky, associate Professor of Religious Studies at William & Mary, who has been awarded the Robert and Sara Boyd Distinguished Associate Professorship for 2023-2026. The professorship is in place to recognize high-achieving faculty and “reward excellence in research or creative activity and a demonstrated commitment to teaching.” To read the full article, [click here](#).

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Hans Tiefel Lecture in Religion and Ethics

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Bharat Ranganathan from the University of Nebraska at Omaha for the annual Hans Tiefel Lecture in Religion and Ethics on October 17th. His presentation was on the moral responsibilities of affluent individuals in addressing poverty, and, more specifically, how “Rawlsian liberalism and Christian political thought can prematurely close dialogue about grave moral matters.” For more information, [click here](#).

Race and Religion Speaker Series

The Race and Religion Speaker Series will feature influential scholars in the field and is made possible by the Religious Studies Department, Africana Studies, and the Dean of Arts & Sciences. This year, we will host two guest speakers: Dr. [Abdulbasit Kassim](#) on November 1st at 12pm in James Blair Hall Room 229 and Dr. [Laura McTighe](#) on November 15th at 12pm in James Blair Hall Room 229. Dr. Kassim’s lecture will “trace the intellectual history of the theological and juridical debates on the typologies of enslavement, the racist association of blackness with slavery, and the deployment of classical legal rulings on slavery in the religious conceptions of difference in our present day.” On the 15th, Dr. McTighe will lecture on abolitionist movements made possible through Black feminisms, Black religions, and public humanities.

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