

PERSPECTIVES *On Religion*

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Inside this issue:

Faculty Perspectives

pp. 4-7

Public Programs

p. 3

Recent Books

p. 8

Greder: My Year in Mainz

p. 10

From the Director's Chair

p. 12

Supp-Montgomerie Explores the Impact of Religion and Technology on Globalization

David Greder



The Department of Religious Studies is delighted to officially welcome Dr. Jenna Supp-Montgomerie as our newest Assistant Professor, who has a joint appointment with the Department of Communication Studies.

Dr. Supp-Montgomerie's academic career in religious studies began as an undergraduate student at Swarthmore College. Af-

ter exploring courses in Spanish literature and studying abroad in Venezuela, she very quickly developed an avid interest in the complexity of religion as it appears in the public sphere, as well as the intersections of religion and globalization. According to Dr. Supp-Montgomerie, growing up in a religiously mixed household offered a commonplace, everyday picture of religious practice. However, in "other spheres" religion is often "stranger, violent, politically diverse and far more complicated." Of particular importance for her studies and continued research is the depiction of religion in the public sphere and especially in the media. In our technologically diverse world where news is broadcast instantly and constantly, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie believes firmly in the need for responsible depictions

and discussions of religion in the media. With these interests in mind, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie began further studying religion and globalization at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

During her time at Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie began studying ethics. While engaged in these studies, she worked at nearby Auburn Media coaching journalists, scholars and media booking agents in order to make sure responsible voices were being heard in print and broadcast media. In addition, her studies increasingly incorporated the importance of technology and constant technological change in both the media and religious spheres. In her work for her Master of Divinity thesis, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie examined religion in the media through an analysis of the film *Blade Runner*. This work incorporated themes of technology and globalization, with specific reference to technology creating utopias and dystopias.

Dr. Supp-Montgomerie earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She says she was particularly fortunate to be part of a supportive and challenging program at UNC that allowed her to work across three fields: Religious Studies, Cultural Studies, and Communication Studies. The title of her dissertation is "Making a World for America: Electric Communication, Expansive Protestantism, and Globalization in the Nineteenth Century," and it is a study of

continued on page 2

Supp-Montgomerie (cont'd.)

the influence of American religious ideas, imagery, and practices on the first electric communication network. She remains particularly interested in the emergent relationships between technology, Protestantism, globalization, and communication.

Dr. Supp-Montgomerie's current project is her first book, which details the great impact of American culture and religion on globalization. Her work further investigates how media connect and disconnect humans and machines, as well as analyzing the language we use to discuss such (dis)connections. By examining historical precedent in technology, she begins by analyzing the overtly religious language used to describe the telegraph in the 19th century. Though technology has certainly changed since the telegraph, she argues that the language we use to describe technological connection through the Internet contains similar themes, though it is no longer so overtly religious. For example, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie examines the ways we describe humanity being "destined" for a global community through technological connection. In the nineteenth century, commentators thought the telegraph and technological connection would spread Christianity. Now we discuss the homogenization and globalization of common concerns through the Internet. Dr. Supp-

Montgomery looks forward to future projects which will concern where ideas of technological change and the language describing it are headed from now on.

Before arriving at the University of Iowa, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie was a Faculty Tutor at Quest University Canada in British Columbia. The small class sizes at Quest were ideal for Dr. Supp-Montgomerie's teaching philosophy, which she describes as highly focused on student participation. By raising difficult questions designed to highlight the creative labor of interpretation, she designs class sessions around short seminar papers, therefore guiding the students to teach each other by the end of the semester. In her first semester with us in the department, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie is offering a course entitled "Digital Media and Religion." In this course, she and her students analyze the relationship between the rise of science and technology in relation to religion. Together they explore diverse relationships between religion and technology – from enthusiastic fusion to adamant prohibition – focusing on three questions: What makes a medium digital? How do we connect to and disconnect from the world around us? And is there such thing as an "online religion"? Capitalizing on the vibrant world of digital technology in contemporary lived religion, Dr. Supp-Mont-

gomerie's course inquires critically into the ways that a humanities approach provides unique and important resources for understanding new media and cultural life.

Beyond her teaching and research, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie actively serves on boards and panels in professional and academic societies. She serves as the Co-Chair of the Religion and Media Workshop, and pre-conference workshop of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). She also serves as Co-Chair of the Religion, Media, and Culture Group, also of the AAR.

When she is not writing, researching, and teaching, Dr. Supp-Montgomerie enjoys cooking, enjoying fine cuisine, and gardening. She particularly enjoys spending lots of time with her growing family. Her husband, Dr. David Supp-Montgomerie currently teaches here at the University of Iowa as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Communications, specializing in the study of rhetoric and communication in politics. They are expecting their first child, a boy, in November. Congratulations!

Welcome to the University of Iowa and to the Department of Religious Studies, Dr. Jenna Supp-Montgomerie!

The Arab Spring in a Global Context

Provost's Global Forum 2015 (April 28-May 1)



Religious Studies professor Ahmed Souaiaia received the Provost's Global Forum Award for 2015 which will be used to organize an international conference entitled, *The Arab Spring in a Global Context*, to be held April 28-May 1 in Iowa City.

The wave of uprisings known as the Arab Spring may have changed or at least challenged the relationship between the governed and governing actors, not only in Arab countries, but also in other societies with Muslim people around the world. New legal regimes may now navigate sectarian, gender, and religious fault lines in differing ways. Emerging issues and changing circumstances are providing scholars from all academic disciplines with opportunities to apply and/or revise old theories and produce a body of new knowledge about issues of social change, social justice, racial/ethnic and gender relations, the law, public policy, economic development, and international politics in a global context.

The conference is an opportunity for the exchange and sharing of ideas for scholars from all disciplines including: area studies (international studies, Middle Eastern studies, Asian studies, African studies, and Eurasian studies), business, health sciences, journalism and mass communication, social sciences (anthropology, political science, psychology, and sociology), humanities (arts, cultural studies, history, gender and race, linguistics and literature, philosophy, religious studies, and rhetoric), education, and law.

The conference is also open to representatives of NGOs, governments, and think tanks. The aim is to facilitate the sharing of ideas and to contribute to building a body of knowledge on this topic representing the broadest range of perspectives possible.

The conference will feature presentations of research papers and reports, roundtable conversations, and panel discussions. Although all abstracts will be initially reviewed by the conference organizing committees (consisting of faculty and graduate students), presenters who wish to publish their papers in the *Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Multidisciplinary Studies* must submit fully revised and edited manuscripts for a separate double-blind peer review before acceptance.

The conference will also feature musical performances, book exhibits, film and documentary screenings, the taping of an interview-format television show, and art and document displays. For more information and conference updates visit the website at <http://international.uiowa.edu/faculty/arab-spring-global-context>

A Sample of 2014 Public Programming

Spring 2014 Semester:

Wendi Adamek, public lecture "Fathers and Daughters in Chinese Buddhism" and lunch seminar: "Uninvited Guests at the Meeting of Embodied Minds" (co-sponsored with UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies) April 17 and 18, 2014

Niyaz featuring Azam Ali, special presentation, colloquium and Q&A and Concert (co-sponsored with Hancher, Div. of World Language, Literatures & Cultures, French & Italian, Building Bridges: Campus Community Engagement Program, and Intellectual Dialogue Society) May 7-8, 2014

Fall 2014 Semester:

Jim Rutenbeck, filmmaker. A film showing and a colloquium on his treatment of charismatic religions within isolated and impoverished communities. September 9, 2014

Rev. Dr. Vincent Carroll, a graduate of the University of Iowa's Department of Religious Studies (BA, 1965) who advanced over 27 years to the position of Senior Chaplain at the United States Naval Academy and Senior Chaplain for Naval Forces, Europe and the Mediterranean. A colloquium on the critical role that the study of religion at Iowa played in his life and career. September 11, 2014

Dr. Ari Ariel, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies. A colloquium on "Yemeni Muslim-Jewish interactions on Youtube" October 7, 2014

FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

Robert Cargill had a busy year. Following the birth of twins—a boy, Quincy, and a girl, Rory Kate—the fall of 2013 found Dr. Cargill teaching *Mythology of Otherworldly Journeys* and a course in Targumic Aramaic. He served as Consulting Producer for the 6-episode History Channel documentary series *Bible Secrets Revealed*, in which he also appeared. He gave two papers at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature including one to the Hebrew Bible, History, and Archaeology section entitled, “Digital Tel Azekah: Preliminary Results of the Digital Reconstruction of the Lautenschläger Azekah Archaeological Expedition”, and another to the Metacriticism of Biblical Scholarship section entitled, “Do Not Receive into the Bible College or Seminary Anyone Who Comes to You and Does Not Bring This Doctrine’: The Problem of Critical Scholars at Confessional Colleges”. He delivered a lecture at the University of Maryland’s Michelle Smith Collaboratory for Visual Culture entitled, “Toward an Archaeological Standard for Digital Imagery”. Dr. Cargill presented a series of lectures to the Agudas Achim congregation in the fall including lectures entitled, “A Deluge of Flood Stories: Pre-canonical and Canonical Flood Stories”, “What is ‘Biblical Marriage?’”, “Looking Back: Scholarly Problems with Sodom and Gomorrah”, “Chayi Sarah (Wife for Isaac)”, “Go Forth from Here to Iowa, and I Shall Bless Thee with Tenure (Lech-Lecha)”, and “The Flood Tradition after the Rise of Science.” In the spring of 2014, Dr. Cargill taught *Jerusalem from the Bronze to the Digital Age*, and a course in Syriac. He also participated in University of Iowa Public Policy Center’s “What If...” public lecture forum as part of a panel entitled, “What if Everyone Voted”, discussing the role of religion in politics. He also delivered the annual Finn Lecture promoting Jewish-Christian dialogue at Agudas Achim Congregation and First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City entitled, “Passover and the Eucharist: Investing New Meaning on

the Jewish Meal”. He appeared on ABC’s *Good Morning America* and *Inside Edition* programs in segments discussing claims of the supposed discovery of the Holy Grail, and was interviewed by Iowa Public Radio’s Ben Kieffer on his *River to River* program about the Cedar Rapids corridor area being named one of the “Least Bible-minded cities”, and appeared later in the spring for a segment on church and state relations in Iowa. Dr. Cargill’s annual archaeological excavation at Tel Azekah was cancelled due to the hostilities in Israel, but he did appear on Iowa Public Radio’s *River to River* program to discuss the cancellation of the Iowa Study Abroad program. He gave a paper at the annual meeting of the International Society of Biblical Literature in Vienna to the Digital Humanities in Biblical Studies & Early Jewish and Christian Studies (EABS) group entitled, “From Pickaxe to Pixel: Digital Data Management in the Elah Valley Archaeological Visualization Project”. He also presented a lecture to the Iowa chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America entitled, “New Approaches in Digital Archaeology at Tel Azekah, Israel”, as well the Jerusalem Day lecture at the Agudas Achim Congregation in Iowa City entitled, “The Water System of Jerusalem.” In the fall of 2014, Dr. Cargill is teaching courses on *The Dead Sea Scrolls and Banned From the Bible: Intro to Pseudepigrapha and Apocrypha*, in addition to teaching Biblical Hebrew I. He was appointed to the advisory board of the new Graduate Certificate in Public Digital Humanities, and continued his service as an advisory board member of the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. He gave a lecture to Iowa State University entitled, “Archaeology and the Digital Humanities: Recent Advances and the Future of the Field”, and will be giving two lectures at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, one to the Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory section entitled, “Swapping Sex for Drugs: Mandrake Mythology and Fertility Drugs in Genesis

30:14-24,” and another to the Christian Apocrypha section entitled, “Presenting the Christian Apocrypha to Non-Scholarly Audiences”. He will also present a paper to the Biblical Archaeology Society’s Bible & Archaeology Fest XVII in San Diego entitled, “A Deluge of Flood Stories: Flood Mythology, the Bible, and Aronofsky’s Noah”. Dr. Cargill has also been presenting a series of lectures to the Agudas Achim Congregation in Iowa City, including lectures on “Qohelet”, “Jonah”, and “The Books of Maccabees.” Dr. Cargill is working on two book projects, including a monograph on the biblical figure Melchizedek mentioned in Genesis 30, and a popular book to be published by HarperCollins entitled, *The Cities that Built the Bible*. In December, he will be appearing in a Discovery Channel documentary airing in support of Ridley Scott’s forthcoming *Exodus: Gods and Kings* movie. Dr. Cargill consulted on a children’s book entitled *1,000 Facts about the Bible* to be published this fall by National Geographic, and also served as a consulting scholar on the forthcoming film adaptation of Bill O’Reilly’s best-selling *Killing Jesus* about the life of Jesus, which will be airing on National Geographic Channel this fall.

Diana Fritz Cates completed her second year as Department Chair. She gave many presentations around campus and for local communities to highlight the role that the study of religion plays in preparing students for success in work and in life within a global community. Viewing religious studies partly as a way of enabling effective communication between people who identify with different religions, she participated in a conference on “Religion and Politics: Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue as a Means of Democratic Development” in the Republic of Kosovo. Throughout the year, she gave several scholarly presentations, including “Scholastic Hatred” for a plenary panel on “Scholastic Emotion” at the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium; “Hatred in the

Light of Love,” which was the 2014 Aquinas Lecture at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology; “Reconstruction and Construction: Historical Figures and Contemporary Ethics” for a panel at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics; and “Challenges in Working with Aquinas on Emotion and Religious Experience,” which was a plenary address for a conference on “Emotion and Religious Experience” in Konstanz, Germany. She published, “Hope, Hatred, and the Ambiguities of Utopic Longing,” in *Hope and the Longing for Utopia*, which was edited by Religious Studies Ph.D. Daniel Boscaljon. She celebrated the accomplishments of two of her students who earned their Master’s degrees this year: David Skogen and also Katherine Cobb, who wrote a Thesis, *Understanding Scrupulosity: Psychopathological and Catholic Perspectives*. Prof. Cates continued to serve the profession (including the *Journal of Religious Ethics*), the university (including the Center for Human Rights), and the state of Iowa.

Melissa Anne-Marie Curley taught a variety of courses on Asian religions at the undergraduate level, including the Asian traditions half of the department’s new introductory course on world religions, *Religions in a Global Context*, working alongside Dr. Jordan Smith. One of Melissa’s current projects is a study of Japanese Buddhist prison chaplaincy—in fall 2013, she presented some of her work in progress at the New York Buddhist Study Center and at the American Academy of Religion’s annual meeting in Baltimore. In spring 2014, she completed a draft of her manuscript, “Pure Land/Real World,” which is currently under review. Over the course of the summer, she completed a chapter on the Japanese Buddhist philosopher Miki Kiyoshi’s theory of imagination, which will appear in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Japanese Philosophy*. And, with the help of a generous grant from the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Iowa, she was able to bring two of her collaborators to Iowa City for an intensive

summer translation project; together they completed a translation of an essay by the contemporary Japanese philosopher Keta Masako, which treats the problem of evil and repentance in Buddhist thought.

Paul Dilley taught the senior seminar in spring 2014, which explored the history of Gnostic and Esoteric religious movements. He developed two new courses: *Religions in Global Context* (in consultation with Drs. Curley and Smith), and *Genealogy of Religion*, a required course in the new four semester graduate sequence, which explores the history of the idea of “religion” in Western traditions, including its usage in the contemporary academy, and its connections to magic and religion. Dilley contributed three chapters, including the first publication of over 100 inscriptions, to a forthcoming book on the Red Monastery in Sohag, Upper Egypt. For the past decade he has served as an epigraphist on the conservation team for the Late-Antique church, which has been featured in a special exhibit on Byzantium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He continues working on the critical edition of the Coptic Kephalaia manuscript, which contains uniquely surviving writings of the arch-heretic Mani. The manuscript is held at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, where he worked for several weeks in June with his colleagues Iain Gardner (Sydney) and Jason BeDuhn (Northern Arizona). He and his colleagues completed a co-authored book on the subject, *Mani at the Court of the Persian Kings: Studies on the Chester Beatty Kephalaia Codex*, to be published with Brill at the end of the year. Dilley also co-authored a book with Sebastian Brock (Oxford), *The Martyrs of Mount Ber’ain*, to be published this year with Gorgias Press. Current projects include a co-edited volume with Claire Clivaz and David Hamidovic (Lausanne), *Ancient Worlds in a Digital Culture*, and the completion of a book manuscript on socialization in the earliest Christian monasteries, with a special focus on cognitive and affective disciplines. Finally, Dilley maintains an active

online presence: his blog, *Hieroi Logoi: Digital Resources for Religion in Late Antiquity*, now has over 1,300 followers; and he has published on aspects of his original research for a popular audience with *Biblical Archaeology Review* (“Jesus as Lord of the Dance,” August 2014).

Jay Holstein was the only faculty in the CLAS to receive the University’s highest teaching award, the President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence, on February 25, 2014. The award, which is administered by the UI Council on Teaching, was created in 2004 as a university-wide recognition for faculty members who have demonstrated a sustained, high level of teaching excellence. On April 30, 2014 Holstein delivered the keynote address at the Induction Ceremony and Spring Banquet for the Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter of Iowa (UI’s Medical Honorary Society); titled “Tincture of Time and the Practice of Medicine.” In the fall of 2014 Holstein introduced a new course entitled, “Judaism: The Sacred and the Secular.”

Raymond Mentzer continues to teach courses that include an entry level sequence on medieval and modern religious culture as well as more advanced courses on the history of early modern Christianity and the Reformation. This past spring semester he served as acting Director of Undergraduate Studies and had the opportunity to connect more closely with undergraduate students. Mentzer’s research program led to the publication of a monograph, *Les registres des consistoires des Églises réformées de France, XVIe - XVIIe siècles. Un inventaire* (Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2014) and a book chapter, “The Social Construction of Early Huguenot Identity,” in *L’Identité huguenote: faire mémoire et écrire l’histoire (XVIe-XXIe siècle)*, eds. Philip Benedict, Hugues Daussy and Pierre-Olivier Léchet (Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2014), pp. 49-65. Several edited volumes, journal articles and book chapters are in various stages of production. Book reviews appeared in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*, H-France and

Renaissance Quarterly. He continues to serve on the Governing Board of the H.H. Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is a member of the editorial board of the Sixteenth Century Journal and the American representative to the International Commission for the History and Study of Christianity, a subunit of the International Commission of Historical Sciences.

Kristy Nabhan-Warren has been enjoying developing new courses, including "Religions in America Today" (spring and fall 2014) and "Sport and Religion in America" (crosslisted in Sport Studies, spring 2015). She will offer a graduate seminar "Gender and Religion" (cross-listed in Gender and Women Studies, fall 2015) and "U.S. Latin@ Religions" (cross-listed with the new Latin@ Studies minor, fall 2016). On the research and writing front, Kristy was guest editor and contributor to a special journal issue, "New Ethnographic Approaches in the Study of Christian Spirituality" in the journal *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality* (April 2014). Kristy's essay was entitled "Post AAR-SBL 2013: Reflections on the Method of Ethnography for the Study of Christian Spirituality." Another essay, "St. Joseph Please Sell My Home": Considering Positionality and a More Relevant Catholic Studies" is coming out in the Fall 2014 issue of *American Catholic Studies*, and her article "We are the Church": The Cursillo Movement and the Reinvention of Catholic Identities in Postwar America and Beyond" will be published in the Winter 2014 issue of *U.S. Catholic Historian*. On the service front, Kristy enjoys giving talks locally and national. She recently visited Fordham University in New York in September to take part in a panel on "Latino/a Spiritualities: New Perspectives On Catholic Practice, Politics, and Experience." Last Spring Kristy travelled to The University of Dayton where she taught two religious studies classes and gave a public talk on her recently published book *The Cursillo Movement in America* (UNC Press, 2013). Kristy continues to

work on expanding opportunities for Ph.D. students in her role as DGS. She serves as co-chair and coordinator of the Alt-Ac committee and sponsored the recently held October 20-21 Malleable Ph.D. two-day conference. (grad.uiowa.edu/malleable). This summer Kristy received a \$4,000 grant from Interfaith Youth Corps (IFYC) to work toward the development of an Interfaith Studies minor that will be housed in the department. She is *very* happy to be living in Iowa City with her husband Steve and their three children, Cormac (11), Declan (8), and Josie (5). Steve is enjoying his joint appointment in American Studies and History and the kids love their new school (Ernest Horn) and are happy to be Hawkeyes! Go Hawks!

Micheline Pesantubbee published her article "Nancy Ward: American Patriot or Cherokee Nationalist?" in the *American Indian Quarterly* 38/2 (Spring 2014). She continues to be active in the American Academy of Religion presenting a paper on "Those Ornerly Cows: Domesticated Bison and Native American Health," for the Native Traditions in the Americas Group, on November 25, 2013; and serving as a panelist for "Over Forty: The Future of Women and Religion?" one of the larger units in the AAR. She was elected as co-chair of Native Traditions in the Americas Group in November 2013 and she also participated in AAR's Pilot Mentoring Program for 2013-14. For spring semester 2014 Dr. Pesantubbee received a Professional Development Award to work on her chapter on the Lakota ghost dance and Lakota women for her book project on Native American religious movements and women. She enjoyed the luxury of time to research archives, read, and write. She is again teaching American Indian Environmentalism which she also taught in fall of 2013 along with Native American Women and Religious Change.

Morten Schlütter, Associate Professor of Chinese Religions, continues his directorship of the UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS), where he promotes talks and other

programming on East Asian religions as much as he can. Schlütter is also continuing his teaching and research on Buddhism and Chinese religions. In the spring 2014, Schlütter gave talks at Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University, and in June he presented a paper at the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Middle Period China at Harvard University, where he also served as a conference facilitator. Three essays by Schlütter were published during the last year: "Who is reciting the name of the Buddha?" as K'an in Chinese Chan (Zen) Buddhism," in the journal *Frontiers of History in China*; "Buddhism in the Digital World," in the book *Blackwell Companion to East and Inner Asian Buddhism*; and "Textual Criticism and the Turbulent Life of the Platform Sūtra," which appeared in a festschrift for a retired UI colleague, Professor Weldon South Coblin. Schlütter's essay "Holy Body, Sacred Space: Chan Masters and the Body as a Sacred Abode in Medieval Chinese Chan Buddhism" has been translated into Chinese and will appear in a volume to be published in China later this year. Schlütter is now looking forward to his Career Development Award in the spring of 2015 where he will be able to focus on his current book project, tentatively entitled *The Evolution of the Platform Sutra and the Changing Notions of What Chan Should Be*.

Frederick Smith spent the last half of 2013 at Princeton University as the Stewart Fellow in the Princeton Humanities Center, and taught one course, in addition to participating in the activities of the Center. This included delivering one lecture. He also presented papers at Arcadia University, near Philadelphia, and Rutgers University. He resumed his regular teaching at Iowa in spring 2014, and for the Dept. of Religious Studies taught a course in the history of yoga. He traveled to India in the summer, where he maintains a house in the Himalayas, but also spent one week as Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, in Shimla, and delivered two lectures on the Mahabharata. He then deliv-

ered three lectures at the Princeton summer study abroad program in Mysore, and a major lecture at the semi-annual meeting of the European Association of South Asian Studies, in Zurich. He then traveled to Turkey, primarily to Istanbul and Cappadocia, and advises one and all to put Cappadocia on their short list of places to visit. He continued his publication program with a few papers and many book reviews, and continues his massive translation of the last five “books” of the great epic of India, the Mahabharata. This fall he is resuming as director of the South Asian Studies Program at Iowa, which features, as usual, a full slate of speakers, and is teaching way too much and on more administrative committees than ever.

Jordan Smith, Lecturer in Biblical Studies, is enjoying another fun but busy year. This is his first year serving as the Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator for the department, which continues to allow him to place his primary emphasis on teaching, advising students, and strengthening our undergraduate program. He has also remained active in TAK, the Religious Studies Department’s honor society, and as the faculty advisor for Discussions on Religion and Culture, a Religious Studies undergraduate student organization. Prof. Smith continues to give talks about the Bible and Religious Studies for area churches and community organizations and appeared in several episodes of the new History Channel documentary *The Secrets of the Bible Revealed*. He presented a paper on the subject of the Deuteronomic backgrounds of early Christian martyr narratives like the Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas at the North American Patristics Society; and a paper on the transformation of the Maccabean Martyrs from a group of ritually impure Jewish (lost) corpses into sacred relics as part of the early Christian Cult of the Saints at the University of Nottingham’s Centre for Bible, Ethics, and Theology. Both of these papers are being developed into articles.

Ahmed Souaiaia received this academic year’s Provost Global Forum Award. He raised funds to invite Ni-yaz, a music band, which is described as “an international platform to create social and political awareness through music.” The group’s music does not just cross cultural and stylistic boundaries, but the centuries as well. The band offered a symposium on Performing Islamic Art, focusing on Sufism, music and dancing. It also performed an evening concert that drew over 500 people. Professor Souaiaia’s courses continue to draw large enrollments, and next spring he will be teaching a new course, *The Arab Spring in Context*. He has published several articles, and his most recent book, *Anatomy of Dissent in Islamic Societies*, was released December 18, 2013.

Jenna Supp-Montgomerie joined the faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in Religious Studies and Communication Studies. Before coming to the University of Iowa, Jenna taught at Quest University in British Columbia, Canada. Her research focuses on religion and media, with a particular interest in how American religious history has shaped how we adopt, use, and understand new technologies. She developed this area of research through her doctoral research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and through her work with media producers and experts on religion to promote responsible and engaging reporting on religion. She is teaching a new course this year, *Digital Media and Religion*, which examines the complex relationships of religion and digital media in contemporary culture. Jenna also engages the intersection of religion and media at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, where she co-chairs the Religion, Media, and Culture Group. Jenna is currently writing an article on emotion and affect in the study of religion. She is also preparing a book manuscript about the vital influence of American Christianity on globalization. This study begins in 1858, when the Atlantic telegraph cable was first successfully strung across the ocean. At that moment, Americans declared the advent of

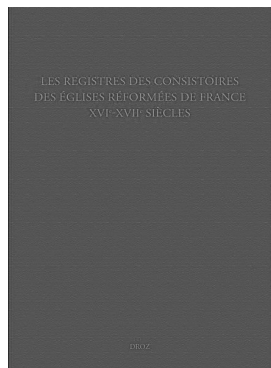
a world unified by communication and marked by the ends of distance and war. This persistent rhetoric animated what it meant to be modern and American and today echoes in claims that the Internet creates a global village. Jenna is very glad to be at the University of Iowa and is already enjoying her work with undergraduate and graduate students here.

Richard Brent Turner published an article, “Jazz, The Second Line, and African American Religious Internationalism in New Orleans” in *Souls: A Critical Journal Of Black Politics, Culture, And Society*, Vol. 16, no. 1-2, January-June 2014, pp. 69-78; and a book chapter, “Popular and Academic Images of African American Islam, 1915-1945” in *Oxford Handbooks Online* (May 2014). His scholarly presentations included: “Jazz Religion, the Second Line, and Black New Orleans” (via Skype) in a doctoral seminar on Theoretical Issues in the Study of Black Religion at Emory University (October 2014); “Malcolm X and the African-American Journey to Islam” at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (February 2014); “Jazz, The Second Line, and Afro-American Religious Internationalism in New Orleans,” at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore (November 2013); and “Vodou and the Healing Arts in Post-Katrina New Orleans,” at Harvard University (October 2013). His interview on “The Moorish Science Temple of America” (October 2014), can be heard on the public radio program, “Back Story,” which is produced in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Turner served on the selection committee for the Albert J. Raboteau Best Book in African Religions Prize for the Journal of African Religions. He was selected as a speaker for the 2015 NEH Summer Institute for College and University Professors on “American Muslims, American Journeys” at George Washington University. This fall, Turner is teaching a new graduate seminar, “Advanced Readings in African American Culture: Classic and Contemporary Debates on Race and American Culture.”

Recent Books

Les Registres des consistoires des Eglises réformées de France – XVIe-XVIIe siècles Un inventaire

Edited by Raymond Mentzer

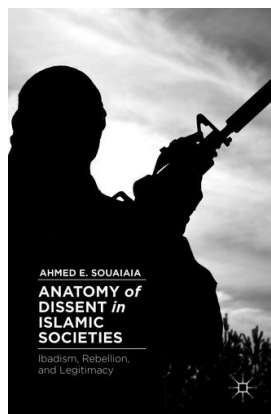


The consistory was the institutional foundation of the French Reformed Churches during the early modern period. Every local church had a consistory, composed of pastors, elders and deacons. Presided over by the pastor, it met each week to discuss matters of ecclesiastical administration, the spiritual and liturgical life of the congregation, assistance to the poor and, above all, morals control. Accordingly, the registers of consistorial deliberation constitute a remarkable source for the study of church discipline, the imple-

mentation of new liturgical forms and the organization of social welfare. They also disclose the details of human sociability, everyday behavior and popular culture. R. Mentzer has identified 309 surviving manuscript registers of consistorial deliberation for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They come from 156 different churches. The manuscripts are housed primarily at Paris in the Archives Nationales and the Bibliothèque du Protestantisme Français, and in the provincial departmental and municipal archives.

Anatomy of Dissent in Islamic Societies Ibadism, Rebellion, and Legitimacy

Ahmed E. Souaiaia



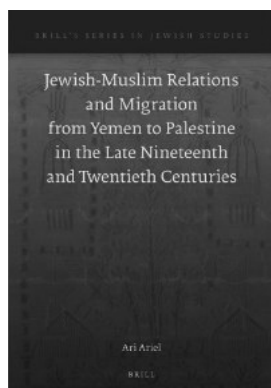
The 'Arab Spring' that began in 2011 has placed a spotlight on the transfer of political power in Islamic societies, reviving old questions about the place of political dissent and rebellion in Islamic civilization and raising new ones about the place of religion in modern Islamic societies.

In *Anatomy of Dissent in Islamic Societies*, Ahmed E. Souaiaia examines the complex historical evolution of Islamic civilization in an effort to trace the

roots of the paradigms and principles of Islamic political and legal theories. This study is one of the first attempts at providing a fuller picture of the place of dissent and rebellion in Islamic civilization by interpreting Sunni and Shi'i records in the context of little-known Ibadite political and legal materials. As the oldest sect, Ibadiyah provides a record of the ways sectarianism and dissent developed and impinged on Islamic society and thought.

Jewish-Muslim Relations and Migration from Yemen to Palestine in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Ari Ariel, Bryn Mawr College



In *Jewish-Muslim Relations and Migration from Yemen to Palestine in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* Ari Ariel analyzes the impact of local, regional and international events on ethnic and religious relations in Yemen and Yemeni Jewish migration patterns. Previous research has dealt with single episodes of Yemenite migration during limited spans of time. Ariel, instead, provides a broad sweep of the migratory

flows over the 70 year time span during which most of Yemen's Jews moved to Palestine and then Israel. He successfully avoids the polemic nature of much of the literature on Middle Eastern Jewry by focusing on the social, economic and political transformations that provoked and then sustained this migration.

Remembering Robert Scharlemann

Robert Scharlemann, an internationally recognized scholar, was born on 4 April 1929 in Lake City, MN. After attending Northwestern College of Watertown, WI, he studied at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. After receiving a B.A. and B.D. from Concordia College, he entered the University of Heidelberg on a Fulbright Scholarship, earning his doctorate in philosophical theology in 1957. His dissertation, *Thomas Aquinas and John Gerhard*, was published by Yale University Press in 1964. After teaching at Valparaiso University and the University of Southern California, in 1966 he accepted a position as associate professor of Protestant Theology and Contemporary Religious Thought in the School of Religion of the University of Iowa. Two years later he was promoted to the rank of full professor.

Scharlemann was a masterful advisor and teacher, offering numerous seminars where he empowered his students to become their own thinkers. Several of his students became outstanding teachers and scholars. One, David E. Klemm, joined the School of Religion faculty in 1982. Another, Mary Ann Stenger, Professor at the University of Louisville, recalls, 'On Tuesday evenings Bob met faculty and students at a local pub where we drank beer, talked, and laughed together. In that setting I experienced his political acumen, his broad cultural knowledge, and his delightful sense of humor.'

In 1977 Scharlemann was appointed associate editor of *The Journal of the Academy of Religion*, supervising book reviews. In 1980 he was appointed editor-in-chief.

He spent his academic leaves mainly in Germany. In 1969 he conducted research in the Paul Tillich archive at the University of Göttingen and engaged in

research on Christology at the University of Heidelberg and Cambridge University. In 1975 he studied at the University of Heidelberg investigating the principle of identity in the theology of Karl Daub, a prominent theologian in Heidelberg during the early 1990s. In 1976 Scharlemann addressed the Paul Tillich Gesellschaft at its annual meeting in Hofgeismar, Germany, delivering a paper in German—its English title: 'Religious and Critical Consciousness: Reflections on the Question of Truth and the Philosophy of Religion.'

Among Scharlemann's theologically significant books were *Reflection and Doubt in the Thought of Paul Tillich* (1969) and *The Being of God: Theology and the Experience of Truth* (1981). In 1977 he contributed a chapter titled 'Confessio and Scientia: Life and Truth in Theology,' to *Discord Dialogue and Concord*, published by Fortress Press. His translation of Carl Heinz Ratschow's volume, *Paul Tillich*, was published by the Tillich Society in 1980. His article on 'The Scope of Systematics: An Analysis of Tillich's Two Systems,' appeared in the Spring, 1968 issue of *The Journal of Religion*. In the spring of 1981, Scharlemann resigned his position in the School of Religion to accept an appointment as the Commonwealth Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville.

Those of us who knew Bob recall his masterful facility in the German language, his competency in taking shorthand, his love of music and playing the piano for his own enjoyment, and his capacity to think deeply. He died in Charlottesville on 10 July 2013.

*J. Kenneth Kuntz,
Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies,
The University of Iowa*

My Year in Mainz

David Greder



Applying to the Institute for European History in Mainz, Germany, was one of the most stressful experiences of my academic career, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. Yes, I had studied the German language for years, but none of my classroom experience had prepared me for arriving at the Frankfurt Airport. I was jet-lagged and homesick. Imagine my surprise when I walked through the front door of my apartment and I had the best view of Mainz Cathedral in the city!

From that first day until my last day in Mainz, I was welcomed with open arms by my colleagues. In fact, my first weekend found me dragooned into a costumed role in a short play performed for the public. Luckily, I didn't have a speaking role, as my head was still spinning from the journey and my German was still slow in improving. My fellow players that weekend became some of my best friends during my tenure at the Institute.

Travel guides say that the best way to get to know a foreign city is to explore it on foot, and that's exactly what I did. No matter how busy I was, I found time to stroll the streets and alleyways of Mainz. After only a few months, I felt I knew the city better than folks who had been there for years! I did the best I could to make Mainz a home and get to know my colleagues, as well as people outside the Institute. For example, a few friends and I took a pottery course at the nearby Volkshochschule (community college) around Christmastime. We worked so hard on our projects at the Institute that it was important to get out and broaden our horizons from time to time.

Perhaps what I'll miss most is the changing seasons and the different ways holidays are observed in Germany compared to the United States. Since Mainz is wine country, Oktoberfest isn't as important, though my Bavarian colleagues made sure we knew a few songs! In order to find Halloween celebrations, we had to head to the nearest Irish pub (in costume, of course). In November, an American colleague and I decided to put together a Thanksgiving feast for twenty excited Europeans who had never experienced the holiday before. This required special ordering a 16-kilogram turkey, shipments of pumpkin pie filling from America, and over three days of preparation. Everyone

loved it, and somehow we even ended up with leftovers. Immediately thereafter, the Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) came to the cathedral plaza. For over a month, I made a daily visit to shop for gifts and tried to keep warm with a mug of Glühwein (German mulled wine). Being a Catholic city, Mainz in the springtime is dominated by Carnival! I'd never seen the streets of the city as full of people as I did during Fasching (or Karneval or Fastnacht or Carnival, whichever term you prefer). Between the giant parades, the amusement park in the cathedral square and by the Rhine River, and the all-night dance parties in the city center, it was hard to get dissertation work done, but I think we all managed. Thank goodness for earplugs!

This winter was one of the warmest in a generation in Mainz. I say that with sincerest apologies to all of you who suffered through the Polar Vortex. I researched and wrote with my windows open or at outdoor cafes or under the trees in a park all Spring long. The pleasant weather was also a boon for my morning ritual of running along the Rhine. At the Institute, self-discipline was crucial. Other than a weekly research colloquium every Tuesday, there is virtually no required schedule. Thanks to the academic connections of the Institute's staff and administration, small conferences and plenary lectures were legion. At the weekly research colloquia, each research fellow was required to give a 30-minute Vortrag or presentation of one's research. Though I arrived in September, my turn didn't come until mid-March so I had plenty of time to polish my remarks. And because I study Irish religious history, I was allowed to give my Vortrag in English! By the time my presentation was over, I could see exactly how my project had changed during my fellowship at the Institute. Thanks to my colleagues and mentors, I see all the mistakes in my dissertation prospectus and I know exactly how to fix them!

I flew home from Frankfurt on a rainy Thursday at the end of May. Friends had escorted me to the airport and there were tears all around as we hugged each other goodbye and said farewell in our respective native tongues. I must admit that it felt harder acclimating back to America than it did getting my bearings in Mainz. As a native Hawkeye, it's always good to be home in Iowa, but I think about my year at the Institute every single day.

I would like to thank the Leibniz-Institute for European History in Mainz who provided me with a generous monthly stipend, as well as an apartment within the centuries-old Institute itself. Spending a year in Mainz was extraordinarily important for my career here at the University of Iowa and beyond. Living in a historic city and attending events with brilliant colleagues was an honor. Many of those same colleagues are now lifelong friends. To anyone thinking about traveling abroad to conduct research or to take up a fellowship, I personally can't recommend it enough. You will not regret it! The world seems a whole lot smaller after you've lived abroad, learned and used a new language, experienced local customs, and made friends from around the globe.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR 2014



Diana Fritz Cates

The study of religion is, in part, the study of the way in which people inhabit worlds of meaning that, for them, seem perfectly natural, but for others can seem incomprehensible. Through the study of religion, students develop the ability to view the world from many different standpoints. They learn to see, as it were, through multiple sets of eyes. Students glimpse diverse ways of being human, and their growing insight and reflection yield practical skills that are of exceptional value to any career path.

The Department of Religious Studies focuses on religion and public life, considered historically and in the contemporary world. More specifically, we analyze different religions' influences on the formation of personal and communal identities and the dynamics of social change. We examine religions' relationships to gender, race, and ethnicity, and the ways in which people's identities and agendas are being shaped, today, by digital communication technologies. This year we welcomed two new faculty members who contribute to this departmental focus: Assistant Professor Jenna Supp-Montgomerie, who specializes in religion, communication, and digital media; and Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Ari Ariel, who studies Judaism, Jewish-Muslim relations in the Middle East, and the relationship between religion, food, and identity. We are excited for the future!

We invite you to become increasingly more invested in our future. You can support the department in many ways—for example, by spreading the word about our efforts and accomplishments, following our website and Facebook page, attending our on-campus events, reading our scholarship, listening to or watching our media appearances, and encouraging the students of the University of Iowa to take our courses. You can support us also through financial gifts that make it possible to foster in more students and members of the public the knowledge that is needed to succeed in a 21st century global context. Please know that we are grateful for your engagement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Fritz Cates".

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