

PERSPECTIVES *On Religion*

Fall 2021 • Volume 28

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The Department of Religious Studies Mourns the Loss of Dr. Michelene Pesantubbee

Michelene Pesantubbee was our beloved colleague, mentor, and friend. The entire faculty and staff are deeply saddened by her passing. The department will be establishing a new student award in her name to honor her memory and the issues Michelene was so passionate about. Below is an article written by her former colleague and friend, Dr. Mary Churchill in memory of Michelene:

Michelene Pesantubbee—scholar, educator, and leader in the study of American Indian religious traditions—joined the ancestors on July 13, 2021. Colleagues and friends are remembering her dedication, originality, and sense of humor.

Pesantubbee began her postsecondary education at the University of Oklahoma with bachelor's and master's degrees in business education (1975, 1978). She went on to study American Indian religious traditions at the University of California, Santa Barbara with Mescalero Apache scholar Inés Talamantez. Earning her master's degree in 1991, Pesantubbee progressed to the doctoral program, eventually receiving a coveted University of California President's Dissertation Year Fellowship in 1993-94. She graduated with her Ph.D. in religious studies from UCSB in 1994.

Pesantubbee began her career at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2001-02, she was awarded a prestigious Research Fellowship from Harvard University in the Divinity School's Women's Studies in Religion Program. The following year she joined the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa, earning tenure and

becoming an associate professor in 2006. After a distinguished career, she retired in 2018.

Pesantubbee's scholarship focused on American Indian cultural resistance and resilience, particularly through the leadership of Native



Pesantubbee (cont.)

American women. Her ethnohistorical book *Choctaw Women in a Chaotic World: The Clash of Cultures in the Colonial Southeast* (New Mexico Press, 2005) makes a significant contribution to the fields of American Indian, gender, and religious studies. Drawing on documentary research and her own cultural background as a contemporary Choctaw woman and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Pesantubbee offers an insightful analysis of Choctaw women's key roles in negotiating change in the French colonial period. Pesantubbee's work has also appeared in numerous books and journals including the *American Indian Quarterly*, the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Her dedication to students was evident in the several faculty awards Pesantubbee received at the University of Colorado and University of Iowa. Pesantubbee's teaching focused on American Indian religious traditions, Indigenous environmentalism, Native American women, violence and religion, and religious movements. She taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels, supervising several master's and doctoral students, and she served as a faculty advisor to the University of Iowa American Indian Student Association for seven years. Beloved by her students, Pesantubbee is remembered as an amazing teacher and wise mentor. One of her former students writes, "She helped to guide me when I was starting off as a graduate student and helped me with so much learning and unlearning, as she did for all of her students. And more than that, she was integral to supporting Native American and Indigenous Studies students and efforts on campus."

Pesantubbee served her profession in a number of capacities. Most notably, she was the Executive Secretary of the American Academy of Religion (2004-07) and a member of the AAR Program Committee (2008-10). She also served as the co-chair of the Native Traditions in the Americas program unit (1998-2004) and co-chair of the

Women and Religion Section (2008-10). She was an AAR member for over 30 years, giving numerous papers during that time. She joined the editorial boards of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Religion* and the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Religious Traditions*. At the University of Iowa, she was the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Religious Studies and Coordinator of the American Indian and Native Studies Program. She advanced the careers of many others by serving on master's and doctoral committees, participating in mentorship programs, assessing Ford Foundation fellowship applications, and reviewing manuscripts and tenure/promotion cases.

Many of her colleagues are sharing their sadness at this heartbreaking loss. One colleague writes, "For many years, Michelene led the AAR Native Traditions Unit with confidence and clarity. Her book *Choctaw Women in a Chaotic World: The Clash of Cultures in the Colonial Southeast* and her article 'Religious Studies in the Margins: Decolonizing Our Minds' in *Native Voices: American Indian Identity and Resistance* remain important works in the field that I reference and teach." Another shares, "She was a brilliant and original thinker, a dedicated educator, and a wonderful human being."

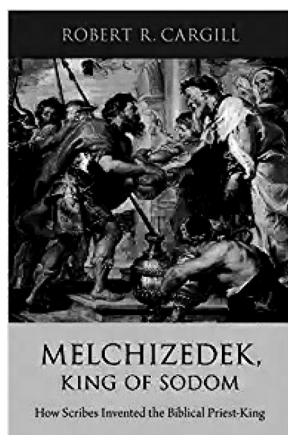
Pesantubbee returned to her hometown, Muskogee, Oklahoma, upon her retirement. She was not far from her tribal homeland of the Choctaw Nation, where she had spent many years researching and celebrating Choctaw cultural traditions. Her family, especially her sisters, comforted her in her fight against cancer. She was a true warrior woman, having survived cancer more than once and earning honor as a scholar, educator, and leader. She lived a life befitting her ancestral warrior name, Pesantubbee. May her memory be a source of joy and inspiration for us all.

Written by Dr. Mary Churchill,
Sonoma State University

Faculty Books

Melchizedek, King of Sodom:
How Scribes Invented the Biblical Priest-King

by Robert R. Cargill



The biblical figure Melchizedek appears just twice in the Hebrew Bible, and once more in the Christian New Testament. Cited as both the king of Shalem-understood by most scholars to be Jerusalem-and as an eternal priest without ancestry, Melchizedek's appearances become

textual justification for tithing to the Levitical priests in Jerusalem and for the priesthood of Jesus Christ himself. But what if the text was manipulated?

Robert R. Cargill explores the Hebrew and Greek texts concerning Melchizedek's encounter with Abraham in Genesis as a basis to unravel the biblical mystery of this character's origins. The textual evidence that Cargill presents shows that Melchizedek was originally known as the king of Sodom and that the later traditions about Sodom forced biblical scribes to invent a new location, Shalem, for Melchizedek's priesthood and reign. Cargill also identifies minor, strategic changes to the Hebrew Bible and the Samaritan Pentateuch that demonstrate an evolving, polemical, sectarian discourse between Jews and Samaritans competing for the superiority of their respective temples and holy mountains. The resulting literary evidence was used as the ideological motivation for identifying Shalem with Jerusalem in the Second Temple Jewish tradition.

A brief study with far-reaching implications, *Melchizedek, King of Sodom* reopens discussion of not only this unusual character, but also the origins of both the priesthood of Christ and the role of early Israelite priest-kings.

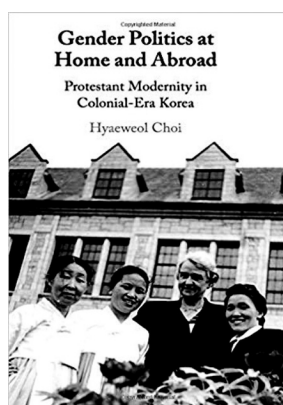
Cities that Built to Bible by Robert R. Cargill
foreign translations:

聖書の成り立ちを語る都市: フェニキアからローマまで (*Cities Telling the Origins of the Bible: From Phoenicia to Rome*), Japanese translation of *The Cities that Built the Bible*, trans. by 真田由美子 (Yumiko Sanada) for 白水社 (Hakusuisha Publishing Co, 2018)

创造圣经的城市 (*The City that Created the Bible*), Simplified Chinese translation of *The Cities that Built the Bible*, trans. by 吴炜声 (Wu Haosheng) for 海南出版社 (Hainan Publishing House, 2017)

Gender Politics at Home and Abroad
Protestant Modernity in Colonial-Era Korea

by Hyaewool Choi



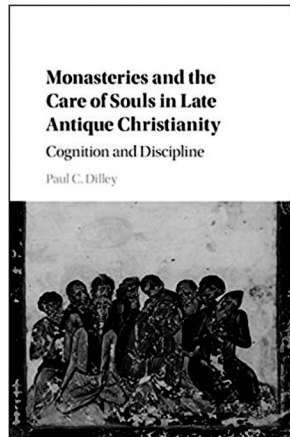
Hyaewool Choi examines the formation of modern gender relations in Korea from a transnational perspective. Diverging from a conventional understanding of 'secularization' as a defining feature of modernity, Choi argues that Protestant Christianity,

introduced to Korea in the late nineteenth century, was crucial in shaping modern gender ideology, reforming domestic practices and claiming new space for women in the public sphere. In Korea, Japanese colonial power - and with it, Japanese representations of modernity - was confronted with the dominant cultural and material power of Europe and the US, which was reflected in Korean attitudes. One of the key agents in conveying ideas of "Western modernity" in Korea was globally connected Christianity, especially US-led Protestant missionary organizations. By placing gender and religion at the center of the analysis, Choi shows that the development of modern gender relations was rooted in the transnational experience of Koreans and not in a simple nexus of the colonizer and the colonized.

Faculty Books (cont.)

Monasteries and the Care of Souls in Late Antique Christianity
Cognition and Discipline

by Paul C. Dilley



In *Monasteries and the Care of Souls in Late Antique Christianity*, Paul C. Dilley explores the personal practices and group rituals through which the thoughts of monastic disciples were monitored and trained to purify the mind and help them achieve salvation. Dilley draws widely on the interdisciplinary

field of cognitive studies, especially anthropology, in his analysis of key monastic 'cognitive disciplines', such as meditation on scripture, the fear of God, and prayer. In addition, various rituals distinctive to communal monasticism, including entrance procedures, the commemoration of founders, and collective repentance, are given their first extended analysis. Participants engaged in 'heart-work' on their thoughts and emotions, which were understood to reflect the community's spiritual state. This book will be of interest to scholars of early Christianity and the ancient world more generally for its detailed description of communal monastic culture and its innovative methodology.

Bond, Sarah, Dilley, Paul C., and Horne, Ryan, Eds., *Linked Open Data for the Ancient Mediterranean: Structures, Practices, Prospects*, ISAW Papers 20 (2021): <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/20/>

(Open Access)

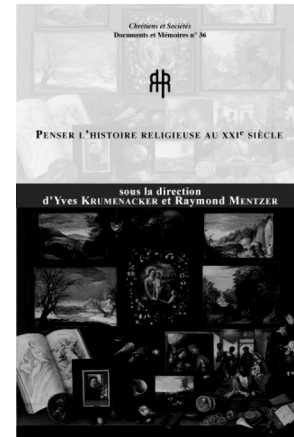
David Bouvier, Claire Clivaz, Paul Dilley, and David Hamidovic, eds., *Digital Literacies for the Ancient World*, Classics@ 17. Washington, D.C.: Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies (2019): <https://chs.harvard.edu/CHS/article/display/6948>

(Open Access)

PENSER L'HISTOIRE RELIGIEUSE AU XXI^e SIÈCLE

Thinking about Religious History in the 21st Century

edited by Yves Krumenacker and Raymond A. Mentzer

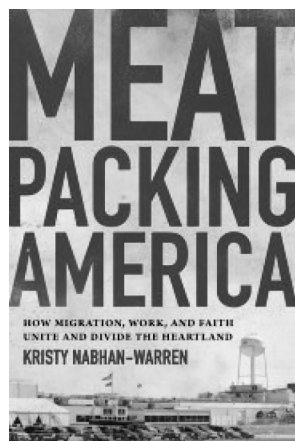


History today is very fragmented, each sector having its own traditions, its own historiography, its own references. Religious history is obviously no exception. But the worst thing would be for the different historical specialisations to ignore each other, even though they have much to learn

from each other. This question was at the heart of the colloquium of the International Commission for the History and Study of Christianity, held in Lyon from 11 to 13 June 2019. Historians from a dozen different countries sought to show how other historical disciplines, such as the history of the present, transnational and global history, economic history, the history of the book, the history of justice, digital history, the history of knowledge, and the history of gender, with their own contributions and methodology, can enrich religious history. They have also shown the interest of confronting different national historiographical traditions. This book is the result, with chapters that are both methodological reflections and case studies from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries in Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox countries. It hopes to contribute to a reflection on how religious history can be done in the twenty-first century. The contributions to this volume were brought together by Yves Krumenacker, Professor of Modern History at the University of Lyon (Jean Moulin) and by Raymond A. Mentzer, professor of religious history at the University of Iowa (Daniel J. Krumm Family Chair in Reformation Studies).

Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland

by Kristy Nabhan-Warren



Whether valorized as the heartland or derided as flyover country, the Midwest became instantly notorious when COVID-19 infections skyrocketed among workers in meatpacking plants—and Americans feared for their meat supply. But the Midwest is not simply the place where animals are fed

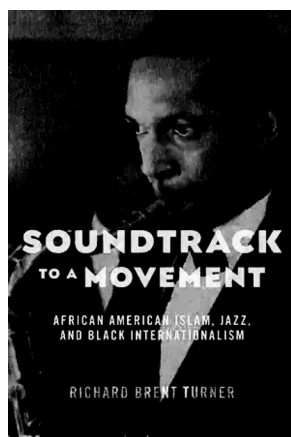
corn and then butchered. Native Midwesterner Kristy Nabhan-Warren spent years interviewing Iowans who work in the meatpacking industry, both native-born residents and recent migrants from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In *Meatpacking America*, she digs deep below the stereotype and reveals the grit and grace of a heartland that is a major global hub of migration and food production—and also, it turns out, of religion.

Across the flatlands, Protestants, Catholics, and Muslims share space every day as worshippers, employees, and employers. On the bloody floors of meatpacking plants, in bustling places of worship, and in modest family homes, longtime and newly arrived Iowans spoke to Nabhan-Warren about their passion for religious faith and desire to work hard for their families. Their stories expose how faith-based aspirations for mutual understanding blend uneasily with rampant economic exploitation and racial biases. Still, these new and old Midwesterners say that a mutual language of faith and morals brings them together more than any of them would have ever expected.

Soundtrack to a Movement

African American Islam, Jazz, and Black Internationalism

by Richard Brent Turner



Amid the social change and liberation of the civil rights and Black Power movements, the tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp recorded a tribute to Malcolm X's emancipatory political consciousness. Shepp saw similarities between his revolutionary hero and John Coltrane, one of the most influential

jazz musicians of the era. Later, the esteemed trumpeter Miles Davis echoed Shepp's sentiment, recognizing that Coltrane's music represented the very passion, rage, rebellion, and love that Malcolm X preached.

Soundtrack to a Movement examines the link between the revolutionary Black Islam of the post-WWII generation and jazz music. It argues that from the late 1940s and '50s through the 1970s, Islam rose in prominence among African Americans in part because of the embrace of the religion among jazz musicians. The book demonstrates that the values that Islam and jazz shared—Black affirmation, freedom, and self-determination—were key to the growth of African American Islamic communities, and that it was jazz musicians who led the way in shaping encounters with Islam as they developed a Black Atlantic “cool” that shaped both Black religion and jazz styles.

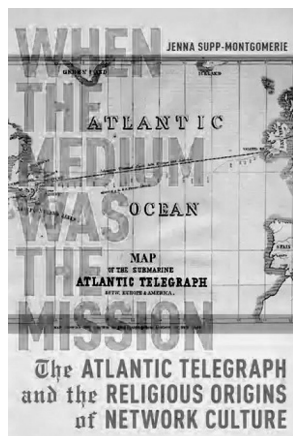
Soundtrack to a Movement demonstrates how by expressing their values through the rejection of systemic racism, the construction of Black notions of masculinity and femininity, and the development of an African American religious internationalism, both jazz musicians and Black Muslims engaged with a global Black consciousness and interconnected resistance movements in the African diaspora and Africa.

Faculty Books (cont.)

When the Medium Was the Mission

The Atlantic Telegraph and the Religious Origins of Network Culture

by Jenna Supp-Montgomerie



When Samuel Morse sent the words “what hath God wrought” from the US Supreme Court to Baltimore in mere minutes, it was the first public demonstration of words travelling faster than human beings and farther than a line of sight in the US. This strange confluence of media, religion, technology, and US

nationhood lies at the foundation of global networks.

The advent of a telegraph cable crossing the Atlantic Ocean was viewed much the way the internet is today, to herald a coming world-wide unification. President Buchanan declared that the Atlantic Telegraph would be “an instrument destined by divine providence to diffuse religion, civilization, liberty, and law throughout the world” through which “the nations of Christendom [would] spontaneously unite.” Evangelical Protestantism embraced the new technology as indicating God’s support for their work to Christianize the globe. Public figures in the US imagined this new communication technology in primarily religious terms as offering the means to unite the world and inspire peaceful relations among nations. Religious utopianists saw the telegraph as the dawn of a perfect future.

Religious framing thus dominated the interpretation of the technology’s possibilities, forging an imaginary of networks as connective, so much so that connection is now fundamental to the idea of networks. In reality, however, networks are marked, at core, by disconnection. With lively historical sources and an accessible engagement with critical theory, *When the Medium was the Mission* tells the story of how connection was made into the fundamental promise of networks, illuminating the power of public Protestantism in the first network imaginaries, which continue to resonate today in false expectations of connection.

Human Rights in Islamic Societies

Muslims and the Western Conception of Rights

by Ahmed E. Souaiaia



HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES
MUSLIMS AND THE WESTERN CONCEPTION OF RIGHTS

Ahmed E. Souaiaia



This book compares Islamic and Western ideas of human rights in order to ascertain which human rights, if any, can be considered universal. This is a profound topic with a rich history that is highly relevant within global politics and society today.

The arguments in this book are formed by bringing William

Talbott’s *Which Rights Should Be Universal?* (2005) and Abdulaziz Sachedina’s *Islam and the Challenge of Human Rights* (2014) into conversation. By bridging the gap between cultural relativists and moral universalists, this book seeks to offer a new model for the understanding of human rights. It contends that human rights abuses are outcomes of complex systems by design and/or by default. Therefore, it proposes that a rigorous systems-thinking approach will contribute to addressing the challenge of human rights.

Engaging with Islamic and Western, historical and contemporary, and relativist and universalist thought, this book is a fresh take on a perennially important issue. As such, it will be a first-rate resource for any scholars working in religious studies, Islamic studies, Middle East studies, ethics, sociology, and law and religion.

Fred Smith Retires

*After 32 years at the University of Iowa, our valued colleague and friend, Frederick M. Smith, retired at the end of the spring semester, 2021. Fred was Professor of Sanskrit and Classical Indian Religions, jointly appointed in the Departments of Religious Studies and Asian & Slavic Languages and Literature. He was, and continues to be, a very active scholar in his field and is especially well known for his classic study *The Self Possessed: Deity and Spirit Possession in South Asian Literature and Civilization* (New York City: Columbia University Press, 2006); he also trained a large number of graduate students over his years at Iowa. Fred's presence and his wise council will be sorely missed by his colleagues and devoted students, and we wish him all the best in his retirement. Below Fred reflects on his long career.*

I have had a wonderful and immensely satisfying career at the UI. I am deeply grateful for the support from my two departments, as well as the CLAS Dean's office, the UI library, and, most of all, my exceptional colleagues and students across the campus. The challenging and always scintillating feedback from colleagues and students was a tremendous boon in helping develop courses, research, and extra-departmental learning opportunities. Most noteworthy was the role of International Programs and its predecessors. All of this has created a scholarly trajectory that will continue well after my retirement. Already I have submitted four lengthy papers for publication in the last half year, and I have continued many of the same activities as before, including reading manuscripts for publishers, evaluating tenure and promotion portfolios for colleagues in other universities, speaking at various conferences (on Zoom), and writing book reviews and forewords and introductions to others' books. My major book projects will continue even as I also strive for a more contemplative retirement.



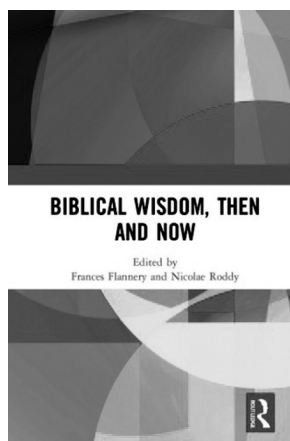
During my career, I have witnessed dramatic changes in the educational system in the US, at Iowa, and within both of my departments. Most evidently, neither of the descriptors in my title are likely to be replicated any time soon at the UI, given the current economic climate. Sadly, my retirement comes on top of several other recent retirements of faculty in South Asian Studies, none of whom have been replaced. South Asian studies has virtually disappeared at the UI, except as it occurs incidentally as a part of other topics. Neither Sanskrit nor Indian Religions will likely be taught at the University of Iowa for the foreseeable future.

The thorough transformation in higher education in state universities, reeling beneath the pressure of economic realities and state governments that offer ever diminishing support for higher education, has left "liberal education" in dire straits. Religious studies and other areas of the humanities are desperately grasping for a future. Amid this state of siege, which, in fact, most of us have seen as a rising tide throughout the last three decades, we do see opportunities for institutional expansion through carefully crafted interdisciplinary research, programming, teaching, and reimagined research. While it will always remain a goal to maintain trajectories of basic research, which requires deep study of languages and cultures outside our own, other opportunities will continue to arise in unforeseen avenues. Fortunately, the Department of Religious Studies continues to maintain full and fully wonderful staffing in Maureen Walterhouse and Robin Burns, and has had a succession of dedicated department chairs, including, most recently, Ray Mentzer, Diana Cates, and Morten Schlütter. I wish all my colleagues the best possible future at Iowa and hope that they can forge the pathways necessary to keep religious studies as we have practiced it in our own different ways alive and well for decades to come.

Fred Smith

Festschrift Honors Emeritus Professor J. Kenneth Kuntz

Last August, Ken Kuntz was honored with a Festschrift entitled *Biblical Wisdom, Then and Now*, edited by Frances Flannery and Nicolae Roddy. The entries were from a few of Ken's former students: Alan J. Hauser, Nicolae Roddy, Frances Flannery, Rodney A. Werline, Lowell Handy, Chris Van Landingham, Charles A. Packer, and Rachel Wagner; and colleagues: Katharine J. Dell (University of Cambridge, UK), Iain Provan (Regent College in Vancouver, Canada), and Beth LaNeel Tanner (New Brunswick Theological Seminary).



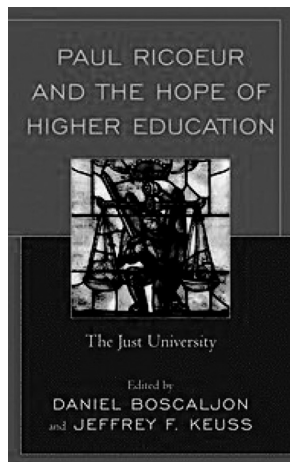
Biblical Wisdom, Then and Now

Edited by Frances Flannery and Nicolae Roddy

This volume examines biblical wisdom literature both in its historical context and as it relates to a host of contemporary themes, including overcoming social divisions, reading from a place of inclusion, healing from trauma, and challenging religious attitudes toward climate change and animals.

This volume delivers fresh insights on biblical wisdom texts, exploring ways in which wisdom literature speaks perennially to the human condition despite the differences in societies then and now. Employing both biblical studies and theological approaches, the diverse group of authors in this collection examine biblical wisdom literature from a variety of perspectives and methodologies to illuminate the relevance of wisdom for ancient audiences such as exiles, scribes, and leaders, as well as for contemporary audiences concerned with challenges such as climate change, social division, and healing from trauma. Its eleven chapters utilize an accessible style that brings erudite scholarship on biblical wisdom to a broader audience.

Alumni Books



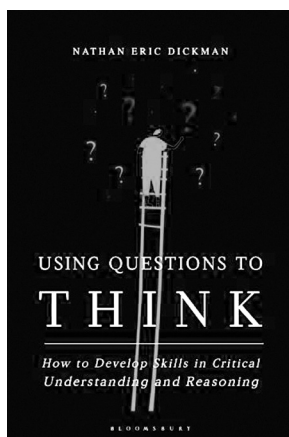
Paul Ricoeur and the Hope of Higher Education

The Just University

Edited by Daniel Boscaljon, Jeffrey F. Keuss

The essays in *Paul Ricoeur and the Hope of Higher Education: The Just University* discuss diverse ways that Paul Ricoeur's work provides hopeful insight and necessary provocation that should inform the task and mission of the modern university in the changing landscape of Higher Education. This volume gathers interdisciplinary scholars seeking to reestablish the place of justice as the central function of higher education in the twenty-first century. The contributors represent diverse backgrounds, including teachers, scholars, and administrators from R1 institutions, seminary and divinity schools as well as undergraduate teaching colleges. This collection, edited by Daniel Boscaljon and Jeffrey F. Keuss, offers critical and practical visions for the renewal of higher education. The first part of the book provides an internal examination of the university system and details how Ricoeur's thinking assists on pragmatics from syllabus design to final exams to daily teaching. The second portion of the book examines the Just University's role as a social institution within the broader cultural world and looks at how Ricoeur's description of values informs how the university works relative to religious belief, prisons, and rural poverty.

Alumni Books (cont.)



Using Questions to Think

How to Develop Skills in Critical Understanding and Reasoning

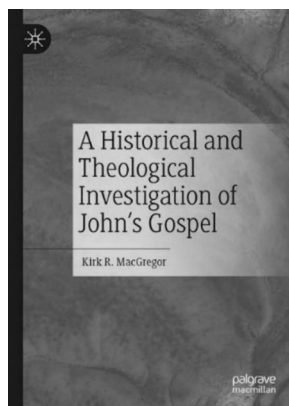
by Nathan Eric Dickman

Our ability to think, argue and reason is determined by our ability to question. Questions are a vital component of critical thinking, yet we underestimate the role they play. Using Questions to Think puts questioning back in the spotlight.

Naming the parts of questions at the same time as we name parts of thought, this one-of-a-kind introduction allows us to see how questions relate to the definitions of propositions, premises, conclusions, and the validity of arguments. Why is this important? Making the role of questions visible in thinking reasoning and dialogue, allows us to:

*Ask better questions
 *Improve our capability to understand an argument
 *Exercise vigilance in the act of questioning
 *Make explicit what you already know implicitly
 *Engage with ideas that contradict our own
 *See ideas in broader context

Breathing new life into our current approach to critical thinking, this practical, much-needed textbook moves us away from the traditional focus on formal argument and fallacy identification, combines the Kantian critique of reason with Hans-Georg Gadamer's hermeneutics and reminds us why thinking can only be understood as an answer to a question.

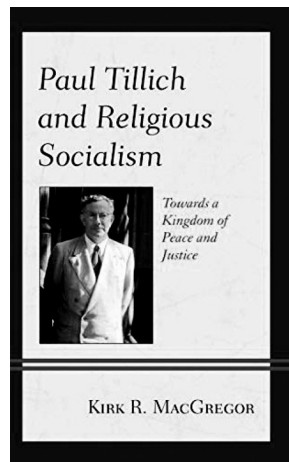


A Historical and Theological Investigation of John's Gospel

by Kirk R. MacGregor

This book provides original and controversial contributions into specific areas of Johannine studies, along with defenses of various traditional theological interpretations of John that are commonly overlooked in New Testament scholarship. Kirk R. MacGregor offers new insights into the authorship of the Fourth Gospel, the content of the underlying Signs Source, the meaning of the phrases "believe in him" and "believe in his name," Jesus' claim that Abraham saw his day, the significance of John 14.6, and why the resurrected Jesus upbraided Thomas. MacGregor employs the doctrine of middle knowledge to reconcile the seemingly paradoxical Johannine claims of divine predestination, genuine human freedom, and the universal divine salvific will.

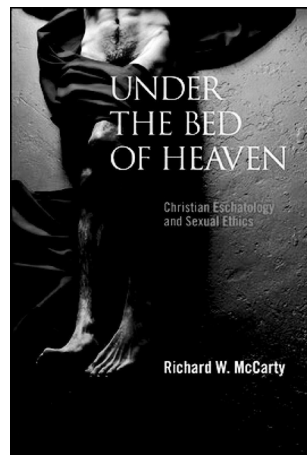
He defends the ontological equality but functional subordination of the Johannine Jesus to God the Father as well as the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit as presented by the Gospel of John.



Paul Tillich and Religious Socialism Towards a Kingdom of Peace and Justice

by Kirk R. MacGregor

Paul Tillich and Religious Socialism: Towards a Kingdom of Peace and Justice argues that the Kingdom of God—the reign of God over all human affairs via God’s manifestations in love, power, and justice—can be fragmentarily achieved through a religious socialism that creatively integrates the early Tillich’s socialist thinking with later insights throughout Tillich’s theological career and with contemporary developments in just peacemaking. The resulting religious socialism is defined by economic justice and a recognition of the sacred reality in all human endeavors. It employs Christianity to furnish the necessary depth for warding off materialism and affirming the spiritual dimension of both labor and acquiring material goods. The unbridgeable Marxist chasm between expectation and reality is bridged through new being, already historically inaugurated in the Christhood of Jesus. New being is fundamentally oriented toward bringing justice to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the marginalized. It affirms the individual and equal value of all persons and thus, in Kantian terms, promotes a kingdom of intrinsically worthwhile ends rather than a kingdom of instrumentally worthwhile means of things.



Under the Bed of Heaven: Christian Eschatology and Sexual Ethics

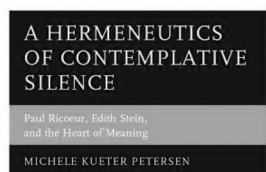
by Richard W. McCarty

Explores how concepts of sex in heaven can inform Christian sexual ethics in ways that challenge traditional norms and open new possibilities.

Under the Bed of Heaven is a work of Christian ethics that examines how eschatology might reshape concepts of sexual morality. With the rise of institutional Christianity in the Roman Empire, Christian attitudes about sexual desire and activity were soon controlled by doctrines of virginity and celibacy, or, monogamous marriage for the sake of procreation. These moral theologies aligned with a certain track of Christian eschatology, which imagined the future resurrection of the body, but without any corresponding sexual desires. As a result, traditional Christianity developed a preference for celibacy on earth to match the loss of sexual desire and activity in heaven, making marriage and monogamy temporal goods only.

In recent years, a few scholars of religion have challenged whether this vision of a sexless heaven is valid. However, they have not fully developed a vision of sex in heaven that might function to critique and reform Christian sexual ethics on earth. Richard W. McCarty explores scripture, church teachings, and different models of eschatology to offer a bold new conception of Christian sexual ethics that is inclusive of LGBTQ and heterosexual people, both in and outside of monogamous configurations.

Alumni Books (cont.)

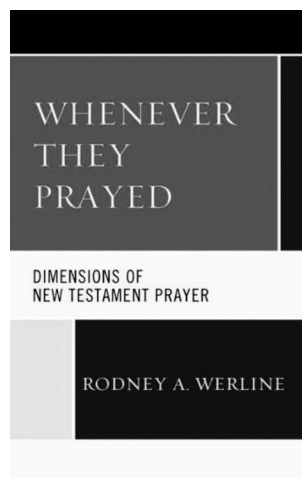


A Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence Paul Ricoeur, Edith Stein, and the Heart of Meaning

by Michele Kueter Petersen

A Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence: Paul Ricoeur, Edith Stein, and the Heart of Meaning brings together the work of Paul Ricoeur and Edith Stein and locates the role of silence in the creation of meaning. Michele Kueter Petersen argues that human being is language and silence. Contemplative silence manifests a mode of capable human being whereby a shared world of meaning is constituted and created. The analysis culminates with the claim that a hermeneutics of contemplative silence manifests a deeper level of awareness as a poetics of presencing a shared humanity. The term “awareness” refers to five crucial levels of meaning-creating consciousness that are ingredients in the practice of contemplative silence. Contemplative awareness includes self-critique as integral to the experience and the understanding of

the virtuous ordering of relational realities. The practice of contemplative silence is a spiritual and ethical activity that aims at transforming reflexive consciousness. Inasmuch as it leads to openness to new motivation and intention for acting in relation to others, contemplative awareness elicits movement through the ongoing exercise of rethinking those relational realities in and for the world. The texts of Ricoeur and Stein reveal a contemplative discourse of praise and beauty for capable human beings whose actions and suffering respond to word and silence.



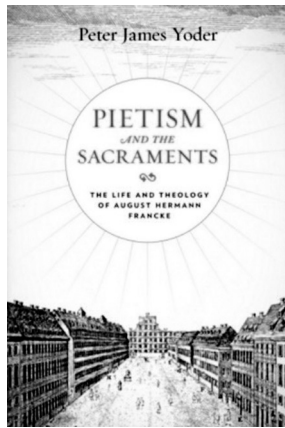
Whenever They Prayed Dimensions of New Testament Prayer

by Rodney A. Werline

In *Whenever They Prayed: Dimensions of New Testament Prayer*, Rodney A. Werline shifts the scholarly approach to New Testament prayer from source and genre analyses to seeing prayer as a cultural practice, bringing new dimensions of the prayers to light. Assisted by ritual theorists such as Catherine Bell, Pierre Bourdieu, Talal Assad, and Roy Rappaport, Werline illuminates the genius of the New Testament authors and the members of their communities. Through years of embodied practice, these authors and members acquired an aptitude that humans uniquely possess—the ability through ritual practice to navigate and maintain their relationships with one another and, together, with their God. Werline especially focuses on how their actions brought cultural memory to life, assisted in receiving

revelations, protected them from demonic powers, and established and fulfilled their obligations to one another and to that God. The full import of these observations, however, is not possible without placing the prayers within their Second Temple Jewish context. Jewish prayers outside the New Testament should not function as mere “background,” but as evidence of a grand cultural enterprise taking place, in which members of the early church actively participated.

Alumni Books (cont.)



Pietism and the Sacraments

The Life and Theology of August Hermann Francke

by Peter James Yoder

Considered by many to be one of the most influential German Pietists, August Hermann Francke lived during a moment when an emphasis on conversion was beginning to produce small shifts in how the sacraments were defined—a harbinger of later, more dramatic changes to come in evangelical theology. In this book, Peter James Yoder uses Francke and his theology as a case study for the ecclesiological stirrings that led to the rise of evangelicalism and global Protestantism.

Engaging extensively with Francke’s manuscript sermons and writings, Yoder approaches Francke’s life and religious thought through his theology of the sacraments. In doing so, Yoder delivers key insights into the structure of Francke’s Pietist thought, providing a rich depiction of his conversion-driven theology and how it shaped his views of the sacraments and the church. The first in-depth study of Francke’s theology written for an English-speaking audience, this book supports recent scholarship in English that not only challenges long-held assumptions about Pietism but also argues for the role of Pietism’s influence on the changing religious landscape of the eighteenth century. Through his examination of Francke’s theology of the sacraments, Yoder presents a fresh view into the eighteenth-century ecclesiological developments that caused a rupture with the dogmas of the Reformation.

Original and vital, this study recognizes Francke’s importance to the history of Pietism in Germany and beyond. It will become the standard reference on Francke for American audiences and will influence scholarship on Lutheranism, Pietism, early modern German studies, and eighteenth-century history and religion.

Metcalfe Awarded D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize

Darcy Metcalfe defended her dissertation in Spring 2021 titled “Ethics of the Inheritable Genetic Modification of Human Embryos via CRISPR Technology: Pauli Murray and the Institutionalized Control of Black Women’s Reproductive Lives,” directed by Prof. Diana Cates. The dissertation was awarded a D.C. Spriestersbach Dissertation Prize for 2021, which recognizes excellence in doctoral research.

Dr. Metcalfe’s dissertation addresses the timely and timeless intersection between healthcare, race, and gender in the United States. Dr. Metcalfe matches a frank assessment of the violence and degradation that characterizes the sordid history of the treatment of Black women in reproductive healthcare with the empowerment and humanity that fills Pauli Murray’s writing and personal history. By centering Murray, who was the first Black person to earn a JSD and the first Black woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest in the U.S., Dr. Metcalfe thoughtfully avoids making this a story of spectacle or despair; in her capable scholarship, this story of medical history, racism, and sexism is also a story of extraordinary courage, community-building, and powerful compassion. By including a rich analysis of Murray’s writing and personal history, Dr. Metcalfe thoughtfully pairs detailed and well-informed addresses of new technology, genetic manipulation, and the nature of medical experiments in the U.S. with the real effects of these “advances” on real lives. With this strong foundation in place, Dr. Metcalfe answers the call for ethical guidance for medical and public health professionals as developments in genetic modification technologies, such as CRISPR, become reality.

Dr. Metcalfe’s dissertation was also selected by the Graduate College to be nominated for the national competition for the Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Dissertation Award.



Mills Joins Claremont McKenna as Pre-Doctoral Fellow

Troy Mills, PhD student, joins the Religious Studies Department at Claremont McKenna College as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow of Religious Studies and Visiting Instructor of Religious Studies. His research program focuses on 20th-century and contemporary African-American religious history and African diaspora religions in the Black Atlantic world. Mills is especially interested in Islam in the United States; Rastafari in Jamaica; interactions between Black Atlantic religions and popular music—reggae and hip hop; Black nationalism and religion; African-American religion and human rights; ethnography; urban religious experience; and globalization and transnationalism. Mills will defend his dissertation titled “The Rastafari and the Nation of Islam: From Black Internationalism to Globalization, 1960s – 1980s” in Spring 2022.



Carlos Ruiz Martinez named a Research Fellow

Carlos Ruiz Martinez, PhD student, received a research fellowship from the Center for the Study of Religion and the City out of Baltimore, Maryland. Ruiz Martinez is broadly interested in the history of race and Catholicism in the United States. More specifically, his current work makes use of historical and ethnographic methods and focuses on the role of Catholicism in the development of the St. Louis suburbs and the formation of segregated communities. While much recent work has focused on the history of White Flight in St. Louis, Carlos' work foregrounds the fact that a majority of those who fled inner ring suburbs like Ferguson, Missouri in the second half of the 20th century were Catholics. Moreover, if the St. Louis suburbs saw drastic demographic changes in terms of race, they also saw drastic religious change. His work explores the connections of those two shifts and suggests that race and religion are fundamentally related.



How you can Contribute:

The Department of Religious Studies aims to be a hub of interdisciplinary inquiry into religious ideas, experiences, cultural expressions, and social movements. Religious Studies faculty makes use of multiple methods of study, including historical, philosophical, ethical, literary, linguistic, psychological, ethnographic, and digital approaches. We help students and the public to become better-informed, more nuanced thinkers who can successfully navigate a world of religious diversity. We rely on support from generous donors to continue to provide these enriching opportunities.

To support faculty, staff and students in the Department of Religious Studies, please visit givetoiowa.org/2022RE99 or contact Adam Blind at the UI Center for Advancement (adam.blind@foriowa.org).

Look for news and updates on Facebook (facebook.com/UIDeptofReligiousStudies) and Twitter (twitter.com/UIReligion?s=20) and of course our web page (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/religion/>)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
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Message from the Director:



Morten Schlütter

This has been another rather unusual and in many ways challenging year, but also with a number of positives for our department. Although we are back in the classroom and back to at least some in-person meetings, most research travel is still curtailed, and many academic conferences have been cancelled or moved online. However, Zoom, and other ways of working and interacting remotely, have become part of our lives and have led to new ways of collaborating with colleagues, sometimes on the other side of the globe, with great ease.

The last few years have also been a very productive time for many faculty in our department. In addition to a number of articles, talks, and other scholarly output, in just over two years department faculty have published seven (7!) self-authored new books – quite impressive for a department of only twelve people. Alumni of our graduate program have also been very active and have likewise published a number of new books. Please see the rest of this newsletter for more information.

Our small graduate program is also going strong; our graduate students have in recent years won prestigious awards, published articles in various venues, and given talks to national and international audiences (thanks to Zoom). Several graduate students have successfully completed their PhD degrees, and each one has obtained a relevant job, several with tenure-track positions at universities and colleges.

Although we still would like to see more undergraduates in our classes, several new courses have been very successful and faculty are in the process of creating other exciting courses that we believe will have a wide appeal.

The post-Covid world will no doubt look different from what we used to know. The University of Iowa is also undergoing changes, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences under which the Department of Religious Studies operates is planning a reorganization of its structure. It is uncertain what this will mean for our department, but we will continue to be committed to our mission of producing cutting-edge scholarship, mentoring a new generation of religious studies scholars and teachers, and engaging undergraduate students and the general public in pursuing a greater understanding of the religious diversity of our world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morten Schlütter".

Morten Schlütter
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Perspectives On Religion is published by The University of Iowa Department of Religious Studies. Publication of this newsletter was made possible by support from the M. Willard Lampe Fund and the Alice Marguerite Blough Development Fund.

Morten Schlütter
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