Religion and Technology

GRADUATE CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 29, 2018

Schedule

8:45-9:15 a.m.  REGISTRATION  2ND FLOOR

9:15-10:30 a.m.  FIRST CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION  ROOM 201

Tools of Religious Experience

Works Like a Charm: When Daoist Magic Writing Meets the Digital Screen
Tali Hershkovitz, Brown University

Prayer Apps and the Construction of Orthodox Christian and Sunni Muslim Pieties
Garrett Kiriakos-Fugate, Boston University

Contested ‘Religion’: Democratized Authority in YouTube’s Comment Sections
Michael Baysa, Princeton University

Respondent: Dr. Margarita Guillory, Boston University
Moderator: Scott Possiel, Boston University

High-tech Heterodoxy & the Study of Religion  ROOM 202

Reconstructing Dura Europos’ Christian Building: Using Technology to Recreate Religious Experience in Late Antiquity
Camille Grace Leon Angelo, Yale University
Joshua Silver, University of Toronto

YouTubing Ritual Expertise: YouTube Channels as Religious Participatory Cultures
Andrew M. Henry, Boston University

Mediating Religion: Moses Mendelssohn, Technology, and the Question Concerning Judaism
Evan Goldstein, Yale University

Respondent: Dr. Jenny Knust, Boston University
Moderator: Kaitlyn Martin Fox, Boston University

The Conference Organizing Committee thanks the following organizations for their support!

Boston University Graduate Program in Religion
Boston University Department of Religion
Boston University Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
Boston University Graduate Student Organization
New England-Maritimes Region American Academy of Religion
Boston Theological Institute

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:
#BURites&Bytes
OMG: Religion and Communication Management in Social Networks

Dr. Kathryn Lofton, Yale University

Dr. Kathryn Lofton is a historian of religion who has written extensively about capitalism, celebrity, sexuality, and the concept of the secular. In her work, she has examined the ways the history of religion is constituted by the history of popular culture and the emergence of corporations. She is the author of *Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon* (2011) and *Consuming Religion* (2017).

12:00-1:00 P.M.  LUNCH  ROOM 906

1:00-2:15 P.M.  SECOND CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION  ROOM 201

STRANGER THAN FICTION: RELIGION AND INNOVATION

From Telescope to Microscope: The Role of Technology in Differentiating Religion and Science

Kendra Holt Moore, Boston University

Science Fiction and Religion: How American Science-Fiction of the 1950’s and 60’s Transformed the Popular Understanding of Buddhism

Matthew Southey, Rice University

The Habitat: Podcasts, Pop Culture, and the Future of Religion on Mars

Samantha Melton, Harvard Divinity School

Respondent: Dr. Deeana Klepper, Boston University

Moderator: Kate Stockly, Boston University

CY-CURIOS: MACHINES IN RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION  ROOM 202

Academic Assemblages in a Cyborgian Garden

Lise Miltner, Brown University

Bioethics, Human Nature, and the Enhancement Debate

Joseph Fisher, Columbia University

Technoscience in Tolkien: How Fictional Worldviews Facilitate Reflection on the Big Questions of Globalized Modernity

Nathan Fredrickson, University of California, Santa Barbara

Respondent: Dr. A.D. Lewis, Mass. College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Moderator: John Balch, Boston University

3:45-4:00 P.M.  BREAK  ROOM 906

4:00-4:45 P.M.  FACULTY ROUNDTABLE & CLOSING REMARKS  ROOM 906

Dr. David Frankfurter, Boston University

Dr. April Hughes, Boston University

Dr. Deeana Klepper, Boston University

Dr. Jenny Knust, Boston University

Dr. A.D. Lewis, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Anthony Petro, Boston University

Please join the Conference Organizing Committee for food and drink at Cornwall’s, located at 645 Beacon Street, following closing remarks!
**10:30-10:45 a.m.** COFFEE BREAK 2ND FLOOR

**10:45-12:00 P.M.** KEYNOTE ADDRESS ROOM 906

**OMG: Religion and Communication Management in Social Networks**

*Dr. Kathryn Lofton, Yale University*

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**12:00-1:00 P.M.** LUNCH ROOM 906

**1:00-2:15 P.M.** SECOND CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION ROOM 906

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**2:15-2:30 P.M.** BREAK ROOM 906

**2:30-3:45 P.M.** THIRD CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION ROOM 201

**BUYING IN: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES & CONSUMPTION**

*From Telescope to Microscope: The Role of Technology in Differentiating Religion and Science*

*Hannah Ozmun, Harvard Divinity School*

The Revolution was Mailed: Direct Mail and the Religious Right’s Contributions to a Politics of Alternative Facts

*Chad Moore, Boston University*

‘Tap it Back’ at SoulCycle: When Religious Experience Meets the Experience Economy

*Cody Musselman, Yale University*

Respondent: Dr. Anthony Petro, Boston University

Moderator: Kira Ganga Kieffer, Boston University

**NARRATIVES OF TRANSFORMATION**

*Work in Progress: Calculated Cures for Idleness and Other Moral Maladies in the Early American Prison*

*Amanda J.G. Napier, Boston University*

Technological Miracles, Not Miraculous Technologies: Casting an Islamic Spirit on a Disenchanted World

*Wasim Shiliwala, Princeton University*

Materializing Postmemory: A Study of Embodiment in Second- and Third-Generation Holocaust Documentaries

*Kirby Sokolow, New York University*

Respondent: Dr. April Hughes, Boston University

Moderator: Ellie Ash, Boston University

**3:45-4:00 P.M.** BREAK 2ND FLOOR

**4:00-4:45 P.M.** FACULTY ROUNDTABLE & CLOSING REMARKS ROOM 906

**Dr. David Frankfurter, Boston University**

**Dr. April Hughes, Boston University**

**Dr. Deeana Klepper, Boston University**

**Dr. Jenny Knust, Boston University**

**Dr. A.D. Lewis, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

**Dr. Anthony Petro, Boston University**

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Camille Grace Leon Angelo
Camille is a first-year Ph.D. student in Ancient Christianity at Yale University. She holds a BA Hons. in Archaeology and Near and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Toronto and a Masters of Religion with a Concentration in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Yale University. In 2018, Camille and her colleague, Joshua Silver, launched the Late Antiquity Modeling Project (LAMP), a digital humanities collective dedicated to creating three-dimensional reconstructions of late antique ritual spaces. She and Josh are the recipients of a 2018 DigitalGlobe Foundation Grant and their research is supported by The Yale Center for Earth Observation (YCEO) and Hexagon Geospatial.

Michael Baysa
Michael is a Ph.D. student at Princeton University’s Department of Religion in the Religion in the Americas sub-field. His research focuses on the rise of theologically liberal networks in late eighteenth-century New England.

Joseph Fisher
Joseph is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia University. He earned a B.A. (2013) from Franklin and Marshall College in Religious Studies before earning an M.A. (2015) and M.Phil. (2016) in Religion at Columbia University. His training is in the fields of North American Religions and Philosophy of Religion with a focus on the intersection of religion and technology. His dissertation research concentrates on the human enhancement debate in public bioethics and how the rhetoric of human nature operates within this discourse. Joseph’s research is inspired by the ways in which scientific theories and technologies (real and speculative) shape understandings of what it means to be human and what it might mean in the future.

Nathan Fredrickson
Nathan is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), with an M.A. in religious studies from UCSB, an M.A. in classics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and an M.S. in library and information science from UIUC. His dissertation is on the nature, genesis, and impact of fictional worldviews in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, and horror.
**Evan Goldstein**
Evan is a Ph.D. student at Yale University, concentrating in Judaic Studies and Religion and Modernity. His work focuses on Jewish thought, with a particular interest in the signification of Jewish difference in modernity, genealogies of religion and race, and the relationship between religion and literature. Before coming to Yale, he earned degrees in Theology from Union Theological Seminary and Boston College. Go Eagles!

**Andrew M. Henry**
Andrew is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Boston University specializing in the religions of the ancient Mediterranean. His research focuses on the intersection of early Christian liturgy, magic, and demonology in the late Roman world.

**Tali Hershkovitz**
Tali is a Ph.D. student at Brown University in the Department of Religion. Her focus is on Asian Religious Traditions, particularly in Daoist esoteric practices, the body, and gender as it pertains to Buddha-Daoist traditions.

**Garrett Kiriakos-Fugate**
Garrett is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate Program in Religion at Boston University. His focus is on Islam and Muslims in the United States, investigating questions around space, gender, and sexuality.

**Samantha Melton**
Samantha is a third-year Masters of Divinity Student at Harvard Divinity School (HDS) where her studies focus on the intersection of public church theology, science, and culture. She is currently a Junior Fellow with the Science, Religion, and Culture Program at HDS, and is active in the community as the current HDS Student Association Spirituality Chair. Prior to Harvard, she completed her Bachelors of Science in Psychology, with minors in Social Justice and Religion at Eastern Kentucky University in 2015, where she was also a student-athlete.

**Lise Miltner**
Lise is a Ph.D. student at Brown University studying Religion and Critical Thought.
Chad Moore
Chad is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Graduate Program in Religion at Boston University. Chad’s research examines how leaders of the New Right political coalition during the Reagan era utilized highly-visible religious communicators and their extensive communication networks for the purpose of, as one New Right leader put it, “productively polarizing American politics.”

Kendra Holt Moore
Kendra is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate Program in Religion at Boston University where she studies psychology of religion. She holds a Bachelor of Behavioral Sciences from Hardin-Simmons University and a Master of Theological Studies from Boston University. Kendra is interested in using implicit bias research and Terror Management Theory to understand the formation of the religious imagination and its influence on human belief and behavior.

Cody Musselman
Cody is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate at Yale in American Religious History. Before coming to Yale she received a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College. Her dissertation research focuses on the religious dynamics of the wellness industry, focusing on spiritual and bodily transformation in for-profit fitness businesses like CrossFit and SoulCycle.

Amanda J.G. Napior
Amanda is a third-year doctoral student in the Graduate Program in Religion at Boston University and studies U.S. mass incarceration through the multiple lenses of American religious history, ritual theory, women, gender and sexuality studies, and whiteness studies. With a background as a hairstylist, yoga instructor, and teacher in prisons, Amanda has consistently turned scholarly attention to phenomena she has noticed in practice. Amanda received an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School with a focus in Christianity and a B.A. with emphasis in American religious history from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Hannah Ozmun
Hannah is a Master of Divinity student at Harvard Divinity School, studying American evangelicalism and visual culture.

Wasim Shiliwala
Wasim is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Near Eastern Studies Department at Princeton University. His research interests include Islamic Law and modernity in the Middle
East and South Asia. His current project examines fatwas (legal opinions) from the early 1900s on topics related to modernization such as new technologies, economic practices, and political realities.

**Kirby Sokolow**
Kirby is a recent graduate of NYU, where she received her M.A. in Religious Studies. Her academic interests include examining the ways religion is portrayed through the use of media—both the ways religious groups construct themselves through media forms and the ways society depicts religion in film, in the news, and across the Internet. For her M.A. thesis, she explored the ways children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors use documentary filmmaking to reconnect with their Jewish heritage. Kirby received her B.A. in Religion from Wesleyan University.

**Matthew Southey**
Matthew is a Ph.D. student at Rice University working in the fields of Buddhism, and religion and science. He is currently studying religious narratives in modern scientific movements.
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Conference Chair:
Jordan Conley
Organizing Committee:
Ellie Ash, John Balch, Kira Ganga Kieffer, Kaitlyn Martin Fox,
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Boston University Graduate Program in Religion Student Association presents:

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