

Second Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture

June 2-5, 2011

J.W. Marriott Hotel
Indianapolis, IN

To register and make your hotel reservations,
please visit www.raac.iupui.edu

Thursday, June 2

6:00-8:00pm Opening Reception
Registration materials available

Friday, June 3

Changing What "Religion" Means

8:30-10:00 am **Session 1:** *What are our academic assumptions about religion?*

Bringing together people who work on religious experience with people who study lived religion and social scientists who do work on individual choice. Our goal is to consider the effect of newer, "from the ground up" approaches to religious study on older, more traditional models that emphasize organizations and ideology.

Panelists: **Penny Edgell** (Sociology, University of Minnesota)
Robert Orsi (Religious Studies, Northwestern University)
Ann Taves (Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara)

10:00-10:30 Morning Break

10:30-12:00 **Session 2:** *Revisiting the secularity/secularization question*

Nowhere in the study of religion does the approach one takes have a greater impact on the conclusions one reaches. Defined as institutions, organizations, and ideology, secularization seems apparent. Seen from the level of everyday life, religion is all around us. This is an excellent place to focus the conversation about what religion is and what this means to how we think about it.

Panelists: **Tracy Fessenden** (Religious Studies, Arizona State University)
Paul Froese (Sociology, Baylor University)
Rhys Williams (Sociology, Loyola University Chicago)

12:00-1:30 Break for Lunch

Changing Religion in a Changing Culture

1:30-3:00 **Session 3:** *Religion's role in political identity*

This session is intentionally broad and those that follow are not mutually exclusive. But recent political battles over sexuality issues or Islam and the Koran or heated partisan rhetoric need to be considered in terms of changing understandings of religion in American society.

Panelists: **Paul Djupe** (Political Science, Denison University)
Sylvester Johnson (Religion, African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University Bloomington)
Clyde Wilcox (Government, Georgetown University)

3:00-3:30 Afternoon Break

3:30-5:00 **Session 4:** *Religion's role in immigration and globalization*

In some ways a subset of Session 3, we want to focus the conversation on questions about the religious components of movement, particularly immigration, integration, and the impact of globalization on religion in American culture.

Panelists: **Gerardo Marti** (Sociology, Davidson College)
Timothy Matovina (Theology, University of Notre Dame)
Fenggang Yang (Sociology, Purdue University)

hosted by The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture and
Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation



Second Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture

June 2-5, 2011

J.W. Marriott Hotel
Indianapolis, IN

To register and make your hotel reservations,
please visit www.raac.iupui.edu

Saturday, June 4

8:30-10:00 **Session 5:** *Religion's role in personal identity*

This conversation was left hanging in 2009 and we want to re-focus attention specifically on new understandings of religion and what this says about shifting personal identities (including class, race, ethnicity, and gender).

Panelists: **Sally Gallagher** (Sociology, Oregon State University)
Su'ad Abdul Khabeer (Anthropology, African American Studies, Purdue University)
Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Religious Studies, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)

10:00-10:30 Morning Break

10:30-12:00 **Session 6:** *Market models for understanding religion*

Somewhat of an outlier in this group, we believe economic models are now so widely used across the social sciences (and as an unquestioned metaphor in the humanities) that it would be impossible for us to ignore this as a key factor in changing definitions of religion in a world increasingly shaped by economic models.

Panelists: **Roger Finke** (Sociology, Pennsylvania State University)
James Hudnut-Beumler (Vanderbilt Divinity School)
Kathryn Lofton (American Studies and Religious Studies, Yale University)

12:00-1:30 Break for Lunch

Changes in the Future, Real and Imagined

1:30-3:00 **Session 7:** *Changes in the understanding and uses of scripture*

In 2011, the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible, we hope to use this session to forward the Center's interest in changing attitudes toward scripture. Scripture, especially the Bible, continues to play a formative role in American life. If understandings of religion are changing, it stands to reason understandings of scripture are changing too. We want to think about why and how.

Panelists: **Charles Cohen** (History and Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin)
Kathleen Flake (Vanderbilt Divinity School)
Charles Hambrick-Stowe (First Congregational Church, Ridgefield, CT)

3:00-3:30 Afternoon Break

3:30-5:00 **Session 8:** *The future of religion in America*

This is a big question, but what is the point of assembling a group like this unless it is to take a step back and ask the big-picture questions from a variety of perspectives? Here we want to think about not only how the study of American religion is changing, but about how religious belief and practice are changing at the broadest level. How will technology change religion, or be changed by it? What sacred domains exist beyond what has traditionally been called religion? How will civil religion relate to traditional religion? At its core, this session is concerned with how people will be religious in the coming years.

Panelists: **David Daniels** (Church History, McCormick Theological Seminary)
Mark Silk (Religion, Trinity College)
Julie Byrne (Religion, Hofstra University)

5:00-8:00 Concluding Reception

hosted by The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture and
Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation