

Religious Studies Newsletter

January 2021, Vol. 1

This Newsletter Includes...

- **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - *Welcome Back, Scholars!*
 - *Faculty Colloquy Series*
- **DECLARING THE MAJOR/MINOR**
 - *How to Declare Your Major in Religious Studies*
- **M.A. IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
 - *General Information and Early Entry*
- **FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**
 - *Dr. Alexandra Kaloyanides, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*
- **DEPARTMENT EVENTS**
 - *Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture Series, featuring Judith Weisenfeld, Ph.D.*
 - *Religion & Futurity: A Virtual Research Conference for Undergrad. and Grad. Students*
- **PROGRAMMING**
 - *UNC Charlotte WGST Presents: "We Figured You'd Cause Trouble!"*
 - *The 2nd Annual "Black Muslim Experiences"*

Special Announcements

Welcome Back, Scholars!

- The UNC Charlotte Department of Religious Studies warmly welcomes back its students for the Spring 2022 semester.
- Following this issue, the Religious Studies Newsletter will return to a bimonthly format.
- If you have information you would like included in our newsletter, please reach out to Saad Jalisi (sjalisi@uncc.edu).

Department of Religious Studies: Faculty Colloquy Series

- In February and March, the Department will be resuming its faculty colloquy series.
- On **Monday, February 14, 2:30-3:45**, Dr. Joyce Dalsheim from the Global, International, and Area Studies Department will be presenting her work, titled "'The Trouble with Christian Time: Thinking with Jewish Sages."
 - You can join the Zoom meeting [here](#).
- On **Monday, March 14, 2:30-3:45**, Dr. Mark Pizzatto from the Theatre Department will be presenting his work, titled "Churches and Temples as Neuro-Performance Sites."
 - You can join the Zoom meeting [here](#).

Declaring the Major

How to Declare the Major in Religious Studies

- To declare the undergraduate major in Religious Studies, just fill out [this form](#).
- The major in Religious Studies requires 30 credit hours.

- The minor in Religious Studies only requires 15 credit hours. With a few more classes, you could acquire a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies.

M.A. in Religious Studies

How to Apply for the M.A. in Religious Studies

- The M.A. in Religious Studies program approaches the academic study of religion and religions from a variety of critical and interdisciplinary perspectives, with an emphasis placed on the global and multicultural aspects of religion.
- The M.A. application is completely electronic via the [Charlotte Graduate School website](#).
- Exceptional undergraduate students at Charlotte may apply for the Early Entry Program and begin work toward the graduate degree before completion of the Bachelor's degree.
 - Check out our promotional [video](#) to understand the Early Entry Program!
- For more information regarding admission requirements or other aspects of the program please contact: Dr. Kent Brintnall - kent.brintnall@uncc.edu.

Department Events

THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES PRESENTS

Loy H. WITHERSPOON LECTURE SERIES

Spiritual Madness: American Psychiatry, Race and Black Religions

Join the Discussion
Feb. 3, 2022
7 p.m.
go.charlotte.edu/rswl

Dr. Judith Weisenfeld
Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion,
Chair, Department of Religion
Princeton University

Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture Series

- Judith Weisenfeld, the Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion at Princeton University, will deliver her lecture, "Spiritual Madness: American Psychiatry, Race and Black Religions," for this year's Loy. H. Witherspoon Lecture series.
- Dr. Weisenfeld lectures extensively, by invitation, on themes relating to Black racial identity, Black religion, the Great Migration, and spiritual madness.
- The event will be held **Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. It will be virtual and free to the public.**
- Register for the Witherspoon Lecture [here](#).
- More information can be found on the [Religious Studies departmental website](#).

Religion & Futurity Elsewhere, Elsewhen, and Beyond

A Virtual Research Conference for Undergraduate and Graduate Students



The Religious Studies Graduate Organization in the Department of Religious Studies at UNC Charlotte is proud to announce its 5th annual graduate student conference on April 2022 virtually. The theme for this year's conference is: Religion & Futurity: Elsewhere, Elsewhen, and Beyond.

This virtual graduate conference aims to bring together students-scholars-artists who explore the interstices of religion through textual, visual, and creative modes.

January 31, 2022:
Submission Date for Abstracts

February 14, 2022:
Approval or Denial Notification

April 29, 2022: Date of the Virtual Conference

Please email all abstracts (about 250 words) to religiousstudies@uncc.edu. Those who would like to present non-textual work must also submit an abstract (about 250 words) describing the submission and how it relates to religion broadly. Submitters will be notified of approval or denial for participation via email by Monday, February 14, 2022, along with rules for non-textual participants. A zoom link will be sent out a week before the conference date. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email David Flaherty at dflaher1@uncc.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religion & Futurity: A Virtual Research Conference for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

- The Religious Studies Graduate Organization and the Department of Religious Studies is proud to announce their 5th annual student conference!
- This virtual research conference aims to bring together student-scholar-artists who explore the interstices of religion through textual, visual, and creative modes.
- Please email all abstracts (250 words) to religiousstudies@uncc.edu by **February 15, 2022**.
- The virtual conference will occur on **Friday, April 29, 2022**.

Faculty Spotlight



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Alexandra Kaloyanides

- Please welcome Dr. Kaloyanides (Dr. K) as this volume's Faculty Spotlight!
 - Dr. K is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, and her teaching focuses on Buddhism.
 - We asked her a few questions. Here are her responses:
1. What brought you to the field of Religious Studies?
 - "I became interested in religious studies during my first semester as an undergraduate at Barnard College in Dr. Rachel McDermott's Introduction to Indian Civilization. There I became fascinated with Indian religions, especially Buddhism."
 2. Did you always see yourself eventually pursuing post-secondary teaching?
 - "Not always. After graduating college, I spent six years working in the editorial department of the quarterly magazine, and considered spending my career in print publishing. But as that industry shrunk under the weight of digital media, I decided to go back to my interest in the academic study of Asian cultures and religions and pursue a PhD that would allow me to teach and research in a university."
 3. What types of Religious Studies classes do you enjoy teaching?
 - "Maybe it's because I just left the 3000-level seminar we have together this semester, Buddhism in the Modern World, but I have to say that upper-level Religious Studies classes are the most fun. There is more time for in depth discussion and the students who take those classes tend to be especially intellectually curious and academically creative. It's so energizing to be in a seminar with them."
 4. How has your experience at Charlotte shaped your academic and professional paths?
 - "I have been lucky to be at Charlotte with such encouraging and supportive colleagues. The Religious Studies Department—chaired by the outstanding Joanne Maguire—has such smart and engaged faculty who are not only devoted to their students but also committed to helping each other be better teachers, advisers, and scholars."
 5. What is one thing you are looking forward to doing this semester?
 - "I am looking forward to being in a classroom with real, live students. I was on leave last semester, so this is my first time

back teaching face-to-face since March 2000. It feels so good to be back!"

Programming

UNC Charlotte Women's and Gender Studies Program Presents:

"WE FIGURED YOU'D CAUSE TROUBLE!"

Gloria Rackley, Rethinking Activism in the 1960s



An online event with speaker Candace Cunningham, Assistant Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University

Monday, February 7, 2022
6:30pm

[Register here](#)

Hosted by the Romare Bearden Branch, Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Sponsors:
Women's and Gender Studies Program
Africana Studies Department
Office of Identity, Equity, and Engagement
Center for the Study of the New South
Women + Girls Research Alliance
History Department

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA / COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
CHARLOTTE WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES



UNC Charlotte WGST Presents: "We Figured You'd Cause Trouble!"

- As an upcoming Women's and Gender Studies event to celebrate African American History Month, "We Figured You'd Cause Trouble" is an online opportunity to reassess activism in the 1960s.
- This is an online event with Candace Cunningham, an Assistant Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University.
- It will take place on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
- You can register [here](#).


UNC Charlotte
Women's and Gender Studies Presents the 2nd annual

BLACK MUSLIM EXPERIENCES


Wednesday, 16 February 2022, 3 - 4:30 pm (EST)
Organizers: zeenat sabakada and aman agah




Cam Montgomery



Hannah Hasan



Ide Zayed Dew



Reem Abnowf (moderator)



THEME: CREATORS

zoom link TBA

Sponsors: Department of Anthropology, Department of Philosophy, Department of English, University Transitions Opportunity Program, Center for Professional & Applied Ethics, Counseling and Psychological Services, Department of Religious Studies, Office of Identity, Equity, and Engagement, Department of Global Studies, Black Student Union

News about department events will be emailed to you as well as posted on the [department website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram](#). We will host the Loy H. Witherspoon Annual Lecture as well as the Tate Lecture in Judaic Studies this year, both virtually.