The Ohio State University Center for the Study of Religion (CSR) capitalizes on the university’s extensive resources and expertise on religions to encourage and support scholarly research on religions. The CSR cultivates disciplined reflection among faculty, students and a wider public on interrelated sets of issues involving the study of religion.

**STUDY AREAS**

**SPECIFIC RELIGIONS**
From Bronze-age Mediterranean religions to those of India, Europe and contemporary U.S., we encourage attention to world religions as well as small-scaled, local and indigenous traditions.

**RELIGIONS IN GENERAL**
The center encourages critical reflection on the countless very different ways that religion has been conceived and defined.

**THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF RELIGION**
Resources for studying religion include not only written texts and spoken languages but also works of art, architecture, music, drama and myriad social practices and institutions.

**AFFILIATED DEPARTMENTS AND CENTERS**
African American and African Studies; Comparative Studies; Classics; Design; East Asian Languages and Literatures; English; French and Italian; Germanic Languages and Literatures; History; History of Art; Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures; Spanish and Portuguese; Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Center for Folklore Studies; Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Melton Center for Jewish Studies

*Encouraging a scholarly, open dialogue on the nature of religion.*
Graduate Student Work Includes

Sarah Dove, Comparative Studies:
dance studies and the theoretical potential of choreographic processes; religious studies; cultural studies

Joseph McQueen, English:
impact of liturgy and religious ritual on nineteenth-century writers; Romantic and Victorian literature

Elizabeth Sandoval, History of Art:
medieval and Renaissance manuscript culture, especially that of the Burgundian court; Netherlandish devotional painting of the 15th century

Marcus Ziemann, Classics:
interactions between the Ancient Near East and Greece, primarily Archaic and Classical eras; the Hebrew Bible and Northwest Semitics

Student Award Funding
The Center for the Study of Religion offers two awards for the undergraduate study of religion, an annual undergraduate research grant and an award for the best undergraduate paper relating to the academic study of religion.

The Savko Family Fund was established by Maureen “Mo” Savko and Carlotta “Cory” McCowen in honor of their mothers, Anna Marie Savko and Cora Lee Banks.

The Robert L. Iles Fund for the Study of Myth provides small grants for graduate students in arts and sciences to travel to conduct or present their research on myth. Robert L. Iles (1934-2007) taught high school English in Perrysburg, Ohio, where he encouraged his students to read, study and enjoy myths. His daughter, Sarah Iles Johnston, and son-in-law, Fritz Graf, are professors in the Department of Greek and Latin, where they both teach graduate and undergraduate courses on ancient myths and religions.

Educational/Outreach Activities

Symposium Series
Presentations by and discourse between prominent visiting scholars.

Community Lecture Series
During the autumn and spring terms, various Ohio State faculty members present introductory lectures on topics in their fields.

No-More-Than-a-Page Series
At least once a semester, an Ohio State faculty member presents and leads a discussion about a current religion-related research project.

Religious Studies Major/Minor
The Center supports the religious studies major and minor programs housed in the Department of Comparative Studies.

Religious studies is, by nature, an interdisciplinary field, requiring active involvement from numerous departments and scholars interested in diverse aspects of religion. Part of our mission is to provide lectures and events to engage the public, so at times we have a juggling act between brokering these events and supporting the intellectual process of advancing the study of religion. But as a young center, we enjoy the challenge of getting the word out, building an identity and occupying a proper place — and space — at Ohio State.

[Lindsay Jones, former director, CSR]

Religious Studies Roundtable
A collaborative effort between graduate students and faculty that provides a forum for interdisciplinary study and informal discussion of religion-related topics. Occasional events provide opportunities to deepen understandings of issues related to religious studies and expand connections to the broader community throughout the university and beyond.