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.

**AFFILIATED DEPARTMENTS AND CENTERS**

African American and African Studies; Design; East Asian Languages and Literatures; English; French and Italian; Germanic Languages and Literatures; Classics; 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

MATTHEW BAUMANN, HISTORY OF ART:
Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology. The reception of Greek poets and the secular and religious use of portraiture.

MAURICIO ESPINOZA, DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
Mesoamerican spirituality. Film and comic art.

SETH JOSEPHSON, COMPARATIVE STUDIES:
Religious and scientific understandings of humans as, or among, animals. Materiality, semiotics and affect. Cow protection and caste in contemporary Hinduism. Sexuality and non-monogamy in contemporary Buddhism.

CAROLINE TOY, COMPARATIVE STUDIES:
The religious dimensions of popular culture and fan communities. Secular and religious pilgrimage.

FUND FOR STUDENTS OF MYTH

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.

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.

EDUCATIONAL/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES
Regular public lectures, each by a prominent visiting scholar.

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES
Once a month during autumn and spring semesters, an Ohio State faculty member presents an introductory lecture on a topic in his/her field.

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.

COURSE OFFERINGS
Ohio State offers more than 100 courses that address topics connected to religion.

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]