



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE of HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Alternate Facts as Ultimate Reality

Third Event in the Series ~

Angry Religion: The Rise of American Theocracy

Thursday, April 28, 5:30PM – 7:00PM

Event Description

We live in an age of conspiracy theories. Big companies, the media, the medical community, governments, and global elites stand accused of attempting to deceive the public by spreading fake information and manipulating technologies. Both online and offline, these theories are often supported by American Christian evangelicals, but why? The Department of Religion invites you to explore this question and the implications of the answers in our third of three installments of the series *Angry Religion: The Rise of American Theocracy* – “Alternate Facts as Ultimate Reality” – a panel that discusses the intersections of conflicting worldviews, beliefs of interconnectivity, and disbeliefs in science/technology.

Angry Religion: The Rise of American Theocracy explores how religion is fueling a rise of acrimony among the US polity on issues of race, gender, public health, and sources of information by examining three contemporary developments: the specter of white Christian nationalism, anti-mask and anti-vaccine stances, and the links between conspiracy theories and religious belief.

Registration Required:

<https://montclair.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkdeCurz8pGNehjxdlerTMc5z9ZzqlDcC0>

Sponsored by the Department of Religion, The Religion Now! Student Group, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences



Participants:

Mia Bloom, Ph.D., New America International Security Fellow and Professor at Georgia State University. Dr. Bloom conducts research on Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. Dr. Bloom's many publications include *Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon*, co-authored with Sophia Moskalenko (Stanford, 2021), and *Veiled Threats: Women and Jihad* (Brookings Institution Press, 2023)

Carmen Celestini, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Disinformation Project at Simon Fraser University and an instructor in Religious Studies at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Celestini's research has focused on the overlapping belief systems of Christian apocalyptic thought and conspiracy theories in North America.

John Soboslai, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Montclair State University. Dr. Soboslai's research is on the comparative study of religious violence and the relationship between religion and the state. He is a co-author of *God in the Tumult of the Global Square* (University of California Press, 2015), and his current book project is titled *Witnessing Death: Global Ideologies of Martyrdom*.

Contact Information:

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