

**“Sex and Money: A Religious Studies Conference”**  
**Friday, April 22, 2016**  
**Columbia University**

*Keynote Speaker*

R. Marie Griffith

Director of the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics  
Washington University in St. Louis

The graduate students of Columbia University’s Department of Religion invite paper proposals that explore the relationship between religion, sexuality, and political economy. How does political economy shape embodied experience? What are the practices, sensibilities, and discourses through which we come to feel like selves? What alternative arrangements of labor, power, trade, and capital can help us to make sense of the role of sexuality and religion in subject formation? What does it *feel* like to live in a capitalist age?

Submissions may address a range of time periods, traditions, and geographic areas. We seek papers that explore the creation of networks and norms, the formation and policing of community boundaries, and the ways of thinking about the self that take seriously the role of markets, bodies, sensibilities, and affects.

In this conference, we interpret both “religion” and “sexuality” broadly and welcome papers that critically engage the constellation of concerns associated with both terms (e.g., race, class, gender, ability/disability, etc.). In addition to the conspicuously “religious,” we are also interested in papers that examine secularism(s) and the religious rituals, practices, and ideas that haunt ostensibly secular spaces in complex and often unexpected ways.

We welcome submissions from a variety of fields including religious studies, history, gender studies, sexuality studies, philosophy, political science, law, theology, literary studies, anthropology and sociology. We are particularly interested in papers that address the following questions or topics:

- Affect, desire, and political economy
- Visible and invisible hands
- Imagined networks: religious communities, markets, and identities
- Socio-economic change and the emergence of new religious and sexual subcultures/identities
- Capitalist hegemony and forms of resistance
- Religious ethics of sex and money
- Religious neoliberalism(s) and changing philanthropic models
- Queer critique of economic systems
- Religion, secularism, and biopolitics

We solicit two types of submissions for this conference:

**Option 1:** 500-word proposals for fifteen-minute long paper presentations within traditional conference panels.

**Option 2:** Advanced doctoral students may submit complete drafts of a dissertation chapter or completed articles for a **graduate student workshop**. This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to receive more substantive feedback than the traditional conference structure often provides.

All proposals and submissions will be due to [columbiareligion@gmail.com](mailto:columbiareligion@gmail.com) by **January 15, 2016**.