

A Word from the Editors

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, the editors of *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* want to affirm our commitment to the scholarly study of religion as an ethically informed activity that carries important implications for how we understand social issues and political conflicts in the contemporary moment. We call on our colleagues in the field of North American religions to draw deeply on their knowledge of religion, history, and culture to create engaged scholarship, contributing their expertise to public conversations about white supremacy, violence against women, immigration, sexuality, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and the nature of political protest in the United States. In a historical moment when members of the academy are concerned about the potentially chilling effect of governmental interference on institutions devoted to the public interest, and when scholars fear threats to the principle of academic freedom within our individual educational institutions, we wish to underscore the important role that rigorous, blind-review journals like *Religion and American Culture* play in open dialogue in a democratic society. We pledge ourselves to supporting scholarly work that brings the intellectual tools of academia to bear on the national conversation about how to create, sustain, and perfect values of justice, compassion, and solidarity in American society.

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