

# CRITICAL ISSUES RESEARCH EXHIBIT

**Monday, April 11**

**Noon – 4 p.m.**

**EHS and Hoover Atriums**

LACI students present the findings of their research on problems or challenges facing the nation today and offer solutions drawn from an integration of their liberal arts background, disciplinary training and Christian perspective.

*In the Liberal Arts and Critical Issues (LACI) program, George Fox seniors integrate professional preparation, the liberal arts and Christian faith as they respond to a significant issue of current concern.*

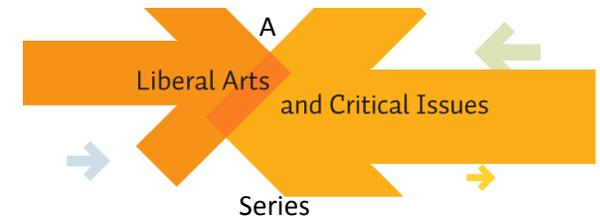
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GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

## Christianity and American Pop Culture



**Spring 2016**

Scheduled each Monday,  
Jan. 25 through Mar. 28

Hoover 105

5-6 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.

***Flee, Embrace, or Sift? Taking Back Agency as a Christian in Pop Culture* ..... Jan 25**



**Gregg Koskela**  
Pastor, Newberg Friends Church

We can fear the media around us, giving it power as we fear its corrupting influence. We can swim and breathe in it, thoughtlessly allowing it to define us. Or we can look for how our creative God is bubbling up through all kinds of human creativity, being mindful of the ways music, movies and other media encourage or discourage the pursuit of God's good life. Gregg Koskela, GFU grad and pastor at Newberg Friends Church, will argue for the third.

***God's Own Party or Grand Old Phantasm? Contemplating the Growth of the Religious Right*..... Feb 1**



**Dr. Laura Gifford,**  
Independent Scholar

The history of Christian, and especially evangelical Christian, involvement in the nation's political, social, and economic life since the 1960s is far more complex than contemporary stereotypes might indicate. Dr. Laura Gifford will share narratives of evangelicals' engagement with war, the economy, and abortion that may complicate our understanding of Christianity and politics.

***American Pop Culture: Left Swipe or Right?* ..... Feb 8**



**Dr. Kristie Knows His Gun**  
George Fox University

Within a fingertip's reach we are faced with a bounty of American pop culture. These images, messages, and ideas influence our everyday lives, but what are consequences for those who miss, or don't resonate, with the trend? Dr. Kristie Knows His Gun will explore the influence of American pop culture on individuals who fall to the wayside of mainstream.

***How Does Christianity Influence Cultural Dialogues?* .....Feb 15**



**Dr. Winston Seegobin**  
George Fox University

We live in a diverse world that consists of many cultures. Cultural misunderstandings can easily occur and may result in hurt and pain, even when it is unintentional. An excellent example of this occurrence is micro-aggressions. In this session, we will discuss how we can have healthy cultural dialogues in the context of a Christian university. We will also address how Christian principles and practices can enhance these difficult dialogues.

***Religious Liberty and Same-Sex Marriage: Conflicts and Possibilities* ..... Feb 22**



**Dr. Mark Hall**  
George Fox University

The legalization of same-sex marriage and the adoption of laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation have resulted in cases that may force some religious citizens to choose between their livelihoods and their religious convictions. Mark discusses potential and actual conflicts and draws from American history to argue that it is possible to protect religious liberty without undermining the common good.

***Evangelical Popular Culture and the Problem of Gender* ..... Feb 29**



**Dr. Melanie Springer Mock**  
George Fox University

The predominating messages about gender in evangelical popular culture are negative and limiting, both for women and for men. Professor Springer Mock considers the source of these messages about gender, and why they can be so damaging, especially to young people seeking their vocations; she also argues that evangelical culture's focus on gender, sex, and "biblical manhood and womanhood," often premised on a misguided

interpretation of scripture, makes it especially difficult for people to live in the freedom and grace Jesus offers them.

***Creating a Civil Society*.....Mar 7**



**Dr. Johnny Lake**  
Assistant Professor of Education and Counseling, Northwest Christian University

Horrific lethal violence engulfs America. Why is this happening? Can we do anything to stop it? We cannot answer these questions if we focus only on overt physical forms of violence. Culture, beliefs and ideologies shape and define acts of violence, including physical attacks and assaults on people's humanity, personhood, dignity and sense of value. We are not doomed to be violent by nature or genetics. Rather, incivility and violence are embedded in social, cultural and environmental factors. Can we truly love God, whom we have not seen, and practice incivility and violence against our brothers and sisters? (John 4:20)

***What is Sex For?* ..... Mar 14**



**Dr. Abigail Rine Favale**  
George Fox University

If sex is the god of popular culture, what is this god like? In this lecture, Dr. Abigail Favale will raise philosophical and theological questions about the meaning of sex and its depiction in contemporary American culture.

***Is the Benedictine Option Benedictine?* ..... Mar 28**



**Rev. Peter Eberle**  
O.S.B., Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary

Rod Dreher, an American conservative Christian, has proposed the "Benedict Option" as a response to our contemporary secular culture. Rev. Peter Eberle explores the proposed option and, describing and drawing from his own experience as a Benedictine monk, will consider whether the option is "Benedictine." What are the similarities? What are the differences?