

Spring 2012

March 12

On Being Witnesses: In the Aftermath of Crime

Naseem Rakha, Author, *The Crying Tree*
What are our responses to forgiveness, crime and punishment, specifically when it comes to the death penalty in Oregon?



Naseem Rakha is an award-winning author and journalist whose stories have been heard on NPR's All Things Considered, Morning Edition, Marketplace Radio. In the *Crying Tree*, she explores the death penalty and forgiveness through the lens of our justice system, her experiences as a reporter for public radio, as well as subsequent interviews with crime victims, inmates, corrections officials and exonerated death row prisoners.

March 19

On Being: How Shall We Therefore Live?

Lisa McMinn, GFU
How shall we therefore live? How do we form our identities as Christians within a wider culture?



Lisa McMinn's research interests are social change as it relates to ecology, global capitalism and consumerism, religion, gender and sexuality. Lisa has her Ph.D. in Sociology from Portland State University

April 9

LACI Research Exhibit

EHS and Hoover, noon to 4pm

Senior research teams present their projects on Christianity and American Culture

In the Liberal Arts and Critical Issues (LACI) Program, GFU seniors integrate professional preparation, the liberal arts, and Christian faith as they respond to a significant public issue of current concern



Directors:

**Caitlin Corning
Elizabeth Todd**

**Liberal Arts and Critical Issues
(LACI) Program**

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**Hoover 105
4:40-5:40
7:00-8:00**

**Christians
&
American
Culture**

**Liberal Arts and Critical
Issues Lecture Series**

SCHEDULE

January 23

On Being the Next Generation

Steve Sherwood, GFU

What are the characteristics of the Millennial Generation? What influences might this generation have on the shape of the church and its relationship to society?



Steve Sherwood's research interests include youth ministry, postmodern culture, and theological interaction with pop culture. His MDiv in Emerging Leadership is from George Fox Evangelical Seminary.

January 30

On Being Odd: The Pendulum of Christian Perfection

Becky Ankeny, Northwest Yearly Meeting Superintendent

What does it mean to be in the world, but not of it? How can Christians be set apart and yet still effectively interact with the culture around them?



Becky Ankeny's research interests include British Literature and, specifically, the writer George MacDonald. She has recently become the superintendent of the Northwest Yearly Meeting. She holds a Ph.D. in English and an MBA from the University of Oregon.

February 6

On Being Change: Christian Dissent and Social Change in America

Laura Gifford, GFU

What does American history teach about Christian roles in cultural change and promoting the status quo? How is this relevant for the future?



Laura Gifford is scholar in residence in the George Fox University history department and received her Ph.D. in American history at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research is focused on the development of Conservatism since the 1960s, religious anticommunism, and the atypically progressive development of the Republican Party in the state of Oregon during the 1960s.

February 13

On Being Redemptive: What it means to Redeem Culture

Dave Hegeman, Information Specialist, Oregon State Library

What are creative ways Christians engage in the creation of popular culture?

Dave is a librarian and writer. He is the author of *Plowing in Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture*. (Canon Press, 2007)

February 20

On Being Dual Citizens: The Kingdom of God and the Nation State

Mark Hall, GFU

What are examples of competing allegiance in America, options for how to navigate them, and principles to keep in mind through the process?

Mark Hall's primary research areas are



American political theory and the relationship between religion and politics. His PhD in political science is from the University of Virginia.

February 27

On Being a Christian in Contention

Tim Timmerman, GFU

What does it mean to have a Christian worldview in contentious issues of American Culture? How can a Christian worldview be formed rather than malformed? How would we know the difference?



Tim Timmerman is a professor of art with an MFA from Washington State University. In addition to being an artist, he has also written *A Bigger World Yet: Faith, Brotherhood and Same-Sex Needs*.

March 5

On Being Anxious and Addicted

Kris Kays, GFU

Related to approaching foundational life decisions, what are post-modern challenges, their effects, and strategies to overcome them?



Kristina Kays is a professor of psychology, a clinical supervisor for the university Health and Counseling Center, and has two decades experience as a clinical psychologist helping people experiencing grief and loss, anxiety and depression. She holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from George Fox.