Firmly grounded in an approach that treats the study of social structures and culture as interrelated, the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion (ASR) area’s major questions include the following: What is the role played by religious actors and institutions in a given social/cultural setting? What is the contribution of religious practice in the legitimation or contestation of authority? How are domains of religious interests socially and culturally configured? How do religious commitments impact processes of social transformation and how are they in turn impacted by them? How do religious disciplines contribute to the shaping of particular affects, sensibilities, and virtues?

For more information, contact
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UChicago Divinity School
Recent Graduates

Rory Johnson, PhD 2010
“Precious Memories: The Acculturation of Memory in African American Religion”
Assistant Professor of Comparative Religion, Miami University of Ohio

Noah Salomon, PhD 2010
“In the Shadow of Salvation: Sufis, Salafis, and the Project of Late Islamism in Contemporary Sudan”
Associate Professor of Religion, Carleton College

Graduate Workshops
The Council on Advanced Studies (CAS) sponsors interdisciplinary graduate research workshops in the humanities, social sciences, and divinity, designed to bring together faculty and graduate students from the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago area to create scholarly dialogue, to encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to foster the exchange of ideas. Workshops include Middle East History and Theory, Medieval Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Religions in America, Early Christian Studies, Jewish Studies, and Hebrew Bible. In addition, the Divinity Students Association offers a range of workshops and clubs: one for each area and others according to student interest. Current groups include Buddhist Studies, the Women’s Caucus, and The Sacred Flame. To learn more, visit divinity.uchicago.edu/clubs-and-workshops.

Recent Courses
Our faculty teach over 100 courses each year in the academic study of religion. Please visit divinity.uchicago.edu/courses for current and past course offerings.

- Magic, Science and Religion (Doostdar)
- The Anthropology of Religion (Doostdar)
- Interpretation of Ritual (Lincoln)
- Modern Enchantments: The Occult, the Paranormal and the Extraterrestrial (Doostdar)
- Of Religion in Urban Contexts (Staff)
- Ethnographic Methods (McRoberts)
- Urban Structure and Process (McRoberts)
- Feminism and Islamic Studies (Doostdar)
- Classical Theories of Religion (Wedemeyer)
- Comparative and Global Christianities (Heo)
- Witchcraft (Doostdar)
- Religion and the Cold War (Heo)
- Shi’ism and Modernity (Doostdar)
- Revelation or Revolution? The Question of Interior Worlds (Bayer)
- Psychology and Religion: Two Problem Children of Modernity (Fong)
- Spirits of Capitalism (Heo)
- New Narratives of Secularization and Sacralization (Joas)
- Urban Structure and Process (McRoberts)

The University of Chicago Library
Our library is one of the largest and richest research collections (both in print and online formats) in the world. Religious Studies has been a core component of the collection since the University’s founding, and its current strengths match the research needs of the areas of study in the Divinity School. The Library has a full-time Bibliographer for Religion and Philosophy who holds workshops specifically designed for those studying religion. To learn more visit library.uchicago.edu.

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