RELIGION UNMUTED is what religion sounds like with women’s voices turned up. We explore how religion impacts public discourse around important social issues, like racism, politics, immigration, health, and the body, and how these issues impact religion. Join us for research-driven dialogue that brings women's voices to the table: religionunmuted.libsyn.com.

PRODUCERS

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The first 14 episodes are supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.
Religion Unmuted is hosted by sociologists Pamela Prickett and Elaine Howard Ecklund. In this teaser episode, Prickett and Ecklund share why they created this show—to provide an informed, social-science driven conversation about religion in public life and to elevate women's voices in conversations about religion—and preview what is to come in future episodes.

‘None of you truly has faith, until you love for your brother what you love for yourself.’ Jamillah Karim grew up hearing this Muslim saying. In this episode, Karim describes this concept as “radical love,” and how this tenet of Islam can be part of an effective response to calls for racial justice.

There’s no arena where the intersection between race, religion, and gender is more evident than it is in the contest for the presidential election. And that’s never been truer than it is in 2020 in the contest between Trump and Biden. In this episode of Religion Unmuted, we talk to political scientist Laura Olson about the intersections—and divisions—between these major issues and how they’re challenging the candidates in this election.

Let’s talk politics: Gender matters, but do other things matter more when it comes to predicting people’s views on certain issues and how they will vote? Our guest in this episode of Religion Unmuted, researcher Besheer Mohamed, uses polling data to tackle tough questions like this one and others, revealing a surprising story and dispelling common myths along the way.

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In this episode of Religion Unmuted, we bring back all three experts from previous episodes for a group conversation about pressing issues in the days leading up to the 2020 election. From COVID to the Supreme Court, abortion to racial justice, hear how religion and gender may play a crucial role in the election outcome.
How does religion inspire and give hope to people in different communities who are working on the ground? In this episode, we want to push the conversation to deeper understandings of how religion, race, and gender shape American politics in everyday life. Jamillah Karim, Besheer Mohamed, and Laura Olson return for part 2 of the panel interview.

Borders are everywhere—and not just physical borders, like that along the southwestern part of the United States which so often comes to mind. There are numerous political, ideological, and other figurative boundaries that separate us in our everyday lives. Scholar, author, and documentarian Miguel De La Torre sheds light on these borders during his conversation with Elaine, and how we might attempt to tear them down. They also discuss the unique ways that women experience immigration and physically crossing borders.

Sister Norma Pimentel shares her personal journey—from spending her youth in both Mexico and the US (by traversing what she saw as a bridge, not a border); to finding her faith; and eventually devoting herself to a religious life in the Catholic Church. All of these experiences shaped her views on immigration and led her to her work today, as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Join us on this journey with Sister Norma to understand what she feels working with immigrants and refugees at the border, as well as how the experience of migration and crossing the border can be uniquely challenging for women.

How do we build community that is strong in identity while remaining porous and flexible? Can women and religion be assets to inclusive community building? These questions have never been more urgent, as the United States wrestles with deep political divisions and faces a humanitarian crisis tied to immigration at the border. Drawing on her experience as a journalist, Anne Snyder reflects on the challenges and opportunities for building communities that are resilient, compassionate, and diverse.

In 2017 the immigration policies known as “zero tolerance” and “family separation” were established, affecting thousands of men, women, and children trying to enter the United States. Hear the stories of three women—Lupe, Julia, and Gena—and how they were impacted by these policies—as a woman, as a daughter, and as a Christian. Author Gena Thomas joins this episode of Religion Unmuted to talk about immigration, family, and faith.
This episode of Religion Unmuted will address women who are religious leaders—specifically, the unique struggles and contributions of women who are religious leaders, as well as why there aren’t more of them. Our guest is The Reverend Christine Lee, Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in New York City. Christine is the first Korean American woman ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church, and the first woman and the first Asian Priest-in-Charge at St. Peter’s.

Rev. Jennifer Bailey, a self-described “millennial reverend,” serves as an associate minister at the Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville. In addition she is founder and executive director of the Faith Matters Network. In this episode, Pamela will talk with Jennifer about caring for ourselves in the midst of suffering around us, particularly what this looks like for women and the important topic of how we might link faith and care.

In this episode, we’ll hear from Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss, a biblical scholar and Provost at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. In 2016 Andrea spearheaded the “100 Days, 100 Letters” campaign as a faith-based response to emerging political divisions. Pamela will invite Andrea to reflect on this example of her bridge-building work, as well as her experiences as a woman and a religious leader during these divisive times.